



Kincheha Station map displayed at Kars Station office.
PG 2001 photograph, reproduced by courtesy of John Hughes

**FORMER KINCHEGA STATION SITES • KINCHEGA NATIONAL PARK
CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT & CULTURAL TOURISM PLAN
VOLUME 1 • THE PLAN**

PREPARED FOR THE
NSW NATIONAL PARKS & WILDLIFE SERVICE
BY:
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A Secret Country

'...For those who know how to see it, there is no part of our continent which is boring, and no space in it truly empty. There are few places on Earth where you can travel two billion years in time in one kilometre of space and read the turbulent record of the planet in the rocks; where, by day, you can see the curvature of the earth and, by night, see stars at shoulder level and read a book by their blazing light.

Australia's vast plains and deserts have no monuments or ancient cities, but they are not empty. Every part of it is inhabited - by songlines and myths, by the fitful ghosts of explorers and settlers, by townships and homesteads, and by stories of epic journeys of struggle, loss, survival and triumph. These stories and myths are not apparent - they have to be imagined, seen with the mind's eye.

The secret of good travelling in the outback is to experience it as much as to see it to sense its cosmic scale, read the story of the universe in its night sky, imagine the myth in the rockpool, conjure the family story in the homestead ruins, remember the bravery of explorers while you stand in their campsites. Your journey is much richer if you know a lot about your destination and cultivate ways of being as well as seeing'.

From Storry Walton, 'A Secret Country' in the *Sydney Morning Herald*, 2 June 2001.



Man and nature : tracks in the road to Emu Lake, Kinchega National Park
PF 2001 photograph



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- Entry for Kinchega Woolshed

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[Homestead No. 2]



1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 THE BRIEF

The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service [NPWS] Brief for this consultancy, titled 'Brief for the Preparation of a Conservation Management and Cultural Tourism Plan for the Kinchega Woolshed Complex, Old Homestead Complex and associated historical places', is highly detailed and comprehensive.

The briefed objectives for the Conservation Management and Cultural Tourism Plan were as follows:

'... The Conservation Management and Cultural Tourism Plan must provide a clear philosophy and strategic direction for the conservation and retention of the heritage values of the Kinchega Woolshed Complex, Old Homestead Complex and associated historic places within a framework that directs the future of the place as a regional cultural tourism destination. It must present overall policies as well as detailed policies for the conservation of the whole of the site to guide the conservation of cultural and natural heritage values that respond to and guide the NPWS conservation and management objectives for the place.

'... The Conservation Management and Cultural Tourism Plan will focus on the two main precincts associated with Kinchega pastoral station – the Woolshed Complex and the Old Kinchega Homestead Complex. In addition the place will provide general policies for those historic sites/places within Kinchega national park that are associated with the two main precincts. Specific conservation areas and policies issues that need to be addressed are covered in Section 6 of this brief.

'... To meet the project objectives, it is essential that the Conservation Management and Cultural Tourism Plan address the following aspects:

- The balanced and compatible management of cultural (Indigenous and non-indigenous) and natural heritage values of the study area.;*
- Consideration of the cultural significance of the individual sites as well as their contribution to a representative collection of the pastoral industry in NSW and beyond;*
- NPWS management framework, legislative requirements and other stakeholder issues related to the management of the Kinchega Woolshed Complex, Old Homestead Complex and associated historical places;*
- The plan must be presented in an easily understood and user-friendly form for non technical users;*
- The plan will form the basis for reviewed Plan of Management recommendations for each site;*
- Provide development control planning to provide appropriate guidance for appropriate conservation/development management of the place and its multiple uses including its ongoing public role and conservation/adaptation for new uses so as to ensure the retention and enhancement of the diverse significant heritage values;*
- Maximising cultural tourism opportunities for management that provides revenue return or guaranteed revenue support that supports significant heritage values.'*



1.2 THE METHODOLOGY OF THIS PLAN

1.2.1 METHODOLOGY

The briefed requirements for the Plan methodology were as follows:

'... The Conservation Management Plan will be prepared in accordance with the philosophy and definitions as set out in the Burra Charter and Guidelines to the Burra Charter issued by Australia ICOMOS; the International Cultural Tourism Charter (as adopted by ICOMOS 1999); Australian Heritage Commission's Australian Natural Heritage Charter; J.S. Kerr's Conservation Plan; the NSW Heritage Manual; Heritage Office CMP guidelines; as well as any additional requirements which need to be considered to satisfy legislative and management needs of the NPWS, Far West Region and NSW Heritage Council.'

1.2.2 PUBLIC CONSULTATION

There was no specific requirement within the Brief to undertake a public consultation exercise, although discussions were undertaken by members of the consultant team with the following:

- NPWS Broken Hill staff
- DLWC South Western Region [Buronga]
- Members of the Menindee community; and
- Menindee & District Historical Society.

The Brief required that the *'... consultant will need to liaise directly with the NPWS Aboriginal Heritage Division, as well as with the local Aboriginal community'*. To this end, a consultation 'workshop' was held on **13 February 2001** at Menindee; and the results of this workshop are included within the 'Policy Issues' section of this Plan.

The Brief required that the *'... consultant will present an overview and description of the existing and potential interpretation for the cultural heritage values of the Kinchega Study Area. The overview must also include information and analysis of the interpretation within the context of the region and State, and similar places throughout Australia.'*

Consultation with respect to the Interpretation Plan and Strategy was held with NPWS [Broken Hill and CHSD] and reference was made to earlier interpretation work and proposals for Kinchega National park.

1.2.3 STRUCTURE

The structure of this Conservation Management and Cultural Tourism Plan is as follows:

Section 2:

Executive Summary

Sections 3 to 8:

Sections entitled 'Understanding the Place'. These sections provide an overview and description of the history of the place and analysis of the Aboriginal, European and Natural Heritage of the subject sites within Kinchega National Park.



Sections 9 to 10:

Sections entitled 'Conserving and Managing the Place'. These sections provide an overview of the conservation and management policy statement; and appropriate strategy and implementation for that policy.

'Linkages' within the document, i.e. from the **analysis** section of the Conservation Management Plan, through to the **policy, strategy, and implementation** sections have been achieved by means of side notes [within the narrow margin column] which provides cross referencing, as appropriate, between the various Plan sections.

1.3 KINCHEGA NATIONAL PARK AND THE STUDY AREA

1.3.1 THE LOCATION OF KINCHEGA NATIONAL PARK

Kinchega National Park is one of a suite of seven western NSW National Parks. The other Parks are [from South to North] Mallee Cliffs, Mungo, Willandra, Mutawintji, Peery and Sturt. This suite of Parks has been given the appellation the '*Western National Parks*' within this Plan. Kinchega National Park is located 100 kms East of Broken Hill, over 200 kms north of Pooncarie; and over 800 kms from Sydney [refer **Figure 1** below].

1.3.2. BROKEN HILL, MENINDEE AND KINCHEGA NATIONAL PARK

The Kinchega National Park and Menindee Lakes have a close relationship with the townships of Menindee and the City of Broken Hill. The Park actually abuts Menindee township; and the Park and town are connected to the city of Broken Hill by rail and by bitumen road. The Menindee Lakes have always been used by Broken Hill residents as a resort and recreation area; and the lakes supply the city with water [refer **Figure 2** below].

1.3.3 THE BRIEFED STUDY AREA

The study area, **as briefed**, included the following sites/ places:

Kinchega Woolshed Complex

[NPWS Historic Places Register No. 3914608] consisting of the following elements:

- Kinchega woolshed and associated built heritage items [3914608]
- Killing pen [3914611]
- New shearers' quarters [3914612]
- Old shearers' quarters [3914613]
- Cookhouse and dining room [3914614]
- Expert's quarters [3914645]
- Classer's quarters [3914616]



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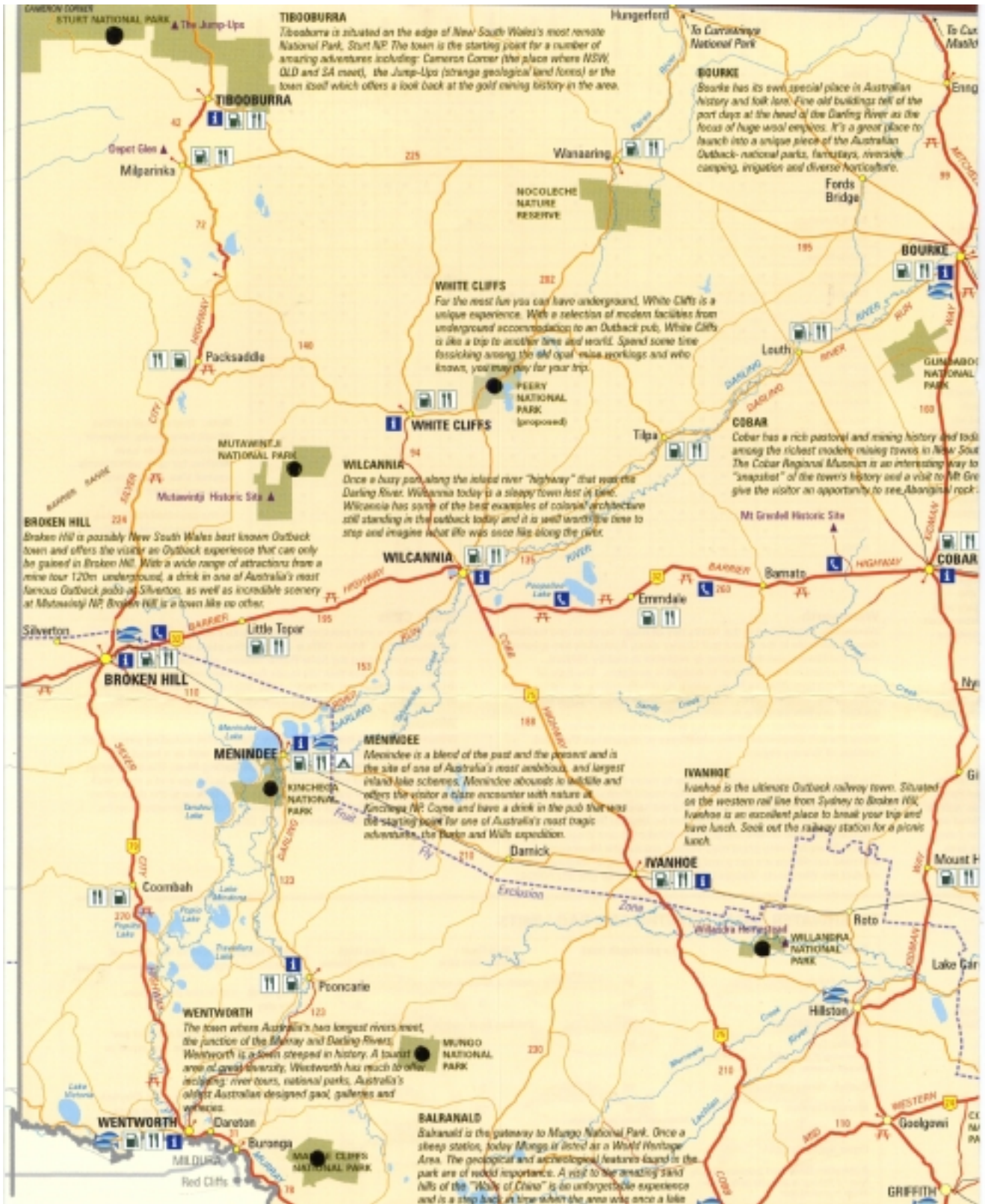


Figure 1
 The 'Western National Parks'
 showing Kinchega; Mallee Cliffs;
 Mungo; Willandra; Mutawintji;
 Peery and Sturt National Parks.
 NSW 'Living Outback' map

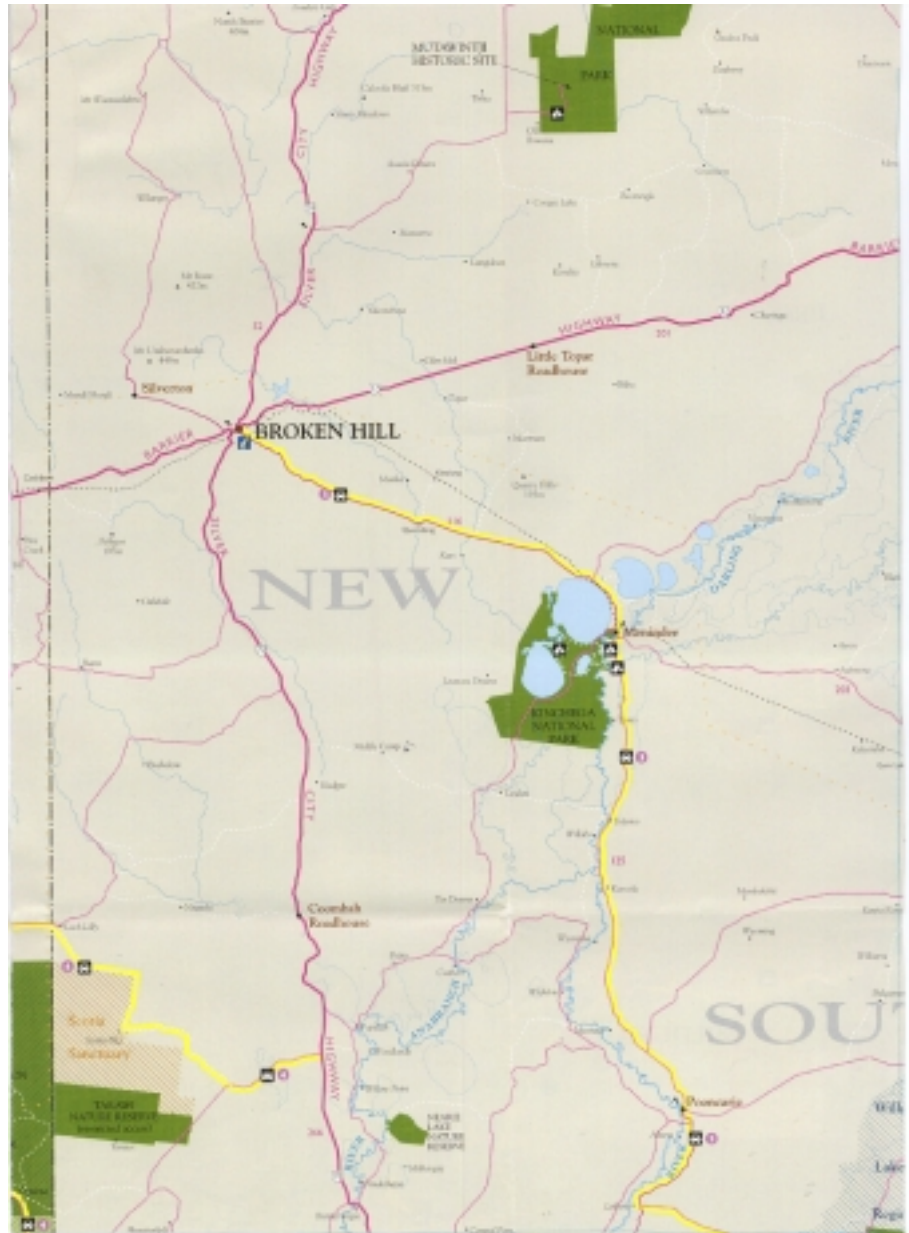


Figure 2
 Map showing Broken Hill,
 Menindee & Kinchega National
 Park.
'Mallee Tracks' map 2000

Kinchega Homestead Complex

[NPWS Historic Places Register No. 3914545] consisting of the following elements:

- Homestead ruin [3914617]
- Blacksmith's shop [3914618]
- Canegrass shed [3914619]
- Cemetery [3914623] and
- associated Aboriginal sites
- Kinchega billabong, including the PS providence boiler and the 'barge' site.

Other historical sites/places

Within the study area there are other sites that are associated with the places listed above and which include the following elements:



- Remnant features of the telegraph line associated with Kinchege Station
- Stockyards that are now submerged beneath the waters of Morton Boulka lake
- Historic roads and wharf sites associated with Kinchege Station
- Post contact Aboriginal camping sites / places associated with Kinchege Station.
- The Menindee outlet regulator and the Menindee Creek bridge [both of which are just outside the KNP boundary].

As a result of Analysis completed as part of this Plan, an earlier Kinchege Homestead site has now been identified; and is considered as part of this Plan. Refer **Figure 3** below for location of these precincts.

Figure 3
The Kinchege National Park Station Sites
A: Woolshed and Shearers' Quarters
B: Homestead[s] and Billabong
C: Woolshed Wharf and Related Precincts
D: Morton Boulka Picnic Area
E: Regulator & Menindee Bridge
F: Stockyards
PF 2001 Plan





1.4 TERMINOLOGY FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE

The definitions for terms used in this report are those adopted by Australia ICOMOS in its *Charter for places of cultural significance* [the Burra Charter] as endorsed in November 1999.

Cultural significance means aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value for past, present or future generations. Cultural significance is embodied in the place itself, its fabric, setting, use, associations, meanings, records, related places and related objects. Places may have a range of values for different individuals or groups.

Fabric means all the physical material of the place including components, fixtures, contents, objects and spaces. This includes building interiors and sub-surface remains, as well as excavated material.

Conservation means all the processes of looking after a place so as to retain its cultural significance.

Maintenance means the continuous protective care of the fabric and setting of a place, and is to be distinguished from repair. Repair involves restoration or reconstruction.

Preservation means maintaining the fabric of a place in its existing state and retarding deterioration.

Restoration means returning the existing fabric of a place to a known earlier state by removing accretions or by reassembling existing components without the introduction of new material.

Reconstruction means returning a place as nearly as possible to a known earlier state and is distinguished by the introduction of material [new or old] into the fabric.

Adaptation means modifying a place to suit the existing use or proposed uses.

Uses means the functions of a place, as well as the activities and practices that may occur at the place.

Compatible uses means a use which respects the cultural significance of a place. Such a use involves no or minimal impact on cultural significance, or changes that are substantially reversible.

Settings means the area around a place, which may include the visual catchment.

Related place means a place that contributes to the cultural significance of another place.

Related object means an object that contributes to the cultural significance of a place but is not at the place.

Associations means the special connections that exist between people and a place.

Meanings means what a place signifies, indicates, evokes or expresses for people, including intangible aspects such as symbolic qualities and memories.

Interpretation means all the ways of presenting the significance of a place.

1.5 AUTHORSHIP

This document has been prepared by the Peter Freeman Pty Ltd Conservation Architects & Planners consultant team. The team comprises the following practices and personnel:

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1.6 EDITORIAL CONVENTIONS AND ABBREVIATIONS

In terms of editorial convention, the following conventions have been adopted:

footnote and figure numbering is specific to each section;

select bibliographies [as appropriate] have been appended to each section; and

illustrations to the text [maps, photographs, etc.] have been placed, where possible, as close to the relevant text as is possible.

The page header provides the title of the Plan; the [current] Section title; and the Section/Page number.

Where conservation management plan **policies** are referred to, a margin note provides specific reference to the policies in **Section 10** of this Plan. Margin notes have also been used to cross-reference themes and text **across** the sections.

1.7 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

A number of people and organisations have contributed to this draft Conservation Management and Cultural Tourism Plan and those contributions are gratefully acknowledged. The principal contributors have been as follows:



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2.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Conservation Management and Cultural Tourism Plan was briefed by the NSW NPWS in order to provide conservation, management and interpretation guidance for the former Kinchega Station sites within the Kinchega National Park. Three specific 'historic' station precincts were designated within the Brief, and the NPWS requested that the Plan deal not only with the historic values of those sites, but also with the relevant Aboriginal and natural values.

During the course of preparation of the Plan, it became evident that since the entire Park was once part of Kinchega Station, that it would be more appropriate for the Plan to analyse, and provide policy recommendations, for the general Aboriginal, historic and natural values of the Park and to assess the Briefed sites in the context of those general values. As a consequence of this approach, the context and values of specific Aboriginal and historical sites were seen in the context of the broader cultural and natural values of the Park as a whole.

Another fundamental reassessment that emerged during the Analysis component of the Plan, was the degree to which the stories and values of the **seven** Western NSW National Parks were interlinked and interrelated. Accordingly, it was determined at an early stage that the seven Parks should be regarded as a **shared** Estate. Accordingly, conservation, management and interpretation recommendations refer not only to Kinchega National Park but also to the '*Western National Parks*'.

As part of the Plan Analysis stage, an assessment was made of the Kinchega National Park historic sites, refer volume 2, Plan Inventory. Two additional historic sites, already known but poorly documented, were identified. These sites are the **original** Kinchega Homestead site [at the Homestead Billabong regulator], and the Kinchega woolshed wharf site, and its related archaeological sites [perhaps including an early hotel on Kinchega Station]. The Plan found that the Aboriginal and historic sites are generally in poor condition, and most require immediate protection. Further, the assessment of significance finds that the Park and its remnant Station sites has high Aboriginal, historic and natural values; and that the current entries for the place within the Register of the National Estate and the State Heritage Register of NSW, which relate only to the Kinchega woolshed, should be entirely reviewed.

Refer Inventory, Volume 2

An important Briefed component of the Plan was that consultation with the local Aboriginal community be undertaken. This primarily took the form of a half-day workshop, held in Menindee early in February. In addition, the consultant team had access, late in the Plan project, to the recently completed [draft] Sarah Martin report on



'Aboriginal Ties to the Land' in the Menindee Lakes region.¹The primary policy considerations to emerge from that meeting and within the Plan Analysis were that the Park should have a resident NPWS Ranger; that local Aboriginal people should play a more active part in the Park's management and interpretation; and that Aboriginal archaeological and contact sites should be better protected. These views were reiterated in general discussions between Plan consultant team members and members of the local community.

The Plan concludes with two Sections which deal with Conservation, Management and Interpretation policies, strategies, and implementation program. A key policy recommendation is that a Visitor Interpretation Centre be established either outside or within the Park, in order to celebrate and display the Park's Aboriginal, historic and natural values, and to properly 'guide' visitors to the Park. A feasibility study for such a centre is proceeding in parallel with this Conservation Management Plan.

¹ Sarah Martin, 'Aboriginal Ties to the Land', [Draft] report to the DLWC Menindee Lakes Environmentally Sustainable Development Project [MLESDP], 2001



3.0 HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

3.1 PREAMBLE

*Refer CMP Inventory,
Volume 2*

This historical overview has been written to provide an understanding of the 'broad sweep' of prehistory and history as it relates to the region, the Park, and the Station itself. The overview does not attempt to provide site-specific histories of the significant Aboriginal, historic or natural sites. That task is accomplished by the Inventory description of the Station, which is provided at **Volume 2** of this Plan.

This overview is, however, cross-referenced to the Plan Inventory, and excerpts from this history are utilised, as appropriate, within the Inventory format of Volume 2.



Figure 1
The Darling River,
Kinchega National Park, 2001
PF 2001 photograph



3.2 INTRODUCTION

The pastoral station buildings and ruins within Kinchega National Park stand as testimony to recent radical changes in the physical and social landscapes of the west Darling. For millennia the resource-rich Menindee Lakes had operated as the territorial core of Paakantji society. In the mid-nineteenth century pastoralists conquered the Darling region's fertile river frontages, red sandy plains, and stony ranges to graze imported stock, bringing profound cultural and ecological transformations. Aboriginal survivors of disease and violence helped newcomers build Kinchega and other Darling River sheep and cattle grazing stations. Through the twentieth century closer settlement policies effected an intensification of pastoralism and its ecological impacts. In 1967 the section of Kinchega station alongside the Darling River and Menindee Lakes became Kinchega National Park.

Kinchega lies within the Western Division, an administrative zone defined in 1884 that encompasses the semi-arid western third of New South Wales. Menindee Lake, the Darling River, and red sandy plains enclose the Park. Menindee's wide, saucer-shaped lakes probably began forming 60 000 years ago, when the region entered a long period of high rainfall and great rivers surged and overflowed across the land.¹ Along the Darling River frontages regular floods over thousands of years have deposited organic matter and fragments of New England lava to build dark, fertile soil. Beyond the River, the undulating west Darling 'back country' remains above water when the Darling floods. This dry, open landscape represented *'the core of Australia'* to historian Charles Bean, *'the real red Australia of the ages, which—though the rivers have worn their channels through it, and spewed out their black silt in narrow ribbons across it—still hems in this flat modern river-soil, so that, if you drive only a few miles from the river-bank, you will always come out in the end upon a red land, a slightly higher land, rising sharply from the grey plain; a land which stretches away and away and away across the heart of Australia.'*²

By the late nineteenth century Kinchega station sprawled west from the Darling River to the Barrier Ranges, across the traditional lands of southern Paakantji clans: the Thangkaali, Wanyiwalku-Pantyikali and Wilyakali.³ The station's older Aboriginal workers remembered a time before sheep. With such dramatic change, how distant did those days seem?

¹ NSW DLWC, *A Review of the Management of the Menindee Lakes Storage*, Sydney, 1998, p. 53.

² Charles Bean, *On the Wool Track*, Sydney, 1945 pp. 60-61.

³ L A Hercus, *Paakantji Dictionary*, Canberra, 1993. 'Paakantji' is also spelt 'Paakantyi'.



3.3 LAKE AND RIVER PEOPLE

State Heritage Theme 6
Land tenure
&
State Heritage Theme 9
Environment

Figure 2
Living by the lake, 30 000 years ago.
This painting is based on
understandings of ancient human life
drawn from archaeological research
at Lake Mungo, roughly 160
kilometres southeast of Kinchega.
National Library of Australia.

Relations between people and the Menindee region go back a long way. Archaeologists say that some sites of human activity alongside the Menindee Lakes could be 35 000 to 27 000 years old.⁴ The contents of deep middens reveal that many years ago people hunted small mammals and birds, and fished for golden perch [*thilyila*, *Macquaria ambigua*]⁵, yabbies [*kungkulu*, *Cherax destructor*] and freshwater mussels [*watarta*, *Velesunio ambiguus*].⁶ Changing climate patterns about 15 000 years ago caused the Willandra Lakes southeast of Menindee to dry up. Settlement intensified around the Menindee Lakes, which still held water.⁷ Over the last 10 000 years rising temperatures and falling evaporation rates have produced lower rivers that flood less frequently. Since European settlement began, and before twentieth century engineering works, Darling River floods filled the Menindee Lakes about once every ten years.⁸



⁴ Paul Rainbird, *The Kinchega Archaeological Research Project, 1995-6*, Broken Hill, 1997, p. 7.

⁵ After the common name of a native plant or animal is, when available, the Paakantji name followed by the scientific name in italic. Paakantji names are obtained from L A Hercus, *Paakantji Dictionary*, Canberra, 1993, and L A Hercus, 'Paakantji', in Nick Thieberger and William McGregor [eds], *Macquarie Aboriginal Words*, Macquarie University, 1994.

⁶ John Mulvaney and Johan Kamminga, *Prehistory of Australia*, St Leonards, 1999, pp. 199-200.

⁷ Mulvaney et al, *Prehistory of Australia...op cit*, p. 309.

⁸ NSW NPWS Head Office file 92/P/3737.



In the sand dunes beside Menindee and Cawndilla Lakes archaeologists have found bones of extinct megafauna. Wind and water erosion has uncovered remains of the giant devil [*Sarcophilus laniarius*], diprotodon [*Diprotodon optatum*], and giant kangaroo [*Procoptodon goliah*]. Archaeologists say that these giant animals disappeared from western New South Wales sometime before 25 000 to 30 000 years ago. The cause of megafaunal extinction is a topic of fierce debate. Some scientists suggest that across Australia humans killed off a range of megafauna species that evolved in an environment free from serious predators, and thus were naive to the threat of hunting by humans.⁹ Others argue that climate change caused the disappearance of the giant creatures. It is most probable that human hunting did eliminate the region's megafauna, as the only major change that occurred at this time was the arrival of humans.¹⁰

Seeds represented the staple food of Darling River people by the time of European invasion. Seed exploitation by Australian Aborigines reached its peak in Paakantji country.¹¹ In 1835 explorer Thomas Mitchell encountered an astonishing sight on the Darling River. ... *'In the neighbourhood of our camp the grass had been pulled, to a very great extent, and piled in hay-ricks, so that the aspect of the desert was softened into the agreeable semblance of a hay-field ... when we found the ricks, or hay-cocks, extending for miles, we were quite at a loss to understand why they had been made. All the grass was of one kind ... and not a spike of it was left in the soil'*.¹² The stacks of native millet [*paapa*, *Panicum decompositum*] that so puzzled Mitchell probably stored fresh quantities of edible seed. People carted stones for seed grinding and other uses to the Menindee area from quarries at least 40 kilometres across the plains, and stockpiled the rocks by the Lakes.¹³ Paakantji people harvested and processed seeds of millet, succulents, ferns, and other plants. They cooked dough in campfire ashes or ate it raw. In preparation for dry times, people stored large quantities of seed in skin bags.¹⁴ European settlers found thousands of wide, worn grinding stones in the area. Publicans lined the courtyard of Menindee's Albemarle Hotel with these reminders of the displaced Darling clans, and some of these stones are held at Kinchega National Park.

Refer Inventory, Volume 2
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⁹ Tim Flannery, *The Future Eaters: An ecological history of the Australasian lands and people*, Kew, 1994, p. 207.

¹⁰ Josephine Flood, *Archaeology of the Dreamtime*, Sydney, 1989, p. 166.

¹¹ D J Mulvaney, "The chain of connection': the material evidence', in N Peterson [ed.], *Tribes and Boundaries in Australia*, Canberra, 1976, p. 88.

¹² Thomas Mitchell, *Three Expeditions into the Interior of Eastern Australia*, volume 1, London, 1839, pp. 237-238; Harry Allen, 'Aborigines of the Western Plains of New South Wales', in C Haigh and W Goldstein [eds], *The Aborigines of New South Wales*, Sydney, 1980, p. 39.

¹³ Paul Rainbird, *Kinchega Archaeological Research Project*, p. 10.

¹⁴ Harry Allen, 'The Bagundji of the Darling Basin: cereal gatherers in an uncertain environment', *World Archaeology*, vol. 5, no. 3, February 1974, p. 314.



Archaeologists have suggested that as a site of sustained productivity and intensive settlement the Menindee Lakes had for thousands of years operated *'as a social and cultural hub'* and represented *'a sort of original homeland of the Paakantji'*. From this prosperous place extended *'strong social and political networks'* to other Paakantji dialect speakers along and beyond the river and there was a *'strong continuity'* felt by members of the local Aboriginal community *'with the original Paakantji owners of this land.'* The Aboriginal community knows *'that there have always been camps of Paakantji people living along this section of the Darling River ... Even when Paakantji people were forced to go to Menindee Mission they soon went back to their camps along the river, including a large one near Kinchega homestead. Most of the Aboriginal people living in Menindee today are related to the families that lived at this camp. As a result there is a strong identification with the area'*.¹⁵

The firm bonds that tie Paakantji people to the Darling are manifest in the regional language. 'Paaka' means the Darling River, while the suffix '-ntji' denotes 'belonging to'.¹⁶ Thus the Paakantji draw their identity from the deep channel and shady banks of their ancient waterway. The Paakantji [Paakantyi] traditional culture which was associated with the Menindee Lakes region is thoroughly explored in Sarah Martin, 'Aboriginal Ties to the Land', prepared for the Department of Land and Water Conservation, 2001.

3.4 FEVER AND FEAR

With British ships came diseases to which Aboriginal people held little resistance. In 1788 the lower Darling River and lower Murray were packed with people leading semi-sedentary lives.¹⁷ High population densities enable a rapid spread of infectious disease. Economic historian Noel Butlin thought it likely that two smallpox epidemics swept through southeastern Australia between 1788 and 1850.¹⁸ In 1835 explorer Thomas Mitchell journeyed north to the Menindee Lakes and noted that most Paakantji people *'bore strong marks of the small-pox, or some such disease, which appeared to have been very destructive among them.'*¹⁹ In the early years of pastoralism Peter Beveridge knew the river people of southwest New South Wales, including Paakantji clans of the lower Darling River. All the old men held smallpox scars. The plague *'came with the waters'*, they told Beveridge, *'...down the rivers in the early flood season, laying its death clutch on every tribe in its progress ... the death rate became so heavy [that]*

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¹⁵ Dan Witter, Archaeologist, in NSW DLWC, *A Review of the Management of the Menindee Lakes Storage*, Sydney, p. 56.

¹⁶ Tamsin Donaldson, 'What's in a name? An etymological view of land, language and social identification from central western New South Wales', *Aboriginal History*, volume 8, number 1, 1984, p. 25.

¹⁷ Mulvaney et al, *Prehistory of Australia*, ... *op cit*, p. 303.

¹⁸ Noel Butlin, *Our Original Aggression: Aboriginal Populations of Southeastern Australia, 1788-1850*, North Sydney, 1983, p. 18.

¹⁹ Mitchell, *Three Expeditions*, ... *op cit*, p. 261.



Figure 3
Menindee, October 15 1860.
Sketch by Ludwig Becker.
Reproduced in Tipping [ed]
Ludwig Becker; p78



Figure 4
Water marks on the banks of
the river Darling, 1861.
Reproduced in Tipping [ed]
Ludwig Becker; p78



*burying the bodies was no longer attempted—the survivors merely moved their camps daily, leaving the sick to die, unattended, and the dead to fester in the sun ... When the bright torrid summer displaced the moister spring, the disease ... gradually died out, leaving but a sorry remnant ... behind, to mourn the depopulation of the land’.*²⁰

Another fearful wave of death and disruption gathered momentum in the 1830s and 1840s as explorers, drovers, and pastoralists came to the Darling River region. At the Menindee Lakes in 1835 Mitchell’s party initiated a tragic incident that established enduring relations of mistrust. According to Daniel Brock, who spoke with Paakantji people a decade later, one of Mitchell’s men, Joseph Jones, promised a young Aboriginal mother a kettle ‘if she would gratify his lust’. Days later, when the woman came for her kettle, Jones refused to give it and knocked her down. The Paakantji woman rose and ran for the River. Jones shot her dead, then took the woman’s child by the heels and smashed its head into a tree.²¹ Fighting erupted between Mitchell’s men and the Paakantji. At least one Aboriginal man died before the exploring party retreated.²²

Darling River settler Frederic Bonney claimed that in 1850 an epidemic killed about one third of the Paakantji population.²³ Massive population loss weakened Paakantji resistance to European invasion. In the early 1850s pastoralists pushed into the Menindee area to shepherd stock on the River frontages. The middle Darling became frontier country, a ‘regressive, bizarre and wild’ landscape wrote historian Greg Denning. A place ‘where being ‘civilized’ was always compromised by the realpolitik of the harsh environment, where everyone went a little savage to survive.’²⁴ As Paakantji survivors of disease speared sheep, cattle and stockmen, the frightened newcomers employed terror to safeguard stock and themselves. ‘It is understood among all classes of whites’ on the Darling, said Thomas Ward, ‘that outrages on the part of the aborigines [sic] must be put down with a hand as prompt as it is heavy ... if the lonely shepherd or the wandering traveller is murdered or even maltreated, black blood pays the penalty of the outrage. It is useless for the offenders to attempt to fly. The white man knows that he must, for his own safety, teach them a lesson, and they are hunted down with determined persistence.’²⁵

²⁰ Peter Beveridge, ‘Of the Aborigines inhabiting the Great Lacustrine and Riverine Depression of the Lower Murray, Lower Murrumbidgee, Lower Lachlan, and Lower Darling’, *Journal and Proceedings of the Royal Society of New South Wales for 1883*, Sydney, 1884, p. 35.

²¹ Daniel Brock, *To the Desert with Sturt: a Diary of the 1844 Expedition*, Adelaide, 1988, pp. 50-51.

²² Mitchell, *Three Expeditions*, pp. 273-75.

²³ Frederic Bonney, ‘On some customs of the Aborigines of the River Darling, New South Wales’, *Journal of the Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland*, vol. 13, London, 1884, p. 123.

²⁴ Greg Denning, *Readings / Writings*, Melbourne, 1998, p. 166.

²⁵ Paul Fountain [ed], *Rambles of an Australian Naturalist: From the Notes and Journals of Thomas Ward*, London, 1907, p. 45.



Tables turned in the early 1850s, wrote Bobby Hardy, when station workers flocked to the goldfields and Paakantji fighters forced squatters to abandon their runs. By the end of 1852 virtually no Europeans remained along the Darling River north of Polia, about ninety kilometres south of Menindee.²⁶ Pastoralists reclaimed the Darling River country through the 1850s, with help from native police. These units of Aboriginal men from other regions were notorious for their brutality. Albert Norton visited Darling River stations in 1859. '*...One thing long haunted me. The native police had been out there before my visit, and it was common rumour that blacks had been shot down without mercy through the district.*'²⁷

Sandra Maiden wrote of two incidents that became legend on the Darling River. Beside Boolaboolka Lake, across the River from Menindee, mounted horsemen massacred a large group of men, women and children. '*Years later*', wrote Maiden, '*the skeletons were still lying on the sandy shore ... their bones bleached white by the sun and scattered by the dingoes and crows.*' As tension heightened between one Aboriginal group and the management of Avoca station, upstream from Wentworth, the cook served fresh bread laced with arsenic to the recalcitrant clan. All twenty people died.²⁸

Despite their violent subjugation, some Paakantji people refused to accept a future beyond their control. Simpson Newland wrote of secret rainmaking ceremonies conducted by Paakantji men alongside deep Darling River waterholes. During some of the great droughts the rainmakers refused to perform their ceremonies. Their intention, Newland believed, was a drought so deathly that '*the white man, his cattle and his sheep, would perish miserably.*'²⁹

3.5 HARNESSING THE WEST DARLING

During the first half of the nineteenth century Australian breeders crossed purebred Spanish merinos with tall-legged, large-framed, sturdy representatives of any sheep breed, producing a tough mongrel, the Australian merino, to graze Australia's wide inland plains. These big, strong sheep could range far from water in search of fodder.³⁰ The landscape and climate helped shape a hardy breed, as only the toughest individuals survived an extended Australian drought.

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²⁶ Bobby Hardy, *West of the Darling*, Adelaide, 1977, p. 69.

²⁷ Albert Norton, 'Stray notes about our Aboriginals', *Science of Man*, May 1 1907, pp. 68-69.

²⁸ Sandra Maiden, *Menindee, first town on the River Darling*, Kelmscott, 2000, p. 186.

²⁹ Simpson Newland, 'The Parkengees, or Aboriginal Tribes on the Darling River', *Proceedings of the Royal Geographic Society of Australasia [South Australian Branch]*, vol. 2, 29 September 1887.

³⁰ Charles Massy, *The Australian Merino*, Ringwood, 1990.



In the 1840s three brothers John, Bristow and Herbert Hughes took up Bundaleer and Booyoolee stations near Burra in the dry mid-north of South Australia to breed merinos. Within a few decades this prosperous family sought more grazing country for their prized sheep and cattle. Kinchega station had changed hands many times since its establishment in the early 1850s.³¹ Peter McGregor ran 4 000 cattle on the station in 1861. By 1866 the property comprised 400 000 acres [about 160 000 hectares]. Some claim that 'Kinchega' is derived from a Paakantji word meaning 'source of water'. Situated on the Darling River and beside Menindee Lakes, the station was well-watered, and an attractive investment. In 1870 Herbert Hughes [then 50 years old and the sole owner of Booyoolee] bought a property called 'Kinchega' from George Urquhart and the English, Scottish and Australian Bank.³² The original Kinchega block was a relatively small property which extended from the southern boundary of Menindee township to just south of Emu Lake. The Hughes family built Kinchega into one of the Darling region's great sheep runs. Within a few years Hughes amassed two million acres [over 800 000 hectares] across the west Darling. Kinchega station stretched from the Darling River to the Pinnacles near the South Australian border.³³

Refer Section 6 : Physical Overview
below



Figure 5
Herbert Hughes [third from left] with family and Kinchega workers around 1890. Hughes built the second Kinchega homestead beside a Darling River billabong in the 1870s for station managers.
John Hughes, Kars station, Broken Hill.

³¹ R H B Kearns, *A Pioneer Pastoralist of the West Darling District: H B Hughes of Kinchega*, Broken Hill, 1970, p. 3.

³² Hardy, *West of the Darling*, pp. 95-96; M Tipping [ed.], *Ludwig Becker: Artist and Naturalist with the Burke and Wills Expedition*, Melbourne, 1979, p. 212.

³³ *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Volume 4, Melbourne, 1972, p. 439.



Pastoralists and police had firmly stifled Paakantji resistance a decade before Hughes bought Kinchega, and the west Darling's empty back country awaited conversion to grazing. Along the Darling frontages Aborigines worked for graziers, shepherding sheep and building their traditional brush fencing.³⁴ Only after heavy rain, when surface water gathered, could stock exploit the normally dry plains beyond the Darling. Hughes needed fences and artificial watering points before his dry-country Booyoolee sheep could exploit Kinchega's saltbush plains west of the River. He bought two massive steam-driven tractors to excavate surface catchment tanks, and paid teams of fencers to enclose the back country.³⁵ In 1875 workers unloaded an enormous steam engine and pump from a riverboat at Menindee then carted the equipment forty kilometres across the plain to Kars outstation. Above the new boiler house rose a towering brick chimney. The steam engine consumed 100 tons of timber each week to pump deep underground water into a stone tank, which fed troughs in four paddocks meeting at Kars.³⁶

*'A whole ocean of capital poured' into the west during the busy decades from the mid-1860s wrote Charles Bean, 'and spread over the land, as the Paroo spreads in flood-time. Busy townships were made. They were really little else than centres for fencing and tank-sinking, but they did not realize what made them, and thought they would live in that whirl for ever. And then the fencers and tank-sinkers went ... The country was quiet again. But it was not the same endless unfettered West of the days before their arrival. They had left it in chains.'*³⁷ As fencers rolled out miles of rust-less galvanised wire and as horses and noisy machines strained to scrape tanks from red earth, Menindee grew into the west Darling's official, commercial and shipping centre.³⁸ 300 people lived in Menindee by 1886. In town stood a public school, Catholic church, courthouse, police barracks, bank, post and telegraph station, mechanics institute, three hotels, and three stores.³⁹

Fences, tanks and troughs allowed back country wool production to soar during good seasons. When Herbert Hughes bought Kinchega in 1870 the station ran about 35 000 sheep. Five years later, after tank and well sinkers had installed watering points within Kinchega's new 5 square mile [13 square kilometre] paddocks across the back plains, Hughes shore 72 000 sheep of Booyoolee descent.⁴⁰ Decades of careful selection by the Hughes family had produced a creature well suited to the west Darling. A visitor to Booyoolee noted that the Station's

³⁴ Bobbie Hardy, *Lament for the Barkindji: the vanished tribes of the Darling River Region*, Adelaide, 1976, pp. 134-135.

³⁵ NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service pamphlet, *Kinchega National Park Information*.

³⁶ Hardy, *West of the Darling*, pp. 99-100; *The Conveyor*, March 1967, p. 10.

³⁷ Bean, *On the Wool Track*, p. 38.

³⁸ W A Steel, 'The West Darling 65 Years Ago', *Australian Genealogist*, volume 5, 1945, p. 18.

³⁹ Department of Land and Water Conservation, *The non-indigenous cultural heritage values of the Menindee Lakes area*, p. 8.

⁴⁰ Royal Commission on Western Lands—Minutes of Evidence, p. 426.



Figure 6
Kincheega woolshed. The country closest to the woolshed turned barren and dusty during shearing time, as sheep converged on the site. Mobs far to the west, beyond Kars outstation, were sometimes shorn at a woolshed built at the Gorge, at the base of the Barrier Ranges.⁴⁶ The left side portion of the Kincheega woolshed, visible in this photograph, no longer stands.

John Hughes, Kars Station, Broken Hill

breeders had consistently aimed for 'a class of animal that, though not perhaps carrying so heavy a fleece as those of some show studs, yet gives a sheep that is eminently adapted for dry interior conditions such as are met with at Kincheega; a class of sheep in fact, able to get about over that extensive country and to battle against droughts and long distances to water.'⁴¹

Herbert Hughes spent money to make money. In 1875 builders finished Kincheega's massive new woolshed. This shed 'will last a lifetime', said Kincheega's manager Thomas Taylor, 'as everything is most substantial'.⁴² Hughes bought a paddle steamer and two barges to haul sheep, wool and supplies between Kincheega and the railhead at Morgan in South Australia, a journey that could take weeks. Over seventy people worked on Kincheega in 1880. By 1882 160 000 sheep grazed Kincheega's paddocks.⁴³

West Darling graziers soon learned that this landscape held limits to production. During drought sturdy merinos slaked their thirsts from new stone troughs and deep tanks to find what withered grasses and battered saltbush [panparla, *Atriplex* spp.] remained in far corners. When the last edible shreds of vegetation vanished these hollow creatures collapsed in the dust or tank mud to die. 47 000 sheep perished on Kincheega station during dry times in the early 1880s.⁴⁴ Hughes lost another 45 000 sheep from hunger and thirst in 1888.⁴⁵

⁴¹ Australian "Garden and Field" Proprietary, *Our Pastoral Industry*, Adelaide, 1910, p. 87.

⁴² Kearns, *A Pioneer Pastoralist*, p. 14.

⁴³ *ibid*, p. 4.

⁴⁴ Percy Meggy, *From Sydney to Silverton*, Sydney, 1885, p. 67.

⁴⁵ Kearns, *A Pioneer Pastoralist*, p. 4.

⁴⁶ Bobby Hardy, *West of the Darling*, p.106.



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3.6 RIVERBOATS AND RAILWAY TRACKS

In 1856 Captain Cadell set up a store at Menindee from which settlers could buy supplies delivered by his riverboats.⁴⁷ For three years the hotel established by Thomas Pain on the Darling riverbank at Menindee had served refreshments to thirsty newcomers. Steam-driven boats transported wool at relatively cheap rates, and the profitability of wool production along the Darling frontages rocketed.⁴⁸ Ian Mudie described the European settlement of the Darling region by riverboat as '*a more rapid spread of white occupation than occurred over such a large area anywhere else in the Australian continent*'.⁴⁹ South Australian and Victorian pastoralists and mineral prospectors took great interest in the west Darling's money making potential. From 1864 Victorian travelers could take a train from Melbourne to meet a riverboat at the busy Murray River port of Echuca. In 1866 a weekly coach service linked Adelaide to the growing town of Menindee.⁵⁰

Decades previously John Eyre had ridden up the Darling and noted many fallen trees in the River channel.⁵¹ Despite these obstacles, Captain William Randell navigated the first steamboat to Brewarrina, far upstream from Menindee, in 1859. Though the Darling had fewer snags than the Murray or Murrumbidgee, he thought snag removal and lock construction would greatly assist navigation.⁵² To safeguard riverboats from damage, snag boats dragged fallen timber from the River.⁵³ Snag removal eliminated habitat for a range of aquatic plants and animals, and promoted erosion and flooding.⁵⁴ The riverboat trade further damaged local natural systems by consuming volumes of timber piled by woodcutters at regular points along the Darling.

As well as a snag-free channel, riverboats needed high water to safely steam the narrow Darling. These boats dragged long barges laden with wool and other goods. Lapses in judgement caused barges to run aground or into snags. During great floods the flat-bottomed boats could leave the Darling channel and push across the plains. As a Darling flood fell, the Menindee Lakes emptied slowly, keeping the River below Menindee open to steamer traffic.⁵⁵ Receding floodwaters stranded ships and barges far from the River and in the

⁴⁷ Bobby Hardy, *West of the Darling*, p. 91.

⁴⁸ Robert Ingpen, *Pioneers of Wool*, Adelaide, 1972, p. 42.

⁴⁹ Ian Mudie, *Riverboats*, Adelaide, 1972, p. 76.

⁵⁰ Mary Turner Shaw, *Yancannia Creek*, Melbourne, 1987, p. 50.

⁵¹ John Edward Eyre, *Journal of the Royal Geographical Society of London*, vol. 15, 1845, London, p. 330.

⁵² William Randell, *Voyage up the Darling and Barwan*, Wagga, 1986, p. 148.

⁵³ Iris Nesdale, 'River Boats', *Broken Hill Historical Society Journal and Proceedings*, volume 4, December 1968, p. 9.

⁵⁴ *Snags: a valuable but scarce resource*, brochure produced by Freshwater Ecology Cooperative Research Centre.

⁵⁵ Bean, *Dreadnought on the Darling*, p. 96.



Figures 7 & 8

The paddle steamer 'Emma' on the Darling River, c1905.

The paddle steamer 'SS Nile' stranded on the bed of the Darling River. The steamer was later destroyed by fire in 1922.

SLNSW Picman Collection, At Work and Play : nos 04317 and 03595



Darling itself. A falling Darling River trapped sixteen steamers for seven months between Menindee and Wentworth in 1884.⁵⁶

*Refer Inventory, Volume 2
Section 2 : The Providence Site*

Some riverboat catastrophes became legend. In 1872 the *Providence* lay stranded in the Darling upstream from Wilcannia. Finally afloat, after months of waiting for rising waters, the *Providence* steamed south with 200 bales of wool. The boat's boiler exploded as it neared Kinchega homestead, ripping the boat apart and killing four crew members. The explosion hurled an anvil and heavy hammer far from the disaster, and someone found a bag of flour in scrub well beyond the River. One story holds that the crew, drunk after visiting Menindee pub, fired up the boiler without checking its water level, which was fatally low. Steam enthusiast Bob Butrimis inspected the ship's boiler in 1996 and presented a more likely explanation. He argued that the boiler was faultily constructed, and from the day of the boat's first voyage 'was a time bomb waiting to go off'.⁵⁷ The *Providence* crew lie buried near the ruins of old Kinchega homestead and the ship's deadly boiler remains embedded in the riverbank nearby.

Figure 9
A camel train passing through Kinchega Station in 1919.
John Hughes, Kars Station, Broken Hill

When a low Darling River stopped steamboat navigation in the late nineteenth century, camels, bullocks and horses carted wool and other goods across the long, dry track between Menindee and the railhead at Terowie, 350 kilometres west in South Australia.⁵⁸ The gradual extension of railway lines shortened these treks. The Adelaide line reached Menindee in 1919, taking much business away



⁵⁶ Shaw, *Yancannia Creek*, p. 91.

⁵⁷ Bob Butrimis, 'The day the Providence blew up', *Australian Steam Power*, no. 22, October 1996, Pp. 5-6.

⁵⁸ Cornelius Proud, *The Murray and Darling Trade*, Mitchell Library, 1965.



from the town's river-port.⁵⁹ In 1927 workers completed a bridge at Menindee that linked Sydney by rail with the bustling mining town of Broken Hill. Demand for shipping fell away, as the transport of wool and other goods now took days by rail rather than weeks by boat. The Darling riverboat service to Menindee finally stopped in 1941.⁶⁰

3.7 A LANDSCAPE TRANSFORMED : EATING THE HAYSTACK

In 1861 Robert Gow headed northwest from Menindee in search of new grazing country. Parts of the west Darling plains and ranges that Gow explored later became Kinchega station. He crossed wide expanses of saltbush, herbs and grass. This 'wilderness', predicted Gow, 'will become a land flowing with milk and honey ... this enormous tract of country I have been examining... is fit for occupation and is well supplied with pasture. Horses, cattle and sheep will roll in fat if they can get water'.⁶¹

As the nineteenth century closed rain refused to fall across the plains of western New South Wales. Concurrently, the Australian colonies collapsed into economic recession. At the turn of the century, as people fled their barren holdings, western New South Wales supported fewer pastoralists than in 1860.⁶² Between 1894 and 1899 the number of sheep shorn in the Broken Hill district plummeted from 136 000 to 31 000.⁶³ During this extreme drought Archer Russell walked the road from Menindee to Broken Hill, across the same plains of Kinchega station examined forty years earlier by Robert Gow. 'It was a hot track' wrote Russell, 'hot and long and abominably dusty. The sand upon it lay two feet thick. The plains through which it led marched away in great red wastes. Sometimes they ran up into rippled sand-ridges and fell away into great scored hollows—the product of incessant wind-storms. As often as not there was no track at all—the wind had buried it in drift-sand.'⁶⁴

Charles Bean visited western New South Wales soon after the great drought. He knew the region's recent history of environmental transformation. Near Menindee Bean drove through a paddock that had been unstocked for many years. 'It was almost impossible to get out of one's head the notion that we were driving through a park. One could swear that a glimpse of the house, or the white pinafores of the children playing in the grass, or the ornamental water, or the pet Jersey cows must turn up round the next corner ... Pretty pine-trees, blue clumps of applewood, needlewood, belar, grey-blue mulga, with the exquisite black

⁵⁹ NSW DLWC, *The Non-Indigenous Cultural Heritage Values of the Menindee Lakes Area*, Buronga, p. 16.

⁶⁰ Nesdale, 'River Boats', p. 10.

⁶¹ Robert Gow, 1861 diary, National Library of Australia manuscript.

⁶² Roberts, *History of Australian Land Settlement*, p. 311.

⁶³ E D Millen, *Our Western Lands: a vanishing asset*, Sydney, 1900, p. 19.

⁶⁴ Archer Russell, *Gone Nomad: Twenty Years' Vagabond Wanderings in Three Continents*, Sydney, 1936, p. 70.

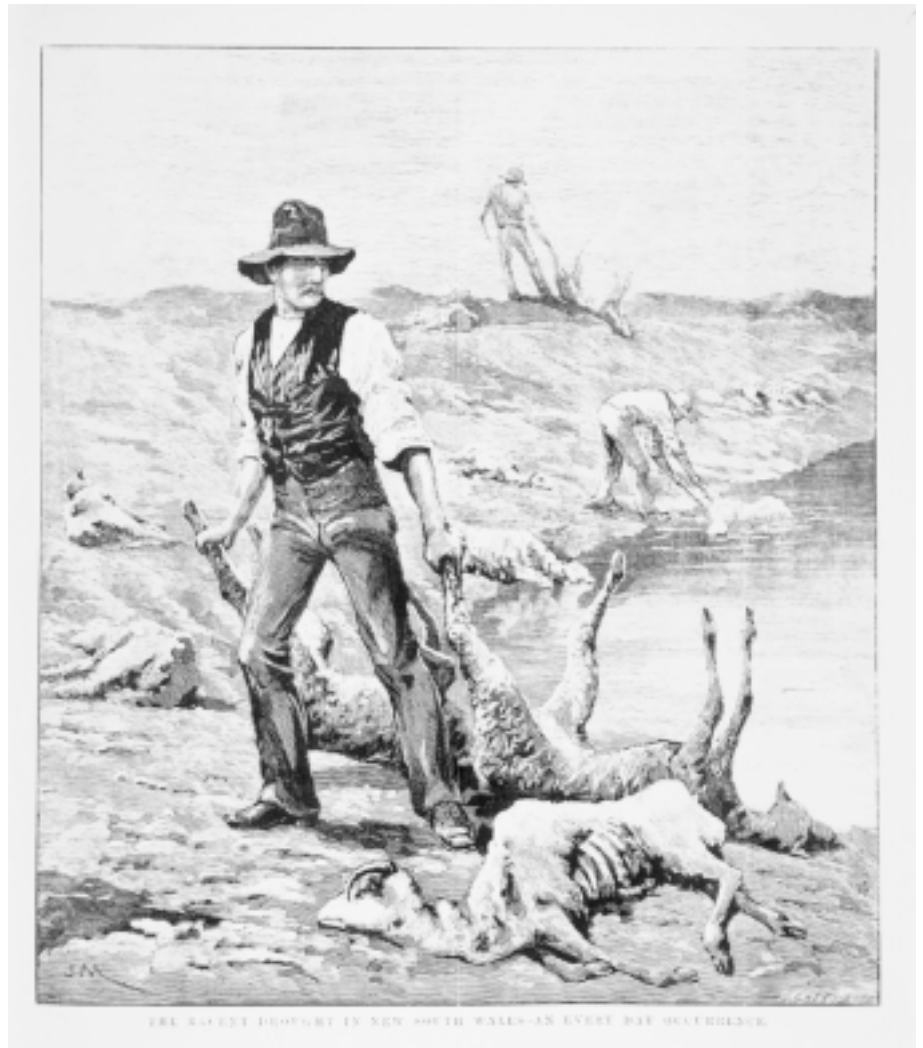
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Figure 10

Stockmen drag starved sheep from a tank during an 1880s drought in New South Wales. With the provision of artificial watering points beyond the Darling River frontages sheep died from starvation, not thirst. Sheep, rabbits and kangaroos consumed all edible vegetation, exposing the disturbed soil to wind and rain.

National Library of Australia.



*tracery of its delicate branches showing under the leaves, sailed by in groups on either side of us. Up a shallow glade between them the long white beards of spear-grass, three seasons old, were standing, in parts knee-deep ... No wonder men once thought the land would carry any stock they like to cram upon it.*⁶⁵

Broken Hill mining metallurgist and keen naturalist Albert Morris wrote of the decline of old man saltbush [*Atriplex nummularia*], a valuable fodder species, on the plains between the Darling River and the Barrier Ranges. Sheep had 'broken down' this once common plant, wrote Morris, and rabbits had hastened its disappearance.⁶⁶ In 1870 European wild rabbits [*Oryctolagus cuniculus*] were released upstream from Wilcannia and swiftly colonised the sandy Darling River frontages.⁶⁷ The animal drove bilbies [kurti, *Macrotis lagotis*] from

⁶⁵ Bean, *On the Wool Track*, pp. 3-4.

⁶⁶ Albert Morris, 'The Flora between the River Darling and Broken Hill', in *Guide Book to the Excursion to Broken Hill*, Sydney, 1923.

⁶⁷ Eric Rolls, *They All Ran Wild*, p. 47.



Refer Kincheega Station Journal
Figure 16 below

trees during drought.⁶⁸ Rabbits fully exploited the Darling River frontages by 1886, then moved onto the back country.⁶⁹ In 1887 Kincheega station employed a full time rabbit overseer to manage up to fifty rabbiters, who killed around 10 000 each month.⁷⁰

Early pastoralists were astounded by the ability of the western plains to bounce back after herbivores had denuded country through dry times. *'What a wonderful fall of rain'*, wrote Robert Gow to his wife from Menindee in February 1866. *'It looks like a miracle to look out at the door as I write and see the grasses which for eighteen months has been a drifting heap of loose sand without a sign of vegetation now waving with green feed six inches long.'*⁷¹ Charles Bean witnessed extraordinary reversals in the appearance of the western landscape. *'It is as though England and the Sahara Desert were each struggling to set their semblance upon this country, the one continually flushing up for a time and effacing the other.'*⁷² Albert Morris described how, after drought, the back country between the Darling River and the Barrier Ranges turned from *'bare sandy wastes'* into *'a garden with an abundance of grass and herbage, and the flowering and general revival of shrubs and trees after their long rest'*.⁷³

Despite the seeming ability of the local environment to burst back into production with good rain, the interaction of drought and pastoralism did slowly undermine the viability of grazing across western New South Wales. By *'degrees it became evident'*, wrote E D Millen in 1900, *'that the vitality, the recuperative power, of the country was lessening ... The country collapsed more rapidly and more completely with each succeeding drought, and it recovered less rapidly and less completely with each returning good season.'*⁷⁴

Along with rabbits and pastoral development, closer settlement helped transform the west Darling landscape in the late nineteenth century. Policy makers believed intensive rural settlement fostered stable society, and many people demanded that the big pastoral holdings be split up to allow families onto country.⁷⁵ The New South Wales Parliament passed legislation in 1884 to break the monopoly of large-scale pastoralists by making available half of each holding for selection by closer settlers.⁷⁶ Original leaseholders retained use of the whole pastoral holding, until selectors took up portions of the

⁶⁸ Cunningham et al., *Plants of Western New South Wales*, p. 10.

⁶⁹ Eric Rolls, *They All Ran Wild*, pp. 48-49.

⁷⁰ R Kearns, 'Historic Kars Station', *Broken Hill Historical Society Journal and Proceedings*, volume 4, December 1968, p. 18; Kincheega station letter book, held by John Hughes, Kars station.

⁷¹ Robert Biggart Gow, letter to his wife, 15 February 1866, NLA manuscript.

⁷² Bean, *On the Wool Track*, p. xi.

⁷³ Morris, 'The Flora between the River Darling and Broken Hill', p. 63.

⁷⁴ E D Millen, *Our Western Lands: a vanishing asset*, Sydney, 1900, p. 24.

⁷⁵ R L Heathcote, *Back of Bourke: A Study of Land Appraisal and Settlement in Semi-arid Australia*, Melbourne, 1965, p. 35; S H Roberts, *History of Australian Land Settlement: 1788-1920*, South Melbourne, 1968, p. 236.

⁷⁶ C J King, *An Outline of Closer Settlement in New South Wales*, Sydney, 1957, p. 99



Figure 11

Woodcarting and dam sinking on the Hughes property at Nockatunga, western Queensland.

Firewood had a number of uses on large Western properties. It was used for steam engines and also for keeping people warm in winter for the short period it was cold.

A great quantity of wood was used for cooking.

John Hughes, Kars Station, Broken Hill



Figure 12

Dam sinking at Nockatunga. This tank was 20 000 cubic yards and fifteen feet deep : photograph taken November 1919.

John Hughes, Kars Station, Broken Hill



resumed half.⁷⁷ In exchange for higher rents and a loss of land, pastoralists gained increased security of tenure over the non-resumed halves.⁷⁸ In response to the new legislation, the Hughes family asked the Department of Lands to resume the northern half of Kinchega, as the station's southern portion contained substantial improvements like the buildings and equipment of Kars outstation.⁷⁹ By the 1890s homestead leaseholders had taken up most of the resumed half of Kinchega station.⁸⁰ To make a living on their small blocks of land, closer settlers had to intensify pastoral activity, and unwittingly these actions hastened ecological change.

The extreme drought that closed the nineteenth century made some wonder if the west could ever return to production. In 1900 the New South Wales Government appointed a Royal Commission to find causes of this traumatic environmental and economic collapse. The Commission held hearings in Sydney and in western towns. James Boothby first came to the west Darling in the late 1870s. *'I knew it in its aboriginal state'* Boothby told the Commissioners. *'There is no doubt in my mind that the carrying capacity of the country was greatly over-estimated by the early settlers. In its virgin state, with the saltbush and other edible bushes in their prime, there was hardly a limit, except as regards water, in the opinion of settlers then to what the country would carry, and in many cases it was stocked accordingly, but they forgot in doing this that they were eating the haystack, and there was no crop growing to build another. Then the rabbits came along.'*⁸¹

George Riddoch owned Weinteriga, just upstream from Kinchega. *'Altogether the conditions of the country have completely changed for the worse ... I fear the deterioration is permanent'*. John Reid lived next to Riddoch on Tintinallogy station. *'We over-estimated the carrying capacity of the place, and no doubt made a big mistake.'* Yes, every pastoralist made the same mistake, agreed Reid, *'and then the rabbits came.'* Reid described how perennial vegetation gradually vanished through the 1890s, as drought tightened its grip and hardy sheep strove for survival. *'Is there any sign of a return of the saltbush?'* asked a Commissioner. *'Not the slightest'*, replied Reid. Commissioner: *'Do you think it is eaten out?'* Reid: *'I think it is killed'*.⁸²

Herbert Hughes' son Harold spoke for Kinchega station. Harold Hughes had managed the Darling River holding for thirteen years. *'Has it deteriorated since you knew it first?'* asked a Commissioner. *'It has deteriorated a lot'* replied Hughes. Hughes couldn't say whether the closer settlers made much of a living on their 10 240 acre [4 144

⁷⁷ King, *An Outline of Closer Settlement*, p. 163.

⁷⁸ Heathcote, *Back of Bourke*, pp. 135-136.

⁷⁹ Letter from Wilson and Ranken, Land Agents, to the Department of Lands, March 1885, NSW DLWC, Sydney, Western Division Pastoral Holding File 244.

⁸⁰ 'Royal Commission on Western Lands—Minutes of Evidence, p. 426.

⁸¹ *ibid*, p. 279.

⁸² *ibid*, p. 319 and 464.



hectare] blocks; *'they seem to hang on'* he told the Commissioners. Hughes explained that the severe drought had forced most to abandon their leases and wait for rain.⁸³

Closer settlers on the resumed areas of Tintinallogy, Weinteriga, Albemarle and Kincheega stations chose fellow lessee Robert Symes to present their views at the Royal Commission hearing. Symes asserted that he and his fellow settlers were unable to make a living on their small blocks. *'Some of these people have been there ten years and over, and have had a hard battle all the time'*, Symes told the Commissioners. To survive on their country, said Symes, they needed longer tenure and three times as much land.

In 1901 the Royal Commissioners issued their report. What had made this catastrophe for the land and people of the west? Low rainfall, rabbits, overstocking, dust storms, falling prices, and inadequately small grazing blocks, the Commission concluded.⁸⁴

3.8 CLOSER SETTLEMENT TAKES THE PLAINS

In response to the Royal Commission's findings the New South Wales Government established the Western Land Board [later the Western Lands Commission] to supervise land use in the Western Division.⁸⁵ The Department of Lands accepted the Royal Commission's argument that the limitation of pastoral lease sizes had significantly contributed to the region's problems. In 1901 the Secretary for Lands stated that western New South Wales was *'not a part of the country suitable for small settlement'*.⁸⁶ Policy makers decided closer settlement should proceed mostly on the coast and in other areas with relatively reliable rainfall.⁸⁷

However, pressure rose for closer settlement in the Western Division as good seasons reinvigorated the pastoral industry during the first decade of the twentieth century. The landless poor and unemployed, victims of the recent drought and recession, saw security in land ownership, however limited, in a society offering little social welfare.⁸⁸ Edwin Brady's *Australia Unlimited*, an expensive, illustrated book published in 1918, presented a fantasy to match the desire for closer settlement in the west. *'The story of western New South Wales'*, wrote Brady, *'awaits the pen of Progress ... deserts will become gardens; villages will grow into towns, and towns into cities ... the country is aching for occupancy. A mighty area, large as a European kingdom, remains for closer settlement and intensive culture.'*⁸⁹

⁸³ *ibid*, p. 426.

⁸⁴ James Noble, *The Delicate and Noxious Scrub*, Lyneham, 1997, pp. 20-21.

⁸⁵ Heathcote, *Back of Bourke*, p. 50 & 57

⁸⁶ 'Areas for settlement', *Sydney Morning Herald*, 6 April 1904, p. 6.

⁸⁷ Heathcote, *Back of Bourke*, p. 57.

⁸⁸ M J Quinn, *Possessing the West: the public management of the Western Division of New South Wales, 1880s to 1930s*, 1995, p. 155.

⁸⁹ Edwin J Brady, *Australia Unlimited*, Melbourne, 1918, p. 146.

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Brady's fantastical vision illustrates the truism that *'the stories we tell change the way we act in the world'*.⁹⁰ Despite their senselessness, narratives like Brady's vision for western New South Wales helped advocates of closer settlement get their way. World War I furthered the cause of closer settlement as many people thought ex-servicemen should be rewarded with access to land.⁹¹ The Department of Lands lost its caution over closer settlement in the Western Division. Legislation passed during the 1930s encouraged holders of large leaseholds to surrender more land for the intensification of pastoral development.⁹²

Slabs of the Hughes family's Darling River holding was transferred to closer settlers from the late nineteenth century on. In 1883 Kinchega station comprised over 1 200 000 acres [490 000 hectares]. By 1901 selectors had taken 430 000 acres [170 000 hectares] from Kinchega's spread. Further resumptions through the first half of the twentieth century reduced the station to 345 000 acres [140 000 hectares] by 1958.⁹³

Great windstorms filled the west Darling sky with red sand during drought years in the 1930s and 1940s. Sheep fleeces absorbed the airborne particles, and Kinchega station installed 'dust flocking' equipment in the woolshed to remove sand from wool pieces.⁹⁴ Dust storms had swept the Darling River region before the introduction of sheep and cattle. Luise Hercus recorded two Paakantji words denoting a dust storm: 'kariputu' and 'puthara'.⁹⁵ In western New South Wales European explorers had pushed through sand-filled storms. *'The wind was blowing as if through a furnace'* wrote Charles Sturt in the early 1830s, *'and the dust was flying in clouds, so as to render it almost suffocating to remain exposed to it.'*⁹⁶ Botanist Noel Beadle believed that these storms increased in both frequency and intensity during the 1940s as closer settlers subdivided paddocks and installed more artificial watering points.⁹⁷ The loss of plant cover, through an intensification of grazing pressure, exposed the red earth to pulverisation by hard hooves. Soil particles lay vulnerable to turbulent winds.⁹⁸

*Refer Inventory. Volume 2
Section 3 : The Woolshed Group:
The Woolshed Dust Flocker*

⁹⁰ Cronon, William, 'A Place for Stories: Nature, History and Narrative', *Journal of American History*, vol. 78, no. 4, March 1992, p. 1375.

⁹¹ J M Powell, 'The Debt of Honour: Soldier Settlement in the Dominions, 1915-1940', *Journal of Australian Studies*, no. 8, June 1981, p. 64.

⁹² King, *An Outline of Closer Settlement*, p. 178.

⁹³ Kearns, *A pioneer pastoralist*, p. 7.

⁹⁴ NSW NPWS Head Office file 92/P/1099.

⁹⁵ Hercus, *Paakantyi Dictionary*, p. 29 and p. 70.

⁹⁶ Charles Sturt, *Two Expeditions into the Interior of Southern Australia*, vol. 2, Adelaide, 1963, p. 66.

⁹⁷ Beadle, *The Vegetation and Pastures of Western New South Wales*, p. 68.

⁹⁸ W Date and D Green, 'Soils and their Management', p. 21, in I Simpson [ed.], *Rangeland Management in Western New South Wales*, Goulburn, 1992, pp. 17-23.



Figure 13
Shearer's posing outside Kincheha
shearers quarters c1890.
Kincheha National Park sign



Figure 14
The dust flocker in the Kincheha
woolshed. This machine was used to
extract sand particles from the wool.
PF 2001 photograph



As drought deepened in September 1944 the *Western Grazier* reported that the usually grassy beds of the Menindee Lakes lay barren, sand had begun to drift, and the Lakes' trees were dying.⁹⁹ Rabbits, kangaroos and sheep competed for the last shreds of grass and shrub. One month later a dramatic dust storm buried roads out of Menindee, blew down a vacant town store, and by dumping sand across the railway line caused a train derailment.¹⁰⁰ In early November Albemarle station, over the River from Kincheega, decided to train all remaining stock away to agistment. Across the district the recent dust storms had torn away or buried all remaining feed.¹⁰¹ One old timer thought conditions far worse than during the intense drought that closed the nineteenth century. Back then, he told the *Western Grazier*, edible scrub remained and dust storms were relatively rare.¹⁰²

The *Pastoral Review* had no doubt that the dust storms and tragic droughts of the 1930s and 1940s stemmed from the intensification of pastoralism that accompanied closer settlement. At the end of World War II, as the New South Wales Government drew up new plans for soldier settlement in the Western Division, the *Review* responded with disgust. 'If there is one lesson that the disastrous drought should have taught ... the New South Wales Government ... it is that light-carrying sheep country in low and unreliable rainfall areas is not suitable for closer settlement. A large part of the Western Division of New South Wales to-day furnishes adequate proof of that. Many properties are absolutely bare of feed and denuded of stock, losses have been very heavy, the country is being destroyed, and lessees are facing disaster.'¹⁰³

3.9 COMMUNITIES IN CRISIS

Pastoralists sent the west Darling's diverse and complex communities of flora and fauna into shock as they harnessed the local ecosystem for wool production. Of the eighty-eight mammal species recorded in western New South Wales since European settlement, twenty-seven were regionally extinct by the early 1990s, the highest fauna extinction rate anywhere in Australia. Plants vanished too. At Menindee in 1860 the Burke and Wills expedition collected a sample of spiny everlasting [*Acanthocladium dockeri*]. Since the arrival of sheep and cattle, this shrub cannot be found and is presumed extinct.¹⁰⁴

Some destruction of native life was deliberate. Dingoes [karli, *Canis lupus dingo*] posed a great threat to sheep grazing in the early years of

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⁹⁹ *Western Grazier*, September 22 1944, p. 3.

¹⁰⁰ *Western Grazier*, October 20 1944, p. 3.

¹⁰¹ *ibid*, November 3 & 10 1944

¹⁰² 'A Drought Lesson: Settlement of Light Rainfall Country', *Pastoral Review*, 16 March 1945, p. 183.

¹⁰³ Leong Lim, 'The Conservation of Fauna in Western New South Wales', *National Parks Journal*, September 1993, vol. 32, no. 4, p. 5.

¹⁰⁴ *Threatened Species of Western NSW*, December 1996.



pastoralism. In the 1870s on Moolah station, east of Menindee, dingoes killed three thousand sheep in three months.¹⁰⁵ On Kinchega in the 1890s shooters and trappers received bounties for dingo skins, and workers distributed dog poison.¹⁰⁶ *'We lay plenty of poison about and the sheep are disturbed very little'*, wrote Arthur Edlin to Herbert Hughes from a Kinchega outstation in 1890.¹⁰⁷ Graziers destroyed wedge-tailed eagles [*Aquila audax*] for their habit of taking young lambs.

The killing of these majestic birds angered local naturalist Albert Morris, who roamed the country between the Darling River and the Barrier Ranges in the first decades of the twentieth century. This *'largest and finest of our raptorial birds kills a few lambs ... and in consequence is poisoned, trapped, and shot by the man on the land'*, wrote Morris. He thought the practice short sighted. The eagle easily earned the few lambs it took, Morris argued, by eating carcasses that would otherwise breed sheep blowflies.¹⁰⁸

Other losses of native fauna occurred inadvertently. Albert Morris mourned the *'wholesale extermination'* of bird species by rabbit poisoning methods. Nine horse-drawn poison carts wheeled across Kinchega station in 1916.¹⁰⁹ The phosphorised wheat these devices spread slowly killed rabbits, bilbies and many other small to medium sized animals and birds.¹¹⁰ Graziers poisoned water with arsenic or strychnine to kill rabbits, a practice Morris blamed for a huge population decline in the west Darling of the common bronzewing pigeon [murlaru, *Phaps chalcoptera*].¹¹¹

Biological invasion interacted with pastoralism's impact on vegetation to restrict animal life. Morris noted the extreme rarity of small marsupials like the bilby, which once were common across the west Darling. *'Some of the smaller marsupial mice are to be found by a zealous researcher'*, wrote Morris, *'but will, before long, be gone forever. The causes of extinction of these species are to be found in the destruction of all natural shelter in the shape of underscrub and herbage by overstocking the country with sheep, followed by the rabbit invasion and, later, domestic cats and foxes.'*¹¹² Morris remembered countless, mile-long flocks of harlequin pigeons [*Phaps histrionica*] which were never to be seen again, once sheep destroyed the birds' food supply and disrupted its breeding patterns. Fox numbers had multiplied at an astonishing rate over recent years. He thought that foxes were responsible for the elimination of bush curlews [palyuruka, *Burhinus grallarius*] and other

¹⁰⁵ Geoff Wise, 'Life without the dog fence', *Western Division Newsletter*, Dubbo, January-February 2000, p. 6.

¹⁰⁶ Kars Station journals, held by Hughes family at Kars Station.

¹⁰⁷ Kinchega Station letter book, held by Hughes family at Kars Station.

¹⁰⁸ Morris, 'The flora between the River Darling and Broken Hill', p. 64.

¹⁰⁹ Kinchega Station letter book, held by Hughes family at Kars Station.

¹¹⁰ Eric Rolls, *They All Ran Wild*, p. 139.

¹¹¹ D G Stead, *The Rabbit Menace in New South Wales*, Sydney, 1938, p.47.

¹¹² Morris, 'The flora between the River Darling and Broken Hill', pp. 62-63



Figures 15 & 16
 One of the Kinchege Station Journals, held at Kars Station.
 One of the Provisioning Lists for the house and outstations. Note the provisions for the 'Rabbiter', July 1915.
 The Kinchege Station Store List of Provisions 1916 & Prices 1914.
 John Hughes, Kars Station Collection.

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July 1915

House & Kitchener

1 Bag Flour 1 Bag Sugar 10 Tea 2 Beans
 2 Iron Kettles 2 Iron Stoves 2 Bad Pan
 2 Re. Soap 1 S. Soap 2 Bad Flour 2 Rice
 15 Jam 2 Vinegar 3 Corn Flour 2 Currants
 2 Starch 2 Candles 10 Pepper 10 Salt
 3 Coffee 1 Tea 100 1/2 lb Soda 1 Butcher
 3 Honey 2 Egg Lemon 2 Sage 2 Olive Oil
 1 Emergency Pds 10 lb Light Tobacco

Balakhava

1 Jam 2 Iron Stoves

Droving Camp

3 Jam 2 Sauce 1 Honey

1 Sausage 1 Bad Pan 20 Flour 2 Coffee
 10 Sugar 2 Currants 2 Rice 100 Lemon
 1 Corn Flour 2 Tea 2 Apricots 2 Raisins
 2 Split Peas 1 S. Soap

Mustering Camp

3 Tea 10 Sugar 2 Jam

2 Sauce 2 Rice 20 Flour 2 Honey 2 Salt
 2 Olive Oil 1 Olive Press 2 Soap
 1 Bad Kettle 2 Butcher 1 Soap 2 Currants
 1 Bad Pan 1 Corn Flour

Rabbiter

1 Curry 1 Sauce 1 Jam
 1 Sugar 1 Tea 1 Soap 1 S. Soap 1 Tobacco

Selling Prices of Stores

Item	Price	Item	Price
Flour 1 bag 21/-	2	Golden Syrup	1 1/2
Tea 1 lb 1/4	1 3/4	Breaded Fruit	1 1/2
Sugar	4	Apricots	1 1/2
Salt 1 lb 1/2	2	Cosineca	7
Soap 1 lb	1 0	Conflour	7
Sunlight	1 1	Smoked meat	1 6
Toilet	1 2	Sago	4
Jamaica Balm 1 lb	6 3/4	Herbs	9
Victory	6 0	Kalis Salve	1 0
Matchbox Wax	6	Yellow Soap Ointment	1 6
Safety	4	Meekams Pills 5/-	1 6
5 Making Powder	1 2	Painkiller	1 6
Apples	2 6	Eucalyptus Oil	1 0
Peppercorns	1 6	St. Jacobs	3 0
Calico	7	Trials Balsam	1 0
Salad Oil	7	Chloroform	1 6
Castor Oil	7	Spoon Balls	1 1
Condensed Milk	4	Blanks Eye Action	1 0
Honey	1 0	Woods Pep. Cure	1 6
Curry Powder	1 3	Indian Root Pills	1 3
Jam	10	Zamboni	1 6
Candles	9	Snack Moss	1 6
Raisins	8	Kays Compound	1 0
Cornflour	8	Working Pads	1 0
Coffee	1 6	Smollop	6
Mustard	1 1	Juice	10
Split Peas	4	Vinegar	10
Rice	4	Xerose 1/2 lb	1
Tom Sauce Qts	1 2	Ink	1
" " Pts	1 9	Strychnine	4 0
Addressed to Sauce	1 0	Japicosa	1

Small Day Baking 7/11/14 Sept 18/1914



ground and swamp nesting bird species, and for raiding black swan [yungkuuli, *Cygnus atratus*] nests beside the Menindee Lakes.¹¹³

Pastoralism and mining effected the stripping of west Darling scrubs. Timber cutters felled truckloads of mulga [marlka, *Acacia aneura*] and other acacias [good burning timbers] to feed hungry steam engines that hauled water from wells, processed minerals and propelled riverboats. John Harris Browne returned to the plains around Broken Hill in the late 1880s after a forty-year absence and noted the complete disappearance of brigalow [*Acacia homolophylla*].¹¹⁴ Mulga proved a good fence post, as did the termite resistant cypress pine [pinpa, *Callitris* spp.], locally rare by the 1920s from excessive cutting.¹¹⁵ Cypress favours sandy ridges, as do rabbits. Sheep and rabbits killed young trees and shrubs that otherwise would have grown to maintain soil stability. As pines fell, old trees died and rabbits bred; wind began shifting the red sand hills that cover much of the Menindee area. The Soil Conservation Service feared a 'moving sand desert' of reactivated dunes could render the district useless for grazing and menace neighbouring areas.¹¹⁶

3.10 FINAL EXCLUSION

In 1891 the Aborigines Protection Board reported that in the Menindee and Pooncarie districts all Aboriginal men were employed on local pastoral stations. They rode boundary fences, mustered stock, worked about woolsheds during shearing, and controlled rabbits and dingoes.¹¹⁷ In the 1970s Arthur Clark, an elderly Aboriginal man, told Bobby Hardy of his years on Albemarle, across the River from Kinchega, when 400 men worked on the station. Clark became an expert builder, fencer and shearer. His relative, Albert Knight, travelled around the region building both wire and traditional brush fences.¹¹⁸ Alice Bugmy told archaeologist Sarah Martin how her family and other Aboriginal groups camped on the riverbank near Kinchega homestead in the first decades of the twentieth century as they travelled the Darling region working on stations.¹¹⁹

Demand for Aboriginal labour remained high on Darling River sheep stations until the late 1920s, when closer settlement intensified across the region.¹²⁰ Often with growing families, small-scale graziers only

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State Heritage Theme 35
Persons

¹¹³ *ibid*, p. 64.

¹¹⁴ Harry Allen, *Where the Crow Flies Backwards: Man and Land in the Darling Basin*, ANU PhD, 1972, p. 143.

¹¹⁵ Morris, 'The flora between the River Darling and Broken Hill', pp. 58-59.

¹¹⁶ M E Stannard, 'Sand dunes of the Menindee district', *Journal of the Soil Conservation Service of New South Wales*, vol. 9, no. 3, 1953.

¹¹⁷ Aborigines Protection Board, *Annual Report*, 1891, Sydney, p. 14.

¹¹⁸ Hardy, *Lament for the Barkindji*, p. 197.

¹¹⁹ Sarah Martin, personal communication with author, 23 January 2001.

¹²⁰ Heather Goodall, *Invasion to Embassy: Land in Aboriginal Politics in New South Wales, 1770-1972*, St Leonards, 1996, p. 201.



needed extra labour during especially busy times. Few stations could afford to retain a permanent Aboriginal workforce, particularly as Australia slid into economic depression. Old pastoral station camps closed and Aboriginal people moved to reserves like Pooncarie, established in 1910 downstream from Menindee.¹²¹

In 1933 the Aborigines Protection Board decided to shift a remote, drought-stricken camp of Ngiyampaa and some Wiradjuri people at Carowra Tank, near Ivanhoe, to a new station at Menindee, far from their traditional country. The Board also forced Paakantji people, strangers to the Carowra Tank mob, from reserves at Pooncarie and Wilcannia to Menindee Aboriginal Station, which became popularly known as Menindee Mission. This settlement of 250 people faced problems from the start. The Mission site, on the River about ten kilometres from Menindee, included an eroding burial ground. Heather Goodall explained that the residents considered dust from decaying bones a powerful poison.¹²² Tuberculosis swept through the poorly built tin shacks, killing many. As the Depression eased Paakantji people found work and escaped the Mission. Most Ngiyampaa people, removed from their country and pastoral employment networks, remained trapped.

An Aborigines Welfare Board inspector found Menindee Mission ‘a most depressing place’ in 1941. *‘The Station is, in the main, built upon shifting sand ... I have noticed, too, that numbers of attempts have been made by the aborigines [sic] to fence in their little huts and to make gardens, but as soon as a windstorm sweeps across the Station, these gardens are blown away and disappear entirely. The aborigines [sic] are making an honest attempt to keep their homes reasonably clean and tidy, but it is very discouraging for them to make these attempts in houses which are nothing more or less than hovels, many having no floors and no partitions, other than hessian on which paper has been pasted.’*¹²³

The Board decided to close Menindee’s tragic Aboriginal Station in 1948, and shift its residents to a new settlement near Murrin Bridge in Wiradjuri country. Most Paakantji people refused to leave the Darling region. Many chose to set up camp at Wilcannia, upstream from Menindee, and some moved to a much smaller reserve near the Menindee railway bridge.¹²⁴

Demand for Aboriginal labour in the Menindee area became sporadic and increasingly dependent on wool prices and rainfall as closer settlers took up country. In the 1940s station owners contacted the manager at Menindee Mission when they needed drovers, rabbiters, kangaroo hunters, or fencers. *‘Went round houses to find men for lamb marking at Kinchiga [sic] Station’*, noted Mission manager C A Murkins

¹²¹ Hardy, *Lament for the Barkindji*, p. 187.

¹²² Goodall, *Invasion to Embassy*, p. 202.

¹²³ Aborigines Welfare Board, Board’s Minutes, 21 January 1941, State Records Office of New South Wales.

¹²⁴ Goodall, *op cit*, pp. 280-281; Sarah Martin, pers. comm. 18 January 2001.



in March 1947. Sometimes labour demand evaporated entirely. In January 1947 Murkins reported *'Outside employment is at present very hard to obtain. Many telephone calls were made but station owners are reluctant to employ many men'*. At other times work abounded. *'Labour is still very much in demand & every A. B. [able bodied] man is to return to work immediately after holidays'*, reported manager H Quigley two years later.¹²⁵

Aboriginal women in the west Darling had fewer work opportunities than men. Some young women received basic domestic training at Menindee Mission and were found jobs in station homesteads.¹²⁶ In 1955 three Aboriginal women wrote to the Aborigines Welfare Board from Menindee asking for an increase in food rations; *'we have no other way of supporting ourselves'*, they wrote.¹²⁷

Other employment opportunities emerged as pastoral work became less reliable. The developing irrigated fruit industry along the Murray River gave employment to many local Aboriginal people. *'Fruit picking in Mildura district will commence in two weeks time and it is expected that many men and women from here will be engaged'* wrote Murkins in January 1947. Some Menindee Station residents dug water drains on Murray River fruit blocks. Other people found local jobs gardening and on the railway. In the late 1950s work became available to develop and maintain the Menindee Lakes water storage scheme.¹²⁸ People still found work on stations, at least during good seasons. In 1967 the Aborigines Welfare Board reported that drought across western New South Wales had caused a migration of Aborigines from properties to the region's larger towns, where unemployment lingered.¹²⁹ Board records reveal that the postwar pattern of varied, short-term employment continued at least until the late 1960s. Scope for Aboriginal involvement in the local pastoral industry evaporated through the 1970s and 1980s as the west Darling's wool-based enterprises fell into economic decline.

3.11 FROM 'BARREN TRACKS INTO A SMILING GARDEN'¹³⁰

Plans to transform the west Darling from drought-stricken sheep runs to a well-watered farmland have a long history. Those who knew great Darling River floods and long dusty droughts wished for the trapping of water for dry times. In the 1870s, as capital streamed into the Darling region, some stations tried to divert water from the River

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State Heritage Theme 9
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State Heritage Theme 12
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State Heritage Theme 13
Transport

¹²⁵ State Records Office of New South Wales, reports on Menindee Aboriginal Station, file 4/10747.1.

¹²⁶ Beverly and Don Elphick, *Menindee Mission Station 1933-1949*, Canberra, 1996, p. 6.

¹²⁷ Aborigines Welfare Board file 9562, box 8/2864, State Records Office of NSW

¹²⁸ State Records Office of New South Wales, file 66/398.

¹²⁹ Aborigines Welfare Board annual report, Sydney, 1967.

¹³⁰ W L Higgins, 'The Possibility of Irrigation in the West: The Waters of the Darling', *Bulletin of the conference of delegates of agricultural societies*, Sydney, 1895, p. 164.



Figure 17
The Broken Hill and District Water Supply Company illustrated their prospectus with seductive drawings of the Darling River and Menindee Lakes brimming with fresh water. *National Library of Australia*

into their paddocks. In 1873 Kincheega station workers shifted earth to improve the flow of floodwaters into Lake Tandou.¹³¹ Charles Bean described one early effort to dam the channel exiting Menindee Lake as a Darling flood receded. The sandbags held for a time, before the trapped water cut through loose soil at one end of the dam wall.¹³²

In the 1880s demand for water by the new mining centre of Broken Hill, 100 kilometres northwest of Menindee, generated schemes to capture and exploit the Darling's flow. The Broken Hill and District Water Supply Company launched an ambitious plan to pipe water from the Darling River and Menindee Lakes across Kincheega station to Broken Hill via eight pumping stations. The Company planned a tramway alongside the pipeline, and water points for stock and irrigation at intervals across the plains.¹³³ Some thought the scheme a fraudulent, speculative arrangement, and it fell through, despite Government support, as work started on a reservoir in the Barrier Ranges during the early 1890s.¹³⁴

Broken Hill mining companies and the state Government agreed to fund a pipeline from the Darling River at Menindee after the mining

¹³¹ Hardy, *West of the Darling*, p. 100.

¹³² Bean, *Dreadnought of the Darling*, p. 96.

¹³³ Broken Hill and District Water Supply Company, *Prospectus: Lake Speculation and Darling River Scheme*, Sydney, c.1890.

¹³⁴ Bobbie Hardy, *Water carts to pipelines: the history of the Broken Hill Water Supply*, Broken Hill, 1968, pp. 22-23.



Figures 18, 19 & 20
 The Darling River catchment and
 Menindee Lakes water storage.
 The Menindee Lakes water storage
 scheme.
 Chart showing evaporation within
 the Menindee Lakes water storage
 scheme.
*Water Resources Commission
 [later DLWC] charts.
 DLWC Menindee*



EVAPORATION						
Megalitres (mm)						
LAKE	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
WETHERELL	1077	1179	897	470	268	191
PAMAMAROO	531	502	338	228	132	93
WONGABEE	1277	1335	812	545	316	223
CANNINDILLA	683	737	433	294	169	120
TOTAL	3568	3853	2280	1540	886	627

EVAPORATION						
Megalitres (mm)						
LAKE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
WETHERELL	1518	328	543	697	940	1020
PAMAMAROO	86	159	264	338	450	487
MENINDEE	252	382	634	812	1096	1160
CANNINDILLA	125	203	330	436	587	622
TOTAL	650	1072	1771	2283	3061	3209





town suffered serious water shortages in the 1920s and 1940s.¹³⁵ Work began on the Menindee to Broken Hill pipeline in 1946.¹³⁶ At the same time the Water Conservation and Irrigation Commission started building a series of weirs along the Darling to pool water for stock, crops, and people.¹³⁷ In November 1960 Robert Heffron, Premier of New South Wales, opened the Menindee Storage Scheme, realising long-held dreams of Menindee Lakes wide with permanent water. A weir and levee upstream from Menindee created Lake Wetherell and diverted water into Pamamaroo Lake, from where a channel transferred water to Menindee and Cawndilla Lakes. A regulator released water into the Darling from Menindee Lake when required by irrigators downstream. Later work enabled water to flow south from Cawndilla to irrigate the bed of Lake Tandou.¹³⁸

With the permanent flooding of Cawndilla and Menindee Lakes, Kincheega station lost a swathe of good grazing land. In 1861 Robert Gow described the unlimited quantities of hay cut from the luxuriant feed that covered the lakebeds once floodwaters fell.¹³⁹ The Hughes family operated Kincheega in conjunction with their cattle property Nockatunga, near Thargominda in southwest Queensland. As a flood receded from the Menindee Lakes drovers walked cattle from Nockatunga to fatten on the grassy lakebeds.¹⁴⁰

As intended, the Menindee Storage Scheme bolstered the local irrigation industry. Irrigated crops had appeared around Menindee after World War II, as European migrants planted rows of tomatoes, carrots, cabbages, melons and oranges.¹⁴¹ In the 1970s the Scheme's permanent water allowed a patchwork of cotton, sunflower and cereal crops to spread across Lake Tandou's fertile bed. Beside the Menindee Lakes irrigation now sustains wide crops of grapes, apricots, nectarines, peaches and apples.¹⁴²

3.12 CAMPING, CATAMARANS AND CONSERVATION

For generations Menindee has operated as the west Darling's major recreation destination. Early residents of Broken Hill could escape the town's hot, dry slopes to camp by the Darling River or shoot ducks on the Menindee Lakes.¹⁴³ With the establishment of the Menindee Storage Scheme the Lakes were declared a wildlife reserve and lakeside land was set aside for public recreation. In the 1960s a row of holiday shacks sprouted along Sunset Strip on the northern shore of

State Heritage Theme 7
Mining
State Heritage Theme 9
Environment
State Heritage Theme 27
Leisure
State Heritage Theme 34
Events
State Heritage Theme 35
Persons

¹³⁵ Bobby Hardy, *Water carts to pipelines*, pp. 88-89.

¹³⁶ NSW DLWC, *Non-indigenous cultural heritage values*, p. 10.

¹³⁷ Bean, *Dreadnought of the Darling*, p. 253-254.

¹³⁸ Water Conservation and Irrigation Commission of NSW, *The Menindee Lakes Storages*, 1960.

¹³⁹ Robert Biggart Gow, 1861 diary, NLA manuscript.

¹⁴⁰ John Hughes, personal communication with author, 9 January 2001.

¹⁴¹ Bean, *Dreadnought of the Darling*, p. 255.

¹⁴² NSW DLWC, *Non-indigenous cultural heritage values*, p. 14.

¹⁴³ Bean, *Dreadnought of the Darling*, p. 205.



Lake Menindee, where families eased sailboats from trailers into green water.¹⁴⁴

Pressure for the foundation of national parks in western New South Wales gathered momentum through the 1960s as community concern about unregulated kangaroo harvesting rose. During that decade the mineral industry picked up too, and Broken Hill mining companies looked to develop the Menindee Lakes into a recreation resource for the town's residents. Marshal Baillieu, wildlife enthusiast and chairman of North Broken Hill Limited, offered financial support to Minister for Lands Tom Lewis for the establishment of a national park alongside the Menindee Lakes.¹⁴⁵ The Hughes family opposed resumption of Kinchega's riverside half, but later struck a deal with the Department of Lands. The station had operated less effectively since the Menindee Storage Scheme flooded valuable grazing land and split the property in two.¹⁴⁶ In exchange for Kinchega's paddocks beside the River and Lakes the Department of Lands gave the Hughes family compensation for improvements, extended their lease over the station's remaining half, Kars station, and allowed for extraction of water from Menindee Lakes for stock.¹⁴⁷

In March 1967 great mobs of sheep converged on Kinchega woolshed for the last time. *'It was a warm day',* wrote a local reporter, *'and the shearers sweated freely as they worked ... The shed vibrated with a medley of sounds—the rumble of machinery, the thud of running feet, the chatter of cutter and comb, and the intermittent barking of eager dogs as they shuttled sheep into the pens.'* Workers loaded 500 bales of wool onto semi-trailers. Inside, the Hughes family held a ceremony with shearers, station workers and community members to announce the donation of the voluminous old shed to the New South Wales Government as a memorial to the past.¹⁴⁸ The Hughes' believed 'Kinchega' to be the original Paakantji place name, and encouraged its retention as the new park's title.¹⁴⁹ Kinchega National Park came into being with the passage of the National Parks and Wildlife Act in October 1967.¹⁵⁰

*Refer Inventory, Volume 2
Section 2 : The Homestead No. 1 site
which is bisected by an NPWS road*

For ten years Broken Hill mining companies gave the National Parks and Wildlife Service large sums of money to establish Kinchega National Park. Field staff removed old station fences, installed barbecues beneath shady river gums, and graded roads over undulating red sand hills.¹⁵¹ Teams of builders and heritage architects repaired the historic woolshed and renovated the shearers' quarters.

¹⁴⁴ NSW DLWC, *Non-indigenous cultural heritage values*, p. 10.

¹⁴⁵ NSW NPWS, *Kinchega National Park Plan of Management*, Sydney, 1972.

¹⁴⁶ John Hughes, personal communication with author, 9 January 2001.

¹⁴⁷ WLC lease file for WLL 10638.

¹⁴⁸ Zinc Corporation Limited, *The Conveyor*, March 1967, Broken Hill, p. 11.

¹⁴⁹ Letter from Trustees of the Late H B Hughes to Tom Lewis, 27 October 1966, Western Lands Commission lease file, WLL 10638.

¹⁵⁰ NSW NPWS, *Kinchega National Park Plan of Management*, Broken Hill, 1999, p. 2

¹⁵¹ NSW NPWS Head Office file 92/P/1212.



