

**PLAN OF MANAGEMENT
PART B
SECTION FOURTEEN**



**GOVERNMENT HOUSE GROUNDS
RESERVE**



2003

AS APPROVED BY THE NORFOLK ISLAND LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY ON 21 MAY 2003



SECTION 14: TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | | |
|------------|---|----|
| 14.1 | INTRODUCTION..... | 1 |
| 14.1.1 | <i>Previous Plans</i> | 1 |
| 14.1.2 | <i>Register of the National Estate</i> | 1 |
| 14.1.3 | <i>Boundaries</i> | 2 |
| 14.1.4 | <i>Kingston and Arthur's Vale Historic Area (KAVHA)</i> | 2 |
| 14.1.5 | <i>IUCN Category</i> | 2 |
| 14.2 | CONSERVATION SIGNIFICANCE..... | 2 |
| 14.3 | DESCRIPTION..... | 3 |
| 14.3.1 | <i>Geology and Landform</i> | 3 |
| 14.3.2 | <i>Vegetation</i> | 4 |
| 14.3.2.1 | Significant Species..... | 5 |
| 14.3.2.2 | Weeds..... | 5 |
| 14.3.3 | <i>Fauna</i> | 6 |
| 14.3.3.1 | Invertebrates..... | 6 |
| 14.3.3.1.1 | Land Snails..... | 6 |
| 14.3.3.1.2 | Freshwater Shrimp..... | 6 |
| 14.3.3.1.3 | Land Crab..... | 6 |
| 14.3.3.2 | Vertebrates..... | 6 |
| 14.3.3.2.1 | Fish..... | 6 |
| 14.3.3.2.2 | Birds..... | 6 |
| 14.3.4 | <i>Cultural Heritage</i> | 7 |
| 14.4 | ISSUES..... | 9 |
| 14.4.1 | <i>Public Use</i> | 9 |
| 14.4.1.1 | Golf Course..... | 9 |
| 14.4.1.2 | Walking..... | 10 |
| 14.4.1.3 | Camping..... | 10 |
| 14.4.2 | <i>Access and Facilities</i> | 11 |
| 14.4.3 | <i>Cultural Heritage</i> | 11 |
| 14.4.3.1 | Government House and Grounds..... | 11 |
| 14.4.3.2 | Polynesian Settlement..... | 12 |
| 14.4.3.3 | Monuments and Memorials..... | 12 |
| 14.4.4 | <i>Habitat Rehabilitation and Development</i> | 13 |
| 14.4.5 | <i>Breeding Seabird Habitat</i> | 13 |
| 14.4.6 | <i>Wetland Habitat</i> | 13 |
| 14.4.7 | <i>Pest Species</i> | 13 |
| 14.4.7.1 | Weeds..... | 13 |
| 14.4.8 | <i>Root Fungus</i> | 13 |
| 14.4.9 | <i>Erosion</i> | 14 |
| 14.4.10 | <i>Water Quality</i> | 14 |
| 14.5 | MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES..... | 15 |
| 14.5.1 | <i>Cultural Heritage Management</i> | 15 |
| 14.5.2 | <i>Natural Heritage Management</i> | 15 |
| 14.5.3 | <i>Pest Species Management</i> | 15 |
| 14.5.4 | <i>Recreation Management</i> | 15 |
| 14.5.5 | <i>Education and Interpretation</i> | 16 |
| 14.6 | MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS..... | 17 |
| 14.6.1 | <i>Cultural Heritage Management</i> | 17 |
| 14.6.1.1 | Government House and Grounds..... | 17 |
| 14.6.1.1.1 | Pines along Western Boundary..... | 18 |
| 14.6.1.1.2 | Rear Entrance and Driveway..... | 18 |
| 14.6.1.2 | Polynesian Settlement..... | 18 |
| 14.6.1.3 | New Structures..... | 18 |
| 14.6.1.4 | Excavations..... | 19 |
| 14.6.1.5 | Monuments and Memorials..... | 19 |
| 14.6.1.6 | Golf Course..... | 19 |
| 14.6.2 | <i>Natural Heritage Management</i> | 19 |
| 14.6.2.1 | Habitat Rehabilitation..... | 19 |
| 14.6.2.2 | Maintenance of Drainage Channels and Wetland..... | 19 |
| 14.6.3 | <i>Pest Species Management</i> | 20 |
| 14.6.3.1 | Weed Control..... | 20 |
| 14.6.3.2 | Bird Control..... | 20 |

| | | |
|--|---|-----------|
| 14.6.3.3 | Fungus Control..... | 20 |
| <i>14.6.4</i> | <i>Recreation Management</i> | <i>20</i> |
| 14.6.4.1 | Golf Course..... | 20 |
| 14.6.4.2 | Picnic and BBQ Facilities..... | 21 |
| 14.6.4.3 | Walking Tracks..... | 21 |
| 14.6.4.4 | Vehicles..... | 21 |
| <i>14.6.5</i> | <i>Education and Interpretation</i> | <i>21</i> |
| 14.6.5.1 | Interpretation Strategy..... | 21 |
| 14.6.5.2 | Signs..... | 22 |
| 14.6.5.3 | School Visits..... | 22 |
| 14.6.5.4 | Walking Tours..... | 22 |
| 14.6.5.5 | Community Involvement..... | 22 |
| <i>14.6.6</i> | <i>Forestry</i> | <i>22</i> |
| 14.7 | RESEARCH AND MONITORING..... | 22 |
| 14.8 | CONTROLLED ACTIVITIES..... | 23 |
| <i>14.8.1</i> | <i>Camping</i> | <i>23</i> |
| <i>14.8.2</i> | <i>Commercial Activities</i> | <i>23</i> |
| <i>14.8.3</i> | <i>Vehicles</i> | <i>23</i> |
| APPENDIX 1: MINIMUM GOLF COURSE PERMIT CONDITIONS..... | | 25 |

Table of Figures

| | |
|---|---|
| Map 1: Location of Government House Grounds Reserve..... | 1 |
| Map 2: Landform and features of Government House Grounds Reserve..... | 3 |

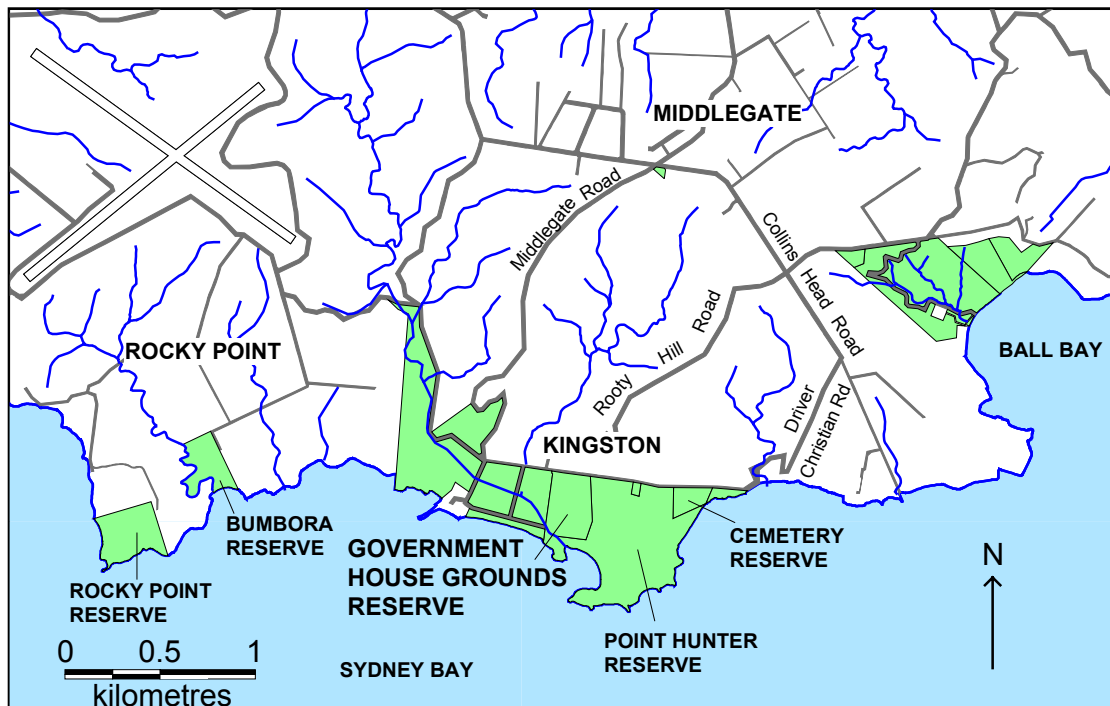
Section 14: GOVERNMENT HOUSE GROUNDS RESERVE PLAN OF MANAGEMENT PART B

14.1 Introduction

This Part B Plan of Management applies to Government House Grounds Reserve.

