

**FORMER BOMADERRY SCHOOL  
BOMADERRY NSW**

**CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT  
PLAN**

PREPARED FOR

**SHOALHAVEN CITY COUNCIL**  
BRIDGE ROAD NOWRA NSW



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## 1.0 Executive Summary

### Conservation Management Plan for the Former Bomaderry School, Bomaderry

The overall aim of this Conservation Management Plan is to investigate and analyse the documentary and physical evidence available to formulate a statement of cultural significance, and to provide management guidelines to enable this significance to be retained in future use and development. It has been prepared for the Former Bomaderry School, which is located on Birriley Street, Bomaderry for the Shoalhaven City Council.

The main points of this study can be understood by reading the following sections.

- **Analysis of Documentary and Physical Evidence (Section 5.0)**

This study in brief concludes that the Former Bomaderry School is in relatively good condition. The building's original form and interior configuration can be clearly understood.

It is critical that any works at the site be documented and implemented in a way that allows for the retention in-situ of the maximum amount of existing significant fabric.

- **Statement of Cultural Significance (Section 6.0)**

The Former Bomaderry School has representative historic, aesthetic, social and technical/research significance and rare historical significance, all at a local level.

- **Constraints and Opportunities (Section 7.0)**
- **Conservation Policy (Section 8.0)**

This study suggests appropriate uses for the site, as well as various recommended actions which should be taken to conserve the existing site and structures.

Any present and/or future design proposals should be evaluated and reviewed in association with the conservation policies and recommendations provided in this report to ensure that the significant heritage values of the site and structures are retained and fully interpreted by the community.

In summary, we believe that if the site is carefully developed and regular maintenance is undertaken the site can retain its heritage significance, be able to be interpreted as a former school site and play an important function for the local community.

## **2.0 Introduction**

### **2.1 Brief**

The aim of this Conservation Management Plan is to assess the heritage significance of the subject site and use the findings of this assessment to provide conservation management guidelines to enable this significance to be retained in future use and development. It has been prepared for the Former Bomaderry School, located at 5 Birriley Street, Bomaderry, for the Shoalhaven City Council.

This report entails the following.

#### **Documentary Research**

- Of the site/institutions/families/people associated with the site.
- Of the development of the site over time ie. Dates of construction and past additions/alterations.

#### **Physical Investigation**

- Description of site and building (internal and external) and its setting.

#### **Assessment of Significance**

- Heritage assessment using State Heritage Inventory criteria.
- Significance ratings of building's fabric and setting.

#### **Conservation Policy**

- Conservation approach.
- Future development of the site.
- Physical conservation action recommended and other relevant issues such as use; investigation; etc.

#### **Implementation Strategy**

- Identification of immediate works required.
- Identification of future works recommended for the site.
- Identification of landscaping works required and recommended for the site.
- Options for future use of the site.

## **2.2 Study Area**

For the purposes of this report the *place*, as defined in the Burra Charter (please refer to Section 8.1 of this report), is to be known as the study area.

### **2.2.1 SUBJECT SITE**

The subject site consists of Lot 2, DP 568955 located at 5 Birriley Street, Bomaderry.

Please refer to Figure 1 of this report.

### **2.2.2 SUBJECT BUILDING**

The subject building consists of the painted brick Former Bomaderry School building.

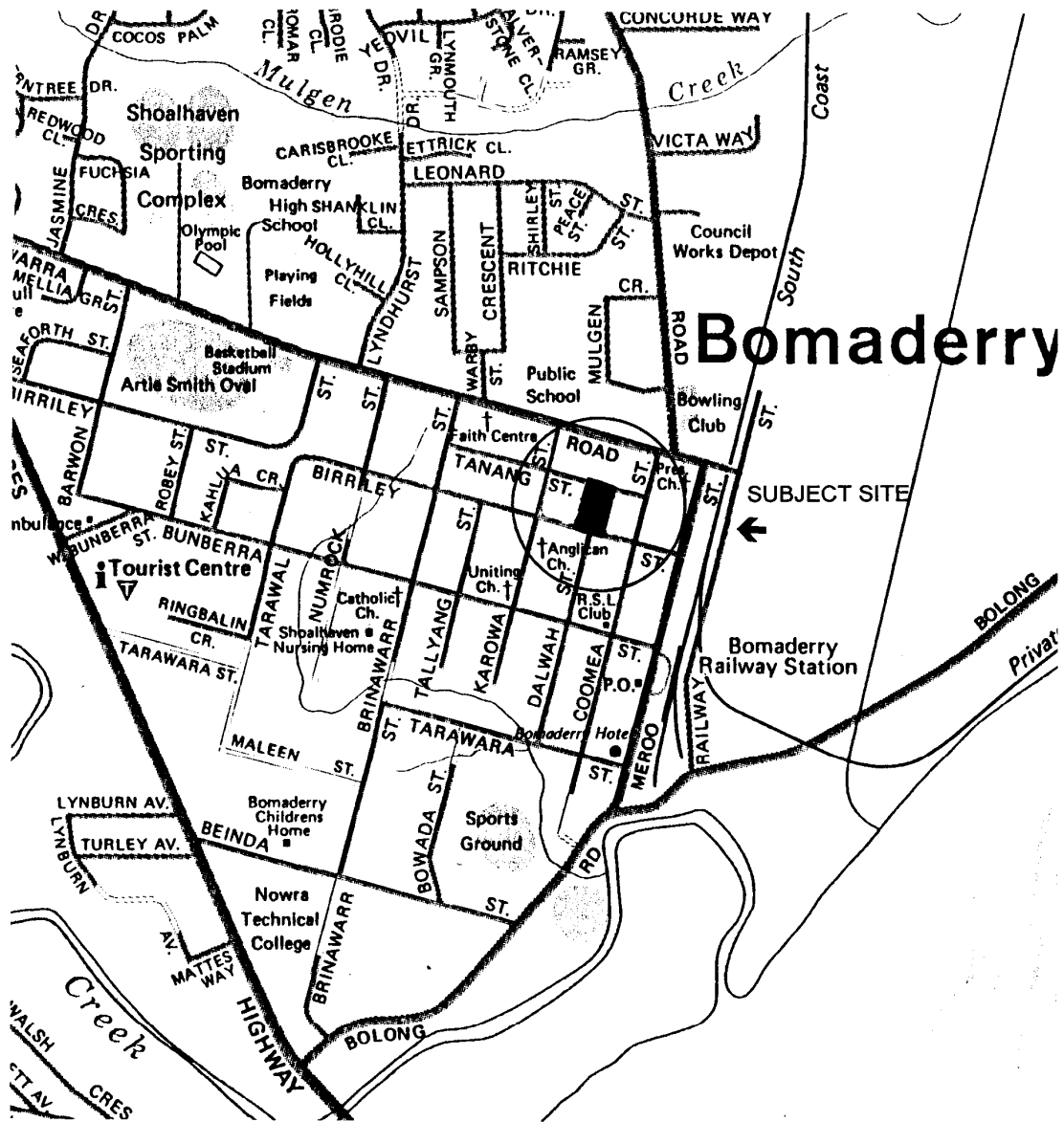


Figure No. 1: Location Plan

## 2.4 Methodology

The method follows that set out in the NSW Heritage Manual provided by the NSW Heritage Office and NSW Department of Urban Affairs and Planning and is in accordance with the ICOMOS *Burra Charter*. The method is outlined below.

### Investigate the significance

- Investigate the historical context of the item of study area
- Investigate the community's understanding of the item
- Investigate the history of the item
- Investigate the fabric of the item

### Assess the significance

- Summarise your knowledge of the item or study area
- Describe the previous and current uses of the item, its associations with individuals or groups and its meaning for those people
- Assess significance using the NSW heritage assessment criteria
- Check whether you can make a sound analysis of the item's to support the statement of heritage significance (use the identified historical themes, and the inclusion and exclusion guidelines provided in *Heritage Assessments* as a guide)
- Determine the item's level of significance (local or state)
- Prepare a succinct statement of heritage significance
- Get feedback
- Write up all your information

### Manage the significance

- Analyse the management implications of the item's level of significance
- Analyse the constraints and opportunities arising out of the item's significance (including appropriate uses)
- Analyse owner and user requirements
- Prepare conservation and management recommendations
- If any obvious options are not suitable, explain why
- Get feedback from the community
- Analyse statutory controls and their relationship to the item's significance
- Recommend a process for carrying out the conservation and management strategies

## 2.4 Limitations

No intervention to fabric was undertaken.



## 2.5 Author Identification

### TROPMAN & TROPMAN ARCHITECTS:

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Melissa Ferguson	Geographer / Interpretation Planner
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### SUB-CONSULTANTS:

RF Historical Research Service	
Robyn Florence	Historian

### 3.0 Documentary Evidence

The following historical background has been prepared by historian Robyn Florence.

#### 3.1 Introduction

The Shoalhaven was thickly timbered cedar country when Alexander Berry first visited the Shoalhaven region in January 1822. Taking the cutter "Snapper" into the Crookhaven River from which he proceeded overland to examine the country on either side of the river. Berry recorded the expedition in detail in his journal writings, his reports to Brisbane and in his later biographical writings.<sup>1</sup>

In February under new regulations introduced by Governor Brisbane, Berry together with his partner, Edward Wollstonecraft applied for a grant of 10,000 acres.<sup>2</sup> For each 100 acres of grant one convict was to be maintained free of expenses to the Crown.

The rich alluvial soils and natural grassy meadows led him to choose the Shoalhaven as the site for an estate and he returned in June 1822 to occupy it.

They purchased a small cutter called the Blanche from the government and in June, Berry set out to select the land, and the balance of 4000 acres applied for in 1819.

To allow vessels to enter the Shoalhaven River, Berry had a short canal cut between the river and an arm of the Crookhaven, so creating Comerong Island. The first canal to be cut in Australia. Berry's journal, 21 June - 23 July, and his letter to Wollstonecraft, 8 July, record the events, the attempt to enter the mouth of the Shoalhaven River when two men were drowned, the cutting of the canal, and the exploration and selection of land on both sides of the Shoalhaven River, and the establishment of "Cullengatta Farm" as their headquarters.

Brickmaking commenced immediately. The oldest standing brick building, apart from the homestead site, is the wheat barn at Upper Numba. A busy village quickly appeared and in due course carpenters, brickmakers, bricklayers, blacksmiths, masons, wheelwrights, harness-makers and boat builders were employed on the Estate.<sup>3</sup>

On 23 September 1827 Berry married Elizabeth Wollstonecraft who had recently arrived in the colony and by 1830 registration of the 10,000-acre grant was completed.

Edward Wollstonecraft died on 7 December 1832 at the age of 49 and was buried at the Sydney burial ground. His estate was left to his sister, Elizabeth, his only next of kin. After much persuasion, by Alexander, his brothers John, William and David Berry and their two sisters, Janet and Nancy arrived in the Shoalhaven in 1836. Alexander left the management of the Estate to them, principally to John and later to David.

John Berry persuaded his brother to widen the scope of the property, and for the next 12 years this young man literally lived in the saddle, buying and breeding cattle and horses and building a reputation for fine stock. His tragic death from a riding accident in April 1848 was a severe blow, and to David 5 years junior to Alexander, fell the major task of managing Coolangatta.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Berry A., *Diary of an Expedition to the Shoalhaven River June 21 - July 23, 1822*

<sup>2</sup> According to information found in the Berry, Wollstonecraft, & Hay Papers at the Mitchell Library, the registration of the 10,000 acres was completed in 1930.

<sup>3</sup> Hay Alex. *The Coolangatta Estate, Shoalhaven, c.1910*, original to be found in Mitchell Library, Sydney also copy can be found in Antill R.G. *Settlement in the South*, Weston & Co. Kiama, 1982, p.347

<sup>4</sup> Bradshaw N.T., *Coolangatta 1822*, J.S. McMillan Pty. Ltd, Rydalmere, n.d.

After convict transportation ceased in the 1840s, the estate was absolved from its contract to maintain 100 convicts. Some elected to remain in the district as settlers. It was around this time that moves were made to release twenty acre lots to tenant farmers, rent free for twenty five years and renewable if cleared and fenced.<sup>5</sup>

Alexander Berry died on 17th September 1873 and was buried in the family vault in St. Thomas' cemetery, North Sydney. His estate went to his brother David who was charged with his legal and moral obligations.

William Berry died on 20th October 1875 leaving his property to David. David Berry was to become a pioneer in his own right, through his work in letting small farms to tenants. When he inherited the Estate in 1873, he was landlord to 270 tenant farmers occupying some 15,000 acres. Much of the unproductive scrub land was cleared by tenant farmers, while the Estate grew by purchase and grant.

From these beginnings tenant farmers began to establish dairying as the chief industry of the district and, where they settled, villages grew. One such village was Bomaderry.

Bomaderry is located between the foothills of Cambewarra (Good Dog) Mountain, Bomaderry Creek and the Shoalhaven River flats of Bolong. An Aboriginal word indicating 'running water'.<sup>6</sup>

The development of the township of Bomaderry was accelerated in the early 1860s when the settlement became the focal point of the precarious packhorse and bridle-track from Kangaroo Valley. Its importance increased once this track was linked by ferry to Cambewarra across the Shoalhaven River in 1867.

There was at that time no bridge across the river and therefore no Princes Highway. The eastern bank at the mouth of Bomaderry Creek was the focal point on the north side of the river and Ferry Lane was its counterpart on the southern side.

The Meroo Road from Berry followed its present line, but swung across the site of the present railway yards and continued from where Station Street is now situated following the eastern bank of the creek. The 'Boolong Road' swung to the left between the present properties of David Henry and Alan Garratty's *Glen Albas*, and connected with Stewart's Ferry, then followed the riverbank to connect with Meroo Road at the mouth of the creek.

Here was a storage shed and wharf, where the river droghers loaded produce (butter, pigs etc.) which was taken to Greenwell Point where coastal steamers transported it to Sydney. Here too, the ferryman, Mr Middleton, had a shop and dwelling. There were few houses or stores in Bomaderry in those days. F.E. Miller had established the 'Bomaderry Store' by 1865 and education came in 1867 through the Bomaderry Ferry School.

The business centre was east of the present Railway Street with a store conducted by George Hayes, next door were two homes occupied by Mr Cole (Engineer) and Captain Buchanan (Master of the river drogher) and beyond them, the baker's shop of Peter Alexander. West of the road was all bush; an aboriginal camp being on the site of the Bomaderry Hotel.<sup>7</sup>

There were two punts. A large one was wound across on a heavy chain; the sandstone abutment used for this purpose can still be seen at the mouth of the creek. This punt accommodated two vehicles or a number of cattle or horses, and took about an hour to cross the river.

<sup>5</sup> Bayley William A., *Shoalhaven*, Shoalhaven Shire Council, Nowra, 1975 p.36

<sup>6</sup> An Aboriginal Dictionary found at the Mitchell Library indicates that Bomaderry means 'running water'.

<sup>7</sup> *Bomaderry Public School Centenary 1867-1967*, Shoalhaven & Nowra News, Nowra, 1967

The smaller punt, which could carry one vehicle or two or three horses, was poled across the river. On Sunday mornings this was the only punt in service and worshippers crossing the river to attend church tried to keep well away from the very long poles used to propel the punt, otherwise splashes and spray played havoc with their Sunday finery.

Incidentally, on Sunday mornings there was no charge made for people going to church, but after dinner, the usual rate of threepence per person applied. As on arrival at Ferry Lane worshippers had to proceed (usually on foot) to the churches at Terara, it was necessary to have the fare for the return journey at hand.

In 1881 the bridge across the Shoalhaven River to Nowra was completed which led to the rapid development of the township of Nowra at the expense of the smaller villages. It also led to the last of the ferries closing, which had up to that time been the only transportation link across the river.

In 1893 the railway was extended from Kiama to Bomaderry. The Nowra-Bomaderry railway station opened as Nowra on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1893.<sup>8</sup> The arrival of the railway increased passenger transportation dramatically (On the 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1909, 700 people arrived in one day with 500 of them having to walk the two miles to Nowra). Transportation from Bomaderry was by horse drawn coach, and it wasn't until 1917 when a motor coach service between Bomaderry and Nowra was introduced.

This meant the district now had a fast overland connection to the population of Sydney and Wollongong. Bomaderry became the transportation centre for settlements along the far south coast and brought a minor land boom to Bomaderry.

Margaret Higgins first provided postal services in August 1893 whose 'Post Office Store' was located immediately opposite the railway gates.

The next ten years was a time of growth for Bomaderry. Since the advent of the railway amongst the list of developments which had been established in the township included the Bacchus Marsh Concentrated Milk factory, Denham Bros. Bacon Factory, a Flour Mill, a Saw Mill, several stores, and by March 1903 a large Hotel was under construction.

In 1912 the Nowra Dairy Co-op, which had been established on the south side of the Shoalhaven River at Nowra in 1902, erected a new milk depot at Bomaderry for easier access to the railway. The old site became a butter factory. In 1939 a new factory of brick was erected near the railway and the old site at Nowra sold.<sup>9</sup>

In the decade following the cessation of World War II considerable expansion in industry and tourism saw an increase in the population of the district and Bomaderry emerged as a major industrial centre.

The English paper manufacturing firm of Wiggins, Teape and Nash established a paper mill at Bomaderry in 1956 with an initial investment of £12 million. The factory employed over 500 people and with the growth of other industry and the service sector, many farmers and timber workers were able to gain secure employment. By 1964 the company had planned an extra £7 million expenditure to complete the project.<sup>10</sup>

In 1951 the English rubber-manufacturing firm of John Bull Pty Ltd established a factory near the turn off to Moss Vale, and produced equipment for a range of motor vehicles.

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<sup>8</sup> Florance Robyn, *Kiama-Bomaderry Railway Centenary*, Kiama-Bomaderry Railway Centenary Committee, Weston Print, Kiama, 1993, p. 8

<sup>9</sup> Bayley William A., *Nowra Dairy Co-op Ltd Diamond Jubilee, 1902-1962*, Nowra Dairy Co-p Limited, Nowra, 1962

<sup>10</sup> Bayley op.cit. p. 209

Other factories included the Moorhouse dairy machinery factory whilst Horlick's Pty Ltd, an established milk processing firm, extended its establishment. The Pelaco Company moved to a new \$250,000 factory at the corner of Cambewarra Road and the Princes Highway in 1969 employing 80 staff.

The railway service was improved in November 1949 a steam hauled air-conditioned train was placed on the daily return run from Sydney. The carriages were withdrawn from service elsewhere in 1956.<sup>11</sup> The age of diesel-electric traction was beginning and a trial run of the South Coast Daylight Express hauled by a diesel-electric locomotive was made on 4<sup>th</sup> June 1958.

With the growth of population more homes were built and as a result churches were established, as was the expansion of social activities.

The Methodist Church Hall of timber was opened in July 1951. The foundation stone of St Stephens Church of England was laid in September 1957 and the brick church opened soon afterwards. The Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church, built of brick, opened in February 1963.

The R.S.L. Sub Branch rooms were officially opened in November 1951. The temporary technical college was opened on the Princes Highway in October 1955 and permanent buildings erected in 1961. The Bomaderry Bowling Green was officially opened on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 1958, the club having been formed on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 1956.

The United Aborigines Mission celebrated the jubilee of its Bomaderry Home in 1958, caring for approximately 30 children in bushland surroundings. The First Bomaderry boy scouts group was formed in 1944 celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 1969.

In 1966 the population of the Nowra Bomaderry area had risen to 9633 people. Perhaps the public school most affected by the population growth was Bomaderry, where the enrolments outstripped the capacity of the site in Birrilley Street. In 1965 the enrolment was 436. A new site was selected for the transfer of the school.

A sewerage scheme for Bomaderry was completed in 1970 and for health and recreation the Shoalhaven Shire Council bought 24 acres in Cambewarra Road for development as a sporting complex in 1970. Bomaderry High School in Cambewarra Road was officially opened on 30<sup>th</sup> May 1970. It was advantageously situated close to the Bomaderry Sporting Complex under development.

The Ambulance Station, which had been erected in Kinghorne Street, Nowra in 1936 transferred to their new building in 1973 on the Princes Highway at Bomaderry.

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<sup>11</sup> Florance Robyn, *Kiama-Bomaderry Railway Centenary*, Kiama-Bomaderry Railway Centenary Committee, Weston Print, Kiama, 1993

### 3.2 The Development of Education in New South Wales

In the early days of the Colony families were expected to provide their children's education, the first schools in the history of New South Wales were charitable institutions offering basic literacy and work skills to children without such support.<sup>12</sup> In Sydney, Governor King opened the Female Orphan School in 1801, and in 1819 Governor Macquarie established the Male Orphan School. Since missionaries and clergy frequently performed teaching duties, education was closely aligned with religious instruction.<sup>13</sup> Governor Macquarie decided to give the Church of England the responsibility for running the increasing number of new schools. This relationship was formalised by the establishment in 1826 of the Clergy and School Lands Corporation, which reserved sites for church and educational purposes.

There was resistance by other religious denominations to the Church of England's dominant educational role. In the 1830s Governor Bourke attempted to set up a non-denominational national school system, but it was not until 1844 that a Select Committee of the Legislative Council recommended a dual education system, with national and denominational schools controlled by two separate boards.

Governor Fitzroy established the Board of National Education in 1848 to administer Government aid granted to establish and maintain schools without religious affiliation within the colony. Schools were conducted according to Lord Stanley's National System of Education, which had been successfully employed in a number of other countries, notably Ireland. The National Board administered teacher training and textbook supplies. It shared the costs of school construction and teacher's salaries with each local community. The Board contributed two thirds of the cost of the buildings; the rest was raised locally. Often this resulted in the conversion of a private school to a National School.

They were under the control of local bodies known as Boards of Local Patrons, which had considerable power and responsibility in school matters. They had to provide for the repair of school premises, to ensure regular attendance of pupils, to protect the teacher from "frivolous and vexatious complaints" and to treat the teacher in such a way as to "second his efforts for the improvement of the children".