Refer *Section 5 : Natural Environment Overview of University Projects based at Kinchega National Park*

Good seasons caused kangaroo and pig numbers in the Park to soar. By the early 1980s shooters eliminated 1 000 pigs annually.¹⁵² The Service encouraged scientists, university lecturers and students and other researchers to study the Park's natural and cultural heritage. Through the 1970s and 1980s natural resources students from the Canberra College of Advanced Education came to Kinchega to examine the area's natural systems and relate their understandings to the management and conservation of semi-arid ecosystems. Students broke into small groups to investigate aquatic and terrestrial birds, patterns of weed dispersal, plant/herbivore relationships, rabbit impacts, and lizard habitats. Studying interactions of nature across Kinchega's sandy spaces, these researchers came to know the Park, and feel for it.

3.13 POSTSCRIPT

*Kinchega...
Where the mind is released
By the vastness of sky and plain
By the intricacies
Of life and death
By the dependence
Of life
One on the other*

*Kinchega...
Where the heart is free
To wander and alight
To fly
To float with eagles
To feel the earth
To follow the tracks of a lizard
And feed it with a juicy orange*

*For it is sweet water
And we belong to each other.¹⁵³*

In 1835 explorer Thomas Mitchell stood by the Darling River, gazing through 'beautifully transparent' water. The riverbed 'was visible at great depths', he wrote, 'showing large fishes in shoals, floating like birds in mid-air'.¹⁵⁴ A less appealing sight faced people standing on Darling riverbanks in November 1991. Along one thousand meandering kilometres a bloom of blue green algae signaled a natural system in crisis. This toxic growth thrives in low, nutrient-rich rivers.¹⁵⁵ As pumps extracted volumes of Darling water, heavy with crop fertiliser and sewerage, the algae thrived. Darling River residents learned the natural cost of the weirs, earthworks and pipes that sustained valuable crops of cotton and grapes, mobs of thirsty sheep, and shady town parks.

Descendants of clans dispossessed by pastoralists and police forces in the mid-nineteenth century gathered at Menindee in 1996 to discuss the Darling River's degradation and other land-based issues. Paakantji and Ngiyampaa people called for drastic reductions in irrigation water extraction from the Darling, and they talked of regaining country to restore biodiversity, revitalise traditional ties to land, and participate more equally in the regional economy.¹⁵⁶ A year later Paakantji people applied for recognition of native title across a wide chunk of the west Darling. Behind the barbed wire boundary fence of Kinchega National Park, artificially high lake water quietly steals Cawndilla's ancient foreshore burials. Kids swing on restored timber gates beside old Kinchega woolshed. And campers haul another carp from the muddy Darling. As new stories of land and people unfold.

¹⁵² Australian Broadcasting Corporation, *Kinchega: under new management*, film held by NSW NPWS library, Hurstville.

¹⁵³ Poem, *Resource Ecosystems: Kinchega Field Class*, School of Applied Science, Canberra College of Advanced Education, Canberra, 1980.

¹⁵⁴ Mitchell, *Three expeditions*, p. 222.

¹⁵⁵ J M Powell, *The Emergence of Bioregionalism in the Murray-Darling Basin*, Canberra, 1993, pp. 80-81.

¹⁵⁶ Ross Johnston [ed.], *Still our country: Aboriginal perspectives on rangelands management*, Alice Springs, 1996.



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4.0 ABORIGINAL HERITAGE & ARCHAEOLOGICAL OVERVIEW

4.1 THE INVENTORY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES : VOLUME 2

Kinchegea's archaeological sites are primarily associated with the prehistoric occupation of the region; and with the archaeological remnants of the Kinchegea pastoral station. The prehistoric sites include hearth, midden and burial sites associated with Paakantji occupation of the region. The historic sites are former building sites; infrastructure associated with the Kinchegea pastoral station; and more ephemeral 'post contact' Aboriginal campsites associated with the continued use of the former Kinchegea Station by Aboriginal people. The archaeological overview has been undertaken utilising an inventory-based assessment approach. Because of the extent of this information, the Inventory has been placed within a second volume, refer **Volume 2, Inventory**.

The inventory has been structured to provide **current** data on location, history, condition and significance; and to also provide **historical** pictorial data on specific sites. The inventory format has been extended to provide conservation/maintenance requirements [where appropriate] for the subject sites. The 'fields' for the inventory provide data on current and former names of the place or item; current registrations [on Heritage Registers]; location; history; disruption and condition of the place; comparative significance; and conservation policy / strategy / implementation recommendations for the place.

The Kinchegea Station 'groups' [and related archaeological items / places] documented within this Plan are as follows:

- The **Homesteads** Group
- The **Woolshed / Shearers' Quarters** Group
- The **Telegraph / Stockyards** Group
- The **Woolshed/Wharf** Group
- The **Regulator / Menindee Bridge** Group

4.2 PREVIOUS KINCHEGA NATIONAL PARK ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEYS

4.2.1 PREAMBLE

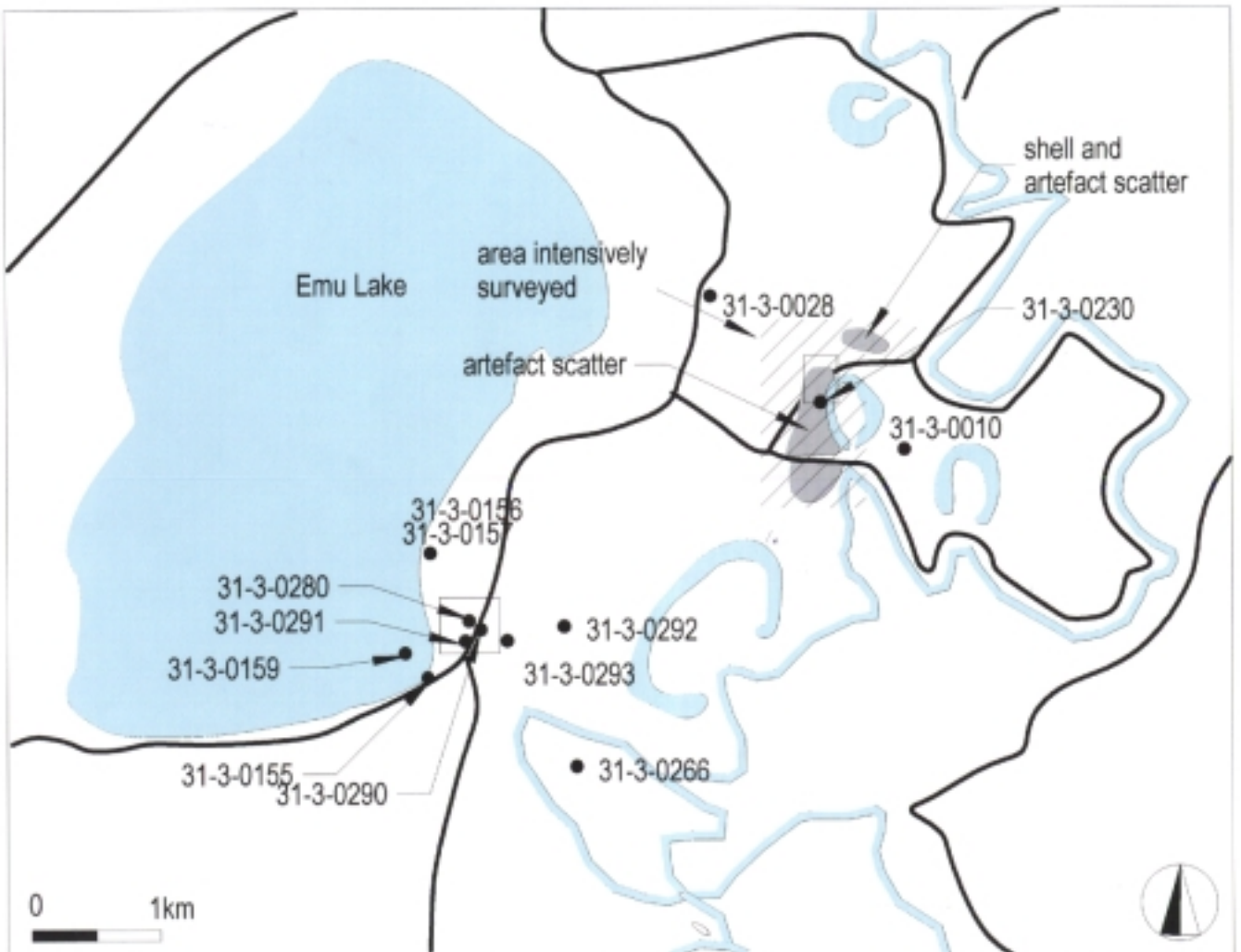
A considerable amount of archaeological survey work including both Aboriginal and historic site surveys has been undertaken at Kinchegea National Park. A summary of this survey work follows. Much of the specific information from these studies [e.g. the KARP investigations at the Homestead No. 2 site] have been included.



Figure 1
 Map of Kincheha National Park showing the areas previously covered by Aboriginal archaeological surveys and heritage investigations. The three 'Briefed' historic precincts are also shown. There are several areas and sites within or immediately adjacent to the three historic precincts which are considered to have archaeological potential.
 NPWS



Figure 2
 Aboriginal archaeological sites within the Homestead and Woolshed Groups
 SMT 2001 plan



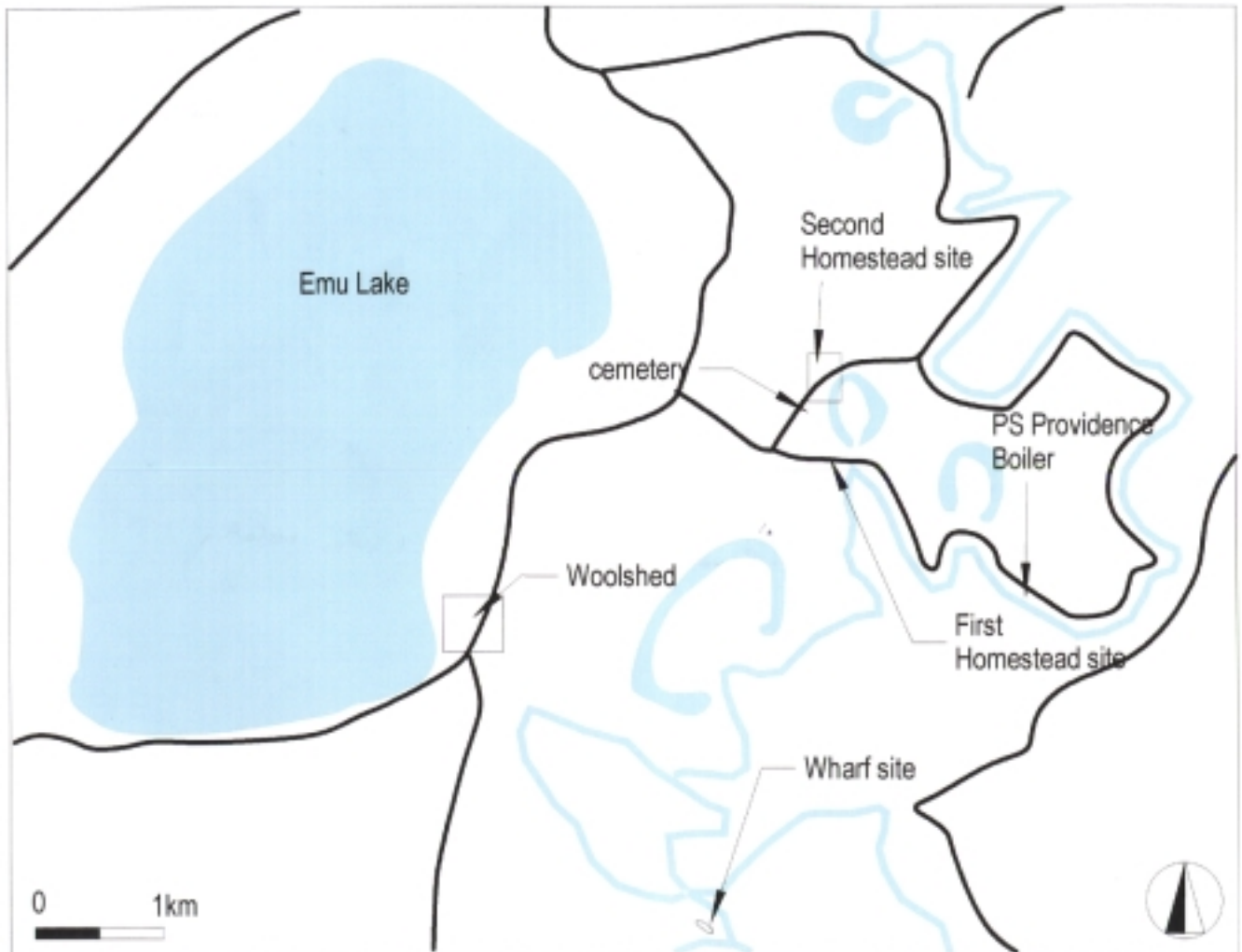


Figure 3
 Historic archaeological sites within
 the Homestead, Woolshed and wharf
 groups.
SMT 2001 plan

4.2.2 THE BUCHAN & WHITE SURVEY, 1978

In 1978 a party consisting of 13 students and two leaders, J. Peter White and Rosemary Buchan [NPWS], carried out an archaeological survey of Aboriginal sites within the Park. Unfortunately the report documenting this field work is missing from the Aboriginal Sites Register. The only documentation that could be located [apart from the site cards themselves] was an article included in the *Darling Surveys*.¹

Parts of the survey area from this 1978 investigation were close to areas covered by this Plan. The 1978 survey areas were:

- A one kilometre wide transect from the north-east side of Emu Lake to the Darling River [about three of four kilometres north of the homestead site];

¹ R Buchan and JP White, 'An Archaeological Survey in Kinchega National Park' in J Hope [ed] *Darling Surveys 1. Occasional Papers in Prehistory Vol 3*. Dept of Prehistory Research School of Pacific Studies, ANU Canberra, 1978



- Both sides of Cawndilla Creek between Lake Menindee and Lake Cawndilla [with the exception of the last two kilometres on the western bank before the creek enters Lake Menindee];
- The southern borders of Lake Menindee within 300 m of the waterline from the outlet regulator to the mouth of Cawndilla Creek and about two kilometres beyond this on the western side of the Lake; and
- The west bank of the Darling River, extending above the River from about three kilometres south of the Menindee Lake outflow regulator and about one kilometre south of Kincheega homestead.

This survey located 176 Aboriginal sites which were recorded on NPWS site forms. On the basis of this survey Buchan and White concluded that Aboriginal relics within the park consisted of three major classes: **surface campsites**, identified primarily by clusters of baked clay or sand lumps used in hearths and /or the presence of stone artefacts with thin shell middens also occurring; **burials** consisting of human skeletal material and, very occasionally, gypsum markers; and **'scarred' trees**, from which the bark has been removed for canoes, carrying dishes or other purposes. They wrote that: *'Combinations of these classes occurred. In particular, burials and campsites were found together. An additional group of prehistoric materials not Aboriginal consists of fossil bones of extinct animals. At the most general level, it could be said that the entire land area of Kincheega National Park is a single site, covered with Aboriginal relics. With only minor exceptions, it is impossible to travel more than 200m without encountering relics of some kind'.²*

On the basis of the 1978 survey results Buchan and White formulated the following model for site distribution across the park based on **four local environmental zones**.

DARLING RIVER FLOODPLAIN: ENVIRONMENTAL ZONE 1

This is the narrow low lying strip of land immediately adjacent to the river. This zone is frequently flooded, and has heavy clay soils, with clay pans occurring away from the River. Near the river the area is swampy, with numerous lagoons and cut off meanders. River red gums grow on the river banks grading into moderately dense red gum/box forest away from the river. Towards the outer margins of the floodplain, the trees become more sparse, and bluebush scrub takes over, growing between the claypans. Water birds are abundant along the river and include several duck species, pelicans, grebes, cormorants and gulls. Small reptiles and mammals were also noted to be plentiful.

In this zone there are two main classes of Aboriginal sites. 'Scarred' trees occur here in some numbers, and a few campsites with clusters of hearth materials and /or freshwater mussel shells were noted. Two stratified midden deposits located near the river had both been re-worked by floodwaters. All members of the 1978 survey found it

² Buchan & White 1978...*op cit.*



difficult to decide which scarred trees were the result of Aboriginal, as opposed to early European, operations.

BLUEBUSH PLAIN:
ENVIRONMENTAL ZONE 2

The slightly elevated flat area away from the margins of the lakes and streams which accounts for most of the landscape of the park. The sandy clay soils have been eroded into numerous claypans, on which surface campsites occur. Between the claypans is thick bluebush scrub. The area is intersected by small seasonal streams along which many Aboriginal sites occur. The area is inhabited by many reptiles and macropods.

Campsites and stone artefacts characterised the Aboriginal sites on the bluebush plain. With very occasional exceptions, these relics were only located where sheet erosion has occurred and the artefacts and hearth lumps now rest on hard claypan surface. They were not, therefore' normally *in situ*. Some variations in the density of relics were noted, and appeared generally to relate to distance from stream or lake water, but a more precise sampling would be needed for this hypothesis to be tested. Flaked stone artefacts included pirri points, backed blades [some trapezoidal form], tulas and tula adze flakes, scrapers, retouched flakes, large and small horsehoof cores and other cores. Grinding and pounding dishes and stones occur throughout the area. No hatchet heads were noted. The survey crew noted particularly that all kinds of stone artefacts were more common on the western side of the Park, possibly the result of less collecting by Europeans.

SAND DUNES WHICH ABUT STREAM
AND LAKE MARGINS:
ENVIRONMENTAL ZONE 3

This zone included the lunettes around the eastern sides of Lake Cawndilla and Menindee. All dunes had been subject to erosion, which had exposed archaeological material in blowouts and erosion surfaces. Some had deflated markedly to less than one metre in height while others, particularly the lake lunettes, rose steeply from the surrounding area and were visible as landmarks for a considerable distance in an otherwise featureless area. The dunes supported a sparse ground cover of grasses and herbaceous plants and a number of species of reptiles and mammals. Their close proximity to large bodies of water and thus to abundant sources of food and raw materials as well as their elevated position, may partially explain the relatively high density of Aboriginal remains found on them.

These sand dunes close to water [Darling River, Cawndilla Creek, Lakes Cawndilla, Menindee and Emu, Dry and Spectacles] proved to be the environment with the single richest concentration of relics. It was within these locations that most burials occurred, there was also a high intensity of campsites and artefact material. Among the burials, one cremation was recorded near the Darling River. All sites in these locations are now being eroded by natural processes and the uncovering of further relics may be anticipated.



OTHER LAKE AND STREAM EDGE
SITUATIONS: ENVIRONMENTAL
ZONE 4

Fossil bones of now extinct animals were found at four sites of this kind by the University of Sydney survey team. These included *Sarcophilus harrisis* [Tasmanian Devil] on the eastern side of Cawndilla Creek, while at two sites on the west side of the Cawndilla Lake extinct macropod [probably *Procoptodon*] were located.

The Sydney University team identified a fourth environmental zone which they described as '*...other lake and stream edge situations*' throughout which campsites and artefacts were found to occur except the south-eastern side of Lake Menindee. These sites often occurred in greater density than on the bluebush plain away from water.

A follow up survey was carried out in 1979.³ It focussed on the relationship between archaeological and fossil site occurrences. The study area centred on Lake Cawndilla. Forty four sites were recorded on NPWS site cards.

The team noted that all fossil material was mineralised to some degree, and encrusted in either a thick layer of carbonaceous sand or a thin carbonate layer. By contrast all human bone observed was white, leached, non-mineralised and unencrusted, even when found in situ within or near the carbonate horizon of the soil profile. The implication of this observation was that the burials were intrusive into the carbonate horizon after the establishment of the carbonate equilibrium related to the last major phase of paedogenesis. None of the archaeological material showed any evidence of calcium carbonate encrustation. Furthermore, the density of archaeological material tended to be as high along the flanks of the dune blowouts where the carbonate horizon was not exposed, as on the blow-out floors. Definitely *in situ* material was limited to three burials, two of which occurred well above the level of the carbonate horizon, while the third appears to have been intrusive into the carbonate horizon and was encrusted. On the other hand mineralised bone occurred only where the carbonate unit was exposed, or more often, where it had been deflated onto the underlying surface.

The survey team concluded that the archaeological and fossil material was generally, if not always, stratigraphically separated, with the archaeological material occurring above or intrusive into the carbonate horizon, and the fossil material occurring in the lower portion of the carbonate horizon. This survey found that six sites yielded the deflated remains of the extinct giant kangaroo *Procoptodon goliath* [three sites in the dune field area adjacent to Spectacles Lake and one a little to the south]. Two sites yielded other taxa *Bettongia* sp and *Macropus* sp. On another exposure outside the survey area in the north west corner of the Lake Cawndilla lunette on Water Bird Peninsula a varied faunal fossil assemblage was noted including:

³ K Aplin, R Silcox, N Stern & E Williams, 'An Archaeological Survey of the Western Shore of Lake Cawndilla, Kinchega National Park' in J Hope [ed] *Darling Surveys 1. Occasional Papers in Prehistory Vol 3.* Dept of Prehistory RSPacS, ANU Canberra, 1981



Procoptodon goliah, Macropus cooperi; Bettongia lesueur; Largochestes cf leporides, Lasiorhinus sp., Macrotis lagotis, Sarcophilus sp; possibly Diprotodon sp, Rattus sp, fish, varanid and snake.

4.2.3 THE KINCHEGA ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH PROJECT : 1995-96 & 1998-2000

The Kinchega Archaeological Research Project [KARP] began in 1995 as collaboration between the University of Sydney, Charles Sturt University and the NPWS. This project included an Aboriginal archaeology component for which fieldwork was initially undertaken in 1995-96 with a pre-European settlement focus. It also included a post European settlement component which focussed on the history of the Hughes family and the operation of the pastoral station with particular emphasis on the domestic life of the managers and overseers and their families who occupied the homestead over time. The early claims by the researchers to have adopted a '*landscape archaeology approach to the evidence of colonial occupations at this site*'⁴ have not really come to fruition. It appears that unfortunately the cross disciplinary and inter university partnership that originally constituted KARP fell apart and that consequently the members of the team interested in Aboriginal pre and post contact heritage did not continue with the project. It is important that this component is reinstated on the project for it to achieve its aims. These aims are clearly stated in the 1998 report:

*'... The purpose of the KARP investigation of the Kinchega Homestead is multi-faceted. In the first instance, this investigation is part of the larger programme of KARP, which is taking the archaeology and history of the homestead area as a focus for investigating the impact of colonisation on the Aborigines, the colonists themselves and the landscape. The programme consists of three parts which are both independent and interdependent: the environmental impact of colonisation and its wider economic implications; the socio-economic impact of colonisation on the indigenous inhabitants; and domestic practices at the homestead. It is the final part which was the main focus in 1998.'*⁵

The aims go on to specify

'... The Old Kinchega Homestead is a rare example of a homestead setting dating to the earliest European occupation of the West Darling region, of which the physical remains are now public property. While the homestead complex was inhabited by Europeans for some eighty years, it is now unoccupied and, despite the arid conditions, has continued to suffer decay and destruction since its abandonment in the 1950s. It is, therefore, important that the remains are documented and studied before further destruction to the site. Because of these conditions, the Old Kinchega Homestead presents an ideal site for using oral reports, documentary analysis, archaeological survey and, ultimately, excavation to provide

Refer also Inventory Volume 2 Section 2 : The Homestead Group for reference to KARP investigations at Homestead No 2.

⁴ P Allison , M Barry, P Cook & R Pullar, *The Kinchega Archaeological Research Project: Survey of the Old Kinchega Homestead*. A report to NPWS, 1998

⁵ Allison et al, *op cit*, p. 52



Refer also Inventory Volume 2
Section 2 : The Homestead Group
for reference to Aboriginal archaeological
sites.

information on 19th- and early 20th-century domestic life on a pastoral estate. This documentation and analysis will be employed to produce baseline data for the investigation of the material culture of households in rural colonial Australia and will be part of a more extensive study of the nature and diversity of 19th-century and early 20th-century domestic traditions in Australia. In particular, this data will be used to examine current assumptions concerning household production and consumption patterns, gender roles and spatial divisions of household activities in rural colonial contexts. The results will be used to demonstrate the important role of archaeology and the study of material culture in providing perspectives on domestic behaviour which both complement those resulting from analysis of the documentary and oral sources and are largely independent from them.'

Refer Section 3 : Historical Overview
above

The 1998 field season focused on the main homestead ruins. While the area to the north and south are described in terms of the European features and artefacts found there, e.g the cemetery and pieces of metal equipment, no mention is made of the Aboriginal stone artefacts and hearths that occur throughout the area except passing mention in the Conclusions to 'evident nearby Aboriginal occupation'.⁶ It seems that by 1998 the project seems to have already contracted to focus on the European occupation of the ruins. The proximity of Aboriginal sites, including two burial sites and a large number of artefacts, all of which occur within 30 metres of the ruins, does not appear to have been considered in the methodology for the excavation of the house. In fact the Review of Environmental Factors prepared to support the granting of an excavation permit states that there will be no impact on Aboriginal sites. Aboriginal artefacts have not been reported from the excavation of the homestead. However, given the proximity of known Aboriginal artefacts and the location of the homestead it is highly likely that Aboriginal relics either have been found / disturbed by the excavations to date or will be found in future excavations of the historic site.

Nevertheless, Allison's research provides detailed information on the homestead structure and the finds surrounding it and if recombined in a project which looked at Aboriginal sites and analysed them not only in terms of their pre and post contact use of the landscape but also explored the relationships between workers and management, and Aboriginal residents at Kinchega and European residents it could yield important insights into both the role of Aboriginal people in the early pastoral industry and the relationship between pastoralists and the Aboriginal people whom they to a greater or lesser degree displaced. The 1998 report concludes

'... In general, for a more comprehensive understanding of the growth and demise of this homestead; of the static and changing functions of the various parts of the complex throughout their relatively long history of occupancy; of the changing consumption patterns of its occupants; of the changing internal dynamics between the occupants; of changing relationships between

⁶ Allison et al, *op cit*, see Conclusions



the main buildings, the garden area, outlying buildings and evident nearby Aboriginal occupation, archaeological investigation has the potential to be very helpful. Such a study will not only broaden our knowledge of life at the Kincheega Station homestead. It will also contribute to a more detailed and engendered understanding of the history of domestic life in rural outback Australia.'

The outcomes of KARP to date provide some baseline information on the distribution of remains in the vicinity of the homestead group. They also provide an overview of past and current management practices and note that the site has been disturbed by the position during construction of the roads in the Park. The site it is noted is subject to souveniring of relics by visitors. Thanks to the detailed recording of the homestead ruins and associated artefacts by the teams they have been able to show that specific items have been removed or sometimes moved about the landscape. Further excavations in 1999 yielded information which helps to people the homestead and garden. Amongst the material recovered Allison found evidence that children were present in the homestead. She found the remains of broken tea sets, a considerable collection of chinks and slate pencils, a baby's nappy pin and a dolls head. The results of the excavation have engendered the homestead with evidence for instance that the women of the house enjoyed tea from fine bone china tea sets in the cool of the laundry block and that men enjoyed whisky and smoking in the living room as evidenced by the clay smoking pie fragments and whisky bottles recovered.⁷

The investigations after 1997 have focused entirely on the European remains at the homestead and there is little indication at this point that the project will evolve to include a landscape archaeology approach. However, the immediate environs of the homestead have been intensively surveyed and mapped and Allison's research has yielded high degree of detail on the construction and layout of the homestead and the gardens and outbuildings [refer Figure 4 for general layout]. The construction of homestead probably commenced around the mid 1870s. The homestead and its development were probably typical of many country properties in the area and the site provides the opportunity to observe the day-to-day life of people involved in the pastoral industry. The KARP report stated:⁸

'... This homestead served as the principal residence on Kincheega Station for some eighty years. Not only was it a family home, the occupants and their staff were responsible for much of their own food production – meat milk and fruit and vegetables – as well as for the construction and maintenance of the necessary machinery and buildings. The latter are evidenced in the considerable use of bush timber construction and the varied uses and recycling of materials, particularly of metal such as corrugated iron, ships

⁷ P Allison, *Kincheega Archaeological Research Project Summary of Research*. Report prepared for the Kincheega National Park application for funding for a Conservation Plan for the Kincheega Homestead, 2000

⁸ Allison et al, *op cit*.



tanks and probably a vehicle engine. Other food products and commodities which had to be purchased from outside, not only for the occupants but for other station employees and travellers, were stored and distributed from here. This homestead complex, therefore, acted as a consumption, production trading and maintenance site.

This description of the homestead and its role in the pastoral station could no doubt equally describe all the other homesteads in the region. The value in this fairly typical site of local significance lies partly in the opportunity to explore the site archaeologically which is provided by its location in a national park and its status as a ruin but also in the opportunity it provides to interpret and present the site to Park visitors as a ruin under archaeological investigation. The potential of the homestead group and the other sites related to Kincheega pastoral station to add an important depth to our understanding of the recent history of the local Aboriginal people could equally enhance the significance of the sites.

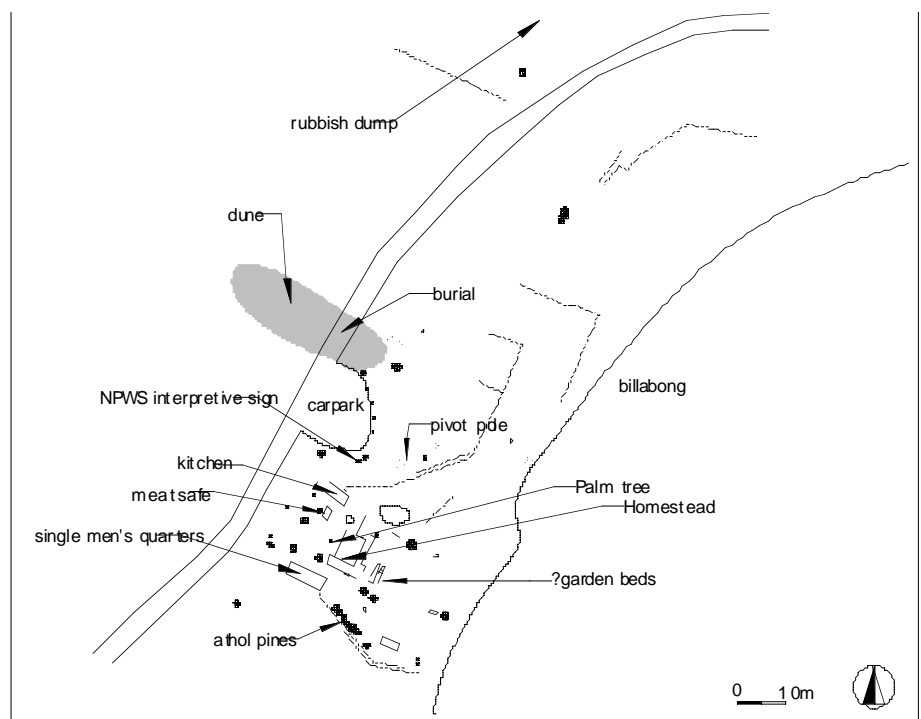


Figure 4
General layout of the homestead site.
SMT plan, based on Allison 1997 plan.

By the time that the Hughes family first established claim to Kincheega Aboriginal people had already begun to feel the effects of European incursions into their land. European settlers had established themselves nearby at Laidley's Ponds, Menindee by 1849.⁹ When the European men were lured from work on pastoral stations to the goldfields in the 1850s, Aboriginal men were recruited to fill the labour void. The first fringe settlement in the region began near Menindee in the 1860s. By the 1870s most remaining Aboriginal

⁹ Godden Mackay Logan and Mary Dallas, *Central Darling Shire: Heritage and Cultural Tourism Study*, Draft Report to the Central Darling Shire, 1997



people in the area lived on cattle stations in small camps which operated as labour pools for the pastoralists. Declining wool prices, drought and the influx of rabbits led to a general decline in the pastoral industry in the Darling River area in the last decades of the nineteenth century. As Aboriginal people who had lived on properties moved to the towns in search of goods and employment the town fringe camps developed. Dallas¹⁰ points out that this led to a breakdown of Aboriginal community as the fringe groups became bigger, alcohol consumption increased and autonomy decreased.

Not far from Kinchega, the Menindee Aboriginal Reserve was established in 1933. The Roman Catholic Church established a Sacred Heart Mission on the Menindee Reserve [which moved to Wilcannia in 1949]. As elsewhere in Australia the government began to move Aboriginal people to the reserve from other parts of the country. For more detailed accounts of the Menindee Mission see Kennedy and Donaldson 1982 and Goodall 1996.

It is known that Kinchega station had an Aboriginal camp somewhere near the homestead contemporaneous with the early operations of the homestead. It is not clear how long this campsite remained there nor even the exact relationships between these people and the Hughes family and managers. Such a site should be evident in the archaeological record and would be characterised by a high level of European material mixed with more traditional Aboriginal artefacts. A high level of Aboriginal artefacts made from European raw materials such as glass would be expected at such a site. It is unknown as to whether the camp was a permanent home site for people who worked on the property or whether it was a temporary one as people moved back and forth from the Mission.

4.2.4 OTHER STUDIES

*Refer Inventory, Volume 2
Section 3 : The Woolshed Group for the
'Pretty' Aboriginal sites in this Group*

Other non-student Aboriginal archaeological studies have been undertaken, most notably a test excavation and survey of Kinchega undertaken by G L Pretty in 1981.¹¹ The site within the Woolshed Paddock, nominated by Pretty as KW1, was described as extending along the entire dune and apparently a lot of surface ground edged artefacts were collected from here prior to 1966 [when the area became a National Park] by a private collector who had been collecting from the area for about twenty years. This 'robbing' of archaeological sites occurred prior to the proclamation of the place as a National Park.

Another site [nominated by Pretty as Site 1] was located on the accommodation dune near the north-eastern corner of the

¹⁰ Godden Mackay Logan and Mary Dallas, *op cit*, p. 27

¹¹ G L Pretty, Trial Excavation of an Aboriginal Open Campsite and Site Survey, Kinchega National Park, in J Hope [ed] *Darling Surveys 1. Occasional Papers in Prehistory Vol 3*. Dept of Prehistory RSPacS, ANU Canberra, 1978



southernmost wool classer's hut. The site consists of at least one eroding skeleton, 'camp debris' and 'European litter'. Site KW2 was located on the south-eastern shore of Lake Emu on a high sand ridge. It included camps; skeletons; and near the woolshed, European litter. About a mile and a quarter past the woolshed these sandhills sweep down to level ground.

In all twenty sites were recorded by Pretty and included campsites and burials. One of the burials had a broken widow's cap and a Kopi marker. [A widow's cap is a plaster 'cap' made out of white clay with which women covered their heads during the mourning period and then left on the graves afterwards. Kopi markers were also made from white clay.] The only sites noted as having introduced European material were sites KW1 and KW2, both located near the woolshed.

4.2.5 SUMMARY OF THE EARLIER STUDIES

These studies and others further from Kinchega, but still within the Darling River catchment, have yielded a picture of the prehistory of the region which evidences a continuous history of Aboriginal occupation from the Late Pleistocene to the present day. With the advent of Europeans into this history around the 1820s and 1830s we find written records which attest to the survival of hunter/gatherer lifestyles lasting until the early years of the twentieth century. The studies all show a consistent set of trends in terms of both artefact density distributions and site distributions.

The various studies, while focussing on various aspects of the pre-contact Aboriginal economy and the resultant sites distribution and artefact density, pose a number of predictive or testable statements:

- sites occur everywhere in the region and across all environmental zones;
- lake lunettes and dunes are the environment with the single richest concentration of relics. It is at these locations that most burials occur and there is also a high intensity of campsites and artefact material. These sites provide evidence of long occupation often dating back to the Pleistocene;
- there is evidence that people accessed resources over long distances e.g quartzite cobbles from Scopes Ranges; Schist grindstones from the Barrier Ranges;¹² and
- areas away from the lakes and the river were occupied in winter months when the economy shifted to a focus on terrestrial fauna.¹³

¹² S Martin, D Witter & C Webb, *The Archaeology of Lakes Menindee and Cawndilla and the Impact of Artificial Water Storage*. A report to the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service and the NSW Department of Water Resources, 1994.

¹³ H Allen, 'The Bagundji of the Darling Basin: Cereal gatherers in an uncertain environment', in *World Archaeology*, 1974 5: 309-322.



4.3 ABORIGINAL PEOPLE AND KINCHEGA

4.3.1 PREAMBLE

As part of the current DLWC Menindee Lakes ESD project, the DLWC have commissioned two benchmark studies which will add considerably to our knowledge of Aboriginal ties to the Menindee Lakes region [including the Kincheha National park]; and to the archaeological prehistory, and contact history, of the Park. The first of these studies, *Aboriginal Ties to the Land*, is currently available in draft form¹⁴ and provides a comprehensive understanding of Paakantyi traditional culture and of Aboriginal associations with the Menindee Lakes area. The study examines Aboriginal post-contact history in the area, existing Aboriginal rights and Aboriginal oral history relating to the Menindee Lakes area. The second study, currently being commissioned by DLWC, relates to Aboriginal archaeology of the Menindee Lakes region.

The Kincheha area generally provides a lot of scope for research into archaeological continuity and change. Aboriginal sites are plentiful in the region in general and in Kincheha National Park itself. There are a range of dated sites which provide evidence of a deep history of Aboriginal occupation from the Pleistocene to the present. There is strong evidence for the continuation of cultural and economic practices throughout the known Aboriginal occupation of the regions to the present. For example Balme describes evidence for fishing practices which largely concur with ethnographic observations.¹⁵

Allen¹⁶ proposed a model of seasonal movement for the Darling River area based on archaeological evidence from the Willandra Lakes and Lake Tandou and available ethnographic evidence. In this model water and the related food resources area the key determinants for settlement patterns and seasonal movements. He proposed that people concentrated along the rivers and lakes for as long as possible, i.e as long as water and resources was plentiful, before moving out into the surrounding country to focus on other resources such as marsupials, reptiles, emus and grasses. It is during winter that the river becomes unproductive due to lower water levels and reduced rate of flow. Higher water levels and increased rates of flow are directly correlated with increases in the fish stocks as well as waterfowl. Allen argued that from 13,000 to 30,000 years ago the archaeology of the lakes indicates a lacustrine economy that included a diet of fish and shellfish, supplemented by land birds and reptiles. From 15,000 years ago grass seeds and processing equipment enter

¹⁴ Sarah Martin, *Aboriginal Ties to the Land* [Draft for Comment], prepared for DLWC as part of the MLESD project, 2001.

¹⁵ Jane Balme, 'Prehistoric Fishing on the lower Darling, Western NSW' in *Animals & Archaeology* International Series, 1983, Oxford

¹⁶ H. Allen, 'The Bagundji' ...op cit, 1974



the economy for the first time, and remained an important staple food until contact.

Balme investigated the midden sites from the Lakes around Menindee and Talyawalka Lakes. Balme's thesis explored the evidence for Aboriginal fishing. Three of her middens were from around the Lake Tandou lunette and one was from the overflow channel at Talyawalka Lakes. All four middens are composed almost entirely of aquatic species. All species would have been locally available. The three sites at Lake Tandou are over 20,000 years old [ie date to the Pleistocene] while the one from Lake Talyawalka is around 8,000 years old. Her results disagree with Allen's hypothesis that people camped in large numbers for long periods of time along the Darling River.¹⁷ Instead she proposed that group size was small and mobility was high. Evidence of large gatherings may indicate peak environmental conditions or specific cultural practices or ceremonies.

Ethnographic evidence suggests a range of techniques used for fishing in the area at the time of contact. When the river was high and in full flow, co-operative group fishing techniques were used such as netting; as the river dropped fish weirs were constructed across channels of billabongs and swamps. The period of high water flow and plentiful resources corresponded with large gatherings of people; as the river dropped further group sizes became smaller and people began working the small pools with brush either using spears or poison.¹⁸

Martin and Webb provided a local occupation model for the pre-invasion period. They proposed that on the basis of their assessment of the archaeological sites known around Lakes Cawndilla and Menindee that these two lakes were used in different time periods that other nearby lakes '*... with their occupation being more intensive during the Late Holocene than in earlier periods.*¹⁹ They proposed that this was due to increased human occupation generally, combined with a period of greater aridity making the more stable water sources of Menindee and Cawndilla more important as a valuable resource to the Aboriginal people of the area. They further predicated that evidence of this greater concentration of population in the Holocene would result in more sites of greater diversity reflecting not only the increased number of people at these lakes but an increased range of activities being carried out. Conversely, they proposed that the area was not used as intensively as other nearby lakes in the Pleistocene.

In summary then, there are a number of Aboriginal archaeological sites, of varied time periods, within the Park, and within the Kinchega Station study areas. Sarah Martin however, cautions against

¹⁷ Allen, *op cit*, 1974

¹⁸ Lawrence, *op cit*, 1968

¹⁹ S Martin & C Webb, *op cit*, 1993, p. 7



the purely 'site based' approach in explaining Aboriginal 'ties to the land'.²⁰

'... There is a strong sense amongst people interviewed for this project and earlier oral history that the concept of 'sites' usually used to define the cultural significance of an area is not a useful concept. The significance of the Menindee Lakes and the surrounding areas to Aboriginal people is much more than the sum of known archaeological, historical and mythological or story sites.

'... It is also important for government bodies to understand that the significance of a place can change over time, relevant examples of this being Lake Mungo and Lake Victoria where the work of scientists, Aboriginal researchers and media coverage has resulted in new kinds of significance being placed upon these sites in addition to traditional and historic significance. This is a continuation of a traditional cultural trait, as mythology and culture adapt and change over time, they are not static.

'... The idea of sites with definite boundaries rarely fits into the scheme of mythology where a system of pathways with nodal points is a slightly better description. These nodal points are invariably mythological places or site complexes of outstanding significance, but it is difficult to assign significance to the pathways. Aboriginal people do not recognise individual sites so much as landforms and signs that can be followed and understood.'

4.4 ABORIGINAL 'CONTACT SITES' AT KINCHEGA STATION AND KINCHEGA NATIONAL PARK

Martin provides an extensive summary of Aboriginal 'contact' and 'post contact' history in the Menindee Lakes region, and describes Aboriginal involvement with European explorers, settlers, pastoralists, pastoral stations, fruit picking, the railways, the Missions and the post-Mission period, and the Aboriginal families of Menindee.²¹

At Kinchega itself, while it is known that Aboriginal people worked on the Station and there is anecdotal information that an Aboriginal camp was located near the homestead, no 'contact' sites have been recorded in detail or have, as yet, been investigated. It is evident that the Homestead No. 2 site has post contact Aboriginal cultural material present [ASR 31-3-0230] and there are Aboriginal sites across landscape around the perimeter of the homestead complex and in the vicinity of the woolshed [refer Inventory entries for the Homestead and Woolshed sites].

The Review of Environmental Factors which assessed the impact of the KARP excavations on the Park environment does not refer to the potential for Aboriginal remains at the Homestead No. 2 site. It

²⁰ S Martin, *Aboriginal Ties to the Land* [Draft], *op cit*, 2001

²¹ Martin, 2001, *op cit*, pps 40 to 73



simply states that '*... No Aboriginal sites are visible or known in the location proposed for excavation*'.²² This is incorrect as we know that there are recorded burial sites along the road immediately adjacent to Homestead No. 2 and there is a visible surface scatter of artefacts, hearths and shells around the entire perimeter of the homestead sites. Re-analysis of all finds from the excavation should be undertaken as a matter of course to ascertain that Aboriginal relics are not present. More importantly it is essential that the research of the Kinchega homesteads and other sites examined in this Plan, be placed within a broader research agenda which addresses the question of the relationships between Aboriginal people and the Europeans and the contribution of each to the pastoral industry at Kinchega as well as their interrelationship with the environment.

4.5 HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY AND THE KINCHEGA STATION SITES

Whilst there have been detailed investigation of the Homestead No. 2 site over an extended period [1995 to 2000]; other large historical sites remain uninvestigated e.g. the Homestead No. 1 site; the Woolshed Wharf and related sites; the 'Western' Woolshed Site; and the former Shearer's Quarters site within the Woolshed Group.

The KARP project has, in fact, produced a comprehensive and detailed account of the Homestead No. 2 site; of the occupants of the Homestead area; and of the archaeological projects methodology, findings and recommendations. One of the primary recommendations of the KARP project²³ is that a Conservation Management Plan be prepared for the Homestead No. 1 site. An extract from the KARP 1998 report is appended to this Plan, refer **Appendix D** below.

The limitations of the archaeological investigations at Kinchega's historical sites to date are that they have focussed on one site only.²⁴ A much broader and holistic approach to the investigation of Kinchega's historical archaeology is required, and the policy recommendations within this Plan are directed towards the integrated investigation of the most significant of Kinchega Stations historic archaeological sites, refer **Section 9** : Conservation and Management Policy.

²² P Allison, Heritage Council of NSW Application to carry out Historical and Maritime Archaeological Investigations, 1999

²³ Penelope Allison, KARP Report, 1998

²⁴ P Allison, 'The Old Kinchega Homestead', paper given at the World Archaeological Congress, 1999



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5.0 PHYSICAL OVERVIEW : THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

5.1 PREAMBLE

Refer Inventory, Volume 2

This section provides a brief overview of the natural environment of the Park [and the Kinchega Station sites] and its heritage values. The overview consists of a broad understanding of the bioregion and the Kinchega land systems; and then a brief summary of flora and fauna within the Park and conservation issues relating to those flora and fauna. There are general natural environment references for specific Kinchega Station Groups within the **Volume 2 Inventory**.

5.2 THE KINCHEGA LAND SYSTEMS

The Park consists of two principal **bioregions**, the Broken Hill complex and the Darling Riverine Plains. The modern landscape consists of three broad land systems as outlined below:

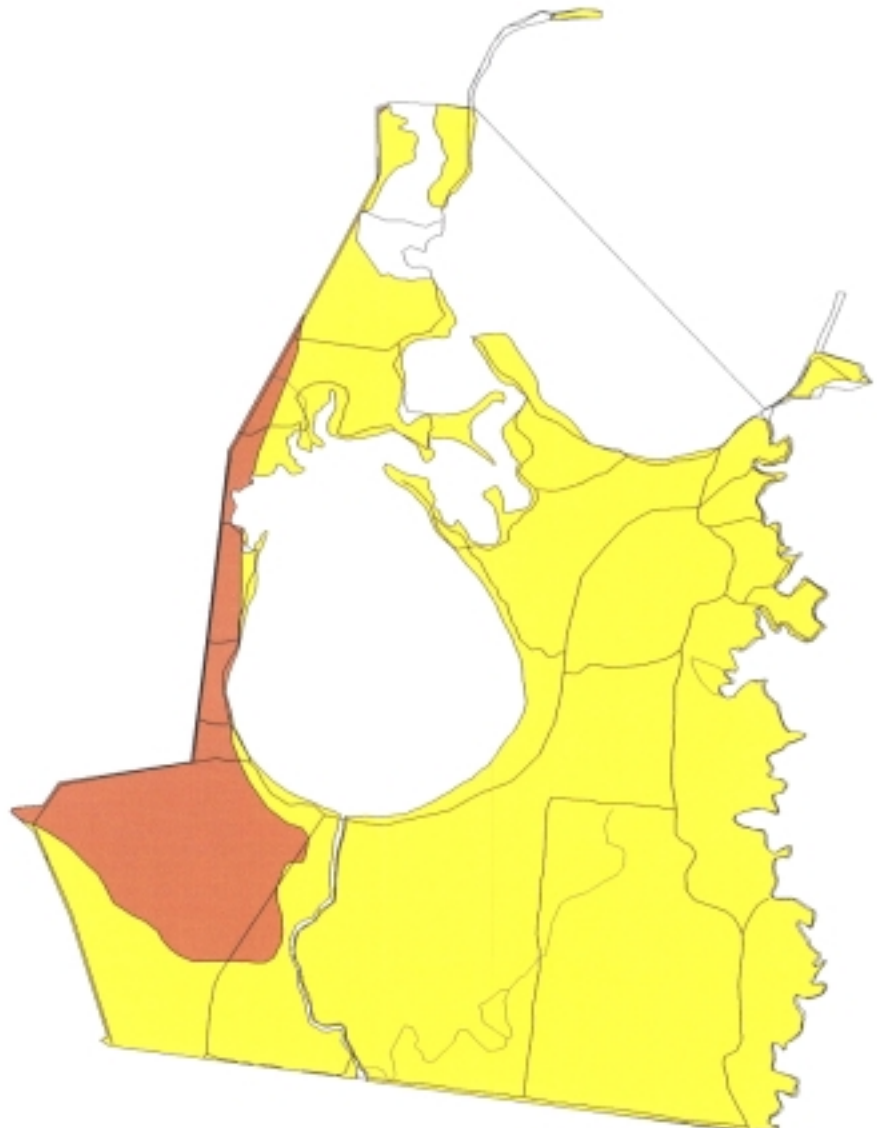


Figure 1
The KNP bioregions:
Yellow represents Darling Riverine
Plains; and light brown represents
Broken Hill complex.
NPWS



The **Floodplains** include the overflow channels, floodplains and swamps of the Darling River along the eastern boundary of the Park. The riverine areas consist of an open forest of river red gum [*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*] on heavy textured, cracking clays. They are subject to flooding on average every five years. Black soil floodplains extend away from the river and support an open woodland of black box [*Eucalyptus largiflorens*] and coolabah [*Eucalyptus coolabah*]. Lignum [*Muehlenbeckia florulenta*] occurs in the understory.

The **Sandplains and Dune Fields** consist of light red sands and loams. The dunes consist of coarse sands and are susceptible to wind erosion. Belah [*Casuarina pauper*], rosewood [*Heterodendron oleifolium*], hopbush [*Dodonaea attenuata*] and turpentine [*Eremophila sturtii*] dominate the dune crests. Black bluebush [*Maireana pyramidata*] is the dominant plant on the sandplains, with other species including prickly wattle [*Acacia victoriae*] and needlewood [*Hakea leucoptera*]. After rains, ephemeral plants such as the poached-egg daisy [*Myriocephalus stuartii*] and sunrays [*Helipterum* spp.] germinate rapidly and cover large areas of the Park in a mass of colour. Purple wood wattle [*Acacia carneorum*] which occurs in the sand dunes in the south west of the Park is listed as vulnerable under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act*.

The **Overflow Lakes** include the shallow saucer shaped overflow depressions of Lake Menindee and Lake Cawndilla, and the lunettes on the eastern and north eastern sides of the lakes. These lakes are subject to artificial and significant rises and falls in water levels as part of the management of the Menindee Lakes Scheme which stores water for irrigation and management of downstream river flows. The dominant plant species on the lake foreshores are blue rod [*Stemodia florulenta*] and sandhill cane grass [*Zygochloa paradoxa*]. The lunettes contain bluebush [*Maireana pyramidata*], prickly wattle [*Acacia victoriae*], black box [*Eucalyptus largiflorens*] and sandhill cane grass [*Zygochloa paradoxa*]. Menindee nightshade [*Solanum karsense*] which is associated with the overflow lakes and swamps is listed as vulnerable under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act* [1975]. Survival of this species depends on maintaining an appropriate water regime.

Refer Section 4:
Archaeological Overview above

The **lunettes** contain evidence of thousands of years of Aboriginal occupation with shell middens, burial sites and stone tools. The artificial raising of the lakes' water levels has resulted in shoreline erosion revealing burial sites, which is of particular concern to local Aboriginal communities,¹ refer **Section 4 : Archaeological Overview** above.

¹ S Martin, C Webb and Menindee LALC, 'Impact of Shoreline Erosion on the Archaeology of Menindee and Cawndilla Lakes', unpublished report to the Water Resources Commission, 1993

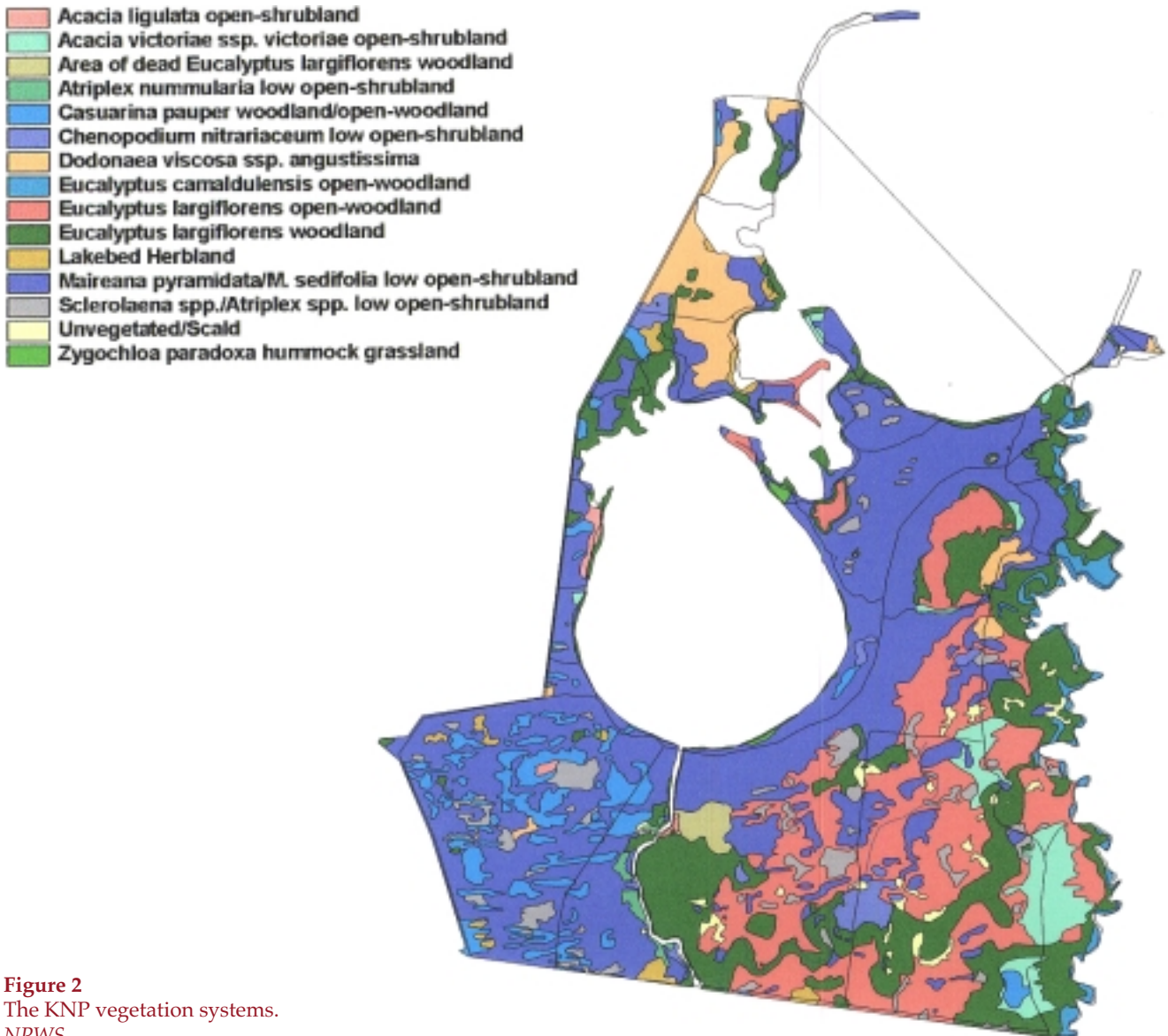


Figure 2
 The KNP vegetation systems.
 NPWS

5.3 THE LANDSCAPE HISTORY OF KINCHEGA NATIONAL PARK

The landscape we see today at Kinchega National Park is the result of a long physical and cultural history. There is evidence of past climate change from a wetter period in the Pleistocene to the current more arid period. There is evidence of giant megafauna, a long period of Aboriginal occupation and more than a century of pastoral activity. Over the last thirty years or more the area has been managed as a National Park for the conservation of natural systems and the Park's cultural heritage. It has also provided a base for rangelands research, a centre for learning and an important tourism and recreation resource. These 'historical' landscape phases are outlined briefly below.



5.3.1 THE PREHISTORIC LANDSCAPE

There is considerable debate relating to the date of the arrival of the first people to the region around Kinchega. The shore of the now dry Lake Mungo within the Willandra Lakes World Heritage Region south east of Kinchega holds evidence of habitation by Aboriginal people for at least the last 40,000 years. Although no sites have been discovered of that age within Kinchega National Park, a site that is 15,000 years old has been discovered. Most sites in the Park are probably less than 5,000 years old and most of these represent the last 1,000 years of occupation, refer also **Section 3 : Historical Overview** above.

*Refer Section 3 :
Historical Overview above*

The sites indicate the changing pattern of Aboriginal occupation over the past tens of thousands of years. This includes increasing concentrations of Aboriginal people along the Darling River as the Willandra Lakes system to the south east dried up following the end of the last ice age in south eastern Australia. The Pleistocene sea level was then 100 metres lower than today, the continental shelf was dry land and people probably entered Australia from the north west. These people found a land less arid than today, stocked with many species of large mammals.

Around 30,000 years ago Australia was the habitat of a variety of megafauna [i.e. species over fifty kilograms]. These species included thirteen marsupial genera, a genus of gigantic monitor lizards and a genus of heavy flightless birds. Kinchega National Park has been the site of a number of palaeontological discoveries. These include the *Diprotodon* [a rhinoceros-like marsupial], numerous species of large kangaroos [*Sthenurus* spp., *Procoptodon*, *Protemnodon*], the large wombat [*Phascolonus*], the koala [*Phascolarctos*] and predators such as the marsupial lion, the marsupial tiger or wolf and a giant devil [*Thylacoleo*, *Thylacinus* and *Sarcophilus*].

Many of these species had become extinct by 18,000 years ago. The greatest decline of megafauna in what is now the semi-arid and arid regions of south east Australia occurred more than 25,000 years ago. There is scientific debate about the possible reasons for these extinctions. The most likely explanation is that the animals were hunted out following the arrival of people. There are theories that hunting pressure on the very large animals resulted in selection of smaller animals. Changes in climate in the late Pleistocene period may also have contributed to these extinctions.

Aboriginal impacts on the environment through hunting and the use of fire were followed more recently by the arrival of the dingo over 3,000 years ago. The introduction of dingoes would also have had a major ecological impact.



5.3.2 THE PASTORAL LANDSCAPE²

The 1857 Blandowski Expedition documented twenty species of marsupials and five species of rodent in the area now including Kinchega National Park. Today the Park contains only six species of the marsupials identified in 1857 and one of the rodents. These extinctions were different to those of the late Pleistocene period. These were small animals that lived on the ground and were dependent on a thick ground cover. The species included wallabies, bandicoots, dasyures and rodents.³ The main cause of these extinctions appears to have been habitat modification by sheep and cattle as well as rabbits, which entered the area in the early 1880s along with predators such as cats and foxes.

The natural systems were changed dramatically with the arrival of pastoralism and the provision of water, fencing and control of indigenous species that competed with sheep for food. There was an initial dramatic increase in sheep numbers from the 1860s to the 1890s. This was built largely on a one-off supply of food including some species that could not tolerate the grazing and browsing of alien herbivores. As these plant species declined a crash in sheep numbers occurred in association with drought. Sheep numbers never again reached the numbers of the 1890s, however overgrazing continued well into the twentieth century.

The period of heavy grazing and drought in the late 1880s and early 1890s coincided with the disappearance from western NSW of several small to medium sized marsupials, however 'large kangaroo' species' numbers increased with the advent of sheep. This phenomenon may have partially been the result of the destruction of the native dog and the absence of Aboriginal hunting. The establishment of watering points was probably more influential.⁴

The impact of pastoralism on the land was evidenced by several phenomena such as the lichen crust which occurred on much of the red sand plains and protected the soil from erosion was destroyed as the soil surface was pulverised by the hard hooves of sheep and cattle; overgrazing which resulted in wind and water erosion; and the supply of water which kept stock alive in country away from natural water sources, where they were able to eat away perennial vegetation. These water sources resulted in an increase in total grazing capacity, and hence environment pressure over a much wider area. This environmental pressure was caused not only by stock but also by native species such as kangaroos and by feral animals such as rabbits and goats.

² This section provides only a brief summary of the pastoral era of Kinchega. A description is included at **Section 3 : Historical Overview**, above.

³ Caughley et al, 'Kangaroos - their ecology and management in the sheep rangelands of Australia', 1987

⁴ *Ibid*



Rabbits also impacted on native plants and animals and reduced grass cover, ringbarked shrubs and trees and led to erosion of warrens. The subsequent control of rabbits also had environmental impacts, for example the effects of soil ripping of infested areas. Finally snag removal for riverboats removed habitat for aquatic plants and animals and allowed greater erosion; and the removal of timber for fuel for the paddle steamers and for fencing and building causes erosion and the loss of native species' habitats.

5.3.3 THE NATIONAL PARK LANDSCAPE

For over thirty years Kinchega National Park has faced a range of natural resource management issues. Some of these include the management of tracks; the management of the impacts of campers, including issues such as rubbish and fires; the management of weed control including eradication of onion weed in the sandy country, and of patterson's curse, bathurst burr, noogoora burr, castor oil plant and isolated pockets of bitou bush.

Erosion control has utilised techniques to collect sand and allow regeneration; feral animal control including control of rabbits, cats, pigs and foxes. Rabbit populations have declined rapidly due to calicivirus and the ripping of warrens.⁵ Finally, NPWS has provided assistance in river management, which is generally beyond the administrative control of NPWS.

Apart from these land management issues for the National Park, the Park has played a significant cultural role. It has provided not only a place for nature conservation but also for recreation, tourism, scientific research and learning. Kinchega has become a special place to a whole generation of students, teachers and researchers. It has helped build an understanding of rangeland management. A large amount of research work has been carried out in the Park including research for PhDs, university field trips and people undertaking voluntary work on research projects during university breaks. The landmark 1987 research 'Kangaroos: their ecology and management in the sheep rangelands of Australia',⁶ for example, was based on research work carried out in Kinchega National Park and on the neighbouring grazing lease at Tandou. This study assessed options for managing kangaroo populations both within National Parks and more broadly in conjunction with sheep grazing across the rangelands.

Another example of natural environment investigative work undertaken at the Park was the academic thesis 'Population ecology and life history of a lizard community in Arid Australia', which utilised Kinchega as the study area.⁷ Two of the five study sites for

⁵ Josh Bean, NPWS, pers. comm. 2001

⁶ Caughley et al, *op cit*, 1987

⁷ Henle, PhD thesis, 1988



this work used were the old homestead and the woolshed complex. This work is the subject of ongoing research, and has resulted in various other publications. Between the years 1971 to 1990, students from the University of Canberra [formerly Canberra College of Advanced Education] visited Kinchega National Park each year to conduct field studies. Small groups studies were carried out on a diverse range of topics. One of these was the study of lizards and their homesites. This study continued year after year with different groups studying the same site, at the old homestead. Some of the topics included the assessment of the regeneration of vegetation on old sheep tracks; a comparison between grazing impacts inside and outside the Park; the capacity of different plant species to extract water from the soil; the recolonisation of plants on the floodplain after flooding; the distribution of rabbit warrens and the regeneration of ripped rabbit warrens; surface impact of animals; kangaroo population and behaviour studies; weed distribution; bird surveys; the distribution of insects and microbes in the bluebush communities; the distribution of shrubs on ridges and swales; and a comparison between grazing inside and outside the Park.

Much natural environment research is currently being carried out within the Menindee Lakes Ecologically Sustainable Development Project.⁸ This project is being coordinated by the NSW Department of Land and Water Conservation. The project is assessing the ecological, cultural and socio-economic values of the region, with a view to modifying the operation of the Lakes in an attempt to improve water quality or reduce water loss. The MLESD project involves the study of terrestrial flora and fauna;⁹ downstream environmental flow requirements; water bird requirements; aquatic fauna; water quality of the Menindee Lakes; water table modelling; erosion [shoreline and channel erosion]; heritage, both Aboriginal and non-indigenous; and a socio-economic survey.

The MLESD terrestrial flora and fauna study; and the recently completed NPWS study of flora conservation issues at Kinchega National Park¹⁰ are discussed in more detail below.

5.4 THE FLORA OF KINCHEGA NATIONAL PARK

5.4.1 THE SPECIES

The vegetation of Kinchega National Park has been described in a recently completed survey of the vegetation of the Park.¹¹ The most widespread communities in *Eucalyptus largiflorens* open woodland on

⁸ Department of Land & Water Conservation, 2000

⁹ G W Brown et al, *Terrestrial Flora and Fauna of the Menindee Lakes System NSW*, MLESD, DLWC, April 2001

¹⁰ Tony Auld, *Flora Conservation Issues at Kinchega National Park*, NPWS, ND

¹¹ Westbrook et al, *The Vegetation of Kinchega National Park, Western NSW* [submitted]



the floodplain near the Darling River and Tandou Creek; open woodlands of *Casuarina pauper* and *Alectryon oleifolius* on the dune system in the south-west of the Park; and low open shrublands of *Maireana pyramidata* on ancient weathered dunes bordering the floodplain. Open shrublands of *Acacia* spp., *Eremophila sturtii*, *Dodonaea attenuata* and *Senna artemisioides* also occur in the reserve.

Kinchega National Park has a rich and diverse ephemeral flora [annuals and short-lived perennials].¹² This component of the flora is dynamic with the distribution and abundance of species across the landscape varying in response to seasonal rainfall and flooding. The Asteraceae [some 70 native and 20 introduced species], Chenopodiaceae [some 61 species] and Poaceae [some 39 native and 16 introduced species] are the dominant plant families on the reserve. The genera in these families with the largest number of species on Kinchega National Park include *Atriplex* [13 spp.], *Brachycome* [8 spp.], *Calotis* [7 spp.], *Eragrostis* [6 spp.], *Maireana* [15 spp.], *Rhodanthe* [9 spp.], *Sclerolaena* [14 spp.] and *Senecio* [11 spp.]. Whilst a few are long-lived perennials, most of these species are a component of the ephemeral flora and the variation in the timing of rainfall can transform the landscape from a daisy dominated one to a chenopod dominated one or vice versa. Other genera with a number of species occurring within the Park include *Acacia* [12 spp.], *Eremophila* [8 spp.] and *Sida* [9 spp.].

Domestic stock grazed this area since the 1860s and the Park has been fenced to exclude stock since its inception in 1967. Rabbits, *oryctolagus cuniculatus*, first reached the area in about 1881¹³ and are now widespread. The major native mammalian grazers on the Park are red kangaroos, *Macropus rufus*, and western grey kangaroos, *Macropus fuliginosus*. Euros, *Macropus robustus*, and eastern grey kangaroos, *Macropus giganteus*, occur in small numbers. Goats are uncommon but variable in abundance while pigs are widespread.

5.4.2 FLORA CONSERVATION ISSUES

Kinchega National Park reserves significant stands *Eucalyptus largiflorens* open woodland on the Darling River floodplain, low open *Maireana pyramidata* shrubland and *Casuarina pauper* / *Alectryon oleifolius* on dune systems. The four key issues for the conservation of flora in Kinchega National Park are:¹⁴

- There is an urgent need to initiate regeneration in a number of long-lived perennial trees and shrubs. Failure to do so will lead to local population declines and extinction in a number of species. Reduction in grazing impacts of rabbits and goats is

¹² Robertson et al, 'The Environment of the Australian Sheep Rangelands', in Caughley et al, *op cit*, 1987; and NPWS Kinchega National Park Plant List [unpublished list], 2000

¹³ Caughley et al, *op cit*

¹⁴ Tony Auld, Flora Conservation Issues...*op cit*



needed. Some degree of rabbit control has been partly achieved over the last few years through a combination of the effects of rabbit calicivirus and an extensive rabbit control program for the reserve.

- There is a need to initiate a water plan of management for the reserve to overcome the problem of changes in water flows, flood periodicity and flood magnitude that have occurred in response to water regulation activities on the Darling River.
- Management of several threatened species and ecological communities on the reserve, in particular the national vulnerable species *Acacia carneorum* and *Solanum karsense* is required. Kinchega National Park is the only conservation reserve containing populations of these species and these populations are significant for both species; and
- Management of weeds, in particular those with bird-dispersed fruits is required, as these species have the potential to become severe problems within the Park.

Other issues that are likely to be significant in the future are salinity impacts and the interaction between grazing pressure, regeneration and climate change.

5.5 THE FAUNA OF KINCHEGA NATIONAL PARK

Commonly occurring animals in the sandplains of Kinchega include the emu [*Dromaius novaehollandiae*], the red kangaroo [*Macropus rufus*], the western grey kangaroo [*Macropus fuliginosus*] and the euro [*Macropus robustus*]. The timbered areas of the Park provide shelter for the eastern grey kangaroo [*Macropus giganteus*], the brush tailed possum [*Trichosurus vulpecular*] and many bird species. The Lakes and the associated drainage channels represent an important waterfowl feeding and breeding refuge.

Recent fauna surveys in Kinchega National Park have recorded nine species of amphibians, thirty species of lizard, eight species of snake, 202 species of birds, one monotreme and sixteen species of native mammals including bats. Smaller mammals have suffered most since European arrival. Species now rare or extinct throughout Australia, and now absent from Kinchega include the numbat [*Myrmecobius fasciatus*], the bilby [*Macrotis lagotis*] and the brush tailed bettong [*Bettongia pencillata*]. Rare animals that still exist within the Park include the kultarr [*Antechinomys laniger*] which is listed as endangered under the *Threatened Species Conservation Act* [1995].

An indication of the fauna losses to the Kinchega National Park environment over time is evidenced in a table of biodiversity reduction in Kinchega from prehistoric times to the present.¹⁵

¹⁵ Acknowledgement for this information is made to NPWS Ranger John Everleigh who compiled much of this data.



18,000-25,000 YEARS BP	EARLY 19TH CENTURY	1974
Spiny Anteater, <i>Tachyglossus aculeatus</i>	Spiny Anteater (C)	Spiny Anteater (C)
A Jerboa, <i>Antechinomys sp</i>	Eastern Jerboa <i>Antechinomys laniger</i> (C)	Eastern Jerboa (R)
A Crest-tailed Marsupial Mouse, <i>Dasyercus sp</i>	No record	No record
No record	Dusky Planigale <i>Planigale tergitostus</i>	Flat headed Marsupial Mouse, <i>Planigale gilesi</i> (R)
No record	Fat tailed Marsupial Mouse <i>Spanthopsis crassicaudata</i>	Fat tailed Marsupial Mouse (R)
Eastern Native cat <i>Dasyurus sp</i>	No record	No record
No record	Western Native Cat, <i>Dasyurinus geottroa</i> (U)	No record
Tasmanian Devil, <i>Sacophilus sp</i>	No record	No record
Tasmanian Tiger, <i>Thylacinus sp</i>	No record	No record
A Numbat, <i>Myrmecobius sp</i>	Numbat, <i>Myrmecobius rufus</i> (U)	No record
A long nosed bandicoot, <i>Perameles sp</i>	Eastern Barred Bandicoot, <i>Perameles fasciata</i>	No record
A Short nosed Bandicoot, <i>Isoodon sp</i>	No record	No record
The Pig-footed Bandicoot, <i>Chaeropus sp</i>	Pig-footed Bandicoot, <i>Chaerofus ecaudatus</i>	No record
Rabbit-eared Bandicoot, <i>Macrotis sp</i>	Rabbit-eared Bandicoot, (Bilby) <i>Macrotis lagotis</i>	No record
Brush-tailed Possum, <i>Trichosurus sp.</i>	Brush-tailed Possum, <i>Trichosurus vulpecala</i>	Brush tailed Possum (U)
Koala, <i>Phascolarctos sp</i>	No record	No record
Marsupial Lion, <i>Thylacolea cf. carnifex</i>	No record	No record
A Large Wombat, <i>Pascolonus magnus</i>	No record	No record
Hairy Nosed Wombat, <i>Lasiiorhinus sp</i>	Hairy Nosed wombat, <i>Lasiiorhinus sp</i>	No record
A Rat Kangaroo, <i>Propleopus oscillans</i>	No record	No record
Lesueur's Rat Kangaroo, <i>Bettongia lesueuri</i>	Lesueur's Rat Kangaroo	No record
Brush-tailed Rat Kangaroo, <i>Bettongia penicillata</i>	Brush-tailed Rat Kangaroo	No record
Desert Rat Kangaroo, <i>Caloprymnus campestris</i>	No record	No record



18,000-25,000 YEARS BP	EARLY 19TH CENTURY	1974
A Large Kangaroo, <i>Stenthorus atlas</i>	No record	No record
A large Kangaroo, <i>Stenthorus andersoni</i>	No record	No record
A large Kangaroo, <i>Stenthorus tindalei</i>	No record	No record
A Large Kangaroo, <i>Stenthorus sp</i>	No record	No record
The Giant Kangaroo, <i>Procoptodon goliath</i>	No record	No record
Brown Hare Wallaby, <i>Lagorchestes leporides</i>	Brown Hare Wallaby	No record
Spectacled Hare Wallaby, <i>Lagorchestes conspiculatus</i>	No record	No record
Cresecent Nailed-Tailed Wallaby, <i>Onychogalea lunata</i>	No record	No record
Bridled-Nail-tailed Wallaby, <i>Onycholalea fraenata</i>	Bridle-Nail-tailed Wallaby	No record
A Brush Wallaby, <i>Wallabia sp</i>	No record	No record
A Large Kangaroo. <i>Protemnodon brehus</i>	No record	No record
The Red Kangaroo, <i>Megalea rufa</i>	Red Kangaroo (U)	Red Kangaroo (C)
A Grey Kangaroo, <i>Macropus birdselli</i>	No record	No record
A Grey Kangaroo, <i>Macropus futtague</i>	No record	No record
No record	Great Grey Kangaroo, <i>Macropus giganteus</i> (C)	Western Grey Kangaroo, <i>Macropus fuliginosus</i> (C)
No record	Euro, <i>Macropus robustus</i> (U)	Euro (U)
Giant Wombat, <i>Diprotodon sp</i>	No record	No record
No record	Dingo, <i>Canus sp</i>	No record
A Water Rat, <i>Hydromys sp</i>	Water Rat, <i>Hydromys chrysogaster</i> (C)	Water Rat (C)
A "typical" Rat, <i>Rattus sp.</i>	Long haired Rat, <i>Rattus viliosissimus</i>	No record
A Stick-nest Rat, <i>Leporillus sp</i>	Stick nest Rat, <i>Lepotillus abicalis</i>	No record
No record	White tailed Stick-nest rat, <i>Leporillus abicalis</i>	No record
A Hopping Mouse, <i>Notomys sp.</i>	Mitchell's Hopping Mouse, <i>Notomys mitchelli</i>	No record
No record	Long tailed Hopping Mouse, <i>Notomys longicaudatus</i>	No record



18,000-25,000 YEARS BP	EARLY 19TH CENTURY	1974
No record	Sandy Inland Mouse, <i>Leggadina hermannburgensis</i>	No record
No record	White footed Rabbit Rat, <i>Coniburus albipes</i>	No record
Data from R. Tedford	Records of explorers, settlers, museums, NPWS records	Fauna introduced during European settlement. Common House Mouse (A) Rabbit (C) Hare (U) Fox (C) Feral Cat (C) Feral Pig (C) Feral Goat (U) Sheep (A) Cattle (A)

5.6 SUMMARY : THE KINCHEGA NATIONAL PARK NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

A visitor to Kinchega National Park today sees a landscape that has been shaped by physical and cultural influences over tens of thousands of years. The landscape tells a rich story of climate change and changing human influences from the management practices of Aboriginal people, pastoralists and more recently the National Park's management for conservation and recreational use.

The evolution of the Kinchega landscape and its flora and fauna demonstrates the inter-relationship between culture and landscape and the role of humans in shaping and interacting with it. Kinchega provides us with an insight into the interrelationship of Aboriginal land management and pastoral land uses.

There is evidence of giant species of megafauna that existed some 30,000 years ago and their subsequent extinction, and more recent loss of species, particularly small marsupials, with the introduction of pastoralism and feral animals.

The modern Kinchega landscape has also been changed by downstream demands for water. The impact of managing what would generally be dry lake beds as a water storage storages has impacted on local vegetation communities, fauna and archaeological sites, as well potentially impacting on the hydrology of surrounding areas.

Kinchega today has three broad land systems consisting of the Darling River floodplains, the sandplains and dune fields and the overflow lakes. These systems provide refuge for a number of rare and threatened species, which are poorly represented within reserve systems elsewhere in semi arid Australia.



The development of Kinchega as a National Park has helped in the management of the land systems for conservation and has provided a valuable resource for scientific research and education.

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6.0 PHYSICAL OVERVIEW : BUILT FABRIC, SITE ELEMENTS AND MOVEABLE HERITAGE

6.1 PREAMBLE

Kinchega's remnant historic fabric is primarily associated with the built remnants of the Kinchega pastoral station. These remnants buildings, archaeological sites and station infrastructure. A number of other sites and features occurring throughout the eastern side of the Park contribute to an understanding of the Aboriginal 'post contact' occupation of the area. What is particularly interesting about the Kinchega Station remnants is the way in which modifications to the building fabric illustrate changes in technology, pastoral practice and settlement patterns. Thus the building fabric enables an interpretation of a significant period, for both Aborigines and Europeans, of the Western Darling's history. The physical overview of the Kinchega National Park built and moveable heritage has been undertaken utilising an inventory-based assessment approach. Because of the extent of this information, the inventory has been placed within a second volume, **refer Volume 2, Inventory**. As an introduction to this inventory-based assessment, a short overview is provided below tracing the historical extent of the Kinchega pastoral station itself

Refer Inventory, Volume 2

The inventory has been structured to provide **current** data on location, history, condition and significance; and to also provide **historical** pictorial data on specific sites. The inventory format has been extended to provide conservation/maintenance requirements [where appropriate] for the subject sites. The 'fields' for the inventory provide data on current and former names of the place or item; current registrations [on Heritage Registers]; location; history; disruption and condition of the place; comparative significance; and conservation policy/strategy/implementation recommendations for the place.

The Kinchega Station 'Groups' [and related items/places] documented within this plan are as follows:

The **Homestead** Group including:

- Homestead No. 2 and outbuilding ruins
- the remnant landscaping and garden beds to Homestead No. 2
- Homestead No. 1 archaeological site
- the Darling River barge
- the Kinchega Station cemetery
- the Billabong regulator
- the Billabong
- the *Providence* site

The **Woolshed/Shearers' Quarters** Group including

- the woolshed and outbuildings
- the shearers' quarters
- the former shearers' quarters and former kitchen site
- the former woolshed [western end] archaeological site
- the former Emu Creek bridge site



The former **Stockyards** group including

- the stockyards
- the Water Resources Commission earthmoving machinery.
- The Station telegraph remnants

The **Wharf/Building** site group including

- the former wharf archaeological site
- the building archaeological site

The **Menindee Lake Regulator** group [outside KNP boundary] including

- the regulator
- the former Menindee & Pooncarie road bridge

6.2 KINCHEGA PASTORAL STATION SEQUENTIAL OVERVIEW

Herbert Bristow Hughes purchased Kinchege Station from George Urquhart and the ES&A Chartered Bank in 1870.¹ Almost immediately, H B Hughes began adding further sheep runs to his Kinchege holding. The original Kinchege block was a relatively small property which extended from the southern boundary of Menindee township to just south of Emu Lake. Within a few short years the area had grown to two million acres comprising Kinchege, Kars, Pamamaroo, Mulculca, Cawndilla, Balaklava, Paringi, Nara, Coonbaralba, Ophara, Silistria, Mundybah, Charlemont, Aldborough, Maloira and Farmcote. A station called Nockatunga [located near Thargomindah, in southern Queensland, was also purchased.

The holdings embraced an area which extended from the Darling River to the Pinnacles, a few miles short of the South Australian

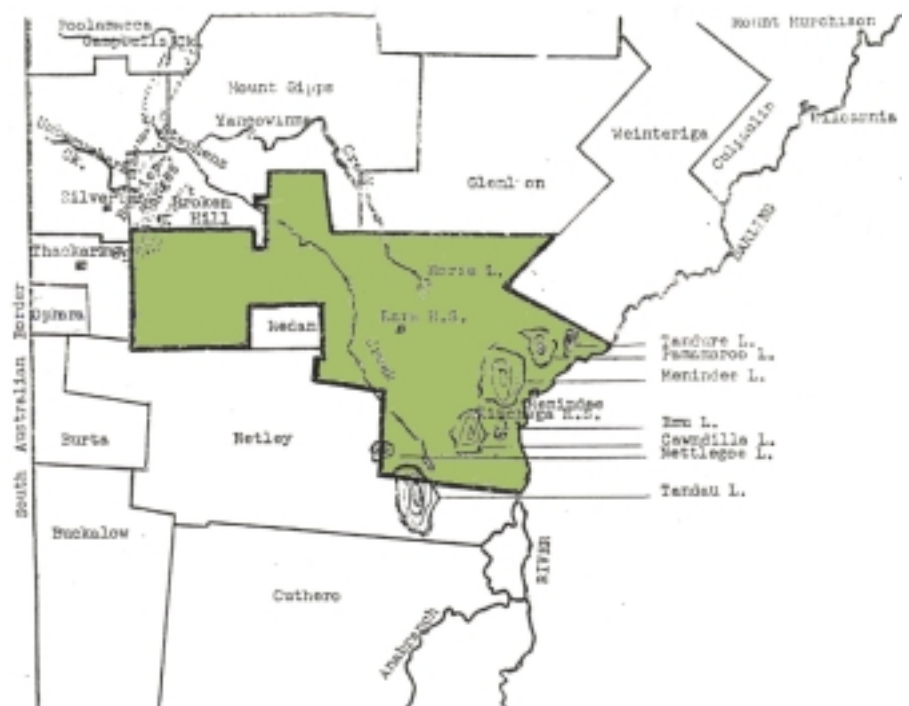


Figure 1
 Sketch of the Kinchege pastoral
 station extent.
 R H B Kearns 1970

¹ R H B Kearns, *A Pioneer Pastoralist ... op cit*, 1970, pps 3-4

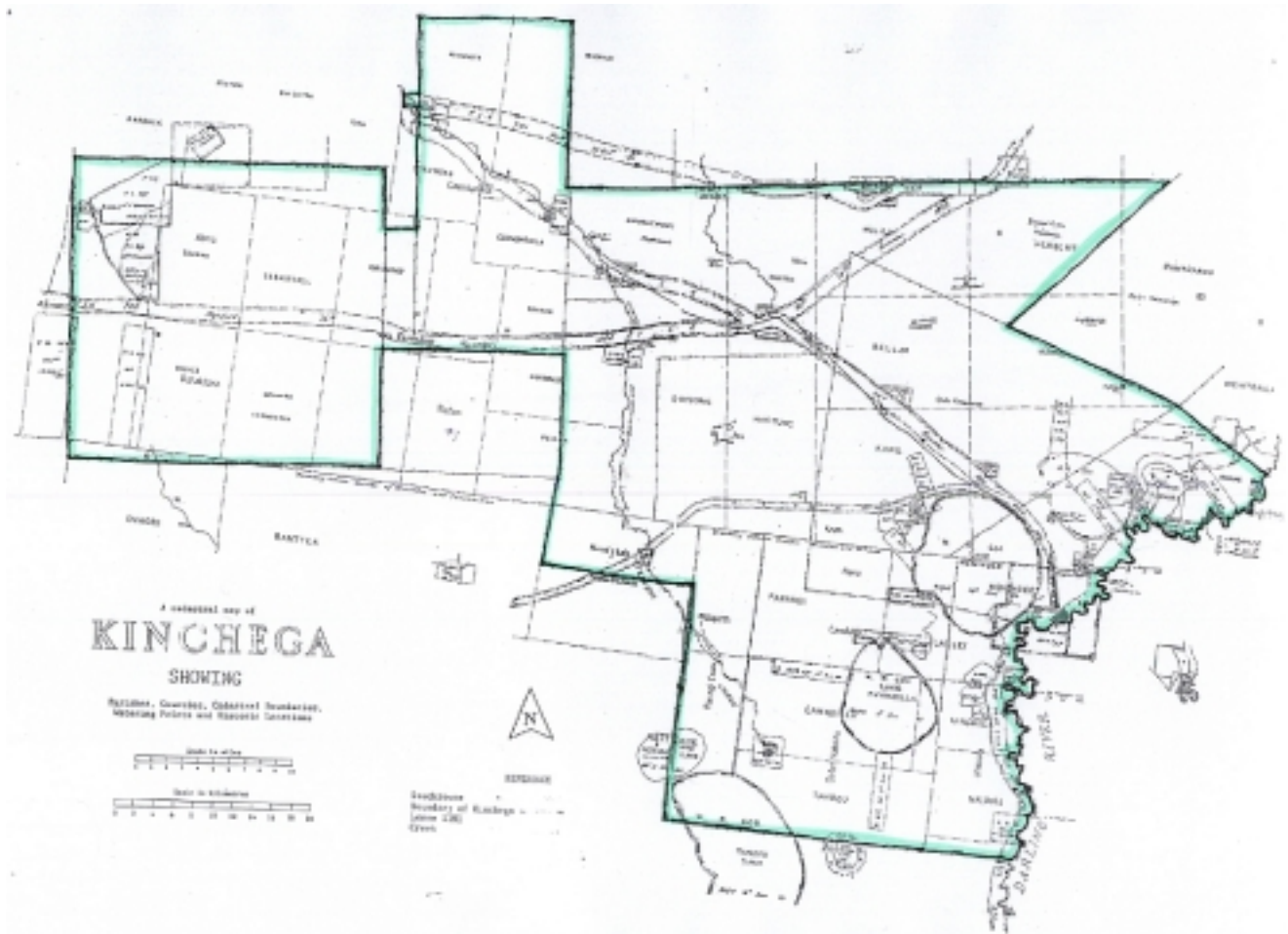


Figure 2
 Cadastral map of Kinchega, c1911.
 The map shows the stations acquired following purchase of Kinchega which was to the south west of the consolidated property.
 John Hughes, *Kars Station*, 2001

border. The western boundary of the Ophara run actually was the South Australian border, but it was not a contiguous block, and does not appear to have been held for any significant length of time. At one point, the boundary fence between Kinchega and Mount Gipps crossed the rocky outcrop which later formed the Broken Hill mineral leases 8 and 9 of the South and Central mines respectively.

Stock routes extended through the vast property [TSR 701, TSR 700 and TSR 355]. The Kinchega homestead sites lay between Emu Lake and the river, and on the north-south stock route [No. 355] which followed the western bank of the Darling River.

The first Kinchega Homestead was built adjacent the junction of the 'Homestead' billabong and the river, on a long strip of freehold land which extended west towards Emu Lake. Following the flooding [?] of that first site, the second Kinchega Homestead was built on higher sandy ground on Portion 1, Parish of Kinchega, County of Menindee.

In the late nineteenth and early twentieth century much of the vast Kinchega pastoral station was lost to closer settlement.² Slabs of the Hughes family's Darling River holding were transferred to closer

² Refer Section 3 above; and CJ King, *An Outline of Closer Settlement in NSW*, Sydney, 1957



Figure 3
Kinchega Pastoral Station. Parish
map, 1911 [detail].
AONSW, Sydney

settlers from the late nineteenth century on. In 1883 Kinchega station comprised over 1 200 000 acres [490 000 hectares]. By 1901 selectors had taken 430 000 acres [170 000 hectares] from Kinchega's spread. Further resumptions through the first half of the twentieth century reduced the station to 345 000 acres [140 000 hectares] by 1958. With the closer settlement legislation of 1884³ which made available half of each holding for selection by closer settlers, the Hughes family acquiesced to the NSW Department of Land's intentions, and offered the northern half of Kinchega for closer settlement. The southern part was retained as it retained the substantial improvements at Kars outstation; at Kinchega itself; and it had the fertile lake beds and Darling River frontage.

With the coming of the Menindee Lakes Scheme, nearly eighty years later, Kinchega Station lost further property. The dry lake beds of Menindee and Cawndilla become permanently flooded and the property lost its best feeding pasture while the remnant land of the station was split virtually in two. With the proposed creation of a new National Park encompassing the Menindee Lakes, the NSW Government offered the Hughes family an extended lease over Kars Station; compensation for improvements made to the property which the Government intended to resume; and stock watering access from Lake Menindee. Thus the Kinchega National Park came into being. The management of the lakes is undertaken by the Department of Land & Water Conservation; and the remnant area is managed by the NPWS.

³ Refer **Section 3** above; and CJ King, *op cit.*

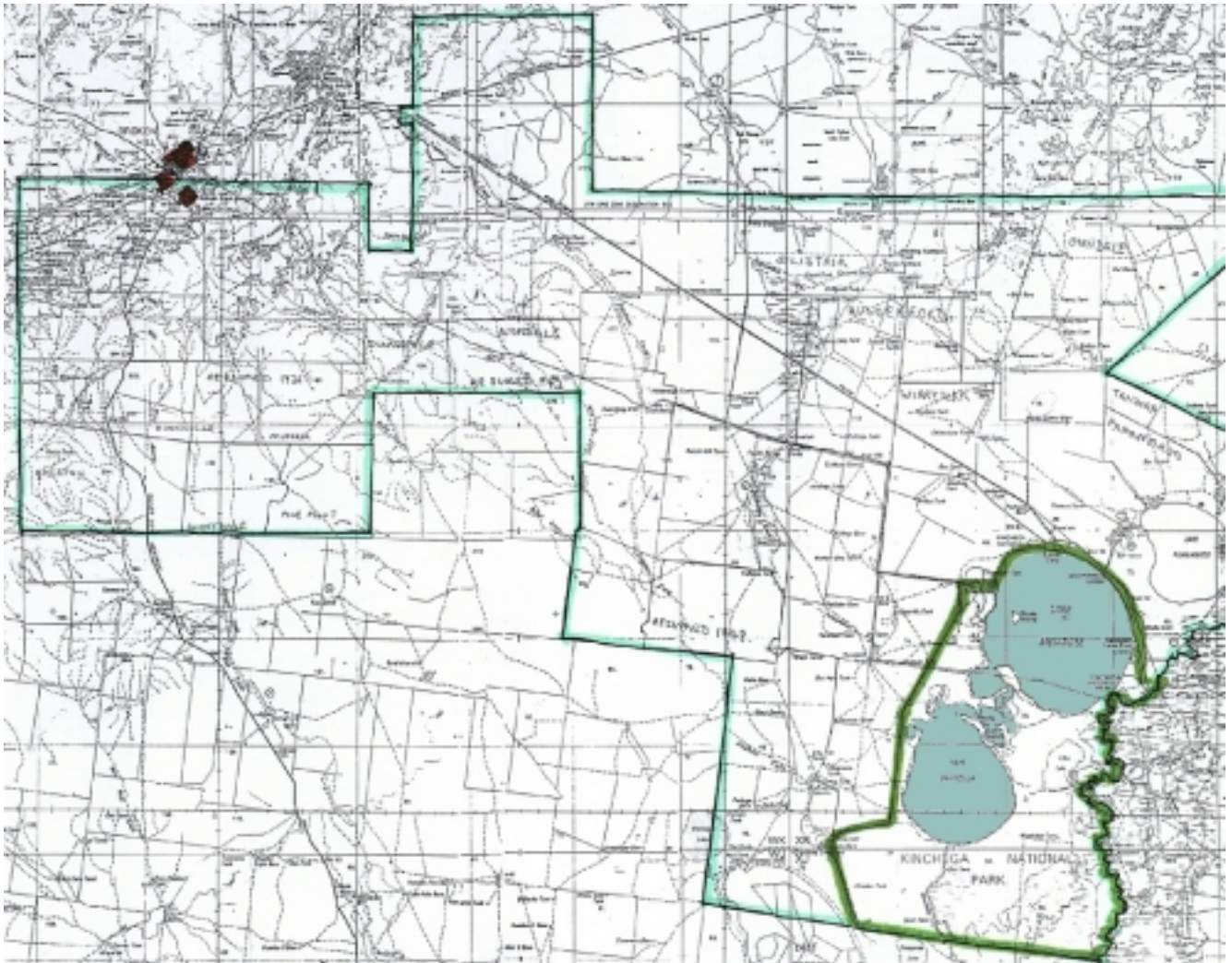


Figure 4
 Kincheega National Park, 2001
 The light green boundary indicates
 the original extent of Kincheega
 pastoral station. The dark green
 boundary indicates Kincheega
 National Park.
PF sketch over topo map, 2001

6.3 KINCHEGA STATION : A BRIEF CHRONOLOGY

- Pre 1870* Kincheega Homestead No. 1 built, probably in the 1860s.
- 1870* Herbert Bristow Hughes purchases Kincheega from George Urquart and the ES&A Bank.
- 1873* Woolclip from Kincheega loaded at '3 mile point' and shipped down the Darling.
- 1875* Kincheega woolshed completed.
- 1875* Kincheega running 72,000 sheep and providing accommodation for 40 shearers.
- 1870s-80s* Hughes embarked on acquisition of neighbouring stations. Property extends to southern end of Barrier Ranges, and most shepherding done by Aboriginal stockmen.
- 1870s[?]* Kincheega Homestead No. 1 flooded and new Homestead [No. 2] commenced.
- 1879* Excellent water found at Kars at a depth of 250 feet.
- 1880* Kincheega payroll shows 73 employees.



- 1883 Kinchega total acreage 1 225 880 with 143 000 sheep; property at its peak.
- 1888 Mechanical shearing first developed at Dunlop station, and then used at Kinchega.
- 1901 First land resumption of Kinchega Station, total acreage 791,399 acres.
- 1907 Kinchega acreage 582,752 acres, after resumptions.
- 1920s Major rebuilding of the shed. Much of the timber used in the rebuild had originally been used in the construction of the Menindee Bridge [including some oregon formwork that was grooved to allow insertion of a separate 'slip tongue']. The sweating pens were also constructed at this time. The roof over the pens was sawn oregon boards with malthoid paper on top; corrugated iron was added later.
- 1936 Kinchega and Kars Stations total acreage 345 000 acres.
- 1936-42 Further land resumptions at Kinchega.
- 1943 Last riverboat upstream from Menindee.
- 1945-48 Land resumptions at Kinchega Station.
- 1960s Menindee lake storage system commenced.
- 1965 Kinchega Station acquired from Hughes family and the Kinchega National Park.
- 1967 Six millionth sheep shorn at Kinchega. Woolshed in very poor condition; Homestead No. 2 virtually derelict and a ruin.
- 1970 Major restoration of woolshed by NPWS. Corrugated iron sheeting over pens removed and re-rolled, general stabilisation and repair.
- 1978 Kinchega woolshed entered in Register of the National Estate.
- 1983 Kinchega woolshed entered in National Trust of Australia [NSW] Register.
- 1992 Repairs to internal sheep pens and gates plus resealing loose material generally.
- 1993 Heritage Places Restoration Program [HPRP]. Work under HPRP included repair and reconstruction to the southern wall of the blade shearing board, sub-flooring repairs, flooring repairs.
- 1999 Kinchega woolshed entered in NSW State Heritage Register.
- 1995-2000 University of Sydney KARP archaeological project.
- 2001 Conservation Management Plan for Kinchega Station sites, Kinchega National Park, commissioned by NPWS.



7.0 INTERPRETATION AND CULTURAL TOURISM OVERVIEW

7.1 PREAMBLE

This section of the Plan provides an understanding of the current interpretation and cultural tourism facilities, approach and techniques for the Kinchega National Park and its Station sites. A number of terms are used throughout the following overview, and within the related **Section 10** of this Plan, which require further definition.¹ These terms are discussed below.

INTERPRETATION

Interpretation refers to programs that serve all visitors, potential visitors, and the public at large. It plans and provides equitable physical, intellectual, emotional and spiritual access to the cultural and ecological significance of places, objects, natural systems and living things. Through appropriate technologies and the responsible stimulation of ideas and opinions, it encourages their protection, preservation and appreciation by and for present and future generations. Interpretation is the act of identifying or transmitting meaning. On the one hand, it comprises the process of working out an understanding of particular phenomena in, for example, the fields of life sciences, material culture or social history. On the other hand, interpretation includes the conceptual and methodological approaches and techniques through which this understanding may be communicated to the public.

