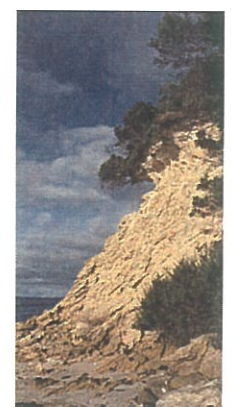
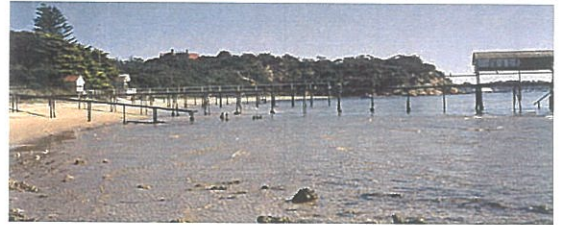


1803 Collins Settlement Site: Future Directions Management Plan

December 2002



1803 Collins Settlement Site: Future Directions Management Plan

**Final Report
December 2002**

**Prepared for
Parks Victoria &
Mornington Peninsula Shire**

Parks Victoria and the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council wish to acknowledge the traditional owners of this area, the Boonerwung (Bunurong) peoples.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Background

The *1803 Collins Settlement Site: Future Directions Management Plan* provides a vision, strategic directions, policies and actions to guide the future use and management of this significant heritage place.

The Plan covers an area of land along the Sorrento foreshore including Sullivan Bay, the Eastern and Western Sisters and a part of Camerons Bight. This area was the site of the 1803-4 British settlement led by Lieutenant-Governor Collins. The settlement area covered around one square kilometre. Both public and private land are covered by this Plan. Chapter 1 describes the place, the management context and the purpose of the Plan.

Consultation

The Plan has been developed through a process of consultation with a wide range of individuals and organisations. The Draft Plan was exhibited in July-August 2002 and seventeen submissions were received. These submissions were carefully considered in the preparation of the Final Plan.

Setting the scene

The heritage significance of this place arises from the 1803-4 Collins settlement which occurred at this site, the extensive areas of Aboriginal midden which demonstrate its long use by Aboriginal people, and the remnants of Coastal Moonah Woodland communities. The Plan describes the history, setting, landscape, vegetation and community values and then outlines its cultural and natural significance.

The key issues identified in developing this Plan include:

- the need to recognise and protect all aspects of the cultural and natural significance of the place;
- fragmentation of the public land areas within the study area, and the existing and potential impacts of adjoining development;
- the lack of an integrated approach to interpretation, visitor access and movement throughout the whole of the study area;
- environmental deterioration associated with weed invasion (especially on the Western Sister) and erosion; and
- the lack of an overall integrated approach to management, resourcing and funding across the whole of the study area.

Vision

The Plan presents a clear and cohesive vision for the future. This vision emphasises increased recognition and appreciation of the significance of this place in Victoria's history, through continuing community involvement and an integrated management approach to the protection and interpretation of its natural and cultural values.

Strategic directions & policies

To achieve this vision, the Plan presents the following strategic management directions (Chapter 5):

1. **Achieving effective conservation:** conserving the cultural and natural heritage values is the primary management goal on both public and private land.

-
2. **Creating a richer visitor experience:** creating new and improved visitor experiences and facilities to present the place as an integrated whole.
 3. **Telling all the stories:** interpreting the landscape to explain the history of this place including Aboriginal history, the 1803-4 Collins settlement and recent times.
 4. **Ownership of a shared vision:** the Plan provides a vision that needs to be communicated and owned by all the stakeholders, and developed further over time.
 5. **Celebrating 2003-4:** the bicentenary of the 1803-4 Collins settlement is a key time to build ownership and participation.
 6. **Developing secure and ongoing management:** seeking financial resources and achieving unified management of public land.

The six strategic directions are followed by a series of conservation policies designed to provide direction for all aspects of management to ensure that the heritage significance of this place is protected. The policies cover both public and private land. They provide the framework for, for example, assessing development proposals, determining when archaeological assessment is required and protecting the landscape and views.

Taking action

A Landscape Master Plan (Plan 9) has been developed as part of the planning process to provide a visual and descriptive summary of the key actions required to achieve the vision and strategic objectives.

Implementing the Plan will require development of detailed plans and designs including the development of a central focus for improved access and visitor facilities that enhances the sense of arrival, introduces the place, engages visitors' imagination and encourages visitors to explore the whole site. Most importantly, implementation will involve consideration of a single manager and an integrated management approach for the whole of the public land area.

Priorities

The most important areas for action in the next 12-18 months are:

- restoring and enhancing the Eastern Sister landscape, including the removal of the former Visitor Centre and undertaking cliff stabilisation works
- initiating vegetation and geotechnical management actions to protect and enhance the natural and cultural values of the Western Sister
- initiating a feasibility study for a new interpretive facility and preparing an interpretation plan for the whole study area
- developing and implementing designs for site entries, including identification and orientation signs
- investigating options for unified management across the whole of the study area
- developing a timetable and funding strategy to implement the plan, and
- engaging all of the key stakeholders in the implementation of the above priorities.

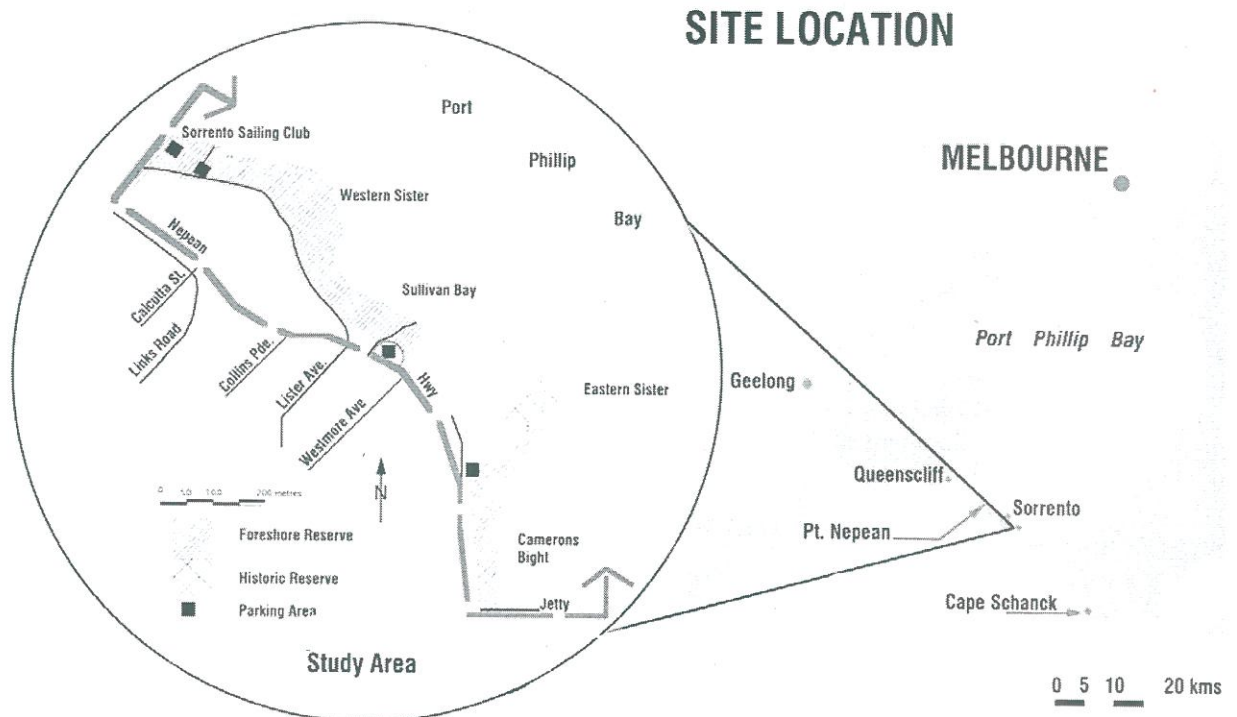
1 THE FUTURE DIRECTIONS MANAGEMENT PLAN

1.1 Preamble

Sullivan Bay - the site of the 1803-4 Collins settlement - is an important heritage place. It marks a significant phase in Victoria's history.

The 1803-4 Collins settlement extended over a large area along the shores of Sullivan Bay and inland between the Eastern and Western Sisters covering an area of around one square kilometre. Underlying parts of the area are Aboriginal middens that are at least 1750 years old. Some parts of the 1803-4 Collins settlement are in public ownership, and the balance is privately held.

Throughout this Plan, the study area is referred to as Sullivan Bay rather than the 1803 Collins Settlement Site. This naming convention has been used to include the many layers of natural and cultural heritage contained within this place.



1.2 The place

The Plan covers an area of 17.2 ha and comprises 7 ha of private land and 10.2 ha of public land including:

- the Collins Settlement Historic Reserve
- part of the Sorrento Foreshore Reserve
- part of the Foreshore Reserve between the Eastern Sister and White Cliffs
- freehold land on each of the Eastern and Western Sisters and along part of Sullivan Bay.

Plan 2: Existing Conditions shows the features of the study area and *Plan 3: Public and Private Land* shows the areas of public land (with land management responsibilities) and private land.

Private land is included in this Plan as a result of the listing of the 1803-4 Collins settlement site under the Heritage Overlay in the Mornington Peninsula Planning Scheme. The main areas of the 1803-4 Collins settlement are within the study area.

The Collins Settlement Historic Reserve contains a building, originally built as a private house, which was used as a Visitor Centre until its closure in May 2002. The building contained displays and information on the 1803 settlement and on Aboriginal use of the area. A path leads up to the former Visitor Centre from the car park off Leggett Way. A series of interpretive signs guides the visitor to and around the former Visitor Centre. The Visitor Centre was staffed largely by volunteers and used to open on weekends, public holidays and during school holidays. About 25,000 people visit the Historic Reserve each year, with an estimated 4000 people looking inside the former Visitor Centre during its limited opening hours or through a group booking. Visitor numbers across the whole of the study area are considered to exceed 100,000 people per year.¹

The foreshore areas are managed for a variety of recreation activities. There are two boating facilities: the Camerons Bight Boat Club jetty marks the eastern end of the study area and the Sorrento Sailing Club jetty marks the western boundary.

Sullivan Bay is contained between the cliffs of the Eastern and Western Sisters. It provides a sheltered beach that is very popular for swimming, picnics and beach-going, especially for generations of local people.

The freehold areas include properties between Leggett Way and Tideways; the boundary of some of these properties extends to high water mark. West of Tideways is a further group of private properties accessed from Point Nepean Road and a shared road/path along the old road alignment. There is a large Foreshore Reserve between these properties and the coast.

The Eastern and Western Sisters are important landscape features. The cliffs around each headland are eroding in parts², and access around the base is difficult and dangerous.

Over recent years the cultural and natural heritage values of this area have been recognised, resulting in the decision to prepare a Plan - this document - to guide all aspects of the use and development of this area.

1.3 Management framework

Management responsibility for public land (see *Plan 3: Public and Private Land*) within the study area is as follows:

- Parks Victoria manages the Collins Settlement Historic Reserve
- Mornington Peninsula Shire Council manages the Sorrento Foreshore Reserve
- the White Cliffs to Camerons Bight Committee of Management manages the Foreshore Reserve between the Eastern Sister and White Cliffs.

All public land, excluding Leggett Way, is reserved under the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978*. The Collins Settlement Historic Reserve is managed under Section 19B of the *National Parks Act 1975*.

Parks Victoria is assisted by an Advisory Group and the Friends of Collins Settlement Sorrento Inc. The Friends played a major role in staffing the former Visitor Centre and assist with interpreting the site to visitors, in weed removal and revegetation, and in events and activities.

The natural and cultural values of both public and private land are protected primarily through the Mornington Peninsula Planning Scheme combined with other heritage legislation. More specifically:

- All Aboriginal sites are protected under the *Archaeological and Aboriginal Relics Preservation Act 1972* and the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984*. Under the 1984 legislation, the Wurundjeri Tribe Land Compensation and Cultural Heritage



KEY

- | | | | |
|--|---------------|--|-------------------------|
| | SITE BOUNDARY | | ENTRANCE WAY |
| | COASTLINE | | PEDESTRIAN PATH NETWORK |
| | CLIFFS | | BITUMEN ROAD |
| | AREAS | | SHARED ROAD / PATHS |
| | PUBLIC | | INFORMAL CAR PARK |
| | PRIVATE | | STAIRS |

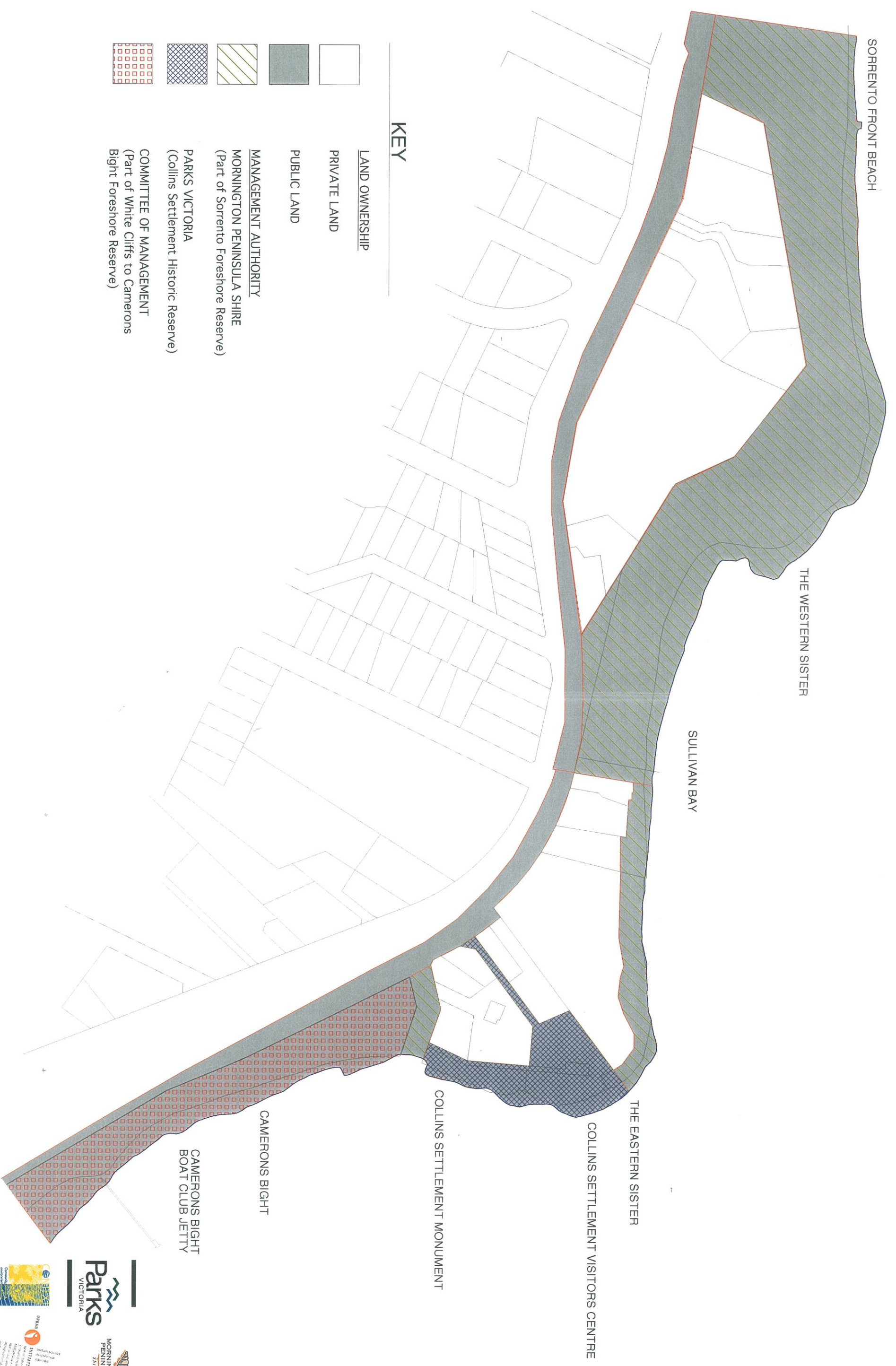
PLAN 2 EXISTING CONDITIONS

Parks Victoria
MORNINGTON PENINSULA 2017

Collins Settlement Site
Existing Conditions Plan
DATE: DECEMBER 2002
SCALE: 1:1000 @A4

0 10 20 30 40 50 METRES





KEY

LAND OWNERSHIP

PRIVATE LAND

PUBLIC LAND

MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

MORNINGTON PENINSULA SHIRE
(Part of Sorrento Foreshore Reserve)

PARKS VICTORIA
(Collins Settlement Historic Reserve)

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT
(Part of White Cliffs to Camerons
Bight Foreshore Reserve)

PLAN 3 PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LAND (EXISTING)

Parks Victoria
MORNINGTON PENINSULA SHIRE

PROJECT: Collins Settlement Site
 TITLE: Public and private land (existing)
 DATE: DECEMBER 2002
 CONTACT: 1 1000 @AD
 CONSULTANTS

Council Inc. exercises a statutory responsibility within the tribal Boonerwung (Bunurong) areas.

- The Graves Reserve, a part of the Historic Reserve is listed in the Victorian Heritage Register (Place No. H1050) and protected under the provisions of the Victorian *Heritage Act 1995*.
- The balance of the site is included on the Victorian Heritage Inventory (Nos. H7821-0001 Sullivan Bay (Eastern Sister), H7821-0075 Collins Settlement Western Sister, H7821-0074 Camerons Bight - Collins Settlement) or is automatically protected under statutory protection that the *Heritage Act 1995* gives to non-Aboriginal archaeological sites/relics more than 50 years old.
- Sullivan Bay Settlement Site was added to the Register of the National Estate in September 1982. The extent of the area included on the Register is the whole of the Collins Settlement Historic Reserve (ie. Lot 3, LP 66826, CA 65C Parish Nepean and Graves Reserve, 3074 Point Nepean Road and Leggett Way, Sorrento).
- Under the Mornington Peninsula Planning Scheme, the area is covered by a Heritage Overlay (HO255), plus a number of other overlays designed to protect the cultural significance and other special values of the area.

Further information on the heritage listings and planning and management framework are provided in Appendices 3 and 4.

1.4 This plan

Purpose

The Future Directions Management Plan is intended to provide a clear strategic planning framework that will:

- protect significant heritage values
- guide future development and use, and
- provide for ongoing management.

The Plan will also enable implementation of a number of actions to improve visitor experiences leading up to the major bicentennial event in October 2003.

Until now, there has not been a comprehensive plan for this area. The 1983 *First Settlement Site, Sorrento: Proposed Plan of Management* is now well out of date. There are management plans for the Foreshore Reserves³ but these do not provide the detailed guidance required for the management of such an important and sensitive place.

Approach

This Plan differs from many public land management plans in two important ways. First, it is fundamentally a Conservation Management Plan, developed in accordance with *The Burra Charter: The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance*. Second, it is also a Landscape Master Plan that seeks to guide new developments on both public land and private land.

The key steps in preparing the Future Directions Management Plan, have therefore been:

- understanding the significance of the place
- developing management directions and strategies
- developing specific policies to ensure that what is significant is kept and cared for, and that the opportunities for visitors are enhanced.

Community consultation has been an important part of the approach to the Plan. It has involved identifying interested individuals and organisations and keeping them informed throughout the project. A project brochure and questionnaire seeking input on significance and issues of concern was produced in July 2001, followed by a project update in December 2001. Throughout the project there have been regular meetings with the Steering Committee and meetings with the Collins Settlement Historic Site Advisory Group and Friends of Collins Settlement Sorrento Inc.

A community workshop to review the analysis and discuss issues and meetings with private property owners, government agencies, Aboriginal community representatives were held as part of the development of the draft plan. A number of submissions and phone calls were received from local community members and organisations.

The final step was the exhibition of the Draft Plan in July-August 2002, and consideration of the submissions received (see Appendix 2).

Structure

This report is divided into seven chapters:

Chapter 1 - *The Future Directions Management Plan* - introduces the Plan.

Chapter 2 - *Understanding the place* - describes the area in some detail.

Chapter 3 - *Why is this place important?* - discusses the natural and cultural significance of the area and provides an integrated Statement of Significance.

Chapter 4 - *Issues & opportunities* - analyses issues and stakeholders' interests across the whole study area, and for a series of landscape Areas.

Chapter 5 - *Protecting this place for the future: The Future Directions Plan* - presents a future vision, strategic directions, a framework of policies and the landscape master plan.

Chapter 6 - *Practical actions* - presents the key recommended actions for Sullivan Bay and each of the six Areas.

Chapter 7 - *Acting on this Plan* - presents recommended implementation actions.

Project team

Parks Victoria and the Mornington Peninsula Shire commissioned the preparation of this Future Directions Management Plan. This plan has been prepared by a consultant team led by Chris Johnston (Context) and Tim Hart (Urban Initiatives). Other team members include Andrew McMahan (Director, Ecology Australia), Kirsty Lewis (Archaeologist, Context) and Sarah McCormack (Landscape Architect, Urban Initiatives).

Their work has been guided by a Steering Committee comprising: Kevin Yorke (Parks Victoria); Peter Brown (Mornington Peninsula Shire); Rachel Hornsby, Sally Burgess, Nora van Waarden and Tania Stellini (Dept. Natural Resources and Environment), Des Young (Collins Site Advisory Group), and Mike McIntyre (Heritage Victoria).

Acknowledgements

The consultants appreciate the guidance provided by the Steering Committee and the many contributions from the wider community that have helped shape the plan.

Parks Victoria and the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council wish to acknowledge the representatives of the Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation, the Victorian Boonerwung Elders Land Council Aboriginal Corporation and the Wurundjeri Tribe Land Compensation and Cultural Heritage Council Inc., and we wish to also acknowledge the Kulin Nation Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation and Aboriginal Affairs Victoria for their contribution to this plan.

2 UNDERSTANDING THIS PLACE

2.1 History

Sullivan Bay and the two Sisters reflect a complex and layered history, some of it known and much as yet unknown.

Its Aboriginal history goes back thousands of years, recording dramatic landscape changes and significant community events. Important stories are still known within the community and offer a rich understanding of the environment and the culture.

The arrival of the British explorers Murray and Flinders in 1802 in Port Phillip Bay started a process of Aboriginal dispossession. The next year, the Collins Settlement displaced people from their traditional shellfish harvesting camps at Sullivan Bay. Later on came the kidnap of Boonerwung (Bunurong) women by whalers and sealers.

By the time Melbourne was 'founded' there had been more than 30 years of contact, displacement and cultural conflict.

At Sullivan Bay, these stories intersect, linking this place to other times and other places. This section looks briefly at what is known today, and the evidence that survives. More research is needed.

Aboriginal history

Aboriginal people have lived in the Port Phillip area for millennia.

Port Phillip Bay was once a broad alluvial plain, with the Mornington Peninsula a range of hills that divided the Port Phillip and Western Port valleys. By about 9,000 years ago, at the end of the glacial period and with rising sea level, Port Phillip was quickly flooded. For a time sea levels may have been higher than at present.⁴

Aboriginal oral history records this massive landscape change. For example, evidence presented at the 1858-59 Select Committee of the Legislative Council on Aborigines records:

*Blacks say that 'their uncle' (unspecified for all progenitors) recalled when Hobsons Bay was a kangaroo ground. They say 'plenty catch kangaroo and plenty catch possum there' and Murray (an Aboriginal) assured me that the passage up the Bay, through which the ships came is the River Yarra, and that the River once went out at the heads, but that the sea broke in, and that Hobsons Bay, which was once a hunting ground, became what it is.*⁵

The Southern Peninsula landscape is formed of ancient dunes, now solidified into calcarenite, with cappings of later sands. A wide variety of food resources were available, and the middens at Sullivan Bay demonstrate that shellfish were regularly collected. As well as the bayside coast, the Bass Strait coast and the landscape between offered other possibilities. An access track between the Western Sister and a lookout over Bass Strait at St Pauls that was used in 1803, was probably an Aboriginal track.⁶

The Boonerwung (Bunurong) people occupied a wide area of land. The Mornington Peninsula and this site are within their country.

European exploration of the southern part of Australia by the French and the British resulted in Lieutenant Murray entering Port Phillip Bay in February 1802 and remaining there until March. Visits by Flinders (also in 1802) and Lieutenant Grimes in 1803 followed. Based on the records of the colonists, there was relatively little contact with Boonerwung (Bunurong) people. One of only two recorded face-to-face contacts however, resulted in tragedy. Murray came into conflict with some Aboriginal people, resulting in the death of one or more Aboriginal people.

The sealing industry started in Bass Strait around 1789, and Western Port and probably Port Phillip were visited regularly. Boonerwung (Bunurong) history records the kidnap of women by sealers from the southern part of the Peninsula (and their return).

Aboriginal sites

Plan 4: Cultural Heritage Elements shows areas containing Aboriginal middens and unsurveyed areas with the potential to contain Aboriginal cultural heritage sites.

A 1981 study of Aboriginal sites on the Mornington Peninsula (Sullivan 1981) identified six coastal midden sites within the study area.⁷

Two of these sites occur on the calcarenite headlands of the Sisters and are quite different from the rest of the Port Phillip Bay sites identified in the study. Both these sites have a complex stratigraphy with 3-4 layers (2-10cm thick) of shell and charcoal visible in the 1.5 m of sand and soil between the top and bottom layers.

Two of the four sites recorded at The Sisters were assessed as being highly significant (because of their layering/stratification) and at high risk of damage through natural and human actions, therefore requiring protection from disturbance/erosion and regular monitoring. Aboriginal Affairs Victoria (AAV) advises that monitoring of sites has been on an informal and 'as needs' basis to date.

Stone artefacts have also been recorded at Sullivan Bay.⁸

Historical accounts from the 1803 settlement also recorded the extensive deposits of shells 'in great abundance underground in every part' and the accidental finding of an Aboriginal burial three feet below the surface while digging for water. Evidence of Aboriginal occupation - 'their huts ... but especially their fires' - was noted by the colonists⁹.

A study by Coutts (1981) of *Victoria's first official settlement* also comments on the importance of this location in 'Victoria's Aboriginal history as it heralded the end of the prehistoric period and the beginning of dramatic changes in Aboriginal culture'. It was certainly a place of contact between Aboriginal people and those from the Collins party, with conflict on several occasions as well as some friendlier exchanges. (Coutts 1981: 25-27).

In a subsequent study, Coutts examined the extent of the Aboriginal middens on two properties within the study area - The Sisters property and the adjoining property to the east (now in public ownership). This study included sub-surface testing. The midden deposits on both of the properties were found to be extensive, and in some cases, well preserved and stratified. Based on this, both Coutts (1982:24) and Frankel (1982:5) confirmed that the deposits are of high scientific significance and thus warrant protection.

The charcoal samples taken from the midden deposits during Coutts' survey were submitted for radiocarbon dating and subsequently yielded an age range of 270-1830 years old.¹⁰

Based on the archaeological evidence, Sullivan Bay area is likely to have been a regular shellfish collecting area for Aboriginal people over the last few thousand years. The lack of animal bones in the midden deposits leads to the conclusion that these sites were occupied on a short term basis and were not base camps which were most likely to have been located further inland.¹¹

The middens are agreed by archaeologists to be of high scientific significance because of their extent, high degree of preservation, stratigraphic integrity and the rarity of comparable examples on the Mornington Peninsula coast.¹² Aboriginal Affairs Victoria advises that in their opinion Sullivan Bay contains substantial Aboriginal shell middens, which are among the largest and most intact on the Port Phillip shoreline.¹³

Aboriginal archaeological potential

Archaeological studies of this area have revealed only a small amount of the potential evidence that may lie below the surface of the soil. When making predictions about archaeological potential, it is important to take into account the effect of later activities on the archaeological record. This is especially important when dealing with coastal areas, such as Sullivan Bay. For

example, a comparison of historical and current photographs and plans demonstrates the extent of erosion at each of the headlands. Up to 12 metres of the Eastern Sister cliff is thought to have been eroded away.¹⁴ It is therefore highly probable that a great deal of archaeological evidence may have been lost, particularly older sites which may have been located closest to the coast.¹⁵

As well, parts of the area have been developed, with houses, paths, and gardens being constructed over the years. Reportedly, some landowners have deliberately destroyed visible evidence of the early settlement and have dug up relics for their own personal collections.¹⁶ All the various activities that have occurred in this area, including those of the 1803 settlers, have contributed to the disturbance of the midden deposits in the Sullivan Bay area.

On the other hand, extensive parts of the area, especially on the Western Sister, have suffered relatively little disturbance and have high archaeological potential. The kind of evidence that may be located can only be speculated. The nature of the soils at Sullivan Bay site (pH 9) usually provide an ideal environment for the preservation of skeletal material. Further testing or excavation of the middens may reveal animal bones, changing the interpretation of the use of these sites.¹⁷ A recent inspection of the base of the Western Sister noted a potential ochre source.¹⁸ Aboriginal archaeological and cultural heritage material may not be limited to just the middens.

