

PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

PART B

SECTION EIGHTEEN



WAR MEMORIAL RESERVE



2003

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



SECTION 18: TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | | |
|----------|---|----|
| 18.1 | INTRODUCTION..... | 1 |
| 18.1.1 | <i>Previous Plans</i> | 1 |
| 18.1.2 | <i>Register of the National Estate</i> | 1 |
| 18.1.3 | <i>Kingston and Arthur's Vale Historic Area (KAVHA)</i> | 2 |
| 18.1.4 | <i>Burra Charter</i> | 2 |
| 18.1.5 | <i>IUCN Category</i> | 2 |
| 18.2 | CONSERVATION SIGNIFICANCE..... | 2 |
| 18.3 | DESCRIPTION..... | 3 |
| 18.3.1 | <i>Geology and Landform</i> | 3 |
| 18.3.2 | <i>Vegetation</i> | 4 |
| 18.3.2.1 | <i>Significant Species</i> | 4 |
| 18.3.2.2 | <i>Weeds</i> | 4 |
| 18.3.3 | <i>Fauna</i> | 4 |
| 18.3.4 | <i>Cultural Heritage</i> | 4 |
| 18.4 | ISSUES..... | 6 |
| 18.4.1 | <i>Public Use</i> | 6 |
| 18.4.2 | <i>Access and Facilities</i> | 6 |
| 18.4.3 | <i>Habitat Rehabilitation and Development</i> | 6 |
| 18.5 | MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES..... | 7 |
| 18.5.1 | <i>Cultural Heritage Management</i> | 7 |
| 18.5.2 | <i>Pest Species Management</i> | 7 |
| 18.5.3 | <i>Recreation Management</i> | 7 |
| 18.5.4 | <i>Education and Interpretation</i> | 7 |
| 18.6 | MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES AND ACTIONS..... | 8 |
| 18.6.1 | <i>Cultural Heritage Management</i> | 8 |
| 18.6.1.1 | <i>New Structures</i> | 8 |
| 18.6.1.2 | <i>Excavations</i> | 8 |
| 18.6.2 | <i>Pest Species Management</i> | 8 |
| 18.6.2.1 | <i>Weed Control</i> | 8 |
| 18.6.3 | <i>Recreation Management</i> | 8 |
| 18.6.4 | <i>Education and Interpretation</i> | 8 |
| 18.6.4.1 | <i>Interpretation Strategy</i> | 9 |
| 18.6.4.2 | <i>Signs</i> | 9 |
| 18.6.4.3 | <i>School Visits</i> | 9 |
| 18.6.4.4 | <i>Walking Tours</i> | 9 |
| 18.6.4.5 | <i>Community Involvement</i> | 9 |
| 18.7 | RESEARCH AND MONITORING..... | 9 |
| 18.8 | CONTROLLED ACTIVITIES..... | 10 |
| 18.8.1 | <i>Use of War Memorial Reserve</i> | 10 |

Table of Figures

| | |
|---|---|
| Map 1: Location of War Memorial Reserve..... | 1 |
| Map 2: Landform and features of War Memorial Reserve..... | 3 |

