

# Berry Showground

Albany Street, Berry NSW

## Conservation Management Plan



prepared for  
Shoalhaven City Council  
Bridge Road, Nowra NSW

June 2003  
REF: 0306: CMP  
Revision A November 2003

### Tropman & Tropman Architects

Architecture Conservation Landscape Interiors Urban Design Interpretation  
55 Lower Fort Street Sydney NSW 2000 Phone: (02) 9251 3250 Fax: (02) 9251 6109  
Email: tropman@bigpond.net.au  
Tropman Australia Pty Ltd ABN 71 088 542 885 ACN 088 542 885 Incorporated in New South Wales





## **ADDENDUM NOVEMBER 2003**

Since the completion of our site visit survey and the completion of our draft report in June 2003, we have been informed by Shoalhaven City Council and the Hazel Berry and David Berry Parks Management Committee that the following has occurred. It should be noted that we have not had the opportunity to investigate or recommend any particular course of action.

Severe windstorms on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2003 caused some major damage to some structures and landscape elements on the showground, particularly to the poultry pavilion and coral trees at the cattle stand.

The poultry pavilion was damaged in the storm, however it is repairable. A proposal has been put forward to Council to construct a new building in its place, salvaging as much material from the damaged poultry pavilion as possible for use in the new structure.

The stand of coral trees at the cattle stand was also severely damaged in the storm. Several trees were blown over in the storm and a number of trees have since been removed because Council and the Management Committee were concerned about the state of the trees and the risk they posed to the safety of those who work at and use the showgrounds. The Hazel Berry & David Berry Parks Management Committee have recommended to Council that the remainder of the trees be progressively removed and replaced with a different tree species.

This page is intentionally blank.

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### **Conservation Management Plan for the Berry Showground, Berry**

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 Berry Showground, Berry for Shoalhaven City Council.

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

- **Analysis of Documentary and Physical Evidence (Section 4.0)**

This study in brief concludes that the Berry Showground is in good condition. The site's original form and 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 5.0)**

The Berry Showground has historic and social significance to the State of New South Wales and aesthetic and technical research significance to the Shoalhaven City Council area at a local level.

- **Constraints and Opportunities (Section 6.0)**

Generally, Berry Showground should be retained and conserved as an intact example of an early Agricultural Showground.

- **Conservation Policy (Section 7.0)**

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 are easily interpreted by the community.

In summary, we believe that if the site and structures are carefully developed and regular maintenance is undertaken, the Berry Showground site can retain its heritage and social significance to the State of New South Wales, be able to be interpreted as a Showground with other community uses and continue to play an important function in the local area.



## Contents

<b>ADDENDUM NOVEMBER 2003 .....</b>	<b>i</b>
<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY .....</b>	<b>iii</b>
<b>1.0 INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>1</b>
1.1 Brief .....	1
1.2 Study Area .....	2
1.3 Methodology .....	5
1.4 Limitations.....	5
1.5 Author Identification .....	5
1.6 Acknowledgements .....	6
1.7 References .....	6
<b>2.0 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE .....</b>	<b>7</b>
2.1 Brief Historical Background .....	7
2.2 The Formation of Agricultural Societies in New South Wales .....	8
2.3 The Shoalhaven Estate Agricultural Association.....	9
2.4 The Shoalhaven Pastoral, Agricultural & Horticultural Association.....	10
2.5 The Shoalhaven Agricultural & Horticultural Association .....	10
2.6 The Broughton Creek Horticultural Society .....	11
2.7 The Berry Showground.....	13
2.8 Hazelberry Park – Berry Showground Improvements .....	16
2.9 Brief History of Individual Showground Buildings & Other Elements .....	18
2.10 Historical Mention .....	21
<b>3.0 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE .....</b>	<b>25</b>
3.1 Streetscape.....	25
3.2 Subject Site.....	25
3.3 Subject Buildings and Elements .....	27
3.4 Landscape Areas .....	56
3.5 Archaeological Potential .....	59
<b>4.0 ANALYSIS OF DOCUMENTARY AND PHYSICAL EVIDENCE .....</b>	<b>61</b>
4.1 Analysis of Documentary Evidence .....	61
4.2 Analysis of Physical Evidence .....	63
<b>5.0 ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE .....</b>	<b>65</b>
5.1 NSW Heritage Assessment Criteria .....	65
5.2 Statement of heritage significance .....	66
5.3 Nature of significance .....	68
5.4 Items of significance .....	69
5.5 Heritage Assessment Matrix.....	70
5.6 Grading of Significance .....	70
5.7 Definition of curtilage .....	73
<b>6.0 CONSTRAINTS AND OPPORTUNITIES.....</b>	<b>77</b>
6.1 Physical constraints and requirements arising from the statement of significance.....	77
6.2 Procedural requirements (conservation methodology) .....	78
6.3 Constraints and Requirements Arising from the Physical and Documentary Evidence.....	78
6.4 Constraints and Requirements Arising from the Physical Condition.....	79
6.5 External Constraints .....	80
6.6 Opportunities and Constraints Arising out of Ownership and Use .....	80
6.7 Opportunities .....	83
<b>7.0 CONSERVATION POLICY .....</b>	<b>85</b>
7.1 Definitions .....	85
7.2 Conservation procedures at the site.....	86
7.3 Subject site .....	89
7.4 Subject Buildings and Elements .....	91
7.5 Subject Landscape .....	97

## Appendices

Appendix A	Historical Figures and Documentation
Appendix B	Photographic Survey
Appendix C	Statement of Heritage Impact and Landscape Plan by W. H. & G. Smit
Appendix D	Copy of the Burra Charter
Appendix E	Consultant Brief
Appendix F	Inventory Sheets

## List of Figures

Figure No.1:	Location Plan
Figure No.2:	Subject Site.
Figure No.3:	Subject buildings and elements.
Figure No.4:	Landscape Areas.
Figure No.5:	Shaded areas indicate location of former structures at the Showground. It is unlikely that any significant fabric remains as archaeological potential in these areas.
Figure No.6:	Horse riding at the Berry Show in 1935 (before the Grandstand was moved) with Agricultural Pavilion and Showground Grandstand in the background.
Figure No.7:	The Wood Chop event at the Berry Show in 1935. This was the first year the event was held at the show.
Figure No.8:	Berry Show, 1907. Note the Rotunda in the centre of the showground ring. (Source: <i>Berry A. &amp; H. Association Centenary 1888-1988</i> , pg.8)
Figure No.9:	Berry Show, 1908. Note the picket fence around the perimeter of the showground ring. (Source: <i>Click go the Years!</i> , pg.50)
Figure No.10:	Berry Show during World War I. (Source: <i>Berry A. &amp; H. Association Centenary 1888-1988</i> , pg.18)
Figure No.11:	Levels of Significance – Subject Site.
Figure No.12:	Immediate curtilage of the Berry Showground.
Figure No.13:	Extended curtilage of the subject site.
Figure No.14:	Possible areas for sympathetic redevelopment.



## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Brief**

The aim of this Conservation Management Plan is to assess the heritage significance of the Berry Showground and use the findings of this assessment to provide conservation management guidelines to enable this significance to be retained in future use and development. The study is to focus on seven key features of the site, namely the Rotunda; the Former Council Chambers; the Poultry Pavilion; the Wood Chopping Arena; the Showground Grandstand; and the two Alexandra Street entrances. The report has been prepared on the Berry Showground, Berry, for Shoalhaven City Council.

This report includes 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 Heritage Office guidelines.
- 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.

## 1.2 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.

### 1.2.1 Subject Site

The subject site consists of 6.535 hectares known as Lot One D.P.940561 being part of Crown Reserve R.81105 for public recreation notified 3<sup>rd</sup> October 1958. The site is bounded by Albany, Victoria and Alexandra Streets and Station Road, Berry.

### 1.2.2 Subject Buildings

This Conservation Management Plan will focus on the following seven key features of the site, namely the:

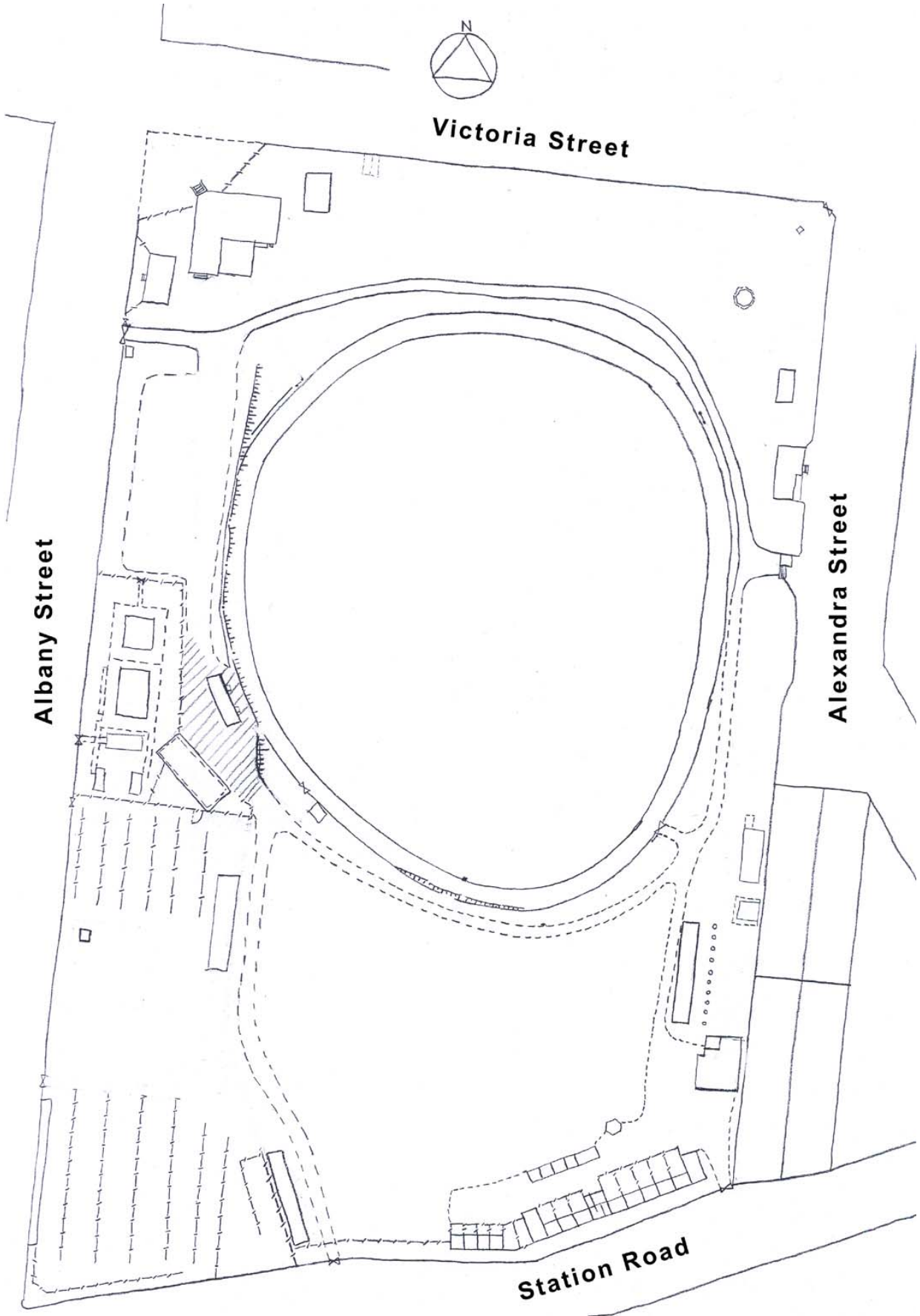
- Rotunda;
- Former Council Chambers;
- Poultry Pavilion;
- Wood Chopping Arena;
- Showground Grandstand; and the
- Two Alexandra Street entrances.

Other buildings, structures and areas located on the subject site include:

- Showground ring;
- Agricultural Pavilion;
- Amenities building;
- Ticket box;
- Judges box;
- Publican's Booth;
- Lights;
- Cattle yards and horse stalls;
- Stock judging ring;
- Stock judging ring commentary box;
- Cricket practice nets;
- Swimming pool (built over old Caretaker's Cottage) and changing rooms;
- Hockey field (site of lake);
- Rural Youth (Junior Farmer's) Hall;
- Regal Lodge Stables;
- Sir John Hay Memorial;
- Brick toilet block 1;
- Brick toilet block 2;
- Male toilet block;
- Location of former croquet lawn; and the
- Location of former tennis courts.

Please refer to the 2002 *Berry Showground Agricultural Pavilion Conservation Management Plan* (BSAP CMP) prepared by Tropman & Tropman Architects for information regarding the Agricultural Pavilion.





Not to scale N↑

Figure No.2: Subject Site.

### **1.3 Methodology**

The method follows that set out in the NSW Heritage Manual provided by the NSW Heritage Office and NSW Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources (DIPNR) 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 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 items 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 items significance
- Recommend a process for carrying out the conservation and management strategies

### **1.4 Limitations**

No intervention to fabric was undertaken. Limited information has been received by the authors in relation to a request for community input into this study from a survey distributed at the 2002 Berry Show and a media release.

### **1.5 Author Identification**

#### **TROPMAN & TROPMAN ARCHITECTS**

John Tropman	Director, Heritage Conservation Architect
Lester Tropman	Director, Heritage Conservation Architect, Landscape
Sumi Thambyrajah	Architect
Joanne Singh	Professional Assistant

#### **CONSULTANTS**

RF Historical Research Service	
Robyn Florance	Historian

## 1.6 Acknowledgements

The authors gratefully acknowledge the assistance of:

- Declan McDonald, Shoalhaven City Council
- James Harris, Shoalhaven City Council
- Hugh McCowatt, Secretary Hazel Berry and David Berry Parks Management Committee
- Karen Fowler, Department of Lands

## 1.7 References

Australia ICOMOS 2000, *Australia ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Cultural Significance (The Burra Charter) and Guidelines to the Burra Charter: Cultural Significance, Conservation Policy, and Undertaking Studies and Reports*, Australia ICOMOS, ACT.

BERRY A. & H. ASSOCIATION, *Berry A. & H. Association Centenary: One Hundred Years of Achievement 1888-1988*, 1988.

Heritage Office 1996, *Conservation Management Documents*, Heritage Office, Sydney. Revised 2002.

Heritage Office 2001, *Assessing Heritage Significance*, Heritage Office, Sydney.

Kerr, James Semple 2000, *The Conservation Plan*, National Trust of Australia (NSW), Sydney.

MABBUTT, Ellaine, *Click Go the Years!*, Berry and District Historical Society, undated.

## 2.0 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

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

### 2.1 Brief Historical Background

The early history of Berry differs from that of other country towns in New South Wales in that it began as a private estate town. The land on which the town of Berry began and is now situated was formerly part of the Alexander Berry- Edward Wollstonecraft Estate of Coolangatta.

The first settlers at Broughton Creek, as Berry was then known, were seven free sawyers employed by Alexander Berry in 1825.<sup>1</sup> A tannery began operations soon afterwards. By the 1840s a sawmill powered by a water wheel was established using water from Broughton Mill Creek by means of an earthen water race.<sup>2</sup>

As the land was opened up firstly by the Berry Estate to tenant farmers in the early fifties and then in the sixties, by settlers under the Robertson Land Act, Broughton Creek became the port of a very large area where dairy farms were established.

Bailliere records in his New South Wales Gazetteer of 1866 that a sizeable town had grown on the two ridges either side of the Broughton Mill Creek.<sup>3</sup> On the Pulman Street side a Post Office, Schoolhouse, Tannery and two stores with saddlers and shoemaker's shop, smith's forge etc. existed with the Kangaroo Inn on the Queen Street site of the Berry Hotel.<sup>4</sup>

By 1868 the population had reached 300 persons and Broughton Creek became the headquarters of the Broughton Creek and Bomaderry Municipality.<sup>5</sup>

In 1873 Alexander Berry died and the estate passed to his younger brother David, who had been managing the Shoalhaven establishment since 1848. During the period of David Berry's residence at Coolangatta the town of Broughton Creek grew and flourished.

With the rise in population and the appearance of the town being laid out in a haphazard fashion David Berry arranged for a 'town' plan to be drawn in 1883. He located the town on the higher land on the western bank of Broughton Mill Creek, where many businesses and houses were already established.

Extra streets later split the original rectangular blocks of the town shown on the 1883 map and some were never developed. A proposed street that was shown on a 1912 map as York Street, opposite the Show ground gate and running through Prince Alfred Street, was never developed.<sup>6</sup>

He set aside 10 acres of land for an Agricultural Showground, and on each of the four-corners of the town, he gave land for Church of England, Presbyterian, Wesleyan and Roman Catholic Church buildings. The banks also asked for land on which to build and the townsfolk began requesting buildings for community use.<sup>7</sup>

David Berry died in 1889, and the following year, the name of the town was changed to Berry in honour of its generous benefactor. Of his large estate, one third representing the lands of Coolangatta was left to his first cousin once removed, John Hay. The remainder was left in bequests to St. Andrew's University, Scotland, the Presbyterian Church of Australia and for the founding of a hospital to serve the Shoalhaven district. John Hay and the executors were obliged to sell the land to meet the bequests.

---

<sup>1</sup> Brief History of the Town of Berry, Shoalhaven Historical Society Archives, S149a

<sup>2</sup> Lidbetter Mary L., *Historic Sites of Berry*, Berry & District Historical Society Inc., Revised Edition, Berry, 1993, p.3

<sup>3</sup> Bailliere F.F., *The New South Wales Gazetteer*, F. F. Bailliere, Sydney, 1866, pp 86-87

<sup>4</sup> Bailliere's Gazetteer 1866 op. cit.