Government House Grounds Reserve is located within the Kingston and Arthur's Vale Historic Area on the southern coast of Norfolk Island and has an area of 7.35 hectares (Map 1). About two-thirds of the reserve is comprised of the grounds of Government House, the official residence of the Administrator of Norfolk Island. Golf course, picnic area, pine forest (used for camping) and wetland cover the southern third of the reserve.

The remains of a Polynesian settlement lie under the sand dunes and pine plantation near the southern boundary of the reserve. The first government house was constructed during the first European settlement of the island. The existing substantial Georgian Government House was built in 1828 during the second settlement.



Map 1: Location of Government House Grounds Reserve

Government House Grounds Reserve was proclaimed a public reserve under the *Commons and Public Reserves Act 1936* for the purpose of the Administrator's Residence on 17 October 1940.

14.1.1 Previous Plans

This is the first plan of management for Government House Grounds Reserve.

14.1.2 Register of the National Estate

Government House Grounds Reserve was listed on the Register of the National Estate on 21 October 1980.

14.1.3 Boundaries

The boundary between Government House Grounds and Point Hunter reserves will be adjusted to incorporate the southern section of Government House Grounds Reserve that is outside the grounds of Government House itself into Point Hunter Reserve. This land is used for the golf course, picnicking, and camping.

14.1.4 Kingston and Arthur's Vale Historic Area (KAVHA)

The Kingston and Arthur's Vale Historic Area was established in 1980 when it was entered in the Register of the National Estate. The KAVHA was officially established by agreement between the governments of Norfolk Island and Commonwealth of Australia in 1989¹. The agreement established a board to coordinate funding and recommend management policies to ensure the conservation and restoration of the heritage fabric in the Kingston area. The KAVHA Board has played an invaluable role in conserving Kingston as a living monument.

The Kingston and Arthur's Vale Historic Area Conservation Management Plan (CMP), agreed to by the KAVHA Board and the Legislative Assembly of Norfolk Island in 1988, is the guiding document for heritage preservation, conservation, and management of Government House Grounds Reserve.

Adoption of any part of the CMP into these Plans of Management shall be in accordance with section 16 of the *Public Reserves Act 1997*, but shall in each case be subject to public consultation in accordance with section 11 of the Act.

The CMP (1988) contains descriptions of the heritage fabric in KAVHA. The *Conservation Management Plan – Government House and Quality Row Residences Gardens Conservation January 1997*² provides detailed descriptions of the landscaping of the Government House grounds and provides some guidance on the conservation and management of the Government House grounds.

Where there is any inconsistency between the intent of this plan of management and the intent of the approved KHAVVA CMP, the intent of the approved KAVHA CMP shall prevail.

14.1.5 IUCN Category

Government House Grounds Reserve does not fit any IUCN Category³.

14.2 Conservation Significance⁴

Government House Grounds Reserve is one of Norfolk Island's most important historic sites. Government House is a fine example of Georgian architecture and an important focal point of the First and Second Settlements. Government House is still occupied today by the Administrator as 'Head' of the Norfolk Island Government and the representative of the Commonwealth Government.

Most of the mature pines within the reserve were planted in the late 1830's or 1840's and formed an important part of the formal gardens of Government House grounds.

Archaeological evidence of a pre-European Polynesian settlement has been found in the sand dunes towards the southern boundary of the reserve.

¹ Memorandum of Understanding between Norfolk Island and Commonwealth governments: 1989, revised 1994.

² Prepared by Tropman & Tropman Architects for Australian Construction Services.

³ International Union for the Conservation of Nature.

⁴ A Statement of Significance may be found in the CMP and the RNE Place Report.

14.3 Description

14.3.1 Geology and Landform

The small knoll which rises to a little over 10m above sea level on which Major Foveaux built the first Government House in about 1803 is a low eroded remnant of the deeply weathered basalt plateau of which most of Norfolk Island is comprised (Map 2). The coastline at Kingston has advanced and retreated during sea level changes associated with periods of global glaciation⁵. At the height of the last ice age sea level was as much as 109m (almost 360ft) lower than present. At that time, Norfolk and Phillip islands formed one large island that was about 100 km long by 50 to 60 km wide. The large sand dunes that formed between Norfolk and Phillip islands⁶ would have become covered with Norfolk Island pines and other native vegetation.



Map 2: Landform and features of Government House Grounds Reserve

As sea levels rose towards the end of the last ice age, advancing coastal sand dunes prevented the Watermill and Town Creek catchments from draining directly into the sea. An extensive coastal swamp or swamps formed behind these advancing dunes, as evidenced by the peaty layer containing large Norfolk Island pine logs, branches and other plant material beneath both Cemetery Beach and Slaughter Bay beach⁷. By about 6,000 years ago, some of that coastal swamp had been overrun by the advancing sand dunes that now form the reefs and rocky coastal aeolianitic outcrops at Kingston. One of these outcrops extended northwards from the foreshore at the eastern end of Slaughter Bay to the knoll on which Government House stands today. Subsequently, much of the area between Emily Bay and Cemetery Beach was covered by sand dunes.

⁵ There have been four distinct 'ice ages' during the past 1.6 million years. The last of these ended about 10,000 years ago. It appears from recent climate models that the mean annual temperature at Norfolk Island at the height of the last ice age (about 18,000 years ago) would have been similar to today's

⁶ Of which Nepean Island and the rocky outcrops of Point Hunter, the Lime Kiln and Chimney Hill are remnants. The Nepean Island aeolianite has been dated at $21,650 \pm 700$ years before present (BP): in Rich, P., G van Tets, K. Orth, C. Meredith and P. Davidson. 1983. *Prehistory of the Norfolk Island Biota*. In "A Review of Norfolk Island Birds: Past and Present" R. Schodde *et al.* Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service Special Publication No.8, 1983.

⁷ Two of the logs have been dated: $6,870 \pm 230$ years BP and $4,400 \pm 90$ years BP: in Rich, P., G van Tets, K. Orth, C. Meredith and P. Davidson. 1983. *Prehistory of the Norfolk Island Biota*. In "A Review of Norfolk Island Birds: Past and Present" R. Schodde *et al.* Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service Special Publication No.8, 1983.

The low land to the east, west and south of the knoll was heavily vegetated swamp when Lieutenant Phillip Gidley King arrived in 1788. It is likely that the swamp that covered much of what is now generally referred to as 'Kingston Common' flooded to form a small lake in periods of heavy rainfall. In 1789 King ordered that a drain be constructed to enable Watermill and Town Creeks to flow into the western end of Emily Bay, making much of the commons arable land⁸.

During the First and Second Settlements vegetation clearing and 'limestone' quarrying around Emily Bay destabilised the dunes, which became mobile and progressed northwards from the bay across the southeastern corner of Government House Grounds Reserve and much of Point Hunter Reserve.

14.3.2 Vegetation

The original native vegetation that would have covered the swamp is not well documented. King describes bananas growing along the stream in Arthur's Vale and it is likely that the wetter parts of the swamp were vegetated with sedges and rushes, with fringing Melky Tree, Tree Fern, Birdcatcher, Coastal Coprosma, Norfolk Island Hibiscus and perhaps Mountain Rush. White Oak and Norfolk Island Pines do not thrive in swampy conditions and do not survive extended inundation. These species would have been restricted to the higher parts of the coastal dunes and outcrops, the knoll and the foothills to the north, along with native hardwoods such as Ironwood, Maple and Beech. The dunes may have been vegetated with Native Flax and Moo-oo, especially close to the edge of the swamp, and with herbaceous native coastal plants such as Mile-a-Minute, Coastal Native Spinach, Pigface and Strand Morning Glory.