HERITAGE INTERPRETATION

Heritage interpretation is a process that provides for all visitors, potential visitors and the public at large, physical, intellectual, emotional and/or spiritual access to the cultural and ecological significance of places, objects, natural systems and living things. Through appropriate technologies and the responsible stimulation of ideas and opinions, it encourages their protection, preservation and appreciation by and for present and future generations.

THE WESTERN NATIONAL PARKS

The term *Western National Parks* has been used generally to refer to the six 'western' NSW National Parks: Kinchega, Sturt, Mungo, Mutwintji, Peery and Willandra.

INTERPRETATION OF THE NPWS MISSION

Interpretation provides public awareness, understanding and appreciation of the **Service's values**, objectives and practices in conserving and pastoral heritage and other natural and cultural resources.

INTERPRETATION AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

This is the ability to identify and define interpretation planning requirements, to recruit, train and supervise staff and/or to select, brief and supervise contractors in the preparation and implementation of interpretation plans and programs is a core competence in the management and presentation of the Service's pastoral heritage resources.

¹ Refer **Section 10** of this Plan, Kinchega National Park *Interpretation and Cultural Tourism Policy, Strategy & Implementation*



THEMES

Themes are concise statements of major topics, trends or stories in history. They have two main uses in interpretation. They are useful 'checklists' that can help ensure that we don't overlook some significance connection between a particular place or element and the larger historic context. Themes also provide a convenient conceptual means of grouping interpretative communications in the planning stage and of structuring their delivery, as experiences, to the public. Improperly applied, however, themes can have exactly the opposite effect, becoming obstacles to public appreciation of historic places and their significance. This happens when **themes** supplant **places/elements and people** as the focus of interpretation.

LINKAGE

Linkage is the process of deciding **where** and **when** in the visitor experience a given message should be communicated. By linking the appropriate message to the proper place, at the logical point in the visit, we ensure that it will be most useful, interesting and understandable to the visitor.

INTERPRETATIVE UNIT

An **interpretative unit** is a place characterised by the unity of the interpretative messages that it is appropriate to communicate there. This may be determined by unity of *historic* use [e.g. a house, a garden, a woolshed]; and/or unity of visitor use [e.g. a carpark, a viewpoint, a pathway]. Each unit may comprise a number of **elements**.

7.2 INTRODUCTION

7.2.1 THE CONTEXT OF THIS INTERPRETATION AND CULTURAL TOURISM PLAN

The NPWS acquired Kinchega Station in 1967, the Service's first year of operation and Kinchega's last as a working station. Since that time, various efforts to interpret the significance of the Park's built complexes and associated historic places have been made, each reflecting the prevailing perceptions and techniques of its day. Kinchega's historic resources are special in the details of their design and the specifics of their use and occupancy. The particulars of its natural setting and of its significance as a cultural landscape to both Indigenous people and others in the community are also important aspects of Kinchega's potential visitor experience. But they are not in any broad sense unique.

Kinchega's built, moveable and archaeological heritage contributes to similar heritage resource elsewhere in western NSW. These Parks are unified by common overall characteristics and themes, and related through these to other such resources outside the NPWS. The significance of the Service's historic pastoral resources in its *Western National Parks* transcends that of its individual components in any given Park.



In developing its approach to the conservation and management of these places, the Service wishes to optimise their function in the recreational, cultural and economic life of the community, through a concerted program of appropriate public presentation, access and use. Essential to this approach is the interplay and synergy of initiatives related to physical conservation, tourism/visitor management, and interpretation.

Seasonal personal interpretation programs [those involving face-to-face contact between visitors and staff, volunteers or commercial operators] and non-personal media [signs, labels, displays, etc.] of some kind are in place at the all Service's major pastoral heritage sites, although their planning and delivery may be largely intuitive. These existing programs and media are discussed in some detail, below.

It is desirable [and economical] to avoid duplication in research, planning and media production for each of these Parks, where their common historic context, themes and stories as the *Western National Parks* are concerned. Accordingly, this Plan recommends that historic interpretation planning for Kincheqa National Park be undertaken in the context of an overall Interpretation Strategy which addresses the common elements and themes of the Parks as a whole [refer **Section 10** below].

This Interpretation and Cultural Tourism Plan will recommend priorities and an approach for the preparation of a site-specific interpretation for Kincheqa National Park. It will also provide a convenient reference for the Service in the preparation of the required Briefs for research, writing, media design and fabrication for on-site and off-site interpretation of the significance of the *Western National Parks*.

7.2.2 THE METHODOLOGY FOR THIS INTERPRETATION AND CULTURAL TOURISM PLAN

This plan proceeds through three principal stages, **Analysis of Issues and Resources** [this Section]; **Interpretative Media Planning** and **Interpretation Plan** policies and strategies [Section 10]. Within the Analysis component of the Plan the following issues will be assessed and analysed:

The current visitor experience on offer at Kincheqa National Park

This will be assessed by reviewing in detail the existing interpretative media, facilities and personal programs.

The current interpretation of pastoral themes with the *Western National Parks*

This will be assessed by surveying the state of interpretation at other historic pastoral resources comparable to Kincheqa within the *Western National Parks*, and by assessing representative visitor experiences of



pastoral heritage, offered by other agencies and the private sector in Western NSW, Queensland, Victoria and South Australia.

The interpretative messages and stories to be told at Kinchega National Park

This will be undertaken by identifying the interpretative objectives; identifying which themes and messages are **common** to the *Western National Parks*, identifying the target audience for these messages; and by summarising and evaluating existing visitor information and potential activity profiles.

The optimum presentation of these messages / stories

This will be assessed by describing a hierarchical approach to presentation of interpretative messages; by identifying storyline priorities; by identifying and evaluating the available time and resources to meet the objectives.

The optimum location for each message, both in Kinchega National Park and elsewhere within the Western National Parks

This will be undertaken by recommending the relative emphasis that should be given to each theme in different Parks in the *Western National Parks* linking Kinchega's interpretative messages and functional information with appropriate locations on-site and elsewhere.

7.3 THE CURRENT VISITOR EXPERIENCE : OFF-SITE MEDIA

A potential or intending visitor's first impression of Kinchega National Park is likely to begin with the NPWS publications, *Guide to NSW National Parks* and / or the *Kinchega National Park Visitor Guide*. The Service has also collaborated with a number of other State and Federal agencies and regional organisations to produce *Mallee Tracks*, a touring guide to the region.²

Space within the *Guide to NSW National Parks* is necessarily limited to the bare essentials for each Park. The Guide groups Kinchega with seven other 'Outback Parks' and mentions that '... *The Park is rich in Aboriginal sites and European relics such as the Kinchega woolshed*' and makes reference to the '... *old shearer's quarters*' as an accommodation option. It does not suggest what the significance of these relics may be. The *Guide* is available at NPWS Head Office and at staffed Park facilities throughout the NPWS system.

The *Park Guide: Kinchega National Park*, is an earlier, 1991 version of the current [undated] *Kinchega National Park Visitor Guide*. This guide was not readily available when the consultant team visited Kinchega.

The *Park Guide* is accompanied by a double-sided A4 page with 24 short paragraphs of sans serif typescript entitled *Kinchega History*. This document outlines the early settlement of the district, the

² Mallee Tracks is an initiative of the Murray Mallee Partnerships, which comprises NSW NPWS; SA NPW; Natural Resources & Environment [Vic.]; Parks Victoria; Environment Australia; and Bookmark Biosphere.



Kincheega National Park



Features

Kincheega National Park lies among the beautiful Mentindee lakes, near the historic township of Menindee. The lakes are fed by the meandering Darling River which meanders through stands of river red gum, coolibah and blackbox along the eastern boundary of the park.

The lake and river environment present an oasis-like contrast to the dry red sand plains of these surrounding semi-arid region. Waterside flocks to the lakes which provide food and breeding sites.

Over many centuries the river and lakes provided a reliable food supply for tribes of Aboriginal people. Occupation sites and middens scattered throughout the park serve to remind us of the long association Aboriginal people have had with this land.

The undulating bluebush sand plains which surround the lakes are the heart of the area, the red kangaroo and the grey kangaroo. Many birds, including brightly coloured parrots, frequent the woodland areas of the river.

Location and access

Kincheega is situated 110 km to the south-east of Broken Hill. A sealed road takes the visitor to the park entrance. Although Kincheega is not readily accessible in all weathers, graded gravel roads provide access to all visitor facilities within the park. It is wise to check on road conditions at the Service District Office in Broken Hill before you visit Kincheega. Please look after the park by keeping vehicles on graded roads.

Temperatures in mid-summer often exceed 40 degrees Celsius, but for most of the year excellent holiday weather prevails. Winter typically has mild, sunny days and cold nights with occasional frosts.

When visiting Kincheega, leave firearms and pets at home - neither is permitted in a national park.

Figure 1
 The Kincheega National Park Guide 1991. The map is useful but not entirely correct as the boundaries of the Park are not shown accurately. NPWS KNP

founding of Kincheega Station, the Burke and Wills connection, the Hughes purchase, the significance of river transport, the *Providence* explosion, irrigation history, early telephone use and the transfer of the former Station to NPWS.

The *Kincheega National Park Visitor Guide* is in the standard NPWS format, however, unlike the full colour 1991 Park Guide, it is black and white only. It is principally concerned with describing Park facilities, roads and rules. Reference to European cultural evidence is almost exclusively incidental: ‘... *Camping area near the historic Woolshed, Shearers Quarters Accommodation; the Homestead Loop takes visitors past the original Kincheega homestead and cemetery.*’ An exception is the ‘... *boiler of the Paddle Steamer Providence*’ which receives six lines of print. Under the heading, ‘*About the Park*’, on the back of the brochure, the extent of the Kincheega/Kars pastoral lease and the date of the last shearing are mentioned. The ‘*Historic Woolshed*’ and ‘*Remains of PS Providence*’ are identified on the map.

The *Visitor Guide* is available at: NPWS Head Office, Cadman’s Cottage [Sydney CBD], Broken Hill District Office, Menindee Tourist Office and the Kincheega National Park Information Centre. There is a



reference within the Guide to 'separate leaflets' for the three self guided drive tours of the Park, available at the 'Information Centre'. These, however, do not appear to be currently available.

HISTORY

The Paakantji Aboriginal people travelled the length of the Darling from Wilcannia through Menindee towards Wentworth. Their strong ties with the river are evident in the high number of archaeological deposits that can be seen at Kinchega. Ample evidence of aboriginal occupation remains with middens and stone relics being the most common artefacts encountered. All aboriginal relics are protected and must be left where they are found.

Scared trees are also relatively abundant, and are evidence of activities such as canoe building, fishing, food gathering and shelter construction.

With the development of pastoral leases and establishment of government reserves, Aboriginal people were moved from their traditional homes to government missions at Menindee, Ivanhoe and Lake Cargelligo.

The first Europeans to visit the area followed the Darling River in search of pasture for their sheep. Burke and Wills and Charles Sturt's exploration parties both spent time camped at Kinchega. William Wright, the man who has been blamed for the demise of Burke and Wills, joined their party from Kinchega where he had been working as a station manager.

MAP COVERAGE

The Menindee and Lake Tandon 1:100,000 map sheets provide a good overall coverage of the park.

ABOUT THE PARK

Kinchega National Park was once part of the Kinchega - Kara pastoral lease held by the Hughes family since 1870. At its grandest, the property extended from Menindee to Broken Hill and covered an area of over 800,000 hectares.


In 1967 the Kinchega section of the then Kara lease was dedicated as a national park. The park now covers an area of approximately 44,000 hectares. The last shearing was held in the woolshed in 1967 when the 6 millionth sheep was shorn as part of the ceremony dedicating the park.

FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information on Kinchega National Park, please contact the NPWS Broken Hill District office:

183 Argent Street
 PO Box 459
 Broken Hill 2880
 (08) 8088 5933


Kinchega National Park
 (08) 8091 4214




NPWS
 NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

41 Balfour Street
 Hurstville NSW 1505
 (02) 9550 5211
 www.npws.nsw.gov.au

VISITOR GUIDE



Kinchega National Park



The Darling River forms the eastern edge to most of Kinchega National Park and provides a scenic setting for many of Kinchega's campsites.




Figure 2
 The current Kinchega National Park
 Visitor Guide
 NPWS KNP

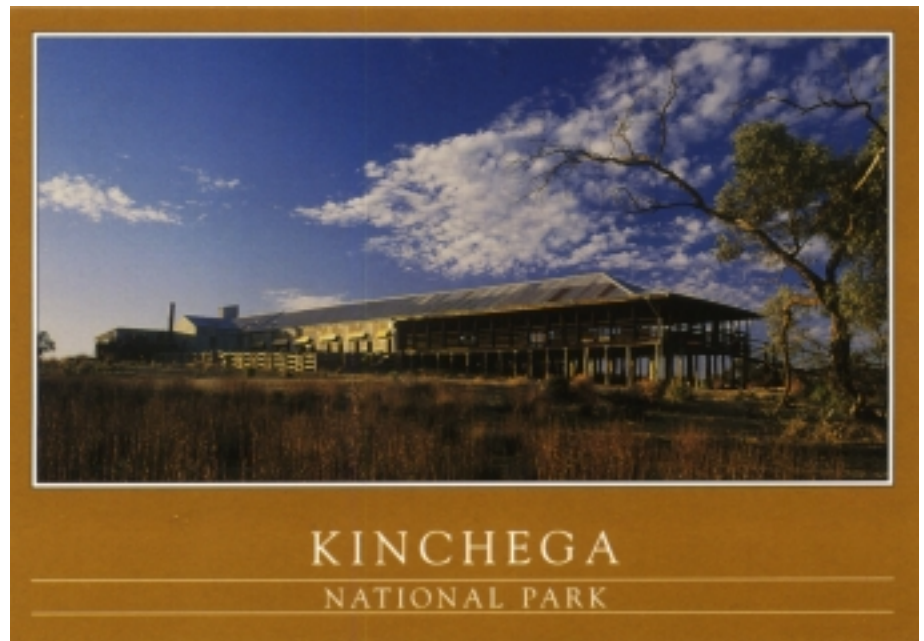
A series of postcards has also been produced by the NPWS for its NSW National Parks. There are cards available at the NPWS Head Office, Hurstville, for all the *Western NPWS Parks* apart from Peery National Park. The image for the KNP is of Kinchega woolshed and the caption reads '... *The Kinchega Woolshed, now completely restored, the river red gum and blackbox woolshed is preserved as part of Kinchega National Park's historic heritage. More than six million sheep have passed through its gate since its completion in the 1870s*'.

The Steve Garland photograph is superb, however it has been **reversed** on the postcard, perhaps for compositional reasons. This is unfortunate, as this fine product and message is thus spoiled and compromised by inaccurate representation.

Mallee Tracks, a very thoroughly planned and attractively presented publication, provides a mapped overview of the region and directs visitors to sources of more detailed information. In addition to 'safe travel' and responsible visitor use information, it offers introductory



Figure 3
 Kincheega National Park postcard.
 The woolshed image is reproduced
 'back to front' and according to
 former Kincheega Ranger Lisa Menke
 this is because the reversed print
 was accidentally approved by the
 community relations officer who
 authorised the printing of the image.
 NPWS KNP



interpretation text for 'mallee landscapes', 'mallee wildlife' and Aboriginal cultural sites. KNP is included [with Hattah-Kulkyne and Mungo National Parks] on the third of its four recommended tours. It mentions the Kincheega Woolshed '*... for many years the largest in NSW*' as a '*popular destination*', as well as the '*old shearers quarters*' accommodation option.

7.4 THE CURRENT VISITOR EXPERIENCE: ON-SITE MEDIA

7.4.1 VISITOR ARRIVAL

The visitor's arrival in KNP is signalled by the standard NPWS grey/cream routed wooden sign. Some 1.5 kilometre further on, near the Menindee Outlet Regulator, a thatched, octagonal kiosk, in the middle of the road, shelters five large graphic panels of text, maps, illustrations and photographs. One of these panels is devoted to interpreting the significance of the resource. The rest are logistical rather than interpretative; concerned with visitor access and behaviour. There is also a small steel box to deposit compulsory entrance and camping fees. The text message of each of these panels is discussed below.

PANEL 1, 'KINCHEGA NATIONAL PARK'

This panel gives information about camping fees and shearers' quarters accommodation, where '*... bookings must be made in advance*'. The text advises that the Park is patrolled and that showers are available at the shearers' quarters '*... on a gold coin donation basis*'. It carries a warning about wet weather hazards and goes on to list nine 'reminders' about appropriate visitor behaviour. Apart from the NPWS logo and a campsite icon, this panel is all printed text, fourteen paragraphs in length.



Figure 4
 Visitor arrival...the Information
 Kiosk
 BN 2001 photograph

PANEL 2, 'UNDERSTANDING THE LOCAL AREA'

Located immediately adjacent to the first panel, this panel carries eight paragraphs of print and three illustrations. This is the only truly interpretative panel in the kiosk. It offers a good general introduction to *'The First Inhabitants'*, the extent of Paakantji territory, the importance to them of the river, and their diet. This text is illustrated by an [apparently] Aboriginal drawing or engraving depicting a fish in water and then, just below it, a black-and-white photograph, apparently of the same fish.

The panel then discusses evidence of Aboriginal occupancy under the headings: Hearth Sites; Scarred Trees, illustrated by a drawing of a boomerang and three spears; Burials; and Stone Tool Work Sites, illustrated by a drawing of a stone hand axe. Finally, in what looks like an afterthought addition to the original panel, visitors are warned that *'Penalties apply for disturbing sites'*.

PANEL 3, 'EXPLORING KINCHEGA'

This panel first discusses *'Kinchega Drive Tours'*. It identifies the kiosk's location on part of the *'Homestead Loop'*, highlights the *'historic boiler'* and repeats the *Visitor Guide* text for the River Drive and Lake Drive Tours. Eight cartoons depicting unacceptable visitor behaviour are accompanied by brief texts requesting proper behaviour. Five of these cartoons are repeated from the *Visitor Guide*; six of them restate regulations from Panel 1.

A clear, coloured map of the Park occupies one quarter of this panel, identifying the three Drive Tours, camping self-registration bays and other Park facilities. This is virtually the same map as that in the *Visitor Guide* and, thus, also locates the Woolshed, homestead and boiler. The rest of this panel [lower right quadrant] presents *'Camping and Accommodation'* information, slightly updated from that on Panel 1 *'...Camping is provided for via a self registration system and fees apply'* typifies the tone and syntax of this section. It also refers to the *'Kinchega Shearers Quarters Visitor Centre'*, a phrase which, like



'Information Centre' in the *Visitor Guide*, may create erroneous expectations in the public's mind.

PANEL 4, 'KINCHEGA NATIONAL PARK'
[AGAIN]

This is the only panel to refer explicitly to the former pastoral use of the Park, repeating, verbatim, the brief 'About the Park' text from the *Visitor Guide*. It displays a map of the Park, also taking up one quarter of its area. This map is apparently identical to that on Panel 3, with the addition of an inset photograph of the 'historic woolshed' and a small regional map, also taken from the *Visitor Guide*.

This panel also carries one captioned photograph of wildflowers and twelve paragraphs of text, headed: *Picnic Areas*, *Camping Areas*, *Shearers Quarter Accommodation*, and *Drive Tours*. The latter, once again, repeats the *Visitor Guide* text and Panel 3 on this subject.

PANEL 5

This panel, adjacent to panel 4, has a brief text introducing a large map of western NSW, followed by text and photos describing Sturt, Mootwingee [sic] and Mungo National Parks. Willandra National Park is also mentioned, without illustration. The only reference to pastoral uses or built heritage at **any** of these Parks is in the context of visitor accommodation. Finally, this panel gives contact telephone numbers for information about road conditions in the region.

7.4.2 DISCUSSION : VISITOR ARRIVAL

The typography and layout of the panels suggests that there are at least three generations of signage here. They are inconsistent in their approach to prioritising the messages which they present, making it difficult to separate the essential from the trivial or the redundant. Would-be campers, for example, are confronted with three different texts about camping, on three different panels. No rationale is given for Kinchega's inclusion in the National Parks system. No introduction to the significance of the Park's historic resources is provided. The Regulator, a noticeable, significant and interesting element on the Park's threshold is not identified or interpreted. It is unlikely, in any case, that **any** visitor arriving at Kinchega would read all forty-six paragraphs of 'information' offered at the Kiosk.

The predominant first impression created by the Kiosk media is, thus, one of authoritarian preoccupation with facts, figures, rules and logistics. An important opportunity has been missed here ... the opportunity to truly welcome, inform and inspire the visitor on arrival with a foretaste of the significance of an ancient, outstanding and enduring cultural landscape. The reference [on Panel 3] to the '*Kinchega Shearers Quarters Visitor Centre*', may lead the public to expect more than is actually available, at present.



7.4.3 MOVING ON ...

Directional signage outside the kiosk points the way to '*River Drive Campsites*'. Visitor wishing to go elsewhere must rely on the *Visitor Guide* or Kiosk maps. Unfortunately the map within the *Guide* is at a small scale and cannot easily be followed. The map is also inaccurate e.g. Homestead No. 2 is shown in the wrong location. About one and a half kilometres beyond the kiosk, another directional sign tells us that we may continue along '*Old Pooncarie Road*' to the Cawndilla Lake Regulator or turn towards '*Historic Woolshed*', where, icons show, information, toilets and drinking water are to be found.

7.4.4 THE KINCHEGA WOOLSHED VISITORS' CARPARK

This carpark, demarcated by a low railing of telephone poles and identified by a grey/cream routed sign, is located between an unidentified complex of well-maintained buildings, on the visitor's left [east] and, on the right [west], a windmill, a small, modern pump-house and an unidentified corrugated iron structure. To the south, through a break in the railing, a path leads towards the woolshed. To the right of the path, adjacent to the carpark railing is a large rubbish depot, signed, '*Recycling: Glass, Plastic, Aluminium.*' To the left of the path entry stands an unidentified corrugated iron pit-toilet structure.

A large, rusty, unidentified device on wheels, roughly the size of a locomotive, is parked on the west perimeter of the carpark. In the centre of the carpark, a stand of eucalypts offers occasional shade for visitors' vehicles and a picnic table. On the eastern edge of the carpark a low, routed sign, near a tap says '*drinking water*'. A hanging sign, near the southernmost unidentified building, displays the Service logo and proclaims '*National Parks and Wildlife Service INFORMATION CENTRE*', with an arrow pointing along the building's verandah, towards a small brown/cream sign reading



Figure 5
At the Kincheega woolshed and Shearers' Quarters; the road south and unidentified buildings [the former Shearers' Quarters].
BN 2001 photograph



Figure 6
The visitors' carpark: the woolshed
and the recycling depot
BN 2001 photograph



Figure 7
The visitor's carpark.
BN 2001 photograph

'OFFICE'. A dilapidated screen door beneath this sign bears a hand written inscription, in blue crayon, 'INFORMATION and PHONE'.

7.4.5 THE KINCHEGA SHEARERS' QUARTERS VISITOR CENTRE

Two steps up from the paved verandah, the visitor enters a room approximately 3.5 by 5.5 meters. The wall opposite the entry door features a large, brightly coloured *Coke* machine on the left, a blue pay telephone on its stand on the right and, between them, two windows and a non-functioning doorway. This door is 'disguised' with a hessian covering, stenciled with several original Kincheega woolbale stencils. Mounted on the door is a framed, glazed panel of print and illustrations contrasting satellite images of Kincheega in dry and wet years. Beneath this panel stands a low table, measuring one by two meters, strewn with unidentified bones, stones, artefacts, sand, dust and dead vegetation.



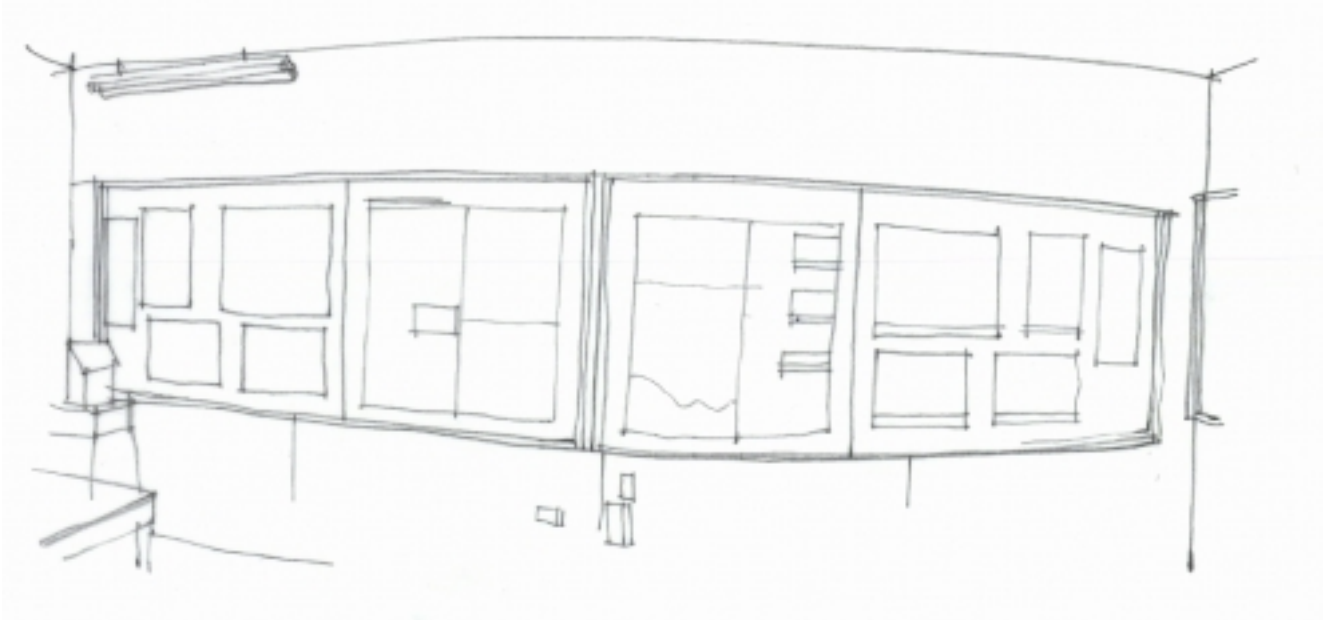
Figure 8
The Visitor Centre entrance door
BN 2001 photograph

In the corner, to the left of the entrance, is a floor-stand bearing the NPWS logo and holding a stack of *Visitor Guides*. Set into the wall behind it is a hatchway about 1.5 by 1 metre, with a narrow sill / counter. This hatchway, if open, would give access to the Ranger's Office, whose door is immediately adjacent on its right. Five typewritten A4 lists of plant and animal species are stuck to the closed hatch. Above it, close to the ceiling, two faded, landscape format posters are displayed: Fish of the Murray Darling Basin and Waterfowl of the Murray Darling Basin, as well as a No Smoking symbol. A box for camping self-registration envelopes is fixed to the wall to the right of the Office door, and printed instructions are stuck to the wall beside it. The remaining space on this [west] wall is taken up with a large text panel, identical to Panel 1 in the Kiosk [refer above]. Beneath it, a low table holds a book for visitors' comments.

To the right of the entry door, the east wall is entirely taken up by two long, shallow, glazed display cases, containing photographs and printed material. The left-hand case displays six A3 size labelled photos of park scenes and a copy of Kiosk Panel 4. The right-hand case displays a copy of Kiosk Panel 5; and four large, labelled colour photographs showing the woolshed with an aluminium sign in the foreground, visitors ascending the ramp to the woolshed, archaeology at the Homestead [No. 2] site and conservation work being carried out on the woolshed.

At the extreme right side of this case, nearest the window, two A4 pages offer 23 paragraphs of ten point type, entitled 'Kincheega European History.' This is the same text, in slightly more legible type, as that of the *Kincheega History* pamphlet. Finally, in the corner below the window, a small wooden crate supports two containers of dried wildflowers and spills a mass of dusty wool onto the floor.

Visitors looking past the water tank at the end of the 'Information Centre' building will discover the modern shower and toilet blocks,



Figures 9 & 10
The KNP Visitor Centre interior.
The Centre display consists primarily
of wall panels, maps etc, and a
display box of unidentified artefacts.
PF 2001 sketches

the former, labelled 'Showers Only', complete with a 'donations box', for their 'gold coins'. The latter is labelled as to gender only.

7.4.6 DISCUSSION : THE KINCHEGA VISITOR CENTRE

Curious visitors arriving in the carpark are likely to be disappointed in the interpretation currently provided. Existing signage tells them where to fill their water bottles and dispose of rubbish. However, the signs do not identify the Shearers' Quarters buildings or the old steam engine located within the Visitor Centre carpark. Nor do the signs indicate the location of toilet facilities.

The Visitor/Information Centre is not accessible to the disabled. The 'professionally' produced media are facsimiles of those already encountered at the Kiosk. The table of unidentified animal, vegetable



and mineral material is entirely uninformative. The only attempt at interpretation [aside from the Fish and Waterfowl posters] is 'Kinchega European History' which is displayed in the part of the display case subject to maximum reflection. This summary is limited to a list of 'facts' and it does not seek to interpret the place in terms of an interaction between people and their environment and the effects of that interaction on both. The visitor's impression, here, must be of an organisation 'going through the motions' of place presentation.

Many visitors will have travelled a long way to get to the Park. The Service literature and arrival signage have led them to expect a 'proper' Visitor Centre. They may well have expected that some insight into the evolution of the Kinchega landscape and its inhabitants over time may have been provided for them at the Visitor Centre. This facility, in its current state, is bound to disappoint them.

7.4.7 THE WOOLSHED WALK AND THE WOOLSHED COLLECTION

For visitors interested in the historic evidence of Kinchega's evolution as a cultural landscape, the woolshed will be the focal point of their experience. For many visitors, the woolshed may have been the reason they came to Kinchega National Park. The woolshed is clearly visible from the carpark and the pathway and visible signage invite exploration.

Flanked by recycling bins and the old toilets on its left, the path to the woolshed begins. The first thing on it is another 'donations' box. A few metres further on, a photo-etched aluminium panel introduces 'The Woolshed Walk'. It shows a plan of the woolshed precinct identifying the sheep yards, ramp, counting out pens, sheep spray, dust flocker, two water tanks, 'you are here' and the path of the recommended walk.



Figure 11
Woolshed Walk, the NPWS sign.
BN 2001 photograph



Figure 12
 Woolshed Walk, recent Shire of
 Central Darling installed
 introductory sign.
 BN 2001 photograph

The panel also identifies the 'old toilet block', the shearers' quarters, cookhouse, toilets, showers, meat house, 'expert', 'classer', and killing shed. It displays an historic photograph of shearers with blade shears at Kinchega '...c1880'. A brief text gives the date of the building's completion as 1870, the maximum number of stands at peak operation, and the total number of sheep shorn there. It also states '*...The woolshed houses examples of all shearing techniques...*' It promises that the Woolshed Walk will give visitors a better understanding of the woolshed and enable them to '*experience the pastoral industry first hand*'. Finally, this sign thanks the visitor for the 'kind donation' that 'funded' it.

The next interpretative sign along the woolshed walk predates the first and was produced and installed by the Shire of Central Darling. It offers another, slightly different introduction to the woolshed, this one claiming 1875 as the completion date. Most of this sign is taken up by a larger, clearer version of the same 'shearers' photo as that on the first sign, with an added inset photo showing almost the entire extent of the woolshed, prior to the demolition of the western half. The caption of the latter photograph refers only to the sheep in the foreground of the photo.

The first of eleven numbered Woolshed Walk signs is next along the path and promises that the visitor is about to be '*guided through some fascinating years of shearing history*'. These represent yet another, probably earlier still, generation of signage. They carry black sans serif texts on approximately A4 size gold metallic surfaces, mounted on wooden panels. Each sign has, in addition to its own number, a numbered arrow pointing to the next sign in the sequence. Their actual subject is the steps of the sheep shearing process.

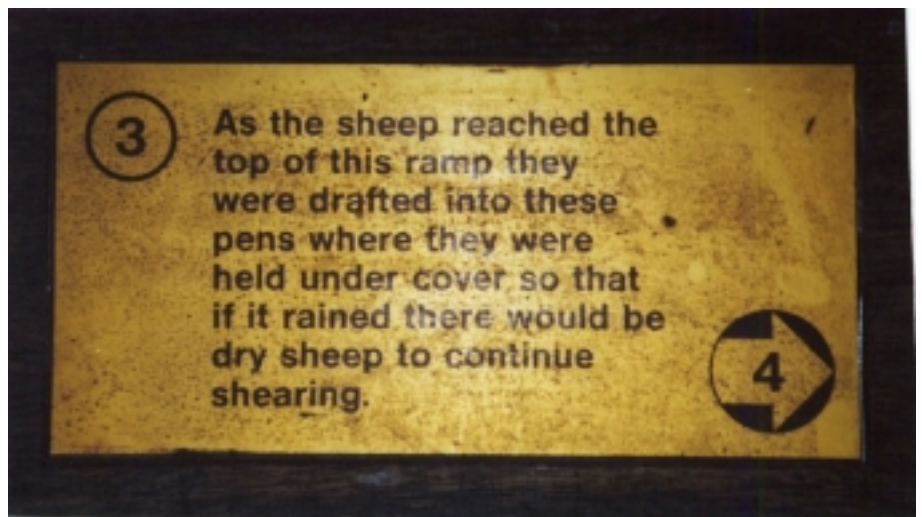


Figure 13
 Sign 3 on the Woolshed Walk...an
 earlier interpretative program
 BN 2001 photograph

Various pieces of equipment, inside and outside the woolshed are also labeled in the same style. Inside are labels for: 'Bogeye' [the thing itself is not displayed], 'Timber Jinker', 'Dust Flocker', 'Blade Shears' [not displayed] and 'Machine Room'. Outside are: 'Crab Winch and



Boom', 'Engine Room', 'Sheep Spray' and 'Steam Traction Engine.' These signs are showing their age. The finish on many is scarred, worn and dirty and the typography is dated. Nevertheless, despite their shabby appearance, the type is large enough and the text succinct enough to overcome the inherently inferior readability of sans serif fonts. They are clearly worded, well positioned and informative.

The second of the numbered signs directs us up the ramp into the shed itself. It stands adjacent to another donations box requesting another '*small donation*', this time '*to assist with the further restoration of the woolshed*'. Past the Woolshed 'board' near two old woolpresses [see below] is an early, large interpretative panel consisting of separate bits of text, photographs and captions, each pinned to a board, covered with a sheet of perspex and framed, with a routed title, '*Kincheega Woolshed*'. One of the photographs is the same 'shearers' image as on the two outdoor panels, but here it is said to date from the '1890s', rather than 'c. 1880'. A framed sign fixed to a beam, some 2.5 metres above floor level, acknowledges the '*...assistance of the National Parks and Wildlife foundation [NSW]*' in establishing this Park.

THE WOOLSHED 'COLLECTION'

The woolshed also houses a miscellaneous collection of vehicles, tools and artefacts, some more or less related to woolshed activities, the remainder apparently a random accretion of donations. Hanging from nails, on the wall behind the timber jinker, are: a bullock yoke,



Figure 14
Woolshed entry: one of the many donation boxes.
BN 2001 photograph



Figure 15
In the woolshed...an early interpretative panel. This panel is mounted high up within the shed and is difficult to read.
BN 2001 photograph



Figure 16
A routed artefact label above a woolpress.
BN 2001 photograph

two horse collars and several bridles and reins. A routed, wooden sign over the latter reads, 'Harness'. Between the dust flocker and the south board, three unidentified, horse-drawn vehicles are stored. There are three woolpresses in the shed. One stands in the original location of the working woolpress [as indicated by the cupola accommodating the spear]. This one is interpreted by label 10 and also has a routed label reading, 'Wool Press [Ferrier] Wheel Type'. The others stand near the stored vehicles. One has a routed, wooden label, 'Wool Press [Ferrier] Flip Type'. The other is unidentified, but vestiges of the maker's name are legible, 'Koerstz'.

The provenance of these devices is not mentioned. Most of the smaller items in the collection are displayed in a caged-off space, near the visitor's exit point. Along the wall, a long table holds 30 or 40 rusty, dusty iron implements, identified by a routed wooden sign as, 'Blacksmiths Tools'. A skirting table holds, along with some unidentified objects, a number of old bottles, under a routed wooden sign reading, 'Old Bottles'. The central floor space is occupied by larger artefacts, such as a cast iron fireplace and an ancient washing machine. A mangle, a plough and a blacksmith's bellows are identified by routed wooden signs.



The Woolshed Walk ends at the wool scales at the west end of the building. The visitor exits along an incongruous brick pathway, reportedly installed to provide handicapped access. Here the Crab Winch and Boom and the Steam Traction Engine are well-labelled and explained *in situ*, but another old steam boiler is not. A doorway label offers access to the 'Engine Room' and mentions the various methods of powering the shearing equipment over time. The engine room itself is empty, but a connecting door leads to the 'Machine Room' where another, mostly unidentified, assortment of tools and machinery is to be seen. A label, on the grinding machine pedestal, identifies both it and the 'Expert', a person/technology referred to but not explained on the first, aluminium, sign. Wandering around to the back of the shed, the visitor will find the sheep spray, labelled and interpreted.

Figure 17
In the woolshed...timber jinker and
harness display
BN 2001 photograph



7.4.8 THE HOMESTEAD COMPLEX AND HOMESTEAD WALK

THE HOMESTEAD COMPLEX

The 'Old Kinchega Homestead and Cemetery' are identified on the 'Panel 4' type maps in the Kiosk and the Shearers' Quarters, but not on the *Visitor Guide* map which points out 'Homestead Loop Campsites 35 – 32'.

At the carpark for the Homestead site, two large graphic panels, mounted in a roofed shelter, introduce the site and outline the Park's pastoral history. These panels, produced in 1998, belong to the most recent generation of interpretative media in the Park. The right hand



panel is entitled 'Welcome to Old Kinchega Homestead'. This is the first and only phrase in the Park to overtly offer a **welcome** to visitors. This panel follows the same basic two column layout familiar from the earlier signage.

The first column comprises a period photograph of Herbert Bristow Hughes, a 'c. 1960' colour photo of the 'Walls of the main house, pictured here, still standing' and six paragraphs of text. Its 'Introduction' states that 'Little is known about exactly when this site was first settled and who lived here' and introduces the ongoing archaeological and research project, as 'collecting information ...to piece together information ...'

The next section, 'Historical Context' begins with two paragraphs of factual detail about the ownership of the Kinchega property. The final paragraph of this section mentions a 'context' in that its first sentence refers to the fluctuating ownership of West Darling properties generally. It then reverts to site-specific comments about 'the buildings evidenced here'. The next section, 'Riverside real estate' explains clearly the convenience and economic advantages of Kinchega's location on the Darling and refers to 'improvements the Hughes family effected to the property'.

The second column of this panel displays a large map entitled 'Plan of the Kinchega Homestead Site Layout' and captioned, 'Site plan diagram ...'. It identifies 'you are here' and various site features and landmarks and recommends a route for the 'Homestead Walk', asking visitors to follow the track and signs. A smaller inset map locates the site in



Figure 18
 Old Kinchega Homestead
 introduction panel
 BN 2001 photograph



Figure 19
The roofed shelter for the Old
Kinchege Homestead introductory
panels.
BN 2001 photograph

relation to Park roads and outlying features: the Cemetery, Wool Barge and Old Regulator. At the bottom of this column is a period photograph showing *'Portion of the Kinchege wool clip being loaded on a barge ...'*

The panel on the right, *'Kinchege's Pastoral History'* represents a distinct departure from the prevailing graphic character of Park signage. Its text is set in two columns whose margins 'weave' their way down the panel, separated by a wavy blue-green snake or 'ribbon' and its drop-shadow, whose form may be intended to evoke the course of the Darling River. There are four period photographs and ten numbered paragraphs of text, set in small [16 pt] sans serif type.

Rather than reading first the left and then the right hand column, as in all other Park signage, to follow the numbered sequence here the reader is obliged to read back and forth across the 'ribbon', the left column being numbered 1, 3, 5, etc. and the right, 2, 4, 6, etc. The text, with slight editorial changes, repeats verbatim that of the *Kinchege History* pamphlet.

THE HOMESTEAD WALK

The site itself, despite the plan on the introductory panel, is not readily legible. The visual impression is of various heaps of rubble, with, here and there, scraps of rusted iron and tin, pieces of bleached wood and Interpretative signs, the whole liberally overgrown with bluebush. The recommended track is not particularly evident. The most noticeable sign is *'Kinchege Homestead'*. Produced by the Shire of Central Darling, it is of the same vintage and design as their *'Woolshed'* sign. It shows a large, clear photo of the homestead and garden *'c. 1890s'* [sic]. The concise, well written text summarises the occupancy of the building, the features of its location and the efforts



Figure 20
Homestead, introductory panel
erected by the Shire of Central
Darling.
BN 2001 photograph

of the *'Chinese gardener'*. The orientation of the sign itself, relative to the visible remains of the building, is not related to the view of the homestead shown in the photograph.

The remaining site signage is the most visually appealing in the Park, consisting of framed, pedestal-mounted A2 panels comprising brief texts and illustrations [photographs, freehand plans and *'artist's conception'* drawings] in grey, on an off-white ground. *'Food, Shade and Shelter'* interprets the introduction of exotic plants for food and ornamentation. It states *'...These and other exotic species are considered weeds within National Parks'*. It describes the location, layout and trees of the orchard. A captioned photograph shows two people *'...In the homestead orchard, late 1800's early 1900's'*.

'Vegetable Gardens' explains the *'ingenious'* irrigation system that served the garden in the 1940s, then states that vegetable production *'became more intensive'* and inspired a quotation, dated 1861. This sign is illustrated by an undated photograph of the garden at Wonnaminta station. Its caption states Kinchega had a similar garden. *'The Brick Store'*, illustrated by a *'line drawing by Bob Groves'*, describes the various uses of the building over time. Presumably the brick rubble just beyond the sign is the remains of the store.

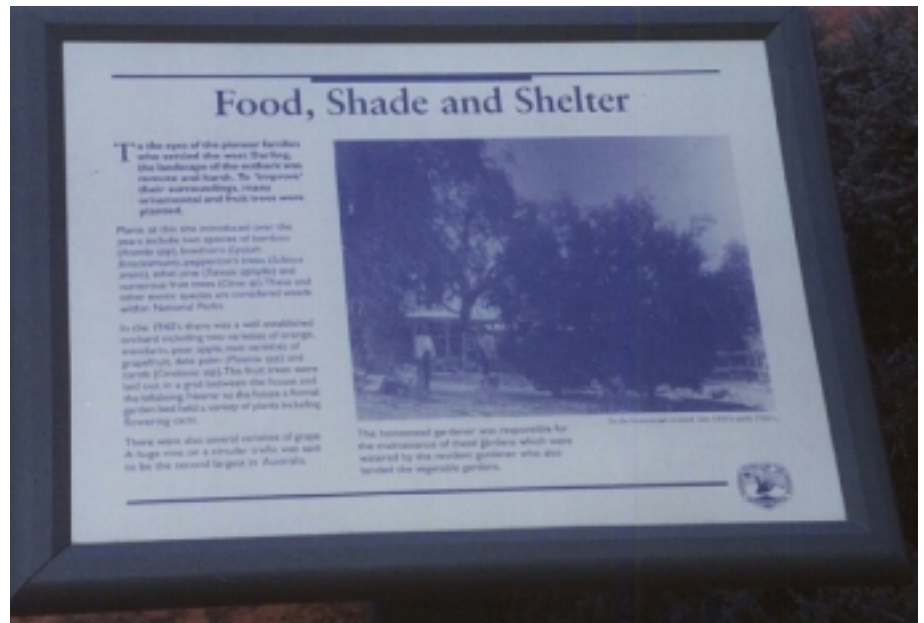
The sign *'Mick Doherty's Slab Hut'* outlines the evolution of construction materials and styles along the Darling, of which this building ostensibly represented an early example, even though Doherty was living in it in the 1940s. It describes the characteristics of the hut [now an archaeological site], identifies Doherty as a *'groom or yardsman'* and lists his duties. A nicely evocative drawing is captioned, *'Slab hut'*.

'The Billabong' describes the advantages of the homestead's location near this source of water and the function of the regulator. It invites visitors to *'Take a short walk to the Darling River'* to *'get a real feel for the landscape as experienced by pioneering families ...'*. One period photograph shows people in a boat, *'Checking the water intake for the pump'* the caption calls attention to the bamboo planting and orchard visible in the photo. A second, larger photo shows people in a boat, *'Relaxing on the homestead billabong'*.

7.4.9 DISCUSSION: THE HOMESTEAD COMPLEX

Tourism industry marketing studies reveal that the two characteristics most sought after by visitors to **any** destination are safety and cleanliness. The current arrangements for visitor access to the Homestead complex offer neither.

The *'official'* pathways are not clearly marked. There are ample opportunities to stumble over rubble and to contact the sharp and jagged edges of rusted metal, broken glass and crockery. This is a real visitor health and safety problem. It also prevents visitors particularly



Figures 21 & 22
 Homestead, recent signage and
 drawings
BN 2001 photographs

families with young children from exploring the site with the comfort and confidence that favour receptivity to interpretative messages.

Unless they can both memorise the plan from the carpark panels and apply it to the ground, visitors probably proceed from sign to sign, in whatever order they notice them. An archaeologist from the University of Sydney responsible for the KARP research on the site, Penelope Allison, has commented [July, 1998] on the signage. Many of her observations are incorporated and identified in the following critical remarks on the Homestead precinct signs. Her comment is paraphrased below.



...‘Overall, the Interpretative effort at the Homestead is focussed on the physical remains of its buildings and gardens, as revealed by the ongoing archaeological project. Although the visitor is encouraged to empathise with the ‘experience’ and ‘isolation’ of ‘pioneering families’, there is little actual information about the identities, lives and activities of the people who lived at the Homestead. What were the women’s roles and pastimes at Kincheega Station? Where did the children go to school? How did these people get on with: the Aboriginal shepherds, seasonal shearers and other station characters? Did they have a social life beyond Kincheega? How? Do we know their names? Does anyone have firsthand recollections of life here and, if so, has any effort been made to capture oral histories of the place before such people disappear?’

‘Despite the visual appeal of their graphic design, the wording of the Homestead interpretative signs is often awkward, stilted and verbose, as in the examples quoted above. Park staff report that no plan was prepared prior to the design and production of these media. It is typical of intuitive, *ad hoc* approaches to interpretation that form triumphs over content’.

‘The sources of information used on the signs are not referenced on the signs themselves, but this is not unusual. Direct quotations should be attributed and photo credits are sometimes a legal necessity. However, it would be remarkable to find footnoted Interpretative signage in museums, historic sites, Parks or zoos, anywhere, nor does any literature in the field with which the writer is familiar recommend this practice. The sources of all texts and illustrative material should have been documented in an Interpretation Plan for the site’.

‘The visitor circulation path recommended on the introductory panel potentially threatens sensitive structures and remains. In any event, the visitors’ ability to recollect and recognise this path, once they leave the panel behind cannot be taken for granted. Specific inaccuracies are as follows:

- the ‘Doherty’s Hut’ sign is ‘wrongly oriented’;
- the ‘Pivot Pole’ sign is not actually where the pivot pole was. This writer did not see it;
- the ‘Vegetable Garden’ sign location may be inconsistent with the archaeological evidence. Its chronology [or perhaps just its syntax] is absurd;
- the ‘Billabong’ sign implies that the landscape is essentially the same as that ‘experienced by pioneering families’. This is contrary to fact;
- the orientation of the ‘Food, Shade and Shelter’ sign does not correspond to the point of view of its photograph;
- the ‘Main House’ sign presents introductory information more appropriate to the carpark panels. The house plan could be more intelligibly presented in conjunction with the period photograph on the ‘Kincheega Homestead’ sign;



- the 'Meat House, Kitchen and Garden' sign requires visitors to stand on fragile remains in order to read it. Its illustrations are inadequately, perhaps deceptively labelled; and
- alternatives are needed to the current provision for visitor access [physical, intellectual and emotive] to this site. The archaeologist [PMA] recommends replacing the present circuit with two different ones. This and other possibilities should be considered'.

7.4.10 THE KINCHEGA CEMETERY

THE KINCHEGA CEMETERY

The **Cemetery** is identified on the map on Kiosk panel 4 and on the small inset map on the Kincheha Homestead panel, but not on the map in the *Visitor Guide*. On-site, a grey / white routed sign, 'Kincheha Cemetery', states [in block capital letters]:

'It is not known how many persons or whom is buried herein. The obvious graves have been refenced and the crew off the paddle steamer 'Providence' are buried here also.'

Visitors can only locate the Cemetery by memorising one of two fixed maps, or by noticing the routed sign while driving past. The text of the Cemetery sign is entirely inappropriate to its location and subject matter.



Figure 22
 Kincheha Cemetery.
 PF 2001 photograph

7.4.11 THE KINCHEGA STOCKYARDS

THE KINCHEGA STOCKYARDS

Low rail fences demarcate some of the burials. The **Stockyards and remnant telegraph line** are located near the Morton Boulka Park Picnic Area, identified on Park maps. The actual resources themselves are under water and no sign of them is visible. There is no interpretation of them provided on site. References elsewhere to the station's telephone and telegraph lines have been noted above.



7.4.12 THE PS *PROVIDENCE* BOILER AND THE BILLABONG REGULATOR

THE PS *PROVIDENCE* BOILER

Beside the 'Homestead Loop' of River Drive, the PS *Providence* boiler lies, partially buried, near the river bank. As noted, it is mentioned at some length and its location is identified in the *Visitor Guide*. The portions of the boiler exposed to the atmosphere, the elements and



Figure 23
The River Drive to the *Providence* Boiler site.
PF 2001 photograph



Figure 24
The *Providence* boiler.
PF 2001 photograph



public view are visibly deteriorating. The boiler is interpreted by a sign, devised by the Shire of Central Darling and of the same design as their Woolshed and Homestead signs. Unlike these other signs, however, the text of the Boiler sign contains unintentionally amusing errors in grammar and syntax. The name of the Chinese cook may be misspelled. The sign does not consider the possibility that the explosion was due to equipment failure rather than human error. The *Adelaide Observer's* colourful account of the tragedy which could usefully be cited verbatim is not referred to. This sign is illustrated with a period photograph of a paddle steamer on the river.

THE BILLABONG REGULATOR

Reconstructed by NPWS in 1985, the **Billabong Regulator** is located on River Drive's Homestead Loop, near the Homestead site. This feature is not currently interpreted on-site. There is, however, a sign stored in the Ranger's office, that interprets the 'Darling River Regulator'. Both the Regulator and the Boiler have considerable potential to interpret the role and importance of the Darling in the life of Kincheega Station and, indeed of the western Division.

The condition of the boiler should be evaluated by a metals conservator and any recommended treatment undertaken to ensure its stability. It ought to be evaluated from the point of view of public health and safety and appropriate measures adopted to reduce Service liability. The text of the boiler sign should be expanded and redrafted to reflect recent thinking on the accident and, if possible, to point out evidence of the alleged design flaw on the thing itself. A new sign should be designed and installed to replace the existing one.

The Billabong Regulator should be interpreted on-site. The existing, stored sign is, like the others of its family, awkwardly phrased. Its title is, perhaps misleading, as in this case, it is the water level of the Billabong, **not** that of the Darling River that is being regulated.



Figure 25
The Homestead Billabong Regulator.
PF 2001 photograph



7.5 THE CURRENT VISITOR EXPERIENCE: PERSONAL PROGRAMS

7.5.1 INTRODUCTION

Face-to-face interpretation at KNP is offered only during the Spring and Autumn school holidays. The three programs presented are Paakantji Walkabout, Tag-Along Tour and the Wildfood and Nature Walk. These programs have not changed for the last two years. Evening slide shows are also presented. As none of these programs was on offer when the writer was on site [January], the level of skill with which they are presented is unknown. The following is based on available 'prompt notes' and promotional descriptions.

7.5.2. THE PAAKANTJI WALKABOUT

This walk of about one kilometer over the sand dunes interprets the Indigenous cultures, the activities of early white explorers and the pastoral history of the area up to the establishment of Kincheega Station. The tour begins at the Woolshed and stops first at Paakantji midden site. Here Paakantji relations with the land and river are presented, as well as their social customs and alliances with other Aboriginal groups.

Proceeding to a 'Rock Amphitheatre' to 'place the rocks previously and don't forget to pick them up', visitors learn more about Paakantji social organisation, marriage, medicine and spiritual practices. The tour then continues to a 'typical' Aboriginal burial site, where burial customs and beliefs about death and mourning are discussed. Megafauna, their characteristics, extinction and fossil evidence are also interpreted at this stop. The script states '*... Megafauna is the animals which were present 10 000 to 15 000 years ago.*'

Returning towards the woolshed, the interpreter talks of the arrival of European diseases and explorers: Sturt, Hume, MacCleay and Mitchell and their relations, good and bad, with the local Aborigines. Subsequent exploitation of the Aborigines by the '*dregs of white society*' is discussed, with several graphic examples mentioned. The script states that Paakantji retaliation for white aggression involved '*guerilla tactics*'. The ultimate subjugation of '*even Wilcannia*' is mentioned. The later role of Aborigines as shepherds, shearers, trackers, hunters and stockmen is presented. The tour concludes with the opening of the Darling to steam navigation in the 1860s and the incorporation of the Paakantji into the white economy, as employees.

7.5.3 THE TAG-ALONG TOUR...

This is a driving tour, on which visitors follow the interpreter in their own vehicles, stopping at points of interest along the way. The script for this tour states that its purpose is to show the visitor 'a part of the Park normally restricted to the public'. This, of course, is the opposite



of the meaning intended. At the 'Exclusion Plot' stop, the difficulties of rabbit control are discussed and the NPWS aims and methods in establishing exclusion plots are explained. Other animal pests are mentioned. At the 'Fire Hearth' the Aboriginal practice of cooking game in pits lined with termite nest, and the way to recognise such a site are explained.

The third stop, 'Dune System', interprets the three land systems present at Kinchega: Sandplains and dunefields, Overflow Lakes and Floodplains, as well as the vegetation typical of each system. This tour ends at the Woolshed's holding yards, where Kinchega's pastoral history, the Bourke and Wills connection, the comparative costs of road and river transport, the peak extent of the property, the role of Aboriginal shepherds and some physical evidence of settlement are mentioned.

7.5.4 THE WILDFOOD AND NATURE WALK

The 'script' for this tour consists of a numbered list of sixteen native flora with point-form remarks about their traditional uses.

7.5.5 DISCUSSION: PERSONAL PROGRAMS

It is difficult to comment on the personal programs, without having experienced them, as they depend heavily on the **skill** and professionalism of the individual interpreter. **Accuracy** in the facts presented and impressions conveyed and attention to **training and quality control** by full-time Park staff are also indispensable to a successful face-to-face program.

The accuracy of the material seems high, as far as it goes. The lack of any explicit plan giving the rationale for current personal programs makes it hard to know just why **these** themes and messages have been chosen for presentation and others [say, the materials and construction of the woolshed, or the Shearer's Life] omitted. Notice, in the Paakantji Walkabout script, the frequency of words that evoke the **emotions** of Aboriginal people [friendly, sharing, good will, fearful, etc.] and their absence from references to whites. As in the non-personal media, the emphasis is on facts, dates and events, with little interpretation of lifestyle or 'social' history. Clearly, such choices reflect largely intuitive assumptions about what is [and isn't] significant about the Park's resources and interesting to visitors. Such assumptions are not available for critical examination.

Training and quality control are, likewise, hard to judge, but the phrases/words within the 'Paakantji Walkabout' may be cause for concern. In the Wildfood and Nature Walk, presumably further details beyond those noted in the 'script' are passed on orally in seasonal staff training. For example, the bald facts that Ruby Saltbush



was 'used when people had diarrhoea' or that Native Pear seeds were 'removed and used as a contraceptive' still leave much to the imagination.

7.6 SUMMARY : THE CURRENT VISITOR EXPERIENCE

Inconsistency is the dominant characteristic of the current visitor experience of Kincheega's historic resources. This reflects the manner in which the Park's non-personal media and face-to-face programs have evolved since 1967. Typically, Interpretative media production seems to have been *ad hoc* and piecemeal, depending on the availability of funds and the need to spend them quickly. This has long been the rule, not the exception, across the System and the results convey, with unintended eloquence, the low priority the Service has accorded to interpretation, particularly over the last decade.

At least seven distinct generations of Interpretative signage are displayed, each with different graphic standards and different approaches to prioritising the intended messages. Some examples are as follows:

- apparent statements of fact are sometimes misleading, such as the 'separate leaflets' for the 3 self guided drive tours [*Visitor Guide*] or dates for the same event that vary from sign to sign [Woolshed Walk];
- some signs are positioned without reference to the visitor's viewpoint [Woolshed Walk intro] or the resources interpreted [Homestead];
- some artefacts are identified; most are not. Some are interpreted; most are not. None shows any attempt at conservation. The presentation of the Homestead site endangers both the resource and the visitor; and
- the Visitor/Information Centre adds little to the information available elsewhere and its standard of presentation is extremely low.

These inconsistencies are impediments to visitor confidence and comprehension. They militate against the visitor's enjoyment and appreciation of the resources presented and, thus, against continued public and political support for the conservation of those resources.

The present Brief recognises these shortcomings and the preparation of an Interpretation Strategy for KNP, in the context of the interpretation of similar resources throughout the region is an important first step towards their remediation.



7.7 CURRENT INTERPRETATION OF PASTORAL THEMES : *WESTERN NATIONAL PARKS*

7.7.1 PREAMBLE

Sweeping down from Queensland, through western New South Wales and into South Australia, the arid crescent exemplifies both a broadly similar set of biophysical conditions and a common history of pastoral exploitation and built heritage: homesteads, ground tanks, outstations and shearing sheds. Kincheга's significance derives in large measure from its membership in this notional 'collection' of cultural landscapes. This section of the report summarises briefly how similar resources are interpreted throughout the arid crescent.

7.7.2 NPWS PASTORAL RESOURCES : *WESTERN NATIONAL PARKS*

Other historic pastoral resources comparable to Kincheга on the Service Estate are located in the Far West and Riverina Regions of the Western Directorate. In the Tibooburra Area, Sturt NP occupies the remains of five former pastoral properties. Mungo NP, in the Lower Darling Area, comprises the remains of Mungo and Zanci Stations. In the Riverina Region, Willandra NP includes the Willandra Homestead complex. Although evidence of pastoral [and other] historic uses is found in a number of other reserves, such as Yathong [Upper Darling Region] or Nombinnie [Riverina] it is mostly ruinous or vestigial [footings, surface scatters, fence lines, ground tanks, etc.] and would not support major interpretative efforts or installations.

STURT NATIONAL PARK

Mount Wood Station, Horton Park Outstation and Olive Downs Historic Shearers' Quarters are the principal pastoral structures in **Sturt National Park**. The **Mount Wood Homestead** includes a recently restored 1897 stone main house, outbuildings and gravesites. A 1913 woolshed, a suspension bridge, shearers' quarters, a reconstructed horse-powered whim, a display of 'pastoral relics' and an ingenious woolscour, make up The 'Outdoor Pastoral History Museum'. These resources are presently included in Park's Discovery Program [Mount Wood Historic Heritage Tour] and identified on the self-guided Gorge Loop Road drive tour, but are not otherwise interpreted. A pilot project is planned, in conjunction with UNSW, to provide accommodation and tours of the Park.

Planning is currently underway to upgrade interpretation of Mount Wood. One option being enthusiastically canvassed for the woolshed includes 'thematic, interesting and communicative interpretative signage' and the complete fitout of one or two stands with operable running gear. There is a feeling here that visitors are increasingly ignorant of the functions and components of the shearing process and that interpreting them would greatly enhance the experience.



The timber framed corrugated iron building and small woolshed at the **Horton Park Outstation** are in ruinous condition. The existing interpretative signage here is scheduled for replacement as part of the current planning exercise. The **Olive Downs Station** complex includes an historic Shearers' Quarters, identified on the main Park brochure, but not otherwise interpreted. Interpretative signage at the historic mining sites, **Golden Gully and Dead Horse Gully**, is also going to be redesigned and upgraded to support self-guided walks of the sites.

MUNGO NATIONAL PARK

Mungo National Park comprises Mungo and Zanci Stations, both of which were formerly part of a much larger property, Gol Gol Station. The Mungo Woolshed is believed to be one of New South Wales' earliest intact pastoral structures, built about 1869, reportedly by Chinese labour. The shed is a significant example of drop slab construction and has other noteworthy materials and features. Sheepyards, an underground tank and shearers quarters are also located in the Mungo shearing complex. Near the recent homestead buildings are the ruins of a stone kitchen, a rubbish tip and a well or tank all on a site occupied by Chinese workers and perhaps contemporary with the woolshed. This area is identified as having considerable archaeological potential.⁴

Figure 26
 The Mungo National Park: Visitor Guide
 PF 2001 photograph

WORLD HERITAGE VALUES

Mungo National Park lies within the Willandra Lakes World Heritage Area. This site was added to the World Heritage List in 1981 in recognition of its Aboriginal heritage and the evidence of past climates preserved in its landscapes.

Aboriginal heritage

Evidence of at least 60,000 years of human occupation is present within the Willandra Lakes area. When the lakes were full, Aboriginal people camped and fished along the shores.

The lunette (or 'walls') contain extremely well preserved campfires, cooking hearths and burials. The oldest recorded cremation in the world has been found at Mungo. The Willandra Lakes region is a major part of the jigsaw of Australian and world archaeology.

When the lakes dried around 15 000 years ago, Aboriginal people continued to live near soaks along the old river channel.

They also quarried stone from rock outcrops on the lake floor. Today Aboriginal people with traditional links to the World Heritage Area are actively involved in park management.

European History

In the 1850s squatters moved into the area and old Gol Gol station was established. The Mungo woolshed (open for public inspection) was built around 1869 from local cypress pine and is an important part of the region's pastoral history.

MORE ABOUT THE PARK

Plants

The vegetation of Mungo National Park is typical of the plains of western NSW. Belah (casuarina) is the dominant species on the sand plains while black bluebush dominates on the slightly saline soils of the lakelbed. Mallee grows on the dune fields.

Animals

Many native animals, including red & western grey kangaroos, echidnas, fennerts and bats occur at Mungo. Resident lizards include shinglebacks, bearded dragons and geckos, while native birds such as emus, pink cockatoos and orange and white fronted chats, can also be seen.

Location and access

The park lies 110 km north-east of Mildara and 150 km north-west of Balranald in the far south west of NSW. For detailed access information please refer to inside map.

For further information ...

about the park please contact:

NPWS Lower Darling Area Office
 Cat. Start Highway & Melalmea St.
 PO Box 318, Batoonga, NSW 2719
 Phone: (03) 5021 8900

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 NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
 111 Bridge St.
 Canberra ACT
 PO Box 981
 Canberra ACT
 2600
 1991

VISITOR GUIDE

Looking out across the dry, isolated of Mungo from 'The Walk of China', Mungo National Park.

© NPWS
 NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
 1991



At nearby Zanci Station, there is another woolshed [also showing partial drop slab construction] and a cane grass thatched stable. The remains of the Zanci homestead include large above- and below-ground tanks and a large cellar.

Interpretation of Mungo's pastoral resources consists of:

- a self-guided tour of Mungo Woolshed outlining the history of the building, the process of shearing and pointing out significant features
- outdoor signage at Zanci Woolshed two and three dimensional displays of domestic and shearing artefacts in the Visitor Centre adjacent to Mungo Woolshed featuring historic photographs, text panels [eg 'Pioneers and Pastoralists,
- during the Spring school break, a Discovery 'Three Sheds Tour' of the Mungo, Zanci and Leaghur properties is led by seasonal Rangers.
- Mungo and Zanci Woolsheds are also included on a self guided driving tour, called the Pastoral Loop.

A comprehensive resource assessment is planned for the Park in the near future and is expected to produce 'altered/enhanced interpretation'.

WILLANDRA NATIONAL PARK

The homestead and shearing complexes of Willandra Station, now in Willandra National Park, include: an outstation and the remains of a woolscour, the [1918] homestead, a woolshed, shearers quarters and a stud ram shed. Despite its significance as a '*good, intact example of a large-scale western NSW pastoral property*'⁵ interpretation at Willandra is currently limited to an A4 label at each building, giving its date of construction and 'anecdotal information' largely concerned with 'social happenings that occurred there'. Park staff report that they intend to expand interpretation at Willandra, next year, to collect and present 'more oral histories of people associated with the place'. Visitors to Willandra National Park can take the Nilla Yannagalang Billana Walking Track [brochure provided] and/or explore the restored Willandra Homestead [brochure provided].

7.8 CURRENT INTERPRETATION OF PASTORAL THEMES : OTHER AGENCIES

7.8.1 PREAMBLE

Information given in this and the next [Private Sector] sections is as complete as diligent Sydney-based research can produce. The National Park Services, Tourism commissions, heritage agencies and selected practitioners in the states involved were canvassed by telephone, their websites visited, the Internet checked under relevant keywords and the resulting contacts followed up by telephone and

⁵ Ashley et al [1991] *op cit*

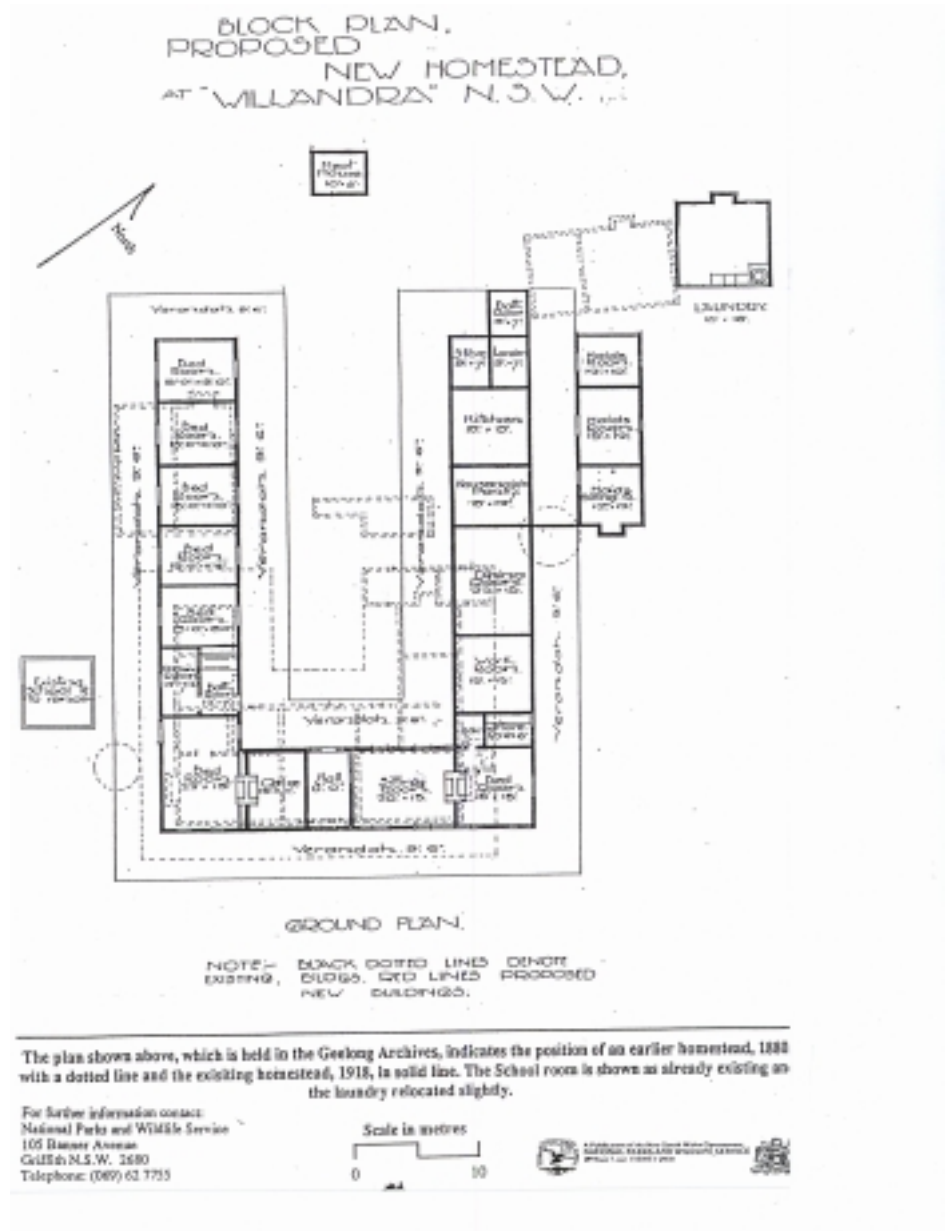


Figure 26
 Extract from Willandra National
 Park Homestead brochure
 NPWS WNP

email where possible. Nevertheless, this summary should be taken as representative, rather than exhaustive.

7.8.2 SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Information about the presentation of pastoral heritage in South Australia is difficult to find. It seems probable that such resources are not perceived as attractions or destinations in themselves and, so, receive little dedicated promotion. Tourists probably learn of opportunities to visit such places from local tourist offices, in the context of general inquiries about the attractions of a particular region. No mention of pastoral heritage is made in the SA National Parks and Wildlife Service publication, *Parks of the Far North of South Australia*.



Glencoe Woolshed, at Mount Gambier, is operated as a visitor attraction by the Mount Gambier National Trust. Built of limestone, in 1863 and later converted to mechanised shearing, the woolshed offers a self-guided visitor experience. Visitors pick up a key to the building and pay a deposit at the local general store. The woolshed is interpreted by a taped audio commentary and 'a few signs.' Occasionally, the 'small band of volunteers' concerned with the place holds open days and special events. Off-site, brief information is available on the Internet [www.visit-southaustralia.com]. The Lady Nelson Tourist Information Centre advises intending visitors as to routes and procedures and includes information on the woolshed in its 'Coach Pack', a recommended itinerary for group tours.

7.8.3 QUEENSLAND

The **Queensland Department of Environment** has 'a couple of woolsheds' in its western National Parks, but none is currently interpreted. They intend to do 'some interpretation' at Currawinya NP. They have developed a Public Contact Plan for this Park that outlines a series of themes and messages for the whole Park, but implementation of the proposed strategies is 'still some way off'. For the Park's pastoral resources, a general Interpretative concept of People and the Environment [European Settlement] is suggested with the theme of 'Currawinya was a home for graziers and farmers' interpreted through messages about the lifestyle and settlement patterns of pioneer families.

The **Queensland Premier's Department** administers the **Queensland Heritage Trails Network** [QHTN], 'a \$110 million project partnership between the State and Federal governments and local communities to celebrate the Centenary of Federation, in 2001.' This ambitious program for the enhancement, presentation and/or conservation of 32 cultural facilities and heritage places of many kinds includes three significant pastoral sites. Although two of these are not located in the arid crescent, they are of interest because of the level of planning and funding this project brings to bear on them.

Jondaryan Woolshed, on the Darling Downs near Toowoomba, has been conserved in its 1860 state. Since 1976, the shed and its site have been operated as a living museum and historic village 'an eclectic collection' of buildings that 'as a group has little relevance to the woolshed'⁶. A collection of machinery, much of it having 'little if any association with Jondaryan Woolshed'⁷, is also displayed. The Conservation and Management Plan for the site included an interpretation strategy.

A comprehensive Brief, based on the interpretation strategy, was prepared to 'develop and implement an Interpretative scheme [including commercial and marketing strategies] for Jondaryan Woolshed. The aim of the project is 'to present and interpret the



Figure 27
 The Queensland Heritage Trails
 Network brochure map
 5: Jondaryan Woolshed
 7: Blackall Woolshed
 31: Glengallan Homestead
 QHTN Brisbane

woolshed, its function and the role it played in the economic and social history of the region.⁸ Its terms of reference call for expertise in:

*'Exhibition planning and design; Museology; Graphic design and publication; Industrial design; Historical research and recording; Community consultation; Market research; Heritage conservation [architecture]; Corporate identity development; Signage design; Tourism marketing and promotions; Audience development; Commercial planning; and Costing/budgeting.'*⁹

The contract for this project has now been let and work commenced in March, 2001, for completion by the end of 2002. The interpretation project budget, for all planning, design and implementation, is \$700 000.

Also located near Toowoomba, the **Glengallan Homestead**, 'a National-Estate registered grand homestead, from the pioneering days of pastoralism'¹⁰ is to be stabilised and interpreted. This is seen as a relatively small project, as the Homestead is largely 'self-interpreting.' The notional budget for the interpretative component of the work is between \$150 000 and \$200 000.

⁶ Allom Lovell, *Jondaryan Woolshed: a conservation and management plan*, 2000

⁷ *Ibid*

⁸ Brett Magnussen Project Services [nd], *Terms of Reference: Jondaryan Woolshed Interpretation Scheme*. Toowoomba.



In western Queensland, the third pastoral site included in the QHTN is the **Blackall Woolscour**. The site includes a 20-stand shearing shed with a wool loft, engine room and boiler and extensive sheep yards, shearers quarters, cookhouse and blacksmith's shop. Parts of the complex's machinery and buildings are to be conserved and interpreted in this \$2 million project, of which some \$200 000. will be devoted to interpretation.

7.9 CURRENT INTERPRETATION OF PASTORAL THEMES : PRIVATE SECTOR

7.9.1 SHEAR OUTBACK

A significant initiative in the interpretation of pastoral themes is **Shear Outback**, originally conceived as a 'Shearers' Hall of Fame', located in Hay. This Centenary of Federation-funded project is now in the final design stage and is due to open 2002. It will have 2 major physical components. A 1934 woolshed, originally from Murray Downs, near Swan Hill, has been dismantled, moved to Hay and will be re-erected on the site. A new, purpose-built building with 370 sq. meters of exhibit space will be built, incorporating museum standard environmental controls. The overall intent of the project is to create a comprehensive tribute to the culture of shearing. They have a website, www.shearoutback.com.au, that carries their vision statement and shows promise of great future sophistication.

The museum building will have a 'memorial hall' with a Shearers Wall of Fame displaying plaques commemorating individual shearers and including biographies of famous or otherwise significant ones. Large displays in this area include a wool wagon, a dump press and a steam engine. Another exhibition area, recreating shearers quarters interiors of the 1920s and the present day will examine 'Shearing in Art and Photography', contrasting the mythic, archetypal shearer with contemporary shearers. An interactive video will show the other people involved in shearing, experts, classers, rouseabouts, etc.

A series of smaller, separate displays will present shearing and shearers as depicted in Music, Film, Literature, Television and Radio. The 'social and political significance of shearers' will present themes such as 'shearing and unionism', while another exhibition will focus on the 'Technology of Shearing' offering visitors an opportunity to try shearing a model of a sheep, show the evolution of shearing equipment and explore current issues in shearing, such as hormonal defleecing. 'The Physiology of Shearing' – the demands and effects of shearing on shearers' bodies – will also be interpreted.

⁹ Brett Magnussen Project Services, *op cit*.

¹⁰ QHTN Project Team Secretariat [2000], *QHTN network news, issue 1, Winter, 2000*. Brisbane.



Outdoors, 'The Pasture' will be interpreted using graphic panels and sheep sculptures. Some mention will be made of the native flora and fauna of the Hay Plain. Although images may be presented that suggest the deleterious impacts of pastoralism on the ecology, this issue will not be explored explicitly.

Outside the woolshed, the focus will be on the functions of its architecture [this shed was architect-designed, by an extant practice] and on the evolution and role of fencing in the landscape, the economy and society.

Inside, visitor circulation will trigger a studio-produced sound-and-light presentation comprising a soundscape of a working woolshed, spoken dialogue in character and lighting to direct the visitors' attention and highlight relevant features of the building. Shearing demonstrations will be given at three or more stands on the board, once or twice a day. The possibility of TAFE using the shed as a training facility [and thereby increasing the number of shearing demonstrations] is being negotiated.

When demonstrations are not being given, a 20-minute audio-visual compilation of documentary and archival footage will be shown continuously. Finally, graphic panels will interpret the shed's layout and nomenclature.

7.9.2 'LIVING OUTBACK' STATION STAYS

This initiative of the NSW Department of State and Regional Development, aims to improve tourist access to [and tourism revenue from] privately owned, working pastoral properties in an area roughly corresponding to the central portion of the Service's Upper Darling Region. The 'Living Outback' program is one of the partners in the Murray Mallee Partnership and its territory begins immediately north of that covered in *Mallee Tracks*.

The participating properties are: **Kallara Station** [established 1857], near Tilpa, and **Trilby Station**, near Louth, both on the Darling River; ['historic'] **Keewong** and **Kaleno Station** [established 1880], both southwest of Cobar; and **Mt Drysdale**, ['Important to the history of New South Wales, the entire property is listed by the National Trust to preserve its heritage status'] near Cobar.

Each of these properties offers visitors a range of accommodation [homestead, bunkhouse, shearers quarters, purpose-built lodges or cottages] and recreational opportunities [fishing, bushwalking, birdwatching, etc.], as well as a chance to participate in the stations' pastoral activities [mustering, shearing, lambmarking, etc.] Many of these activities are in marked contrast to those permitted in National Parks [e.g. helicopter flights, mustering with 4WDs, light planes and motorbikes]. Stations are also billed as bases for visiting a variety of other local points of interest.



Figure 28
Brochure for 'Kallara' Outback
Station Stays
Living Outback 2001

The Living Outback program has a website [www.outbacknsw.org.au] and each property is individually promoted by a 4 colour, DL format brochure. The brochures are elegantly planned and presented and feature consistent graphic design and organisation of information across the group. The history of each property is emphasised in this literature and clearly considered a major selling point.

In **Victoria**, a similar experience to those described above is offered by **Dunvegan** station farmstay, on the Darling River, near Mildura. An independent enterprise, Dunvegan has its own 4 colour brochure, claiming it to be 'the ultimate Australian outback experience' and emphasising wildlife observation opportunities, comfortable accommodation and proximity to other activities [e.g. golfing] and attractions, notably Mungo NP. No mention is made of the history of the place nor, indeed, is it clear whether this is a working station.

In South Australia, there are a number of 'private' initiatives. **Cordillo Downs Station** is a private, working station, now carrying cattle, located in Innamincka Regional reserve. Once the state's largest shearing shed with 120 stands, it was built in 1883. No services or amenities are provided for visitors, but they may camp near the main road. There is a Parking area about 20 meters from the shed. Interpretation consists of a 'board' giving a 'rough history' of Cordillo Downs. A frank description by its author reveals that it's not necessarily accurate but was 'just put up to give people something to read.' No printed information is available for this site, but it is mentioned on the South Australia tourism website. Heritage South Australia reportedly had an interpretation brief prepared for the place, 'but it never happened'. The woolshed has recently been fenced off and may have to close to the public altogether in the near



future, as lack of funds for maintenance has created serious public health and safety concerns.

Other working stations in the Flinders Ranges that offer accommodation were identified by contacts in Heritage South Australia who believe ‘there may be a degree of interpretation associated with their activities.’ These are: **Arkaba Station, Wilpena, Oratunga Station, Pandurra Station** and **Rawnsley Park**.

Nuttbush Retreat [‘the outback oasis’] is a tourist facility developed on Pandurra Station offering a variety of accommodation and activity options, including tours [‘an educational, enjoyable and relaxing experience in an air-conditioned vehicle’]. Its woolshed, built in 1863, has recently been refurbished, reducing the original twenty four stands to twelve and creating a dining room in one end. ‘Interpretation’ here consists of historic photos displayed in the shed. During the annual four week shearing period, visitors can participate in related activities and mingle with station personnel and itinerant shearers. Two four-colour brochures and a single-sided DL format card promote the accommodation, 4wd tours and horseback riding, respectively.



Figure 29
 Nuttbush Retreat brochure
 Pandurra Station 2000

7.10 SUMMARY: CURRENT INTERPRETATION & CULTURAL TOURISM

7.10.1 KINCHEGA NATIONAL PARK AND THE WESTERN NATIONAL PARKS

Inconsistency is the dominant characteristic of the current visitor experience of Kincheha’s historic resources. This reflects the manner in which the Park’s non-personal media and face-to-face programs have evolved, since 1967. Typically, Interpretative media production seems to have been *ad hoc* and piecemeal, depending on the



availability of funds and the need to spend them quickly. This has long been the rule, not the exception, across the System and the results convey, with unintended eloquence, the low priority the Service has accorded to interpretation, particularly over the last decade.

- At least seven distinct generations of interpretative signage are displayed, each with different graphic standards and different approaches to prioritising the intended messages.
- Apparent statements of fact are sometimes misleading, such as the 'separate leaflets' for the three self guided drive tours [*Visitor Guide*] or dates for the same event that vary from sign to sign [Woolshed Walk].
- Some signs are positioned without reference to the visitor's viewpoint [Woolshed Walk intro] or the resources interpreted [Homestead].
- Some artefacts are identified; most are not. Some are interpreted; most are not. None shows any attempt at conservation. The presentation of the Homestead site endangers both the resource and the visitor.
- The Visitor/Information Centre adds little to the information available elsewhere and its standard of presentation is extremely low.

These inconsistencies are impediments to visitor confidence and comprehension. They militate against the visitor's enjoyment and appreciation of the resources presented and, thus, against continued public and political support for the conservation of those resources. The present Brief recognises these shortcomings and the preparation of an Interpretation Strategy for KNP, in the context of the interpretation of similar resources throughout the region is an important first step towards their remediation.

It is also important that planning and implementation of the visitor experience at Kinchega take account of likely (and desirable) future developments in the other *Western Parks*, Mungo, Sturt, Willandra, Peery and Mallee Cliffs. The presentation of Kinchega's cultural landscape and built heritage should seek to interpret both its place in the context of this 'collection' and what is special and particular to the place. Most important, it should complement, rather than duplicate, the visitor experiences available at other sites, public and private.

7.10.2 OTHER PUBLIC AGENCIES

The presentation of historic resources broadly akin to Kinchega's, in neighbouring states, reflects two extremes of funding and commitment. On the one hand, the available visitor experience of such places in South Australia is apparently substantially inferior to the current product offered by the Service in NSW. The interpretation of the pastoral resources administered by NPWS' sister agency in Queensland seems to be afflicted with a similar inertia.



In contrast, the Queensland Heritage Trails Network initiative benefits from astute 'big picture' planning and investment that will result in a relatively opulent visitor experience. It is unlikely that these funds have been committed either frivolously or altruistically. It seems probable that the overall project budget and its allocations have been justified in the long term by discounted cash-flow analysis and the multiplier effect of increased visitation in local and regional economies. The estimated \$1.1 million to be spent on interpretation alone across the project's three pastoral sites indicates the perceived importance of this component of the tourism product.

7.10.3 THE TOURIST TRADE

Our overview of the context in which Kincheega and the other *Western National Parks* will plan and implement their presentation has identified several notable trends in the outback heritage tourism market:

- Incorporation of working outback heritage properties into an easily accessible and aggressively marketed tourism infrastructure [The 'Living Outback'].
- Interagency and interstate facilitation of tourist access to outback heritage places [the Murray Mallee Partnership].
- Development of sophisticated attractions in regional centres [Shear Outback].

These new neighbours in the outback recreation niche will contribute positively to promotion of Service resources. They will also play an important role in the management of visitor expectations.

A successful, positive tourism experience is one that meets or exceeds visitor expectations. A negative experience is one that doesn't deliver what the visitor has been led to expect.

Higher standards in the marketing and presentation of western heritage resources generally [and historic resources particularly] will create visitor expectations that challenge the Service to lift its game, or risk being the weak link in this chain of recreational, cultural and economically significant regional initiatives.



8.0 ASSESSMENT AND STATEMENT OF CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

8.1 ASSESSING SIGNIFICANCE : PREAMBLE

As a preamble to the assessment of the Aboriginal, 'European' and natural heritage significance of the former Kincheega Station study area, a number of significance aspects and key issues are identified and discussed. This discussion informs the subsequent Assessment of Significance; which in turn informs the Statement of Cultural Significance, refer **Sections 8.4** and **8.5** below.

These 'significance' issues include:

- a review of the previous assessments and statements of cultural significance prepared both for specific Kincheega Station sites; and for the Kincheega Station remnants generally;
- the appropriate curtilages for the Aboriginal, 'European' and Natural assessments;
- a discussion about the limits to the assessments; and
- an assessment of 'comparative' arid land Station sites.

Following this discussion, an assessment of the natural and cultural significance of the study area is undertaken, utilising the **NSW State Heritage criteria** and making reference to the NSW State Heritage Themes. Following that assessment, specific and general statements of significance are provided for the study area sites.

8.2 ASSESSING SIGNIFICANCE : PREVIOUS ASSESSMENTS OF SIGNIFICANCE

8.2.1 PREAMBLE

Several assessments of significance have been prepared for specific Kincheega sites; and for the Kincheega National Park [KNP] as a whole. These statements have generally been developed as a component part of NPWS management planning for KNP and for specific Park sites. These assessments will be considered below, and in roughly chronological sequence.

8.2.2 HISTORIC RESOURCES STUDY FOR THE WESTERN REGION: KINCHEGA DISTRICT, 1985

This study was prepared for the NPWS by Elizabeth Rich [consultant] in 1985.¹ The study provides a Regional District report. The study proposed that two investigations were urgently required in the Kincheega District as follows:

¹ Elizabeth Rich, *Historic Resources Study: Western Region*, draft final report. Unpublished report prepared for NPWS, October 1985.



- **Urgent protective work** to the Kinchega Homestead ruin; and
- **Conservation Planning** [including statements of significance; conservation and interpretation planning] for Kinchega as a whole.

There are no assessments of significance within the 1985 Report, however specific recommendations are provided.

The specific area recommendations for Kinchega National Park, then managed by 'Kinchega District' were:

'... That the Conservation Planning process [in accordance with the current ICOMOS Guidelines] be implemented to ensure that the historic resource is managed appropriately. In accordance with this Process, it is essential to have a planned approach to resource management.

The recommended management needs to be carried out at different levels; conservation planning; major place investigation; and minor place studies.

The required studies in priority order are:

Kinchega National Park: Conservation planning [Priority 1]

Kinchega Homestead Ruin: Urgent protection works [Priority 1]

Kinchega Homestead Ruin: Major place investigation [Priority 1]

8.2.3 THE OUTDOOR MUSEUM : NATIONAL PARKS AND WILDLIFE SERVICE 1991 ²

An Outdoor Museum was a review of historic places in the NPWS estate, produced during 1991 for the Service. Part B of the review deals with the four NPWS Regions, and includes reference to Kinchega National Park, now within the Broken Hill District. There is no formal 'Statement of Significance' for Kinchega National Park but the review does refer to the **historic** and **water conservation** significance of the place:

... 'located in an eroded dune system, above potential flood waters; the Kinchega woolshed itself, together with the cook house, expert's quarters, pens, machinery, and several generations of shearers' quarters form an impressive historic precinct. Unfortunately the old homestead complex, established in the 1850s, which included a brick homestead established in 1865, and stockman's quarters and kitchen, was destroyed by fire³ in recent years. The homestead was located adjacent to a billabong on the Darling River and water conservation measures employed there involved a regulator [c1920] and open pipes used to trap water inside the normally dry billabongs after floods.'

... 'Kinchega National Park is associated with water conservation measures of a much larger scale as the Menindee Lakes, which the National Park surrounds, have been used to supply water to Broken Hill since early this century, and by pipeline since 1960.'

... 'Kinchega has additional historical significance because of its association with the fateful expedition of Burke and Wills in 1860, which stopped at Kinchega station on their way north.'

² Geoff Ashley, Denis Gojak & Carol Liston, *An Outdoor Museum*, National Parks and Wildlife Service, 1991.

³ The 1967 Cox 'Report on Buildings at Kinchega National Park' stated that '... the homestead was demolished only recently'.



The 1991 *Outdoor Museum* review thus refers primarily to historical significance. There is no reference to either Aboriginal or natural significance. This emphasis is perhaps understandable given that the Brief was to ‘... identify and assess places and items of heritage significance held by the NSW NPWS’. There is no briefing requirement to survey sites of Aboriginal or natural heritage significance. There is no reference to either Aboriginal or natural significance.

8.2.4 THE KINCHEGA ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH PROJECT [KARP], UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY

The KAR Project began as a joint Sydney University / Charles Sturt University project. Its directors included Peter Graves, Paul Rainbird and Penelope Allison. The project’s original aims included investigation of the Aboriginal occupation of the area, however since 1996 the project has been conducted solely by Sydney University and has concentrated on the European occupation of the homestead [No. 1] precinct. The project has now operated for five years at Kinchega National Park. In a recent summary of research Penelope Alison outlined the project’s [revised] aims.⁴

‘...The purpose of the KARP project’s investigations of the Kinchega Homestead is multi faceted...the principal aims of this research are to use the material, documentary and oral sources relating to this homestead complex to assess the living conditions and the activities which took place there throughout its seventy to eighty years of occupancy. The issue is to demonstrate that a pastoral homestead functions somewhat like a village with the range of production and consumption activities carried out by its occupants. It is also to identify and analyse the spatial patterning of those activities and the impact of changing communication systems on the patterns of these activities.’

The **Statement of Significance** for the Homestead site [in accordance with the 1996 **NSW Heritage Assessment criteria** reads as follows:⁵
...‘The Old Kinchega homestead, built in the mid to late 1870s and occupied for some sixty to eighty years, is of great historical significance to the social history of pastoral expansion into the far west of NSW. It demonstrates many typical features of domestic life in remote rural settlement: water management; self-sufficient produce and slaughter yards; recycling of materials; and a setting on the banks of the billabong; and is thus also significant for its representative qualities. The survival of the complex of domestic structures, although the items are individually deteriorated, provides a rare and detailed history of the domestic side to pastoral expansion, a topic unrepresented in the largely economic histories of Kinchega Station. The Homestead also demonstrates the evolution of pastoralism and domestic technology on the Station, from sheep camps to Manager’s residence, to an overseer’s residence, to abandonment and decay in the 1950s.’

⁴ Penelope M Allison, *Kinchega Archaeological Research Project [KARP] Summary of Research*, University of Sydney, 2000

⁵ KARP 1999, *op cit*



Aesthetic Significance [scenic / architectural qualities / creative accomplishment]

... 'While the Old Kinchega homestead's primary significance is historic and technical, it does demonstrate some aesthetic significance. Its aesthetic value does not, however, derive from the Homestead's design qualities, its verandahs, shady trees, exotic plantings and gardens, which are not readily apparent to a casual visitor. Rather, the site's aesthetic or sensorial value is derived from the Homestead's current, ruined state: reduced to a few standing courses of brick with one lone chimney rising to the height of 2 metres and a tall, frondless palm tree sagging in the background. Whilst not as striking as other, more-intact abandoned desert homesteads [see Pearce 1978], the present ruins of the Kinchega Homestead are a significant visual reminder of the pastoral presence and decline in the arid landscape of far west NSW.'

Technical / Research Significance [archaeological, industrial, educational, research potential and scientific significance values]

Old Kinchega homestead's excellent resource base provides the site with significant and rare research value. This resource base includes: the survival of the homestead buildings and associated features composing a holistic homestead complex; the survival of household refuse areas; the probable survival of archaeological underfloor deposits; the preservation of station records; and the access to oral information about 20th century lifeways. Further archaeological, archival and oral research may shed light on the yet-unknown details of the Old Homestead's construction date. More importantly, however, further investigations of the Homestead have to potential to increase our understanding of the isolated lives of the Homestead's residents, the patterns of consumption, water management, landscaping and the manufacture and supply of goods into far west NSW. Such work would be comparable with the few, recent archaeological studies in similar regions [e.g. Lawrence 1996; Birmingham 1997]. It is a rare survival of all the associated homestead relics that are often only preserved when owned by a public authority or in a rural context where development pressures are not great.'

Social Significance [contemporary community esteem]

... 'During the course of archaeological investigation of the old homestead, some elements of the site's social value were revealed. Several former residents and their descendents are involved and interested in oral-history research into the Homestead, including Herbert Bristow Hughes' descendants who continue to live on the nearby Kars Homestead and in Adelaide. Residents in Menindee and members of the Broken Hill Historical Society have also expressed interest in the homestead in their willingness to assist with collecting oral histories. Also several campers and tourists visit the site, although their interest in the homestead cannot be distinguished from interest in the Park's other cultural resources [its natural heritage and the woolshed] without further investigation. The homestead thus appears to have some social significance, primarily on a local or regional scale, and the extent and nature of the site's entire social significance requires further investigation.'



Summary Statement of Significance

... 'The Old Kinchega Homestead, rare in its public accessibility and survival of associated minor domestic structures, is illustrative of, and has the potential to contribute, important information about our understanding of the domestic lives of those involved in the pastoral expansion and settlement of the far west NSW in the late-19th and 20th centuries. Its primary cultural significance is thus historic and technical and it also yields some aesthetic and social value.'

Whilst the KARP study appears to be too narrowly focussed on a specific set of European archaeological remains; and too determinist in its Project Design objectives, the Statement of Significance is nonetheless a useful input into a 'current' Statement of Significance for the Kinchega Station [and associated] sites.

8.2.5 THE CENTRAL DARLING HERITAGE & CULTURAL TOURISM STUDY, GODDEN MACKAY, 1997⁶

This study provides a Shire-wide assessment of significance for the Central Darling Shire, and specific attributes of significance for the Shire. The general statement of significance reads as follows:

... 'In known documentary evidence as well as extant features and fabric, Central Darling embraces a rich mixture of desert and riverine land-form and vegetation. It is an area associated with continuous Aboriginal occupation and cultural development, post-1820 European history, historic sites, architecture, rural lands, parks gardens, reserves, commons and a wide range of human pioneering endeavour. The layout, built form and character of the Shire today reflects both State and local history themes, typifying especially the importance of the Darling River to pastoral New South Wales from the early Nineteenth Century through to the present time. Central Darling's sense of place derives from a generally harmonious combination of the topography and sparse and fragile vegetation bisected by the deep, tree lined course of the Darling River and the pattern of stations and former and existing small towns. The variety of architecture is full of interest, with a particularly rich and diverse representation from the Victorian period. As well this region is particularly significant as the cradle for Paakantji and Wangaapuwan cultures.'

The **specific attributes** identified by the Study which relate to the Kinchega Station sites are as follows:

'... Central Darling Shire has historic associations going back to the exploratory period of the 1820s and 30s followed by the expansion of the pastoral industry into outback northwest New South Wales in the 1840s and 50s [historic].

Central Darling Shire's location centred on the Darling River and including a landscape sculptured by ephemeral lakes in an essentially dry environment gives it a unique sense of place among the northwest regions of NSW [aesthetic].

⁶ Godden Mackay Heritage Consultants, *Central Darling Heritage Study and Cultural Tourism Study*, for Central Darling Shire, 1997



'...The occupation of extensive tracts of country in the early Nineteenth Century, first by squatters, then selectors, and the prescription of Commons for Aboriginal use has endowed Central Darling Shire with a distinctive and important pattern of occupation. Towns have nearby commons and the homestead complexes are usually isolated and associated with a large number of outbuildings [historic, aesthetic, social scientific].'

'... Central Darling Shire retains a collection of wharves, bridges, buildings and structures associated with the former Darling River trade carried out by paddle steamers [historic]; the Shire includes unique cultural sites and practices associated with the Aboriginal people [aesthetic, social, scientific, historic]; the Shire's Commons include Lunettes of considerable cultural and archaeological significance [historic, aesthetic, social, scientific] and the Shire contains significant archaeological evidence of former native Mega Fauna species [scientific].'