<sup>5</sup> The Broughton Creek and Bomaderry Municipality was incorporated in Gazette Number 261 of 26<sup>th</sup> October 1868  
*Historic Sites of Berry*, op.cit. p. 19

<sup>6</sup> *Historic Sites of Berry*, op. cit. p. 4

<sup>7</sup> Cousins Arthur, *The Garden of New South Wales*, Producers' Co-op Distributing Society Ltd., Sydney, 1948, p 262

By 1912 when the town land was put up for sale the outlying land of the Coolangatta Estate had been disposed of by subdivision and sale.

The town of Berry continued to flourish as a service centre for a predominantly saw milling and dairying district. The population was 1300 in 1884, with additional town blocks enlarging the town site from that laid out in 1883. Today Berry acts as a service centre for the farming district, as a dormitory suburb of the Shoalhaven and Illawarra and as a destination for tourists who are attracted by the antique shops, gift shops and tearooms.<sup>8</sup>

Berry retains a quiet residential character, is well maintained and attractive with its open parklands and magnificent trees, well justifying the name "Town of Trees", given by the Berry Chamber of Commerce in 1975.

## 2.2 The Formation of Agricultural Societies in New South Wales

According to the "Encyclopaedia Britannica", properly organised agricultural shows did not evolve in Europe until the latter part of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and early part of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

One of the earliest agricultural and livestock exhibitions in England was the National Show held in 1821 in Aldridges' Repository in London. Later, such shows were sponsored at different centres by the Royal Agricultural Society of England, beginning in 1839 at Oxford. Specialised shows had been held much earlier, such as the beef cattle industry show at Smithfield (London) in 1799.

The first agricultural society in Australia was the Van Diemen's Land Agricultural Society (now the Royal Agricultural Society of Tasmania), formed at Hobart on 8<sup>th</sup> December 1821. As well as the general encouragement of production from the soil; one of its objectives was the "protection of stock". This was necessary as the free settlers of Tasmania were being subjected to a reign of terror by bushrangers and escaped convicts.

The new Society staged Australia's first official agricultural show in January 1822, in the old Market Place, Hobart, immediately in front of State Parliament House. Prizes in the form of medals were given for sheep, cattle and boar, the best acre of wheat, barley, artificial grasses; the largest crop of potatoes taken from three acres of land and for a collection of vegetables. Awards were given for the best-conducted convict, male and female.

Six months after the formation of the Van Diemen's Land Agricultural Society the first effective step to form a similar body on the mainland was taken at the house of Mr J. Robertson, jeweller and watchmaker, 96 George Street, Sydney, on 5<sup>th</sup> July 1822.<sup>9</sup> It was here that the Agricultural Society of NSW was formed, with Sir John Jamieson, pastoralist, banker and former Royal Naval surgeon, as its first President and Alexander Berry as its first secretary.<sup>10</sup>

Free settlers of "very good class and respectability" were reaching New South Wales from England at this time and had urged the establishment of such a body. By 1822 there were more than 10,000 cattle in New South Wales and more than 290,000 sheep. But cultivation methods were still very primitive and the great explorations of the inland were still to come.

The establishment of a Stock Fund to import good stock, plants and seeds was the most important function of the new Society in those days. Edward Wollstonecraft acted as secretary to the organisation.<sup>11</sup>

The Governor, Sir Thomas Brisbane, was the first patron and he granted the society 10 acres of land at Westmead, near Parramatta, for agricultural experiments and for depasturing of cattle to be imported. It was there that the society's first cattle and sheep were exhibited on 9<sup>th</sup> October 1823. It could not be described as a proper agricultural show, but it can be regarded as Australia's first sheep show.

<sup>8</sup> *Historic Sites of Berry*, op. cit. p. 4

<sup>9</sup> Barnard Marjorie, *The History of Australia*, Angus & Robertson, Australia, 1962, Reprint 1980, p. 135

<sup>10</sup> McCaffery Frank, *First Century of Dairying in NSW*, Sydney & Melbourne Publishing Co. Ltd., Sydney, 1909, p. 29

<sup>11</sup> *ibid*



The first properly arranged show, called the Parramatta Fair, was held in October 1824. There were classes for Australian Merino Sheep; Colonial bred bulls, stallions, boars, and sows, teams of horses and bullocks, and prizes for the best Colonial cheese, tobacco and beer.

The first society to be formed outside the Sydney area was the Hunter River Society at Maitland on 6<sup>th</sup> October 1842. It succumbed a few years later, to be reformed in 1859. The Cumberland Agricultural Society and the Penrith Agricultural Society were both established in 1843, and the Illawarra Agricultural Society at Wollongong in 1844.

Other pioneering societies found in the 1840s and 1850s included Hawkesbury (1845), Mudgee (1846), Kiama (1848), Bathurst (1855), Dapto (1856) and Albury (1857).<sup>12</sup>

Societies founded in the Shoalhaven district were the Shoalhaven Estate Agricultural Association (1863), The Ulladulla Agricultural & Horticultural Association (1866), the Shoalhaven Pastoral, Agricultural & Horticultural Association (1869), Shoalhaven Agricultural & Horticultural Association (1874) Broughton Creek Horticultural Association (1883) and Kangaroo Valley Agricultural & Horticultural Association (1886).

### 2.3 The Shoalhaven Estate Agricultural Association

Alexander Berry realised the importance of allowing farmers to exhibit their results and at Coolangatta had held 'open days' in the 1840s and invited all and sundry to sample his hospitality and to inspect his farms and farming methods.

Anxious to show the high standard to which the Estate had reached, he encouraged the formation of the Shoalhaven Estate Agricultural Association with shows being held chiefly on Berry Estate land.

On the 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1863 a meeting was held to form an Agricultural Association and 72 men appointed to committee of new Shoalhaven Estate Agricultural Association with membership confined to Shoalhaven Estate tenants. Alexander Berry himself was Patron of the new association and his brother David, President, and Henry G Morton, Berry's land steward was elected Vice President. James Lang, Postmaster of Numba, was elected Treasurer, and John Bindon, of Numba, was elected Secretary.<sup>13</sup>

The Society totalled 216 members and its operations extended from Pyree to Gerringong. The 1<sup>st</sup> Shoalhaven Estate Agricultural Association Annual Show was held on 29<sup>th</sup> March 1864 at Numba.<sup>14</sup> A list of prizewinners was reported in the *Kiama Independent* 12<sup>th</sup> April 1864.

The district Show served a very serious purpose in allowing the farmers to show off their prize stock, and others to view it, to buy and improve their own herds. It gave the farmers an opportunity to meet and discuss farming methods with neighbours and to learn what was going on outside their own parcel of land.

People outside the Berry Estates were not admitted as members to the Society, but were permitted to compete for prizes in the open sections. There were scarcely 2000 souls on the Berry Estates at that time, but at the turn of the century, the district population had risen to 16,000.<sup>15</sup>

The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual show was held at Numba.<sup>16</sup> The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Show was held at Broughton Creek held near to the Kangaroo Inn.<sup>17</sup>

*The third annual exhibition of the Shoalhaven Estate Agricultural Society came off at Broughton Creek on Tuesday last. There was a great assembly*

<sup>12</sup> Mant Gilbert, *Show People*, Macarthur Press, Parramatta, 1985, pp 11-12

<sup>13</sup> *Illawarra Mercury* 4/8/1863; 21/8/1863; 22/1/1864

<sup>14</sup> *Illawarra Mercury* 19<sup>th</sup> January 1864

<sup>15</sup> *The Shoalhaven & Nowra News* 30<sup>th</sup> January 1974

<sup>16</sup> *Kiama Independent* 16<sup>th</sup> February 1865

<sup>17</sup> *Kiama Independent* 27/2/1866; 22/2/1866; 1/3/1866

*of people from many parts of the Illawarra district, while the steamer from Shoalhaven brought its load up the Creek. Towards midday the infant settlement looked very imposing dressed out in flags.*

*The show was held near the Kangaroo Inn, on the slope of the rising ground facing north, a large room having been erected by Mr David Berry expressly for the occasion and although the building is fifty feet in length, it barely held all that offered for inspection.<sup>18</sup>*

Prizewinners were once again announced in the *Kiama Independent* 1<sup>st</sup> March 1866.

The Association continued to stage attractive shows, people travelling great distances to be present. On the 6<sup>th</sup> February 1867 the annual show was held on David Berry's estate at Toolijooa. A weatherboard building measuring 50ft by 22ft on a stone foundation with shingle roof was erected for use as an exhibition hall.<sup>19</sup> This hall later became the schoolroom for Toolijooa School when it opened in 1871.

James Lang left the district in 1869 and Charles Murray was elected Treasurer in his place. The last official meeting of the Association was at the Bullock Paddock, Friday's Farm, at Numba on the 14<sup>th</sup> April 1869 when an Annual Ploughing Match was held.<sup>20</sup> Results were published in the *Shoalhaven News* of 17<sup>th</sup> April 1869.

Floods ravaged the Shoalhaven area in March and April 1870 and the district took a great deal of time to recover from the devastation the flooding caused and the Association ceased to exist.

#### **2.4 The Shoalhaven Pastoral, Agricultural & Horticultural Association**

The first meeting of the Shoalhaven, Pastoral, Agricultural & Horticultural Association was held at Moss's Central Hotel on 5<sup>th</sup> March 1869. James Aldcorn JP was nominated President of the Association. William Lovegrove and Zacheus Bice were nominated Vice Presidents: The Manager of the Commercial Bank at Terara was nominated Treasurer and Mr Watson nominated Secretary.<sup>21</sup>

At a subsequent meeting held in April the Rules and Regulations of the Association were proposed and carried.<sup>22</sup>

The Association's first Annual Ploughing Match was held on The Queen's Birthday, 24<sup>th</sup> May 1869, on Mr H Wheatley's paddock at Terara.<sup>23</sup>

Floods ravaged the Shoalhaven area in March and April 1870 and the district took a great deal of time to recover from the devastation the flooding caused. The Association became insolvent and according to an article published in the *Shoalhaven News* on 9<sup>th</sup> July 1870 - through '*the want of energy on the part of the inhabitants*'. Official assignees then took over the affairs of the Association.

#### **2.5 The Shoalhaven Agricultural & Horticultural Association**

On 6<sup>th</sup> March 1874, at a meeting held at Terrara the Shoalhaven Agricultural and Horticultural Association was re-formed. Mr James Aldcorn was elected first President and a committee of 18 (most co-opted) started things moving.

The Society held its first show on 11<sup>th</sup> February 1875 on land at Greenhills, using the former Presbyterian Church building and a shed the society built beside it for showrooms. Shows were held annually until 1886 when the Nowra Showground came into use.

<sup>18</sup> *Kiama Independent* 1/3/1866

<sup>19</sup> Sharpe Margaret Gerringong & District Historical Society Brief Historical Notes, Gerringong, Expanded Edition 1999, p. 25

<sup>20</sup> *The Shoalhaven News* 13<sup>th</sup> April 1869

<sup>21</sup> *The Shoalhaven News* 20<sup>th</sup> March 1869

<sup>22</sup> *The Shoalhaven News* 10<sup>th</sup> April 1869

<sup>23</sup> *The Shoalhaven News* 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1869

The Association continues to stage annual shows at the Nowra Showground to this day but is now known as the Nowra Show Society.

## 2.6 The Broughton Creek Horticultural Society

Broughton Creek farmers continued to support the Shoalhaven Agricultural & Horticultural Association but in 1883 decided to establish their own society. At a meeting held in the Broughton Creek Court House on 16<sup>th</sup> October the Broughton Creek Horticultural Society was formed.

Present at that meeting were James Wilson, Dr Lewers, J. McKenzie, J.W. Sproule, James Stewart, S. Gall, J. Francis, C.E. Butler, R.E. Walker, A.J. Colley, J. Wiley, J. F. Hooper and James Boyd. Dr Lewers moved "*That this meeting if of the opinion that a Horticultural Society should be formed in Broughton Creek to promote the culture of flowers, fruits and vegetables and the holding of a periodical show of the same*". James Stewart seconded and C.E. Butler supported the motion, which was carried.<sup>24</sup>

Lewis McIntyre was elected President and A.J. Colley as Secretary. Members of the society came not only from the Berry district but also from the Gerringong District within the Kiama Municipality, which adjoins the Shoalhaven City area. The communities of Gerringong and Berry working together to provide an Agricultural Show worthy of the district.<sup>25</sup>

John Grey and John Stewart were appointed Vice Presidents and later on David Berry became the patron of the Society. He generously gave the land and stumped and cleared it free of cost. Then he fenced it, and erected suitable buildings on it. His representative, Alexander Frazer, took an active interest in the affairs of the Society, and anything Frazer suggested, David Berry carried out. Rules and Regulations were framed and duly adopted by the Committee and the Society became a living affair in the midst of a rich pastoral, farming and horticultural locality.<sup>26</sup>

The support given to the movement by the Patron soon stimulated the Committee to spread itself out into sections presided over by willing workers: -

Horses - Bragg, Knox, Frazer, Martin and Gall  
Cattle – John Stewart, H. Graham, R.V. Boyd, John Grey and Hanlon  
Other Animals – H. Boyd, T. Burke, Priddle and McIntyre  
Farm Produce – Robinson, Graham, English and Knox  
Garden Produce – Grey, Boxell, H. Boyd, Hanlon and Martin  
Implements – Gall, Bragg, Frazer, Binks and McIntyre  
Manufactures – Lavers, Robinson, Boxell, Jas Stewart, Grey and John Stewart.

Application was then made to the Government for a subsidy from the Agricultural Show Fund and a ground committee elected consisting of Bragg, C. Robinson, John Stewart and Alexander Frazer.

The first Broughton Creek Show was held on 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> February 1884 in a temporary wooden structure under the energetic leadership of Messrs Lewis, Colley and Stewart. The show was staged on an area of land adjoining Queen Street, approximately to the rear of A Waddell & Company's Newsagency. It was sited well back from the street, screen by a stand of trees.<sup>27</sup> The shows were held annually on this site until 1888.

The Society was reorganised in 1888. John Hay was elected Patron, John Boxsell President, H. Lovegrove Treasurer and A.G. Colley Secretary.<sup>28</sup>

The name of the Society was changed to the Broughton Creek Agricultural & Horticultural Association. The objects of the Association were:

<sup>24</sup> McCaffrey Frank *The History of Illawarra*, John Sands Ltd, Sydney, 1922, p. 251

<sup>25</sup> Higgins J, *Berry A & H Association Centenary 1888-1988*, Berry & A H Association, Nowra, 1988 p 8

<sup>26</sup> *The History of Illawarra* op cit p. 251

<sup>27</sup> *Historic Sites of Berry* op cit p

<sup>28</sup> Higgins J, *Berry A & H Association Centenary 1888-1988*, Berry & A H Association, Nowra, 1988 p 1

*'The management, encouragement and development of agriculture, horticulture, dairying and other industries, the improvement of livestock and the introduction into the district of implements and machinery for agriculture, dairying and other purposes'*

The fifth annual exhibition was held on Thursday and Friday February 1888 on the new Showground where annual shows have been held there ever since.

The proclamation to the change the name of the town from Broughton Creek to Berry was gazetted on 4<sup>th</sup> December 1890 and it is presumed the Association's name was changed to the Berry Agricultural & Horticultural Association around the same time.<sup>29</sup>

Due to its historical significance and its link with the Coolangatta Estate Berry was granted National status for the 1893 Show.

The Show was officially opened by the Governor of N.S.W., Lord Jersey, who travelled in state by train to Wollongong, where he was met by the local Member of Parliament, Alex Campbell MLA. Mr P H Morton joined the train at Kiama. On arrival at Berry, the Governor was met and welcomed by Alex Hay and the party was conveyed to the Court House, opposite the Agricultural Hall. At the Court House, the Governor was entertained before proceeding to the show ground for the official opening ceremony.<sup>30</sup>

An interesting feature of the 1896 Berry Show was a display arranged by the Hawkesbury Agricultural College. It occupied a wing of the pavilion and featured a variety of grasses from the College, and also a collection of produce such as butter, cheese, eggs, bacon and honey, as typical examples of the training in agriculture provided for the college students.<sup>31</sup>

Berry was again selected in 1898 to stage another National Show for which the Government provided a subsidy of £500.

By tradition the dates for the Shows on the South Coast were allocated in sequence from Wollongong in the north and progressing in order down the Coast, through Albion Park, Dapto, Kiama, Berry, Nowra, Kangaroo Valley and Milton.

This allows the exhibitors to organise displays in orderly fashion and the professional show followers to arrange easy transport from one show to the next.

After the bigger show at Nowra, the horsemen and sideshow men usually split, with the smaller outfits going on the Kangaroo Valley and Milton and larger ones going to the bigger shows elsewhere.<sup>32</sup>

The history of the Berry A & H Association is also a history of growth and development of an agricultural industry in Berry. Through drought, rains, depressions, and periods of war the Society has continued to play an important role in the improvement of farming techniques, maintaining a quality standard for the agricultural products of the district.

The Berry A & H Society, by adopting modern roles, brings the town and country together by providing quality family entertainment and provides an inducement to improvement. Whether it is in exhibiting dairy or beef cattle, horses and showjumping, flowers or vegetables or entering the numerous sections for handcrafts, cookery, art or woodwork in the pavilion.

<sup>29</sup> *Berry A & H Association Centenary 1888-1988* op.cit. p. 8

<sup>30</sup> *Berry A & H Association Centenary 1888-1998* op cit. p. 3

<sup>31</sup> *Berry A & H Association Centenary 1888-1998* op cit. p. 3

<sup>32</sup> *Berry A & H Association Centenary 1888-1998* op cit. p. 3

## 2.7 The Berry Showground

The main section of Hazelberry Park is known as the Berry Showground. The ground was set aside and furnished by David Berry and improved by John Hay after he inherited the Estate.