It seems that all of the original native vegetation on the knoll and surrounding low land within what is now Government House Grounds Reserve was cleared during the First Settlement to allow for surveillance. The vegetation within the grounds of Government House today consists of broad sweeps of Kikuyu lawn; ornamental plantings predominated by Norfolk Island Pines and White Oaks; and formal lawns and garden beds of mixed exotic horticultural species. The mature pines north of Government House were planted in the late 1830's to create a garden 'room' (occasionally referred to as an 'arboretum').

A small copse of pines was planted in the mid 1830's on the eastern side of Bligh Street, apparently between the channel and Bay Street. The mature pine that stands close to Chimney Hill on the eastern side of the new channel that was cut directly to Emily Bay in the late 1830's is probably the last of this small copse. Another large pine close to the southern side of the main entrance drive as it curves up the knoll was probably also planted in the late 1820's and may be the small to medium-sized pine shown in an 1855 sketch looking towards Government House from the south-west near Chimney Hill⁹. Three mature pines near the northern edge of the pine plantation, between the 1st green and the channel to Emily Bay may have been planted at the same time.

A number of pines and other trees have been planted in Government House grounds since the early 1950's. Trees were planted along the rear driveway and near the 1830's garden 'room'. A row of Norfolk Island pines was also planted along the western boundary adjacent to the main driveway in 1979 to mark Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee. Three of the pines at southern end of that row are in very poor condition. The last two of these trees are closest to the wetland, their roots probably suffering die back from the frequently saturated soil. In 1988 the then Governor-General Sir Ninian Stephen and Lady Stephen planted two pines north of the main drive as it starts to curve up the hill to Government House to celebrate the 200th anniversary of King's arrival on Norfolk in March 1788.

⁸ *The Swamp Creek and Serpentine Area Conservation Study and Interpretive Design*. Report prepared for Australian Construction Services on behalf of the KAVHA Management Board.

⁹ *The Swamp Creek and Serpentine Area Conservation Study and Interpretive Design*. Report prepared for Australian Construction Services on behalf of the KAVHA Management Board. Figure 9, p.21.

None of the row of Norfolk Island Pines planted along the northern (Quality Row) boundary of Government House Grounds Reserve in the late 1830's and early 1840's remain. Those trees have been progressively removed as they have succumbed to *Phellinus noxius* root rot¹⁰. A number of the pines that formed the garden 'room' have also had to be removed and a few White Oaks in the same area have died from root rot infection.

The Norfolk Island pines near the southeast corner of the reserve are part of a pine plantation planted in the 1950's to stabilise the sand dunes to the north and northeast of Emily Bay.

The golf course fairways that are within Government House Grounds Reserve are grassed with Kikuyu. A Pohutakawa and a White Oak have been planted between the fairways in the reserve.

A small (approximately 4.5m tall) self-sown pine growing out of the quarried calcarenite rock face at the southern end of Chimney Hill may be one hundred or more years old¹¹. This tree is valued by the community as having special significance and is also of scientific interest. There are also three medium-sized White Oak growing in the former "Limestone Quarry" at Chimney Hill¹²: one in the floor of the quarry and two on the quarried rock face. Numerous small Coastal Fern cling to the southern face of the quarry, along with the stunted pine referred to above.

The southeastern corner of the reserve on both sides of Bligh Street has a number of drainage channels and depressions that mark disused drainage channels such as the 1789 drain that ran to the north of Chimney Hill and part of the Serpentine constructed in the late 1830's. The area around these channels is generally low-lying and subject to inundation. To maintain a high water level in the channels and the surrounding swampy ground the drainage channel under Chimney Hill was dammed by a concrete block wall just downstream from the tunnel in 1997. A similar concrete block wall was constructed near the mouth of the 'new' (1930's) channel into Emily Bay¹³, but this was removed after its sandy footing was undermined. Subsequently a rock rubble weir was placed further upstream in the channel¹⁴. Drain Flags, the tall native River Club Rush¹⁵ and some Taro are the dominant emergent aquatic plants along the channels. Water Hyacinth covers much of the remaining water surface. The grass and other vegetation surrounding the channels and inundated areas is kept closely mown.

14.3.2.1 Significant Species

There are no significant native flora species in the reserve.

14.3.2.2 Weeds

The reserve is maintained to a high standard and is virtually free of woody weeds. There are a few small Lantana, and Hawaiian Holly on the northern edge of the pine plantation and a small African

¹⁰ The last three Norfolk Island pines planted along the northern boundary of Government House grounds were removed after an adjacent pine fell across Quality Row into the grounds of No.10 House Museum during a severe storm on the night of 4 July 2001. Five pines adjacent to Quality Row in the vicinity of the wall just south of the rear driveway entrance to Government House were removed prior to 1977, with others along Quality Row to the north and south of this group have since been progressively removed (Tierney, J.W. 1987. *Management of Fungal Diseases in Norfolk Island Pine Plantations and Crown Reserves on Norfolk Island*. Unpublished Report to Australian National Parks and Wildlife Service).

¹¹ David Campbell Dunsmere Buffett ("Boy Satt") was born in 1913 and lived at Kingston from 1914. Boy Satt remembered this tree being there "all his life". Boyd Buffett. Personal communication. 29 April 2002.

¹² The quarry at Chimney Hill is believed to have been closed in the late 1820's or early 1830's: *The Swamp Creek and Serpentine Area Conservation Study and Interpretive Design*. Report prepared for Australian Construction Services on behalf of the KAVHA Management Board.

¹³ Point Hunter Reserve.

¹⁴ Kingston Recreation Reserve.

¹⁵ River Club Rush *Schoenoplectus validus* is an important plant for weaving and is also considered useful for the biological treatment of waste water. (Metcalf, L., 1998. *The Cultivation of New Zealand Grasses*. Godwit. p80).

Olive near the western end of the southern wall around Government House grounds; a few African Olive, Lantana, and Hawaiian Holly on Chimney Hill, along with Morning Glory and Sweet Alyssum; and one Castor Oil, a few Poison Bush and a 3.5m tall clump of introduced grass (unidentified) close to the upstream end of the tunnel.

A patch of the introduced succulent Aloe Vera appears to spreading slowly in the western end of the pine plantation in the south of the reserve.

14.3.3 Fauna

14.3.3.1 Invertebrates

14.3.3.1.1 Land Snails

Norfolk Island has a diverse land snail fauna, with a number of endemic species¹⁶. The range of many species has declined with the clearing of native forest, predation by introduced rats and perhaps competition with introduced snails. Many species have become extinct since 1788, but there is also evidence in the fossil layer at Kingston of prehistoric extinctions¹⁷.

Different land snails have very specific habitat requirements. They are therefore excellent indicators of changes in the environment and a valuable tool for palaeontology and archaeology. Varman found “many specimens of shells from a range of indigenous snail species” in a “rich loamy calcareous sandy soil” underlying early First Settlement construction deposits. The diversity of the land snail fauna at Kingston has declined significantly since 1788. In 1997, Varman found 9 species of land snail at Kingston. One un-named species was listed as “a very rare live population at Kingston only confined to a rocky outcrop”. Whether this or other rare land snail species occur in the reserve is not known.

14.3.3.1.2 Freshwater Shrimp

A small endemic freshwater shrimp *Paratya norfolcensis* occurs in Town Creek at the ‘Officers Bath’, Quality Row and probably in the other streams and channels. Whether this shrimp occurs in the wetland and channels in the reserve is not known.

14.3.3.1.3 Land Crab

The Little Nipper Crab occurred in suitable habitat across the island. There have not been recent records of this crab in the reserve.

14.3.3.2 Vertebrates

14.3.3.2.1 Fish

Both the Short-finned and Long-finned eel occur in the streams and dams at Kingston and are presumed to be present in the reserve.

14.3.3.2.2 Birds

The original native forest has been replaced by open grassland, gardens and planted trees, habitats that favour introduced species such as Australian Kestrel, Common Starling, European Goldfinch and House Sparrow. The open grassland and wetland have also favoured some introduced species such as the Mallard, Feral Fowl and Domestic Goose. However, the wetland along the channel and the open manicured grassland, especially where it is subject to inundation provide habitat for a variety of native birds, some of which are likely to have been uncommon prior to European settlement, when these habitats did not exist on Norfolk Island.