The National School system made slow progress in establishing schools due to the difficulties many communities had in raising one third of the cost of buildings. This system was modified in 1857 to include non-vested schools. Non-vested school premises remained the property of the owner, and were not paid for by the National Board. The Board provided the books; the teacher's salary and the school followed the National Program. Outside of school hours the proprietors were free to use school premises for other purposes, such as religious services. This was not permitted in vested schools. The popularity of the non-vested scheme was evident when after only two years of its introduction in NSW, the number of schools under the Board's control doubled.<sup>14</sup>

Until 1866 when the Public Instruction Act of NSW was passed education was controlled by two Boards, the Denominational School Board and the National School Board. The new Act replaced the Board of National Education and the Denominational School Board by a single Council of Education.

With the aim of distributing schools as widely as possible, the 1866 Act lowered the number of pupils required for a Public School (all National Schools were renamed Public Schools on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1867) from thirty to twenty-five pupils.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> State Records NSW: Archives in Brief 26 – Schools, 1788-c.1979

<sup>13</sup> Barnard Marjorie, *A History of Australia*, Angus & Robertson, Australia 1962, p. 621

<sup>14</sup> Barcan Alan, *Two Centuries of Education in NSW*, NSW University Press, 1988

<sup>15</sup> Fletcher op.cit. pp 9-10

Although many of the settlers were virtually illiterate, a large number of schools were established throughout the State in 1867 at the instigation of the parents of the children, united in Local School Boards.

The Public Instruction Act of 1880 led to the withdrawal of government aid from denominational schools in 1882 and the further expansion of public education across New South Wales. The Council of Education was replaced by a Department of Public Instruction, which gradually developed free, secular and compulsory schooling through the establishment of Public Schools, Superior Public Schools, Evening Public Schools, Provisional Schools and eventually High Schools for boys and girls. Under the 1880 Act, pupils were required to attend school for 140 days each year.<sup>16</sup>

### 3.3 Early Schools in the Shoalhaven district

Farmers, of all denominations settled the Shoalhaven district, and as a result no denomination school was established but many were children were educated at home. In some instances a small private school was established to educate the children on adjoining farms. The parents bore the cost of the teacher and school necessities and the school was usually held in a barn on one of their properties. Mr Berry was noted for his benevolence towards his tenants and on occasions he willingly handed over a block of land for a community use.

With regard to education, Berry believed in the National Systems of schools and therefore the schools established on the Berry Estate farmlands were established under that system.

*'Denominational Schools will not do in this country' he said in 1852. He express the view that it was the duty of the school to teach children to read and write, and that it was the duty of the parents to teach religion at home. When the National School System of education was introduced, David Berry erected a number of buildings for school purposes on the estate*<sup>17</sup>

During 1859 Pyree tenants had school buildings erected on Mr Campbell's land leased from the Berry Estate. The school itself was 24 feet x 16 feet. November 1861 saw two further schools opened, at Coolangatta and Boolong (later to be known as Bolong).

The Coolangatta venture was in a building, 40 feet x 20 feet, leased from the Berry Estate. It functioned as a private school for six months before application was made for it to become a National School. The first teacher was a Scot, Mr Samuel Watson, who had neither training nor experience in the job, and his stay proved to be a short one.<sup>18</sup>

Official records show that a National school was established at Boolong in November 1861 after the Berry Estate donated 3 acres of land for school and church purposes. However, a private estate school had been established at Boolong prior to 1859, but how long it had been running is not known.<sup>19</sup>

A school was also established at Meroo (later called Little Meadow or Meroo Meadow) that year. This little school was established on Mr Boxsell's lease, and on it there was a building, which was used as a church.<sup>20</sup>

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<sup>16</sup> Barnard op. cit. p. 10

<sup>17</sup> Jervis J. "Alexander Berry, the Laird of Shoalhaven", Royal Australian Historical Society Journal Vol 27 p. 80

<sup>18</sup> That Rings a Bell, .....

<sup>19</sup> Florance R & Laird S. *School Days at Bolong*, Robyn Florance, 1999, p. 1

<sup>20</sup> Department of Education – Meroo Meadow Public School –Shoalhaven Historical Society Archives

A small school described in an inspector's report as 'a small, dilapidated barn near the Bomaderry Ferry' was in operation prior to 1867.

### 3.4 Establishment of Educational Facilities in Bomaderry

#### Maria Kennedy's Private School

On 4<sup>th</sup> February 1867 a small school described in an inspector's report as 'a small, dilapidated barn near the Bomaderry Ferry' was officially recognised as a public school by the Council of Education. The teacher, Mrs Maria Kennedy, the wife of a tenant farmer, and had been keeping the private school for some months prior to this.

When the District Inspector of Schools investigated the site he found that the nearest public schools were at Boolong and Cambewarra. He stated that Mrs Kennedy had 53 children on the roll and often 50 children were in attendance. As the room measured only 14ft x 12ft, and facilities were few, Mrs Kennedy's ingenuity must have been sorely taxed.

Mrs E.M. Gunter (nee Kellett) was born at Bolong and attended the little school. Her memories of the school are recalled in the Centenary publication.

*'I have most affectionate memories of the little school. The furniture of the old school was all homemade by Mr W. Kennedy, I think. The desks were simply wooden stools on long sapling legs, the seats of the same pattern on shorter legs; the blackboard a painted plank, hung on the wall; the pens were made by Mrs Kennedy from goose quills.'*

The Inspector noted that Mrs Kennedy had been trained in Ireland under the Irish National System, so favoured by Alexander Berry. The books and lessons used by Mrs Kennedy were those of the National System and children of all denominations attended.

Accordingly the Inspector recommended that Mrs Kennedy and her school be aided by the Council of Education from July 1867. The first local school board appointed by the Council comprised Donald Munro, Frances Kellett and James Thurgate.

In addition to rearing a family and running the Post Office, Mrs Kennedy taught all subjects at the school, including art and needlework, and also purchased a rosewood harmonium for her home so that pupils wishing to learn music could take lessons. Five of Mrs Kennedy's children entered the service of the Education Department, four girls becoming teachers and a son being in time made an Inspector of Schools.<sup>21</sup>

#### Bomaderry Ferry School Site

In 1868, the year in which the Municipality of Broughton Creek and Bomaderry was proclaimed, David Berry provided a cottage and slab building for use as a school. This bark-roofed building had only one door and one window and measured just 20ft x 12ft. It was situated about half way between the present Manildra factory and the mouth of the creek.

By 1870 the building was far too small and residents, led by the local school committee, requested that a larger school be built on a new site. Maria Kennedy had repeatedly pointed out that the schoolroom was far too small, even for the average attendance of 30, and that 'in wet weather it was unfit for anyone to be in it, for the rain comes through the roof and walls'.<sup>22</sup>

The local school inspector reported "that the present building is altogether unsatisfactory and that it is necessary that the local committee take steps to provide a more suitable building".

<sup>21</sup> Bomaderry Public School Centenary 1867-1967, Shoalhaven & Nowra News, Nowra, 1967

<sup>22</sup> Bomaderry Public School Centenary 1867-1967, Shoalhaven & Nowra News, Nowra, 1967



As early as 1870 the local committee had presented a petition to this effect, but no action could be taken because Bomaderry as classed as a 'non-vested school'. This meant that the Council of Education did not own the building or its site, it could not effect improvements or alterations to it. The only solution they could suggest, in 1872, was the removal of the school to Mrs Kennedy's farmhouse.<sup>23</sup>

The District Inspector opposed this because he felt that the school was already, to some extent, in opposition with the one at Bolong and removal to Mrs Kennedy's residence would make it more so. He suggested instead that the school be housed in one of Mr Berry's unoccupied houses, and added that if "a suitable building was not found before the end of the year aid would be withdrawn".<sup>24</sup>

In 1875 Miss Jane Kennedy took temporary charge of the school for her mother. Mrs Kennedy found that her failing sight made it impossible for her to fulfil her duties to her satisfaction. However, her daughter carried on the Kennedy tradition of excellence, and the School Inspector, Mr McIntyre, reported that although only 18 years of age she was most competent and would be a very useful teacher.<sup>25</sup>

Presbyterian Minister Rev. Dr Grant visited the school for religious instruction. On Friday afternoons the boys had to carry out a search under the school to retrieve slate pencils, which had disappeared through the cracks between the slab flooring. The boys occasionally had a cricket match against Cambewarra, but in those days there was no sport of a competitive nature for girls.

In July 1875 Miss Kennedy attended Kiama Public School for a teacher training course and was officially appointed teacher at Bomaderry Public School the following August. Following Miss Jane Kennedy as teacher in charge were William Turnbull, Alfred Kendall, Charles Sattler, Ellen Nevell and Miss Amelia Halcrow.

#### Railway Street School Site

On the 19<sup>th</sup> June 1879, the local committee of the school, Patrick Moroney, James Horgan, George Hayes and James Thurgate wrote to the Council of Education, stating that they were "very anxious to get a public school, as the present building is in a dilapidated state". They stated that: 30 boys and 35 girls were attending the school, more than enough for a Public School.<sup>26</sup>

Subsequently the Bomaderry School was relocated to a swampy site at Bomaderry on the road, which led to the ferry (near where the Shell Depot now stands). The wooden school building measured 26 x 15½ x 9 feet and was leased from the Berry Estate.

Mr T.T. Thurgate was one of the first pupils to enrol at the school on the Shell Depot site and recalled in 1954: *The school had slab walls and floor and a shingle roof. As many as 60 children were taught here, most pupils walked to school, occasionally by good fortune being given a lift in a dray.*

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<sup>23</sup> *Bomaderry Public School Centenary 1867-1967*, Shoalhaven & Nowra News, Nowra, 1967

<sup>24</sup> State Records NSW – Bomaderry School File 5/14993A – Memorandum from the School Inspector

<sup>25</sup> *Bomaderry Public School Centenary 1867-1967*, Shoalhaven & Nowra News, Nowra, 1967

<sup>26</sup> *Bomaderry Public School Centenary 1867-1967*, Shoalhaven & Nowra News, Nowra, 1967

The school inspector, Mr O'Byrne recommended the provisional school be raised to public school status. His recommendation was granted on 24<sup>th</sup> June 1879. In his report he wrote:

*"The population of 140 people is likely to increase, as Mr Berry is now erecting cottages with a view of making a township here as soon as the bridge across the Shoalhaven River is erected. The works at the bridge are now going on. The majority of the people requiring the school are tenant farmers; they all seem to be in comfortable circumstances and, I believe, all are likely to be permanent residents."*

He added that the Bomaderry children could not be accommodated at the nearby schools of Cambewarra, Bolong, Nowra and Terara. Thus he recommended:

*"That this school be converted into a public school and that some aid be granted to purchase additional furniture. There is neither chair nor table in the school. Notwithstanding that Mr Berry has promised to give a school site at Bomaderry, there is a strong probability that the performance will be long delayed. It is therefore necessary that suitable furniture should be provided in the temporary buildings in order that the school be properly conducted. Its prospects are sufficiently good to warrant the Council spending a small sum on furniture. I beg to advise that the Local Board be authorised to procure the following articles:*

*4 desks, 7 feet long, of prescribed pattern  
6 forms, 7 feet long, of prescribed pattern  
1 small cedar table with drawer 2feet by 1 foot;  
1 cedar chair"*

Although Mr O'Byrne had inspected three possible sites for a school in 1879, nothing was done to procure any of them. By 1883, the enrolment had dropped to 20 boys and 20 girls, and plans for a freestone rubble school with shingle roof to cost £480 were drawn up. The proposed site was surveyed and steps were taken to resume it, as David Berry was unwilling to sell. However, the local committee was not satisfied with the site selected. On their behalf, Henry G. Morton wrote to the Minister, pointing out *"the complete unsuitableness of the site chosen for school purposes."*

*"The two acres, with the exception of a narrow portion along the North boundary, is nothing but a bed rock of hard valuable building stone with the surface showing and lying in large boulders on the land, the South and West sides are very uneven, making it altogether a suitable place for maiming or braining the children in their frolics, rather than a playground attached to a public school.*

*The ground cannot be levelled or brought into shape without incurring great expense and rendering the site more slippery and, therefore more dangerous. It cannot be enclosed on the south, west and portions of the east by any other means than a stone wall.*

*I may also add that this site is the very place chosen by Mr Berry some years ago as the most eligible place in his estate to open a quarry for building stone. Preparations were made to run a tramway from the quarry to the creek for the purpose of carrying on the work in the cheapest and most expeditious manner.*

*If resumed and proclaimed it will be of the most serious consequences to Mr Berry, as well as a bad site for school purposes."*

It was decided to resume some adjoining land to the north of the proposed quarry, and Mr McIntyre advised that schoolroom accommodation should be provided for an ordinary attendance of 36 pupils. The matter was allowed to lapse.

Miss Jane Kennedy resigned in November 1883 and enrolments began to decline. By 1886 it seemed that the school might close through poor attendance.

In 1887 it was again suggested that the school might be closed. However, Mr Berry wrote that he was:

*“opposed to the closing of the school and with a view of improving and maintaining a better attendance, had already located a large family in the locality, whose children now attend, and has also commenced to build two new houses not far from the school for other families”*<sup>27</sup>

In October 1890 the railway authorities notified the Department of Instruction that the railway was to be extended from Kiama to Bomaderry and the school site was to be resumed for railway purposes.<sup>28</sup>

The School Inspector, Mr Lawford, in a Memorandum to the Chief Inspector stated:

*As I was at this school today and cannot see that there is any need for its removal, if the railway be built along the line now staked out. That line is 48 yards from the nearest portion of the school buildings. I cannot conceive the railway fence coming nearer the school than about a chain. I recommend that the constructing authorities be asked to state if they require the land on which the school buildings now stand, as it appears that the surveyed line is 48 yards distant from the nearest part of such buildings.*<sup>29</sup>

By June 1892 enrolment had reached 52 children.<sup>30</sup> Inspector Lawford in a report to the Department in February 1892 stated that:

*There is no permanent site here and the school is on Mr Hay’s land. The school is very old and will want renewing soon; none of the land near the school is to be sold – in fact, it is low lying and swampy on that side of the railway. I submit that we should secure a vested site and that this is an excellent opportunity of getting one. As to the price, it is impossible to say what the land will fetch; some say it will sell well, other not. But in any case the Crown will stand a far better chance of getting the land at something about its value at an auction sale, than at any private arrangement. I recommend that authority be given to me to attend the auctions sale and bid on behalf of the Minister”.*<sup>31</sup>

The Department decided to acquire a vested site and purchased two acres, one rood and 24 perches by Public Auction in June 1892.<sup>32</sup> David Berry had died and the auction was held for the purpose of disposing of his estate.

The lots I have received from a compact block of 2 and 2/5<sup>th</sup> acres and will be quite sufficient for the school at present. I may say that the present site is very unsuitable, being almost under water in wet weather.

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<sup>27</sup> State Records NSW – Bomaderry School File 5/14993A – Memorandum from the District Inspector who visited the school on 13<sup>th</sup> March 1888

<sup>28</sup> State Records NSW – Bomaderry School File 5/14993A – NSW Railways Resumption Notice

<sup>29</sup> State Records NSW – Bomaderry School File 5/14993A – Memorandum from the School Inspector dated 28<sup>th</sup> January 1891

<sup>30</sup> State Records NSW – Bomaderry School File 5/14993A – Memorandum from the School Inspector Nowra dated 27<sup>th</sup> June 1892

<sup>31</sup> State Records NSW – Bomaderry School File 5/14993A – Memorandum from the School Inspector Nowra dated 27<sup>th</sup> February 1892

<sup>32</sup> LTNSW Certificate of Title

### 3.5 Construction of the Birrilley Street School

#### The School's architect

William Edmund Kemp (1831-1898) was George Mansfield's chosen successor as Architect for the NSW Department of Public Instruction. He held this post between 1880-1897. Trained by Edmund Blacket, he had worked for the Government Architect's Office in the 1850s before going into private practice with William Weaver. His later projects for the NSW Department of Public Instruction included schools at Bourke Street in Surry Hills (1883), Pyrmont (1891), the Sydney Technical College and Museum of Applied Arts & Sciences in Ultimo (both 1891), and the Sydney Teacher's College at Sydney University. Kemp was responsible for the imposing two-storey wing of Kiama Infants School, which he designed in 1891, Nowra Public School, 1892,

#### The School Building

The school building was designed by William Kemp, Schools Architect, and comprised one schoolroom constructed of brick.

Tenders were called for the erection of the new school and Mr Anton C. Wolf completed the building on 19<sup>th</sup> August 1893. The new school had frontages to Birrilley Street and Coomea Street. During the course of construction it was found that the school ground was not level and extra foundation was required over and above the initial quote. One and ¼ rods of brick and cement work were required for the foundations and by request, of Inspector Lawford, the brick division wall in the school room was omitted.<sup>33</sup>

The pupils transferred to the new school as soon as the building was completed. A letter was sent to Mr John Hay, thanking him for the use of the old school buildings and stating that the Department no longer required their use.

In 1893, the teacher at the time, Miss Amelia Halcrow, explained the low attainment's of her pupils was *'caused by the unsettled condition of the school during the time of construction of the railway in this part of the district'*

The coming of the railway increased enrolments at the school. The railway was officially opened in June 1893 and this memorable event was celebrated in a very practical manner – Miss Halcrow taking the school pupils for an excursion to Kiama by train.

Several educational innovations of 1889-90 related to the use and ornamentation of school grounds, which until that time had generally been barren, little wastes. The new Minister, Joseph Carruthers, enthusiastically promoted the enlargement and beautification of sites, the formation of children's gardens and experimental plots. With the Department distributing seeds and tools, and bonuses for teachers, many school sites were enriched with flower gardens or vegetable gardens.

The greatest enthusiasm was reserved for Arbor Day, an annual extravaganza inaugurated at Ryde Public School in 1890. The Department supplied trees and shrubs and met half the costs of expenses.<sup>34</sup> Trees were planted in the school grounds in 1894 but it is now known the number or species that were planted. Miss Halcrow paid 3.9d carriage of *'trees for planting'* in the school ground.

Arbor Day was observed at Bomaderry School in August 1896 when Dr Hay planted a tree.

<sup>33</sup> State Records NSW – Bomaderry School File 5/14993A Anton Wolf Account for extra foundations received by the Department 12th September 1893

<sup>34</sup> Department of Education, *Sydney and The Bush*, The Department of Education, Sydney, 1980, p. 123

Mr H. S. Fuller was transferred to Bomaderry School from Terara in 1895 to replace Miss Halcrow and was Headmaster until September 1903, when he was transferred to Dural. During this time, Miss Nellie Alexander was assigned as an assistant, and was, in fact, the first pupil of the Bomaderry School to be appointed as a teacher.

In July 1896 the parents complained that *'70 scholars and two teachers were occupying only the one overcrowded room. It is difficult to command proper attention as the teachers and classes are so close together, and it is often found necessary to take a class outside in the playground, to which there is a very strong objection'*

In 1897 celebrations were held at the school to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria. A flag raising ceremony was held and the first flag was hoisted on the newly erected flagpole. The plaque at the foot of the flagpole was unveiled by Rainsford Shepherd and the shrubs planted by the P & C. The school bell was rung each New Year's Eve.

The Public School Library was installed in the school through the efforts of Mr Fuller, and was officially opened by Mrs Morton in November 1899.

In February 1900 the teacher, Mr Fuller, reported that 'white ants' had been found in the main building of the school and also in the covered verandah. In his report he stated that:

*The half-inch lining of the verandah has been destroyed in several places, one of the doorframes has been partly eaten and they seem to be operating beneath the flooring throughout the length of the northern side – a fact discovered by removal of a board. Several movable articles in the school (boxes, piles of records etc.) have also been rendered useless. One of the W.C's will, I am afraid shortly become dangerous as the hardwood partition has been attacked, and a small portion of the interior woodwork has fallen in. The spouting on the school building as become detached from the guttering.*

Mr Joseph Kennedy was employed to carry out the necessary work. In addition to making good the defective work, treatment for the prevention of further damage by the white ants was included in his fee of £11.14.6.<sup>35</sup>

In September 1903 the school inspector reported that the enrolment at the school was 65 with the average attendance being upwards of 50 pupils. He stated that it was impossible to rent suitable residence for the teacher in Bomaderry and that the teacher had to reside in Nowra about 2 miles from the school. This proved inconvenient especially for Mrs Fuller especially in the performance of her duties as sewing mistress.

He requested that a residence be erected on the school grounds. *The site is a good one he also requested a weathershed with partition to be erected.*<sup>36</sup> The Department took no action regarding the erection of a school residence or a weathershed.

Three years later on 15<sup>th</sup> January 1906 the teacher, Mr Read, requested a weathershed to be erected. He stated that *'A number of these children walk from two to two and a half miles, and if they arrive here before 9am there is no place for them. The hat room is inadequate to hold the children.'*

The School Inspector also requested a weathershed to be constructed in the grounds. In his yearly school report in February 1906 the Inspector reported that:

<sup>35</sup> State Records NSW – Bomaderry School File 5/14993A – Correspondence dated 20<sup>th</sup> April 1900

<sup>36</sup> State Records NSW – Bomaderry School File 5/14993A – Correspondence dated 18<sup>th</sup> August 1903

*Eighty-one (81) pupils were enrolled at the school in the quarter ending the 31<sup>st</sup> December 1905 but only 63 have enrolled this quarter. At present the porch serves for a Hat and Cloak-room, a lavatory and a weathershed. It would greatly add to the comfort and convenience of both teachers and pupils if a new weathershed were erected. It need not be very large or costly. One 25' x 12'6", and divided by partition, would be quite commodious enough. The building should be of studs and weatherboards and covered with gal. iron. The roof should be slanting. It would greatly aid the Teachers if a Glass partition were placed in the school.*

*The school is erected on a bed of sand. The constant tread of the children and the frequency of the wind have formed a hollow all round the school building. Consequently in heavy rain the water rushes against and around the school building. By this means the foundations are being damaged and the walls are becoming affected.*

On 13<sup>th</sup> March 1906 assistant architect W. R. Seymour Wells approved the erection of a double shed about 24 feet x 12 feet of the usual school lean to type. He recommended that the best position would be on the dividing line between the Boys and Girls playground. He also advised the teacher how to divert the surface water away from the building by occasionally excavating short trenches etc. He also recommended minor repairs such as removing white ant infested woodwork and renewing the same, a few panes of galls, sash cords etc. He estimated the work to cost about £58.