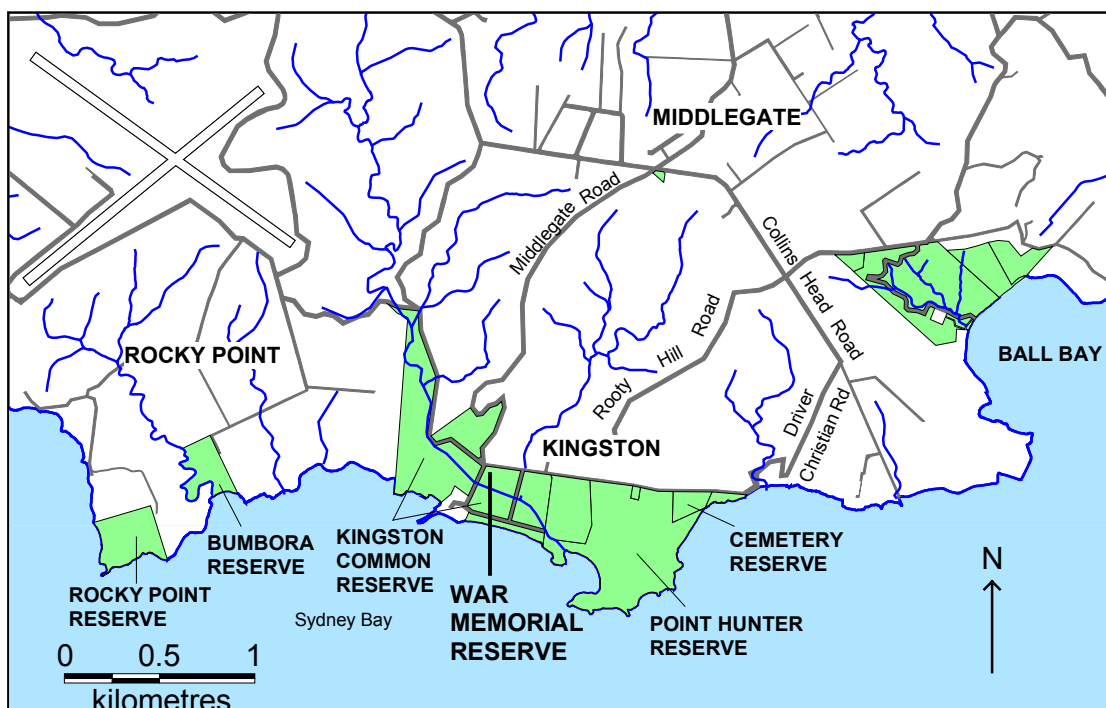


Section 18: WAR MEMORIAL RESERVE PLAN OF MANAGEMENT PART B

18.1 Introduction

This Part B Plan of Management applies to War Memorial Reserve.

War Memorial Reserve is located at the intersection of Country Road, Middlegate Road (Store Road), Quality Row (formerly Military Road) and Pier Street, and is within the Kingston and Arthur's Vale Historic Area on the southern coast of Norfolk Island. The reserve has a total area of 0.008 hectares (Map 1) and contains the Cenotaph commemorating the Island's soldiers who served in war.



Map 1: Location of War Memorial Reserve

War Memorial Reserve was proclaimed a public reserve under the *Commons and Public Reserves Law 1913* for erecting a war memorial on 24 March 1927¹.

18.1.1 Previous Plans

This is the first plan of management for War Memorial Reserve.

18.1.2 Register of the National Estate

War Memorial Reserve was listed on the Register of the National Estate on 21 October 1980.

¹ War Memorial Reserve was proclaimed to be under the care and management of the Executive Council of Norfolk Island.

18.1.3 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 1989². 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 War Memorial 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 *Landscape Management and Conservation Plan*³ provides detailed descriptions of the landscape and scenery of the reserve and provides some guidance on the conservation and management of War Memorial Reserve.

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.

18.1.4 Burra Charter

War Memorial Reserve has considerable cultural significance. The Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter, 1999⁴ is a guiding document setting standards for conserving and managing places of cultural significance. Where applicable, the principles of the Burra Charter will guide management philosophies for War Memorial Reserve.

18.1.5 IUCN Category

War Memorial Reserve does not fit any IUCN Category⁵.

18.2 Conservation Significance⁶

War Memorial Reserve is the site of the Island's memorial to the sacrifices the people of Norfolk Island have made during times of war. It is the community's principal point of focus in significant war service commemorations.

² Memorandum of Understanding between Norfolk Island and Commonwealth governments: 1989, revised 1994.

³ Tropman and Tropman, *Landscape Management and Conservation Plan*, 1994.

⁴ The Burra Charter: The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance 1999.

⁵ International Union for the Conservation of Nature.

⁶ A Statement of Significance may be found in the CMP and the RNE Place Report.