¹⁶ Dr Robert Varman has listed a total of about 79 species of endemic or native land snails on Norfolk and Phillip islands, including species found only in prehistoric fossil deposits: Varman R.V.J.P. *Norfolk Island Snail List*. www.geocities.com/Paris/LeftBank/6559/scc38.htm

¹⁷ Varman, R.V.J.P., (undated), Conchological Study of Norfolk Island Terrestrial Mollusca from Fossiliferous and Live Populations. Unedited draft posted on the Internet at www.geocities.com/Paris/LeftBank/6559/scc38.htm

White-faced Heron roost in the large pines in the reserve and a pair of have nested in the large Norfolk Island Pine just to south of the main driveway as it curves up the hill to Government House. Tarler Bird commonly feed on the short grass, especially close to the wetland and drains in the southeast of the reserve. Between September and May a few migratory waders (especially Pacific Golden Plover, one or two Greenshank and one or two Sharp-tailed Sandpiper¹⁸) may be found feeding around the edges of flooded drainage channels in the southeastern corner of the reserve. Up to 10 Cattle Egret have been recorded in the southeastern corner of the reserve¹⁹ and a single South Island Pied Oystercatcher was observed feeding on the old tennis court to the east of the main driveway on a number of occasions in September 2001²⁰.

Crimson Rosella, Sacred Kingfisher (Nuffka), Grey-breasted Silvereye and the Grey Warbler occur regularly in the reserve.

14.3.4 Cultural Heritage

Recent archaeological excavations have revealed the remains of a Polynesian settlement in the south of Government House Grounds Reserve. The remains of timbers, plant material and charcoal at the site indicate that it was occupied for about 700 years from perhaps as early as 750AD²¹. An obsidian (volcanic glass) blade found at the site originated at Raoul Island in the Kermadecs, indicating that the Polynesian people who settled on Norfolk either came from Raoul Island or had contact with that area. By 1788, there was no evidence of the Polynesian village.

Early in the First Settlement, the knoll on which the present Government House is situated was named “Dove’s Plot”. The first European building constructed on the knoll was the Assistant Surgeon’s cottage. In November 1802, the colony’s Commandant, Major Joseph Foveaux, constructed a new stone residence on the site of the Assistant Surgeon’s cottage. Much of Foveaux’s Government House was destroyed with all of the colony’s other buildings when the colony was abandoned in 1814.

The first European burial ground was apparently at the western end of Emily Bay, probably just to the south of the present southern boundary of the Government House Grounds Reserve.

During the decade that Norfolk Island was unoccupied, the channel into Emily Bay became blocked and the common again became swampy. Soon after the re-occupation of Norfolk Island in 1825, the road that ran from Dove’s Plot to the eastern end of Slaughter Bay, then along the foreshore to the Landing Place was re-opened and the garrison established in huts to the north-east of the ruins of Foveaux’s Government House²². A palisaded stockade was constructed around the garrison huts and Government House, which was re-constructed and occupied²³. The western side of Chimney Hill was quarried for calcarenite.

In 1829, the channel that had been cut in 1790 to drain the swamp around the northern end of Chimney Hill to Emily bay was re-opened. The swampy ground was converted to prisoners gardens and in 1832 the garrison was moved into newly completed barracks on Quality Row^{24,25}. A new road

¹⁸ Peter Davidson, personal observations.

¹⁹ 24 June 1999: Peter Davidson, personal observation.

²⁰ 6 September 2001: Simon Davidson, personal observation.

²¹ Anderson, A., (undated), *Prehistoric Human Colonisation of Norfolk Island*. First Interim Report to Australian Heritage Commission. Unpublished report, Division of Archaeology and Natural History, Research School of Pacific Studies, Australian National University.

²² It is thought that only the footings and calcarenite walls to about sill height survived. KAVHA Conservation Services Coordinator’s office [Otto Cserhalmi & Partners, Architects, Sydney], 2002. Personal communication.

²³ *The Swamp Creek and Serpentine Area Conservation Study and Interpretive Design*. Report prepared for Australian Construction Services on behalf of the KAVHA Management Board.

²⁴ The “Old Military Barracks”: now the Norfolk Island Legislative Assembly building and court.

(now known as Bligh Street) was constructed between the barracks and the foreshore road. The northern half of Bligh Street is still used as the main entrance to Government House from Quality Row and the southern half extends as a mown grass strip to the bridges across the channels to the west of Chimney Hill.

On 8 May 1834, flooding caused part of the drain to Emily Bay to collapse. In 1835, the Commandant, Major Joseph Anderson, had a new section of channel constructed through a tunnel driven under Chimney Hill and the old channel to the north of the hill was filled. Quarrying at Chimney Hill ceased and new bridges were constructed on Bligh Street and on Government House drive from Slaughter Bay. The bridge on Government House drive included a sluice gate for regulating the level of water in the drain and landscaped channels upstream.

During the 1830's, Major Anderson designed established formal gardens and pathways in the grounds of Government House. These were removed or modified by later Commandants, although some of Major Anderson's plantings (including the garden 'room' north of Government House) can still be seen today.

After 1856, Government House was used as a residence for visitors and later as a joint residence for the chaplain and medical officer²⁶. In 1896 it was appropriated for the Chief Magistrate and returned to the function of Government House in 1913 when it became the residence of the Administrator.

The Norfolk Island Golf Club established the golf course on the low land between Emily Bay and Cemetery Beach in 1927.

In May 1936 one of the biggest floods recorded on Norfolk inundated the Kingston Common, damaged bridges and other structures and caused landslips. In the following years, a new channel was dug from just upstream of Bligh Street to the eastern end of Emily Bay.

In the 1930's and 40's, families going for picnics at Emily Bay would get water at a tap in Government House grounds, on the eastern side of Bligh Street. At that time, the fence around Government House grounds was a high steel rod and timber fence on the eastern side of Bligh Street.

Major reconstruction and renovation work was carried out on Government House in 1976 – 78. In addition to the reconstruction/renovation work carried out on Government House in this period, similar work was undertaken on the stables, barns, outbuilding, entrance gates, and picket fence. Major work was undertaken during 2001 to investigate the construction and coverings originally used on internal walls and fittings. A number of rooms have been restored to their original (1830's - 40's) internal finish.

²⁵ Quality Row is shown as 'Military Road' on the *Plan of the Settlement, Norfolk Island 1848*. The houses along Military Row were lived in by Pitcairner families from 1856 to the 1930's.

²⁶ Kingston and Arthur's Vale Historic Area Management Plan April 1980. p85.

14.4 Issues

14.4.1 Public Use

Government House is the official residence of the Administrator. The grounds of Government House cover the northern two thirds of the reserve. These grounds are used for official and community functions at the discretion of the Administrator. For some years, Government House has been opened to the public on up to four Wednesday afternoons each month, with proceeds going to selected charities.

On Bounty Day the Administrator invites the Pitcairn descendant families who are wearing traditional costume to morning tea following the Bounty Day march and remembrance ceremonies. At Christmas time, carols by candlelight may be held in the grounds. Government House has also been used for other ‘public’ activities, including exhibitions of quilts and quiltwork.

Walking (and walking dogs), golf, picnicking and barbecuing are the main public activities in the reserve, with camping in the pine plantation during the summer. Chimney Hill provides a good view of the common and wetland.

The wetland has become an important bird watching area for locals and visitors, as well as a valuable field study resource for science and geography students at the Norfolk Island Central School. Students have been involved in a number of projects that have provided important management information, including water quality monitoring and ‘Streamwatch’ monitoring.

14.4.1.1 Golf Course

Part of Government House Grounds Reserve has been used as public golf course since the early 1900’s. The Norfolk Island Golf Club²⁷ has progressively developed the course since 1927 and spends considerable sums on its maintenance. Cattle grazed the golf course, except for the greens, until the late 1970’s. Over the years, the club has established new tees and greens, upgraded the fairways and traps, planted trees and shrubs and installed a bore and water reticulation system. The course is maintained by a full-time greenkeeper under the supervision of the Club’s course Director.

At times the Golf Club has been concerned that it does not have any guarantee of continued use of the reserve and does not have control over the use of the golf course by others. The ‘traditional’ horse racing days (usually New Year’s Day and Easter Monday) have concerned the Golf Club in recent years, primarily because of damage that may be caused to fairways.