The work was apparently carried out by the Public Works Department for the Under Secretary recommended the matter to the Public Works with a note (Cheap weathershed and forming around school buildings).

In March 1909 minor repairs to the value of £1.11.0 were carried out. Mr F Ison of Nowra carried out ground improvements in November 1909.

<p style="text-align: center;">Department of Public Works Ground Improvements</p> <p>Provide and place around school where directed, 30 loads or more of clay (each load to be a cubic yard) similar to that round school. Level-off clay as directed, roll same and cover with two (2) top dressings of tar on area round school of 520sq yard or more and to form guttering around edge of same as directed. The whole to be edged with hardwood planking. Provide and place round latrines and weathershed and where else directed 20 loads or more of clay similar to that round school and to level same. Total Cost £13.18.6</p>
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Accommodation at the school was now critical. In March 1912 the School Inspector reported that:

*The enrolment at this school is 107 and the floor space provided is for 63 pupils at 12 square feet for child. There are often over 80 present and the average for the quarter is 70.2. The Architect proposes to divide the room by a partition, but this will no longer suffice. I therefore, recommend that either a new classroom be built or that the old room be extended so as to provide for 48 pupils in the portion partitioned off.<sup>37</sup>*

<sup>37</sup> State Records NSW – Bomaderry School File 5/14993A – Memorandum dated 30<sup>th</sup> March 1912

In April 1912 Mr Hanigan, Secretary of the Bomaderry Progress Association wrote to the Under Secretary for Public Works pointing out that extra accommodation had been promised for over 8 years. He also pointed out that at Meroo School (4 miles away) a new classroom had been built only a month or so ago, and as there is only one teacher there now, and he felt it was a waste of public money. *The headmaster is thoroughly disorganised though having to teach 50 children within 18" of the assistant teacher.* He urged the Under Secretary to act.

The plans were then altered and tenders for the erection of a new schoolroom were called in May 1912.

Local builder, Mr George Muller, completed repairs and additions to the value of £277.19.6 in 1912. The schoolroom was increased in length by 10 feet to 50 feet and a folding partition was erected, giving, in effect, two classrooms. The enrolment had risen to 115 pupils with an average attendance of 80.7 pupils.<sup>38</sup>

On the 10<sup>th</sup> May 1913 Ebenezer Read wrote to the Berry Municipal Council informing them that the pathway and water table directly in front of the school gate was in a dangerous condition. Council acknowledged the letter and pointed out that owing to the surface water draining from the school premises it suggested that a concrete drain be formed through the property to take the drainage across the footpath in six inch pipes which would be supplied by Council. In August 1913 Messrs Elliott & Son were employed to erect an open concrete drain to specifications at a cost of £29.10.0.

In September 1916 the teacher, Mr Read, requested that another teacher be sent to the school. He had refrained from asking for one prior to this date because of the war but considered that a teacher was very necessary.

*The assistant (Miss Hannan) finds the work in her room very arduous. She teaches 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> classes but the 1<sup>st</sup> class contains a great number of infants – new comers – who require individual attention. The average attendance for March quarter (notwithstanding an epidemic of influenza) was 78. June Quarter 85.1 and up to date the enrolment for September quarter is 105; with an average attendance of 87.<sup>39</sup>*

The school accommodation at that time for a total enrolment of 108 is listed below.

Class Room	Classes Taught
No. 1 25' x 20' x 14 high	3 <sup>rd</sup> with 22 enrolment 4 <sup>th</sup> with 8 enrolment 5 <sup>th</sup> with 10 enrolment 6 <sup>th</sup> with 19 enrolment Total 59
No. 2 25' x 20' x 14' high	1 <sup>st</sup> with 39 enrolment 2 <sup>nd</sup> with 10 enrolment Total 49

<sup>38</sup> State Records NSW – Bomaderry School File 5/14993 Acceptance of Tender with George Muller dated 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1912

<sup>39</sup> State Records NSW – Bomaderry School File 5/14993 – Correspondence dated 4<sup>th</sup> September 1916

Class Room No. 1 was too small to accommodate the 59 children enrolled and alternate accommodation had to be found. One option was to rent a Hall located 100 yards from the school. Mr Read wrote that:

*It can be rented from the Trustees of the Presbyterian Church at a weekly rental of 12/6d for 5 days weekly – Monday to Friday inclusive. It is 40 feet long, 20 feet wide and has seating accommodation for 100 people and can be taken weekly or yearly.*

*Another alternative would be for the classes to interchange for written and oral lessons as the doors from both classrooms open onto the porch. Two teachers could occupy this room and march their classes into the porch for oral lessons. This plan was in use when only one room was provided at this school for upwards of 10 years and we had to manage. Now that 2 rooms are provided, it would be a much easier plan to work.<sup>40</sup>*

The Chief Inspector approved the appointment of another teacher and also recommended the early provision of an additional classroom and instructed the Architect to take the necessary action.<sup>41</sup>

On the 6<sup>th</sup> July 1917 the teacher, Mr Read, wrote to the Senior Inspector of Schools pointing out that Berry Council has notified him verbally (through the Mayor) that the existing sanitary arrangements at the school were not up to the requirement of the act. There are 56 girls on roll, only 2 pans are supplied, and they have to be used as urinals. Four at least are required. The boy's urinal is only 30 inches long and 7 inches wide and is wholly inadequate for the 67 boys (on roll).

He submitted plans and specifications for new urinal etc and accommodation for 2 new pans in girls W.C. and recommended that Mr George Muller's tender of £29.10.0. be accepted. The District Inspector of Schools approved this work on 18<sup>th</sup> July 1917 and Mr Muller carried out the work.

During 1917 pupils enrolled was 106 with an average attendance of 93.1 and the teacher requested another partition to be erected in the schoolroom. Plans for extra schoolroom additions were drawn up in June 1917.

In his report the supervising architect wrote in his report dated 26<sup>th</sup> June 1917. *Class Room No. 2 is mainly lighted from the western side, with the result that during the summer months the afternoon sun comes right into the room and makes the conditions of teaching very trying. For this reason and also on account of the height of foundations, walls and piers it may be advisable to build the new room on the western side as indicated on the sketch plan. The existing stove in classroom No. 2 is very inadequate for heating purposes and a fireplace is recommended. The existing tar paving is very much cut up and worn and entirely new paving is also recommended.*

In December 1917 school additions to the value of £520 was approved but were not carried out for a further two years.

The constructions of a new classroom, measuring 26 feet by 21 feet, a verandah and hat room were completed in 1919 at a cost of £627.

The school was repaired and renovated according to Schedule 1851 at a cost of £339 in 1928.

<sup>40</sup> State Records NSW – Bomaderry School File 5/14993A – Correspondence dated 12<sup>th</sup> September 1916

<sup>41</sup> State Records NSW – Bomaderry School File 5/14993A – Memorandum from the Senior Inspector dated 14<sup>th</sup> September 1916



Around 1931-32 the Bomaderry Cricket Club put down its first practise wicket at the School near the pine trees in Birrilley Street, almost opposite Dalwah Street. Club members provided the work force and local business people the material, practice at this stage still being conducted on Sundays.

In August 1934 the Club applied for permission to use the cricket pitch on Saturday as well as Sunday afternoons. Permission was granted as long as the ground was left in a clean and tidy condition and that the Club take full responsibility for any damage sustained to the premises.<sup>42</sup> The club continually used this wicket until a new practice wicket had been laid out on Bomaderry Oval in 1948.<sup>43</sup>

In 1934 the Bomaderry Ratepayer's Association complained to the teacher, Mr Reid, that fourteen (14) trees which grew in the school ground along the eastern fence were causing problems to neighbouring gardens. Mr Read investigated the complaint and sent a report to the Inspector of Schools dated 27<sup>th</sup> May 1935.

The residents complained that the roots extended into their gardens and that the leaves were causing trouble to the spouting and guttering. The only solution appeared to be to cut the trees down and remove them.

Subsequently Inspector Campbell visited the school on 31<sup>st</sup> October 1935 and furnished the following report to the Chief Inspector.

*During annual inspection of this school last week, I inspected these trees. There are 14 large pine trees of three varieties, 3 pinus insignis, 1 fine cypress and the rest of a species unknown to me (see sketch in margin). They are planted rather closely together, along the whole eastern boundary, within 4 or 6ft from the fence, and are well grown with interlocked branches, forming excellent shade. Complainant's houses are across the street, which is a chain wide, and on the eastern side, and on the western side, so that pine needles fill their guttering, an inevitable condition during westerly winds.*

*To fell and cut up these trees would probably cost about £50. They are very large, some nearly 3ft through, and have been growing for 20 to 30 years. I understand they have no commercial value. I am opposed to their destruction, but would like an authoritative opinion as to our liability under the law.*

The Department did not consider that the removal of the trees was necessary and therefore did not take action.

In 1936 Mr Ebenezer Read who had been Head Teacher at the school since 1903 retired. During 1936 Graham Daley and Charles Carter were placed in charge of the school. The later remained until 1940, when Frederick Blades became headmaster.

In June 1937 the Parents & Citizen's Association proposed to install electricity to the school building. The proposal was to place a light in each of the three classrooms, one on the verandah and one in the porch. One power point would sufficient. The power point would be used in the event of a wireless set being installed.<sup>44</sup>

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<sup>42</sup> State Records NSW – Bomaderry School File 5/14993 – Correspondence dated 30<sup>th</sup> August 1934 to H. Neville Sec. Bomaderry Cricket Club from G.R. Thomas Director of Education

<sup>43</sup> Bomaderry Cricket Club Jubilee Committee, *Bomaderry Cricket Club – Golden Jubilee 1929-1979*, Bomaderry Cricket Club, Nowra, 1979

<sup>44</sup> State Records NSW – Bomaderry School File 5/14993 – Correspondence from Charles Carter, Headmaster dated 18<sup>th</sup> June 1937.

In September 1937 some minor repairs and painting were carried out by the department day labour at a cost of £257.1.0. Mr W Scott, chief electrician with Berry Municipal Council installed electricity in the school in November 1938.

During the years 1940-41, it became clear that the 2¾-acre site *“would not be adequate for future development and its extension is not possible without the resumption of dwellings. Even then, the area is too small for future needs. New buildings are being rapidly erected in this area and in the very near future any suitable land will be unavailable, especially a large area necessary for a school site.”*

Mr A.J. (Jack) Jordan became Principal in November 1946 and in one of his reports concerning Education Week, he stated:

“At present the school has a staff of four teachers, with 150 pupils on the roll. An excellent Parent's and Citizens Association, backed by generous public support, have provided fine modern equipment and keeps in touch with latest developments. The record of the school, from both scholastic and athletic viewpoints, has proved the value of the support extended. What of the future? It is clear that the development of industry, especially the new paper mills, will speed the growth of Bomaderry, and that the present school premises and playground will be inadequate. However, a new site has been acquired. In 1948, the combined efforts of the P & C Association resulted in the acquisition of a splendid eight-acre site, centrally situated, elevated and levelled, with glorious views – especially of the lower reaches of the Shoalhaven”.

With the introduction of a secondary industry, such as the Paper Mill, accommodation at the school, at times was taxed. In 1955 a temporary unit was erected to cope with the problem.<sup>45</sup>

Mr Jordan passed away whilst still Principal of the school. James ‘Jim’ Leonard took charge of the school in February 1960.

Consequently, steps were taken to acquire a new eight-acre site quite near the existing school. This was consolidated in 1963 with the acquisition of the final parcel of land.

### **3.6 New School Constructed, Cambewarra Road**

Two classrooms were erected on this land during 1959 and were occupied in 1960. In 1961, two more rooms were built and another two infant classes were transferred from Birrilley Street. By this time, the enrolments were so great that local halls were rented to house the children. By 1963, two more classrooms were completed and a separate Infants’ Department established, with Mrs L. Rider as Mistress.

During 1966 the new Primary Department buildings were commenced and were completed on time. At the commencement of 1967, the entire Primary Department moved into the new school premises in Cambewarra Road and two portable rooms from the old site transferred to the Infants’ Department.

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<sup>45</sup> Department of Education – *Bomaderry Public School* – unpublished n.d. (not paginated)

### 3.7 Grounds of the School

Trees were planted in the school grounds in 1894 but it is now known the number or species that were planted. Miss Halcrow paid 3.9d carriage of 'trees for planting' in the school ground.

Arbor Day was observed at Bomaderry School in August 1896 when Dr Hay planted a tree.

In 1897 celebrations were held at the school to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria. A flag raising ceremony was held and the first flag was hoisted on the newly erected flagpole. The plaque at the foot of the flagpole was unveiled by Rainsford Shepherd and the shrubs planted by the P & C. The school bell was rung each New Year's Eve.

### 3.8 Cricket Pitch

The Bomaderry Cricket Club was formed in 1929 when a group of local residents and railway workmen decided to form a cricket club in the Bomaderry area. A wicket was layed on a paddock donated by Rainsford Shepherd and practice sessions were held each Sunday morning on a footpath at the Dairy Co-op.

Around 1931-32 the Bomaderry Cricket Club put down its first practise wicket at the Old Bomaderry School near the pine trees in Birrilley Street, almost opposite Dalwah Street. Club members provided the work force and local business people the material, practice at this stage still being conducted on Sundays.

The club continually used this wicket until a new practice wicket had been laid out on Bomaderry Oval in 1948.<sup>46</sup>

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<sup>46</sup> Bomaderry Cricket Club Jubilee Committee, *Bomaderry Cricket Club – Golden Jubilee 1929-1979*, Bomaderry Cricket Club, Nowra, 1979

### 3.9 Old School Site taken over by Shoalhaven Shire Council

In 1967 Shoalhaven Shire Council investigated the possibility of securing title to the land for community use. An inspection was carried out on the 8<sup>th</sup> November 1967.

A report from the Shire Health Surveyor was submitted to the Works Committee Meeting held on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November 1967.<sup>47</sup> A description of the property was given:

#### Description of Property

The property comprises Lots 3 to 18 inclusive, and is bounded by Tanang Street on the North, Coomea Street on the East, Birrilley Street on the South and private land on the West.

It consists of 16 building blocks, each 66' x 132', a total of 3.2 acres.

All the street frontages are fenced with Arris rail fences in good condition (but need painting) except for about 2 chains on the western end of the southern boundary. The western boundary has a rather old paling fence along it.

There is not septic tank, but two pan type closet buildings are provided some 100' from the main building, together with an open 24' x 12' weatherboard shelter shed with a single car garage on the back of it.

The brick building has the year 1893 on the front of it, and is in a good state of preservation. The walls are painted brickwork, solid (not cavity) construction, and it is roofed partly with slates and partly with corrugated iron. An 8' wide verandah, most of which is fully enclosed, runs along the full length of the back of the building.

The building contains three rooms (see sketch) two of which are 24' x 18' and connected by a large folding door. The other is 25' x 21' (these dimensions are approximate). There are two solid fuel space heaters in the building, and each room has a blackboard.

There is a skillion roofed room on the eastern end, 16' x 9' containing two sets of bubblers and taps.

Also on the land is a loam tennis court. Some of the netting is damaged and it needs top dressing, but could be brought up to a good standard at a small cost.

#### Rates and Charges

The land is contained in two assessments. Assessment 478 comprises two blocks. An old cottage of this was demolished in recent years. The rates on this are \$85.12. The remainder of the area, comprising fourteen blocks, is covered by Assessment No. 479, and the rates are 4364.<sup>48</sup>

Council's gardeners would no doubt have the responsibility of attending to the grounds, and there are rather eroded as a result of children playing, and the weather.

<sup>47</sup> Council File 131/11/27

<sup>48</sup> According to the Shoalhaven Shire Municipal Council Rate Valuations for 1963/1964 the Department of Education owned Lot 17 Section 8 DP 2886 – 19 Birrilley Street, Bomaderry. Cottage (demolished) CT Vol 6647/188 (Headmaster's Residence). Corner lots 3/16 Section 8 DP2886 2a 3r 8p Bomaderry Public School – School

### **3.10 Community Use for Old School Site**

#### Bomaderry Guides Support Group

The Bomaderry Girl Guides requested use of the old school building for its headquarter soon after the old school was vacated. The group at that time was meeting in the Bomaderry Hall and found the arrangements unsatisfactory. Council agreed to lease a room at the old school to the movement in 1967.

In 1977 an extra Unit, The Royal Rangers, was added to the movement and the group requested the use of the western room for their Headquarters. They had two canoes and a great deal of camping equipment, which needed a 'permanent home'. In June 1981 the Rangers were disbanded.

The Bomaderry Guides and Brownies still use the school as their headquarters.

#### Bomaderry Primary School – Additional Accommodation

In December 1969 Headmaster Eric Eve asked to lease a room in the old school for use as an additional classroom to accommodate 30 pupils. The room would be required for at least 1 year. The following February the pupils arrived and the old school but only stayed a week as the new principal Mr John McKay found alternate arrangements at the new school.

#### Bomaderry Soccer Club

In 1969 the Bomaderry Junior Soccer Club met one night only (Wednesday) until the end of the season in October.

#### Nowra Baptist Church

In February 1972 the Nowra Baptist Church were given permission to use the Guides Hall for 1 hour each Sunday 9.15am to 10.15am for Sunday School and 1 Monthly Church Service on the second Sunday of each month.

#### Nowra Moviemakers

The Nowra Movie Makers leased the western room from 31<sup>st</sup> March 1974. Council granted an annual lease at a rental of \$2 per week. The group met here once a week until May 1977 when the room was no longer required as the group was no longer active.

#### St Stephens Sunday School

In June 1977 St Stephens Church and Annexe Rooms were almost completely gutted by fire. The Rector, Rev Stuart Abrahams approached Council to assist with alternate accommodation. The church requested a room for the Sunday School for a period of 6-12 months during which time they hoped to rebuild. Sunday Services would be held in the Methodist Church.

The use of the western room was granted for Sunday School. By July 1978 the restoration of the Church was completed and the little room vacated.

#### Bomaderry Pre-School

The Bomaderry Pre School commenced in the old school building and leased the room on the western side for their activities. It was soon apparent that the room was too small to cater for the growing numbers enrolled at the school and new rooms were required.

A development application received from Bomaderry Pre School re Brick Pre School additions was approved on 17<sup>th</sup> May 1995. Mr Brian Blinkhorn of North Nowra was the builder.

#### Bomaderry Play Group

Bomaderry Play Group was established in 1980 and requested use of the room at the western end of the building for their home.

In March 1981 Bomaderry Play Group requested repairs to be carried out. The Secretary stated in her letter to Council: *The windows on the northern side of the building are broken, the roof leaks badly in the rain and pieces of ceiling fall off in windy weather. The room is also in need of painting.*

Shoalhaven Amateur Radio Club

Shoalhaven Amateur Radio Club was given approval to lease the western room in June 1981.

Nowra Christian Community School

In November 1982 the Nowra Baptist Christian Community School board requested the use of the old school buildings for a school with an enrolment which could approach 130. To comply with leasing conditions the school site was valued. Walsh & Monaghan of Nowra valued the property on 10<sup>th</sup> November 1982. Their report included a description of improvements.

IMPROVEMENTS

Erected on that part of Lot 2 DP 568955 subject to the rental assessment, is the former Bomaderry Primary School building and a detached structure comprising ladies and gents toilets.

Constructed on brick foundations during 1893, the former school building is of painted brick with a galvanised iron roof and a timber floor. It includes a weatherboard and fibro attached enclosed skillion verandah area, which also has a timber floor.

The interior of the main structure is masonite lined and ceiled and the height of the building from floor to ceiling is approximately 4.4 metres. In addition to ample natural lighting, artificial lighting is obtained by fluorescent tubes.

At the eastern side of the building is a timber mezzanine floor which measures 4.5m x 3.0m and from which access is obtained via a timber ladder. This mezzanine area does not appear to be really functional, as it has been constructed only 1.2 metres below ceiling level. Included with the building is an aged fuel room heater, but this does not appear to be in working order.

It was proposed that the school would use two rooms and the enclosed verandah at the eastern end of the building. Before a lease could be issued to the school renovations and improvements were required to be carried out by Council to ensure the buildings were up to standard.

The specific work involved was listed in a report to Council in November 1982:

1. Mezzanine Floor – if possible the query as to whether this floor can be lowered from that currently existing to provide a 2 to 2.4m ceiling height. A ladder access and safety rails at the side of the ladder would need to exist.
2. Within the enclosed verandah section – provide an approximate 8m in length lock-up section. This section is intended to be made available for security purposes for other persons using the rooms. Eg. Girl Guides and Brownies.
3. Windows to the rooms – at present windows are non-functional and do not open. These will need to be adjusted so that they are capable of being opened.
4. Provision of chalkboards – it is required that 2 chalkboards at each of the 2 rooms be provided. These boards would measure 1.2m x 3m in length.
5. Toilets – the existing toilet facilities are insufficient. An additional W.C. for the male and female section will need to be provided. At present there are 2 cubicles within the female section and 1 cubicle is blocked off. The requirement will be that 3 cubicles will need to be provided in the female section.
6. Drinking Bubblers – for the use of the facilities for school purposes at least 2 drinking bubblers in the area (which can be adjacent to the toilet buildings) need to be provided.
7. Maintenance of Lawns – it is intended that Council will be responsible for maintaining the lawns.

8. Electricity – At present the electrical account is in the name of one of the users of the facilities and the account currently is not paid by Council. Other organisations and groups use the facilities during the day and certain nights.
9. Provision for lockable gates to the male and female section of toilets – it is proposed to lock the toilets at different school hours and provide keys to other persons authorised to use the facilities. This schedule is proposed as the school is prepared to clean the toilets during school usage.

In January 1983 Council gave approval for renovations and improvements to be carried out on the building and out buildings so that the school could function. At this time the building regulations required that all doors 'are to open outwards' for easy exit. The plans and specifications were drawn up by Robin Edmiston & Associates and subsequently carried out.

