



**HERITAGE  
COUNCIL**  
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

## REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

**DRAFT – Register Entry**

1. **DATA BASE No.** 17868
2. **NAME** *Peel Town Archaeological Sites (1829-1830)*  
**FORMER NAME (or OTHER NAMES)** Clarence, Hooghly Town, Brighton
3. **LOCATION** near Mount Brown, Beeliar Regional Park, Henderson
4. **DESCRIPTION OF PLACE INCLUDED IN THIS ENTRY**
  1. Part Reserve 39584 being portion of Lot 4628 on Deposited Plan 221217 and being part of the land contained in Crown Land Title Volume 3104 Folio 465;
  2. Part Reserve 39584 being portion of Lot 2922 on Deposited Plan 240277 and being part of the land contained in Crown Land Title Volume 3054 Folio 788;
  3. Part Reserve 39584 being Lot 2938 on Deposited Plan 217016 and being the whole of the land contained in Crown Land Title Volume 3054 Folio 822;
  4. Reserve 24308 being Lot 373 on Deposited Plan 219595 and being the whole of the land contained in Crown Land Title Volume 3107 Folio 425;
  5. Part Reserve 24576 being portion of Lot 374 on Deposited Plan 219595 and being part of the land contained in Crown Land Title Volume 3107 Folio 306;
  6. Lot 300 on Deposited Plan 59529 being the whole of the land contained in Crown Land Title Volume 3153 Folio 861;
  7. Lot 301 on Deposited Plan 59529 being the whole of the land contained in Crown Land Title Volume 3153 Folio 862;
  8. Lot 302 on Deposited Plan 59529 being the whole of the land contained in Crown Land Title Volume 3153 Folio 863;
  9. Lot 303 on Deposited Plan 59529 being the whole of the land contained in Crown Land Title Volume 3153 Folio 864;
  10. Lot 304 on Deposited Plan 59529 being the whole of the land contained in Crown Land Title Volume 3153 Folio 865;
  11. Portion of Lot 305 on Deposited Plan 59529 being part of the land contained in Crown Land Title Volume 3153 Folio 866;

12. Portion of Lot 306 on Deposited Plan 59529 being part of the land contained in Crown Land Title Volume 3153 Folio 867;
13. Portion of Lot 7 on Diagram 60949 being part of the land contained in Certificate of Title Volume 1636 Folio 460;
14. Portion of Lot 316 on Deposited Plan 59529 being part of the land contained in Crown Land Title Volume 3153 Folio 877;
15. Lot 307 on Deposited Plan 59529 being the whole of the land contained in Crown Land Title Volume 3153 Folio 868;
16. Lot 315 on Deposited Plan 59529 being the whole of the land contained in Crown Land Title Volume 3153 Folio 876;
17. Lot 311 on Deposited Plan 59529 being the whole of the land contained in Crown Land Title Volume 3153 Folio 872;
18. Lot 314 on Deposited Plan 59529 being the whole of the land contained in Crown Land Title Volume 3153 Folio 875;
19. Lot 308 on Deposited Plan 59529 being the whole of the land contained in Crown Land Title Volume 3153 Folio 869;
20. Lot 309 on Deposited Plan 59529 being the whole of the land contained in Crown Land Title Volume 3153 Folio 870;
21. Lot 312 on Deposited Plan 59529 being the whole of the land contained in Crown Land Title Volume 3153 Folio 873;
22. Lot 313 on Deposited Plan 59529 being the whole of the land contained in Crown Land Title Volume 3153 Folio 874;
23. Portion of Lot 310 on Deposited Plan 59529 being part of the land contained in Crown Land Title Volume 3153 Folio 871;
24. Portion of Lot 4552 on Deposited Plan 220690 being part of the land contained in Crown Land Title Volume 3116 Folio 733;
25. Part Cockburn Rd and Part Sutton Rd

**5. LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA** City of Cockburn & Town of Kwinana

**6. CURRENT OWNER**

- 1-3. State of Western Australia  
(Responsible Agency: Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions)  
(Management Order: Conservation Commission of Western Australia)
4. State of Western Australia  
(Responsible Agency: Department for Planning, Lands and Heritage)  
(Management Order: City of Cockburn)
5. State of Western Australia  
(Responsible Agency: Department for Planning, Lands and Heritage)  
(Management Order: Town of Kwinana)
- 6-12. State of Western Australia  
(Responsible Agency: Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage)

- 13. Western Australian Planning Commission
- 14-23. State of Western Australia  
(Responsible Agency: Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage)
- 24. State of Western Australia  
(Crown Lease: Fremantle Port Authority)
- 25. State of Western Australia  
(Responsible Agencies: City of Cockburn and Town of Kwinana)

## 7. HERITAGE LISTINGS

- Register of Heritage Places: -----
- National Trust Classification: 11/08/2008
- Local Planning Scheme – Heritage List:
  - P17868 Peel Town Archaeological Sites 14/07/2011
  - P16994 Naval Base Caravan Park 14/07/2011
- Local Heritage Survey:
  - P17868 Peel Town Archaeological Sites 14/07/2011
  - P16994 Naval Base Caravan Park 20/04/2004
- Register of the National Estate: -----
- Aboriginal Sites Register -----
  - Aboriginal Heritage Place 20865 12/01/2004
  - Mount Brown – Booyeanup
  - Aboriginal Heritage Place 3776 Indian 16/02/2010
  - Ocean

## 8. ORDERS UNDER SECTION OF THE ACT

An ongoing Conservation Order was issued over a portion of the place on 1 April 2015.

## 9. HERITAGE AGREEMENT

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## 10. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

*Peel Town Archaeological Sites*, situated within the Beeliar Regional Park and comprising an area of approximately 435,000m<sup>2</sup> (43.5 hectares) of coastal vegetation containing archaeological sites dating to the c.1829-30 occupation by Peel's settlement group, including limestone tent pads, hearths constructed from limestone and brick, other remains of dwellings constructed from various materials including timber and canvas, and associated artefacts and features, as well as the shacks and campsites within the Naval Base Caravan Park, has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:

the place is associated with an important phase in world history, that of the continuing spread of the British Empire across the globe, and represents the establishment of British colonies in the far flung reaches of the Empire, often with ill-conceived policies unsuited to the circumstances and realities of the colonial experience;

the place, and its associations with the latter phase of the spread of the British Empire across the globe, has the potential to provide valuable information about this formative phase in Western Australian history;

the place is one of the earliest settlement sites in Western Australia;

the place is rare as an example of a frontier settlement representing the earliest phase in the Swan River Colony's foundation, and as an extensive and intact archaeological site dating to the c.1829-30 period;

the material uncovered during the archaeological investigation of the site, and its analysis in the context of the spread of the British Empire across the globe during this period, has a high degree of comparative potential in understanding the colonial experience on a global scale;

the place is a direct consequence of the British Government's aspirations to establish the Swan River Colony as a 'free' settlement and reflects the government policies enacted in an attempt to make this a reality; and,

the place is associated with prominent settler Thomas Peel and his unsuccessful settlement scheme.



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## REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES

**DRAFT – Assessment Documentation**

### 11. ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

Cultural heritage significance means aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value for individuals or groups within Western Australia.

In determining cultural heritage significance, the Heritage Council has had regard to the factors in the *Heritage Act 2018* and the indicators adopted on 14 June 2019.