After the death of Sir John Hay, the NSW Government together with the Berry Municipal Council purchased the 16 acres of Hazelberry Park for £2,500 and the land was dedicated as a public park on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1913. A local committee of management administers the Hazelberry Park for the Shoalhaven City Council.

The first agricultural show conducted on the new Showground was the Fifth Annual Exhibition in February 1888 and the Berry Show has been held annually (except for the war years) to the present day.<sup>33</sup>

Leading up to the 1888 Show the reporter for *The Broughton Creek Register* published a report on the new Show Ground in its 11<sup>th</sup> February 1888 edition.

*The entries for the Broughton Creek Show on Thursday and Friday next are expected to be numerous. The numbers of entries received up to yesterday afternoon were 2200. The horses and cattle have filled up well. The committee of the local A & H Association are to be congratulated on their efforts to make the Exhibition next Thursday and Friday surpass previous Shows.*

*The canvassing for subscription and for entires of exhibits is almost unprecedented and if perseverance and industry command success that we may be sure that the Committee's aspirations will be realised as they have an excellent opportunity. For thanks to the munificence of Mr David Berry, and to the supervision of the ground committee, everything is in a forward state. The building itself is not only architecturally an ornament to the Township but is admirably adapted internally for its purpose. Its inside decorations are chase and in good taste, it accommodation is ample.*

*Probably it would be difficult to find its equal as a show building in New South Wales. A spacious shed connected with the building will shelter buggies etc. A good room for the ladies has been provided. The stock has not been forgotten, and roomy horseboxes, cattle stalls, pigpens and poultry coops (all under shelter) have been supplied. The yards and pens for heifers etc. are for this season outside the show ground itself but are in close proximity thereto; and an ample number have been erected.*

*An ornamental pavilion for the judges of horses has been built in the centre of the ring, and everything done that was possible in the time. The grounds are now a credit to the district and with the further improvements which it is intended to proceed with bid fair to rival the best grounds in the Colony.<sup>34</sup>*

By February 1888 the new Showground was completed and a committee consisting of John Grey, Phillip H. Morton, Charles Robinson, John Stewart and James Wilson was appointed to wait on Mr David Berry's representative, Henry G. Morton, regarding the handing over of the ground to the Association.<sup>35</sup>

Another lengthy article written by the reporter for *The Broughton Creek Register* gives a description of the show ground on the opening day of the 1888 Annual Exhibition.

*The ground consists of 10 acres enclosed with a strong post and rail fence to a height of six feet, thoroughly cleared of timber and stumps and free from any impediment. It is situated about 10 chains south of the old show ground*

<sup>33</sup> *Historic Sites of Berry*, op. cit. p. 64

<sup>34</sup> *The Broughton Creek Register* 11<sup>th</sup> February 1888

<sup>35</sup> *The History of Illawarra* op cit p. 253

*and ingress and egress to it by streets a chain wide, which run parallel to three sides of it. The gates are on the east side and at the northwest corner.*

*The new Agricultural Hall and the pavilion for horses, stud bulls, pigs and poultry have been faithfully built by Messrs W.A. Isley and Sons, of Broughton Creek.*

*The horseboxes, which are situated at the southeast corner of the enclosure, are built of sawn timber, roofed with iron and like all the other pavilions, stands on solid chisel dressed freestone foundations. The horse pavilion will accommodate 24 horses.*

*The pavilion for stud bulls is similar to that for the horses, as the foundations, fixture and roofing but is divided into pens instead of loose boxes. This building is the northeast corner of the enclosure.*

*The accommodation for swine and poultry is a similarly constructed shed; the pig pens being commodious and cool. While the poultry coops are it is admitted, the best designed and constructed yet seen at any show in the colony and gives the greatest satisfaction to exhibitors for security and the excellent view they afford of the exhibits.*

*The judges of horses have been specially provided for by a circular shed, with its roof standing well up on wooden pillars, resting on a raised stone foundation, sloping out in steps to give access to the concrete floor upon which the judges, stewards and representatives of the press have ample room.*

The layout and attractiveness of the Show Ground has been repeatedly praised. The reporter for the *Town & Country Journal* wrote an article for the 26<sup>th</sup> September 1891 edition of the newspaper: -

*“we must not omit to mention the capacious Show Ground so excellently laid out; the main building is a fine, roomy, imposing edifice whilst ample provision is made without in the shape of sheds and pens for livestock. There is a concrete wicket for cricketers”*

Another article in *The Town & Country Journal* of 1896 described the Showground as one of the finest and best-appointed showgrounds in the colony.

*The exhibition ground is only a stone's throw from the Berry Railway Station so that every facility is afforded to exhibitors in getting their exhibits to and from the show. The showground occupies an area of fifteen acres, all of which is securely enclosed with a strong paling fence. On it are erected a fine brick pavilion, grandstand, horse boxes and sheds, cattle sheds and pens, poultry coops, swine pens, caretaker's lodge, built of brick, trotting ring a quarter of a mile in circumference, judge's stand etc. A number of trees have been judiciously planted for shade purposes; in fact the whole of the showground has been skilfully designed, and the buildings erected with due regard to utility. The showground is utilised for cricket and sports generally; also for picnics &c; in fact, it answers the general purposes of a park for the townspeople.*

Moves to purchase the Showground (known as Hazelberry Park) from the Trustees of the Estate of the late Sir John Hay were made in August 1911 when Council resolved to contribute £1000 towards the cost provided the Trustees would accept an annual payment of £200 as instalments.

The new Minister for Lands, Hon G S Beeby, arrived in Berry on 20<sup>th</sup> November, and after an inspection of the grounds said that the Government would contribute half the cost of the

purchase, namely, £1,250 provided the grounds were vest in the Berry Council as a public Recreation ground.

The final purchase price was fixed at £2,500 and the Trustees of the Berry Estate agreed to accept the Government contribution and allow the Berry Municipal Council to liquidate the balance over a period of five years at the rate of £200 per annum, interest free, the last payment being made on 1<sup>st</sup> December 1917, of £250.<sup>36</sup>

Out of a complement to Mr Alex Hay for his generosity in the matter of financing the purchase of the Showground, it was resolved that the area would be called 'Hazelberry Park', being the combined names of the two children of Mr Hay, Hazel and Berry. This land was later declared Crown land under the provision of the Crown Lands Consolidation Act 1913, reserved for public use and was proclaimed a public park on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1913, with the Berry Municipal Council being appointed Trustees.<sup>37</sup>

The A & H Society, which had used the Showground for its annual show since 1888, approached Council by way of a deputation to discuss their future use of the area. As a result Council had no objection to a clause being inserted in the deed of the ground giving the Society the full right to hold shows on the ground free of charge. The Society agreed to pay £10 per annum towards the cost of the upkeep of the ground, and the right to hold agricultural and horticultural shows during February of each year, and to have the use of a portion of the pavilion to hold meetings.<sup>38</sup>

In 1948 the Shoalhaven Shire Council was established by the amalgamation of all the local government councils from Berry to south of Milton, including Kangaroo Valley, which therefore encompassed all the Show Societies in Shoalhaven. An alteration to the management of the various showgrounds was then altered as previously negotiations were held between the Show Society and the Council concerned.

The Associations executive, together with the Hon. A N Binks, formed a sub-committee to carry out negotiations regarding the retention of the authoritative control of Berry Showground. As a result the Hazelberry Parks Trust was established as a committee by delegation. It consisted of five members of the Show committee, and representatives of other organisations who used the showground.<sup>39</sup>

The Hazelberry Parklands Management Committee now manages the Showground (Hazelberry Park) and assists with the management of David Berry Park.

---

<sup>36</sup> Antill R G *Settlement in the South*, Weston & Co., Kiama, 1982, p. 95

<sup>37</sup> Antill R G *Settlement in the South*, Weston & Co., Kiama, 1982, p. 96

<sup>38</sup> Antill R G *Settlement in the South*, Weston & Co., Kiama, 1982, p. 95

<sup>39</sup> The A & H Society Centenary op cit p 27

**2.8 Hazelberry Park – Berry Showground Improvements**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Improvements</b>
1888	An ornamental pavilion for the judges of horses built in the centre of the ring by W Isley & Sons
1888	The Botanic Gardens Sydney forwarded 126 Trees and 160 shrubs to the Berry Estate (John Hay at Coolangatta). Some of these trees would have been planted at the Showground
1892	£100 laid out on improvements by A & H Society; shrubs and trees planted by Sir John Hay
1893	New Grandstand erected by Sir John Hay at a cost of £300
1896	Trotting Ring – ¼ mile constructed
1896	Cricket Pitch constructed
1896	Brick Caretaker's Cottage erected on show ground
1901	Drainage pond constructed at southern end of Ring and surrounds drained
1914	Lady Hay donated £200 towards cost of the establishment of a children's playground
1915	Sir John Hay Memorial Fountain erected in Children's Playground
1935	Wood chopping event held for first time
1936	The ring area altered and band rotunda moved from centre of ring to Children's Playground
1936	The ring area enclosed with a wooden rail fence
1939	Adequate lighting for ring area to cost £5 carried out by Council's Engineer, W Scott.
1940	Repairs were carried out on dilapidated horse stalls at the southern end of the ground at a cost of 13/-. (On the site now occupied by Regal Lodge Stables)
1942	Military Camp established
1943	Military Camp established
1943	The cattle judging area cleared and 27 coral trees planted
1944	Temporary ticket office erected at the main entrance gate (prior to that tickets were sold from a small window in a partition on the verandah of the Council Chambers)
1948	Provision of water troughs for cattle in the judging arena
1948	Severe windstorm demolished the remainder of the horse stalls at the southern end of the ground. Replaced with a wooden fence, which also served as a boundary for that section of the ground
1949	Provision of water troughs and washing areas for cattle
1952	Revival of wood chopping events
1953	Olympic Show Jumping obstacles introduced at Show. Obstacles borrowed from Colonel Parberry of Dunmore
1955	Ringside seating erected. T L Cochrane donated 500 feet of sawn timber for the seating and sufficient supporting blocks were obtained from the remains of a timber frame bridge, which had been replaced by a concrete one over Broughton Creek. A working bee of members erected the fence
1955	Trotting stables established by Kevin Robinson
1955	Olympic Show Jumping obstacles made for £20
1957	Approval for construction of Junior Farmers Hall by Parks Trust for a site on the showground, on the western boundary adjacent to the Agricultural Hall
1957	Grandstand and show ground buildings painted by members
1958	Junior Farmers Hall erected.
1959	Commenced enclosing showground with a cyclone wire fence to replace the dilapidated paling fence that provided the boundary. Cost of first section was £500
1959	Publican's Booth erected (primitive)
1960	Installation of flood lighting
1963	Demolition of old Poultry Pavilion for construction of Swimming Pool
1963	Demolition of brick caretaker's cottage for construction of Swimming Pool



Date	Improvements
1963	Construction of Swimming Pool
1963	New Poultry Pavilion erected
1963	New luncheon rooms erected by members with materials supplied by Shoalhaven Shire Council
1964	A start was made to replace the old wooden railing around the ring with a new single pipe rail fence
1965	Committee Room painted by Barry Coles at a cost of £32
1968	Room for horse stewards built by voluntary labour
1968	Installation of permanent water supply to the cattle judging area commenced. Keith Miller donated a quantity of polythene pipe
1968	Drinking troughs constructed for the cattle
1969	Replaced seating in Grandstand
1970	Berry Football Club undertook the task of re-turfing the ring area of the showground with Kikuyu sods
1973-	A start was made to fill in the drainage pond on the southern side of the ground –
1974	Provided a Hockey Field and car parking area on show days
1974	Local Builder Stuart Priddle commenced construction of the new brick ticket office at the main entrance to the Showground
1974	Shoalhaven Shire Council erected new amenities block adjacent to the swimming pool at a cost of \$28,000
1975	Amplification of Showground and telephone system installed
1977	Improvement to floodlighting at the showground at a cost of \$3,000 by Shoalhaven Shire Council
1979	Erection of a stewards box for the woodchop events by Pat Ryan and voluntary labour
1979	Improvement carried out on roadway around the southern end of the ring, when the surface was top dressed with shale at a cost of \$419
1980	Construction of a large storage shed on the eastern area of the ground to store equipment and trailer
1985	Increased lighting of the arena by SCC & A&H Society funds
1985	New floor in pavilion
1988	Restoration of Grandstand
1991	Berry Country Fair held once a month
2001	Demolition of old toilet block
2001	Erection of new toilet block
2001	New playground equipment
2001	Restoration of rotunda

## 2.9 Brief History of Individual Showground Buildings & Other Elements

### 2.9.1 Rotunda

Adjacent to the Sir John Hay Memorial stands a rotunda, built in 1888 by William Isley & Sons. It was described as *an ornamental pavilion for the judges of horses built in the centre of the ring*. During 1934, a suggestion was made to alter the layout of the ring area of the showground. This necessitated the removal of the rotunda, which was situated on a spot, which would place it in the centre of the present ring. This proposal became a very contentious issue and the Berry Council solved the problem with a referendum of the ratepayers, who returned a decision in favour of removing the rotunda. The rotunda was shifted from the centre of the show ground ring to the Children's play area in 1935.

### 2.9.2 Former Council Chambers

After making an inspection of the Showground in June 1912, Berry Municipal Council decided to erect a new Council Chambers to the north of the main Showground gate in Alexandra Street. In reaching this decision notice was given to the School of Arts Committee that Council would vacate the rented offices on 1<sup>st</sup> October.<sup>40</sup> The Hon G S Beeby, Minister for Lands, laid the foundation stone on 16<sup>th</sup> August 1912.<sup>41</sup>

The Mayor presented a roll of honour of Mayors of the Municipality since its inception to the Council at a dinner following the ordinary meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> August 1911. The tablet of cedar was duly hung in the new Council Chambers in the presence of the Mayor, past Mayors and Mr Alex Hay.<sup>42</sup>

The return of the local servicemen from the various zones strengthened the Berry R. S. L., which commenced to seek suitable premises to serve as clubrooms. The Council Chambers building also served as the A & H Association's committee rooms and was vacated by the Berry Council in 1948 when the Council ceased to exist after amalgamation into the Shoalhaven Shire Council. Eventually the R. S. L. was allowed use of the building as a clubroom until new premises were erected opposite the Showground. The Berry Baby Health Centre also used this building until they built their own buildings on Apex Park.<sup>43</sup>

### 2.9.3 Poultry Pavilion

The poultry pavilion originally stood near the site of the Berry Swimming Pool. The pavilion was demolished around 1963 and a new pavilion erected on the eastern side of the showground.

Addendum October 2003: The Poultry Pavilion was recently damaged during wind storms on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2003. A new multi-purpose structure is proposed to be erected in its place, and the poultry pavilion relocated on site.

### 2.9.4 Wood Chopping Arena

The revival of wood chopping at the Show commenced in 1952 when Horace Watts arranged a program of events. He undertook to organise all the details and to supervise and conduct the events on the second day of the Show. In November 1979 a start was made on building a stewards box for the wood chopping events under the supervision of Pat Ryan and the work was completed by voluntary labour in readiness for the 1980 Show.<sup>44</sup>

### 2.9.5 The Grandstand

The grandstand, an ornate wooden structure, was erected in February 1893 at a cost of £300 and paid for by John Hay.<sup>45</sup> It stood nearer the Agricultural Hall, about 100 metres to the north of its present location, but was lowered and moved further south (to its existing location) in 1936.<sup>46</sup> It was reputedly dragged by a bullock team to its present location.

<sup>40</sup> Antill R G *Settlement in the South*, Weston & Co., Kiama, 1982, p. 95

<sup>41</sup> Historic Sites of Berry op cit. p. 54

<sup>42</sup> Antill R G *Settlement in the South*, Weston & Co., Kiama, 1982, p. 95

<sup>43</sup> *Historic Sites of Berry* op cit p 54

<sup>44</sup> The Berry A & H Centenary op cit p 77

<sup>45</sup> *The Sydney Mail* 11<sup>th</sup> February 1893

<sup>46</sup> *Historic Sites of Berry* op cit p 54

In 1986 it was reported that *'time and white ant infestation, at some time in the past, have taken their toll and although not dangerously unsafe, it would require a major renovation to restore it to a respectable standard.'* It was decided to erect a new 400 seat Grandstand on the site *'to replace the dilapidated structure'*. The Berry Historical Society raised objections to the demolition of the grandstand and it was then decided to restore the grandstand for the 1988 Bicentennial Celebrations.

The Berry A & H Association launched a Grandstand Rebuilding Fund to accept donations from individuals and other Organisations not directly associated with the A & H Association or the Parks Committee.

After much discussion between Shoalhaven City Council and representatives from the Hazelberry and David Berry Parks Committee and the Berry A & H Association it was decided to restore the grandstand, retaining the existing width but increasing two bays in length. Council at its meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> April 1987 resolved to proceed with the rehabilitation work.

Paul Bishop of Paul Bishop & Associates of Nowra drew up plans for the project in July 1987.

Mayor Max Atkins officially opened the new Grandstand on Friday evening 5<sup>th</sup> February 1988 when he unveiled a plaque.

#### 2.9.6 Alexandra Street entrances

In October 1944 the A & H Committee decided it could afford to erect a temporary ticket office at the main entrance gate for the convenience of gatekeepers on Show days. Prior to that time tickets were sold from a small window in a partition on the verandah of the nearby Council Chambers.<sup>47</sup> In 1974 local builder Stuart Priddle commenced the construction of the new brick ticket office at the main entrance to the showground.