The Baptist Church Community School moved to new premises at South Nowra in June 1986.

### **3.11 Bomaderry Community Hall**

Shoalhaven City Council gave approval for the erection of a Brick General Purpose Hall on 30<sup>th</sup> April 1980. Robin Edmiston & Associates drew up the plans and specifications for the building. M.J. Davidson, builder of Nowra, erected the building.

Approval was given on 6<sup>th</sup> April 1990 for Brick Community Hall addition of a kitchen for Meals on Meals. Council staff draftsmen F. Burman and P. Jennings drew up the plans.

Please refer to Appendix A for Historical Figures and Documentation

### 3.12 Bibliography

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### 3.13 Acknowledgements

I wish to acknowledge the assistance given by John Flett, Lorraine McCarthy and the Record staff of Shoalhaven City Council. I wish to thank Shoalhaven Historical Society for allowing access to their archives and photographic collection.



## 4.0 Physical Evidence

### 4.2 Identification of existing fabric

The physical evidence of the subject site was investigated through non-intrusive observation of the fabric.

#### 4.1.1 STREETSCAPE

The subject site is located between Birriley and Tanang Streets with the subject building fronting onto Birriley Street. Both of these streets are relatively quiet residential streets with mature vegetation. To the east of the subject site is a brick building used as the Bomaderry Pre-School and to the south is a building used as a general purpose community hall, also of brick construction. There is a visual corridor from the subject site along Dalwah Street which is also lined with mature vegetation.

#### 4.1.2 SUBJECT SITE

The subject site consists of a relatively large area located between Birriley and Tanang Streets, Bomaderry. Located on the site is the Former Bomaderry School building (subject building) and the concrete slab which formed part of the footings of a weather shed which existed on the site. The site is accessed via Birriley Street.

The area immediately to the rear (north) of the subject building is paved with bitumen and enclosed by a cyclone wire fence. The area to the south of the subject building is also paved with bitumen with cut-out landscaping features and also contains a flag pole. Abutting the eastern side of the subject building are the remains of bubblers and sinks. To the west of the subject site is an open concrete drain which was constructed in 1913.

#### Landscaping

As well as the subject building, the site contains a number of notable landscaping features/plantings including the following:

- A large mature camphor laurel tree (*Cinnamomum camphora*) located to the north of the subject building
- Mature pine plantings (*Pinus radiata*) to the north of the subject site along the Tanang Street boundary.

The remains of an early school fence are in place along the western boundary of the subject site.

Refer to Figure No.2

#### Archaeological potential

There are a number of areas within the subject site which hold archaeological potential including the following:

- The area to the north of the subject building where three toilet blocks were located.
- The area to the north west of the subject building where a gravel tennis court was located.
- The area to the north west of the subject building where a cricket pitch was located.

Refer to Figure No.9

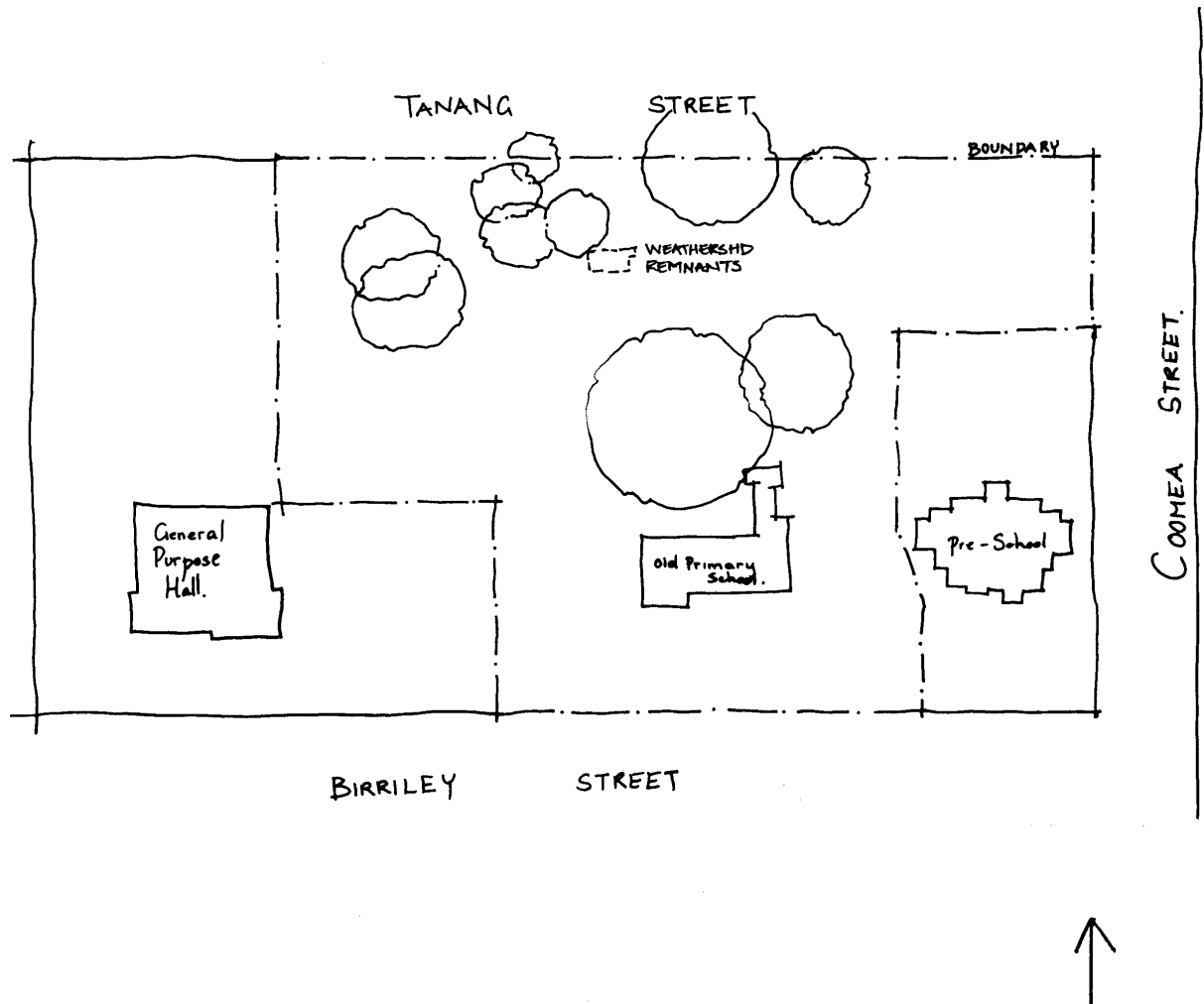


Figure No.2: Subject Site

#### 4.1.3 SUBJECT BUILDING (Former School Building)

##### Exterior

The Former Bomaderry School building is a Federation style brick building which was constructed in four stages with the first section of the building (consisting of the two main classrooms) being completed in 1893.

The building has ten eight (8) paned double hung windows with highlights which have been painted to the front of the building. The earlier section of the building has a gabled projection and one very simple chimney. The later section has one slightly more ornate chimney.

Entry to the building is from the rear which has a covered verandah. This verandah has been extended to the western side of the building and to the eastern side to include the recent addition. The verandah is supported by simple timber posts with timber brackets and has a timber railing. The rear of the building has four windows (one to each of the classrooms and two to the early section of the building). Each of the two classrooms is accessed via a four (4) paneled timber door.

There are two timber bench seats located on the verandah to the rear of the subject which appear to be from another place, not associated with the school.

##### Interior

The interior of the subject building consists of two classrooms (S2 and S3) which are separated by a folding partition, a single room (S1) which is currently used for playgroup and the recent additions which include a kitchen, male and female toilets and a storage room.

The flooring of the two classrooms is timber and the walls are clad with masonite. The masonite cladding is not original and probably dates from the 1950s, post World War II. However further investigation is required to confirm this date. There is one fireplace in S3 which has been covered and a 'Juleffe Broadway' heater in S2. The eastern classroom (S3) has a timber mezzanine constructed over approximately one third of the eastern end of the room.

The single room (S1) was added in 1919 and has painted facebrick walls which appear to have originally been rendered. The outline of original windows which were filled in to construct the single room are visible on the wall between S1 and S2. The ceiling is timber paneled with two vents.

Please refer to Figure No. 3 – Subject Building

Please refer to Appendix B for a photographic survey of the subject building.

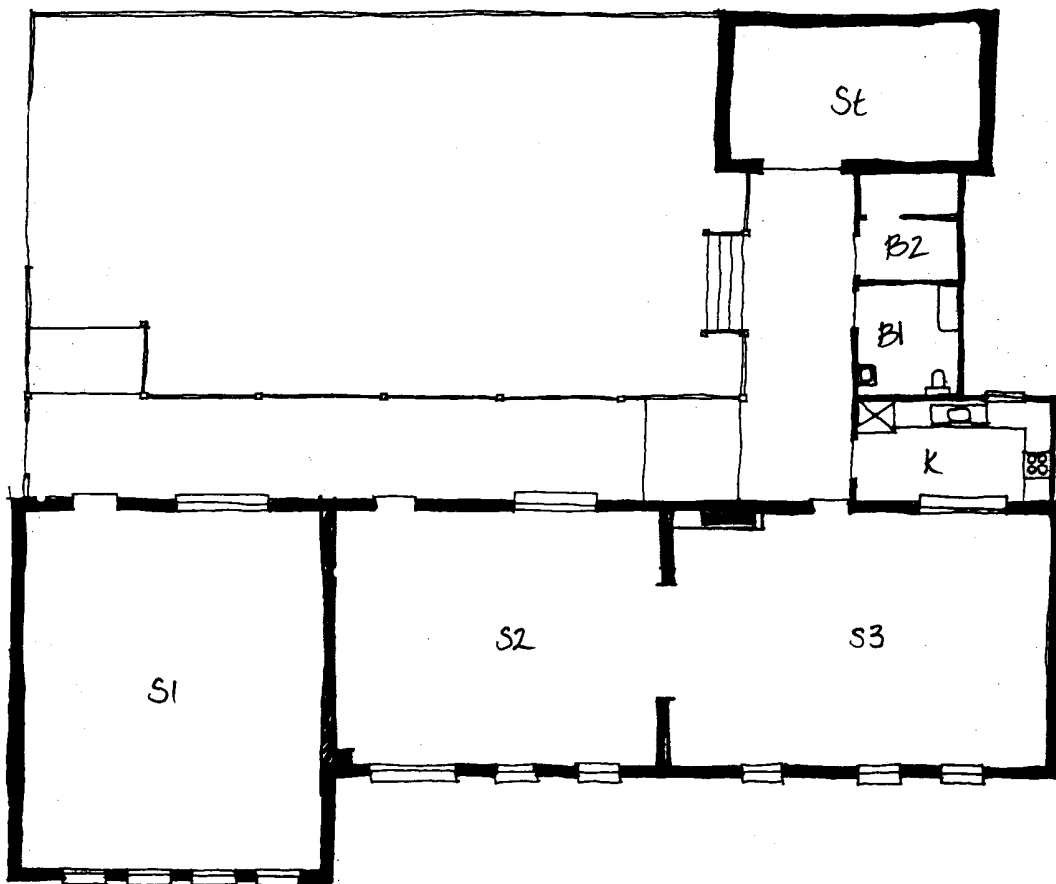


Figure No. 3: Subject Building

## **5.0 Analysis of Documentary and Physical Evidence**

### **5.1 Analysis of Documentary Evidence**

A great deal of written and other documentary evidence has come to light as a result of the research undertaken for this report. Some photographic evidence has also been obtained.

The first addition to the original one room school building was made in 1912 when the schoolroom was increased in length by 10 feet to 50 feet and a folding partition was erected.

The second addition consisted of the construction of an additional schoolroom, verandah and hat room and the fireplace was constructed in the earlier section. This occurred in 1919. The windows from the western elevation of the original building were reused in the southern elevation of the new section of the building.

A third addition to the subject building occurred in 1994 when the extension to the north of the subject building was constructed.

The verandah was enclosed for a fair portion of the history of the building and it was still enclosed in 1982.

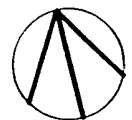
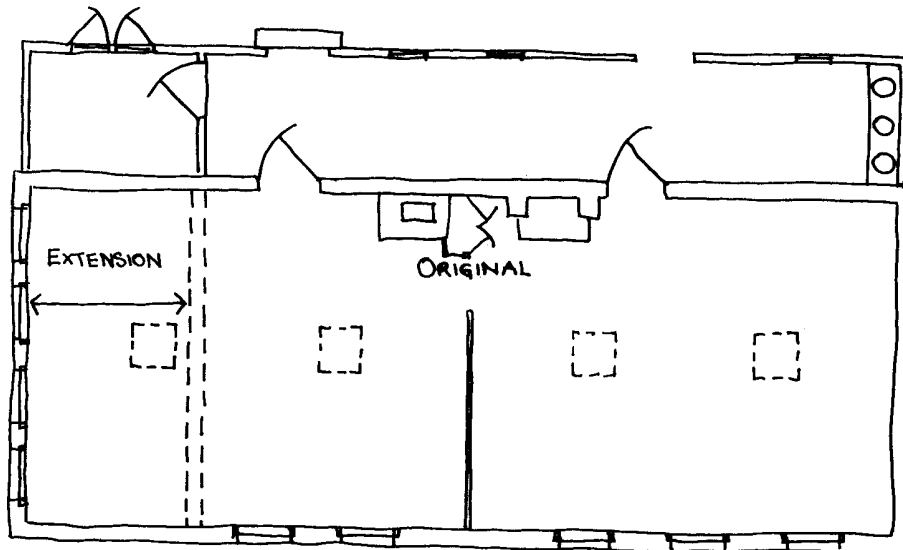
An early plan of the site shows that the flagpole and bell post were originally located to the north of the subject building. There was a weathershed to the north of the subject building. To the east of this weathershed was the boys WC and to the west were the teachers and girls WCs. (Refer to Figures 2 and 3 of Appendix A of this report).

An early photograph of the subject building shows a timber post and three rail fence with wire between the bottom two rails and a simple gate to the front (north) of the building. (Refer to Figure 10 of Appendix A of this report). Railing fences went the whole way around the site in 1967 except for the western side which had a paling fence. The photograph also shows a second tree located in front of the 1919 addition of the same species as the one which remains in front of the original section of the building. There were a number of shrubs and other forms of vegetation to the front of the school. At this time the flagpole was located in its present position and is shown as having a cross bar as well as the upright post.

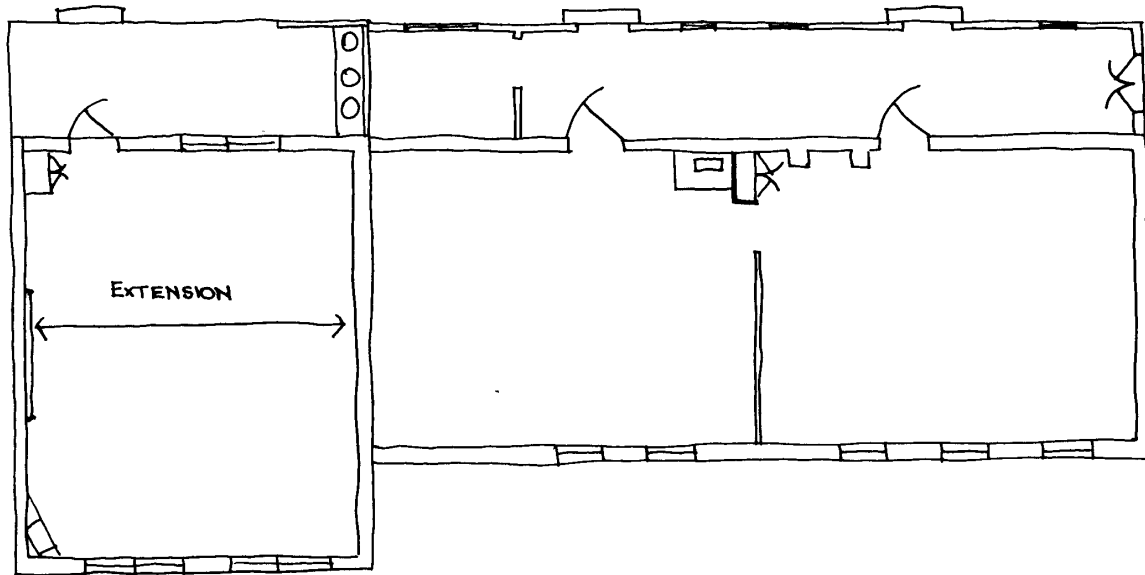
### **5.2 Analysis of Physical Evidence**

Much of the original fabric of the site has been retained, allowing a clear confirmation of the documentary evidence of the site however some of the fabric such as the second chimney has been removed. The subject building has undergone a number of alterations and additions throughout its history, the latest being in 1994. Despite this, the fabric relating to the different phases of the development of the building are clearly visible and no phase appears to have been completely lost.

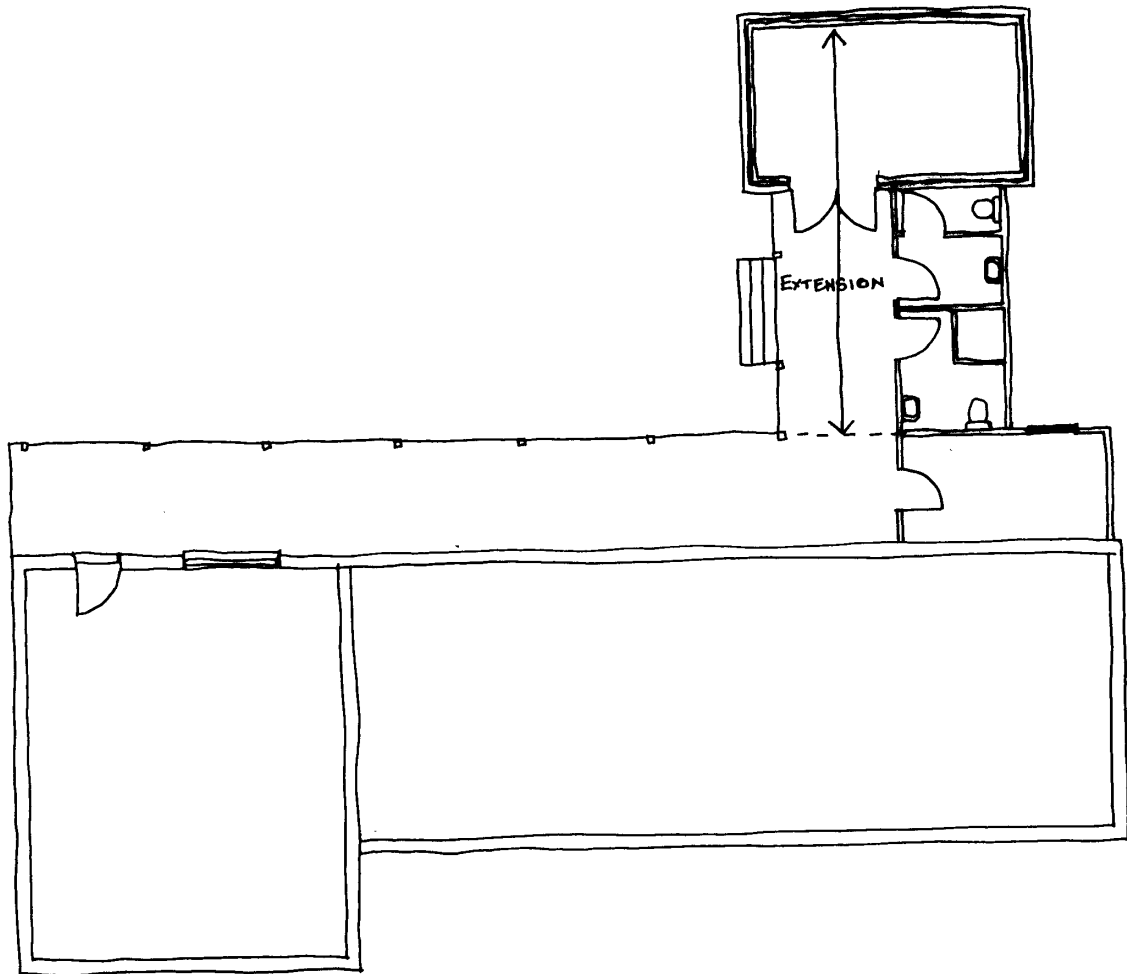
Please refer to Figure No.4 for a diagrammatic representation of the stages of development of the building.



**Figure No.4:** Phases of development of the subject building - 1912



**Figure No.5:** Phases of development of the subject building – 1919



**Figure No.6:** Phases of development of the subject building - 1994



## 6.0 Assessment of Cultural Significance

### 6.1 NSW Heritage Assessment Criteria

This assessment of cultural significance for the Former Bomaderry School has been based on the following criteria and guidelines contained in the NSW Heritage Manual produced by the NSW Heritage Office and NSW Department of Urban Affairs and Planning.

**State** significance means significance to the people of NSW.

**Local** significance means significance within the local government area.

An item will be considered to be of state (or local) heritage significance if, in the opinion of the Heritage Council of NSW, it meets **one or more** of the following criteria.

- Criterion (a)** - an item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural and natural history of the local area);
- Criterion (b)** - an item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural and natural history of the local area);
- Criterion (c)** - an item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW (or the local area);
- Criterion (d)** - an item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW (or the local area) for social, cultural or spiritual reasons;
- Criterion (e)** - an item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area);
- Criterion (f)** - an item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history (or the cultural or natural history of the local area);
- Criterion (g)** - an item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's
  - cultural or natural places; or
  - cultural or natural environments.(or a class of the local area's
  - cultural or natural places; or
  - cultural or natural environments.)

An item is not to be excluded from the Register on the ground that items with similar characteristics have already been listed on the Register

## 6.2 Statement of heritage significance

The Former Bomaderry School is of **local** significance to the for the following reasons:

6.2.1 The subject site is important as an early school which is related to the history of education in the Shoalhaven area.

