

**DAVIDSON WHALING STATION HISTORIC SITE  
PLAN OF MANAGEMENT**

**NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service**

**June 1995**

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## FOREWORD

Davidson Whaling Station Historic Site is located on the southern shore of Twofold Bay, on Kiah Inlet at the mouth of the Towamba River, 35 kilometres by road south of Eden. Access to the site is by unsealed road through East Boyd State Forest or by boat to the beach on Kiah Inlet.

Shore based whaling at Twofold Bay began in 1828 and was undertaken by numerous whaling groups; the most important being the Imlay brothers, Benjamin Boyd and later, the Davidson family. Old open boat techniques were in continuous use at Twofold Bay during the whaling period, the only concession to modern technology being the purchase of a motor launch by George Davidson in 1906. Remains of tryworks used for boiling down whale blubber are located on the site.

Historic buildings remaining at Davidson Whaling Station include the cottage "Loch Garra" built by George Davidson and the detached kitchen/dining room which may have predated the cottage. Later additions include a garden shed, an additional room and a shower shed built by the subsequent owners, the Boyd family. The buildings provide evidence of everyday life of the whalers as well as information on nineteenth century and early twentieth century bush carpentry.

Davidson Whaling Station is a small historic site which derives its significance not only from its historical associations and archaeological potential but also its aesthetic qualities. It is important that visitor facilities do not damage the site or compromise its historic atmosphere.

Visitor facilities are necessary for protection and interpretation of the site. A limited number of parking spaces and toilets have been provided near the boundary of the historic site out of sight of the cottage area. Vehicular access beyond the carpark will only be permitted for disabled visitors and management purposes.

The promotion of Davidson Whaling Station Historic Site will emphasise that it is only one of a number of sites of historic interest in the Eden area relating to the whaling industry. Visitors will be encouraged to also visit other sites to gain a full appreciation of whaling in the area.

This plan establishes the scheme of operations for Davidson Whaling Station Historic Site. In accordance with the provisions of Section 75 of the National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1974, this plan of management is hereby adopted.

PAM ALLAN

**Minister for  
the Environment**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1974, requires that a plan of management be prepared for each historic site. A plan of management is a legal document which outlines how the area will be managed in the years ahead.

The procedures for the adoption of a plan of management are specified in the National Parks and Wildlife Act and involves five stages:

- \* The Director-General of National Parks and Wildlife gives notice that a plan of management has been prepared.
- \* The plan is placed on public exhibition for at least one month and any person may comment on it.
- \* The plan and copies of all representations are referred to the National Parks and Wildlife Advisory Council for its consideration and report to the Minister for the Environment.
- \* The Director-General submits the plan, together with the recommendations of the Advisory Council, to the Minister.
- \* The Minister may adopt the plan, with or without alteration, after considering the recommendations of the Advisory Council or may refer the plan back to the Director-General and Council for further consideration.

Once a plan has been adopted by the Minister, no operations may be undertaken within the Davidson Whaling Station Historic Site except in accordance with the plan.

Davidson Whaling Station Historic Site plan of management was placed on public exhibition for a period of three months up until the 25th June 1993. The plan of management attracted 6 submissions which raised 10 issues. These were referred to the Advisory Council, along with the plan, for its consideration and advice to the Minister. The comments and suggestions of the Advisory Council were, in turn, considered by the Minister in adopting this plan.

The planning process leading to the development of this plan has involved the collection and use of information, which for reasons of document size, has not been included in the plan. For additional information or enquiries on any aspect of the plan, contact the Service's Eden District Office on the corner of Merimbula Road and Sapphire Coast Drive, Merimbula; or by phone on (064) 95 4130.

## 2. MANAGEMENT CONTEXT

### 2.1 HISTORIC SITES IN NEW SOUTH WALES.

The National Parks and Wildlife Service identifies as its primary responsibility, the conservation of the natural and cultural heritage of New South Wales pursuant to the National Parks and Wildlife Act, 1974, together with the provision of opportunities and facilities for appropriate use of areas for which it is responsible.

Historic sites are areas reserved under the National Parks and Wildlife Act as the sites of buildings, objects, monuments or landscapes of national significance. Such areas are vested in the Director-General and are managed by the Service.

Service policy on historic sites follows closely the Australian ICOMOS "Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance" (the **Burra Charter**, 1981). This is a set of principles adopted by the Committee of Australian ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites) to help in planning the care of heritage items.

### 2.2 ICOMOS, THE BURRA CHARTER AND CONSERVATION PLANNING FOR SITES OF CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

ICOMOS or the International Council on Monuments and Sites is an international organisation concerned with the conservation and study of places of cultural heritage significance. ICOMOS is linked to UNESCO and has national committees established in some 60 countries.

The Australia ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance, otherwise known as the Burra Charter, was adopted in 1977 by the Australian National Committee of ICOMOS. Emphasis is placed in the Burra Charter on the processes of conserving cultural heritage and to this end establishes a procedure which involves:

- assessing the cultural significance of a place;
- developing conservation policies and a strategy appropriate to the place; and
- carrying out the conservation strategy.

The Burra Charter sets out the principles of cultural heritage conservation and defines the processes involved and options available in protecting and managing the cultural heritage. Conservation practices outlined in the Burra Charter are firmly based on assessment and protection of the cultural significance of the site. Conservation is based on a respect for the existing fabric and involves the least possible physical intervention. The conservation of a site also requires maintenance of the visual setting.

This plan of management is based on a conservation plan prepared for Davidson Whaling Station Historic Site in accordance with the processes outlined in the Burra Charter. The conservation plan is available for reference at the Eden District Office, National Parks and Wildlife Service or at the Library, Head Office of the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Hurstville.

### 2.3 DAVIDSON WHALING STATION HISTORIC SITE

#### 2.3.1 Location and Regional Setting

Davidson Whaling Station Historic Site is located on the southern shore of Twofold Bay, 35 km by road south of Eden on Kiah Inlet at the mouth of the Towamba River.

Davidson Whaling Station Historic Site was reserved in March 1986 over 6.832 ha, comprising portions 41, 61 and 62, Parish of Kiah, County of Auckland and the land separating these portions from the mean high water mark. These freehold portions had been leased and later owned by the Davidson family (1860s-1953) and the Boyd family (1953-1984) prior to being acquired by the Coastal Council of NSW in 1984.

Davidson Whaling Station Historic Site is one of a number of European sites of cultural significance in the Eden area that relate to the whaling industry centred on Twofold Bay. Other sites within the area include Boyds Tower and the Bittangabee ruins within Ben Boyd National Park, and Boydtown on Nullica Bay. The Killer Whale Museum in Eden contains many artefacts and records of the Eden whaling industry.

### **2.3.2 Importance of Davidson Whaling Station Historic Site**

The importance of Davidson Whaling Station Historic Site can be understood by examining its cultural significance. The Burra Charter defines cultural significance as the "aesthetic, historic, scientific or social value for past, present or future generations" These values are outlined as follows:

#### **Aesthetic Value**

Davidson Whaling Station has a high aesthetic value. Located in a spectacular natural setting, it possesses a tranquillity and sense of remoteness and respite from the developed world.

There is a demonstrable relation between the built environment, the garden landscape and the natural setting. The location of the whaling station on the edge of Kiah Inlet with a backdrop of native forest is particularly attractive and evokes feelings of isolation and tranquillity.

The rather delapidated appearance of the buildings makes the visitor aware of the processes of time while at the same time creating a strong sense of the past.

The gardens and the wide variety of birds seen and heard at the site also contribute to Davidson Whaling Station's high aesthetic value.

#### **Historic Value**

Davidson Whaling Station is nationally significant as the longest operating whaling station in Australia and the last of its type to close down. It has associations with the 19th century whaling industry in Australia, and the shore based whaling industry of the south east coast of Australia. The station is associated with the Davidson family, and through that family and its activities, it had associations with Benjamin Boyd, Oswald Brierly and the Imlay brothers during the 1830s and 40s.