#### 2.9.7 The Agricultural Pavilion

William Isley & Sons erected the Agricultural Pavilion to a design by H G Morton and was erected in time for the opening of Berry Showground in 1888. (Tropman & Tropman – Architects - Conservation Management Plan for the Agricultural Pavilion)

#### 2.9.8 Tennis Courts

Tennis Courts erected between the Albany Street entrance and the swimming pool have been demolished.

#### 2.9.9 The Junior Farmers Hall

The Rural Youth (Junior Farmers) Hall, located adjacent to the Agricultural Pavilion was opened on 5<sup>th</sup> June 1958 by Mr McTackett, past president of the State Council of Junior Farmers.<sup>48</sup>

#### 2.9.10 The Hockey Ground

An ornamental lake was situated on the southern side of the grounds, adjacent to the well-shaded cattle yards. It was drained and filled in 1975 and prepared as a hockey ground. The Berry Hockey Club played the first game there in 1978.<sup>49</sup>

#### 2.9.11 The Swimming Pool

Several sites for the pool were given consideration and finally with the approval of the Parks Trust and the Show Committee the present showground site was chosen. It necessitated the demolition of a small stone cottage, which was a landmark at the ground and at the time was occupied by Merv Walsh and family.<sup>50</sup> Council approved the construction of a swimming pool in Hazelberry Park on the promise of a Ratepayer's advance and contribution by the Berry Swimming Club. The advance £8,000 would be matched by Council and a 25% grant by the Department of Public Works. By October 1963 only £5,020 of the promised money had been

<sup>47</sup> The Berry A & H Centenary op cit p 21

<sup>48</sup> *Historic Sites of Berry* op. cit. p 54

<sup>49</sup> *Historic Sites of Berry* op cit. p. 54

<sup>50</sup> The Berry A & H Centenary op cit p 54

lodged with Council. Mr W Birdsall excavated the site free of cost to Council.<sup>51</sup> The Hon P N Ryan, Minister for public works, officially opened the swimming pool on 2nd November 1963. In November 1974 the Shoalhaven Shire Council commenced the building of the new amenities block, adjacent to the swimming pool estimated to cost \$28,000.<sup>52</sup>

#### 2.9.12 Caretaker's Cottage

A brick caretaker's cottage was erected on the grounds c. 1896. Possession of the cottage was given to Council on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1912.<sup>53</sup> This cottage was demolished during 1963 for the construction of the Berry Swimming Pool.

#### 2.9.13 The Croquet Club Lawn

The Berry Croquet Club ceased its activities in 1953 after occupying a section of the showground since the 1920s. The croquet lawn was situated on an area adjoining the eastern side of the agricultural hall and was surrounded by an arris rail fence.<sup>54</sup> In the early days the club was a focal point for many of the ladies of the town, however with the passing of senior members of the club, and the interest of the younger women turning towards golf and bowls, the croquet club ceased to exist. The valuable portion of ground became available for use at Showtime and an arris rail fence around the lawn was sold for £5.<sup>55</sup>

#### 2.9.14 The Children's Playground & Sir John Hay Memorial Fountain

On the north east corner of the Hazelberry Parklands, is an area fenced off as a children's playground. Lady Hay donated £200 towards the provision of a children's playground in 1914.<sup>56</sup> In the playground stands a white marble fountain as a memorial to Sir John Hay, who died in 1909, the man who, at his own expense, did so many improvements to the Berry township, after inheriting the Estate from David Berry. The marble fountain was donated by Lady Hay and is inscribed with the date 4<sup>th</sup> February 1915.<sup>57</sup>

Due to the playground's deteriorating condition and the introduction of relevant Australian Standards, the roundabout, man poly and boat swing were removed in August 1988 and not replaced.

#### 2.9.15 Publican's Booth

Over the years a publican's booth for the sale of liquor was permitted on Show days, and each year the rights to the booth were sold by the Committee. In 1959 Don Barham was placed in charge of the booth. He obtained the help of the Rankin Bros of Nowra with borrowed equipment and the job was completed for the 1959 Show. The committee continued to run the booth until 1964 when it was agreed it involved too much work for the committeemen available and it was back to selling the rights.

Between 1964 and 1977 Bert Taberner, the licensee of the Berry Great South Hotel was mainly in charge of the booth. Since that time the Berry Football Club has conducted the booth.

In 1960 the Council carried out repairs to what was then a rather primitive building and in latter years it was condemned and a new one erected in its place.<sup>58</sup>

#### 2.9.16 Regal Lodge Stables

The southeast corner of the Hazelberry Parklands contains the Regal Lodge Stables of Kevin Robinson, where the winner of the 1968 Inter-Dominion Trotting Race was trained. These stables were established around 1955 and the track around the ring was used to exercise his horses. Kevin, with the assistance of Jack McGee commenced to assist with the preparation of the track for the racing at Showtime.<sup>59</sup>

<sup>51</sup> Settlement in the South op cit p 234

<sup>52</sup> The Berry A & H Centenary op cit p 71

<sup>53</sup> Antill R G *Settlement in the South*, Weston & Co., Kiama, 1982, p. 95

<sup>54</sup> *Historic Sites of Berry* op. cit. pp 35-36

<sup>55</sup> *Historic Sites of Berry* op.cit. pp 35-36

<sup>56</sup> The Shoalhaven Telegraph Nov and Dec 1914

<sup>57</sup> *Historic Sites of Berry* op. cit. p 56

<sup>58</sup> The Berry A & H Centenary op cit pp 49-50

<sup>59</sup> A & H Society Centenary op cit p 38

### 2.9.17 The Berry Country Markets

The Berry Markets (or Country Fair) conducted by the Berry Community Activities Centre Inc. are held monthly, usually the first Sunday each month, weather permitting in the Berry Showground. The 'Country Fair' was established in 1984 in Apex Park as a very small event. At that time only 15 stalls and its ability to draw a crowd was not great. In 1991 the 'Country Fair' moved to the Berry Showground.

Through the hard work of the committee 'The Berry Markets' has now grown into a major tourist attraction in Berry and attracts over 10,000 people each month from all over New South Wales, especially from Sydney and Wollongong and custom is drawn regularly from Kiama, Nowra, Albion Park and Shellharbour.

The Management Committee of the Berry Community Activities Centre allocate intending stallholders with an appropriate site. There can be approximately 200 stalls allocated for a monthly market. In the month of December, the demand for stall sites rises significantly due to Christmas Shopping.

The temporary stalls are erected by stallholders prior to commencement of trading on the day of the markets, and these are removed after the close of business. The hours of public retail operations are effectively 8.30am to 2.30pm.

The stalls sell a wide range of arts and crafts, home made goods and services, home grown vegetables and of course a large section of collectables and curios.

All funds raised by the Berry Country Fair are distributed by way of requests for donations to community groups and as such it is a very fine example of the community helping itself.

## 2.10 Historical Mention

### 2.10.1 The Berry Lancers

In 1896 the Government Gazette announced that the No. 2 Half Squadron New South Wales Lancers had been disbanded at Wollongong and its re-establishment at Berry approved of by the Executive Council.

Some three years previously Mr Alex Hay made application for the establishment of a Half Squadron of Lancers at Berry. No expense was deemed too great for May Hay in preparing a suitable barracks for the Half Squadron. The Half Squadron came under the command of Captain Hay with other officers being Lieutenant H D Morton and H M Osborne. Cavalry Sports and Military Tournaments were held on the Berry Showground.<sup>60</sup>

*Members of the Berry Half Squadron held their second sports meeting on the Berry Showground. Luncheon supplied in the large hall of the Agricultural Pavilion.<sup>61</sup>*

Sixty New South Wales Lancers went to England in June 1899 for six months training at Aldershot. The contingent included a number from the Berry Half Squadron. Prior to mobilisation the Berry Half-Squadron went into a three and a half day encampment on Berry Showground on the 7<sup>th</sup> March 1899.<sup>62</sup>

Some weeks prior to the Aldershot Squadron sailing for Australia, Captain Cox volunteered the group's services in South Africa if it were required. Subsequently many of the Berry Lancers volunteered to service in the South African War (Boer War) 1899-1902.

In 1902 the responsibility for defence passed from the States to the Commonwealth Government and the complete reorganisation was put into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1903. In New South Wales six Light Horse Regiments were formed as part of the 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Light Horse Brigade. The 1<sup>st</sup> Australian Light Horse Brigade (N. S. W. Lancers) comprised the following squadrons No.1 Sydney, No.2 Parramatta, No.3 Robertson & Berry, No.4 Richmond & Windsor.<sup>63</sup>

<sup>60</sup> Sproule Colin, *Early Days with The Berry Lancers*, unpublished 7<sup>th</sup> June 1991 Shoalhaven Historical Society Archives

<sup>61</sup> *The Shoalhaven & Nowra News* 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1897

<sup>62</sup> Sproule Colin, *Early Days with The Berry Lancers*, unpublished 7<sup>th</sup> June 1991 Shoalhaven Historical Society Archives

<sup>63</sup> Sproule Colin, *Early Days with The Berry Lancers*, unpublished 7<sup>th</sup> June 1991 Shoalhaven Historical Society Archives

2.10.2 Federation Picnic held on the Showground in 1901**Government Picnic to Berry  
Federal Festivities  
Distinguished Visitors**

*Part of the Government Programme in connection with the Federal festivities was a picnic to the Shoalhaven district yesterday. Two special trains brought a thousand more or less distinguished visitors as far as Bomaderry, the terminus of the South Coast lines. Only a short stay was made there however, the train running back to Berry where arrangements had been made for the use of the show grounds and pavilion for the entertainment of the visitors. Luncheon was served there by Baumann of Sydney, who had a staff of waiters to attend to the comforts of the guests. The accommodation of the large pavilion and an improvised pavilion was more than taxed to meet the extraordinary demand made by the company. These included Messrs. Fegan (Minister for Mines and Agriculture) and Perry (Minister for Public Instruction), representing the Government; Arch Campbell, MP for Illawarra; Alex Campbell MP for Kiama; D. Davies MP for The Shoalhaven; Ferris, Taylor, Law, Cohen, Dacey, F. Clarke, and Carroll MP's; S. Horden, Dr and Mrs Bourne, Dr and Mrs Knaggs, Dr and Mrs Fairfax Ross, Dr and Mrs Sinclair Gillies, Dr and Mrs Arthur, Dr and Mrs John Hay, Alex Hay, H. Pateson, T.Kita Mura (who had been purchasing Berry cattle on behalf of the Japanese government), P.H. Morton, D. See (Mayor of Grafton), the Consul for Japan (Mr Eitaki) and Mrs Eitaki, Captain Charles, MLC, Hon. Mr Frost (Natal) and his secretary, together with other guests from South Africa, Gilles (Sydney Soap and Candle Company), Vicars (Marrickville Wool Works), Febon and Kirkcaldie (Railway Commissioners), and a number of suburban, south coast and country Mayors and Aldermen, as well as many other representative commercial and public men. Dr Graham, Mayor of Sydney, sent an apology, but his wife was present; an apology was also received from the Hon. Mr Hassall, Minister for Lands.*

*At the Luncheon, Hon. Mr Fegan presided. He gave the toasts of "The Queen", "The Governor General" and "The Lieut. Governor". Dr Hay proposed "The State Ministry and Parliament". Mr Perry responded on behalf of the Ministry, and Mr David Davis on behalf of the Parliament.*

*The Chairman proposed "Prosperity to the Illawarra District" of which he spoke in the highest forms of praise. He looked upon the North Coast district as the greatest in New South Wales but it had been supplied by the men and muscle of the South Coast. He also eulogised Dr Hay for the energy and push he had displayed in regard to the dairying industry and also complimented the dairy farmers generally of Illawarra, who stood amongst the most intelligent and most progressive men in the country.*

*Dr Hay briefly responded and concluded by proposing "The Railway Commissioners" to which Messrs Febon and Kirkcaldie suitably replied. The toast of the Chairman was proposed by Mr Alex Campbell, and acknowledged by Mr Fegan. This part of the proceedings concluded with three hearty cheers for Mr Arthur McArthur, secretary to the movement.*

*A number of the visitors inspected the Berry Central Butter Factory and others also visited the Government Stud Farm at Far Meadow, vehicles being provided for them.*

*The Grafton and Police Bands were on the ground, and discoursed inspiring music.*

*On the whole the affair went off very well, but there was some grumbling about the catering being inadequate. The outing, however, gave a great many people an opportunity of seeing the most accessible portion of the Shoalhaven district under favorable conditions, the day being beautifully fine, and the country looking splendid.*

*The large company returned Sydney wards in the afternoon, the trains leaving at 3.15 and 4 o'clock.*

The Shoalhaven Telegraph 9<sup>th</sup> January 1901

### 2.10.3 Federation Celebrations held on Showground 2001

The Berry Centenary of Federation Municipal Picnic was held on the Berry Showground on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2001 to coincide with the centenary of the opening of Parliament in May 1901.

### 2.10.4 The War Years

Towards the end of 1940, the war situation in Europe had worsened considerably and the A & H Committee was faced with a decision regarding the 1941 show. It was agreed to proceed, and by then the Berry Red Cross was a very active body and they were given the catering rights for both days of the Show. Shortly after the Show the death occurred of Major Hay, who over the years remained a keen supporter of the Association.

Towards the end of 1941, the war situation was serious and a previous decision to carry on with the 1942 Show was reversed and it was abandoned.

During 1942, the war situation had worsened and it was decided to also abandon the 1943 Show. By that time, most of essential services were restricted and with food and clothing also rationed, a Show was out of the question.

Also during those two years, a military camp had been established at the Showground and a comfort centre set up in Queen Street and operated by the younger women of the town.

By the end of 1943 Allied victories had turned the tide of the war and the committee again began to consider it possible to revive the Show for 1944. By then insufficient time was available to prepare the ground, the decision was made to stage a one day Show. As a wartime measure, a total blackout of outside lighting was in force and of a night Show could not be considered.

The committee also faced the daunting task of preparing the ground after its military occupation.

The one day Show proved to be a successful venture with a profit of £301/11/5. At a subsequent meeting the committee donated £50 to the Berry Red Cross Society.<sup>64</sup>

---

<sup>64</sup> Berry A & H Centenary op cit pp 19-21

This page is intentionally blank.



### **3.0 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE**

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

#### **3.1 Streetscape**

The subject site, the Berry Showground, is bounded by Victoria Street to the north, Alexandra Street to the east, Station Road to the south and Albany Street to the west.

Victoria, Albany and Alexandra Streets are relatively quiet, residential streets. Berry Station is located on Station Road.

The subject site is part of the Berry Showground Conservation Area. This area includes Albany Street to its intersection with Victoria Street, Victoria Street to its junction with Alexandra Street, Alexandra Street to its junction with Station Road and Station Road itself. The precinct includes Victorian, Georgian and Federation style houses, the Berry Court House, Showground and Pavilion, the early Council Chambers, memorials to Sir John Hay and David Berry, the railway station and stationmaster's residence, the Berry War Memorial and Memorial Avenue in addition to the School of Arts and Scots Presbyterian Church.

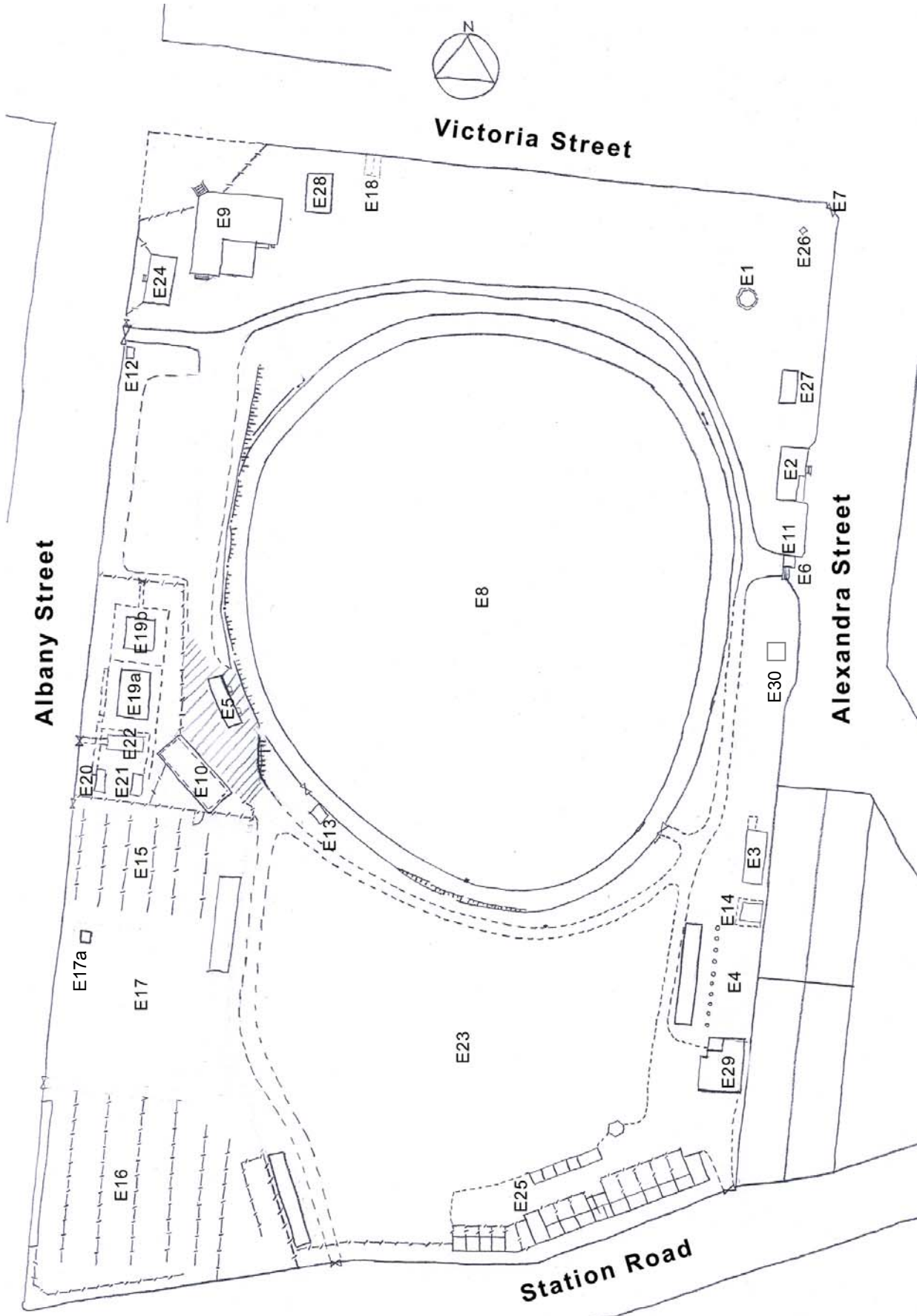
The Berry Courthouse is located on the opposite (western) corner of Albany and Victoria Street to the Agricultural Pavilion.