The subject site is related to the National School system and the subject building served continuously as a school for over 100 years.

6.2.2 The subject building is important to the Shoalhaven area as the original section of the subject building was designed by architect William Edmund Kemp who was George Mansfield's chosen successor as Architect for the NSW Department of Public Instruction.

6.2.3 The subject building is important to the Shoalhaven area as a good example of a Federation school building which illustrates a number of periods of construction.

The four different phases of construction of the subject building (1893, 1912, 1919, 1994) are visible and able to be interpreted.

6.2.4 The interior spaces of the subject building are relatively intact and thus are an effective reminder of the buildings original function as a school.

6.2.5 The types of mature vegetation and plantings located on the site are strongly associated with school buildings of the period and provide the site with landmark qualities which makes it a prominent feature in the landscape of the Bomaderry area.

6.2.6 The subject site was significant to the local Bomaderry community as a primary school and a site which was used for various community activities including church groups over a long period of time. The site continues to play an important role in the Bomaderry community through its use as a girl guide hall and a playgroup room.

6.2.7 The subject site has the potential to reveal further information about the activities undertaken and structures which were located on the subject site.

These include the tennis court and cricket pitch, and the weather shed and three toilet blocks, some of which remains underneath the surface.

### 6.3 Nature of significance

#### 6.3.1 HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Former Bomaderry School has historical significance for its association with the development of education in the Bomaderry district and the Shoalhaven region. It is also historically significant as it served as a school for over 100 years and was designed by William Edmund Kemp who was George Mansfield's chosen successor as Architect for the NSW Department of Public Instruction.

#### 6.3.2 AESTHETIC SIGNIFICANCE

The Former Bomaderry School has aesthetic significance as a good example of a Federation school building which has been extended as demand for schooling increased.

#### 6.3.3 SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

The Former Bomaderry School had a high significance to the local community through its use as a school and by various other groups including church groups. It remains of significance to the local community through its use for community purposes including girl guides and playgroup.

#### 6.3.4 TECHNICAL / RESEARCH SIGNIFICANCE

The Former Bomaderry School has technical / research significance for its ability to show the different phases of construction of the subject building.

### 6.4 Items of significance

6.4.1 Following are individual elements located on the subject site which are considered to be of significance:

- Camphor laurel tree (*Cinnamomum camphora*) located to the north of the subject building
- Mature pine trees (*Pinus radiata*) located along the northern boundary of the subject site

6.4.2 Following are individual elements of significance located within the subject building which are considered to be of significance:

- "Juleffe Broadway" heater located in the subject building within S2
- Outline of original windows on wall between S1 and S2
- Fireplaces located in S1 and S3
- Timber panelled ceiling in S1

It should be noted that no intervention into fabric was undertaken as a part of this study. It is assumed that further investigation will reveal additional items of significance.

### 6.5 Heritage Assessment Matrix

Value	Representative	Rare
Historical	<b>Local</b>	<b>Local</b>
Aesthetic	<b>Local</b>	
Social	<b>Local</b>	
Technical/Research	<b>Local</b>	

## 6.6 Grading of Significance

Considering the physical and documentary evidence gathered, the Statement of Significance and various constraints, requirements and opportunities, the grading of significance is possible.

This grading of significance has been based on the NSW Heritage Manual provided by the NSW Heritage Office and NSW Department of Urban Affairs and Planning.

**Exceptional significance** (Fulfil criteria for local or State listing)

Rare or outstanding item of local or State significance.

High degree of intactness.

Item can be interpreted relatively easily.

**High significance** (Fulfil criteria for local or State listing)

High degree of original fabric.

Demonstrates a key element of the item's significance.

Alterations do not detract from significance.

**Moderate significance** (Fulfil criteria for local or State listing)

Altered or modified elements.

Elements with little heritage value, but which contribute to the overall significance of the item.

**Little significance** (Does not fulfil criteria for local or State listing)

Alterations detract from significance.

Difficult to interpret.

**Intrusive** (Does not fulfil criteria for local or State listing)

Damaging to the item's heritage significance.

### 6.6.1 SUBJECT SITE

The zones of significance are indicated on the site plan and are rated according to intactness from the highest level, one (1) down to the lowest, five (5).

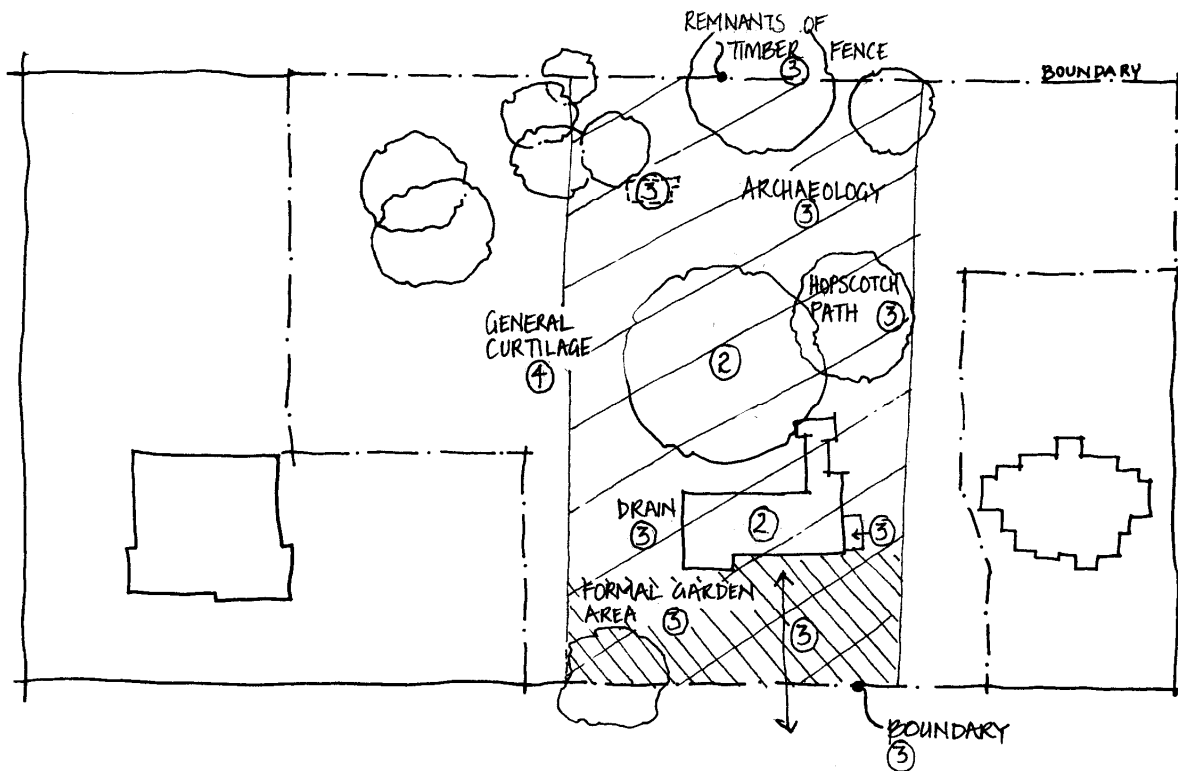
6.6.1.1 EXCEPTIONAL SIGNIFICANCE (CATEGORY 1)

6.6.1.2 HIGH SIGNIFICANCE (CATEGORY 2)

6.6.1.3 MODERATE SIGNIFICANCE (CATEGORY 3)

6.6.1.4 LITTLE SIGNIFICANCE (CATEGORY 4 )

6.6.1.5 INTRUSIVE (CATEGORY 5)



**LEGEND**

- 1 ~ Exceptional significance
- 2 ~ High significance
- 3 ~ Moderate significance
- 4 ~ Little significance
- 5 ~ Intrusive

**Figure No. 7:** Levels of Significance - Subject Site

## 6.6.2 SUBJECT BUILDING

The zones of significance are indicated on the floor plans and are rated according to intactness from the highest level, one (1) down to the lowest, five (5).

Because of the limited nature of this assessment, this grading of significance is only an approximate based on the following considerations.

- (i) Period of Construction
- (ii) Architectural and historical quality
- (iii) Architectural integrity

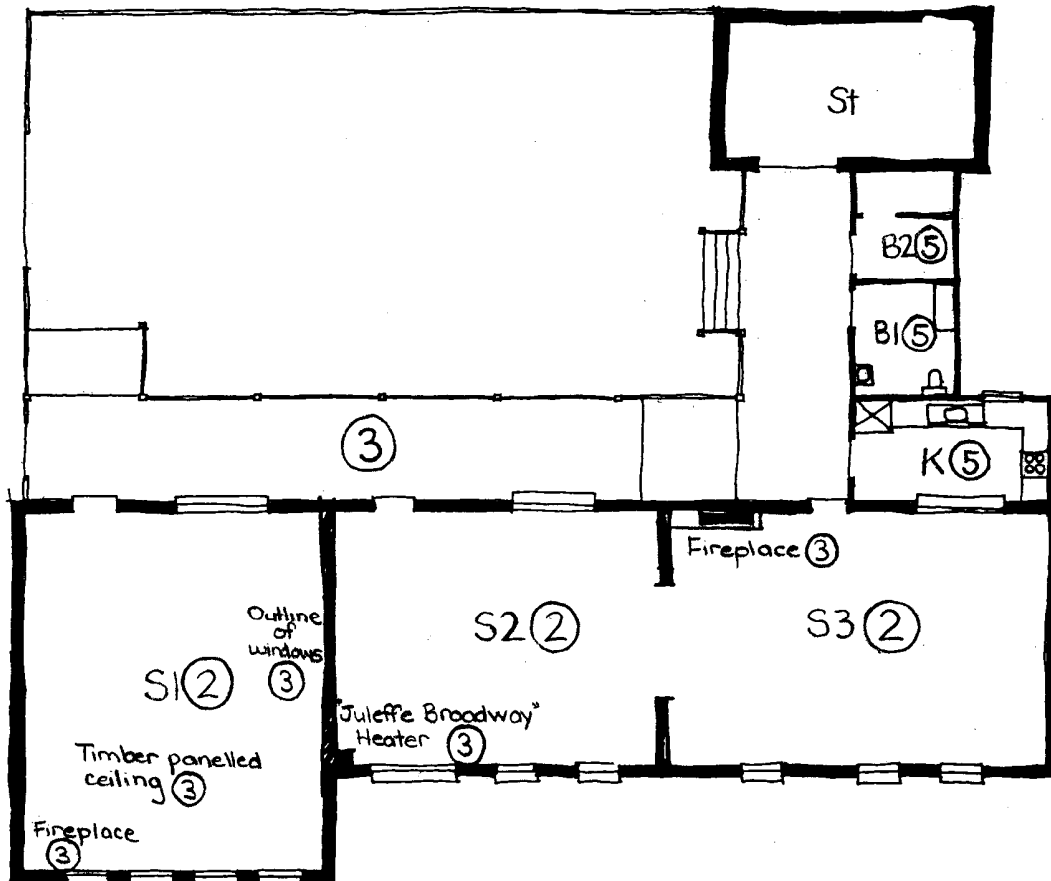
6.6.2.1 EXCEPTIONAL SIGNIFICANCE (CATEGORY 1)

6.6.2.2 HIGH SIGNIFICANCE (CATEGORY 2)

6.6.2.3 MODERATE SIGNIFICANCE (CATEGORY 3)

6.6.2.4 LITTLE SIGNIFICANCE (CATEGORY 4 )

6.6.2.5 INTRUSIVE (CATEGORY 5)



**LEGEND**

- 1 ~ Exceptional significance
- 2 ~ High significance
- 3 ~ Moderate significance
- 4 ~ Little significance
- 5 ~ Intrusive

**Figure No.8:** Levels of Significance - Subject Building

### **6.7 Definition of curtilage**

An analysis of the documentary and physical evidence has determined that the existing boundaries of the subject site (please refer to Figure No.2) form an appropriate curtilage for the subject building and other items of significance located on the site. However, consideration of proposals for development in the surrounding area especially the site occupied by the pre-school building to the east and the community hall to the west should take into account the significance of the subject site. The area of potential archaeological significance should also be considered.

Please refer to Figure No.9 – Curtilage



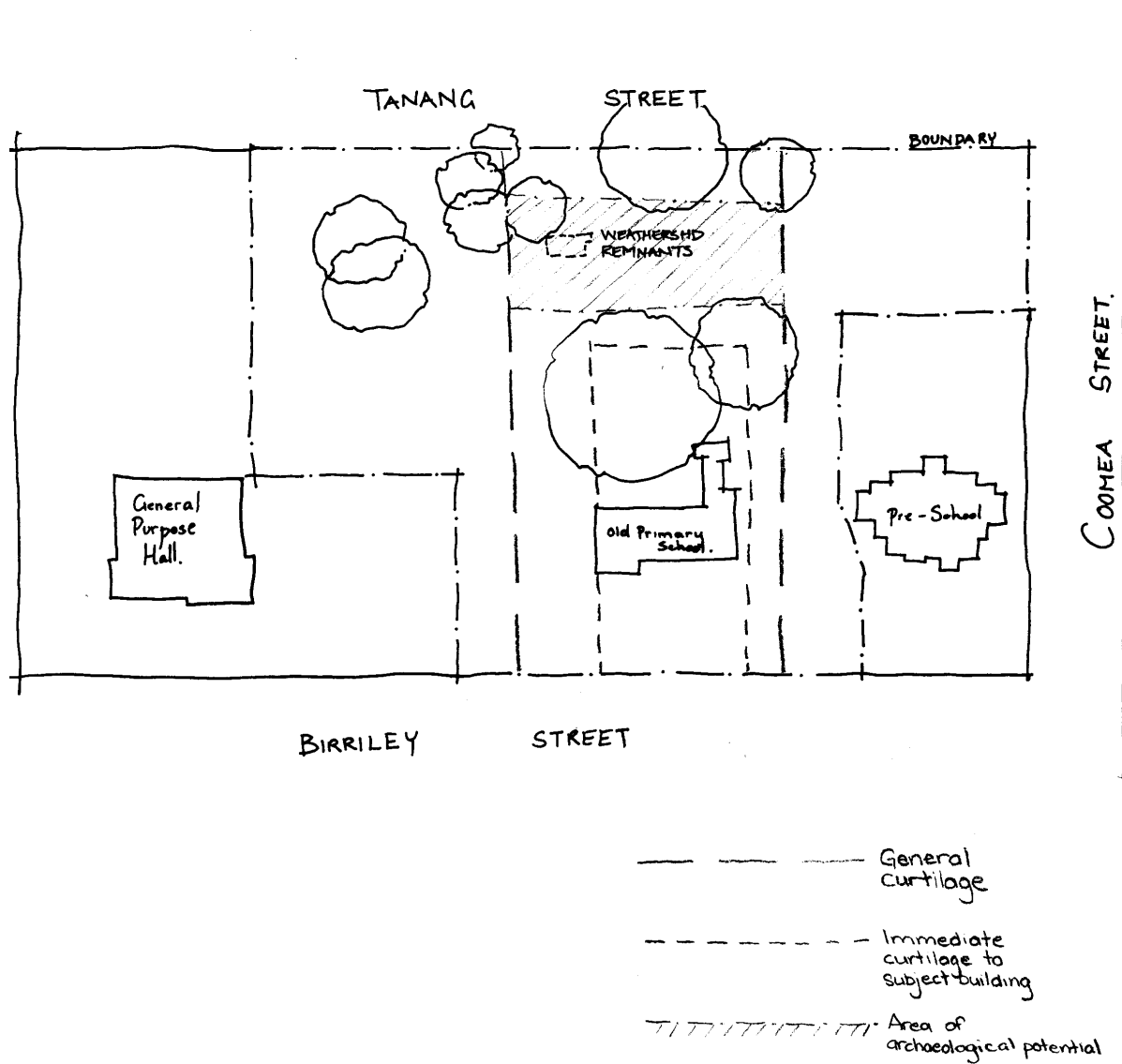


Figure No.9: Curtilage

## 7.0 Constraints and Opportunities

This section outlines the main constraints and opportunities which need to be addressed in the conservation management policy for the site and building.

### 7.1 Physical constraints and requirements arising from the statement of significance

- 7.1.1 No activity should be allowed that would confuse the fact that the Former Bomaderry School constitutes an important component of the cultural development of the Bomaderry area and the Shoalhaven district.
- 7.1.2 The subject site's early planning, detailing and design features which identify it as a former school should be conserved.
- 7.1.3 The subject building should be conserved as an example of a Federation style school building which was designed by William Kemp. The design of any new additions to the subject building should not compromise this significance.
- 7.1.4 Significant landscape elements and plantings should be retained and conserved. These include the camphor laurel tree (*Cinnamomum camphora*) and the mature pine trees (*Pinus radiata*) located along the northern boundary of the subject site.
- 7.1.5 Significant fabric should be retained in-situ and conserved. This includes fabric from all stages of the development of the subject building. Fabric may be removed to reveal fabric which is identified to be more significant however a sample should be retained in-situ for interpretation purposes.
- 7.1.6 Associated items of significance should be retained in-situ and conserved. These include the 'Juleffe Broadway' heater, the two fireplaces and the timber panelled ceiling in S1.
- 7.1.7 No activity should take place which could destroy a potential archaeological resource. This applies to the areas below and in the vicinity of the subject site as defined in Section 2.2.1.
- 7.1.8 Any new building, services, landscaping or activities at the site or in the vicinity of the site should have regard to the setting and design of the property as a former school site and to the scale, style and character of adjacent development.

## 7.2 Procedural requirements (conservation methodology)

Since the subject site is of cultural significance, any work at the site or in the vicinity of the site should be done in accordance with the principles of the Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter. In particular the following procedural requirements (conservation methodology) should be noted.

### Burra Charter

- Article 3-** *Conservation work should be based on a respect for existing fabric. It should not distort the evidence provided by the fabric.*
- Article 13-** *Restoration is appropriate only if there is sufficient evidence of an earlier state of the fabric and only if returning the fabric reveals the cultural significance of the place.*
- Article 15-** *Restoration is limited to the reassembling of displaced components or removal of accretions in accordance with Article 16.*
- Article 16-** *Contributions of all periods must be respected.*
- Article 20-** *Adaptation is acceptable where the conservation of the site cannot otherwise be achieved, and where adaptation does not substantially detract from its cultural significance.*
- Article 23-** *Existing fabric should be recorded before any disturbance.*
- Article 24-** *Study of the site by any disturbance of the fabric or by archaeological excavation should be undertaken where necessary to provide data essential for decisions on the conservation of the place.*

## 7.3 Constraints and requirements arising from the physical and documentary evidence

It is reasonable to assume that more evidence, both physical and documentary may come to light as a result of further research or during the implementation of major conservation works at the site. This may include information on early decorative schemes, archaeological information, or further evidence revealed, for example by intervention to the fabric or from other resources. The exact location of the flagpole and bell post may be identified, allowing them to be reinstated. The footprints of the weathershed and WCs may be uncovered.

This information should be taken into account when making decisions regarding the future of the item.

## **7.4 Constraints and requirements arising from the physical condition**

### **7.4.1 GENERALLY**

Generally, the subject building retains sufficient of its fabric to allow interpretation of its early configuration. Many early design features remain in place.

### **7.4.2 STRUCTURAL STABILITY**

The general condition of the building located on the subject site appears to be sound. It should be noted that a detailed structural engineers study has not been prepared in conjunction with this study. Regular monitoring and repair of damaged structures as necessary is essential.

### **7.4.3 WATER DAMAGE**

No evidence of water damage has been detected. It should be noted that a detailed study has not been undertaken.

### **7.4.4 PEST INFESTATION**

No evidence of pest infestation has been able to be detected. It should be noted that a detailed pest infestation study has not been prepared in conjunction with this study.

### **7.4.5 PEDESTRIAN ACCESS**

Pedestrian access to the site is currently available from Birriley and Tanang Streets. General public access is not permitted to the immediate vicinity of the rear (northern side) of the subject building. This section is enclosed with wire fencing. Disabled access is available to the subject building via a ramp located to the rear (northern side) of the subject building.

### **7.4.6 VEHICLE ACCESS, CAR PARKING AND DELIVERY**

Vehicle and delivery access is currently available from Birriley Street. Informal car parking is currently available to the west of the subject building. The area to the west of the subject site has been allocated for formalised car parking by Shoalhaven Council with access from both Birriley and Tanang Streets.

## **7.5 External constraints**

### 7.5.1 STATUTORY HERITAGE CONSTRAINTS

Approval from the following authorities is required before major changes are made to the items included in their heritage registers.

#### 7.5.1.1 NSW Heritage Council

The subject site is not listed on the State Heritage Inventory

#### 7.5.1.2 Shoalhaven City Council

The subject site is listed in the City of Shoalhaven Local Environmental Plan.

#### 7.5.1.3 Department of Urban Affairs and Planning

The subject site is listed in the Illawarra Regional Environmental Plan.

### 7.5.2 NON-STATUTORY HERITAGE CONSTRAINTS

The following are non-statutory lists with no legally binding requirements. However, a listing on these registers is generally regarded as being an authoritative statement about the heritage significance of an item.

#### 7.5.2.1 Australian Heritage Commission

The subject site is listed on the Register of the National Estate as part of a listing known as the Bomaderry Public School (1893 building).

#### 7.5.2.2 National Trust of Australia (NSW)

The Former Bomaderry School (1893 building) is listed on the National Trust Heritage Register.

## **7.6 Opportunities and constraints arising out of ownership and use**

### 7.6.1 OWNERSHIP

The site is owned by the Shoalhaven City Council. The owners require maximum use of the site whilst retaining and conserving its heritage significance and values.

The site is classified as 'community land', categorised as 'general community use' pursuant to the Local Government Act 1993. Thus, under the Local Government Act 1993, it has a number of requirements, guidelines and constraints which apply to it.