The 1803-4 Collins settlement

Plan 4: Cultural Heritage Elements shows the general layout of the 1803-4 Collins settlement. The following summary history has been taken from the *Shire of Flinders Heritage Study* (1992) (see Appendix 3 for full details).

The British Government's decision to establish a settlement in southern Australia appears to have been prompted by favourable reports of Port Phillip Bay and concerns about the interest of the French in the area. The colonising party despatched from England comprised military personnel, administrative staff, a few free settlers and a majority of convicts. Some were fortunate enough to be accompanied by wives and children. Lt-Governor Collins led the party of 467 persons.

Another view about the reason for the establishment of the settlement at Sorrento is advanced by Richard Cotter in *No place for a colony* where he argues that it was to avoid sending convicts to Sydney to provide time for Sydney's moral recovery or renewal.¹⁹

The site selected for the settlement was on the southern side of Port Phillip Bay at Sullivan Bay, relatively close to the Heads, a site chosen to enable protection of Bass Strait from the French. It was a difficult site to settle, without easy access to fresh running water, an anchorage well off-shore, and poor soils for agriculture; their survey of Port Phillip Bay revealed that much of the area had similar characteristics.

The settlement was established on an area of flat land between the Western Sister and Eastern Sister, prominent headlands which mark each end of Sullivan Bay. Most of the settlement was close to the Eastern Sister. Initially a tent encampment, work commenced quickly on building a jetty and other timber structures including huts. Local limestone was apparently used to construct chimneys for the huts, and for the building of the magazine. As well as barrels set into sand to trap fresh water, wells were dug, as were privies. Land was cleared for the growing of crops, perhaps totaling several acres.

Contact between Europeans and the Boonerwung (Bunurong) people (the traditional Aboriginal custodians) in the Port Phillip Bay area first occurred in 1802 during Lt Murray's exploratory visit to the area in the *Lady Nelson*. A meeting between Murray's party and a group of about 20 Aborigines occurred in the general vicinity of Sullivan Bay on 17 February. There was an exchange of gifts, but a disagreement followed, leading to the death of an Aborigine and shots being fired from the *Lady Nelson*. The Collins party's first encounter with Aborigines on the north-western side of Port Phillip Bay was greeted by hostility, and this pattern was repeated many times, perhaps provoked by the Murray expedition's initial actions.

The extensive Aboriginal shell middens at Sullivan Bay were noticed by the white settlers, along with their huts and hearths. In choosing this place for a settlement, the British had directly displaced Aboriginal people from a regular camping area.

In 1804 Collins decided to remove the settlement to Van Diemens Land, where John Bowen had established a settlement at Risdon Cove in 1803. They were moved as two parties, the second group leaving on 20 May, just over seven months after the settlement had been established.

Archaeological potential of the 1803-4 Collins settlement site

Relatively little evidence has been located to date that can be confidently connected to the 1803 settlement. In 1926 oak barrels, believed to be the water casks sunk by Collins' crew, were found on the western side of Camerons Bight and on the western side of Sullivan Bay. Other artefacts found at the site which are also thought to date to the initial settlement of the area include the remains of a hand blown brandy bottle found in one of the oak casks with the inscription 'Old Cognac 1795' and a pair of leg irons.²⁰

In his 1981 report, Coutts assessed the likelihood of archaeological evidence surviving. His table is reproduced below, with the comment column added from his text and 1982 report.²¹

Structure/Feature	Possible evidence	Comment
Tents	None	
Huts - timber	If some had stone chimneys, the masonry may still be extant. Otherwise none.	
Huts - wattle and daub	If some had stone chimneys, the masonry may still be extant. Otherwise none.	
Wells	These may be located by probing and/or excavation. No surface manifestation can be anticipated.	One located on The Sisters property, but not located by Coutts survey (1982). Others known from historical record.
Casks	None	Examples recovered and conserved.
Jetty	None	Remnants said to be visible at very low tide in 1930s.
Flagstaff	None	
Coppers (cooking)	None	
Gardens	None	Locations not known.
Privy and other pits	These may be located by probing and/or excavation. No surface manifestation can be anticipated	Privy pits were dug south of the Marine quarters. Location not known.
Magazine	Sine stone and mortar was used in the construction of this feature, some surface manifestations could be expected.	Location known perhaps up to early 1900s. Potential location on The Sisters property, partially excavated into hill slope. Not located by Coutts (1982).
Battery	If the battery was mounted on top of the Western Sister, some modification of the surface may have been necessary which could have an archaeological manifestation.	Noted by Robertson in 1873 as being on Western Sister.

Structure/Feature	Possible evidence	Comment
Artefacts	Many could be expected	
Animal bone	Many could be expected.	It is not known where food scraps and rubbish were disposed of.
Layout of settlement and roads	(Not included by Coutts in table)	Noted by Robertson in 1873.

While Coutts did not comment on the likelihood of human burials being located, he does advise that the pH of the soil provides an ideal environment for the preservation of skeletal material. The burial areas used during the 1803 settlement have not been located. At least 19 people who died during the 1803 settlement period were buried. The 'Settlers' graves' appear more likely to be those of later settlers (post 1836). Coutts proposes that the naming of the Western Sister (Church Hill, Church Top, Execution Hill) suggests that it might have been used as a burial ground.²²

Coutts also observed a stratigraphic anomaly in the cliff face, a deposit of light grey sandy soil, which he interpreted as a manifestation of a period of erosion resulting from clearing of vegetation, possibly during the early phases of the 1803 settlement.²³

Post 1836 settlement

The following summary history has been taken from the *Shire of Flinders Heritage Study* (1992) (see Appendix 3 for full details)

The land around the Eastern Sister became freehold in 1875, with CA 65A being acquired by D. A. Hughes, and a portion set aside within this allotment to protect and allow access to the graves. An allotment on the Western Sister (CA 71A) was also acquired by Hughes. Between the two allotments and along the foreshore west of CA 65A was an extensive area of land reserved for recreation. The land held in private ownership has been since subdivided several times; the alignment of the Nepean Highway (now Point Nepean Road) has also been varied.

A small part of the 1803 site was reserved as public land in 1875 when this area was first surveyed and sold as freehold. This was the 'Graves Reserve'.

In 1982, following proposals to subdivide Lot 3 (CA 65A, Parish of Nepean) into three more residential allotments, a public campaign to acquire Lot 3 was initiated by the National Trust of Australia (Victoria), Royal Historical Society of Victoria, Nepean Historical Society and the Sorrento-Rye-Blairgowrie Conservation Society. The campaign focused on the importance of this area as the place where the British government sought to create a settlement at Port Phillip in 1803. A public appeal raised a substantial amount toward the purchase price of this allotment, and the Victorian government subsequently acquired Lot 3 in April 1982, appointing the former National Parks Service as the management agency.

A detailed investigation of the 1803 settlement - *Victoria's First Official Settlement: Sullivan Bay, Port Phillip* - was prepared by Dr Peter Coutts, Director of the Victoria Archaeological Survey at this time. His work confirmed the extent of the 1803 settlement, the probable location of key structures and features, and the likelihood of archaeological evidence surviving. A subsequent report in 1982 (*An archaeological survey of Sullivan Bay, Sorrento*) included field investigations of Lot 3 and an adjoining property (The Sisters property) which was also proposed for subdivision. While this further work did not confirm that any surface features dated from the 1803 settlement, it did identify the extent of Aboriginal middens across both properties.

Sites and structures

Two properties dating from post-1836 have been recognised as having cultural significance: Iluka, 3088 Point Nepean Road and Nee Morna, 3110 Point Nepean Road. An extract from the *Shire of Flinders Heritage Study* (1992) covering these properties is included in Appendix 3.

2.2 Setting and landscape

Landscape

Sullivan Bay is enclosed and sheltered between the Western and Eastern Sisters. Located on the southern part of the Mornington Peninsula, the landscape is underlain by consolidated dunes, with a loose sandy soil layer on top. This formation is the foundation of the Nepean Peninsula.²⁴ Within the study area, the pattern of sand dunes and swales creates smaller enclosed landscape units. *Plan 7: Slope and Accessibility* illustrates the impact of landform on site access.

Views

Dramatic views along the coast and across Port Phillip Bay can be gained from many points within the study area. *Plan 6: Visual Links and Barriers* illustrates the views available today. There are two lookout points within the Collins Settlement Historic Reserve which are used for interpretation - the Fawcner lookout offers a view to Arthurs Seat from the eastern side of the Eastern Sister and the other lookout a view to the north across the bay and to the east. From inside, the former Visitor Centre offered spectacular views of the bay. However, it was only visited by around 16% of those who visit the Reserve.

A number of contemporary sketches made of the 1803 settlement offer a view from the Western Sister eastward, with the settlement in the foreground and Arthurs Seat in the distance. Today, this view is not available due to the density of vegetation in this area. There is also a direct line of sight from the Western Sister (Church Top) to St Pauls on Bass Strait. During the 1803-4 Collins settlement, these two high points were used as signal stations.

Vegetation

The dominant vegetation is Coastal Moonah Woodland. This vegetation formerly occupied vast areas of the Nepean Peninsula but is now threatened through depletion and degradation, and is listed under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*.²⁵

The structural dominant of the vegetation is Moonah (*Melaleuca lanceolata*). The canopy is old growth and healthy, and in many areas contiguous. Characteristic species of Coastal Moonah Woodland extant in the study area include: Coast Wirilda (*Acacia retinodes* var. *uncifolia*), Drooping Sheoak (*Allocasuarina verticillata*), Coast Beard-heath (*Leucopogon parviflorus*), Thyme Rice-flower (*Pimelea serpyllifolia* var. *serpyllifolia*), Bower Spinach (*Tetragonia implexicoma*), Small-leaf Clematis (*Clematis microphylla*), Coast Tea-tree (*Leptospermum laevigatum*) and Coast Pomaderris (*Pomaderris oraria* ssp. *oraria*).

In most areas a familiar suite of coastal weeds (introduced plants are denoted by * before the plant name) blanket the understorey, namely: Myrtle-leaf Milkwort (**Polygala myrtifolia*), Cotoneaster (**C. pannosus* and *C. divaricatus*), Cape Ivy (**Delairea odorata*), Bridal Creeper or Smilax (**Asparagus asparagoides*), Common Dipogon (**Dipogon lignosus*), Sweet Pittosporum (**Pittosporum undulatum*), Sour-sob (**Oxalis pes-caprae*), Panic Veldt Grass (**Ehrharta erecta*), Buffalo Grass (**Stenotaphrum secundatum*) and Kikuyu (**Pennisetum clandestinum*). McDonald et al (1990) provides a more comprehensive list of the weed flora but overall these weeds are diverse and aggressive.

Plan 5: Existing Vegetation (see Chapter 4) illustrates that the majority of the Coastal Moonah Woodland is regarded as Quality 4 or substantially modified. The areas of Coastal Moonah Woodland on private land were not inspected but are considered to be of the same quality.

Vegetation quality

The vegetation (plant community) quality was assessed according to the follow scale.

Plant community quality scale	
Quality 1	Vegetation structurally and floristically intact or almost so; weed invasions minimal or weeds absent; disturbance minimal or absent.
Quality 2	Vegetation structurally and floristically substantially intact; low levels of weed invasion; low levels of disturbance.
Quality 3	Vegetation partially intact structurally and/or floristically; moderate levels of weed invasion: woody vegetation intact and herbaceous vegetation greater than 50% cover; moderate levels of disturbance.
Quality 4	Vegetation comprised of less than 50% cover of indigenous species and/or with much reduced species richness; in the case of woody vegetation the upper strata may provide moderate to high cover but field layer substantially exotic or only scattered overstorey remnants but moderately dense understorey and/or field layer; high levels of disturbance.
Quality 5	Vegetation grossly modified with scattered to rare dominants of upper strata only persisting; very high cover of weeds; current or former levels of disturbance high or very high.

The vegetation on the sea cliffs is in better condition as weed growth is probably restricted by exposure to salt laden winds. The floristics and species dominance is also marginally different; notably Moonah plays a relatively minor role and the structural dominants are Coastal Beard-heath and Coast Tea-tree. Active management (weed control and vegetation) has improved the quality of vegetation south of the Eastern Sister. Assuming a comparable weed problem to the adjoining untreated areas, vegetation quality has improved from 4 to 3.

A low sandy foredune has formed beyond the high tide mark in Sullivan Bay, Camerons Bight and the Sorrento foreshore. This foredune would have formerly been stabilised by Spinifex (*Spinifex sericeus*), but this species has been replaced by a range of exotics including the highly invasive Sea Wheat-grass (**Thinopyrum junceiforme*). This foredune grassland (see Plan 5) is now largely exotic vegetation and has low conservation value.

Vegetation age

Long-lived woody species which display differing age classes include Moonah, Coast Tea-tree and Drooping She-oak. As elsewhere on the Mornington Peninsula, Drooping She-oak has been severely depleted as a woody dominant, due to the widespread harvesting of the species during the mid 1800s to fuel the lime kilns on the Nepean Peninsula and the ovens of Melbourne's bakeries.²⁶

Moonah as the structural dominant provides the best age class representation. The principal age class is classified as old growth (Woodgate et al 1994) and is well represented across the site. This age class is unlikely to be pre-settlement as its abundance is inconsistent with much of the site being cleared in the early 1800s.

Dating of Moonah is likely to be extremely difficult as growth rings are obscured by irregular bark characteristics, dead heartwood, and most specimens are multi-stemmed. As the species is capable of resprouting from the base once the canopy has been removed by fire or cutting, age estimates relate to aerial stems and not to rootstock, which would invariably be older.

There are however scattered individuals of an appreciably older age class. These are of single and multi-stemmed habit, hollow-bearing and often senescent (*Plan 5: Existing Vegetation*). Several specimens of Coast Tea-tree and Drooping She-oak appear to be of comparable age. On balance this age class is most likely pre-European; the dominant age class of Moonah probably dates from the abandonment of the settlement in 1803.

Exotic vegetation

The balance of the study area has exotic plantings. The open areas to the south of the former Visitor Centre, at Tideways and near the Sorrento Sailing Club are open parkland with a grass understorey and some remnant Moonahs. There are large cypresses at Tideways, and some other large trees within private properties. A detailed assessment of the cultural significance of mature exotic trees in the study area has not been undertaken.

Habitat values

A study by McDonald and others in 1990 suggests that areas retaining indigenous vegetation will provide habitat for a range of native species including Water Rats, Short-nosed Bandicoots, Brushtail and Ringtail Possums and insect eating bats.

A large part of the study area retains an indigenous canopy and some understorey, although much of it is weed infested. These habitat values can be enhanced by extending to the whole of the public and private land areas, the excellent vegetation and weed management programs that are being applied to the Camerons Bight area.

2.3 Community values

Many of those who actively campaigned in the early 1980s have had a continuing role in managing the site, in seeking further protection and in lobbying for a further area (part or all of The Sisters property) to be purchased by the Victorian government.

Many people have connections with this site, including:

- Aboriginal people with Boonerwung (Bunurong) ancestry
- people with long associations as defenders and managers of the site
- people who have family connections with the 1803 settlement
- longer-term owners of the adjoining properties
- people who have visited the historic site and the beach over many years.

Consultation during the development of the Plan has identified that many people share a sense of connection to this place. Social significance, a heritage value, recognises that a place may be of importance to people with direct experience and knowledge of that place. This value must transcend utilitarian and amenity values to be considered part of its heritage value.

Social significance is a value held by today's community. Assessing social significance is therefore not the same as doing a social history of a place, although a good social, oral and physical history can provide an excellent foundation for social significance assessment. (See Appendix 1).

A full assessment of the social significance of Sullivan Bay has not been undertaken, however feedback from consultation undertaken (Appendix 2) has provided some indicators of social significance. In summary Sullivan Bay has long been known and valued by the wider Melbourne and Peninsula communities as the site of the 1803 settlement. This is evidenced by the reservation of the graves site in 1875, by continuing community campaigns since the 1970s, and by the active community involvement in the management of this area today. The public land areas around Sullivan Bay have also been used and enjoyed by the community for many years.

3 WHY IS THIS PLACE IMPORTANT?

3.1 Defining heritage values

Heritage values refer to the reasons why a place is regarded as significant. A heritage place may be a site or a large landscape or a smaller feature such as a structure.

The *Australian Heritage Commission Act* provides a useful definition: those places that have aesthetic, historic, scientific or social significance or other special value for future generations as well as for the present community.

The criteria used to assess significance are included as Appendix 1, and statutory heritage listings included in Appendix 3.

The development of the Future Directions Plan has not involved any new historical research. Current assessments of significance and the research that underpins them have been used. Continuing research into the history of this place will no doubt reveal new material and new historical information and interpretations over time, and this is to be welcomed.

3.2 Heritage significance

Cultural heritage significance

Cultural heritage significance means *aesthetic, historic, scientific, social value or spiritual value for past, present or future generations*.²⁷

Aesthetic

Sullivan Bay is of local aesthetic significance as a sheltered beach, enclosed by headlands at either end, and much loved by generations of local people.

Historic

1803-4 Collins settlement

Sullivan Bay is of State and national significance as:

- The site of the first official attempt to establish a British colony in the Port Phillip district made directly from England by Lieutenant-Governor Collins in 1803. The site on Sullivan Bay was the centre of the settlement, which consisted of 467 military, convicts and settlers. It played an important role in the colonising and settlement of southern Australia by the British.
- It symbolises the beginning of an active process of colonisation which displaced the Aboriginal peoples of Victoria, changing their culture irrevocably. The contact between and the overlaying of the two cultures is demonstrated at Sullivan Bay.
- Notable historical figures associated with the first settlement included the convict, William Buckley, who escaped and lived with the Aborigines for thirty-two years, and John Pascoe Fawkner who lived at the settlement as a boy and later was one of Melbourne's pioneer land speculators and publisher of Melbourne's first newspaper.
- The graves site located within the Collins Settlement Historic Reserve is recognised by Heritage Victoria as being 'of cultural significance because of their association with the first attempted European settlement in Victoria. They are important for symbolic reasons in long being recognised by both the government and the community as a symbol and icon of the first attempt of European settlement in Victoria' (even though current historical knowledge suggests that they are unlikely to be associated with the 1803-4 settlement).²⁸

Post-1836 settlement

Two houses have been identified as of heritage significance for their architectural and historic values:

- Iluka - 3088 Point Nepean Road
- Nee Morna - 3110 Point Nepean Road.

The significance of these places was assessed as part of the *Shire of Flinders Heritage Study* (1992).

Scientific

The extensive, layered Aboriginal middens at Sullivan Bay are of high scientific significance as they are among the largest and most intact on the Port Phillip shoreline.²⁹

Social

- Sullivan Bay has long been known and valued by the wider Melbourne and Peninsula communities as the site of the 1803 settlement, as evidenced by the reservation of the graves site in 1875.
- Sullivan Bay is a place with long community use and association, and its importance to local people in particular is evidenced by the number who have worked to protect this place over more than 20 years.

Spiritual

At present there are no guidelines to assist in the assessment of spiritual significance, and the spiritual significance of this place has not been assessed.

Indigenous community values

*For indigenous people, the significance of a place is the spiritual, social, historic and aesthetic value which the place holds for the community or groups in the community. It may also include the scientific value of the place.*³⁰

Consultation about Aboriginal values has included the four relevant Aboriginal organisations: Kulin Nation Regional Cultural Heritage Program (auspiced by Kulin Nation Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation); Wurundjeri Tribe Land Compensation and Cultural Heritage Council Inc; Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation; Victorian Boonerwung Elders Land Council Aboriginal Corporation.

Based on these discussions, it is clear that this site is of considerable significance to Aboriginal people, primarily as a place that provides rare surviving evidence of the Aboriginal use of this landscape and its food resources over a very long period.

The importance of this place as a point of contact between Aboriginal and European peoples and cultures is more difficult. It symbolises the beginning of the end of intact Aboriginal culture and the start of a period in which Aboriginal people suffered enormous cultural and personal deprivations. On the other hand, it is today a place where these stories can be told and where a new understanding and appreciation of Aboriginal culture and life can be created.

The Sullivan Bay area is significant as an early place of contact between Aboriginal peoples and Europeans. While physical evidence of this contact may not survive, this location symbolises that historical moment.

Natural heritage significance

Natural heritage significance means: *the importance of ecosystems, biological diversity and geodiversity for their existence value, and/or for present or future generations of Australians in terms of their scientific, social, aesthetic and life support value.*³¹

The indigenous vegetation communities within the study area are of local to regional significance:

- Coastal Moonah Woodland is a threatened Ecological Vegetation Class and listed under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988*.
- The Coastal Moonah Woodland is old growth and most likely contains pre-European elements.
- There are at least two significant plant species present on the site. Coast Pomaderris, classified as rare (NRE 2000) is represented by a large population, and Coast Wirilda, also classified as rare is represented by a scattered but widespread population.

3.3 Statement of significance

What is significant?

The land and water of Sullivan Bay is a significant place. The primary area of significance is bounded by the Point Nepean Road to the south, Camerons Bight jetty to the east, the edge of the Sorrento Sailing Club land to the west and a line 125 metres out from high water mark to the north. This area contains the main area of the 1803-4 Collins settlement, a series of Aboriginal middens and extensive areas of Moonah woodland. This area also has the highest potential of revealing archaeological evidence associated with past occupation.

An area of land to the south of Point Nepean Road is of secondary significance as part of the 1803-4 Collins settlement. This area is known to have been part of the settlement but has not been investigated.

How is it significant?

Sullivan Bay is of national significance for its aesthetic, historic, natural, scientific and social values.

Why is it significant?

Sullivan Bay is a unique place, containing historical fabric, associations and meanings that are vital to understanding the history of the colonisation in southern Australia.

Historically, Sullivan Bay was an Aboriginal place and retains rare and scientifically important evidence of Boonerwung (Bunurong) use of this landscape and its resources. Moreover, it symbolises the colonial occupation of Port Phillip, and the taking of the land from the Boonerwung (Bunurong) people. It represents an historical moment in time when the Boonerwung (Bunurong) culture and life began to change, irrevocably and forever. The survival of Boonerwung (Bunurong) people, culture and stories will enable this history to be told.

From the perspective of global colonisation, Sullivan Bay is one of few Australian 'founding' sites that have survived two centuries of change. Like The Rocks in Sydney and Risdon Cove in Tasmania, the landscape of Sullivan Bay has revealed evidence from its 'founding' period. More may survive to be revealed as a result of future investigations.

As well, much of the pre-settlement landscape of Sullivan Bay survives - the enclosing headlands, the old growth Moonah woodland, the shallow waters of the bay, the views between the Eastern and Western Sister and the Western Sister and St Pauls, and to Arthurs Seat.

There is a rich documentary resource associated with Sullivan Bay that continues to assist in revealing the significance of this place.

Sullivan Bay is highly valued by the Melbourne and Peninsula communities, long being recognised as the site of the 1803 settlement and strongly defended during times when its long-term protection seemed in jeopardy.

4 ISSUES & OPPORTUNITIES

4.1 Analysis & issues

Approach

A survey plan was prepared as a base for the site analysis process.³² Site analysis involved review of documents, detailed field inspections and discussions with key agencies and the Shire.

Field documentation included mapping of a wide range of characteristics including: vegetation, landform and slopes, views and visual barriers, open areas, physical access and barriers, parking, visitor facilities, signs.

A wide variety of issues were also noted through the field inspections.

From the analysis, **six key issues** were identified that extended across the study area as a whole (see below). The study area was divided into six broad Areas based on similarities in landscape, land use and issues.

The following sections briefly describe these **key issues** and then each of the landscape **Areas**.

The six **key issues** for the whole study area are:

1. A significant heritage place.
2. Fragmentation and development.
3. Visitors, links and access.
4. Damage and deterioration.
5. Interpretation and understanding.
6. Resourcing.

This is followed by a short summary of the **issues** for each of the **six Areas** (see Plan 2 and Plan 9):

Area 1: Camerons Bight Boat Club Area.

Area 2: Camerons Bight Dunes/Revegetation Area.

Area 3: Eastern Sister.

Area 4: Tideways.

Area 5: Western Sister.

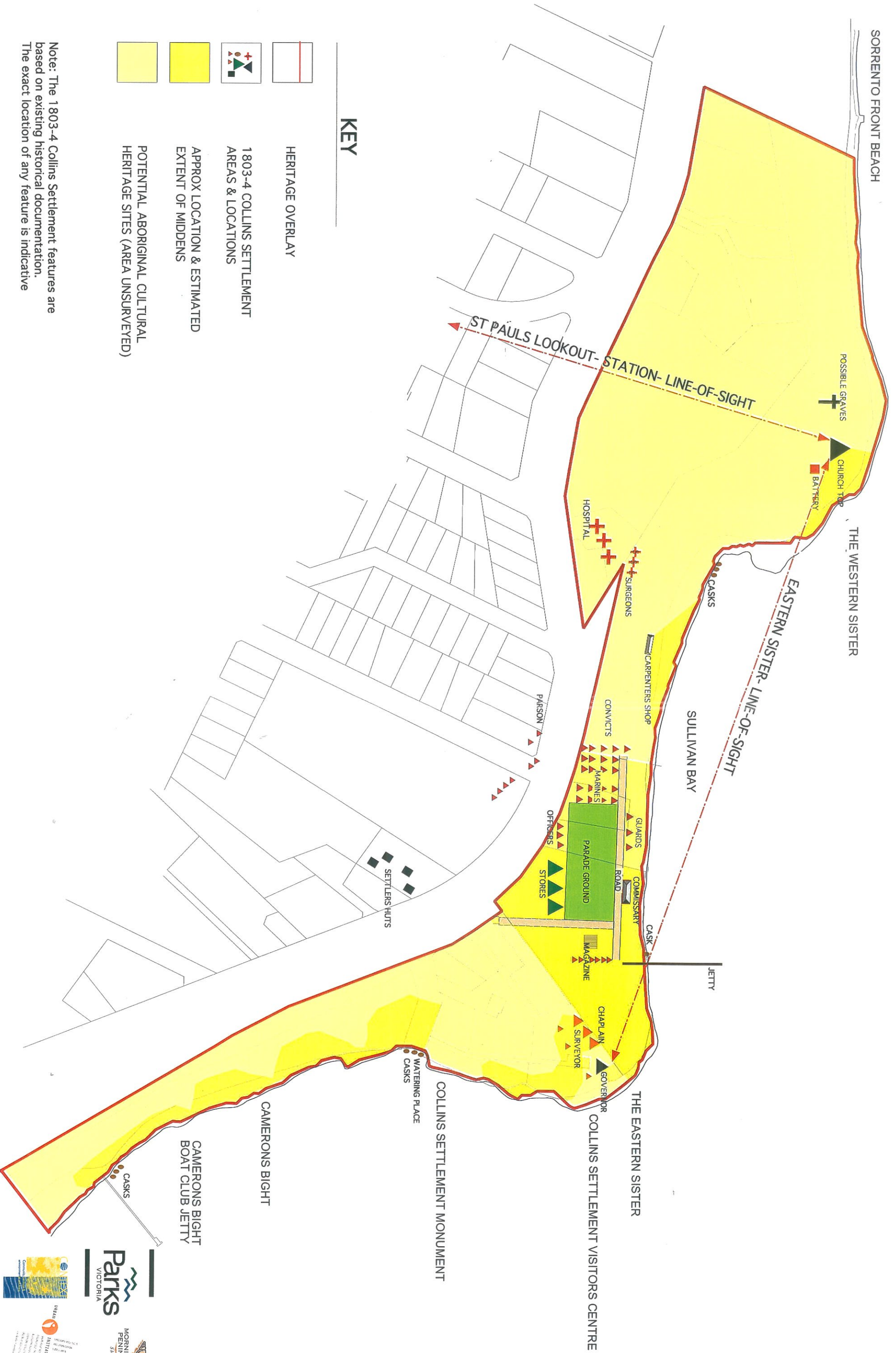
Area 6: Sorrento Sailing Club Area.

4.2 Analysis for the whole of Sullivan Bay





Issue 1: A significant heritage place

The Sullivan Bay area between the Eastern and Western Sisters is a significant heritage place for its Aboriginal history, and extensive middens dating back several thousand years; as the place of the 1803-4 Collins settlement; as a place that marks the meeting of two cultures; and for its natural values - old growth Moonah woodland and rare plant species. Its significance is described in section 3.3 *Statement of Significance*.

The following factors were identified as needing to be addressed in the Future Directions Management Plan.