#### **3.2 Subject Site**

The subject site is the Berry Showground which includes a number of buildings, structures and areas (referred to as Elements (E) 1-29 – refer Figure No.3). These include the following:

- Rotunda (E1);
- Former Council Chambers (E2);
- Poultry Pavilion (E3);
- Wood Chopping Arena (E4);
- Showground Grandstand (E5);
- Two Alexandra Street entrances (E6 & E7);
- Showground ring (E8);
- Agricultural Pavilion (E9);
- Amenities building (E10);
- Ticket box 1 (E11);
- Ticket box 2 (E12);
- Commentary Box (E13);
- Publican's Booth (E14);
- Cattle yards and horse stalls (E15 & E16);
- Stock judging ring (E17);
- Stock judging ring commentary box (E17a);
- Cricket practice nets (E18);
- Swimming pools (built over old Caretaker's Cottage) and male and female change rooms and administration building (E19a & b, E20, E21 & E22);
- Hockey field (site of lake) (E23);
- Rural Youth (Junior Farmer's) Hall (E24);
- Regal Lodge Stables (E25);
- Sir John Hay Memorial (E26);
- Brick toilet block 1 (E27);
- Brick toilet block 2 (E28);
- Animal Nursery and Woodchop Judges Booth (E29); and
- Male toilet block (E30).

Refer to Appendix B for photographic survey of the site. Refer to section 4.5 for detailed description of the subject buildings and elements.



Not to scale

Figure No.3: Subject buildings and elements.

### 3.3 Subject Buildings and Elements

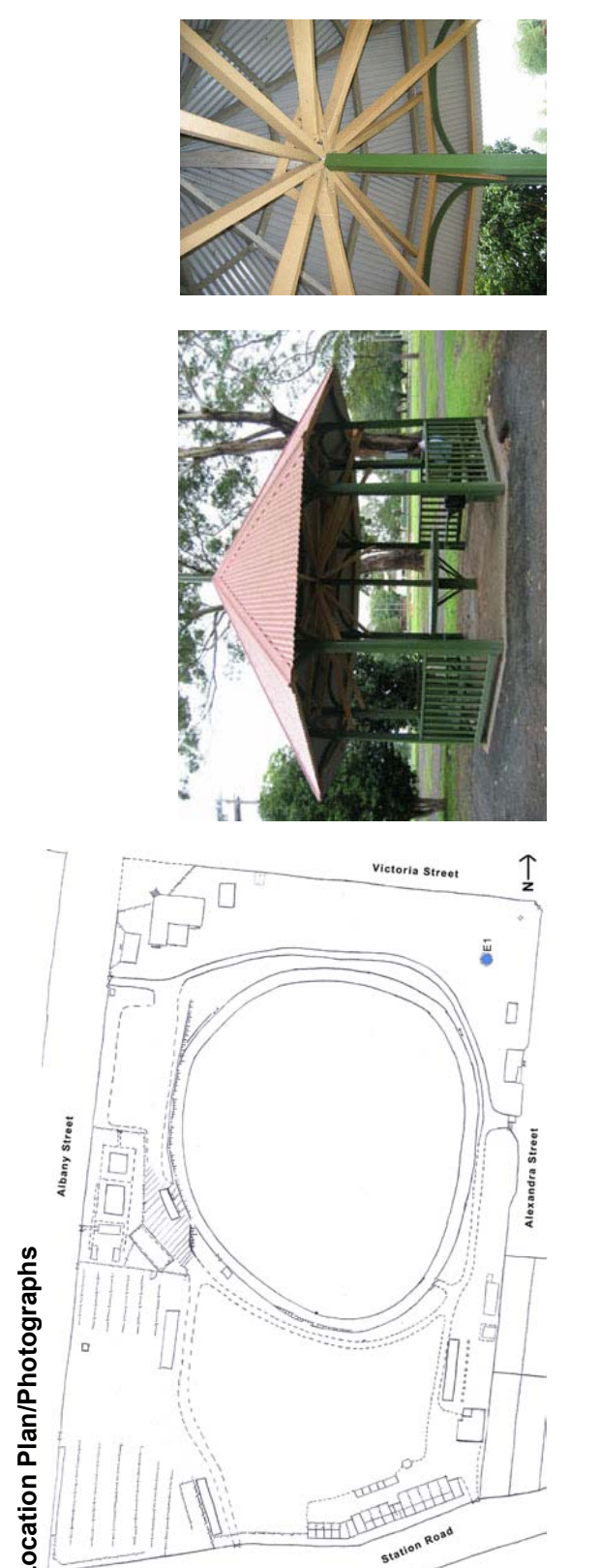
3.3.1

**Building/Element Name:** Rotunda  
**Building/Element Number:** E1  
**Location:** Berry Showground (north-east corner)

**General Description**  
Octagonal shaped open timber structure with corrugated metal roof. It has a stencilled concrete floor, circular timber posts, timber balustrading and seating along balustrade and king (central) post. Built c1888 with much of its original fabric remaining. Relocated to this location in 1936.

**Special Features**  
Original king (central) timber post and cross beams.

**Location Plan/Photographs**



The location plan shows the Rotunda (E1) situated in the north-east corner of the Berry Showground. The plan is bounded by Albany Street to the west, Victoria Street to the north, Alexandra Street to the east, and Station Road to the south. A north arrow is located in the top right corner of the plan. The Rotunda is depicted as a large octagonal structure with a central post and surrounding seating. Two photographs are included: the top one is a close-up view of the timber roof structure, showing a central green-painted post and several wooden beams radiating outwards; the bottom one is an exterior view of the Rotunda, showing its red corrugated metal roof, green-painted timber posts, and a wooden balustrade with benches.

3.3.2

Building/Element Name: **Former Council Chambers (exterior)**  
 Building/Element Number: E2  
 Location: Berry Showground (Alexandra Street entrance)

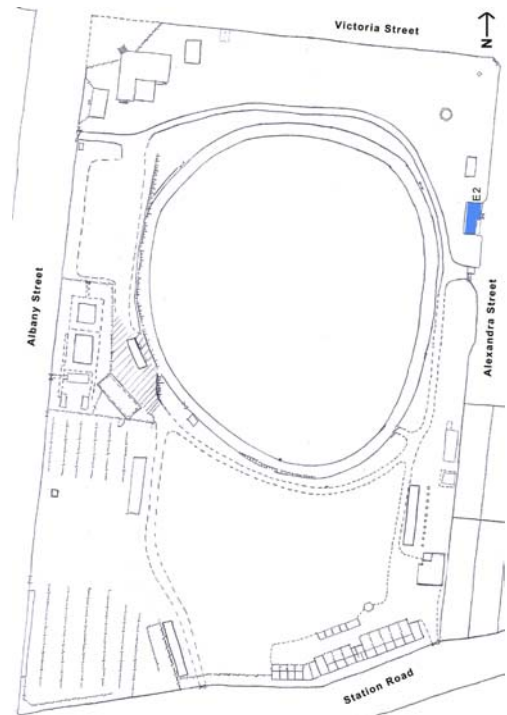
#### General Description

Brick Federation building built 1912 with a hipped corrugated metal roof and a parapet to the northern side of the front (east) elevation. The building has a bullnose verandah to the front elevation, and a lean-to addition to the northern elevation. The building has double hung windows and brick chimneys.

#### Special Features

Original pressed metal ceiling, bank vault.

#### Location Plan/Photographs



**Former Council Chambers (interior)**  
 E2  
 Berry Showground (Alexandra Street entrance)

Building/Element Name:  
 Building/Element Number:  
 Location:

No	Element	Description	Period	Condition	Significance	General Action
3.3.2.1	<b>Floor</b>	Timber Boards Covered in kitchen & entrance room, exposed in meeting room	E	G	3	Conserve
3.3.2.2	<b>Skirting</b>	Timber with painted finish	E	G	3	Conserve
3.3.2.3	<b>Walls</b>	Plastered masonry with paint finish.	E	G	3	Conserve
3.3.2.4	<b>Internal Doors</b>	Timber	E	G	3	Conserve
3.3.2.5	<b>Cornice</b>	Deep timber cornice with painted finish	E	G	3	Conserve
3.3.2.6	<b>Ceiling</b>	Pressed metal ceiling in meeting room, timber panel ceiling in entrance room	E	G	3	Conserve
3.3.2.7	<b>Other</b>	Picture rails in entrance room. Bank vault in entrance room.	E	G	3	Conserve

**Photographs**



Key: O Original      G Good      1 Exceptional Significance      5 Intrusive  
 E Early            M Moderate      2 High Significance      N/A Not Applicable  
 L Later            P Poor            3 Moderate Significance  
 R Recent        Mi Missing      4 Little Significance

3.3.3

**Building/Element Name:** Poultry Pavilion (exterior)  
**Building/Element Number:** E3  
**Location:** Berry Showground (eastern side)

**General Description**

As stated in the Addendum to this document, the Poultry Pavilion was damaged in a windstorm in August 2003.

Rectangular timber framed building with vertical timber boarding on the interior face and corrugated iron sheeting at the entrance with a corrugated iron skillion roof. Built 1963.

**Special Features**

N/A

**Location Plan/Photographs**



**Former Poultry Pavilion (interior)**  
E3  
Berry Showground (eastern side)

Building/Element Name:  
Building/Element Number:  
Location:

No	Element	Description	Period	Condition	Significance	General Action
3.3.3.1	Floor	Concrete	L	G	3	Maintain
3.3.3.2	Skirting	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
3.3.3.3	Walls	Painted timber boards with mesh covered openings at ceiling level	E	G	3	Conserve
3.3.3.4	Internal Doors	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
3.3.3.5	Cornice	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
3.3.3.6	Ceiling	Corrugated metal	E	G	3	Conserve
3.3.3.7	Other	Timber cages with wire doors	N/A	N/A	N/A	Conserve

**Photographs**



- Key:
- |   |          |    |          |   |                          |     |                |
|---|----------|----|----------|---|--------------------------|-----|----------------|
| O | Original | G  | Good     | 1 | Exceptional Significance | 5   | Intrusive      |
| E | Early    | M  | Moderate | 2 | High Significance        | N/A | Not Applicable |
| L | Later    | P  | Poor     | 3 | Moderate Significance    |     |                |
| R | Recent   | Mi | Missing  | 4 | Little Significance      |     |                |

3.3.4

Building/Element Name: **Wood chopping arena**  
Building/Element Number: E4  
Location: Berry Showground (eastern side)

**General Description**

This is a grassed area with two timber framed spectators stands. The stands have concrete floors, tiered seating and corrugated metal skillion roofs supported on timber posts. The stands are partially clad with vertical timber slats. Metal wood chopping posts are set in concrete pods in front of the spectator stands. During the Agricultural Show, the area is fenced by a picket fence. Area laid out 1935.

**Special Features**

N/A

**Location Plan/Photographs**





3.3.5

Building/Element Name: **Showground Grandstand (exterior)**  
Building/Element Number: E5  
Location: Berry Showground (western side)

**General Description**

Masonry building with tiered seating and timber balustrading. Concrete steps lead up from the ground level to the seating level. The corrugated metal gable ended roof also has a smaller central gable roof supported by timber posts. The ground floor section has multi-panelled timber framed doors with awnings. Original timber grandstand built 1893, lowered and moved 1935, rebuilt (current building) 1988.

**Special Features**

N/A

**Location Plan/Photographs**



**Building/Element Name: Grandstand (interior – ground floor)**  
**Building/Element Number: E5**  
**Location: Berry Showground (western side)**

No	Element	Description	Period	Condition	Comments	Significance	General Action
3.3.5.1	Floor	Concrete covered with lino	L	G		4	Conserve
3.3.5.2	Skirting	N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A
3.3.5.3	Walls	Brick	L	G		4	Conserve
3.3.5.4	Internal Doors	N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A
3.3.5.5	Cornice	N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A	N/A
3.3.5.6	Ceiling	Underside of tiered seating - roughcast	L	F	Some water leakage	4	Conserve
3.3.5.7	Other	N/A	N/A	N/A		N/A	Conserve

**Photographs**



Interior grandstand looking north.



Interior grandstand looking south.



Interior grandstand during show.

- Key:
- |   |          |    |          |   |                          |     |                |
|---|----------|----|----------|---|--------------------------|-----|----------------|
| O | Original | G  | Good     | 1 | Exceptional Significance | 5   | Intrusive      |
| E | Early    | M  | Moderate | 2 | High Significance        | N/A | Not Applicable |
| L | Later    | P  | Poor     | 3 | Moderate Significance    |     |                |
| R | Recent   | Mi | Missing  | 4 | Little Significance      |     |                |

3.3.6

**Building/Element Name:** Two Alexandra Street entrances  
**Building/Element Number:** E6 & E7  
**Location:** Berry Showground (eastern side)

**General Description**

There is a vehicular entrance/exit to the showground from Alexandra Street and a pedestrian access on the corner of Alexandra Street and Victoria Street which leads into the playground. The vehicular entrance road is covered with asphalt and the entrance and exit roads are separated by a masonry ticket booth. The gate posts are trachyte pillars with commemorative plaques and metal gates.

**Special Features**

Commemorative gateposts to mayor of Berry from 1911 to 1920, also containing the name "Hazelberry Parklands".

**Location Plan/Photographs**



3.3.7

**Building/Element Name:** Showground Ring  
**Building/Element Number:** E8  
**Location:** Berry Showground (centre)

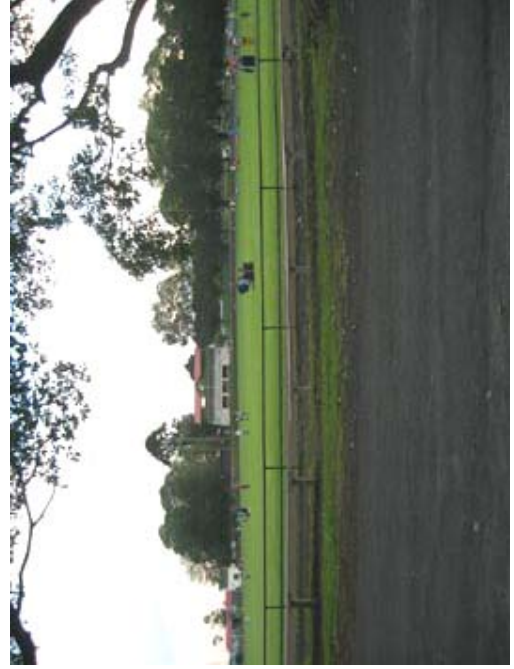
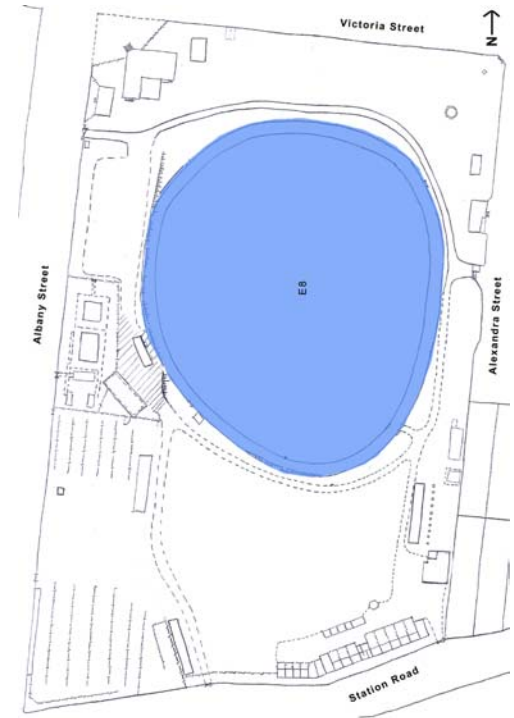
**General Description**

Oval shaped showground ring with grassed centre and dirt track around the perimeter. The ring was laid out c1888 and has only had minor alterations since. The ring is fenced with a metal pipe rail fence which replaced the original picket fence in 1964. Early flood lights (1939, 1960) are located around the ring and timber seating (1955) around the perimeter fence. The centre of the ring is used as a football oval and training ground. The dirt track around the ring is used daily as a training track for the horses from the Regal Lodge Stables also located on the grounds. A ring of Box trees are located around the perimeter fence of the showground ring.

**Special Features**

Ring has retained its original configuration and location.