#### 11(a) Importance in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of Western Australia's history;

*Peel Town Archaeological Sites* is one of the earliest settlement sites in Western Australia.

*Peel Town Archaeological Sites*, and its association with the formative phase of Western Australia's history, allows insights into the conditions of class and labour relations in the State, conditions which ultimately led to a unique situation developing where indentured servants were released from contracts early becoming free settlers with the power to demand high prices for their greatly needed labour.

*Peel Town Archaeological Sites* is a direct consequence of the British Government's aspirations to establish the Swan River Colony as a 'free' settlement and reflects the government policies enacted in an attempt to make this a reality.

*Peel Town Archaeological Sites* is associated with an important phase in world history, that of the continuing spread of the British Empire across the globe, and represents the establishment of British colonies in the far flung reaches of the Empire, often with ill-conceived policies unsuited to the circumstances and realities of the colonial experience.

Naval Base Caravan Park is an example of a relatively common practice during the early twentieth century whereby holiday shacks were constructed on Crown land, and is associated with the Australian tradition of recreational squatting in coastal areas, parks and reserves.

**11(b) Importance in demonstrating rare, uncommon or endangered aspects of Western Australia's heritage;**

*Peel Town Archaeological Sites* is rare as an example of a frontier settlement representing the earliest phase in the Swan River Colony's foundation, and one of the earliest settlement sites in the State.

*Peel Town Archaeological Sites* is rare for its associations with Thomas Peel, a prominent Western Australian settler, and one who became notorious for the failure of his attempted establishment of a large association of early settlers under the British Government's land grant scheme in Western Australia.

*Peel Town Archaeological Sites* is rare as an extensive and intact archaeological site dating to the c.1829-30 period.

**11(c) Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Western Australia's history;**

*Peel Town Archaeological Sites*, and its association with the latter phase of the spread of the British Empire across the globe, and this formative phase of Western Australia's history, has the potential, through archaeological investigation, to provide important information about conditions of class and labour relations in the State.

*Peel Town Archaeological Sites* has the potential, through archaeological investigation, to reveal evidence of the way of life and adaptive processes of some of the earliest settlers in Western Australia, and to reveal information about the items they brought with them, how they coped with their dire circumstances, and how they related to one another.

The material uncovered during the archaeological investigation of *Peel Town Archaeological Sites*, and its analysis in the context of the spread of the British Empire across the globe during this period, has a high degree of comparative potential in understanding the colonial experience on a global scale.

*Peel Town Archaeological Sites* can contribute valuable information about the establishment of British colonies in the far flung reaches of the Empire, often under ill-conceived policies unsuited to the circumstances and realities of the colonial experience, and how those in the colonies themselves coped with this situation.

*Peel Town Archaeological Sites* is highly intact due to much of its bushland location having been largely undisturbed since the settlement was abandoned.

*Peel Town Archaeological Sites* is unique as a very early colonial settlement area that was abandoned after less than a year thereby providing a 'time capsule' for which occupation dates are known, a relatively rare occurrence for land-based archaeological sites.

**11(d) Its importance in demonstrating the characteristics of a broader class of places;**

*Peel Town Archaeological Sites* provides a representative example of the material conditions of the earliest settlements in Western Australia.

*Peel Town Archaeological Sites* provides a representative example of the temporary and often unsuccessful settlements established in the earliest period of the settlement in the State, with the archaeological evidence having the potential to provide information about the means by which the occupants of the site coped with the poor conditions in which they found themselves.

**11(e) Any strong or special meaning it may have for any group or community because of social, cultural or spiritual associations;**

*Peel Town Archaeological Sites* is valued by the Western Australian community, and in particular by archaeologists, historians, and heritage practitioners for its associations with founding settlers in the State, and for the important contributions the place can make to our knowledge of this phase in our history.

Beeliar Regional Park, in which *Peel Town Archaeological Sites* is situated, is valued by the community as a recreational area.

Naval Base Caravan Park has a high degree of value to the local community and to those who have frequented the place over the years for the purposes of camping and recreation.

**11(f)<sup>1</sup> Its importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by any group or community;**

*Peel Town Archaeological Sites*, situated within the Beeliar Regional Park at the foot of Mount Brown, is a relatively intact expanse of native coastal vegetation with views across the site and to Cockburn Sound from easily accessible elevated positions.

**11(g) Any special association it may have with the life or work of a person, group or organisation of importance in Western Australia's history;**

*Peel Town Archaeological Sites* is associated with prominent settler Thomas Peel and his unsuccessful settlement scheme.

**12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE**

**12.1 CONDITION**

*Peel Town Archaeological Sites* is in a ruinous state with little above surface physical remains. As an archaeological site the place is in an excellent condition with intact deposits exhibiting little evidence for disturbance.

The coastal vegetation of the wider Beeliar Regional Park is in good condition having been actively managed by the Department of Biodiversity, Conservation

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<sup>1</sup> For consistency, all references to architectural style are taken from Apperly, R., Irving, R., Reynolds, P. *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture. Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present*, Angus and Robertson, North Ryde, 1989.

For consistency, all references to garden and landscape types and styles are taken from Ramsay, J. *Parks, Gardens and Special Trees: A Classification and Assessment Method for the Register of the National Estate*, Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra, 1991, with additional reference to Richards, O. *Theoretical Framework for Designed Landscapes in WA*, unpublished report, 1997.

and Attractions (formerly Department of Parks and Wildlife, DEC/Conservation Commission), and the Local Government Authorities since 1997.

The Naval Base Caravan Park is in good condition having been maintained by its occupants and actively managed by the City of Cockburn.

## **12.2 INTEGRITY**

This section explains the extent to which the fabric is in its original state.

*Peel Town Archaeological Sites* has a high degree of integrity as an archaeological site with much of it having remained largely undisturbed for almost 180 years since being abandoned. Some disturbance has occurred in the south west portion of the site due to the c.1949-1980 occupation, as well as at its westernmost portion (Naval Base Caravan Park) with the construction of the Coogee to Kwinana Railway in 1954.

The coastal vegetation of the Beeliar Regional Park, which is a part of *Peel Town Archaeological Sites*, has a medium degree of integrity being a relatively rare extant remnant of coastal vegetation that was once widespread across the Swan Coastal Plain.

The Naval Base Caravan Park has a high degree of integrity retaining its original use as a recreational 'shack' settlement situated on Crown land.

## **12.3 AUTHENTICITY**

This section explains the extent to which the original intention is evident, and the compatibility of current use.

*Peel Town Archaeological Sites* has a high degree of authenticity. Although having lost much of the superstructure of the homes constructed by the settlers, and having been subjected to some deterioration due to post-depositional processes, the archaeological remnants of these occupation areas remain largely as they were deposited when the site was abandoned.

The coastal vegetation of the Beeliar Regional Park, which is a part of *Peel Town Archaeological Sites*, has a medium degree of authenticity as an extant remnant of coastal vegetation that has seen some clearing and re-vegetation throughout the twentieth century.

The Naval Base Caravan Park has a medium level of authenticity with much of the original fabric of the shacks having been replaced over time.

### 13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The documentation for this place is based on the heritage assessment completed by Dr Kelly Fleming in January 2013. It draws on the work of Dr Shane Burke, the primary researcher of the site, and other sources with amendments and/or additions by the Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage and the Heritage Council's Register Committee.