8.2.6 THE REGISTER OF THE NATIONAL ESTATE [RNE] :
ENTRY FOR KINCHEGA WOOLSHED 1978

The **Kinchega Woolshed, Shearers' Quarters and Homestead Complex** were entered on the Register on 21 March 1978. The Statement of Significance for these items [which actually omits reference to the Homestead complex] reads as follows:

'...Kinchega Woolshed, dating from 1875, is of great historical significance for its direct association with the early pastoral history of the far west of New South Wales [Criterion A.4]. The building illustrates the huge size of pastoral holdings in the arid areas of Australia and is a good example of a large scale shearing shed. It also helps to show the major developments in shearing technology during the century since its construction. [Criteria B2 and D2]. The shed is of a notable design, the sweating pens being an important feature of the building [Criterion F.1]. Kinchega Woolshed, owing to its site and its large dimensions, is a prominent feature in the arid surrounding landscape and is a visual symbol of the grazing history of the outback [Criterion E.1].'

There is no reference, within the assessment and / or Statement of Significance, to other Kinchega Station sites; or to other aspects of the Station's significance.

8.2.7 THE NSW HERITAGE REGISTER :
ENTRY FOR KINCHEGA WOOLSHED 1999

The **Kinchega Woolshed** was entered on the NSW Heritage Register on 2 April 1999. The assessment and Statement of Significance read as follows:

Historical Significance: *Dating from 1875, Kinchega Woolshed is associated with the early pastoral history of the far west of New South Wales. The building illustrates the huge size of pastoral holdings in the arid areas of Australia and is a good example of a large scale shearing shed of traditional timber construction [Australian Heritage Commission].*



Aesthetic Significance: *The shed is of notable design, the sweating pens being an important feature of the building. Owing to its site and large dimensions, it is a prominent feature in the arid surrounding landscape and is a visual symbol of the grazing history of the outback.*

Technical Research Significance: *The Kinchega Woolshed helps to show the major developments in shearing technology during the century since its construction. [Australian Heritage Commission].*

Representativeness: *It is perhaps the largest woolshed of its type remaining in the Western District and also one of the better examples.*

Statement of Significance: *Dating from 1875, Kinchega Woolshed is associated with the early pastoral history of the far west of New South Wales. The building illustrates the huge size of pastoral holdings in the arid areas of Australia and is a good example of a large scale shearing shed. The shed is of notable design, the sweating pens being an important feature of the building. Owing to its site and large dimensions, it is a prominent feature in the arid surrounding landscape and is a visual symbol of the grazing history of the outback. It helps to show the major developments in shearing technology during the century since its construction.*

8.3 COMPARATIVE SIGNIFICANCE : OTHER WESTERN NATIONAL PARKS

8.3.1 PREAMBLE

In order to reach an understanding of the comparative significance of the Kinchega Station [and associated] sites, it is useful to look at assessments of other similar Western Stations.

8.3.2. MOUNT WOOD STATION - TIBOOBURRA

The Mount Wood Station complex is, like the Kinchega Station remnants, situated within the boundaries of a National Park [Sturt]. The place is currently managed by the NPWS, and in 1996/97 a Conservation Management Plan was prepared for the Station.⁷ The Statement of Significance reads as follows:

... 'Mount Wood Homestead complex, shearers' quarters, woolshed, woolscours and outstations are significant in that they demonstrate a continuity of pastoral activity in the arid north-west of NSW over a one hundred year period. The individual elements vary in age, but even the most recent are located upon traditional sites of pastoral operations, and an unusually complete representative sample of the elements typical of pastoral stations survives, as archaeological sites, ruins, standing structures or landscape features. The extant evidence clearly illustrates the themes of housing, isolation, land tenure/ settlement, pastoralism and technology. 'Some elements of the place are of significance in their own right. The woolscour has been well researched, and is still the only 19th century

⁷ Peter Freeman Pty Ltd, Conservation Architects & Planners, Mount Wood Homestead Conservation Management Plan, prepared for NPWS 1996/97



station-based scour demonstrated to have survived largely intact. While comparative research is still patchy, the Mount Wood woolscour appears to be a rare survivor of a once common pastoral technology, critical to the settlement of the pastoral frontier.

'The shearers' quarters and homestead retain elements from each stage of their history in archaeological or standing form. They are both important documents of the long history of station operations, and a potential research resource in terms of their archaeological values. Individual elements have aesthetic [architectural] and scientific [archaeological and technological] values.

'The survival of the range of elements present at Mount Wood is believed to be already uncommon in western NSW, and may become increasingly rare as time passes.'

The Plan does not provide a comparative assessment of cultural significance [say, against other NPWS former pastoral station sites] but the Statement of Significance clearly shows how the former Station evidences many of the NSW Historical Themes,⁸ and clearly states the former Station's significance for the rare survival of its pastoral technology; and the ability of the Station remnants to demonstrate a continuity of pastoral activity over a one hundred year period. The Mount Wood complex contributes to the National cultural significance of the *Western National Parks*.

8.3.3 THE FORMER WILLANDRA STATION : WILLANDRA NATIONAL PARK

A *Plan of Management* has been prepared for Willandra National Park; and an Historic Heritage Conservation Management Plan for Willandra National Park was completed in August 1999.⁹ As with Kinchega National Park, the Willandra National Park is a remnant of a former, much larger pastoral station; so there are many parallels between the two in terms of significance and conservation management policy and implementation. As with former Kinchega Station, the former Willandra Station sites accommodate all types of significance, i.e. natural, Aboriginal and historic cultural significance. The Statement of Significance reads [in part]¹⁰

'...Willandra Station is of state and national significance as a fine and largely intact example of one of New South Wales better known sheep stations. Formerly one of the largest Western Riverine pastoral stations, 'Big Willandra' is representative of several periods in Australian history. Prior to European appropriation the land was the traditional country of the Wiradjuri and Ngiyampaa peoples who seasonally utilised the land's natural resources and maintained cultural and spiritual connections. The Willandra Billabong Creek continues to be known to Aboriginal people through creation stories.

⁸ NSW Heritage Manual, *State Historical Themes*, NSW Heritage Office, 1996

⁹ NPWS CHD, *Willandra National Park : Historic Heritage Conservation Management Plan*, August 1999

¹⁰ *ibid*, pps 41-42



'Willandra pastoral station is significant for its ability to demonstrate through physical and documentary evidence the spatial relationships and infrastructure of Australian pastoralism. It conveys historically important information about land legislation and tenure, and the management and organisation of the social and physical dimensions of pastoral life and labour in a remote environment. The pastoral landscape, formal gardens, layout of the buildings, paddocks, watering systems, irrigation channels, roads and tracks, and the changes to natural watercourses for grazing are significant for their ability to reflect the available technology, isolation and the management regimes introduced by successive owners, mediated by economic cycles and legislative changes during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.'

The Plan does not provide a comparative assessment of cultural significance [say, against other NPWS former pastoral stations sites] but the Statement of Significance clearly evidences the natural, Aboriginal and historical significance of the place. The Willandra Station complex contributes to the National cultural and natural significance of the *Western National Parks*.

Of special significance are the now conserved homestead and outbuildings and the 'intactness' of the **Homestead Group** as a whole; the unique setting of the place within the Riverine plain of the Mundy Basin lowlands which includes a major effective stream, the Willandra creek; and the rare and endangered fauna which have found protection within the Park.

8.3.4. THE FORMER MUNGO STATION : MUNGO NATIONAL PARK

A draft *Plan of Management* has been prepared for the Mungo National Park, and a Conservation Management Plan for the Park will be undertaken in 2001-02. The Mungo National Park includes relatively intact examples of most of the major land systems of the Willandra lakes region; which is a region of **World Heritage** significance, particularly for its natural and Aboriginal values. The historic structures of the former Mungo Station are rated, within the *Plan of Management*, as of **local** historic value. The former Mungo Station complex, together with the Park as a whole, contributes to the National cultural and natural significance of the *Western National Parks*, particularly because of its natural and Aboriginal values.

8.4 THE KINCHEGA STATION SITES : ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE :

8.4.1 PREAMBLE

The primary significance of the Kincheega Station sites resides in their **archaeological** significance and potential. This section considers aspects of this significance.



This Plan has focussed on five former Kinchege Station sites in Kinchege National Park. However archaeological sites, particularly Aboriginal sites, occur throughout the Park. While all sites should be included in the overall management strategy for the Park, it is reasonable to focus on the sites within or adjacent to these five sites as at least three of them are currently subject to relatively high levels of visitation. These areas also probably contain the bulk of the historic features associated with the operation of the Kinchege pastoral station. As a preamble to this discussion, some definitions of archaeological terms follows.

PRE CONTACT SITES

Pre contact can be taken to mean Aboriginal sites, which predate the establishment of Kinchege and indeed predate European invasion of the region generally. These can potentially cover a large time range from the Pleistocene to the period immediately predating the advent of Europeans.

POST CONTACT SITES

The post contact sites, on the other hand, may be historic sites related to the operation of Kinchege Station; Aboriginal sites occurring there after the establishment of the station [but unrelated to it]; or alternatively a mixture of Aboriginal and historic relics which are related to the operation of the station. Archaeological **significance** and archaeological **potential** are related but distinct concepts. Archaeological potential is a measure of what survives from the past into the present, and archaeological significance is a measure of its importance in telling us about the past.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

Archaeological potential refers primarily to the potential occurrence or absence of archaeological deposits. At its simplest level archaeological potential is a measure of what has or might have survived destruction by later activity at a site. A complex site such as the former Kinchege Station sites has created a substantial archaeological resource simply by the process of construction, alteration and continuity of use. That is the entire archaeological resource. However, in that process of continued occupation and use, some of the activities have destroyed or altered earlier evidence, and some evidence was preserved or managed in ways that did not provide optimum conditions for survival. What is left is a mixture of archaeological deposits and physical evidence that may or may not tell us much about the past. The archaeological potential of two demolished building sites may be very different because one was abandoned and the bush grew over it, while the other had to be cleared away for functional reasons. The former will be far more intact and able to provide more information about itself, and perhaps its inhabitants than the latter. Whether either site has any information worth investigating about the past is another matter, and that is evaluated by assessing its **archaeological significance**.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE

Archaeological significance is established, like other components of cultural significance, using a variety of processes that determines rarity, representativeness, the specific associations of the material, its



integrity and specifically its ability to contribute information about the past in a variety of ways:¹¹

- Ability to contribute information that cannot be found from other sources, i.e. telling us something we just cannot find out from a documentary source, photograph or verbal description.
- Ability to contribute information that cannot be found out from other archaeological sites, i.e. how 'unique' is the information, or are there many other opportunities to find out the same sort of information.
- Contribution to contemporary research questions, i.e. can the information make a worthwhile contribution to our knowledge of the past.

GRADING OF SIGNIFICANCE

The **grading of the significance** can therefore be expressed as being from **none**, i.e. failing to meet any of the criteria, to **low or medium**, i.e. information that is essentially 'new' but only adds depth of detail, or **high**, i.e. information that provides new and significant insights that are relevant beyond the bounds of Kinchega Station, and may lead to new understandings about the past.

8.4.2 ASSESSING THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The consideration of these issues at the level of the Kinchega Station sites as a whole provides a suitable framework for assessing the **overall significance** of the archaeological resource. The knowledge can provide greater detail about specific parts of Kinchega Station, for example the detail of construction material of individual demolished buildings and their internal layout, or more general questions, such as class divisions between workers and management or Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal and gender divisions such as male and female domains and activities.

While there are substantial holdings at neighbouring Kars Station of archival information relating to the operation of Kinchega Station, there are also considerable gaps in that collection. The form and exact location of earlier buildings such as the first homestead and the woolshed wharf, the location and form of Aboriginal station workers camps are topics that can be profitably explored to add to our knowledge of the past of the Kinchega Station. The assessment of archaeological significance has to consider the importance for conveying the meaning and richness of detail of the Kinchega Station's history to the public. Some sites that could demonstrate these issues may however be of low archaeological potential.

Other archaeological sites apart from Kinchega Station can provide the same information in some cases.. Relations between people where class, race and gender played a defining role were not restricted to Kinchega Station, but the overall arrangement of the spaces, e.g.

¹¹ This well-known formulation of the ability to contribute information was devised by Bickford and Sullivan [1977].



management vs workers sites; Aboriginal vs non-Aboriginal; female domain vs male domain, within Kincheega Station, may highlight these divisions. Therefore while class relations in the nineteenth century may be explored in any number of sites and while other large pastoral holdings may still exist and be managed intact, the material evidence at the Kincheega Station provides a substantial and perhaps unique context to investigate these in particular ways and especially given its status as a ruin through archaeological techniques. However, for this to be realised requires a firm basis of comparative knowledge.

8.4.3 THE SIGNIFICANCE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AT KINCHEGA

It is clear that most sites related to the operation of Kincheega Station have the potential to yield archaeological deposits. It is not possible to assess the significance of these deposits since of course we cannot be sure of how intact they are or indeed what is in them until they are excavated. However, from the known archaeological and historical information [refer **Sections 3 and 4**] we can make some assumptions about likely significance.

In general the Homestead No. 2 area already being investigated by the KARP team has been demonstrated to be of local and possibly State significance. Its greatest significance lies in its ability to add a depth and richness to the interpretation of the Kincheega station to the tourists visiting Kincheega National Park. Of equal significance then are the woolshed, wharf and first homestead site because while little is known of the last two they obviously played pivotal roles in the operation of the station. The research currently being carried out at Kincheega should be broadened to include these sites and this information should in turn be fed into the interpretation of the group.

There is an important constraint on such investigation however. The woolshed, wharf and possibly the first homestead groups are each associated with identified post-contact Aboriginal artefacts. Known, excavated and stratified post-contact Aboriginal sites are rare. The recent past is highly significant to the Aboriginal community some of whom have first hand experience of working on the station. Many of the questions surrounding the relationship and day to day interactions between the European workers and managers on stations such as Kincheega and the Aboriginal people who worked lived or hunted there are unrecorded in official histories and documentation. Sites such as these provide an ideal opportunity to fill these gaps and explore important issues related to cultural continuity and change and shared history. Should these precincts contain undisturbed stratified deposits from the pre contact through to the post contact then it is possible that archaeological investigation will reveal that they are of regional if not state significance. Therefore any archaeological investigation at Kincheega must include adequate consideration of the Aboriginal artefacts and their context and



address the primary questions associated with this post contact period. This may require the current KARP project to be adjusted to incorporate adequate consideration of these issues.

8.5 THE KINCHEGA STATION SITES : ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

8.5.1 PREAMBLE

Relevant State Historical Themes

Theme 1:

Aboriginal Contact; may include sites of conflict, resistance, interaction.

Theme 3:

Exploration

Theme 4:

Pastoralism

Theme 6:

Land Tenure; Aboriginal and European, may include subdivisions, fences, survey marks etc.

Theme 9 :

Natural or modified and shaped

Theme 10:

Townships

Theme 13:

Transport, including road, rail, air and water

Theme 23:

Defence of Aboriginal territory

Theme 27:

Leisure

Theme 34:

Events may include moments, sites of official significance and social value

Theme 35:

Persons, may include individuals, families, dynasties, birthplace, place of residence, women's sites.

The statement of cultural and natural significance is the basis for policies and management structures that will affect the future of the place. The NSW heritage assessment criteria for significance are based on the criteria within the **ICOMOS Burra Charter [1999]**, which are the accepted standard used within the Australian heritage conservation profession. The **Burra Charter** defines cultural significance to mean '*... aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value for past, present and future generations. Cultural significance is embodied in the place itself, its setting, use, associations, meanings, records, related places and related objects. Places may have a range of values for different people or communities*'. The **Australian Natural Heritage Charter** defines natural significance as '*... the importance of ecosystems, biological diversity and geodiversity for their existence value, or for present and future generations in terms of their scientific, social, aesthetic and life-support value*'.¹²

8.5.2 CRITERIA FOR STATE HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

An item will be considered to be of State heritage significance if, in the opinion of the NSW Heritage Council, it meets one or more of the following criteria:

Criterion A

An item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history;

Criterion B

An item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's cultural or natural history;

Criterion C

An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW;

Criterion D

An item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;

Criterion E

An item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history;

¹² Cairnes, The Australian Natural Heritage Charter, prepared for AHC, Canberra, 1997



Criterion F

An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history;

Criterion G

An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's cultural or natural places; or cultural or natural environments.

Within the following assessment against the NSW criteria and against the State Historical Themes, the Aboriginal, European/ Asian and Natural heritage values have been dealt with sequentially.

CRITERION A

An item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history.

The Kinchega station sites [and Kinchega National Park generally] evidence a number of **NSW State Historical Themes**.¹³ The themes will be discussed below in themes of the Natural, Aboriginal and European historical significance of the Station [and the Park generally].

**NATURAL HISTORICAL
SIGNIFICANCE**

The landscape we see today at Kinchega National Park is the result of a long physical and cultural history. There is evidence within Kinchega National Park of past climate change from a wetter period in the Pleistocene to the current more arid period.¹⁴ As changing climate patterns [about 15 000 years ago] caused the Willandra Lakes, southeast of the Menindee Lakes, to dry up, Aboriginal settlement intensified around the Menindee Lakes which still held water. Over the last 10 000 years' strong temperatures and falling evaporation rates have produced lower rivers that flood less frequently. Since European settlement began, floods on the Darling River filled the Menindee Lakes about once every ten years. These changes are evidenced in the archaeology of Kinchega National Park. In the sand dunes between the Menindee and Cawndilla Lakes archaeologists have found bones of extinct megafauna, and wind and water erosion has uncovered the remains of the giant deval, diprotodan and the giant kangaroo. The Station [and Park] also evidences the radical changes to the flora and fauna of this region due to European pastoralism, closer settlement and land administration. For example of the eighty eight mammal species recorded in Western NSW since European settlement, twenty seven were regionally extinct by the early 1990s, the highest fauna extinction rate anywhere in Australia.

¹³ For NSW State Heritage Themes refer *NSW Heritage Manual 1996*. Note that whilst all criteria should be referred to during the Assessment, only particularly complex items or places will be significant under all criteria. In most cases items of environmental heritage will be significant under only one or two criteria. An item is required to meet only one criterion to be eligible for listing. An item is not excluded from the Register on the grounds that items with similar characteristics have already been listed on the Register.

¹⁴ John Mulvaney and John Kamminga, *Prehistory of Australia*, 1999



ABORIGINAL HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Aboriginal contact history¹⁵ as evidenced in the former Station sites is still to be researched and documented. Prior to the establishment of Kincheega Station the area was a site of longstanding Aboriginal occupation. European settlement resulted in radical impacts on the Aboriginal people of Kincheega. Despite this, Aboriginal people maintained their contact with this landscape over the period of European pastoralism [1850s to the 1960s] and have strong ties to the historic sites in the Park.

The strength of these ties are evident in responses to the Plan consultants¹⁶ and in the recently completed [draft]¹⁷ 'Aboriginal Ties to the Land' which clearly sets out the Paakantji cultural links with the Menindee region; and with the subsequent periods of European settlement and the results of that settlement on the Aboriginal population of the region.

The Kincheega National Park in general, and the Kincheega Station sites specifically, have significance to Aboriginals. This significance relates to their prehistoric occupancy of the region; the 150 years of contact occupancy; and their current connections with the park, and its interpretation and management. The potential archaeological significance will be discussed further at **Criterion E**.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The European settlement and occupation of Kincheega Station evidences many NSW State historical themes. The themes of *Exploration, Pastoralism, Land Settlement* and *Tenure and Townships* are well evidenced in the Kincheega Station sites. Kincheega Station has an intimate connection with the Burke and Wills expedition and with subsequent lower Darling exploration. The proximity of the Station to the important early settlement of Menindee ensured that the European settlement of the region would have impacts on both the town and its adjacent pastoral station.

Perhaps the strongest historical themes evidenced in the Kincheega Station sites are those of *Transport* and *Communications*. The entire eastern boundary of the historical station and the current Kincheega National Park is defined by the Darling River. The River formed the principal form of transport, and mode of communication for the first sixty to seventy years of pastoral settlement. Many of the Station's historical sites relate to this theme. These sites include the Homestead[s] site [alongside a billabong of the Darling River]; and the Menindee Creek bridge site, the Woolshed site, the Woolshed Wharf [and adjacent hotel] site; and many others. Other work on more recent historical themes relates to *Conservation* and *Water Supply* [as evidenced in the Menindee Lakes scheme and engineering works]

¹⁵ This discussion of archaeological historical significance has been informed by the foregoing Analysis [Sections 3 and 4] and by a workshop held with Aboriginal participants at Menindee on Monday February 13, 2001.

¹⁶ *ibid*

¹⁷ Sarah Martin ...*op cit* DLWC 2001



and to *Leisure* [as evidenced in Sunset Strip and the leisure activities of the Menindee Lakes, Darling River boating and fishing] and Kinchega National Park tourism and camping.

CRITERION B

An item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's cultural or natural history.

This criterion is not highly evidenced in the Kinchega Station sites

The Kinchega Station sites have had [and continue to have] close associations with the Hughes family and with all the families / individuals who lived and worked there. These associations are made real in the oral histories of such people as Peter Beven [who lived there as a child]; and in the Station records of Kinchega Station [held at Kars Station, and by John Hughes of Adelaide, a descendent of Herbert Bristow Hughes].

CRITERION C

An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW.

This criterion is not highly evidenced at the Kinchega Station sites; however aesthetic significance has been ascribed to both the Kinchega Woolshed building and to the Kinchega [second] Homestead in previous statements of significance, **refer Section 8.2 above.**

CRITERION D

An item has strong or special associations with a particular community or cultural group in NSW for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.

The Kinchega Station sites have strong associations with both Indigenous and non-indigenous Australians, refer **Criteria A and B** above. The Kinchega Station sites have close associations with all the families / individuals who lived and worked there. These associations are made real in the oral histories collected by Ms Sarah Martin of Broken Hill which relate to the prehistoric and contact history of the Paakantjji people in the region, and by the recollections of pastoralists such as those of Peter Beven and the 'Down the Darling' series recorded by the ABC in 1954.

CRITERION E

An item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history.

ABORIGINAL SITE POTENTIALS

Kinchega National Park is archaeologically significant because it encompasses a large representative sample of Aboriginal sites from the Pleistocene through to the present day within a permanent protected area regime. It therefore provides an opportunity for the conservation, investigation and management of Aboriginal sites within their landscape context. The nature of the landscape and the



Aboriginal sites occurring across it is such that it is highly likely that stratified and intact sites will occur which can yield information on cultural changes and continuities over long period of time. In relation to the three Station precincts covered by this Plan the following general statements on Aboriginal archaeological significance can be made.

Aboriginal contact is evidenced in the Woolshed and Wharf precincts and archaeological investigation will probably reveal evidence of Aboriginal contact in the **Homestead** precinct. The **Stockyard** precinct may contain such evidence but the most likely area is currently under water. The Homestead precincts encompass several recorded and other unrecorded prehistoric Aboriginal sites as well as the deposits associated with the homestead and other buildings. The presence of the Kinchega cemetery, which is only roughly delineated, also adds some complexity to this area. The entire area must be regarded as a potential prehistoric and historic archaeological site particularly along the high bank of the Darling River and billabong, but areas of obvious importance are the homestead site itself, the sand ridge adjacent to the homestead through which the homestead road is cut and which has already yielded Aboriginal burials, and the other loci of surface evidence relating to the pastoral station [such as the Homestead dump].

The **Woolshed Complex** on the other hand is situated on a large dune which runs from Emu Lake to the south roughly parallel to the Darling River and the immediate floodplain. This dune is regarded in its entirety to be of archaeological potential. The presence of the Woolshed and associated buildings while no doubt responsible for some disturbance to preexisting sites adds to the significance and archaeological complexity by introducing the likelihood for 'contact sites' resulting from Aboriginal people living and working on the pastoral station and other groups of Aboriginal people interacting with the pastoral station workers. Flaked glass artefacts adjacent to the woolshed attest to the early interaction between Aboriginal and European people here.

The **Woolshed and shearers' quarters** precinct is highly significant in terms of its Aboriginal archaeology. The dune on which the structures are located contains known Aboriginal sites including dated human remains. It is possible that parts of the area could with archaeological investigation yield information relating to the post invasion period and the relationships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal station workers. Aboriginal artefacts made of glass were noted on the ashy mound between the parking area and the woolshed making this the most obvious contact site on the property. It is unfortunate that the long history of antiquarian artefact collection in this precinct may confuse or obscure some of the information relating to the Aboriginal occupation sites. The immediate area of the shearers quarters and kitchen are considered PADs and it is likely that excavation will prove that there are undisturbed archaeological features and deposits



in this area. The eventual investigation of this area and a comparison with the homestead sites would be essential to contribute to the understanding of the relationships and class structures if any operating on this property.

The Homestead[s] group.¹⁸ The entire area of the homestead group is considered to be an area of high archaeological significance in relation to the Aboriginal occupation of the area. The area contains extensive if sparse surface evidence of Aboriginal occupation. Two burials have already been recorded in this area and the low sand ridge in which they were found extends for some distance through the site and is likely to contain others. In terms of European occupation the site is considered to be of only local significance as the site is typical of many other homesteads which are likely to be preserved in greater integrity than this bulldozed ruin. However as a protected historic site in a National Park associated with nearby Aboriginal occupation sites. The sites have great potential for investigation into the relationship between Aboriginal people, an important pastoral family in the Darling River region and the environment that they shared and were dependent on. It is likely that as investigations proceed the significance of the site will increase as one of the few such sites which have been investigated and interpreted.

The precinct encompassing remnants of the **telegraph line** and the **stockyards** is of little archaeological significance. The nature of these post contact activities is such that they are likely to appear ephemerally in the archaeological records, i.e. the extent of the sites is limited to the fragile and not very significant surface remains. Of course it is likely that there are Aboriginal sites in this area predating and unrelated to the stockyards and telegraph line and so standard provisions apply in relation to the routine survey and assessment of such sites in the event of any proposed development activity.

HISTORIC SITE POTENTIAL

The archaeological significance of the Park is increased because it encompasses one of the earliest pastoral stations in the area and thus provides the opportunity to reveal not only historical information regarding the technology and practice of early pastoralism in semi arid zones but also provides the opportunity to investigate, present and interpret the interrelationships between Aboriginal people, pastoralists and their environment in this fragile landscape.

There are four extant Station sites which can be regarded as historical archaeological precincts. These precincts are the **Homestead[s]** group beside the Darling River; the **Woolshed** group [and associated outbuildings]; the **Telegraph Line/Stockyards** precinct [between Menindee and Cawndilla Lakes; and the **Woolshed Wharf** precinct, south of Kinchega Woolshed on a bend of the Darling River. It is

¹⁸ The Homestead sites are referred to in the plural, as an earlier house site, at the southern side of the junction of the Homestead billabong and the Darling River, preceded the later [1880s?] homestead.



possible that this latter precinct also accommodated an hotel, known to be sited on Hughes' Kinchega Station. Collectively, the archaeology of these sites is extremely significant, and will provide the potential to yield information about the operation of the Kinchega Station and the people [Indigenous and non-Indigenous] who lived and worked there.

The European heritage significance of each of the precincts is variable. The significance is not intrinsic to any of the sites or components but rests on the ability of these precincts to contribute to an understanding of the operations of the pastoral station, its impacts on the environment and the relationship which developed between the Station and Aboriginal people. Two sites in particular have high potential in terms of historic archaeology. These sites are the Kinchega Station wharf [and related sites]; and the Homestead No. 1 site.

CRITERION F

An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history.

The Kinchega National Park [and the Station sites] are part of a prehistoric lake system, now modified for [European] water storage and regulation. The lake systems of the Darling, the Willandra and the Lachlan are rare and endangered elements of the natural history of the region. The Park contains sites of rare extinct megafauna that have the potential to yield insights into faunal evolution and environmental change in NSW. While there are no known megafauna sites in the precincts covered by this CMP, their presence has not been ruled out.

The Kinchega National Park is itself significant as the first **western** National Park within NSW, and as a park which was created simultaneously with the National Parks and Wildlife Service. In that sense the Park is both rare and uncommon and evidences, in its thirty four years of Park management, current attitudes to the management and interpretation of natural, Aboriginal and European heritage values.

CRITERION G

An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's cultural or natural places; or cultural or natural environments.

The remnant Station precincts, though radically altered by over thirty years management as elements within a National Park [i.e. and not as functional station precincts] still evidence the principal characteristics of large western pastoral stations. The Kinchega Station precinct, together with other NPWS managed 'station precincts' at Mungo NP, Willandra NP and Sturt NP, form an impressive group of NSW cultural places conserved in the protected area system.



8.6 FORMER KINCHEGA STATION SITES : STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The landscape we see today at Kinchega National Park is the result of a long physical and cultural history. There is evidence within Kinchega National Park [and the Station sites] of past climate change from a wetter period in the Pleistocene to the current more arid period. The Station [and Park] also evidences the radical changes to the flora and fauna of this region due to European pastoralism, closer settlement and land administration. The Kinchega National Park [and the Station sites] are part of a prehistoric lake system, now modified for [European] water storage and regulation. The lake systems of the Darling, the Willandra and the Lachlan are rare and endangered elements of the natural history of the region. The Park is significant for the multiple known occurrences of extinct megafaunal sites. These sites may be able to shed light on the extinction of fauna, and environmental change in NSW.

The Kinchega National Park is itself significant as the first **western** National Park within NSW, and as a park which was created simultaneously with the National Parks and Wildlife Service. In that sense the Park is both rare and uncommon and evidences, in its 34 years of Park management, current and past attitudes to the management and interpretation of natural, Aboriginal and European heritage values.

The Kinchega National Park in general, and the Kinchega Station sites specifically, have significance to Aboriginals. This significance relates to their prehistoric occupancy of the region; the 150 years of contact occupancy; and their current connections with the park, and its interpretation and management. Kinchega National Park is archaeologically significant because it encompasses a large representative sample of Aboriginal sites from the Pleistocene through to the present day within a permanent protected area regime. It therefore provides an opportunity for the conservation, investigation and management of Aboriginal sites within their landscape context. The nature of the landscape and the Aboriginal sites occurring across it is such that it is highly likely that stratified and intact sites will occur which can yield information on cultural changes and continuities over long period of time.

The Kinchega Station sites have close associations with all the families/individuals who lived and worked there. These associations are made real in the oral histories collected by Ms Sarah Martin of Broken Hill which relate to the prehistoric and contact history of the Paakantyi people in the region, and by the European recollections, such as those of Peter Beven and the 'Down the Darling' series recorded by the ABC in 1954.



There are three extant Station sites which can be regarded as archaeological groups. These precincts are the **Homestead[s]** group beside the Darling River; the **Woolshed** group [and associated outbuildings]; the **Telegraph Line/Stockyards** group [between Menindee and Cawndilla Lakes; the **Woolshed Wharf** group, south of Kinchega Woolshed on a bend of the Darling River; and the Regulator / Bridge group. It is possible that the Woolshed Wharf group also accommodated an hotel, known to be sited on Hughes' Kinchega Station. Collectively, the archaeology of these sites is extremely significant, and will provide the potential to yield information about the operation of the Kinchega Station and the people who lived and worked there.

The remnant Station groups, though radically altered by over thirty years management as elements within a National Park [i.e. and not as functional station precincts] still evidence the principal characteristics of large western pastoral stations. The Kinchega Station sites, together with other NPWS managed 'station precincts' at Mungo NP, Willandra NP and Sturt NP, form an impressive group of NSW cultural places.

8.7 THE FORMER KINCHEGA STATION SITES : COMPARATIVE ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Conservation management policy, strategy and implementation for significant cultural sites should be determined, in part, by the relative cultural significance of a place, building or site element. The following indicative assessments of comparative significance for the former Kinchega Station sites and for Kinchega National Park generally are provided as a preamble to statements of conservation management policy; refer **Section 9** below. All values [i.e. natural, Aboriginal and historic significance] have been taken into account in these indicative ratings.

The <i>Western National Parks</i> [Sturt, Mungo, Peery, Mutwintji, Kinchega and Willandra]	National significance
The Kinchega National Park generally	Regional significance
The Homestead Group [Note that the group should be entered on the NSW Heritage Register as a group, not as individual sites.]	State significance
The Woolshed/Shearers' Quarters Group [Note that the group should be entered on the NSW Heritage Register as a group, not as individual sites.]	State significance



The **Wharf** Group

Regional significance

The **Stockyards** Group

Local significance

The **Regulator/Bridge** Group

Local significance



9.0 CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT POLICY, STRATEGY & IMPLEMENTATION

9.1 PREAMBLE

The following discussion of the former Kincheega Station sites **conservation and management issues** informs the **policy recommendations and strategies**, refer this **Section** below. A margin note adjacent to the text provides a reference to related policy statements. The issues and policies related to KNP **Interpretation and Cultural Tourism** are dealt with at **Section 10** below.

The conservation and management policy **issues** discussed within this section include:

- the policies arising from the significance of Kincheega Station and its related sites [Section 9.2];
- specific aspects of conservation and management of the sites as they relate to the **history, archaeology, natural environment and built fabric** of those places [Section 9.3];
- the **current condition** of the Kincheega Station sites and the policies arising from 'condition' [Section 9.4];
- the statutory obligations to be observed by the NPWS and the policies consequent on those obligations [Section 9.5]; and
- further documentation, monitoring and review of this Plan [Section 9.6].

The structure of this section is as follows. A general discussion on a specific policy **issue** prefaces a specific policy recommendation. The policy **issue** and the [numbered and titled] **policy** recommendation [in second colour italics] is followed by the policy-specific **strategy** [in black italics]. This strategy is followed, in turn, by the strategy-specific **implementation** [in second colour italics].

9.2 THE PRIMARY SIGNIFICANCE OF THE KINCHEGA STATION SITES : POLICY, STRATEGY & IMPLEMENTATION

THE PRIMARY SIGNIFICANCE OF THE KINCHEGA STATION SITES

The primary significance of the site relates to their '*ability to demonstrate*' key aspects of natural, Aboriginal and historic significance and the ability of the sites to explain relationships between people and the environment. These aspects are discussed below. Policy recommendations resulting from that significance follow that discussion.¹

Refer Section 8 generally and 8.4 Statement of Significance

Opportunities and constraints on the future use and management of the Kincheega Station sites arise from its cultural significance as a site of Aboriginal prehistoric occupation and culture; as a 'contact' site of importance to all Australians; as the **first** 'western' National Park in

¹ The primary cultural and natural significance of the Kincheega Station sites is inseparable from those values within the Park itself. Accordingly, the significance of the Park and former Station sites is considered jointly.



NSW which was founded jointly with the Service itself; and as the site of significant prehistoric and historic flora, fauna and geodiversity. The significance of the place is reflected in some of its less disturbed sites. The Kincheega Station sites also demonstrate all phases of its history, and convey a sense of this prehistory and history through its setting, its buildings and other elements. The need to conserve its significance is a fundamental constraint on its future management.

In a broader sphere the Kincheega National Park and its former Station sites is of National significance as one of the seven *Western National Parks* of NSW. These Parks share common themes in terms of their natural, Aboriginal and historic values; and their individual strengths contribute to the importance of this group of Parks within western New South Wales.

*Conservation Management Policy No. 1
Primary NPWS Policy*

The Kincheega National Park and the former Kincheega Station sites are an integral part of the Western National Parks of NSW which, collectively, are of National natural and cultural significance. The Park as a whole should be conserved for its contribution to this nationally important group.

The former Kincheega Station sites should be conserved and managed by NPWS in accordance with the State significance of specific places within the Park, which retain and evoke powerful cultural meanings for a large number of Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. Its natural features, cultural features and ambience should remain accessible to the local, State, National and international community.

As the manager of the place, NPWS should ensure that the values expressed in this Plan's statement of cultural significance will be retained, interpreted and conserved.

Strategy for Policy No. 1

The NPWS should undertake the integrated conservation, management and interpretation of its Western National Parks, such that the individual strengths and significances of each park [and their respective former Station sites] are presented and interpreted in an integrated and systematic way.

*The first strategy to procure this outcome would be an assessment of current conservation and interpretation planning documentation for these sites and the review of this documentation and current Section 170 Register recognition, to take into account the **shared** significance of these places.*

*The second strategy would be a review of **current** conservation and interpretation programs at these parks; and their current funding arrangements, in order to better integrate the management of the parks and the value-added returns to the Service of such integrated management.*

Implementation for Policy No. 1 Strategy

The following short term [one year] implementation is proposed:

- Complete the first strategy tasks.*

The following mid term [two to five year] implementation is proposed:

- Complete the second strategy tasks.*



*Conservation Management Policy No. 2
People and the Environment*

The NPWS will develop and implement a long term research framework for KNP into which the investigation of Kincheega Station will be integrated. This program will explore the relationship between people and the environment and how this relationship shaped the landscape. The research framework will encompass investigation into the earliest settlement of the landscape up to and including its recent past as Kincheega Station. The research will seek to inform the understanding, management and presentation of cultural heritage particularly in the historic areas covered by this CMP.

Strategy for Policy No. 2

The NPWS should take a more active role in directing, critiquing and promoting research that is carried out within the park to ensure that it contributes to the objectives above and that opportunities for multiple outcomes are maximised.

- Negotiations are to be undertaken with the parties involved in the KARP project in an attempt to re-establish the broader research objectives with which it commenced.*
- The Kincheega homestead research must consider the relationship between the homestead and the surrounding Aboriginal sites and it must identify capture and analyse any Aboriginal artefacts that occur within the homestead site excavations*
- Should the parties involved in KARP no longer be in a position to contribute Aboriginal archaeological expertise then another suitable research partner should be sought to work with the current historical archaeological research team.*
- Research priorities of the local Aboriginal community should be incorporated into the research framework and the program should be reviewed regularly to ensure that it is delivering on identified priorities.*
- Research should be expanded to look at social value and to explore the attachment to the park and its sites by both local Aboriginal and local non-Aboriginal users and to other visitors.*

Implementation for Policy No. 2 Strategy

The following immediate [one year] implementation is proposed:

- Develop the 5 year research framework with input from the CHD Research Unit and Menindee LALC.*
- Identify the potential university partners at least one of which must be interested in post-contact archaeology. [Strong university partnerships mean that external research funds can be accessed]*
- Carry out a detailed test excavation at the assumed Homestead No. 1 site to determine its nature and potential significance and if necessary divert the road.*
- Develop and commence an oral history component to the research program which seeks to document the attachment of people to Kincheega [i.e both Aboriginal and non Aboriginal].*

The following mid term [two to five year] implementation is proposed:

- Disseminate information emerging from the research program on the NPWS website or hot link from NPWS Kincheega page to relevant university sites.*
- Carry out detailed archaeological investigations into contact sites at the wharf and the woolshed.*



- Produce a management strategy for the predictions and management of Aboriginal burial sites in KNP which is endorsed by the Menindee LALC.
- Investigate the suitability of remote sensing techniques e.g Ground penetrating radar to identify Kincheha Cemetery burials.
- Publish key results.

9.3 NATURAL, ABORIGINAL & HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF KNP : POLICY, STRATEGY & IMPLEMENTATION

THE NATURAL SIGNIFICANCE OF KINCHEGA NATIONAL PARK

The landscape we see today at Kincheha National Park [and its Station sites] provides evidence of past climate change from a wetter period in the Pleistocene to the current more arid period. The landscape thus evidences the drying up of the lakes; the regular [ten year] flooding of the lakes and surrounding country by the River; and the radical changes brought to the landscape firstly by pastoralism, secondly by introduced water storage and regulation schemes; and finally by its management as a Park. The flora and fauna of the Park also exhibit these changes. Megafauna skeletons have been found within the study area; and the current reduced flora and fauna population is testimony to the radical changes to the landscape over the past 150 years.

KINCHEGA NATIONAL PARK FLORA AND FAUNA SURVEYS

The Service has, since 1971, encouraged the study of the Park's natural environments, and these studies have resulted in a large body of work held both within the Service records and by the institutions themselves. The studies relate to specific flora and fauna species, to the geodiversity and biodiversity of the Park environment and many other themes. The studies [Auld et al] show a decline in flora and faun species and in biodiversity generally.

THE DLWC TERRESTRIAL FLORA AND FAUNA PROJECT

The Department is currently engaged on a number of studies related to the terrestrial flora and fauna of the Menindee Lakes area. One Study² involves the mapping of historical and current flora and fauna species within the subject area; and will describe the original value and condition of the Menindee Lakes area prior to the construction [in 1960] of the current storage scheme. It will then describe the impacts of current and proposed operations in terrestrial flora and fauna.

Conservation Management Policy No. 3 Natural Environment Policy

The natural environment surveys within the Park represent an important asset to the place and should be made available in a Park resource database. Although most visitors will not wish to go into detail in relation to Kincheha's ecology; a data base or resource list should be developed which allows public access to the information obtained through studies over the last thirty years.

These studies provide an understanding of the biodiversity of the Park generally; and of the decline in flora and fauna species such that the Service

² DLWC, Menindee Lakes ESD Project : Terrestrial Flora and Fauna Study, in progress, 2001



can proceed to prepare and implement Recovery Plans for these threatened flora and fauna species.

The interpretation of the Park [and Station sites] provides an opportunity to discuss and interpret the major themes of landscape change; of flora and fauna habitats and [in some cases] extinction; and of the impacts of European settlement on inland environments.

Strategy for Policy No. 3

The NPWS should continue the integrated conservation, management and interpretation of the Kincheha National Park's flora and fauna as follows:

- Ensure that survey documentation of the natural environment of the park is available to Park visitors or researchers on an 'as required' basis.*
- Pursue the recommendations of NPWS [and other agency] natural environment studies and investigations. In particular the flora conservation issues highlighted in the Auld report should be addressed.*
- Undertake the interpretation, in a systematic and attractive manner, of the Kincheha National Park [and related Station sites] natural environment.*

Implementation of Policy No. 3 Strategy

The following immediate [one year] implementation is proposed:

- Undertake a literature search for Kincheha National Park natural environment studies and make available a bibliography of these studies at the park.*
- Determine a program for preparation and implementation of flora and fauna Recovery Plans for the park.*
- Undertake preparation of natural environment interpretation as part of a Kincheha National Park Interpretation Plan.*

The following mid term [two to five year] implementation is proposed:

- Undertake flora and fauna plans on a prioritised basis.*
- Install interpretative signs describing and explaining the natural environment of the Park.*

The following long term [five to ten year] implementation is proposed:

- Finalise and install the interpretation of the Park's natural environment as part of the Kincheha National Park Interpretation Plan.*

THE KNP NATURAL
ENVIRONMENT & THE MENINDEE
LAKES

The Service manages the Kincheha National Park, however the management of the Menindee Lakes storage system and within the Park, Menindee and Cawndilla Lakes, is undertaken by the Department of Lands and Water Conservation [DLWC]. This joint management has operated satisfactorily in the past. The Department is currently undertaking an assessment of the existing storage and regulation arrangements to ascertain whether the storage capacity of Lake Menindee could be increased. The positive impacts of this study are that detailed studies have been carried out [or will be carried out] on the heritage aspects of the Menindee Lakes System.³

³ The DLWC Study is known as the Menindee Lakes ESD Project; refer for example *Report on the Non-Indigenous Values of the Menindee Lakes area. January 2001*



*Conservation Management Policy No. 4
The Menindee Lakes*

The Service should contribute advice and assistance to the DLWC with respect to natural environment issues as they relate to the current DLWC ESD study.

EXOTIC PLANT SPECIES AT KNP STATION SITES

Exotic plant species remain at the Homestead No. 2 site; and probably at other former Kincheega Station sites. There are a number of management options in relation to the introduced plant species, including the removal of all exotics, or at least those species showing the most sign of spreading; the management of the remaining exotics to ensure there are adequate resources so that monitoring and control of the spread of plants is possible as a part of routine Park maintenance; and to do nothing, and let some of the weed species continue to spread, e.g. box thorn. The second option provides a trade off between the conservation objectives of containing any potential weeds, and the benefits of maintaining some relics at the historical sites, e.g. the Homestead No. 2 'garden' along with the remains of the buildings themselves. This will require ongoing management. As a first step the location of all exotics at the old homestead should be plotted and their extent monitored to ensure there is no escape, or progressive increase in the extent of these species. Some species e.g. box thorn and peppercorn trees could be contained to the site itself, and encroachment by exotics onto the 'Homestead billabong' should be halted.

EXOTIC TREES AT THE WOOLSHED GROUP

A number of **trees and shrubs** have been planted around the woolshed complex, mainly around the shearers' quarters. These plants would not necessarily occur in the immediate area, but they are native to other parts of Kincheega National Park. It has been argued that these plantings are not in keeping with the originally stark nature of the shearers' quarters and woolshed and therefore detract from the authenticity of the site. There is also the ecological argument that the species would not occur in this site specifically and therefore do not belong there. However, it must be recognised that the site has evolved; it has been a place of considerable human activity for over thirty years within the context of it being within a National Park. The plants have significant benefits in terms of amenity, reducing dust, providing shade for visitors' cars, and shading the accommodation buildings from the hot western sun. This softens the environment for people who are staying at the shearers' quarters and may reduce air-conditioning costs.

*Conservation Management Policy No. 5
Exotic Species*

Undertake the survey of exotic species at the principal former Station sites, and develop an appropriate strategy for these species which balances the natural values of the Park itself; and the retention of the species as part of the Station's cultural landscape. This study could be undertaken by students as a component of the existing study programs at the Park.

The existing exotic trees and shrubs species which have been planted by the NPWS since 1967 are part of the cultural history of the place. These plantings should be retained, managed and interpreted as part of the 'bigger picture' of non-indigenous interventions within the Park.



Strategy for Policy No. 5

There would be opportunities to provide information about these species and where they naturally occur, as a way of introducing visitors to the vegetation types within the Park. Signs could provide information about the plants, including any Aboriginal uses, as part of an interpretive walk around the woolshed complex. Species that have been planted include river red gum [E. camaldulensis], salt bush [Atriplex spp], a variety of acacias including river coobah [Acacia stenophylla], sandhill wattle [A. ligulata], miljee [A. oswaldii], prickly wattle [A. victoriae], mulga [A. aneura] and silver cassia [Cassia artemisioides].

The Service should provide appropriate interpretation to explain the origins and management policy for these exotic plantings.

Implementation for Policy No. 5 Strategy

The following immediate [one year] implementation is proposed:

- As part of the Interpretation Plan for Kinchega National Park include the themes of exotic plantings within the Park's Station sites.*
- Undertake continued management of the Park's exotic flora.*

**MANAGING THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF
KINCHEGA NATIONAL PARK**

Within the Archaeological Overview of this Plan [Section 4] there is a summary of the physical evidence that constitutes the archaeological remains on Kinchega Station sites within the study areas. It can be seen that there are a range of ruined structures and features which exist above ground. Past investigation has also revealed that there are likely to be other features which are below the current ground surface and which have been obscured over time through the processes of erosion and deposition of sand. It is important then when managing such a landscape to consider the potential of an area to contain significant features or relics. This is usually done through the preparation of **archaeological zoning plans**.

The main categories of archaeological resource at the Kinchega Station are Aboriginal sites including burials and campsites; standing buildings, structures and works; demolished buildings and abandoned works or structures; moveable heritage; archaeological deposit and artefact scatters; and cemeteries both European and Aboriginal. The conservation management policy for each of these resources will be considered in turn.

ABORIGINAL SITES

Our knowledge of Aboriginal heritage within the Kinchega Station study area is outlined above, refer **Section 4** : Aboriginal Heritage & Archaeological Overview. The rich pre-contact history of the Aboriginal presence in the Menindee Lakes area makes it highly likely that there are more sites than those recorded to date. While some of these may have been disturbed by activities associated with the pastoral station and later use as a National Park, many will have survived intact.

**STANDING & DEMOLISHED
BUILDINGS**

There are eight standing buildings which relate to Kinchega Station's pre-Park land use other buildings have been demolished over the life of the property and exist only as ruins. There are also some structures



and works, for example building services, fence lines, building platforms, telegraph line, roads, and paths that formed part of the total visual landscape of the Kincheega Station. A majority of these remain in use, but a substantial minority have been abandoned and are slowly decaying.

The standards for investigating ground disturbance in **standing buildings** are as for occupational deposit. Ground disturbance should be recognised as including lifting floors, installation of new underground services, upgrades to old services and so on. The minimum standards for **demolished buildings** are full stratigraphic excavation of sufficient extent to permit ready identification of any features that are likely to be disturbed/destroyed. Standard stratigraphic context-based recording and archaeological analysis is to be used. The minimum standards for **structures** and **works** vary. For roads, tracks, linear features of greater than ten metres length [such as the telegraph line and general property fences], it is only necessary to sample a representative section to determine the method of construction. The determination of what constitutes an adequate sample depends upon the type of impact and its specific location. These features should be recorded with measured drawings and descriptions prior to their alteration or removal.

As most buildings have been located on elevated dunes or the river banks building platforms have not been filled, however nor has there been extensive cut into the natural ground surface to form a building platform. Therefore there remains the possibility that Aboriginal artefacts relating to the prior occupation of the area by Aboriginal people, occur under buildings at Kincheega. In addition such deposits may contain environmental data relating to the earlier period of Kincheega Station history that needs to be captured. Full stratigraphic excavation of the soil under structures will be required, with provision made for the collection of relevant environmental data.

Existing services, such as drains, electrical, fire and water systems that are laid in trenches may be reopened along the original trench line without the need for further archaeological recording. Where services are to be made redundant a sample of the pipe, conduit or cable is to be retained.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL DEPOSITS AND ARTEFACT SCATTERS

Individual artefacts and small clusters of archaeological material are ubiquitous around Kincheega Station. Almost every erosion scour reveals pieces of glass, ceramic, stone or bone that reflects some level of past activity. Certain areas of bush are dense with larger discarded furnishings and building materials. All of it has some potential to tell us more about the past, but much of it only has a very limited capability of providing information.

There are five forms of archaeological deposit and artefact scatter occurring at the Kincheega Station sites, including sheet middens/



surface scatters, pre-contact Aboriginal occupation sites; post-contact Aboriginal and /or historic occupation sites, dumps, and cemeteries and burials.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ZONING

Many sites are comprised of a combination of visible features such as buildings or artefacts and hidden features such as sub-surface deposit. In some cases all features of a site may be visible while in others the entire site is below the current ground surface. Heritage features which occur above ground such as standing structures and artefacts are more easily assessed and managed but it is important to consider the potential that a site has for subsurface archaeological deposits when developing a plan to manage it.

Once again it should be noted that this CMP has not investigated the entire Kinchega National Park and it is highly likely that potential archaeological deposits, particularly pre-contact Aboriginal ones occur in numerous other locations.

*Conservation Management Policy No. 6
Archaeological Management*

The management of sites within Kinchega National Park should follow these general rules.

Where an area has been assessed as having:

High Potential to contain archaeological deposits. Any ground disturbance or plans for increased visitor activity or other land use that might affect the surface soil stability should be preceded by an archaeological investigation.

Moderate Potential to contain archaeological deposits. Any development involving ground disturbance should be monitored. If archaeological deposit is encountered it should then be assessed by qualified archaeologist and its significance determined before work proceeds or is diverted.

Little Potential to contain archaeological sites. No further archaeological investigation is required. Of course the unexpected deposits may occur from time to time and it is important to note that relics uncovered inadvertently during subsurface excavation even if in an area designated as having little or no potential, are still protected by the NPW Act and where it applies to historic material the Heritage Act.

Strategy for Policy No. 6

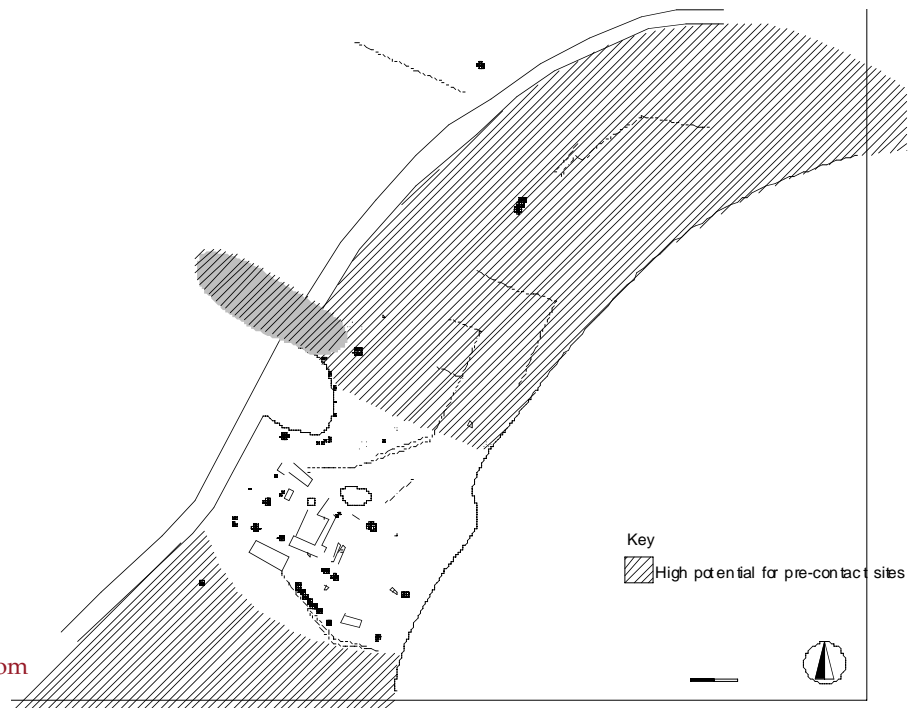
Undertake the management of the Kinchega Station sites as set out in the Archaeological Zoning plans for each specific Station group.

THE HOMESTEAD GROUP ARCHAEOLOGICAL ZONING

The Homestead No. 2 area is clearly an archaeological site and is currently being investigated. Apart from the obvious potential of the deposits around the homestead ruin there are the remains of gardens and the sites of demolished small associated buildings. Clearly this area has high potential for subsurface archaeological deposits relating to the homestead. The dump area immediately to the north is also of high potential and an investigation of this area may yet reveal the location of more outbuildings [refer **Figure 1**]. Any development including road realignment, visitor facilities and interpretative fixtures should be preceded by an archaeological investigation. The area around the suspected cemetery must be considered to be potentially significant should other burials remain. Non-intrusive



Figure 1
This plan describes the area of highest potential to contain sub surface archaeological material from the pre contact period
SMT 2001 plan



detection techniques should be considered in order to identify potential burials in this area,

Generally speaking the potential of the deposits to contain post-contact archaeological material reduces the further one moves away from the two concentrations of rubble and household debris, i.e. the homestead building and the dump. However there is still the possibility of scattered features and artefacts such as fences metal, wire etc. Any development or management works in the area bounded by the dump the billabong immediately to the north of the homestead site or in the area between the homestead and south to the and the approximate location of the cemetery must be subject to detailed survey and monitoring for post contact material.

The potential of this precinct to contain pre-contact Aboriginal deposits is illustrated by **Figure 2**. It is clear that the area immediately surrounding the homestead is likely to have been disturbed by day to day activities associated with the operation of the Station and that the greatest potential for intact pre contact deposits exist the further one moves from the homestead. Of particular interest is the dune already cut by the existing Homestead Drive and from which Aboriginal burials have already emerged.

The Homestead No. 1 site was not included in the original Brief and has not been mapped in detail. The site is described in the Inventory, Volume 2, **Section 2**. The rubble remains which have been assumed to be the original homestead which predates the Hughes has had the River Road built through it, The surrounding area has high potential for both pre and post contact archaeological deposits.



Figure 2
 This plan describes the areas of highest potential to contain sub surface archaeological material relating to the post contact period
SMT 2001 plan

**THE WOOLSHED GROUP
 ARCHAEOLOGICAL ZONING**

The woolshed and the shearers' accommodation which comprise the extant buildings relating to the Kinchega pastoral station and which are also the focal point for visitors to the park, are located on a long broad sand dune which has already yielded Aboriginal campsites and burial sites. Some of the buildings have had their foundations restored which would have involved disturbance to sub floor deposits and any pre-existing Aboriginal sites. There is no record of these deposits being investigated archaeologically before this work was undertaken. Nevertheless the disturbance is likely to have been localised and there is potential for archaeological deposit relating to Aboriginal occupation to occur at some depth in this dune. Therefore there is no area within this precinct which can confidently be assessed as having 'little or no' potential.

The potential of this precinct to contain post contact archaeological deposits is indicated in **Figure 3**. The potential of this area to contain pre contact archaeological deposits is indicated in **Figure 4**. It can be seen that these areas overlap and that the further away from European disturbance the more likely it is that undisturbed Aboriginal sites may be found. Significantly this area contained post contact artefacts [flaked glass implements] in the area between the accommodation buildings and the woolshed suggesting that there is potential for more post contact Aboriginal sites to occur here.

The holding pen or stockyard associated with the woolshed below the dune and less likely to contain archaeological deposits, however it is likely that a surface scatter of post contact artefacts related to its use as a stockyard may occur across the surface. These artefacts might include clay smoking pipes fragments, pieces of tobacco tin, rope, leather etc.



Figure 3
 This plan describes the potential for pre contact Aboriginal sites in the Woolshed group.
SMT 2001 plan

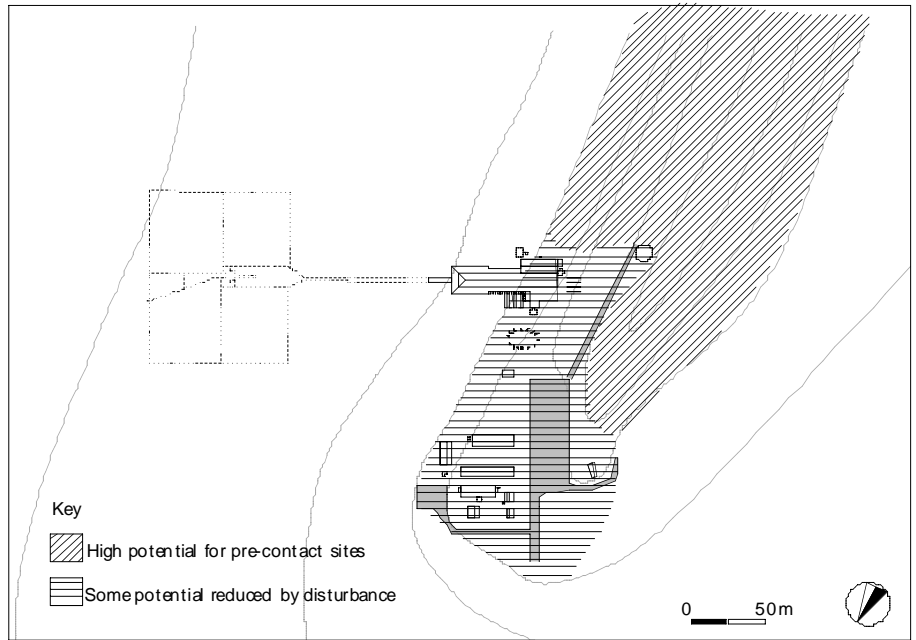
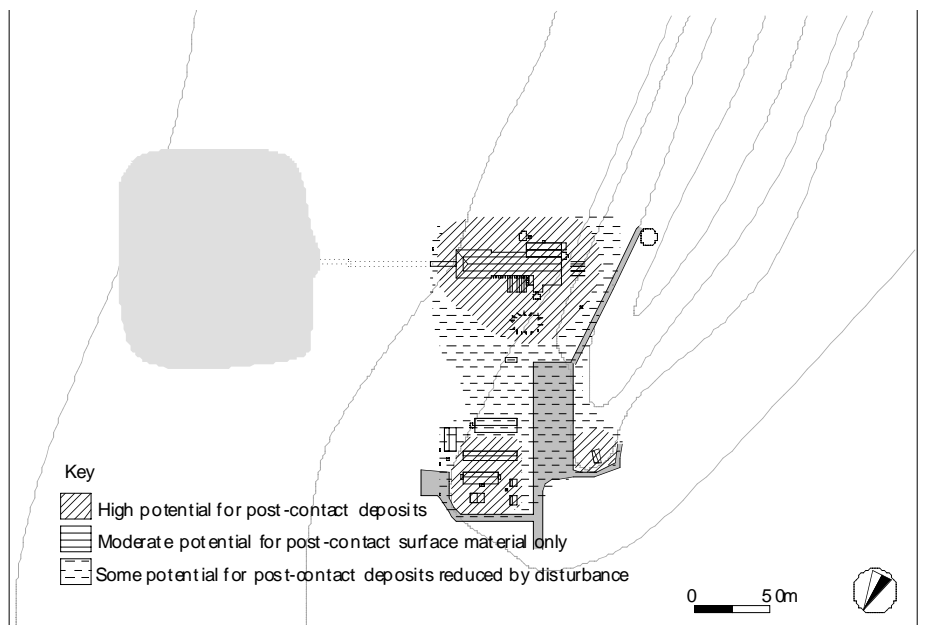


Figure 4
 This plan describes the potential for subsurface post contact archaeological material in the Woolshed group.
SMT 2001 plan



**THE STOCKYARDS & WHARF
 GROUPS ARCHAEOLOGICAL
 ZONING**

The Stockyards group has been assessed as having little or no potential to contain archaeological deposits. As has been noted previously the stockyards themselves were under water and while surface scatters of Aboriginal sites are likely to occur at low density over most of Kincheha NP, any sites with deposit likely to occur in this area would have been closer to the creek and therefore also now submerged.

The Wharf group was not included in the original Brief and so while noted in the field was not mapped in any detail. A large mounded area back from the wharf site was clearly the location of some sort of structure. Aboriginal and European artefacts are scattered over the



surface including flaked glass which indicates that Aboriginal people were present here after European settlement of Kinchega. There has been some disturbance to this site presumably by bottle collectors. The area has high potential to contain pre and post contact archaeological deposits.

*Conservation Management Policy No. 7
Archaeological Zoning*

Management and land use activities on KNP and especially in the historic heritage areas of the woolshed/shearers' quarters, the wharf group and the homestead group covered by this CMP will take into account the potential for impact on archaeological deposits.

Strategy for Policy No. 7

Standard NPWS procedures will be implemented such as the preparation of REFs and Heritage Impact Statements

- *Archaeological zoning plans for the woolshed and homestead site will be implemented.*
- *Any activity involving ground disturbance in an area of high potential will be avoided if possible*
- *If disturbance cannot be avoided it will be preceded by a detailed archaeological investigation.*
- *Any activity in an area of medium potential will be subject to limited testing and/or monitoring as part of the assessment of heritage impact.*
- *A zoning plan should be prepared for any other parts of the Park which are the focus of park management activities.*

Implementation for Policy No. 7 Strategy

The following immediate [one year] implementation is proposed:

- *Areas where ongoing impact on archaeological sites is occurring should be priorities for immediate remedial work or archaeological investigation, e.g the Homestead No. 1 site, the burial in the car park area.*

The following mid term [two to five year] implementation is proposed

- *A zoning plan or predictive model should be prepared for the park as a whole.*
- *An archaeological zoning plan should be prepared for the wharf site.*

The following long term [five to ten year] implementation is proposed:

- *Review the zoning plans in the light of outcomes from the research program.*

ABORIGINAL HERITAGE

The Kinchega National Park in general; and the Kinchega Station sites specifically, have significance to Aboriginal people. This significance relates to their prehistoric occupancy of the region; the 150 years of contact occupancy; and their current connections with the Park, and its interpretation and management.

The most obvious unexplored story arising from the Aboriginal archaeology is the relationship between the Paakantji people who lived and worked on the station. What role did these people play in the development and day to day operation of Kinchega Station? Where did they live? Did they travel from Menindee Mission or were



they always resident on the property? What archaeological evidence is there which demonstrated cultural continuity and/or adaptation? Currently the Aboriginal presence on Kincheega has been relegated to the deep past and historic investigations have not contributed greatly to an understanding of the role of Aboriginal people in the history of the pastoral station.

Other important stories or themes which either have been or may be explored through the archaeology of the Park are:

- The contribution of Kincheega Station to the pastoral industry in the region/state.
- Specific adaptations and developments at Kincheega in response to the remoteness or environment.
- The environmental impacts of the pastoral industry on the fragile environment of the region.
- The relationship between Aboriginal people and their environment in the region up to the time of European occupation.
- The role of the Darling River and other water bodies determining human settlement patterns through time; and
- The research and interpretation implications of the known megafauna remains within the former Station.

There has been little research into Aboriginal sites within Kincheega National Park. The studies that have been carried out are largely site identification through survey with limited recording. Some small excavations have been carried out. By far the most extensive excavation has been restricted to the Homestead No. 2 site and this work has not as yet considered Aboriginal values. The archaeological investigations [the Kincheega Archaeological Research Project] which are being carried out at the Homestead No. 2 site] should be put in a broader landscape context which considers the interrelationship between Aboriginal people, the pastoralists and their environment. It is suggested that instead of significantly changing the direction of the current Homestead No. 2 investigations that they be incorporated into a larger research project, such as the current **Shared Histories : Pastoralism** project currently being undertaken by NPWS Cultural Heritage Division. This could be achieved through partnership with an appropriate University department and the targeting of the area for a major ARC research project or similar.

There are still large sections of the Park that have not been comprehensively surveyed and recorded and the question of whether the western section of the Park retains more significant sites due to less impact from collectors requires verification.

While burial sites in the Park are obviously common, and their potential archaeological significance and their Aboriginal community significance are generally accepted, there is no clear understanding of the range of burial types and their environmental contexts nor is this linked to a management regime which provides guidelines on the



management of this fragile site type. The development through informed discussions with the Aboriginal community of management strategies and long term research proposals in relation to these burials and their identification should be a priority.

*Conservation Management Policy No. 8
Aboriginal Heritage*

Recognising the important Aboriginal connections to KNP and the ongoing rights and attachment of the local Aboriginal people, NPWS will manage the Park in partnership with the Menindee Aboriginal community, exploring non statutory ways of strengthening this partnership. The Kinchega Station historic sites then will be managed within a context of long human interaction with the landscape and a recognition of the varied natural and cultural values that have evolved through that relationship.

Strategy for Policy No. 8

- *Establish a regular forum to meet and discuss management of the park and its cultural features with the Menindee Aboriginal community.*
- *Establish programs with the Aboriginal community [perhaps CDEP contracts] for routine Park management activities.*
- *Establish and support a voluntary program run by community elders of collecting oral histories relating to the Park and Kinchega Station.*
- *In collaboration with the community develop an Aboriginal management strategy which identifies the practical contributions that Aboriginal partners can make to managing the Park and the sites and the support/oversight that NPWS can contribute.*
- *Seek to engage the broader non Aboriginal community in these initiatives where appropriate to strengthen local ties.*

Implementation for Policy No. 8

The following immediate [one year] implementation is proposed:

- *Hold the first meeting and determine the form, function and frequency of future meetings.*
- *Investigate and identify park management tasks that can be contracted and prepare relevant submissions.*

The following mid term [two to five year] implementation is proposed:

- *Establish and implement the oral history program. Elders have indicated that they would be prepared to oversee such a program [refer Appendix: Menindee Meeting] and that it should encompass oral testimony from elderly non-Aboriginal people with connections to Kinchega.*
- *NPWS must have archive arrangements in place either internally or using an established service such as the National Library or AIATSIS.*
- *The NPWS Historic Places Register and where appropriate the Aboriginal Sites Register should accession copies of all historic material relating the park and the Kinchega Station sites.*

The following long term [five to ten year] implementation is proposed:

- *Regular five yearly review of all CMPs and the Kinchega National Park POM are undertaken incorporating partnership management initiatives and outcomes.*



MOVEABLE HERITAGE

Moveable heritage at the Kincheega Station includes original equipment in the woolshed; artefacts and display items in the visitor centre and field officer's quarters [refer Inventory, Volume 2]; some kitchen equipment; boiler and steam engine equipment and accessories; bottles, bricks and broken ceramics at the homestead 1 and 2 sites, wharf and homestead dump site; Aboriginal stone tools, shell and bone including human bone; signage and building fabric stocks, bricks, insulators; written records of the NPWS period from 1968, which are held in the rangers office, the regional office and head office NPWS; and historical records in private ownership relating to the Hughes family and their operation of Kincheega [held at Kars Station].

The collections of movable heritage not only enhance the interpretation of the buildings and settings of the Kincheega Station, they provide valuable information about past Kincheega practice. This Plan makes specific provision for the management of the movable heritage of the Kincheega station. This is in accordance with the Heritage Office *Moveable Heritage Principles* [1999].

*Conservation Management Policy No. 9
Moveable Heritage*

The minimum standards that apply to moveable heritage at Kincheega Station are that all items should be inventoried and assessed for conservation and they should be retained in their current location where this does not compromise their significance or long-term conservation. Where the collections cannot be understood without reference to documentary resource material, such as an explanatory catalogue, this should be managed as an integral part of the collection.

Strategy for Policy No. 9

Research the provenance of the collection of moveable heritage and catalogue. Determine appropriate use, display and storage.

9.4 THE CONDITION OF THE KINCHEGA STATION SITES

As outlined above, the current management of Kincheega National Park is, to an extent, made more difficult by the functional roles of the Park as National Park and water storage system. Management is further complicated by the north-south public road access through the Park. Visitation to the few visible 'historic' sites during those periods is intense and demanding. The net effect of this situation is that the Station sites [particularly the archaeological sites] are in poor condition. The built fabric of the Woolshed group is in fair condition, however ongoing repair and maintenance is required.

Each of the Station groups are documented within the Inventory [refer Volume 2]; and conservation fabric policy [where appropriate], strategy and implementation requirements are set out within **Volume 2. General** policy for these groups follows.

THE HOMESTEAD GROUP

This precinct, extending for almost a kilometre along the southwestern side of the Homestead billabong, is rich in both



Indigenous and non-indigenous archaeological sites. However there are major causes of site erosion and destruction. At Homestead No. 2 site, the ongoing KARP project has left the site vulnerable and unprotected; and visitors can walk over the archaeological site itself. At Homestead No. 1 site, the NPWS 'River Drive' has virtually demolished part of the site; and causes continual erosion of the archaeological resource.

*Conservation Management Policy 10
Protecting the Homestead Group*

The Homestead No. 2 site should be protected from further deterioration either by restricting public access; or more appropriately by providing a defined walk [e.g. a board walk] which defines areas of public movement. The Homestead No. 1 site should be archaeologically investigated. This investigation will require the closure [for a specific period] of the River Drive.

THE WOOLSHED GROUP

This precinct, which currently serves as the Visitor Centre and 'destination point' for the Park, is in fair condition. An extensive program of works has been proposed for the Woolshed Group during 2002-2003, including repainting of the entire shearers' quarters complex, repairs to damaged fabric and general upgrade of visitor facilities. Maintenance works identified during the course of the Plan have been included at Appendix 2, Volume 2. A program of cyclical maintenance inspection and works is required for the Woolshed group, and Maintenance and Inspection Guidelines have been included at Appendix 1 Volume 2. Because of the high public visitation to the site, and the extreme weathering conditions, it is recommended that the precinct be inspected annually, and that necessary maintenance be regularly undertaken on an 'as needs' basis. A maintenance file should be kept on site for each building or group of buildings and all maintenance and conservation work recorded therein.

*Conservation Management Policy No 11
Conserving the Woolshed group*

The built elements within the Woolshed Group should be conserved; and a program of regular maintenance inspection and repair implemented.

Strategy for Policy No 11

Undertake the proposed NPWS conservation works to the building fabric of the Woolshed Group; and implement a program of regular maintenance inspection and repair for the buildings in accordance with the Maintenance Guidelines at Appendix 1 Volume 2.

Implementation of Policy No 11 Strategy

The following immediate [one year] implementation is proposed:

- Complete proposed conservation works, in accordance with the Maintenance Guidelines at Appendix 1 Volume 2.*

The following mid term [two to five year] implementation is proposed

- Implement a program of annual maintenance inspection for the Woolshed precinct, in accordance with the Maintenance Guidelines at Appendix 1 Volume 2.*
- Monitor requirement for repainting of exterior joinery within the precinct.*



The following long term [five to ten year] implementation is proposed:

- *Monitor requirement for repainting of exterior joinery and exterior cladding within the precinct.*

In an archaeological sense, however, the Woolshed precinct is in **poor** condition. The former Shearers' Quarters Kitchen site [north of the existing road junction and adjacent Emu Creek] is in poor condition and should be investigated and stabilised immediately.

*Conservation Management Policy No 12
Protecting the former Kitchen site,
Woolshed group*

The former Kitchen site should be protected from further deterioration and the site should be archaeologically investigated.

THE WHARF/HOTEL GROUP

This precinct is less easily accessible, as the site is often cut off due to high water levels and boggy roads. The site is archaeologically significant and appears to contain both Aboriginal and historical artefacts. This site should be investigated immediately.

*Conservation Management Policy No 13
Protecting the former Wharf group*

The Wharf/Hotel site should be protected from further deterioration and the site should be archaeologically investigated.

9.5 THE STATUTORY OBLIGATIONS FOR NPWS AS MANAGER

NPWS STATUTORY OBLIGATIONS

The management of the Kinchega National Park is required to be in accordance with the statutory obligations within which the National Parks & Wildlife Service operates. There are many statutory matters that the NPWS has to take into account in its day-to-day and long-term management of the Park. These statutory requirements arise from the Service's own Act⁴ and from the requirements of other statutory authorities. In addition, protocols relating to natural and cultural heritage are subscribed to by the Service; and those protocols have also to be observed in Service's management of the Park. These requirements will be discussed below.

THE NPWS ACT

The Service's management of the Kinchega National Park derives from its functions as defined in the National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 [as amended]. Under this Act the Service can acquire places for the protection and management of their historic, Aboriginal and natural heritage values.

THE NPW ACT AND ABORIGINAL HERITAGE

The Act requires the preparation of a **Plan of Management** for each managed area, and consideration must be given within the management plan to historic places in that area. The management of the Park, and the preparation of this Conservation Management Plan, are required actions in the context of the Plan of Management⁵ for Kinchega National Park. The National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974 also provides for the protection and management of biodiversity and

⁴ National Parks and Wildlife Act 1967 [as amended 1974], i.e. the NPWS Act
⁵ NPWS, *Kinchega National Park Plan of Management*, 1999



geodiversity within reserves declared under the Act and for native plants and animals wherever they occur within the State.

*Conservation Management Policy No.14
The Kincheha National Park Plan of
Management*

The current Kincheha National Park Plan of Management has a number of deficiencies; and it is a policy recommendation that the Plan be reviewed in the light of the findings of this Plan.

Strategy for Policy No. 14

The policies within this Plan should be incorporated into a reviewed Kincheha National Park Plan of Management. In particular the following sections of the PoM should be reviewed:

- **Section 2.2.1: Importance of KNP** should make reference to the range of historic sites and values documented in this Plan. The NSW Heritage Office 'significance criteria' refer only to **State** and **local** significance, i.e. where **regional** significance is used in this section, **State** significance should be inserted instead.
- **Section 3: Objectives of Management** should refer to the six **Western National Parks** and insert reference to the **Western National Parks** objectives set out in this document. This section should also include reference to the Service's objective to have joint Aboriginal/NPWS management of the Park, as set out within the objectives of the NPWS Corporate Plan.
- **Section 4: Policies & Framework for Management.** This section, specifically **Section 4.2 Cultural Heritage** should make reference to the need for archaeological investigation of the Homestead No. 1 site and the Wharf/Hotel site. It is probably appropriate to refer to the proposed 'Morton Boulka' walk as a stated policy within this section. **Section 4.3.1 Promotion of the Park** should be retitled **Interpretation of the Kincheha National Park** and make reference to the Feasibility Study for a KNP Interpretation Centre prepared in 2000. Finally this section should make reference to the need for an objective survey of KNP visitor numbers, intentions and objectives.
- **Section 5: Plan Implementation** should include the liaison with the Aboriginal community over the continued management of the place as 'high priority'.
- **Map.** Finally, the PoM map should be redrawn such that the 'Old Kincheha Homestead' is shown in its **actual** location; and reference should be made to the Homestead No. 1 site. It is recommended that the Wharf/Hotel site be not publicised further at this time.

*Implementation for Policy No. 14
Strategy*

The following immediate [one year] implementation is proposed:

- amend the PoM as outlined above;
- initiate Stage 2 of the KNP Visitor Interpretation Centre Feasibility Study;
- undertake further 'linkages' of the six **Western National Parks**, particularly with respect to interpretation of State themes; and sharing information on visitor travel, objectives and cultural heritage destination;
- pursue liaison with MLALC and other Aboriginal bodies on joint management of the Park; and
- amend citations and entries for the KNP Station sites in the RNE, the NSW Heritage Register and the NPWS Section 170 Register.



The following mid term [two to five year] implementation is proposed:

- *undertake further historical research particularly in relation to the McCabe 1850 Darling River surveys; the original Kincheqa Station 'portion plans'; and the Darling River navigation charts;*
- *undertake further research emanating from the Martin Aboriginal Ties to the Land report;*
- *undertake archaeological research to the Homestead No. 1 site and the Wharf/Hotel site.*

The following long term [five to ten year] implementation is proposed:

- *integrate the interpretation management and conservation strategies for the six **Western National Parks**.*
-

**VISITOR FACILITIES & PARK
MANAGEMENT**

The Plan of Management proposes as required 'actions' the augmentation of the existing Park interpretation and specific objectives of Park management.

The current situation at KNP is, however, that the interpretation is minimal, and there is no 'on site' Ranger resident at KNP. This situation is of concern to both the indigenous and non-indigenous 'local' community. The Aboriginal community⁶ also have concerns about current staffing and management at the Park. They believe that it is pointless to recommend any actions which will increase visitors to the Park as there is no management or monitoring of them. There are currently only two permanent Field Officers at Kincheqa National Park despite its already high visitor numbers. The community's biggest concern relates to this lack of resourcing and the lack of follow through on programs and ideas. They are able to point out examples of past initiatives and agreements which were good but which did not progress due to lack of resources, commitment by NPWS and/or staff turnover. The community believe that it is important that NPWS commit resources to implementing this Conservation Management and Interpretation Plan and the Cultural Tourism Plan.

The benefits of having a Ranger permanently located at Kincheqa include continuous on-site management of the Park, knowledge of the activities being undertaken within the Park and greater understanding of user requirements, community liaison and opportunities for reinforcing of interpretation initiatives. Appropos of the above, it is fundamental that NPWS consider the possibility of locating a permanent Ranger at Kincheqa.

⁶ This discussion is informed by a community workshop held in Menindee early in February 2001. The workshop discussed Aboriginal values and relationships to the KNP.



THE NSW HERITAGE ACT 1977
[AMENDED 1998]

With the recent amendment to the NSW Heritage Act and the formulation of the State Heritage Register, the Kinchega Station woolshed has been added to the NSW Heritage Register, which lists those items which are of high significance for the State. Protection for items is equivalent to the [former] Permanent Conservation Orders under the Heritage Act. Normally any development would require that a Section 60 [S60] application is submitted to the NSW Heritage Council, who would act as a determining authority for the proposed application. Radical change to a State-significant item would not be approved by the NSW Heritage Council without a Conservation Management Plan being prepared and endorsed by the Council.

The Heritage Act 1977 [as amended] requires that significant places managed by the NPWS be listed in the NPWS Heritage and Conservation Register [the Section 170 Register]. The NPWS must recognise and respect the significance of places in the S.170 Register in its management of them. The inclusion of the Kinchega Station woolshed on to the Section 170 Register of the NSW NPWS carries with it the obligation to ‘... maintain identified heritage items in accordance with the best practice heritage management principles issued by the Minister and guidelines issued by the Heritage Council. In addition, [the Council requires that] annual reports of those agencies will need to include a **Summary of Heritage Items** listed in their S.170 registers and a statement on the condition of the State significant heritage items in the care of the agency’.

Conservation Management Policy No.15
NSW State Heritage Register

It is recommended that the current entry for the Kinchega Station woolshed be amended and resubmitted to the NSW Heritage Register; and that a new nomination be prepared for the Kinchega Station sites as a whole, and be submitted to the NSW Heritage Council.

THE AHC ACT [1975]

The Kinchega Station woolshed is also entered in the Register of the National Estate. The listing of the woolshed on the Register of the National Estate means that any Commonwealth Government authority should take no action which might adversely affect the place, unless there is no feasible and prudent alternative. The authority must notify the Australian Heritage Commission [AHC] of its intentions and additional environmental impact assessments might be required of the authority.

Conservation Management Policy No.16
The Register of the National Estate

It is recommended that the current entry for the Kinchega Station woolshed be amended and resubmitted from the Register of the National Estate; and that a new nomination be prepared for the Kinchega Station sites as a whole, and be submitted to the Register of the National Estate.

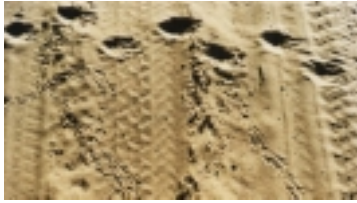
9.6 REVIEW AND MONITORING OF THE CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT
AND INTERPRETATION PLAN

This Conservation Management and Interpretation Plan should be reviewed to take account of new information and ensure consistency



with current management circumstances at least every five years. The conservation policy should be reviewed when interventions to the place occur, e.g. by accident [such as fire or natural disaster] or as the result of approved development.

The statutory 'review' requirements of the Heritage Act 1977 [as amended], Section 170; and of the State Records Act 1998 are to be met by NPWS and/or lessee [if appropriate].



10.0 INTERPRETATION AND CULTURAL TOURISM RECOMMENDATIONS, STRATEGY AND IMPLEMENTATION

10.1 PREAMBLE

This section responds to the Briefed requirement to provide '*...Appropriate public interpretation of the cultural and natural values of the place which is both place specific and extends NPWS core public education values*' and provide policy for '*...managing visitor usage and impacts*'. The section consists of three major sub sets; the interpretation and cultural tourism recommendations for the Kincheega Station sites, as a component of the *Western National Parks*¹; discussion of the strategies implicit in those broad policy objectives; and interpretation and cultural tourism **strategies** for the Station sites within Kincheega National Park and, where, relevant to the broader Western National Parks. The section concludes with specific **implementation objectives** and **time frames** for the stated policies.

A number of terms are used throughout the following section, definitions for which can be found at **Section 7.0**, above.

10.2 THE INTERPRETATION AND CULTURAL TOURISM PLAN OBJECTIVES

The following section describes objectives in providing physical, intellectual and emotional or spiritual access for visitors to the collective cultural significance of the *Western National Parks* and to the cultural significance of the historic and prehistoric resources of Kincheega National Park.

The plan addresses both the site specific and common characteristics of the geophysical contexts, structures, artefacts, history and human experiences of these properties. The plan recommends non-personal media and personal programs to ensure that the interpretation of these attributes to the public, both on-site and elsewhere, reflects current best-practice in heritage presentation. As a result of the collection-level interpretative experience, it is intended that visitors to any former pastoral precinct in the *Western National Parks* should, if they wish, be able to *discover*:

- that Kincheega Station complex is one of seven historic pastoral complexes presented within four National Parks in the Western Directorate.
- why, when and how the great pastoral estates of Western NSW outback came to be established [who owned, built, managed and worked them];
- The role of pastoral expansion in the disruption and dispossession of Aboriginal people in western NSW;

¹ The term *Western National Parks* has been used generally to refer to the six 'western' NSW parks: Kincheega, Sturt, Mungo, Mutwintji, Peery and Willandra.



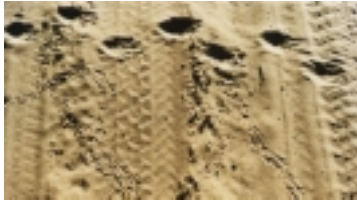
- how the shearing complexes evolved and the design, materials, construction and other characteristics of these complexes;
- the steps in the process of shearing a sheep;
- the evolution of shearing from blade to mechanical shears and the different power sources used over time;
- that the collection as a whole and each of its built elements are important in the historic, aesthetic, social and economic development of Australia, the western NSW region and the local communities;
- that all these properties occupy 'cultural landscapes' whose significance relates to historic Aboriginal and European settlement, and that their traditional significance to Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians continues today;
- that these properties are places of prehistoric, historic and present day ecological significance and that pastoralism in the outback has caused severe ecological consequences;
- about the roles, jobs, challenges and rewards of the people who lived on these places and the lifestyles of their families; and
- that there is more to discover at other locations in each Park and know how to get them.

The visitor should be encouraged to *think*:

- that these heritage precincts are special places that are worth preserving;
- that the relationships between Aboriginal people, pastoralism and the Park landscapes have been complex and enduring, and that they continue to evolve;
- that throughout their history, pastoral stations have played significant and varied roles in the economic, cultural and recreational life of the community;
- that historic land uses need to be understood in the light of more recent information about their ecological impacts; and
- that the *Western National Parks* and its significance have been appropriately conserved and presented by the Service.

The visitor should be led to *feel*:

- that this place has touched people's lives, near and far, in significant ways;
- motivated and empowered to explore public areas of each Park's historic precincts with comfort and confidence;
- empathy with the people who lived and worked on pastoral stations;
- a sense of the continuing evolution of the place and of its functions in the life of the community, including its role, since its gazettal, as a venue for scientific research;
- respect for the connection of Indigenous people to the landscape; and
- that their personal growth has been enriched and their personal horizons expanded through visiting Kinchega and the broader *Western National Parks*.



The visitor should *understand*:

- the evolution of Aboriginal/European relations in this area;
- how Aboriginal people contributed to the development of the pastoral industry;
- how the wool growing and marketing system functioned, and its significance in local, regional, and national politics, trade and development;
- how distinctive structural and vernacular features distinguish each woolshed/precinct;
- how traditional, indigenous land use practices differed from pastoralism in terms of environmental impacts; and
- how the collection is managed today and how it offers a varied range of interesting and pleasurable visitor experiences at different locations.

Finally, the visitor should be encouraged to *act*:

- in ways that respect the fabric and spirit of the place; and
- in ways that acknowledge and support the ongoing responsibility of the NPWS to conserve and present this and other environments to a standard commensurate with their significance.

10.3 INTERPRETATION AND CULTURAL TOURISM RECOMMENDATIONS

The format for these Interpretation & Cultural Tourism recommendations follows that of the *NPWS Field Service Policies*. It is assumed that the NPWS Western Directorate will be responsible for implementing this Interpretation Strategy; overseeing and coordinating the planning and implementation of the presentation of pastoral resources on 'NPWS estate' in the Far Western Region; and promoting and coordinating liaison and cooperation with other agency and private sector providers of visitor experiences interpreting historic or present-day pastoral heritage in the region.

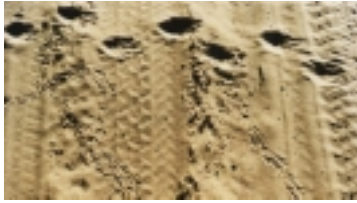
In a procedural sense, the NPWS should formally review and adopt the following recommendations as **policy**, both for the Western National Parks [Kinchega, Sturt, Mungo, Mutwintji, Peery and Willandra] and for individual Kinchega National Park site interpretation.

*Interpretation Recommendation No. 1
Primary Policy*

Interpretation is a core responsibility of the NPWS and its essential to the fulfillment of their management objectives. The NPWS shall secure technical advice on major issues regarding interpretation. The interpretative potential ['ability to demonstrate'] of an element shall be a criterion in determining its conservation.

*Interpretation Recommendation No. 2
Liaison*

This interpretation strategy should be implemented following liaison between the NPWS Education & Community Programs Directorate and the NPWS Western Directorate. It is also recommended that this KNP interpretation project promote and coordinate liaison and cooperation with other 'western' cultural tourism initiatives.



*Interpretation Recommendation No. 3
Significance*

Interpretation of the cultural significance of a structure, feature or artefact shall have high priority in determining its use and shall be provided irrespective of the other particulars of its use. Removal of intrusive elements must be sanctioned by the Kincheega Station sites Interpretation Plan and the concurrence of the Conservation Management Plan.

*Interpretation Recommendation No. 4
People and Landscape*

The primary emphasis for interpretation shall be the record of reciprocal influences between people and their surroundings, in the cultural landscapes exemplified by collection as a whole and by the individual Station. Additionally, their significance in Aboriginal tradition and their ecological significance are to be incorporated in interpretation programs.

*Interpretation Recommendation No. 5
Interpretation Linkages*

Interpretation of historic pastoral resources shall address all the elements contained in the Statement of Cultural Significance for the collection as a whole and for its individual elements and features according to the relative importance established in the statement and the state themes identified in its Conservation Plan. The linkages between the history of the collection and each precinct and the physical evidence and relevant human experiences and social issues are to be emphasised.

*Interpretation Recommendation No. 6
Review*

The Kincheega NP, Mungo NP, Sturt NP and Willandra NP Pastoral Heritage Interpretation Plans shall be reviewed regularly, say at five year intervals, to reflect evolving theory, new evidence or circumstances and new interpretation techniques. Interpretation programs and practices shall be subject to ongoing evaluation and annual review by each Park to ensure that they fulfil the objectives of their Interpretation Plans as effectively as possible. The results of the annual reviews shall be provided to the NPWS.

*Interpretation Recommendation No. 7
Interpretation Programs*

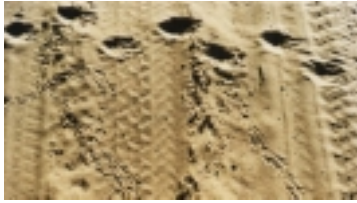
The interpretation programs and other presentation strategies shall not be constrained by the boundaries of the pastoral precincts or Parks. They will target visitors, potential visitors and the public at large, through on-site programs, individual and collective marketing strategies and NPWS corporate communications. They will provide interpretation of selected places and objects, natural systems or living things within the precincts, Parks and elsewhere, as the NPWS may deem appropriate.

*Interpretation Recommendation No. 8
Historical Research*

All interpretation shall be based on the most accurate information and historiography available and their faithful representation in all media and personal programs. This basis will be clearly documented in the Plan for each interpretation program.

*Interpretation Recommendation No. 9
Adoption of Recommendations*

These recommendations should be adopted as the NPWS policies governing the planning and implementation of interpretation at Kincheega National Park.



10.4 INTERPRETATION AND CULTURAL TOURISM

10.4.1 CULTURAL TOURISM THEMES²

Visitors travel primarily for recreation, often in order to experience places, buildings, elements and each other. These travel ‘products’ are what they expect to find in heritage places; and, for many, are the natural and legitimate focus of the visitor experience. If they are also to encounter themes, they should do so **through** these travel products, not the reverse. Interpretation which elevates the general [theme] at the expense of the particular [thing/place] can diminish the perceived significance of the resource.

Cultural heritage interpretation is a process in which the specifics of places reveal the circumstances and values that produced them. The related themes, as patterns of circumstances and values, can indeed add to appreciation of the resource’s significance as a manifestation of larger issues or forces of history. Thematic insight thus becomes an unexpected and stimulating dividend of the visitor experience, not a galling prerequisite.

The State themes and sub-themes outlined, refer margin notes, are drawn from the list developed by the Heritage Council of NSW. These themes have particular relevance to Kinchega National Park sites and to the Western NPWS Parks generally.

10.4.2 THE VISITOR

The more we understand about our visitors and our potential visitors; the better we can target our presentation of places and messages to produce an attractive and rewarding visitor experience; **and** an informed and supportive public. A brief survey of available Kinchega National Park visitor information follows.

In 1997, Central Darling Shire commissioned a *Cultural Heritage and Tourism Study*. Volume 2 of the resulting Study points out at some length that the data currently available is insufficient to produce a meaningful market segmentation that would enable the confident prediction of visitor activity profiles and preferences. It also recommends a program of tourism research to address these deficiencies. This recommendation has yet to be acted on.

In 2000, the Service undertook a **survey of visitors to Kinchega National Park**. This survey, however, was aimed exclusively at determining the economic significance of the Park. No attempt was made to collect data from which a market segmentation might be extrapolated. In any event, between Easter and mid-September, the over one hundred questionnaires returned cover only 286 visitors.

Aboriginal contact
[sites of] conflict, resistance and interaction
Exploration
Pastoralism
agriculture
Land Tenure
Aboriginal and European fences, etc.
Mining
Environment
natural or modified
Aboriginal and European features
soil conservation
National Parks
gardens
Townships
Ethnic influences
Transport
Communication
Technology
Science
Defence
Aboriginal battle sites
Leisure
Death
Events
Persons
individuals, families, dynasties,
places of residence, women’s sites

AVAILABLE VISITOR INFORMATION

² The term *Themes* is defined at Section 7.0 above.



The Park is reported to accommodate up to 300 visitors per **day**, during peak periods and approximately 22,500 visitors annually.³

There is, thus, no firm basis on which to recommend which combinations of media and facilities will best meet the needs of the existing Kinchega National Park audience. This is a serious handicap. Planning and production of visitor facilities and interpretative media represent a substantial investment of scarce Service funds. This Interpretation and Cultural Tourism Plan seeks to make a reasoned selection of interpretative techniques, based both on the nature of the messages and the numbers and characteristics of visitors. Where the latter information is lacking, accurate data should be sought.

No two visitors are alike. Each visitor brings a different combination of physical, intellectual and emotional expectations and requirements. Some are in a hurry. Others enjoy a more leisurely pace. Some are children and some are elderly. Some visit alone but many visit in groups. Not all are patient readers. English is not necessarily their first or most comfortable language. Some have physical disabilities.

Best-practice interpretation seeks to address the needs and interests of **all** visitors in an equitable fashion by pitching its messages at a variety of paces and levels. In order to appeal to a broad range of interests, ages and time constraints, this strategy recommends **three levels of interpretation**. It is proposed that this interpretative hierarchy will apply to all messages, regardless of medium:

- Overviews and Highlights
- Examples and Illustrations
- Background and Details, Themes and Connections

In **print media** [such as signage or brochures] each level will be consistently distinguished by its graphic design [font, point size, etc.]. Any interactive media will consistently associate each level of interpretation with a visual icon or symbol, to enable visitors rapidly to identify the level of detail that corresponds to their interests. This [three level] interpretation hierarchy and its visual cues should apply equally to design of collection-level, Park-level and site-specific media, in planning the presentation and interpretation for the Western NPWS Estate.

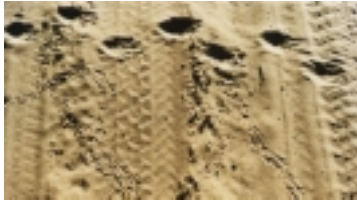
This most general level of interpretation answers the question ...

What? Level One is suitable for introductory and orientation messages. It conveys broad concepts and basic information. Overviews and highlights may purposely raise more questions than they answer. This level is appropriate for titles; identification labels on visible features/objects; basic statements of cultural significance; and introductory sentences/paragraphs/remarks.

LEVELS OF INTERPRETATION

LEVEL ONE: OVERVIEWS AND HIGHLIGHTS

³ Refer 2001 estimate of visitor numbers, Kinchega National Park, Visitor Interpretation Centre Feasibility Study



LEVEL TWO:
EXAMPLES AND ILLUSTRATIONS

The objectives of 'level one' interpretation are the management of expectations; the excitement of curiosity; the stimulation of speculation; and to provide incentive to further inquiry.

This level of interpretation answers the question ... **So, what?** It amplifies the overviews and highlights with examples and illustrations of particular features, events, issues or personalities and offers more detailed contextual information.

At this level, differing points of view can be addressed. Answers to the questions raised at the overview level can be provided, and additional questions raised to encourage further investigation. This level is appropriate for exploiting the collection's 'ability to demonstrate'.

The **objectives** of 'level two' interpretation are **satisfaction**, the 'ah, ha!' response; an appreciation of historic pastoral precincts as the products of an **interplay between circumstances** [the 'givens': natural, political, economic, social, etc.] **and values** [of the people confronting the circumstances: beliefs, *mores*, agendas, intentions, character, preconceptions, etc.]; and the treatment of the Western NPWS Estate and each of its precincts as **evidence** that proves or demonstrates something about circumstances and values

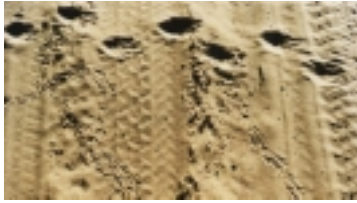
LEVEL THREE:
BACKGROUND AND DETAILS,
THEMES AND CONNECTIONS

This level answers the question ... **What else?** This level provides detailed information, facts, figures, and explanations corresponding to all the relevant messages for the *Western National Parks* as a whole, or for an individual Park or site. This interpretation cross-references pastoral stations outside the Kinchega Station as appropriate, and incorporates a guide to further information, directing the visitor to more sources of knowledge [e.g. publications, other on- or off-site media]. This level of interpretation is appropriate for detailed examination of the resources' historic, aesthetic, scientific and social significance.