KEY

-  HERITAGE OVERLAY
-  1803-4 COLLINS SETTLEMENT AREAS & LOCATIONS
-  APPROX LOCATION & ESTIMATED EXTENT OF MIDDENS
-  POTENTIAL ABORIGINAL CULTURAL HERITAGE SITES (AREA UNSURVEYED)

Note: The 1803-4 Collins Settlement features are based on existing historical documentation. The exact location of any feature is indicative

PLAN 4 CULTURAL HERITAGE ELEMENTS

Parks Victoria
MORNINGTON PENINSULA SHIRE
 Collins Settlement Site
 Cultural Heritage Elements
 DECEMBER 2002
 SCALE: 1:1000@A0
 DRAWN BY: [Signature]
 CHECKED BY: [Signature]

SORRENTO FRONT BEACH

THE WESTERN SISTER

SULLIVAN BAY

THE EASTERN SISTER









COLLINS SETTLEMENT VISITORS CENTRE

COLLINS SETTLEMENT MONUMENT

CAMERONS BIGHT

CAMERONS BIGHT BOAT CLUB JETTY

KEY

-  COASTAL MOONAH WOODLAND QUALITY 3
-  COASTAL MOONAH WOODLAND QUALITY 4
-  FOREDUNE GRASSLAND QUALITY 4
-  REVEGETATION
-  PRE-EUROPEAN MOONAH (PROBABLE)
-  OLD GROWTH AND PROBABLE PRE-EUROPEAN DROOPING SHE-OAK.
-  COASTAL MOONAH WOODLAND (MAPPED FROM AIR PHOTO)
-  COASTAL CLIFF COMPLEX (FLORISTICALLY RELATED TO COASTAL MOONAH WOODLAND)



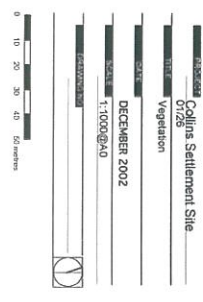
PLAN 5 EXISTING VEGETATION



Parks
VICTORIA

MORNINGTON PENINSULA
SHIRE

Collins Settlement Site
Vegetation
DECEMBER 2002
1:1000@A0



0 10 20 30 40 50 metres

Aboriginal heritage

- The full extent of the Aboriginal sites is not known for the whole site, and further survey work will be needed over time.
- Aboriginal people and organisations have a key role to play in all decisions about Aboriginal heritage places.
- The naming of the place as 1803-4 Collins settlement site suggests that this is the paramount significance of the place, whereas the Aboriginal heritage values are very important too.

The 1803 settlement

- The whole of the area occupied by the 1803-4 Collins settlement has the potential to retain archaeological evidence of the settlement. Some of the settlement area is outside the present study area.
- Undisturbed areas have the highest archaeological potential. The extent of disturbance is hard to measure.
- The records from the settlement suggest that some locations may contain evidence of particular features and/or activities associated with the settlement. These locations can only be defined in a generalised way.
- Any evidence of the 1803 settlement is precious and needs to be conserved.
- All development and change needs to occur in such a way that any archaeological evidence can be identified and recovered.

Natural heritage

- The public land and much of the private land in the study area contains significant areas of Coastal Moonah Woodland, most of which is old growth and most likely contains some pre-European specimens. Coastal Moonah Woodland is protected under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act.
- There are at least two rare plant species present on the site: Coast Pomaderris (rare and represented by a large population) and Coast Wirilda (rare and represented by a scattered but widespread population).
- The extent of weed intrusion is affecting the longevity of the Moonah woodland, with little opportunity for young trees to establish and probable stress on the old growth Moonahs. The exemplary weed control and revegetation work occurring on the Camerons Bight/Eastern Sister area have demonstrably improved the quality and viability of the vegetation.

Landscape quality and setting

- The coastal setting, the enclosure of the bay, and the degree of 'naturalness' of both headlands help create a special sense of place that is vulnerable to adverse impacts from adjoining development on both private and public land.

Extent of significance

Three factors make it difficult to define a tight boundary around the extent of the culturally significant area: the sub-surface nature of the evidence left, the limited archaeological survey, and the lack of historical data on the exact locations for activities and structures associated with the 1803 settlement. Nevertheless, the Heritage Overlay within the Planning Scheme is considered to provide a practical boundary containing the majority of the potentially significant areas. Further research is warranted, however, to determine a southern boundary for an area of archaeological potential associated with the 1803-4 Collins settlement site.

Issue 2: Fragmentation and development

The public land areas around Sullivan Bay only contain a part of the significant heritage area. Moreover the public land areas - which are the primary focus of conservation and interpretation - are fragmented.

The following factors were identified as needing to be addressed in the Future Directions Management Plan:

Fragmentation

- The significant heritage area is fragmented into a series of public and private land parcels.
- There is little physical or visual connection between the Eastern Sister area and the Tideways/Western Sister area (the links via the beach or the road are difficult).

Identity and focus

- There is a lack of a strong *identity* and *sense of place* that encompasses the whole of Sullivan Bay.
- There is little visual connection between the two Sisters except from the beach. This makes it more difficult for visitors to gain an appreciation of the nature and extent of the Aboriginal use of the area and the 1803 settlement.
- There is no single focal point that enables appreciation of the whole of the Sullivan Bay area. The former Visitor Centre on the Eastern Sister only provided a focus for that end of the site.
- There is no single entry to the site, nor a sense of arrival.

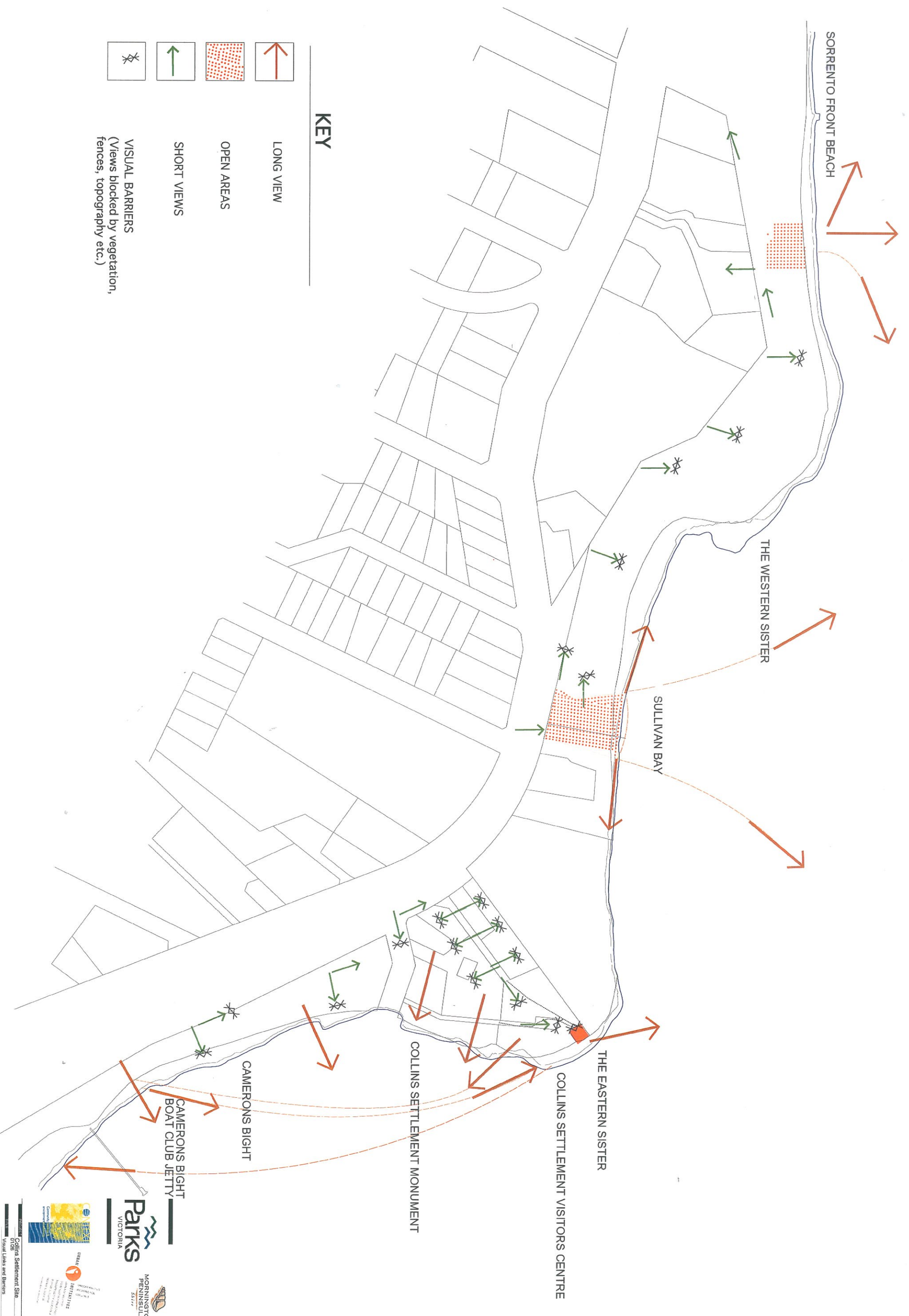
Development impacts

- The landscape setting of Sullivan Bay is adversely impacted by some of the more recent developments within the study area. The particular impacts of concern include visual intrusion into important views and overlooking of public land areas.
- Visual impacts of erosion control works on the 'naturalness' of the cliff faces (especially crib walling and rock work).
- Impact of development on the setting of Sullivan Bay beach, including buildings abutting the beach and jetties that cross the beach.
- The impact of the former Visitor Centre on the visitors' experience of the Eastern Sister landscape; the building blocks views from the headland and is an intrusive element in the graves area.





The Sisters property

On the western side of the Eastern Sister is a large property - The Sisters, 3080 Point Nepean Road (see Plan 2) - formerly owned by Mr Peter Rand (and now owned by the estate of Peter Rand). In February 1996 an application was made to subdivide this property into eight residential allotments, to create common property, to construct seven dwellings and to extend the existing dwelling. The application proposed that 9% of the land - the higher land on the Eastern Sister - would be designated as public open space.

The applicant appealed against Council's failure to grant a permit in June 1996. Twelve objections/submissions had been received by Council. In August 1996, the Minister for Planning and Environment directed the Administrative Appeals Tribunal (now known as VCAT) to refer the appeal to the Governor in Council for determination as the Minister had formed the view that 'the appeal raises a major policy issue and that the determination of the appeal may have a substantial effect on the achievement of planning objectives'. To date the appeal has not been determined.³³



KEY

-  LONG VIEW
-  OPEN AREAS
-  SHORT VIEWS
-  VISUAL BARRIERS
(Views blocked by vegetation, fences, topography etc.)

PLAN 6 VISUAL LINKS AND BARRIERS




Collins Settlement Site
 0128
 Visual Links and Barriers
 DECEMBER 2002
 1:1000@A3



The Independent Panel appointed to review Planning Scheme Amendment C12 which sought to introduce a Heritage Overlay over the 1803-4 Collins settlement site concluded that: 'The Panel also believes that approval to subdivide this land should be conditional on transfer to the Crown of the area of the site adjoining the beach, as an extension to the existing public reserve. The area should be at least 20 metres wide measured from the cliff-top and should be transferred at no cost to the State. This proposal would provide continuous public access between the Eastern and Western Sisters and direct link between the settlers' graves site with the remainder of the 1803-4 Collins settlement site to the north west.'

In 2001, the Collins Settlement Historic Advisory Group was advised by the then Chair (Dorothy Houghton OBE) that an approach had been made to the Premier seeking public purchase of The Sisters property. There is support from the Mornington Peninsula Shire and local groups for this proposal. No decision has yet been made.

Issue 3: Visitors, links and access

Many people visit the Sullivan Bay area each year. They include local people and visitors enjoying the beach and walking or cycling the network of tracks, as well as those who visited the Visitor Centre (now closed) and the graves. The Bay Trail, a shared pedestrian/cycling track around Port Phillip Bay, runs through the study area.

Plan 7: Slope and Accessibility indicates how landform impacts on site access and shows other access barriers (primarily management fencing). *Plan 8: Vehicle Access and Parking* shows existing parking, no parking areas and site entries.

The following factors were identified as needing to be addressed in the Future Directions Management Plan.

Facilities

- Visitor facilities are limited. For example, there are no public toilets in the study area.

Visibility

- Part of the lack of identity is that the attractions of the site are not easily appreciated from the main road.
- On the other hand, some parts of the site are quiet and enclosed.

Access

- Across the whole study area, there are many accessibility issues including steep slopes and stairs.
- The eastern and western areas are poorly connected; walking from the eastern to the western area (or vice versa) is not easy, nor well signposted.
- The main car parking area serves the eastern end, but not the western end.
- The location of bus stops.

Barriers

- There are a number of barriers that prevent easy movement around the site and between areas including the two headlands with limited access around the base at high tide and low jetties across the beach.³⁴
- The single access into the Eastern Sister and the graves site creates a bottle-neck rather than a circular walk.
- The pattern of public and private land ownership makes linking the Eastern and Western Sisters difficult and makes it difficult for the public to appreciate the extent of the 1803-4 Collins settlement.

- Fencing of the Western Sister prevents access but is necessary to protect significant vegetation and for public safety.

Views

- There are visual barriers that limit views of, and an appreciation of the whole place (*see Plan 6: Visual Links and Barriers*).

Issue 4: Damage and deterioration

Many people are concerned about damage to and deterioration of parts of the Sullivan Bay area. Some parts of the area are actively managed, while other areas are not. Development continues to occur on some private land areas.

The following factors were identified as needing to be addressed in the Future Directions Management Plan:

Vegetation and weeds

- Extensive parts of the area are suffering serious weed invasion. The scale of this problem is very large and is limiting natural regeneration.
- Past attempts at revegetation on the Western Sister have been partially successful, but in some areas exposed sand remains.
- The weed control and revegetation program in the Camerons Bight area has been very successful and provides a model for the rest of the study area.

Erosion - coastal and other

- Natural coastal erosion processes are impacting on the cliff areas at the Eastern and Western Sisters. Some parts of these cliff formations appear very fragile.
- Cliff erosion will result in collapses from time to time; the consequences will include potential loss of Aboriginal midden and/or 1803 historic site material.
- The extent of the loss of these headlands since the 1803 settlement is not known.
- Smaller scale erosion is occurring on other parts of the site, especially on paths, tracks and roads.
- Instability resulting from cliff erosion on the Eastern Sister requires the removal of the Visitor Centre building.

A geotechnical study on cliff stability has recently been conducted by Golder and Associates for the Department of Natural Resources and Environment.

Development

- Development of any kind may unintentionally damage Aboriginal and/or historic materials that lie hidden below the surface.
- Introduction of new structures poses the greatest risk because of the need for footings.

Issue 5: Interpretation and understanding

The importance of the Sullivan Bay area means that its story needs to be told. It offers a unique opportunity to create a deeper appreciation of Aboriginal culture, an understanding of the early contacts between the Boonerwung (Bunurong) and Europeans, the nature of early settlements and human impact on the environment.

The following factors were identified as needing to be addressed in the Future Directions Management Plan:



SORRENTO FRONT BEACH

THE WESTERN SISTER

SULLIVAN BAY

THE EASTERN SISTER

COLLINS SETTLEMENT VISITORS CENTRE

COLLINS SETTLEMENT MONUMENT

CAMERONS BIGHT

CAMERONS BIGHT BOAT CLUB JETTY

KEY

- SLOPE 1:7 OR <
- 1:14 TO 1:7
- 1:20 TO 1:14
- 1:20 OR >
- NOT ACCESSIBLE
- ACCESS POINTS

PLAN 7 SLOPE AND ACCESSIBILITY

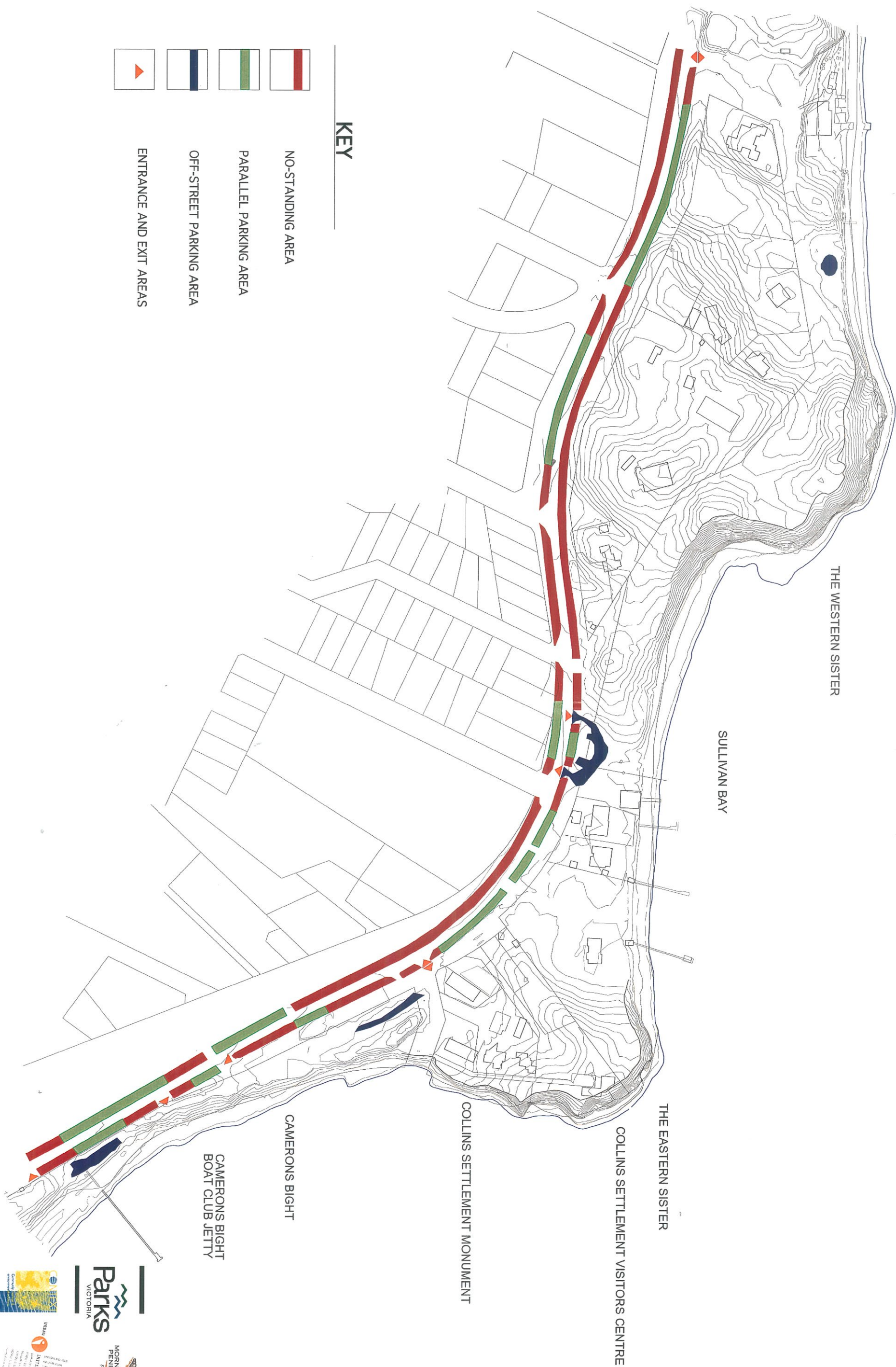
Parks
VICTORIA

MORNINGTON PENINSULA
38117

Collins Settlement Site
SLOPE AND ACCESSIBILITY

DATE: DECEMBER 2002
SCALE: 1:1000@A0

0 10 20 30 40 50 METRES



KEY

NO-STANDING AREA

PARALLEL PARKING AREA

OFF-STREET PARKING AREA

ENTRANCE AND EXIT AREAS

PLAN 8 VEHICLE ACCESS AND PARKING

Parks
VICTORIA

MORNINGTON PENINSULA STATE

Collins Settlement Site
07/08
Vehicle Access & Parking
DECEMBER 2002
1:100@A0

STATE OF VICTORIA
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
ROADS DIVISION
100 COLLINS STREET
MELBOURNE VIC 3000
TEL: (03) 9636 9636
WWW.DTP.VIC.GOV.AU

0 10 20 30 40 50 METRES

The big picture

- It is hard for visitors to get a picture of the whole place and its many stories.

Planning the interpretation

- What stories are to be told? At present there is no overall interpretation plan for the Sullivan Bay area.
- How best should the site's stories be told? What methods are best given the fragmentary nature of the public land areas, the dispersed and essential 'invisible' evidence, the available resources.
- What role should the former Visitor Centre (or a replacement visitor interpretive facility) play?

Signs and self-guided walks

- There are many types of signs across the whole area. Some are out-of-date or deteriorated.
- Interpretative signs are focused around the former Visitor Centre and Graves Reserve. There is little to help the visitor appreciate the wider area.
- Some of the interpretation signs don't take full advantage of the site or its stories.

Issue 6: Resourcing

Management of the site is an important issue as is resourcing - time, energy, money, and skills. At present Parks Victoria, NRE/Committees of Management and the Mornington Peninsula Shire manage the public land areas, with considerable support from the community, especially the Friends of Collins Settlement Sorrento Inc.

The following factors were identified as needing to be addressed in the Future Directions Management Plan:

Funding

- The importance of regular/guaranteed funds.
- Project funding is required for specific purposes.

Other resources

- People with the time, skills, knowledge.
- Volunteers and paid workers.

Management structure/s

- Complexity and lack of coordination inherent in the current management arrangements, along with the mixture of public and private land.
- Roles and responsibilities of paid workers and volunteers.
- Aboriginal community involvement.
- Legal responsibilities.

4.3 Analysis for each area**Area 1: Camerons Bight Boat Club Area**

Camerons Bight Boat Club's (CBBC) Area is an area of public land dominated by boating-related facilities including a timber walkway, jetty and boat racks. The Camerons Bight Boat Club (CBBC) holds a license over the jetty. (The jetty was closed on 1 July 2002 due to an

inability to obtain public liability insurance. CBBC, NRE and the Committee of Management are currently investigating the condition of the jetty and its future).

The Area is set down below the road, with a steep track providing vehicle access. The car park is quite small and unsealed, allowing parking for around 10-12 vehicles. The carpark is public land but is marked 'Members Car Park', suggesting that the car park is not public. Treated pine post fence edges part of the car park. A similar treatment is used for the boat storage along the edge of the beach, and to prevent vehicle access to the beach. There is also a locked metal gate across one vehicle track to the beach.

There is a variety of signs within this Area, directed towards users of the Area. The monument to the first landing site for the 1803-4 Collins settlement is difficult to see and is not visually linked to the interpretation near the former Visitor Centre.

Access to the beach is via a raised timber walkway on the same alignment as the jetty. The beach is narrow and sandy. Small boats are stored on rails on the inland edge of the beach. A short section of stone work has been constructed on the beach.

Uses and activities	<p>Boat club activities predominate, including parking, boat storage on beach, jetty - fishing, boating activities.</p> <p>Off-leash dog walking is allowed on beach; the off-leash area starts at the Eastern Sister and extends eastwards to Stringers Road.</p> <p>Walking and cycling.</p>
Visitor facilities	<p>Visitor facilities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • signs • monument to the first land place used by the Collins party • car-parking • jetty with steps and a timber walkway providing access to the jetty (the jetty is currently closed).
Views	<p>Distant views across the Bay and immediate views to the Eastern Sister are available in this Area.</p>
Buildings & structures	<p>Timber walkway and jetty. Stonework along the edge of the beach.</p>
Heritage values	<p>Historic: Initial place where Woodriff and Collins landed, and location of the water casks.</p> <p>Aboriginal: midden exposures.</p> <p>There is a little remnant vegetation, with extensive areas invaded by weeds.</p> <p>Heritage Overlay and Heritage Inventory H7821-0075.</p>
Key issues:	<p>Erosion on vehicle access track and beach erosion causing the collapse of the shared path (part of the Bay Trail).</p> <p>Weeds.</p> <p>Poor visual quality.</p> <p>Lack of clear historical interpretation to connect this Area to the 1803-4 Collins settlement site, with the monument being difficult to see and unconnected to the interpretive treatment used around the former Visitor Centre.</p> <p>Condition of the boat club facilities, especially the jetty and timber walkway, is of concern to the boat club.</p>
Specific plans & policies	<p>The <i>White Cliffs to Camerons Bight Foreshore Management Plan</i> covers all of this Area (and part of Area 2).</p> <p>Mornington Peninsula Planning Scheme Heritage Overlay (Am. C12).</p>

Current/past funding proposals	Federation project proposal (not funded) included sculpture and information display.
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Area 2: Camerons Bight Dunes/Revegetation Area

The dunes and vegetation along this stretch of public land create a strong sense of enclosure along the pedestrian track and roadway in this Area. Indigenous vegetation dominates, and an active weed control, regeneration and replanting program has created a high quality natural area. One gully remains weed infested.

The pedestrian path is sprayed bitumen with gravel toppings, an appropriate and low-key treatment. The roadway is a section of the former alignment of Point Nepean Road, and retains an incomplete bitumen seal. This roadway links the car park in Area 3 back to the Point Nepean Road. A simple treated pine post and rail barrier prevents vehicle access onto the pedestrian path.

There is one informal access point to the beach. Otherwise there is a dense screen of vegetation between the path and the beach.

The beach is open and sandy. There are several small timber groynes. From the beach, there are views across the bay and to the Eastern Sister.

Uses & activities	Walking, cycling (shared path, part of the Bay Trail). Road access to the car parking area. Vegetation management area - weed control, regeneration, replanting.
Visitor facilities	Signs; shared path (part of the Bay Trail). Path.
Views	Distant views across the Bay. Immediate views to the Eastern Sister.
Buildings & structures	None.
Natural values	Moonah woodland, including areas of old growth Moonah and several rare species. Small areas of weeds still to be controlled.
Cultural values	Historic: part of the 1803-4 Collins settlement site (including location of water casks on beach). Aboriginal middens are exposed and at risk of further erosion. Heritage Overlay and Heritage Inventory H7821-0075.
Key issues	Beach access may be needed. Continued use of the vehicle track to access the Point Nepean Road.
Specific plans & policies	The <i>White Cliffs to Camerons Bight Foreshore Management Plan</i> covers all of this Area (and part of Area 2). Mornington Peninsula Planning Scheme Heritage Overlay (Am. C12).
Current/past funding proposals	None.

Area 3: Eastern Sister

Description & setting

The Eastern Sister includes both public and private land. At the eastern end, there is the entry to and carpark for the Historic Reserve. The carpark contains sufficient space for around 10

cars. The reserve itself covers the highest point of the Eastern Sister and includes the foreshore/cliff areas.

The balance of the Area is private land, with nine private dwellings and associated facilities (drives, fences etc) and gardens. The boundary fencing between the public and private areas varies considerably, and some houses overlook the reserve.

The Historic Reserve includes a large entry area, with a variety of signs (both interpretive and visitor information signs) and fencing treatments. A steep bitumen path leads up to the Eastern Sister and the former Visitor Centre. There are two lookouts, one each side of the building.

The Visitor Centre itself is a single storey brick building set close to the edge of the cliff. The Visitor Centre is now permanently closed as a result of a geotechnical assessment (Golder Associates, August 2002) which identified that the safety of the Visitor Centre was compromised due to its close proximity to the cliff and location above an historic slip, with some active erosion occurring.

Prior to its closure in mid 2002, the Visitor Centre was open on weekends and public holidays and contained extensive displays and information about the history of the site. The Visitor Centre was built as a private dwelling, was not well suited for visitors and interpretation and only provided limited facilities. Moreover, it blocked the view to the coast.

The coastline along the edge of the Eastern Sister consists of a steep cliff. Stabilisation works including concrete crib walling, sleeper retaining walls and revegetation have been undertaken on parts of the cliff. A low level, informal walkway has been created around the base of the cliff using rocks placed there to control erosion. Further west, the cliff becomes a beach. Three private jetties cross the beach, making access along the beach difficult.

A section of road and an informal footpath links Leggett Way with the Tideways picnic area.

Uses & activities	Visits to the historic site. Walking along the coast. Private residential activities.
Visitor facilities	Visitor Centre (now closed). Information and interpretive signs. Seats (including picnic table at eastern end). Memorial.
Views	From the entry path to the Historic Reserve - to Camerons Bight, to Arthurs Seat and across the Bay.
Buildings & structures	Public: Visitor Centre (now closed) and memorial. Private: Houses and associated structures (fences, garages etc).
Natural values	Within this Area there are some areas of indigenous vegetation along the coast/cliff and inland, along with extensive areas of lawn and garden plantings, and a number of mature exotic trees.
Cultural values	Historic: important part of the 1803-4 Collins settlement site. Graves Reserve listed on Victorian Heritage Register. Whole area covered by Heritage Overlay and Heritage Inventory H7821-0001. Iluka separately recognised for its historic values through the Planning Scheme. Aboriginal: extensive areas of Aboriginal midden are visible along the coastline, but inland boundary not known across about 60% of the Area.
Key issues	The vehicle entry to the Historic Reserve from Point Nepean Road is confusing and poorly laid out. There is no sense of arrival or orientation, and the section of dead-end road serves a limited purpose.