#### 13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

The following provides a brief summary of the history of P17868 *Peel Town Archaeological Sites*. Further discussion of the documentary evidence relating to the site can be found in the following sources:

- Shardlow, R & B (2006) 'Clarence: A Report on the Site of Clarence Town, 1830', Shardlow Marine Art and Research for The Maritime Heritage Association Inc.
- Burke, S (2007) 'The Archaeology of Clarence', in *Early Days: Journal of the Royal Western Australian Historical Society*. Vol. 13, Part 1.
- Statham Drew, P & Marchant James, R (2008) 'The Enigma of Clarence: Woodman Point or Mount Brown?' Paper presented to the Royal Western Australian Historical Society, 18 June 2008.
- Burke, S., Di Marco, P. & Meath, S. (2010) 'The land "flow[ing]...with milk and honey': Cultural landscape changes at Peel town, Western Australia, 1829-1830', in *Australasian Historical Archaeology*, 28.
- Burke, S. (2017). "Should we have Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata ... or a hot dinner?" Resource stress as an alternative to the abandonment of Peel Town, Swan River Colony, 1829-1830', in *Historical Archaeology*, 51, 487-505.
- Tomlinson, Lauren G., and Shane Burke (2021). 'The Archaeology of Resilience: A Case study from Peel town, Western Australia, 1829-1830'. *The International Journal of Historical Archaeology*, Vol. 26 (2): 32-42.

The westernmost part of the Australian continent saw periodic visitation by Dutch and French explorers through the 17th and 18th centuries. However, it was not until the 1820s with increased interest from the French in the southwest coastline that the British took formal possession of the area. In December 1826 a settlement was established at King George Sound (Albany). Following James Stirling's exploration of the Swan River the Swan River Colony was officially declared a British colony in 1829 with settlements established at Fremantle and Perth.

The Swan River Colony was established as a 'free' colony with private individuals organising settlement schemes in exchange for land grants from the government. The 'Conditions of Settlement' were directed at limiting government expenditure with the primary responsibilities for colonisation effectively being in the hands of private individuals.<sup>2</sup> Between June 1829 and April 1830, 36 passenger ships

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<sup>2</sup> Statham, P. (1981) Swan River Colony 1829-1850, pp. 181-210, in Stannage, C.T. (ed) A New History of Western Australia. University of Western Australia Press, Nedlands. p.183.

arrived in the colony carrying approximately 1500 settlers. This influx of people led to a number of temporary and transient settlements being established.<sup>3</sup>

Shortcomings of the 'Conditions of Settlement' for the Swan River Colony became quickly apparent. The assets that were deemed acceptable for land to be granted were often inappropriate, hindering the process of colonisation/settlement, while the requirement that every acre of the grant be improved resulted in the limited resources that were available being used inefficiently to meet the conditions.<sup>4</sup> The means of securing a labour force for the colony was also less than effective with indentured servants tied to their 'employers', while the lack of ready money further compounded the problems experienced.<sup>5</sup> Reports which exaggerated the extent of arable land resulted in further unpreparedness on behalf of the colonists, as did the lack of appropriate skills and experience of the initial settlement group.<sup>6</sup> All of the above resulted in conditions during the early period of the new colony quickly deteriorating. The lack of protection from the elements, inadequate supplies, and shortages of fresh food and water resulted in disease being rife, while drunkenness and discontent amongst idle servants added to the chaos.<sup>7</sup>

### **Peel Town**

As the name suggests, 'Peel Town' was occupied by settlers brought to the colony by Thomas Peel. Peel was the second cousin of prominent politician Sir Robert Peel who served as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom between 1834-1835 and again between 1841-1846.<sup>8</sup> The first members of Peel's group arrived aboard the *Gilmore* in December 1829.<sup>9</sup>

The conditions placed on Peel's promised land grant of 250,000 acres required that he and 400 people arrive in the colony before November 1829. Unfortunately this first ship, carrying 180 passengers, arrived six weeks shy of the deadline resulting in Peel's grant being assigned to others.<sup>10</sup> The settlers instead established a camp south of Fremantle, and when the second (*Hooghly*) and third ships (*Rockingham*) arrived in February and May 1830 respectively,<sup>11</sup> they joined the original group. This resulted in 500 people (about one third of the non-Indigenous population of Western Australia at that time) comprising members of

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3 Burke, S., Di Marco, P. & Meath, S. (2010) 'The land "flow[ing]...with milk and honey': Cultural landscape changes at Peel town, Western Australia, 1829-1830. *Australasian Historical Archaeology*, 28. p. 5.

4 Statham, P. (1981) Swan River Colony 1829-1850, pp. 181-210, in Stannage, C.T. (ed) *A New History of Western Australia*. University of Western Australia Press, Nedlands. p.183-184.

5 *ibid.* p. 184.

6 *ibid.* p. 185.

7 *ibid.* p. 186.

8 'History of the UK Government, History – Past Prime Ministers, Sir Robert Peel 2<sup>nd</sup> Baronet, Conservative 1834 to 1835, 1841 to 1846'. Accessed 15 November 2013. <https://www.gov.uk/government/history/past-prime-ministers/robert-peel-2nd-baronet>

9 *The Times*, 5 August 1829 & Anonymous (1829a) 'Alphabetical List of Passengers 5 August to 15 December 1829', State Records Office WA, WAS 2084 Cons 5000, Item 657: 4, cited in Burke, S., Di Marco, P. & Meath, S. (2010) 'The land "flow[ing]...with milk and honey': Cultural landscape changes at Peel town, Western Australia, 1829-1830. *Australasian Historical Archaeology*, 28. p. 6.

10 *ibid.* p. 6.

11 Scott, D (1830) Shipping Report Hooghly P.J. Reeves, State Records Office WA, WAS 2941, Cons 36 Item 5:5; Scott, D (1830) Shipping Report Rockingham E. Halliburton, State Records Office WA, WAS 2941, Cons 36 Item 6:14 cited in Burke, S., Di Marco, P. & Meath, S. (2010) 'The land "flow[ing]...with milk and honey': Cultural landscape changes at Peel town, Western Australia, 1829-1830. *Australasian Historical Archaeology*, 28. p. 6.

the British middle classes and indentured servants and labourers, being camped at the site by May 1830.<sup>12</sup>

Descriptions of Peel Town, which was also referred to as Clarence Town, Brighton or 'Canvas Town', were not favourable with its occupants living in a collection of ramshackle, makeshift structures, many of which were constructed from whatever was available.<sup>13</sup> Illness was rife, with at least 29 of the party dying within the first seven months.<sup>14</sup> It is understood these individuals, and possibly others, were buried at a graveyard located at Peel Town. The situation was compounded by the fact that Peel seemed either unable or unwilling to actively manage the situation by offering options to improve conditions. Instead Peel effectively left the group to 'fend for themselves', resulting in Governor Stirling releasing many of Peel's indentured servants.<sup>15</sup> By November 1830 the camp was virtually deserted.<sup>16</sup>

A physical manifestation of the dire conditions in which Peel's settlers were living, and how they coped with this, is seen in an examination of microscopic sections of charcoal excavated from *Peel Town Archaeological Sites*. These indicated that initially, when the resources were available, the Peel Town occupants were burning timber cut from the local area. However, as time went on, and the site was likely denuded of fuel, the settlement party were probably burning their furniture, with non-native species such as oak and cedar being found in upper layers.<sup>17</sup>