Shore based whaling at Twofold Bay began in 1828 and was undertaken by numerous whaling groups; the main ones being the Imlay brothers, Benjamin Boyd and then the Davidson family. Old open boat techniques were in continuous use at Twofold Bay for over a hundred years. In 1927 Davidson Whaling Station was described by Professor Dakin, an early authority on the marine biology of the Australian coastline, as dating from Melville's time, using the technologies of "the old bay whalers of the 1840's".

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\* Melville was the author of the novel *Moby Dick*.

Whaling at Twofold Bay utilised Aboriginal labour to a remarkable extent throughout its 100 years of operation. From the mid nineteenth century there is historical evidence of a combination of traditional Aboriginal and European whaler lifestyles among the Aborigines engaged in whaling.

Davidson Whaling Station Historic Site is one of few shore based whaling stations in Australia with *in situ* remains. These include the remains of the tryworks, the cottage and living quarters, some components of the garden and many artefacts from the whaling period.

The cottage and kitchen building provide evidence of lengthy European occupation of the site, and in particular direct reference to the occupation of the site by the Davidson (1860's-1940's) and Boyd (1952-1984) families.

Davidson Whaling Station was associated with several other whaling sites around Twofold Bay such as Boydtown, Boyds Tower and East Boyd.

In addition to its whaling history, the site contains evidence of early to mid twentieth century bush architecture and cottage gardening practices.

### **Scientific Value**

As the longest operating shore based whaling station on the east coast of Australia, Davidson Whaling Station is a most significant archaeological resource.

It possesses a relatively undisturbed sequence of prehistoric and historic archaeological remains which have the potential to provide information on pre-European Aboriginal lifestyles, shore based whaling lifestyles and practices, the Aboriginal and European contact period and 20th century isolated lifestyles.

The tryworks site is tangible evidence of the "trying down" processes at the whaling station and is the only such site remaining in Australia. The tryworks site comprises remnants of the brick footings and hearth once used to boil down whale blubber, a number of timber artefacts and three ships tanks. The tryworks were built on top of an Aboriginal midden from which an archaeological investigation revealed the remains of a dingo.

### **Social Value**

Davidson Whaling Station is of high social value. The historic structures and records illustrate clearly the living and working conditions of a whaling station.

The site is important both locally and regionally as a social focus for many Davidson descendants, descendants of the Aboriginal whalers, and other figures associated with the whaling industry who are residents of the Eden District.

### **Statement of Cultural Significance**

Davidson Whaling Station is of local, regional and national significance. It was the longest operating whaling station in Australia; and the last of its type to close down. It has associations with the 19th century shore based whaling industry of south east

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Australia, and with the Imlay brothers, Benjamin Boyd, Oswald Brierly, the Davidson and Boyd families and the Aboriginal whalers and their families.

Although some of the structures are no longer extant, the remaining features reflect the original use of the site as a whaling station. Later additions associated with the Boyd occupation are of a lesser significance, representing the rural retreat of professional people.

The entire site is relatively undisturbed and has high archaeological potential to contribute information on shore based whaling, Aboriginal and European contact and twentieth century alternative lifestyles. The site, with its small cottage buildings, fruit trees and garden flowers, and overlooking the tryworks and Kiah Inlet, has an undisturbed sense of history.

### **3. OBJECTIVES OF MANAGEMENT**

#### **3.1 GENERAL OBJECTIVES FOR HISTORIC SITES**

The following general objectives relate to the management of historic sites in New South Wales:

- \* the conservation of features of cultural significance;
- \* the provision of opportunities for public access and the interpretation of the site as an educational resource; and
- \* the provision of opportunities for historic, archaeological and architectural research.

Opportunities for use of an historic site will only be considered where they do not detract from its cultural significance.

#### **3.2 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES FOR DAVIDSON WHALING STATION HISTORIC SITE**

Within these general objectives, a number of more specific objectives have been identified for the conservation of the cultural significance of Davidson Whaling Station Historic Site and for its development as a tourist and educational venue. These are as follows:

- \* The promotion of the site as one of a number of sites of historic interest in the Eden area relating to the Twofold Bay whaling industry.
- \* The interpretation of the site primarily as a former shore based whaling facility.

## 4. POLICIES AND FRAMEWORK FOR MANAGEMENT

This section contains the policies and framework for the management of Davidson Whaling Station Historic Site, together with relevant background information. Policies are summarised under the following headings:

- \* Cultural Heritage;
- \* Natural Heritage; and
- \* Use of the Area.

The policies established in this plan of management will provide the framework for management, consistent with anticipated resources available to the Service and the District, and anticipated community trends for the next 5 to 10 years. The actions identified are those to which priority will be given in the foreseeable future. Other management actions may be developed over the life span of this plan, consistent with the policies set out in the plan.

### 4.1 CULTURAL HERITAGE

The Davidson family began whaling around 1860. A tryworks for boiling down the whale blubber was built inside Kiah Inlet, possibly on the site of an earlier tryworks, where whales could be drawn up on a sandy beach.

Whaling was carried out more or less full time from the station by Alexander Davidson, his son John and grandson George, until the first decade of this century. A catch of 10 to 15 whales per season was reported. After that time whaling became an opportunistic activity with George Davidson undertaking farming and grazing on the site to buffer the whaling station against fluctuations in the market and uneven seasonal catches. By 1925 the entire catch for the season was reported as only two whales. The last whale was caught in Twofold Bay in 1929 and the Davidsons left the station during the 1940's.

The cottage ("Loch Garra") that stands above the tryworks site was built in 1896 by George Davidson on 17 acres of leasehold land which now comprises the majority of the historic site. In 1920 when Davidson applied to convert his leasehold to freehold title, his holding consisted of a cleared, partly-fenced area with a 6 room weather-board house, detached kitchen, workshop, established orchard, garden and dam. Further outbuildings and additions to the cottage were added later. Dr and Mrs Boyd, who purchased the property for a private residence in 1954, replanted much of the garden area and made further additions to the cottage.

In addition to the buildings, plantings and archaeological remains, a number of artefacts relating to the occupation of the site by the Davidsons and the Boyds are scattered around the site. As whaling declined, many relics of the whaling industry were moved from the tryworks to fulfil domestic uses around the cottage.

A conservation plan was completed for the historic site during 1993. For management purposes, the historic site has been divided into four distinct areas (see Diagram 2). Each area, the buildings themselves, the garden, the tryworks and the landscape (the remainder of the site) had a separate function in the operation of the whaling station and will be managed as separate but interrelated units.

### Policies

- \* The provisions of the Burra Charter (Australia ICOMOS revised 1987) for the conservation of places of cultural significance will guide management of the cultural heritage of Davidson Whaling Station Historic Site.

- \* All historic structures, landscapes and ruins on Davidson Whaling Station Historic Site will be managed in accordance with the conservation plan for the site.
- \* All historic structures, landscapes, ruins and archaeological sites will be conserved.
- \* All conservation works will be documented and all records associated with the history and management of the site will be curated and kept in the Eden District Office.

#### **4.1.1 The Buildings**

Historic buildings still existing on the site comprise the cottage called "Loch Garra" which was built by George Davidson, the detached kitchen/dining room which may have predated the cottage, later additions to the cottage, a garden shed and a shower shed built by the Boyds.

The buildings are of timber construction with traditional "weather-boards" or timber slab external cladding and corrugated iron roofing. Although the original buildings were modified by the Boyds, these modifications are not always immediately obvious.

The buildings provide evidence of the everyday way of life of the whalers as well as information on nineteenth century and early twentieth century bush carpentry. Fire and termites are major potential threats to the future of the buildings. The processes of natural decay are always present and a continuing programme of maintenance is necessary to protect the cultural fabric of the historic site.