**Location Plan/Photographs**



Part of showground ring


3.3.8

**Building/Element Name:** Agricultural Pavilion  
**Building/Element Number:** E9  
**Location:** Berry Showground (Albany Street entrance)

**General Description**  
The Agricultural Pavilion is a late Victorian L-shaped building constructed of red brick in 1888. The façade of the building features urns upon a parapet and a moulded string course which runs around the building. (Refer to the 2002 Berry Showground Agricultural Pavilion Conservation Management Plan by Tropman & Tropman Architects for detailed information on the Agricultural Pavilion).

**Special Features**  
Refer BSAP CMP.

**Location Plan/Photographs**



The location plan shows the site layout with the Agricultural Pavilion (E9) highlighted in blue. The plan includes labels for Albany Street, Victoria Street, Alexandria Street, and Station Road. A north arrow is present in the top right corner of the plan. The photograph shows the exterior of the Agricultural Pavilion, a two-story red brick building with a prominent entrance and a parapet, situated on a street with trees and a parked car.

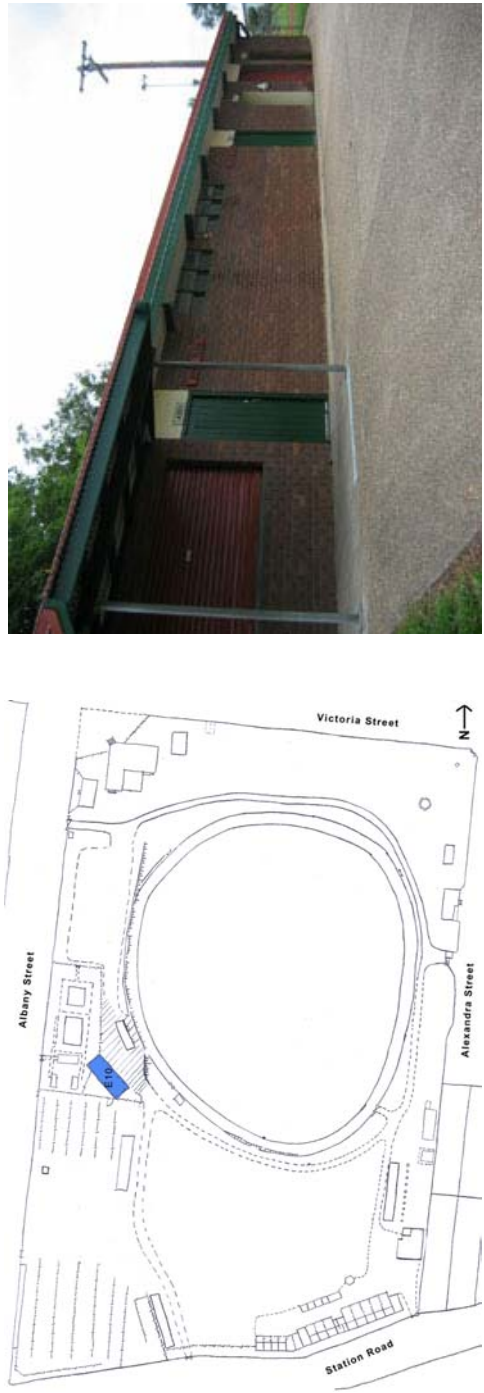
3.3.9

Building/Element Name: **Amenities Building**  
 Building/Element Number: E 10  
 Location: Berry Showground (western side behind grandstand)

**General Description**  
 Rectangular brick amenities building with corrugated metal skillion roof with separate change rooms for the home team and away side. Constructed 1974. It has timber panelled doors and a roller door.

**Special Features**  
 N/A

**Location Plan/Photographs**



The location plan shows the site layout with streets labeled: Albany Street, Victoria Street, Alexandria Street, and Station Road. A blue shaded area indicates the location of the amenities building. The photograph shows a brick building with a green corrugated metal roof, a roller door, and a timber panelled door.

3.3.10

Building/Element Name: **Ticket Box 1**  
Building/Element Number: E11  
Location: Berry Showground (Alexandra Street vehicle entrance)

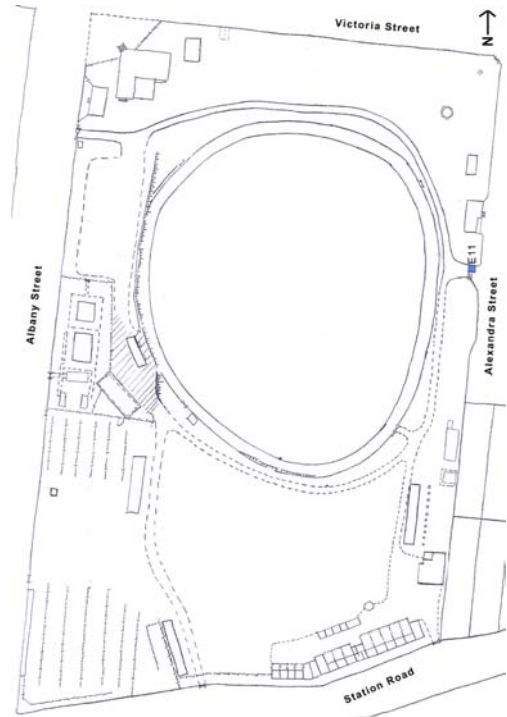
**General Description**

Small painted brick booth built 1974 with coloured corrugated metal gable hipped roof, timber door and double hung windows.

**Special Features**

N/A

**Location Plan/Photographs**



3.3.11

Building/Element Name: **Ticket Box 2**  
Building/Element Number: E12  
Location: Berry Showground (Albany Street entrance)

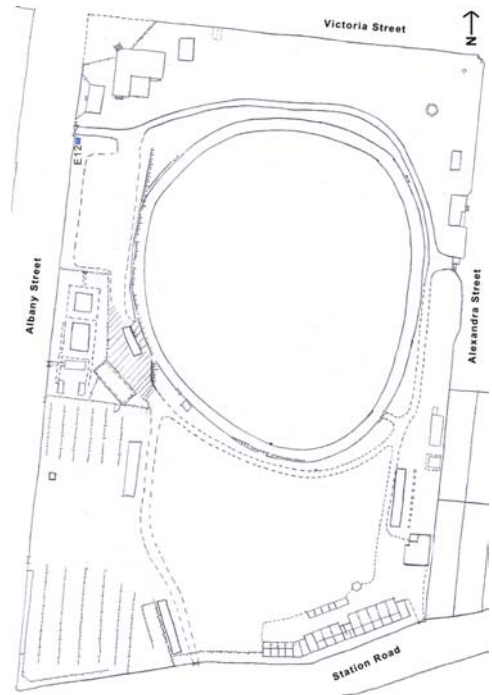
**General Description**

Recent small weatherboard clad booth with corrugated metal skillion roof. The top section of the northern and eastern sides of the building is open.

**Special Features**

N/A

**Location Plan/Photographs**





3.3.12

**Building/Element Name:** Commentary box  
**Building/Element Number:** E13  
**Location:** Berry Showground (south-western side, near grandstand)

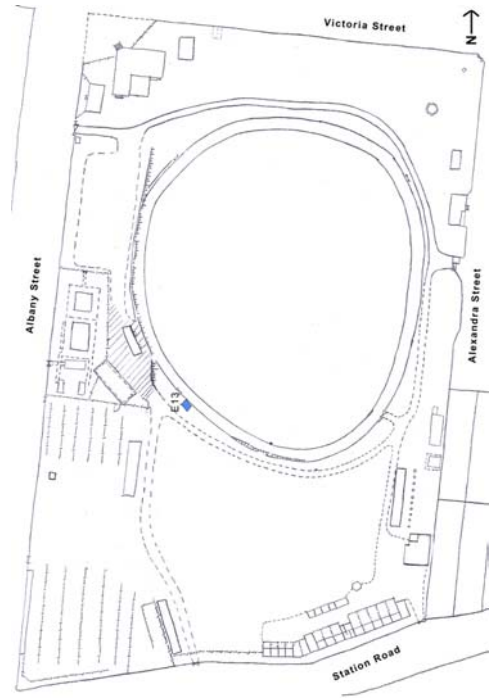
**General Description**

Recent weatherboard clad two-storey building with corrugated metal skillion roof. Each façade except the eastern has windows. An awning is over the entrance on the southern elevation.

**Special Features**

N/A

**Location Plan/Photographs**



3.3.13

Building/Element Name: **Publican's Booth**  
Building/Element Number: E14  
Location: Berry Showground (eastern side, next to wood chop arena)

**General Description**  
Masonry building with flat corrugated metal roof, front awning and concrete floor. Original building demolished and replaced with current structure c1960.

**Special Features**  
N/A

**Location Plan/Photographs**



3.3.14

**Building/Element Name:** Cattle yards and horse stalls  
**Building/Element Number:** E15 & E16  
**Location:** Berry Showground (cattle yards adjacent to amenities building, horse stalls along south-western boundary)

**General Description**

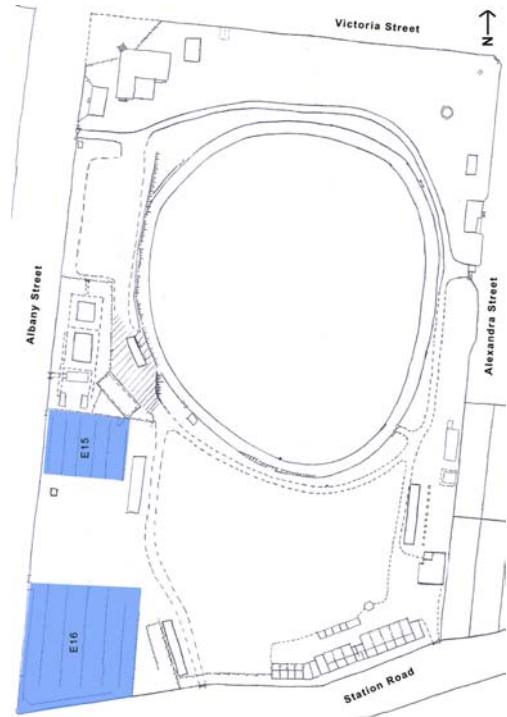
Addendum November 2003: A number of trees were blown over in the storm and a number of trees have since been removed because Council and the Management Committee were concerned about the state of the trees and the risk they posed to the safety of those who work at and use the showgrounds.

The cattle yard is a grassed area with metal rails shaded by a stand of Coral trees planted in 1943 for that purpose. The area also contains water troughs and washing areas for the cattle, an. The horse stall area is grassed with metal rails and has a corrugated metal gable roof shelter.

**Special Features**

Coral trees.

**Location Plan/Photographs**



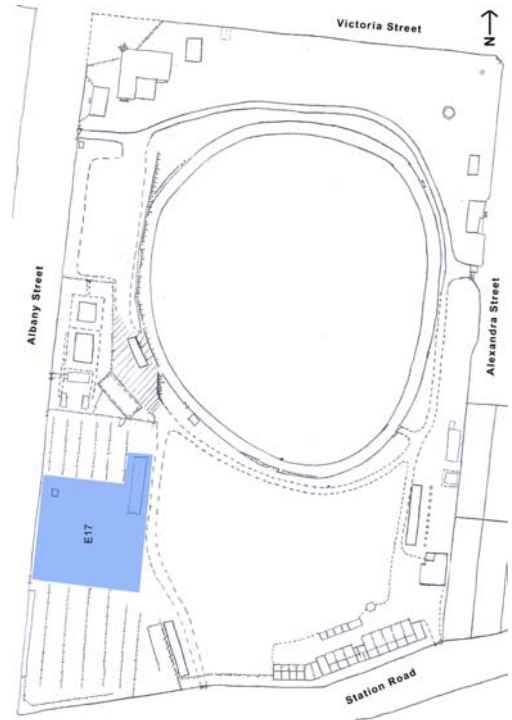
3.3.15

Building/Element Name: **Stock judging ring**  
 Building/Element Number: E17  
 Location: Berry Showground (western side between the cattle yards and horse stalls)

**General Description**  
 Grassed area with newly planted boundary of box trees. A small flat roofed weatherboard structure is located to the north-west corner of the area to house the judges. A corrugated metal gable roof shelter is also located in the north-west corner of this area.

**Special Features**  
 N/A

**Location Plan/Photographs**



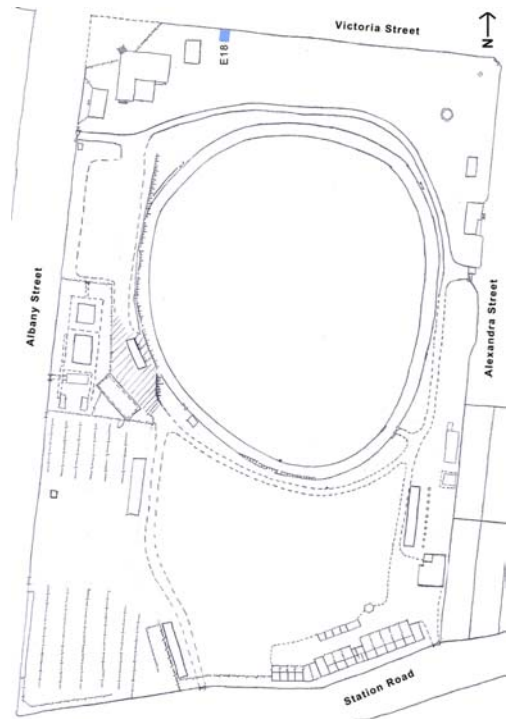
3.3.16

**Building/Element Name:** Cricket practice nets  
**Building/Element Number:** E18  
**Location:** Berry Showground (northern side near agricultural pavilion)

**General Description**  
Concrete cricket pitches with wire mesh cyclone fence surrounds.

**Special Features**  
N/A

**Location Plan/Photographs**



3.3.17

**Building/Element Name:** Swimming Pool and associated buildings  
**Building/Element Number:** E19a, E19b, E20, E21 & E22  
**Location:** Berry Showground (western side boundary)

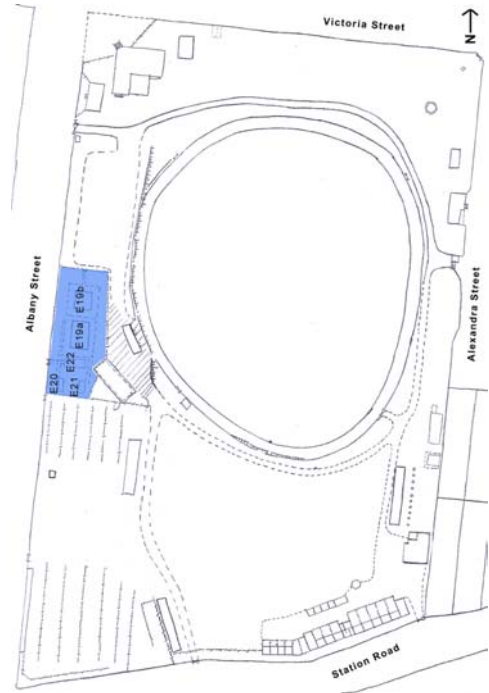
**General Description**

Two inground concrete and tiled swimming pools and associated buildings built 1963. The immediate surrounds of the pools are concreted, with concrete paths leading to the gates and the change rooms. The remainder of the area is grassed and contains some trees. The change rooms are pre-fabricated concrete structures with corrugated metal gable roofs, weatherboard gable ends and timber finials. The administration building is a weatherboard structure with a gable hipped corrugated metal roof with timber finials and a timber ramp to the front door. A shade awning is located between the two swimming pools.

**Special Features**

Pre-fabricated change rooms.

**Location Plan/Photographs**



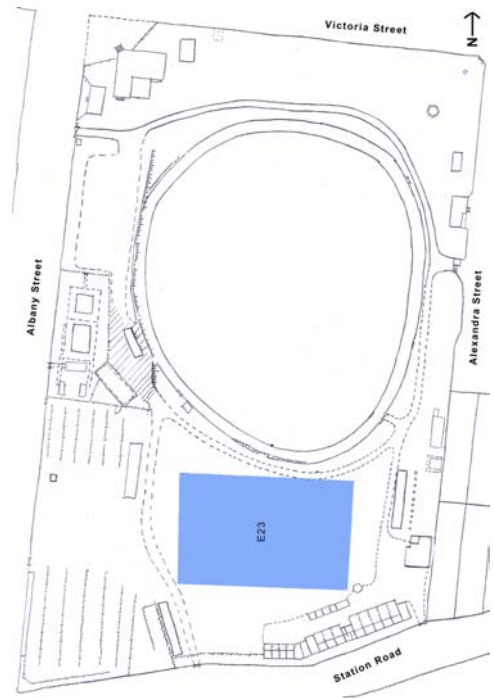
3.3.18

Building/Element Name: **Hockey Field**  
Building/Element Number: E23  
Location: Berry Showground (southern boundary)

**General Description**  
Large grassed area (site of former lake) created in 1973 when lake was filled in.

**Special Features**  
N/A

**Location Plan/Photographs**



3.3.19

Building/Element Name: **Rural Youth (Junior Farmer's) Hall**  
 Building/Element Number: E24  
 Location: Berry Showground (western side, adjacent to agricultural pavilion)

**General Description**  
 Weatherboard building on brick piers with ramp up to entrance door on eastern elevation. The hall has double hung windows, timber doors and a corrugated metal hipped roof and was constructed in 1958.

**Special Features**  
 N/A

**Location Plan/Photographs**



The location plan shows the site layout with streets labeled: Albany Street, Victoria Street, Station Road, and Alexandra Street. A blue rectangle labeled 'E24' indicates the building's location. A north arrow is present in the top right corner of the plan. The photograph shows a two-story weatherboard building with a red hipped roof, double windows, and a ramp leading to the entrance, situated on a grassy area.