For 120 years much of P17868 *Peel Town Archaeological Sites* remained largely undisturbed. The westernmost portion of the site, on which the Naval Base Caravan Park is currently situated, has been used as a holiday destination since 1933 by local families and the wider community.<sup>18</sup> The place was a 'local government controlled recreational and camping reserve [with] residents [paying]

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- 12 Burke, S., Di Marco, P. & Meath, S. (2010) 'The land "flow[ing]...with milk and honey': Cultural landscape changes at Peel town, Western Australia, 1829-1830. *Australasian Historical Archaeology*, 28. pp. 5-6.
- 13 Bayly, G (1830) 'Journal of Voyages to Various Parts of the World', Battye Library ACC 5106A/3 & *Sydney Gazette* 20 May 1830 cited in Burke, S., Di Marco, P. & Meath, S. (2010) 'The land "flow[ing]...with milk and honey': Cultural landscape changes at Peel town, Western Australia, 1829-1830. *Australasian Historical Archaeology*, 28. p. 6.
- 14 Collie, A (1830) 'Report of an enquiry into the causes of sickness represented to the magistrates in Quarter Session assembled, to exist among Thomas Peels Settlers at, or in the neighbourhood of, Clarence and of measures which may be adopted for alleviating'. State Records Office Acc 36 V8 p. 20 cited in Burke, S (2007) 'The Archaeology of Clarence', in *Early Days: Journal of the Royal Western Australian Historical Society*. Vol. 13, Part 1.
- 15 Bayly, G (1830) 'Journal of Voyages to Various Parts of the World', Battye Library ACC 5106A/3; Leake, G (1830) 'Releasing 6 Men from the Servitude of Mr Peel', SRO WA WAS 2941 Cons 36 Item 7: 163-165 Henty, J, Leake, G and Bannister, T (1830) 'Releasing 5 Men from the Servitude of Mr Peel', SRO WA WAS 2941 Cons 36 Item 7: 184-187 cited in Burke, S., Di Marco, P. & Meath, S. (2010) 'The land "flow[ing]...with milk and honey': Cultural landscape changes at Peel town, Western Australia, 1829-1830. *Australasian Historical Archaeology*, 28. p. 6.
- 16 Meares, R.G (1830) Letter to J. Roe. State Records Office WA, WAS 1856, Cons 5000, Item SDUR M1-67 cited in Burke, S., Di Marco, P. & Meath, S. (2010) 'The land "flow[ing]...with milk and honey': Cultural landscape changes at Peel town, Western Australia, 1829-1830. *Australasian Historical Archaeology*, 28. p. 6.
- 17 Paper presented by Dr Burke at the Australasian Society for Historical Archaeology Conference held in Fremantle in October 2012 on the results of his preliminary analysis of charcoal samples excavated from hearths at Peel Town Archaeological Sites.
- 18 'Naval Base Holiday Park Heritage Area', City of Cockburn Local Planning Policy, adopted June 2012.

a small leasing fee'.<sup>19</sup> In 1954 a railway line, running north-east between Coogee and Kwinana, was constructed through this portion of the site.<sup>20</sup> Between c.1949 and c.1980 there was a small settlement of dwellings in the southwest portion of the site east of Cockburn Road.<sup>21</sup> By 1974 approximately 90 dwellings had been constructed covering about forty percent of the site east of Cockburn Road.<sup>22</sup> Information suggests that these dwellings were an extension of the Naval Base Caravan Park, with correspondence between the Minister for Lands and the Under Secretary for Lands noting that an area of 91 acres was leased to the Fremantle Road Board for 25 years commencing in January 1949.<sup>23</sup> The Fremantle Road Board allowed private individuals to erect bungalows on the site which included approximately 22 ½ acres to the east of Naval Base Road (now Cockburn Road).<sup>24</sup> In other correspondence these cottages are described as 'weekend shacks' and the site a 'weekend resort' and, while a subdivision was discussed and surveyed, only the roads appear to have been 'formalised'.<sup>25</sup> A newspaper article dating to March 1978 suggests that, although never intended to be permanently occupied, the residents of these cottages may in fact have taken up residence in a more permanent manner, with objections to the move to evict the occupants at the end of their leases noting that some were pensioners who had been in the area for some time.<sup>26</sup> Aerial photographs indicate that by 1981 the cottages had largely been removed, with the remainder having been removed by 1985.<sup>27</sup>

In Australia, a tradition was developed during the early twentieth century of erecting informal shacks, largely on unallocated Crown land for the purpose of recreation.<sup>28</sup> These became a common feature of Western Australia, particularly in coastal areas.<sup>29</sup> The shacks constructed at the Naval Base Caravan Park site originally comprised a caravan with a permanent walled annexe extension. However, over time permanent shacks were constructed from assorted building fabric.<sup>30</sup> The shacks at Naval Base Caravan Park became more uniform in style as opposed to the 'idiosyncratic' nature of other shack settlements that remained essentially 'squatter' type settlements.<sup>31</sup>

*Peel Town Archaeological Sites* is situated within the Beeliar Regional Park. The management of the Beeliar Wetlands as a single entity was first raised by the

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- 19 Godden Mackay Logan (2012) 'Wedge and Grey Shack Settlements – Cultural Heritage Assessment', completed for the National Trust (WA) in April 2012. p. 122.
- 20 *The West Australian*, Wednesday 19 May 1954. p. 6; Landgate Historical Aerial Imagery 1965 & 1979.
- 21 Landgate Historical Aerial Imagery 1953, 1965, 1974, 1979, 1981, 1985 & 1995.
- 22 Landgate Historical Aerial Imagery 1953, 1965, 1974, 1979, 1981, 1985 & 1995.
- 23 Letter and plans from the Under Secretary of Lands to the Hon. Minister for Lands in 14<sup>th</sup> September 1955 titled re: Naval Base. 1018/54. Copies provided to the then State Heritage Office by Dr Shane Burke 30 December 2013.
- 24 *ibid.*
- 25 *ibid.*
- 26 'We surrender, say residents' by Peter Malone, in *Fremantle-Cockburn News*, Wednesday 15 March 1978. p.1 & 6.
- 27 Landgate Historical Aerial Imagery 1981, 1985 & 1995.
- 28 Godden Mackay Logan (2012) 'Wedge and Grey Shack Settlements – Cultural Heritage Assessment', completed for the National Trust (WA) in April 2012. p. 16.
- 29 *ibid.* p. 23.
- 30 'Naval Base Holiday Park Heritage Area', City of Cockburn Local Planning Policy, adopted June 2012.
- 31 Godden Mackay Logan (2012) 'Wedge and Grey Shack Settlements – Cultural Heritage Assessment', completed for the National Trust (WA) in April 2012. p. 122 & 127.