	<p>Conflicts between residential and public uses (noise; overlooking; traffic/parking etc).</p> <p>Extent of private land.</p> <p>Cliff stability - and associated public safety issues.</p> <p>Landscape impact of the former Visitor Centre, other buildings and associated development. The building is not well designed for the site or for its current function.</p> <p>Too many signs.</p> <p>No views to the Western Sister, Sullivan Bay beach and the 1803-4 camp area.</p> <p>Poorly defined linkages with other parts of Sullivan Bay.</p> <p>Jetties across beach limit access.</p>
Specific plans & policies	<p>The <i>Sorrento Foreshore Reserve Master Plan</i> (2001) covers all of this Area.</p> <p>Mornington Peninsula Planning Scheme Heritage Overlay (Am. C12).</p>
Current/past funding proposals	<p>Federation project proposal (not funded) included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • redevelopment of the Visitor Centre (now closed): proposals included major internal changes including theatre for 50, seminar room; new displays; additional toilet; night access & security. • repaving Camerons Bight access • upgrade of entry and car park to cater for 30 cars and 2 buses; toilets in entry area; information shelter, lighting, picnic facilities and landscaping. <p>The Victorian government is considering options for purchase of The Sisters property in whole or in part.</p>

Area 4: Tideways

Description & setting

Tideways is a small picnic area set on a grassy lawn with paths leading to the Sullivan Bay beach. It includes a small, informal parking area set below some large Moonahs, with room for about 8 cars. Access from the Point Nepean Road is via two unsealed exit/entry roads.

There is a row of mature Cyresses along the eastern boundary.

Uses & activities	<p>Picnics.</p> <p>Walking and cycling.</p> <p>Beach access.</p>
Visitor facilities	<p>Picnic tables (4), rubbish bin, tap. Two paths to the beach, each with a low paling pedestrian maze.</p>
Views	<p>View from the beach of the whole of Sullivan Bay, including both Sisters.</p>
Buildings & structures	<p>-</p>
Natural values	<p>Remnant Moonah woodland with grassy understorey.</p>
Cultural values	<p>Historic: important part of the 1803-4 Collins settlement site - Heritage Overlay and Heritage Inventory H7821-0074.</p> <p>Aboriginal: extensive areas of Aboriginal midden along the coastline, but inland boundary not known.</p>
Key issues	<p>Informal parking under Moonahs is causing tree decline.</p>

	<p>Beach access is poorly defined and impacting on middens.</p> <p>No toilet facilities here or nearby.</p> <p>Potential conflict between the beach use by the local community and visitors to the historic site.</p> <p>No clear physical or interpretive link to 1803-4 Collins settlement site.</p> <p>No protection for middens.</p> <p>Adjoining private development is visually intrusive.</p>
Specific plans & policies	<p>The <i>Sorrento Foreshore Reserve Master Plan</i> (2001) covers all of this Area.</p> <p>Mornington Peninsula Planning Scheme Heritage Overlay (Am. C12).</p>
Current/past funding proposals	<p>Federation project proposal (not funded) included major expansion of car park (to 30 vehicles), additional picnic facilities; information display.</p>

Area 5: Western Sister

Description & setting

The Western Sister includes both public and private land. The whole Area is densely vegetated with a canopy of Moonah woodland, and a weedy understorey. As a result of the retained vegetation, the Western Sister appears to have a landscape character most like that experienced by Boonerwung (Bunurong) people and the 1803 settlers.

The private land includes six dwellings. Most of the allotments are held by members of an extended family. Access to these properties is mainly from Point Nepean Road, with some access from the old road alignment.

Public access into this Area is limited to a shared path (part of the Bay Trail) between Tideways and the Sorrento Sailing Club Area, and shoreline access. The public land on the headland is securely fenced and signs advise that the area is being revegetated. Access to the beach is possible from either the eastern or western side, but access around the cliff area is difficult. There is considerable erosion apparent on the cliff, with some fragile overhanging sections.

Uses & activities	<p>Walking and cycling.</p> <p>Residential areas.</p>
Visitor facilities	<p>Shared pathway (part of the Bay Trail).</p>
Views	<p>Views are available from public land, however public access to these viewing places is restricted.</p>
Buildings & structures	<p>Private residences and associated structures (garages, fences, tennis court/s etc).</p>
Natural values	<p>Moonah woodland, including areas of old growth Moonah and several rare species.</p>
Cultural values	<p>Historic: important part of the 1803-4 Collins settlement site. Archaeological potential: battery site, possible burial area. Fragile.</p> <p>Heritage Overlay and Heritage Inventory H7821-0074.</p> <p>Aboriginal: extensive areas of exposed Aboriginal midden along the coastline, but inland boundary not known.</p>
Key issues	<p>Cliff erosion, and risks to visitors.</p> <p>Extent of private land.</p> <p>Severe weed infestation throughout the area, especially within the Moonah woodland, and the associated fire risk.</p> <p>No views of the Eastern Sister or Sullivan Bay.</p>

	No visual or interpretative links to the 1803 settlement on Sullivan Bay or to the signal station on St Pauls (Bass Strait). Limited beach access. Vehicle use of the shared path (part of the Bay Trail).
Specific plans & policies	The <i>Sorrento Foreshore Reserve Master Plan</i> (2001) covers all of this Area. Mornington Peninsula Planning Scheme Heritage Overlay (Am. C12).
Current/past funding proposals	Federation project proposal (not funded) included path upgrade, geotechnical survey, information signs, steps from Sullivan Bay.

Area 6: Sorrento Sailing Club Area

Description & setting

This Area contains an informal car park catering for around 20 cars and picnic area. Access to the beach is down a series of steps. To the west, there is the complex of buildings and structures that mark the Sorrento Sailing Club.

Access to this Area is either via the shared path (part of the Bay Trail) from Tideways and through the Western Sister Area, or by vehicle via the Sorrento Sailing Club.

Uses & activities	Boating-related activities. Walking and cycling. Beach use.
Visitor facilities	Picnic tables. Car parking.
Views	Open views to the north and west. Views back to the Western Sister.
Buildings & structures	Club rooms of the Sailing Club. Jetty.
Natural values	Much of this Area has been cleared, but there are some remnant Moonahs.
Cultural values	This Area is outside the area known to have been part of the 1803 settlement. It has not been surveyed for Aboriginal sites.
Key issues	Quality of the small picnic and parking area. Beach use, leading to erosion on the western edge of the Western Sister.
Specific plans & policies	The <i>Sorrento Foreshore Reserve Master Plan</i> (2001) covers all of this Area. Bay Trail. Mornington Peninsula Planning Scheme Heritage Overlay (Am. C12).
Current/past funding proposals	No proposals.

4.4 Stakeholder interests

There are many community-based organisations with specific interests in the study area. There are two Committees of Management:

- White Cliffs to Camerons Bight Committee of Management (Crown land east of Leggett Way)
- Mornington Peninsula Shire (Foreshore Reserve and Crown land west of Leggett Way excluding the Historic Reserve managed by Parks Victoria).

Parks Victoria manages the Collins Settlement Historic Reserve with the support of Collins Settlement Historic Site Advisory Group and the Friends of Collins Settlement Sorrento Inc.

Two other organisations manage land within the study area: the Camerons Bight Boat Club and the Sorrento Sailing Club.

There are three Aboriginal organisations and one committee with an interest in the Plan: Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation; Kulin Nation Regional Cultural Heritage Program; Victorian Boqnerwung Lands Council Association; Wurundjeri Tribe Land Compensation and Cultural Heritage Council.

There are also several local community organisations dedicated to conservation of natural and cultural heritage values that have a keen interest and close involvement: Nepean Conservation Group, Nepean Historical Society, Nepean Ratepayers' Association.

Other local organisations consulted are listed in Appendix 2.

Local individuals also have a keen interest in Sullivan Bay, especially the private owners who abut the public land areas, and people from the surrounding area who regularly use the public land and beach.

Appendix 2 includes summaries of the results of consultations undertaken as part of the development of the Draft Plan.

There are many different viewpoints about the management issues faced and how these can be best resolved. However, there is a strong commitment to conserving all aspects of the significance of the area and to presenting it to visitors.

The issues of greatest concern are the erosion of the Eastern and Western Sisters and the need to minimise future erosion, and with the closure of the Visitor Centre, the need to establish new interpretive facilities. The impact of weeds on the significant Moonah woodland is an issue, as is the increased risk of fire.

Conflict between public and private land users leads to some difficulties, but better site design and visitor management are seen as the keys to resolving these problems.

A better network of paths and viewing points that help connect the public land areas within Sullivan Bay into a single entity is strongly supported, although there are differences on where these paths should be located. The construction of a lookout on the Western Sister is supported by some local groups, and there is some interest in constructing a jetty on the site of the original Collins jetty. Better use of the existing public jetties is supported, along with improved facilities for visitors.

Future private development will be an issue as future proposals for subdivision and/or new buildings emerge. Limitations on private development that might be imposed because of the archaeological sensitivity of the area are not currently seen as a major issue for most owners; they are familiar with the need for planning permits within this area. Private owners value the character of the area and are keen to ensure it is not adversely affected by development.

5 PROTECTING THIS PLACE FOR THE FUTURE: THE FUTURE DIRECTIONS PLAN

5.1 Introduction

The site of the 1803-4 Collins settlement is a place of great historical importance in the history of European colonisation of southern Australia. As well as being the site of one short-lived settlement, it is a key link in the expansion of the colony of NSW into Tasmania and Victoria, and the control of Bass Strait as a trade route.

This site has been protected and valued by generations of people; its past survival and present management relies largely on volunteers. But over time its heritage values have been compromised by development, particularly during the last 30-40 years. As the bicentenary of this site approaches, there are new opportunities to retrieve these losses.

In recent years, the focus has been on telling the story of the 1803-4 Collins settlement. Now, there is the opportunity to tell a wider story - one that encompasses the thousands of years of Aboriginal history and the story of contact, displacement and cultural conflict between the colonisers and the Boonerwung (Bunurong)³⁵ people.

Today, the challenge is to protect the ambience of Sullivan Bay, protecting and enhancing its natural landscape qualities, protecting the evidence of history that lies below the ground, and telling the stories that will help illuminate the history of this place for the many people who come to visit.

Given that part of the site is public land, and part is privately held, this is a formidable challenge, requiring breadth of vision, a long-term focus and a cooperative approach between all of those with interests in this place.

In essence, Sullivan Bay is significant because it is:

- the place of the 1803 settlement, retaining a landscape that enables the form, layout and extent of the settlement to be recognised today and probably retaining physical (archaeological) evidence
- a symbol of contact, displacement and cultural conflict between the Boonerwung (Bunurong) people and Europeans (including those at the 1803 settlement, sealers and whalers (etc))
- a part of the landscape occupied by Boonerwung (Bunurong) people for many thousands of years, retaining among the most significant group of midden sites to remain along the Port Phillip coast.

5.2 Vision

A vision for Sullivan Bay - as a whole place - is given below.

Sullivan Bay will be increasingly recognised as a nationally significant site that symbolises the commencement of British colonisation of the southern Australian mainland and the impact of that process on Aboriginal peoples. Sullivan Bay will be recognised as one of a small series of linked 'first colonial settlement sites' places in eastern Australia.³⁶

Sullivan Bay will be recognised as a place associated with the Boonerwung (Bunurong) people, and where extensive evidence of their occupation and use of the environment survives.

The landscape of Sullivan Bay, with its magnificent coastal setting, significant Moonah woodlands, and sheltered beach enclosed by the Eastern and Western Sisters will be protected from the impacts of development.

Visitors to Sullivan Bay will have increased opportunities to understand these stories in all of their complexity, and to appreciate the place/landscape as the setting for these stories. Cultural conflict and the consequences of British colonisation will form part of these stories.

Community involvement in conserving, researching and telling the stories will continue to be a vital part of the management of Sullivan Bay, and will expand to include greater Aboriginal community participation.

A shared and cooperative land management arrangement will assist all of those who own land at Sullivan Bay to care for this precious place and to resolve any conflicts that arise through different values and aspirations.

A single focused public land management responsibility will acknowledge and encourage cooperation from stakeholders.

5.3 Strategic directions

There are six strategic directions (below). Each is followed by specific management objectives.

Section 5.4 provides the detailed policies needed take these strategic directions and management objectives forward and Section 5.5 presents the Landscape Master Plan. Chapter 6 details the practical actions required to implement the vision, strategic directions and policies contained in Chapter 5.

1. Achieve effective conservation

- The significance of the place is embodied in the landscape and setting, and the archaeological evidence that lies beneath the surface of large areas of the place. This place needs active protection.
- The fragility of any surviving evidence requires great care in the planning and monitoring of all public and private activities that may disturb the ground.
- Recognise that coastal and cliff erosion processes are a natural process that has already and may in future threaten the significance of the place.
- Recognise all of the historical layers, but ensure that the primary significance is attributed to Aboriginal history, Aboriginal/European contact and the 1803-4 Collins settlement.
- Seek uniform and consistent recognition of the cultural and natural heritage values of Sullivan Bay.
- Ensure that all activities, uses, development and works on public and private land minimise impacts on heritage values and evidence.

2. Create a richer visitor experience

- Re-integrate the public land components into a single 'historic place' by reconfiguring visitor access and interpretation, a coordinated approach to land management and potential strategic land acquisition.
- Create a sense of arrival at Sullivan Bay and an appreciation of the extent of the place through design of the main entry, a new visitor orientation and interpretive facility, integrated interpretation and consistent landscape treatments and furniture.
- Expand and integrate visitor interpretation and improve the range and quality of visitor facilities in landscape settings with consistent design treatments.

3. Tell all the stories

- This site is the focus for many important storylines, each of which should be told. They include - Boonerwung (Bunurong) history; European /Boonerwung (Bunurong) contact,

displacement and cultural conflict; the historical links to Tasmania; the European colonisation of southern Australia; protecting Bass Strait.

- Stories that involve Boonerwung (Bunurong) people need to be told from their perspective.
- Interpretation of the site needs to re-people the landscape, to tell the stories of daily life and activity, as well as the larger storylines in an innovative and creative manner that will inspire public appreciation of its importance to Victoria.
- Continue to learn about the history of this place. Support ongoing research into the history of this place as the basis for physical investigations and interpretation.
- Record oral history about this place.

4. Ownership of a shared vision

- Recognise and respect Aboriginal connections to this place.
- Include and inform all of those with an interest in this place in its management and interpretation.
- Acknowledge those who have worked to protect and manage this place.
- Engage the wider community, and the Victorian and Commonwealth governments.
- Create ownership of the long-term vision for the conservation, interpretation and resourcing of this place contained in this Plan (see 5.2), and develop it further over time.

5. Celebrate 2003-4

- Use the 2003-4 celebrations to confirm the vision and commitment to implementation of the Plan.
- Develop a program of activities to mark 2003-4.
- Involve Boonerwung (Bunurong) people in planning and conduct of these activities.
- Link these celebrations with the Tasmanian bicentennial celebrations in 2004.

6. Develop secure and ongoing management

- Seek appropriate financial resources for the implementation of the Future Directions Management Plan and the on-going unified management of the public land areas at Sullivan Bay.

5.4 Conservation Policies

To give effect to some of these strategic directions and management objectives, a series of conservation policies are proposed.

These policies apply to both public and private land, and terms such as owner or manager apply equally to public and private land owners, occupiers and managers.

Managing a significant place

Sullivan Bay should be managed in accordance with its outstanding heritage significance. The Statement of Significance provides the basis for natural and cultural resource management across the whole area.

The whole of the Sullivan Bay area defined under this plan is regarded as significant and all areas of public and private land need to be managed in accordance with these policies.

The following principles and guidelines should be applied:

- *The Burra Charter: The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance* (1999) and associated guidelines
- *Australian Natural Heritage Charter: Standards and principles for the conservation of places of natural heritage significance* (1996) and associated guidelines
- *Draft Guidelines for the Protection, Management and Use of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage Places* (1997).

Other policies may also apply.

Additional policies specific to Sullivan Bay are expected to be developed over time, and this Plan foreshadows the development of:

- a Local Policy by the Mornington Peninsula Shire to facilitate the implementation of the Heritage Overlay under the Mornington Peninsula Planning Scheme
- an archaeological zoning plan.

Managing all aspects of significance

The contribution of all aspects of the significance of Sullivan Bay must be respected. This includes considering the potential for Sullivan Bay to contain evidence, associations and meanings from several distinct cultural periods, and the importance of each of these periods to the overall significance of this place.

As well, the significance of this place results from both its cultural and natural features together. Taking actions to protect the old growth Moonahs and their environs is as much a part of protecting archaeological potential as about natural heritage protection.

The management approach should seek to maximise the protection of both cultural and natural heritage values, without favouring one against the other. This means that all management actions need to consider potential impacts on both cultural and natural heritage values. This includes management actions which may be directed towards protecting a heritage value.

For example, weed removal and revegetation actions must ensure the protection of cultural evidence, such as intact areas of midden.

This also means adopting a cautious approach. Conservation is based on respect for the evidence of natural and cultural history. Any management actions that have the potential to result in a loss of significance must be approached with great caution, and should be preceded by careful research, analysis and consideration of options.

Refining the definition of significance

Further research and site investigation is needed in the area to the south of Point Nepean Road.³⁷ Should this work identify any significant evidence or archaeological potential, policies and procedures should be developed to cover these areas. Alternatively, some of the policies in this Plan may be extended to cover that area. This work should be funded and commissioned as soon as possible, and should form part of development of an archaeological zoning plan (see below).

All proposed development or works on public or private land require archaeological advice and inspection. Over time, the information gathered may indicate that a reassessment of the nature or extent of significance is required. This should be considered at each Plan review (see below).

Landscape

The landscape setting of Sullivan Bay is a critical component of its significance. The landscape today is a complex cultural landscape with large areas retaining an indigenous vegetation canopy. Planning and landscape management decisions need to recognise and protect all significant elements.

Protecting the current extent of indigenous canopy is critical, and over time this area should be extended. Specific opportunities for revegetation will be considered on any acquired land, and as buffers to all of the car parking areas.

The topography and landform of Sullivan Bay reflects its natural and cultural history. It will be maintained. The continuing erosion of the Eastern and Western Sisters will be addressed in a manner that does not harm the visual landscape qualities. Major modifications to the topography and landform will only occur where essential for conservation reasons. Any such change must be preceded by detailed investigations and must be reversible.

Development that impacts on the landscape setting, topography and landform will not be permitted. Redevelopment of existing buildings that currently impact on these landscape attributes will need to achieve a better outcome than at present. All new buildings must be set well back from the high tide mark, and must be designed and sited to ensure there are no adverse impacts on the landscape setting of Sullivan Bay.

Where intrusive elements are removed, for example eroding paths to the beach, the former level and form of the immediate landscape may be reconstructed.

The potential cultural significance of any large exotic trees should be considered prior to any tree removal.

Aboriginal heritage

Sullivan Bay contains significant evidence of Aboriginal history. It is also associated with stories that are of great importance to the Aboriginal communities associated with the area.

The management of Sullivan Bay will respect the significant associations and meanings held by these Aboriginal communities.

The rights and responsibilities of Aboriginal people to be involved in decisions that affect their cultural heritage will be acknowledged, and mechanisms will be developed to facilitate their participation in site survey, conservation, interpretation and collections of materials (collections, records, artefacts).

Much of the Sullivan Bay area is likely to contain evidence of Aboriginal history. This includes the areas where middens have been recorded as well as the potential for further evidence to be located in previously unsurveyed areas. All such evidence is part of the cultural heritage of Sullivan Bay. Policies and procedures will be put in place to ensure that such evidence is not damaged or disturbed. Aboriginal Affairs Victoria and the relevant Aboriginal community organisations will be advised immediately if any previously unrecorded Aboriginal cultural material is located.

Archaeological potential

Sullivan Bay contains a rich archaeological resource that needs to be conserved and actively managed. The primary objective is preservation of all archaeological resources in-situ, and protection of areas likely to contain archaeological resources.

An archaeological zoning plan will be prepared for the site, including the area to the south of the Point Nepean Road. In the interim:

- Areas that have been substantially disturbed will be considered to have low archaeological potential. Substantially disturbed areas are limited to the footprint of existing buildings and structures, Point Nepean Road and other constructed streets. Where a change is proposed that will result in major ground disturbance or exposure, pre-works advice will be sought from an archaeologist to ascertain whether any monitoring is required.
- All other areas are considered to have high to moderate archaeological potential. Minimal physical intervention is the preferred policy.
- Where proposed development and works will result in ground disturbance, archaeological advice will be obtained as part of the consideration of the proposal. Where the

development or works are approved to proceed, archaeological investigation and /or monitoring may be required.

As a general principle, all works and developments should be sited and designed to minimise impact on archaeological resources by limiting new works and developments to disturbed areas.

All proposed development or works on public or private land within this area that involve ground disturbance should include the requirement for archaeological inspection. Initial archaeological advice may be provided by public agencies. Where subdivision and development is proposed, archaeological investigation should be a condition of approval. The conservation and maintenance of recovered artefacts may also be required.

The cost of initial archaeological advice would usually be met by those proposing works or developments. Assistance may be provided from public funds. The cost of archaeological investigations and monitoring will be determined in consultation with those seeking the development or works.

Archaeological investigations are expected to occur from time to time at Sullivan Bay. These investigations will always:

- be for a defined purpose
- be preceded by archival research
- occur within a stated conservation and research framework
- be fully documented.

Archaeological investigations will use non-destructive techniques in preference to invasive techniques so as to maximise the long-term preservation of the archaeological resource. Where invasive techniques are considered essential, part of the same resource will be retained intact and undisturbed for future research.

All artefacts and materials located through archaeological investigations will remain as part of the public collection associated with Sullivan Bay.

All property owners and occupiers, including public agencies, will be informed of their heritage responsibilities, especially those associated with the archaeological resources of Sullivan Bay.

Significant views

Several views have been identified as part of the significance of Sullivan Bay namely:

- the view between the Eastern and Western Sisters
- the view between the Western Sister and St Pauls (on the Bass Strait coast)
- the view along the beach at Sullivan Bay, and
- the view to Arthurs Seat from the Eastern Sister.

The first two views also include historical lines-of-sight used during the 1803-4 Collins settlement for communication. These views should be protected. No developments should be permitted which would block, intrude into or adversely impact on these views and lines-of-sight.

The line-of-sight between the Western and Eastern Sisters that was available during the 1803-4 settlement period is currently blocked by several significant Moonahs. This line-of-sight should not be reconstructed if this would involve removal or trimming of significant indigenous vegetation.

Built elements

Two significant buildings are separately protected under the Mornington Peninsula Planning Scheme - Iluka and Nee Morna. These two houses should continue to be conserved in accordance with their established significance. Development proposals for Iluka and Nee

Morna need to respond to the individual heritage values of these heritage places and to the broader policies of the Future Directions Management Plan, especially in relation to the conservation of evidence from earlier periods that may survive within their grounds.

The Collins Settlement Historic Reserve is protected under the Victorian Heritage Register and the Planning Scheme. The Settlers Graves will be conserved. Removal of the former Visitor Centre and fence would help reveal the significance of the graves and the headland. A demolition plan will be developed for the removal of the Visitor Centre building to ensure that the potential for damage to significant vegetation, archaeology and the graves is minimised. A landscape plan defining the future landscape treatment of the graves and the setting (including the cliff face) will also be prepared prior to the demolition of the building. This landscape plan will incorporate the works recommended to mitigate cliff erosion.

Missing elements may be considered for reconstruction if:

- there is sufficient evidence of the element to allow its reconstruction (hypothetical reconstruction should not occur - see Burra Charter Articles 20.1, 20.2), and
- the reconstruction would assist in understanding the significance of the place.

There are many other built elements within the study area that are not significant, and some are intrusive. Elements that are not significant may be removed after a suitable record has been made of the element.

Extent of the Protected Area - public and private land

The current area of public land does not cover the whole of the area defined as significant in this Plan. The balance of the area is in private ownership and is primarily residential. The Heritage Overlay in the Planning Scheme is the primary means by which these private land areas can be protected (see Plan 3).

There is a proposal before the Victorian government to purchase all or part of The Sisters property (see Section 4.2 The Sisters property).

Other land in private ownership should be reviewed to identify:

- additional areas containing significant features that cannot be adequately protected in private ownership
- additional areas required for operational or management reasons.

The potential for future acquisition will depend on need and funding.

Heritage Overlay

Uniform and consistent recognition of the cultural and natural heritage values of Sullivan Bay is essential. Together the Heritage Overlay, Victorian Heritage Register, Victorian Heritage Inventory and Aboriginal Affairs Victoria Sites Register and the associated legislation and policies, recognise cultural heritage values. Review of these listings seeking consistency is recommended. In particular, the Victorian Heritage Register listing in so far as it is restricted to the Graves Reserve, in no way recognises the wider heritage values of the study area.

The area protected under the Heritage Overlay is adequate given current knowledge about the extent of significance. No reduction in this area is proposed. The extent of the Heritage Overlay should be reviewed to consider future inclusion of

- Point Nepean Road, particularly the undeveloped verges of the roadway on both sides of the road, and
- an area to the south of Point Nepean Road, subject to further investigation to define the extent of the area (see *Refining the definition of significance* above).

The Heritage Overlay should also be reviewed to recognise that Sullivan Bay is an Aboriginal heritage place.

Development and works

The policies contained in section 5.4 apply to public and private land, although some are more directed to one or the other.

Private land within the study area at Sullivan Bay should be used and managed in accordance with its outstanding heritage significance. While this may place some constraints on owners and occupiers, it will also help protect Sullivan Bay and the qualities of this area that the private land owners value.

The primary objectives for the use and development of private land are:

- to protect significant landscapes and areas, especially the setting of Sullivan Bay and its natural landscape qualities
- to preserve all archaeological resources in-situ and to protect all areas likely to contain archaeological resources from disturbance or damage.

The primary requirement for private land owners is to seek a planning permit from the Shire prior to undertaking any development or works. This includes (for example):

- any activities that will disturb the ground as these may disturb significant archaeological evidence.
- all new structures as their siting, design and form may impact on the visual qualities of the Sullivan Bay landscape or on adjoining public land areas
- removal of native vegetation may impact on the natural heritage significance of the area.

The Plan proposes that two new policies be developed:

- a Local Policy by the Mornington Peninsula Shire to facilitate the implementation of the Heritage Overlay under the Mornington Peninsula Planning Scheme
- an archaeological zoning plan.

These two policy documents will provide helpful advice to owners and the Shire, clarify expectations, establish processes that need to be followed, and (potentially) provide permit exemptions.

To protect the cultural and natural significance of Sullivan Bay, and to provide a landscape setting in which this significance can be appreciated, no future development should be permitted within the study area unless it can be demonstrated that such development will not adversely impact the significance of Sullivan Bay, its landscape and setting. This applies to both public and private development proposals.

Proposals for all new development and works will be assessed in relation to the Heritage Overlay, the policies contained in this plan and proposed Local Policy.

All proposals for developments will be required to prepare a heritage impact statement as part of the planning permit application. The Shire will provide advice and assistance in the preparation of a heritage impact statement (see Appendix 5).

Proposals for development on both public and private land will need to demonstrate that:

- significant cultural and natural heritage resources are not damaged or compromised
- the site selected for the development is of low archaeological potential
- the development will not encroach into or adversely impact on significant views, including views from the Sullivan Bay beach
- the development will not result in an intensification of activity that would result in adverse impacts on cultural and natural heritage resources

- the development will accord with the *Victorian Coastal Strategy* (2002) and the *Siting and Design Guidelines for Structures on the Victorian Coast* (1998)
- the development will accord with all of the policies contained in this Plan.

Artefacts, collections and records

A small collection of items - artefacts and documents - is located within the Visitor Centre (now closed). Other items are held elsewhere, for example by the Nepean Historical Society. Aboriginal Affairs Victoria has a small amount of material from earlier site investigations. It is assumed that there are many artefacts and records held in private hands, especially by researchers and by families with connections to Sullivan Bay.

A collections policy will be developed for Sullivan Bay, and all items in the public collection will be selected, catalogued and conserved in accordance with good museum practice. The policy will include consideration of the security of the collection, including the risks associated with public display and fire.

Access to the collection may be provided to bona fide researchers and institutions.

Owners and custodians of artefacts and records associated with Sullivan Bay will be encouraged to record their items on the same catalogue so as to build, over time, a more complete picture of the history of Sullivan Bay. Individuals may wish to retain possession or custodianship of these items or may wish to donate them to the public collection. A reporting 'amnesty' should be declared to ensure that individuals feel free to advise of items in their possession.

The collection of archaeological materials held by Aboriginal Affairs Victoria is part of the total archaeological resource of the site. It will continue to be conserved. The Aboriginal communities associated with Sullivan Bay will participate in any decisions about Aboriginal cultural materials, including ongoing conservation or return of materials to the site.