Since the Boyds occupation, parts of the cottage have been adapted to make them more suitable for various caretakers.

Other more recent buildings on site include the solar power shed, a storage shed and toilet facilities. Such buildings are referred to as management structures.

#### **Policies**

- \* All historic buildings on the site will be conserved in accordance with the conservation plan for the site and will be limited to repair, stabilisation and minor adaptations of the interior of the buildings to provide for accommodation in the cottage, and the protection, maintenance and interpretation of the site.
- \* All works on the historic buildings will be recorded and any new fabric introduced will be identified.
- \* Rebuilding of historic buildings, in the event of destruction by fire, storm or other catastrophe, will not be undertaken.
- \* Buildings no longer existing at the historic site will not be rebuilt.
- \* The original fabric of the cottage exterior will be conserved.
- \* The interior of the cottage may be adapted for a use compatible with this plan of management and the conservation plan.
- \* The interior of the dining room will be used to house an interpretive display.

- \* Management structures presently on site may be retained and will be managed in sympathy with the existing buildings.
- \* New management structures may be required with increases in visitation. Such structures will be of a minor nature and limited to those considered necessary for the protection of public health and safety or for environmental protection. Any new buildings should be of a similar scale and form to those already on the site and screened from view by dense plantings of local native species.

### **Actions**

- \* A maintenance schedule will be prepared for the buildings on the site.
- \* Specifications will be prepared for essential preservation and adaptation works for the cottage and these will be implemented.
- \* The shower room will be stabilised.
- \* The tin storage shed will be removed, and replaced if necessary, with a timber shed at a nearby location.
- \* The buildings will be treated routinely to control termites and some termite nests may be poisoned.
- \* Fire warning and protection devices will be installed and maintained within the main buildings.

### **4.1.2 The Garden**

The garden includes not only the garden fenced by the Boyds but also the area of George Davidson's vegetable garden and orchard to the east of the cottage garden and the lawn outside the garden fence. This section of the site also includes an old dam.

Little remains of the Davidsons garden except the collapsed and overgrown fences of the orchard and the borders of some garden beds. During the 20 odd years between the departure of the Davidsons and the arrival of the Boyds, weeds became established in the garden and orchard and many trees died from fungal disease.

The existing garden is very much the creation of Dr and Mrs Boyd. It was created as a pleasure garden incorporating remnants of the Davidsons garden. The attraction of bird life to an informal garden setting was an objective of the Boyds and interesting exotic and native plants were grown to attract the birds.

The garden areas provide evidence of early and mid twentieth century "cottage" gardening practices.

Walking tracks and pathways were constructed within the garden precinct by the Service during 1990/91 for site protection and visitor direction.

### **Policies**

- \* The fences around the cottage garden will be preserved to define the cottage area and will be replaced if necessary.
- \* The original plantings in the Boyd era garden will be replaced with identical species as necessary.

- \* Fences, garden beds and plants outside the fenced garden will be conserved.
- \* The history of the garden will be interpreted.

### **Actions**

- \* A garden maintenance plan will be prepared which will include regular weeding, spraying and pruning of the garden.
- \* All replantings and maintenance of structures in the garden will be recorded.
- \* Garden species which have escaped and are invading the bush outside the lawn area will be controlled.
- \* The old dam will be cleared of vegetation and interpreted.
- \* Walking tracks and pathways within the lawn and garden areas will be maintained to control and direct visitor movement.
- \* The path through the garden will be relocated so that it does not cross flower beds and the pavers will be replaced with pavers of a darker colour.
- \* Wildings which spread from established plantings will be controlled.

### **4.1.3 The Tryworks**

The tryworks operation originally consisted of a large open wooden shelter covering a brick fireplace and foundations. At a later stage the cladding was changed to corrugated iron. A ramp built of tree trunks and a wooden windlass provided the means for transferring blubber cut from the whale where it lay in the water, to the tryworks where it was boiled down in trypots. A nearby boatshed provided protection for the open whaleboats. Huts used for accommodating the Aboriginal whaling crew were also located nearby.

Today, only fragments of the brick footings and fireplace, some roofing timbers and three ship's tanks used as pots for the storage and transport of whale blubber remain on the site. These remains of the tryworks form tangible evidence of the operation of the whaling station, which is the only such site in NSW. There is also a comprehensive photographic record of the site dating from before 1903 and oral history accounts of the tryworks.

As the longest operating, open-boat, shore based whaling station in mainland Australia, Davidson Whaling Station is a most significant archaeological resource. Some archaeological excavation of the site has been undertaken and any future excavation may reveal more of the history of the tryworks and the significance of Aboriginal middens and deposits found on the site.

In 1986 the area around the tryworks footings was filled and a boulder retaining wall constructed at the water's edge to protect the site from erosion. The fill has also protected the footings from human disturbance.

During 1990 a timber boardwalk was constructed around the perimeter of the previous tryworks shed. The boardwalk was designed to protect the remains of the tryworks and also serve as an interpretive tool. Interpretive signs and replica of the capstan were also installed on the boardwalk.

### **Policies**

- \* The remains of the tryworks will be protected *in situ*.
- \* The tryworks operation and its setting will be interpreted to the public.
- \* The tryworks building will not be reconstructed.

#### 4.1.4 The Landscape

The remainder of the site was largely cleared of trees and shrubs by the Davidsons and used for grazing of cattle. Today it consists of an open woodland of woollybutt (*Eucalyptus longifolia*) and silver-top ash (*E. sieberi*) on the exposed ridge, with a moist forest of black wattle (*Acacia mearnsii*) and pittosporum (*Pittosporum undulatum*) in the gullies and monkey gum (*E. cypellocarpa*) with bracken undergrowth on the slopes above Kiah Inlet.

The wattle, weeds and bracken appear to have become established after 1930 when George Davidson ceased farming his land. They spread rapidly in the 20 years when the area was unoccupied after the departure of the Davidsons. Following purchase of the property by the Boyds in 1953, this regrowth was left generally undisturbed. Some of the regrowth vegetation obscures the cottage from the inlet over which there was formerly a clearer view.

#### Policies

- \* Sections of the grounds of the historic site may be cleared to give a more open character similar to that during the occupation of the site by the Davidson family if considered essential for the interpretation of the site.
- \* The balance of the historic site is to be managed to allow for continuing regeneration of eucalypt forest.
- \* The history of the cultural landscape will be interpreted.

#### 4.1.5 Historic Artefacts

Historic artefacts occur throughout the historic site, some of which have been recorded and catalogued by Freeman and Associates (see Selected References). These include a number of trypots, bone fragments and the ships tanks behind the shower room. In addition there is a good but dispersed photographic record of the operation of the area owned by descendents of the Davidsons. Other artefacts having direct associations with Davidson Whaling Station are known to exist in private collections in the local area.

#### Policies

- \* Artefacts will be retained on site and be conserved *in situ* where possible.
- \* Artefacts will only be acquired if they enhance the interpretation of the site and can be proven to have been associated with the place.

#### Actions

- \* All artefacts will be recorded and an inventory of artefacts compiled.
- \* Liaison will be maintained with the Eden Killer Whale Museum, the descendants of the Davidsons and Mrs Boyd regarding the promotion of the historic site, the storage of artefacts, historical records and other information relating to Davidson Whaling Station.

#### 4.1.6 Aboriginal Sites

Evidence existing on site suggests a continuity of Aboriginal use of the area from approximately 5 000 years ago to the end of the whaling period.

A number of Aboriginal middens have been recorded on Davidson Whaling Station Historic Site. One of these is situated under the old brick footings of the tryworks and extends towards the inlet. Another, located above the cottages, is known to have been the site of an Aboriginal women's camp during the whaling period. A further large midden is located on the headland and isolated shells and artefacts are scattered throughout the site.