Wetlands Conservation Society in 1986.<sup>32</sup> In 1992 the report entitled 'Beeliar Regional Park Proposals for Establishment, Administration and Use' established the boundary for the Regional Park, and in 1997 the State government committed to the introduction of legislation that would provide regional parks with legal status, and vesting in the Conservation Commission.<sup>33</sup>

Reserve details from Landgate indicate that with the completion of the Management Plan in 2006 Reserve 39584, the majority of *Peel Town Archaeological Sites*, was vested in the Conservation Commission becoming part of the Beeliar Regional Park.<sup>34</sup> The Management Plan notes the wider Beeliar Regional Park has a high level of 'nature conservation value due to its rich diversity and complexity of ecosystems, with the vegetation contained within the Park being significant as a remnant of that which was once widespread across the Swan Coastal Plain which has now been largely cleared'.<sup>35</sup> The Management Plan also makes note of the Park's cultural, landscape, recreational and educational/research values.<sup>36</sup> Visitor surveys in 1998 indicated that surrounding residents used the Park on a daily basis for a range of reasons, while further surveys in 2001 indicated that walking, bike riding, and birdwatching/observing wildlife were popular activities at various locations across Beeliar Regional Park for both locals and other visitors to the area.<sup>37</sup>

For many years the location of Peel's party's initial camp site was believed to be located at Woodman Point. However, recent analysis of the historical documentary sources, archaeological surveys at both locations, and the subsequent discoveries at the foot of Mount Brown, have called into question these earlier conclusions about the site's location. The following provides a brief history of the discovery of *Peel Town Archaeological Sites* and a summary of the debate.<sup>38</sup>

### **Re-discovering Peel Town**

In 1998, 2005 and 2006 Dr Shane Burke, now a lecturer in Archaeology at the University of Notre Dame in Fremantle, undertook pedestrian reconnaissance of portions of Woodman Point in an attempt to locate archaeological material related to the original Clarence Townsite.<sup>39</sup> However, no evidence indicating a c.1829 occupation of the site was located. Dr Burke returned to the primary historical

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32 Conservation Commission (2006) 'Beeliar Regional Park Management Plan, Management Plan No. 57'. p. 3.  
33 *ibid.* p. 2.  
34 Reserve Enquiry, Landgate – Reserve No. 39584, accessed 3 December 2013; Conservation Commission (2006) 'Beeliar Regional Park Management Plan, Management Plan No. 57'. p. 2.  
35 Conservation Commission (2006) 'Beeliar Regional Park Management Plan, Management Plan No.57'. p. 3.  
36 *ibid.* p.3-4.  
37 *ibid.* p.42.  
38 For further on the debate about the location of Peel's settlement site see the following: Shardlow, R & B (2006) 'Clarence: A Report on the Site of Clarence Town, 1830', Shardlow Marine Art and Research for The Maritime Heritage Association Inc.; Burke, S (2007) 'The Archaeology of Clarence', in *Early Days: Journal of the Royal Western Australian Historical Society*. Vol. 13, Part 1; Statham Drew, P & Marchant James, R (2008) 'The Enigma of Clarence: Woodman Point or Mount Brown?' Paper presented to the Royal Western Australian Historical Society, 18 June 2008; Burke, S., Di Marco, P. & Meath, S. (2010) 'The land "flow[ing]...with milk and honey': Cultural landscape changes at Peel town, Western Australia, 1829-1830', In *Australasian Historical Archaeology*, 28.  
39 Burke, S., Di Marco, P. & Meath, S. (2010) 'The land "flow[ing]...with milk and honey': Cultural landscape changes at Peel town, Western Australia, 1829-1830. *Australasian Historical Archaeology*, 28. p. 6.

sources and formed a hypothesis that the site occupied by Peel's settlers may in fact have been located 6km further south, near Mount Brown.<sup>40</sup>

In March 2006, during a community liaison meeting held to provide an update on the Outer Harbour Port Project, Fremantle Ports were advised, by Maritime Heritage Association representative Ross Shardlow, that his research indicated that there was some potential for a proposed extension to Rowley Road to impact on the site of 'Clarence' (here referred to as *Peel Town Archaeological Sites*). Fremantle Ports acknowledged that they were not aware of the site and requested that a report be prepared to allow for better informed planning decisions.

In November 2006 a report, authored by Shardlow Marine Art and Research for The Maritime Heritage Association and titled 'Clarence: A Report on the Site of Clarence Town, 1830' was completed.<sup>41</sup> The report presented evidence that the Peel party's settlement site was located at Mount Brown and not Woodman Point as had been previously thought.

Between November 2005 and April 2007 Dr Burke completed surveys of the Mount Brown area resulting in the discovery of artefacts dating to the 1820s providing support for his hypothesis. Dr Burke subsequently commenced further investigations of the site uncovering numerous mounds of sand and limestone rubble, dense artefact scatters, and other isolated finds.<sup>42</sup> Excavation of a number of these sites throughout 2007 and 2008 revealed tent pads constructed from local limestone cobbles (some with brick hearths), tent pegs, window glass, and a rich collection of archaeological finds totalling between 30,000 and 40,000 artefacts with many able to be dated to the c.1829 period.<sup>43</sup>

Following these discoveries Dr Burke did a presentation on Peel Town, which was subsequently published in the Royal Western Australian Historical Society Journal in 2007.<sup>44</sup> The paper outlined what had been uncovered to date, both archaeologically and in the historical documentary sources, indicating this site was a more likely location for Peel's settler's site.

### **An Opposing View**

In June 2008 historians Pamela Statham Drew and Ruth Marchant James co-authored a paper providing an opposing view to Dr Burke's assertion that the archaeological excavations at Peel Town were uncovering evidence of Peel's party's original camp site location. Although Statham Drew and Marchant James do not necessarily refute the evidence that the site at Mount Brown was occupied by some of Peel's party, they do not agree with Dr Burke's assertion that this was the 'initial' settlement site.

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40 Burke, S (2007) 'The Archaeology of Clarence' in *Early Days: Journal of the Royal Western Australian Historical Society*. Vol. 13, Part 1. pp. 137-139; Burke, S., Di Marco, P. & Meath, S. (2010) 'The land "flow[ing]...with milk and honey": Cultural landscape changes at Peel town, Western Australia, 1829-1830. *Australasian Historical Archaeology*, 28. p. 6.

41 Shardlow, R & B (2006) 'Clarence: A Report on the Site of Clarence Town, 1830', Shardlow Marine Art and Research for The Maritime Heritage Association Inc.

42 Burke, S., Di Marco, P. & Meath, S. (2010) 'The land "flow[ing]...with milk and honey": Cultural landscape changes at Peel town, Western Australia, 1829-1830. *Australasian Historical Archaeology*, 28. p. 6.

43 Burke, S (2007) 'The Archaeology of Clarence' in *Early Days: Journal of the Royal Western Australian Historical Society*. Vol. 13, Part 1. p. 142.

44 *ibid.* pp. 137-139.

Statham Drew and Marchant James support the long held view that Peel's settlers established their initial camp at Woodman Point, approximately 6 kilometres north of Mount Brown. Their paper cites various historical sources that provide support for their position, and they suggest that any physical evidence for this initial settlement would have long since disappeared due to continued development of the area. In addition they argue that the archaeological material being uncovered by Dr Burke relates to occupation of the site by Peel and a small group of his 'most trusted men [who] moved with their families some months after arrival.'<sup>45</sup>

### **Evaluation of the Evidence**

Although Statham Drew and Marchant James provide a detailed argument, and a comprehensive analysis of the documentary evidence in support of their position, some of their evidence is inconclusive. For example, the assertion that there would be little or no extant physical evidence associated with the settlement at Woodman Point<sup>46</sup> cannot be supported.

Although there are sections of Woodman Point that have been subjected to development, there are other areas that remain relatively undisturbed where some evidence for the settlement should be visible. A settlement occupied by 500 people for a period of ten months would leave relatively substantial archaeological deposits more consistent with those being uncovered at *Peel Town Archaeological Sites*.