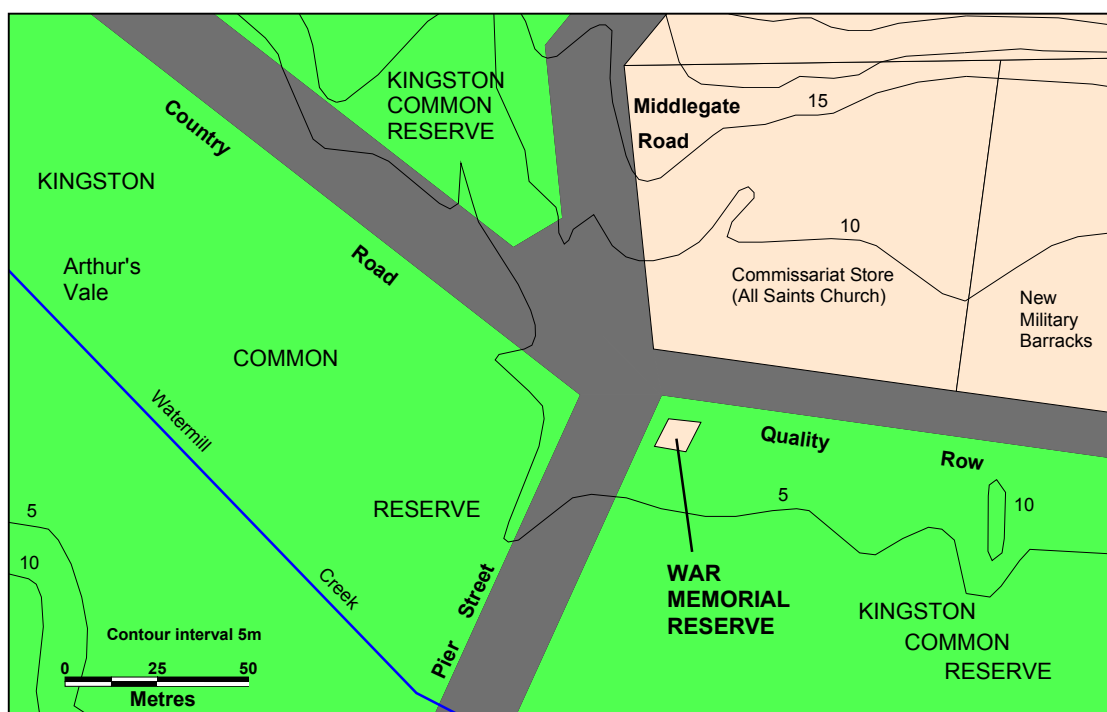
18.3 Description

18.3.1 Geology and Landform

Prior to European settlement, Town Creek⁷ originally flowed directly into the swamp at the foot of the coastal hills, where it joined the waters from Watermill Creek. The swamp had no direct outlet to the sea and was contained by a calcarenite ridge that ran from the knoll on which Government House is sited, through Chimney Hill and along the Slaughter Bay foreshore.

When Lieutenant Phillip Gidley King arrived in 1788, the swamp was heavily vegetated. It is likely that during periods of high rainfall, the area now known as ‘Kingston Common’ became a small lake. 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.

War Memorial Reserve sits approximately 6m above sea level and is relatively flat with a gentle slope. The site would have formed part of the northern edge of the swampy land that stretched for most of the length of Watermill Valley in 1788. The reserve is at the toe of a weathered basalt ridge that leads up onto the deeply weathered basalt plateau of which most of Norfolk Island is comprised (Map 2).



Map 2: Landform and features of War Memorial Reserve

⁷ The Town Creek catchment (about 125ha) and Watermill Creek catchment together form the second largest catchment on Norfolk Island after Cascade Creek.

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.

18.3.2 Vegetation

The original native vegetation that would have covered the swamp is not well documented. 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. It is likely that these species were restricted to the higher parts of the coastal dunes and outcrops, and the knoll and the foothills to the north, along with native hardwoods such as Ironwood, Maple, and Beech.

The majority of the original native vegetation along the foreshore and in and around the former swamp and surrounding low land was cleared during the First Settlement. It is likely that the site of the War Memorial Reserve was cleared at that time.

The vegetation within the reserve now consists of Kikuyu lawn.

18.3.2.1 Significant Species

There are no significant native plant species in the reserve.

18.3.2.2 Weeds

There are no woody weeds in the reserve.

18.3.3 Fauna

The reserve is too small to support any vertebrate fauna.