Since March 1972, the Golf Club has been required to obtain specific approval prior to:

- erecting posts, fences or structures whether permanent or temporary; and
- any action to ‘re-structure’ the surface of the reserve, in particular the relocation of tees and greens.

The Golf Club has been responsible for keeping the course tidy and free of rubbish (attributed to golfers).

The organisers of the race days²⁸ have been required to obtain a permit for each race meeting. That permit required the race day organisers to clean up all rubbish and to leave the reserve and all fences, fittings and other fixtures in good order and repair.

²⁷ Norfolk Island Golf Club Incorporated is a non-profit community club.

²⁸ Usually the Returned Services League, Norfolk Island Sub-Branch in cooperation with the Pony Club and the Adult Riders Club.

The Golf Club has been required to ensure that tees or greens near the golf club house were sited so as to not cause unnecessary inconvenience to horse races.

The Golf Club has sought to:

- have the golf course “designated primarily as a golf course” (75 years of occupancy);
- be able to charge fees for use of improvements and facilities;
- not have race days on Saturdays or Wednesdays, which are Golf Club competition days;
- have all tees and greens be ‘out of bounds’ on race days;
- have Race Day organisers required to repair the course to pre-race condition or post a substantial bond to enable this to be done; and
- not have any gymkhana type activities.

It is appropriate that that part of Government House Grounds Reserve that is used as a not-for-profit community golf course continues to be used for that purpose.

14.4.1.2 Walking

Walking, often accompanied by the family dog(s), is a very popular public activity in sections of Government House Grounds and Point Hunter reserves, particularly around the foreshore between the cemetery and Emily Bay. Some walkers also cross the golf course itself. Occasionally golfers have to wait for walkers to clear the course and the Golf Club has made representations that non-golfers should be prevented from walking on the course. Most of the informal walking track around the foreshore is adjacent to, but is outside the golf course. Walkers have complained that over the years the golf course has been incrementally extended in places to the edge of the cliff, leaving no alternative except to traverse the course.

14.4.1.3 Camping

Various buildings and areas in Kingston have been used for periodic camping by the local community since the arrival of the Pitcairners. In recent decades, camping at Kingston has been limited to the plantation of pines on the northern side of Emily Bay and the area between Cemetery Beach and the golf course.

In Government House Grounds Reserve, camping occurs in the plantation of pines at the southern end of the reserve. Camping has been restricted to the summer holiday period (November to February). The number of people wishing to camp at Kingston has increased over recent years and the number of campsites has consequently been increased. The camping period has also been extended. There are two campsites within Government House Grounds Reserve.

There is some demand to open the pine plantation for camping at other times of the year, especially at Easter and during the other school holidays, although there have also been requests to camp at other times. Some members of the community have complained that the camping season is already too long and the number of campers too great. There have also been some complaints that the visibility of some camps from the golf course and other significant locations such as Queen Elizabeth Lookout on Rooty Hill Road detracts from the area’s heritage values.

There are significant impacts on the ground surface in and around campsites, however there is fairly rapid recovery after the camping season. Tree roots and trees can also suffer some damage from camping, however no significant long-term adverse effects have been observed, probably largely due to the long non-camping recovery period.

Camping does not interfere with the archaeological remains of the Polynesian Settlement.

14.4.2 Access and Facilities

There are two entrances to Government House from Quality Row, the main, or 'official' entrance near the western boundary of the reserve and a service or 'rear' entrance near the eastern boundary. Both these are 'private' entrances and are sealed. There is no public vehicular access into the Government House section of Government House Grounds Reserve.

A low single rail timber barrier along the western boundary of the reserve separates the playing field (Kingston Common Reserve) from Government House grounds. Members of the public frequently walk into Government House Grounds Reserve along the southern grassed part of Bligh Street from Bay Street or the Chimney Hill/golf course area. Sometimes pedestrians continue along the Government House drive, exiting onto Quality Row at the main entrance to Government House, but more usually, people tend to walk westwards past the low barrier to the playing field and common.

Occasionally some locals drive into Government House Grounds Reserve to picnic near the western side of Chimney Hill.

Vehicles are not restricted from driving into the picnic/barbecue area near the southern boundary of the reserve. A low timber vehicle control barrier has been erected to prevent unauthorised vehicles from being driven onto the golf course from the picnic area. It is evident from wear on the grass that some members of the public now drive their vehicles to the top of the northern end of Chimney Hill.

A timber post and rail fence excludes vehicles from the pine plantation and vehicles park between the sealed road around Emily Bay and the timber fence.

The picnic area near the southern boundary of the reserve has two barbecues, a wooden picnic table and rubbish bins.

The Government House grounds are maintained by gardening staff. The outer grounds, Bligh Street and the picnic area are maintained by KAVHA Restoration Team grounds staff.

The Norfolk Island Golf Club maintains the areas of the golf course that are within Government House Grounds Reserve.

14.4.3 Cultural Heritage

14.4.3.1 Government House and Grounds

Major renovations and reconstruction of Government House commenced in 1976, after many years of basic maintenance. The restoration program included the stables and other outbuildings as well as the stone walls and Quality Row entrances. More recent restoration work has extensively renovated the internal fabric of Government House. This work has aimed to discover and display the original construction and finishes of the Second Settlement Government House. The result of this work by the KAVHA Conservation Team is a beautifully restored example of fine Georgian architecture.

The grounds of Government House generally reflect the late Second Settlement layout, but with garden beds, low hedges and formal lawns on the 'front' (northern and western) sides of Government House replacing a network of paths and drives. The two large White Oaks in the western lawn were probably planted in the Second Settlement, as were all of the mature pines within the grounds.

Fortunately the grounds of Government House are large enough to accommodate mature pines, even to 50m tall. However, large trees that are too close to buildings and other structures such as outhouses, walls and driveways can cause damage through root heave. The trees themselves may also become a danger to people and structures.

Many of the pines planted in Government House grounds during the Second Settlement have succumbed to root rot during the past 30 years and have had to be removed. At least two of the tall pines have fallen during storms, causing damage to walls.

While there is significant aesthetic, visual and historic value in individual trees that were planted during the Second Settlement, it is accepted that even these trees at times have to be removed to ensure public safety and to protect heritage structures. The heritage values of the grounds and gardens must therefore be founded on the layout and general structure of the landscape and mix of species, rather than on the retention of individual specimens.

14.4.3.2 Polynesian Settlement

The Polynesian Settlement remains that were discovered in the late 1990's are about 1.5 – 2m below the present ground surface. The area lies under the Norfolk Island Pines that were planted in the 1950's and 60's to help stabilise the sand dunes north of Emily Bay. Some of these trees now have diameters in the order of 500 mm. Invasion of the Polynesian Settlement site by large tree roots could disturb the archaeological layers from this settlement and subsequent European settlement.

14.4.3.3 Monuments and Memorials

Kingston is steeped in cultural history and heritage, both past and present. The convict era buildings and ruins are a monument to their skill and a memorial to their hardships. The conservation and interpretation of these structures and the landscape setting of the convict settlement is further recognition and appreciation of those people and times. Even so, there is a continuing desire on the part of descendants to erect memorials of various kinds to their forebears. There is also a general desire to recognise particular events (such as the wreck of the Sirius) in an official or semi-official manner.

The heritage and personal significance of Kingston and the people who have toiled and lived here encompasses much more than the convict era settlements between 1788 and 1856, important though they are. The recently discovered Polynesian settlement of the island, the arrival of the Pitcairners and the lives and activities of Norfolk Islanders over the past one hundred and fifty years are all worthy of celebration and recognition.

A number of special memorials in the form of timber seats, brass plaques and tree plantings have been placed in reserves at Kingston during the past twenty years. The potential demand for more is great. Each request to erect a memorial or plaque or plant a tree has been considered on an *ad hoc* basis, without the benefit of an overall strategy or plan.

It is now getting to the stage where the number of seats, plaques, trees and other memorials or monuments are in places starting to detract from the landscape and setting of the site.

The most appropriate way to commemorate people and events in the reserve is through interpretation: in the museums, by walking tours, through documents and on site signs that have been developed as part of an integrated interpretation strategy. It is important that the community, including private individuals, historical interest groups, corporations and benefactors, contribute to and participate in the development of the interpretation strategy and material.