- [s35] What governs the use and management of community land?  
Community land is required to be used and managed in accordance with the following:
  - the plan of management applying to the land
  - any law permitting the use of the land for a specified purpose or otherwise regulating the use of the land
  - this Division
- [s63I] Core objectives for management of community land categorised as general community use.  
The core objectives for management of community land categorised as general community use are to promote, encourage and provide for the use of the land, and to provide facilities on the land, to meet the current and future needs of the local community and of the wider public:
  - a) in relation to public recreation and the physical, cultural, social and intellectual welfare or development of individual members of the public, and
  - b) in relation to purposes for which a lease, license or other estate may be granted in respect of the land (other than the provision of public utilities and works associated with or ancillary to public utilities)

## 7.6.2 USES

The subject building has always been in community use from it's time as a school to the present. Following are the present uses of the site.

### 7.6.2.1 Subject Building

The S2 and S3 areas of the Former School Building are currently used by the Bomaderry Girl guides and Brownies as their headquarters. The group has used this area since 1967.

The S1 area is used as the venue for the Bomaderry Playgroup. This group has used the building since 1980.

Please refer to Figure No.3

## 8.0 Conservation Policy

The following is a conservation policy arising out of the Statement of Significance, the Physical Condition and other constraints (refer to Section 7.0). An approach should be chosen for the subject site that allows as many as possible of these conservation policies to be implemented.

The implementation of this policy will allow the clear interpretation of the significance of the site and the most appropriate way of caring for the significant fabric.

### 8.1 Definitions

Following are the definitions of conservation terms as used in the Burra Charter.

*Place* means site, area, land, landscape, building or other work, group of buildings or other works, and may include components, contents, spaces and views.

(For the purposes of this report the *place* is to be known as the study area).

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

*Fabric* means all the physical material of the *place* including components, fixtures, contents and objects,

*Conservation* means all the process of looking after a *place* so as to retain its *cultural significance*.

*Maintenance* means the continuous protective care of the *fabric* and *setting* of a *place*, and is to be distinguished from repair. Repair involves restoration or reconstruction.

*Preservation* means maintaining the *fabric* of a *place* in its existing state and retarding deterioration.

*Restoration* means returning the existing *fabric* of a *place* to a known earlier state by removing accretions or by reassembling existing components without the introduction of new material.

*Adaptation* means modifying a *place* to suit the existing use or a proposed use.

*Use* means the functions of a place, as well as the activities and practices that may occur at the place.

*Compatible use* means a use which respects the *cultural significance* of a *place*. Such as use involves no, or minimal, impact on cultural significance.

*Setting* means the area around a *place*, which may include the visual catchment.

*Related place* means a place that contributes to the *cultural significance* of another place.

## **8.5 Conservation procedures at the site**

### **8.2.1 BURRA CHARTER CONSERVATION METHODOLOGY**

Generally, treat the site as being of cultural heritage significance, and consequently guide works and activities at the site by the provisions of the Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter.

### **8.2.2 MANAGEMENT OF THE SITE**

Manage the site in a way which allows the maximum of this policy to be implemented and followed.

### **8.2.3 CONSERVATION TEAM**

Personnel skilled in disciplines of conservation practice, including professionals, skilled building and engineering trades, etc shall be engaged as appropriate to advise or implement conservation works at the site.

Personnel involved in the documentation and implementation of works at the site should be recorded for future reference.

### **8.2.4 SYSTEMATIC RECORD**

Carry out, catalogue and archive systematic surveys of the site, before, during and after any works in accordance with NSW Heritage Office and NSW Department of Urban Affairs and Planning Guidelines.

Any new information that comes to light during and after works at the site shall be recorded in a report, a copy of which shall be held at the archive of the site.

### **8.2.5 ARCHIVE OF THE SITE**

Assemble, catalogue and make readily available to the public for inspections, copies of all known historical drawings, pictorial documents and written records relating to the site in a permanent archive of the site.

### **8.2.6 REVIEW THIS CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN**

This report shall be consulted and specific proposals for the site assessed in the light of the recommendations of this report. Revise this Conservation Management Plan after major works have been carried out at the site and otherwise at regular intervals, firstly five (5) years from its adoption.

### **8.2.7 DOCUMENTATION OF CONSERVATION WORKS**

Any proposed works to heritage items shall be documented in a way that allows scrutiny by others before they are executed and can be retained for posterity. The documentary or physical evidence upon which conservation decisions are made for each part of the element should be cited. A copy of the documentation, including schedules and drawings, shall be held at the archive of the site.

### **8.2.8 ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS**

Assemble, catalogue and safely house all archaeological finds that have been or are in the future removed from the site.



#### 8.2.9 INTERPRETATION

The subject site and building should be easily interpreted as being a former school site. Any future uses should be related to educational and/or community activities to assist this interpretation.

Significant structures which were located on the subject site such as the boys, girls and teachers WCs, the weathershed, tennis courts and cricket pitch should be interpreted.

Any new landscaping features such as fencing should reflect past layouts and types.

#### 8.2.10 COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The local community should be given the opportunity to participate in and contribute to decisions which are made about the use and management of the site.

#### 8.2.11 FUNDING

Avenues to funding and sponsorship should be explored.

### **8.6 Subject site**

8.3.1 Any development in the vicinity of the subject site should be carefully considered to ensure that it does not negatively impact on the significance of the subject site.

8.3.2 The significant plantings located on the subject site should be conserved. These include the mature camphor laurel tree (*Cinnamomum camphora*) to the north of the subject building and the pine trees (*Pinus radiata*) located along the northern boundary of the subject site.

8.3.3 The pine trees (*Pinus radiata*) should be replanted between the existing trees as they become senescent.

8.3.4 All sub-surface areas below and adjacent to the subject site should be considered to have archaeological potential.

The area identified in Figure No.9 as having archaeological potential should be considered to have a high archaeological potential.

8.3.5 Any new development within the immediate curtilage for the former school building (refer to Figure No.9) should not detract from the significance of the subject building.

Any new development should not overwhelm the subject building and should only occur to the north of the building. Any other development should occur outside the curtilage for the subject building and should also be designed and situated to be sympathetic to the subject building.

8.3.6 Generally, any new interventions should be carefully designed to avoid any disturbance of archaeological items potentially located on the subject site and adjacent areas.

8.3.7 In the event of any disturbance having to take place, a suitable heritage consultant should be engaged to assess, record and monitor the works.

8.3.8 The subject site should continue to be used for educational and community purposes in keeping with the historical use of the site.

- 8.3.9 Fencing should be reinstated to the subject site to better define the boundaries of the former school and assist in the interpretation of the site.

Reinstated fencing should be of painted timber with two rails. The fencing to the southern part of the site should have wire to the lower section as previously existed at the site.

Please refer to Figure No.10

- 8.3.10 Vegetation in the form of a garden should be reinstated to the Birriley Street frontage of the subject building.

This may take the form of pine trees with low shrubby vegetation as previously existed at the site (refer to Figure No.10 of Appendix A of this report). Please refer to Figure No.10

- 8.3.11 The wire security fencing to the rear (northern) side of the subject building should be removed.

An increased use of the building should reduce the security and vandalism threat to the site. Should it be determined that some security fencing is still needed, a type and form more sympathetic to the subject site should replace the existing.

- 8.3.12 The foundations of the bubblers and basins located to the east of the subject building should be retained for interpretation purposes.

- 8.3.13 The foundations of the weathershed should be retained for interpretation purposes.

- 8.3.14 A formalised car parking area should be located so as to not interfere with views and vistas to and from the subject site and should not intrude on the significance of the site.

It is understood that the area to the west of the subject site has been allocated as car parking by Shoalhaven Council with access from both Birriley and Tanang Streets. This proposal should be gone ahead with as soon as possible to prevent inappropriate vehicular access to potentially archaeologically significant areas of the subject site (refer to Figure No.9).

- 8.3.15 Maintain the dish drain to the west of the subject building.

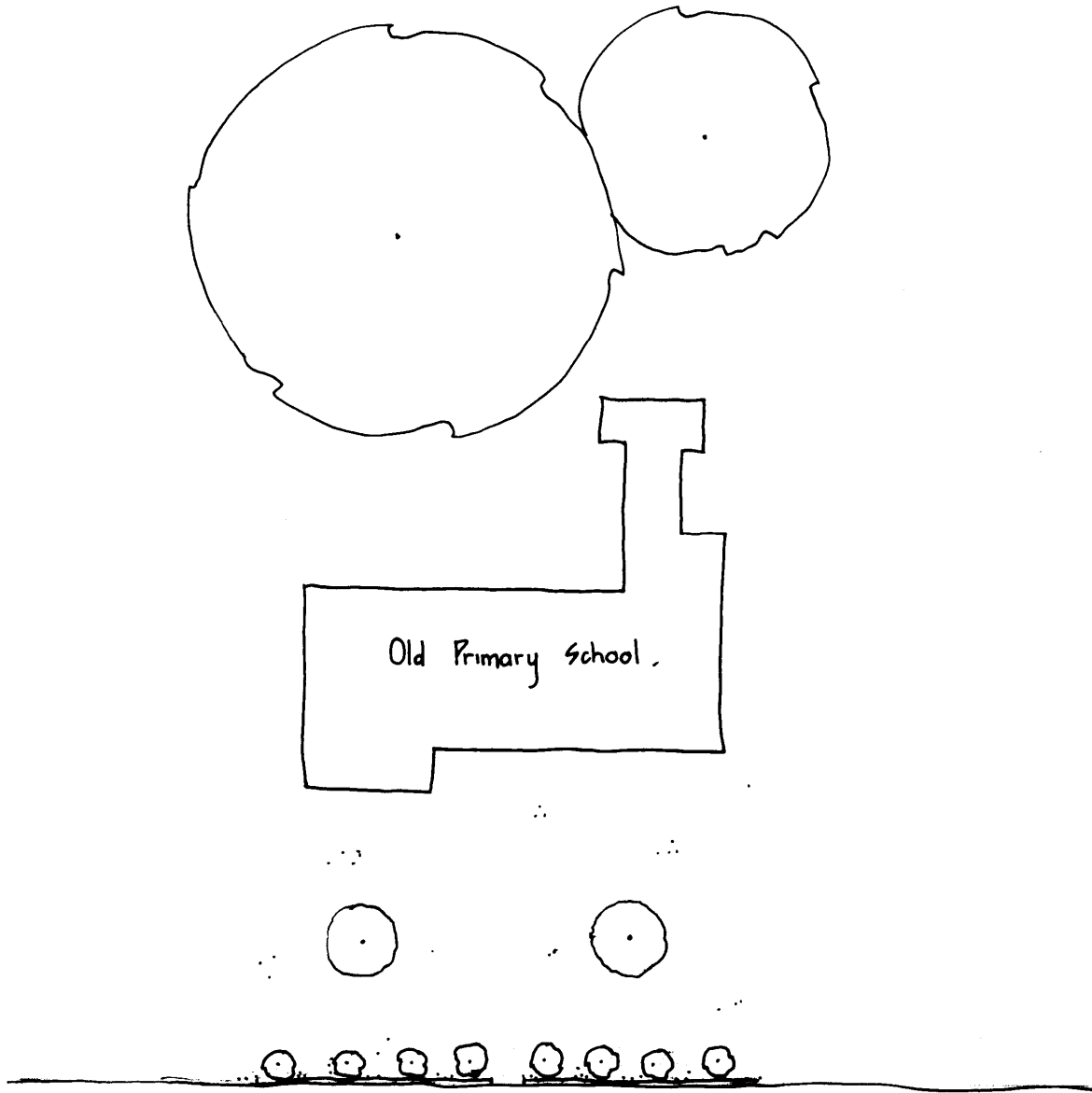


Figure No.10: Proposed fencing and reinstated garden

#### **8.4 Subject building**

- 8.4.1 The character of the subject building, which is that of an educational and community facility, should be conserved.
- 8.4.2 Any new use of the subject building should relate to the historical use of the building as an educational facility and later a community use building.
- 8.4.3 Any new works to the building should be carefully designed so as to not interfere with the significance of the building and should have limited impact on significant fabric.
- 8.4.4 Original and early significant fabric should be conserved. This includes but is not limited to the following:

##### External

- Brickwork
- Stonework
- Windows
- Eaves
- Chimneys

##### Internal

- Floors
- Walls
- Picture rails
- Windows
- Cornices
- Ceilings
- Chalk holders
- Joinery
- Fireplaces
- Heater

- 8.4.5 The verandah of the subject site may be enclosed with the condition that the area is still capable of being read as a verandah.

The verandah was enclosed for a significant portion of the history of the site. Therefore, enclosing the verandah space is an appropriate action if it will assist in the continued use and conservation of the subject building

- 8.4.6 The fireplaces should be uncovered and used where possible. Should current use prove to be incompatible with this objective, it should be regularly cleaned or capped to prevent deterioration.
- 8.4.7 The Juleffe Broadway heater should be retained in-situ and conserved for interpretation.
- 8.4.8 New interventions including repairs should be reversible, sympathetic and clearly interpreted by means of introduced interpretive devices or by method of style of construction, as new work.
- 8.4.9 If any significant fabric is removed to reveal fabric of a higher significance a sample of the fabric to be removed should be retained in-situ.

The different layers of fabric have the capacity to illustrate the evolution of the subject building over time.

## 9.0 Implementation Strategy

This implementation strategy is not prescriptive, rather it is intended as a set of recommendations for the implementation of the conservation policy. Any other proposals for the site should comply with the conservation policies contained in Section 8 of this report.

### 9.1 Immediate works

9.1.1 General conservation works should be undertaken immediately to prevent deterioration of the subject building.

The works should follow the recommendations of the Schedule of Maintenance Works contained in Appendix C of this report. All works should be done in accordance with the conservation policies contained in Section 8 of this report, especially policy 8.2.3.

9.1.2 General maintenance should be undertaken on a regular basis, beginning immediately, including cleaning gutters, mowing grass and ensuring branches from nearby trees do not overhang the subject building.

### 9.2 Future works

9.2.1 Re-render the interior walls of the S3 area. The render should be imprinted with the outline of the windows which existed in the western wall of S2 before the construction of S3. This outline is visible in the existing face-brick wall.

9.2.2 Adopt the proposed colour scheme for the site which is contained in Appendix D of this report.

9.2.3 Remove all intrusive elements.

### 9.3 Landscaping

9.3.1 Landscaping of the site should be undertaken in accordance with the conservation policies contained in Section 8 of this report as follows:

- Conserve significant plantings (8.3.2)
- Replant pine trees (*Pinus radiata*) along the northern boundary of the subject site as the existing become senescent (8.3.3)
- Reinststate timber fencing (8.3.8)
- Reinststate a garden to the Birriley Street frontage (8.3.9)
- Develop a formalised carparking area (8.3.13)

9.3.2 An arborist should be consulted regarding the ongoing management of the significant plantings at the site.

9.3.3 The pine trees along the northern boundary of the subject site should be either inter-planted or replacement-planted as the existing trees become senescent.

#### **9.4 Options for future use**

The feasibility of these options should be investigated with close reference to the constraints and requirements of this Conservation Plan and the conservation policies contained in Section 8 of this report.

The use of the subject site should relate to the original educational use of the site. This may include uses such as:

- Childcare
- Pre-school
- Primary school
- Adolescent / youth groups
- Adult education
- Senior citizen groups
- Other community educational uses

##### **9.4.1 SCHOOL**

Ideally, the subject site and building would be returned to its former use as a primary school. This is not a feasible option however, for a number of reasons. The site should nonetheless be used for an educational purpose.

##### **9.4.2 CONTINUE EXISTING USE**

The existing use of the subject site as a community educational facility (the Bomaderry Guides and Brownies, and the Bomaderry Playgroup) is appropriate and should continue. However, there is significant potential for the site to be more fully utilised, both during the day and at night.

##### **9.4.3 COMMUNITY EDUCATIONAL PRECINCT**

The preferred use of the site is as a community educational facility 'centre' or 'precinct'. This would achieve a number of objectives and would assist in the conservation of the site.

This use would be in keeping with the historically educational nature of the site. The use of the site as a community educational 'precinct' would fulfil the role of educating the local community and visitors in the area. The existing use of the site by the Bomaderry Guides and Brownies and the Bomaderry Playgroup, in conjunction with a community resource & educational facility that offers community and tourist information and various short courses (eg adult education) would form an appropriate basis of any such community educational 'precinct'. The existing use appears to work effectively and does not have a negative impact on the site.

A use such as this would encourage community interaction and education in the area and at the site. The subject site has the potential to not only become self-sufficient, but to make a profit from activities undertaken at the site and may even encourage this form of use at other similar sites in the region.

A focus may be placed on arts and crafts at the site, with the site becoming an arts and crafts 'precinct' displaying the products of the area. Classes in various forms of arts and crafts may be offered, thus continuing the educational use.

##### **9.4.4 SPORTING FACILITIES**

The use of the subject site as the location of sporting facilities is in keeping with the historical use of the site as a school where outdoor play and activities were an important component of the day. The site may include facilities for both organised and unstructured activities including tennis, volleyball, netball and basketball courts (full and half), cricket nets, skateboard ramps, play equipment etc.

#### 9.4.5 ARTS AND CRAFTS PRECINCT

This use would be in keeping with the historically educational nature of the site. The use of the site as an arts and crafts 'precinct' would fulfil the role of educating the local community and visitors about the works of the significant arts and crafts community in the area.

A need has been identified for a centre which not only displays the arts and crafts of the area but which has the facilities for teaching crafts such as pottery, drawing, painting etc. This may be achieved at the subject site with additional sympathetic development.

A use such as this would encourage tourism in the area and at the site. The subject site has the potential to not only become self-sufficient, but to make a profit from activities undertaken at the site and may even encourage this form of use at other similar sites in the region.

#### 9.4.5 FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

Future development on the subject site may occur within the areas indicated in Figure No.10. Any additions to the subject building should occur to the north of the existing subject building. Any such new additions should not overwhelm the subject building or detract from its significance. No new development should occur within the boundary planting area.

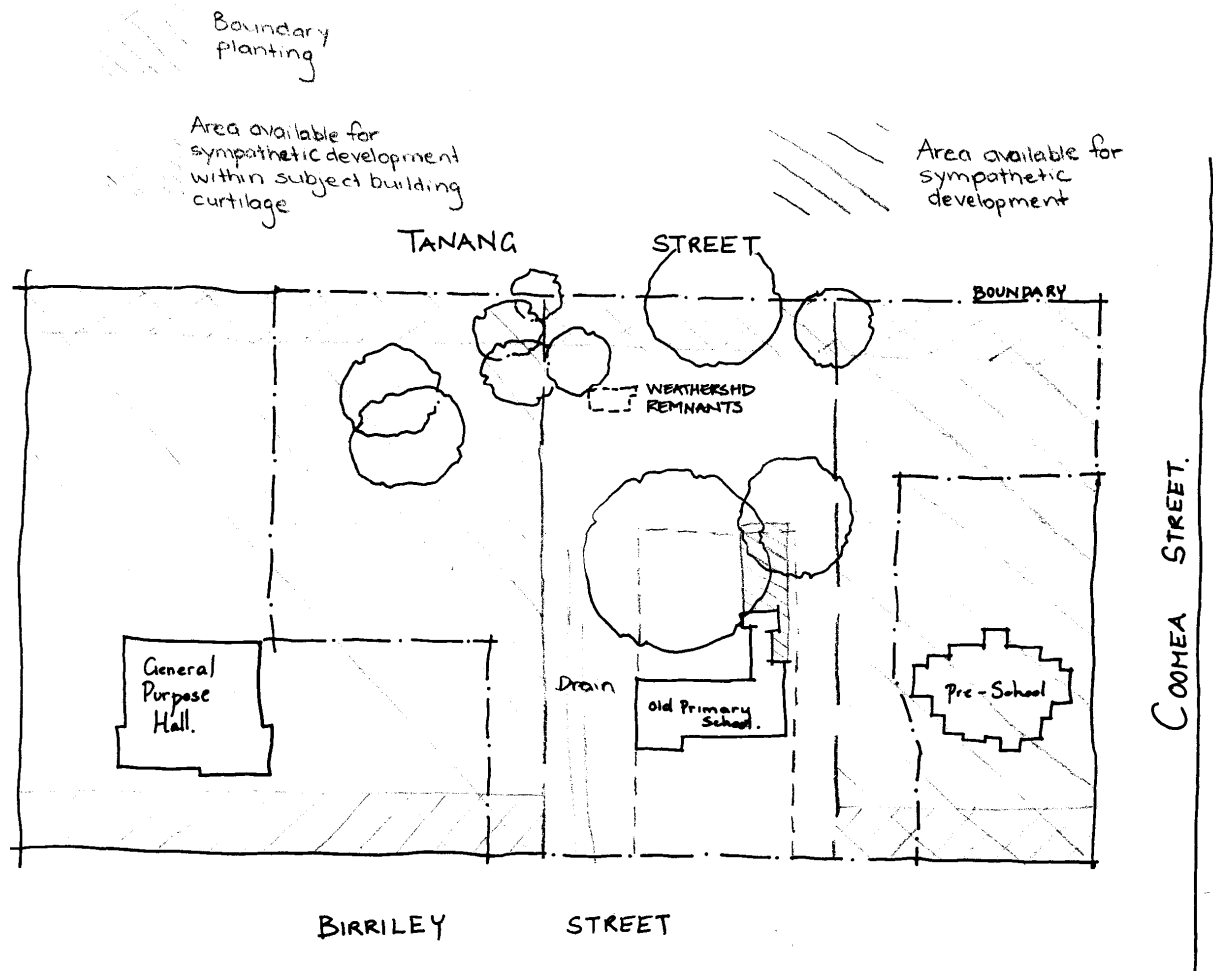


Figure No.11: Options for future use



### **9.5 Management**

Future day-to-day management of the site should be undertaken in close consultation with the local community. This will empower the community and enable Shoalhaven Shire Council to determine the best use of a site whose purpose is to serve a community function.

### **9.6 Funding Opportunities**

The Shoalhaven City Council may be eligible for grant funding to assist them to meet the costs of conservation at the site. Possible sources of funding include:

- NSW Heritage Office program – next running towards the end of 2001
- Local Council grants

It should be noted that competition for the Heritage Office funding is very strong and the NSW Heritage Office prefers that adaptive reuse occurs at a site such as the Former Bomaderry School to allow it to be run at a revenue neutral (or profit) for Council rather than relying on grants.