Research

Sullivan Bay was the primary focus of the early attempts by the British to colonise southern Australia, and it was an important place of contact, displacement and cultural conflict. As such it could become the focus for research on these themes. A research plan and program will be developed in consultation with existing researchers and associated communities.

Research on these themes and on the place itself will be coordinated and supported to ensure that it can provide information to assist with conservation. The importance of 'volunteer researchers' is recognised and will continue to be supported.

Use

The Settlers Graves, Sullivan Bay beach and other parts of the study area have been visited by the public for more than 100 years. This established use is part of the cultural significance of this place and should be retained.

Residential use is also an established use that needs to be recognised and respected. However, it is not considered to contribute to the cultural significance of the study area generally, with the exceptions of the two significant residential properties Nee Morna and Iluka.

Knowledge and expertise

Conservation and management decisions will seek out all relevant sources of knowledge and expertise, including that of the community. Individuals with long associations with Sullivan Bay, Aboriginal community organisations, and researchers have a demonstrated wealth of knowledge and expertise.

Monitoring & review

The effectiveness of conservation management will be monitored and the results reported regularly.

Progress on the priority actions will be monitored and progress reported annually.

This Plan will be reviewed every five years.

Visitor access and facilities

Sullivan Bay will continue to be available to the public to visit. It will be actively promoted as the key place associated with the themes of early British colonisation of southern Australia and contact, displacement and cultural conflict between the Boonerwung (Bunurong) and the colonisers.

The primary purpose of public access and use of the site will be the conservation of its significance and interpretation of its history. Sullivan Bay will provide a high quality visitor experience.

Visitor facilities will be provided to accommodate visitor needs, however the conservation requirements will be the paramount consideration. Visitor facilities that are not essential to the presentation and interpretation of Sullivan Bay will not be located within the study area.

Access for people with disabilities will be available to parts of the site. Comprehensive disabled access cannot be achieved at Sullivan Bay because of the steep slopes and lack of connectivity, as well as conservation objectives.

Interpretation – telling the stories

An information, interpretation and education plan will be developed for Sullivan Bay. The themes to be interpreted will reflect and communicate the significance of the place and its complex history.

Interpretation programs, activities and facilities will be designed and developed in a way that minimises impact on the significance of the place and its natural and cultural heritage resources. Innovative approaches to visitor interpretation will enhance its appeal and attract new visitors.

The interpretation at Sullivan Bay will demonstrate the links between this place and its stories and other places to assist visitors understand this place in its broader historical, cultural and geographical context.

Visitors will be informed about the conservation issues at Sullivan Bay and encouraged to be respectful of the place.

Monitoring

A monitoring program will be developed to provide information for conservation and management decisions.

The key areas for monitoring are:

- progress on high priority actions (see Chapter 6)
- cultural and natural resources
- visitor satisfaction
- community satisfaction.

Management

Structure

The study area is currently 'owned' by public agencies and private owners. Many people and organisations are involved in aspects of its management. A single agency should be appointed to implement the Plan, its policies and actions as they relate to the management of the public land. The Mornington Peninsula Shire is the Responsible Authority for administering the planning scheme and the relevant policies and actions as they relate to private land.

The Coastal Action Plan for the Mt Eliza to Portsea area of Port Phillip Bay may provide directions in determining future management responsibility.

Resources for conservation

Adequate resources are required to effectively protect and manage Sullivan Bay. This includes financial and human resources.

The capital and operating resources required for the management of the whole site need to be estimated in the light of this Plan.

The significance of this place means that the primary responsibility for funding ongoing conservation and management will rest with the Victorian government. However, there will be opportunities from time to time to seek support from the Commonwealth government and the Mornington Peninsula Shire.

Community contributions have been an important source of funding in the past, and may be needed in the future. The option of establishing a Foundation or similar mechanism to attract private funds should be investigated.

Effective management of Sullivan Bay will require a combination of specialist skills. These skills need to be available within the pool of people and organisations including:

- Victorian government - NRE and Parks Victoria
- Mornington Peninsula Shire
- Aboriginal community
- community organisations - Friends of Collins Settlement Sorrento Inc and Collins Settlement Historic Site Advisory Group
- volunteers
- adjoining owners, and
- external consultants.

Planning processes

Conservation and management planning processes for Sullivan Bay will be inclusive and transparent.

Community roles and responsibilities

People with an interest in the conservation and management of Sullivan Bay include:

- owners of properties within the study area
- people with family and cultural connections to this place, including Aboriginal people with Boonerwung (Bunurong) associations
- the local resident community
- special interest groups
- Collins Settlement Historic Site Advisory Group and Friends of Collins Settlement Sorrento Inc
- repeat visitors.

Some of these people have special associations with Sullivan Bay, and the nature of the social significance that arises from these associations requires protection (along with all other aspects of significance). Consultation will be required on management decisions that may impact on social significance.

At present the main mechanism for active community participation in the management of Sullivan Bay is through the Collins Settlement Historic Site Advisory Group. The current terms of reference for the Advisory Group and the Friends Group need to be reviewed in the

context of the recommendations for integrated management across the whole study area and the appointment of a single manager. Both groups have the potential to play a broader role across the whole study area and membership of the Advisory Group should include Aboriginal community representatives, key government cultural heritage agencies and private owners.

5.5 Landscape Master Plan

The Landscape Master Plan provides an integrated, forward looking plan for Sullivan Bay, demonstrating how the strategic directions and policies would be implemented on the ground.

The Landscape Master Plan (Plan 9) contains a number of key actions, as well as detailed management actions (see Chapter 6). These key actions are described below.

- **Integrate the whole of the Sullivan Bay area** by creating a more central focus, improving access and visitor facilities, and linking the Eastern Sister, Sullivan Bay and the Western Sister more effectively.
- **Provide for both visitors and locals**. Visitors would focus on the main visitor area on the Eastern Sister, and the link to the Western Sister. Continue to provide access for local people, especially at Tideways, Camerons Bight and Sorrento Sailing Club, and through the network of shared paths.
- **Take the visitor on a journey** through Sullivan Bay using a combination of interpretation, walking paths and lookout points to evoke the past landscapes and peoples, and tell the stories. Link the Sullivan Bay stories to other associated places such as Arthurs Seat, St Pauls and Point Nepean.
- **Create a sense of entry to and arrival at Sullivan Bay** by reconfiguring the existing Leggett Way entry, the associated roads and car parking. Announce the entry through a feature, structure or improved signage.
- **Develop a new, innovative visitor orientation and interpretative facility** that introduces the place and its values, engages the visitor's imagination and encourages visitors to explore the whole site. The nature, specific location and design of a new facility will be determined by a feasibility study.
- **Create a sense of the place** as it was in Boonerwung (Bunurong) times and for the arrival of the settlers in 1803, that is, essentially a natural landscape.
- **Conserve and enhance the Eastern Sister landscape** by removing the Visitor Centre. This would provide a more respectful and appropriate setting for the 'settlers' graves and open up views of the bay that are currently blocked by the building.
- **Conserve and enhance the Western Sister landscape** by developing a comprehensive weed management and revegetation plan across both public and private land.
- **Protect key views** from further visual intrusion through siting and design considerations for all new developments on public and private land. From the beach at Sullivan Bay, these include views along the beach and up to the Eastern and Western Sisters.
- **Provide improved visitor facilities** including a better path network, toilets, interpretive programs, orientation, information, and directional signs, site furniture. A unified design theme will help reinforce the significance of Sullivan Bay.
- **Take urgent action to mitigate cliff erosion.**



PLAN 9 LANDSCAPE MASTERPLAN

KEY

	PROPOSED LANDSCAPE SCREEN PLANTING		UPGRADE ENTRANCE
	MITIGATE CLIFF EROSION		UPGRADE / CREATE VEHICLE EXIT
	NEW DIRECTIONAL SIGNS		EXISTING PATHS
	VISITOR INFORMATION		PROPOSED PATHS
	UPGRADE EXISTING STAMPS		NEW VIEWING OPPORTUNITIES
	IMPROVE EXISTING CAR PARK		PROPOSED SEATING & MONUMENTS

Area 6: Sorrento Sailing Club Area

Vision: Improve the landscape quality of this area and recognise its role as a secondary entry point for Sullivan Bay.

Key actions

1. Formalise the carpark, and resurface.
2. Improve the picnic areas and add buffer plantings. Improve seating and picnic tables.
3. Replace treated pine post fencing with a more site responsive treatment.
4. Provide visitor information and add new directional signs to Sullivan Bay and the Western Sister.
5. Improve beach access.

Area 5: Western Sister

Vision: Link the Western Sister to the Eastern Sister through a combination of interpretation, pathways and lookouts so that it is a secondary focus for visitors. Protect and enhance the significant areas of vegetation through weed control and management across public and private land. Continue to limit access to these significant areas, but provide a lookout eastwards across Sullivan Bay.

Key actions

1. Protect and enhance significant Moonah Woodland through the development of an intensive weed control program on public and private land.
2. Create lookout on the Western Sister to overlook Sullivan Bay and help interpret the 1803-4 Collins settlement.
3. Mitigate cliff erosion.
4. Continue to limit access to the Western Sister to protect this sensitive area.
5. Improve the shared pathway and allow for emergency vehicle access only.
6. Provide visitor information and add new directional signs to help link the Western Sister to the other parts of Sullivan Bay.

Area 4: Tideways

Vision: Tideways will continue to provide access to Sullivan Bay and be an informal picnic spot primarily for local people

Key Actions

1. Remove or reduce the parking areas under existing trees in car park. Revegetate to screen this area from the road.
2. Consider extending the car park including the former highway alignment.
3. Redesign the eastern vehicle entry to Tideways to reduce the conflict with the adjoining private driveway and clarify maintenance responsibilities.
4. Create two access points to the beach and prevent any further damage to the underlying midden deposits. Remove & revegetate other paths.

Area 3: Eastern Sister

Vision: Create an enhanced focus for visitors by creating a sense of arrival, restoring the headland, opening up views to Sullivan Bay and creating a circuit path.

Key actions

1. Protect the headland and enhance the ambience of the graves site by removing the Visitor Centre and creating a lookout to the west over Sullivan Bay.
2. Establish new visitor orientation and interpretive facilities (subject to feasibility study) and toilets.
3. Mitigate cliff erosion.
4. Create a circuit path network linking the main entry to the settlers' graves and the Sullivan Bay beach.
5. Create a strong sense of arrival at the main entry through a unified design - possibly using an object or feature - and better signs.
6. Upgrade the existing vehicle entry and car park near Leggett Way.
7. Consider creating a possible bus parking bay/ drop-off point.
8. Undertake weed control and revegetation program.

Area 2: Cameron's Blight Dunes/ revegetation Area

Vision: Extend the excellent weed control and revegetation works to enhance this important link between the first landing place and the main Sullivan's Bay entry.

Key actions

1. Extend the weed control and revegetation program.
2. Improve pedestrian directional signs.
3. Provide access to Sullivan Bay at a single point.
4. Create vehicle exit from main Sullivan Bay entry car park.

Area 1: Cameron's Blight Boat Club Area

Vision: Recognise the 'first landing place' through interpretation and continued landscape improvements.

Key actions:

1. Improve interpretation and provide visitor information.
2. Maintain jetty.
3. Remove weeds & revegetate.
4. Improve carpark.

Key Actions

Public Land

- Protect heritage, landscape and sense of place
- New entry design
- Integrated and expanded path network
- New viewing points over Sullivan's Bay
- Remove Visitor Centre and establish new visitor orientation and interpretation facilities
- Interpret the whole place and its history

Key Actions

Private Land

- Protect heritage, landscape and sense of place
- Provide framework for assessing proposals on private land
- Develop planning policies and guidelines
- Establish co-operative public/ private land management practices.

Strategic directions: Achieve effective conservation Create a richer visitor experience Tell all the stories
Ownership of a shared vision Celebrate 2003-4 Develop secure and ongoing management.

6 PRACTICAL ACTIONS

6.1 Introduction

This section contains the practical actions required to implement the vision, strategic directions and policies contained in Chapter 5, and details the actions contained in the Landscape Master Plan.

Changes proposed to the management arrangements and resourcing are included in Chapter 7 *Acting on this Plan*.

The action tables indicate the key organisations involved in initiating each action, that is:

MPS - Mornington Peninsula Shire

PV - Parks Victoria

CoM - Committee of Management (White Cliffs to Camerons Bight Foreshore Reserve)

NRE - Department of Natural Resources and Environment

TBD - To be determined

Many of these actions may involve other organisations, including Collins Settlement Historic Site Advisory Group and Friends of Collins Settlement Sorrento Inc along with:

AAV - Aboriginal Affairs Victoria

ACO - Aboriginal community organisations³⁸

CFA - Country Fire Authority

CBBC - Camerons Bight Boat Club

HV - Heritage Victoria

NHS - Nepean Historical Society

Owners - Private owners/occupiers of land within the study area

The priority that should be given to each action is indicated as:

- High: important action
- Medium: important but not critical
- Ongoing.

None of the actions included is a low priority. Some actions have two priorities - for example high and ongoing, indicating that an action requires an immediate start and will continue as an ongoing action.

6.2 Actions for the whole Sullivan Bay site

Forward planning

No.	Recommended action	Organisations	Priority
FP1	Adopt the final <i>Future Directions Management Plan</i> . Advocate its use by all those who are planning and implementing developments and works within the study area.	PV, MPS, NRE	High
FP2	Amend the Sorrento Foreshore Reserve Master Plan (2001) and the White Cliffs to Camerons Bight Foreshore Management Plan (2000) to reflect the <i>Future Directions Management Plan</i> .	NRE/CoM, MPS	Medium
FP3	Ensure that all proposed developments and works within the study area are preceded by suitable studies and investigations to ensure that the valued qualities of this place are protected at all times.	MPS, PV, NRE AAV & HV	High
FP4	Initiate appropriate amendments to the Planning Scheme to recognise the <i>Future Directions Management Plan</i> , including the possibilities of a reference document, incorporated plan or a local policy.	MPS	High
FP5	Establish effective consultation procedures to ensure that all stakeholders including adjoining property owners, community interest groups, Aboriginal communities, and government agencies are included in key decisions and actions that arise from this Plan.	PV, MPS, NRE/CoM	High
FP6	Initiate discussions between relevant parties on establishing integrated management across the whole study area	PV, MPS, NRE	High

Protect significant cultural heritage evidence

Protection of the cultural heritage of Sullivan Bay is of paramount importance. The following actions are required to give effect to the statement of significance and policies.

No.	Recommended action	Organisations	Priority
CH1	Adopt this Plan and the policies contained in 5.4 as the basis for management decision-making and development control.	PV, MPS, NRE	High
CH2	Seek the inclusion of the whole of the significant area of Sullivan Bay on the Register of the National Estate and the Victorian Heritage Register/Inventory with the extent of registrations matching the Heritage Overlay in the Mornington Peninsula Planning Scheme.	PV, NRE, MPS, HV	High
CH3	Seek to acquire additional areas of land on the Eastern Sister as opportunities arise. Consider other options to assist in protection including covenants.	PV, MPS, NRE	High Ongoing
CH4	Prepare an archaeological zoning plan for Sullivan Bay as described in 5.4. As part of this work, undertake further investigation of the area to the south of the Point Nepean Road as part of the development of the zoning plan. Prepare guidelines on opportunistic archaeological investigations that may occur from time to time as part of revegetation works or other developments.	MPS, HV, AAV	High
CH5	Undertake archaeological survey work on the Western Sister to assess the potential of locating predicted features including the area of burials and the battery site. This work may best be	MPS, ACO	High

No.	Recommended action	Organisations	Priority
	undertaken at the same time as part of weed removal and revegetation works.		
CH6	Ensure that archaeological expertise is available to review development proposals, monitor site works etc.	MPS, PV	High
CH7	Develop a collections policy and procedures to guide the acquisition, management, storage, use and disposal of cultural property items associated with the study area (ie. records, publications, artefacts etc).	PV, MPS, NHS, AAV, HV, ACO	Medium

Aboriginal consultation protocol

Under existing Aboriginal heritage legislation, the Wurundjeri Tribe Land Compensation and Cultural Heritage Council Inc. exercises a statutory responsibility within the tribal Boonerwung (Bunurong) areas.

While this organisation holds this important legal responsibility, consultation with all Aboriginal organisations with a potential interest in the Sullivan Bay area is required.

No.	Recommended action	Organisations	Priority
AC1	Develop a protocol for consultation with Aboriginal community organisations on cultural heritage matters.	PV, MPS, AAV, ACO	High

'Sense of place' qualities

The landform, headlands enclosing the beach, the cliffs and vegetated areas create a strong sense of place that evokes earlier times. Actions to protect these qualities are an important part of the Plan. (See also Vegetation Management.)

No.	Recommended action	Organisations	Priority
SP1	Recognise the importance of the natural landscape qualities extending back to Boonerwung (Bunurong) occupation. These intangible qualities should be respected and protected.	PV, MPS, NRE	Ongoing
SP2	Protect and enhance the visual qualities of Sullivan Bay, the open and natural landscape qualities (especially the headlands and foreshore) by minimising all potential visual intrusions, including new developments on public and private land.	PV, MPS, NRE/CoM	Ongoing

Views

No.	Recommended action	Organisations	Priority
VW1	Maintain, protect and enhance glimpse views to bay along the main network of paths.	PV, MPS, NRE/CoM	Ongoing
VW2	Enhance existing view points to increase continuity and connections throughout Areas 1-6. Ensure that this action does not impact on either sense of place or naturalness.	PV, MPS, NRE/CoM	Ongoing
VW3	Create a set of key viewing points to assist with the interpretation of Sullivan Bay: Fawcner Lookout (existing); a new viewing point from the Eastern Sister looking west, and a third viewing point from the eastern edge of the Western Sister looking east. Ensure that the location, design and construction of these viewing places does not impact on the erodible cliff areas nor on the view of the headlands from Sullivan Bay beach; retaining and	PV, MPS	High

	<p>enhancing the sense of naturalness is important. Because of the potential impact on vegetation, archaeology, cliff erosion and the views of the Western Sister from Sullivan Bay, construction of a lookout tower on the Western Sister is not supported.</p>		
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Vegetation management

The pre-eminent vegetation management tasks are weed control and revegetation. Both are being implemented by the Friends Group on a relatively small scale south of the Eastern Sister. This program is achieving considerable success as a result of sound practices and a dedicated effort. Their actions have demonstrably improved the quality and viability of the vegetation.

The balance of the site requires similar treatment. While acknowledging the substantial resources required, the present viability of the vegetation is clearly under threat. There is little or no potential for Moonah recruitment and the density of the weed flora is undoubtedly stressing the old-growth canopy.

Aboriginal communities value these areas of indigenous vegetation, and should be consulted and involved in vegetation management programs.

The vegetation management actions below represent the primary actions required to protect habitat values.

No.	Recommended action	Organisations	Priority
VM1	<p>Develop and implement a vegetation management plan and program for the whole area, including both public and private land.</p> <p>Where opportunities arise on public and private land, extend the Moonah woodland to help protect and enhance its heritage values.</p> <p>Use locally indigenous species in all plantings within the study area (preferably from local provenance stock).</p>	PV, MPS, CoM, ACO	High
VM2	Adopt and extend the successful weed and revegetation management practices that are being applied by the Friends of Collins Settlement Sorrento Inc as the model for the whole area.	PV, MPS, NRE, ACO	High
VM3	Investigate funding options that would enable active Aboriginal involvement in revegetation works.	PV, MPS, NRE, ACO	High
VM4	Consult with private property owners about the vegetation management plan and program, seeking their active co-operation and assistance, especially with strategic weed control.	MPS, PV	High
VM5	Encourage private owners within and near the study area to use locally indigenous species in their 'ornamental plantings' and to avoid the use of plants that are already established as major weeds within the study area. This will involve information, education and incentives.	MPS, PV, Owners	Ongoing High
VM6	Undertake a study of the potential cultural significance of any large/mature exotic trees prior to a decision on any proposed tree removal.	PV, MPS, NRE, HV	Medium

Unify and interpret Sullivan Bay as a historic site

The key actions required to present Sullivan Bay as a unified place are summarised below and some are also contained within the Area recommendations in section 6.3.

An integrated approach to interpretation across the whole of the study area is critical. Moreover, the interpretation program at Sullivan Bay needs to be linked to other sites where related stories are told. The interpretation of the site should be creative, innovative and evocative.

No.	Recommended action	Organisations	Priority
UN1	Prepare an Interpretation Plan to provide an integrated approach to interpretation, information and education. This plan will consider on and off-site information, and links to other sites.	PV, MPS	High
UN2	Commission a feasibility study to determine the location, form, scale and function/s of a new visitor orientation and interpretation facility, probably within Area 3.	PV, MPS	High
UN3	Create an integrated shared path network across the whole site. This means that the path network should 'read' as a network to the visitor in terms of design, materials etc. The proposed path network in the Landscape Management Plan (Plan 9) includes several new circuits and links.	PV, MPS, CoM	High
UN4	Design and implement a single set of signs - interpretation, orientation signs - across the whole area using a unifying theme and design. These will be determined through the development of the Interpretation Plan	PV, MPS, CoM	High
UN5	Create new 'interpretive' viewing places - see VW3.		
UN6	Develop a set of agreed names - including Aboriginal names - for the site that will help tell both the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal stories. Undertake this task in consultation with key interested parties and in accordance with Place Name requirements under State legislation.	PV, NRE, MPS, ACO	High
UN7	Ensure that the historical track linking Sullivan Bay and St Pauls - recently recreated as the Tuckey Track - is signposted from Sullivan Bay. The Tuckey Track follows a marked route from Point Nepean Road through to St Pauls. It provides access to St Pauls lookout which enables visitors to see across to the Western Sister.	PV, MPS	Medium
UN8	Present Sullivan Bay as an important historic and Aboriginal place in all of the Parks Victoria and Shire information materials that cover the Peninsula.	PV, MPS	High
UN9	Continue to link Sullivan Bay and its interpretation to the resources and information held at the Sorrento Museum and Heritage Gallery run by the Nepean Historical Society.	PV, MPS	High Ongoing

Celebrate 2003-4

Celebrating 2003-4 is an important strategic direction for Sullivan Bay over the next two years. These celebrations can be the focus of forward planning, recommitment to the place and presentation of new stories about the place. Close involvement of the Boonerwung (Bunurong) people is essential. It should be a time when this place can achieve wider community recognition, government resourcing commitments and revitalisation for those closely involved in caring for the place.

The 2003 bicentenary committee is currently planning a number of events to mark this important date; most of these events will not be held at the 1803-4 Collins settlement site.

No.	Recommended action	Organisations	Priority
CE1	Seek an official launch of the <i>Future Directions Management Plan</i> to coincide with the 2003-4 celebrations.	PV, MPS	High
CE2	Establish active liaison between Sullivan Bay and the Tasmanian government and propose linked activities and events.	PV, MPS, ACO	High
CE3	Develop a program of activities to mark 2003-4.	PV, MPS	High

Conflicting uses

There is potential for conflicts to occur between the different uses and users of the study area. In particular there is potential for conflict between private property owners and visitors, in terms of privacy, and between beach users and jet skis, in terms of noise.³⁹ These conflicts appear to be minimal at present.

Public access along Sullivan Bay beach needs to be improved to achieve better linking between all parts of the study area. The jetty structures that cross the Sullivan Bay beach presently inhibit easy access along the beach because of their height.

No.	Recommended action	Organisations	Priority
CU1	Monitor potential use conflicts. Ensure that no additional facilities are provided that would have the potential to increase use conflicts, and particularly intrusion into the ambience of Sullivan Bay.	PV, MPS, CoM	Ongoing Medium
CU2	Review design solutions to the conflict between the heights of the jetties and beach use, and negotiate a solution with each of the licensees.	PV, MPS, NRE	High

Geotechnical issues

A geotechnical assessment report of the Eastern and Western Sisters (August 2002) has been prepared by Golder Associates for the Department of Natural Resources and Environment. The report identifies that there is a range of natural weathering forces evident on this site and that these are typical of the coastal environment. The geomorphology of the cliff face is primarily brought about by natural regression due to the high energy environment. The processes impacting on the site include wave and surface water erosion, weathering, groundwater seepage, soil slip, rock slope instability, direct and indirect human impacts, vegetation and long term cliff regression.

The geotechnical assessment identifies that the safety of the former Visitor Centre is compromised due to its close proximity to the cliff and location above an historic slip, with some active erosion occurring. The value of the existing remedial measures is lessened due to poor construction and/or vandalism.

The geotechnical assessment identifies two options to reduce the risks associated with the former Visitor Centre. These are either removal of the building or undertaking significant remedial works to increase the stability of the cliff. Undertaking significant remedial works at high costs is considered to be an intrusive approach which will have long term impacts on the visual amenity of the area and may result in subsequent environmental impacts. The option to remove the former Visitor Centre is recommended to ensure that visitor risks are mitigated as well as achieving enhanced presentation and protection of the important landscape setting and enhanced visitor experiences (as per Landscape Master Plan recommendations - section 5.5).

No.	Recommended action	Organisations	Priority
Recommendations for the Eastern Sister			
ER1	Remove the former Visitor Centre.	PV	High
ER2	Provide rock fill buttress to increase stability of the area adjacent to the crib wall	PV	High
ER3	Increase stability of the crib wall	PV	High
ER4	Provide warning signage and barriers in accordance with PV/NRE risk mitigation policy and guidelines	PV	High
ER5	Provide erosion control matting and revegetate bare cliff top areas.	PV	High
ER6	Provide infill to undercut areas and additional retaining walls to reduce minor slips based on monitoring outcomes	PV	Medium
ER8	Close off and revegetate inappropriate paths.	PV	Med-High
ER7	Develop an on-going monitoring program that includes measurements of rates of erosion, checks for tension cracks and inspections of cliff conditions and rip rap stabilisation after storms.	PV	High & Ongoing
ER9	Investigate surface water gullies for diversion of water	PV	High
ER10	Consider rip rap protection in additional areas	PV	Ongoing
Recommendations for the Western Sister			
ER11	Provide erosion control matting and revegetate bare cliff areas	MPSC	High
ER12	Close off and revegetate inappropriate paths	MPSC	High
ER13	Investigate surface water gullies for diversion of water	MPSC	High
ER14	Provide warning signage and barriers in accordance with PV/NRE risk mitigation policy and guidelines	MPSC	High
ER15	Develop an on-going monitoring program that includes measurements of rates of erosion, checks for tension cracks and movements and inspections of cliff conditions after storms	MPSC	High & Ongoing
ER16	Investigate provision of rip rap wave protection	MPSC	High & Ongoing
ER17	Consider treatments including scaling of loose blocks from cliffs, infill to undercut areas and concrete spraying	MPSC	Ongoing

Fire protection

No.	Recommended action	Organisations	Priority
FI1	Develop a fire emergency plan for Sullivan Bay. Liaise with all owners and occupiers in the development of the plan, and ensure that the protection of significant natural and cultural resources is recognised as a priority within this area. All fire plans need to be approved by the Municipal Fire Plan committee. Maintain access for fire emergency vehicles.	CFA, NRE, PV, MPS	High
FI2	Ensure that all staff and volunteers are well-briefed in fire emergency procedures.	PV, MPS	Ongoing

FI3	Ensure any irreplaceable artefacts or documents are located in a secure location.	PV	High
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Pathways

No.	Recommended action	Organisations	Priority
PA1	Improve the quality of the shared path network throughout Sullivan Bay, using uniform path treatments throughout Areas 1-6.	PV, MPS, CoM	High
PA2	Where possible provide circuit paths to enhance the visitor experience.	PV, MPS	Ongoing
PA3	Differentiate shared paths from vehicle access areas.	PV, MPS	Ongoing

Vehicles & parking

No.	Recommended action	Organisations	Priority
PK1	Reduce the impacts of informal car parking on indigenous vegetation, especially at Tideways, by restricting the areas available for parking.	MPS	High
PK2	Retain the Camerons Bight, Tideways and Sorrento Sailing Club car parking areas as unsealed, but improve layout and the surface and regularly maintain these areas.	MPS, CoM	High, Ongoing
PK3	In the redesign of the main entry and Leggett Way, review vehicle movement patterns and parking needs during peak and non-peak periods to help resolve the design details (layout, surfacing and drainage) for car parking. Include consideration of a bus drop-off and parking area.	PV, MPS, NRE, VR	High
PK4	Improve the appearance of car parking and access areas by removing the mix of bollard and fencing materials (primarily treated pine) and implementing a new design as part of an overall suite of furniture (see Barriers & fencing).	PV, MPS, CoM	High

Barriers and fencing

No.	Recommended action	Organisations	Priority
BF1	Remove treated pine post & rail fencing and reinstate with less intrusive treatment.	PV, MPS, CoM	High
BF2	Include fencing guidelines (materials, height etc) within development controls to preserve important views and visual amenity.	MPS	Medium

Entrances

No.	Recommended action	Organisations	Priority
EN1	Improve presentation and definition of the main entry and secondary entries.	PV, MPS	High Ongoing
EN2	Improve vehicle sight lines and make vehicle entry points safer.	MPS, VR	High

Signs

No.	Recommended action	Organisations	Priority
SG1	Progressively reduce the number and diversity of signs throughout the study area, replacing them with an integrated set of well-designed directional, interpretation & information signs.	PV, MPS, CoM	Medium
SG2	Ask the Shire to review all of its signs within the study area to retain only essential and 'statutory' signs (parking signs; keep out signs); ensure that these signs are well positioned and current.	PV, MPS	Medium

Furniture

No.	Recommended action	Organisations	Priority
FU1	Design and implement a suite of appropriate site furniture.	PV, MPS	High
FU2	Improve siting of furniture in all areas.	PV, MPS	Ongoing

6.3 Actions for each Area

While the following actions deal with individual parts of the Sullivan Bay area, they must always be considered in the light of the place as a whole. Unification of the whole place is a key strategic direction in this Plan and it is critical that fragmented management does not occur. See Plan 2 for the boundaries of these Areas.