The number and position of seats and indeed planting of trees should be determined by the need and the setting rather than by the demand for memorials. A possible short-term solution to this dilemma could be to allow a number of small plaques commemorating different people and events to be attached to an existing seat (for instance). However, those who originally sought or paid for a particular seat to commemorate a specific individual do not often support this option.

14.4.4 Habitat Rehabilitation and Development

The formal/man-made landscape of the reserve is appropriate to its heritage values and use. Native habitat rehabilitation and development is not appropriate in Government House Grounds Reserve.

14.4.5 Breeding Seabird Habitat

There is a small number of Ghostbird burrows within the reserve, along southern edge of the pine plantation. The White Oaks and pines at the western end of the pine plantation, near the drain at Chimney Hill may also provide suitable Ghostbird breeding habitat. These birds are subject to disturbance by people and sometimes dogs. No other parts of the reserve are suitable for breeding seabirds.

14.4.6 Wetland Habitat

Raising the level of water in the Watermill Creek channel has created more permanent wetland habitat along the channels and on nearby low-lying areas. A small open pond that becomes mudflat as it dries out after rain events has developed along the eastern side of Bligh Street between Government House drive and Chimney Hill.

This wetland is unique on Norfolk Island and is important for native wetland species such as the Tarler Bird and for migratory waders.

Although these wetland areas will largely disappear during extended dry periods (El Niño years), the raised water levels may be increasing the rate at which the Bounty Street bridge and other Second Settlement structures are sinking. Immersion also slowly dissolves the calcarenite stonework. Ways in which the water levels can be lowered at important Second Settlement structures, while retaining significant areas of wetland are being investigated.

Occasionally dogs that roam from nearby residences harass and attack waterfowl and wading birds, although such attacks are not common.

14.4.7 Pest Species

14.4.7.1 Weeds

Because of intensive maintenance, weeds are not a significant problem in Government House Grounds Reserve. However, broomrape, an introduced weed that is particularly difficult to control, has been found recently in the garden beds at Government House.

A small patch of Aloe Vera near western end of pine plantation will continue to expand if unchecked.

14.4.8 Root Fungus

A number of mature Norfolk Island pines and young White Oaks in the northern section of the reserve have died or been removed as a result of *Phellinus noxius* infection.

Damp ground and damage to exposed roots and tree trunks from mowers and other equipment increase the risk of root rot infection.

Because the roots remaining in the soil are already infected with *P. noxius*, inoculating the stumps of infected trees with a relatively benign competing fungus does not prevent this pathogen from spreading to other trees. Aggressive control measures, such as felling healthy trees, bulldozing and deep ripping the site and burning all stumps and roots would cause significant damage to Government House grounds.

14.4.9 Erosion

Erosion is not a problem in Government House Grounds Reserve.

14.4.10 Water Quality

The wetland that has developed along the Watermill Creek channel and on nearby low-lying areas plays a significant role in maintaining a diverse marine environment in Emily and Slaughter Bays.

Watermill Dam traps a significant proportion of the sediment carried from the upper areas of the Watermill Creek catchment. However, the wetlands along the lower reaches of Watermill Creek are the only sediment trap downstream from Watermill Dam and for the Town Creek Catchment and run-off from Quality Row.

The waters of Town Creek and storm run-off from Quality Row are particularly high in sediment. High levels of sediment flowing into Emily Bay can have a significant adverse effect on the corals and other marine life in the Bay and on the reef.

Wetland vegetation, particularly Drain Flags, remove significant amounts of dissolved nutrients that would otherwise be transported into Emily Bay, where they would promote algal growth, again to the detriment of the corals. Stock access to the channel and wetlands increases stream turbidity and nutrient loads.

The wetland also has public health benefits by retaining Watermill Creek waters that have been contaminated by stock, enabling pathogens to be destroyed by biological processes and exposure to sunlight before being discharged into Norfolk's main swimming beach.

However, high water levels in the Watermill Creek channel and the Common may have an adverse effect on the conservation of Second Settlement structures such as the Bounty St bridge (see 14.4.6 above).

The Watermill Creek channel was regularly cleared of weed and sediment by hand until about 20 years ago when a contractor was engaged each year to dig out the drain with an excavator. The rationale for mechanical weed and sediment removal was to improve water flow and to control Water Hyacinth. Regularly cleaning the channel maximised freshwater flow into Emily Bay, without removal of sediment, nutrients and pathogens, but did not effectively control Water Hyacinth or other weeds.

Without active and appropriate management of the channel and wetland, sediment deposition will slowly raise the level of the wetland, turning it into dry land. Sediment will also block in the channel itself, especially at places where high sediment loads are transported into slowly flowing sections, such as at the discharge of the Officers Bath/Town Creek underground culvert and downstream from Bounty Street bridge.

14.5 Management Objectives

Vision: To conserve and promote the cultural and natural heritage values of the reserve and ensure continued use of the reserve as the grounds of Government House and the enjoyment of current and future generations of Norfolk Islanders and visitors.

14.5.1 Cultural Heritage Management

Aim: To conserve the cultural heritage values of Government House Grounds Reserve, its associated structures and grounds and provide for the continued use of Government House and grounds as the residence of the Administrator of Norfolk Island.

Objectives:

- Provide for both official and private residence requirements of Government House and its associated structures and grounds.
- Maintain and protect Government House and its associated structures and grounds.
- Maintain and protect drainage structures, including the Chimney Hill tunnel.
- Protect archaeological deposits and remains.
- Preserve the essential landscape elements of Government House Grounds Reserve.

14.5.2 Natural Heritage Management

Aim: To conserve native habitat and species diversity in the reserve to the extent compatible with the formal landscape of the reserve and its use as the grounds of Government House, golf course and barbecue/picnic area.

Objectives:

- Minimise the adverse impacts on water quality and the wetland ecosystem that may be associated with grounds and drainage maintenance, or public use.
- Protect palaeological deposits and remains.

14.5.3 Pest Species Management

Aim: To reduce the impacts of pest species in the reserve.

Objectives:

- Control invasive introduced weeds in the reserve.
- Control feral birds in the reserve.

14.5.4 Recreation Management

Aim: To provide for appropriate recreational and commercial use.

Objectives:

- Provide and maintain appropriate picnic facilities.
 - Provide for continued use of part of the reserve as a golf course.
-

- Provide for continued use of the pine plantation for seasonal camping.
- Manage impacts associated with public use of the reserve.

14.5.5 Education and Interpretation

Aim: To promote knowledge and understanding of Norfolk Island's cultural and natural history and issues related to conserving and managing Government House Grounds Reserve.

Objectives:

- Define and develop interpretation/education resource material specific to the reserve.
 - Encourage appropriate scientific and educational activities in the reserve.
-
-

14.6 Management Strategies and Actions

14.6.1 Cultural Heritage Management

The reserve's major cultural attributes are:

- continuing use of Government House as the official and private residence of the Administrator of Norfolk Island;
- continuing use of Government House and its grounds by the public, at the invitation of the Administrator;
- the fabric of Government House, its associated outbuildings and walls;
- formal and semi-formal landscape setting of Government House;
- views of Government House from the golf course and from Bay Street and the Common;
- drainage system, bridges and tunnel through Chimney Hill;
- archaeological deposits and remains, including evidence of quarrying and the site of Polynesian settlement; and
- the views from Government House and its Grounds.

14.6.1.1 Government House and Grounds

The fabric of Government House and its grounds will be maintained, restored and conserved in accordance with appropriate conservation techniques, under the supervision of the KAVHA Conservation Services Coordinator and the KAVHA Project Manager. Landscape management of the Government House grounds and gardens will be guided by the *Conservation Management Plan – Government House and Quality Row Residences Gardens Conservation January 1997*.

The landscape provides a semi-formal setting for Government House with generally open views of Government House from the golf course and from Bay Street and the Common. Landscape management will aim to retain the semi-formal nature of the grounds, characterised by large sweeps of Kikuyu lawn interspersed with apparently mainly informal plantings of tall mature pines and some White Oaks.

Remaining Second Settlement landscape elements (such as the formal garden room or arboretum) will be conserved, however it is recognised that the large pines that were planted during the Second Settlement will need to be removed when they start to die or become unsafe.

Landscape management will include removal of trees and other plants that are in poor condition and cannot be restored. New plantings in the northern, western and southern lawns will be limited to individual Norfolk Island Pine and White Oak placed so as to retain the open character of these lawns and to replace trees that have to be removed, or are nearing the end of their life.