A shield tree, now dead, is enclosed *in situ* within the storage compound of the historic site. The existence of the tree is not advertised and its enclosure within the compound is regarded as an important means for its protection.

Early photographs show huts on the beach, referred to as the "Aboriginal huts", being the places where the Aboriginal whalers lived during the whaling season

Aboriginal people were an important component of the workforce at Davidson Whaling Station. They worked as domestic servants, at the tryworks and as crew in the boats. There is historical evidence that during the mid-nineteenth century Aboriginal people engaged in whaling followed a combination of traditional Aboriginal and European whaler lifestyles.

#### Policies

- \* All Aboriginal sites will be preserved.
- \* Aboriginal involvement with the whaling industry will be interpreted.

#### Actions

- \* All known Aboriginal sites will be recorded.
- \* The shield tree will be conserved *in situ*. Advice will be sought on methods of preserving the tree.
- \* Liaison will be maintained with the local Aboriginal Land Council regarding the management and interpretation (if appropriate) of Aboriginal sites.

## 4.2 NATURAL HERITAGE

The buildings and garden area of the site are surrounded by native forest. Woollybutt (*Eucalyptus longifolia*) and silvertop ash (*E. sieberi*) dominate the dry ridges and slopes, while monkey gum (*E. cypellocarpa*), black wattle (*Acacia mearnsii*) and pittosporum (*Pittosporum undulatum*) occur on moist slopes and in gullies. The understorey shrubs are sparse having been replaced by sedges, bracken fern and introduced grasses. Bracelet honey myrtle (*Melaleuca armillaris*) thickets are common. There are no known rare or endangered plant species.

Although substantially modified by past logging and grazing practices the forest provides important habitat to many species of native animals. Birds are among the most conspicuous fauna present; 48 species have been recorded within or adjacent to the site. White breasted sea eagles (*Haliaeetus leucogaster*) are known to nest on the site. Arboreal and ground mammals have been recorded and many reptile species



exist. The abundance of wildlife present on the historic site enhances significantly the visitor experience.

The native forest forms an essential visual backdrop to the historic site and contributes to the sense of remoteness which is integral to the understanding of lifestyles experienced at Davidson Whaling Station.

The land surrounding Davidson Whaling Station Historic Site is managed by the State Forests of NSW. Liaison with State Forests will be necessary regarding the management of land immediately adjacent to the site and the maintenance of the natural and cultural values of the historic site.

Under the Bush Fires Act 1949 the Service is a fire authority. It is responsible for controlling fire on Davidson Whaling Station Historic Site and to ensure that fire does not cause damage to other land or property. This responsibility includes the implementation of fuel management programs.

The Service regards co-operative fire management as essential for the protection of Davidson Whaling Station Historic Site. An important part of the Service's fire management is participation as a member of local District Bushfire Committees in the preparation of District Co-operative Fire Management Plans.

The reclearing of vegetation outside the garden will be limited to undergrowth and will only be undertaken for fire management reasons.

A fire hose, water storage and pump are also provided on the site.

### **Policies**

- \* The forest backdrop within the site will be conserved.
- \* Further modification of forest habitat will be minimised and will only be permitted if essential to the interpretation and protection of the cultural heritage.
- \* Impacts on the natural heritage will be minimised when developing visitor facilities.
- \* Liaison will be maintained and co-operative strategies developed with bushfire brigades, State Forests of NSW and local government to ensure co-ordination in fire management in the historic site and on adjoining lands.

### **Action**

- \* The Service will participate in the preparation of district fire Plans of Operation in accordance with the Bush Fires Act 1949.

### **4.3. USE OF THE AREA**

It is an important aspect of the management of this area to ensure that its use - whether by the general public, special interest groups, Service managers or other authorities - is appropriate, that is in conformity with the National Parks and Wildlife Act and the management objectives of this plan. The major categories of use that can be appropriate, to varying degrees, on Service areas are:

- certain types of recreation;
- education and promotion of the area, the Service and the conservation of cultural and natural heritage;

- research; and
- management operations.

The extent to which these categories of use are appropriate to Davidson Whaling Station is indicated in the following sections.

#### **4.3.1 Recreation Opportunities**

In addition to its obligation to preserve the cultural and natural values of Davidson Whaling Station Historic Site, the Service has an obligation to provide appropriate recreational and educational opportunities for the public.

Davidson Whaling Station is a small historic site which derives its significance not only from its historic associations and archaeological potential but also its aesthetic qualities. Recreational opportunities deemed to be appropriate to the preservation of these values are those related to passive appreciation of the historic structures and their setting.

The level of visitor facility development must therefore reflect a passive level of recreational use and must not degrade the cultural or natural values of the site.

Low key visitor facilities were developed during 1990/91 and consist of walking tracks/pathways, interpretive signs, carpark and toilet.

A block of land adjacent to the southern boundary of Davidson Whaling Station Historic Site is proposed for addition to the site and development of a parking area and picnic facilities.

#### **Policies**

- \* Visitor and management facilities will be kept to the minimum necessary for protection and interpretation of the site.
- \* Self guided access to that part of the site outside the fenced garden area will be permitted.
- \* Guided tours of the site may be conducted during peak holiday periods.
- \* Visitor access within the fenced garden area will be by authorised tours only.
- \* Camping will not be permitted on the historic site.
- \* The lighting of fires will not be permitted except for management purposes.
- \* Subject to its acquisition, a parking area and picnic facilities will be developed on land to the south of the historic site.

#### **Actions**

- \* Visitor use and its impact on the site will be monitored.
- \* Walking tracks will be maintained from the carpark to the cottage and from the cottage to the tryworks and beach.

- \* The potential for providing picnic facilities near the historic site will be investigated.

### **4.3.2 Communication**

Communication includes the inter-related activities of promotion, interpretation, education, liaison and public involvement.

Communication can assist with the protection of the site's cultural and natural resources and is a major tool for the management of public use.

#### **Policies**

- \* The historic site will be promoted as a low key, day use facility.
- \* The historic site will be promoted as one of a number of sites of historic interest in the Eden area relating to the whaling industry and the only one with tangible evidence of a tryworks.
- \* Visitors will be encouraged to visit other sites associated with whaling to gain a wider appreciation of the whaling history of Eden.
- \* Liaison will be maintained with neighbours in regard to the management of adjoining lands and access routes.
- \* Liaison will be maintained with special interest groups regarding the interpretation and management of the site and artefacts.

#### **Action**

- \* An interpretation plan will be developed and implemented which will address:
  - the location of interpretative signs in the grounds of the historic site to guide visitors to points of interest;
  - development of a display in the kitchen building;
  - publication of an interpretive leaflet to promote the site; and
  - options for further interpretation of the tryworks without the reconstruction of new structures.

### **4.3.3 Research**

The potential of the site to provide information regarding the whaling history and Aboriginal and European occupation of Twofold Bay is significant. It is necessary however to ensure that the objective of any research is to assist with the understanding of the site's heritage and management needs. Research must be also managed so as not to compromise other values of the site.

#### **Policy**

- \* Historical, archaeological and architectural research will be permitted if it assists with the understanding, protection and/or interpretation of the site.

### **4.3.4 Management Operations**

Davidson Whaling Station is a small historic site which derives its significance not only from its historic associations and archaeological potential but also its aesthetic qualities.

Management of the site will need to form a balance between the potentially conflicting responsibilities of protecting the site's cultural values and providing safe public access.

### **Policies**

- \* The use, development and maintenance of the site will be in accordance with the conservation objectives outlined in this plan, the Burra Charter and the conservation plan.
- \* Provision will be made for regular staff presence for the protection and maintenance of the historic site.
- \* The cottage may be adapted for use as accommodation for a caretaker.
- \* Management structures and services, such as the solar power shed and the garden shed which are located to the north of the garden and the telephone and water supplies, will be retained.
- \* Revenue raising opportunities will be investigated and, if appropriate and consistent with this plan of management will be implemented.