The **objectives** of this level of interpretation are to provide an in-depth understanding of the Estate as a whole, Park or precinct in relation to its architectural, geographical, [pre]historical, ecological and social contexts; indicate its scientific or research potential; and develop circumstances and values as instances of broader 'themes'

10.4.3 THE INTERPRETATIVE STORYLINE

The Interpretative Storyline sets out, in a prioritised [not necessarily chronological] order, all the information to be communicated about the collection or a precinct in order to satisfy the interpretative objectives [see **Section 10.4.2.** above]. It connects the specific details about the collection or place to the context of historic themes [refer **Section 10.4.1** above] and expresses them as a series of messages, aimed at the visitor.



The Storyline does **not** prescribe the way in which its messages are to be delivered. Parts of the story may be told through various non-personal media, such as signage, videos or pamphlets; others may be more appropriate for face-to-face programs, such as guided tours or other staffed visitor activities.

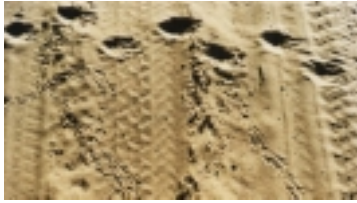
The Storyline should be written in a clear, accessible style and be readily adaptable, often verbatim, to a variety of media formats. The storyline should avoid jargon or specialised vocabulary; the bureaucratic tone or the passive voice; and should not be complex grammatically.

The writing of a detailed storyline for the *Western National Parks* will be an early requirement of further interpretative planning for the collection as a whole. In contrast to storylines which will be developed for the particular pastoral precincts in the context of their individual interpretation plans, the collection's Storyline must be collection-based, rather than place-based. We are asking visitors to defer their experience of the actual, observable individual precinct while they assimilate an introduction to its context as part of the entire collection. The Storyline must, therefore, be concise and succinctly presented, refer Interpretative Linkages **Section 10.6** and Interpretation Media **Section 10.7** below.

The *Historical Overview* [refer **Section 3** above] forms a comprehensive and well-written storyline in itself. In particular, it provides a wealth of detail about the context of western pastoral development in general, much of which is applicable to the whole collection. Its illustrations and direct quotations are valuable interpretative resources in themselves. The *Archaeological Overview* [refer **Section 4** above] provides much useful historical detail, specific to Kinchega, about post-contact Aboriginal life and culture that can readily be incorporated into Park and precinct storylines.

As with the *Historical Overview*, the *Landscape Overview* [refer **Section 5** above] also situates Kinchega's historic precincts in the broad context of the Park's past and present biophysical systems and offers a detailed insight into the interplay between them and their successive inhabitants. This material is already conveniently organised in 'storyline' form and identifies opportunities for its interpretation in the historic precincts. The *Built Fabric Overview and Inventory* [refer **Volume 2**] is, of course, specific to Kinchega. It provides ample detail about the construction and purpose of the visible historic fabric and remains, their elements and features. It identifies many of the artefacts related to Kinchega Station and is a valuable source for interpretative commentary and label content.

To summarise: the Storyline, not just for Kinchega's historic precincts but for the whole Park, is in large measure already written and the task of adapting it for use in interpretative media and programs is largely editorial. Some exceptions will be noted in the next section of



this Strategy [Interpretative Resources]. At the collection level, however, much work remains to be done. Similar studies to those above [if they do not already exist] should be commissioned for Sturt, Mungo, Mallee Cliffs, Peery, Mutwintji, and Willandra. Common elements [themes, stories, issues, messages] should then be identified for inclusion in the collection level Storyline. This approach will permit the development of a cohesive presentation strategy for the collection as an 'attraction' and achieve economies in the planning and production of promotional and interpretative media.

10.5 INTERPRETATIVE RESOURCES

Interpretative resources include all the information, illustrations, things, people, funding and time needed to produce the desired visitor experience. This section provides an inventory of the resources currently available. It also lists additional resources that are not now on hand, but are required in order to meet the interpretative objectives.

10.5.1 DOCUMENTARY RESOURCES

The principal documentary resources supporting interpretation planning for Kinchega's historic precincts are the *Overview* sections of this Plan [including the respective bibliographies]. In addition two earlier studies provide further information:

- *The Bagundji Centre* [1974], a report by Warren and Windass is a response to a Service Brief for an Aboriginal Cultural Centre to be located in Kinchega NP; and
- *Kinchega National Park Visitor Centre* consists of twenty one designs for a Park visitor centre, prepared by sixth year architectural students from the University of Sydney

These documents offer a potentially useful source of views about the siting, planning and design of a major visitor interpretative facility for the Park and should be reviewed in that context.

Other NPWS documents provide information of earlier service aspirations for a Kinchega National Park Visitor Centre; for walking trails; and for camping areas. For example, the Bruce Copland [NPWS KNP Ranger] 1988 proposal for Kinchega Walks outlines approaches and media proposals for: additions to the Woolshed Walk; creation of a Woolshed Wharf Walk; and creation of a Homestead complex Walk accessing the wharf, pumphouse, cemetery, barge and billabong regulator. The 'Copland' report called for the assessment and culling of the woolshed artefact collection and the planning of a visitor centre as a final step in Park interpretation.

In addition, 'external' studies provide a wealth of information about the local and regional contexts. The *Central Darling Shire Heritage and Cultural Tourism Study, Vol. 2* [1997] prepared by Godden Mackay Pty Ltd provides information on a regional [Central Darling Shire] level.



A recent initiative by the Department of Land and Water Resources [DLWC] has also contributed a great deal of information on the Menindee Lakes region [including Kinchega National Park]. This project, the Menindee Lakes Environmentally Sustainable Development Project [MLESDP] has already resulted in a survey of non-indigenous Menindee Lakes cultural sites; a *Terrestrial Flora and Fauna project*; an *'Aboriginal Ties to the Land'* project; and an *Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Archaeological Survey*.

Generally speaking, sources of insight into the **social history** of pastoral properties in western NSW are lacking. It is an interpretative truism that *'... people are mainly interested in people'*. Without this element, interpretation of historic resources is sterile. We need to give visitors some idea of what it was like to be, for instance, a woman, a child, a shearer, a manager on the Station, etc. When visitors can connect the visible resources to lived experience, the place will begin to come alive for them.

10.5.2 GRAPHIC RESOURCES

SIGNS

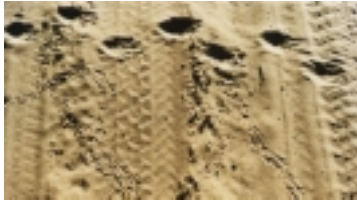
The drawings, technical diagrams and maps within this Plan, together with the maps in existing Park publications form an adequate basis for reproduction and/or commissioned artwork illustrating Kinchega's interpretative themes and messages. Many Kinchega Park signs have, for specific reasons, not been shown. For example three interpretative signs, of the Homestead sign family, are stored in the Ranger's office. *'Punt'* interprets the role of the river in the exploration and settlement of the area. It identifies the remains of the punt in question and mentions the function of *'other similar style punts'* in river transport. A hand-written caption, taped to this sign identifies the period photograph as showing *'A wool laden barge passing a river punt'*. *'Darling River Regulator'* tells us that *'settlers ... were looking at ways to better secure their water supplies'*. It outlines the purpose and operation of the regulator on the billabong and describes its pump and aqueduct system. An artist's conception illustrates the pump and a map of the Homestead / Billabong walk [based on the Copland Proposal, refer above] is provided. Visitors are [twice] encouraged to *'take a leisurely stroll'* to the homestead. The *'Meat House'* sign describes the tasks and personnel involved in managing a house without electricity and the operation of the kitchen and laundry. Drawings illustrate a meat safe and the Meat House itself. These signs exhibit the same strengths and weaknesses as signs already located on site [refer analysis of these signs at **Section 7** above].

HISTORICAL PHOTOGRAPHS

A vast collection of historical photographs relating to the Menindee Lakes region and to Kinchega Station is held in various repositories. Some of these various sources are listed below:

The Hughes Family Collection

The Hughes family [at Kars Station and in Adelaide] continue to hold



photographs related to Hughes family's occupancy of Kinchega pastoral station.

The Broken Hill Library Resource Collection

The Broken Hill Library holds a collection of historical photographs related to the Kinchega region.

State Library/Archive collections

Images related to Kinchega, the Menindee Lakes and the Darling River can be found in the State Libraries of Sydney [NSW State Library/Mitchell Library]; Melbourne [State Library of Victoria]; and Adelaide. Many of these pictorial resources are available on the web via the web site <pictureaustralia.org.au> and the Mitchell Library Collection, <slnsw.gov.au/picman>.

A systematic search should be made for additional period photos or artworks relating to Kinchega, the other pastoral Parks and their themes. For Kinchega, the Hughes family archives, located at Kars Station and in Adelaide, may yield more images than they already have. Other possible sources are *Shear Outback*, in Hay, whose research, already far advanced, may have turned up useful images or sources; and the DLWC Menindee Lakes ESD project.

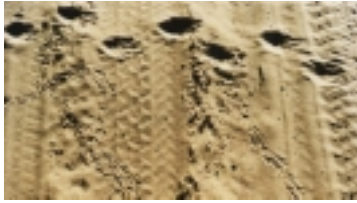
HISTORICAL FILM FOOTAGE OF KINCHEGA STATION

There are a number of film and sound recording resources. *Kinchega: Under New Management* is a 28 minute ABC film, produced in 1982. The visuals are a useful record of scientific research being carried out, particularly on kangaroos. The sound track, however, is somewhat dated, dwelling on the Service's intention to restore Kinchega, '*... as near as possible to what it was*' before pastoralism. Historic heritage does not come into the picture at all, but the footage could have an application in broader Park interpretation. There are no known films or videos of Kinchega Station in operation.

Shear Outback is currently producing a 20-minute audio-visual compilation of documentary and archival footage about shearing and has also researched the depiction of shearers in film and television for other displays. Preliminary discussion indicates an interest on their part in exploring area of mutual interest with NPWS. This opportunity should be pursued. Screensound Australia [formerly the Film and Sound Archive of Australia] has a web site <screensound.gov.au/collections> which provides information on film and sound archives held.

A search of the collection using '**Kinchega**' as a **key word** located a 1965 film entitled *Australian Heritage : Kinchega*, which is a '*...documentary looking at the Kinchega National Park. Scenes include land and wildlife*'. The date of this film is extraordinary as it predates the formation of the National Parks & Wildlife Service, and the declaration of Kinchega National Park, by two years.

A search using '**Menindee**' as a **key word** located three relevant titles: *Big Flood Strikes in the Outback : Menindee*
A 1962 Cinesound film [no. 28958] which looked at the overflowing of



the Menindee Lake in 1962.

Mammoth Task to Mend Menindee Dam : Lake Cawndilla

A 1962 film [no. 209772] about the break in the dam wall of Lake Cawndilla

'Menindee'

A song by Neil Murray, recorded in 1996

A search using **'Darling River'** as a **key word** located a number of relevant titles:

'Down the Rivers with Sturt'

A 1964 educative film [no. 138220] as part of a series 'Men of Stamina', which traced Sturt's exploration of the Darling

Government property : Nothing to do Around Town, Without land we've got Nothing

A 1980 ABC sound documentary [310790] about unemployment and drinking of the Darling River Aborigines; and moves to rediscover cultural identity.

Government property : They went where the work was. A Black Feller was a black feller then.

A 1980 ABC sound documentary [310735] about the employment of Aborigines from the early 1900s to the 1930s and the 'Mission Station's' of the Darling River.

'Down the Darling'

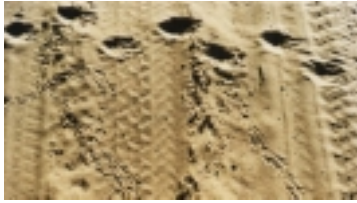
A 1956 documentary [180990] with Harold Dell, of Wilcannia, talking about the first launch ever to be used on the Darling River.

SOUND RECORDINGS

There are probably a number of recordings or transcripts of oral histories relevant to Kinchega or the other pastoral Parks. We know, for example, of the work of Sarah Martin of Broken Hill in recording and transcribing the recollections of Menindee Aboriginal people; and the recording of Peter Beven's reminiscences [Peter was 10 years old when he and his family left Kinchega Homestead No. 2]. There are likely to be other such oral histories which diligent searching may locate.

There is, of course, a great need and potential for an oral history program for Kinchega National Park. Retired shearers or station employees for example, with firsthand experience of these properties in operation, would be a valuable and evocative source of interviews. John and Chris Hughes [Kars Station and Adelaide] should be approached to participate in any oral history project. Other relevant oral history sources would include historians and conservation architects with a particular appreciation of woolsheds and associated buildings.

We understand that *Shear Outback* have already commenced an oral history program; and that the organisation may be willing to share material and contacts.



OBJECTS

There are a number of **artefact collections** within the Kinchega National Park area, as follows:

THE WOOLSHED COLLECTION

This is a potentially valuable interpretative resource. Its condition, organisation and display all require substantial work, before that potential can be realised. A written inventory is required. The provenance and significance of these items needs to be researched, established and documented. Only then can these artefacts be incorporated into interpretation planning. Irrelevant items should be de-accessioned. The remainder needs to be registered, assessed by conservators and treatment carried out as warranted.

THE RANGER'S OFFICE COLLECTION

The Ranger's office houses several shelves of miscellaneous, unidentified stone and wood artefacts, perhaps used as handling material in personal programs. The provenance and significance of these items needs to be researched, established and documented. Only then can they be incorporated into interpretation planning. Several tin woolbale stencils are also present here and are, likewise, objects with evident interpretative potential. They should be registered, conserved and appropriately stored, displayed or handled.

THE WORKS COMPOUND COLLECTION

Behind the shed in the works compound lies an assortment of Aboriginal stone artefacts whose identity and provenance should be documented, if possible, in order to determine their significance and interpretative potential. It is understood that these Aboriginal artefacts were confiscated [and collected] by NPWS Sites Officer, Badger Bates over the past 15 years. Within the works compound shed, 'storage' cupboards [at the front of the shed] hold more stone and metal artefacts and other [reportedly Aboriginal] objects wrapped in newspaper which should be identified and evaluated for interpretative potential. In another shed there are a number of wedge-tailed eagle heads, strung on a piece of wire. If these artefacts date from a period prior to the Park, they may have interpretative potential.

PEOPLE

In addition to the potential oral history sources suggested above, it may be that local Aboriginal people would consent to comment on the traditional significance of relevant sites in the Park. This process has, to a degree, been commenced by the work of Sarah Martin, Badger Bates and Josh Bean. A recent workshop held in connection with this Plan [February 2001] also provided additional information on potential oral history respondents.

The intentions of several western Parks to proceed independently with interpretation projects have been noted above [see Pastoral resources in the NPWS Western Directorate above]. In order to secure the advantages of a coordinated approach to the presentation of the *Western National Parks*, some form of central coordination is necessary to harness and direct energies and resources that may otherwise be dissipated in repetitive [or competitive] exercises. This project should



A VISITOR INTERPRETATION
CENTRE FOR KNP

be undertaken by NPWS Education & Community Programs Directorate in liaison with the Regional Directorates.

A sum of \$30 000, in the current financial year, has been identified to fund a feasibility study for the design of a visitor interpretation centre for Kinchega National Park. The study is now in progress.

10.6 THE LINKING OF INTERPRETATIVE MESSAGES

10.6.1 PREAMBLE

The visitor experience of any tourist destination, including Kinchega National Park, may be conceptualised as a series of six interpretative units in the form of concentric circles, with the [perceived] locus of principal significance at the centre.⁴

Irrespective of the increased significance accorded to *Aboriginal, Transport and Communications* themes at Kinchega, by the new Statement of Cultural Significance, it seems likely that the **perceived** focal point of the visitor experience will be the **Kinchega woolshed**. It must also be remembered that the NPWS does **not** identify increased visitation as an objective of this plan and its implementation. Rather, the Service acknowledges that increasing visitation is inevitable in the context of recent experience and regional trends. Our objective, then, is primarily to provide a high-quality visitor experience to the people who will arrive **anyway** rather than to drum up 'new business'.

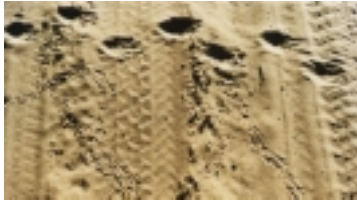
Since we are planning a cultural tourism experience, we need to deliver our first messages where the visitors' awareness of the collection of pastoral Parks, or of Kinchega in particular, begins. This would most appropriately be achieved at some off-site point, distant from the woolshed complex itself. The interpretative efforts will be most successful if we maintain awareness of the visitors' **point of view** and the ways in which that point of view changes as their experience develops.

THE FIRST CIRCLE:
'LOOKING FORWARD ...'

Whether planning a local outing or an extended holiday, **potential visitors are looking forward** to an experience with certain characteristics. Whether they're coming from overseas, interstate, the coastal cities, or a country town, they have to **want** to get to outback NSW in order to become our visitors. This is the time to offer them off-site interpretation of the Service's collection of *Western National Parks*. This outermost circle is the realm of marketing and promotion and its implicit interpretative content.

Considerable promotional resources already exist, in both public and private sectors to encourage tourist visitation to western NSW. The NPWS Education & Community Programs Directorate should take

⁴ The definition of 'linkage' and 'interpretative units' can be found at **Section 7.0** above.



advantage of this situation by ensuring that all existing media [print, broadcast, etc.] promoting Outback NSW include mention of the 'western' National Parks; by producing and supplying the necessary copy, sound and/or visuals to the businesses or agencies concerned; by proposing to defray some of the expenses they incur in modifying their existing media to incorporate this material, in return for the free distribution of these Service messages; by producing a new, full-colour brochure introducing the *Western National Parks*, making this available at existing outlets for Service literature and mailing it out in response to enquiries; by ensuring that all such material accurately represents the significance of the resources mentioned and the nature of the visitor activities available; and by making the text and images from the brochure available on the Service's website, as a distinct visitor experience 'package'.

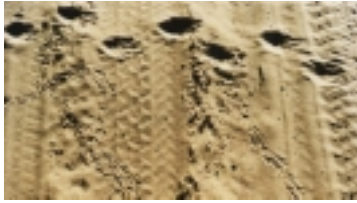
THE SECOND CIRCLE:
'LOOKING FOR ...'

Once the visitors have decided to make Kinchega [or another Park of the Western National Parks] part of their experience and set out to go there, visitors are **looking for** the place. This second circle must support the promotional effort with clear, consistent and attractive directions, both fixed [signage and maps] and portable [brochures and maps]. The visitors have to be **able** to get there. Each Park in the collection should be identified on community kiosk and tourist information centre wall maps in nearby townships; on Tourism NSW maps in regional centres; in NPWS State, Regional, District and collection-specific maps and literature; and in publicly- and privately-produced tourist literature and guide books.

Directional signage for the Park should be posted on major highways both at the exits and one kilometre before exits giving access to routes to the Parks; at the outskirts of nearby communities; at decision points on secondary roads leading towards the Park [this is particularly important in western NSW, where secondary road signage often lacks the frequency and detail that tourists from urban centres are accustomed to]; and at the start of and at decision points along Park access roads.

THE THIRD CIRCLE:
'THE THRESHOLD ...'

As visitors arrive at the entrance to Kinchega National Park, we may think of them as **looking in**, towards the experience to come. At this point, visitors will be most receptive to messages, cues and information that promise, at least, to be of use in the next stage of the experience. This is the place for on-site interpretation of the 'big picture' natural and historic themes and messages that form the context of the individual precincts that visitors will discover during their visit. This is the time to offer a general introduction to the reciprocal influences between humans and the ecology that have shaped the landscapes thorough which visitors will travel. Currently this function is provided by the kiosk located near the Menindee Lake Regulator. The shortcomings of the kiosk and its media have been noted above.



The next two Units, 'looking around' and 'looking out' are concerned, respectively, with the particular elements and features of the individual precincts and their settings. Although the detailed planning of their presentation is the business of a future interpretation planning exercise, at this **strategic** level the linkages of place, theme and message mentioned below are considered appropriate.

THE FOURTH CIRCLE:
'LOOKING AROUND ...'

Once within the boundaries of a given historic group our visitors will be **looking around**, seeking to orient themselves to the layout, resources and significance. Functionally, interpretation here should provide clear directions and suggest appropriate visitation options. Its **principal interpretative messages should explicitly focus on the observable particulars of the group**. At Kinchega there are at least five principal historic groups: i.e. the Woolshed Complex; the Homestead[s] Complex; the *PS Providence* boiler; the Woolshed Wharf and Hotel [?] site; and the Stockyards / Telegraph Line site. Each of these groups will be discussed in turn, particularly in relation to the *NSW Historic Themes*.

The Woolshed Group

Pastoralism

This complex was a workplace

Shearing: how it's done; the infrastructure it requires

Aboriginal contact

[Site of] interaction: their role in shepherding, shearing and other Station functions

Environment

European features: built; fabric and construction of the buildings of the complex; significance of materials and techniques; how they served their original purposes/occupants and other purposes over time

Aboriginal features: their significance

Modified environment: as observable from vantage points in and around the woolshed

National Parks: NPWS objectives in conserving and managing this complex.

Kinchega as first 'western' National Park.

Soil conservation: evidence of effects of pastoral uses; evidence of effects of NPWS management

Transport

The wharf site: significance of the river as a highway of commerce; archaeological evidence [as revealed by future research]

Technology

Evidence of changing shearing technologies and power sources

Evidence of changing sanitation measures

Science

Role of shearers' quarters as accommodation for researchers

Leisure

Recommended visitor circulation paths and activities

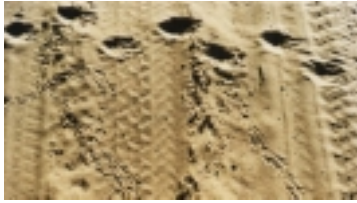
Persons

Places of residence: shearers; the people; the life; the legend

The Homesteads Group

Pastoralism

This was a place of family life



Running a large station required constant 'hands-on' management: status and infrastructure required by station managers

Aboriginal contact

[Site of] interaction: roles and relationships of Aborigines in the domestic life of the homestead

Environment

Natural environment: affordances of the site that caused it to be chosen for the homestead

Modified: the Billabong Regulator, evidence of irrigation

European features: built; physical and documentary evidence of homestead buildings and their functions

Aboriginal features: their significance

National Parks: NPWS' changing objectives and methods over time in conserving and interpreting this complex; exotic flora, 'weeds' and cultural significance

Gardens: physical and documentary evidence of the homestead garden

Technology

The Billabong Regulator

Science

The ongoing KARP archaeology project: its methods, aims and results

Leisure

Pastimes of homestead complex residents

Recommended visitor circulation paths and activities

Death

The Cemetery: unknown burials; *PS Providence* crew burials

Aboriginal burials in the precinct

Persons

Families, dynasties: the Hughes family

Individuals: people known to have lived at the homestead [e.g. P. Beven]; physical evidence

Women and children in a predominantly 'man's world'

Places of residence: daily life and activities of homestead complex residents; work; school; social life; group dynamics

The Providence Group

Exploration

Role of the river in exploration and settlement

Environment

National Parks: why this artefact has been left in situ; how it is being conserved

Transport

Role of the river in commerce; droughts and floods affecting navigation

Technology

Physical and documentary evidence of flaws in boiler manufacture

Death

Crew killed by the boiler explosion; link to Cemetery

Events

Physical evidence and contemporary accounts of the explosion

Ongoing interest in and speculation about this event by steam enthusiasts

Persons

Identities of the crew members killed and the survivor

The Wharf Group

Exploration

Role of the river in exploration and settlement

Transport

Role of the river in commerce; droughts and floods affecting navigation

Pastoralism

The various functions of sheep growing and merchandising



The Stockyards Group

Pastoralism

The vast extent of the original station

Environment

Natural environment: original seasonal lake levels; necessity of mustering sheep across Cawndilla Creek at its [then] narrowest point

European features: location and extent of the stockyards; physical evidence of telegraph line

Modified environment: effects of the Lakes Regulation System on the movement of stock and the subsequent reconfiguration of Kincheha Station

Communication

Telegraph line: as a response to managing vast property; as a local 'first'

Technology

Telegraph line: unusual and innovative approach using trees and fences; extent of area served; likely or documented reliability

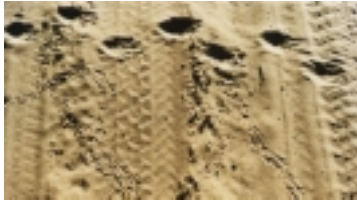
THE FIFTH CIRCLE: 'LOOKING OUT ...'

Next, as they explore the precinct and become comfortable and familiar with its characteristics and its cultural significance, visitors will also begin **looking out** at the surrounding setting of plains and river, lakes and billabongs. This process ideally, reaches its climax at readily accessible vantage points in each precinct. Interpretation, at these points, should summarise the interplay over time of circumstances and values that have created the particular view.

Finally, visitors will be **looking back** on the experience, playing an important part in **re-interpreting** it to other potential visitors and, we hope, **looking forward** to visiting more Parks in the Western NPWS Estate. High-quality literature, video, still images and other interpretation of [and memorabilia about] the collection [and perhaps individual Parks] should be available both on-site and elsewhere. This will equip our visitors not only to look back on a fulfilling experience of western pastoral heritage, but also to share it with others, creating a growing constituency of support for its conservation.

THE SIXTH CIRCLE: 'LOOKING BACK...'

Finally, visitors will be **looking back** on the experience, playing an important part in **re-interpreting** it to other potential visitors and, we hope, **looking forward** to visiting more *Western National Parks*. High-quality literature, video, still images and other interpretation of [and memorabilia about] the collection [and perhaps individual Parks] should be available both on-site and elsewhere. This will equip our visitors not only to look back on a fulfilling experience of western pastoral heritage, but also to share it with others, creating a growing constituency of support for its conservation.



10.7 THE INTERPRETATIVE MEDIA

10.7.1 SELECTION CRITERIA AND PERFORMANCE OBJECTIVES

This section of the Interpretation Strategy deals with the physical means [media] that should be used to convey interpretative messages to the visitor. We are concerned here, not primarily with the content of these messages; but rather with how the media should look, last and function; in order to get the interpretative messages across as clearly, attractively and cost-efficiently as possible.

GRAPHIC IDENTITY : ALL MEDIA

A symbol or logo should be developed for the *Western National Parks*, to be used in all interpretative and promotional media. This symbol should be distinct from existing [or future] site-specific logos. This logo should be a visually arresting, strong, clear, sophisticated graphic image that reads well in two colours, both with and without the signature phrase, *Western National Parks*. It must be strong and attractive and, on its intrinsic merits, an 'object of desire'. To put it simply, we want people to buy products [caps, T-shirts, towels, mugs, etc] **because** they carry this image.

This has little to do with revenue generation, although it should, at least, be self-funding. 'Word of souvenir' has joined 'word of mouth' as a most pervasive and perceptible form of endorsement [even if what is actually being endorsed is an example of effective graphic design].

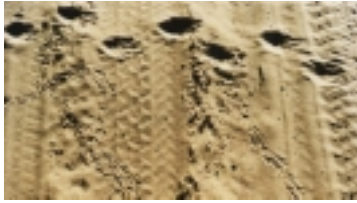
ON-SITE SIGNAGE

On-site signage provides the most practical and cost-efficient means of communicating interpretative messages at outdoor locations and anything more 'high-tech' would not be appropriate [or viable] in Kinchega's historic and natural precinct. Signage at all visitor facilities and introductory/orientation signage at each historic precinct should be highly visible, distinctive and attractive in design. Signage design will be generally guided by the *NPWS Signage Manual* as to its format and dimensions. The following criteria are additional to any existing graphic standards usually applied by the Service to functional or interpretative on-site signage.

THE ON-SITE SIGN CRITERIA

The on-site signage should be durable; waterproof; non-fading; low maintenance; secure from theft and vandalism; and have universally accessible - mountings [children/handicapped]; and have a hardened viewing area in front of signage, as required to prevent unsightly wear.

The **visual** criteria for the signs are that they should have a clear identity. They should show the Western NPWS Estate logo and subtle stylistic differences to identify Kinchega as distinct from, yet clearly related to, other National Parks. The signs should be clear and uncluttered and they should avoid visual clutter [two Service standard 600 mm by 450 mm panels as a maximum, should suffice]; they should present short paragraphs with ample 'negative space', large, clear, serif fonts; and flush left, ragged right text layout.



The signs should also be consistent, and have three point sizes for body text corresponding to the three levels of interpretation; and the icons should denote major themes. The signs should have strong, clear colours, [avoid natural steel/aluminium finishes which can be blinding at Kinchega!]; and illustrations should be used whenever possible. These illustrations should depict a person, thing, activity or function related to the text; and the captions should, whenever possible, replace [but not duplicate] body copy. Period illustrations should be used from historic resources if available. If such illustrations are unavailable, commission the required illustrations.

In terms of **content**, the signs should have minimal text, i.e. 85 word maximum for distinct sections of body text and all texts should be drawn verbatim or adapted from the Storyline. The text should avoid jargon, specialised vocabulary, bureaucratic tone, the passive voice and grammatical complexity; and aim for the intelligent 12 year old [Flesch-Kincaid score between 6 and 8].

OFF-SITE SIGNAGE AND OTHER PRINT MEDIA

Functional and directional signage for the *Western National Parks* should be consistent across the collection as follows. The palette of colours should evoke those of the historic resources [say, grey for weathered timber and brick red] as well as of the natural setting [saltbush, bluebush, redsoil and blue water]. On major highways/freeways the signs should be placed one kilometre before exits giving access to routes to the Park, and at the exits.

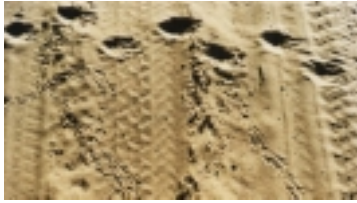
OFF-SITE SIGN CRITERIA

These signs should be rectangular landscape format, freestanding, on two posts, or incorporated into existing highway 'next turnoff' and exit' signage. They should be of one line only with logo and signature at left and Park name [i.e. Kinchega National Park].

At the outskirts of nearby communities and at decision points on secondary roads leading towards the Park entrance the signs should be rectangular, landscape format, freestanding and appropriate end pointed. The text should be one line with logo and signature at left and Park name [i.e. Kinchega National Park]. Signs should be in a typeface distinctive to the *Western National Parks*.

At the start of and at decision points along Park [or precinct] access roads, the signs should be square, freestanding and appropriate end pointed. The signs should have logo **only**, no signature, and no type.

On community kiosk and tourist information centre wall maps in nearby townships and on Tourism NSW maps in regional centres and in NPWS State, regional, district and collection-specific maps and literature, the signs should have logo **only** locating Park on map; logo with Park name on map key; and Service to produce and supply artwork/stickers for this purpose and liaise at appropriate levels



10.7.2 OTHER INTERPRETATIVE MEDIA

Clearly, there is more to be said about the ecology and pastoral [and post-pastoral] history of Kinchega National Park than can be accommodated on the amount of introductory on-site signage that visitors will tolerate on arrival. In theory, media options range from portable print, through audio-visual, film and video presentations, to high-tech interactive CD-ROMs and other electronic databases. Their feasibility depends on the resources available to produce them and the existence of appropriate physical spaces for their presentation.

Portable print media have the advantages of on- and off-site use, timing and pace at the visitors' discretion and promotional as well as interpretative value. Their written content will already exist in the form of the Park/collection Storyline. Images and graphics are more readily and cheaply available for print than for more sophisticated media. Initial design and production are relatively inexpensive, although this option carries an implicit commitment to periodic updating and reprinting. Flexibility of distribution is another important advantage.

Audio-visual presentations, although a comparatively inexpensive way to deliver high-quality images and sound, require dedicated, indoor venues and monitoring, adjustment and maintenance by on-site staff. DVD and other computer based technologies are less mechanically complex than the traditional multi-projector, slide a/v presentation, but there is, pending improvements, some loss of the picture-quality that is the principal strength of this medium.

Film and video are relatively complex and expensive media to plan and produce. However, they can be shown virtually anywhere, as well as broadcast. Production is a one-off expense. Periodic replacement with duplicates is inexpensive and disk-format videos are, to all intents and purposes, eternal. Once captured, these images and sounds can be reconfigured for use in a variety of media, for both promotional and interpretative purposes.

Interactive CD-ROM is a flexible, increasingly familiar and popular way of presenting complex, multi-layered interpretative material. It is extremely complex and expensive to plan, program and produce. Interpretation of the Outback Heritage collection, alone, would not justify the cost of this medium. When, however, the Service produces a CD-ROM guide to its resources and programs, both the collection and its individual Parks should be included. The writing and sound- and image-capture required to produce other media will be readily available and adaptable to this format.

The Service already operates its own **website** on the **internet**. At comparatively little expense, the appropriate promotional and directional print material, as well as the 'Outback Heritage' collection



Storyline could be made available on the website. Information and interpretation for the individual Parks and their historic precincts could be added as submenus to the collection file, as they become available. The *Shear Outback* website <www.shearoutback.com.au> is a good example of this medium in practice.

At Kinchega and perhaps other *Western National Parks* is a substantial collection of **artefacts**, large and small, of both Aboriginal and European origin. The shortcomings of their current use and display have been noted above. Properly conserved, interpreted and displayed, these resources have the potential to add a valuable dimension to Kinchega's presentation.

The popular appeal of **megafauna** and its relevance to this Park also offer exciting exhibit options. These might combine palaeontological evidence, collected in the Park, with models of the creatures in dioramas of earlier environments. This approach was used with great success in the Australian Museum's long-running exhibition *Dreamtime to Dust*. Perhaps TAM could be induced to make the design specifications for the megafauna models used in that exhibition available for reproduction. Exhibits would also offer an opportunity to make use of more of the images, maps and other documentary resources associated with Kinchega's history, as well as to present oral histories in recorded or video formats.

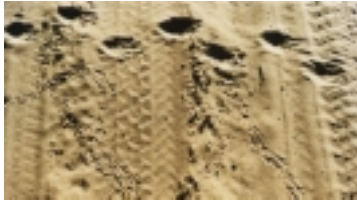
As all the Park's historic groups except the Woolshed group are outdoors, this option would necessitate creation of some dedicated, indoor interpretative facility with space and services beyond those presently available in the shearers' quarters. Exhibit security, like the A/V option, would also require a full time-staff presence.

10.7.3 MEDIA PRODUCTION COSTS

Pending the completion of interpretative planning for Kinchega and the other Western NPWS Estate, most production costs cannot be usefully estimated, as both quantities and locations are unknown. For media recommendations not dependent on these factors, a notional figure is given here, for the rest, only the budget cost items are identified.

MEDIA PRODUCTION COSTS

Graphic identity	
Design of logo, as specified	\$2 500
Outdoor media	
<i>Graphic design costs</i> , for final, digitised artwork	TBD
<i>Production costs</i> , based on silk-screen [or digital printing] on aluminium, overlaminated with anti-vandalism finish and double-coated with clear protective finish	TBD
<i>Mounting</i> , including backings, plinths, posts or armatures, as required	TBD
<i>Installation</i> , [perhaps Service person/hours]	TBD
Print	
<i>An Outback Heritage</i>	



Estimated costs for planning, editing, design and production, to finished art on disk	\$10 000
<i>Printing costs</i> would depend on the quantity of the run	TBD
Video	
Research, planning, scripting, filming, editing, mixing	\$15 000
Resource requirements	
Sub-project as outlined above, assuming total out-sourcing	\$15 000
Off-site signage	
As specified above, quantity survey required	TBD
Website Outback Heritage file	
As recommended at NPWS, in-house	TBD

10.8 INTERPRETATIVE MEDIA STRATEGIES

*Interpretative Strategy No. 1
 On- and off-site signage
 recommendations*

Design and apply logo; plan, design, produce and install interpretative signage; and design, produce and install functional signage.

*Interpretative Strategy No. 2
 Resource requirement recommendations*

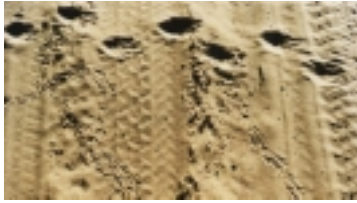
The following tasks should be carried out as a single, high-priority sub-project, in order to avoid delay and duplication from Park to Park, in media design and production:

- *An inventory of existing still photographs, drawings and paintings, together with the relevant ownership and copyright information is required to support both collection-level interpretation of the Western Pastoral Heritage Parks and individual site plans, including Kincheга's. This should be supplemented with new commissioned photography, as identified in detailed media planning.*
- *It is imperative that the Service identify, inventory and acquire the necessary rights to existing relevant motion footage to support both on- and off-site interpretation and promotion of its historic pastoral resources in a variety of media formats. As noted, Shear Outback has already done most of the spadework [and production] for shearing-related footage.*
- *Further research is required to identify and inventory existing audio resources.*
- *As a matter of urgency, the Service should commission a series of oral history interviews with former Kincheга residents, employees and other people having a significant association with the place. 'Oral' histories, these days, should be captured on video and still photographs/slides taken of their subjects, whenever the subjects will permit it.*

*Interpretative Strategy No. 3
 Print media recommendations*

The Western National Parks project should produce a distinctive family of interpretative and promotional literature, including:

- *An Outback Heritage
 A '4-colour, glossy' guide containing the complete collection Storyline, illustrated with appropriate graphics and images and outlining the history, features, activities and use options of the various Parks.*
- *A new, 4-colour brochure introducing the Western Pastoral Heritage Collection to be available at existing outlets for Service literature and mailed out in response to enquiries.*



- *Other print media*
Design and graphic standards should be developed to guide use of the collection Logo and the production of collection and site-specific posters, post cards, a Seasons on the Land calendar and other retail and promotional items.

*Interpretative Strategy No. 4
Film and video recommendations*

*Planning and production of a short [say, 12 minute] video should be commissioned, for use throughout the collection. Its objective would be to interpret 'generic pastoral' messages common or to all or most of the Parks in the collection, such as 'The Process of Shearing a Sheep'. This will avoid the duplication of these messages from place to place in other formats. It will also permit site interpretation to concentrate on the elements and features that make each place **distinctive** [rather than 'just another ... woolshed ... homestead ... etc.] This would be available for viewing on-site [as determined by individual Park interpretation plans].*

*Interpretative Strategy No. 5
Electronic media recommendations*

Create a Western National Parks file on the NPWS website. Present illustrated promotional and directional material and the collection Storyline in this format. Add Park-specific material as submenus, as it becomes available.

*Interpretative Strategy No. 6
KNP Visitor Centres*

Use the existing 'Visitor Centre' and its adjoining office spaces [or an equivalent area in the same building] to create a dedicated interpretation space for the Woolshed Complex, incorporating 3D exhibits, graphics, displays of period and contemporary images and documents relating to the precinct and facilities for viewing the 'generic pastoral' video recommended above. Establish a **Visitor Interpretation Centre** to provide the 'threshold' interpretative functions discussed above. Further recommendations with respect to the siting, configuration, content and other characteristics of this facility will be outputs of the Feasibility Study now in progress.

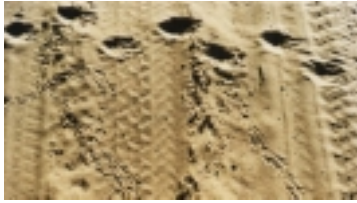
*Interpretative Strategy No. 7
Personal Programs*

***Review all existing personal program scripts for accuracy and document sources** of the information and interpretative messages communicated.*

***Develop and apply evaluation criteria** for staff training in personal programs and for actual program delivery.*

***Personal programs should not necessarily be limited to guided tours.** Living history, role-play performances, folksongs, demonstrations and special events are examples of personal programs that can enliven presentation of historic sites. Personal programs at each Park or precinct will be predominantly concerned with particulars of the place itself. At the same time, Rangers [and commercial tour guides or others delivering these programs] should have thorough familiarity with the collection Storyline. They should be prepared to relate the site and its features to the broader context of the Outback Heritage collection, to answer questions about the collection and to direct visitors to sources of further information.*

Identify additional opportunities for personal programs in the context of individual Park interpretation plans. Prepare, document and deliver them, as resources permit. Evaluate them.



10.9 IMPLEMENTING THE INTERPRETATION AND CULTURAL TOURISM PLAN

10.9.1 PRIORITIES FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS STRATEGY

Investigation of the feasibility of various options for provision of a Visitor Centre for KNP is currently under way. The preparation of the detailed Interpretation Plan for Kinchega according to the concepts and criteria set out in the Strategy and the opportunities and constraints identified in the Feasibility Study is the first priority. Tasks should be performed in the following order:

The following immediate [one year] Stage 1 implementation is proposed:

- Prepare an inventory of existing still photographs, drawings and paintings relating to the Western NPWS Estate, together with the relevant ownership and copyright information.
- Commission any new photography required to illustrate the collection in all media.
- Identify, inventory and acquire the necessary rights to existing relevant motion footage and commission additional footage as required to support both on- and off-site interpretation and promotion of its lighthouse resources in a variety of media formats.
- Identify and inventory existing audio resources.
- Commission a series of oral history interviews with identified people 'oral' histories, which should be captured on video and still photographs/ slides taken of their subjects, whenever the subjects will permit it.
- Commission writing of the collection Storyline. Consider using the *Historical Overview* in this document as a model to be expanded to fulfil this function.
- Commission design of the collection logo.

The following immediate [one year] Stage 2 implementation is proposed:

- **Outdoor Signage** [on-site and off-site]
Preliminary development and design; formative evaluation and consultation with stakeholders; final design.
- *An Outback Heritage* – the guidebook
- *Click Go the Shears*, the 'generic pastoral' video.
Commission planning and production of a ±12 minute video.
- *An Outback Heritage* – the NPWS website file.
Design and produce this file.
- **Program evaluation** [see below]
Commission evaluation of interpretation programs within 3 months of their becoming fully operational.
- **Other print media**
Develop design and graphic standards and licensing terms to guide use of the collection logo on retail and promotional items;



and co-ordinate production of collection-and site-specific posters, post cards, a *Seasons on the Land* calendar and other retail and promotional items, in consultation with the Shared Histories : Pastoralism project.

The following mid term [two to five year] implementation is proposed:

- Commission preparation of individual Interpretation Plans for Sturt, Mungo, Willandra and Peery National Parks.
- Update individual Park Visitor Guides as per interpretation plans.
- Program evaluation [see below].
- Commission evaluation of each Park's interpretation programs within 3 months of their implementation.
- Incorporate *Outback Heritage* information and interpretation into eventual NPWS CD ROM. Plan and implement distribution, including our overseas embassies, consulates and tourism offices.

The following long term [five to ten year] implementation is proposed:

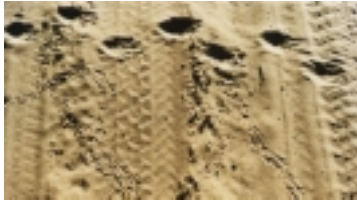
- Review the collection-level Interpretation Plan, in the year following review of this CM&CTP and implement the recommendations of the review.
- Review individual Park Interpretation Plans in the year following review of their Statements of Cultural Significance and implement the recommendations of the review.

10.9.2 IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS STRATEGY : BRIEFING

The Shared Histories : Pastoralism project should develop a Project Brief or Briefs for the implementation of this strategy. This could be done by means of separate Briefs covering Planning [research and writing], Design, Production/Fabrication and Installation/ Distribution. This approach would require the Committee to be involved as the hands-on project manager at each stage. An alternative would be to outsource planning and project management for the whole *Outback Heritage* interpretation project, by means of a single Brief.

The Brief should include:

- Title: **Outback Heritage of New South Wales: Interpretation Planning and Production.**
- The background as given at Section 7.0 of this document.
- The **Aim of the Project** stated as the **provision of all planning, research, writing, design and production services and materials required to implement the recommendations of the Interpretation Strategy portion of the NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service's Kinchega National Park Conservation Management and Cultural Tourism Plan.**
- Specification of the physical locations for interpretation.



- A list of **Information Available**, namely, the resources discussed above and this strategy.
- Specification as to who will supervise work on the contract.
- Outline of work to be completed, i.e. research and writing of the interpretative Storyline; sourcing of all graphic, photographic and other illustrative material for interpretation and securing of necessary authorisations; consultation with Service site managers to determine final locations; and final text and illustrations for all signs, labels, captions and other printed material.
- Specification of commencement date and target date for completion of any identified substages and of the whole project.
- Indication of the total project budget inclusive of all expenses, professional fees and GST.

10.9.3 EVALUATION AND REVIEW

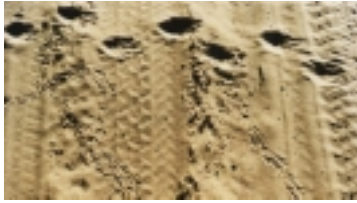
Best-practice interpretation is a demanding exercise. It requires considerable commitments of time and funds and produces results that are essential to meeting resource management objectives. We need to be able to ensure that those commitments are made prudently and to demonstrate that the desired results have in fact been achieved. We can meet both these requirements through program evaluation and review. In order to be accountable, both to the Service and to the public, the NPWS should undertake two stages of evaluation: during the design and in use.

10.10 REVIEW

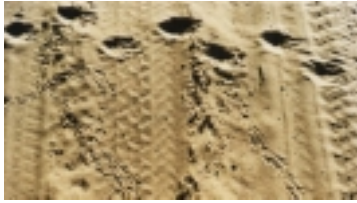
The Kinchega National Park Interpretation Plan **and** the *Western National Parks* Interpretation Plan should be reviewed every five years, in the year following review of this Conservation Management and Cultural Tourism Plan. The interpretation should then be amended to reflect any changes in the CM&CTP, as well as evolving theory, new evidence and new interpretation techniques. Additional individual Park site Interpretation Plans should be reviewed regularly, say at five year intervals, and amended to reflect evolving theory, new evidence and new interpretation techniques.

10.11 MAINTENANCE AND RECAPITALISATION

The finished artwork and masters for all media should be retained by the Service and appropriately stored. An amount equal to five percent of actual media production costs should be budgeted annually for maintenance and refurbishment of interpretative media and updating/reprinting *An Outback Heritage*, as required. All interpretative installations should be included in regularly scheduled maintenance inspections. **Any damaged or deteriorated media should be repaired or replaced promptly as it will rapidly detract from the perceived value of the resource.**



At five-yearly intervals, in the year following the review of the Statement of Cultural Significance, the Service should commission a review of this Strategy and of the detailed Interpretation Plan. An amount equal to the complete design and production cost of existing media, plus the appropriate CPI increments, should be budgeted for implementation of the recommendations of that review.



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CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT & CULTURAL TOURISM PLAN • 2002

APPENDIX A

APPENDIX A

NPWS BRIEF FOR THIS PLAN : 2000

NSW NATIONAL PARKS & WILDLIFE SERVICE



BRIEF FOR THE PREPARATION OF A CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT & CULTURAL TOURISM PLAN FOR THE KINCHEGA WOOLSHED COMPLEX, OLD HOMESTEAD COMPLEX AND ASSOCIATED HISTORICAL PLACES

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS or Service) is legislatively responsible for environmental land management and conservation of places of natural and cultural heritage value. The Kinchega Woolshed and Old Kinchega Homestead near Menindee are part of the Kinchega National Park.

The Service requires a suitably qualified consultant with experience in cultural and natural heritage management and cultural tourism to prepare a Conservation Management and Cultural Tourism Plan (CMP) for the Kinchega Woolshed Complex, Old Homestead Complex and associated historical places. The Consultant(s) will be expected to utilise multi-disciplinary skills to undertake this project within a tight budget and timeframe, with completion to a standard suitable for submission to the NSW Heritage Council and public exhibition by 31 January 2001.

This Conservation Management and Cultural Tourism Plan will articulate a high level policy framework for the Kinchega Woolshed Complex, Old Homestead Complex and associated historical places. It will form the basis for the overall strategic management of these places to facilitate their long term conservation and future use as a cultural tourism destination inline with NPWS management objectives. The Plan must comprehensively address the total environment of the place, that is its cultural heritage (Aboriginal and non-indigenous) and natural heritage significance values, curtilage(s), as well as relevant environmental planning controls on its periphery.

The plan will need to utilise existing policies, in particular the Kinchega National Park Plan of Management (NPWS 1999), and formulate new conservation policies that satisfy current conservation and planning requirements to facilitate appropriate management of the places. It is essential that the document identifies the philosophy and sets the direction for overall conservation of the Kinchega Woolshed Complex, Old Homestead Complex and associated historical places within the context of

envisioned future use and an ongoing public role. As such the Plan will set parameters that identify opportunities and constraints to guide the introduction of compatible adaptive reuse of the site and Woolshed buildings. In addition to conservation and future management issues, the following areas will need to be addressed; interpretation, archaeological management, cultural landscape, development control and design guidelines, species management and natural landscape management.

The Conservation Management and Cultural Tourism Plan will rely on the review of existing historical information, research, and management plans as well as further investigation into other sources of historical information.

2.0 BACKGROUND

Kinchega National Park (NP) holds a special place in the national park system of western NSW. It is the oldest national park in the west Darling country, is readily accessible from Broken Hill and is a popular destination for tourists in the west Darling country. Therefore, it has a primary role of promoting, amongst its visitors, an awareness of the landscapes, plant and animal communities and cultural resources of the whole of western NSW.

The Kinchega Woolshed Complex (including the woolshed, quarters, cookhouse, stores and items on display around the complex) is recognised as being of State Significance. It is listed on the State Heritage Register under the NSW Heritage Amendment Act 1998 as well as listed on the NSW NPWS Historic Places Register.

The Kinchega National Park Plan of Management states that:

- A conservation plan will be prepared for the precincts of the homestead ruins and woolshed before development, stabilisation or interpretation.
- The homestead ruins will be interpreted in accordance with the recommendations of the conservation plan.

There have been growing local community and stakeholder concerns about the future use and management of Kinchega National Park. The Kinchega Woolshed Complex, Old Homestead Complex and associated historical places are highly regarded for their cultural values and there is considerable social attachment to the place by local and regional communities, as well as descendants of workers and managers of Kinchega Station. The Consultant(s) will need to respond to community concerns and ensure consideration of their views in the compilation of the Conservation Management and Cultural Tourism Plan.

3.0 PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The Conservation Management and Cultural Tourism Plan must provide a clear philosophy and strategic direction for the conservation and retention of the heritage values of the Kinchega Woolshed Complex, Old Homestead Complex and associated historical places within a framework that directs the future of the place as a regional cultural tourism destination. It must present overall policies as well as detailed

policies for the conservation of the whole of the site to guide the conservation of cultural and natural heritage values that respond to and guide the NPWS conservation and management objectives for the place.

The Conservation Management and Cultural Tourism Plan will focus on the two main precincts associated with Kinchega pastoral station – the Woolshed Complex and the Old Kinchega Homestead Complex. In addition the plan will provide general policies for those historic sites/places within Kinchega National Park that are associated with the two main precincts.

Specific conservation areas and policies issues that need to be addressed are covered in Section 6 of this brief.

To meet the project objectives, it is essential that the Conservation Management and Cultural Tourism Plan address the following aspects:

- The balanced and compatible management of cultural (Indigenous and non-indigenous) and natural heritage values of the study area;
- Consideration of the cultural significance of the individual sites as well as their contribution to a representative collection of the pastoral industry in NSW and beyond;
- NPWS management framework, legislative requirements and other stakeholder issues related to the management of the Kinchega Woolshed Complex, Old Homestead Complex and associated historical places;
- The plan must be presented in an easily understood and user-friendly format for non technical users;
- The plan will form the basis for reviewed Plan of Management recommendations for each site;
- Provide development control planning to provide appropriate guidance for appropriate conservation/development management of the place and its multiple uses including its ongoing public role and conservation/adaptation for new uses so as to ensure the retention and enhancement of the diverse significant heritage values;
- Maximising cultural tourism opportunities for management that provides revenue return or guaranteed revenue support that supports significant heritage values.

4.0 STUDY AREA

A Study Area Site Plan is shown in Attachment 1. The Conservation Management and Cultural Tourism Plan will take a holistic landscape approach to the development of conservation and management guidelines and policy, and identify historic or thematic precincts within the study area. The study will focus on the Kinchega Woolshed Complex and the Old Kinchega Homestead Complex; and will provide general policies for any other associated sites, buildings and landscape features. A listing of some of these places is provided in Attachment 2.

5.0 PLAN METHODOLOGY

The Conservation Management Plan will be prepared in accordance with the philosophy and definitions as set out in the *Burra Charter* and *Guidelines to the Burra Charter* issued by Australia ICOMOS; the *International Cultural Tourism Charter* (as adopted by ICOMOS 1999); Australian Heritage *Commission's Australian Natural Heritage Charter*; J.S. Kerr's Conservation Plan; the NSW Heritage Manual; Heritage Office CMP guidelines; as well as any additional requirements which need to be considered to satisfy legislative and management needs of the NPWS, Far West Region and the NSW Heritage Council.

6.0 REPORT CONTENTS

The Conservation Management Plan is to include but not be limited to the following information:

6.1 Introduction

- Executive Summary of Recommendations
- Table of Contents
- Background
- Report Objectives
- Report Structure
- Overall Location Plan
- Scope of CMP
- Authorship
- Documentary Sources
- Report Limitations
- Acknowledgments

6.2 Contextual Historical Overview

Provide a short but comprehensive thematic historical overview of the study area and surrounding context in terms of its cultural and natural values; from earliest Aboriginal use and settlement (pre and post contact), a history of pastoral industry development along the Darling River (specifically in the Menindee area and Kinchega NP and including a history of Aboriginal involvement in the pastoral industry), exploration, transportation, tenure, management, technology and landscape changes and subsequent uses. The historical overview should clearly identify the AHC national themes, State Heritage Inventory (SHI) State themes and relevant local historical sub-themes.

It is anticipated that the Consultant(s) will refer to and reuse the existing body of historical information, including historical photos, maps and plans where practicable, that have been collated for this site. The Service will provide access to all detailed studies and works that have been undertaken in the study area.

Copies of any source materials collected will become the property of NPWS on the completion of this project.

6.3 Cultural and Natural Features Overview and Description

Provide a comprehensive overview of the present site features in relation to its cultural and natural values. This section must contain sufficient information about the diverse cultural and natural resources that comprise the Kinchega site complex to underpin a comprehensive assessment and statement of significance, and the development of appropriate and comprehensive conservation and management policies and implementation to be developed as part of this CMP.

The Consultant will need to address the overall context and site nominated in the Study Area for Kinchega Woolshed Complex, Old Homestead Complex and associated historical places (see Attachment 1 Study Area Site Plan). The Consultant(s) will need to nominate precincts within the overall area that are appropriate to the sensible description and management of the total resource. These precincts will form the basis for the assessment and statement of significance and further reports and studies that may be required for the Kinchega Woolshed Complex, Old Homestead Complex and associated historical places to fulfil other obligations under the NSW Heritage Act or for other management requirements.

For the purposes of this brief the natural, Aboriginal and non-indigenous cultural resources are presented as distinct items, although the Consultant(s) should treat the diverse resource as the total environment and consider it in an integrated manner, in its description, assessment of significance and policy formulation. In particular it is expected that the Consultant(s) will provide an integrated assessment of the Aboriginal and non-indigenous post-contact work histories associated with the pastoral station.

Aboriginal Heritage

Present an overview of the Aboriginal pre and post contact sites, artefacts, archaeological material and other Aboriginal cultural associations or values within the Study Area. The overview must also include information and analysis of these sites within the context of Aboriginal heritage in the Menindee Lakes area. It is envisaged that description of Aboriginal pre and post contact sites within the Kinchega Woolshed Complex and Old Homestead Complex precincts will include a description and analysis of the condition and integrity of items and features, as appropriate.

Information about recent consultation with Aboriginal communities should be included.

The Consultant(s) must be aware of and demonstrate sensitivity to Aboriginal issues around confidential information in relation to Aboriginal heritage and ensure its management in accordance with the wishes of those who provide the information. It should be noted that the Conservation Management Plan is being prepared as a management document that will be made available to the public.

The NPWS Aboriginal Sites Register should be consulted for information about known and potential sites within the Study Area.

The Consultant(s) will need to liaise directly with the NPWS Aboriginal Heritage Division, as well as the local Aboriginal community.

It is anticipated that the Consultant(s) will reuse existing site information that has been collated as part of earlier projects for this site where it exists and is of acceptable standard.

Non-indigenous Heritage

Present an overview and description of the non-indigenous heritage values of the Kinchega Study Area. The overview must also include information and analysis of the cultural heritage values within the context of the site and in comparison with other similar sites in NSW and Australia.

In addition, the following information should be provided:

- Present contextual description of the overall site, precincts, individual buildings and other structures, archaeological features and movable heritage items and their surrounding context;
- Description accompanied with site plans and floor plans of individual buildings and building groups, historic contents, archaeological features, movable heritage items and other elements. Consultant(s) can utilise and update/expand existing individual inventory sheets for buildings;
- Site plans noting significant plantings/site features,
- Heritage curtilage/s for the cultural and natural surrounding noting vistas and views;
- Survey of the fabric of the site, building and other structures and features, noting original and later building fabric and site modifications;
- Integrity and condition of site, buildings, other structures and features;
- Description of potential historic archaeological sites and areas;
- Movable heritage items;
- A short overview of the development of buildings and infrastructure, machinery, post-contact camps, residences and site design and construction. This will highlight typical and unique features of the early settlement and the pastoral industry collectively and individually.

It is anticipated that the Consultant(s) will reuse the extensive historical, building and site information, where practicable, that has been collated as part of earlier projects for the site.

Natural Heritage

Present an overview and description of the natural heritage values of the Kinchega Study Area. The overview must also include information and analysis of the natural heritage within the context of the Menindee Lakes area and beyond. Particular attention must be paid to species that are rare or endangered across the site.

This section should also include the condition and integrity of items and features, as appropriate including their erosion risk and population threats and capacity to cope with increased public usage.

It is anticipated that Consultant(s) will refer to and reuse existing natural heritage information, where practical, that has been collated as part of earlier projects for this site and in particular refer to the objectives and policies presented in the Plan of Management.

Interpretation

Present an overview and description of the existing and potential interpretation for the cultural heritage values of the Kinchega Study Area. The overview must also include information and analysis of the interpretation within the context of the region and State, and similar places throughout Australia.

The overview should include written and mapped information about known and potential interpretation for the Kinchega site complex. A range of signage styles and site based interpretation exists for the Homestead and Woolshed complexes. The scale of visitation and uncontrolled visitor traffic through the Homestead site have created some concern as to how best to manage visitor passage through the site. The Consultant(s) should consider the existing interpretation and suggest options for re-use of existing interpretive material or the introduction of new interpretive material that is consistent with the maintenance of the cultural heritage values of the places. It should include on site and off site programs, through a range of media including displays, signage, public and self-guided tours

The Consultant(s) must be aware of and demonstrate sensitivity to Aboriginal issues around confidential information in relation to the interpretation of Aboriginal heritage and ensure its management in accordance with the wishes of those who provide the information.

It is anticipated that the Consultant(s) will refer to and reuse existing interpretation information, where practical, that has been collated as part of earlier projects for this site.

6.4 Assessment of Cultural Significance

The assessment of cultural significance should convey an overview of the dynamic process of use and change of the landscape, buildings, infrastructure and machinery to the present day as a representative collection and individual basis within the pastoral industry of western NSW, and Australia as a whole.

This process should take into consideration an assessment of the full range of cultural and natural heritage values, including the:

- Historical, social, architectural, aesthetic (landmark scenic), scientific, and natural heritage values as well as the relative rarity and representative values;
- Historical themes that can be used to provide a state-wide thematic context for the significance assessment and interpretation of these places;
- Natural significance of its ecosystems;
- Relative significance of components of the building fabric, site and landscape features, and appropriate levels of conservation and/or modification or adaptation;
- A Summary Statement of Significance which considers the Kinchega Woolshed Complex, Old Homestead Complex and associated historical places within the broader state and national context as well as site specific context.
- Potential to provide interpretation and understanding of the Significance of the Kinchega Woolshed Complex, Old Homestead Complex and associated historical places.

Reuse of existing cultural assessment and statement information is preferable. Limited original research and other details are only envisaged where insufficient is already available.

Statement of Significance

The summary statement of significance must synthesise all of the essential aspects of the cultural and natural values for the Kincheha Woolshed Complex, Old Homestead Complex and associated historical places. The Statement should also address the overall significance of the precincts.

It must consider the Kincheha site complex within its local, regional, state and national context as well as its site-specific context. The levels of significance should be clearly defined and derived from the preceding sections of the report.

A table of relative significance of all items of built, landscape and other fabric will need to be prepared to guide the conservation management of individual items.

6.5 Policy Formulation

The formulation of policy will need to consider a range of issues including the following contextual as well as site specific conservation and management issues:

- Retention of cultural and natural significance values of the setting and features of the Kincheha Woolshed Complex, Old Homestead Complex and associated historical places;
- Opportunities and constraints arising from the statement of significance and other factors;
- Statutory and non-statutory planning and heritage management requirements including NPW Act, Heritage Act and EPA Act as well as OH & S requirements and other compliances;
- NPWS management obligations for both natural and cultural resources within a local, regional and state, national and international context;
- NPWS management objectives and long term conservation outcomes for the place as a regional cultural tourism destination;
- NPWS planning requirements and other management documents including the Kincheha National Park Plan of Management;
- Appropriate consultation with key stakeholders and local Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal community representatives;
- Any other relevant issues.

6.6 Conservation Policies and Guidelines

This section will build on the Policy Formulation as outlined in section 6.5. It will present:

- high level conceptual policies to guide the overall conservation, management and cultural tourism and adaptive re-use of the Kincheha Woolshed Complex, Old Homestead Complex and associated historical places;
- detailed policies for individual features, elements and items; and
- detailed specific issue policies to assist in the operational management of the place.

The Conservation Policies and Guidelines must be presented in a clear, easily read and user friendly format, suitable for non-technical users.

Policies will need to address and not be limited to the following issues:

- Retention and management of significance;
 - Ensuring management and conservation are achievable objectives given resources;
 - Recognition and management of the complex nature of significance within the context of the future use of the place as a regional cultural tourism destination;
 - Making the significance accessible to the public;
 - Ensuring NPWS corporate values are met and communicated in this document;
 - Any other high-level policy issues;
-
- Review and updating of this Plan;
 - Public accessibility to the Conservation Management Plan;
 - Other conservation planning or scheduling required ie precinct conservation plans or scheduling and other detailed conservation plans eg building plans and plans for moveable objects;
 - Appropriate public interpretation of the cultural and natural values of the place which is both place specific and extends NPWS core public education values;
 - Managing Visitor Usage and Impacts;
 - Natural heritage - geodiversity including topography, soils and biodiversity;
 - Aboriginal heritage;
 - Conservation of known and potential historic archaeological sites through the preparation of an archaeological management planning policy;
 - Movable heritage;
 - Landscape elements;
 - Archives and records;
 - Elements removed from the site that survive elsewhere;
 - Built Heritage – buildings, site works and services;
 - Conservation management of external and internal building fabric, site and cultural landscapes;
 - Cyclical maintenance;
 - Compatible adaptive reuse of the buildings of the Woolshed Complex;
 - Acceptable limits of change/alterations/modifications to the site and buildings to accommodate any proposed new uses;
 - Development controls for new works or alterations/additions, appropriate site selection, materials and massing;
 - Endorsement and review of conservation policies and guidelines;
 - Any other detailed operational policy issues;

The conservation policies and guidelines need to be formulated within a cultural tourism context that promotes appropriate reuse of the places within the NPWS management context. The Conservation Policies and Guidelines must be presented in a clear, easily read and user friendly format and style, suitable for non-technical users.

6.6 Implementation Strategies and Actions

The conservation policies will need to be translated into general as well as site specific actions organised within time frames which can be incorporated into Area operational planning documents. Strategies and actions should be set out in 1, 3 and 5 to 10 year time frames with a section outlining ongoing cyclical maintenance works. The implementation must be presented in a clear, easily read and user friendly format and style, suitable for non-technical users.

It is anticipated that a review of the plan will take place after 5 years.

8.0 AREA CONSULTATION AND SITE ACCESS

The Consultant(s) will be required to establish a close and ongoing liaison with NPWS Broken Hill Area. There will also be a requirement for some consultation with key stakeholders and local communities as part of the preparation of the plan.

It is anticipated that Consultant(s) will need to visit the site for familiarisation, research and assessment purposes. With forward notice, NPWS Area staff can arrange for access to all areas and accommodation is available within Kinchega NP.

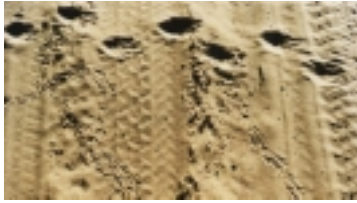
9.0 CONSULTANT TEAM SELECTION

The consultant team will be selected and evaluated on the following Selection Criteria:

- Proven ability to complete work and meet deadlines;
- Cultural and natural heritage conservation skills, appropriate to the specified tasks;
- Experience in development of conservation and cultural tourism strategies for heritage places with consideration of compatible reuse options for the buildings;
- Proven cultural heritage management experience in the preparation of readable, user-friendly conservation plans, development of policy context, policy formulation and implementation;
- Appreciation of and ability to communicate NPWS management objectives and other planning objectives;
- Appreciation of and ability to communicate an awareness of environmental planning and legislative issues associated with conservation and development in National Parks;
- Experience in liaison with community groups.

In addition the Consultant(s) will need to provide:

- Total Project Fee stating all-inclusive or excluding particular items. Fee breakdown into work components to indicate proposed individual team member contribution.
- Submit an exemplar Conservation Plan recently prepared by the Consultant(s), which will be returned on consultant selection.
- Additional Criteria outlined below in Section 11 Tender Submission.

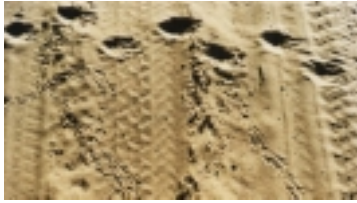


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KINCHEGA HISTORIC SITES
CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN:
FEBRUARY 2001 CONSULTATION MEETING



**Kinchega Historic Site Conservation Management Plan
Aboriginal Consultation Meeting
Menindee Community Hall 13th February 2001-02-13**

Attendees:

Susan McIntyre-Tamwoy, Josh Bean, Harold Bates, Claude Briar, William F Riley, Muriel Riley, Christopher King, Jenny Edwards, Sarah Martin, Isobel Bennett, Leonie King, Badger Bates, Dorothy Stephens, Steven Newman, Evelyn Bates, Richard King.

The meeting commenced at 10am.

The background to the project was explained

1. NPWS have commissioned this study to comply with the NPW Act and the Heritage Act of NSW.
Peter Freeman Pty Ltd Conservation Architects and Planners are preparing this document.
Susan McIntyre-Tamwoy is working for Peter Freeman on the archaeological aspects and the Aboriginal consultation.

2. The aims of this consultation meeting were explained:
 - To find out what the Aboriginal community thinks is important about the 3 areas we have been asked to look at.
 - To find out what the community thinks are the key stories of messages about Kinchega Pastoral station that the community as represented by those present, would like visitors to the park to know about.
 - To get the communities opinion on the ideas that the consultants have for management, conservation and presentation.

3. The following information and ideas were presented to the meeting and discussed:
Set the story about Kinchega homestead within the setting of a continuing Aboriginal occupation from the deep past through to the present. i.e. describe the initial impact of the pastoral enterprise on the Aboriginal community; then talk about the role that Aboriginal people played in the history of the station; describe contemporary interests in the park today

To do this:

- Expand current archaeological investigations and interpretation to include 'contact' sites (Aboriginal campsites dating to the pastoral station occupation).
- Record oral and archival histories relating to the pastoral station and any links to Menindee Mission i.e. who amongst the Aboriginal people worked at Kinchega, where did they live and what were their lives like? What was the relationship between them and the Hughes family and other workers?



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4. How does this assessment agree with your knowledge of sites and places of importance on the park?
Based on the likelihood of physical evidence relating to Aboriginal and European activities and in particular to the potential for 'contact' sites- the woolshed and homestead areas marked on the map are considered more significant than the stockyard and telegraph area.
5. How does NPWS manage burials on Kinchega NP?
Is this adequate if not how would you like to see them managed? If satisfactory what do you think is good about it? e.g do you think they should be moved and when do you think they should be left where they are
Would you like to see some research which tries to work out all the likely locations of burials and what time period they relate to and link this to a strategy on how to manage them?
6. Have you or other members of the community been involved in research relating to the homestead, woolshed or the pastoral station generally? If so how?
7. Are there any other concerns or comments that you have regarding Kinchega Homestead and woolshed in particular or the park in general?
8. What are the areas/questions that you would like to see addressed in any research program on the park?
Which do you think are the most important historic (this is post white invasion) places on the park and why?

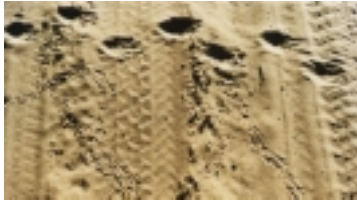
You might go home and then think of something important that you think should be covered. If please let me (Susan McIntyre-Tamwoy) know:

By phone: 0425 215 012

By fax: (02) 97972466

By email: mcintyre@firstnet.com.au

Or by mail: 34A Hardy Street ASHBURY 2195



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While the meeting focused on the questions and issues outlined above, the discussion ranged widely covering related issues relating to Kinchega NP and the relationship between the Aboriginal community and NPWS.

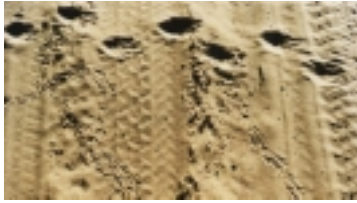
The likely locations of Aboriginal campsites associated with the operation of Kinchega Station were discussed. Badger Bates said that an Aboriginal campsites is located near the wharf. He said that one of the indicators to watch for was cuts on the roots of trees along the billabong.

The attendees of the meeting called for research to be undertaken into identifying the exact locations of Aboriginal camps associated with the homestead and collecting oral histories in order to identify who worked and lived at Kinchega and the nature of their experiences. Evelyn Bates pointed out that it was important to talk to the elderly members of the white community. In particular she suggested that Mr 'Mook' William Files was likely to know a lot about the property and the people who worked there. The point was also made that the collection of oral history would be an ideal project for the retired members of the Menindee Aboriginal community because they have the time (witness the percentage of elderly people at the meeting) and old people like to yarn.

Jenny Edwards' mother worked for Colin and Dorrie Norris. Colin Norris was the overseer at Kinchega at that time. William 'Bill' Riley noted that the manager was stationed at Kars while the overseer was stationed at Kinchega. Bill Riley worked at Kinchega in 1959. Evelyn Bates' dad, Mr Stan O'Donnell (deceased) worked on Kinchega.

The issue of Aboriginal involvement at Kinchega NP was discussed at length. Land council representatives indicated that they would like to see the Discovery program run by the LALC. There has been no involvement of the Aboriginal community in the current historic excavations, although there has been involvement in other survey's and excavations carried out by Dan Witter and others. The Aboriginal community expressed a strong feeling of ownership regarding Kinchega NP. They considered it inappropriate that archaeological research should proceed without their involvement. They also thought that through their involvement the research directions would naturally broaden to encompass the Aboriginal experience.

In relation to my comments on PAD's, there were general comments that one can expect to find sites everywhere. Badger in particular disagreed with Sue's assessment of the stockyard and telegraph line area as being of low sensitivity in regard to PAD's associated with contact sites. He suggested that Aboriginal people may have had a



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campsite associated with the stockyard as it was away from the eye of the overseer and part way to Kars station. It is likely however that such a camp would have been a stockmen's camp and therefore situated not far from the yards and would now be inundated. The high ground in this area is represented by the small spur of land on either side of the narrowest part of the water as the Creek joins Lake Menindee, this is just outside the study area as it is marked on the map provided in the brief.

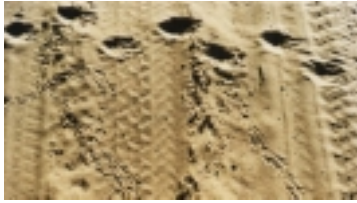
The DLWC's plan to put in a block dam to maintain the height of the Lake at its fullest capacity was raised. It was pointed out that this was to occur in the middle of the study area at the second narrowing of the creek as it leaves Menindee Lake. Badger has noticed shell scatters in this area and suggested that these should be tested to determine if these related to the contact period. If DLWC is planning any development that is likely to affect a known site then they are required to carry out such an investigation and assessment as part of their impact assessment. The site does not appear to be recorded on the Aboriginal Site Register and if it exists Badger as ASO or Josh as Ranger should ensure that it is registered in accordance with their obligation under the NPWAct 1974, to notify the Director-General.

The sensitivity of the area around the area, known by the community as the New Year site, was again raised. This area is outside the study area as indicated on the brief but the community feels that that the site located there is related to the homestead and is probably a major 'blacks camp'. They also believe that this is near where the wharf would have been located.

Bill Riley said that he would like to see survey specifically around the landing strip and salvage area (i.e outside the survey area) where a burial was uncovered about a year ago.

It was also felt likely that there would be a post contact campsite somewhere between the homestead and Menindee Mission and that a survey should be undertaken to locate such a site. Sarah Martin pointed out that during the 1930's there was a big campsite on Little Menindee Creek which was comprised of white unemployed people. Careful analysis would be needed to determine the difference between these white depression camps and Aboriginal post contact camps.

People felt strongly that there should be know construction or development on the large dune which forms the bulk of the woolshed and shearer's quarters area and extends for a long way beyond it. They would like to see an intensive survey of this dune as soon as possible with a view to locating sites and an analysis of whether these sites are pre or post contact.



APPENDIX B

The community was concerned about the amount of material that had been collected in the early years prior to the NPWAct. They would like to see private collections which can be provenanced to Kinchega purchased by NPWS and repatriated to the park and used for displays and interpretation in a new visitor center.

Burials:

Burials are a common occurrence on Kinchega NP as in other similar areas in the west. The community has a high level of concern over burials and their management. There was a general consensus that the location of recent burials relating to the pastoral era must exist on Kinchega but were not known. The location of the station cemetery as indicated by the fenced area near the homestead has not been verified. The fence does not necessarily delimit the Providence burials but is indicative of where they are believed to be.. Sarah Martin remarked that there were times of sickness in Menindee when many children died and that such events would have also occurred on Kinchega and the children would most likely have been buried on the station. Some Menindee families such as Isobel Bennett have their own (ungazetted) cemeteries in the bush. There may be such family group cemeteries on Kinchega or alternatively families working there may have had cemetery places elsewhere. Any oral history program should address the question of burials and cemeteries specifically.

The community would like to see NPWS develop a strategy for the management of burial sites. They were happy with the level of involvement with survey projects around the Lake itself when they occurred but felt that there was no follow through. Apparently there had been an agreement between DLWC and NPWS and Menindee LALC that every time the water level lowered there would be a monitoring survey to check the effects of erosion and record and new sites exposed along the lake shore. This had only happened twice and then been forgotten about by the authorities,. They want to see this resumed. The agreement was that DLWC supply the money NPWS the vehicles and Menindee LALC the labour. The Land Council and other Aboriginal people thought that if this was contracted to the LALC then DLWC would only have to notify them of water level changes and the LALC could arrange it all rather than depend on the memory and commitment of changing staff in the government departments. The LALC should have a formal contract that they could bring to the attention of the authorities.

Dot Stephens who use to be a discovery ranger said that she felt that the campsite at Lake Cawndilla should be closed as this was a well known Aboriginal burial site. Josh Bean responded that Discovery tours no longer went there but that at this stage the campsite was still there.

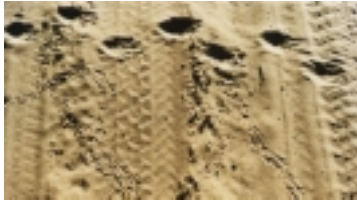


NPWS Resources and management of Kincheha NP.

The community acknowledged the efforts of the current ranger Josh Bean. They remarked that he was always respectful and keen to work with the community. However they felt that he had an impossible task in managing the park on his own and from the distance of Broken Hill. They felt strongly that he should be relocated ON PARK. They were highly critical of the NPWS 'boys with new toys' syndrome. They said that since Kincheha was states oldest park formed under the NPWS protected area program (i.e distinct from Royal NP founded under an earlier era and different philosophy) that the park should be treated with more respect. Instead they said Regional staff had favourites "First it was Mungo Mungo Mungo Mungo...and now it is their new toy Pirrie....Kincheha gets nothing! It is out of fashion with them and they don't care about it". This led to a call from Jenny Edwards for joint management of Kincheha. Josh pointed out that there were many informal ways of achieving a true joint management and that he hoped that the CMP and it's implementation would be a start in that direction. There was a mixture of scepticism and hope in relation to the implementation of the CMP and the projects that would spin off from it. It will be important from NPWS to deliver in this regard to maintain credibility with the community.

While some of these matters are outside the scope of the CMP the ability of the Service to adequately manage the historic site and the implementation of the plan is an important consideration. Field staff at the park are almost non existent. One of the field officers is continually away at other western Region parks(including Peery), the other Bill Riley has recently retired and NPWS has not moved to fill his position. A trainee field officer is currently being recruited from the Menindee Aboriginal community but will not be qualified to manage the site for some time. Given the fact that the historic site and indeed the entire park is left unprotected it is surprising that there is so little vandalism. Vandalism at the historic site appears to be restricted to so far minor pilfering although bottle collectors had been active digging in the contact site at the area known as New Years Site by the community (personal observation 13/2/20001). It would be counterproductive to propose any measures which would increase park visitor numbers given that the Service currently devotes so little capacity to managing those numbers.

Badger Bates remarked that it was important for the Service to provide experiences for everyone. The Community generally felt that it was important that the Service not exclude local Aboriginal use and ownership through the introduction of prohibitive park use fees. They felt they had the right to camp and fish in the park, which, they see as their land. Perhaps identified areas for Menindee Aboriginal camps are one way of recognising the Menindee peoples prior connection to the country.



APPENDIX B

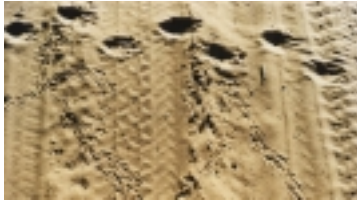
The POM needs to change to reflect the CH significance of the park. Without this and a high prioritisation of CH tasks the money available to the service would never be allocated to the CH matters. Even this project is not being funded out of operational funds but from HAMP money. The allocation of regional and area funds occurs on the basis of priorities identified in the POM which is flawed in both its generic form and specifically in relations to Kincheha NP.

Other Research/ Issues

Sarah Martin said that it would be important to carry out research into the range of activities and skills that people had on the station and the work that they did. Also Isobel felt it was important to remember and research the role of Aboriginal women and children on the station. Evelyn suggested that Badger could take community retirees out on regular working bees as they had tie on their hands and were keen to work at Kincheha.

There was a suggestion that it be made mandatory for white tour companies to pick up a trained local as a guide. This would provide ongoing work for people trained as Discovery Rangers. There are similar programs operating elsewhere in Australia.

Meeting closed at 12.15 pm.



APPENDIX C

APPENDIX C : HERITAGE REGISTERS

REGISTER OF THE NATIONAL ESTATE:

- Entry for Kincheega National Park
- Entry for Kincheega Woolshed

NSW HERITAGE REGISTER:

- Entry for Kincheega Woolshed

Register of the National Estate Database

Kinchega National Park, Menindee NSW

Class: Natural

Legal Status: Registered (21/03/1978)

Database Number: 000582

File Number: 1/04/371/0001

Statement of Significance : This large area of relatively natural habitat is representative of the arid and semiarid landscapes in western New South Wales, containing a suite of land systems including wetland areas with lakes, lunettes and red sand hills; all with their associated vegetation communities. The park is also a significant wildlife refuge especially for waterfowl breeding, feeding and nesting habitats, supporting 201 species of birds, twenty eight species of mammals and thirty eight reptile species. The nationally rare plant species, Needle wattle (*ACACIA CARNEI*) and *SOLANUM KARSENSIS*, are found in the park, as well as the pink cockatoo (*CACATUA LEADBEATERI*), listed as vulnerable and rare in New South Wales under Schedule Twelve of the New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Act. Kinchega National Park is a significant wilderness area and provides a research area for intensive studies into semiarid and arid landscapes; associated fauna and flora and its management. The lakes in Kinchega National Park can be dated to 18,000-25,000 years bp, and include evidence of thirty nine mammal species in the lunettes, such as *DASYCERCUS*, *THYLACINUS* and *THYLACALEO*.

The Commission has determined that this place has Indigenous values of National Estate significance. The Commission is currently consulting with relevant communities about the amount of information to be placed on public record.

Description : The altitude of the park is between 61m-74 m on the floodplain of the Darling River and its associated overflow lakes and channels. There are some remnant sand ridges of prior Aeolian period of deposition in the southern part of the park. Lunettes occur on the lake margins. The Park contains significant samples of characteristic arid landforms of western New South Wales, dominated by the Darling and its' associated flood channel system including extensive areas of red sand plains. The major environments in the Park include: overflow lakes, river flood plains, red sand country and lunettes. The river is bordered by black soil flood plains with black box woodland, river red gum and coolabahs along its banks.

The geology of most of the area consists of recent Pleistocene alluvial, wind blown material and river sediments. The deposits are classified as flood loams, clays, alluvial and wind blown sands, gypsum, earthy secondary limestone, sandy loam, red and black soils, marls and travertines. Beneath surface material can be found purple and black shales and fine grey soft sandstones, possibly of Miocene age, deposited when the region was beneath the sea 20-40 million years ago.

There are four major vegetation associations in the Park.

1) Low open forest and low woodland (river red gum (*EUCALYPTUS CAMALDULENSIS*) and flooded gum (*E. LARGIFLORENS*));

2) Shrub (mulga (*ACACIA ANEURA*));

3) Shrub steppe (saltbush (*ATRIPLEX VESICARIA*) and bluebush (*KOCKIA* spp.)). Much of this vegetation has been affected by grazing; and

4) Saltmarsh (SALICORNIA QUINQUEFLORA).

The area includes western grey kangaroos (MACROPUS GIGANTEUS) and euros (MACROPUS ROBUSTUS) as well as brush tailed possums (TRICHOSURUS VULPECULA) in low forest and woodland areas. The open shrub steppe and grassland areas support red kangaroos (MACROPUS RUFUS); and emus (DROMAIUS NOVAEHOLLANDIAE) are distributed throughout the whole area. The lakes are an ideal nesting habitat for pelicans (PELICANUS CONSPICILLATUS), black swans (CYGNUS ATRATUS), ducks, waterhens and many other water birds.

History:

The region has been settled since the 1850s with the area of Kinchega National Park being one of the largest properties used for sheep grazing in western New South Wales. In 1875 the property sheared 160,000 head of sheep. The Kinchega property was one of the first pastoral settlements made along the Darling River in the early 1850s. By 1884, the property covered over 1,000,000 acres. The area was first explored by surveyor general major Thomas Mitchell in 1835 in his journey down the Darling River from Fort Bourke. In 1844, Sturt's party camped at Lake Cawndilla before heading north-west. The woolshed still remains in the area and has much of the early machinery associated with shearing and baling within it.

Significant Indigenous values are known to exist in this area. The Commission is currently consulting with relevant Indigenous communities about the amount of information to be placed on public record.

Condition and Integrity : Some grazing has occurred in the area. There is a rabbit problem in the park. These are causing some erosion in the lunettes of the park. At present the lakes are used for water conservation, and are excluded from the park boundaries. Dams have been constructed with canals, and now the once fluctuating lakes are permanent. These lakes make up the Menindee Lakes Storage scheme. Excess waters from floods are stored in this scheme and are used to top up the Darling and its Anabranch at times of low water level. The larger overflow lakes have established lunettes on their north-eastern shores. These lunettes remain unstable.

Location : About 44,005ha, Pooncarrie Road, 1.6km west of Menindee, comprising Kinchega National Park , N0017, boundary at time of nomination.

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Register of the National Estate Database

Kinchega Woolshed, Shearers Quarters and Homestead Complex, Menindee NSW

Class: Historic

Legal Status: Registered (21/03/1978)

Database Number: 000590

File Number: 1/04/371/0007

Statement of Significance : Kinchega Woolshed, dating from 1875, is of great historical significance for its direct association with the early pastoral history of the far west of New South Wales. (Criterion A.4)

The building illustrates the huge size of pastoral holdings in the arid areas of Australia and is a good example of a large scale shearing shed. It also helps to show the major developments in shearing technology during the century since its construction. (Criteria B.2 and D.2)

The shed is of a notable design, the sweating pens being an important feature of the building. (Criterion F.1)

Kinchega Woolshed, owing to its site and its large dimensions, is a prominent feature in the arid surrounding landscape and is a visual symbol of the grazing history of the outback. (Criterion E.1)

Description : Kinchega station was among the first large pastoral holdings to be taken up in far western New South Wales; it covered over one million acres. In 1870 George Urquhart sold the property to Herbert Bristow Hughes and Kinchega remained in Hughes family hands for almost a century. The woolshed was constructed in 1875 and in 1883 when Kinchega was at its peak the property was running 160 000 sheep and employed 73 men. Kinchega woolshed became part of Kinchega National Park in 1967; by this time it is estimated that six million sheep had passed through the shed in its lifetime. The shed is a very large, linear building, constructed of a timber frame with corrugated iron cladding. It consists of 26 stands. A very notable feature of the building is the pavilion of sweating pens at the southern end; its light stud-frame construction contrasts with the heavier timber of the original section of the shed. Kinchega witnessed the evolution in shearing technology that was seen throughout the wool industry during the nineteenth-twentieth centuries; blades were replaced by mechanical handpieces and the steam traction engine that first powered the machinery stands just outside the building (as does a boiler). Steam was in turn replaced by kerosene- and then diesel- powered shearing gear; finally the handpieces were powered by electrical equipment. In addition to the traction engine, the shearing machinery is also present, as is the wool press, wool cranes, a cart and buggy and other equipment.

Condition and Integrity : Kinchega woolshed and associated buildings became part of Kinchega National Park in 1967. The woolshed has since been restored. (January 1993)

Location : Kinchega National Park, Menindee.

Heritage Listings

State Heritage Inventory - Item View

Kinchega Woolshed

Item

Name of Item:	Kinchega Woolshed
Type of Item:	Built
Group/Collection:	Farming and Grazing
Category:	Woolshed/Shearing Shed
Address:	15km south-west of, Menindee, NSW 2879
Local Government Area:	Central Darling
Date Ownership Updated:	17 Sep 97
Current Use:	Located within Kinchega National Park
Former Use:	Shearing Shed

Statement of Significance

Dating from 1875, Kinchega Woolshed is associated with the early pastoral history of the far west of New South Wales. The building illustrates the huge size of pastoral holdings in the arid areas of Australia and is a good example of a large scale shearing shed. The shed is of notable design, the sweating pens being an important feature of the building. Owing to its site and large dimensions, it is a prominent feature in the arid surrounding landscape and is a visual symbol of the grazing history of the outback. It helps to show the major developments in shearing technology during the century since its construction. (Australian Heritage Commission)

Description

Construction Years:	1875 - 1875
Physical Description:	Kinchega Woolshed is a very large linear building constructed of timber frame with corrugated iron cladding. It consists of 26 stands and is built upon a low sandy hill close to the Darling River. The main structure is constructed of trimmed river gum trunks, sawn roof frames and flooring raised well clear of the ground and a wide pitched roof, skillions and walls sheeted with corrugated iron. A notable feature of the building is the pavilion of sweating pens at the southern end; its light stud-frame construction contrasts with the heavier timber of the original section of the shed. Nearby are a cluster of small corrugated iron clad buildings containing the shearer's quarters, cookhouse and stores buildings. Kinchega Woolshed witnessed the evolution in shearing technology that was seen throughout the wool industry during the nineteenth-twentieth centuries. Blades were replaced by mechanical handpieces and the steam traction engine that first powered the machinery stands outside the building. A boiler also is located here. Team was in turn replaced by kerosene and then diesel powered shearing gear. Finally the handpieces were powered by electrical equipment. In addition to the traction engine, the shearing machinery is also present, as is the wool press, wool cranes, a cart and buggy and other equipment. (Australian Heritage Commission)(Sheedy 1983)
Physical Condition and/or Archaeological Potential:	Physical condition is good. Archaeological potential is medium.
Modifications and Dates:	1860 - property visited by Burke and Wills 1870 - station bought by H Hughes 1875 - constructed 1967 - became part of Kinchega National Park
Further Information:	Restored in 1993
Date Condition Updated:	17 Sep 97

History

Historical Notes:

Originally an early West Darling property names 'Menindel', first held by the explorer John McKinlay in the 1850's but by 1860 it was taken up by Peter McGregor and it had become known as 'Kincheega'. Burke and Wills visited it in 1860 and Kincheega's manager, William Wright, accompanied them as third in command and was blamed almost entirely for the tragedy that befell the expedition after he failed to meet the party on its return to Cooper's Creek. In 1870 the station was sold by George Urquhart in 1870 to Herbert Bristow Hughes. Hughes had two river steamers built in England to service the station named the 'Jandra' and the 'Nile'. Steam engines were installed in 1875 and by 1875 'Kincheega' was running 75,000 sheep and its boundary extended beyond the southern end of the Barrier Ranges. It is during this period that the present shed came into being. Kincheega Station remained in the Hughes family for almost a century. In 1883 when Kincheega was at its peak the property was running 160,000 sheep and employed 73 men. In 1967 Kincheega Woolshed became part of Kincheega National Park, by that time it is estimated that six million sheep had passed through the shed. (Sheedy 1983) (Australian Heritage Commission)

Themes

State Historical Themes: Industry - Related to the rise, fall and replacement of urban and rural industries.
Pastoralism - Country life; including interacting with settlement, rural industries

Listings

Heritage Listing	Reference Number	Gazette Date	Gazette Number	Gazette Page
<i>Heritage Act - State Heritage Register</i>	00995	02 Apr 99	27	1546
<i>Heritage Act - s.170 NSW State agency heritage register</i>				
<i>National Trust of Australia register</i>		24 Jan 83		
<i>Register of the National Estate</i>		21 Mar 76		

Assessment of Significance

Historical Significance: Dating from 1875, Kincheega Woolshed is associated with the early pastoral history of the far west of New South Wales. The building illustrates the huge size of pastoral holdings in the arid areas of Australia and is a good example of a large scale shearing shed of traditional timber construction. (Australian Heritage Commission)

Aesthetic Significance: The shed is of notable design, the sweating pens being an important feature of the building. Owing to its site and large dimensions, it is a prominent feature in the arid surrounding landscape and is a visual symbol of the grazing history of the outback. (Australian Heritage Commission)

Technical/Research Significance: It helps to show the major developments in shearing technology during the century since its construction. (Australian Heritage Commission)

Representitiveness: It is perhaps the largest woolshed of its type remaining in the Western District and also one of the better examples. (Sheedy 1983)

References

Type	Author	Year	Title
Written	Australian Heritage Commission	0	Kincheega Woolshed
Written	D Sheedy	1983	National Trust Classification Card - Kincheega Woolshed

Study Details

Title	Year	Number	Author	Inspected by	Guidelines Used
National Parks & Wildlife Service Section 170			National Parks & Wildlife		No

[Register](#)[Service](#)

Images



(Click on Thumbnail for Full Size Image and Image Details)

Source of information for this entry

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Web Page: www.heritage.nsw.gov.au

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Heritage Database Number: 5045612

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 NSW
Heritage Office



APPENDIX D

APPENDIX D : THE 1998 KARP REPORT

Extracts from the University of Sydney KARP 1998 Report.

KINCHEGA ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH PROJECT

SURVEY OF THE OLD KINCHEGA HOMESTEAD 1998

Please view on Netscape 800 X 600 or bigger



Watercolour by Helen Wilkins

Penelope M. Allison

With contributions from
Michael Barry, Penny Crook and Robert Pullar

Report prepared for
Cultural Heritage Services Division
New South Wales National Parks and Wildlife Service

December 1998

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Web page constructed by Michael Barry 15/6/1999.

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Photographic Recording

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Western garden area

Eastern garden area

Area to the north-east of main complex

Area to south of main complex

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EROSION AND DISTURBANCE

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Aesthetic Significance

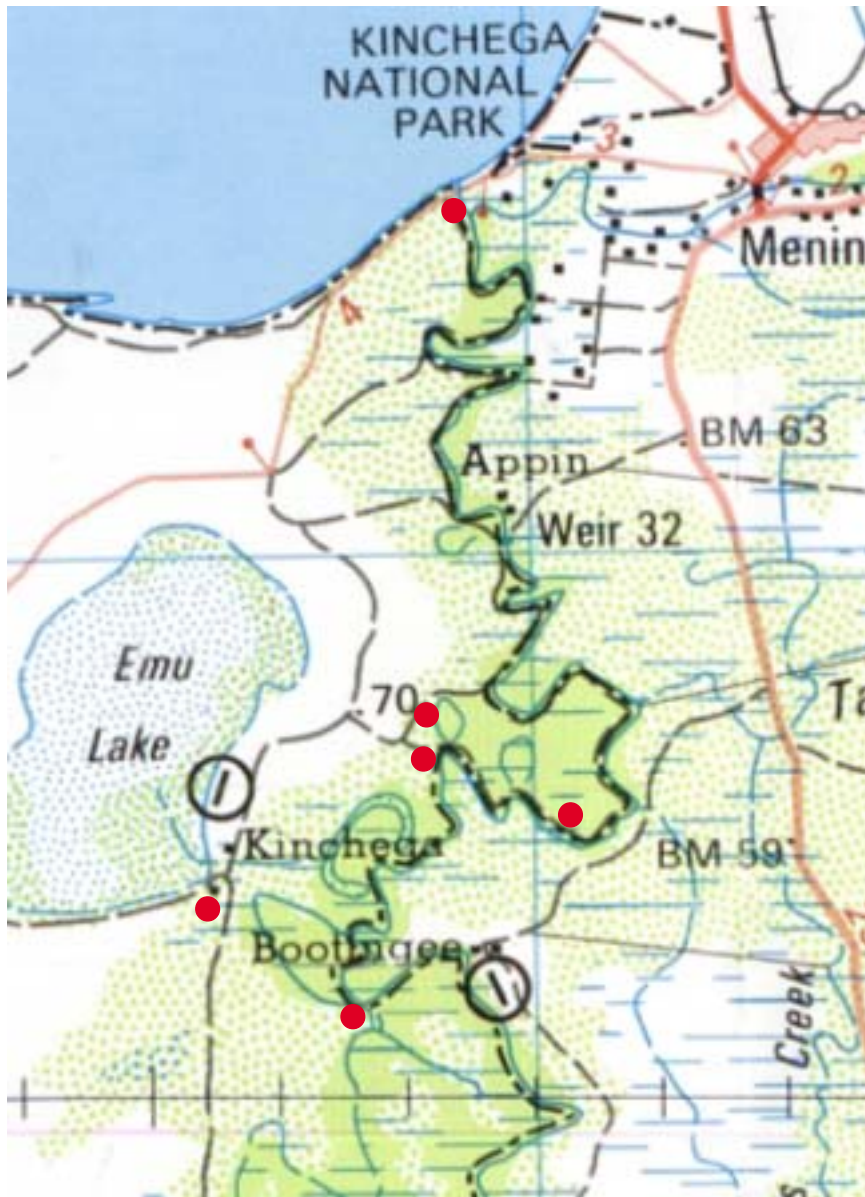
Technical/Research Significance

Social Significance

Summary Statement of Significance

CONCLUSIONS AND FURTHER RESEARCH

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Kinchega National Park showing Station Sites : CMA map 2001

KINCHEGA NATIONAL PARK STATION SITES CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN • INVENTORY

PREPARED FOR THE
NSW NATIONAL PARKS & WILDLIFE SERVICE
By:
PETER FREEMAN PTY LTD
CONSERVATION ARCHITECTS & PLANNERS
CONSULTANT TEAM

FINAL
SEPTEMBER 2002

Claypan

'... Out here you have reached the core of Australia, the real red Australia of the ages, which, though the rivers have worn their channels through it, and spewed out their black silt in narrow ribbons across it, hems in this flat modern river-soil to the flood lands, so that if you drive only a few miles from the river bank you will always come out in the end upon red land, a slightly higher land rising sharply from the grey plain; a land which stretches away and away across the heart of Australia, with the history of the oldest continent on earth lying in interesting little patches – ironstone pebbles and river-worn quartz, and stony deserts, and a thousand other relics – across the whole face of it.