3.3.20

Building/Element Name: **Regal Lodge Stables**  
Building/Element Number: E25  
Location: Berry Showground (southern boundary)

**General Description**

The Regal Lodge Stables was established in this location in 1955 and contains a number of timber stables and associated structures with corrugated metal roofs. A sand pit and training circle are also located in this area.

**Special Features**

N/A

**Location Plan/Photographs**



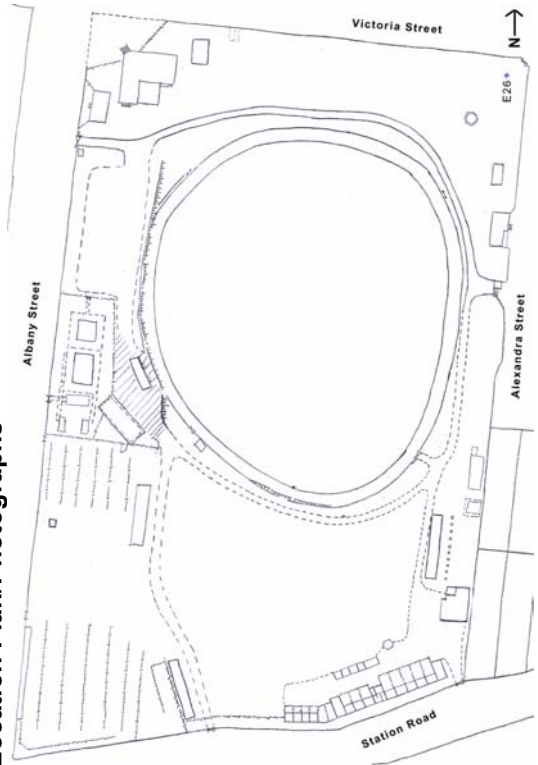
3.3.21

**Building/Element Name:** Sir John Hay Memorial  
**Building/Element Number:** E26  
**Location:** Berry Showground (north-eastern corner – children’s playground, near rotunda)

**General Description**  
 Marble, sandstone and concrete drinking fountain erected in 1915. Top section is missing.

**Special Features**  
 N/A

**Location Plan/Photographs**



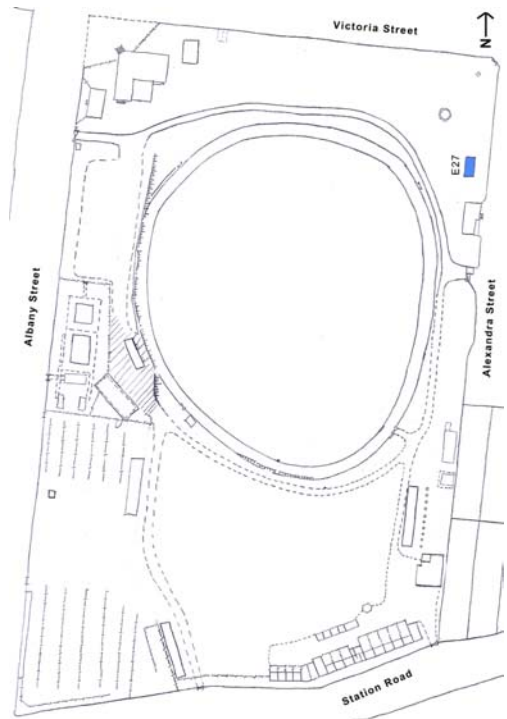
3.3.22

Building/Element Name: **Brick toilet block 1**  
Building/Element Number: E27  
Location: Berry Showground (eastern side, near former council chambers)

**General Description**  
Recent masonry toilet block with paint finish and coloured corrugated metal roof.

**Special Features**  
N/A

**Location Plan/Photographs**



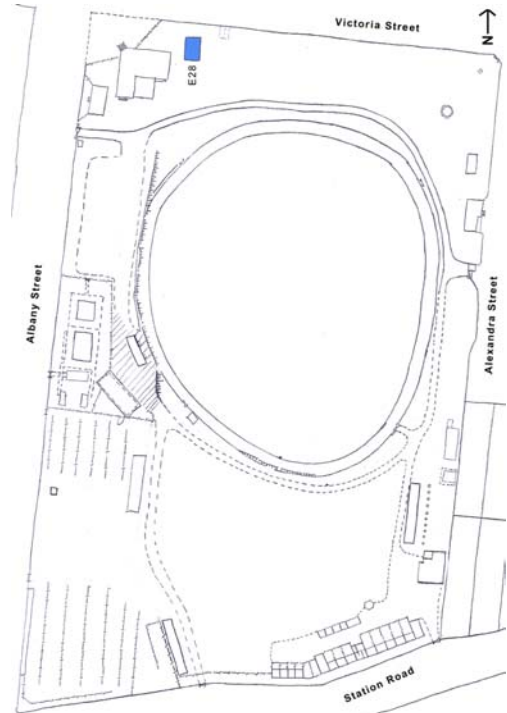
3.3.23

Building/Element Name: **Brick toilet block 2**  
Building/Element Number: E28  
Location: Berry Showground (northern side, near agricultural pavilion)

**General Description**  
Recent brick toilet block with corrugated metal gable roof.

**Special Features**  
N/A

**Location Plan/Photographs**



3.3.24

Building/Element Name: **Animal Nursery and Woodchop Judges Booth**  
Building/Element Number: E29  
Location: Berry Showground (south-eastern corner)

**General Description**

Timber stewards box constructed 1979 with attached timber and corrugated iron shed used as an animal nursery during the annual Berry Show (agricultural and horticultural show).

**Special Features**

N/A

**Location Plan/Photographs**



3.3.25

Building/Element Name: **Male Toilet Block**  
Building/Element Number: E30  
Location: Berry Showground (eastern side)

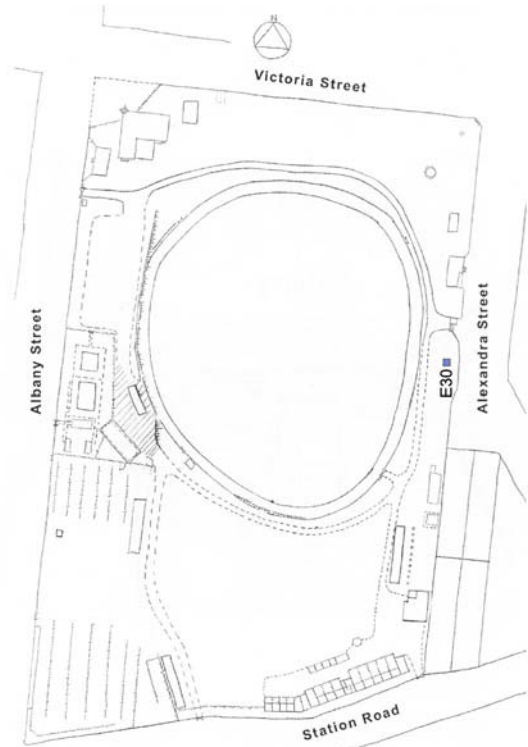
**General Description**

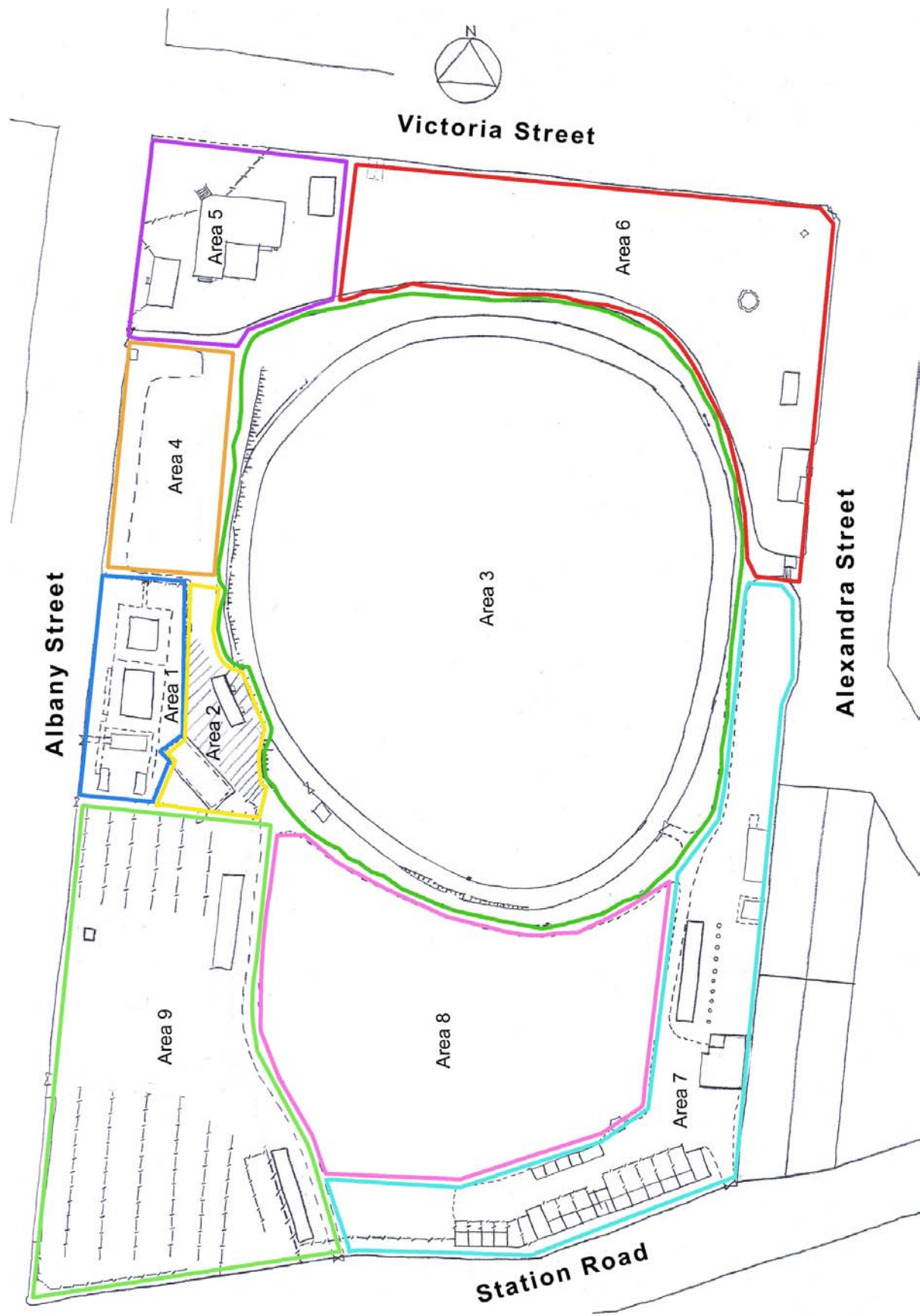
Recent square brick toilet block with paint finish, openings at ceiling level for ventilation and skillion roof.

**Special Features**

N/A

**Location Plan/Photographs**





Not to scale

Figure No.4: Landscape areas.

### 3.4 Landscape Areas

#### 3.3.1 General

The subject site contains a number of notable landscape features/plantings including the following. (Please note a detailed survey was not available during the course of this project.)

- Coral trees (*Erythrina sp*) at the cattle yards
- Grey Box trees (*Eucalyptus sp*) around the perimeter of the showground ring and the carpark
- Photinia (*Photinia serratifolia*) at the entrance corner to the Agricultural Pavilion
- One (1) Magnolia (*Magnolia sp*) at the entrance steps to the Agricultural Pavilion
- One (1) Magnolia (*Magnolia campbellii*) at the entrance corner to the Agricultural Pavilion
- One (1) mature Magnolia (*Magnolia grandiflora*) at the entrance corner to the Agricultural Pavilion
- One (1) Cypress (*Callitrus macleayana*) at the entrance to the Agricultural Pavilion
- Three (3) mature Camphor laurels (*Cinnamomum camphora*) at the entrance corner to the Agricultural Pavilion
- Two (2) mature Hoop pines (*Araucaria cunninghamii*) which act as landmark trees at the entrance corner to the Agricultural Pavilion and in the coral trees at the cattle yards
- Camellias (*Camellia sp*) at the north-east corner of the showground.

The majority of the showground is grassed and the perimeter lined with mature trees forming a dense tree canopy around the showground. A further line of mature trees borders the showground ring, and densely planted avenues of mature trees feature at the carpark area (box trees) and the cattle yards (coral trees).

The view/sight lines between important buildings, entries and the showground ring are kept open. For functionality, the main show areas are kept open and grassed and shade/shelter is provided by box trees (*Eucalyptus sp*) located on the perimeter of the area. The exception here is the cattle stands where the closely planted avenues of coral trees (*Erythrina sp*) form a sheltered area for the prize stock displayed here.

To aid in describing the physical features of the subject site, it has been divided into nine (9) landscape areas (refer Figure No.4). Refer to Appendix B Photographic Survey for photographs of the site.

A Statement of Heritage Impact and Landscape Plan has been prepared by W.H. & G. Smit Landscape Architects for the proposed redevelopment of the north-east corner of the site at the Alexandra Street pedestrian entrance incorporating the children's playground. (Refer to Appendix C).

#### 3.3.2 Boundary Treatments

The showground site is fenced with a tall cyclone fence around the perimeter of the site. This replaced the original timber paling fence in 1959.

The area in the immediate vicinity of the Agricultural Pavilion is fenced with a tall cyclone fence topped with barbed wire from the corners of the Agricultural Pavilion to both Albany Street and Victoria Street. It is believed that this is to prevent unpaid access to the showground during show time.

The showground ring is fenced with a low metal pipe rail fence which replaced the original low timber picket fence in 1964.



### 3.3.3 Landscape Area 1 – Swimming Pool

This area contains two swimming pools, two change rooms and an administration building. The two swimming pools have concrete surrounds and aprons with concrete paths leading to the change rooms and administration building, and to the entrance gate on Albany Street. The remainder of the area is grassed and contains some trees. This area is fenced off from the rest of the showground by a tall wire cyclone fence topped with barbed wire. Part of the fence along the northern and eastern perimeter is covered with shade cloth. A wrought iron palisade fence and gate is located between brick piers along the northern perimeter. These gates are no longer used.

### 3.3.4 Landscape Area 2 - Grandstand

This area contains the Grandstand and the amenities block. A pebblecrete area continues from the road south of the Grandstand to the gravelled car parking area north of the Grandstand. Garden beds with bright coloured annuals are located around the front of the Grandstand and the area adjoining the amenities block and cattle yards.

### 3.3.5 Landscape Area 3 – Showground Ring

This area comprises of the showground ring. The centre of the ring is grassed with a dirt track running around the outside of the grassed area inside the pipe rail perimeter fence. A ring of mature Grey Box trees (*Eucalyptus sp*) is located around the perimeter of the showground ring, outside the pipe rail fence. Timber seating on clay pipes is also located around this perimeter pipe rail fence. The bitumen road around the showground ring links the various zones of the showground to the entrances and exits to and from the grounds.

### 3.3.6 Landscape Area 4 – Albany Street Carpark

This section of the showground is used as a carpark. It is gravelled and contains an avenue of mature box trees (*Eucalyptus sp*). The entrance to this carpark is off Albany Street through cyclone metal gates. A weatherboard ticket booth is located to the south of this entrance, as well as a mature fig tree (*Ficus sp*). The street perimeter of this area is also lined by mature box trees (*Eucalyptus sp*), forming a dense treed belt at this end of the showground.

### 3.3.7 Landscape Area 5 – Agricultural Pavilion

The Agricultural Pavilion, Rural Youth Hall and a brick toilet block are located in this area. A gravelled area is located immediately to the front of the Agricultural Pavilion. Concrete paths about the Agricultural Pavilion on the southern and western sides. A concrete ramp runs up to the entrance of the Rural Youth Hall on the eastern side. A number of mature plantings are located at the entrance of the Agricultural Pavilion on the corner of Victoria and Albany Streets. They include a Hoop Pine, Camphor Laurels, and magnolia sp (please refer to the BSAP CMP 2002 for detailed information). There is also a planting of Callistemons here which are inappropriate to the character of the showground. The mature plantings form a dense shaded canopy at the entrance to the Agricultural Pavilion, while the rest of the area remains largely open and unshaded by tall trees.

### 3.3.8 Landscape Area 6 – North-eastern perimeter

This area extends from the cricket practice nets (adjacent to the brick toilet block east of the Agricultural Pavilion) to the Alexandra Street vehicle entrance. It contains the cricket practice nets, the Rotunda, the John Hay Memorial Fountain, the children's playground, the Former Council Chambers and a brick toilet block (between the fountain and the former council chambers). A Statement of Heritage Impact including a Landscape Plan for the provision of a formal pedestrian entry to the showground has been prepared by W. H. & G. Smit for the north-east corner of the showground (referred to in that report as the John Hay Memorial Entrance). (Refer to Appendix C).

While the area immediately east of the Agricultural Pavilion is open (mainly grassed with bitumen/gravelled paths) with few trees, the area around the pedestrian entry (on the corner of

Victoria and Alexandra Streets) and the toilet block (between the entry and the Former Council Chambers) is densely treed (including box trees and camphor laurels) and contains recent plantings of camellias.

A pedestrian entrance is located on the corner of Alexandra and Victoria Streets through a cyclone wire fence gate. A vehicle entrance is located on Alexandra Street.

The open grassed area between the north-east corner and the cricket practice nets are used once a month during the Berry Country Markets to house the stalls. This area is also used during the Berry Show to park the caravans of sideshow alley.