### **Actions**

- \* The effluent disposal system will be assessed and improved to meet relevant health and environmental standards if required.
- \* Upgrading of the access road to the site and the establishment of directional signs will be undertaken as required.
- \* Site drainage will be investigated and drainage problems addressed.
- \* The area around the buildings will be kept cleared and mown to protect the buildings from fire.

## 5.0 PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

This plan of management is part of a system of management developed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service. The system includes the National Parks and Wildlife Act, management policies, established conservation and recreation philosophies, and strategic planning at corporate, regional and district levels.

The orderly implementation of this plan will be undertaken within the annual programmes of the Service's Eden District. Priorities, determined in the context of district and regional strategic planning, will be subject to the availability of necessary staff and funds and to any special requirements of the Director-General or Minister.

The environmental impact of all development proposals will continue to be assessed at all stages of the development and any necessary investigations undertaken in accordance with established environmental assessment procedures.

Section 81 of the Act requires that this plan shall be carried out and given effect to, and that no operations shall be undertaken in relation to Davidson Whaling Station Historic Site unless they are in accordance with the plan. However, if after adequate investigation, operations not included in the plan are found to be justified, this plan may be amended in accordance with section 76(6) of the Act.

As a guide to the orderly implementation of this plan, relative priorities for identified activities are summarised below:

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Reference in plan</b>
<b>HIGH PRIORITY</b>	
Undertake essential works on the cottage.	4.2.1
Record building conservation works.	4.2.1
Prepare garden maintenance plan.	4.2.2
Complete interpretive plan.	4.3.2
Clear vegetation from old dam	4.2.2
Investigate site for additional visitor facilities in vicinity of the historic site.	4.3.4
<b>MEDIUM PRIORITY</b>	
Plant screening of management buildings.	4.2.1
Record and catalogue artefacts.	4.2.5
Liaise with Killer Whale Museum, Davidson and Boyd families.	4.2.5
Record Aboriginal sites.	4.2.6
Liaise with Local Aboriginal Lands Council.	4.2.6

Monitor visitor use.	4.3.1
Provide interpretive devices and material to facilitate self guiding.	4.3.2
Assess effluent system and improve as necessary.	4.3.4
Investigate potential for upgrading access road and install directional signs.	4.3.4
Investigate site drainage and address problems.	4.3.4
Liaise with neighbours and State Forests of NSW.	4.3.4
Investigate revenue raising potential	4.3.4
Remove old tin shed	4.2.1
Stabilise shower room	4.2.1
<b>LOW PRIORITY</b>	
Complete interpretive display in dining room.	4.2.1
Install fire warning and protection devices.	4.2.1
Investigate need for additional walking tracks	4.2.2
<b>ONGOING</b>	
Monitor and control termites.	4.2.1
Monitor fire warning and protection devices.	4.2.1
Control escaped garden species.	4.2.2
Maintain pathways to control visitor movement.	4.2.2

## SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bickford, A., Blair, S., and Freeman, P. (1988) **Ben Boyd National Park Bicentennial Project - Davidson Whaling Station, Boyds Tower, Bittangabee Ruins.** NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service.

Marquis-Kyle, P., Walker, M., (1992) **Australia ICOMOS The Illustrated Burra Charter.** Australia ICOMOS

Taylor J., and Floyd, J. (1993) **Davidson Whaling Station Historic Site Conservation Plan.** NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service.

## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

The Service has adopted the conservation terminology as defined in the Australia ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance, the Burra Charter, from which the following definitions are taken or derived:

### **Adaptation**

Modifying a place to suit proposed compatible uses. Adaptation is acceptable where the conservation of the place cannot otherwise be achieved, and where the adaptation is limited to that which is essential to the use.

### **Burra Charter**

A charter of principles for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance in Australia.

### **Compatible Use**

A use which involves no change to the culturally significant fabric, changes which are substantially reversible, or changes which require a minimal impact.

### **Conservation**

All the processes of looking after a place so as to retain its cultural significance. It includes maintenance and may according to circumstance include preservation, restoration, reconstruction, and adaptation and commonly is a combination of more than one of these. The aim of conservation is to retain or recover the cultural significance of a place and must include provision for its security and future.

### **Conservation Plan**

A document setting out what is significant in a place and, therefore, what policies are appropriate to enable that significance to be retained in its future use and development. The scope may vary from a plan for one building or element to a plan for a whole site.

### **Cultural Significance**

Aesthetic, historic, scientific, or social value for past, present, or future generations.

### **ICOMOS**

International Council on Monuments and Sites.

**Maintenance**

The continuous protective care of the fabric, contents and setting of a place, and is to be distinguished from repair. Repair involves restoration or reconstruction and is treated accordingly.

**Place**

Site, area, building or other work, group of buildings, or other works together with pertinent contents and surroundings.

**Preservation**

Maintaining the fabric of a place in its existing state and retarding deterioration.

**Reconstruction**

Returning a place as nearly as possible to a known earlier state and is distinguished by the introduction of materials (new or old) into the fabric.

**Restoration**

Returning the existing fabric of a place to a known earlier state by removing accretions or by reassembling existing components without the introduction of new material. Restoration should reveal anew, culturally significant aspects of the place. If a place includes a fabric of different periods, revealing the fabric of one period at the expense of another can only be justified when what is removed is of slight cultural significance and the fabric which is to be revealed is of much greater cultural significance.

**Site**

A place which contains items of potential or actual significance, whether cultural, natural or otherwise.



**DRAFT PLAN OF MANAGEMENT FOR DAVIDSON WHALING STATION  
HISTORIC SITE**

**SCHEDULE OF SUBMISSIONS RECEIVED**

1. CaLM - Nowra
2. National Trust
3. Rene Davidson for the Davidson family and friends
4. Rene Davidson
5. Eden NPWS Advisory Committee
6. State Forests of NSW - Eden District

## **DRAFT PLAN OF MANAGEMENT FOR DAVIDSON WHALING STATION HISTORIC SITE**

### **SUMMARY OF SUBMISSIONS**

#### **Submission 1**

Author: Tom McInnes  
CaLM Nowra

- 1.1 No Crown Land will be affected.
- 1.2 No other comments required from CaLM.

#### **Submission 2**

Author: Martine Craswell  
National Trust, Sydney

- 2.1 Conservation Plan is high priority.
- 2.2 Conservation Plan should consider appropriate siting and design of proposed caretaker's cottage and visitor facilities.
- 2.3 Caretaker's cottage and visitor facilities should not be designed and sited prior to finalization of Conservation Plan.
- 2.4 Other proposals should not be completed prior to complete Conservation Plan.
- 2.5 Conservation Plan will identify other necessary on-going repairs such as painting and clearing of guttering, etc.
- 2.6 No objections to draft POM.
- 2.7 POM based on sound conservation knowledge and principles of the Burra Charter.

#### **Submission 3**

Author: Rene Davidson  
Family members and friends

- 3.1 Recommend rebuilding of tryworks.
- 3.2 Tryworks could be rebuilt at no great cost to NPWS.
- 3.3 Tryworks could be rebuilt by members of Davidson family.
- 3.4 Whalepots and old type bricks available.
- 3.5 Visitors consider tryworks building would be asset to site.
- 3.6 Can't see why tryworks building cannot be re-built.
- 3.7 Rebuild boatsheds and Aboriginal huts.
- 3.8 Manager's residence is necessary.
- 3.9 Solar shed is necessary.