'... That is the real Australia, and it is as delicate as its own grasses. In parts the sand that covers it, and that holds the whole calendar of priceless seeds that have taken a few million years, at an underestimate, to evolve, is not more than one foot thick; so thin and light and delicate a skin that only the delicate Western scrub which grows from it holds it in place at all.

'... In certain parts, where men have come out on to it and cut the scrub down recklessly, with rough-shod, ready-made European methods, the surface of the earth has blown clean away. All the exquisite wonderful plant-life of all the ages took just one season to destroy; and great patches of 'scalded' clay stand today exactly as bare and with as hopeless a task to face as on the day when the last wavelet of a receding ocean lapped over them to evolve some covering to their nakedness.'

From Charles Bean, *On the Wool Track*, London 1910



Grinding stones, Kinchega
National Park
AF 2001 photograph



FORMER KINCHEGA STATION • KINCHEGA NATIONAL PARK
CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT & CULTURAL TOURISM PLAN • 2002

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1.0 INTRODUCTION: THE KINCHEGA STATION SITES INVENTORY

1.1 PREAMBLE

This Inventory deals with the natural, Aboriginal and historical features of the remnant Kincheega Station sites within Kincheega National Park. The Inventory is presented in five sections, covering:

- The Homestead Group;
- The Woolshed/Shearers' Quarters Group;
- The Stockyards Group;
- The Wharf/Hotel Group; and
- The Regulator Group [just outside KNP boundary].

Where relevant each section addresses natural, Aboriginal and historic features, and moveable heritage. The **natural** values of the Kincheega Station sites are outlined as a preamble to the inventory entries for each section.

The Homestead, Woolshed and Wharf groups have important and complex **archaeological** components that variously cover pre- and post contact Aboriginal sites, as well as the early European occupancy. Where relevant, this information is presented jointly. The pre-contact sites are camp sites and burial sites associated with the Paakantji occupation of the region, and the inventory draws on earlier surveys undertaken within the study area.

The **historic** fabric relates mainly to the former Kincheega Pastoral Station, although there is reference to the Menindee Lakes Scheme and to the former Menindee to Pooncarie road bridge.

The inventory provides data on location, history, condition and significance. Where appropriate, conservation and maintenance requirements are suggested. Historic and current photographs and maps are provided for specific sites.

1.2 THE INVENTORY

1.2.1 THE INVENTORY FIELDS

The Inventory fields are as follows:

Header

The header provides a context for the site-specific data within the Inventory document.

Place/Item Name

This refers to the common [current] name, and to former names, as appropriate



Registers

NPWS Historic Places Register [HPR] No. [if available]
NPWS Archaeological Sites Register [ASR] No. [if available]
Other Registers

Location

The location is provided in grid reference form and physical description [as appropriate]

Historical Background

A short historical background to the place utilising historical images [as appropriate]

Description

A brief description of the place

Condition and Integrity

Comment on current physical condition and integrity of the building

Significance Rating

This field will provide a significance rating for building elements [where applicable]

Statement of Significance

This field will provide a statement of significance for the place/item

Conservation/Policy/Strategy/Implementation

Requirements for conservation and maintenance

Moveable Heritage

Items of moveable heritage stored within the building are listed and described

Photographs

Current and historical photograph[s] as available

1.2.2. THE INVENTORY ENTRIES

THE HOMESTEAD GROUP

Natural features
Aboriginal [prehistoric and contact] sites
The Homestead Billabong
Kincheqa Homestead 1
Kincheqa Homestead 2
Kincheqa Station Homestead Dump
Kincheqa Cemetery
The *Providence* Site

THE WOOLSHED/SHEARERS'
QUARTERS GROUP

Natural features
Aboriginal [prehistoric and contact] sites
Woolshed archaeological site
Former Shearers' Quarters/Kitchen site
Woolshed
Shearers' Quarters
c1950s Shearers' Quarters



Expert's Quarters
Classer's Quarters
Cookhouse
Meathouse
Killing Shed
Pit Toilet
Toilet Block
Shower Block
Former Manager's Residence and Outbuildings

THE STOCKYARDS GROUP

The former Stockyards
The former Telegraph Line
Former Water Resources Commission Machinery

THE WHARF/HOTEL GROUP

Kincheega Station Woolshed Wharf and associated Aboriginal and historic sites

THE REGULATOR GROUP

The Regulator Group and associated Water Resources Commission sites and the former Menindee Bridge.



THE KINCHEGA STATION HOMESTEADS GROUP

INTRODUCTION

This **group** comprises the Aboriginal sites [prehistoric and contact]; the Homesteads 1 and 2 sites; the Homestead Billabong itself; the Homestead cemetery site; and the nearby *Providence* site. The complex is listed in the NPWS HPR as item # 3914545.

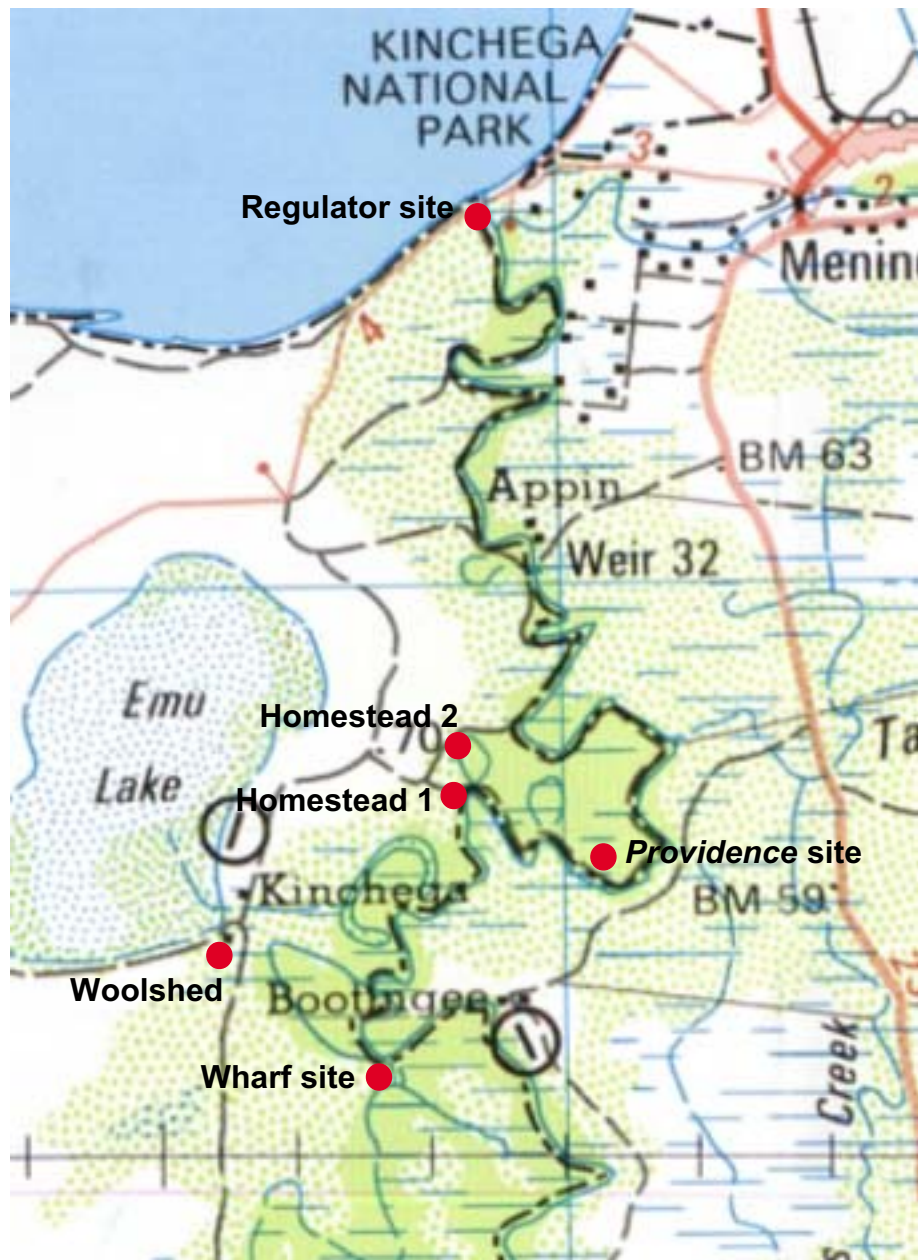


Figure 1
Site plan showing the location of the Homesteads Group relative to other Kinchega Station sites.
CMA 2001 map with PF annotation



THE KINCHEGA STATION HOMESTEADS GROUP : NATURAL FEATURES

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

It is not known to what extent the natural features were modified by the pre-contact Aboriginal occupancy, however the European settlement had a considerable, if local, impact on flora, fauna, landform and water patterns. The Billabong Regulator was installed during the Hughes occupancy to enable flood waters to be retained in the Billabong following subsidence of the river.

DESCRIPTION

The Homesteads group is located on a strategic natural interface where the sand dune meets the river adjacent to the flood plain. It comprises the billabong, the Homestead 1 site [the assumed location of an earlier Kincheqa homestead] and the Homestead 2 site, as well as a number of Aboriginal sites. The natural value of the area is enhanced by the presence of a billabong that enabled entrapment of water during river floods. It is quite probably the juxtaposition of these natural features that made this area conducive to occupation by both Aboriginal people and European settlers.

The extensive gardening associated with Homestead 2 has left a noticeable legacy of exotic plants. Old photographs and descriptions of the site reveal a well maintained garden, including shade trees, vegetable gardens and a large orchard, i.e. **introduced plant species**. Most of the gardens have disappeared into the red sand but some of the more hardy species have survived. The ability of these species to survive in this arid environment suggests they are potential environmental weeds. Exotic species still present at the homestead site include athel pine [*Tamarix aphylla*], peppercorn trees [*Schinus areira*], two types of bamboo [*Arundo* spp] and boxthorn [*Lycium ferocissimum*]. These plants are considered weeds within National Parks, but they do help to provide a sense of history at the home site.

Figure 2

Athel pines behind the old chimney and some of the building materials that have become important habitat for a range of lizard species. The Homestead No. 2 is on the edge of the sand dune country, with the characteristic bluebush, and the floodplain country beyond characterised by taller black box and river red gum communities.
RT photograph 2001





Figure 3
Box thorn in the foreground and bamboo behind, encroaching on the river red gum community along the homestead billabong.
RT photograph 2001

The peppercorn trees still provide shade for visitors to the site and the shade and sound of the wind through the athel pines provides a reminder and helps the visitor to imagine being in the homestead garden.

The site has also been identified as a habitat for a wide range of lizard species that have taken advantage of building rubble and corrugated iron. Studies by the University of Canberra [formerly the CCAE] in the late 1970s and 1980s concluded that the population around the former Homestead 2 were higher than expected, and that the lizards used the heat of the corrugated iron to raise their body temperature in the morning and evening. Species studied include burrowing skinks



Figure 4
The impact of visitor use at the site in terms of soil disturbance and erosion. Note the pepper trees spreading into the bluebush country.
RT photograph 2001

¹ Robinson et al 1977, Ford et al 1980



Figure 5
The regulator where the homestead billabong meets the Darling River. River red gum forests follow the river.
RT photograph 2001

[*Lerista punctovittata*], grass skink [*Morethia boulengeri*], nocturnal gecko [*Heteronotia binoei*], sand goanna [*varanus gouldii*], painted dragon [*amphibolurus pictus*], shingleback [*Trachydosarus rugosus*] and the nocturnal variegated gecko [*Gehyra variegata*].¹

COMPARATIVE SIGNIFICANCE

The Homestead Billabong and its related cultural sites forms part of an important cultural landscape.

CONSERVATION POLICY / STRATEGY / IMPLEMENTATION

INTRODUCED AND EXOTIC FLORA

There are a number of management options in relation to the introduced plant species, including:

- the removal of all exotics, or at least those species showing the most sign of spreading;
- management of the remaining exotics to ensure there are adequate resources so that monitoring and control of the spread of plants is possible as a part of routine Park maintenance; and
- *do nothing*, and let some of the weed species, e.g. box thorn, continue to spread.

The second option is the preferred option and provides a 'trade off' between the conservation objectives of containing any potential weeds, and the benefits of maintaining some relics of the homestead garden, along with the remains of the buildings themselves. This option would require on-going management. As a first step the location of all exotics at the old homestead should be plotted and their extent monitored to ensure there is not escape, or progressive increase in the extent of these species. Some species, e.g. box thorn and peppercorn trees, could be contained to the site itself, and encroachment by exotics onto the billabong should be halted.

EROSION RISKS

The Homestead No. 2 site is located on the sandy country, which is subject to **wind and water erosion**. Although the site is reasonably



stable, any significant increase in public usage would require some control of visitor movement to avoid damage to vegetation. Clearly defined tracks around the site could be established between interpretative points. The River Drive, particularly from the Regulator to the *Providence* boiler, is in fair condition; however there are also potential erosion problems at the Regulator and at the entrance points of billabongs which require monitoring and maintenance.

INTERPRETATION STRATEGY

The Homestead No. 2 site has excellent potential to provide interpretative material not only about the cultural history of the site, but also about the natural environment. The site provides an opportunity to provide information on:

- the natural environment from the red sand dune communities, the box communities and the river red gums. This could involve a sign posted walking trail from the homestead site to the regulator;
- the ephemeral nature of human endeavour in the arid zone;
- the dramatic seasonal changes in the arid zone, e.g. the vibrant flowering after rain of red hops and poached egg daisies;
- warning about venomous species such as the redback spider and brown snake;
- Aboriginal history and the use of the billabongs and rivers as a source of food and camp sites. This could include information on how the Aboriginal people read the land and could include images of goanna, emu, kangaroo and snake tracks in the sand; and the
- history of impact on the site, including the large amounts of timber consumed as fire wood for water pumps, paddle steamers, households and for use as fence posts, houses and buildings.



THE KINCHEGA STATION HOMESTEADS GROUP

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES :
 ABORIGINAL SITES GENERALLY**

PLACE / ITEM NAME

Aboriginal sites [prehistoric and contact] within the **Homestead Group**.

REGISTERS

NPWS HPR: No registrations
 NPWS ASR: Some registrations

LOCATION

The western side of the Homestead Billabong [refer plan below].

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

There are a number of Aboriginal sites along the western side of the Darling River Billabong, most of which are pre-contact; but there are also some post contact sites.

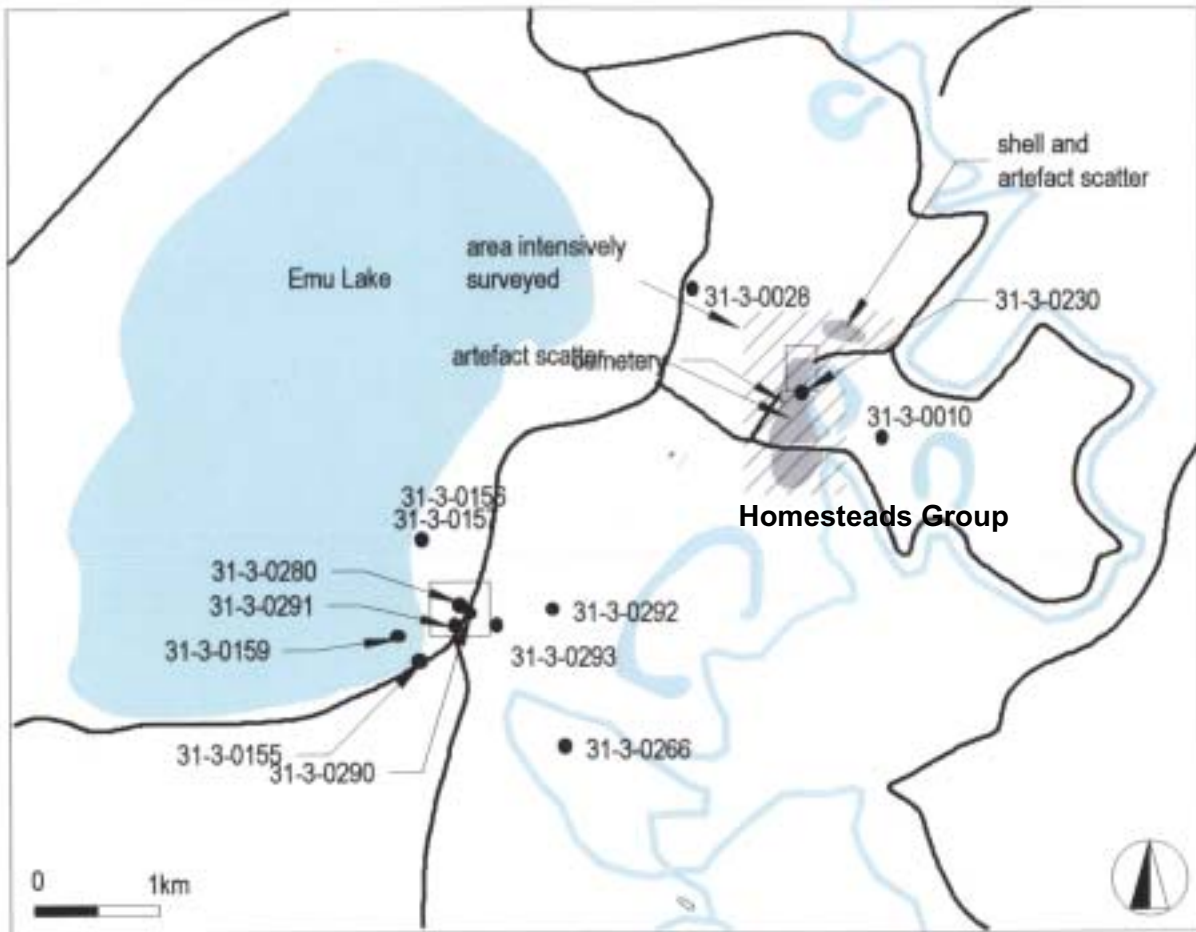


Figure 6
 The Homestead Group.
 Archaeological plan showing known
 Aboriginal sites across the main
 Kincheega Station groups.
 SMT plan 2001

Sarah Martin² refers to specific Aboriginal sites associated with Kincheega Homestead:
 ‘...Alice Bugmy, daughter of Kate Bugmy nee Whyman, described how her family camped on the river bank near Kincheega Station homestead [now in

² Sarah Martin, ‘Aboriginal Ties to the Land’ [Draft] prepared for DLWC, MLESDP Project, 2001



Kinchega National Park] in the early years of last century [early 1900s]. Alice said 'my mother's mob...Maudie and Lizzie Webster was cousins to my mother...& Auntie Gertie and her family...& Jack Johnson and his family... all camped at Kinchega... [we] travelled around in tribes'. Alice said they called Cawndilla Lake 'Kaanala' Lake after all the Maireana [roly-poly] bushes that grew on the lake floor when it was dry [Martin Interview AB 1992]. Here Alice refers to her 'mother's mob' as a 'tribe', meaning the children and grandchildren of the three sisters Mary, Louisa and Old Mrs Webster's mother [Martin 1999a].

In June 2000 Lulla King identified the location of an Aboriginal campsite attached to the old Kinchega homestead. Lulla pointed this out over towards the claypanns and sandy area by the billabong, and said 'that's where they used to live...the Aboriginal people, they used to live there and they got their food from the station'.

DESCRIPTION

Refer specific site descriptions below.

CONDITION

Generally poor.

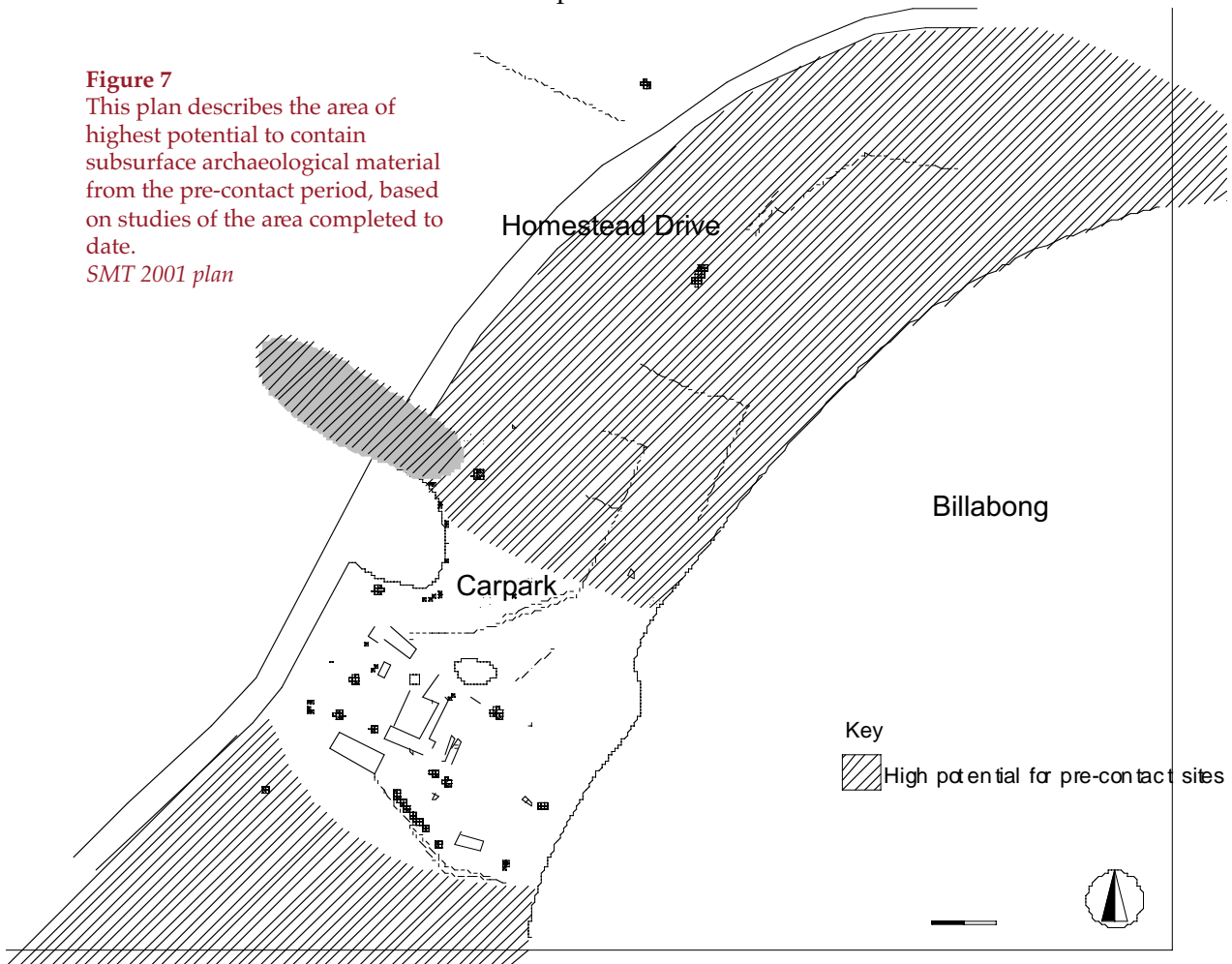
COMPARATIVE SIGNIFICANCE

Refer specific site assessments below.

Figure 7

This plan describes the area of highest potential to contain subsurface archaeological material from the pre-contact period, based on studies of the area completed to date.

SMT 2001 plan



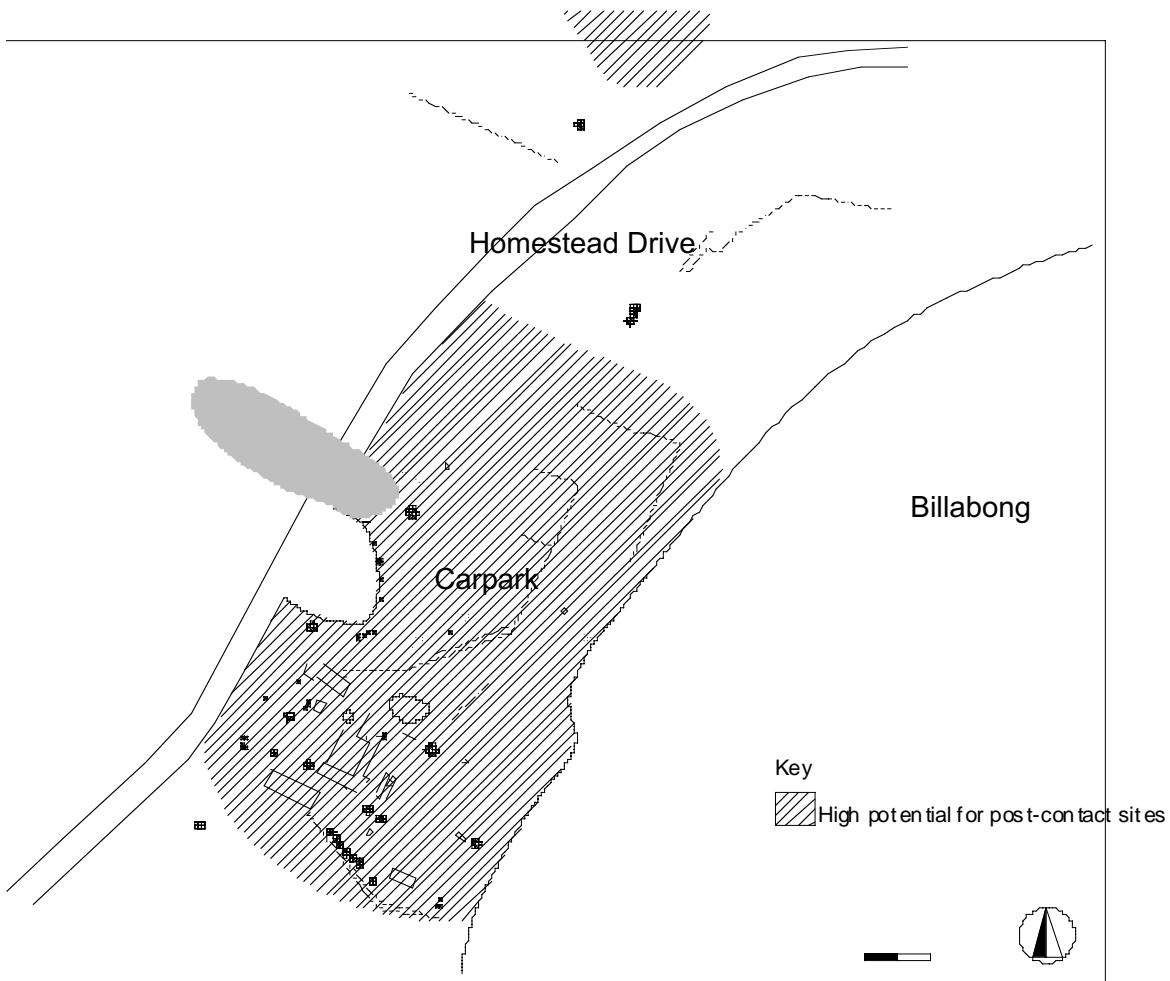


Figure 8

This plan describes the areas of highest potential for subsurface archaeological material from the post contact period.

SMT 2001 plan



THE KINCHEGA STATION HOMESTEADS GROUP
KINCHEGA HOMESTEAD NO 2 :
ABORIGINAL BURIAL # 1

PLACE / ITEM NAME	Kinchega Homestead No. 2 Aboriginal Burial # 1
REGISTERS	NPWS HPR NPWS ASR: 31-3-0230
LOCATION	Homestead No. 2 Precinct.
HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	Not known.
DESCRIPTION	The burial was located in a sand dune immediately adjacent to the homestead site which is cut by the road running past the homestead. The ridge must be considered to have high potential for the location of further burials as multiple burials are common in the area. The sand ridge in which one of these skeletons was found extends from the large shady tree [refer Figure 9 below] in front of which the skeleton was actually located to the other side of the road and onwards for some distance.
CONDITION	Known burial has been destroyed by road construction. Other burials may occur in the sand ridge intact.
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE	Significant as one of a range of Aboriginal sites found within Kinchega National Park which evidence the pre-contact occupation of the region by Aboriginal people.



Figure 9
Aboriginal burial site on the homestead road.
The visitor interpretation sign for the Homestead No. 2 site is visible to the right.
SMT 2001 photograph



CONSERVATION POLICY /
STRATEGY / IMPLEMENTATION

PROTECTION

Burial sites are common at Kincheha National Park, however this site is particularly vulnerable to disturbance due to its location close to a heavily visited area.

The site should be protected from further erosion and roadworks. Any upgrading of the road or routine roadwork which occurs adjacent to this site should be subject to an REF [Review of Environmental Factors] and preceded by an investigation into the likelihood of additional burials occurring.



THE KINCHEGA STATION HOMESTEAD GROUP
KINCHEGA HOMESTEAD NO. 2:
ABORIGINAL SITE # 2

PLACE / ITEM NAME

Kincheega Homestead No. 2
 Aboriginal Site # 2

REGISTERS

NPWS HPR: Not registered
 NPWS ASR: Not registered

LOCATION

The area between the main homestead No. 2 ruin on Homestead Drive and Homestead No. 1 site, River Drive. See artefact scatter to the **north of River Drive**. GPS Grid Reference around western edge of site 628650E 6408096N.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Paul Rainbird³ has provided an extensive overview [1996] of the Aboriginal sites adjacent the Homestead No. 2 site [pps 31 to 33].

DESCRIPTION

Rainbird and Wickman carried out surveys of this area in 1996 as part of the KARP project. They identified a number of 'Aboriginal sites' which were concentrations of stone, bone and burnt clay material against a background of a sparse scatter of artefacts. They noted that there were less artefacts on the eastern side of the area as one gets closer to the billabong and they surmised that this 'may be due to the proximity to the billabong and greater likelihood of flooding or the more intense water run off propensity as erosion gullies are common to the east of the survey area where they run perpendicular to and into the billabong.

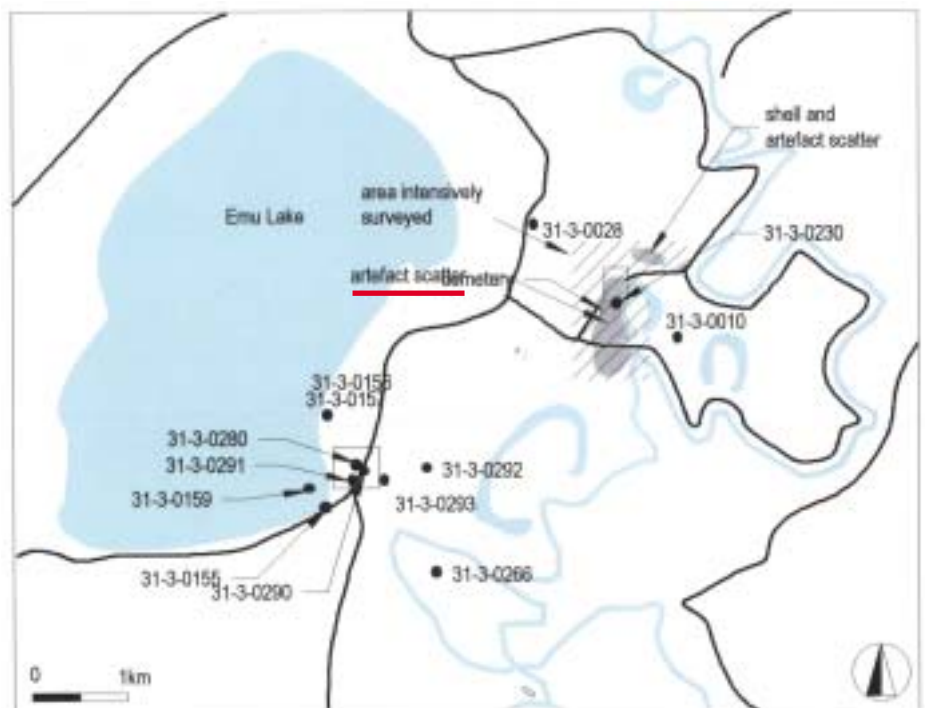


Figure 10
 Site plan showing the location of Aboriginal Site # 2, an artefact scatter to the north of River Road.
 SMT 2001 plan

³ Paul Rainbird, *The K.A.R.P. Report*, 1996



CONDITION

Variable. Surface erosion has affected parts of the site and vehicle traffic continues to affect some areas. However, subsurface archaeological material is likely to occur in parts of this site.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Significant as one of a range of Aboriginal sites found within Kinchege National Park which evidence the pre-contact occupation of the region by Aboriginal people. The site has further significance as part of the cultural landscape of the billabong and its surrounds.

The site is potentially significant because of the likelihood that at least parts of it relate to the contact period and may be able to inform our understanding of the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people on the Kinchege Pastoral Station.

CONSERVATION POLICY /
STRATEGY / IMPLEMENTATION

PROTECTION

Aboriginal sites are common at Kinchege National Park, however this site is particularly vulnerable due to its location close to a heavily visited area. The site should be protected from further erosion and roadworks.

ADDITIONAL RESEARCH

The site requires further research to identify areas relating to the operations of the Kinchege Pastoral Station; and to document and define the degree of disturbance or intactness of the site across its extent, and the nature of activities carried out across the site.



THE HOMESTEADS GROUP
KINCHEGA HOMESTEAD NO. 2:
ABORIGINAL SITE # 3

PLACE / ITEM NAME	Kincheha Homestead No. 2 Aboriginal Site # 3
REGISTERS	NPWS HPR: Not registered NPWS ASR: Not registered
LOCATION	Sparse shell and artefact scatter located north of the homestead site on the east side of homestead road before it rejoins River Drive, refer plan below. GPS Grid Reference 629107E 6408477N.
HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	These sites are undated. The nature of the materials found at the site indicate that it is likely to be pre-contact, but its proximity to the homestead site means that it may extend into the post contact period. Refer also Rainbird KARP history [pps 31 to 37]. ⁴
DESCRIPTION	The site consists of a sparse scatter of shell material, some burnt clay and a relatively sparse distribution of stone artefacts. It is clearly visible from the road and the road may have truncated the site. As one of the sites which appears to be relatively undisturbed so close to the homestead site it would be interesting to investigate its possible relationship with the post contact period and the operation of the Station.
CONDITION	The site appears to be relatively undisturbed although the road may have truncated it as it extends to the road edge.

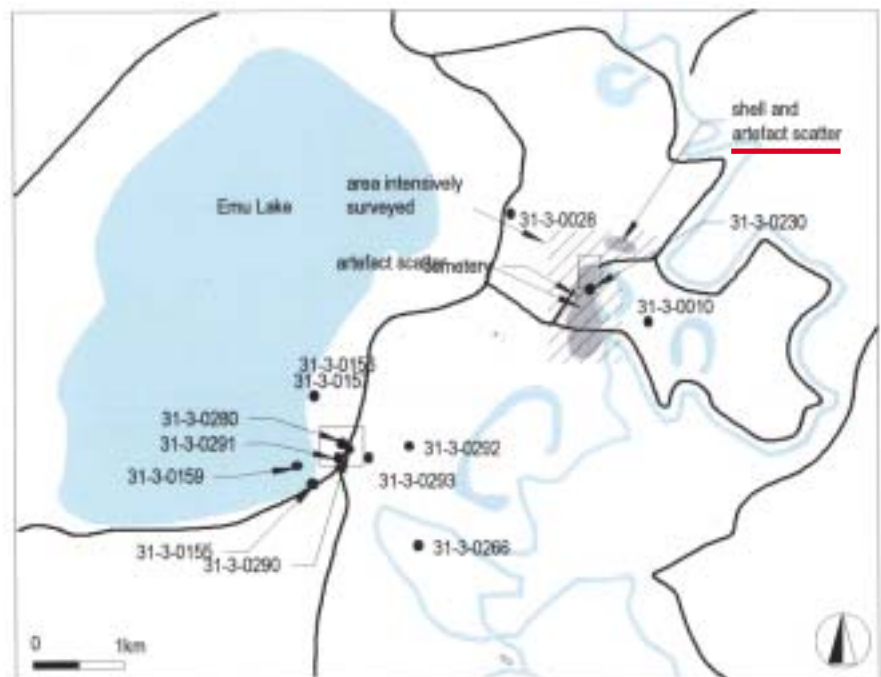


Figure 11
 Site plan showing the location of
 Aboriginal Site # 3, shell and artefact
 scatter.
 SMT 2001 plan

⁴ Paul Rainbird...op cit [pps 31 to 37]



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Significant as one of a range of Aboriginal sites found within Kincheqa National Park which evidence the pre-contact occupation of the region by Aboriginal people. Similar sites are common along the length of the Darling River and the potential further significance of these sites lies in the possibility that they could inform the post contact history of Aboriginal people on Kincheqa and their relationship with the pastoral station.

CONSERVATION POLICY /
STRATEGY / IMPLEMENTATION

PROTECTION

The site should be protected from further erosion and roadworks.

ADDITIONAL RESEARCH

Additional research should be undertaken into this and the other Aboriginal sites located adjacent to and within the historic precincts or groups to determine the nature of the relationship, if any, to the operations of the pastoral station.



THE KINCHEGA STATION HOMESTEAD GROUP
KINCHEGA HOMESTEAD NO. 1:
ABORIGINAL SITE # 4

PLACE / ITEM NAME

Kincheha Homestead No. 1
 Aboriginal Site # 4

REGISTERS

NPWS HPR: Not registered
 NPWS ASR: Not registered

LOCATION

Homestead No. 1 precinct. See artefact scatter to **south of River Drive**. GPS Grid Reference western extent 628484E 6407728N to south western extent 628800E 6407642N.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

These sites are undated. Some of them are almost definitely pre contact but many may be overlain with later post contact material.

DESCRIPTION

The KARP archaeological survey⁵ identified a number of Aboriginal sites in the area south of river road as it runs down to the Darling River crossing. Separate site cards do not appear to have been lodged for these sites and for the purposes of this inventory the area is counted as a single site comprising a sparse scatter of artefacts, burnt clay and bone with obvious concentrations of these items in places.

CONDITION

Variable. The number of artefacts exposed probably varies from year to year depending on environmental conditions and grass and saltbush cover.

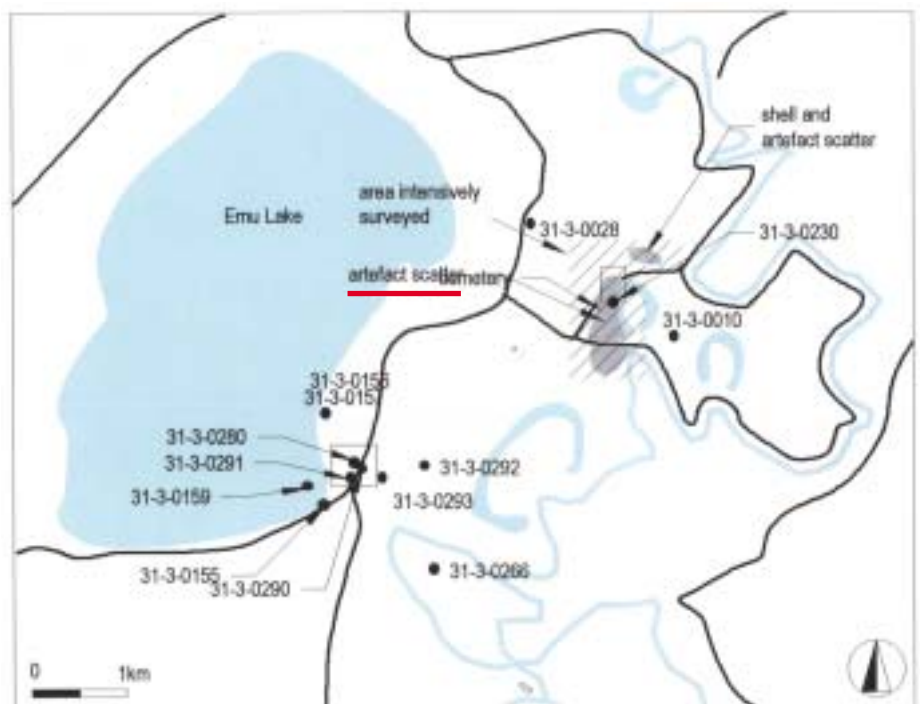


Figure 12
 Site plan showing Aboriginal Site # 4, an artefact scatter located to the south of River Drive.
SMT 2001 plan

⁵ See Rainbird 1995 pp 25-27. See Martin and Witter 1992



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Significant as one of a range of Aboriginal sites found within Kincheqa National Park which evidence the pre-contact occupation of the region by Aboriginal people. Similar sites are common along the length of the Darling River and the potential further significance of these sites lies in the possibility that they could inform the post contact history of Aboriginal people on Kincheqa and their relationship with the pastoral station.

CONSERVATION POLICY /
STRATEGY / IMPLEMENTATION

PROTECTION

The site should be protected from further erosion and roadworks.

ADDITIONAL RESEARCH

Archaeological investigation of the site is recommended to explore the relationship, if any, with the historic archaeological site of the first homestead.



**KINCHEGA HOMESTEADS GROUP
THE HOMESTEAD BILLABONG**

PLACE / ITEM NAME	The Homestead Billabong; the Billabong Regulator; Barge site and other elements.
REGISTERS	NPWS HPR: 3914609 [Regulator] NPWS ASR: Not registered
LOCATION	The Billabong extends north from the Darling River in a 'horseshoe' configuration.
HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	The Billabong has Aboriginal associations [prehistoric and contact] and was the location of the headquarters of the Kincheqa Pastoral Station, probably from as early as 1860 until 1915. The Homestead [No. 2] was finally vacated in 1952. The Billabong was artificially regulated to ensure that flooding from the Darling River could be retained for the use of the homestead and the station. The Billabong played an important part in the life of the Station, for recreation, fishing, communication and water supply.
DESCRIPTION	The Billabong as an element of the Darling River parallels the mood of the river; when the river is low, the Billabong is dry and peaceful and the Regulator is fully exposed; when the river is high the Billabong fills. There are other 'cultural' sites related to the Billabong, i.e. the Homestead sites; the exotic plantings, and related tracks. Close to the Regulator is the remains of a barge, embedded into the bank.
CONDITION & INTEGRITY	Not applicable. No conservation works are proposed for this site.
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE	The billabong is of high significance as part of a cultural landscape evidencing the former Kincheqa Station headquarters; and as the determining factor in the locating of the station homesteads.
CONSERVATION POLICY / STRATEGY / IMPLEMENTATION	<p>PROTECTION The site should be protected from further erosion and roadworks.</p> <p>ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION Undertake an archaeological investigation of the Darling River barge site to determine extent and condition. Investigate Aboriginal associations.</p> <p>INTERPRETATION The Billabong provides an extraordinarily rich landscape which can be interpreted to the visitor. Interpretation should explain the nature and function of the Billabong, the related Aboriginal and historical sites, the Regulator, the Barge and the exotic plantings etc. The Billabong Regulator should also be interpreted on-site. The existing, stored sign is, like others of its family, awkwardly phrased. Its title is perhaps misleading as in this case it is the water level of the Billabong, not that of the Darling River, that is being regulated.</p>



Figure 13
Boating on the flooded Billabong,
n.d.
John Hughes, Kars Station



Figures 14 & 15
The Billabong and the Billabong
Regulator, **May 2001**
PF 2001 photographs



Figures 16 & 17
The Billabong and the Billabong
Regulator, **January 2001**
PF 2001 photographs



Figure 18
The Darling River barge, Homestead
Billabong
PF 2001 photograph



KINCHEGA HOMESTEADS GROUP
KINCHEGA HOMESTEAD NO. 1 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

PLACE / ITEM NAME

Kinchega Homestead No. 1
Archaeological Site

REGISTERS

NPWS HPR: Not registered
NPWS ASR: Not registered

LOCATION

South of the Billabong Regulator on red sand dune area.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

This is thought to be the site of the first Kinchega homestead. Penelope Allison states in her 1998 KARP Report that ⁶ ‘...Hardy intimated that a Kinchega homestead existed when the explorers Burke and Wills reached Menindee in October 1860⁷ and again that a ‘homestead section’ of the Kinchega Station existed in 1866. She also suggests that Thomas Taylor [manager from 1870 -1877] and station hands had lived in the vicinity. E. Gwynne Hughes has brought to my attention the existence of a ‘pre-1870’ homestead, to the south of that currently under investigation, near the bend in the Darling River. An area of collapsed brickwork, and the fragile remains of the old fence lines, were observed in this vicinity during the 1998 fieldwork. This brickwork has been cut through by a NPWS road and much of its foundations may have been removed. Excavation and recording of the layout of this building would seem of utmost importance, before it suffers further destruction, and, not least, because it was likely to have been this homestead which was visited by Burke and Wills.

This site is the Homestead No. 1 site.

Penelope Allison states further that⁸ ‘...E. Gwynne Hughes suggests that [the later] homestead could have been built in 1890 when the earlier homestead, located near the bend in the Darling River, would have been seriously damaged by the Darling floods of that year. However, the photograph of H.B. Hughes, which appears to have been taken at the time of the 1890 flood, and most certainly before his death in 1892, indicates that the house and garden were already well established by that date. It is conceivable that floods in the early 1870s may have led to the abandonment of the earlier homestead’.

Thus it would appear that this substantial [i.e. brick] homestead may have been constructed prior to 1860, when explorers Burke and Wills visited Kinchega, and possibly during the early 1850s, soon after the run was established. The building then appears to have served until the mid 1870s, when a new homestead was built by the Hughes family. This information is corroborated by two Darling River Navigation Charts. The first chart [undated, Figure 19] gives a simple representation of the Kinchega Homestead. The second chart, c1875

⁶ Penelope Allison KARP Report 1998 [Conclusion and Further Research]

⁷ Bobby Hardy, *West of the Darling*, 1969 pps 122-195

⁸ Penelope Allison...*op cit* [The Homestead Occupants]. E. Gwynne Hughes is a descendant of Herbert Bristow Hughes

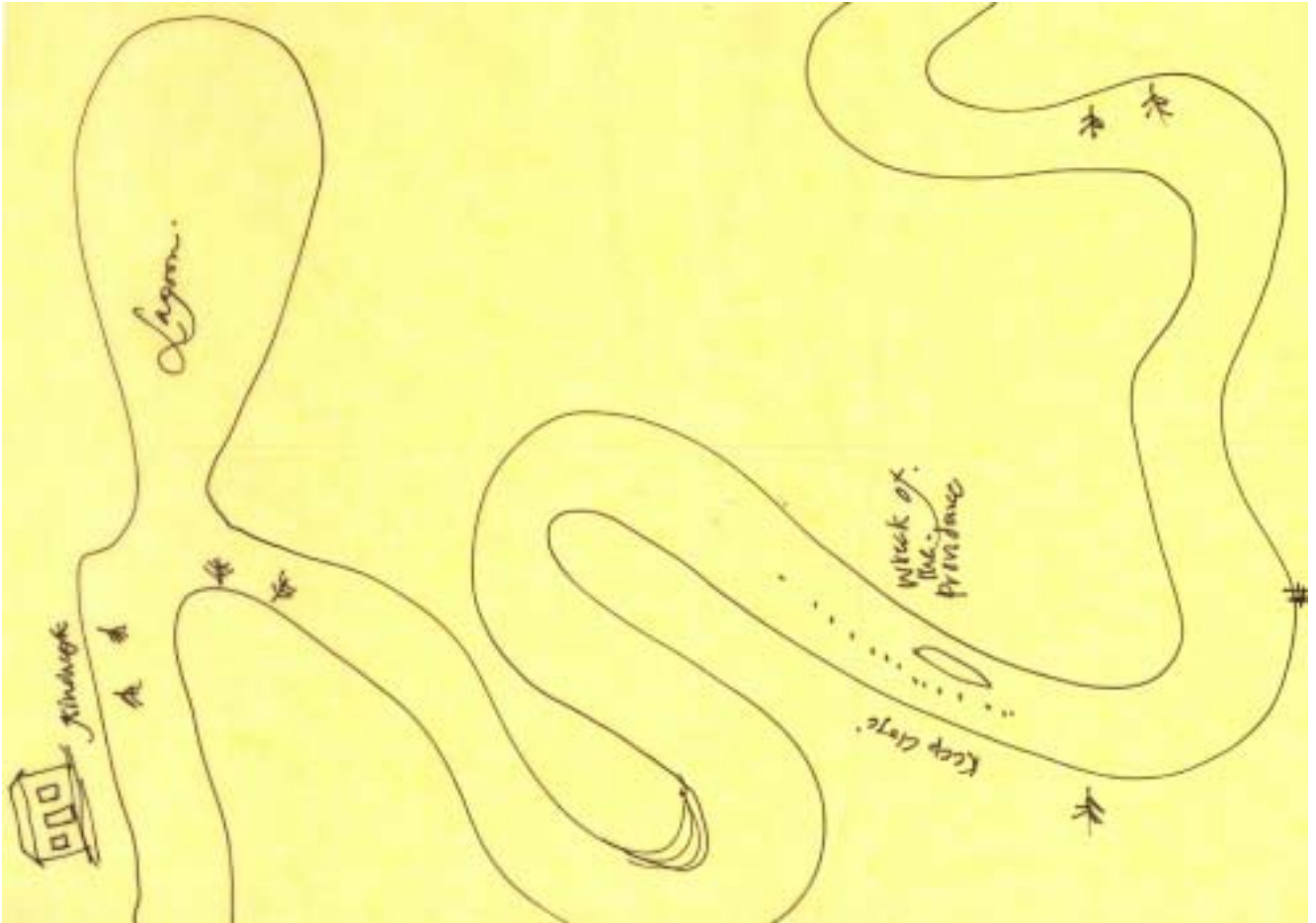


Figure 19
 Illustration from an undated Darling River Navigation Chart. The 'Lagoon' is the Homestead Billabong; and the 'House' is roughly in the location of Homestead No. 1 North is to the top of the chart.
 SLNSW Mitchell Library:
 PF overdrawing of Darling River Navigation Chart.

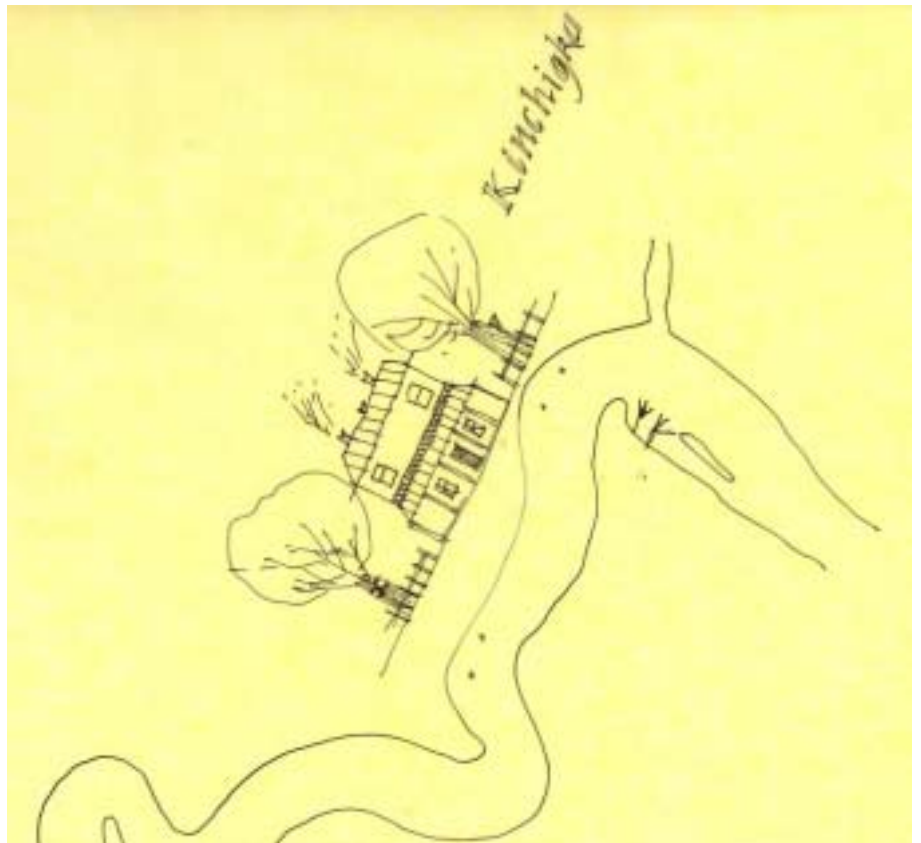


Figure 20
 In this illustration, taken from a c1875 Darling River Navigation Chart, the 'House' is roughly in the location of Homestead No. 1 with a small inlet to the north indicating the lagoon.
 SLNSW Mitchell Library:
 PF overdrawing of Darling River Navigation Chart.



Figure 21
 Location of Homestead No. 1
 site
Parish Plan 1911

[Figure 20] shows a more explicit view of the homestead. The building shown has two storeys, with large trees to either side. The name of the location is given as 'Kinchigka'. In cadastral terms the location of Homestead No. 1 was within the narrow east-west allotments extending away from the Darling River towards Emu Lake [refer Figure 21 above]. There is little known about this homestead and its construction methods and style, apart from the archaeological remnants and the c1875 charts.

DESCRIPTION

The site presents today as a sandy drive overlooking the junction of the River and the Billabong. The site is marked by collapsed brick rubble over which the River Drive has been constructed. The surrounding areas [most markedly on the south side of the road] are covered with scattered debris including broken glass, ceramics, metal and other material such as fragments of clay smoking pipes.

CONDITION & INTEGRITY

The Homestead No. 1 site is in poor condition. Roadworks have presumably diminished the integrity of the site to a large degree and a proper archaeological survey would be required to determine the extent of the historic remains.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This site is of **high** historical significance as it evidences one of the earliest European structures on the property, and it is at least as significant as the second homestead site. The site has archaeological significance as it has not yet been disturbed by excavation and may



Figure 22
Location of Homestead No. 1 site
SMT 2001 plan

provide more intact data regarding the nature of Aboriginal pre- and post contact occupations and provide a comparison to the later phases of European occupation. Together with the site of Homestead No. 2 it may provide insights into the relationship between Indigenous and non-indigenous people at Kinchega over time.

CONSERVATION POLICY /
STRATEGY / IMPLEMENTATION

ROAD DIVERSION

The homestead is an archaeological site. There are no standing features and the site could only be interpreted with any degree of accuracy after archaeological investigation. There may be *in situ* foundations below surface level. The road could be diverted around the building rubble possibly to the north. However given the sensitivity of this area the proposed road deviation should be subsurface tested prior to development.

PROTECTION

The site should be protected from further erosion and roadworks. A suitable alternative to diverting the road could be covering the site with fill.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION

Undertake an archaeological investigation of the entire Homestead No. 1 site to determine nature of site and relationship with surrounding Aboriginal sites. Note that excavation will require permits issued under the *NPW Act* and the *Heritage Act*.

INTERPRETATION

Site specific interpretation initiatives should be developed to explain the Regulator and the Homestead No. 1 site.



Figure 23
Homestead No. 1 site.
The NPWS road is at right.
PF 2001 photograph



Figure 24
The Homestead No. 1 site looking
north-west.
PF 2001 photograph



Figure 25
Detail of brick scatter.
PF 2001 photograph



Figure 26
Homestead No. 1 site, brick scatter.
PF 2001 photograph



Figure 27
Homestead No. 1 site, brick scatter.
PF 2001 photograph



Figure 28
The remains of a barge, located to the
north of the Homestead No. 1 site.
PF 2001 photograph



KINCHEGA HOMESTEADS GROUP
HOMESTEAD NO. 2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

PLACE / ITEM NAME

Kincheega Homestead No. 2
Archaeological Site

REGISTERS

NPWS HPR: # 3914617
NPWS ASR: Not registered

LOCATION

Kincheega Homestead Group, grid reference # 628851.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

This is the second homestead known to have been built at Kincheega. It was built in the 1870s for the Hughes family. The main buildings thought to have been built after 1876 [see Allison 1998]. Its first occupants may have been Thomas Taylor [manager 1870-1877] and his family and staff. Taylor was replaced as manager by Henry T. Phillips in 1877. Harold White Hughes and Herbert White Hughes, sons of H. B. Hughes, were also possibly resident at this homestead while Phillips was manager. Herbert Hughes left in 1880 to manage the pastoral station 'Booyoolee' in South Australia. An **exhaustive** historic and pictorial archives of Homestead No. 2 has been prepared as part of the University of Sydney KARP Project. This information is available in the KARP website at www.arts.usyd.edu.au [Kincheega keyword].

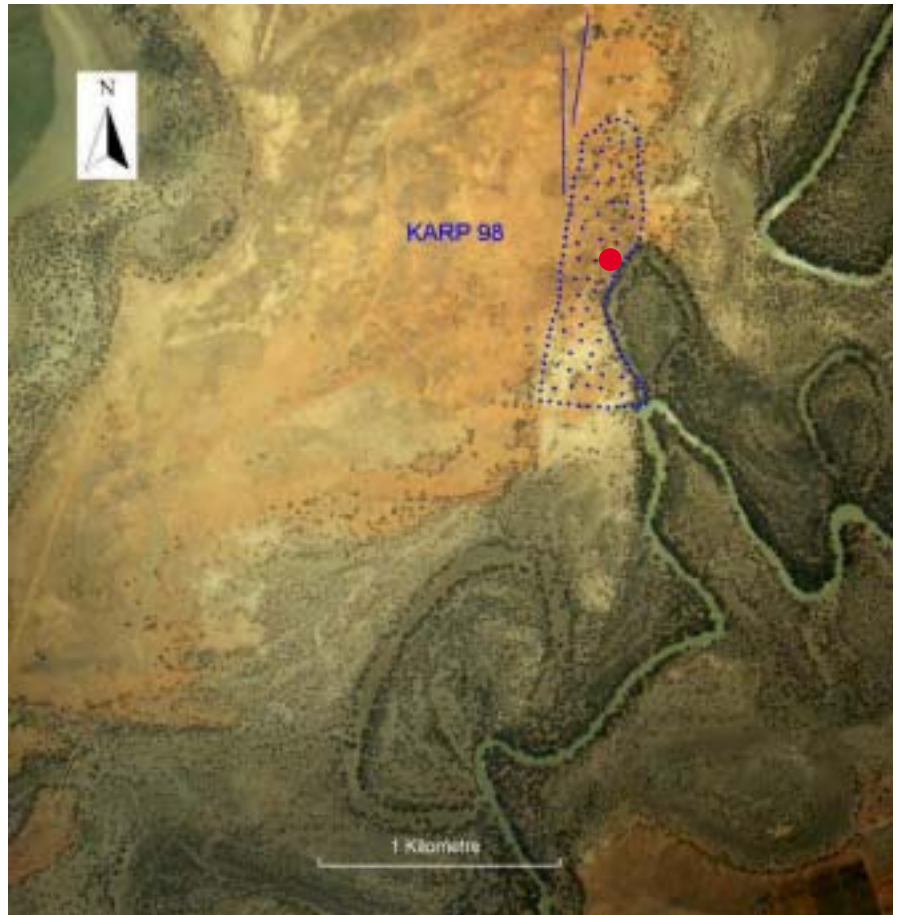


Figure 29

Aerial photograph of Homestead area NPW 1-89 [flown by DWR 13/1/92]. The area surveyed by KARP in 1998 is shown in blue. The homestead is indicated by a red dot.
KARP 1998



Figure 30
The Homestead in the 1890s
KARP 1998

The Homestead was constructed during the 1870s to house the property's manager. The Kincheega Station manager was accommodated at Kars Station Homestead from 1915 and Kincheega Homestead was then used as an overseer's cottage. With the construction of a water supply at Kars, improvements in transport, and the development of Broken Hill, the property became less dependent on the river. Furthermore, Kars was located closer to the geographic centre of the holdings, which benefited management, particularly in terms of travel time to outer sections of the holding.

Figure 31
Kincheega Homestead, possibly c1940.
KARP 1998

The homestead deteriorated and was eventually abandoned when the new overseer's cottage near the woolshed was constructed in the early 1950s.



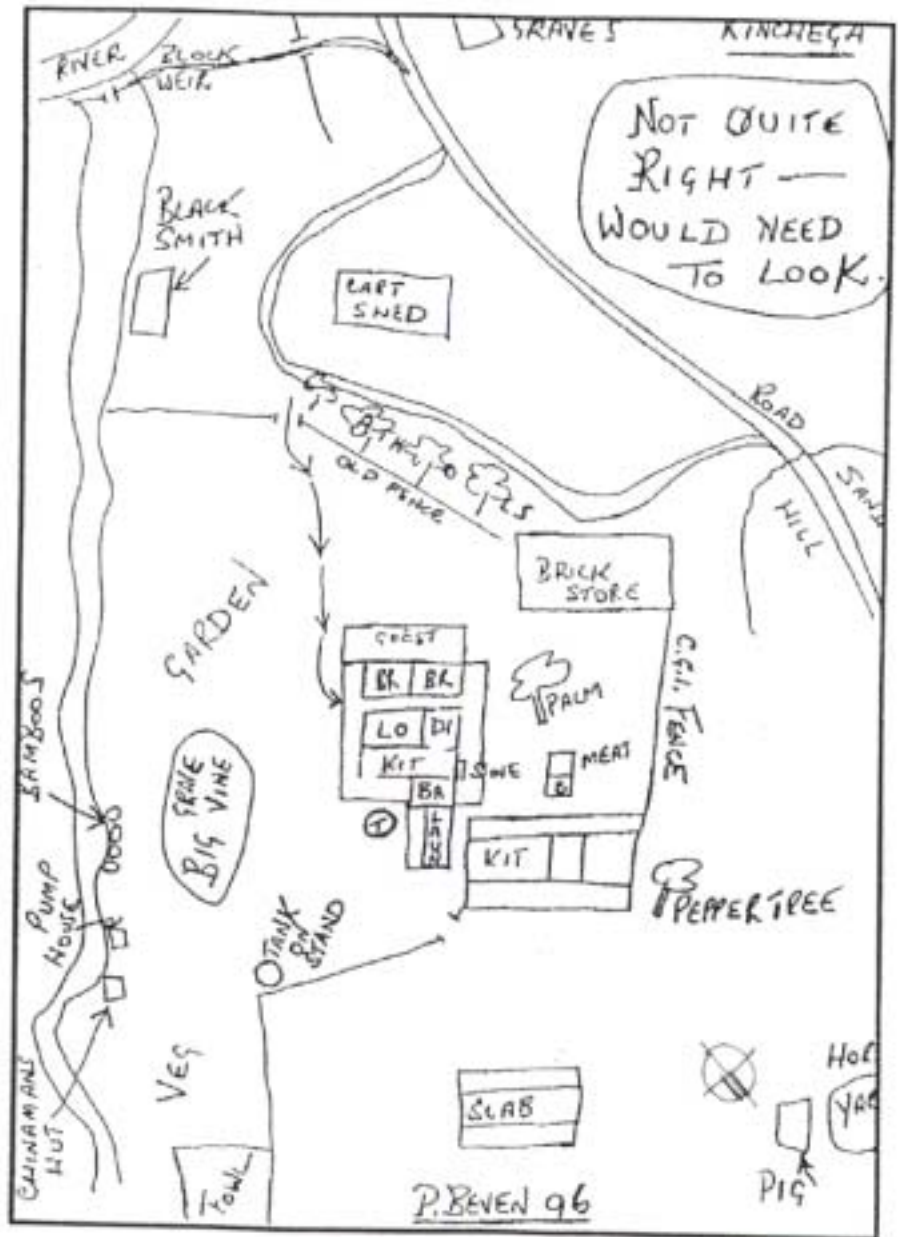


Figure 32
 Plan of the Old Homestead, 1940s,
 prepared by Peter Beven, 1996.
 North is to bottom of plan.
 KARP 1998

Peter Beven lived at Kinchega during the 1940s as a child and recalled the Homestead as follows:⁹

'... A Vision of Long Ago

Old Kinchega! The homestead and station store, abandoned nearly half a century now, are only two feet tall. These old places quietly go to pieces when the corrugated iron roof is removed for re-use, and the half baked bricks are exposed. I remember the ceiling, of which there is no evidence now. My mother talked of the sand in the '45 dust storms, trickling through the cracks between the matchboard. I had no idea of the floor under the lino, but the archaeologist dug up terracotta tiles, two layers deep and laid diagonally across each room, with thin cement-rich screed over them when they eventually wore. Nearby was the billabong, where water was locked in after a river high. An old kero Lister pumped for the garden, might have powered

⁹ Reproduced courtesy Peter Beven, Sturt's Meadows, Broken Hill



Figure 33
The Homestead in the 1960s
John Hughes: Kars Station

the Ark once. In the garden a huge grapevine grew in a circle, no stump even. No one ate the grapes, lesser vines had nicer fruit. These and the fifty trees, and the vegetable garden were in the care of old Mick Dockerty, who lived in the slab hut. There's not enough left of the garden to pin point the layout, only the athols my mother planted, and the bamboo. The canegrass cart shed is gone, so is the dead tree with the 1890 flood mark. There's not much left at all, mostly a childhood memory, and an archaeologist's report of what once was from gathered physical evidence and our stories'.

DESCRIPTION

The homestead ruins comprise low walls and foundations up to half a metre high. The walls are soft, locally fired red and brown bricks, many of which are scattered over the site. The remains of a garden also exist. Exotic species include peppercorn, bamboo, athol pine, palm [now dead] and various species of cacti. Old man saltbush [*Atriplex nummalania*] has been used as a hedge. At one time the garden also include a grape vine and a trellis.

The decayed footings of the homestead are partially buried in collapsed rubble, with the most obvious wall element being the remains of the southern fireplace hearth. There is also evidence of decayed flooring in part of the ruin.

Loose pieces of corrugated iron, timber, wire netting and other building debris occur across the wider site. Evidence remains of several brick-edged garden beds, raised garden beds, collapsed tankstands, a possible chinaman's hut, the buggy shed, and a brick store room. A number of interpretation plaques are located throughout the site.

A 1985 review of resources noted that the Kinchega homestead ruin included the homestead site and garden, a blacksmith site, a cane grass shed ruin and a water regulator associated with the billabong.

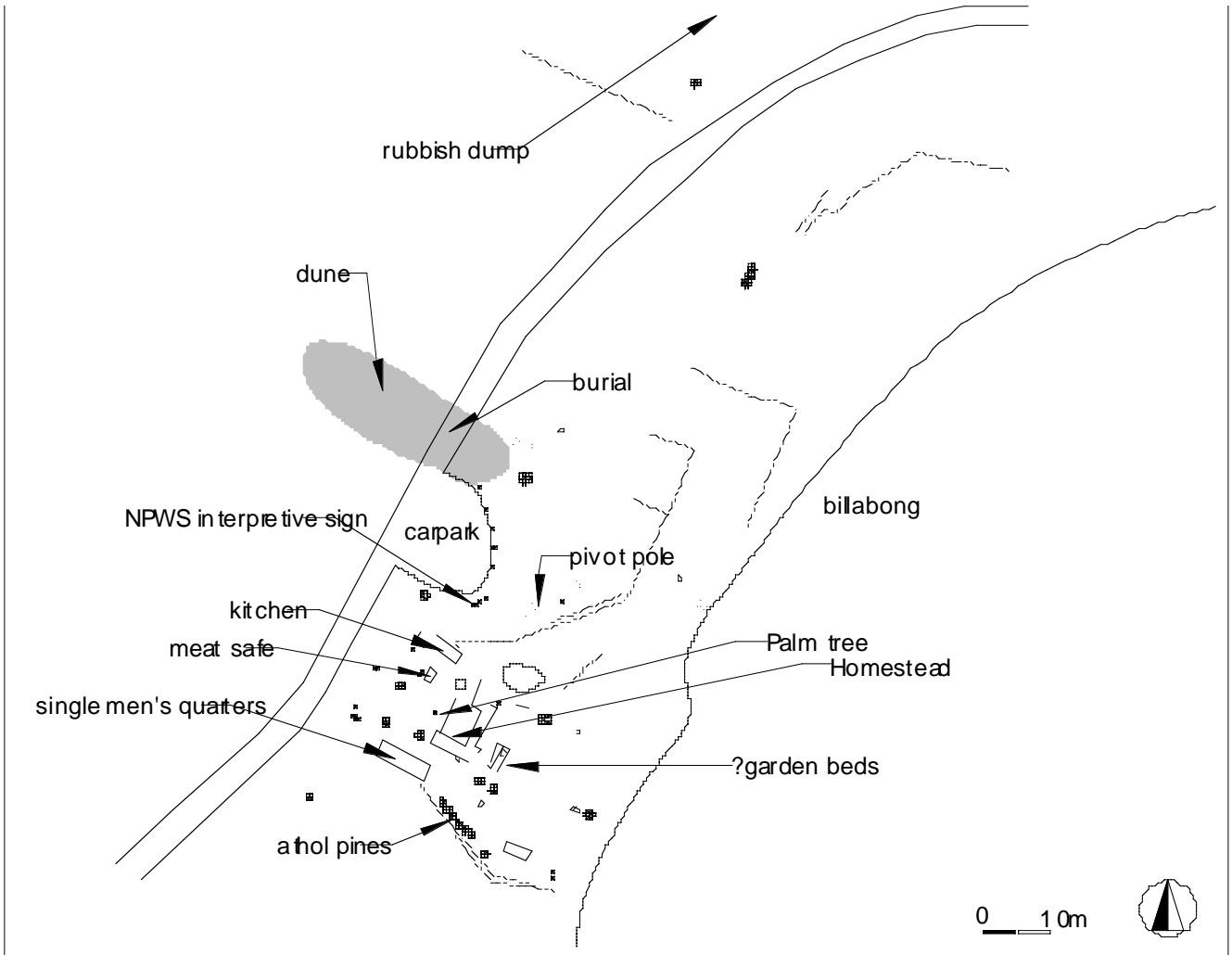


Figure 34
The features of the Homestead No. 2 site.
SMT 2001 plan



Figure 35
Homestead ruin. The most prominent structure standing is the chimney on the left. Note the trunk of the dead palm tree. The tops of the former walls have become the safest place to walk.
PG 2001 photograph



Figure 36
Brick edged garden beds
PG 2001 photograph



Figure 37
Possible Chinaman's hut site or,
given proximity of boiler and
location immediately above lagoon,
could be the pump house. Excavated
by KARP.
PG 2001 photograph



Figure 38
Collapsed water tank and stand
PG 2001 photograph

CONDITION & INTEGRITY

The homestead is a ruin. The garden has been largely destroyed by fire and few living plants relating to the homestead garden remain. The site requires active management as a ruin due to relatively high visitation rates as it is on the Homestead Road and visitors are actively encouraged to visit the site. The lack of formed boardwalks and access tracks in the past have meant that people walked all over the site; consequently the fabric is in poor condition. The location of the car park and road have intruded on the site, the car park probably being constructed on the main household dump site. The site retains a low level of integrity.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The homestead site is of **high** significance as an archaeological site illustrative of the pastoral industry as it operated in Western NSW. Due to the prolific occurrence of Aboriginal sites in the immediate vicinity of the homestead [and throughout the Park] it provides opportunities for research into the relationship between Aboriginal pre- and post contact sites and the sites known to be linked to the European occupation and land use.

CONSERVATION POLICY / STRATEGY / IMPLEMENTATION

PROTECTION

The site should be protected from further erosion and roadworks. The Service should consider the installation of 'boardwalks' which will define the visitor's route, allow better viewing of the ruins offer some protection to the site. The location of the boardwalk [and associated archaeological interpretation] should be the subject of a separate report/proposal.

CONSERVATION WORKS

The remnant walls of the Kinchega Homestead should be capped to protect them from further damage. Reconstruct the walls for no more



Figure 39
 Adapted water tank
 PG 2001 photograph



Figure 40
 Plan of the brick store building.
 PG 2001 photograph

Figure 41
 Remnant footings of the store. Note loose tin sheet.
 PG 2001 photograph

than two courses to provide a stable edge. Use brick scatters in the vicinity of the walls. Do not try to use all the bricks. Apply a 'cap' to the top of the walls utilising a lime-rich render. A strip of chicken wire should be laid along the walls first and fixed with galvanised tacks; and the render should be applied over the wire.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION

Archaeological investigations undertaken at this site need to effectively address questions of both European and Aboriginal occupation and the relationship, if any, between these.



Figure 42
The Kinchega Homestead site
SMT 2001 photograph

Archaeological investigation at Kinchega should as a matter of course provide for participation by the local Aboriginal community.

INTERPRETATION

Site specific interpretation initiatives should be developed to explain the Homestead No. 2 site and its outbuildings, as set out at **Section 7.4.9**, Volume 1. In particular the interpretation should explain the lives of those who lived at the Kinchega Homestead; and of the Aboriginal people who are known to have camped near the homestead [refer Sarah Martin, *Aboriginal Ties to the Land* study].



**KINCHEGA HOMESTEADS GROUP
KINCHEGA STATION HOMESTEAD DUMP**

PLACE / ITEM NAME	Kincheha Station Dump Site
REGISTERS	NPWS HPR: 3914610 NPWS ASR: Not registered
LOCATION	Homestead Precinct : See location plan [Figure 44]
HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	Dump supposedly associated with the main homestead site. Material on the surface ranges from the late nineteenth century until the 1960s.
DESCRIPTION	North of the main homestead [i.e. the second homestead] and west of the homestead road is an area approximately 160m by 100m which contains a large amount of mainly domestic material including metal containers, glassware and pottery. This is assumed by Allison [1998:39] to be the homestead dump.
CONDITION & INTEGRITY	Undetermined. The material may have been redeposited. Requires further investigation.
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE	The dump site is potentially of high historical significance as part of the Kincheha Homestead Group.



Figure 43
Dump area. Note mixture of bottles, ceramic fragments, ash and sand. The dump has been extensively disturbed and few if any large artefacts are visible.
PG 2001 photograph

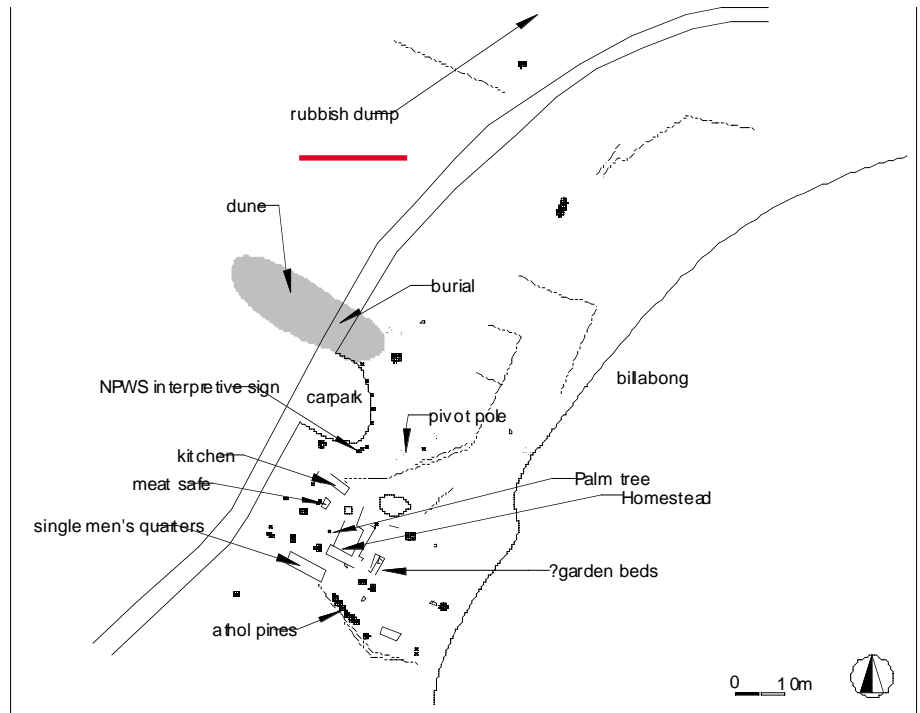


Figure 44
The location of the Homestead dump
SMT 2001 plan



**KINCHEGA HOMESTEADS GROUP
THE KINCHEGA CEMETERY**

PLACE / ITEM NAME

The Kinchega Cemetery

REGISTERS

NPWS HPR: 3914623
NPWS ASR: Not registered

LOCATION

Homestead Precinct: See location plan. GPS Grid Reference approx 628645E 6408096N.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Cemetery presumably holds the graves of people associated with Kinchega Station; and the graves of those killed in the *Providence* disaster. There is little evidence of the original cemetery or the graves. The area has been encroached on by bluebush and is not readily discernable from its surroundings. Netting and corrugated iron define some of the gravesites, although it is not clear if these date from the time of interment. By 1985 some of the fences had been replaced with logs and poles.

The track from the Homestead [No. 2] to the river was originally located east of the current [NPWS] road, such that the Kinchega Cemetery was placed to the **west** of that track [refer Peter Beven plan, Figure 32 above].

DESCRIPTION

The cemetery is signposted in its indicative location. There are some obvious graves and a number of uneven mounds and depressions in the ground which have been assumed to be gravesites. However, equally such mounds could build up around salt bush.



Figure 45
The location of the Kinchega Cemetery
SMT 2001 plan



Figure 46
 Kinchega cemetery.
 Note the clumsy text of the sign.
BN 2001 photograph



Figure 47
 Kinchega cemetery.
 Notelog grave markers introduced by
 NPWS.
BN 2001 photograph

CONDITION & INTEGRITY

Unknown. Actual gravesites not verified. No conservation works are proposed for the cemetery.

COMPARATIVE SIGNIFICANCE

Presumed **low** significance as extent and history is not known, but as the cemetery contains the victims of the *Providence* it is of high visitor interest.

**CONSERVATION POLICY /
 STRATEGY / IMPLEMENTATION**

HISTORICAL RESEARCH

Undertake research in order to determine the history, nature and extent of the burials within the cemetery.

INTERPRETATION

Note comments at **Section 7.4.11**, Volume 1 of the Plan. Rework existing sign and provide interpretation to the Kinchega Homestead Group generally.



KINCHEGA HOMESTEADS GROUP
THE PROVIDENCE SITE

PLACE / ITEM NAME

The *Providence* boiler and associated sites

REGISTERS

NPWS HPR: Not registered
 NPWS ASR: Not registered

LOCATION

The boiler is located on the northern bank of the Darling River embedded into the soil. There are other boiler artefacts embedded in the riverbank. This site is related to the Kinchega Cemetery site.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

At 3 am on 9 November 1872 the boiler of the paddle steamer ‘Providence’ blew up, killing her crew who were buried in the nearby cemetery. The remains of the large metal boiler are partially buried on the upper edge of the river bank. Although adjacent to the point of explosion, it is probable that the boiler was hauled to the top of the bank to prevent it becoming a navigation hazard. A considerable amount is known about the boiler including where and by whom it was manufactured. Recent analysis by Bob Buttrims¹⁰ indicates that the prime cause of failure was a design flaw in the boiler and that it was effectively ‘... a time bomb waiting to go off’.

The *Adelaide Observer* of November 23, 1872, noted that:

‘... it was the worst ever accident on the rivers ... the vessel was blown to pieces ... a large piece of the boiler was found deeply embedded in the bank 100 yards away. Among those killed was Chinese cook named Gum, a hand



Figure 48
 The location of the *Providence* site.
 SMT 2001 plan

¹⁰ Bob Buttrims, ‘The Day the *Providence* Blew Up’, in *Australian Steam Power*, No. 22, 1996

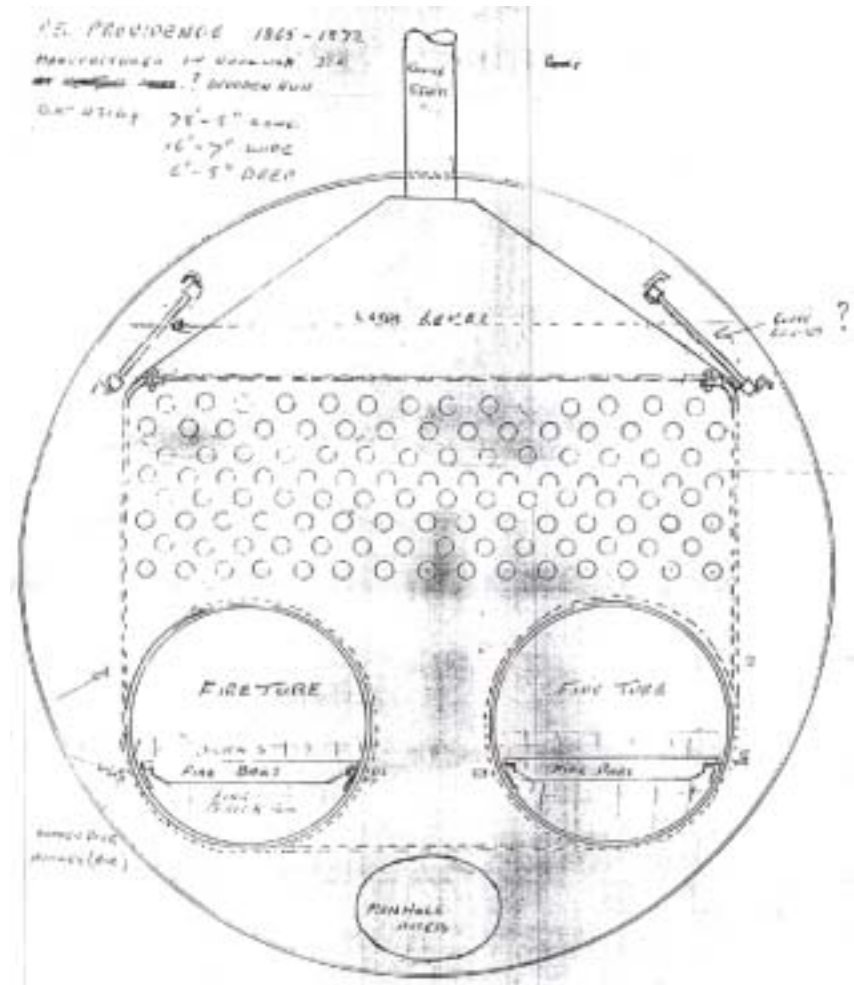


Figure 49
 The front of the 'SS Providence' boiler.
 Reconstruction.
 Bob Butrims, 1996

named Seymore fireman Roach's body was found 15 miles downstream and that of Captain Davis 25 miles downstream. Articles were found on each side of the river for 250 yards, an anvil and heavy hammer was found a long way off and a bag of flour was found over a hill from the river'.

The engineer, Edward Sparkes, was also killed however the *Adelaide Advertiser* of 2 December 1872 noted that the passenger on the barge being towed was not injured. The location of the boiler prominently marks the site of this tragedy. Allowing for being hauled up the bank following the accident, there is no record of its having been moved. Thus its present location, including the fact that it is partially buried, enables a surprisingly direct interpretation of the events of 1872.

DESCRIPTION

A very evocative site reached by the River Drive. A brief sign describes the site. Refer also **Interpretation, Discussion Section 7.4.13, Volume 1.**

CONDITION & INTEGRITY

The site retains only the boiler of the paddlesteamer *Providence*. The boiler is poor to fair condition, as would be expected from a piece of equipment which has lain where it was catapulted 130 years ago.

The boiler site is of **moderate** cultural significance, as it illustrates a number of important cultural themes, including river boat

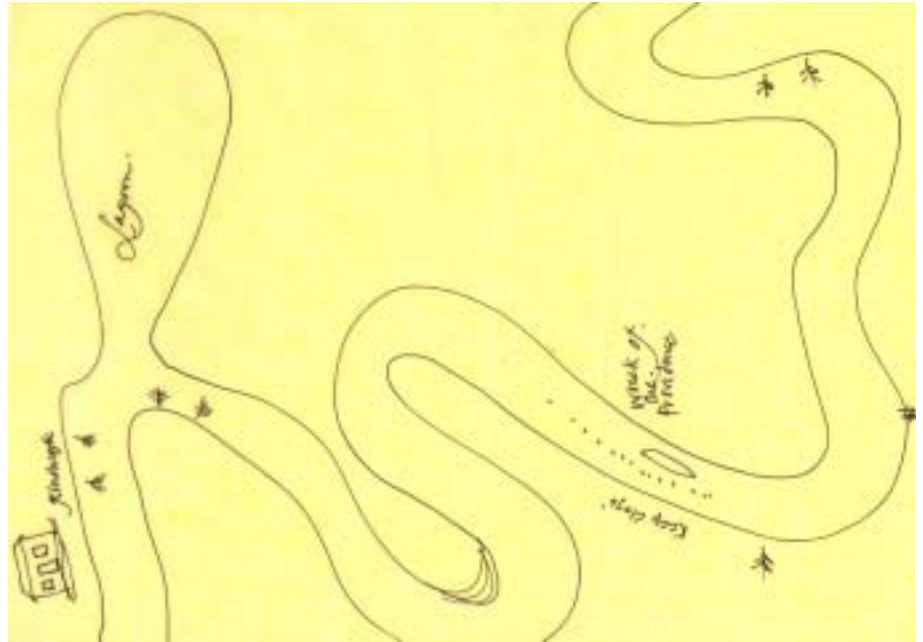


Figure 50
The wreck of the *Providence* shown on a Darling River navigation chart c1875. The steamer is shown in the riverbed itself.
SLNSW Mitchell Library:
overdrawing PF

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

CONSERVATION POLICY / STRATEGY / IMPLEMENTATION



Figure 51
The *Providence* boiler, *in situ*.
PF 2001 photograph



Figure 52
Remnant of the *Providence* boiler,
Darling River bank.
PF 2001 photograph



Figure 53
The Darling River at the site of the
boiler.
PF 2001 photograph



THE KINCHEGA STATION WOOLSHED GROUP

INTRODUCTION

This group comprises the Aboriginal sites [prehistoric and contact]; the Woolshed and Shearers' Quarters complex; the Woolshed archaeological site; the former Shearers' Quarters archaeological site and the moveable heritage relating to the Group.

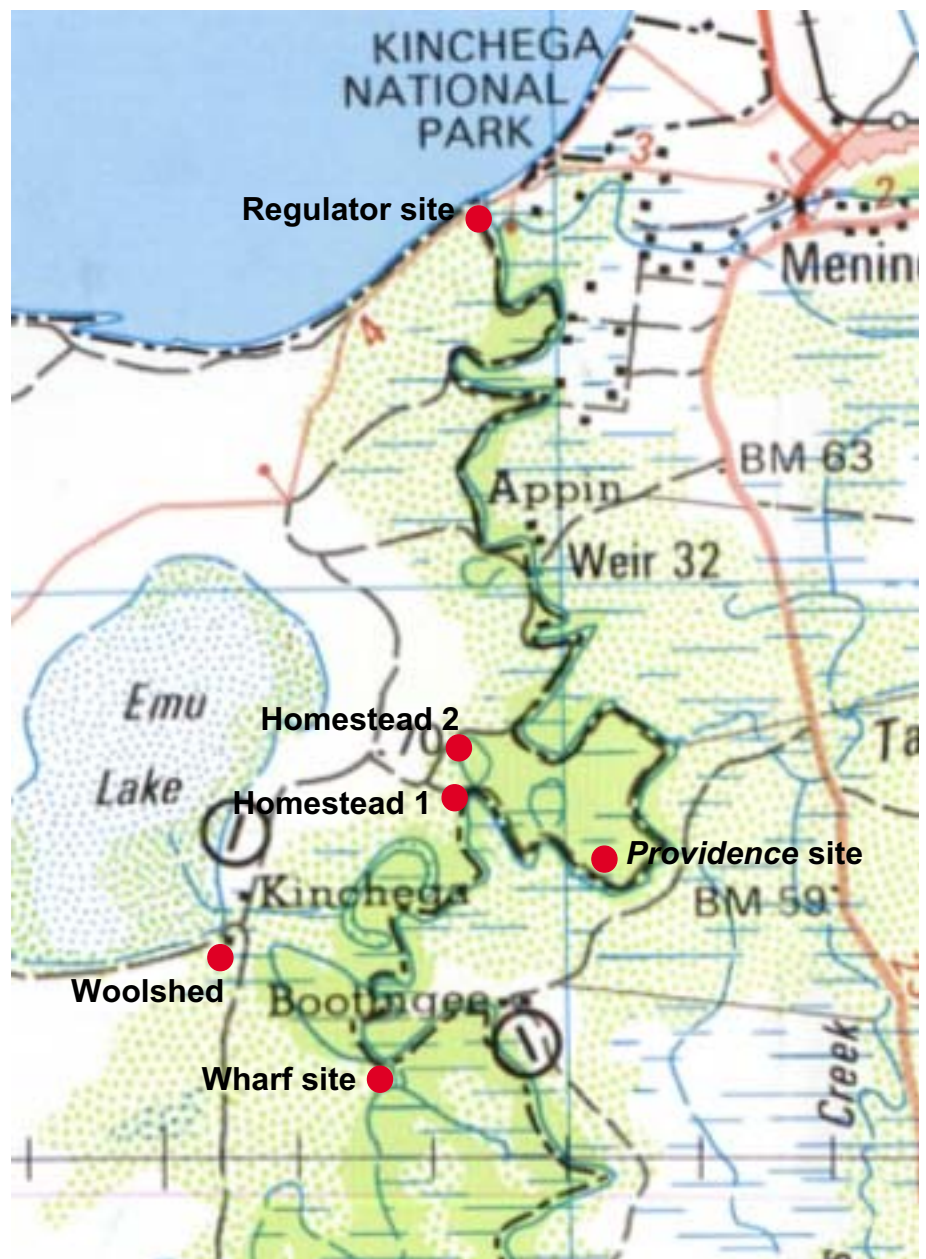


Figure 1
The Woolshed Group relative to other Kinchega Station sites.
CMA 2001 map with PF annotation



THE KINCHEGA STATION WOOLSHED GROUP : NATURAL FEATURES

This complex is located on the edge of the sandy country and the floodplain. Historically there was a high level of activity in the areas around the woolshed. Large numbers of sheep were brought from a very wide area for shearing, and bales were carted by bullocks to the river. The impact of these activities resulted in the area becoming barren, dusty and compacted.

As with the Homesteads Group, the location of the Woolshed Group within the context of the broader National Park is not necessarily unique. The site itself would be unlikely to contain **rare and threatened species** not found elsewhere along the fringe of the sand country and the floodplain system. However the buildings themselves have provided habitat for a number of species including bats, geckoes and mice. The nocturnal variegated gecko [*Gehyra variegata*] thrives around the shearers' quarters when people are staying there, living on insects that are attracted to the light.

The Woolshed Group is located on the edge of the sandy country, which is subject to **wind and water erosion**, and overlooks the black soil floodplains. The sandy ridge country, around the woolshed complex has had a long history of impact by stock and more recently by visitors and people staying in the shearers' quarters.

Immediately adjacent to the woolshed is the edge of the large floodplain. Some of the yards around the woolshed are located on these plains. In the floodplain areas away from the river the clays are friable and are subject to gilgai micro-relief. The grey soils form a crusty top layer with deep cracks as they dry out. This crust crumbles if broken and is then subject to erosion. This has implications for track maintenance and erosion. The area is also subject to periodic



Figure 2

Some of the trees and shrubs planted around the shearers' quarters. The river red gums provide shade to the car park and visitor accommodation.
RT photograph 2001



Figure 3
 The impacted area around the woolshed, looking from the sand dune over the floodplain black box community.
RT photograph 2001

flooding, making the area inaccessible from time to time, risking damage to infrastructure and erosion of tracks.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The natural values of the Woolshed Group are not extraordinary, but are typical of the values of the Park generally.

CONSERVATION POLICY /
 STRATEGY / IMPLEMENTATION

EROSION RISKS

Although the site is now reasonably stable, any significant increase in public usage could require some control of visitor movement to avoid damage to the vegetation that does exist. Walking tracks could be defined around the site between interpretive points and natural regeneration encouraged in other areas. Organic matter such as branches and brush from species within the park could help reduce erosion, encourage regeneration, and define walking trails, as discussed below.

DUNE EROSION

Erosion on the dune country close to the woolshed has revealed some Aboriginal burials, one simple solution to cover these sites is to use branches [refer to **Figure 7**]. This slows water flow, allows sediment and wind blown sand to build up, traps seed, maintains some moisture and protects young seedlings from grazing. This therefore helps slow down erosion and encourages natural revegetation of the area.

INTERPRETATION STRATEGY

The Woolshed and Shearers' Quarters Group provides an opportunity to provide information on:

- the natural environment from the red sand dune communities, the box communities and the river red gums. This could involve a sign posted walking trail from the homestead site to the regulator;



Figure 4
Recent tree planting in shearers'
quarters precinct
PG 2001 photograph



Figure 5
View of the black clay floodplains
and black box community up to the
woolshed on the sand dune.
RT photograph 2001

- the dramatic seasonal changes in the arid zone, with vibrant flowering after rain of red hops and poached egg daisies;
- warning about venomous species such as the redback spider and brown snake;
- history of impact on the site, including the large amounts of timber consumed as firewood for steam engines and kitchens, and for use as fence posts, yards and buildings.



**THE KINCHEGA STATION WOOLSHED GROUP
 ABORIGINAL SITES GENERALLY**

PLACE / ITEM NAME	Aboriginal sites [prehistoric and contact] within the Woolshed Group.
REGISTERS	NPWS HPR : No registrations NPWS ASR : Some registrations
LOCATION	Within and around the Woolshed group of buildings, refer Figure 5 below.
HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	There are a number of Aboriginal sites around this area, most of which are prehistoric; but there are also some 'contact' sites.
DESCRIPTION	The woolshed and the shearers' quarters and other buildings are located on a large dune running from Emu Creek roughly parallel to the Darling River and its immediate floodplain. This area contains known archaeological sites including a site with human bones. The entire dune area including the area around the shearers' quarters and wool classers' huts must be regarded as a potential archaeological deposit. G L Pretty's site no. 1 was located immediately adjacent to one of the wool classers' huts. ¹ During the January 2001 field visit the only obvious evidence of a 'contact' site was located on this dune. Several glass artefacts were also noted on an ashy mound between the car park and the woolshed. Nearby, in what he described as the 'woolshed paddock', Pretty excavated and dated a site which again contained human bone.