Area 1: Camerons Bight Boat Club Area

Vision: Recognise this as the place where Woodriff and Collins first landed, through interpretation and continued landscape improvements.

No.	Recommended action	Organisations	Priority
1.1	Improve the interpretation of the 'first landing place' linked to an integrated interpretation program.	NRE, CBBC, PV, CoM	High
1.2	Explore opportunities for funding the repair of the existing jetty. Ensure the jetty and foreshore are presented as public areas and not as 'club only'.	NRE, CBBC, CoM	Medium
1.3	Remove weeds and revegetate embankment and foreshore areas.	CBBC, CoM	Medium
1.4	Improve carpark: focus on improving the carpark surface, layout and drainage. The car park is on public land; the "members' carpark" sign should be removed.	CBBC, CoM	Medium
1.5	Provide identification and orientation signs here; this is an entry point to Sullivan Bay for Bay Trail users. Provide directional signs to this Area - the 'first landing place' - from the main Sullivan Bay entry, and from here to the main entry.	CoM	High
1.6	Replace treated pine post fencing & steel gate with less intrusive design and materials.	CoM	Medium
1.7	Relocate the shared pathway/bicycle track at Camerons Bight as recommended in the <i>White Cliffs to Camerons Bight Foreshore Management Plan</i> (2000) and remove the dumped boulders associated with the original construction.	CoM	Medium
1.8	Continue to limit boat launching option in Area 1 to those available at present (<i>White Cliffs to Camerons Bight Foreshore Management Plan</i>).	CoM	Ongoing

Area 2: Camerons Bight dunes/ revegetation area

Vision: Extend the excellent weed control and revegetation works to enhance this important link between the 'first landing place' and the main Sullivan Bay entry.

No.	Recommended action	Organisations	Priority
2.1	Extend the weed control program across the whole of this Area, especially the gully near Point Nepean Road. Continue revegetation works to enhance enclosed qualities and provide limited open views to Sullivan Bay.	CoM, MPS	High
2.2	Improve directional signage to the 'first landing place', the settlers' graves and the main entry. Improve access between Camerons Bight and Sullivan Bay.	CoM, MPS	High
2.3	Provide access to Camerons Bight at a single point by formalising a path and rebuilding the stairs. Revegetate all other minor paths.	CoM	Medium
2.4	Improve the former road alignment and use as the exit from the main Sullivan Bay entry car park.	CoM	High
2.5	Improve the surface of the shared footway, creating a continuous surface treatment. Reduce potential conflict with vehicles through careful design and detailing.	CoM	Medium
2.6	Remove treated pine post fences and reinstate with less intrusive treatment.	CoM	Medium

Area 3: Eastern Sister

Vision: Create an enhanced focus for visitors on the Eastern Sister by creating a sense of arrival, restoring the headland, removing the Visitor Centre building, opening up views to Sullivan Bay and creating a circuit path.

A proposal seeking public purchase of all or part of The Sisters property has been put forward by the Collins Historic Site Advisory Group. The decision on this purchase will influence the extent to which the following recommendations can be implemented.

No.	Recommended action	Organisations	Priority
3.1	Protect the headland and enhance the ambience of the graves site by removing the former house (the Visitors Centre) and creating a lookout to the west over Sullivan Bay. Develop a demolition plan for the removal of the Visitor Centre building to minimise any risk to significant features. Prepare a landscape plan that defines the future landscape treatment of the graves and the setting (including the works recommended to mitigate cliff erosion).	PV	High
3.2	Mitigate cliff erosion (see Geotechnical).	PV	High
3.3	Investigate the location of a new visitor orientation and interpretation facility (see UN2 above), preferably within Area 3.	PV, MPS	High
3.4	Create a circuit path network linking the main entry to the 'settlers' graves' and the Sullivan Bay beach. This network could include a link through The Sisters property should it come into public ownership or if other access arrangements are able to be negotiated. Improve pathway surfaces. Extend pathway from the Oaks Pillars through to Leggett Way.	TBD	High

No.	Recommended action	Organisations	Priority
3.5	Create a strong sense of arrival at the main entry through a unified design - possibly using an object or feature - and better signs.	PV, MPS	High
3.6	Upgrade the existing vehicle entry and car park near Leggett Way. Construct a new turning lane from Point Nepean Road into the main entry area. Remove current secondary entrance/ exit road to improve access (creating a new exit from the car park along the old road alignment). Improve separation between vehicle access for visitors, vehicle access to the adjoining houses and the pedestrian/shared path.	PV, MPS	High
3.7	Consider creating a possible bus parking bay/ dropoff point on the small section of road that provides access to several private properties.	MPS, Owners	Medium
3.8	Improve the range of facilities available to visitors including: orientation and directional signs; interpretation and information; better path alignments and surfaces; consistent furniture; additional seating; toilets at a new visitor interpretation facility.	PV, MPS	High
3.9	Provide new directional signage at the main entry to help link this part of Sullivan Bay to the other areas to the east and west.	PV	High
3.10	Undertake weed control and revegetation program, initially focused on the public land and then on private land. Consult with all property owners and seek their cooperation.	PV, Owners	High Ongoing
3.11	Improve the visual quality of the boundaries between public and private land on Leggett Way and the access path to the settlers' graves, primarily through planting and design.	PV, MPS, Owners	Ongoing
3.12	Through negotiations with the licensees, seek modifications to the existing jetties to provide safer public access along the beach. Seek removal of any redundant structures.	NRE, MPS	High
3.13	Consider future path links between the Eastern Sister and other parts of the Sullivan Bay, and future interpretative opportunities subject to the potential land acquisition of The Sisters property.	PV	High

Area 4: Tideways

Vision: Tideways will continue to provide access to Sullivan Bay and be an informal picnic spot primarily for local people.

No.	Recommended action	Organisations	Priority
4.1	Remove or reduce the parking areas under existing trees in car park. Revegetate to screen this Area from the road.	MPS	High
4.2	Consider the redesign of the car park including the former highway alignment (now a shared path way and vehicle access to local properties).	MPS, Owners	High
4.3	Redesign the eastern vehicle entry to Tideways to reduce the conflict with the adjoining private driveway and clarify maintenance responsibilities.	MPS	High
4.4	Create two access points to the beach using the central and western paths. Improve both and prevent any further damage to the underlying midden deposits. Remove the eastern path and the path along the crest of the dune and revegetate them.	MPS	High
4.5	Improve access to the car park from Point Nepean Road.	MPS	High

No.	Recommended action	Organisations	Priority
4.6	Provide identification and orientation signs here; this is an important entry point to Sullivan Bay. Provide directional signs to this Area, and from here to the main entry, and the proposed new lookout points on the Eastern and Western Sisters.	MPS	High
4.7	Improve visitor facilities including new seating and picnic tables that allow for easier access and are located in appropriate areas.	MPS	Medium
4.8	Remove treated pine post fencing and reinstate a vehicle barrier with less intrusive visual quality.	MPS	Medium
4.9	Maintain Tideways as an open grassy area.	MPS	Ongoing
4.10	When the cypresses senesce or become hazardous, consider the potential cultural significance of this planting prior to making a decision on a replacement species. If the planting is not of cultural significance, replacement with Moonah is recommended.	MPS	Medium

Area 5: Western Sister

Vision: Link the Western Sister to the Eastern Sister, and create a visual link to St Pauls, through a combination of interpretation, pathways and lookouts so that it is a secondary focus for visitors. Protect and enhance the significant areas of vegetation through weed control and management across public and private land. Continue to limit access to these significant areas, but provide a lookout eastwards across Sullivan Bay.

No.	Recommended action	Organisations	Priority
5.1	Protect existing vegetation and enhance through the development of an intensive weed control program on public and private land. Extend the area of Moonah woodland as opportunities arise.	MPS, Owners	High Ongoing
5.2	Create a lookout from the eastern side of the Western Sister to overlook Sullivan Bay to the east. This will also provide an important opportunity to interpret the historical communication link between the 1803-4 Collins settlement and St Pauls.	MPS	High
5.3	Mitigate cliff erosion on the Western Sister.	MPS	High Ongoing
5.4	Continue to limit access to the Western Sister to protect archaeological potential and vegetation communities. Ensure fences are complete and maintained, including the fence at the base of the cliffs. Update signs.	MPS	Ongoing
5.5	Improve the shared pathway by resurfacing with compacted limestone gravel to match existing; this surface is suitable for walking and cycling. Restrict vehicle access via an improved vehicle barrier, allowing for emergency vehicles only. Resident access to properties retained.	MPS	High
5.6	Provide identification and orientation signs. Add new directional signs to help link the Western Sister to the other parts of Sullivan Bay. Specifically include signs to Western Sister lookout, visitor facilities, settlers' graves, main entry car park, to the Tuckey Track and St Pauls lookout.	MPS	High

Area 6: Sorrento Sailing Club Area

Vision: Improve the landscape quality of this Area and recognise its role as a secondary entry point for Sullivan Bay.

No.	Recommended action	Organisations	Priority
6.1	Formalise the extent and layout of the carpark, and resurface (but preferably do not seal).	MPS	Medium
6.2	Improve the picnic areas by separating them from the car parking areas. Revegetate to create additional buffer plantings between cars and picnic areas and to enhance habitat values. Add new furniture including seating and picnic tables, and locate appropriately.	MPS	Medium
6.3	Remove treated pine bollards and post fencing and replace with site responsive treatment integrated with proposed new site furniture.	MPS	Medium
6.4	Provide identification and orientation signs. Add new directional signs from here to Sullivan Bay and the Western Sister.	MPS	High
6.5	Improve beach access by repairing/replacing existing steps.	MPS	Medium

7 ACTING ON THIS PLAN

7.1 The role of this Plan

This Plan - the Future Directions Management Plan - is designed to provide a framework of strategic directions, policies and actions. The Landscape Master Plan which forms a part of this Plan illustrates the main proposals for change to the landscape.

While this Plan provides a cohesive approach founded on the significance of the Sullivan Bay area, it will not answer all of the questions that might arise in planning for and managing this important place.

Secondary plans

This Plan envisages that a number of actions will follow, some of which will create more detailed planning and management frameworks including:

- vegetation management plan and program (Actions VM1-VM6)
- amendments to the Planning Scheme, based on the conservation policies contained in this Plan (Action FP4)
- an archaeological zoning plan (Action CH4)
- Aboriginal consultation protocol (Action AC1)
- an Interpretation Plan (Action UN1).
- a collections policy (Action CH7).

Each of these will be secondary plans, and will build on the foundation provided in the Future Directions Management Plan. Each will include more specific and/or detailed policies and actions.

Management procedures

Management procedures could also be documented for each of these secondary plans. For example, specific weed control procedures that are being developed and tested by the Friends of Collins Settlement Sorrento Inc could be documented in relation to the vegetation management plan. This is a good way of sharing information, building up management knowledge and providing continuity over time.

Design development

The Landscape Master Plan proposes a number of actions that need to be taken to achieve the strategic directions, especially those related to creating a richer visitor experience, telling all the stories and retaining the significance of Sullivan Bay. Each of these actions requires design development. A number of design studies are needed for those actions designated as both high priority and for action as part of the 2003-4 celebrations. These could occur as a single project or be divided into several packages of design work. An integrated approach however is essential.

The most important design tasks relate to:

- main entry design: including the car (and bus) park, vehicle and pedestrian movement areas, entry feature; interpretive shelter (etc)
- new viewing points on the Eastern and Western Sister
- new visitor orientation and interpretative facility (following a feasibility study)
- path network, and

- furniture, paths, fencing/barriers and signs.

The next priority would be for design work for the recommended improvements at Camerons Bight Boat Club, Tideways and Sorrento Sailing Club Area.

7.2 Setting a strategy

With the bicentenary of the British colonisation at Sullivan Bay in 2003-4, the opportunity for positive change is great. Sullivan Bay already attracts many visitors and offers the potential to present in a contemporary way the themes of colonisation, cultural conflict and reconciliation. Now is a key time in ensuring that the important task of managing the significance of Sullivan Bay is understood and resourced.

This Plan includes a large number of recommendations. Strategically, those concerned with the future conservation and management of Sullivan Bay need to focus on:

- shared vision
- gaining resources
- community involvement
- a contemporary approach
- looking beyond the boundaries.

Each of these areas of strategic action is discussed briefly below.

Shared vision

Creating a shared vision is one of the six strategic directions (see section 5.3). Strategically, a shared vision will help build a wider support base, and in turn enable the required funds and human resources to be marshalled.

It is critical that the shared vision genuinely encompasses Aboriginal perspectives and values. This will also help build a contemporary approach to interpretation.

Gaining resources

This Plan will require allocation of substantial financial resources. These will be multiplied many fold by the high level of community contribution to the care of this place.

An estimate of the financial resources required needs to be developed. It will need to consider:

- once-off capital funding for major items such as land acquisition, redevelopment of the entry and visitor facilities that are needed in the short-term (that is, 0-5 years)
- capital funding for a series of smaller projects over the next 5-10 years (for example, improvements at Camerons Bight)
- an annual operational budget.

At present Sullivan Bay generates little revenue. The proposals contained in this Plan may enable some revenue streams to be developed as a result of a higher standard of visitor services and facilities. This also needs to be examined.

The Plan will be a useful tool in seeking funding through submissions to the various programs managed by the local, Victorian and Commonwealth governments. In particular, funding opportunities may arise for cultural heritage conservation, vegetation management and Aboriginal participation and employment.

A single manager

The significance of the place is being put at risk by uncoordinated management occurring through a number of agencies. A single manager is needed to implement this Plan across the public land areas. The Mornington Peninsula Shire would remain the Responsible Authority for administering the planning scheme. A management model needs to be developed that will create a 'single manager' while still drawing on the wealth of knowledge and skills contained in the other agencies.

Community involvement

The local community plays a major role in the management of Sullivan Bay, largely through the voluntary work of a number of organisations. Aboriginal community organisations have indicated a willingness to join with these local communities and support their efforts.

Finding effective ways to engage all of the community interests and draw on their knowledge will be critical to the development of a management model (above). The Plan needs to reflect a shared vision, and to be reviewed regularly to ensure it is on track and relevant.

As well as drawing on what these communities and volunteers are willing to offer, the manager needs to provide them with resources to assist in their tasks and regular opportunities for training and development (as these will have an immediate pay back).

Working with adjoining owners to cooperatively manage a public and private land resource is a new and exciting challenge.

A contemporary approach

The significance of Sullivan Bay demands that it be contemporary in all aspects of its planning, management and interpretation. This means:

- best practice in conservation
- recognising and celebrating its importance as a place where contemporary historical themes can be explored by visitors - the ideas of a 'first settlement' colony; a place of cultural contact; an Aboriginal place; a place for understanding and reconciliation
- engaging visitors directly through experiencing the place as well as through contemporary forms of communication.

Looking beyond the boundaries

It is easy to focus on the management of a place and not look beyond the boundaries. The day-to-day demands of management are great.

Sullivan Bay shares important historical themes of colonisation and settlement with other significant places in Australia - for example, Risdon Cove in Tasmania, The Rocks in Sydney, and in the Melbourne region with Corinella and Point Gellibrand. Sullivan Bay could be seen as part of a larger 'serial site' that helps demonstrate the process of colonisation for both the colonised and the colonisers. Internationally, Sullivan Bay is also part of a larger picture.

Sullivan Bay, through a single manager and committed resourcing, needs to look outside its boundaries and build links with other places and people who are interested in this bigger picture. This will enhance its reputation and its visitation, help to secure resources and achieve best practice.

7.3 Implementation priorities

The most important areas for action in the next 12-18 months are:

- restoring and enhancing the Eastern Sister landscape, including the removal of the former Visitor Centre and undertaking cliff stabilisation works

- initiating vegetation and geotechnical management actions to protect and enhance the natural and cultural values of the Western Sister
- initiating a feasibility study for a new interpretive facility and preparing an interpretation plan for the whole study area
- developing and implementing designs for site entries, including identification and orientation signs
- investigating options for unified management across the whole of the study area
- developing a timetable and funding strategy to implement the plan, and
- engaging all of the key stakeholders in the implementation of the above priorities.

SELECTED REFERENCES

The following reference were consulted in the preparation of the plan. There are other reference materials on the history of the area which are not listed.

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Web sites

Australian Heritage Commission - <http://www.ahc.gov.au/heritage/>

Heritage Victoria - <http://www.heritage.vic.gov.au/>

APPENDIX 1: CRITERIA FOR THE REGISTER OF THE NATIONAL ESTATE

CRITERION A: ITS IMPORTANCE IN THE COURSE, OR PATTERN, OF AUSTRALIA'S NATURAL OR CULTURAL HISTORY

- A.1 Importance in the evolution of Australian flora, fauna, landscapes or climate.
- A.2 Importance in maintaining existing processes or natural systems at the regional or national scale.
- A.3 Importance in exhibiting unusual richness or diversity of flora, fauna, landscapes or cultural features.
- A.4 Importance for association with events, developments or cultural phases which have had a significant role in the human occupation and evolution of the nation, State, region or community.

CRITERION B: ITS POSSESSION OF UNCOMMON, RARE OR ENDANGERED ASPECTS OF AUSTRALIA'S NATURAL OR CULTURAL HISTORY

- B.1 Importance for rare, endangered or uncommon flora, fauna, communities, ecosystems, natural landscapes or phenomena, or as a wilderness.
- B.2 Importance in demonstrating a distinctive way of life, custom, process, land-use, function or design no longer practised, in danger of being lost, or of exceptional interest

CRITERION C: ITS POTENTIAL TO YIELD INFORMATION THAT WILL CONTRIBUTE TO AN UNDERSTANDING OF AUSTRALIA'S NATURAL OR CULTURAL HISTORY

- C.1 Importance for information contributing to a wider understanding of Australian natural history, by virtue of its use as a research site, teaching site, type locality, reference or benchmark site.
- C.2 Importance for information contributing to a wider understanding of the history of human occupation of Australia.

CRITERION D: ITS IMPORTANCE IN DEMONSTRATING THE PRINCIPAL CHARACTERISTICS OF: (I) A CLASS OF AUSTRALIA'S NATURAL OR CULTURAL PLACES; OR (II) A CLASS OF AUSTRALIA'S NATURAL OR CULTURAL ENVIRONMENTS

- D.1 Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of the range of landscapes, environments or ecosystems, the attributes of which identify them as being characteristic of their class.
- D.2 Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of the range of human activities in the Australian environment (including way of life, philosophy, custom, process, land use, function, design or technique).

CRITERION E: ITS IMPORTANCE IN EXHIBITING PARTICULAR AESTHETIC CHARACTERISTICS VALUED BY A COMMUNITY OR CULTURAL GROUP

- E.1 Importance for a community for aesthetic characteristics held in high esteem or otherwise valued by the community.

CRITERION F: ITS IMPORTANCE IN DEMONSTRATING A HIGH DEGREE OF CREATIVE OR TECHNICAL ACHIEVEMENT AT A PARTICULAR PERIOD

- F.1 Importance for its technical, creative, design or artistic excellence, innovation or achievement.

CRITERION G: ITS STRONG OR SPECIAL ASSOCIATIONS WITH A PARTICULAR COMMUNITY OR CULTURAL GROUP FOR SOCIAL, CULTURAL OR SPIRITUAL REASONS

G.1 Importance as a place highly valued by a community for reasons of religious, spiritual, symbolic, cultural, educational, or social associations.

CRITERION H: ITS SPECIAL ASSOCIATION WITH THE LIFE OR WORKS OF A PERSON, OR GROUP OF PERSONS, OF IMPORTANCE IN AUSTRALIA'S NATURAL OR CULTURAL HISTORY

H.1 Importance for close associations with individuals whose activities have been significant within the history of the nation, State or region.

Additional notes on social significance assessment

A framework has been developed for use with this criterion - Criterion G.⁴⁰ The framework includes three sub-criteria:

- important to a community as a landmark, marker or signature
- important as a reference point in a community's identity or sense of itself
- strong or special community attachment developed from use and/or association.

In assessing social heritage values, reaching the threshold requires consideration of the relative strength of association, the length of association and the relative importance to the identified community.

More specifically, for a place to be of social significance under criterion G, reaching the threshold requires the following:

- identified by a community which is in continued existence today as a definable entity
- continuity of use or association, meanings, or symbolic importance over a period of 25 years or more (representing transition of values beyond one generation)
- existence of an attachment or association with a place by a defined community, including evidence of use developing into deeper attachment that goes beyond utility value.

APPENDIX 2: COMMUNITY VIEWS

Who was consulted?

Organisations

The following organisations were consulted during the preparation of the Draft Plan. Submissions on the Draft Plan were received from those marked in bold text.

Aboriginal Affairs Victoria
Australian Heritage Commission
Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation
Camerons Bight Boat Club
Collins Settlement Historic Site Advisory Committee
Department of Natural Resources and Environment
Friends of Collins Settlement Sorrento Inc
Heritage Victoria
Kulin Nation Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation
Mornington Peninsula Beachside Tourism Association
Mornington Peninsula Shire
National Trust of Australia (Victoria)
Nepean Conservation Group
Nepean Historical Society
Nepean Ratepayers' Association
Parks Victoria
Peninsula Bird Observers Club
Sorrento Sailing Club
Sorrento/Portsea Chamber of Commerce
Southern Peninsula Indigenous Flora and Fauna Association (SPIFFA)
Tuckey Track & Reserve Friends Group
Victorian Boonerwung Elders Land Council Aboriginal Corporation
Victorian National Parks Association
White Cliffs – Camerons Bight Foreshore Committee of Management
Wurundjeri Tribe Land Compensation and Cultural Heritage Council

Individuals

A number of individuals and families were also consulted during the development of the Draft Plan. Many are adjoining property owners and residents. A number provided submissions on the Draft Plan.

Consultation process

Development of the Draft Plan

During the development of the Draft Plan, community consultation undertaken through:

- a workshop with the Advisory Group and Friends Group
- responses to a widely available questionnaire
- a community workshop held on Saturday 18 August, 2001.

The questionnaire was available at the local offices of Parks Victoria and the Shire and at the Visitor Centre (since closed). It was also posted to local organisations. Twenty two completed questionnaires were received.

The community workshop attracted 16 participants. Invitations were sent to local organisations, adjoining landowners, the Advisory Group and Friends Group, and questionnaire respondents.

Appendix 2 in the Draft Plan provided a summary of the community input from each of these sources.

Exhibition of the Draft Plan

The Draft Plan was placed on exhibition during July-August 2002. Copies of the Draft Plan were sent to a wide range of stakeholders, both organisations and individuals, with a letter requesting their response. In addition, copies of the document and a display version of Plan 9 were exhibited at the Parks Victoria office in Rosebud, at the Mornington Peninsula Shire offices in Rosebud and at the Sorrento Museum & Heritage Gallery in Sorrento.

Seventeen written submissions were received, 11 from organisations and 6 from individuals. Most submissions indicated general support for the overall directions of the Draft Plan, with common issues of concern including: the need for a new visitor centre, an interpretation strategy and a simplified set of signs; the importance of a clear set of priorities and appropriate resources in the lead-up to the bicentenary celebrations; the need to act on environmental issues including cliff erosion, weeds etc; the importance of acquiring additional areas of land. There was support for the idea of an integrated approach to management, and a desire for immediate action to initiate this process. Many submissions also provided detailed comments on specific aspects of the draft. All the submissions were carefully considered to assist in finalizing the Plan.

APPENDIX 3: HERITAGE LISTINGS

Register of the National Estate: Sullivan Bay Settlement Site

Class

Historic

Legal Status

Registered (28/09/1982)

Statement of Significance

The area is historically significant as the site of the first official Settlement in Victoria, made directly from England by Lieutenant-Governor Collins in 1803, at a time when it was feared the French would annex the southern part of Australia. The site on Sullivan's Bay was the military and administrative centre for the settlement, which consisted of 467 military, convicts and settlers, some of whose graves may remain. The settlement was abandoned in 1804, when Collins transferred his party to establish the first settlement at Hobart. Notable historical figures associated with the first settlement included the convict, William Buckley, who escaped and lived with the Aborigines for thirty-two years and John Pascoe Fawkner who lived at the settlement as a boy and later was to publish Melbourne's first newspaper.

Description

Little remains of the original village settlement, consisting of huts, tents, flag pole, gun battery, casks sunk in the sand for a water supply and possibly other structures. The site on Eastern Sister contains four graves, though it is uncertain whether these date from the first settlement. Immediately adjacent to the graves is a single storey brick veneer dwelling. The area has suffered extensive disturbance and it is unlikely that archaeological evidence survives. Part of the site is in a semi natural state.

History

The history of the 1803 settlement at Sullivan Bay has been well documented. A brief summary from (2) is provided below.

The British Government's decision to establish a settlement in southern Australia appears to have been prompted by favourable reports of Port Phillip Bay and concerns about the interest of the French in the area. The colonising party despatched from England comprised military personnel, administrative staff, a few free settlers and a majority of convicts. Some were fortunate enough to be accompanied by wives and children. Lt-Governor Collins led the party of 467 persons.

The site selected for the settlement was on the southern side of Port Phillip Bay at Sullivan Bay, relatively close to the Heads, a site chosen to enable protection of Bass Strait from the French. It was a difficult site to settle, without easy access to fresh running water, an anchorage well off-shore, and poor soils for agriculture; their survey of Port Phillip Bay revealed that much of the area had similar characteristics.

The settlement was established on an area of flat land between the Western Sister and Eastern Sister, prominent headlands which mark each end of Sullivan Bay. Most of the settlement was close to the Eastern Sister. Initially a tent encampment, work commenced quickly on building a jetty and other timber structures including huts. Local limestone was apparently used to construct chimneys for the huts, and for the building of the magazine. As well as barrels set into sand to trap fresh water, wells were dug, as were privies. Land was cleared for the growing of crops, perhaps totaling several acres.

Contact between Europeans and the Boonerwung (Bunurong) people (the traditional Aboriginal custodians) in the Port Phillip Bay area first occurred in 1802 during Lt Murray's exploratory visit to the area in the Lady Nelson. A meeting between Murray's party and a group of about 20 Aborigines occurred in the general Vicinity of Sullivan Bay on 17 February. There was an exchange of gifts, but a disagreement followed, leading to the death of an Aborigine and shots being fired from the Lady Nelson. The Collins party's first encounter with Aborigines on the north-western side of Port Phillip Bay was greeted by hostility, and this pattern was repeated many times, perhaps provoked by the Murray expedition's initial actions. The extensive Aboriginal shell middens at Sullivan Bay were noticed by the white settlers, along with their huts and hearths. In choosing this place for a settlement, the British had directly displaced Aboriginal people from a regular camping area.

In 1804 Collins decided to remove the settlement to Van Diemens Land where John Bowen had established a settlement at Risdon Cove in 1803. They were moved as two parties, the second group leaving on 20 May, just over seven months after the settlement had been established.

The land around the Eastern Sister became freehold in 1875, with CA 65A being acquired by D. A. Hughes, and a portion set aside within this allotment to protect and allow access to the graves. An allotment on the Western Sister (CA 71A) was also acquired by Hughes. Between the two allotments and along the foreshore west of CA 65A was an extensive area of land reserved for recreation.⁽⁴⁾ The land held in private ownership has been since subdivided several times⁽²⁾; the alignment of the Nepean Highway (now Point Nepean Road) has also been varied.

As a direct result of a proposal to subdivide part of the privately owned land adjoining the Settlers Graves Reserve in 1980, the government decided to assist with the purchase of Lot 3, CA 65A.