3.10 If new structures such as 3.8 and 3.9 then why not tryworks?

3.11 Tryworks rebuilding will enhance site.

#### **Submission 4**

Author: Rene Davidson  
Family members and friends

4.1 Site presence is good idea.

4.2 Any new residence should be out of sight.

4.3 Any new residence should be away from existing dwelling.

4.4 Allow existing cottage to be manager's residence.

4.5 Cottage and kitchen should be open to public if new manager's residence constructed.

4.6 If building new dwelling then should change policy to rebuild tryworks structure.

4.7 Could build model of tryworks.

4.8 Model of tryworks could go on site (in walking track area).

4.9 Cleared area to be increased for fire protection.

4.10 Family members may assist with such clearing.

4.11 Move whale bones (stored at Nadgee) to the site to enhance displays.

4.12 Protect Aboriginal shield tree in storage area.

#### **Submission 5**

Author: Anne Brown  
NPWS Eden District Advisory Committee

5.1 Historic Site is south not south-east of Eden (Synopsis and page 3)

5.2 Diagrams not numbered (pages 3 and 9)

5.3 Explain Burra Charter to explain why building kept as it is.

5.4 Give high priority to installation of self-guiding interpretive devices.

5.5 Interpretive devices to explain Service's goals for site.

5.6 Interpretive devices to explain historical significance of site.

5.7 Develop additional visitor facilities.

5.8 Construct pathway along top of headland and tryworks.

5.9 Pathway to give wheelchair access.

- 5.10 New caretaker's cottage on HS not appropriate.
- 5.11 Any new building will detract from historic and isolated nature of site.
- 5.12 Give high priority to acquisition of additional lands.
- 5.13 Additional lands to develop improved access, vehicle parking and visitor facilities.
- 5.14 Changes to improve its value as educational site.

### **Submission 6**

Author: Erica Raper  
State Forests of NSW Eden District

- 6.1 Page 9 Natural Resources policies omits reference to State Forests of NSW.
- 6.2 Page 9 Natural Resources policies (page 8 4.1) need to include reference to lands outside site.
- 6.3 Liaise with State Forests of NSW regarding recreation opportunities (page 15 4.3.1).
- 6.4 Use current walk between Edrom Lodge and Whaling Station.
- 6.5 State Forests of NSW is the only neighbour.
- 6.6 Historic Site could be considered high fire risk due size, extent of surrounding forests and number of visitors.
- 6.7 Fuel management of forested area in site is critical to protect `developed' area.

**DRAFT PLAN OF MANAGEMENT FOR DAVIDSON WHALING STATION  
HISTORIC SITE**

**SCHEDULE OF ISSUES**

**Issues Raised**

1. Conservation Plan
2. Acquire land
3. Burra Charter
4. Reconstruction of the tryworks, boatshed and Aboriginal Quarters
5. Fire Management
6. Artefacts
7. Visitor facilities
8. Interpretation
9. Caretakers residence
10. Editorial

**DRAFT PLAN OF MANAGEMENT FOR DAVIDSON WHALING STATION  
HISTORIC SITE**

**DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE ISSUES RAISED**

**ISSUE 1: Conservation Plan****PLAN REFERENCE:** 4.2, Pages 10 & 19**SUBMISSION REFERENCES:** 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5**SUMMARY**

The National Trust recommends that completion of the Conservation Plan should be a high priority and identify all necessary works and on-going repairs for the site. The Conservation Plan should also consider the appropriate siting and design of the proposed caretaker's cottage and visitor facilities. These and any other proposed works should not be designed or sited prior to the finalization of the conservation plan.

**DISCUSSION:**

A draft Conservation Plan has now been prepared for the site and raises a number of additional points and proposals that are not addressed by the submissions but which should be included in the plan. These include:

- any new buildings should be of a similar style to those already on the site and screened by native plantings;
- the interior of the cottage may be adapted;
- the removal of the tin storage shed;
- stabilisation of the shower room and other works on the house;
- preservation of the fences around the garden;
- replacement of original plantings with identical species and regular weeding, spraying and pruning of the garden;
- the clearing of weeds from the old dam on the site and its interpretation;
- a description of the type of artifacts on the site and photographic records; and
- relocation of the path through the garden so that it does not cross flower beds and replacement of the existing pavers with pavers of a darker colour.

Other recommendations of the conservation plan are considered too detailed and specific for the plan of management. These are, however, important guidelines for the implementation of the plan and for day-to-day management of the site.

The Conservation Plan focusses on management of the cultural heritage of the site but does not consider certain other management issues such as the residence and other visitor facilities except in as far as they impact on the cultural heritage. These are addressed in the plan of management.

**SERVICE RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Amend the plan of management to delete references to a conservation plan being prepared and replace with reference to the conservation plan wherever required.

Such references will specify the proposals outlined in the conservation plan which form the basis of the policies and actions recommended below to be included in the plan of management.

Delete completion of the conservation plan from plan implementation table.

Add to the end of the last policy under section 4.2.1 "The Buildings":

Any new buildings should be of a similar style to those already on the site and screened from view by dense plantings of local native species.

Add two new policies under section 4.2.1:

- \* The original fabric of the cottage exterior will be conserved.
- \* The interior of the cottage may be adapted for a use compatible with this plan of management and the conservation plan.

Add new actions under 4.2.1:

- \* The tin storage shed will be removed, and replaced if necessary with a timber shed at a nearby location.
- \* The shower room will be stabilised.
- \* A maintenance schedule will be prepared for the buildings on the site.

Add a reference to the old dam in the text of section 4.2.2 "The Garden".

Add new policies to section 4.2.2:

- \* The fences around the cottage garden will be preserved to define the cottage area and replaced if necessary.
- \* The original plantings in the Boyd era garden will be replaced with identical species as necessary.

Add new actions under section 4.4.2:

- \* The old dam will be cleared of vegetation and interpreted.
- \* The path through the garden will be relocated so that it does not cross flower beds and the pavers will be replaced with pavers of a darker colour.
- \* A garden maintenance plan will be prepared which will include regular weeding, spraying and pruning of the garden.

Delete reference to a garden management plan being prepared and additional walking tracks being investigated (4.4.2).

Add a description of the type of artifacts found on the site and a reference to photographic records after the first sentence under 4.2.5 Historic Artefacts:

These include a number of tryptots, bone fragments and the ships tanks behind the shower room. In addition there is a good but dispersed photographic record of the operation of the area owned by descendents of the Davidsons.



Amend "Prepare garden management plan" in plan implementation table to read "Prepare garden maintenance plan."

Include "Clear vegetation from old dam" as a high priority in the plan implementation table.

Include "Remove tin garden shed" as a medium priority in the plan implementation table.

Include "Stabilise shower room" as a medium priority in the plan implementation table.

Add to Selected Bibliography at back of plan:

Taylor, J. & Floyd, J., **Davidson Whaling Station Historic Site Conservation Plan**.  
NSW National Parks and Wildlife Service, 1993.

### **ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION**

Service recommendation endorsed subject to two amendments:

- substitution of the phrase "scale and form" in lieu of "style" in the proposed amendment to the last policy in section 4.2.1 "The Buildings";  
and
- inclusion of a new policy that wildings which spread from established plantings will be controlled.

**ISSUE 2: Acquisition of Land****PLAN REFERENCE:** 4.3.4, Pages 18-20**SUBMISSION REFERENCES:** 1.1, 5.12, 5.13**SUMMARY:**

The Eden District Advisory Committee recommends that high priority should be given to the acquisition of additional lands to develop improved access, vehicle parking and visitor facilities. The proposed acquisitions are currently managed by the State Forests of NSW. CaLM stated that no Crown land will be affected by the Draft POM.

**DISCUSSION:**

The Service is currently negotiating with the State Forests of NSW and the Department of Planning regarding an exchange of lands which will result in the addition of a portion to the south to the historic site. This land is proposed for a parking area and picnic facilities. No final agreement has however been reached with the Commission and Department.

Land acquisition proposals are not included in plans of management unless they have proceeded to near finalisation.

**SERVICE RECOMMENDATION:**

Delete references to investigation of visitor facilities and a caretaker residence in the vicinity of the site (last action section 4.3.1 page 16, and third action section 4.3.4 page 18).

**ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION**

Service recommendation not endorsed. The Advisory Council recommends that:

- A short paragraph be included in section 4.3.1 which acknowledges that;
  - "A block of land adjacent to the southern boundary of Davidson Whaling Station Historic Site is proposed for addition to the site and development of a parking area and picnic facilities." and
- A new policy be included in section 4.3.1;
  - "Subject to its acquisition, a parking area and picnic facilities will be developed on land to the south of the historic site."

The Advisory Council endorsed the deletion of the third action on page 18 of the draft plan.

**ISSUE 3: Burra Charter****PLAN REFERENCE:** 2.1, Pages 3, 21**SUBMISSION REFERENCES:** 2.7, 5.3**SUMMARY:**

The National Trust stated that the plan of management is based on sound conservation knowledge and the principles of the Burra Charter, but should provide an explanation of the importance and processes of the Burra Charter to explain why the buildings and site are being kept the way they are.

**DISCUSSION:**

A brief statement that the Burra Charter is a set of principles for the conservation of places of cultural significance is included in the plan, however this is expanded in the conservation plan and the more detailed statement could be included in the plan.

It is proposed that a new sub-section be included in the plan in Chapter 2 "Management Context" which introduces ICOMOS, the Burra Charter and the conservation plan:

**SERVICE RECOMMENDATION:**

Add a new sub-section 2.2

**2.2 ICOMOS, THE BURRA CHARTER AND CONSERVATION PLANNING FOR SITES OF CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE**

ICOMOS or the International Council on Monuments and Sites is an international organisation concerned with the conservation and study of places of cultural heritage significance. ICOMOS is linked to UNESCO and has national committees established in some 60 countries.

The Australia ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance, otherwise known as the Burra Charter, was adopted in 1977 by the Australian national committee of ICOMOS. Emphasis is placed in the Burra Charter on the processes of conserving cultural heritage and to this end establishes a procedure which involves:

- assessing the cultural significance of a place;
- developing conservation policies and a strategy appropriate to the place;  
and
- carrying out the conservation strategy.

The Burra Charter sets out the principles of cultural heritage conservation and defines the processes involved and options available in protecting and managing the cultural heritage. Conservation practices outlined in the Burra Charter are firmly based on assessment and protection of the cultural significance of the site. Conservation is based on a respect for the existing fabric and involves the least possible physical intervention. The conservation of a site also requires maintenance of the visual setting.

This plan of management is based on a conservation plan prepared for Davidson Whaling Station Historic Site in accordance with the processes outlined in the Burra Charter. The conservation plan is available for reference at the Eden District Office,

National Parks and Wildlife Service or at the Library, Head Office of the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Hurstville.

Reword the first policy on page 10 to read:

- \* The provisions of the Burra Charter (Australia ICOMOS revised 1987) for the conservation of places of cultural significance will guide management of the cultural heritage of Davidson Whaling Station Historic Site.

Add to Selected Bibliography at back of plan:

Marquis-Kyle, P., Walker, M., (1992) **Australia ICOMOS The Illustrated Burra Charter.** Australia ICOMOS

#### **ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION**

Service recommendation endorsed.

**ISSUE 4:** Reconstruction of the tryworks, boatshed and Aboriginal Quarters**PLAN REFERENCE:** 4.2.1, 4.2.3, 4.2.6, Pages 10, 11, 12, 13, 15**SUBMISSION REFERENCE:** 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7, 3.9, 3.10, 3.11, 4.6, 4.7, 4.8**SUMMARY:**

The Davidson family recommend that the tryworks be rebuilt. Family members consider the building would be an asset which would enhance the site and cannot see why, as new buildings have been constructed on the site (which they agree are necessary), the tryworks should not be rebuilt.

They note the availability of old trypots and old style bricks/materials, and have offered the help of their volunteer labour.

The Davidson family also recommend rebuilding the boatshed and Aboriginal huts to enhance site.

As an alternative?, the Davidson family suggest that a model of the tryworks could be constructed in the area of the walking track.

**DISCUSSION:**

The Burra Charter strongly cautions against the process of reconstruction;

"Reconstruction is to be regarded as a radical intervention in the fabric, which carries a great risk of destroying the authenticity of the place, unless the rigorous process of decision making has been followed."

The conservation plan specifies that"

- \* The trywork remains will be protected *in situ*; and
- \* The tryworks building will not be rebuilt.

Similarly reconstruction of the boatshed and the Aboriginal Quarters and construction of a model of the tryworks is not proposed. The draft plan of management is consistent with this strategy. Reconstruction of structures in the site of the tryworks will obscure important archaeological evidence.

**SERVICE RECOMMENDATION:**

No amendment to plan.

**ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION**

Service recommendation endorsed.

**ISSUE 5: Fire Management****PLAN REFERENCES:** 4.2.4 (page 13), 4.3.2(p 17), 4.3.4 (p 18)**SUBMISSION REFERENCES:** 4.9, 4.10, 6.5, 6.6, 6.7**SUMMARY:**

The State Forests of NSW notes that it is the only neighbour to Davidson Whaling Station and thus all liaison with regard to fuel management, etc should be with them. It considers the Historic Site a high fire risk due to the size and extent of surrounding forests and the number of visitors to the site. The Commission considers fuel management of the forested area of the site as critical to protect the `developed' area.

The Davidson family has suggested that the landscape, with their help, be cleared back to that of the original Davidson era to increase fire protection.

**DISCUSSION:**

Under the Bush Fires Act 1949 the Service is a fire authority. It is responsible for controlling fires on the site and to ensure that fire on the site does not cause damage to other land or property. This responsibility includes the implementation of fuel management programs.

The Service regards co-operative fire management as essential for the protection of Davidson Whaling Station Historic Site. An important part of the Service's fire management is participation as a member of local District Bushfire Committees in the preparation of District Co-operative Fire Management Plans.

The National Parks and Wildlife Service agrees fuel management and fire protection are necessary and has proposed the clearing of some areas of the landscape back to the Davidson era. A fire hose, water storage and pump are also provided on the site.

**SERVICE RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Add to the text in section 4.1 "Natural Resources":

Under the Bush Fires Act 1949 the Service is a fire authority. It is responsible for controlling fire on Davidson Whaling Station Historic Site and to ensure that fire does not cause damage to other land or property. This responsibility includes the implementation of fuel management programs.

The Service regards co-operative fire management as essential for the protection of Davidson Whaling Station Historic Site. An important part of the Service's fire management is participation as a member of local District Bushfire Committees in the preparation of District Co-operative Fire Management Plans.

An important strategy of fire management on the site is the re-clearing of some areas of the property to the extent which existed during occupation by the Davidson family. This strategy is consistent with the conservation of the cultural heritage of the site.

A fire hose, water storage and pump are also provided on the site.

Add two new policies in sub-section 4.1:

- \* Liaison will be maintained and co-operative strategies developed with bushfire brigades, the State Forests of NSW and local government to ensure co-ordination in fire management in the historic site and on adjoining lands.
- \* The historic site will be partly cleared of regrowth as a fire protection measure and in a manner consistent with the conservation of the cultural heritage of the site. Such clearing will be limited to that which existed during occupation of the property by the Davidson family.

Add an action to sub-section 4.1

- \* The Service will participate in the preparation of district fire Plans of Operation in accordance with the Bush Fires Act 1949.

Delete the last action on page 18.

### **ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION**

Service recommendation endorsed in part.

- Delete the third paragraph recommended in the Service report for inclusion in the text of section 4.1;
- Delete the second policy recommended in the Service report for inclusion in section 4.1;

The sub-committee was of the view that the reclearing of vegetation outside the garden should be limited to undergrowth and may take place for fire management reasons only, not cultural heritage reasons. All references to reclearing to a condition which existed during occupation by the Davidson family are to be deleted, since these conditions varied substantially over the long period of occupation by the family.