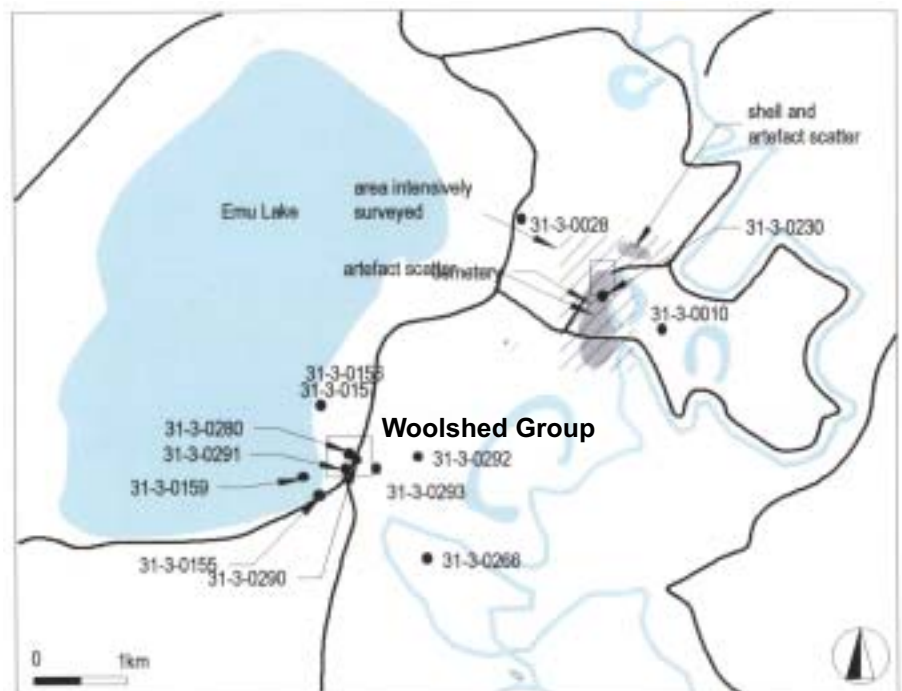


Figure 6
 The Woolshed Group, archaeological plan showing known sites.
 SMT 2001 plan

¹ G L Pretty, Trial Excavation of an Aboriginal Open Campsite and Site Survey, Kincheha National Park, in J Hope [ed] *Darling Surveys 1. Occasional Papers in Prehistory Vol 3*. Dept of Prehistory RSPacS, ANU Canberra, 1978



Generally the sites and their locations are poorly described on the Aboriginal Sites Register and there appears to be omissions and duplications in the recordings. Although sites 31-3-280, 31-3-290 and 31-3-291 appear to plot out close to the Woolshed Group they are, based on their locational description, outside the area.

CONDITION

Generally unprotected. Surface evidence has suffered from subsequent land use impacts and unauthorised collection of artefacts. There is a high likelihood of subsurface material existing intact.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Refer site-specific assessments below.

Figure 7
 This plan describes the potential for pre contact Aboriginal sites in the woolshed precinct.
SMT 2001 plan

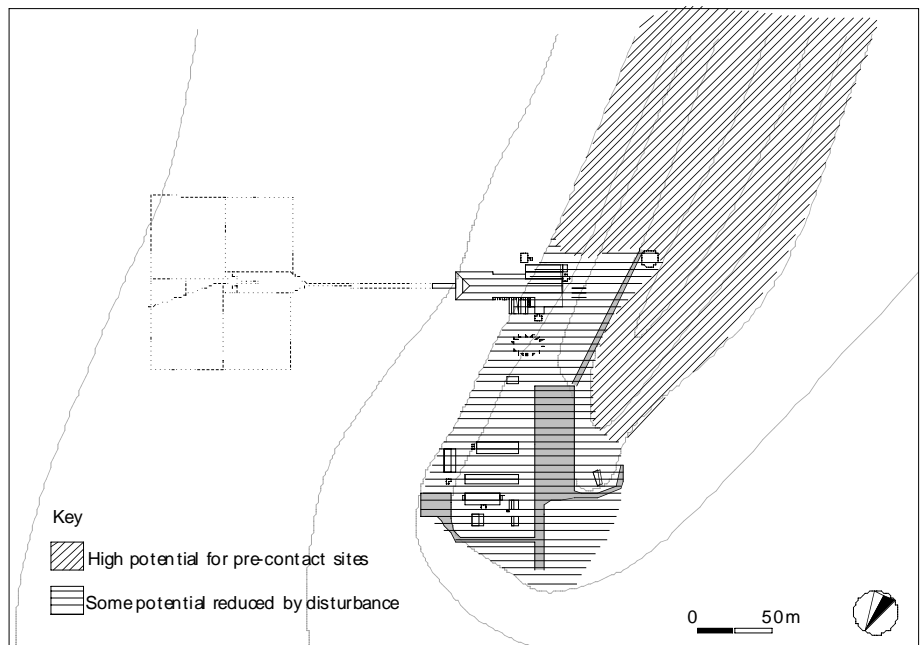
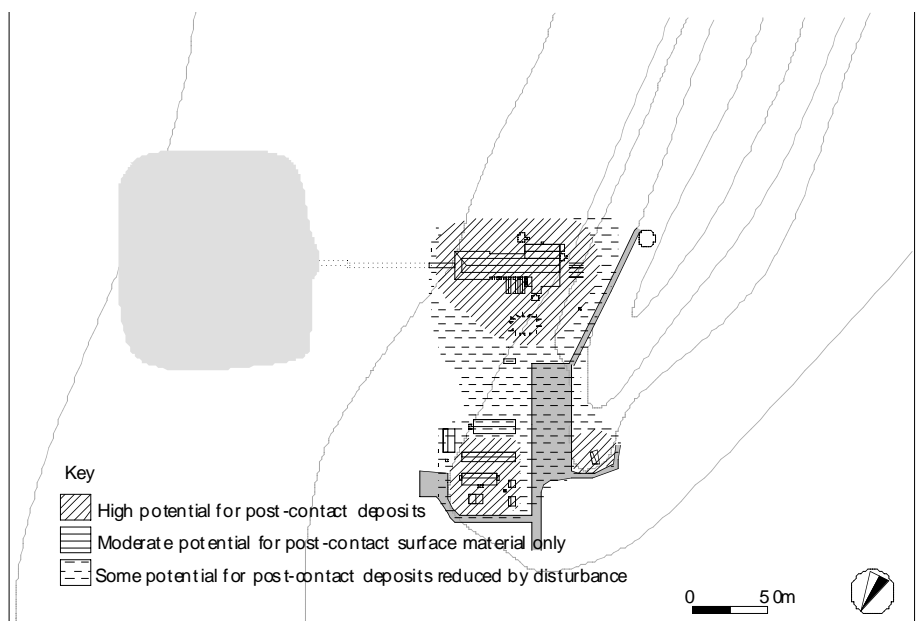


Figure 8
 This plan describes the potential for subsurface post contact Aboriginal archaeological material in the woolshed complex.
SMT 2001 plan





THE KINCHEGA STATION WOOLSHED GROUP

**WOOLSHED AREA :
 ABORIGINAL BURIAL # 1**

PLACE / ITEM NAME	Kincheega Woolshed area: Aboriginal Burial # 1 [Pretty's site K1].
REGISTERS	NPWS HPR : Not registered NPWS ASR : Awaiting registration #, site card submitted
LOCATION	Described by Pretty as occurring on the 'accommodation' dune near the north-eastern corner of the southernmost wool classers' huts.
HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	Not known.
DESCRIPTION	There are a few details of this site and an NPWS site card does not seem to have been completed for it. The site is described as consisting of at least one eroding skeleton, 'camp debris' and European litter.
CONDITION	The site has been disturbed by continued use of this area under the current park operation. The site appears to extend into the small parking embayment behind these buildings as there is a litter of Aboriginal artefacts and European glass and ceramics.
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE	Significant as one of a range of Aboriginal sites found within Kincheega National Park which evidence the pre-contact occupation of the region by Aboriginal people.
CONSERVATION POLICY / STRATEGY / IMPLEMENTATION	PROTECTION Burial sites are common at Kincheega National Park, however this site is particularly vulnerable due to its location close to a heavily visited area. The site should be protected from further erosion and roadworks.

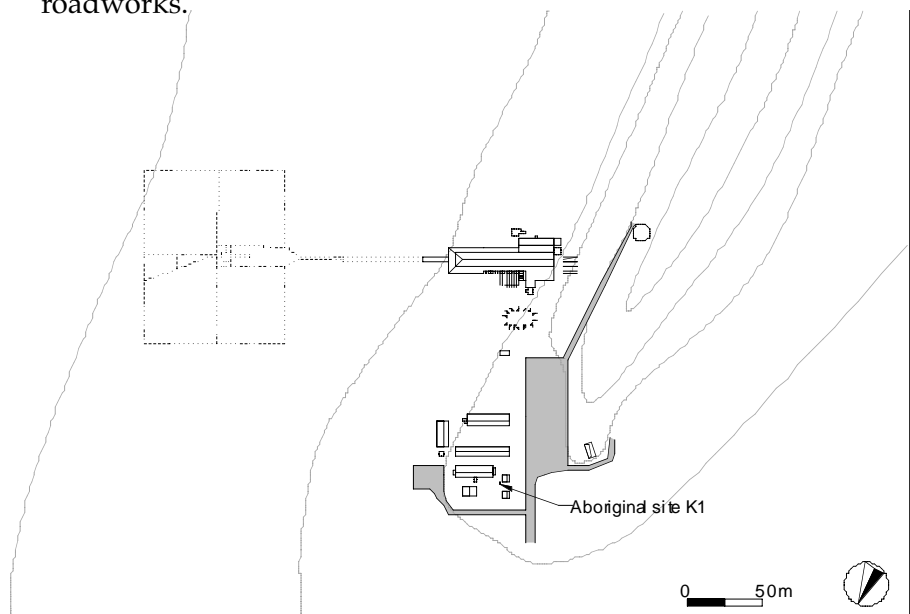


Figure 9
 Plan showing Pretty's Burial Site #1
 SMT 2001 plan



THE KINCHEGA STATION WOOLSHED GROUP

**WOOLSHED AREA :
 ABORIGINAL SITE KW1**

PLACE / ITEM NAME

Kinchega Woolshed paddock
 Aboriginal site KW1 [Pretty's site].

REGISTERS

NPWS HPR :
 NPWS ASR : 31-3-0266

LOCATION

Woolshed precinct. Described by Pretty as occurring in the Woolshed paddock. His site plan shows that the excavation was approximately 1.75 km east of the woolshed. Balme provides grid reference 6270 64054 [Menindee 7333. 1:100,000].

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

First recorded by N Farrer in September 1966, then excavated by G Pretty in 1968 and later described by Balme in 1988. An old museum card is attached to Pretty's report. It was probably not entered into the database because it lacked a grid reference [see report C621]. The site appears to have been relocated by Jane Balme and was entered in the ASR in 1993.

DESCRIPTION

Test excavations were carried out at this site in 1966. A series of dated archaeological deposits were identified. The dates range from 790 ± 80 [ANU 408] to 8340 ± 320 [ANU 411]. The latter date was extracted from bone 'not necessarily associated with the archaeological remains'.

The site consists of artefacts and charcoal eroding from dune sediments. Surface artefacts include pygmy axe, stone scraper, mortar

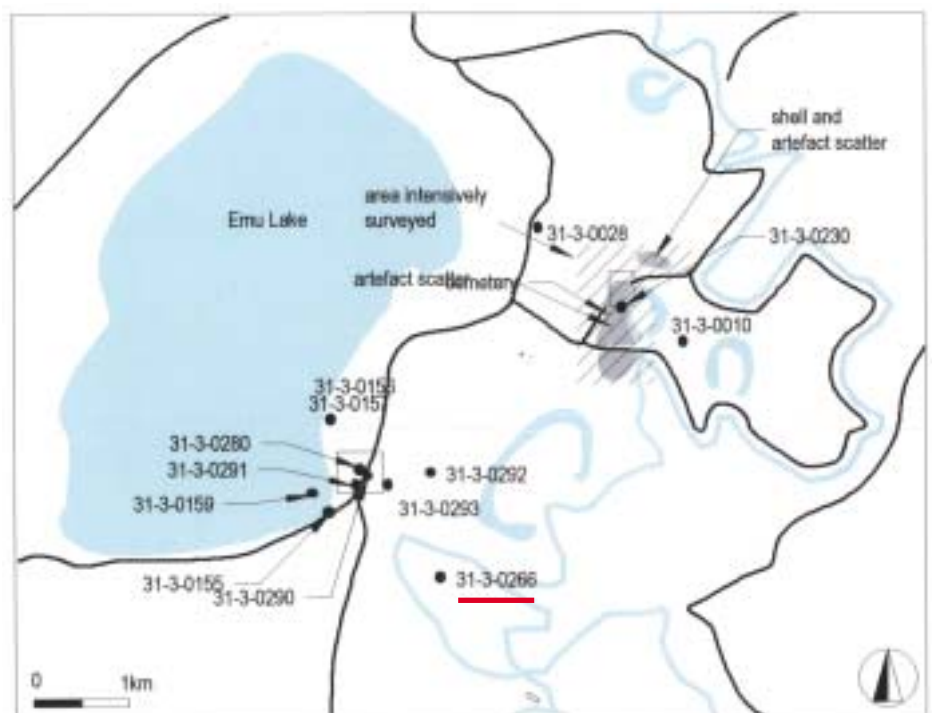


Figure 10
 Plan showing Aboriginal Site KW1.
 SMT 2001 plan



and pestle fragments, red ochre. Artefacts recovered during excavation included scrapers, retouched flakes, 30 flakes mostly quartz and grindstone fragments. Human bone garments were also recovered during excavation. The following shellfish species were found: *Alathyria jacksoni*, *Vivipara sublineata*, *Plotiopsis balonnensis*, *Corbiculina australis*.

CONDITION

The exact location of the test excavation is provided on a sketch by Pretty in report C621 in the Aboriginal Sites Register. The dune itself is close to the dune on which the woolshed is located and European disturbance of this dune is largely restricted to the end where the buildings occur. The location is described by Pretty as the 'woolshed paddock'. The site is described as occurring along the length of the dune. Apparently a lot of edge ground artefacts were collected from this dune prior to the declaration of the area as a National Park.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This site is significant as it provides one of the oldest dates for Aboriginal occupation within the park. There is also a high likelihood of further Aboriginal remains occurring along the length of the dune and therefore there is potential for additional future research.

CONSERVATION POLICY /
STRATEGY / IMPLEMENTATION

PROTECTION

The whole of the dune should be protected from further erosion and roadworks.

Any works in the Woolshed/Shearers' Quarters Group which might disturb surface or subsurface deposits or indirectly increase visitation and thereby lead to such disturbance should be preceded by an REF which assesses the likely impact on Aboriginal sites.



THE KINCHEGA STATION WOOLSHED GROUP

**WOOLSHED AREA :
 ABORIGINAL CONTACT SITE NO. 1**

PLACE / ITEM NAME	Kincheega Woolshed area Aboriginal Contact Site # 1
REGISTERS	NPWS HPR : Registration NPWS ASR : Site card submitted, awaiting registration #
LOCATION	Between the Woolshed and the Shearers' Quarters.
HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	Post contact feature.
DESCRIPTION	Large ashy mound presumably associated with the operation of the woolshed. Several flaked glass Aboriginal artefacts occur on the surface of the mound. These are the only recorded artefacts attesting to the continuation of Aboriginal occupation in what must have been the immediate post contact period.
CONDITION	The site is likely to have been disturbed by the operation of the woolshed and subsequent clean up and operation as a national park. This is likely to have resulted in the loss [through collection] of artefacts and the movement of artefacts through vehicular, animal and pedestrian traffic, however subsurface deposits may be intact.
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE	This site is of high cultural significance as it is the only site in the study area with known post contact Aboriginal artefacts. Detailed investigation of other sites is likely to show that they too contain post contact Aboriginal material.
CONSERVATION POLICY / STRATEGY / IMPLEMENTATION	PROTECTION The site should be protected from further erosion and roadworks.

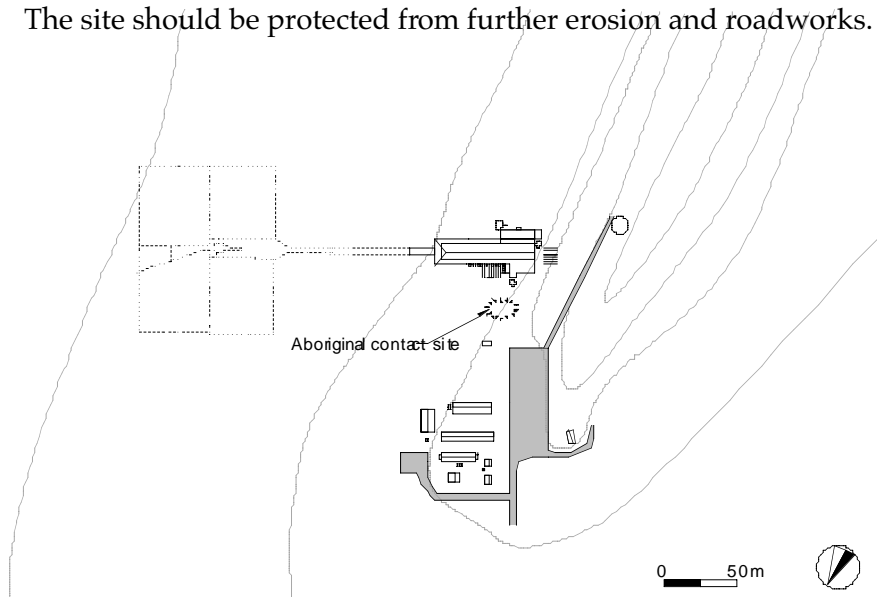


Figure 11
 Location plan of Aboriginal contact
 site # 1
SMT 2001 plan



Figure 12
The large ashy mound near the woolshed.
SMT 2001 photograph



Figure 13
Glass artefacts located on the ashy mound near the woolshed.
SMT 2001 photograph



Figure 14
View of the contact site # 1
RT 2001 photograph



**THE KINCHEGA STATION WOOLSHED GROUP
 WOOLSHED AREA :
 LAKE EMU ABORIGINAL SITE NO. 1**

PLACE / ITEM NAME

Kinchega Woolshed Area
 Lake Emu Aboriginal Site 1

REGISTERS

NPWS HPR: No listing
 NPWS ASR: 31-3-157, 31-3-156

LOCATION

This site is described as being near the air strip which is approximately 100 metres north-west of the Ranger's house.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

This site has been recorded twice: once at Grid Reference 5378E and 9850N [i.e. ASR 31-3-156]; and once as a large site at Grid Reference 5378E 9850N to 5378E 9870N [i.e. ASR 31-3-157]. While the site cards were filled out by different people they were both recorded in August 1978 by members of the Sydney University Survey Group. This situation is typical of the site records for Kinchega National Park, where many people appear to have carried out surveys of differing intensities over the same [mostly easily accessible areas]. There has been little attempt to rationalise records.

DESCRIPTION

This site was not relocated during the fieldwork for this CMP as it was outside the original area defined in the Brief for this project. It would appear from reading both the site cards, that the site is comprised of a series of clay pans containing a scatter of stone artefacts and burnt clay hearths of varying density. The site begins in clay pans on the eastern side of the landing strip and continues northward along the dune and for about 700m past the end of the

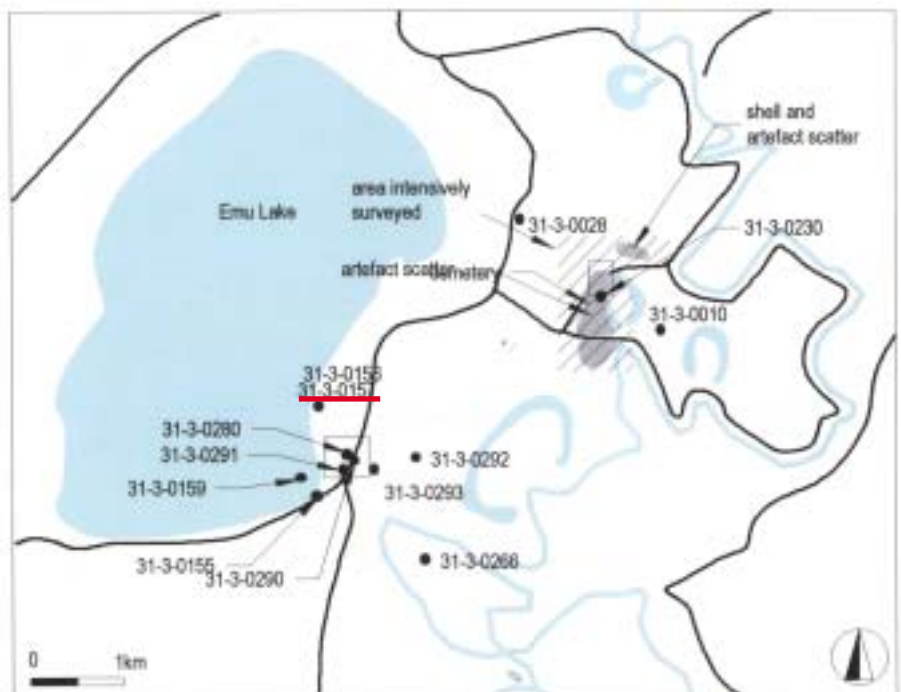


Figure 15
 Location Lake Emu Aboriginal
 site # 1
 SMT 2001 plan



dune along the edge of the trees on the shore of Lake Emu. A distinguishing feature at the northern end of the site is a tree with a survey mark *BM MY 114*.

CONDITION

The condition of the site is described as eroding clay pans with the dune areas in between stabilised by low growing ground covers.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Significant as one of a range of Aboriginal sites found within Kinchega National Park which evidence the pre-contact occupation of the region by Aboriginal people. Typically these sites are concentrated around well drained dunes adjacent to water sources.

CONSERVATION POLICY /
STRATEGY / IMPLEMENTATION

REVIEW OF ASR LISTINGS

A review of the sites on the register for KNP is required. This should be followed up with systematic survey of the areas which are subject to visitor and Park management activities in an attempt to rationalise the confusing records so that they become more useful to Park managers. The advent of GIS systems and the new Aboriginal Sites Register Aboriginal Heritage Management System would be able to cater for an enhanced level of locational and site extent and content information which would address some of these issues.



THE KINCHEGA STATION WOOLSHED GROUP

**WOOLSHED AREA :
 LAKE EMU ABORIGINAL SITE NO. 2**

PLACE / ITEM NAME	Kinchega Woolshed Area Lake Emu Aboriginal Site 2
REGISTERS	NPWS HPR: No listing NPWS ASR: 31-3-155
LOCATION	This site is described as being either side of the east-west disused airstrip which crosses the north-east airstrip. The site occurs approximately 100 m east along the strip at the junction of the two. The grid reference on the site card is 5378 9840.
HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	This site was recorded by Rex Silcox as part of the University of Sydney Survey of Kinchega National Park in August 1978. It has not been excavated or dated and is assumed by the described contents to relate to the pre-contact period.
DESCRIPTION	The site was not relocated during the fieldwork for the CMP as it was outside the original area identified in the Brief for this project. The site consists of several intact hearths, some scattered hearth material and a sparse scatter of stone tools located on an eroded sand dune surface.
CONDITION	The condition of the site is described as occurring on an eroded dune surface but the recorder notes that the site has possible value for further research which suggests that the site is likely to extend subsurface into uneroded areas.

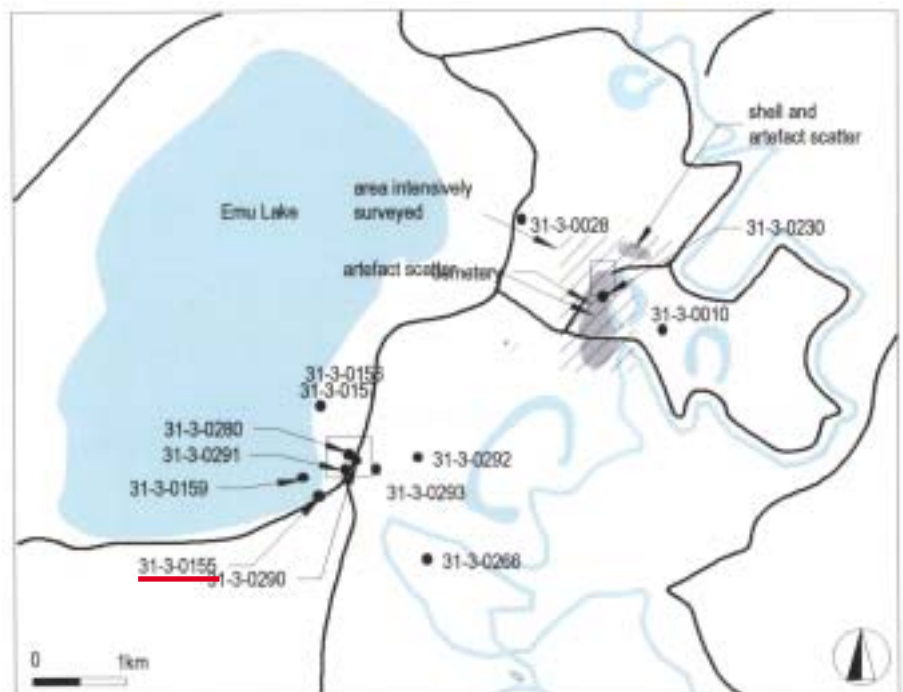


Figure 16
 Location Lake Emu Aboriginal site # 2.
 SMT 2001 plan



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Significant as one of a range of Aboriginal sites found within Kinchega National Park which evidence the pre-contact occupation of the region by Aboriginal people. Typically these sites are concentrated around well drained dunes adjacent to water sources.

CONSERVATION POLICY /
STRATEGY / IMPLEMENTATION

REVIEW OF ASR LISTINGS

A review of the sites on the register for Kinchega National Park is required. This should be followed up with systematic survey of the areas which are subject to visitor and Park management activities in an attempt to rationalise the confusing records so that they become more useful to Park managers. The advent of GIS systems and the new Aboriginal Sites Register Aboriginal Heritage Management System would be able to cater for an enhanced level of locational and site extent and content information which would address some of these issues. The establishment of a GIS layer for Aboriginal sites and identified Potential Archaeological Deposits [PADs] is a priority for Park management.



THE KINCHEGA STATION WOOLSHED GROUP

**WOOLSHED AREA :
 LAKE EMU ABORIGINAL SITE NO. 3**

PLACE / ITEM NAME

Kinchega Woolshed Area
 Lake Emu Aboriginal Site 3

REGISTERS

NPWS HPR: No listing
 NPWS ASR: 31-3-159

LOCATION

This site is described as being about 1.5 km north-west of the former Overseer's house. The site does not appear to plot in the correct location when mapped, possibly because the grid reference as recorded on the site card is missing the first few digits. The grid reference recorded is 5376E 9842N to 5376E 9844N.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

This site was recorded by Edward Mazzeri as part of the University of Sydney Survey of Kinchega National Park in August 1978.

DESCRIPTION

The site was not relocated during the fieldwork for the CMP as it was outside the original area identified in the Brief for this project. The site is described as consisting of two concentrations of material. The first is on an old track which runs along the dune top and the second is in an eroded area of dune. This second exposure contained fragmented human skeletal remains.

CONDITION

The condition of the site is described simply as 'eroding'.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Significant as one of a range of Aboriginal sites found within Kinchega National Park which evidence the pre-contact occupation of

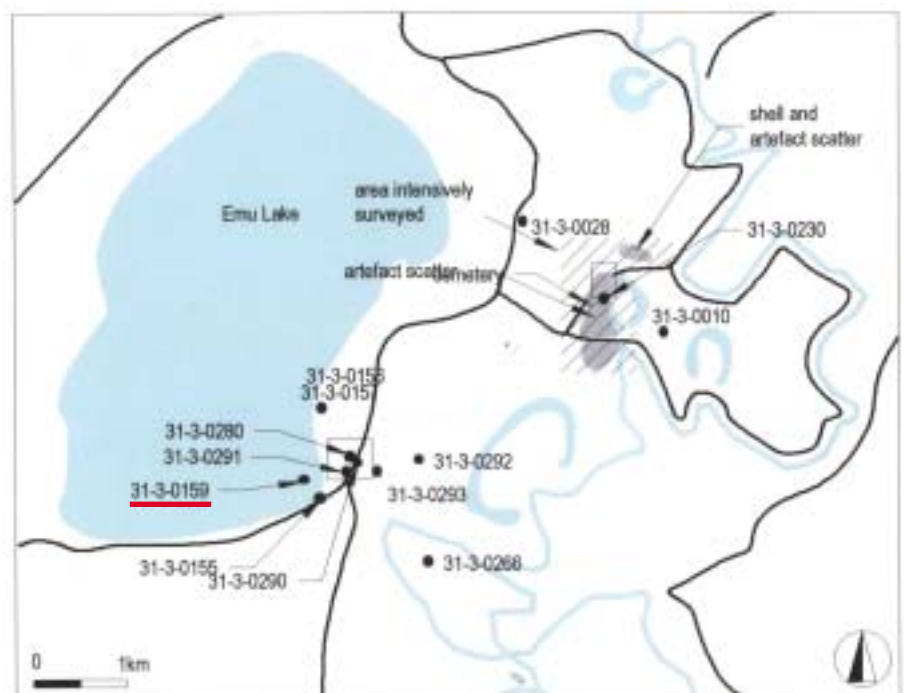


Figure 17
 Location Lake Emu Aboriginal site # 3.
 SMT 2001 plan



the region by Aboriginal people. Typically these sites are concentrated around well drained dunes adjacent to water sources.

CONSERVATION POLICY /
STRATEGY / IMPLEMENTATION

REVIEW OF ASR LISTINGS

A review of the sites on the register for Kinchega National Park is required. This should be followed up with systematic survey of the areas which are subject to visitor and Park management activities in an attempt to rationalise the confusing records so that they become more useful to Park managers. The advent of GIS systems and the new Aboriginal Sites Register Aboriginal Heritage Management System would be able to cater for an enhanced level of locational and site extent and content information which would address some of these issues.



**THE KINCHEGA STATION WOOLSHED & SHEARERS' QUARTERS GROUP
 THE BUILDINGS & SITES GENERALLY**

PLACE / ITEM NAME

Kincheega Station Woolshed & Shearers' Quarters Group

REGISTERS

NPWS HPR : 3914613 Old Shearers' Quarters [archaeological site]
 3914612 Shearers' Quarters
 3914608 Woolshed
 3914615 Expert's Quarters
 NPWS ASR : No registration
 RNE : Registered, File No. 1/04/371/0007
 NSW SHR: 00995 [Woolshed only]

LOCATION

The south-east corner of Emu Lake at the junction of the old Pooncarie and Lake Cawndilla tracks. GPS grid references for each corner of the Woolshed building are:
 626197E 6406181N
 626196E 6406160N
 626252E 6406159N
 626254E 6406174N

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

This group is centred around the woolshed which was completed in 1875. There have been subsequent demolitions and additions to the woolshed structure, particularly in the 1920s. The extant shearers'

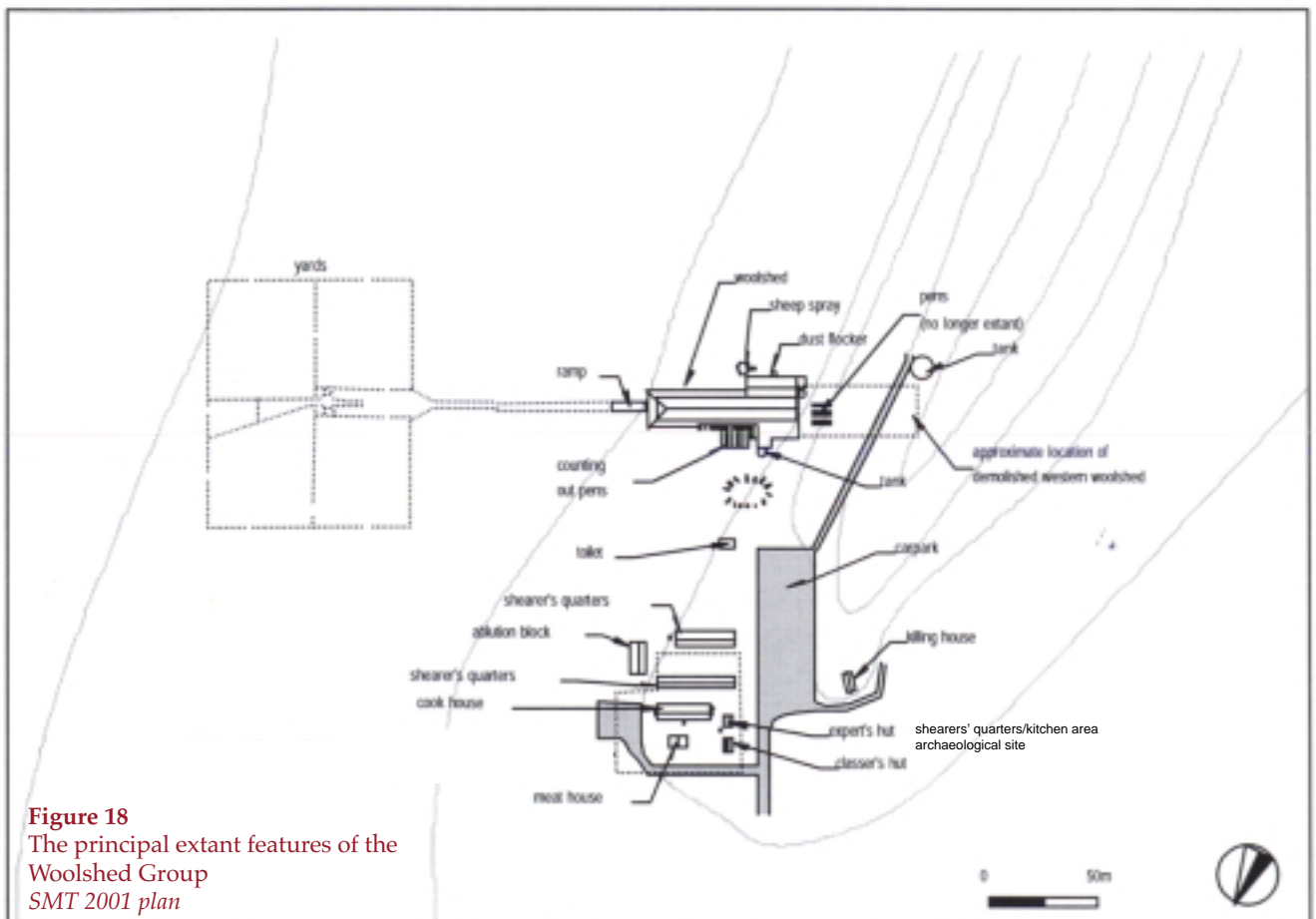


Figure 18
 The principal extant features of the
 Woolshed Group
 SMT 2001 plan



quarters and other outbuildings are primarily twentieth century buildings. There are three principal historical archaeology sites: the site of the western portion of the woolshed; the site of the original shearers' quarters and kitchen; and the original road and bridge across Emu Creek. *Note: The Emu Creek road and bridge are not included as part of this survey; the other archaeological sites are discussed below.*

DESCRIPTION

The group has been assumed to comprise the woolshed and associated yards; outbuildings and woolshed archaeological site; the Shearers' Quarters and associated outbuildings; the former Shearers' Quarters site; the NPWS Ranger's quarters and associated Workshop / Store; and the original and modern approach roads.

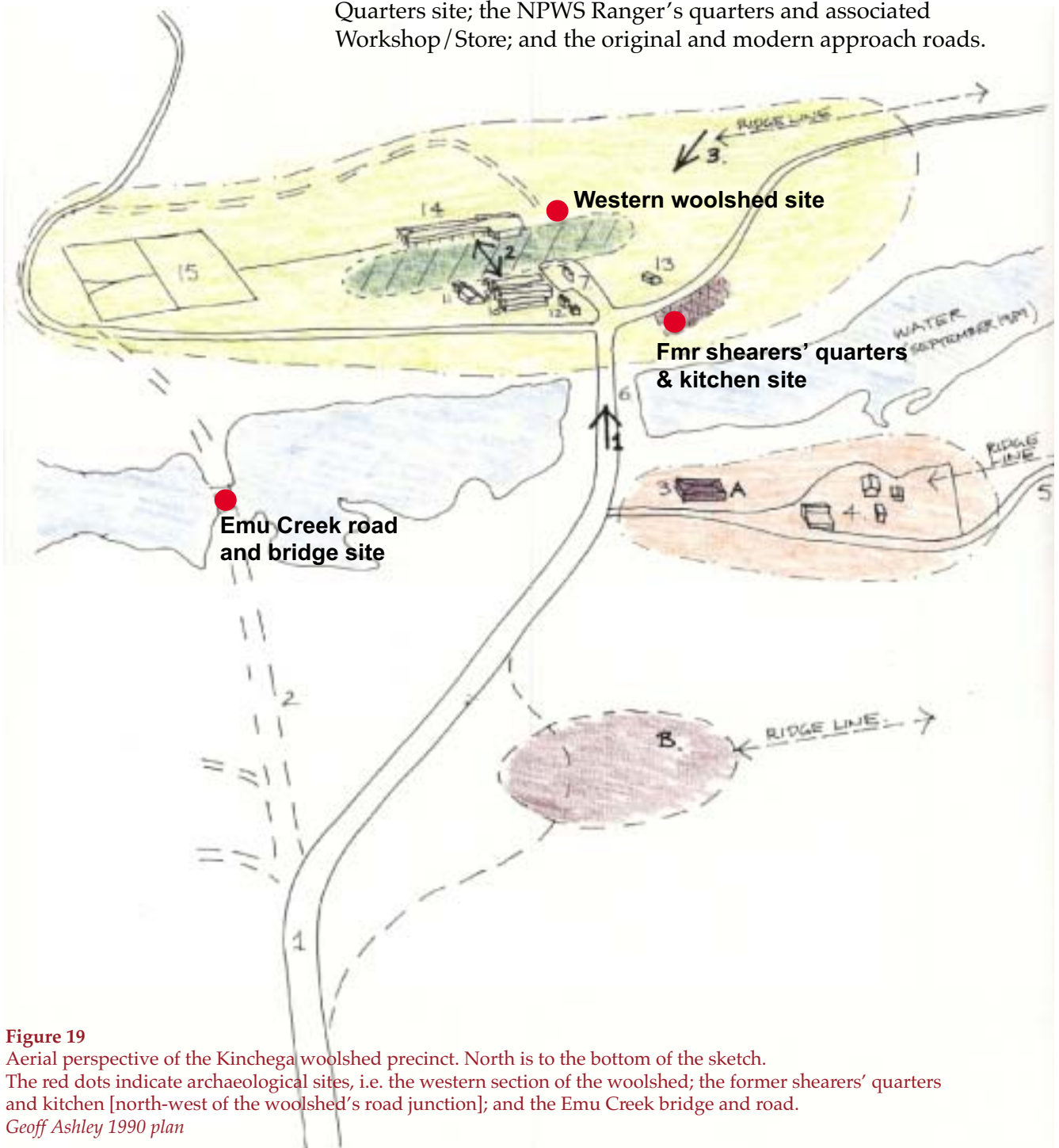


Figure 19
 Aerial perspective of the Kinchega woolshed precinct. North is to the bottom of the sketch. The red dots indicate archaeological sites, i.e. the western section of the woolshed; the former shearers' quarters and kitchen [north-west of the woolshed's road junction]; and the Emu Creek bridge and road.
 Geoff Ashley 1990 plan



MOVEABLE HERITAGE

There are a number of items of moveable heritage located within the Woolshed precinct. These items are all located outside. Items of moveable heritage within buildings are discussed as part of the inventory entry for that building.

VISITORS' CARPARK

Large, wheel-mounted boiler. Provenance not known. In poor but stable condition.

NEAR FORMER SHEARERS' QUARTERS

Large, upright boiler. Provenance not known. In fair condition.

WOOLSHED PRECINCT

Crab winch and boom. In fair condition.

Steam traction engine, John Fowler & Co, Leeds, 1881, in fair condition.



Figures 20 & 21

A large wheel mounted boiler located in the carpark near the killing shed. Origin not known, condition poor but stable.
PF & PG 2001 photographs



Figure 22

Boiler near the shearers' quarters.
PF & PG 2001 photographs



Figure 23
Kinchega woolshed steam engine
PF 2001 photograph



Figure 24
Detail of the steam engine.
PF 2001 photograph



Figure 25
Crab winch and boom.
PG 2001 photograph



Figures 26 & 27
 Remnant machinery and grinding wheel at the former shearers' quarters site
PF 2001 photographs



Figure 28
 Feed trough, north-west of the Killing Shed.
PF 2002 photograph

SHEARERS' QUARTERS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE
 Unidentified items of machinery.
 Grinding wheel. Generally all items in poor condition.

TROUGH
 Metal rivetted trough made of two horizontally halved 44 gallon drums joined end to end. Rivet holes provide evidence of where it was attached to a supporting frame. The trough is approximately 4 metres long and is rusted at its lower end. It is located in a gully immediately below the Killing Shed [north-west].

CONDITION The condition of the various elements within the Woolshed Group varies, refer individual assessments.

SIGNIFICANCE The significance of the various built elements within the precinct varies, refer individual assessments. The provenance of some of the various items of moveable heritage located within the precinct is unknown and their significance is therefore difficult to ascertain. All appear to have some value for interpretation purposes.



CONSERVATION POLICY /
STRATEGY / IMPLEMENTATION

The Kinchega Station Woolshed is entered on the NSW Heritage Register; the Register of the National Estate; and the NPWS Historic Places Register.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

The area of potential subsurface deposits is indicated in Figures 7 and 8, page 51. Any works in this area which might result in disturbance to the surface and subsurface deposits must be preceded by an REF which takes into account the potential impact on Aboriginal and European sites.

CONSERVATION WORKS

Undertake the conservation works for the built elements identified within Appendix 2, Volume 2; and in accordance with the Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter and the guidelines at Appendix 1, Volume 2.

CYCLICAL MAINTENANCE

Implement a program of annual inspection for the built elements within the Woolshed Group, in accordance with the Maintenance Guidelines included at Appendix 1, Volume 2. Undertake conservation and maintenance works on an 'as required' basis.

INTERPRETATION

Interpretation objectives for the Woolshed Group are set out at **Section 10.6.2, Volume 1.**

NATURAL VALUES INTERPRETATION

There are opportunities to interpret the natural environment and history around the woolshed complex.

There may be potential to develop a walk from the woolshed through the yards to the floodplain and even follow the route taken by the bullock teams to the river. This could demonstrate the changes in vegetation from the dune system to the floodplains. However due to the nature of the soils on the floodplain establishment and maintenance of a tracks could be difficult. Establishing a similar trail [from the historic site to the river] would be much more cost effective at the old homestead site, and would be much less prone to flooding.



Interpretative material could be provided immediately around the woolshed complex related to:

- Geology and vegetation
- Aboriginal history and food sources
- The wool industry
- The role of Aboriginal stockmen and domestic workers; and
- Ecological processes in the arid zone, such as response to rain and floods, woody weeds, fire regime and grazing pressure.

PLACE / ITEM NAME

REGISTERS

LOCATION

THE KINCHEGA STATION WOOLSHED GROUP
 THE WOOLSHED ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Kinchege Station Woolshed
 Former Woolshed site

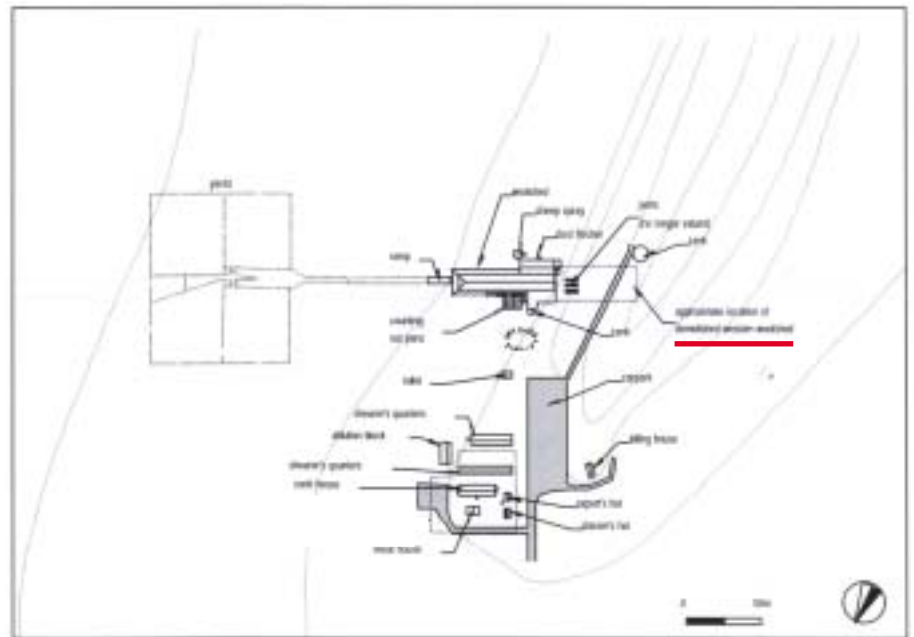
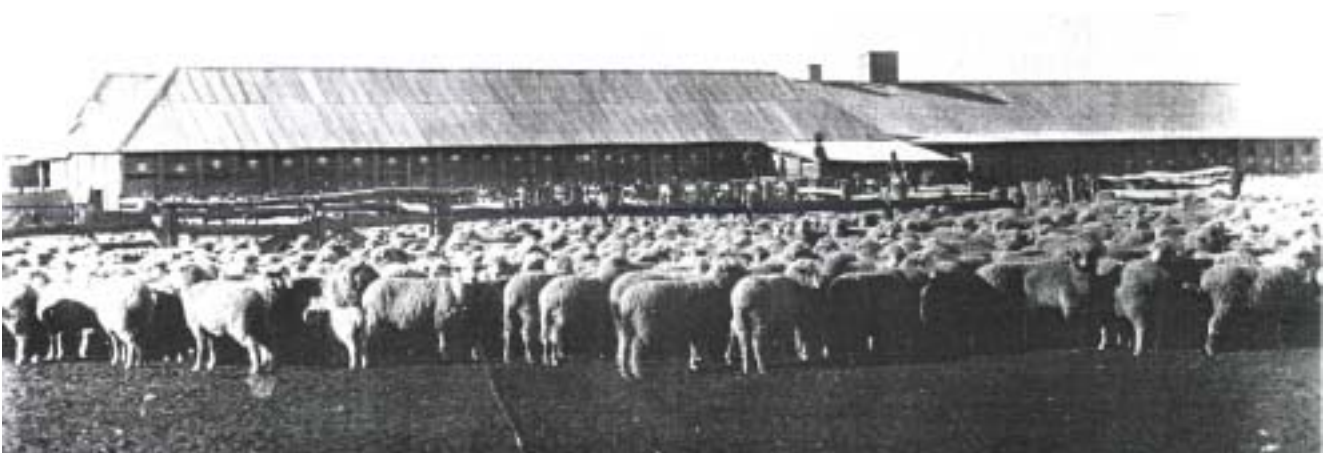


Figure 29
 Site plan showing the Woolshed archaeological site.
SMT 2001 plan

Figure 30
 South elevation, Kinchege Woolshed, n.d. The now demolished western section of the building [left side] had two hipped gabled roofs with a central gutter.
John Hughes, Kars Station





DESCRIPTION

NPWS HPR : 3914608
NPWS ASR :
RNE:
NSW SHR:

CONDITION

To the west of the extant woolshed.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The original Kincheega Station woolshed extended east-west across a sandy range. The western end was cut into the eastern side of the sand dune and adjoined the western end of the current woolshed. It is not known when this portion of the woolshed was demolished.

CONSERVATION POLICY /
STRATEGY / IMPLEMENTATION

A flat site to the west of the woolshed, flanked on the western extreme by a modern watertank and believed to be the site of the western end of the woolshed.

Potentially intact archaeological site.

The site has historical significance as a component of the 1870s



Figure 31
North elevation, Kincheega Woolshed.
The demolished portion is at right.
ND but c1890.
John Hughes, Kars Station



Figure 32
The woolshed, with the
archaeological site in the foreground.
PF 2001 photograph



Kinchega Station woolshed.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND ORAL HISTORY INVESTIGATION

It would be useful, in management and interpretative terms, to have a better understanding of the extent of the site; and the function of the former building. Undertake an archaeological investigation and an oral history project to investigate this site.

INTERPRETATION

Interpretation objectives for the woolshed complex are set out at **Section 10.6.2, Volume 1.**

THE KINCHEGA STATION WOOLSHED GROUP

THE SHEARERS' QUARTERS/ KITCHEN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

Kinchega Station former Shearers' Quarters archaeological site.

NPWS HPR : 3914613

NPWS ASR : Not registered

A site extending east-west, located to the north-west of the Woolshed's road junction.

The original shearers' quarters and kitchen were two separate buildings located to the north-west of the woolshed.

The archaeological site extends for about 100 metres north of the Lake Cawndilla road adjacent Emu Creek. The site has a variety of archaeological sites along its length, but no detailed investigation has been undertaken.

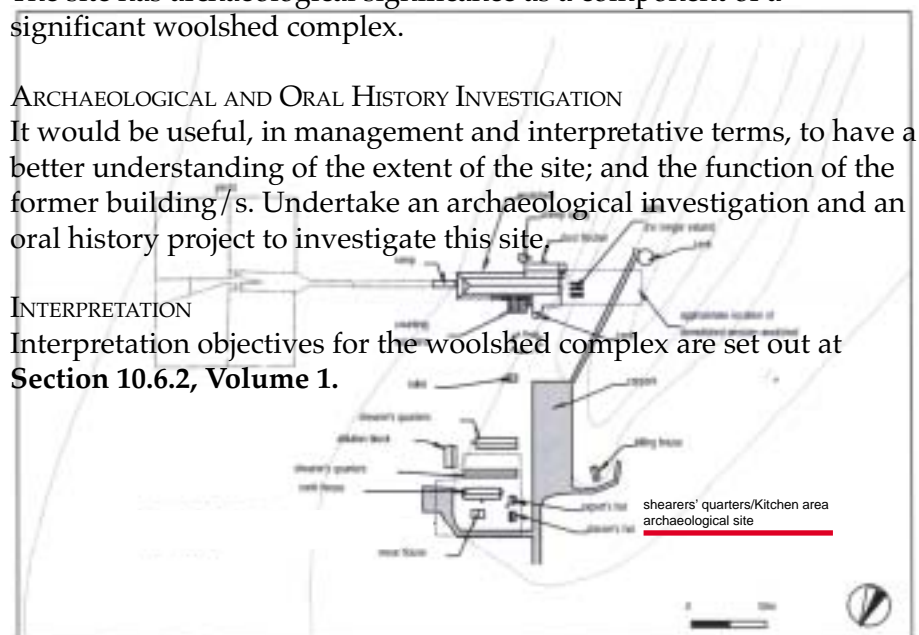
The site has archaeological significance as a component of a significant woolshed complex.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND ORAL HISTORY INVESTIGATION

It would be useful, in management and interpretative terms, to have a better understanding of the extent of the site; and the function of the former building/s. Undertake an archaeological investigation and an oral history project to investigate this site.

INTERPRETATION

Interpretation objectives for the woolshed complex are set out at **Section 10.6.2, Volume 1.**



PLACE / ITEM NAME

REGISTERS

LOCATION

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

DESCRIPTION

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

CONSERVATION POLICY /
 STRATEGY / IMPLEMENTATION

Figure 33
 Site plan showing Shearers' Quarters
 archaeological site.
 SMT 2001 plan



Figure 34
The woolshed, shearers' quarters and kitchen. ND but c1890.
John Hughes, Kars Station



Figure 35
Shearers posing beside the Kinchega shearers' quarters, c1890
Kinchega National Park sign



Figure 36
The former Shearers' Quarters site adjacent Emu Creek.
PF 2001 photograph



Figure 37
Bottles, former Shearers' Quarters site. There are numerous bottle dumps in this area.
PF 2001 photograph



Figure 38
Discarded blade shears, former Shearers' Quarters site.
PF 2001 photograph



**THE KINCHEGA STATION WOOLSHED GROUP
 THE WOOLSHED**

PLACE / ITEM NAME

Kinchege Station Woolshed

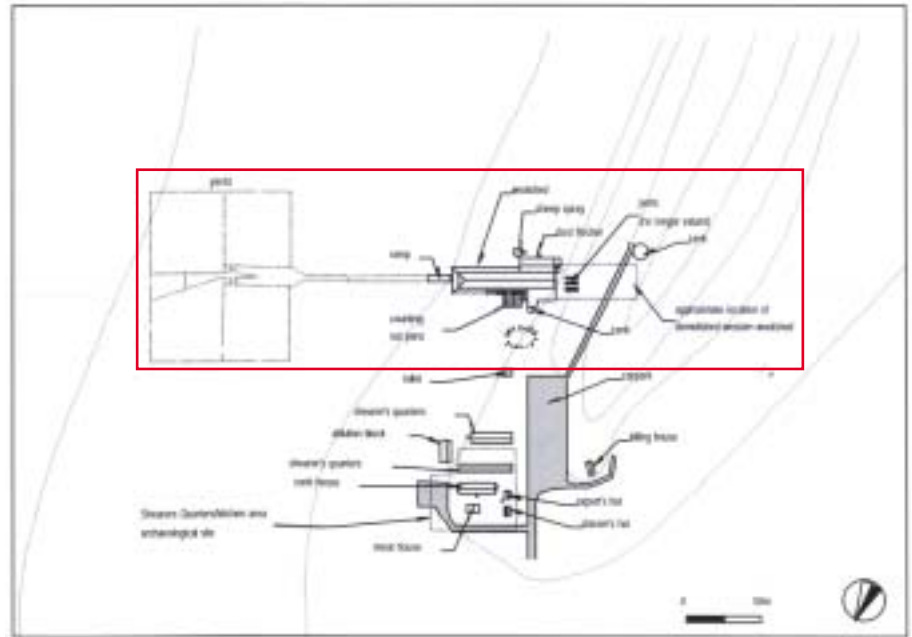


Figure 39
 Site plan showing Woolshed.
SMT 2001 plan

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

This building was commenced during the early 1870s and completed in 1875. Although a large shed, it was by no means the largest in the western region. An historical photograph of the north elevation shows wool bales being loaded onto bullock wagons for the short trip to Three Mile Point, to be transferred onto the paddle-steamers. This is consistent with both Ashley's and Files' accounts that the wagons went east along the building and joined the track at the base of the slope before heading south.

DESCRIPTION

The Kinchege Woolshed was constructed from River Red Gum and corrugated iron. In its original configuration it had four shearing boards each accommodating approximately 16 shearers, thus enabling up to 64 shearers operating at one time. The woolshed was modified and reduced in size over the almost 100 years of its working life. The last shearing was held there in March 1967.

Analysis of the historical photographs and Kinchege Woolshed indicates that the shed may have been constructed in two parts: a western end, now missing, and the eastern section, rebuilt in the 1920s with the addition of the elevated sweating pens. The hipped roof of the western section of the shed implies it was constructed first, the gable being on the later eastern end. One of the photos shows two roof towers accommodating the top of the press rams. The present roof shows no evidence of the smaller tower, indicating that it was probably removed in the 1920s, as work in the 1970s did not affect

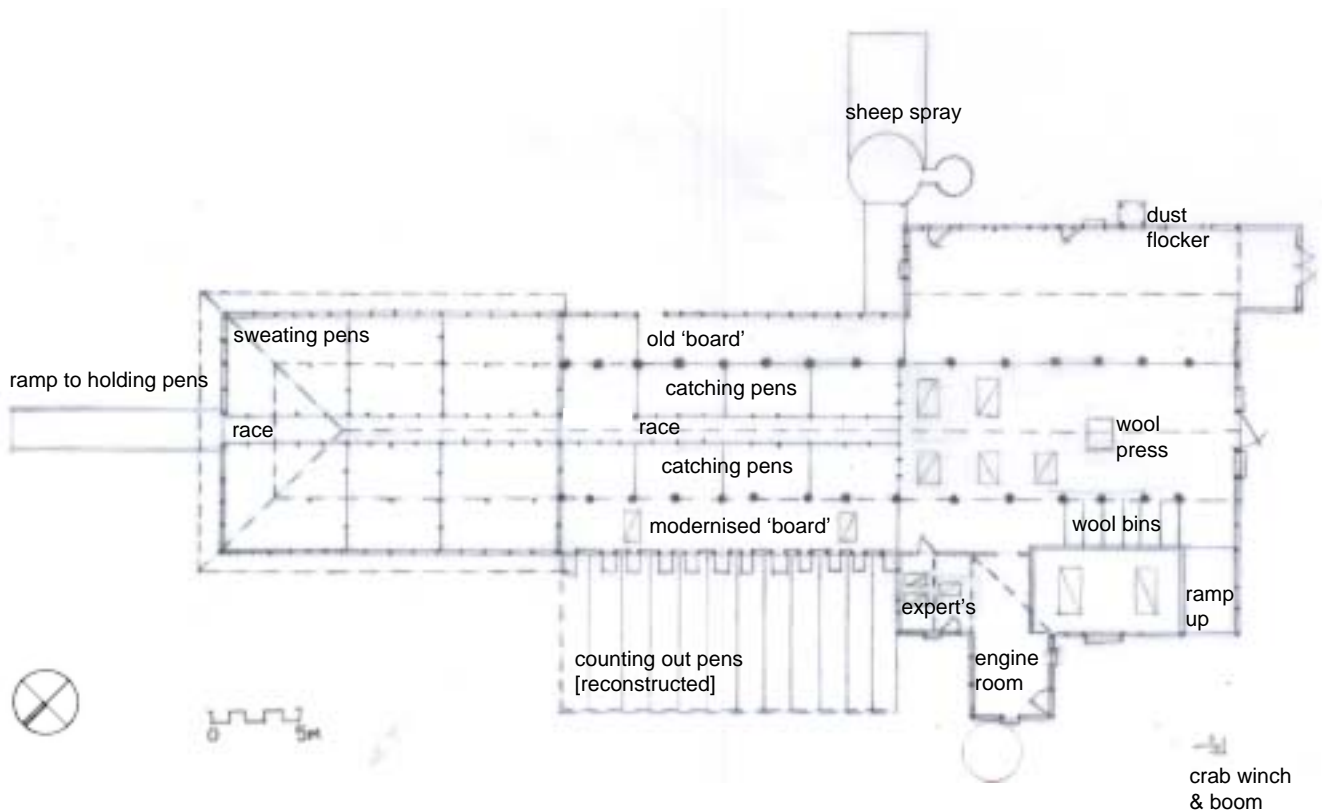


Figure 40
Floor plan, Kinchega Woolshed.
PF 2002 plan, based on Peter Freeman
1980 plan

this area. The large tower may also have been rebuilt in the 1920s, as it appears to be a different size to the present one.

It is understood that the yards, sheep ramp and pens to the **east** also date from the 1920s. According to Bruce Bray, who worked for NPWS conserving the woolshed in 1970, much of the building had collapsed by 1967:

'... the ramp was there, but down by 3-4 feet, and still had some sleepers on it. The fascia and guttering on the pens was added at that time, and the original moulding was run on the fascia. Creosote or dieldrin was used on the base of posts replaced in the 1970s'.²

At the **north elevation**, the steam boilers are still *in situ* adjacent to the engine room. The counting out pens were reconstructed in 1992 based on earlier evidence. They reflect the 1950s configuration of the board, as does the corrugated iron walling and the wide timber shutters.

To the **west elevation** the double gable reflects the earlier roof form and that of the demolished western building. It is likely that this end of the building was extensively remodelled in the 1920s as well as conserved in the 1970s. Bruce Bray noted that *'... much of the western end of the building was reconstructed, but there were never doors on this end of the building. There is new walling at the dust flocker end'*. To the west of the shed was a drying rack [indicated in the Cox drawings] which

² Bruce Bray, pers. comm. 1993



Figure 41
Locomotive boiler and old steam plough still *in situ* adjacent to the engine room, north elevation. During shearing time this part of the site would have been very much a rural industrial landscape.
PG 2001 photograph

comprised netting on small posts 28 inches apart and 20 feet from the door. This was used to dry wet fleeces.

The 1920s sweating pens abut the 1870s blade wall of the **south elevation**. The corrugated iron wall to the western end of the south elevation is assumed to be part of the 1920s reconstruction and houses the dust flocker. Note the separate engine room and elevated drive gear that powered the flocker, indicating it post dated steam power. This section of the building was extensively conserved following acquisition by the NPWS in 1967.

The **interior** of the Kinchega Woolshed is particularly significant for its ability to demonstrate sequential methods of shearing used in Australian wool production over the century from 1870 to 1970. Evidence remains of blade shearing facilities, early steam driven mechanical shearing, combustion engine [kerosene then diesel] driven equipment and finally the use of electric motors. There is evidence of different arrangements of overhead gear modified to adapt to improved methodologies and technologies.



Figure 42
West elevation.
BN 2001 photograph



Figure 43
 Composite photograph of the south elevation, Kinchega Woolshed, PF 2001 photograph

Blade shearing was done adjacent to the catching pens [2 per door] on both sides of the shed and, in the early days, at both ends of the shed, i.e. 16 per board on four **blade boards** [the western boards being removed in the 1920s]. Swing gates were not needed, as the sheep were fearful of coming out, however loose panels could be slotted in. A rattle, or 'Tin Dog', was made from an old tobacco tin and wire and was rattled to shift the sheep. If sheep were cut, Stockholm Tar was applied with a round brush. The tar was kept in an old tin, hung on a nail and applied with a round brush, an example of which was in the storeroom in 1992. Spilt tar is readily evident on the posts and floor, and a signature dated 1886 is cut into a post. The blade shearing board had hessian bags over the chutes and possibly the windows. The white discs on external walls [evident in photos] were for writing counting pen numbers, i.e. the number of sheep shorn per man.



Figure 44
 Dust flocker drive gear, restored in HPRP 1993. PG photograph 2001

The **internal sheep pens** most likely date from the initial construction phase. Of particular interest are the vertical gates used in combination with sash chords and weights. These were restored to good working order in 1992. Similar gates were used at Tolarno shed south down the Darling, near Pooncarie. [Like Kinchega, Tolarno was also substantially larger than its present size].

Figure 45
 The blade board [south side]. Rebates and bolt holes on the upper face of the posts accommodated the beam that supported the first phases of overhead gear. It is likely that hessian bags would have hung over the windows. PG 2001 photograph





Figures 46 & 47
Blade wall exterior prior to reconstruction during Heritage Places Restoration Program [left]; and following reconstruction [right].
PG 1993 photographs

The **elevated sweating pens**, built in the 1920s, are a distinctive feature of Kinchega woolshed. They are unusual for their lightweight timber stud construction, unlike the heavy timbers of the earlier section. The roof lining boards were initially covered with malthoid [a tar impregnated felt sheet] that was later covered in corrugated iron. This section of roof was removed, re-rolled and replaced in the 1970s, which explains the occasional appearance of previously painted sheets.

Blade shearing gave way to **mechanical shearing**, the latter requiring new technologies and changes to the building. The increased speed of mechanical shearing enabled a reduction in the number of stands and a subsequent reduction in the size of the shed. The reduced size of the pastoral holding also meant less sheep, and hence a smaller shearing team. The overhead gear was initially installed to enable mechanical

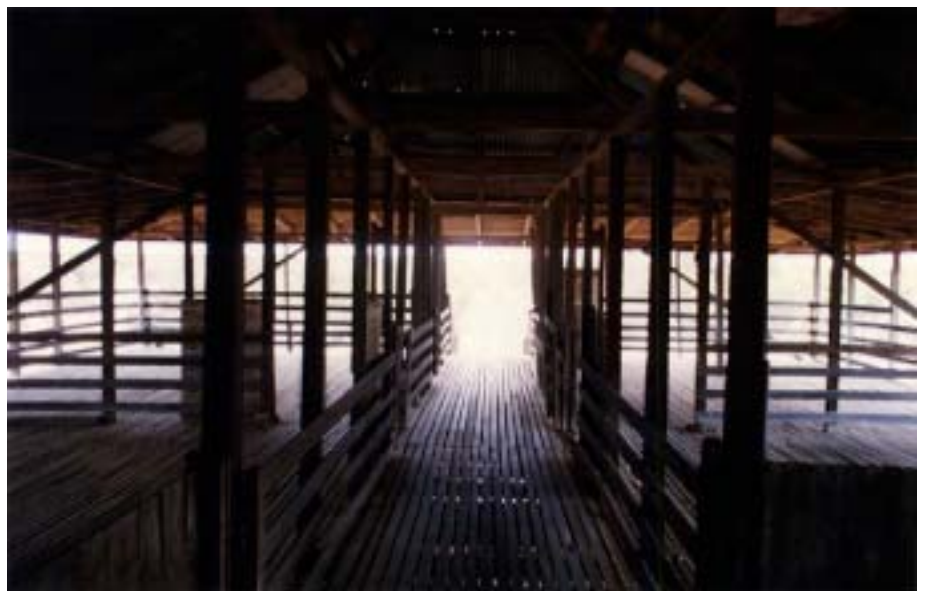


Figure 48
Kinchega Woolshed, sweating pens.
PG 1993 photograph



Figure 49
The sweating pens
BN 2001 photograph

shearing adjacent to the pens not the chutes, as is apparent from rebates checked into the posts closest the pens. This gear was driven by a steam engine with the boiler outside the engine room mounted on brick piers. The boiler, which is still present on site, originally came from a railway engine. The steam was delivered by pipe from the boiler, through the wall, and to the engine which drove a belt that operated the closer of two overhead shafts [i.e. for the northern board]. A second belt then drove the far shaft located over the southern board. This second belt was supported mid-span by a lazy wheel fixed to the post; the bolt-holes are still evident.

When the boiler finally failed, an old '**engine winch**', or steam plough, that had been used on the property [particularly at Kars] for tank excavation and ploughing, was driven into place and the steam pipes relocated from the former boiler. Its water tank had already rusted out and so water was supplied by pumping from the adjacent tank directly to the boiler [by hand pump].

The **engine room** is accommodated in a timber framed and corrugated iron extension to the building that housed the engine, experts equipment and general workshop equipment. The drill press in the engine room came from Avon [a nearby property] and was used by Bruce Bray in the 1970s reconstruction. In the engine room are some early style grinding discs, probably from Kinchege. The face of these discs was first coated in wax and then the abrasive was added [probably carborundum]. When the abrasive needed to be



Figure 50
 Engine room. Note the engine mounting block in the rear skillion.
 Expert's equipment, including sharpening gear, is in the foreground.
PG 2001 photograph



replaced the wax also had to be removed. This was apparently a difficult job, given to a boy. The grinding discs were driven by belt from the overhead shaft. Shears and/or combs were sharpened by the expert. They were placed in the two way box still evident in the wall. Each shearer had their own pigeon hole. Minor conservation work was done in 1993 and this space is now stable. Opportunities exist to reintroduce appropriate equipment back into this space to provide a clearer indication of how it was used.

The woolshed **steam engine** was replaced by a 'Columbus' Kerosene unit mounted on the same spot inside the engine room. The steam boilers were left in place outside and at some stage the copper was cut out of the first boiler. The third engine ran on diesel and was also mounted where the previous two had stood. Finally an electric motor was installed beneath the drive shaft [the pulley on the shaft was removed by Bray in the 1970s]. The electric motor and pulley from the overhead gear were removed and probably went to Mt Wood [Sturt National Park, near Tibooburra].



Figure 51
 Crab winch and boom for loading
 bales of wool.
PG 2001 photograph

By this stage it was found that mechanical shearing was best done adjacent to the chutes and the overhead gear was moved the outside wall. Presumably the flock size had further reduced and the southern board was abandoned. The stands had been reduced from about 64 in the 1880s to 10 in 1971. The northern board was reconstructed with the gear being carried on a vertical steel truss. The width of this truss required the wall to be moved out about a foot and a short run of iron was added to extend the roof sheet. New flooring was also added. The north board was re-roofed in 1993 and the extended sheet is no longer visible.

There are three **wool presses** in the shed. Bruce Bray is of the opinion that the present press [Ferrier, wheel type] is the original one even



Figure 52

The north board as it operated for the final shearing of 1967. This was originally a blade shearing board that was adapted several times. Note the rebates in posts to the left for the first overhead gear, and the swing doors added to the pens.

PG 1993 photograph



Figure 53

Reconstruction of roof over north board. Note mortises in the original plate. The wall was moved outwards in the 1950s to accommodate the vertical steel trusses and overhead gear.

PG 1993 photograph



Figure 54

North wall of north board. Pens reconstructed as part of the HPRP in 1993. In this photo of 1993, the shutters have yet to be restored.

PG 1993 photograph





though it was removed to Bindara Station and replaced with a Koerstz. The third press was a Ferrier lever woolpress, manufactured by Humble & Sons, Geelong. The early presses were very labour intensive and were discarded for the more efficient later types. When the Ferrier wheel press was dismantled for the trip to Bindara corresponding parts were numbered in Roman numerals which, following retrieval and re erection in the 1980s, can still be seen. The overhead component was also retrieved from Bindara.



Figure 55

Interior of press area showing the Ferrier wheel type wool press in place. A Koerstz press is in the background. Note the use of Oregon trusses in this area, along with grooved purlins. This is the timber that was recycled from use as formwork in construction of the Menindee Bridge and dates this part of the structure to the 1920s and explains why towers in early and present photographs don't correlate. The bush poles may be part of the original structure.

PG 2001 photograph

CONDITION & INTEGRITY

The woolshed is in fair condition. The shed is of moderate to high integrity, having undergone extensive modifications over the course of its working life; and conservation works, including reconstruction of some elements, since 1967.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The 1875 Kinchega Woolshed and its associated shearers' quarters and outbuildings are of historical significance for their direct association with the early pastoral history of the far west of New South Wales. The precinct illustrates the huge size of pastoral holdings in the arid areas of Australia and the woolshed is a good example of a large scale shearing shed which also helps to show the major developments in shearing technology during the century since its construction. The woolshed is of a notable design, the sweating pens being an important feature of the building. The Kinchega Woolshed precinct is a prominent feature in the arid surrounding landscape and is a visual symbol of the grazing history of the outback.



**SIGNIFICANCE RATING FOR
 BUILDING ELEMENTS**

General configuration and remaining original/early fabric of woolshed	High
Central core with log uprights [original]	High
1920s elevated sweating pens	High
Expert's room and remnant equipment, furniture and mountings	High
Engine room with remnant equipment and mountings	High
Woolpresses	High
Sorting tables	High
Evidence of earlier blade shearing boards [two remaining]	High
Last operational shearing board	Moderate to High
Reconstructed counting out pens to north	Moderate
Reconstructed wall to northern shearing board	Moderate
Reconstructed wall to southern shearing board	Moderate
Original pens and gates	High
Original equipment in situ and evidence of equipment	High
Artefacts stored in woolshed [related to aspects of station life]	High
Artefacts stored in woolshed [related to woolshed]	High
Crab winch and boom	High
Dust flocker	High
Yards and other evidence of operation of shed [i.e. sheep dip]	High
Configuration of yards	High

MOVEABLE HERITAGE

The woolshed collection of moveable heritage includes vehicles, tools and artefacts, not all of which are related to woolshed activities.

WOOL ROOM AREA

DUST FLOCKER

The dust flocker is a 'Spenshaw Wooldusting Machine' which was made by Simes & Martin of Port Adelaide. The design of the dust flocker was patented on 12 December 1929 so it was presumably installed during the early 1930s. In good condition.



Figure 56
 Dust flocker.
 BN 2001 photograph



TIMBER JINKER

Red gum construction, used to cart red gum logs from the river area to a breaking down saw to convert the logs to fuel to fire the steam engine. Dimensions: tray 390 by 214cms; shafts [2 sets] 287 by 93 cms. The cart tray has a central Y-shaped chassis, with a heavy cross cut timber rectangular surround. Hand forged metal bracing reinforces the whole. The two axles are set within timber blocks and are connected to four solid red gum timber wheels. The jinker is located at the western end of the Kincheha woolshed and is in a good condition, although the wheels show evidence of cracking.



Figure 57
Timber jinker.
PF 2002 photograph

KOERSTZ 'SQUATTERS' WOOLPRESS

One of a total of three wool presses, all of which are located in the central body of the woolshed. Comprising two faded dark red painted vertical timber boxes, with white decorative scroll work. The upper box swivels to be above the lower and with hand pressure on the timber lever at the side compresses the fleece into a bale. All metal parts are hand forged. The press appears sound, but the timbers, particularly the straight grain Baltic Pine, are in a very dry condition.

FERRIER [WHEEL TYPE] WOOLPRESS

Baltic Pine, twin timber and metal reinforced press boxes each 142 cm high. Each side of the box comprises of a single plank of timber 69 by 110 cms, the interior surface worn to satin smoothness, the outer, dark red painted with white stencilled to one side 'D. Ferrier Patent _74'. Roman numerals are etched into timber sections to aid in the reassembling of the press on return to Kincheha from Bindara station. Above the boxes a six metre high triangular gantry frame supports two wheels which by steel cables raise and lower the metal and lower the metal pressing plate onto the baled wool below. The whole sits bolted to two stabilising heavy timber floor joists. The roof line of the shed has been altered to accommodate the mechanism. Apart from cracking to a corner of the lower box, and the general dry and dusty condition of the timbers, the press appears to be in good condition.



Figures 58 & 59

Ferrier wheel type [left] and Koerstz [right] woolpresses. The Ferrier is believed to have been the original press. After it was removed to Bindara Station the Koerstz occupied its location in the centre of the wool room.

PF 2002 photographs



FERRIER WOOLPRESS

Press comprises two dark green painted Baltic pine vertical timbers, each 38 cm wide and 145 cm high. Painted by hand on one side is 'Ferrier Flip Type 2225, Ferriers Lever Wool Press'. On the opposite side, also in mustard coloured paint, is 'Humble & Sons Pty Ltd. Makers Geelong'. The metal pressing plate is operated from a rectangular timber gantry, the steel cable raising and lowering through two metal pulleys and a wooden block winch. A gibbet arm projects from this frame .



Figures 60 & 61

Ferrier woolpress [left]; and shearing mechanisms [right].

PF 2002 photographs



WOOL SCALES

Scales manufactured by Avery of Birmingham. Cast iron low platform scales for weighing and stencilling the wool bales. The Kinchega wool bale stencils are currently stored in the NPWS office in the former shearers' quarters. The scales are located at the western end of the woolshed and apart from a snapped-off corner, which is present, is in good order.

BOGEYES

A total of twelve cast iron, wall-mounted mechanical shearing wall units at 2.7 m high. Five are black and red painted 'Moffat Virtue Sydney 650rpm'. Three, of a similar and earlier design, have no decorative paintwork. The remaining four comprise brackets only.

WOOL TABLES

There are a total of four wool sorting tables in the shed. These tables probably date from the period circa 1900 to 1920. They are of pine timber construction, 280 cm long by 150 cm wide by 87 cm high. They have square tapered legs and mortice and tenon joints to table tops, which have reinforcing rectangular frames around the whole. Fifty two square dowels fixed on the diagonal make up the table top. The tables, situated in the central body of the shed, range from one in excellent condition, two in good condition and one in only fair condition.

Figure 62
Avery wool scales.
PF 2002 photograph



Figures 63 & 64
Wool tables.
PF 2001 & 2002 photographs

CARTS

There are four carts located within the woolshed, within the south-western section. These comprise the following:

PASSENGER BUGGY

A four wheeled, red painted timber and hand forged metal vehicle, 202 cm long. It probably dates from circa 1880. There are rear and side alighting steps with a central wooden shaft. Upholstery and metal fittings to seat back is missing. Timbers excessively dry with minor cracking.



Figures 65 & 66
Passenger buggy [left] and cart
[right].
PF 2002 photographs

CART

Twin shafted cart with flat timber tray floor, 188 cm by 124cm. Probably circa 1920. The side boards are blue, while the shafts are an orange pink colour. The cart is in poor condition: it has no wheels, a damaged floor and the right shaft is snapped.

JINKER

This jinker is 143 cm by 89cms [excluding shafts]. It is probably circa 1890. It is in a very sorry state, with no wheels, axle, shafts or upholstery. Evocative delicately worked timber dowels to the seat remain; these and the side timbers show evidence of a varnished finish.

WAGONETTE

A four wheeled, flat tray, central shafted timber dray or wagon, 333 cm by 160 cm with wheels of 92 cm diameter. Probably circa 1900. The remains of red paintwork are evident on the chassis and spokes. The wheel surrounds are painted duck egg blue. No evidence of a seat remains, query previous use as a bullock wagon. In dry and worn condition.



Figure 67
Wagonette.
PF 2002 photograph



EXPERT'S & ENGINE ROOMS

Note that while many of the artefacts in the woolshed are secured behind locked enclosures, this area is unsecured.

CEDAR STORE CUPBOARD

A large cedar cupboard, 159 cm high by 104 cm wide, with double doors, dark stained vertical tongue and grooved timbers. There are four hand forged metal hinges and a [padlocked] hasp and staple locking mechanism. An evocative, valuable and vulnerable item of late 19th century bush carpentry.



Figure 68
Cupboard in the expert's room of the woolshed.
AF 2001 photograph

PINE TABLE

A primitive, functional stretcher legged work table, 84 cm long and 63 cm wide, located beneath the Expert's shearing comb pigeon holes. Possibly circa 1920.

DRILL

Of cast iron construction, 82cms long. Bolted to side wall. Ratchet wheel and handle. Marked '525&NO.1 3/3'. In working order. Possibly circa 1900.

TABLE

Red gum table 183 cm long by 62 cm wide. Heavy square legged and stretchered with steel bolt reinforcements at joints. On it is an assortment of rusted and oil-stained tools, a vise in working order is attached at one end. Possibly circa 1890.



Figures 69 & 70
Pigeon holes for shearers' combs, with the pine table below [left]; and table with tools [right].
PF 2002 photographs



BUSH BED

Pine 'bed', of simple and sturdy construction, 197 cm long by 90 cm wide by 58 cm high. Stretcher legged with corner bracing. Cross boarding timbers as bed base. Hand forged nails throughout. Various tools are stored on the bed.



Figure 71
'Bed' in Engine Room with tools
on it.
AF 2001 photograph

DRILL PRESS

Large, floor mounted, cast iron, ratchet driven, with horizontal operating wheel to top. Extra parts missing, but in working order. Introduced by Bruce Bray from nearby 'Avon' as part of 1970s reconstruction.



Figures 72 & 73
Wall mounted drill [left]; and drill
press [right].
PF 2002 photographs

WOOLSHED ENCLOSED AREA [NORTH-WEST CORNER]

This 'secured' area is located at the left of the main woolshed entrance. The condition of all items is dry, dusty and distressed, both as a result of a long working life and their storage location. All items range from the late 19th to early 20th century.



There are three wool sorting tables in this area, similar to those previously described, and one which appears to be of earlier construction and is only about 1 m wide. Arranged on the latter table is a collection of kitchen paraphernalia including a metal bucket, large metal kettle, large cream enamel teapot, glass and metal based hurricane lamp, 10 gallon cast iron oval pot, a set of scales, 2 pint home made tin jug and a four blade metal electric fan. On the adjoining tables are a large quantity of items including coloured drinking bottles and a deteriorated collection of both large and small horse collars and other items of harness.



Figure 74
Artefact display within secured area
in Woolshed. Not all the artefacts
relate to Kinchega.
PG 2001 photograph

A range of everyday station life implements are stored on the floor. These include a set of blacksmith's timber and leather bellows, seemingly without cracks; one pair of single cast iron bed ends, rusted; an iron hand farrower; a bridle and snaffle bag; five tin stencil cut outs including 'Backs', 'Scoured' and 'Woolcro', and a square stencil with a range of letters and numbers; a Wertheim iron and wooden mangle, which is both rusty and dusty; two blue paraffin lamps; a washing machine which is an early tin, blue painted drum type; a forged metal wheelbarrow frame; and one broken bentwood chair frame.



NATURAL VALUES INTERPRETATION

There are opportunities to interpret the natural environment and history around the woolshed complex.

There may be potential to develop a walk from the woolshed through the yards to the floodplain and even follow the route taken by the bullock teams to the river. This could demonstrate the changes in vegetation from the dune system to the floodplains. However due to the nature of the soils on the floodplain establishment and maintenance of a tracks could be difficult. Establishing a similar trail [from the historic site to the river] would be much more cost effective at the old homestead site, and would be much less prone to flooding.

Interpretative material could be provided immediately around the woolshed complex related to:

- Geology and vegetation
- Aboriginal history and food sources
- The wool industry
- The role of Aboriginal stockmen and domestic workers; and
- Ecological processes in the arid zone, such as response to rain and floods, woody weeds, fire regime and grazing pressure.



**THE KINCHEGA STATION WOOLSHED GROUP
 SHEARERS' QUARTERS & ASSOCIATED BUILDINGS**

PLACE / ITEM NAME

Shearers' Quarters

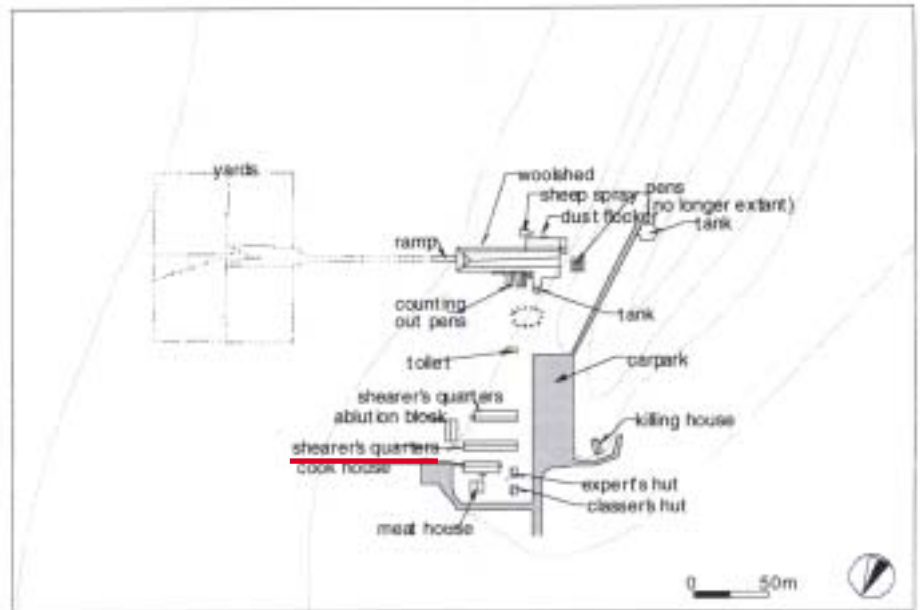


Figure 75
 Site plan showing the location of the
 shearers' quarters
SMT 2001 plan

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The date of construction of the **shearers' quarters** is not known. The building was in poor condition when taken over by NPWS in 1967. Ceilings and walls were masonite, floor 5 inch by 1 inch cypress in good order, doors framed, ledged and braced, some in ruinous state. The Cox report recommended demolition, however, by 1985 the quarters had been repaired and modified for use as a district office and a research facility. They have continued to provide functional accommodation, much the same as they have done since their construction.



Figure 76
 Shearers' quarters prior to the
 addition of a verandah in 1994. The
 cookhouse is at left. Note the original
 steps.
PG 1993 photograph

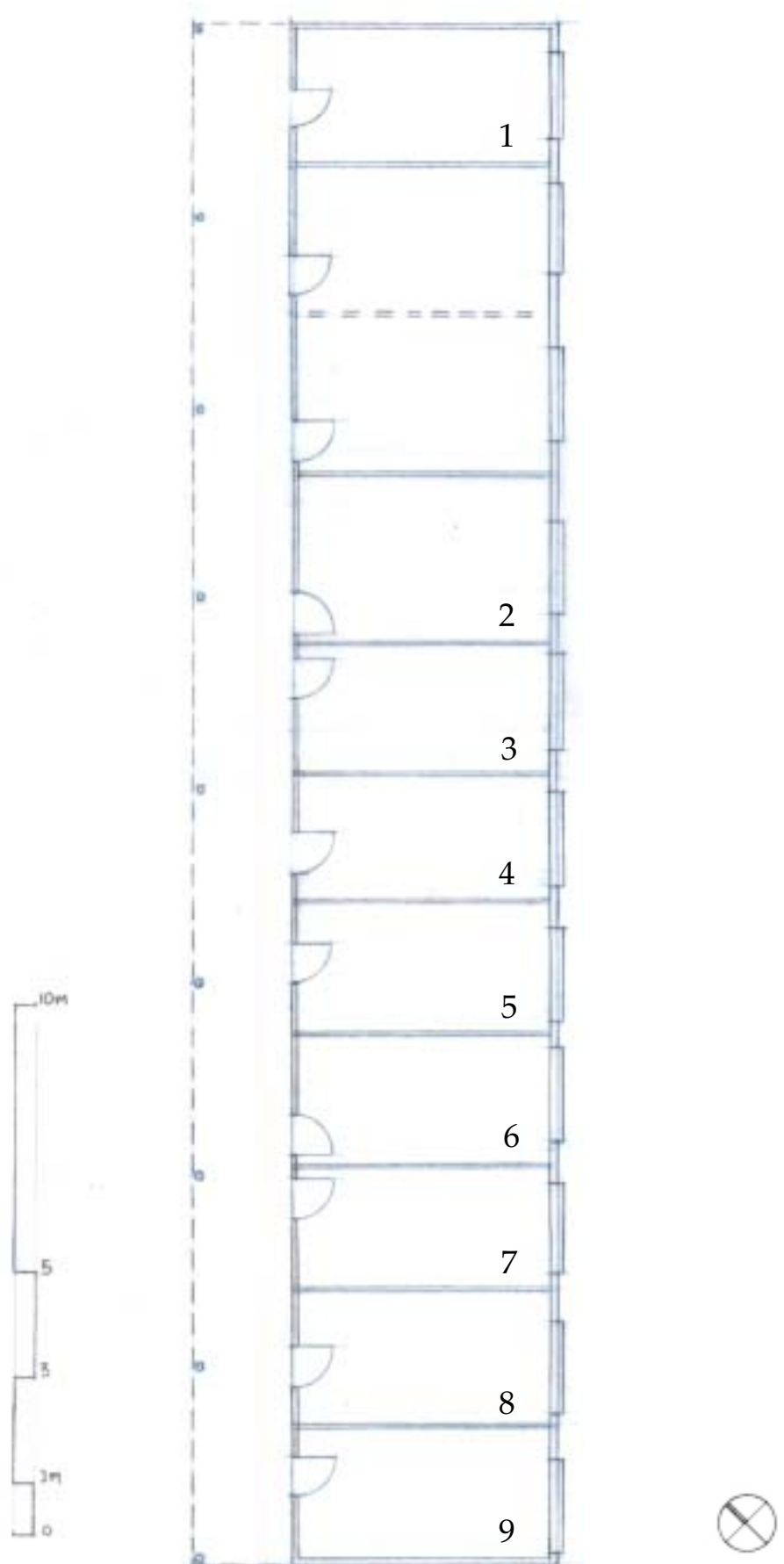


Figure 77
Floor plan of the shearers' quarters.
Note that that location of interior
dividing walls is conjectural as not all
rooms were inspected.
PF sketch plan 2002



DESCRIPTION

The shearers' quarters is a long building which originally provided 11 accommodation rooms. The building is timber framed and is clad with painted corrugated iron, laid horizontally and secured with slot-headed screws with galvanised iron washers. The gable roof is also clad with corrugated iron, secured with roofing nails. The corrugated iron roof and gutters have been painted green, the walls light cream, doors and windows white and jambs and fascias dark cream. The verandah roof remains unpainted. Timber stumps have ant caps.

The nine rooms which remain in their original configuration are numbered 1 to 9; another two rooms, opposite the main door to the cookhouse [unnumbered], have been combined and fitted out to provide ranger kitchen/dining/living area. The building retains a number of its original ledged and braced timber doors [Rooms 1 to 5 and the two doors to staff room]; doors to rooms 6 to 9 have been replaced with hollow core doors. All rooms open to the north side. There is a modern aluminium screen door to the staff room.

The window openings and timber surrounds appear to be mostly original. It is presumed that the original windows comprised one fixed pane with a two pane sash beside. Some of these sashes have now been replaced with aluminium sash windows; other windows have had the whole window area replaced with sliding aluminium windows. Flywire screens to windows range from poor to fair condition. There are two vents in the wall above each window.

All the interiors have been resheeted with plasterboard and painted. Electricity and evaporative cooling have also been installed. Varnished particleboard has been placed over the original floorboards however the floorboards appear to be in reasonable condition. Window blinds are generally in poor condition. Accommodation rooms generally contain a bed and cupboard, none of which is



Figure 78
Shearers' quarters.
PG 2001 photograph



original. In 1994 a verandah, sympathetic in style to the original building, was added to the north side to make the quarters more comfortable in both hot and wet weather. The verandah is paved with bricks on a concrete slab. The original timber steps [visible in 1993 photograph above] were replaced with a new timber step in a different style as part of the verandah works.

Figures 79 & 80
The east [left] and west [right] gable ends of the shearers' quarters.
PF 2002 photograph

The walls [and presumably the roof] have been lined with insulation batts. There is a large air conditioning unit located to the south of the building. There is a large timber vent to the west gable and a trapdoor giving access to the roof space to the east gable.



Figures 81 & 82
Shearers' quarters, detail of the north elevation [left]; and rear or south elevation [right].
PF 2002 photographs



CONDITION & INTEGRITY

The building is generally in good condition and retains a moderate level of integrity.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The 1875 Kincheha Woolshed and its associated shearers' quarters and outbuildings are of historical significance for their direct association with the early pastoral history of the far west of New South Wales. The precinct illustrates the huge size of pastoral holdings in the arid areas of Australia and the woolshed is a good example of a large scale shearing shed which also helps to show the major developments in shearing technology during the century since its construction. The Kincheha Woolshed precinct is a prominent feature in the arid surrounding landscape and is a visual symbol of the grazing history of the outback.

SIGNIFICANCE RATING FOR BUILDING ELEMENTS

Original configuration of rooms [apart from staff lounge]	High
Original doors and door furniture	High
Corrugated iron wall and roof cladding	
[may or may not be original fabric]	High
Original floorboards [under particleboard]	High
Original window openings	High
Modern windows	Low
Modern verandah	Low
Modern doors	Low
Modern plasterboard linings	Low
Particleboard floor sheeting	Nil
Modern fitout to lounge	Nil
Steps	Nil
Paving to verandah	Nil

MOVEABLE HERITAGE

There is a silky oak timber table to the staff room which may relate to the earlier use of the shearers' quarters. The table measures 110 cm by 161 cm. It has delicately tapered legs and has been reinforced with metal brackets at the corners.



Figure 83
 Table in the NPWS staff kitchen/
 lounge area.
 PF 2002 photograph



CONSERVATION POLICY /
STRATEGY / IMPLEMENTATION

Refer conservation policies for Kincheega Station Woolshed & Shearers' Quarters Group generally, page 68 above.

CATALOGUING OF MOVEABLE HERITAGE

All items of moveable heritage within the Woolshed Group should be catalogued and their provenance researched and recorded.



**THE KINCHEGA STATION WOOLSHED GROUP
SHEARERS' QUARTERS & ASSOCIATED BUILDINGS**

PLACE / ITEM NAME

1950s Shearers' Quarters

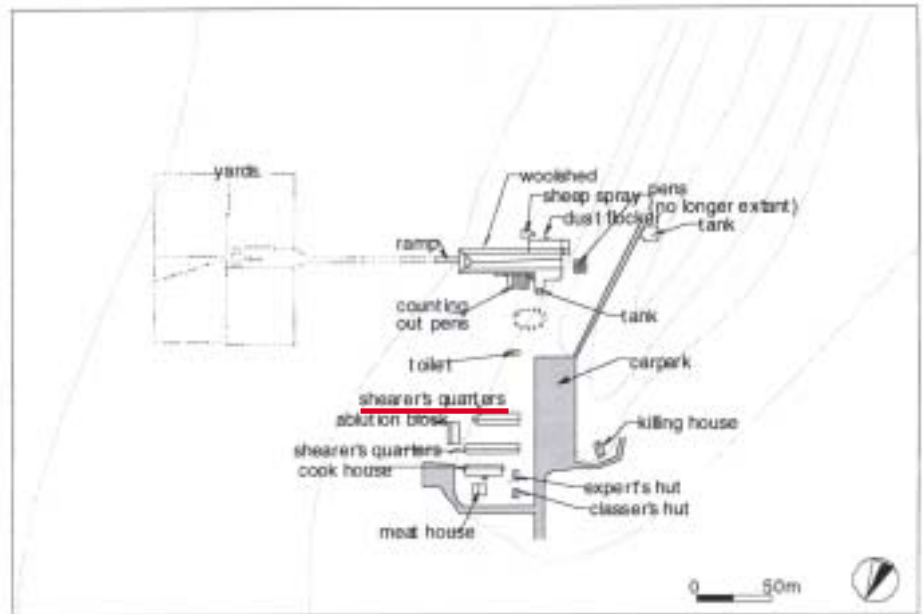


Figure 84
Site plan showing the location of the
1950s shearers' quarters
SMT 2001 plan

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The **Shearers' Quarters** are parallel and similar in form to the earlier shearers' quarters. These newer quarters are believed to date from the 1950s wool boom when '*... wool was a pound a pound*'. They therefore represent a significant link to one of the more buoyant phases of wool production in Australia. In 1970 the interior walls were masonite, ceilings acoustic masonite and floor was 3 inch by 2 inch mixed hardwood. There were metal-framed windows in good condition and hollow core doors. The Cox report recommended their demolition, however they were adapted circa 1985 for use as additional accommodation and as a public interpretation centre. Like the older quarters, a verandah was added in 1994 to sympathetically improve their amenity. The quarters are linked to the other buildings functionally, stylistically and in orientation and have been painted to match.

DESCRIPTION

This building originally provided twelve accommodation rooms, six to either side. Each room features a central door with a sliding aluminium window to either side. The two eastern rooms have been made into one room and until recently functioned as a Visitor Information Centre. A further two rooms to the south side have been combined to form an office, with internal access from the former Information Centre. Two rooms to the northern side are currently used for storage and have barred windows. Thus there are currently six accommodation rooms, to the west end, available for use.

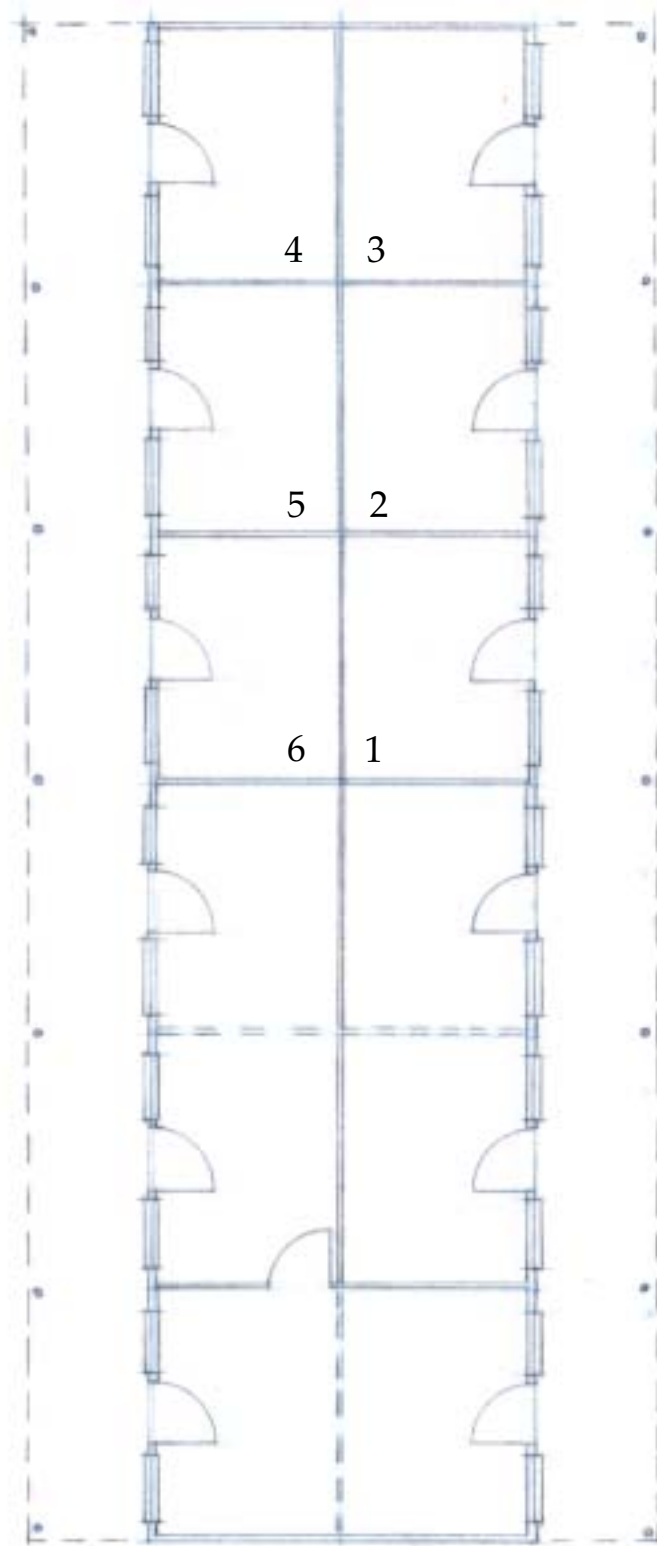


Figure 85
Floor plan of the c1950s shearers' quarters.
PF sketch plan 2002





Figure 86
The c1950s shearers' quarters, north
elevation.
PF 2002 photograph

The building has a steel pipe and timber frame and is clad with vertically laid metal decking. The exterior walls have been painted mid green in the past however they are now cream. The corrugated iron roof and gutters have been painted green, the verandah roof is green Colorbond and the doors are painted white. There is netting to the tops of the walls to keep birds out of the roof space. The floor is constructed of steel trusses [the same as those used to extend the northern board of the woolshed] with timber joists and 80 mm wide floorboards.