Evidence

Of the 1803 settlement, little evidence is known to remain. The structures associated with the settlement were generally insubstantial, the exceptions being the magazine (limestone) and possibly hut chimneys (limestone). Any extant evidence of the site will be located below the present land surface, although subsequent development may have removed or obscured it. The evidence most likely to remain would include artefacts, pits (wells and privies), and evidence of structures (including the jetty).⁽²⁾ Artefacts recovered from the site at various times are held in public and private collections.⁽²⁾

No archaeological excavations have been undertaken, and surface inspection and sampling has occurred only over a small part of the area.⁽³⁾ Lot 3, CA 65 (now public land adjacent to the Graves Reserve) is believed to have been the area occupied by the Commandant, the Chaplain, the mineralogist, the surveyor and the Governor's mistress, all domiciled in tents. The adjoining allotment to the west is considered to have contained the Commissaries' tents at the foot of the Eastern Sister, the store tents and possibly a magazine built of limestone rubble.⁽³⁾ The convicts tents were located further west, around the centre of the Bay, with the three surgeons' tents at the foot of the Western Sister. Traditionally the Western Sister has been known as Battery Point, but while it is known Collins landed two guns, it is not known where they were sited. Early sketches of the settlement name the area of the Western Sister as Church Hill, or as Execution Hill, with the peak as Church top.⁽²⁾

Traditionally the graves have been regarded as associated with the 1803 settlement; about 30 people died during the brief period of the settlement and 19 burials were recorded. However, Coutts suggests that this site would have been too close to the centre of the settlement to provide an appropriate burial ground, noting that other traditions refer to the graves as those of later settlers. Nevertheless, the graves have been recognised and marked in a variety of ways, and protected by local endeavours. The Leggett family (adjoining landowners from the early 1930s) commissioned the first sign on the site, a parchment scroll protected by a glass case. The available evidence suggests that the position of the grave sites have changed with time.⁽²⁾

Underlying the 1803 settlement site are a series of Aboriginal middens. These are located on the higher ground close to both the Eastern and Western Sisters. The middens indicate that the area was used extensively by Aboriginal people over a long period prior to and possibly directly after the removal of the Collins settlement to Hobart.

The Collins Settlement Site was located at Sullivan Bay, between the Eastern and Western Sisters, with some activities occurring elsewhere (e.g. collection of water in barrels on the beach to the east of the Eastern Sister; a jetty extending 380 feet into the Bay).(2) Today the area understood to contain most of the Collins Settlement Site generally extends west from Leggett Way to the Western Sister.

The Graves Reserve contains four marked grave sites. Nearby is a flagstaff monument.

Condition and Integrity

Graves themselves well preserved. Area to west in near natural state but a house abuts the reserve on the north and east sides and has altered the graves area unsympathetically. However demolition would restore area. House believed to be in a structurally doubtful condition because of proximity to cliff.

Location

Comprising Lot 3, LP 66826 (CA 65C Parish Nepean) and Graves Reserve, 3074 Point Nepean Road and Leggett Way, Sorrento.

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T. O'Callaghan 'HMS Calcutta in Port Phillip Bay 1803' *Vic Hist Mag.* 10,1, 1-22.

P.J.F. Coutts *Victoria's first official settlement, Sullivan Bay, Port Phillip*, Victoria Archaeological Survey, 1981.

References

[1] Mrs J. Goddard (granddaughter of Frederick Meaden), pers. comm.

[2] Coutts, P. J. F., 'Victoria's First Official Settlement, Sullivan's Bay, Port Phillip', Victoria Archaeological Survey, Ministry for Conservation.

[3] Coutts, P. J. F., 'An Archaeological Survey of Sullivan's Bay, Sorrento', Victoria Archaeological Survey, Ministry for Conservation, Sept., 1982.

[4] Parish Plan, Parish of Nepean, 1875.

Victorian Heritage Register: Collins Settlement Site:

VHR Number	H1050
File Number	605731
Year Construction Started	1803
Municipality	Mornington Peninsula Shire

Extent of Registration	To the extent of all the objects, structures and works known as 'Settlers Graves', Collins Settlement Site; and the land as defined by the Heritage Council.
Other Listings 1	Register of the National Estate
Spatial Information	-38.35075, 144.76179
Heritage Act Categories	Heritage place

Statement of Significance

The Collins Settlement was established by the Colonial Government in October 1803, and abandoned in May 1804. The Victorian Colonial Government established a Reserve in 1875 to commemorate and protect the site. The Victorian Government acquired land to extend the reserve in 1982. The four graves on the site have been maintained by the Collins Settlement Historic Site Advisory Group.

The 'Settlers Graves', Collins Settlement Site are of historic and social significance to the State of Victoria.

The four 'Settler's Graves' associated with the Collins Settlement are of cultural significance because of their association with the first attempted European settlement in Victoria. They are important for symbolic reasons in long being recognised by both the government and the community as a symbol and icon of the first attempt of European settlement in Victoria.

Victorian Heritage Inventory

H7821-0001 Sullivans Bay (Eastern Sister): Extends from the south side of Leggett Way to, but not including, the 'Tideways' picnic area, from Point Nepean Road to 125 metres offshore from the high tide mark.

H7821-0074 Collins Settlement Western Sister: Includes and extends from the 'Tideways' picnic area to the west of the Sorrento Sailing Club, from Point Nepean Road to 125 metres offshore from the high tide mark.

H7821-0075 Camerons Bight - Collins Settlement: Extends from the south side of Leggett Way to the south of the Camerons Bight boat club jetty, from Point Nepean Road to 125 metres offshore from the high tide mark.

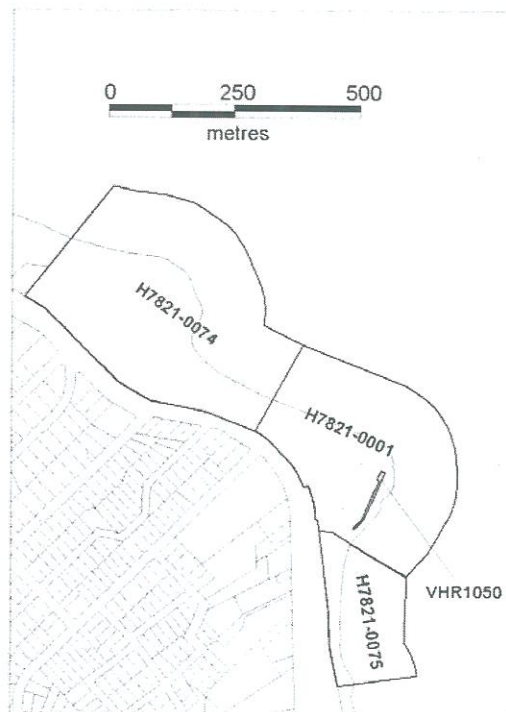
HI Number	H7821-0001 Sullivans Bay (East Sister)
File Number	501979
Municipality	Mornington Peninsula Shire
Other Listings 1	Mornington Peninsula Planning Scheme
Additional Information	
	Description: Site of Lt Governor Collins' 1803 settlement. 'Seat of Government' on summit of Eastern Sister. The most significant feature of this site is a group of graves on the Eastern Sister headland. They are thought to contain the remains of four of the thirty people who died at the settlement in 1803 - 4. A monument, lookout and a Visitor Centre are also on the site.
General References	Historic Sites in the Melbourne East Study Area, Griffiths, T., Perham, G. & Supple, R., 1989, LAND CONSERVATION COUNCIL Photos, Slides, Other Victoria's first official settlement- Sullivan's Bay, Port Phillip, Coutts, P.J.F., 1981, VAS
Heritage Act Categories	Heritage Inventory Site

Item Group	Item Category
Heritage Inventory AHC Type	2.1 Landing sites of first white settlers
Heritage Inventory AHC Type	3.7.1 Graves and cemeteries
Heritage Inventory Site Type	Other
Statement of Significance	Heritage Inventory History of Site: The site marks the first official attempt to establish a European settlement in Victoria in 1803. A contingent of over 450 people arrived at Sullivan Bay in early October. Lieutenant - Colonel David Collins decided, after some months, to transplant the settlement Van Diemens Land (Hobart). The final party left Sullivan Bay in May 1804. Although there is some doubt the graves date from this period, the site definitely marks the location of this first brief settlement.

HI Number	H7821-0074 Collins Settlement (Western Sister)
File Number	501979
Municipality	Mornington Peninsula Shire
Other Listings 1	Mornington Peninsula Planning Scheme
Additional Information	
	Description: Site of Lt Governor Collins' 1803 settlement. The Western Sister may contain remains of the hospital, surgeons 'quarters', carpenter's shop and battery. There may have been graves near the summit (Church Top). There could be artefacts offshore.
General References	Historic Sites in the Melbourne East Study Area, Griffiths, T., Perham, G. & Supple, R., 1989, LAND CONSERVATION COUNCIL Photos, Slides, Other Victoria's first official settlement- Sullivan's Bay, Port Phillip, Coutts, P.J.F., 1981, VAS
Heritage Act Categories	Heritage Inventory Site
Item Group	Item Category
Heritage Inventory AHC Type	2.1 Landing sites of first white settlers
Heritage Inventory AHC Type	3.7.1 Graves and cemeteries
Heritage Inventory Site Type	Other
Statement of Significance	Heritage Inventory History of Site: The site marks the first official attempt to establish a European settlement in Victoria in 1803. A contingent of over 450 people arrived at Sullivan Bay in early October. Lieutenant - Colonel David Collins decided, after some months, to transplant the settlement Van Diemens Land (Hobart). The final party left Sullivan Bay in May 1804. Although there is some doubt the graves date from this period, the site definitely marks the location of this first brief settlement.

HI Number	H7821-0075 Cameron's Bight - Collins Settlement
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File Number	501979
Municipality	Mornington Peninsula Shire
Other Listings 1	Mornington Peninsula Planning Scheme
Additional Information	
	Description: Possible association with Lt Governor Collins' 1803 settlement. Cameron's Bight foreshore may contain remains of the watering place and there could be artefacts offshore.
General References	Historic Sites in the Melbourne East Study Area, Griffiths, T., Perham, G. & Supple, R., 1989, LAND CONSERVATION COUNCIL Photos, Slides, Other Victoria's first official settlement- Sullivan's Bay, Port Phillip, Coutts, P.J.F., 1981, VAS
Heritage Act Categories	Heritage Inventory Site
Item Group	Item Category
Heritage Inventory AHC Type	2.1 Landing sites of first white settlers
Heritage Inventory Site Type	Other
Statement of Significance	Heritage Inventory History of Site: The site marks the first official attempt to establish a European settlement in Victoria in 1803. A contingent of over 450 people arrived at Sullivan Bay in early October. Lieutenant - Colonel David Collins decided, after some months, to transplant the settlement Van Diemens Land (Hobart). The final party left Sullivan Bay in May 1804. Although there is some doubt the graves date from this period, the site definitely marks the location of this first brief settlement.



Victorian Heritage Register and Victorian Heritage Inventory listings

National Trust of Australia (Victoria): Collins Settlement Site

NAME OF PLACE: COLLINS SETTLEMENT SITE

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Mornington Peninsula Shire

CADASTRAL INFORMATION: See attachment

TYPE OF PLACE: Cultural Landscape

EXTENT OF DESIGNATION

All public land and freehold land east of the highway, from the pier at Camerons Bight to, and including, the Western Sister. Within this designation, the area running north from Leggett Way along the foreshore reserve to the Western Sister, as delineated on the attached map, is identified as the area of primary cultural landscape significance.

Statement of Significance

The Collins Settlement Site is of State historical, social, political and cultural significance:

- The Collins Settlement Site is important as a place. The importance of the role that the Collins settlement site plays in the colonising and settlement of Australia, and how its location and the nature of its landscape informs our understanding of this, is of great significance to all Australians. It is a place of historic, social, cultural and political significance, regardless of physical deposit or evidence.
- The Collins Settlement Site is important as the place of first settlement in Victoria and as a strategic place, chosen to guard and defend sea routes against other nations important in terms of trade, supply and warfare. It was one of the earliest settlements outside the bounds of Sydney, pre-dating, the beginnings of settlement in Tasmania at Hobart.
- The Collins Settlement Site is important as a place of contact between Aboriginals and Europeans in Victoria. Prior to and following settlement, the place was a popular Aboriginal campsite, which had been returned to regularly over a period spanning hundreds of years.
- The archaeological deposits located on The Collins Settlement Site are of scientific significance and may hold valuable information regarding Aboriginal life and customs in the area, the impact of contact and settlement, and abandonment of the site by Europeans on the Aborigines of the area and details about the European settlement itself.
- The Collins Settlement Site is important for educative reasons. The location, history and landscape values of the site can operate or be used to inform our community of its early history in terms of European and Aboriginal occupation, European strategies of colonisation and so on. It could also be used further to erode the myth of *Terra Nullus* and of peaceable acquisition of Aboriginal lands.

History

The Place

To European eyes and practicalities the narrow peninsula of land on which Lieutenant-Governor Collins placed his fledgling settlement was an unfertile and unpromising place. The soil was sandy, there was no easy supply of fresh water, and little good timber. Early maps of the region suggest that the ground was grassed and lightly covered in she-oak or casuarina, box and wattles. Much clearing of the area had to be done in order to establish the settlements¹. In short, it was not a location of great potential, unless, of course, one was on holiday, but Collins, his soldiers, the convicts and free settlers which in all numbered more than 450, were

¹ P.J.F. Coutts, *Victoria's First Official Settlement, Sullivans Bay, Port Phillip*. Victoria Archaeological Survey, Ministry of Conservation, July 1981, p.16

not on holiday. The settlement lasted less than one year, and by the sketchy accounts available, was an unhappy place.

The choice of the site, though predisposing the settlement to failure, is not inexplicable or as foolhardy as it may initially appear when seen in terms of the central purpose of the settlement. The geographic location of a settlement was chosen with deliberation by the British powers, and more often than not the reason for settlement was the geographic location. Moreover, strong incentive was needed, and in the first years of the nineteenth century the incentive was there as the French were exploring in the region.

Water rather than land is the vital factor in the explanation for settlement on the sandy shores of Sullivan Bay - and salt water at that. Collins chose his place of settlement primarily for reasons of naval strategy. As Blainey postulates 'One may suggest that Britain was more interested in controlling Australian seas than Australian land.'² This was for reasons of both possible military conflict and of trade.

Collins placed his settlement just eight miles inside the mouth of Port Phillip Bay and not thirty miles further north where the soils were more promising, and indeed where the township of Melbourne was to be eventually settled. The position at Sullivan Bay, however, allowed him to keep a close eye of shipping, activities in the newly discovered and tremendously important Bass Strait.

The strategic importance of Bass Strait was quickly realised after its discovery, as control of the Strait essentially amounted to control of the most important shipping route from Europe to India, and the lifeline route to Sydney. Travelling through the Strait lessened the journey of a ship to Sydney by some 700 miles as it did away with the need to travel around the southern tip of Tasmania.³ Nevertheless, control of the Strait essentially meant control of both routes - through the Strait and around Tasmania. A base on the Strait could act as a point of defence and as a useful trading and refreshment port. The apparent interest of the French in the Strait made the British extremely nervous.

This theory, that the Collins Settlement was established and placed primarily for strategic reasons, is supported by the subsequent desires and attempts of the British to establish an outpost at some point in the Strait - at the mouth of the Tamar Estuary in 1804, eventually at Launceston in 1806, at King, Island, and also in southern Tasmania - in the Derwent Estuary at Hobart in 1803.

The Collins Settlement Site is important as a place. The importance of the role that the Collins Settlement Site plays in the colonising and settlement of Australia, and how its location and the nature of its landscape informs our understanding of this, is of the highest magnitude, and is of great significance to all Australians.

There are also additional, secondary reasons for the settlement. Sydney needed alternative place to which convicts could be sent in order to both relieve the strain of new arrivals and as places of secondary punishment. These places had to be coastal so as to keep supply and control factors in hand, but far away enough from Sydney to prevent absconders returning. The settlements of Hobart and Newcastle satisfied this purpose. Re-offending convicts were never, however, sent to the Collins Settlement though there was a large convict contingent in the settling group.

There is mention of the need for the Collins Settlement to act as a food producer for Sydney, and as a monitoring station for the exploitation of the profitable seal and marine life resources of the area.⁴ There is no evidence in the archive material found and available to date that the settlement fulfilled either of these functions.

² G. Blainey, *The Tyranny of Distance*. Melbourne 1996, p.72,

³ G. Blainey, *The Tyranny*, p. 74.

⁴ S. Prestly, *The Victorians: Making Their Mark*. McMahons Point 1984, p.13 and HBC File 605731, classification report, p.2

The Settlement⁵

On a clear day those at the Collins Settlement would have had a Good view of Port Phillip Bay. The settlement was located just inside the mouth of the Bay on a narrow peninsula of land which formed the southern and easternmost arc of the Bay. The settlement can be seen as being, defined by four geographic features - Sullivan Bay flanked by the Eastern and Western Sisters and Camerons Bight. A fifth feature, Arthur's Seat, was not far away and indeed was a point at which landing was considered.

The two ships which carried the total settlement - people, stores and defences, were ordered to set sail from Portsmouth after communiques from Governor King who was worried about the detailed explorations the French were carrying out in the Strait. The company was headed by Lieutenant-Governor David Collins who had had some years experience in the colony of Sydney. The ships set sail in April 1803 and arrived early October. After a short period of exploration, just three days, Camerons Bight was chosen as the landing point as fresh water had been located, albeit obtainable only by sinking casks into the ground above high water mark. Settlement was focussed on the Sullivan Bay area.

The settlement was to last less than one year, From October 1803 to May 1804, in which time several prisoners absconded (the most famous of which being, William Buckley) and nineteen people died. Though, at the time of its demise, the settlement was still essentially only in embryonic form, a degree of development had occurred and the all important defences had been set in place. Gardens had been established, a number of huts constructed, wells sunk and a sandstone powder magazine built.

Unfortunately, the documentary and pictorial sources leave many questions unanswered. Coutts painstakingly picks over what is available, throws up scenarios, knocks them down and builds them up again. He comes to several well-considered and sustainable conclusions. They are:

'There is no doubt that Sullivan's Bay is the site of the Collins settlement of 1803 and that the 'seat of government' if it can be called that, was situated on the summit of the eastern sister.'

... using the documentary evidence, much of the camp's layout can be reconstructed, though precise locations of objects and structures are not known. The relative disposition of the military and civil administration and most of the convicts' quarters, and some of the free settlers is known; likewise the approximate locations of the original and subsequent landing places, the two coppers, the jetty, and the original six casks are known. The position of the battery is less certain, the governor's garden with less certainty again, and the positions of the magazines, privies and wells are not known at all'.

It is clear, on the basis of Coutts' research and the materials from which it is derived, that the site is the place where the first European settlement took place in Victoria. As such, it is a place of high cultural and political significance to all Victorians.

Contact History

On abandonment of the settlement the area was resumed by the Aborigines of the area, the Wurundjeri. The middens extant on the site today clearly indicate that they viewed the location as a good camping ground with plenty of food resources. Their abandonment of the site had not been voluntary and relations between the groups had not been entirely amicable. This is not surprising given the precedent of white contact, prior to white settlement at Sullivan Bay, where on several different occasions violence had been the order of the day.⁶ Interestingly, Collins noted whilst at the settlement, evidence of previous contact, in the pockmarked skin of

⁵ The following is drawn from the work of P.J.F Coutts' 1981 report *Victoria's First Official Settlement, Sullivans Bay, Port Phillip*.

⁶ Coutts, *Victoria's First*, pp. 25-27

several Aborigines.⁷ The disease may have swept down through trade routes from NSW or may have been passed on directly by sealers.

Coutts, in making the following observation about the impact and ramifications of the Collins settlement on the Aborigines of the Port Phillip Bay area, expands upon and underlines the significance of the site in relation to contact history in Australia. He writes that:

'The Sullivan Bay episode in Australian history, brief though it was, wrenched the Port Phillip Bay Aborigines from the Stone Age and confronted them with the Technological Age. It was at this time that dispossession began, race conflicts were ignited, and cultural change was accelerated. The repercussions of the Collins settlement are still in evidence today, and may take centuries to dispel.'⁸

The middens on the site were recorded in 1979 by Hilary Sullivan. Her report, *An Archaeological Survey of the Mornington Peninsula, Victoria*, which was published in 1981, stated that it was one of only three stratified midden sites located by her on the coast of the Mornington Peninsula and was one of eleven 'highly significant sites located during the project. In 1991 Professor Jim Allen re-examined the midden deposits and concluded that 'It seems inescapable that the shell deposits are of human, and Aboriginal origin.'⁹

Subsequent History of the Site

White settlement of the area had again occurred by 1841, when settlers, mainly lime burners and fishermen, again forcibly acquired the land. From 1875 the land has been subject to subdivision of varying degrees. The construction of several houses and gardens had disturbed both Aboriginal and settlement archaeological deposits, moreover, there is evidence to suggest that several extant features of the site have been deliberately destroyed or else collected by vandals. Other disturbances have occurred in recent years. There does remain, however, relatively undisturbed portions of the site and the archaeological potential of these can be considered to be high.

It should be noted that the bicentenary of the site as a place of European settlement is approaching. The recognition of the site's multi-layered significance and history could lead to a greater and more balanced understanding of Australia's history amongst our own community and of the reasons for and the ramifications of settlement.

Landscape Values

Sullivan Bay, Camerons Bight and the Eastern and Western Sisters form a cultural landscape. It is not a 'natural', 'untouched' or wilderness landscape. It is a cultural landscape, the views from and of are integral to major aspects of the significance of the site as a whole, most notably its significance as a place.

The Eastern and Western Sisters which flank Sullivan Bay formed the major foci of the Collins Settlement and were no doubt used as lookout points by local Aboriginal as well. From Sullivan Bay beach both the Eastern and Western Sisters appear relatively undeveloped, though the construction of a house set back from the curve of the Western Sister into Sullivan Bay does form a discordant element, and development has occurred along the beach itself. Nevertheless, the essentially undeveloped appearance of the Sisters is important as it enhances the ability of the public to interpret the site both as an area frequented by Aboriginal groups and as the place of a highly isolated European settlement.

⁷ Richard Broom, *The Victorians: Arriving*. McMahons Point 1984, pp:27-28

⁸ Coutts, *Victoria's First*, p.29

⁹ Prof. J. Allen, *Origin of Shell Deposits on Rand Property, 3080 Nepean Highway, Sorrento, Victoria*. Report for VAS, Feb 1991, p. 12.

Description

The Collins Settlement Site is located close to the township of Sorrento, just inside the mouth of Port Phillip Bay on the Mornington Peninsula. The settlement can be seen as being defined by four geographic features - Sullivan Bay, the Eastern Sister, the Western Sister and Camerons Bight.

Evidence concerning the settlement success that it was spread out over a reasonably extensive area. Focussing on Sullivan Bay, defined by the two Sisters, settlement was spread from the Bay and Camerons Bight southwards into the hinterland. The total area of the former settlement is now segmented by the Nepean Highway and by various subdivisions of land.

This classification report concentrates on the area of the settlement site which lies north of the Nepean Highway. This is for both pragmatic and conceptual reasons. The highway essentially divides the site into two, and forms a major barrier to the interpretation of the site as a continuous area. Furthermore, the distance to which the settlement stretched southwards is not known. It is the relationship of the site to the sea which is of primary importance and which was the major reason for the selection of the site for settlement. For these reasons the area north of the Highway is seen as being of primary significance and interest

Following permanent settlement of the area in the early 1840s, the land at the Collins Settlement site has been subject to subdivision and disturbance of various kinds including the building of houses and significant erosion of cliff faces. The area consists of both public and private lands.

Comparative Analysis ¹⁰

The Collins Settlement at Sorrento can best be compared to the settlement made at Corinella on Westernport Bay established some 23 years later in 1826. As with the settlement at Sorrento, a major reason behind the decision to establish a settlement at Corinella was to forestall French occupation of the coast and thus retain strategic control of the seas. Beyond common purpose, however, similarities between the settlements are few.

The two men in charge of establishing settlement at Corinella, Captains Wright and Weatherall, were given specific instructions in regards to location. It was to be on Westernport Bay and to be an area attractive to prospective free settlers. Collins had no such limitations, and was free to select a site anywhere on the southern coast of NSW or any island in Bass Strait regardless of the suitability of the land for free settlers.

The Corinella settlement was a greater success than Sorrento, and was considerably developed when orders were received to abandon the settlement in 1828. Permanent buildings, a fort, a brick works and even a dam had been constructed. Lime was being produced and timber milled to support these activities. In developing the settlement, soldiers and convicts worked together; Corinella did not have the overt characteristics of a penal settlement as did Sorrento and the two groups, soldiers and convicts, were present in roughly equal numbers.

Thus, the two settlements were considerably different in nature and character, though established for the same purpose. Corinella lasted longer, was considerably developed and was progressing well, did not have strong penal character and was not voluntarily abandoned. Sorrento was established twenty-three years earlier on a site with little regard to the development of free settlement, developed little, had a strong, penal element and was voluntarily abandoned.

¹⁰ The historical information used to compile this section was taken exclusively from a report by Dr. C. Kellaway and C. Johnston entitled 'Corinella: Report on 1826 Settlement', National Trust of Australia (Victoria) June, 1981.

The site selected for the settlement was on the southern side of Port Phillip Bay at Sullivan Bay, relatively close to the Heads, a site chosen to enable protection of Bass Strait from the French. It was a difficult site to settle, without easy access to fresh running water, an anchorage well off-shore, and poor soils for agriculture; their survey of Port Phillip Bay revealed that much of the area had similar characteristics.

The settlement was established on an area of flat land between the Western Sister and Eastern Sister, prominent headlands which mark each end of Sullivan Bay. Most of the settlement was close to the Eastern Sister. Initially a tent encampment, work commenced quickly on building a jetty and other timber structures including huts. Local limestone was apparently used to construct chimneys for the huts, and for the building of the magazine. As well as barrels set into sand to trap fresh water, wells were dug, as were privies. Land was cleared for the growing of crops, perhaps totalling several acres.

Contact between Europeans and the Boonerwung (Bunurong) people (the traditional Aboriginal custodians) in the Port Phillip Bay area first occurred in 1802 during Lt Murray's exploratory visit to the area in the *Lady Nelson*. A meeting between Murray's party and a group of about 20 Aborigines occurred in the general vicinity of Sullivan Bay on 17 February. There was an exchange of gifts, but a disagreement followed, leading to the death of an Aborigine and shots being fired from the *Lady Nelson*. The Collins party's first encounter with Aborigines on the north-western side of Port Phillip Bay was greeted by hostility, and this pattern was repeated many times, perhaps provoked by the Murray expedition's initial actions. The extensive Aboriginal shell middens at Sullivan Bay were noticed by the white settlers, along with their huts and hearths. In choosing this place for a settlement, the British had directly displaced Aboriginal people from a regular camping area.

In 1804 Collins decided to remove the settlement to Van Diemens Land where John Bowen had established a settlement at Risdon Cove in 1803. They were moved as two parties, the second group leaving on 20 May, just over seven months after the settlement had been established.

The land around the Eastern Sister became freehold in 1875, with CA 65A being acquired by D.A. Hughes, and a portion set aside within this allotment to protect and allow access to the graves. An allotment on the Western Sister (CA 71A) was also acquired by Hughes. Between the two allotments and along the foreshore west of CA 65A was an extensive area of land reserved for recreation.⁽⁴⁾ The land held in private ownership has been since subdivided several times ⁽²⁾; the alignment of the Nepean Highway (Point Nepean Road) has also been varied.

As a direct result of a proposal to subdivide part of the privately owned land adjoining the Settlers Graves Reserve in 1980, the Victorian government decided to assist with the purchase of Lot 3, CA 65A.

Evidence

Of the 1803 settlement, little evidence is known to remain. The structures associated with the settlement were generally insubstantial, the exceptions being the magazine (limestone) and possibly hut chimneys (limestone). Any extant evidence of the site will be located below the present land surface, although subsequent development may have removed or obscured it. The evidence most likely to remain would include artefacts, pits (wells and privies), and evidence of structures (including the jetty).⁽²⁾ Artefacts recovered from the site at various times are held in public and private collections.⁽²⁾

No archaeological excavations have been undertaken, and surface inspection and sampling has occurred only over a small part of the area.⁽³⁾ Lot 3, CA 65 (now public land adjacent to the Graves Reserve) is believed to have been the area occupied by the Commandant, the Chaplain, the mineralogist, the surveyor and the Governor's mistress, all domiciled in tents. The adjoining allotment to the west is considered to have contained the Commissaries' tents at the foot of the Eastern Sister, the store tents and possibly a magazine built of limestone rubble.⁽³⁾ The convicts tents were located further west, around the centre of the Bay, with the three

surgeons' tents at the foot of the Western Sister. Traditionally the Western Sister has been known as Battery Point, but while it is known Collins landed two guns, it is not known where they were sited. Early sketches of the settlement names the area of the Western Sister as Church Hill, or as Execution Hill, with the peak as Church top.(2)

Traditionally the graves have been regarded as associated with the 1803 settlement; about 30 people died during the brief period of the settlement and 19 burials were recorded. However, Coutts suggests that this site would have been too close to the centre of the settlement to provide an appropriate burial ground, noting that other traditions refer to the graves as those of later settlers. Nevertheless, the graves have been recognised and marked in a variety of ways, and protected by local endeavours. The Leggett family (adjoining landowners from the early 1930s) commissioned the first sign on the site, a parchment scroll protected by a glass case. The available evidence suggests that the position of the grave sites have changed with time.(2)

Underlying the 1803 settlement site are a series of Aboriginal middens. These are located on the higher ground close to both the Eastern and Western Sisters. The middens indicate that the area was used extensively by Aboriginal people over a long period prior to and possibly directly after the removal of the Collins settlement to Hobart.