In lieu of these deleted paragraphs, the plan should provide for thinning of understorey for fire management purposes only.

Some cross referencing is required to the related issue of conserving the landscape. The sub-committee made two recommendations:

- The first policy under section 4.2.4 of the draft plan "The Landscape" be amended by deleting "restored to a rural condition similar to that ..." and substituting in lieu thereof "cleared to give a more open character similar to that ..."; and
- Adding a new policy in the same section that the balance of the historic site is to be managed "as is"; that is the "status quo" of regenerating eucalypt forest.

The sub-committee also recommends that the order of sections 4.1 and 4.2 be reversed. This re-inforces the logic of the plan of management being for an historic site where the conservation of the cultural heritage takes precedence over nature conservation.

**ISSUE 6:** Artefacts**PLAN REFERENCES:** 4.2.5 (page 14), 4.2.6 (page 15)**SUBMISSION REFERENCES:** 4.11, 4.12**SUMMARY:**

Both the removal of whale bones from Nadgee to the Davidson Whaling Station and the protection of the Aboriginal shield tree were suggested by the Davidson family to further enhance the Historic Site.

**DISCUSSION:**

The shield tree, now dead, is enclosed *in situ* within the storage compound of the historic site. The existence of the tree is not advertised and its enclosure within the compound is regarded as an important means for its protection. The plan of management should provide for its conservation and to this end a new policy is proposed that the shield tree will be conserved *in situ* and that advice will be sought on methods of preserving the tree.

The relocation of whale bones from Nadgee to Davidson Whaling Station Historic Site will need to consider storage, protection and relevance to the site. This will be subject to the interpretation plan and, if not required for the interpretation of the site, the bones will be offered to the Eden Whale Museum.

**SERVICE RECOMMENDATION:**

Include reference to the existence of a shield tree on the site in section 4.2.6. Add an additional action under 4.2.6 to read:

- \* The shield tree will be conserved *in situ*. Advice will be sought on methods of preserving the tree.

**ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION**

Service recommendation endorsed.



**ISSUE 7: Visitor Facilities**

**PLAN REFERENCES:** 4.2.2 (page 12), 4.3.1 (pages 15, 16), 4.3.4 (page 18), 4.1 (page 9)

**SUBMISSION REFERENCE:** 5.7, 5.8, 5.9, 5.14, 6.3, 6.4

**SUMMARY:**

The Advisory Committee has suggested that there is a need to develop additional visitor facilities, including the construction of a pathway along the top of the headland to give views of Twofold bay and the tryworks, which would preferably be of wheelchair access standard. This would improve the educational value of the site.

The State Forests of NSW suggests liaison regarding recreation opportunities, such as the use of the walk between Edrom Lodge and Davidson Whaling Station.

**DISCUSSION:**

National Parks and Wildlife Service supports liaison with the State Forests of NSW to promote the walking track between the site and Edrom Lodge. This is not a matter for the plan of management since the walking route lies outside the site, but rather for district co-ordination between the agencies involved.

The route proposed by the Advisory Committee for the headland walk crosses a number of middens. While the proposal is supported in principle, it is not considered practical to construct a walking track along the headland without impacting on Aboriginal sites.

**SERVICE RECOMMENDATION:**

No amendment to plan.

**ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION**

Service recommendation endorsed.

**Issue 8:** Interpretation**PLAN REFERENCE:** 4.3.2 Pages 16 and 17**SUBMISSION REFERENCE:** 5.4, 5.5, 5.6**SUMMARY:**

The Eden Advisory Committee suggests that a high priority be given to the installation of additional self-guiding interpretive devices around the site, to help explain the NPWS goals for the site and the historical significance of the site.

**DISCUSSION:**

The plan of management provides that "self-guided access will be provided to that part of the site outside the fenced area ..." (p. 16, 2nd policy) and that an "interpretation plan will be developed and implemented (p. 17, 1st action). This programme is currently ranked as medium priority.

The implementation of any "self-guiding" initiatives will be a matter of site and district-wide priorities. This programme is not considered to be higher priority than other programmes proposed in the plan of management.

**SERVICE RECOMMENDATION:**

No amendment to plan.

**ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION**

Service recommendation endorsed subject to:

- addition of "..., and the only one with tangible evidence of a tryworks". to the end of the second policy under section 4.3.2 "Communication";
- Combining the existing actions into one action specifying some of the requirements for the development of an interpretation plan:
  - \* An interpretation plan will be developed and implemented which will address:
    - the location of interpretative signs in the grounds of the historic site to guide visitors to points of interest;
    - development of a display in the kitchen building; and
    - publication of an interpretive leaflet to promote the site.

and

- The inclusion in the above new action as a new third "-" "options for further interpretation of the tryworks without the reconstruction of new structures."

**ISSUE 9: Caretaker's Residence****PLAN REFERENCES:** 4.2.1 (page 11), 4.3.4 (pages 18, 20)**SUBMISSION REFERENCES:** 3.8, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 5.10, 5.11**SUMMARY:**

The Davidson family considers an on-site presence to be necessary and a 'good idea'. They suggest that either a new residence be built or a caretaker reside within the cottage building. They recommend any new residence be out of sight and "a long way away" from the existing house. They also recommend that if the cottage building is not used as a residence then it should be opened to the public.

The Advisory Committee believe a new cottage on the site is not appropriate and that it will detract from the historic and isolated nature of the site.

**DISCUSSION:**

If a new residence is built, it has been agreed that it should be out of sight of the historic buildings so as not to detract from the site. The site identified is the land proposed to be acquired (see issue 2) so the new building would not be located within the current boundaries of the site. The acquisition of this land is not, however, finalised.

The District has proposed that the cottage building be used as a residence for a caretaker if necessary. The conservation plan recognises that a "caretaker may be resident on site" and that the cottage interior may be adapted.

**SERVICE RECOMMENDATION:**

Delete reference to construction of further visitor facilities and a caretakers cottage in the vicinity of the historic site (3rd action, page 18).

Delete investigation of visitor facilities and caretakers cottage from plan implementation table.

**ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION**

Service recommendation not endorsed as presented. The visitor facilities are to be provided on land proposed to be acquired (see issue 2).

The sub-committee also recommends that the third action on page 18 of the draft plan be deleted but a new policy substituted in lieu thereof:

\*\* The cottage may be adapted for use as accommodation for a caretaker."

**ISSUE 10:** Editorial

**PLAN REFERENCE:** Synopsis, 2.2.1 (page 3), maps

**SUBMISSION REFERENCE:** 5.1, 5.2, 6.1, 6.2

**SUMMARY:**

The Eden Advisory Committee suggests that the historic site is due south and not south-east of Eden and notes that the map diagrams require labelling.

The State Forests of NSW suggests that there should be a policy relating to liaison with the Commission in regard to natural resources.

**DISCUSSION:**

The Service agrees with these comments.

In addition, the plan includes a number of areas where the wording can be improved. It also includes a number of policies as actions (2nd and 3rd actions on page 11) and actions as policies (2nd policy on page 12)

The plan (last policy, page 18) refers to revenue raising opportunities being investigated and if appropriate implemented. This is considered too open ended and should be amended to read "if appropriate and consistent with this plan implemented."

**SERVICE RECOMMENDATION:**

Amend 1st paragraph, SYNOPSIS, to read "... 35 kilometres by road south of Eden."

Amend 4th paragraph, page 3, to read "... 35km by road south of Eden on Kiah Inlet ..."

Label the separate map diagrams diagram 1 and 2 (refer pp3 & 9).

Relocate the 2nd and 3rd actions on page 11 as policies in the same sub-section.

Relocate the 2nd policy on page 12 as an action.

Reword the last policy on page 18:

- \* Revenue raising opportunities will be investigated and if appropriate and consistent with this plan implemented.

**ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOMMENDATION**

Service recommendation endorsed.