However, the archaeological investigation of *Peel Town Archaeological Sites* is ongoing and new information is constantly being uncovered. The analysis of the excavated material will therefore continue for many years. Further investigation and analysis of the historical documentary sources, to compliment and inform the excavation is also continuing. This ongoing research and analysis may provide more conclusive evidence about the site and its occupation.

The above debate will likely continue into the future, and irrefutable evidence as to whether this was the initial site of Peel's settler's camp may never be found. Nevertheless, the extent of the archaeological material and features so far uncovered at the Mount Brown site, confirmation that they date to the c.1829 period and the area was occupied by members of Peel's group, makes it both an important and rare glimpse of this early settlement period in Western Australia.

Naval Base Caravan Park continues to be used as a holiday destination. It was entered in the City of Cockburn Municipal Inventory in 2004 and entered in their Town Planning Scheme in 2012.<sup>47</sup>

As noted above, the archaeological investigations and analysis of *Peel Town Archaeological Sites* continue. Dr Burke continues to communicate his findings through presentations and journal articles.

## **13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE**

*Peel Town Archaeological Sites* comprises an area of approximately 435,000m<sup>2</sup> (43.5 hectares) of natural bushland containing archaeological remains dating to

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<sup>45</sup> Statham Drew, P & Marchant James, R (2008) *The Enigma of Clarence: Woodman Point or Mount Brown?* Paper presented to the Royal Western Australian Historical Society, 18 June 2008. p.2.

<sup>46</sup> *ibid.* p.8-9.

<sup>47</sup> Historic Heritage database entry for P16994 Naval Base Caravan Park; 'Naval Base Holiday Park Heritage Area', City of Cockburn Local Planning Policy, adopted June 2012.

c.1829, and believed to be the remains of occupation of the site by members of Peel's failed settlement group. The site is spread across the western slope, which is covered with coastal vegetation, and which rises gradually towards Mount Brown in the south east quadrant. A series of sandy tracks wind across the site, and Cockburn Road cuts through the site's western boundary. In the site's north western perimeter is the Naval Base Caravan Park and a small car parking area is adjacent and across Cockburn Road. The Naval Base Caravan Park (c.1933) comprises six rows of campsites and 178 holiday shacks covering a 4.5 hectare (45,500m<sup>2</sup>) area.<sup>48</sup> The site is part of the Beeliar Regional Park.

The wider Peel Town site comprises a series of c.1829 occupation areas which have been identified through archaeological excavation. These include limestone tent pads, hearths constructed from limestone and brick, other dwellings constructed from various materials including timber and canvas, and associated artefacts and features. A description of the sites identified to date, summarised from Burke, S (2013) 'Brief report on sites uncovered during excavations at *Peel Town Archaeological Sites* provided to the Department via email by Dr Burke in November 2013, is below.<sup>49</sup>

### **Site 1**

Excavated between April and July 2007, the site contains two areas, one limestone cobble floor mortared with lime, the other a yellow brick hearth attached to a limestone floor. Carbonised timber, cast iron spikes and window glass was also uncovered as well as other associated artefacts. A rubbish disposal area was excavated five metres to the north which contained ceramics, glass, and personal items. The site has been interpreted as the remains of a pre-fabricated structure with glazed windows which was possibly the camp's public house. The site may have been occupied by the Bailey or Elmslie family.<sup>50</sup>

### **Site 2**

Excavated between July 2007 and January 2008, the site comprises three areas including a dry stone limestone wall, a limestone and yellow brick hearth, and a limestone and yellow brick fireplace or oven. Artefacts uncovered include brass thimbles, dressmaker's pins, buttons and scissors. The site has been interpreted as having comprised a makeshift structure probably built from local timber, canvas and scavenged ship parts, and may have been occupied by the Crisp family.

### **Site 3**

Excavated between July 2008 and February 2009, the site comprises a limestone and yellow brick fireplace, remnant tent posts, window glass, fragmentary ceramic tableware and personal items. The site has been interpreted as representing material remains associated with a pre-fabricated structure with a limestone and brick fireplace which was possibly occupied by the family of surgeon Dr John Lyttleton.

### **Site 4**

Excavation of Site 4 commenced in April 2009 and continued through November 2013. The site comprises limestone rubble and yellow brick fragments, likely a

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48 'Naval Base Holiday Park Heritage Area', City of Cockburn Local Planning Policy, adopted June 2012.

49 Information provided to the then State Heritage Office by Dr Shane Burke in November 2012.

50 Burke, S (2012) 'Brief report on sites uncovered during excavations at *Peel Town Archaeological Sites*. Provided to the then State Heritage Office via email by Dr Burke in November 2012.

hearth/fireplace associated with evidence for timber posts, and artefacts including tableware, personal items, clay pipes, ash and charcoal. The site has been interpreted as the remains of a structure occupied by G.W. Barrows (or Barron) between approximately February and August 1830, and later by the Bailey family until at least February 1831. The site has been subjected to some disturbance by collectors c.1970.

#### **Site 5**

Excavation of Site 5 commenced in September 2011 and continued through November 2013. The site comprises a mound of limestone and sand near a track marked on Smythe's 1830 map. There is no structure marked at this location on the map but Dr Burke has hypothesised that this area was not used until after the arrival of the *Hooghly* in Feb 1830. Bayly mentions passengers from the *Hooghly* placing their tents facing the track. Excavations indicate this site was a quarry and rubbish disposal area.

The area excavated to the northwest of the disposal area contained a large collection of personal and structural items, including copper and iron nails and blue slate roof tiles. It is in close proximity to the area believed to have been occupied by the settlers from the *Hooghly*.

#### **Site 6**

Site 6 is a small limestone and sand mound near the location of Smythe's track which may be a structure/dwelling. The site had not yet been excavated in November 2013.

#### **Site 7**

Site 7 comprises a large limestone and sand mound near the location of Smythe's track which may be a structure/dwelling. The site had not yet been excavated in November 2013.

#### **Site 8**

Site 8 comprises a small mound of limestone cobbles and sand surrounded by a low density c.1820 artefact scatter (Artefact Scatter C, see below) including bottle glass and tableware. Site 8 may be one of two structures marked on Smythe's map at this location. The site had not yet been excavated in November 2013.

#### **Site 9**

Site 9 comprises an elongated feature (approx. 2 metres) of cobble sized limestone and half a yellow brick alongside a track (c.1965/74) with a few c.1820 associated artefacts. Dr Burke has noted that this may be an area of disturbance associated with the track's construction (1965 and 1975). The site had not yet been excavated in November 2013.

#### **Site 10**

Excavation of Site 10 commenced in June 2011 to determine the southern boundary of *Peel Town Archaeological Sites*. Artefacts dating to c.1820 were recovered in the first area excavated. However, a series of 22 test pits further south recovered no additional c.1820 material. Excavations at Site 10 will continue in the future.

#### **Site 11**

Site 11 comprises a line of limestone cobbles (2 metres long) and a low density c.1820 artefact scatter. The site had not yet been excavated in November 2013.

### **Site 12**

Site 12 comprises a flight of steps cut into the limestone leading from the beach to near the area where Peel's store is believed to have been located, and where small boats are shown in Bayly's painting. The site was surveyed and recorded in April 2012.

### **Site 13**

Site 13 is an area of limestone modified to form flat or gently sloping shelves and a flight of stairs. A timber structure and iron bollard would suggest an area for mooring boats.

### **Artefact Scatter A**

Artefact Scatter A (also referred to as the Cockburn Road Artefact Scatter) comprises a low density c.1820 artefact scatter measuring 245 metres in length. The scatter has been exposed due to the construction of a firebreak.