## **Appendix A**

### Historical Figures and Documentation

# CERTIFICATE OF TITLE.

(C) New South Wales.





[Reference to last Certificate.]  
 [Vol. 1078 Folio 190] REGISTER BOOK,  
Vol. 1086 Folio 50  
CANCER

*Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Victoria*

TRANSFEREE under Instrument of Transfer from *John Hay and James Norton*  
 numbered *207006* is now the proprietor of an Estate in Fee Simple,  
 for the purposes of the Public Instruction Act of 1850 subject nevertheless to the reservations and conditions, if any, contained in the Grants hereinafter referred to, and also subject to such encumbrances, liens, and interests as are notified herein in *That* piece of land situated in the Township of Bomaderry in the Parish of *Bunbenra*, and County of *Camden* containing *Two acres one rood twenty four perches*, or thereabouts, as shown on the Plan hereon, and therein edged red, being Lot *s 5 to 16 inclusive* of Section *8* on a Plan deposited in the Land Titles Office, Sydney, numbered *2886* and part of *One thousand and eighty two acres* originally granted to *John Berry* by Crown Grant dated the *thirtieth* day of *January* One thousand eight hundred and *thirty eight* and also part of *three hundred and twelve acres* originally granted as aforesaid by Crown Grant dated the *eighteenth* day of *January* One thousand eight hundred and *forty*. *Which said Grants are delineated in the Public Map of the said Parish deposited in the Office of the Surveyor General*

In witness whereof, I have herunto signed my name and affixed my Seal, this *Twenty eighth* day of *February* one thousand eight hundred and ninety *three*

Signed the *8<sup>th</sup>* day of *February* 189*3* in the presence of *J. H. G. G. G.*

  
*Deputy* Registrar General.
 

		<i>Tanang</i>										<i>5<sup>th</sup></i>	
		4	5	6	7	8	9	10				10	
<i>Sec. 8</i>		17	16	15	14	13	12	11				11	
												<i>Coomea</i>	<i>5<sup>th</sup></i>
		<i>Birriky</i>										<i>5<sup>th</sup></i>	

*See 2006/13 in plan*

NOTIFICATION REFERRED TO.

No. *L 396817* NOTICE OF RESUMPTION  
*The Council of the Shire of Murrumbidgee*  
 is the proprietor of *the whole of*  
 the land within described freed from all other interests  
 Entered *21st May* 19*69*

*J. H. G. G. G.*  
 REGISTRAR GENERAL

This Deed is cancelled and Certificate of Title issued.  
 Vol. *11053* Fol. *441* dated *23-5-1969*  
*L 396817* of  
*J. H. G. G. G.*  
 REGISTRAR GENERAL

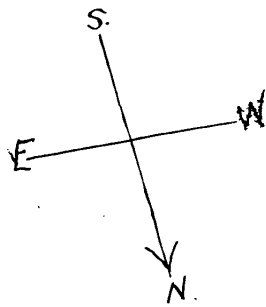
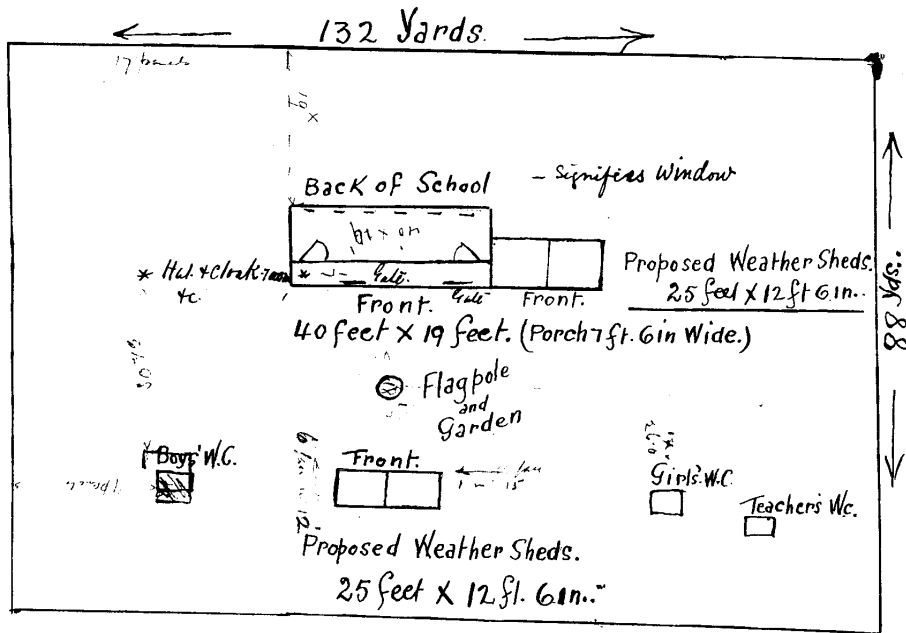
Figure 1 Original Land Title grant of Lots 5 to 16, DP 2886, for the "purposes of Public Instruction", on February 28, 1893.



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Figure 2 Celebrations for the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria, held in the grounds of Bomaderry School, 1897.

*Bomaderry Public.*



*Plan of School and School  
grounds. at Bomaderry.*

Figure 3 The plans for the proposed erection of a Weather Shed, 1906.

IN FUTURE CORRESPONDENCE  
No. 12/3216  
47  
PLEASE QUOTE THIS NUMBER.

The Department of Public Works,

Sydney, 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1912

SIR,

I have the honor to inform you that your Tender dated the 18<sup>th</sup> May 1912, is accepted for

£ 277 : 19 : 6  
the erection & completion of Additions and Alterations to Public School Premises, at Bomaderry, for the lump sum of Two hundred & Seventy Seven pounds, nineteen Shillings & Six pence

*Draft*

Any additions to or deductions from such works to be paid or allowed for, as the case may be, as set out in your said Tender.

The work is to be carried out in strict accordance with the several Exhibits relating to the Contract, and to be completed within ten weeks from this date.

The security required herein is the sum of Fifteen pounds, which should be forwarded to the Accountant at this Department within fourteen days from date.

I have to request that you will be good enough to communicate with the Officer-in-Charge of Bonds and Contracts at this Office, for the purpose of executing the necessary documents for the due observance of your Contract.

I am, Sir,  
Your obedient Servant,

Under Secretary for Public Works.

M. George Miller  
Contractor  
Meroo Meadow  
via Nowra

Figure 4 Tender for Alterations and Additions to Bomaderry School, 1912.



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION.

Wollongong DISTRICT. Wollongong SECTION.

N<sup>o</sup> 132788

DEPT. OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION  
20 JUL 1913  
ARCHITECTS' DRAWING

DEPT. OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION  
20 JUL 1913

Memorandum from Senior Inspector to Chief Inspector.

Bomaderry Pub. : As to drainage and repairs to foot-path.

Please see papers herewith. The works referred to are urgently necessary.

I recommend that Mr. Read be authorised to have the works specified effected at a cost of £29-10-0.

*W. R. Read*  
Senior Inspector.  
Wollongong.

8. 7. 13.

*Mr. Read  
Is this a fair price?  
18.7.13 L.H.*

*The tender £29.10.0 is reasonable*

*R.H.W.*

THE UNDER SECRETARY.

Department of Public Instruction  
20 JUL 1913

RETURNED  
2 JUL 13

Submitted. I concur  
23.7.13 L.H.

Approved  
31.7.13  
I have accepted  
I am authorised R.H.W.

Place \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_ 19  
By 5280

PASSED  
5 DEC 1913

Figure 6 Approved quote for the urgent works to complete Concrete Drain, 1913.



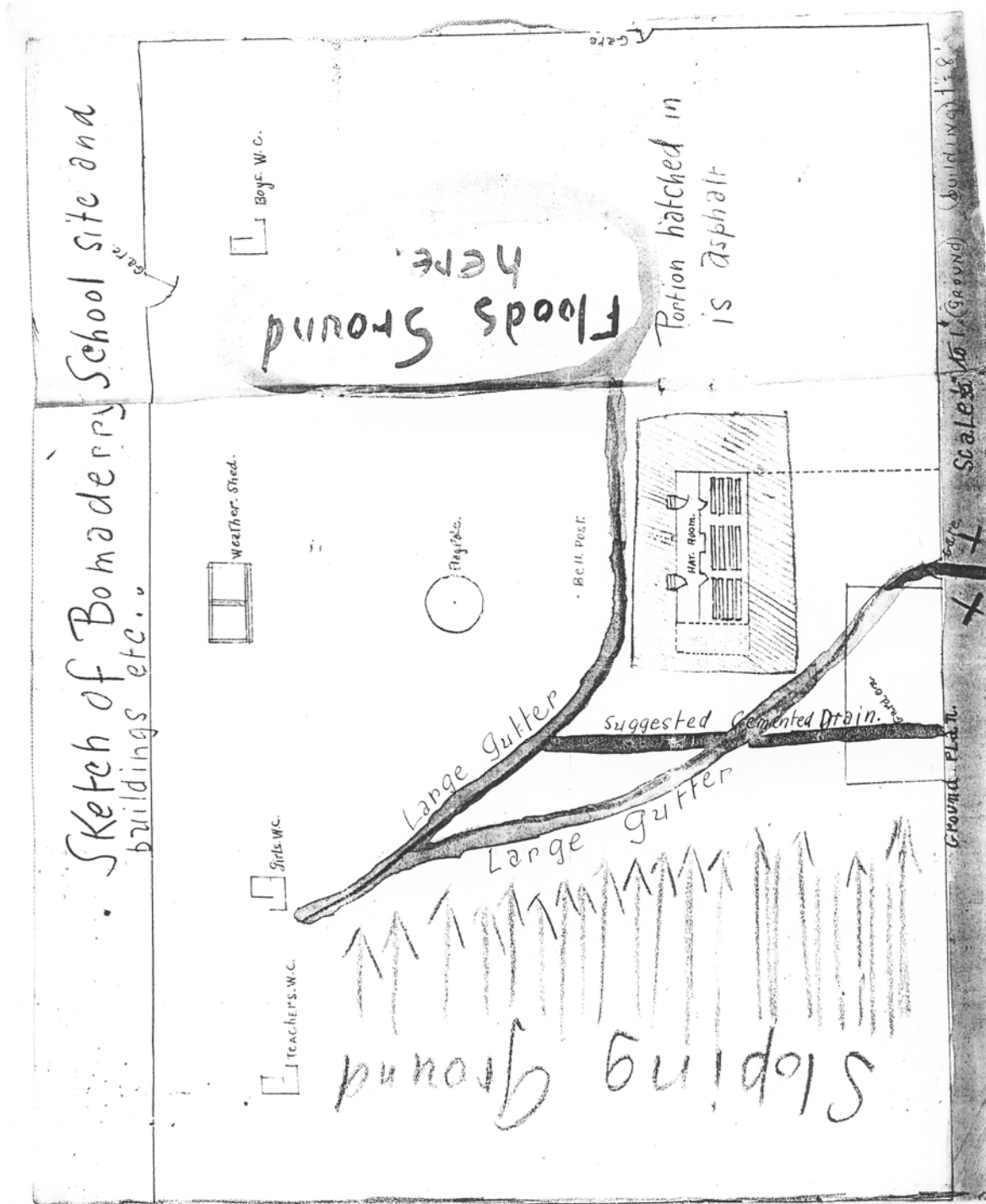
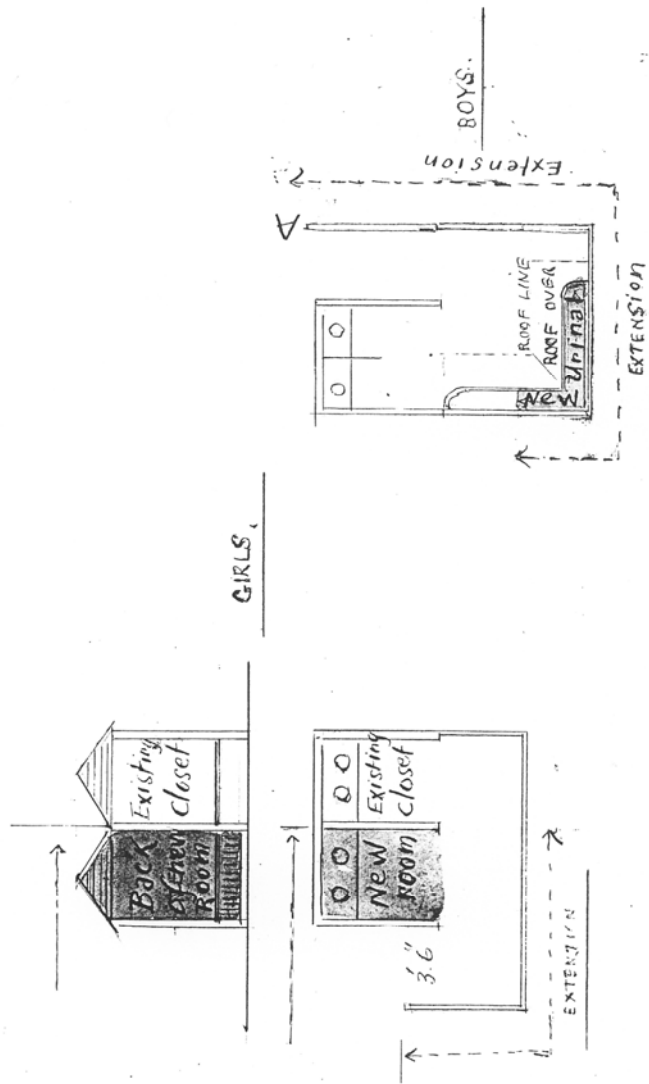


Figure 7 Sketch plans of proposed Concrete Drain, 1913.

*Plan of Suggested Work  
at Bomaderry School.*



*Extension to be carried to  
points shown above.*

Figure 8 Proposed extensions to Sanitary Facilities, 1917



2

be to cut the trees down and re-  
mould stone. Lopping would not  
remove the weight & some of the  
trees are kept in circumference and  
up, it is in height.

It is would involve an outlay  
of from £15 to £20, and under the  
circumstances I could not make  
any recommendation. I would  
say however, that an opinion from  
the architect's department be  
obtained as to the Sept's liability  
in the case, and the advice they  
give could be acted on.

*D. Read.*

East

McCalland's Shepherd's MC Donald's  
Coomea Street - 1 chain west -  
lit pine trees growing where fence  
North School Ground. South

West

(Type of Report) Letter

(Name of School) Bomaderry

(Post Office) Bomaderry

(Class of School) 5th

(Date) 27th. May, 1935.

From T. Read. Inspector of Schools

To Mr Campbell Inspector of Schools

SUBJECT Removal of Pine Trees at Bomaderry School.

REFERENCE 10th. May, 1935.

Note - Communications respecting different subjects must be made in separate letters. Sign your name at end of your letter.

With reference to the letter from Mr. J. White - President Bomaderry "Mullengers" School - complaining that the trees in the school grounds along the eastern fence extend their roots into the neighbouring gardens and also that the trees are causing trouble to the planting and gutting. I made it my business to interview the residents in question and find that the statements are correct.

The nearby woods which have been very strongly are the cause of leaves being deposited in the garden etc.

I enclose a sketch showing the position of trees and propose of removal of trees and propose of neighbours. The only remedy would be

Chief Inspector: Do not write below this line

This is a request for the destruction of 14 well-grown shade trees, probably 20 to 30 years old, along the eastern side of the school grounds, and separated by the width of the street, i.e. one chain, from the gardens of the complainants. The trees appear unreasonable, and I would like to look into the matter when I visit the school later in the year for inspection.

I recommend that complainant be informed to that effect.

Inspector of Schools

27 JUN 1935  
L 576

*Letter to Mr Campbell*

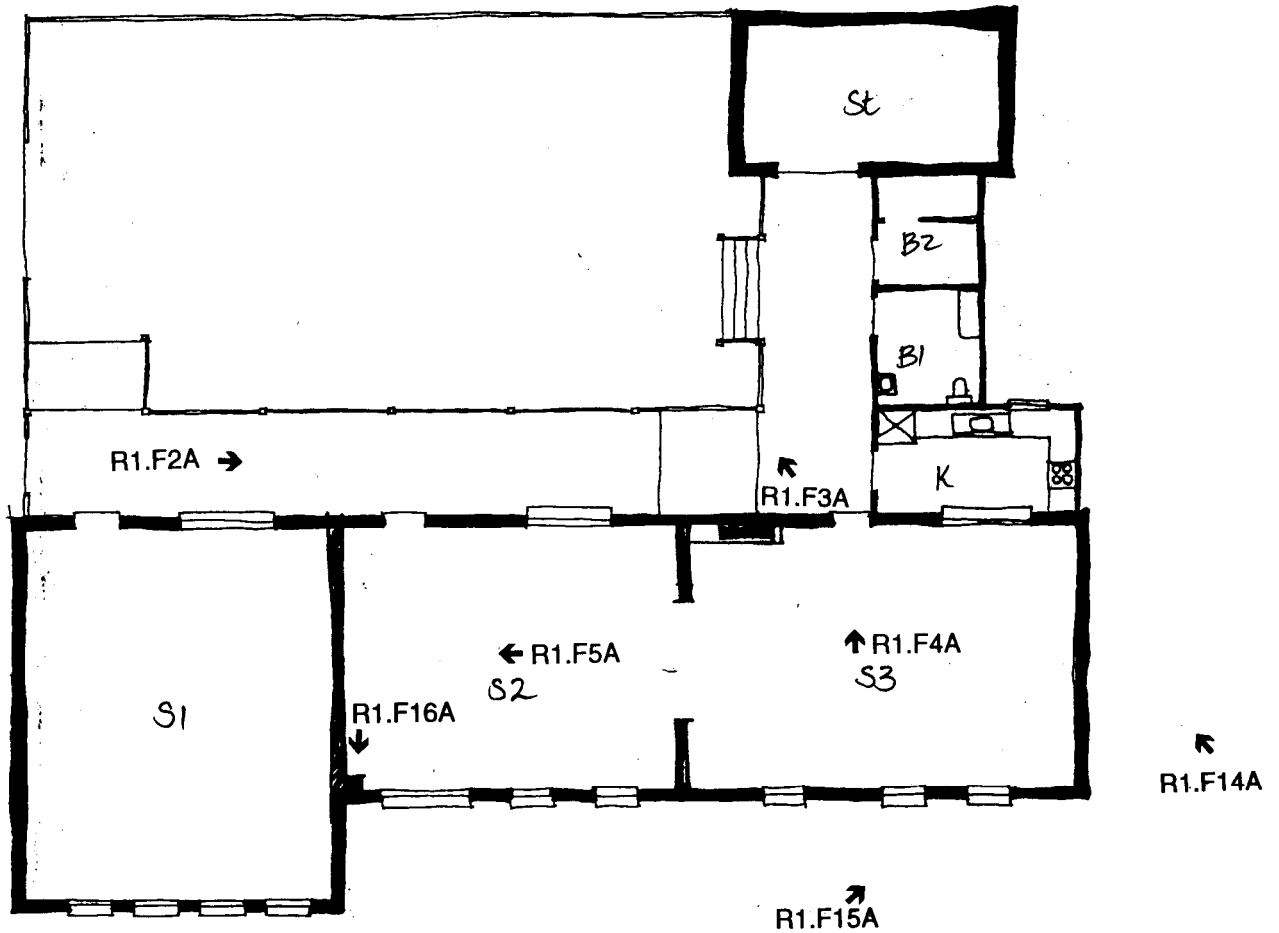
1740

Figure 11 Report by Mr Read regarding complaints by neighbours about trees on the east of the school site, 1935.