18.3.4 Cultural Heritage

The bananas found by King along the stream running through Arthur's Vale were clear evidence of previous Polynesian visits or habitation. Stone tools found in various parts of the Island also provided evidence that Polynesian peoples at least regularly visited the island. The discovery of the remains of a Polynesian settlement under the dunes at the western end of Emily Bay in 1997 confirmed that the Island was occupied for about 700 years from perhaps as early as 750AD⁹. However, by 1788 there was no evidence of the Polynesian village at Emily Bay.

Following the arrival of King and his party in 1788, buildings were established on the slope from the landing area (now the Kingston Pier) and on the low ridge of sand dunes and calcarenite outcrops along the foreshore to the eastern end of Slaughter Bay and Chimney Hill. In April 1788, a flagstaff was erected on Mt George (later Flagstaff Hill) to signal ships. In May 1788, a road was cut past what is now War Memorial Reserve to Cascade. In October that year, a track was cut to Anson Bay.

In 1789, a channel was dug to drain the swamp to Emily Bay and the land turned to agriculture to support the fledgling colony. A channel was also cut through Arthur's Vale, which was cleared in 1788-1789, and agricultural plots laid out, the remains of which are still visible today. A number of cottages were built in Arthur's Vale and convicts were allotted plots of ground to grow vegetables. Much of the food that was required to support the colony was grown in Arthur's Vale, however problems were encountered with parrots that had to be driven off the grain with sticks, and rats.

⁹ 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.

The First Settlement buildings were destroyed when the colony was abandoned in 1814. All livestock were removed or destroyed, but dogs were left to “get ravenous and eat any of the pigs that were left”: Lieutenant Thomas Crane RN.

In 1825, the Second Settlement was established at Kingston and the roads to Cascade and Ball Bay were re-cut. During the decade that Norfolk Island had been unoccupied, the channel into Emily Bay became blocked and the Common once more became swampy. 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 prisoner’s gardens and in 1832, the garrison was moved into newly completed barracks on Quality Row^{10,11}. Gardens and agricultural plots were again planted in Arthur’s Vale. By 1829, most of the low land around the settlement was under cultivation and the road system had been extended to connect out-lying areas of cultivation with the settlement.

The War Memorial Reserve area was used as part of the Kingston Common until after WWI. Following fund raising through public subscription, the War Memorial was unveiled in 1928. The memorial was originally constructed to commemorate the services of the inhabitants of Norfolk Island who served in the Great War 1914-1919. The names of those who fought in WWII 1939-1945 were later added.

The memorial and surrounding white painted fence is the only structure in the reserve. The fence consists of a set of concrete steps at the centre of the Quality Row side and twelve concrete pillars supporting two horizontal steel pipe rails. The rails at the concrete steps can be slid to the side to facilitate wreath laying at the memorial.

¹⁰ The “Old Military Barracks”: now the Norfolk Island Legislative Assembly building and court.

¹¹ Quality Row is shown as ‘Military Road’ on the *Plan of the Settlement, Norfolk Island 1848*.

18.4 Issues

18.4.1 Public Use

War Memorial Reserve is used to commemorate the sacrifices made by those inhabitants of Norfolk Island who served at war. Anzac Day (25 April 1915) and Remembrance Day (11 November 1918) services are held at the memorial. On occasions, other war service events are also commemorated. Wreaths are laid at the Cenotaph on Bounty Day as part of the community's commemoration of the arrival of the Pitcairners on Norfolk Island on 8 June 1856.

The Australian flag is flown at all times. The Norfolk Island flag or other flags are flown on the second flagpole. The flags at the war memorial are lowered to half-mast as a mark of respect on the occasion of each death on the island.

18.4.2 Access and Facilities

The reserve is adjacent to Quality Row and Pier Street and can be approached on foot from any direction. The fence around the memorial excludes stock from the memorial itself.

The memorial is maintained by the KAVHA Restoration Team. The Returned Services League, Norfolk Island Sub-branch, maintains a custodial consultant role: coordinating the use of the reserve and organising the raising and lowering of flags.

Floodlight and electric power points have been installed at the base of the monument to allow illumination of the flags at night. There are no other facilities in the reserve.

18.4.3 Habitat Rehabilitation and Development

The landscape of the reserve is appropriate to its heritage values and use as a War Memorial.