Figure 87
The c1950s shearers' quarters, east
elevation.
PF 2002 photograph



Interior wall and ceiling finish is generally white or cream painted FC sheet [which appears to originally have been painted light green]. The central ceiling panel is white masonite pegboard. Each room has one batten light fitting and an air conditioning vent.

The six accommodation rooms all have vinyl floor tiles and accommodate two metal framed bunks, one with a trundle bed under, and two sets of two hooks mounted on pine board. The door construction varies, some are solid-core and some are hollow-core.

There is a steel framed 1.8 m verandah to the north and south elevations, with a concrete floor.

CONDITION & INTEGRITY

The building is generally in good condition and retains a moderate to high level of integrity.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The 1875 Kinchega Woolshed and its associated shearers' quarters and outbuildings are of historical significance for their direct association with the early pastoral history of the far west of New South Wales. The precinct illustrates the huge size of pastoral holdings in the arid areas of Australia and the woolshed is a good example of a large scale shearing shed which also helps to show the major developments in shearing technology during the century since its construction. The Kinchega Woolshed precinct is a prominent feature in the arid surrounding landscape and is a visual symbol of the grazing history of the outback. The 1950s shearers' quarters are significant as evidence of the ongoing development of the woolshed precinct, in the economical and practical style of the period.

SIGNIFICANCE RATING FOR BUILDING ELEMENTS

Original configuration of rooms	High
Doors [solid and hollow core]	Low
Corrugated iron wall and roof	High
Original floorboards	High
Timber framed flyscreen door	Moderate
Internal linings to accommodation rooms	Moderate
Aluminium windows	Moderate
Metal cladding to walls and roof	Moderate
Verandah	Moderate
Steps	Low

MOVEABLE HERITAGE

Bones, stones, unidentified artefacts, wool bale stencils [formerly part of Visitor Centre display] are stored within the Office area.

CONSERVATION POLICY / STRATEGY / IMPLEMENTATION

Refer conservation policies for Kinchega Station Woolshed & Shearers' Quarters Group generally, page 68 above.

CATALOGUING OF MOVEABLE HERITAGE

All items of moveable heritage within the Woolshed Group should be catalogued and their provenance researched and recorded.



THE KINCHEGA STATION WOOLSHED GROUP
SHEARERS' QUARTERS & ASSOCIATED BUILDINGS

PLACE / ITEM NAME

Cookhouse



Figure 88
Site plan showing the location of the
cookhouse.
SMT 2001 plan

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The date of construction of the **cookhouse** is not known however Cox dates the western fireplace as circa 1880 and the eastern one of a later design. According to Peter Beven the cookhouse burnt down c1930s and was rebuilt.³ The eastern fireplace was probably built then and presumably the stove was inserted at the same time. Prior to this, the western fireplace with its adjacent bread oven was probably the location of the kitchen. The fireplace retains an iron bar for suspending cooking pots over the fire. The building was in poor condition when taken over by NPWS in 1967. The Cox report recommended adaptation as a museum however the building was adapted c1985 in a utilitarian fashion to continue its historic function of providing cooking and dining facilities for itinerant visitors.

DESCRIPTION

In 1967 the walls were unpainted corrugated iron with metal-framed louvres and the external doors framed, ledged and braced. The corrugated iron roof was painted white. Internal walls and ceilings were caneite and doors were hollow core. The central room was painted light blue and lit with fluorescent lights. The interior of the building has since been relined and painted white, with a cream trim and linoleum covered floor. External roof and gutters are now green, walls light cream, doors and windows white and architraves and fascias dark cream.

Awnings were added over doorways in 1994 and cracks in the concrete floor slab repaired along with chimney repointing in 1998.

³ Peter Beven, pers. comm. to Josh Bean, NPWS

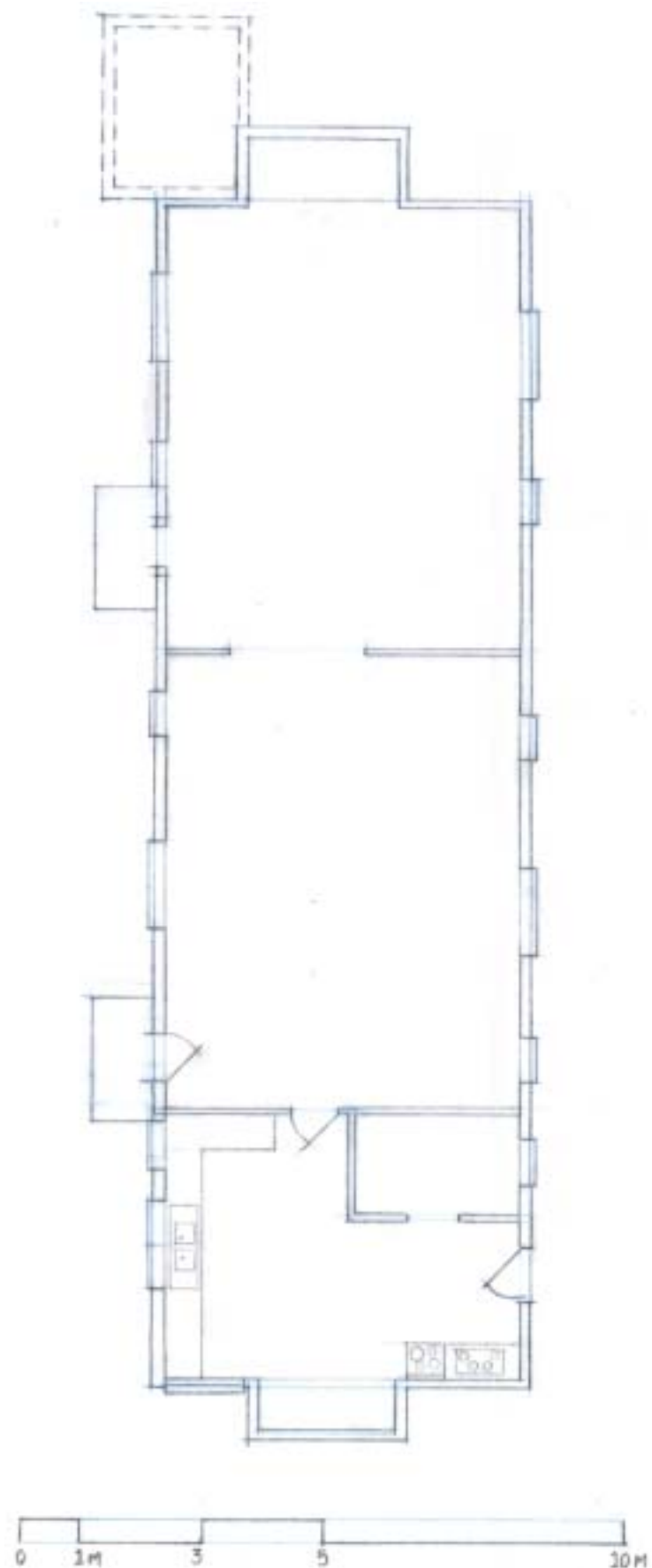


Figure 89
Floor plan of the cookhouse.
PF sketch plan 2002



Figures 90 & 91
Willandra shearers' quarters,
baker's oven [left]; and the footings of
the Kinchega bread oven [right].
PF 2001 & 2002 photographs

The gable roof is clad with green Colorbond. Eaves are lined with strips of masonite. At the north-west [external] corner the footings and cut off steel support posts of a baker's oven can be seen. A similar extant baker's oven can be seen at Willandra Station.

The windows are steel louvres, nine louvres high, in pairs or single sets. Not all the windows appear to be operable. Fixed flyscreens are in various states of repair. The windows generally require maintenance and repainting. The floor throughout comprises a concrete slab with linoleum covering and in the lounge area a carpet square. The walls and ceiling are clad with plasterboard, with quad to the joins rather than cornices. The extent of the fireplace opening to the lounge [former kitchen] is concealed behind the plasterboard wall and a metal baffle. The kitchen has a reasonably modern fitout, including a gas upright stove, gas cooktop, double stainless steel sink and extensive built-in benches with cupboards below.

CONDITION & INTEGRITY

The cookhouse is in fair to good condition. The building retains a moderate level of integrity.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The 1875 Kinchega Woolshed and its associated shearers' quarters and outbuildings are of historical significance for their direct association with the early pastoral history of the far west of New South Wales. The precinct illustrates the huge size of pastoral holdings in the arid areas of Australia and the woolshed is a good example of a large scale shearing shed which also helps to show the major developments in shearing technology during the century since its construction. The Kinchega Woolshed precinct is a prominent feature in the arid surrounding landscape and is a visual symbol of the grazing history of the outback. The cookhouse is significant as the 'heart' of the precinct, both historically and as part of its current use.



Figure 92
The Cookhouse from the east.
PG 2001 photograph



Figures 93 & 94
The western chimney to the
Cookhouse. This chimney is believed
to pre-date the existing building.
PF 2002 & PG 2001 photographs



Figure 95
Brick foundations can be seen
adjacent to the existing chimney in
the Cookhouse building. This was
the former bread oven site.
SMT 2001 photograph



Figure 96
 Interior of the Cookhouse kitchen.
PG 2001 photograph



Figure 97
 The dining room with the lounge
 room beyond.
PG 2001 photograph

**SIGNIFICANCE RATING FOR
 BUILDING ELEMENTS
 & MOVEABLE HERITAGE**

Corrugated iron wall cladding [may or may not be original fabric]	High
Colorbond roof cladding	Low
Original chimney and remains of bread oven	High
Eastern chimney and cast iron stove	High
Ledged and braced doors and original door furniture	High
Louvre windows	High
Concrete floor	Low
Plasterboard walls and modern joinery	Low
Servery hatch	Moderate
Modern kitchen fitout	Nil
Early furniture [safe, tables]	High
Carriage trunk	Low
Green-painted timber benches	Moderate
Modern furniture, fixtures	Nil



Refrigerator unit in dining area	Unknown provenance
Modern porches	Low
Modern doors	Low

MOVEABLE HERITAGE

FOOD SAFE [located in pantry]

A wooden framed safe with four shelves, gauzed panels and two doors with cotton reel pulls. Pine construction painted white and pale blue. In use and in good working condition.

CAST IRON STOVE

A large cast iron stove with a double oven. The firebox door reads 'Metters' however this door appears to be too small for the firebox opening and the stove itself may not be Metters. The stove was refurbished and brought up to workable condition in 1999 by some visiting students.

CARRIAGE TRUNK [pantry]

Timber with metal reinforcing, curved top, remnant wallpaper lining, black [japanned] paint surface, two metal hinges and three metal fasteners. According to NPWS Ranger Lisa Menke, this trunk is supposed to have been purchased by a NPWS staff member, Dave Bearup, from an antique store in Broken Hill to be used as a table by a Greencorp crew who were working at Kinchege.⁴

TABLE 1 [dining area]

A laquered red gum table 3.33 m long and 72 cms wide. This table is one of two tables in the cookhouse and is the earlier, more primitive example. Stretcher legged form with slightly tapered legs. Showing water immersion line. The top comprises three planks, two of which are approximately 30 cm wide. Drawer to one end with battered brass knobs. Repair to drawer space at undersurface with recycled 'DO



Figure 98
 Cast iron stove in the kitchen area of the cookhouse. Note how the Metters door is too short for the firebox.
 PF 2001 photograph



Figure 99
Chest in kitchen pantry of cookhouse.
This chest is apparently not related to
the historical use of the place.
PF 2001 photograph



Figures 100 & 101
Table 1 in dining area of cookhouse.
Note the reinforcing under the table
using old signs. The words 'Do Not'
are just visible in the photograph at
right.
PF 2001 photographs



Figure 102
Table 2 and benches in cookhouse.
PF 2001 photograph



NOT' sign. Condition generally good however a small corner piece has cracked off, probably from being lifted incorrectly.

TABLE 2 [dining area]

Square form stretcher legged lacquered red gum table 2.9 m long and 1.01 m wide. The top comprises seven planks. Cedar legs are secured by modern steel screws. Table top secured with hand forged nails. Good condition.

BENCHES

Five green-painted wooden benches approximately 3.6 m long. All benches have metal bracing connecting the legs to the seat. One has painted masonite on top of the seat. Generally in good condition.

CONSERVATION POLICY /
STRATEGY / IMPLEMENTATION

Refer conservation policies for Kinchega Station Woolshed & Shearers' Quarters Group generally, page 68 above.

CATALOGUING OF MOVEABLE HERITAGE

All items of moveable heritage within the Woolshed Group should be catalogued and their provenance researched and recorded.



**THE KINCHEGA STATION WOOLSHED GROUP
SHEARERS' QUARTERS & ASSOCIATED BUILDINGS**

PLACE / ITEM NAME

Meathouse

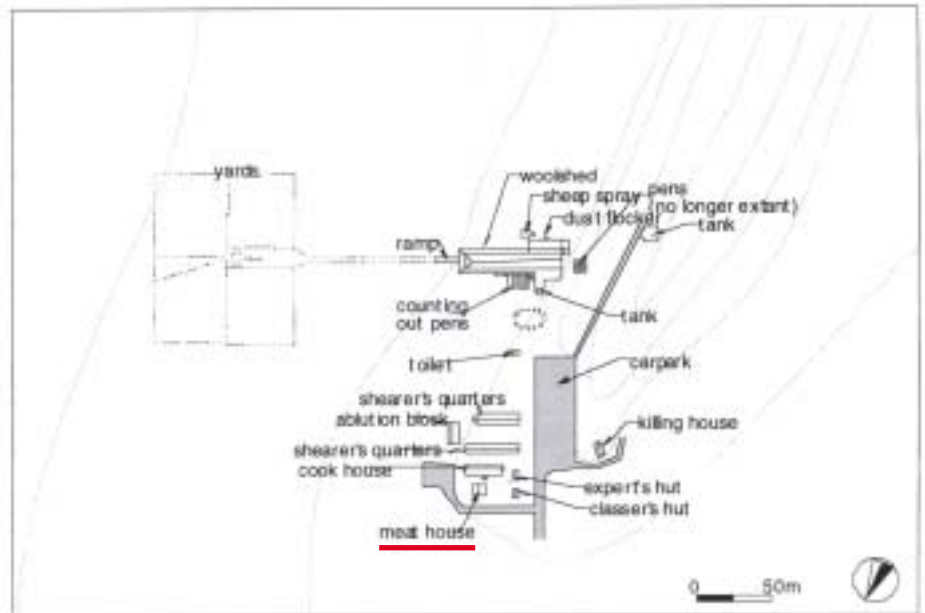


Figure 103
Site plan showing the location of the Meathouse.
SMT 2001 plan

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The date of construction of the **meathouse** is not known.

DESCRIPTION

The meathouse is located to the rear of the cookhouse in a small fenced and grassed enclosure erected by the NPWS as a barbecue area. The building comprises rendered masonry walls to approximately .95 m high, and a timber frame covered with strong steel flywire. The timber framed roof is independent of this structure and supported on two inch diameter steel columns.

The floor comprises a concrete slab and there is a narrow concrete apron around the perimeter of the building. A severe crack to the rear [north] masonry wall and outer slab allows access by small animals and insects. There are also cracks to the perimeter slab. The timber structure appears to be sound however there are holes in the flywire and there are bird droppings on top of the flywire section. A timber framed flyscreen door is out of plumb and unable to latch properly.

Inside the meathouse there is a large metal ring suspended from the ceiling [110 cm diameter], a chopping block [age unknown], a large built-in bench covered with metal sheet and a double concrete laundry trough with water connected. Electricity is also connected. The meathouse is painted to cream to match the other buildings. Cracks to the front of the building have been repaired in the past.

CONDITION & INTEGRITY

The building is in fair condition and retains a high level of integrity.

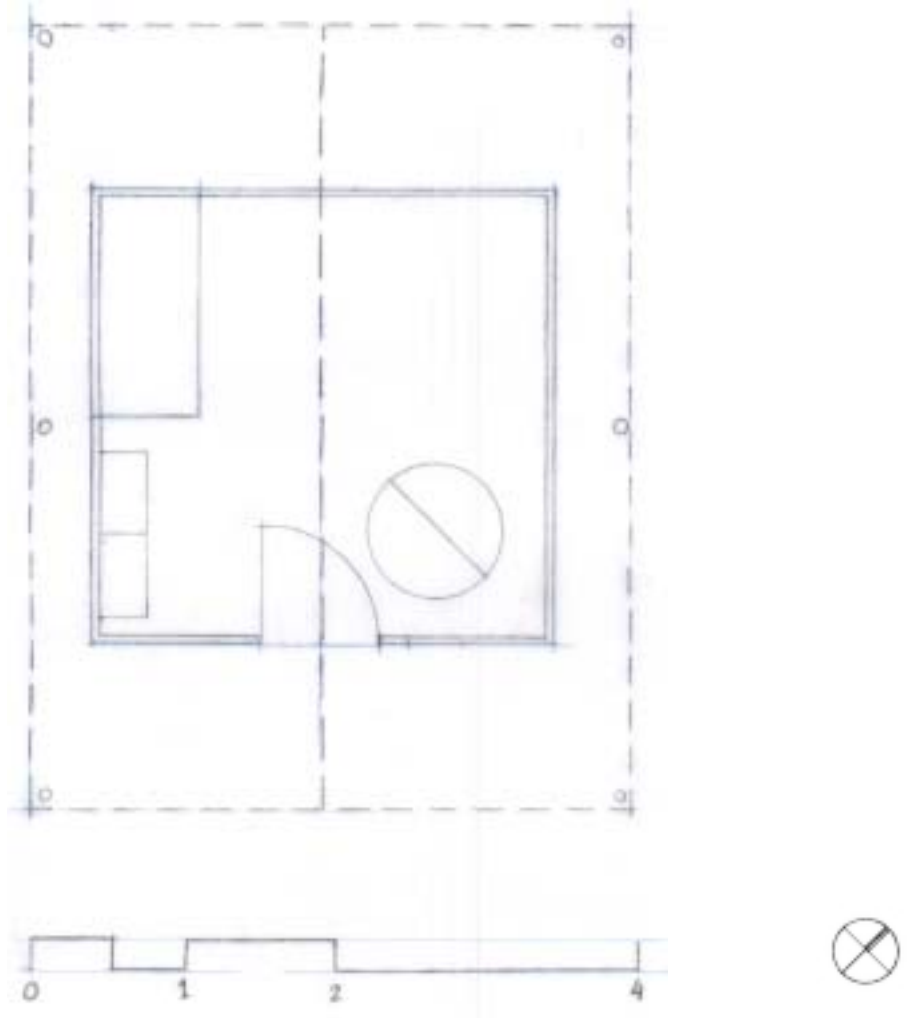


Figure 104
Floor plan of the meathouse.
PF sketch plan 2002



Figure 105
The meathouse.
PF 2001 photograph



Figures 106 & 107

Interior of the meathouse showing the trough and built-in bench [left]; and the chopping block [right].
PF 2002 photographs

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Figures 108 & 109

Crack to the rear [north] wall of the meathouse [left]; and the metal ring from which carcasses would be hung [right].
PF 2002 photographs

The 1875 Kinchege Woolshed and its associated shearers' quarters and outbuildings are of historical significance for their direct association with the early pastoral history of the far west of New South Wales. The precinct illustrates the huge size of pastoral holdings in the arid areas of Australia and the woolshed is a good example of a large scale shearing shed which also helps to show the major developments in shearing technology during the century since its construction. The Kinchege Woolshed precinct is a prominent feature in the arid surrounding landscape and is a visual symbol of the grazing history of the outback. Like the killing shed, the meathouse provides valuable interpretation opportunities of the time when meat was butchered on-site for workers' consumption.





SIGNIFICANCE RATING FOR
BUILDING ELEMENTS

Original configuration of building elements	High
Original rack and built-in bench	High
Laundry tub	Moderate
Chopping block [original?]	Moderate
Building fabric [all original]	High

CONSERVATION POLICY /
STRATEGY / IMPLEMENTATION

Refer conservation policies for Kincheega Station Woolshed & Shearers' Quarters Group generally, page 63 above.



**THE KINCHEGA STATION WOOLSHED GROUP
SHEARERS' QUARTERS & ASSOCIATED BUILDINGS**

PLACE / ITEM NAME

Killing Shed

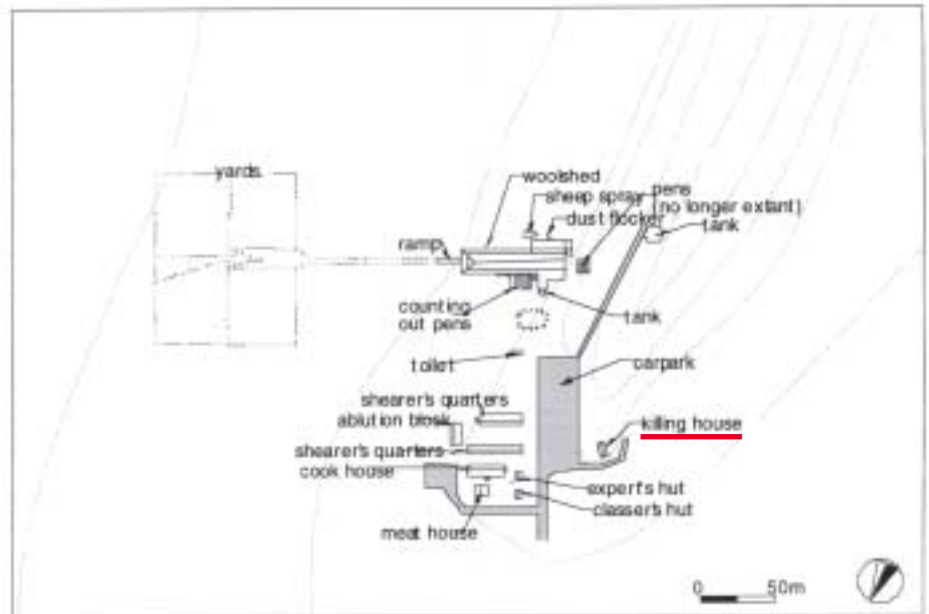


Figure 110
Site plan showing the location of the Killing Shed.
SMT 2001 plan

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The **killing shed** probably dates from the 1950s when steel-framing was also used in the shearing board and new quarters.

DESCRIPTION

The killing shed is constructed of steel pipe in four sections, with timber horizontal members between. Some of the timber horizontal members have rotted. The building is clad with vertically laid corrugated iron, some of which has been recycled. The floor is part earth, part decayed timber and part concrete. A pivot pole for suspending the carcass is adjacent.

CONDITION & INTEGRITY

The building is in fair condition. It is difficult to ascertain the integrity of the building as the extent of modification is not readily apparent, however, it appears to exhibit a moderate to high level of integrity.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The 1875 Kinchega Woolshed and its associated shearers' quarters and outbuildings are of historical significance for their direct association with the early pastoral history of the far west of New South Wales. The precinct illustrates the huge size of pastoral holdings in the arid areas of Australia and the woolshed is a good example of a large scale shearing shed which also helps to show the major developments in shearing technology during the century since its construction. The Kinchega Woolshed precinct is a prominent feature in the arid surrounding landscape and is a visual symbol of the grazing history of the outback. The killing shed and associated features contribute to an understanding of the precinct's function, particularly evident in the distance of the shed from the rest of the precinct.

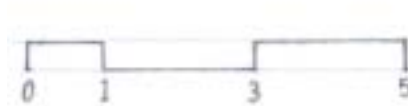
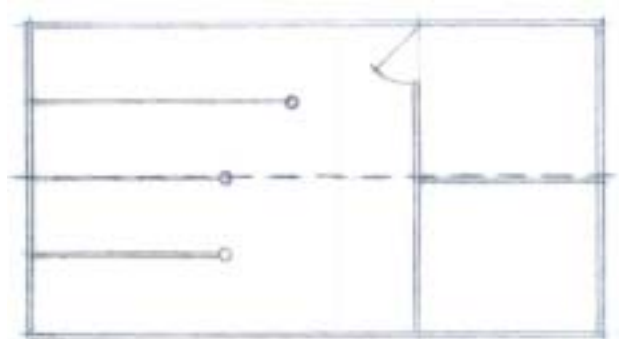


Figure 111
Floor plan of the killing shed.
PF sketch plan 2002



Figure 112
Killing shed.
PG 2001 photograph



Figure 113
Interior of the killing shed.
PF 2002 photograph



SIGNIFICANCE RATING FOR
BUILDING ELEMENTS

Form and layout
Building fabric generally

High
Moderate

CONSERVATION POLICY /
STRATEGY / IMPLEMENTATION

Refer conservation policies for Kinchega Station Woolshed &
Shearers' Quarters Group generally, page 68 above.



Figure 114 & 115
Interior of the killing shed.
PF 2002 photographs



**THE KINCHEGA STATION WOOLSHED GROUP
SHEARERS' QUARTERS & ASSOCIATED BUILDINGS**

PLACE / ITEM NAME

Expert's Quarters

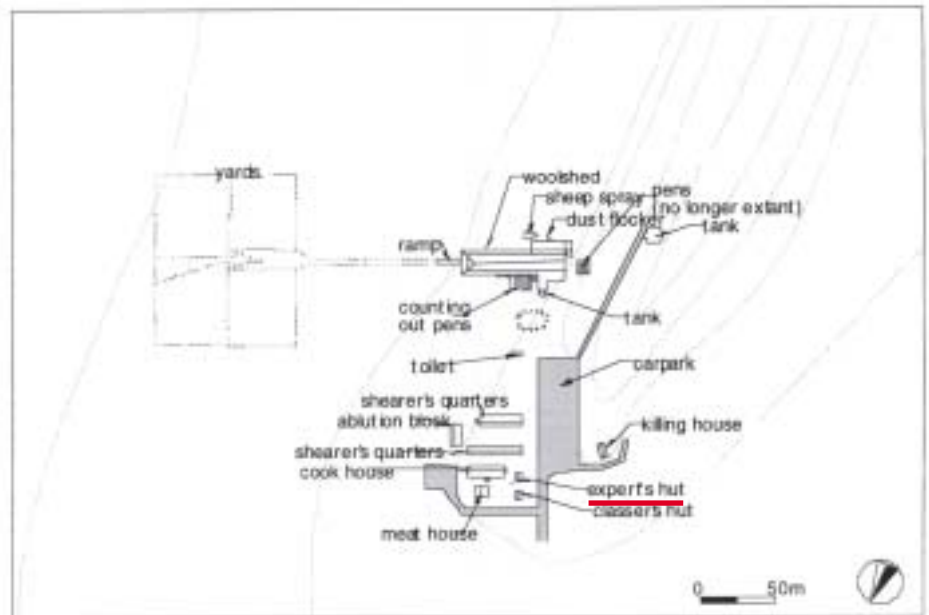


Figure 116
Site plan showing the location of the
Expert's Quarters.
SMT 2001 plan

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The date of construction of the **Expert's Quarters** is unknown however it is presumed to be contemporary with the older shearers' quarters building. By 1985 the building had been modified to form a laboratory for NPWS use.

DESCRIPTION

The Expert's Quarters were in better condition than the other buildings when taken over by the NPWS although the caneite ceiling was in a ruinous state, the floor was covered in linoleum and the door was missing.

The building has a timber frame on round timber stumps with metal ant caps and is clad with corrugated iron laid horizontally. The door is a ledged and braced with vertical boards and there is a timber step on a small concrete slab. The pitched gable roof is clad with corrugated iron and features timber finials to either end [one currently missing], and decorative barge battens. To either end wall there are metal framed louvre windows.

The corrugated iron roof, barge battens and gutters have been painted green, the walls light cream, doors white and jambs, bargeboards and fascias dark cream.

CONDITION & INTEGRITY

The building is generally in good condition and retains a moderate level of integrity.

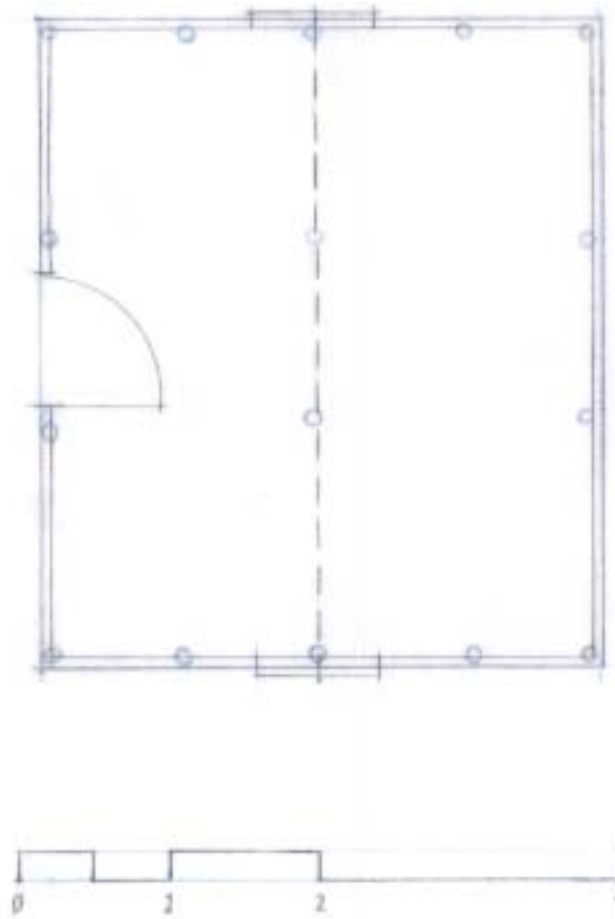


Figure 117
Floor plan of the expert's quarters.
PF sketch plan 2002



Figures 118 & 119
Expert's quarters south east view
[left]; and north-east view [right].
PG 2001 & PF 2002 photographs



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The 1875 Kinchega Woolshed and its associated shearers' quarters and outbuildings are of historical significance for their direct association with the early pastoral history of the far west of New South Wales. The precinct illustrates the huge size of pastoral holdings in the arid areas of Australia and the woolshed is a good example of a large scale shearing shed which also helps to show the major developments in shearing technology during the century since its construction. The Kinchega Woolshed precinct is a prominent feature in the arid surrounding landscape and is a visual symbol of the grazing history of the outback. The Expert's Quarters is an integral part of the Woolshed Group, demonstrating the hierarchy of workers within the woolshed.

SIGNIFICANCE RATING FOR
 BUILDING ELEMENTS

Original configuration of building elements	High
Corrugated iron wall and roof cladding	High
Original [?] door and windows	High
Gable details [not necessarily original fabric]	High
Steps	Low
Modern plasterboard linings	Low
Modern fitout	Nil

CONSERVATION POLICY /
 STRATEGY / IMPLEMENTATION

Refer conservation policies for Kinchega Station Woolshed & Shearers' Quarters Group generally, page 68 above.



Figures 120 & 121
 Gable details to the expert's quarters.
PG 2001 & PF 2002 photographs



**THE KINCHEGA STATION WOOLSHED GROUP
SHEARERS' QUARTERS & ASSOCIATED BUILDINGS**

PLACE / ITEM NAME

Classer's Quarters

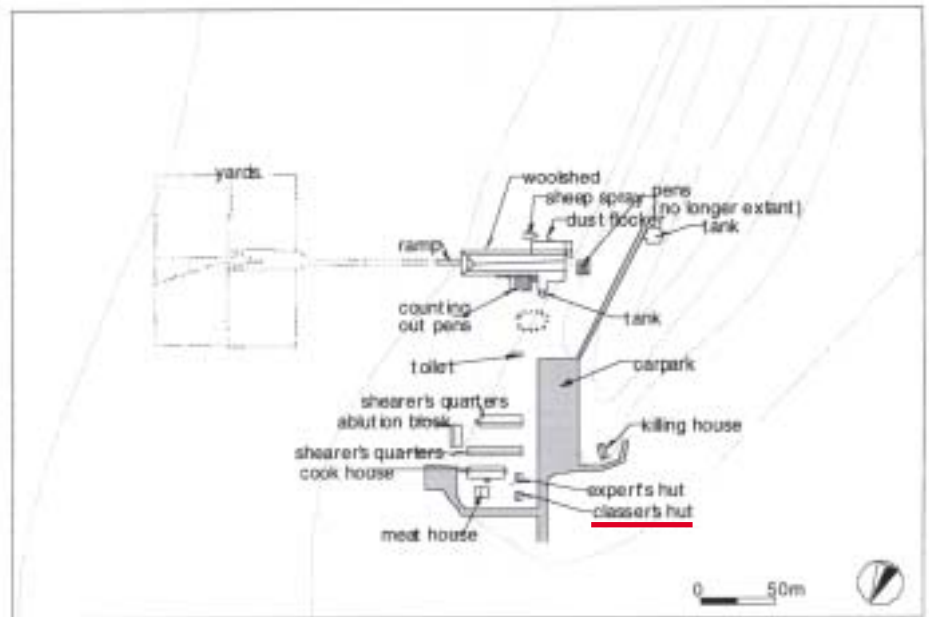


Figure 122
Site plan showing the location of the
Classer's Quarters.
SMT 2001 plan

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The date of construction of the **Wool Classer's Quarters** is unknown however it is presumed to be contemporary with the older shearers' quarters building.

DESCRIPTION

In 1970 the external walls and roof of the Classer's Quarters were corrugated iron in fair condition, ceilings and doors were missing, as were the finials. The building has been restored to match others in the precinct [without its finials].

The building has a timber frame on round timber stumps with metal ant caps and is clad with corrugated iron laid horizontally. The door is a ledged and braced with vertical boards and there is a timber step on a small concrete slab. The pitched gable roof is clad with corrugated iron and features decorative timber barge battens. To either end wall there are metal framed louvre windows. The corrugated iron roof, barge battens and gutters have been painted green, the walls light cream, doors white and jambs, bargeboards and fascias dark cream.

CONDITION & INTEGRITY

The building is generally in good condition and retains a moderate level of integrity.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The 1875 Kinchega Woolshed and its associated shearers' quarters and outbuildings are of historical significance for their direct association with the early pastoral history of the far west of New South Wales. The precinct illustrates the huge size of pastoral holdings in the arid areas of Australia and the woolshed is a good



Figure 123

Floor plan of the classer's quarters.
PF sketch plan 2002



Figure 124

Classer's quarters, north-east view.
PF 2002 photograph

example of a large scale shearing shed which also helps to show the major developments in shearing technology during the century since its construction. The Kincheha Woolshed precinct is a prominent feature in the arid surrounding landscape and is a visual symbol of the grazing history of the outback. The Classer's Quarters is an integral part of the Woolshed Group, demonstrating the hierarchy of workers within the woolshed.



SIGNIFICANCE RATING FOR
 BUILDING ELEMENTS

Original configuration of building elements
 Corrugated iron wall and roof cladding
 Original [?] gdoor and windows
 Gable details [not necessarily original fabric]
 Steps
 Interior not inspected.

High
 High
 High
 High
 Low

CONSERVATION POLICY /
 STRATEGY / IMPLEMENTATION

Refer conservation policies for Kinchega Station Woolshed &
 Shearers' Quarters Group generally, page 63 above.



Figure 125
 Classers' quarters south-east view.
 PG 2001 photograph



Figures 126 & 127
 Classer's quarters, gable details.
 PF 2002 photographs



**THE KINCHEGA STATION WOOLSHED GROUP
 SHEARERS' QUARTERS & ASSOCIATED BUILDINGS**

PLACE / ITEM NAME

Pit Toilets

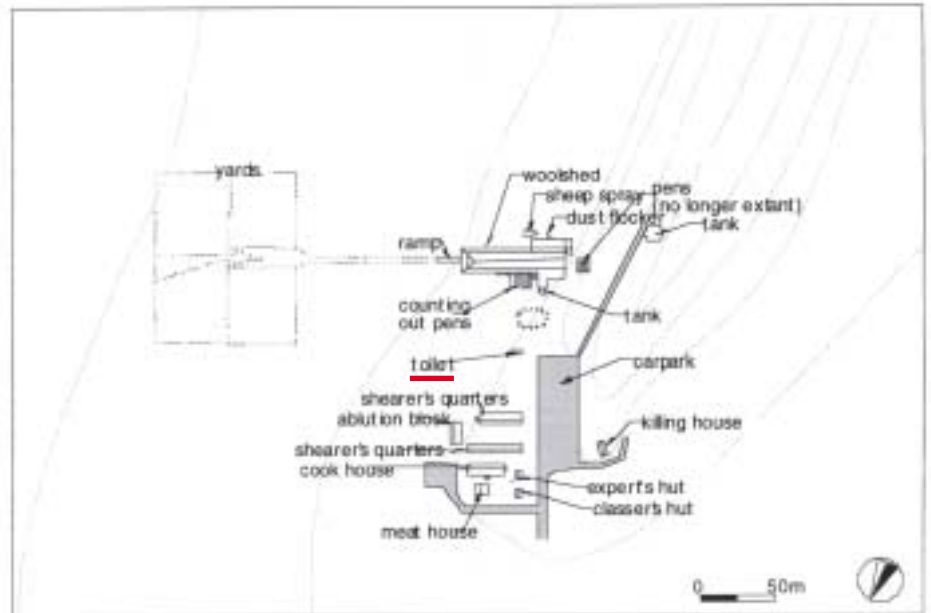


Figure 128
 Site plan showing the location of the Pit Toilet.
SMT 2001 plan

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The date of construction of the **Pit Toilets** is unknown however given their steel frame they are possibly c1950s. The 1970 Cox report recommended demolition of this building. The building is located on a rubbish dump which is likely to pre-date the building and has archaeological potential.

DESCRIPTION

These toilets are 'long-drop' style. The public are discouraged from using this unit, although it is still functional. It is actually more accessible and visible from the carpark than the more recent toilet block and is sometimes used by visitors on first arriving at the precinct. The pit toilets are housed in a steel and timber framed shed clad with vertically laid corrugated iron. The skillion roof is also clad with corrugated iron. There are four toilets with wooden seats and lids, and steel framed doors with corrugated iron panels. A corrugated iron dividing wall is a later addition and the doors may also post-date the shed's construction. The steel frame evidences an earlier green colour scheme. The floor is of concrete.

CONDITION & INTEGRITY

The building is generally in good condition and retains a moderate level of integrity.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The 1875 Kincheega Woolshed and its associated shearers' quarters and outbuildings are of historical significance for their direct association with the early pastoral history of the far west of New South Wales. The precinct illustrates the huge size of pastoral holdings in the arid areas of Australia and the woolshed is a good

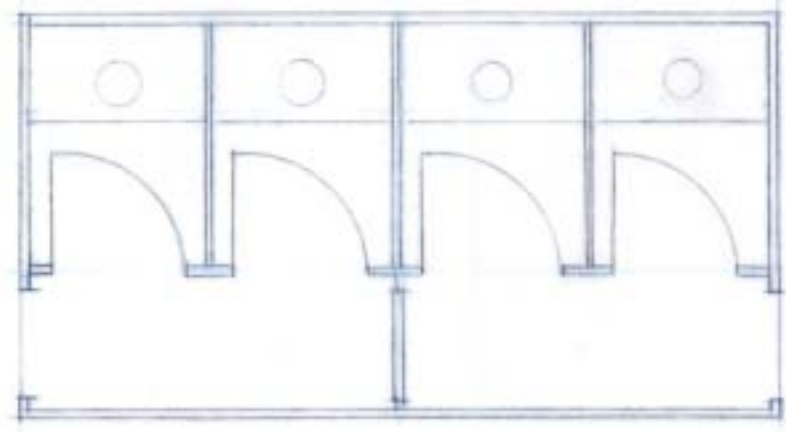


Figure 129
 Floor plan of the pit toilet.
PF sketch plan 2002



Figure 130
 The 'long drop' toilet block.
PG 2001 photograph

example of a large scale shearing shed which also helps to show the major developments in shearing technology during the century since its construction. The Kinchega Woolshed precinct is a prominent feature in the arid surrounding landscape and is a visual symbol of the grazing history of the outback. The pit toilet contributes to an understanding of the precinct.

**SIGNIFICANCE RATING FOR
 BUILDING ELEMENTS**

Metal and timber frame	High
Corrugated iron cladding	High
Wooden toilet seats and lids	High
Toilet doors	Moderate to Low



CONSERVATION POLICY /
STRATEGY / IMPLEMENTATION

Refer conservation policies for Kinchega Station Woolshed & Shearers' Quarters Group generally, page 68 above.



Figure 131 & 132
The 'long drop' toilet block, interior.
PF 2002 photographs



**THE KINCHEGA STATION WOOLSHED GROUP
 SHEARERS' QUARTERS & ASSOCIATED BUILDINGS**

PLACE / ITEM NAME

Modern Toilets

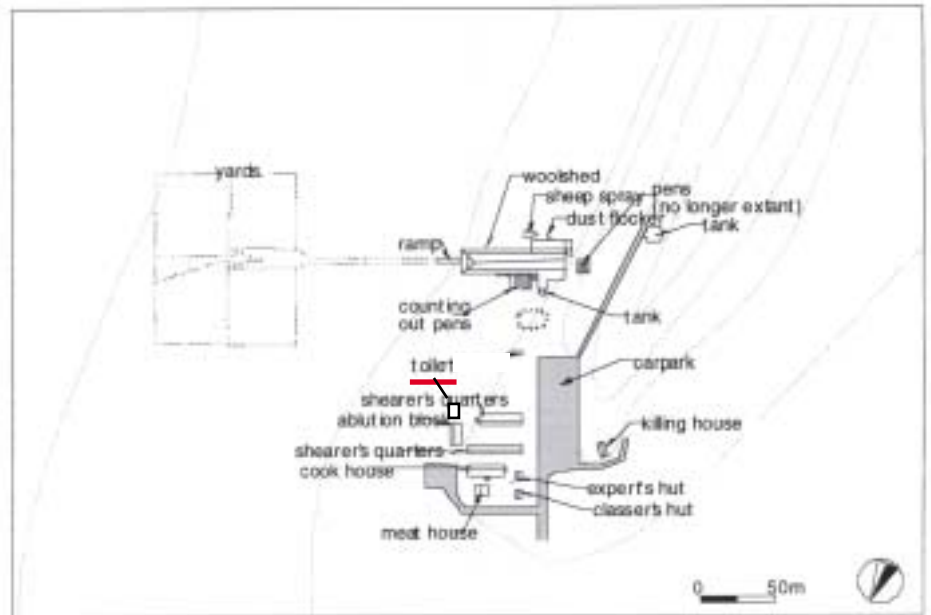


Figure 133
 Site plan showing the location of the Modern Toilets.
SMT 2001 plan

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The **modern toilets** were constructed by the NPWS.

DESCRIPTION

A toilet block constructed of concrete blocks with a low pitched gable roof clad with grey metal decking. The toilets are divided into Male and Female: there are two pans, a urinal and handbasin in the male section; and three pans and a handbasin in the female section. The floors are tiled and the walls painted internally.



Figure 134
 The modern toilet block from the north-west.
PF 2002 photograph

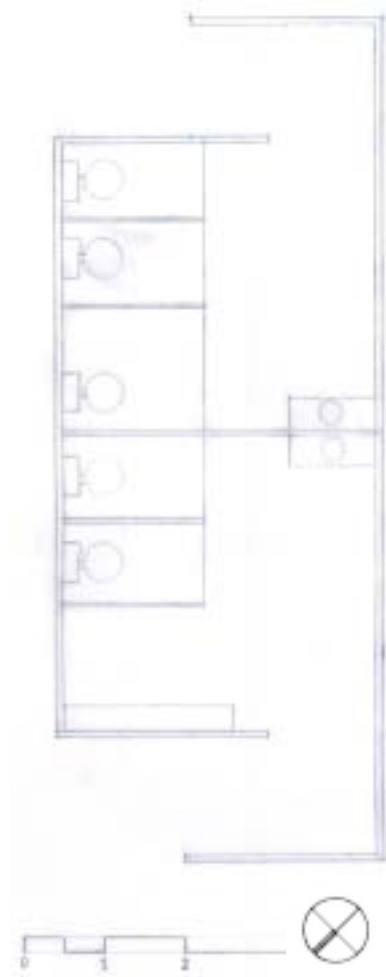


Figure 135
Floor plan of the modern toilets.
PF sketch plan 2002

Figures 136 & 137
The modern toilet block from the
south-east [left]; and interior view.
PF 2002 photographs



STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The toilets are not particularly sympathetic to the architectural character of the precinct, however they are functional and to some extent continue the tradition of providing basic facilities in the style of the time.

**CONSERVATION POLICY /
STRATEGY / IMPLEMENTATION**

There are no specific conservation policies for the modern toilet block.



**THE KINCHEGA STATION WOOLSHED GROUP
 SHEARERS' QUARTERS & ASSOCIATED BUILDINGS**

PLACE / ITEM NAME

Modern Shower Block

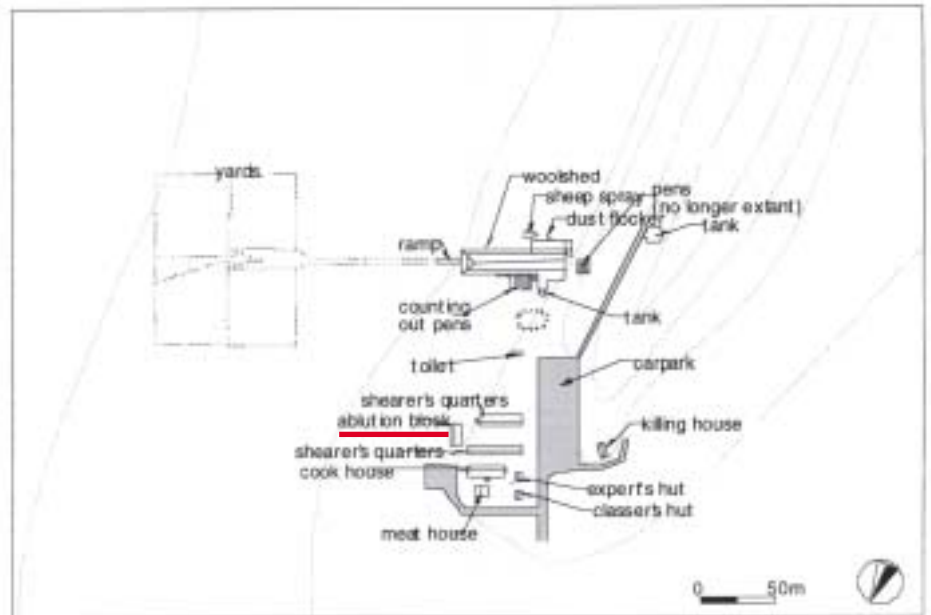


Figure 138
 Site plan showing the location of the
 Modern Shower Block.
SMT 2001 plan

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The **modern shower block** was constructed by the NPWS.

DESCRIPTION

A timber framed shower block with metal decking cladding and a low-pitched gable roof clad with corrugated iron. The building provides four showers in each of the Male and Female sections [including one large enough for disabled with a hand-held shower nozzle]. Each shower room has two handbasins and two built-in benches. The floors are tiled and the walls tiled in the showers and clad with masonite elsewhere.

There is a store room to the front of the female showers; and there is a laundry [former dark room] which is accessed via a store area to the northern end. This store area has a large metal roller door access.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The modern shower block constructed by the NPWS is not particularly sympathetic to the architectural character of the precinct. However they are functional and to some extent continue the tradition in the precinct of providing basic facilities in the style at the time of construction.

**CONSERVATION POLICY /
 STRATEGY / IMPLEMENTATION**

There are no specific conservation policies for the modern shower block.

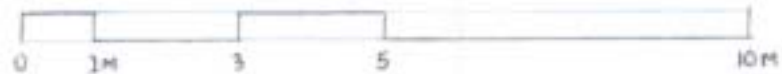
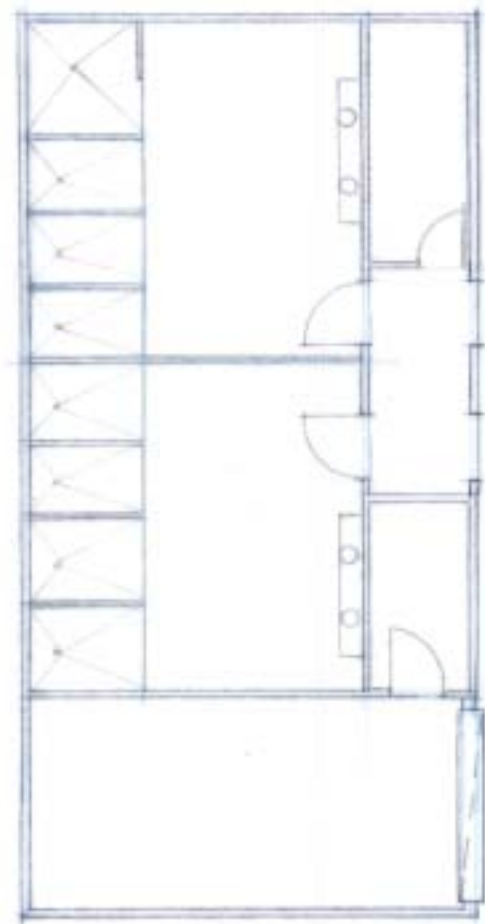


Figure 139
Floor plan of the shower block.
PF sketch plan 2002



Figures 140 & 141
The shower block from the west [left];
and from the south-east [right].
PF 2002 photographs



**THE KINCHEGA STATION WOOLSHED GROUP
THE FORMER KINCHEGA MANAGER'S RESIDENCE & OUTBUILDINGS**

PLACE/ITEM NAME	Kincheга Manager's Residence & Outbuildings
REGISTERS	NPWS HPR : Not registered NPWS ASR : Not registered
LOCATION	The north bank of Emu Creek and north of the Woolshed group.
HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	This building was built c1950 when the Kincheга Homestead [No. 2] was no longer functional.
DESCRIPTION	<p>This mid twentieth century building is typical of many rural homesteads constructed in the western region. Strategically located near the woolshed, it was enclosed with a colorbond fence in the 1990s and landscaped with native plants and bushes.</p> <p>Adjacent and to the rear of the Manager's Residence are several metal sheds and workshops housing NPWS equipment. An area within this works compound has been set aside for the storage of Aboriginal artefacts accumulated over the thirty-five years of NPWS management. Beyond these outbuildings is a functional earth airstrip.</p>
CONDITION	The building is in fair to good condition and appears to retain a moderate level of integrity [not able to be inspected].
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE	This building was the third residence on Kincheга, built during the 1950s, and is of moderate cultural significance. The artefacts stored in the works compound are likely to be of high significance and interpretative value however until more is known about their provenance it is difficult to make a proper assessment.



Figure 142
New manager's house.
PG 2001 photograph



Figure 143
 Floor plan of the former Manager's
 Residence.
 NPWS 1981 plan

MOVEABLE HERITAGE

There are numerous items of moveable heritage stored in the works compound behind the Former Manager's Residence. These include assorted Aboriginal stone artefacts, some of which were collected by NPWS Sites Officer Badger Bates over the past 15 years, and some of which were donated to NPWS by Aileen Morphett, who used to run the Albemarle Hotel in Menindee. Ms Morphett also donated a number of wooden spears, etc, for use in a display in the Park.⁵ There are other stone and metal artefacts and other reportedly Aboriginal objects wrapped in newspaper. A number of wedge-tailed eagle heads are strung on wire.

CONSERVATION POLICY / STRATEGY / IMPLEMENTATION

CATALOGUING OF MOVEABLE HERITAGE

All items of moveable heritage within the Woolshed Group should be catalogued and their provenance researched and recorded.

INTERPRETATION

Those items of significance which are no longer functional and in use should become part of the Kinchega Station interpretative display and either retained *in situ* or relocated to an augmented Kinchega Visitor Interpretation Centre.

There are no specific policy recommendations relating to the Former Manager's Residence.

⁵ Lisa Menke, NPWS, pers. comm. to Josh Bean, 20 September 2002



Figure 144

Aboriginal artefacts at the NPWS workshop. Some of these artefacts are likely to be those collected prior to the gazettal of the Kinchega National Park and returned by the collector. Collections are known to have been made from 31-3-109, 31-3-266 and from the Woolshed area.
BN 2001 photograph



Figure 145

Miscellaneous artefacts stored at the NPWS workshop
BN 2001 photograph





Figure 146
Eagles' heads at the NPWS workshop
BN 2001 photograph



Figure 147
Miscellaneous artefacts stored at the
NPWS workshop
BN 2001 photograph



**THE KINCHEGA STATION STOCKYARDS GROUP
 GENERALLY**

PLACE / ITEM NAME

The Stockyards Group comprises the former Kincheega Station stockyards; the former Telegraph line remnants; and former Water Resources Commission Lake dredging equipment.

REGISTERS

NPWS HPR : Not registered
 NPWS ASR : Not registered
 RNE :
 NSW HR :

LOCATION

Various locations refer site specific assessments.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The junction between the major Menindee lakes, i.e. Lake Menindee and Lake Cawndilla, is a place of considerable natural, Aboriginal and historical values; given the importance of the lakes and lake beds to the Aboriginal people and to the later pastoral industry. Historically this area was inundated only with the flooding of the Darling River, but since the 1960s, with the artificial regulation of the lakes, this area has been permanently flooded. The dry conditions of 2002 have, however, revealed this area in its entirety.

DESCRIPTION

Low areas of lake, watercourse and red sandy dune country, i.e. not 'billabong' country.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Refer individual assessments.



Figure 1
 The stockyards area
 SMT 2001 plan



Figures 2 & 3
Lake Menindee [left]; and the 'spit'
of land between Cawndilla Creek
and Lake Menindee [right].
PF 2001 photographs



Figure 4
Tree near the sheeyards. Note the
waterline just above the 'V'.
PF 2002 photograph

CONSERVATION POLICY /
STRATEGY / IMPLEMENTATION

INTERPRETATION

The interpretation of this general area should be undertaken as part of a 'Morton Boolka' walk. This walk could explain and interpret the natural, Aboriginal and cultural values of the area.



**THE KINCHEGA STATION STOCKYARDS GROUP
THE FORMER STOCKYARDS**

PLACE / ITEM NAME

The former Kincheega Station Stockyards.

REGISTERS

NPWS HPR : Not registered
NPWS ASR : Not registered
RNE :
NSW HR :

LOCATION

Grid Reference approximately 619046 6417139, taken from current lakeshore.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Associated with the Hughes family and the management of Kincheega Station in conjunction with Kars Station.

DESCRIPTION

The stockyards are usually all or partly submerged, however as a result of dry conditions during 2002 the yards have been fully exposed. The yards are sheepyards which are very similar in configuration to the Kincheega Woolshed yards. There are four large holding pens arranged in a square. In the central portion of these there are smaller pens for working the sheep, drafting, drenching etc. The outer yards comprise slender sapling uprights with closely spaced holes drilled through them to accommodate strands of wire. The inner, working section of the yards comprise more sturdy upright logs with pairs of holes through which wire was threaded, presumably to secure horizontal saplings.

To the north of the sheepyards, on the banks of Cawdilla Creek, there is a hut site which comprises the remains of a concrete slab floor and fireplace, pieces of cast iron stove, bottles and brick scatters. Nearby [to the west] there are the uprights of what was once probably an associated shed. A short distance away to the east, there is a evidence



Figure 5
The site of the submerged stockyards in 2001.
PF 2001 photograph



of a small yard, possibly a horseyard. It is possible that campsites associated with the stockmen who worked here may also exist in this area.

CONDITION & INTEGRITY

The sheeppads are in remarkably good condition considering that they have been inundated for many years. The site retains a moderate level of integrity, the layout of the yards is still highly visible. No conservation works are proposed for this site which is usually inundated.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The site is of **high** cultural significance and is useful in demonstrating the size of the pastoral operation at Kinchega and the relationship with Kars Station. If the site continues to be revealed on a regular basis, it could be of high interpretative value.

CONSERVATION POLICY / STRATEGY / IMPLEMENTATION

INTERPRETATION

Interpret the former Stockyards, and their connections with the woolshed and the Kinchega Station generally. Interpretation should be in association with the proposed Morton Boolka walk. There may be scope for interpretation of the Stockyards and Telegraph Line in the context of the further development of the Morton Boolka Picnic Area. Generally speaking, priority should be given to the interpretation of things which are accessible, or at least visible to visitors. In this case, those would be the landforms that made this the easiest crossing of Cawndilla Creek, prior to the present Lakes Regulation System. The broad consequences of the introduction of that system on the movement of stock and the subsequent reconfiguration of Kinchega Station are, perhaps, the main stories here, as is the Stockyards question, i.e. 'Where are they now?'. These themes would be the basis for the Stockyards signs.



Figures 6 & 7
Race, Kinchega sheeppads [left]; and
detail of posts which make up the
four outer yards.
PF 2002 photographs



Figure 8
Kinchega sheepyards, looking north
from the centre of the yards.
PF 2002 photograph



Figures 9 & 10
Kinchega sheepyards, details.
PF 2002 photographs



Figure 11
Kinchega sheepyards, looking north
from the centre of the yards towards
a central 'funnel'.
PF 2002 photograph



Figures 12 & 13
Hearth at hut site to the north of the
sheepyards, on the bank of
Cawndilla Creek.
PF 2002 photographs

Figure 14
Remnant of possible yard east of the
hut site.
PF 2002 photograph



Figures 15 & 16
The remains of a former shed, west of
the hut site.
PF 2002 photographs





**THE KINCHEGA STATION STOCKYARDS GROUP
THE FORMER TELEGRAPH LINE**

PLACE/ITEM NAME

The former Kincheha Station Telegraph Line.

REGISTERS

NPWS HPR : Not registered
NPWS ASR : Not registered
RNE :
NSW HR :

LOCATION

Lake Drive, refer location plan. Grid Reference 621150 6414579 –
621277 6414346

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

This is part of the telegraph line which was installed to connect Kincheha homestead to the outside world. According to E. Gwynne Hughes, Alfred Hughes introduced a telephone line between Kincheha and Kars in 1890.¹

DESCRIPTION

A series of poles in a line along the old telegraph route. There may be more poles which are lying fallen.

CONDITION & INTEGRITY

The telegraph line is of low integrity and the remnant posts are in poor condition with most poles fallen or non existent. Little of the wire and insulators remain.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The site is of **low** cultural significance.



Figure 17
Telegraph pole of galvanised pipe
SMT 2001 photograph

¹ Penelope Allison *KARP Report*, 1998



CONSERVATION POLICY /
STRATEGY / IMPLEMENTATION

INTERPRETATION

Interpret the former Telegraph line and its connections with the woolshed and the Kincheega Station generally. Interpretation should be in association with the proposed Morton Boolka walk.

CONSERVATION WORKS

Several of the poles closest to the road should be conserved and interpreted to prevent damage through ignorance. The route does not appear on maps and so should be recorded. No further conservation action should be undertaken on the bulk of the line.



**THE KINCHEGA STATION STOCKYARDS GROUP
 THE FORMER WATER RESOURCES COMMISSION MACHINERY**

PLACE / ITEM NAME	The former Water Resources Commission Machinery
REGISTERS	NPWS HPR : Not registered NPWS ASR : Not registered RNE : NSW HR :
LOCATION	On narrow land between Lake Menindee and Cawndilla Creek. GPS grid reference 619068E 6417160N.
HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	Remnants of lake dredging equipment from the 1960s.
DESCRIPTION	In this area close to the lakeshore line adjacent to the stockyards, there is a large pile of rusting metal objects. This appears to be Water Resources Commission dredging equipment dating to the period of the construction of the lake as a water storage.
CONDITION & INTEGRITY	Poor. No conservation works are proposed for these items.
COMPARATIVE SIGNIFICANCE	Low cultural significance. Some interpretative value.
CONSERVATION POLICY / STRATEGY / IMPLEMENTATION	INTERPRETATION Interpret the Water Resources Commission machinery in connection with the Menindee Lakes scheme. Interpretation should be in association with the proposed Morton Boolka walk.



Figure 18
 The Menindee Lakes Scheme from a Water Resources Commission booklet. ND but 1960s
DLWC Menindee
 SMT 2001 photograph



Figures 19 & 20
Water Resources Commission
wagons and other dredging
equipment.
SMT/PF 2001 photographs





**THE KINCHEGA STATION WOOLSHED WHARF GROUP
 GENERALLY**

PLACE / ITEM NAME	The Kinchege Station Woolshed Wharf and associated Aboriginal and historical sites.
REGISTERS	NPWS HPR : Not registered NPWS ASR : Submitted, awaiting registration #. NSW SHR :
LOCATION	South-east of the Kinchege Station woolshed on the western bank of the Darling River.
HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	This area is reputed to be the location of the Station woolshed wharf and perhaps, the location of the Boundary Hotel [later known as the Exchange Hotel]. It is also a 'modern' Aboriginal site of local significance to Menindee Aboriginal people.

Paul Rainbird notes of the hotel site that it was¹ *'...the presence of records relating to a hotel within the Kinchege station area is rather an enigma. This is not unusual as many of the larger stations resembled a small township. In 1872 Timothy Hickey is recorded as licensee of the Boundary Hotel which Maiden² says was a few miles down river from Menindee...' on Hughes Kinchege Station 'and by 1885 its name had changed [in 1883] to the Exchange Hotel with Charles Woolfe as licensee; by 1889 it appears to have closed as no license was granted.'*³ The location of this hotel is not



Figure 1
 Location of the Kinchege Station
 wharf site
 SMT 2001 plan

¹ Paul Rainbird *KARP Report*, 1996 p. 13
² Sandra Maiden, *Menindee op cit*, 1989 p. 61
³ Sandra Maiden, *Menindee op cit*, 1989 p. 106



known, but it would be expected that at least fifteen years worth of trading would be enough to create an identifiable archaeological site'.

The two Darling River charts are not particularly helpful as they show a building [or buildings] on the eastern side of the River.

DESCRIPTION

There is little obvious evidence of the wharf or the associated buildings. There is a single post, some axe cuts in a tree to provide a bench for some framework and one cross beam. Nearby, however there is an extensive archaeological site with pre and post contact material. The amount of European material including ceramics, glass and metal suggests that there was once a structure here, perhaps a hut, woolstore or hotel. This material is interspersed with Aboriginal stone artefacts and post contact glass artefacts. The artefactual material is scattered over the surface of a dune adjacent to the wharf and interspersed with baked clay and charcoal.

CONDITION & INTEGRITY

The site has had some disturbance apparently due to bottle collectors. Overall though it would appear to be suitable for research by excavation. This work would give a clearer indication of the extent of the site.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The site is significant for its relationship with both the homestead and the woolshed. The river provided the lifeline between Kinchega and the outside world and the wharf site would have been an important part of the operation of the station. Without it supplies could not easily come into the property and the wool could not conveniently and economically be shipped out. The site is further significant for its potential to reveal information relating to the involvement of Aboriginal people in station life.

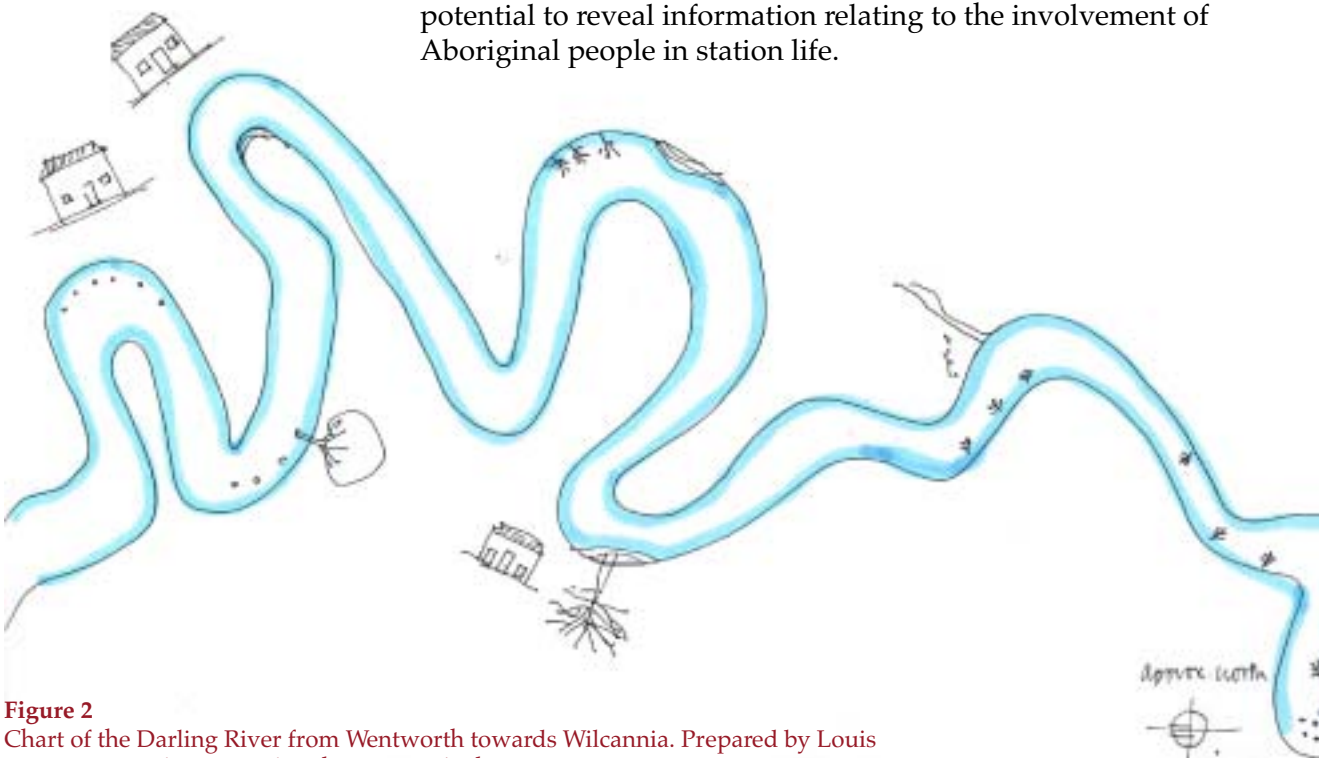


Figure 2
 Chart of the Darling River from Wentworth towards Wilcannia. Prepared by Louis Stern 1880s and presented to the SLNSW by his son Oscar P. Stern 1940
 SLNSW Mitchell Library: overdrawing by PF

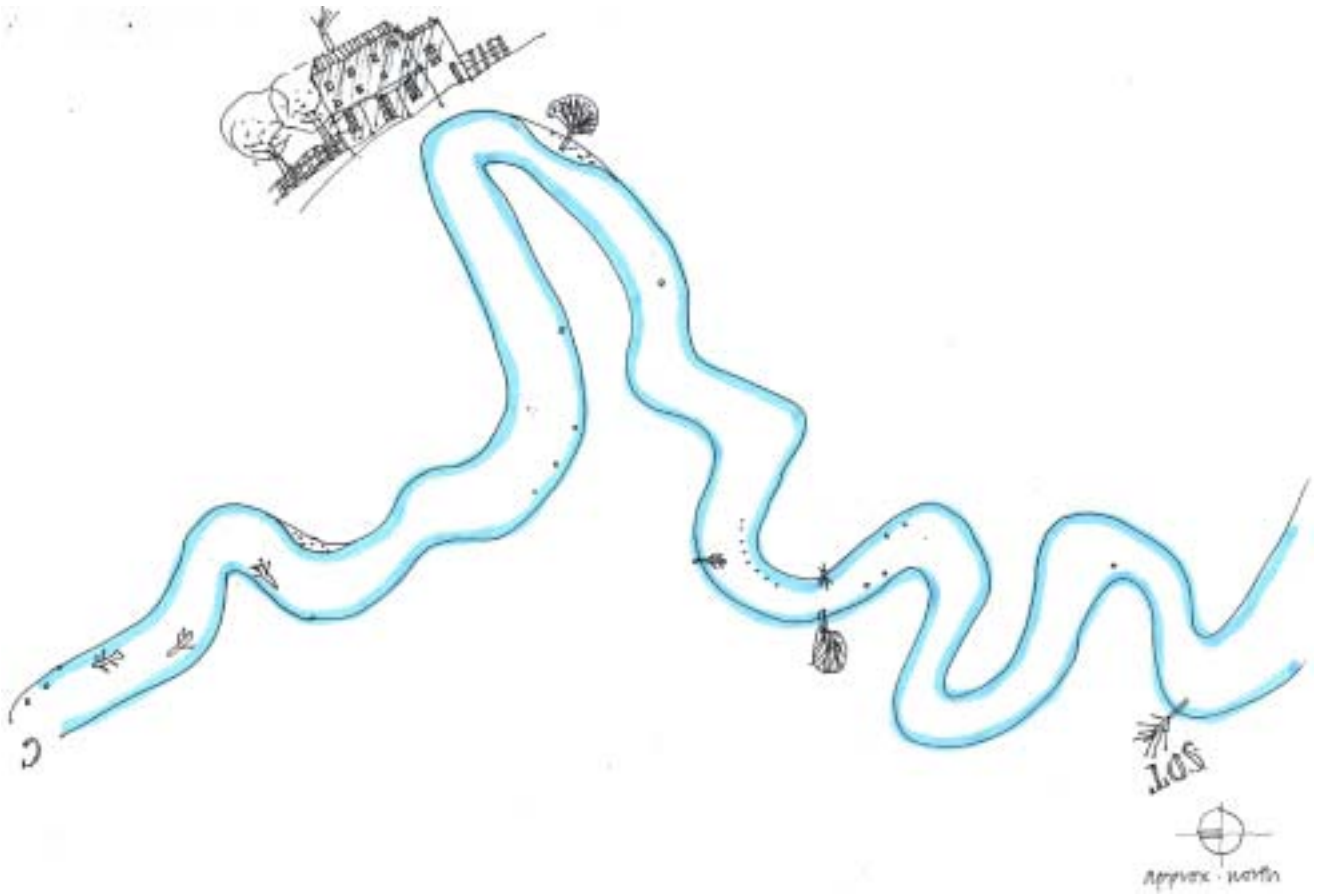


Figure 3
 Chart of the Darling River. ND but
 c1880
 SLNSW Mitchell Library: overdrawing
 by PF



Figure 4
 The wharf [?] location on the river
 SMT 2001 photograph

CONSERVATION POLICY /
 STRATEGY / IMPLEMENTATION

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION

It is recommended that an archaeological investigation be undertaken for the wharf area and related sites, with the objective of assessing its natural Aboriginal and historic values.



INTERPRETATION

This is rich in interpretative potential for specific NSW historical themes [e.g. communication etc].

HISTORICAL RESEARCH

Undertake a thorough investigation of the available 'primary' historical source material. This research should include the 1850s McCabe Darling River surveys [SLNSW Mitchell Library]; the Kinchege Station records [held at Kars Station and in Adelaide]; and the original portion plans [DLWC].



Figure 5

Adjacent to the wharf are mounded archaeological deposits with both Aboriginal pre and post contact artefacts and European debris.
SMT 2001 photograph



Figure 6

Telegraph pole, Kinchege Wharf group.
AF 2001 photograph



Figure 7
Former gate post, Kincheha wharf
group
AF 2001 photograph

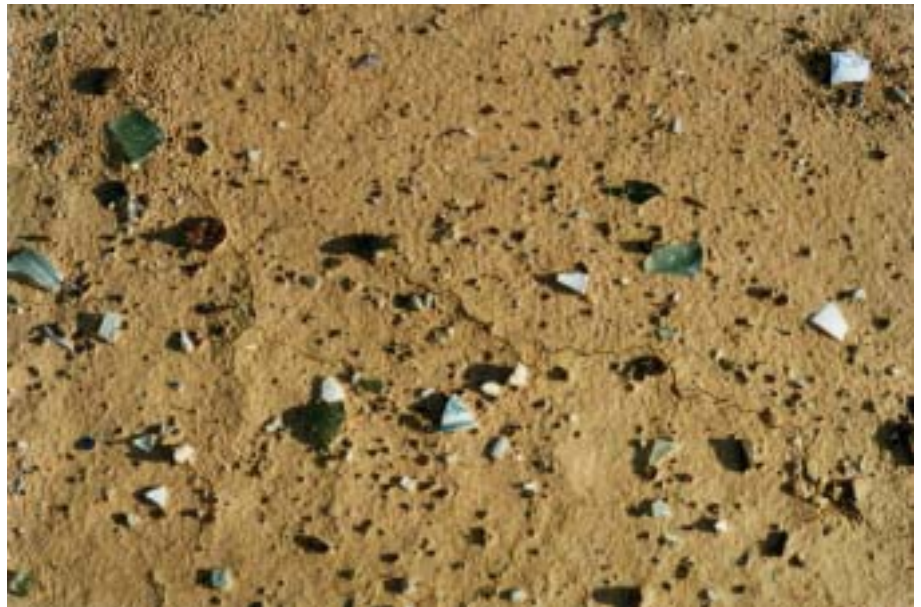


Figure 8
Artefacts, Kincheha wharf group
AF 2001 photograph



**THE KINCHEGA STATION REGULATOR GROUP
 THE REGULATOR AND THE BRIDGE SITE**

PLACE / ITEM NAME

The Regulator Group and associated Water Resources Commission [WRC] sites and the former Menindee bridge.

REGISTERS

NPWS HPR : 3914609
 NPWS ASR : Not registered
 RNE :
 NSW HR :

LOCATION

At the point where the River meets Menindee lake.

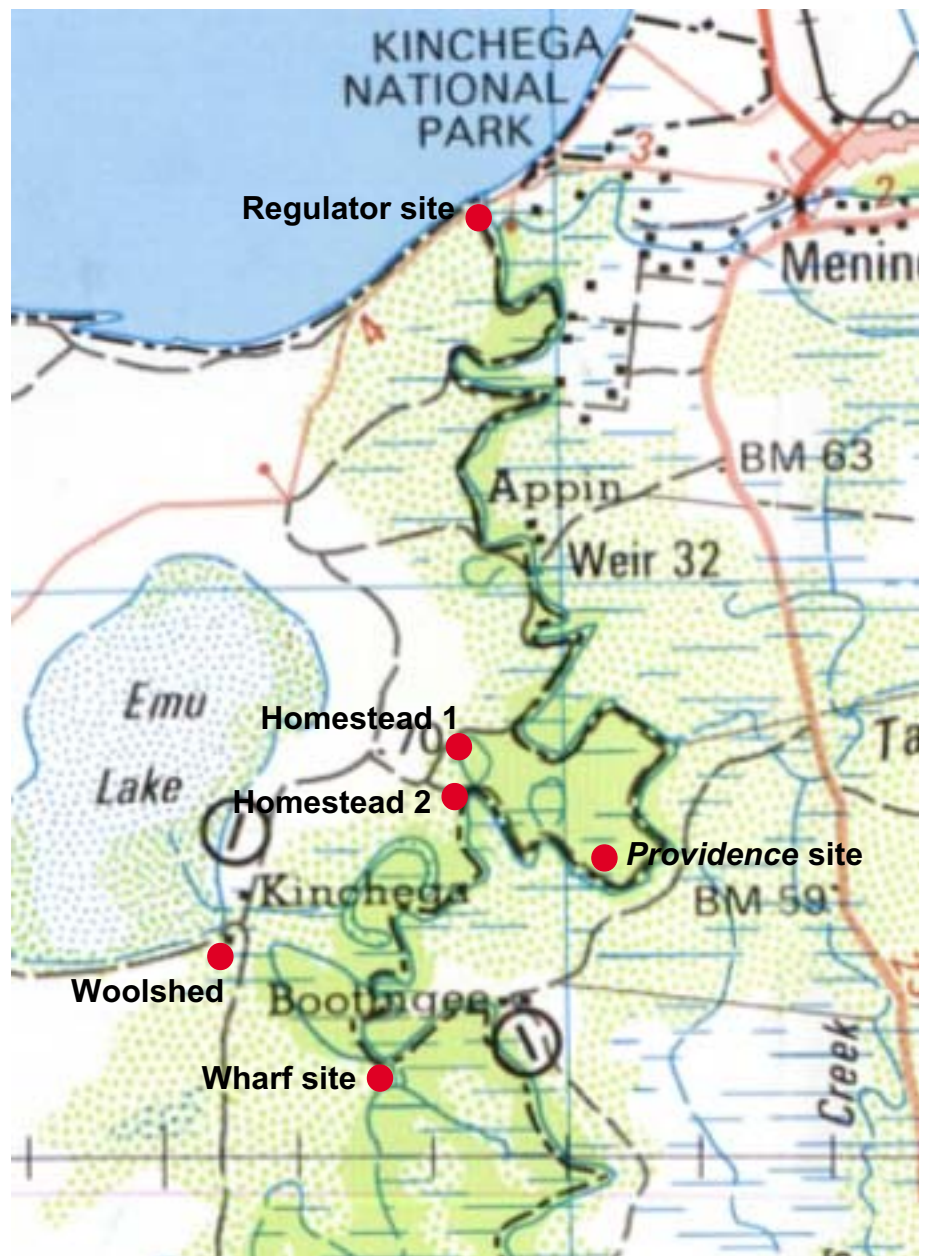


Figure 1
 The Regulator Group relative to other Kincheega Station sites.
 CMA 2001 map



HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Menindee to Pooncarie Road crossed the river from the township to the western bank at this point. The Road traversed the Kincheha property. The connections between the town and station date back to the 1850s, and hence the bridge remains have close associations with the station.

The Regulator and associated engineering works were installed in the early 1960s. The major works within the Regulator group are the intake in Menindee lake; the tunnel and associated levee bank; and the outflow race.

DESCRIPTION

Little remains of the bridge, apart from six posts and earthworks [on the eastern bank].

CONDITION & INTEGRITY

The vicinity of the bridge posts has been eroded by high river levels. The bridge is in poor condition and is of low integrity. No conservation works are proposed for the bridge. The regulator is located just outside the Park and is maintained by DLWC.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The site is of **low** cultural significance, although Aboriginal burial sites are known to exist in this area.

CONSERVATION POLICY / STRATEGY / IMPLEMENTATION

INTERPRETATION

The site is rich in interpretative potential. One specific theme would be of the river and formerly dry bed lakes; and the subsequent WRC



Figure 2
The township of Menindee as shown
on the Darling River navigation chart
c1875.
SLNSW Mitchell Library: PF
overdrawing



Menindee lakes Scheme. The theme of communication [Menindee to Pooncarie Road]; and of the relationships of Menindee town to Kincheega Station.

EROSION

The riverbanks are currently eroding at this point due to high outflows from the Regulator. NPWS should pursue this matter with DLWC.



Figure 3
The bridge posts.
PF 2001 photograph



Figure 4
The western bank of the river
adjacent the bridge.
PF 2001 photograph



Figure 5
The Regulator at high river levels.
PG 2001 photograph



Figure 6
The river at low river levels.
PF 2001 photograph



APPENDIX 1

KINCHEGA WOOLSHED PRECINCT MAINTENANCE GUIDELINES

INTRODUCTION

DEFINITIONS

The Burra Charter defines *maintenance* as the continuous protective care of the fabric and setting of a place and distinguishes *maintenance* from *repair*, as the latter involves *restoration* or *reconstruction*. These guidelines will apply to the repair and replacement of decayed material, as well as its maintenance.

PURPOSE

The guidelines identify the types of maintenance and repair tasks that could be undertaken as part of the day to day management of the precinct. It is envisaged that these relatively minor tasks could be managed by the Park Ranger and, because of their low risk of adverse impact on heritage values, would not necessarily require external authority approval. The reduction in approvals paperwork will enable maintenance to be undertaken more easily on an 'as-needs' basis, which will in turn benefit long-term conservation of the precinct.

Where identified below, maintenance and repair should not be undertaken without approval from the relevant authority and input from someone with appropriate heritage expertise.

APPLICATION

The guidelines focus on the woolshed, its outbuildings and yards, the shearers' quarters and the immediate landscape. The guidelines are a subset of the Conservation Management Plan. Consequently, policies in the currently endorsed CMP will take precedence over these guidelines.

CAUTION

Maintenance can have both a positive and a negative impact on a place's cultural heritage value. While in general maintenance will extend the life of a building, it is not uncommon for maintenance work to result in the loss of fine detail, original fabric and the patina that contributes to a place's heritage value.

When there is concern that maintenance could have a significant adverse impact on heritage value, advice should be sought from someone with appropriate expertise.



GENERAL PRINCIPLES

RECORDING

A maintenance file should be kept on site for each building or group of buildings and all maintenance and conservation work recorded therein.

PAINTING AND OILING

- Do not paint over previously unpainted surfaces without approval from someone with appropriate authority and expertise.
- Re-painting should closely match the existing colour scheme, unless otherwise instructed.
- Where original paintwork is to be stripped, colour-scrapes should first be taken and the results entered in the building's maintenance file.
- Where original surfaces have previously been oiled, they may be re-oiled with a matching product
- Do not oil non-oiled surfaces without approval.

FABRIC REPAIR AND REPLACEMENT

- In general, original fabric should only be replaced by material that closely matches the original.
- Where original material is visible, or not painted, replacement material should match in form, type and detail.
- If the material is to be painted, it only need match in form and detail. For example, painted oregon scotia moulding could be replaced with painted pine scotia moulding of matching profile.
- If material is original and significant and only partially decayed, then the material should be patched rather than replaced. This is known as doing '*as little as possible, as much as necessary*'. Wherever possible, significant fabric should be patched rather than replaced as the retention of even part of the original material enables an enhanced interpretation of the place. This is particularly evident in the Woolshed's blade shearing board.
- Maintenance that requires an obvious change to the form or detail of the building's fabric should not be undertaken without approval, e.g. replacing *ogee* profile gutters with *quad* profile.

SERVICES

Services that in themselves are not considered culturally significant, including water supply, sewerage and drainage, stormwater, heating and cooling electricity mains supply, phone, etc should all be maintained in accordance with industry standard. Consultation with a conservation architect would not be necessary unless there was a likelihood of altering original fabric and form, having an adverse visual impact or threatening Aboriginal or historic archaeological material.



MAINTENANCE INSPECTIONS

MAINTENANCE CYCLE

Because of the high public visitation to the site, and the extreme weathering conditions, **it is recommended that the precinct be inspected on an annual basis**, and that necessary maintenance be regularly undertaken on an 'as needs' basis.

SUB-FLOOR

Tasks

Check for subsidence, collapse, decay, broken services and termite infestation.

Check condition of timber stumps.

Check that other stumps are in place and functional.

Actions

- Avoid lifting exposed original floors unless the original flooring can be reinstalled with virtually no visible evidence. Sub-floor access will generally be preferable, and if soil has built up under the floor it should be removed to re-establish an adequate crawl space. If there is no prudent or feasible alternative to lifting original floors, this should first be discussed with the conservation architect.
 - Replace timber stumps with stumps of similar material to original/existing.
-

ROOFING IRON

Tasks

Inspect for loose or raised fixings, sheet edges and surfaces that are damaged.

Look for rust stains around fixings, where sheets are lapped and around flashings.

Check for dissimilar metals at flashings. Loose fixings can indicate batten failure.

Check to see whether any rusty patches have rusted through.

Check condition of painted surfaces.

Actions

- Corrugated iron tends to corrode first at overlapped joins or where in contact with water. When lap sheets have rusted around their fixings the insertion of a slip sheet can extend the life of the roof covering. This can be a metre length of matching profiled corrugated sheeting placed between a rusted lap joint and secured on the adjacent corrugate.
- Do not replace unpainted roof cladding until it has almost rusted through and there is a danger of water damage to the building fabric.
- If only partial replacement of roof sheets is required they should be replaced with material matching the profile and appearance of the existing roof. Secondhand sheets may meet this need.
- If new sheeting is required it may not match profile so it may be



necessary to move sheets around so that completed pitches or sections can be of sound old material while other pitches are new sheeting.

- If complete replacement of the old roof is required the aim should be to match the appearance of the original as closely as possible. Issues to be considered include profile, materials, colour, sheet length, fastenings, availability of traditional materials, compatibility of materials.
- Modern methods produce sheets which much longer than usually required; replicate original sheet lengths.
- Repairs to existing building fabric should use traditional fastenings.

Avoid

Avoid leaf or debris 'build up' on the roof.

Do not use Zinalume or Colorbond to the Woolshed roof.

Do not lean ladders against guttering when inspecting the roof or clearing gutters and downpipes.

ROOF FLASHINGS/CAPPINGS

Tasks

Inspect for loose or raised fixings to metal cappings, cappings that have lifted, slipped or are deformed from wind damage.

Remove rubbish and leaves.

Actions

- Repairs existing building fabric for as long as is feasible.
- Repairs to existing building fabric should use traditional fastenings.
- Do not replace roof capping to Woolshed until it has almost rusted through and there is a danger of water damage to the building fabric. Source plain secondhand materials.
- Where roof capping requires replacement, replicate technique and fabric as near as possible.

Avoid

Combining dissimilar materials that will react with each other

Replacing original roof coverings unnecessarily

Light gauge flashings that are susceptible to wind damage and lift.

ROOF DRAINAGE

Tasks

Gutters and downpipes should be checked for gradient, leaks, and blockages.

Inspect for damaged guttering and downpipes.

Inspect gutter and downpipe joints for cracks and drips to the underside.

Check that brackets and straps are in place and secure.

Clear gutters of leaves and debris. Check if gutters are sagging and whether water falls to outlets.

Growth, moss or stains surrounding downpipes can indicate blockages.



Actions

- Replace damaged guttering and downpipes as per existing fabric.
- Use only guttering and downpipes of a profile to match existing; square profile guttering and downpipes is not acceptable.

Avoid

Combining dissimilar materials that will react with each other
Pushing leaves and debris into downpipe outlets.

EAVES

Tasks

Inspect for holes where birds can nest; and for surface stains to fascia and soffit that indicate roof or gutter failure

Check ventilation holes

Inspect for paint failure and/or decay to linings

Identify insect or bird nests for removal.

Actions

- Repair holes to eaves with similar materials.
 - Arrange for removal of insect or bird nests by suitably qualified person
-

VERANDAHS

Tasks

Check that verandah posts are stable and sound.

Check that roof structural members are sound.

Check for signs of structural distress such as movement or cracking.

Check condition of paving.

Actions

- Replace failed verandah timbers utilising material similar in profile and finish to the original or existing.
 - Replace verandah roof cladding as per 'Roof' section above.
-

TIMBER STRUCTURE

Tasks

Check for failure to structural members; or possible areas of failure in the future.

Actions

- The aim is to stabilise, consolidate or repair surviving structural members and systems; and to supplement or replace only unsound material. Avoid repairs which are stronger than the existing fabric and may lead to differential stress cracking. Repair, rather than replace, unsound timber. It is usually more cost effective to do repair work rather than complete dismantling and rebuilding.
- Only remove failed timber as last resort. Alternatives include inserting a new member beside the old; patching the old [i.e. scarf joints]; or strengthening with steel bracing. Where a joint may be exposed, bolts can be concealed behind timber plugs.
- New material should always be to the same profile as the original.



As a general rule, timber species and moisture content of new timber and old should be matched, to avoid differential movement.

- **Posts** set into the ground may rot at the base, which will necessitate the replacement of that section of timber. It is preferable to replace only as much as necessary, using the traditional skills of the carpenter. Reconstruct the original form of the damaged timber so that the repair does not detract from the appearance of the old work. Remove visible decayed zone together with any surrounding area affected. Apply fungicides to remaining timber as a precaution. Posts should not be set in concrete, but in free draining gravel and earth.
- **Synthetic repairs** may be undertaken where a section of timber may need strengthening. It can be patched with timber or alternatively with wood epoxy reinforcements [WER] which use steel plates or steel or fibreglass rods as reinforcing. These are set into pre-cut slots and bound to the remaining wood with epoxy resin, mostly so that the reinforcing is not visible. An appropriate use for synthetic repair is in repairing termite damage to non-structural timbers. After the termites have been removed resins such as acrylics or epoxies are injected into the wood to consolidate and strengthen it and preserve the original finish. The work should only be undertaken by experienced conservator. Although WER can be expensive, it avoids the problems encountered with the removal and replacement of timber.

EXTERNAL TIMBER DETAILING

Tasks

Ensure timber trim [corner beads, architraves, fascias, bargeboards, etc] is in sound condition and secure.

Actions

- Repair or replace damaged timber. As all trim on the shearers' quarters is painted, it may be replaced with painted timber of any suitable species, providing the profile matches.
- Check condition of steps.

CORRUGATED IRON WALL CLADDING

Tasks

Inspect for loose or raised fixings, sheet edges and surfaces that are damaged.

Look for rust stains around fixings, where sheets are lapped and around flashings.

Check for dissimilar metals at flashings.

Where iron is set into the ground, inspect damage to base.

Check condition of painted finish.

Actions

- Sections of matching profile iron set into the ground between the rusted section and the timber structure may prolong the useful life of corrugated iron which is set into the ground [i.e. pit toilet].



- Corrugated iron tends to corrode first at overlapped joins. When lap sheets have rusted around their fixings the insertion of a slip sheet can extend the life of the cladding. This can be a metre length of matching profiled corrugated sheeting placed between a rusted lap joint and secured on the adjacent corrugate.
- If only partial replacement of wall sheets is required they should be replaced with material matching the profile and appearance of the existing iron.
- If new sheeting is required it may not match existing profile so it may be necessary to move sheets around so that the completed sections can be of sound old material while other sections are new sheeting.
- If complete replacement of the wall cladding is required the aim should be to match the appearance of the original as closely as possible. Issues to be considered include profile, materials, colour, sheet length, fastenings, availability of traditional materials, compatibility of materials.
- Modern methods produce sheets which much longer than usually required; replicate original sheet lengths.
- Repairs to existing building fabric should use traditional nails and screws as fixings.

Avoid

Do not use Zinalume or Colorbond [unless replacing existing Colorbond].

WINDOWS

Windows should be maintained in the existing character [form, colour and detail]. Reinstatement of earlier style windows that have been changed to more modern units should only be undertaken in consultation with a conservation architect.

Tasks

Windows typically suffer from rot at the base of the frame and door leaf or window sash or from loosening of joints. Joints can be made tight by replacing wedges and reglueing.

Inspect for loose or damaged mouldings, architraves, decayed stiles at sill level and weathered sills.

Inspect for broken or cracked glass.

Check internal fascia round windows for stains that can indicate failed flashing.

Inspect for paint deterioration, failure or damage generally.

Check that windows are lockable and that they operate correctly.

Check that fly screens are in place and effective.

Actions

- Replace broken panes of glass as per original/existing.
 - Maintain operation of louvres using WD40 or similar.
 - Replace or repair broken locks.
 - Replace or repair flyscreens as required.
 - When inspection indicates that a window should be replaced, new fabric, to replicate original/existing, is acceptable.
-



DOORS

Doors should be maintained in the existing character [form, colour and detail]. Reinstatement of earlier style doors that have been changed to more modern units should only be undertaken in consultation with a conservation architect.

Tasks

Check satisfactory operation of doors.

Where doors are exposed to the weather, they may suffer from rot at the base of the frame and door leaf or from loosening of joints. Joints can be made tight by replacing wedges and reglueing.

Inspect for loose jambs, decay at the threshold or damage to locks/latches.

Check that the threshold is secure, and not decayed, excessively worn or broken.

Check mouldings and stops.

Check that catch/lock is operational.

Inspect for paint deterioration, failure or damage generally

Actions

- Retain all hardware, replacing only deteriorated or missing elements with matching elements.
 - Repair damaged doors; ensure all doors operate smoothly and lock securely.
 - Replace or repair flyscreen doors as required.
 - When inspection indicates that a door should be replaced, new fabric, to replicate original/existing, is acceptable.
-

INTERIORS

The interior surfaces of the shearers' quarters have been extensively modified, and maintenance within the existing character is appropriate. For example broken lining sheets may be replaced with similar material unless otherwise instructed. Any remaining original material identified during maintenance and repair should be retained in situ.

Tasks

- Inspect for deterioration, failure or damage to internal fabric generally.
- Check condition and operation of window blinds.

Actions

- Retain all evidence of earlier uses of the place, i.e. nail holes, nails, hooks, shelves, etc.
 - Retain as much evidence of original internal finishes as possible.
 - When inspection indicates that interior finishes should be replaced, new fabric, to replicate original/existing, is acceptable.
-

FURNITURE

Tasks

Check condition of items of moveable heritage which are currently in use within the buildings.



Actions

- Effect repairs as necessary.
 - Replacement of items of furniture not historically associated with the place is at the discretion of NPWS.
-

WOOLSHED - EXTERIOR

As for the shearers quarters, ensure that cladding, trim, windows, shutters, doors, gutters and downpipes are sound and securely attached. Note that in the woolshed the fabric is generally unpainted and therefore the replacement material should be closely matching in both type [species] and form [profile].

WOOLSHED - INTERIOR

The woolshed is significant for its ability to demonstrate a range of shearing practices over the years. Much of this information is embodied in the fabric itself, and care should be taken to ensure that maintenance does not destroy historic evidence. Wherever possible, broken or dislodged elements should be re-assembled [glued back together] and reinstated to closely match their form and detail. Variation to detail should not be undertaken without approval.

LANDSCAPE

The landscape surrounding the woolshed and shearers' quarters has been extensively modified, both during the pastoral phase of the buildings, and subsequently as part of the National Park.

Existing paths, disabled access ramps, garden beds, car-parking and surface drainage should be maintained in good condition unless otherwise recommended as part of the conservation and interpretation work.

SHEEP YARD

The yards and race should be maintained in current form by propping collapsed parts and introducing matching material where the existing has failed.



APPENDIX 2

KINCHEGA WOOLSHED GROUP IDENTIFIED CONSERVATION/MAINTENANCE WORKS, SEPTEMBER 2002

WOOLSHED

- Repair south board where wall has dropped out.
- Repair damaged gates to reconstructed counting out pens and provide means of securing in accordance with gate fastenings in the yards.
- Repair counting out pens where horizontal members have dropped out.

YARDS

- Repair damaged fencing.

SHEARERS' QUARTERS

- Timber mouldings under guttering is hanging loose, north elevation.
- Evidence of dry rot to at least one window. Check all.
- Secure roofing nails where they are lifting.
- Repair small hole in iron beside door to Room 5 [may provide access for birds].

1950S SHEARERS' QUARTERS

- Check operation of windows [including ability to lock] and repair as necessary.
- Repair/provide flyscreens.
- Repair/provide blinds.
- Ensure door locks are operational.
- Secure loose wall cladding.

COOKHOUSE

- Paint exterior joinery and wall cladding.
- Make all louvre windows operational
- The eave lining is coming loose in places; replace or secure.
- Timber corner mouldings are in poor condition.

MEATHOUSE

- Repair crack to wall and floor.
- Replace/repair flywire.
- Remove bird drippings from top.
- Repair door and jamb to make operational and able to be latched.



KILLING SHED

- Replace horizontal timber members which have rotted.

EXPERT'S QUARTERS

- Replace missing finial
- Check condition of detailing to barges and replace damaged or missing fabric.
- Paint door.
- Repair downpipe.
- Paint window joinery.

CLASSER'S QUARTERS

- Check condition of detailing to barges and replace damaged or missing fabric.
- Paint door.
- Paint door.
- Check operation of windows.
- Paint window joinery.
- Check fixings.

PIT TOILET

- Repaint exterior.

MODERN TOILETS

- Consider repainting to match other buildings in complex [if desired].

MODERN SHOWER BLOCK

- Repairs to modern shower block have been included as part of general upgrade works proposed for the building.