## **Appendix B**

### Photographic Survey

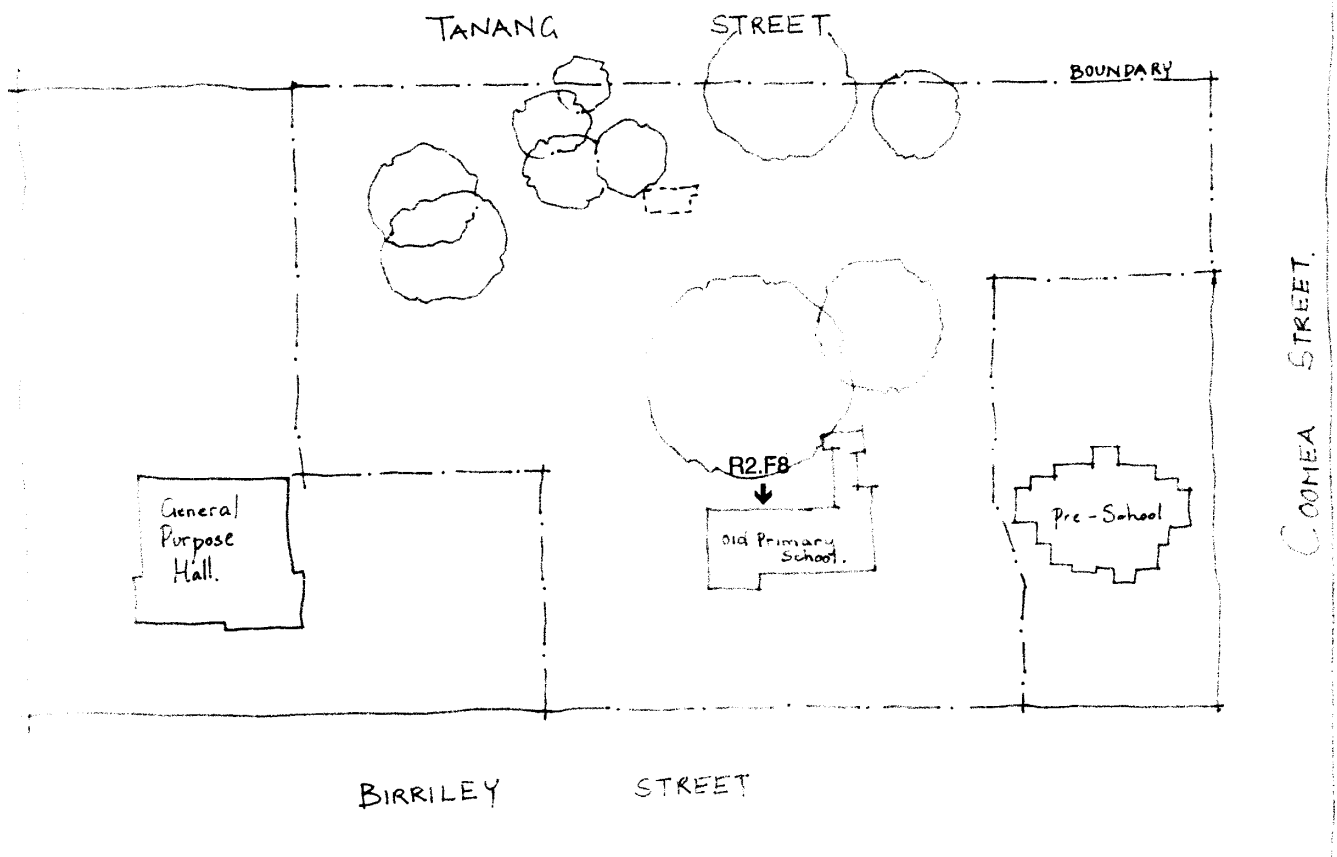
## **Insert Photographic Catalogue**



R = Role  
 F = Frame



<b>TROPMAN &amp; TROPMAN ARCHITECTS</b> Architectural, Heritage Conservation, Landscape, Interiors, Urban Design, Interpretation WYONG HOUSE 55 LOWER FORT STREET SYDNEY NSW 2000 FAX:9251 6109 PHONE:9251 3250	<b>FORMER BOMADERRY SCHOOL, BOMADERRY SCHOOL BUILDING NTS</b>	
	<b>PHOTOGRAPHER: JT</b> <b>CAMERA: NIKON</b> <b>FILM TYPE: FUJICHROME</b> FILM NUMBER/ REFERENCE: rOLL 1 DRAWING SOURCE: TROPMAN & TROPMAN ARCHITECTS	<b>DATE: 01-5-01</b> <b>LENS: 52MM</b> PAGE 2 OF 4 july 0102

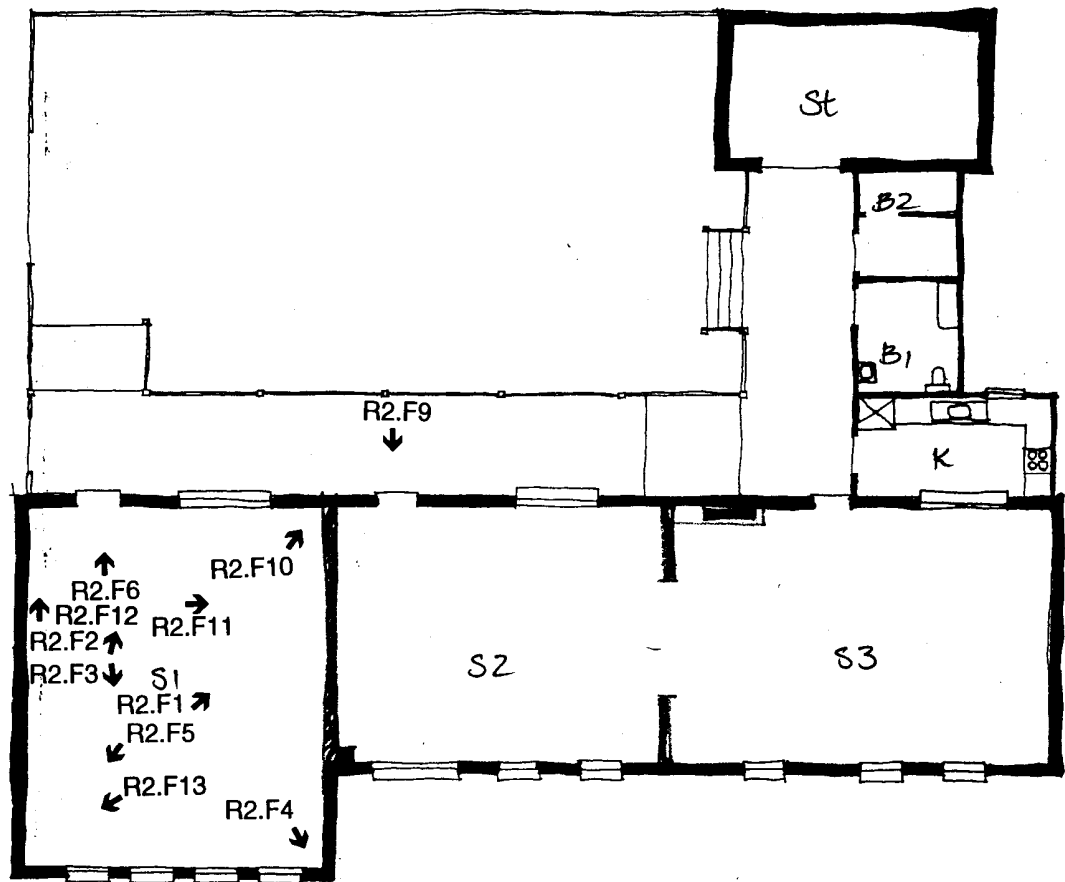


R = Role  
 F = Frame



<b>TROPMAN &amp; TROPMAN ARCHITECTS</b> Architectural, Heritage Conservation, Landscape, Interiors, Urban Design, Interpretation WYONG HOUSE 55 LOWER FORT STREET SYDNEY NSW 2000 FAX:9251 6109 PHONE:9251 3250	<b>FORMER BOMADERRY SCHOOL, BOMADERRY          SITE PLAN....NTS</b>	
	<b>PHOTOGRAPHER: JT</b> <b>CAMERA: NIKON</b> <b>FILM TYPE: FUJICHROME</b> <b>FILM NUMBER/ REFERENCE: rOLL 2</b> <b>DRAWING SOURCE: TROPMAN &amp; TROPMAN ARCHITECTS</b>	<b>DATE: 01-5-01</b> <b>LENS: 52MM</b>  <b>PAGE 3 OF 4</b> july 0102





**TROP  
 ARCH**

Architectural,  
 Interiors, Urban Design, Interpretation  
 WYONG HOUSE 55 LOWER FORT STREET  
 SYDNEY NSW 2000  
 FAX:9251 6109 PHONE:9251 3250

R = Role  
 F = Frame



CAMERA: NIKON  
 FILM TYPE: FUJICHROME  
 FILM NUMBER/ REFERENCE: rOLL 2  
 DRAWING SOURCE: TROPMAN & TROPMAN ARCHITECTS

LENS: 52MM

PAGE 3 OF 4  
 july 0102

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Figure No 32: Possible location of cricket pitch.  
Figure No 33: Detail of disintegrating bitumen to the south of the school building, with landscaping features.  
Figure No 34: View from school grounds to Birriley street.  
Figure No 35: Neighbouring houses along Tanang street.  
Figure No 36: Post and beam fence along Tanang street.  
Figure No 37: Community centre, west of the school building.



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Figure 1 Bomaderry Pre-School. Corner of Birriley and Coomea streets.  
Figure 2 Former Bomaderry School seen from the corner of Birriley and Coomea streets.



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Figure 3  
Figure 4

View along Birriley street.  
Former Bomaderry School seen from Birriley street.



Figure 5 Former Bomaderry School, as seen from Birriley Street.  
Figure 6 Southern elevation of building.



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Figure 7 Southern elevation of building, with deteriorated bitumen in front.  
Figure 8 South/ East corner of School building.



Figure 9 South/east corner of School building.  
Figure 10 North/west corner of School building.



Figure 11 Looking east along recent verandah to rear of building.  
Figure 12 North wall above recent verandah.





Figure 13 Detail of door into school building (room S2) from verandah.  
Figure 14 S1. Playgroup Room, view of southern wall.



Figure 15 North view to verandah and yard.  
Figure 16 Window and picture rail detail.



Figure 17: Timber panelled ceiling with vents.

Figure 18: Picture rail, dado rail and panelled door.



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Figure 19 Brick window head of original window opening.



Figure 20 East wall of classroom showing previous window openings of original building.  
Figure 21 North/west wall junction.



Figure 22 Chimney breast of early chimney.  
Figure 23 S1 – East wall.



Figure 24 S3 – North wall.  
Figure 25 West wall of S2.



Figure 26  
Figure 27

Heater in the corner of S2.  
View north from verandah at rear of building to Camphor Laurel.





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Figure 28 Foundations of former bubbles, attached to east elevation of school building.



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Figure 29 Remaining slab of weather shed north of school building.



Figure 30 Remaining slab of former weather shed  
Figure 31 Remaining slab of former weather shed.



Figure 32  
Figure 33

Possible location of cricket pitch.  
Detail of disintegrating bitumen to the south of the school building, with landscaping features.



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Figure 34 View from school grounds to Birriley street.  
Figure 35 Neighbouring houses along Tanang street.



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Figure 36 Post and beam fence along Tanang street.



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Figure 37 Community centre, west of the school building.

## **Appendix C**

### Schedule of Maintenance Works



## Schedule of Conservation Maintenance Works

### Preamble

The following schedule of essential maintenance works is proposed for Bomaderry School building and site.

The specific requirement of the brief was to document the external and internal conservation maintenance works.

The works have been categorised by the building's main elements with preliminary budget cost estimates provided.

### Methodology

**Since the site is of heritage significance, any works at the site should be carried out in accordance with the principles of the Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter and the recommendations of the Conservation Management Plan, 2001 prepared by Tropman & Tropman Architects.**

*Generally, any works are to be carried out to the satisfaction and with approval and/or as instructed by a Heritage Conservation Architect approved by Shoalhaven City Council*

**Generally, take care not to damage any early fabric or associated items.**

### Terminology

The following terms are used in this document.

TME ~ to match existing

SCS ~ Selected colour scheme

HCA ~ Heritage Conservation Architect

SCC ~ Shoalhaven City Council

CONSERVATION ~ Means all the processes of looking after a place so as to retain its cultural significance. It includes maintenance and may according to circumstance include *preservation, restoration, reconstruction* and *adaptation* and will be commonly a combination of more than one of these.

## 1.0 INTERNAL WORKS BOMADERRY SCHOOL

NO.	ITEM
1.1	<b>GENERALLY</b>
1.1.1	<b>Ensure all work is carried out with the consideration of patrons safety at all times</b>
1.1.2	<b>Clean carefully all surfaces including but not limited to floors, walls, ceilings, joinery windows and doors</b>
1.1.3	Check over internal masonry walls and repoint where needed with mortar TME
1.1.4	Check over timber joinery including but not limited to skirtings, picture rails and door architraves
1.1.5	Check for any deterioration of plaster and repair where necessary
1.1.6	Check all existing hooks and fixtures and secure
1.1.7	Prepare and paint all prepainted surfaces to SCS unless otherwise directed by the HCA
1.1.8	Check all existing electrical outlets and repair if necessary
1.1.9	Ensure samples are provided as requested by HCA at no extra cost
1.1.10	<b>SUBTOTAL GENERALLY \$20,000</b>

NO.	ITEM
1.2	ROOMS
	ROOM 1
1.2.1	Relay bricks to hole in chimney breast with bricks from site or new TME
1.2.2	Maintain fireplace and keep in working order
1.2.3	Replaster walls above dado line
1.2.4	Refix any timber ceiling lining boards TME
	ROOM 2
1.2.5	Refix wall lining panels with fixings TME
	ROOM 3
1.2.6	Maintain fireplace and keep in working order
1.2.7	<b>SUBTOTAL ROOMS \$10,000</b>
1.2.8	<b>TOTAL INTERNAL WORKS \$30,000</b>

## 2.0 EXTERNAL WORKS BOMADERRY SCHOOL

NO.	ITEM
2.1	<b>GENERALLY</b>
2.1.1	<b>Ensure all work is carried out by experienced tradespeople</b>
2.1.2	Prepare and repaint any prepainted surfaces to SCS unless directed otherwise by the HCA
2.1.3	Clean carefully all external surfaces including but not limited to walls, windows and verandah
2.1.4	Check over brickwork and sandstone block joints and repoint where necessary with a mortar mix TME
2.1.5	Check joints around door and window openings and clean and fill with mortar TME where needed
2.1.6	Ensure any new fixings in the brickwork are non corrosive and non ferrous
2.1.7	Check masonry air- vents and ensure that they are open and repair with vermin proof mesh if necessary
2.1.8	Check over all door hardware and repair if necessary
2.1.9	Check over all window components including but not limited to metal hardware, timber frame, sill and sashes, and glazing and put into working order.
2.1.10	Check over asbestos sheet soffits of eaves and refix and replace sheets where necessary
2.1.11	<b>Dispose of carefully and safely any asbestos fabric designated for removal</b>
2.1.12	Check over timber fascia and repair where necessary
2.1.13	Rationalise all exposed services including gas, water and electricity
2.1.14	Ensure samples are provided of removed fabric
2.1.15	<b>SUBTOTAL GENERALLY</b>
	<b>\$60,000</b>

## 2.0 EXTERNAL WORKS BOMADERRY SCHOOL

NO.	ITEM
<b>2.2</b>	<b>ELEVATIONS</b>
	NORTH ELEVATION
2.2.1	Reglaze windows where necessary with toughened glass and put into working order
2.2.2	Remove plastic screens
2.2.3	Replace widow putty around glazing panes where needed
2.2.4	Repair brick arches to windows by tuck pointing
2.2.5	Check flashing along verandah roof and main wall junction
	EAST ELEVATION
2.2.6	Maintain foundations of bubblers beside wall for future interpretation
	SOUTH ELEVATION
2.2.7	Remove paint from top pane of glass on all windows
	WEST ELEVATION
2.2.8	Remove weeds from between building wall and concrete footpath
	VERANDAH
2.2.9	Replace rotten floor boards of deck TME
2.2.10	Remove earth from around entry deck of verandah and build timber ramp up to deck for access
2.2.11	<b>SUBTOTAL ELEVATIONS \$20,000</b>

## 2.0 EXTERNAL WORKS BOMADERRY SCHOOL

NO.	ITEM
2.3	ROOF
2.3.1	Check over all metal gutters and downpipes and ensure that there are no blockages
2.3.2	Ensure gutters and downpipes are checked on a regular 3 month basis
2.3.3	Repair or replace gutters if necessary TME
2.3.4	Check over corrugated iron roof and refix sheets where necessary
2.3.5	Prepare and repaint roof, gutters and downpipes to SCS
2.3.6	SUBTOTAL ROOF \$20,000

NO.	ITEM
<b>2.4</b>	SITE
2.4.1	Remove fence of yard and replace with sympathetic fence
2.4.2	Reestablish formal garden to front school yard
2.4.3	Interpret early structures to yard including bell
2.4.4	Maintain dish drain to the west of the building to the road
2.4.5	Replant tree near existing stump
2.4.6	Retain circular bitumen arc in yard for future research
2.4.7	Repair and conserve existing timber post and beam fence aswell as constructing new boundary fence to match early fence
2.4.8	<b>SUBTOTAL SITE \$35,000</b>
2.4.9	<b>TOTAL EXTERNAL WORKS \$135,000</b>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>TOTAL WORKS \$165,000 BOMADERRY SCHOOL</b>

## **Appendix D**

### Proposed Colour Scheme



## SELECTED COLOUR SCHEMES

The colour choices of the proposed scheme for Bomaderry School Building is listed below with the colour scheme illustrated in Figure CS1.

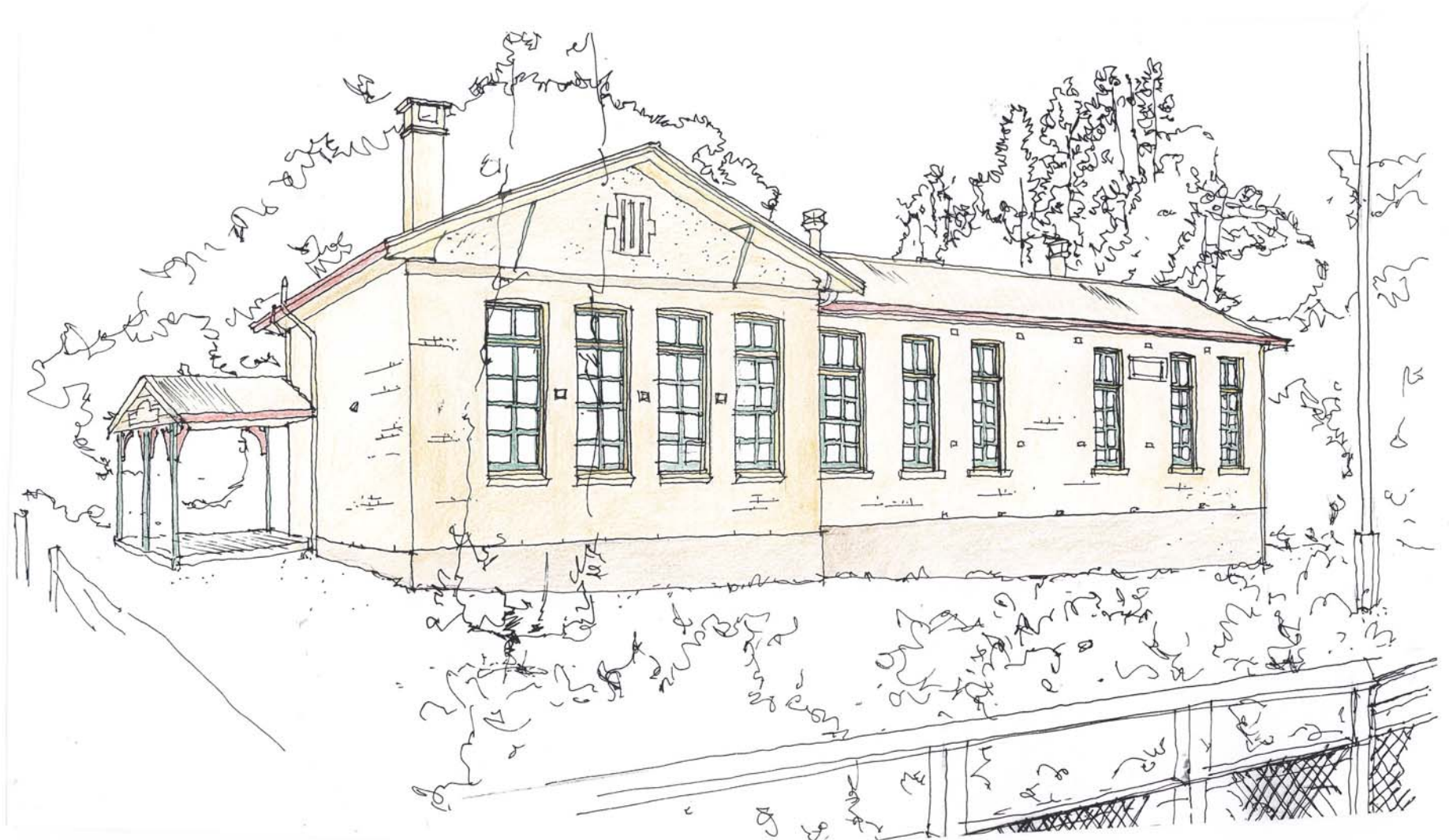
**Note:** These colours have been expressed in Australian Standard Colours K185-1968, 2700S-1996

## PROPOSED BOMADERRY SCHOOL EXTERNAL COLOUR SCHEME

No on Figure	Element	Australian Standard Colour	No.
	Walls		
1.	Rendered Plinth	Tan	X51 (2700)
2.	Masonry Walls	Buff	X41 (2700)
3.	Timber weatherboard walls	Buff	X41 (2700)
4.	Masonry sills	Do not paint stone	
5.	Masonry trim	Tan	X51 (2700)
6.	Masonry textured Gable	Buff	X41 (2700)
7.	Timber Barge Boards	Rafia	X31 (2700)
8.	Timber gable screen	Red Oxide	X63 (2700)
9.	FC Gable linings	Buff	X41 (2700)
10.	Soffit linings	Rafia	X31 (2700)
	Doors		
11.	Timber Door Architrave	Rafia	X31 (2700)
12.	Timber Door leaf	Mid. Brunswick Green	226 (K185)
	Windows		
13.	Sandstone window sill	Do not paint	
14.	Timber Window body	Mid. Brunswick Green	226 (K185)
15.	Timber Window Sash	Mid. Brunswick Green	226 (K185)
16.	Timber Window sill and frames	Rafia	X31 (2700)
	Verandah		
17.	Timber posts	Mid. Brunswick Green	226 (K185)
18.	Timber post brackets	Red Oxide	X63 (2700)
19.	Timber Balustrade top and bottom rail	Mid. Brunswick Green	226 (K185)
20.	Timber balusters	Rafia	X31 (2700)
21.	Timber soffit	Rafia	X31 (2700)
	Roof		
22.	Corrugated iron Roof Sheeting	Unpainted	
23.	Metal Guttering	Red Oxide	X63 (2700)
24.	Metal Downpipes	In with surrounds	
25.	Masonry Chimney	Buff	X41 (2700)

## PROPOSED BOMADERRY SCHOOL INTERNAL COLOUR SCHEME

<b>No in Figure</b>	<b>Element</b>	<b>Australian Standard Colour</b>	<b>No.</b>
1.	Masonry main Wall	Magnolia	X32
2.	Rendered wall between	Warm White	X33
3.	Rendered wall frieze	Off White	Y35
4.	Plastered Ceiling	Off White	Y35
5.	Timber Picture Rail (Top)	Cinnamon	X45
6.	Timber Picture Rail (Bottom)	Cinnamon	X45
7.	Timber Doors	Driftwood	X34
8.	Timber Architraves	Cinnamon	X45
9.	Timber Windows sashes	Driftwood	X34
10.	Timber Window Architraves	Cinnamon	X45
11.	Glass top window pane	Off White	Y35
12.	Daddo Rail	Cinnamon	X45



## **Appendix E**

Copy of the Burra Charter

## **Appendix F**

Consultant Brief