18.5 Management Objectives

Vision: To conserve and enhance the cultural heritage values of the reserve and ensure continued use of the reserve for the enjoyment of current and future generations of Norfolk Islanders and visitors.

18.5.1 Cultural Heritage Management

Aim: To conserve the War Memorial and its surrounds, and to provide for its continued use as a site of remembrance of the sacrifice made by members of the Norfolk Island community during times of war.

Objectives:

- Maintain and protect the fabric of the War Memorial, surrounding fence, and flag poles.
- Preserve the essential landscape elements of War Memorial Reserve.

18.5.2 Pest Species Management

Aim: To reduce the negative impact of pest species in the reserve.

Objective:

- Control invasive introduced weeds in the reserve.

18.5.3 Recreation Management

Aim: To provide for appropriate public recreation.

Objectives:

- Provide for continued public use of the reserve for commemorating the sacrifices made by members of the community.
- Manage impacts associated with public use of the reserve.

18.5.4 Education and Interpretation

Aim: To promote knowledge and understanding of Norfolk Island's cultural history, particularly in respect to the significant contributions made by the Norfolk Island community during times of war.

Objective:

- Define and develop interpretation/education resource material specific to the reserve.

18.6 Management Strategies and Actions

18.6.1 Cultural Heritage Management

The most significant element of War Memorial Reserve is the War Memorial or Cenotaph. The War Memorial will be kept clear of woody weeds and other vegetation. The Cenotaph, flagpoles, and surrounding fence will be maintained in good order and repaired as necessary.

The Australian flag will be flown at all times and will be illuminated at night. The Norfolk Island flag will be flown on the second flag pole, except when it is appropriate to fly other national flags to commemorate specific war service related events. Any flag flown on the second flagpole at night shall be illuminated. Flags will be lowered to half mast as a mark of respect on the occasion of a death on the Island and as required by the Returned Services League, Norfolk Island Sub-branch, the Australian Government and the Norfolk Island Government.

18.6.1.1 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.

18.6.1.2 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.

18.6.2 Pest Species Management

18.6.2.1 Weed Control

Weeds in the reserve will be controlled through hand weeding and mowing.

18.6.3 Recreation Management

It is not appropriate to provide any recreational facilities in the reserve.

18.6.4 Education and Interpretation

The memorial plays a role in interpreting an important aspect of Norfolk Island's history and involvement in war to the public, school groups, and visitors.

18.6.4.1 Interpretation Strategy

An Interpretation Strategy and interpretive material for War Memorial Reserve will be developed in conjunction with the Returned Services League Norfolk Island Sub-branch as resources become available.

18.6.4.2 Signs

No interpretive or other signs will be erected in War Memorial Reserve, other than plaques that commemorate war service.

18.6.4.3 School Visits

The Norfolk Island Museums and the Norfolk Island Parks and Forestry Service, in cooperation with the Returned Services League Norfolk Island Sub-branch, will encourage and where possible assist with appropriate school visits that are designed to provide an understanding of the Island's sacrifices in times of war.

18.6.4.4 Walking Tours

The Norfolk Island Museums and the Norfolk Island Parks and Forestry Service, in cooperation with the Returned Services League Norfolk Island Sub-branch, will encourage and where possible assist with appropriate walking tours that are designed to provide visitors with an understanding of the Island's sacrifices in times of war.

18.6.4.5 Community Involvement

The Returned Services League Norfolk Island Sub-branch will be consulted on the use and maintenance of the reserve.

18.7 Research and Monitoring

The condition of the reserve will be monitored in coordination with the KAVHA Project Manager.

18.8 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 activities¹² 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 War Memorial Reserve.

18.8.1 Use of War Memorial Reserve

A person shall not use War Memorial Reserve for any activity other than:

- commemorating sacrifices made during times of war;
- maintaining the reserve and its fabric;
- providing persons with an understanding of Norfolk's contributions in times of war in accordance with the interpretation strategy;
- walking, jogging or other transient recreational activity that respects and is in keeping with the purpose of the reserve; or
- grazing cattle outside the war memorial fence.

¹² The activities specified are additional to the Controlled Activities prescribed in Part V of the *Public Reserves Act 1997*.