Significance

Collins Settlement Site is of State significance as the site of the first official attempt to establish a British colony in the Port Phillip district. It symbolises the beginning of an active process of colonisation which displaced the Aboriginal peoples of Victoria, changing their culture irrevocably. The contact between and overlaying of the two cultures is demonstrated at Sullivan Bay.

The extensive and well-preserved Aboriginal middens pre-date the 1803 settlement, providing evidence of potential scientific importance about pre-colonisation Aboriginal life.

Management

Part of the Collins Settlement Site is protected under the Flinders Planning Scheme in recognition of its historical and scientific (archaeological) significance. The provisions of the *Archaeological and Aboriginal Relics Preservation Act 1972* also apply to protect the Aboriginal middens and any extant remains of the 1803 settlement. The extent of the settlement is only known from historical sources, and subsequent development combined with coastal erosion make it very difficult to plot an exact boundary. However, the onus is still placed on land owners, occupiers and managers to meet the requirements under the *Archaeological and Aboriginal Relics Preservation Act 1972*. It is important that owners, occupiers and managers are made aware of these requirements and are appropriately assisted in meeting them by the Shire and the State Government. A permanent 'notification' could be created through annotation on the land titles and/or through designation of an appropriate policy area in the Flinders Planning Scheme.

As the only remaining evidence of the 1803 settlement will be below the surface, it is essential that disturbance to the present ground surface be minimised, and that archaeological expertise be available to examine areas that are to be disturbed.

A management plan for the entire site (including coastal and underwater elements) is required to ensure that any evidence remaining from the 1803 settlement is protected. The plan should incorporate clear requirements on pre-development surveys and approvals.

Sources(1) Mrs Jean Goddard, pers. comm.

(2) Coutts, PJF (1981) *Victoria's first official settlement, Sullivans Bay, Port Phillip*. Victoria Archaeological Survey, Ministry for Conservation (Vic).

(3) Coutts, PJF (1982) *An archaeological survey of Sullivans Bay, Sorrento*. Victoria Archaeological Survey, Ministry for Conservation (Vic).

4. Parish Plan: Parish of Nepean (1875)

Iluka, 3088 Point Nepean Road, Sorrento: Mornington Peninsula Planning Scheme - Heritage Overlay

Place name: Iluka

[Other name/s?]

Address: 3088 Nepean Highway

Locality: Sorrento

Property/title information: 139669 Pt CA65A P/Nepean

Description:

This is a very intact example of a Federation villa with a strong bungalow influence in its design. The house features the Federation elements of tall potted chimneys, twin verandah posts with slatted fretwork, and complex roof form while also exhibiting the overall massing of a bungalow with details such as shingled gables.

The front door is inset and has a wooden screen door with interesting design.

The house is set in a lawned garden with large conifers on the beach side. The property is located on a landmark site at The Sisters and appears to extend to high water mark including its own jetty and boat shed. A garage in the style of the house is also located at the Nepean Highway entrance.

History:

This building is located very near the first settlement site of 1803. The land was alienated by D.A. Hughes in October 1875.(2)

A Mrs Sarah Rand owned the land prior to its purchase by Alexander Boyd for whom this house was built in 1923.(1) A house was located on the site at the time of Rand's ownership but it is not known whether it was demolished or incorporated into this building.(3) The Rand family continues to own land in the vicinity of the First Settlement site.

Alexander Boyd owned the building from 1924 to 1939 and later members of the family have owned it since, representing continuous family ownership for over sixty years.(1)

Further research is required to establish the architect or builder of the house which is a well executed example of a villa featuring several ideas associated with bungalow designs which were so popular at the time. The building is similar to the Laycock residence in Portsea and could possibly be associated with the same architect or builder.

Significance:

Iluka is regionally significant as a good example of a Federation bungalow which is intact to its 1923 design and is representative of a popular style associated with affluent holiday residences. The property has aesthetic and landmark significance as viewed from the water and in relation to its location near The Sisters. Other important features of the site include a boat shed, jetty and garage.

The historical significance of the association with the Boyd family is representative of a number of elegant residences which are still owned by early or original families in Sorrento and Portsea. The site itself is also significant as it is connected with the first white settlement of 1803.

Sources

- (1) Flinders Shire Rate Books
- (2) Parish Plan: Parish of Nepean (reproduced 1952)
- (3) Research notes from Betty McMeekin

Nee Morna, 3110 Point Nepean Road, Sorrento: Mornington Peninsula Planning Scheme - Heritage Overlay

Place name: Nee Morna

[Other name/s?]: The Sisters

Address: 3110 Nepean Highway

Locality: Sorrento

Property/title information: 139673 Pt Lot 4 LP 79561

Description:

A very substantial Bungalow residence, Nee Morna is dominated by a complex roof line. The protective heavy gables of the Bungalow style are broken by Federation inspired elements and the requirement of attic rooms and sleep-outs. There is timber strapwork to the gable infills which sometimes house rooms, sleep-outs and even lead to viewing platforms.

Nee Morna is constructed from limestone with dressings in rusticated Sorrento concrete block. This is a fairly early interpretation of the regional motif of red brick quoins being changed to the modern concrete alternative. The wide verandah which follows the roof line is supported by sturdy block piers. The chimneys are also built from Sorrento block.

The building appears to be intact with almost no changes. It is one of the most prominent landmarks in the Sorrento area and it is reputed to be a navigational point for craft on the Bay. Nee Morna sits very high on a cliff on a large land allotment with views of Port Phillip Bay. The landscaping has a similar high degree of integrity to the house, although land to the east has been lost to the demands of both the Shire and the eroding beach. The limestone driveway curves up through an expanse of lawn broken by specimen planting. Stone lions guard the arrival at the house and a sunken conservatory remains on the site.

History:

Nee Morna was constructed c1909 for Walter Howard Smith on land he had purchased from Miss Nellie Stewart. He only owned the residence for a short period before Walter G. Hiscock took over. It was occupied by Misses May and Dorothy Hiscock, who first visited as children then became permanent caretakers and then the owners of the property. It is probably for this reason that it has sometimes been referred to as The Sisters.

The Peninsula Post of 26 May 1922, described The Sisters as 'unique'. It reported that 'in it the first electric light of Sorrento was installed...(and) the immensely wide verandah is, or should be, the patent of the maker, Mr B. White, of Sorrento'.

Significance:

Nee Morna is of at least regional significance as a substantial and highly intact example of a Bungalow with some Federation features. It also has an outstanding landmark quality and is set in superb landscaped grounds which retain many of their original features and have Bay views.

With more physical investigation of the site and further examination of its historical significance, Nee Morna may be seen to be of state significance.

Further research is required to establish the designer and builder of Nee Morna and to establish the significance of its long time association with the Hiscock family.

Sources

(1) Flinders Shire Rate Books

(2) Peninsula Post 26/5/1922

- (3) Peter Collin's research
- (4) Discussions with Miss Hiscock

APPENDIX 4: PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

Roles and responsibilities

The *Victorian Coastal Strategy* (2002) provides an overview of the roles and responsibilities of the State government agencies along Victoria's coastline. It also lists the international, national and state conventions and policy frameworks that apply to all or parts of the coast.

The key State agencies with responsibilities in relation to the study area are:

- Parks Victoria
- Department of Natural Resources and Environment
- Aboriginal Affairs Victoria
- Heritage Victoria.

Mornington Peninsula Shire is also a key player in terms of both land management and statutory controls exercised through the planning scheme.

Site management

Public land within the area is managed by Parks Victoria (Collins Historic Reserve), the Mornington Peninsula Shire (the Sorrento Foreshore Reserve) and a local Committee of Management (the foreshore reserve between the Eastern Sister and White Cliffs).

This plan will provide a basis for the coordinated management of these public land areas.

Parks Victoria is assisted by two groups:

- Collins Settlement Historic Site Advisory Group: this group meets regularly. Key local organisations and the Friends group are represented on the Advisory Group.
- The Friends of Collins Settlement Sorrento Inc assists by providing a team of volunteers who assist with important tasks such as staffing of the Visitor Centre (now closed), research, vegetation and weed management.

Aboriginal sites protection

The protection of Aboriginal heritage in Victoria is dealt with under a unique legislative structure that includes both a Commonwealth and State Act. The interrelationship between the Commonwealth and State legislation is complex and uncertain in effect. However, where there is a conflict, the Commonwealth legislation takes precedence over the State legislation.

The legislation is:

- Victorian *Archaeological and Aboriginal Relics Preservation Act 1972* and
- Part IIA of the Commonwealth *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984*.

This legislation is administered by Heritage Services, Aboriginal Affairs Victoria and means that AAV is responsible for key tasks including:

- maintenance of the Victorian register of known Aboriginal heritage places
- monitoring the conduct and standards of heritage investigations
- investigating reported discoveries of Aboriginal cultural material, including human remains
- facilitating the appropriate management of endangered or significant heritage places

- coordinating the training and appointment of inspectors, and
- investigating reported offences.

Archaeological and Aboriginal Relics Preservation Act 1972

This Act adopts an archaeological approach and provides legal protection for the physical evidence of the past Aboriginal occupation of Victoria. Specifically the State Act:

- provides legal protection for all materials relating to the past Aboriginal occupation of Australia (with the exception of human remains interred after 1834)
- extends protection to both known (recorded) and unknown (unrecorded) Aboriginal archaeological sites
- establishes administrative procedures for archaeological investigations and the mandatory reporting of the discovery of Aboriginal sites to ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS VICTORIA.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984

The Commonwealth Act deals with Aboriginal cultural property in a wider sense and provides blanket protection to any places, objects and folklore that 'are of particular significance to Aboriginals in accordance with Aboriginal tradition'.

Places may include archaeological sites or historical/spiritual places of contemporary significance to Aboriginal people.

Unlike the State Act, the Commonwealth Act grants significant powers over Aboriginal cultural heritage to Aboriginal communities.

Part IIIA of this Act is specific to Victoria. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Heritage Protection Act 1984:

- provides legal protection for all Aboriginal cultural property including Aboriginal places, objects and folklore
- prohibits anyone from defacing, damaging, interfering with or endangering an Aboriginal place unless the prior consent of the local Aboriginal community has been obtained in writing
- includes a hierarchy of declarations for the protection of Aboriginal sites considered to be under threat.

Under this Act, the Wurundjeri Tribe Land Compensation and Cultural Heritage Council Inc. represents Aboriginal community interests within the tribal Boonerwung (Bunurong) areas.

While this organisation holds this important legal responsibility, consultation with all Aboriginal organisations with a potential interest in the Sullivan Bay area occurred during this project, and a protocol for future consultation is proposed.

Victorian Heritage Register

The Graves Reserve, a part of the Historic Reserve is listed in the Victorian Heritage Register (Place No. H1050) and protected under the provisions of the Victorian Heritage Act 1995. The Statement of Significance contained in the register reads:

The Collins Settlement was established by the Colonial Government in October 1803, and abandoned in May 1804. The Victorian Colonial Government established a Reserve in 1875 to commemorate and protect the site. The Victorian Government acquired land to extend the reserve in 1982. The four graves on the site have been maintained by the Collins Settlement Historic Site Advisory Group.

The 'Settlers Graves', Collins Settlement Site are of historic and social significance to the State of Victoria. The four 'Settler's Graves' associated with the Collins Settlement are of cultural significance

because of their association with the first attempted European settlement in Victoria. They are important for symbolic reasons in long being recognised by both the government and the community as a symbol and icon of the first attempt of European settlement in Victoria.

The balance of the site is included on the Victorian Heritage Inventory (Nos. H7821-0001 Sullivans Bay (Eastern Sister), H7821-0075 Collins Settlement Western Sister, H7821-0074 Camerons Bight - Collins Settlement) or is automatically protected under statutory protection that the *Heritage Act 1985* gives to non-Aboriginal archaeological sites/relics more than 50 years old. The boundaries for these Heritage Inventory sites extend to 125 metres off-shore.

Register of the National Estate

The Register of the National Estate is Australia's national inventory of natural and cultural heritage places which are worth keeping for the future. It is compiled by the Australian Heritage Commission - the Commonwealth Government's adviser on the National Estate.

There are now more than 12 000 natural, historic and indigenous places in the Register. They come from all parts of Australia and are owned variously by Commonwealth, State and local governments, by businesses, voluntary and other organisations and by private individuals. All places entered in the Register are strictly assessed against publicly available criteria outlining national estate values.

Sullivan Bay Settlement Site was added to the Register of the National Estate in September 1982. The extent of the area included on the Register is the whole of the Collins Settlement Historic Reserve (ie. Lot 3, LP 66826, CA 65C Parish Nepean and Graves Reserve, 3074 Point Nepean Road and Leggett Way, Sorrento).

The Statement of Significance contained in the Register reads:

The area is historically significant as the site of the first official Settlement in Victoria, made directly from England by Lieutenant-Governor Collins in 1803, at a time when it was feared the French would annex the southern part of Australia. The site on Sullivan's Bay was the military and administrative centre for the settlement, which consisted of 467 military, convicts and settlers, some of whose graves may remain. The settlement was abandoned in 1804, when Collins transferred his party to establish the first settlement at Hobart. Notable historical figures associated with the first settlement included the convict, William Buckley, who escaped and lived with the Aborigines for thirty-two years and John Pascoe Fawcner who lived at the settlement as a boy and later was to publish Melbourne's first newspaper.

The full text from the Register is included as Appendix 3.

The legal consequences of the listing on the Register of the National Estate is explained briefly below. This information has been obtained from the Australian Heritage Commission's web site.

Firstly, listing in the Register means that the place has heritage value and has met various criteria of national estate significance. The Commonwealth Government supports conservation work on listed places in various ways and has introduced a new financial assistance program, the Cultural Heritage Projects Program (CHPP), geared to support work by private owners, local government authorities or non-profit making bodies on the conservation of heritage listed buildings or structures.

The Cultural Heritage Projects Program (CHPP) is a program funded for six years from 1 July 1999. It is expected that the third round of the program will be advertised and applications called for in 2002.

The program is administered by Environment Australia and is open to private owners, legally incorporated not-for-profit organisations and local government authorities.

The program supports the conservation of places of cultural significance — historic and Indigenous heritage. Only historic or Indigenous places on the Register of the National Estate, its Interim list or State heritage registers are eligible for funding. Projects that aim to identify

Indigenous Heritage places for appropriate listing or conservation planning may also be supported. Funding will predominantly be for on-ground works. Approved projects for 2000-2001 include nine projects in Victoria, with the funds provided ranging from \$189,000 to \$15,400.

Entry in the Register of the National Estate is not a land management decision. The way in which private, State and local government owners manage their national estate properties is not directly affected by listing. The Commission does not manage places in the Register and entry in the Register does not give the Commonwealth Government any rights to acquire, manage, or enter places which are private property.

Entry of their property in the Register does not place any direct legal constraints on the actions of owners of private property. Owners of registered places are not required to change the way in which they manage, maintain, or dispose of, their property. Entry in the Register does not mean that owners have to give any public right of access to registered properties.

The Commonwealth Government is the only body whose actions are constrained as a result of listings in the Register of the National Estate.

Under Section 30 of the Australian Heritage Commission Act 1975, the Commonwealth Government is prohibited from taking any action which would adversely affect a place in the Register, unless there are no feasible and prudent alternatives to the action. This constraint on the Commonwealth may sometimes affect the decisions of other government or business organisations where a Commonwealth decision is required for foreign investment or export approval for example.

National Trust Register

The National Trust of Australia (Victoria) is a private company dedicated to conserving important parts of Victoria's cultural heritage. The Trust lists places on their Register. This does not provide any legal protection.

The National Trust has Classified the 'Collins Settlement Site' as a cultural landscape.

Mornington Peninsula Shire

Heritage Study

A heritage study for the former Shire of Flinders was completed in 1992. It identified the 1803-4 Collins settlement site and assessed it as being of state/national significance. The extent of the area identified is similar to the area now protected as HO255 under the Morning Peninsula Planning Scheme (see below).

The study also identified two other properties within the study area as being of heritage significance - Iluka at 3088 Point Nepean Road, and Nee Morna at 3110 Point Nepean Road.

Planning Scheme

The Mornington Peninsula Planning Scheme includes several overlays designed to protect significant aspects of the study area, including:

- Heritage Overlay covering two individual properties and the larger 1803-4 Collins settlement site precinct
- Design and Development Overlay 3
- Environmental Significance Overlay 25 (Port Phillip Coastal Area)
- Vegetation Protection Overlay (Township Vegetation).

These overlays provide specific requirements on uses and developments within the study area. These are summarised below.

Heritage Overlay

The Heritage Overlay is Section 43.01 of the Scheme. Its aim is to conserve significant heritage places by ensuring that development does not adversely impact on that significance. Under the Heritage Overlay provisions, a planning permit is required for specific activities, including subdivision, demolition, construction of new buildings, and works that will alter the land surface.

The permit requirements under the Victorian Heritage Act remove the need for a permit under Clause 43.01 of the planning scheme for the Graves Reserve.

The Heritage Overlay includes decision guidelines. Once finalised, this Plan would need to be considered by the Shire in any future decisions. To further assist in its decision making under the Heritage Overlay, the Shire could develop a local policy containing the key policies from this Plan, make this Plan an incorporated plan or a reference document in the Planning Scheme.

The Heritage Overlay also enables Aboriginal places to be included and notes that such places are also subject to the provisions of other legislation. However, the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay does not identify the study area an 'Aboriginal heritage place'. This requires review in consultation with Aboriginal Affairs Victoria..

Design and Development Overlay 3

The Design and Development Overlay 3 seeks to achieve a series of stated design objectives that relate to the subdivision design, development densities, vegetation protection, established character, viewlines, visual intrusion, heritage values etc.

Under the Design and Development Overlay all new development and works need to meet a series of requirements. If these cannot be met, a planning permit is required.

Environmental Significance Overlay 25 (Port Phillip Coastal Area)

This Overlay seeks to identify areas where development may be affected by environmental constraints and ensure that development is compatible with identified environment values.

Environmental Significance Overlay 25 (Port Phillip Coastal Area) recognises that this area contains significant cultural and natural sites and seeks to protect these environmental attributes, promote excellence in the design of buildings, facilities and structures and promote coordinated management.

Under this Environmental Significance Overlay a planning permit is required to construct a fence.

Vegetation Protection Overlay (Township Vegetation)

The Vegetation Protection Overlay (Township Vegetation) is designed to recognise and protect vegetation in areas where 'substantial vegetation cover' is the dominant visual and environmental feature. The Overlay includes specific vegetation protection objectives and decision guidelines.

Under this Overlay, a planning permit is required to remove, destroy or lop any vegetation. Vegetation is not defined in the planning scheme.

There are exceptions to these requirements including vegetation removal associated with a permitted development, new construction (under certain conditions), vegetation causing immediate risk of personal injury or property damage, and several other circumstances.

Applications for a planning permit need to include a vegetation management plan.

Previous plans and studies

The primary plan covering the study area is *First Settlement Site Sorrento, Proposed Management Plan*, prepared by Jane Lennon, National Parks Service 1983.

The two foreshore management plans - *White Cliffs to Camerons Bight Foreshore Management Plan* (2000) and *Sorrento Foreshore Reserve Master Plan* (2001) provide a good summary of past plans and studies across the study area. These include:

Port Phillip Coastal Study (1977)

Sorrento Foreshore Management Plan (1985)

Biological Survey and Vegetation Management Program (1990)

Sorrento Shared Recreational Path (1992)

Foreshores Beyond 2000 (1993)

Landscape setting types for the Victorian Coast (1998)

Victorian Coastal Strategy (2002)

Port Phillip Bay Coastal Trail (1997)

Siting and Design Guidelines for Structures on the Victorian Coast (1998)

Key policies and actions arising from these plans that remain relevant today include:

Planning framework: The Victorian Coastal Strategy (1997) and the draft 2001 Strategy provide the overall planning and policy framework, including key principles, objectives and actions.

Cliff and coastal protection: Shore protection works on private property on the Sisters should be investigated (*Port Phillip Coastal Study* 1977); Access to the cliff face should be discouraged (*Port Phillip Coastal Study* 1977)

Indigenous vegetation: Encouraging re-establishment of indigenous tree cover (*Sorrento Foreshore Management Plan* 1985); Vegetation management should be carried out in accordance with a management plan (*Foreshores Beyond 2000* 1993).

Weeds: Control of chronic weed invasion (*Biological Survey and Vegetation Management Program* 1990).

Walking tracks and access: Development of an improved walking track to avoid the cliffs and reduce the many existing informal tracks (*Biological Survey and Vegetation Management Program* 1990). The *Port Phillip Bay Coastal Trail* (1997) proposed a route, and sections of a 'Bay Trail' have been built.

Inventory of sites: Prepare an inventory of sites of archaeological, scientific and cultural significance (*Foreshores Beyond 2000* 1993).

APPENDIX 5: HERITAGE IMPACT STATEMENTS

Heritage impact statements will be prepared for all developments and works, whether undertaken by a private owner or public agency.

The heritage impact statement will form part of the documentation required by the Shire to be submitted with the planning application.

The Heritage Impact Statement needs to explain what impacts on cultural and natural heritage values may arise from the proposed development or works. These impacts will be considered by the responsible authority in making a decision as to whether or not the proposed development or works can proceed.

The Heritage Impact Statement needs to answer:

- What is the heritage significance of the site where the development or works are proposed to occur?
- What is the archaeological potential of the site?
- What known or potential impacts will the development or works have on the significance of the site?
- What measures are proposed to mitigate any negative impacts?
- What alternatives to the proposal have been considered, and why is the proposal preferred?

The level of detail provided in the Heritage Impact Statement will depend on the nature of the works, the area in which they are located, and the relative significance of that location.

The Heritage Impact Statement needs to explain how the cultural or natural significance of the site is to be conserved by the proposed development or works. If there is the potential for any adverse impacts, the Heritage Impact Statement should demonstrate how these will be addressed and mitigated.

A guideline on *Statements of Heritage Impact* (1996) is available from the NSW Heritage Office. When a Local Policy for the Heritage Overlay for Sullivan Bay is developed by the Shire, this guideline should be considered and relevant elements incorporated.

ENDNOTES

- ¹ Visitor numbers are counted by Parks Victoria and volunteers. These figures are for 2001.
- ² A study of the erosion on these cliffs has been conducted by Golder and Associates for the Department of Natural Resources and the Environment.
- ³ *Sorrento Foreshore Reserve Master Plan (2001)*. Prepared for the Mornington Peninsula Shire by Inspiring Place Pty Ltd and Chris Dance Land Design Pty Ltd. *White Cliffs to Camerons Bight Foreshore Management Plan (2000)* Prepared for Dept. Natural Resources and Environment, Tyrone and Blairgowrie Foreshore Committees of Management and Mornington Peninsula Shire by Robin Crocker & Associates and EDGE Environmental Design Pty Ltd.
- ⁴ The primary sources used in this section are: Sullivan 1981, pp. 3-37
- ⁵ Hull, W. (1858) Evidence in 'Report of the Select Committee of the Legislative Council on the Aborigines, 1858-59', in Victorian Legislative Council, *Votes and Proceedings*, Government Printer.
- ⁶ Caroline Briggs, Victorian Boonerwung Elders Land Council Aboriginal Corporation, pers. comm.
- ⁷ Site nos. 7821-0130, 0131, 0132, 0133, 0124 and 0125, with 0132 and 0133 being the most significant
- ⁸ Sullivan, H. (1981) *An archaeological survey of the Mornington Peninsula, Victoria*. Victoria Archaeological Survey Occasional Reports Series No. 6, Ministry for Conservation, p. 76. Allen, J. (1991) *Origin of shell deposits on Rand Property, 3080 Nepean Highway, Sorrento, Victoria*. Report prepared for the Victoria Archaeological Survey, p. 11.
- ⁹ Coutts, J. F. (1981) *Victoria's first official settlement: Sullivan Bay, Port Phillip*. Victoria Archaeological Survey, Ministry for Conservation, p. 27.
- ¹⁰ Allen, p. 8.
- ¹¹ Coutts, J. F. (1982) *An archaeological survey of Sullivan Bay, Sorrento*. Victoria Archaeological Survey, Ministry for Conservation, pp. 21- 22; Frankel, D (1982) *An evaluation of 'Sullivan Bay, Sorrento: an archaeological survey' by P.J. F. Coutts*, Victoria Archaeological Survey, pp. 3-4.
- ¹² Coutts 1982, p. 24; Frankel, p. 5; Sullivan 1981.
- ¹³ Advice from Nora van Waarden, Aboriginal Affairs Victoria, 23/1/02.
- ¹⁴ Coutts 1981, p. 18.
- ¹⁵ Coutts 1981, p. 19; Frankel, p. 3.
- ¹⁶ Coutts 1981, p. 22.
- ¹⁷ Coutts 1982, p. 21.
- ¹⁸ Steve Compton, Bunurong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation, pers. comm. Coutts recovered a small lump of red ochre on one of midden samples (Coutts 1982, page 21)
- ¹⁹ Cotter, Richard (2001) *No place for a colony: Sullivan Bay, Sorrento & the Collins Settlement*.
- ²⁰ Coutts 1981, pp. 22- 23.
- ²¹ Coutts 1981, pp. 22 - 28, 35; Coutts, 1982.
- ²² Coutts, 1981, p. 21.
- ²³ Coutts, 1982 pp. 24-25.
- ²⁴ Bird (1993) describes The Sisters as being composed of Pleistocene dune calcarenite with cappings of Holocene dune sand.
- ²⁵ This description and assessment is based on a site inspection on the 5 August 2001 by Andrew McMahon, Ecology Australia. His report described the major plant communities or Ecological

Vegetation Classes (EVCs) and assessed the condition of the vegetation. The survey also included recording of: presence of easily observed rare or threatened plant species; possible specimens of pre-European vegetation; broad EVC mapping; identification of key management issues. The study budget did not allow for quadrat data collection and analysis, nor compiling a comprehensive inventory. These limitations however are unlikely to alter the key findings.

²⁶ Calder, W (1986). *Peninsula Perspectives, Vegetation on the Mornington Peninsula, Victoria*. Centre for Environmental Studies, University of Melbourne.

²⁷ *The Burra Charter: The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance*, Article 1.2, 1999.

²⁸ Key aspects of historic significance have been summarised from the Flinders Heritage Study, the Register of the National Estate and the Victorian Heritage Register. It should be noted that the graves are considered unlikely to be associated with the 1803-4 Collins settlement.

²⁹ As advised by Aboriginal Affairs Victoria.

³⁰ Adapted from the *Draft Guidelines for the Protection, Management and Use of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage Places*, 1997.

³¹ *Australian Natural Heritage Charter: Standards and principles for the conservation of places of natural heritage significance*, 1996.

³² These plans were prepared over the project survey plan and based on mapping generated from aerial photography. The information indicated on this plan series includes: topography - 1 metre interval contours; cadastral boundaries (property/public land boundaries); built elements including: building footprints; roads and paths; coastal piers, jetties and groynes; visitor facilities including: seats, picnic tables, bins, parking areas, entrances to the historic site, paths (including surface types, stairs etc); infrastructure features including: powerpoles, signs, road alignments, bus stops; views - short and long - and visual barriers.

³³ Advice from Mornington Peninsula Shire, 29 November 2001.

³⁴ These jetties are held by adjoining owners under 12 month licences. A licence condition is that no obstruction is caused to the public passing along or otherwise using the beach. Changed beach conditions may have created the present access problems.

³⁵ There are a number of alternative spellings in English.

³⁶ Risdon Cove (Tasmania) and several NSW sites. In Victoria, other examples include Corinella, Portland and Point Gellibrand. Further consultation with the AHC on these places as a potential serial nomination for the proposed 'national list' would be worthwhile.

³⁷ The area should generally include undeveloped/undisturbed land - including parts of allotments - between Hughes Road in the east and Calcutta Road in the west, with the southern boundary being Tuckey Road and a projected alignment to meet Hughes Road.

³⁸ At present Aboriginal community organisations with associations and responsibilities for this place include: Bunerong Land Council Aboriginal Corporation; Kulin Nation Regional Cultural Heritage Program; Victorian Boonerwung Elders Land Council Aboriginal Corporation; Wurundjeri Tribe Land Compensation and Cultural Heritage Council

³⁹ Parks Victoria are currently developing criteria for the use of jet skis.

⁴⁰ Developed by Context through our work for the Australian Heritage Commission.