Trees and other plants that are likely to be a danger to the heritage fabric of Government House and its grounds may be removed if there are no appropriate alternative arboricultural techniques that could sufficiently reduce that danger. New plantings close to heritage structures will be avoided. However it is recognised that it may be appropriate to the landscape character of the grounds to plant pines and other trees in locations where they will need to be removed before becoming too large and a threat to public safety or to important structures.

Trees and other plants that intrude into important views of Government House (especially from the golf course and from Bay Street and the Common) may be removed.

Small numbers of potential replacement trees will be progressively planted to increase tree age and size range and thus structural diversity of the Government House grounds landscape. That diversity will increase management options, enabling individual trees of any age to be removed without noticeably impacting on the overall character of the landscape.

A number of trees need to be progressively removed to protect structures, maintain vistas or because they are in poor health or potentially dangerous.

14.6.1.1.1 Pines along Western Boundary

The CMP advocates removing the “intrusive Bligh Street Norfolk Island Pine plantings” to “restore the important westward vista to Flagstaff Hill”. It is important to retain the views of Government House from the Common to the west and the view from Government House to the west. However, it is not necessary to remove all the pines along the western boundary of the reserve to achieve this goal.

Converting the row of pines to a more informal double broken row of mixed age trees with gaps in some places will allow individual trees to be removed as they intrude into the western view of Government House without destroying the character of the landscape as it is today. The following landscape management actions will be implemented:

- Remove three small pines towards southern end of row that are in poor health.
- Remove/top tall pines near Quality Row main entrance.
- Part plant a second row of pines to provide young trees that will replace existing trees as they intrude into view/vista and are removed.

14.6.1.1.2 Rear Entrance and Driveway

- Remove pines and oaks at rear entrance that are encroaching on the drive or are too close to structures.
- Replace with smaller native trees and shrubs, planted in small groves.

14.6.1.2 Polynesian Settlement

This is one of the most important heritage sites on Norfolk Island. The remains of the Polynesian Settlement are protected by over 1m of sand. Continued public use of the area for walking and seasonal camping will not adversely affect the remains of the Polynesian Settlement.

Seasonal camping will continue to be allowed in the reserve on the ground above the Polynesian Settlement site.

A strategy for managing the Norfolk Island Pines that have been planted on the site will be developed with archaeological and heritage advice and in consultation with the community.

14.6.1.3 New Structures

No new buildings or other permanent structures are permitted in the reserve. However, temporary structures may be permitted provided the erection and use of such structures is not likely to significantly detract from the heritage values of the reserve or permanently harm the heritage values of the site or the reserve as a whole.

The temporary erection of marquees and tents may be permitted by the Conservator of Public Reserves, provided to do so is in the public interest and that the enjoyment and use of the reserve by the public is not interfered with.

14.6.1.4 Excavations

No new buildings or other permanent structures are permitted in the reserve, however minor works, such as laying electricity or communications cables that require new excavations may be required from time to time.

An archaeological sensitivity plan will be developed that will provide guidance for managing excavations. No excavation will be permitted without consideration of the likely archaeological impact. Where appropriate, archaeological investigations will precede excavation. All excavations will be carried out under the supervision of the Project Manager (KAVHA) and or the Conservator of Public Reserves.

14.6.1.5 Monuments and Memorials

An interpretation strategy that encompasses the celebration and recognition of individuals and events shall be developed with the involvement of the community.

Existing monuments and memorials will remain, but may at some time in the future be replaced by documentation or other interpretation material.

No further monuments or memorials will be permitted in the reserve, unless they are specifically provided for in the interpretation strategy.

14.6.1.6 Golf Course

The golf course has been established for over 75 years. It is an important recreational asset and landscape attribute with significant cultural heritage. Management strategies and actions for the golf course in the reserve are set out in Section 14.6.4.1 below.

14.6.2 Natural Heritage Management

14.6.2.1 Habitat Rehabilitation

Not relevant to Government House Grounds Reserve.

14.6.2.2 Maintenance of Drainage Channels and Wetland

The wetlands and drainage channels require careful management to maximise water quality and habitat benefits while conserving heritage structures.

Annual mechanical cleaning out of the drainage channel is not an appropriate management strategy. However, regular mechanical removal of Drain Flaps and deposited sediment as well as strategic channel maintenance is appropriate.

Different locations, configurations and heights of barriers will be trialed and the effects on wetland and channel water levels monitored.

Sediment that has built up in the channel to the extent that endangers heritage structures will be removed.

Options for maintaining the wetland as well as lowering water levels at important heritage structures such as Bounty Street bridge will be examined. These options may include excavating sediments adjacent to the channel to support wetland and achieve lower water levels in the channel. Options for stabilising heritage structures such as Bounty Street bridge will also need to be investigated.

14.6.3 Pest Species Management

14.6.3.1 Weed Control

Weeds in the reserve will be controlled through intensive horticultural maintenance techniques, including hand weeding and mowing. Specialised techniques may be employed on the golf course to maintain tees and fairways.

A record of the chemicals (including herbicides) used on the golf course and in Government House grounds will be provided to the Conservator of Public Reserves.

To minimise impact on trees and dune deposits, the aloe vera infestation in the pine plantation will be removed by hand or with a small excavator.

14.6.3.2 Bird Control

Shooting, live trapping and if necessary approved control chemicals will be used to control feral fowl, geese, and ducks in the reserve.

14.6.3.3 Fungus Control

The incidence and effect of *Phellinus noxius* in the reserve will be monitored. It is expected that older Norfolk Island pines in the northern section of the reserve will be progressively infected by *Phellinus noxius*. All trees in this area will be regularly inspected for signs of infection. Infected trees will be topped or felled if they are considered to be unstable.

Aggressive fungus control techniques are not appropriate in the reserve, however non-invasive techniques, such as the application of urea to the soil and perhaps injecting infected trees with phosphonic acid may be appropriate.

It is important to minimise opportunities for *P. noxius* to spread to uninfected plants in the reserve. Disturbance and damage to tree butts and roots will be minimised by:

- raising the awareness of maintenance staff;
- training maintenance staff in the appropriate use of equipment and techniques such as spreading topsoil to raise the ground level around exposed roots that are vulnerable to mower damage;
- training staff to not stockpile mulch, lawn clippings or other material against tree boles or on exposed roots; and
- training staff to recognise, monitor and report on *P. noxius* in Government House grounds.

14.6.4 Recreation Management

Public recreation is appropriate in the section of the reserve south of the southern Government House grounds wall.

14.6.4.1 Golf Course

Continued use of part of Government House Grounds Reserve as a not-for-profit community golf course will be in accordance with an annual permit granted by the Conservator of Public Reserves. Renewal of that permit will be subject to compliance with the conditions set down in that permit. The Conservator of Public Reserves may vary the conditions in the annual permit, but the minimum conditions that shall apply are set out at Appendix 1.

The permit holder (Norfolk Island Golf Club Incorporated) shall not have any proprietary or exclusive rights over that part of the reserve that is used as a golf course. However, the permit holder (Norfolk Island Golf Club Incorporated) may charge persons an appropriate fee or fees for the use of golf course facilities but may not charge any fee or attempt to control or restrict in any way legitimate public use of the course for purposes other than playing golf²⁹. The permit holder shall not charge any fee unless that fee has the prior written approval of the Conservator of Public Reserves.

The Conservator of Public Reserves shall consult with the permit holder (Norfolk Island Golf Club Incorporated) prior to granting a permit to any other person for any activity on that part of Government House Grounds and Point Hunter reserves that is used as a golf course.

14.6.4.2 Picnic and BBQ Facilities

Picnic and barbecue facilities will be provided and maintained between Chimney Hill and the channel that flows into Emily Bay.

14.6.4.3 Walking Tracks

A large proportion of the public areas of the reserve is mown grass. There is therefore no particular requirement for formal walking tracks. Bligh Street is kept mown, although it is boggy after wet weather immediately north of the Watermill Creek channel. A walking track is kept mown at the northern end of Chimney Hill to provide easy access between the Bligh Street area, Chimney Hill and the picnic area.

14.6.4.4 Vehicles

The grounds of Government House are not open to motor vehicles other than those necessary for maintenance of Government House and its grounds except at the invitation of the Administrator.