### **Artefact Scatter B**

Artefact Scatter B comprises a low density c.1820 artefact scatter exposed by animal activity and motorbikes. The location of the scatter correlates with the track marked on Smythe's map and the line of tents shown on Bayly's painting and described in his diary.

### **Artefact Scatter C**

Artefact Scatter C comprises a c.1820 artefact scatter along a track which runs close by Sites 2, 8 & 9.

### **Artefact Scatter D**

Artefact Scatter D comprises a c.1820 artefact scatter eroding out of a track near Site 1.

### **Single Artefact Targets**

Multiple single artefacts (approx. 60) mainly comprising c.1820 ceramic and bottle glass have been recorded across the site.

### **Peel Town Cemetery**

A cemetery is marked on Smythe's 1830 map, and historical sources suggest at least 28 people may have died at the site. There is no physical evidence for a cemetery and no human remains have been recovered. Its location is believed to be on the site's western side to the west of Site 5 and north of Artefact Scatter B.

### **Wider Site**

The wider site contains evidence for some contamination (rubbish dumping) from the residential occupation and use that occurred in the area c.1949 to c.1980. However, due to its bushland location it has otherwise remained relatively undisturbed where other comparable sites have been built over.

### **Naval Base Caravan Park**

Covering approximately 4.5 hectares (45,500m<sup>2</sup>) along the western perimeter of *Peel Town Archaeological Sites*, west of Cockburn Road, is Naval Base Caravan Park. The place comprises six rows of campsites and 178 holiday shacks. It includes shacks constructed in the earliest period (c.1933), which comprise a caravan with a permanent walled annexe extension, and later shacks comprising assorted, often recycled building fabric. The shacks are largely oriented east-west and vary in their condition. They have no running water or external electricity

supply, with gas used to power fridges and stoves, and solar panels providing electricity. Communal taps provide a water supply. Two ablution blocks are situated on the site for the use by the residents.<sup>51</sup>

### 13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

#### Principal Australian Historic Theme(s)

- 2.4.4 Migrating through organised colonisation
- 3.16 Struggling with remoteness, hardship and failure
- 4.6 Remembering significance phases in the development of settlements, towns and cities

#### Heritage Council of Western Australia Theme(s)

- 101 Immigration, emigration and refugees
- 104 Land allocation and subdivision
- 108 Government policy
- 110 Resource exploitation and depletion
- 602 Early settlers
- 605 Famous and infamous people

#### Comparative Analysis

##### Early Settlement Sites

A search of the Historic Heritage database for places dated between 1826 to 1831 returns 39 entries. Ten of these have been entered in the State Register of Heritage Places:

- P896 *Round House and Arthur Head Reserve*, Fremantle
- P2164 *East Perth Cemeteries*
- P2867 *Balladong Farm Group*, York
- P3480 *Central Government Offices & Town Hall Precinct*, Perth
- P3570 *Old Burswood Canal*
- P3602 *Victoria Quay*, Fremantle
- P4112 *Edward's House & Archaeological Sites*
- P4183 *St Ronan's Well*, York
- P18879 *Olive Farm Cellars*, *South Guildford*
- P4082 *Meadow Street Precinct*, *Guildford* (RHP as part of P2915 *Guildford Historic Town*)

However, many of these are not comparable to *Peel Town Archaeological Sites* in form, function or with regard to the extent of the archaeological resource.

Of the other 29 places that are not entered in the State Register, the following have been identified as being somewhat comparable to *Peel Town Archaeological Sites*:

- P025 *Double-sided Fireplace*, Albany

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<sup>51</sup> 'Naval Base Holiday Park Heritage Area', City of Cockburn Local Planning Policy, adopted June 2012.

- P4501 Garden Island (incl. P18184 Cliff Point Historic Site) [HCWA Assessment Program]
- P4937 Bussell home site, Augusta
- P4966 The Landing Place – Cairn, Augusta
- P4973 Molloy’s House, Augusta
- P5051 Middle Island, Esperance
- P5675 Military Camp at Point MacLeod – Site, Bunbury
- P14561 Ellen’s Brook Estate Homestead, Belhus (includes P2536 *Henry Bull’s Cottage* – RHP 1997)
- P9397 John Wall Hardy’s Farm (archaeological site)
- P16234 Elizabeth Rowland’s Farm (fmr) (archaeological site), Maylands
- P16235 M & JS Clarkson’s Farmhouse (archaeological site), Maylands
- P16356 M & JS Clarkson’s Farm Buildings (archaeological site), Maylands

The last four places listed above are part of P11016 Maylands Peninsula which is in the Heritage Council’s Assessment Program. No information is readily available about them as individual places, other than that they are archaeological sites only. There is also limited information available about the extent of the archaeological remains at the other sites listed above and, although they are comparable for their period of occupation, and in that they are early occupation sites, *Peel Town Archaeological Sites* is unique in its status as possibly the earliest, most intact, and most extensive site associated with European settlement in Western Australia. It represents a rare and valuable source of information about the early settlement period that can be found in no other source, while also having the potential to answer numerous research questions about, early settlement, material conditions, life in the camps, adaptation to a new and harsh environment, interactions between the various groups present, resource exploitation, and reactions of the population to the highly stressful situation they found themselves in.

### **Thomas Peel**

A search of the Historic Heritage database returns three entries (excluding *Peel Town Archaeological Sites*) associated with Thomas Peel Snr:

- P1434 Sloan’s Cottage, Leda (Below Threshold 2009) – Thomas Peel previously owned the land on which the cottage is situated.
- P3307 Lowlands Homestead [Serpentine Farm], Mardella (Assessment Program 2003) – Originally owned by Thomas Peel the place was passed to his son (Thomas Peel Jnr.). The original part of the house is believed to have been built by Peel Snr. c.1830.<sup>52</sup>
- P3309 Barragup House and Outbuildings, Coodanup (Assessment Program 2005) – Thomas Peel owned the land on which the farm was located and is understood to have retained ownership of the original homestead on the property, the remains of which were washed away during

<sup>52</sup> Heritage Council, Backlog Review Form for P3309 Barragup House & Outbuildings, 28 October 2005.

a flood in 1962. The current house was occupied by Thomas Eacott, an indentured servant of Peel's.<sup>53</sup>

In addition, P3256 Peelhurst (ruins), Golden Bay is associated with Thomas Peel Jnr. while he was also the primary person responsible for the farm at Serpentine (P3307 Lowlands Homestead).

The above suggests that places associated with Thomas Peel (Snr) are rare.