Unrestricted vehicular access and inappropriate vehicle use are damaging the grass at the picnic area at the southern end of the reserve. The low timber barrier that was erected to prevent vehicle access through the picnic area to the golf course will be moved to the southern end of Chimney Hill to prevent vehicle access into the picnic area itself and to better define the area available for parking.

14.6.5 Education and Interpretation

Government House Grounds Reserve contains cultural heritage features of national significance. It also contains important geological formations and wetland habitat.

14.6.5.1 Interpretation Strategy

An Interpretation Strategy and interpretive material for Government House Grounds Reserve will be developed as resources become available. The principal interpretation and education themes in the reserve will be:

- cultural heritage;
- conservation, land management and the environment; and
- impacts of human activity and sustainable resource use.

Community involvement in the development and delivery of the Interpretation Strategy is encouraged.

²⁹ Legitimate public use of the course does not include using or leaving a motor vehicle on the course, other than in accordance with the provisions of the *Public Reserves Act 1997*, section 11.15 of the Part A Plan of Management, or section 14.8.3 of this Plan of Management.

14.6.5.2 Signs

Interpretive signs will be designed and erected in appropriate locations and in accordance with the interpretation strategy.

14.6.5.3 School Visits

School visits that are designed to provide an understanding of Norfolk's natural and cultural heritage and aimed to encourage students to participate in heritage and environmental protection and research will be encouraged.

14.6.5.4 Walking Tours

The Norfolk Island Museums and the Norfolk Island Parks and Forestry Service will encourage and where possible assist with appropriate walking tours that are designed to provide visitors with an understanding of Norfolk's natural and cultural heritage.

14.6.5.5 Community Involvement

Community involvement in the development and implementation of management programs in Government House Grounds Reserve will be encouraged in association with the Norfolk Island Museum, Historic Society and the KAVHA Management Board and Restoration Team.

14.6.6 Forestry

Forestry is not an appropriate activity in the reserve.

14.7 Research and Monitoring

A strategy for conducting research and for monitoring the effectiveness of management programs in the reserve will be developed in conjunction with the KAVHA Management Board.

14.8 Controlled Activities

This Section shall be read in conjunction with Section 11 of the Plan of Management (Part A) and the *Public Reserves Act 1997*.

Section 11 of the Plan of Management (Part A):

- approves specific controlled activities, with respect to all public reserves;
- provides general guidelines in respect of granting approvals and permits for controlled activities, with respect to all public reserves;
- specifies activities³⁰ in accordance with section 47(2) of the *Public Reserves Act 1997* that shall not be undertaken in any public reserve without a permit; and
- provides general guidelines in respect of granting permits for activities specified in accordance with section 47(2) of the Act.

This section of the Plan of Management (Part B) specifies controlled activities in accordance with Section 47 of the *Public Reserves Act 1997* in relation to the use of Government House Grounds Reserve.

14.8.1 Camping

Camping shall be permitted in Government House Grounds Reserve in the locations and at the times specified in the Gazette.

Camping in Government House Grounds Reserve at other times may be permitted only if the Conservator of Public Reserves is satisfied that it is in the interests of the conservation and management of the reserve, or essential to the interpretive and education aims of the management plan to do so.

14.8.2 Commercial Activities

No commercial activity of any kind shall be permitted in Government House, its associated buildings or grounds.

No person shall provide picnic breakfasts, lunches, dinners, ‘fish fries’ or the like in the reserve on a commercial basis.

Commercial activities shall not be permitted in the reserve unless the Conservator of Public Reserves is satisfied that such activities are in the interests of the conservation and management of the reserve, or essential to the interpretive and education aims of this plan.

“Commercial” has the same meaning as “commercial activity” in section 46 of the *Public Reserves Act 1997*.

14.8.3 Vehicles

Motor vehicles may be driven on the driveways to Government House in the course of undertaking business at Government House or at the invitation of the Administrator.

³⁰ The activities specified are additional to the Controlled Activities prescribed in Part V of the *Public Reserves Act 1997*.

Private motor vehicles may be temporarily parked on grass areas adjacent to the driveways to Government House while the driver of the vehicle is attending Government House at the invitation of the Administrator.

Vehicles, plant and equipment that are necessary for the maintenance of Government House and its grounds may be driven and temporarily left on those grounds only with the permission of the Project Manager (KAVHA Restoration Team), the Administrator or the Conservator of Public Reserves.

Vehicles, plant and equipment required for the maintenance of the golf course may be driven on those parts of the reserve that are designated golf course only with the permission of the Norfolk Island Golf Club or the Conservator of Public Reserves.

Private and commercial motor vehicles other than plant and equipment may be driven and temporarily parked on the picnic area at the southern edge of the reserve as defined by vehicle control barriers.

APPENDIX 1: MINIMUM GOLF COURSE PERMIT CONDITIONS

TO use for the purposes of playing golf that part of Government House Grounds Reserve which is shown as a golf course on the attached plan **AND TO undertake normal golf course maintenance activities (including the mowing of grass, driving of vehicles approved by the Golf Club and minor changes to the landform of greens and tees)** on that part Government House Grounds Reserve that is shown as a golf course on the attached plan during the period to 20... , inclusive, subject to the following conditions:

1. the permit holder shall sign the attached indemnity form which will have effect for the duration of the permit;
 2. the permit holder shall maintain a public risk liability insurance policy in the sum of at least \$5 million, covering activities pursuant to the permit and shall have noted or endorsed on the policy the Administration of Norfolk Island's interest by specifically referring to the activities intended to be conducted pursuant to the permit;
 3. the permit holder shall not sell food or liquor or allow food or liquor to be sold in the reserve without having all relevant licences and permits and the specific prior approval of the Conservator of Public Reserves;
 4. the permit holder shall remove from the reserve all rubbish and other wastes associated with the activities conducted pursuant to this permit;
 5. the permit holder shall maintain all fences, fittings and other fixtures in good order and repair;
 6. the permit holder shall obtain the approval of the Conservator of Public Reserves prior to carrying out any works other than those approved by this permit;
 7. the permit holder shall not plant any plant or interfere in any way with any plant, other than the mowing of grass in the course of maintaining tees and fairways, without the specific prior approval of the Conservator of Public Reserves;
 8. within one month of the date of commencement of this permit the permit holder shall provide to the Conservator of Public Reserves a schedule of all chemicals (including out-of-bounds marking, herbicides, pesticides and fertilisers) intended to be used on the golf course within the duration of this permit. That schedule shall include the:
 - name(s) of the target species;
 - name and type of each chemical;
 - quantity and location of each chemical stored at the golf course; and
 - rate, frequency, method and location of application of each chemical.
 9. the permit holder shall not use, or allow the use of, any chemical on the golf course unless that chemical and its use is in accordance with the schedule specified in Condition 8 of this permit as approved by the Conservator of Public Reserves;
-

10. within one month of the date of commencement of this permit the permit holder shall provide to the Conservator of Public Reserves a copy of the manufacturer's Material Safety Data Sheet for every chemical intended to be used on the golf course within the duration of this permit;
 11. the permit holder shall place appropriate temporary signs warning users of the golf course and the general public that insecticides or other potentially hazardous chemicals are in use and indicating areas that have been sprayed;
 12. the permit holder shall not interfere with any structure or natural feature, except in accordance with this permit, or a specific prior approval of the Conservator of Public Reserves, and shall ensure that all structures are treated in a manner consistent with their heritage status;
 13. the permit holder shall not extend the area of the golf course (by mowing or other means) beyond that part of Government House Grounds Reserve that is used and maintained as a golf course at the date of commencement of this permit;
 14. the permit holder shall take all reasonable measures to ensure that only those motor vehicles that are approved by the permit holder for the purposes of maintaining or using the golf course have access to the golf course;
 15. the permit holder shall not interfere with the enjoyment of Government House Grounds Reserve by other members of the public and in particular shall not cause any obstruction or hindrance to persons walking across or around the golf course, and
 16. the permit holder shall ensure that its activities, and those of its members and guests, do not interfere with other activities (such as the New Year's Day Races) that may within the duration of this permit be approved by the Conservator of Public Reserves on that part of Government House Grounds Reserve that is used as a golf course and shall cease its activities during the course of those other approved activities if so directed by the Conservator of Public Reserves.
-