### **Shack Settlements**

A more detailed description of shacks settlements can be found in the 2010 Public Inquiry by the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs into Shack Sites in Western Australia and the 2012 Cultural Heritage Assessment documentation prepared by Godden MacKay Logan. The following list identifies some comparable places to Naval Base Caravan Park which have been entered in the Historic Heritage database:

- P2150 *Beach house, Trigg Island* & P4044 Three Beach Houses, Trigg Island - This group of structures includes a single storey, timber framed structure clad in weatherboard with a corrugated iron roof and a two-level brick structure with asbestos cement roof sheeting. The third structure of this group was assessed as a separate place, P2150 *Beach house, Trigg Island* which comprises a single-storey timber-framed, weatherboard and asbestos clad cottage with a corrugated galvanised iron roof built c.1914 before the lot was formalised in the 1930s. P4044 was Interim listed for inclusion on the State Register of Heritage Places in 1999 but was declined permanent entry. P2150 *Beach house, Trigg Island* was permanently listed in 2003.
- P14343 Peaceful Bay Settlement – Original - The Peaceful Bay settlement in Denmark contains 203 shacks along the primary sand dunes of the bay. The first shacks in the area were established by holidaymakers in the 1950s and the Shire of Denmark soon formalised the use of the area, releasing these sites as lots between the 1950s and 1980s.<sup>54</sup> The shacks are generally single storey timber and fibro or weatherboard buildings, situated on small lots and separated by native peppermint trees and narrow gravel lanes. These buildings are more formal in construction and arrangement due to the management of the Shire of Denmark.<sup>55</sup> The settlement underwent a draft heritage assessment in 2009 but has not progressed past stakeholder consultation.
- P15824 Sandy Cape Beach Shacks - This originally consisted of a small number of shacks constructed by local pastoralists as holiday shacks in the 1940s near Jurien Bay. This number grew to 55 shacks by 2001, and were generally single storey, timber framed structures clad with corrugated iron or fibro, with low pitched roofs.<sup>56</sup> The Shire of Dandaragan decided to remove these shacks in 2001, and kept a representative sample of three

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53 Heritage Council, Backlog Review Form for P3307 Lowlands Homestead, 29 August 2003.

54 Environment and Public Affairs Committee, 'Shack Sites in Western Australia,' p. 145

55 Environment and Public Affairs Committee, 'Shack Sites in Western Australia,' p. 146; 'Wedge and Grey Shack Settlements; Cultural Heritage Assessment', Godden Mackay Logan Heritage Consultants & Context Pty Ltd (National Trust: April 2012), p.102

56 Heritage nomination by the Sandy Cape Angling and Preservation Association Inc, February 2001, p. 3

shacks as 'museum pieces.' Unfortunately, these shacks were destroyed by vandals in late 2001 and were subsequently removed.

- P16177 Huts, D'Entrecasteaux National Park & P17517 Donnelly River Mouth Hut Precinct - These two entries cover a total of 62 shacks across the lower Donnelly River and Brooke Inlet in the D'Entrecasteaux National Park. The first shacks were built in the 1920s by pastoralists with the bulk of extant shacks built in between 1950-1975 by holidaymakers. The shacks are used on a temporary basis by families of the shack owners.<sup>57</sup> The shacks appear to be single storey structures with low pitched gable or skillion roofs, clad in fibro, corrugated iron or wooden shingles.<sup>58</sup> Three of these shacks were assessed in 2000 as demonstrating cultural heritage value. <sup>59</sup> Both are in the assessment program.
- P16806 Emu Point Cottages - The entry refers to a group of four holiday cottages along the coastal dune in Albany, single-storey timber framed vernacular cottages dating to the first half of the twentieth century, with the earliest dating back to the 1920s. The cottages were retained under a leasehold agreement and assessed under the Government Heritage Property Disposal Process in 2004 but were not listed on the State Register. The cottages were demolished after 2005.
- P14398 Parry's Beach Settlement - This originally consisted of a collection of beach shacks erected by professional fishermen and holidaymakers. The fishing village included shacks, a net shed and two lookouts under a lease arrangement. Fishermen using the area freighted their catch to market using the local railway line, and the Smith family used this industry to supply local retail shops as well as sending supplies to the goldfields. The extant structures are listed on the Shire of Denmark's Municipal Inventory.<sup>60</sup>
- P3387 Houtman Abrolhos Islands - This entry refers to both the islands and a number of structures associated with them, including jetties and crayfisher shacks, in particular Pigeon Island. These shacks are managed by the Western Rock Lobster Managed Fishery and the Department of Fisheries.<sup>61</sup>
- P15576 Fisherman's Shack (fmr) - This structure consists of small scale single storey cottage with fibreboard walls and corrugated iron roof, set near the beach at Two Peoples Bay. The shack is accompanied by a metal deck and corrugated iron outbuildings. The structure is considered a remnant from a group of post-war fishing shacks and is currently used by the DEC.
- P17933 Quinns Beach House and Shack - The house and shack are located on the beachfront. The house is a single storey timber framed fibrous cement clad structure with corrugated asbestos roof. The timber framed shack situated at the rear of the house is clad with weatherboards

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57 Environment and Public Affairs Committee, 'Shack Sites in Western Australia,' p. 121, 130

58 Ibid., p. 122

59 Department of Conservation and Land Management, *Shannon and D'Entrecasteaux National Parks Draft Management Plan*, (CALM:2005), p. 113

60 'Parry Beach Settlement,' *Shire of Denmark Municipal Inventory*, p. 33, 38, 298, 307-308

61 Environment and Public Affairs Committee, 'Shack Sites in Western Australia,' p. 53

and fibrous cement flat sheets and is a modified former fisherman's shack. The cottage and shack are listed on the City of Wanneroo's Municipal Inventory.

#### Other shack settlements in Western Australia

- The Dampier Archipelago contains 33 shacks on East Lewis Island, West Lewis Island and Malus Island, on reserves managed by the DEC. The shacks were built between the 1960s and 1980s.<sup>62</sup> Three abandoned shacks and the frames of previously abandoned shacks were also noted in 1990, which may have since been removed.<sup>63</sup>
- The Shire of Carnarvon manages 42 shacks on a reserve at Quobba, known as the Blowholes. Oral history places the earliest Blowholes shack construction in 1954, with new shack construction documented after 1985. The Blowholes shacks were historically utilised by Carnarvon residents, with the shack numbers augmented by caravans and camping on a seasonal basis.<sup>64</sup>
- The Shire of Northampton manages 31 shacks on a reserve at Lucky Bay, which are undergoing transfer into a 21 year lease arrangement which will also set general development guidelines with the possibility for future public access to the shacks.<sup>65</sup>
- The Inquiry into Shack sites in Western Australia noted 40 professional crayfisher shacks at Cliff Head, Dongara; 20 professional crayfisher shacks at Coolimba, Dongara and one shack managed at Israelite Bay by the Shire of Irwin. The inquiry also referred to approximately 220 huts situated in Windy Harbour, Manjimup, originally established in the early 1900s by local timber mill workers and formalised by lease arrangements in 1957.<sup>66</sup>

The above information indicates that Naval Base Caravan Park has some similarities to other shack sites in Western Australia. However, its management as a recreation site by the local government since its inception places Naval Base Caravan Park in a different category from the largely informal and idiosyncratic shack settlements more common to isolated regional locations.

#### **13.4 KEY REFERENCES**

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#### **13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH**

The research and archaeological investigations at *Peel Town Archaeological Sites* is ongoing, and as additional information is uncovered through archaeological excavation, survey, and analysis of both the physical and documentary material associated with the site, it will provide further data with regard to the debate surrounding the initial location of Peel's settlers' camp. In addition, further surveys

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62 Environment and Public Affairs Committee, 'Shack Sites in Western Australia,' p. 139

63 Department of Conservation and Land Management, *Dampier Archipelago Nature Reserves Management Plan*, (CALM:1990), p. 18

64 Environment and Public Affairs Committee, 'Shack Sites in Western Australia,' p. 169

65 Ibid., p. 177

66 Ibid., p.9, 45

and excavation of the Woodman Point site may yet reveal evidence for occupation, or confirm the absence of this.