### 3.3.9 Landscape Area 7 – South-eastern perimeter

This area extends from the Alexandra Street entrance to the southern entrance gate off Station Road. It is a grassed area containing a number of structures associated with show activities (including the Poultry Pavilion, the Publican's Booth, the wood chopping arena, the nursery and judges box along the eastern boundary), and the Regal Lodge Stables (along the southern boundary). The area of the wood chop arena affords views to Wedding Cake Mountain.

The Alexandra Street perimeter is lined with tall Box trees (*Eucalyptus sp*) forming a shaded canopy over the buildings.

The stable area has loose boxes on either side of the stable lanes, and a training/walking ring located to the west of the complex. The complex is located under a stand of tall, mature box trees and is accessed from the Station Road entrance.

### 3.3.10 Landscape Area 8 – Hockey Field

This area between the showground ring and the stables was the site of a lake which was drained and filled in 1975. It is a large open grassed area used as a hockey field and as an occasional informal camping ground.

### 3.3.11 Landscape Area 9 – Cattle yards and horse stalls – south-western perimeter

This area in the south-west corner of the site extends along the southern boundary (west of the stables) to the amenities block behind the grandstand and the southern boundary of the swimming pool complex. The area comprises of two areas of shelters and stands (cattle yard and horse yard), a stock judging ring/area, a stock loading ramp, and a concrete covered washing stand.

The cattle yard is a grassed area containing low pipe rail divides shaded by a mature stand of coral trees (*Erythrina sp*). A shelter is located to the east of the cattle stand (adjacent to the road) which is used during show time as a shelter for smaller animals (eg. goats).

The horse stand is a largely open grassed area containing pipe rail divides and a shelter. A stock loading ramp is located in this area along the west boundary (on Albany Street).

The stock judging ring located between the cattle and horse stands is an open grassed area ringed by some recent plantings of box tree saplings.

### **3.5 Archaeological Potential**

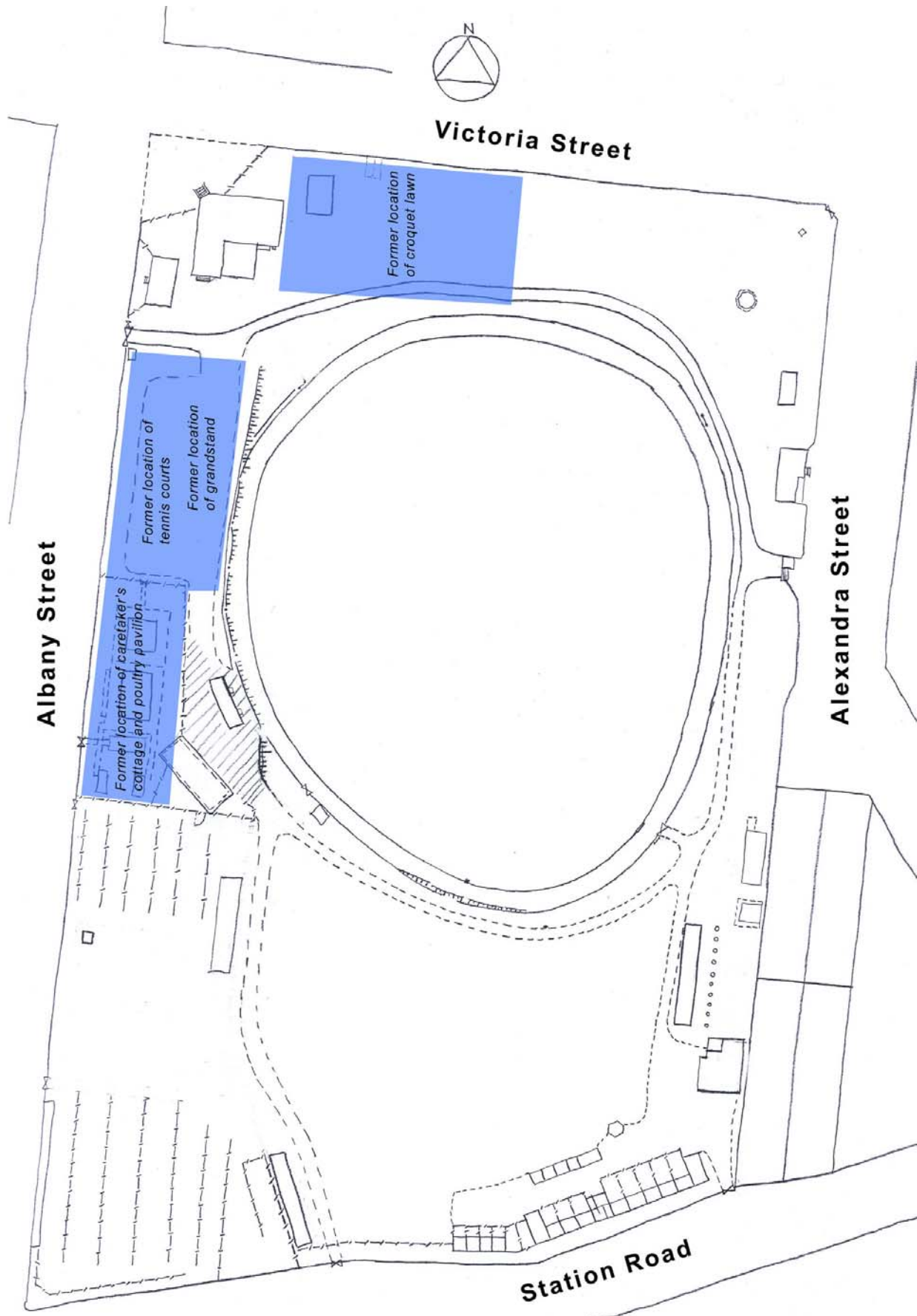
After an examination of the historical evidence, the potential for archaeological remains of other structures on the site does not appear to be high.

The earliest parks in Berry were known as the Hazelberry Parklands. The parklands are situated south of Victoria Street, bounded on the west by Albany Street and include two parks, one situated on Alexandra Street and the other on the corner of Alexandra and Station Streets. The main section of the Hazelberry Parklands is known as the Berry Showground. As the Showground area was set aside by David Berry at an early date, it is unlikely that any other substantial structures were built on the subject site prior to the construction of the Agricultural Pavilion.

A caretaker's cottage stood on the present location of the swimming pool. However this was demolished so the swimming pool could be constructed. There is unlikely to be any archaeological remains of the cottage. The Poultry Pavilion was also situated in this location, but it was relocated to the eastern side of the showground.

A croquet lawn was situated to the east of the agricultural pavilion but is no longer extant due to declining interest in the game. Tennis courts were also located to the south of the pavilion, possibly on the site of the current carpark.

Refer to Figure No.5.



Not to scale

Figure No.5: Shaded areas indicate location of former structures at the Showground. It is unlikely that any significant fabric remains as archaeological potential in these areas.

## **4.0 ANALYSIS OF DOCUMENTARY AND PHYSICAL EVIDENCE**

### **4.1 Analysis of Documentary Evidence**

A relatively large amount of documentary evidence has been discovered relating to the Berry Showground. Much of this has been discussed in the Berry Showground Agricultural Pavilion Conservation Management Plan.

The following photographs (Figure Nos. 6 & 7) were taken in 1935 by Marjorie Rutlege of Jamberoo who, in 1949, married Ron Bragg and then moved to Berry to dairy farm.



Figure No.6: Horse riding at the Berry Show in 1935 (before the Grandstand was moved) with Agricultural Pavilion and Showground Grandstand in the background.



Figure No.7: The Wood Chop event at the Berry Show in 1935. This was the first year the event was held at the show.



Figure No.8: Berry Show, 1907. Note the Rotunda in the centre of the showground ring. (Source: *Berry A. & H. Association Centenary 1888-1988*, pg.8)



Figure No.9: Berry Show, 1908. Note the picket fence around the perimeter of the showground ring. (Source: *Click go the Years!*, pg.50)



Figure No.10: Berry Show during World War I. (Source: *Berry A. & H. Association Centenary 1888-1988*, pg.18)

#### **4.2 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. The subject buildings have not been dramatically altered since their construction from 1888 onwards except for the grandstand (which was lowered, moved and renovated) and the poultry shed (which was dismantled, relocated on the other side of the site and reassembled).

No early plans or aerial photographs have been found during the course of this investigation, however as the site was set aside for the purposes of an Agricultural Showground, it is unlikely that there have been any major changes to the site or the buildings, except for the changes mentioned above.

There is no remaining physical evidence of early fencing to the perimeter of the subject site or to the showground ring.

This page is intentionally blank.



## 5.0 ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

### 5.1 NSW Heritage Assessment Criteria

This assessment of cultural significance for the Berry Showground Agricultural Pavilion has been based on the following criteria and guidelines contained in the NSW Heritage Manual produced by the NSW Heritage Office and Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources (DIPNR).

**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

## 5.2 Statement of heritage significance

The following is a statement of significance for the Berry Showground. For a specific statement of significance on the Berry Showground Agricultural Pavilion, please refer to the 2000 Berry Showground Agricultural Pavilion Conservation Management Plan by Tropman & Tropman Architects.

The Berry Showground has historic and social significance to the State of New South Wales and aesthetic and technical research significance to the Illawarra region at a local level for the following reasons:

	Statement of Significance	Criterion
5.2.1	The subject site was part of an original crown grant to Alexander Berry and Edward Wollstonecraft, two of the major land grantees in the area. David Berry set 10 acres of land aside for the purpose of an agricultural showground.	(a) (b) (d) (e)
5.2.2	The subject site continues to be used for its original function as a showground. This use first took place one hundred and fifteen years ago in 1888.	(a)
5.2.3	The subject site and buildings were significant to the early settlers of the Illawarra region as the showground venue which hosted an annual showcase of the agricultural and horticultural activities of the area which was also an important social event. The annual show gave the district farmers a chance to meet and discuss farming methods with neighbours and to learn what was going on outside their own parcel of land.	(a) (b) (d) (e)
5.2.4	The subject site is associated with the early industries of the area and was purpose built to showcase the talent of the area.	(a) (e)
5.2.5	The subject site is a good example of an intact Agricultural Showground of the early colony which retains its relationship and association with and between the buildings of the showground.	(a) (c) (d) (e)
5.2.6	The subject site and buildings remain significant to the Shoalhaven area through their continued use for community purposes, recreational activities and as part of the annual Berry Agricultural and Horticultural Show.	(a) (c) (d)
5.2.7	The subject site evolved to accommodate the growth of the industries in the area and the interests of the community.	(a) (d)
5.2.8	The subject site is a community facility associated with the lifestyle, industry and growth of the area.	(a) (d)
5.2.9	The subject buildings and areas continue to be used for community purposes and private functions, as intended when first established.	(a)
5.2.10	The Rotunda is significant as one of the earliest structures of the showground. It was originally located in the centre of the ring for use by the horse judges and the band and was moved to its present location in the north-east corner of the showground in 1936.	(a)
5.2.11	The Former Council Chambers is significant in providing a community function. The building has been used as a council chambers, a bank, and as meeting rooms. The latter use continues today. The location of the Former Council Chambers on the showground site is indicative of the importance of the showground site to the town.	(a)

- 
- 5.2.12 The Poultry Shed is significant as an early timber structure on the showground still used for its original purpose. (a)
- 5.2.13 The Wood Chopping Arena is significant as a purpose-built area that has been used continuously for this same purpose since 1935. (a)
- 5.2.14 The Showground Grandstand is significant as a replica of one of the earliest structures on the site. It is a landmark structure on the site and identifies the site as a showground. (a)
- 5.2.15 The two Alexandra Street entrances are significant as major entrances into the showground. The vehicular entrance on Alexandra Street has always been the main entrance into the showground. The pedestrian entrance on the corner of Alexandra and Victoria Streets provides a focal point and view corridor into the showground from the town. (a)
- 5.2.16 The coral trees on the grounds located at the cattle stand are representative of a historic period of planting. (a)
- 5.2.17 The Box trees on the showground site are representative of a historic period of planting. (a)
- 5.2.18 The showground ring has retained its configuration and location and is still used for its original purpose. (a)
- 5.2.19 The Regal Lodge Stables are significant for their long-standing association of use with the showground site. (a)
- 5.2.20 The Agricultural Pavilion is important to the Illawarra region as a very fine example of a late nineteenth century building which has retained its relationship and association with the other buildings of the showground. The Pavilion is a good representative/rare example of its type which retains most of its external detailing and interior spaces. Although some of the grander elements of the structure such as the lantern lights and the coloured glass skylights have been removed, it is possible for them to be reinstated. (Refer to the 2002 BSAP CMP for a detailed statement of significance related directly to the Agricultural Pavilion). (a)  
(c)  
(d)

### 5.3 Nature of significance

#### 5.3.1 Historical Significance

Berry Showground is important in the history of the development of agricultural shows in the state of New South Wales. The land was set aside for the purposes of a showground by David Berry. The subject site continues to be used for its original function as an agricultural showground. This use first took place in 1888, one hundred and fifteen years ago.

The Rotunda is historically significant as one of the earliest structures still extant on the site.

The Former Council Chambers is historically significant as a building which has had a number of community uses since its time of construction in 1912. The building has been used as a Council Chambers, a bank and a meeting venue, and this latter use continues today. The building's location on the site further emphasises the importance of the showground to the town of Berry.

The Poultry Pavilion is historically significant as an early structure to the showground, still retaining its original use.

The Wood Chopping Arena was specifically constructed in 1952 to hold wood chopping events at the Berry Show. It continues to be used for this purpose.

The Grandstand has historical significance as one of the earliest buildings on the site, constructed at the same time as the Agricultural Pavilion (it is unclear if any of the original building remains). Despite being lowered, relocated and renovated, the building retains significance as a key element of the site and a landmark feature of the showground.

The two Alexandra Street entrances are historically significant as they have been and continue to be used as major entrances into the showground from the early days of the showground. The entrances to are located along major axis associated with the entrance and views to and from Berry town.

#### 5.3.2 Aesthetic Significance

Berry Showground is significant to the Illawarra region as a very fine example of a representative and rare late nineteenth century showground complex. The showground buildings have retained their relationship with each other, as well as their external detailing and interior spaces.

The showground has landmark qualities in the Berry area due to its prominent siting on the block bounded by Albany, Victoria and Alexandra Streets and Station Road. The Agricultural Pavilion and the Grandstand, as well as the mature plantings on the corner of Albany and Victoria Streets, especially the Hoop Pine (*Araucaria cunninghamii*), and the Former Council Chambers on Alexandra Street, are prominent features and serve as landmarks to the site.

The location of the showground site features a lush backdrop and views to the mountains surrounding the site, including Wedding Cake Mountain, Coolangatta Mountain and the Escarpment which are prominent landmarks in the district.

#### 5.3.3 Social Significance

The subject site and buildings are significant to the State of NSW for their importance to the early settlers as an Agricultural Showground as a place for the community to meet and socialise and share information and ideas. The subject site remains significant to the Shoalhaven community through its continued use as a showground and as a community and recreational facility.

Many of the buildings on the site are socially significant through their use during the Berry Show. The Former Council Chambers is also socially significant as a former Council Chamber,

and also as a meeting venue. The Grandstand is also socially significant through its use as a function centre and also through its use community use (eg. the playgroup).

#### 5.3.4 Technical/Research

The Showground is significant as a group of agricultural buildings purposely constructed as a showground complex in a small township. The buildings are representative of construction techniques for the period. The majority of the buildings have remained in their original location on the site and retain much of their original fabric.

### 5.4 **Items of significance**

5.4.1 Individual elements located on the subject site which are considered to be of heritage significance include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Rotunda
- Former Council Chambers
- Poultry Pavilion
- Wood Chopping Arena
- Grandstand
- Two Alexandra Street entrances
- Showground ring
- Agricultural pavilion
- John Hay Memorial
- Cattle yards
- Regal Lodge Stables
- Coral trees
- Box trees
- Hoop Pine (*Araucaria cunninghamii*)

5.4.2 Individual elements of the subject buildings which are considered to be of heritage significance include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Rotunda:
  - King Post and cross beams
- Former Council Chambers:
  - Structure
  - Joinery
  - Floors, especially timber flooring
  - Pressed metal ceiling
  - Bank vault
- Poultry Pavilion:
  - Structure
  - Cages
- Wood Chopping Arena
  - Configuration of arena
  - Spectator stands
  - Log holds
  - Steward's box
- Showground Grandstand:
  - Structure
- Two Alexandra Street entrances:
  - Memorial gate pillar

- Agricultural Pavilion:
  - Structure
  - Vents operated by a string pulley system
  - Coat hooks attached to the walls in the secretaries office
  - Skylights
  - Door hardware
  - Timber joinery
  - Commemorative plaques
  - Decorative urns

### 5.5 Heritage Assessment Matrix

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

### 5.6 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 Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources (DIPNR).

**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.

#### 5.7.1 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).

- Exceptional Significance (Category 1)
- High Significance (Category 2)
- Moderate Significance (Category 3)
- Little Significance (Category 4)
- Intrusive (Category 5)

Refer to Figure No.11.



This page is intentionally blank.



## 5.7 Definition of curtilage

An analysis of the documentary and physical evidence has determined that the existing boundaries of the Showground precinct form an appropriate curtilage (Refer to Figure No.12). The subject site is also a part of the larger Berry township precinct. This includes the Berry Courthouse which is directly opposite the subject building, the railway station and memorial park.

Consideration of proposals for development in the surrounding area should take into account the significance of the subject site.

The subject site is also a part of the larger Berry township precinct. This includes the Berry Courthouse which is directly opposite the subject building, the railway station and memorial park. The site is also within the Berry Showground Area Character Precinct. The area is described as below (Shoalhaven Heritage Inventory SHI Number 2390028).

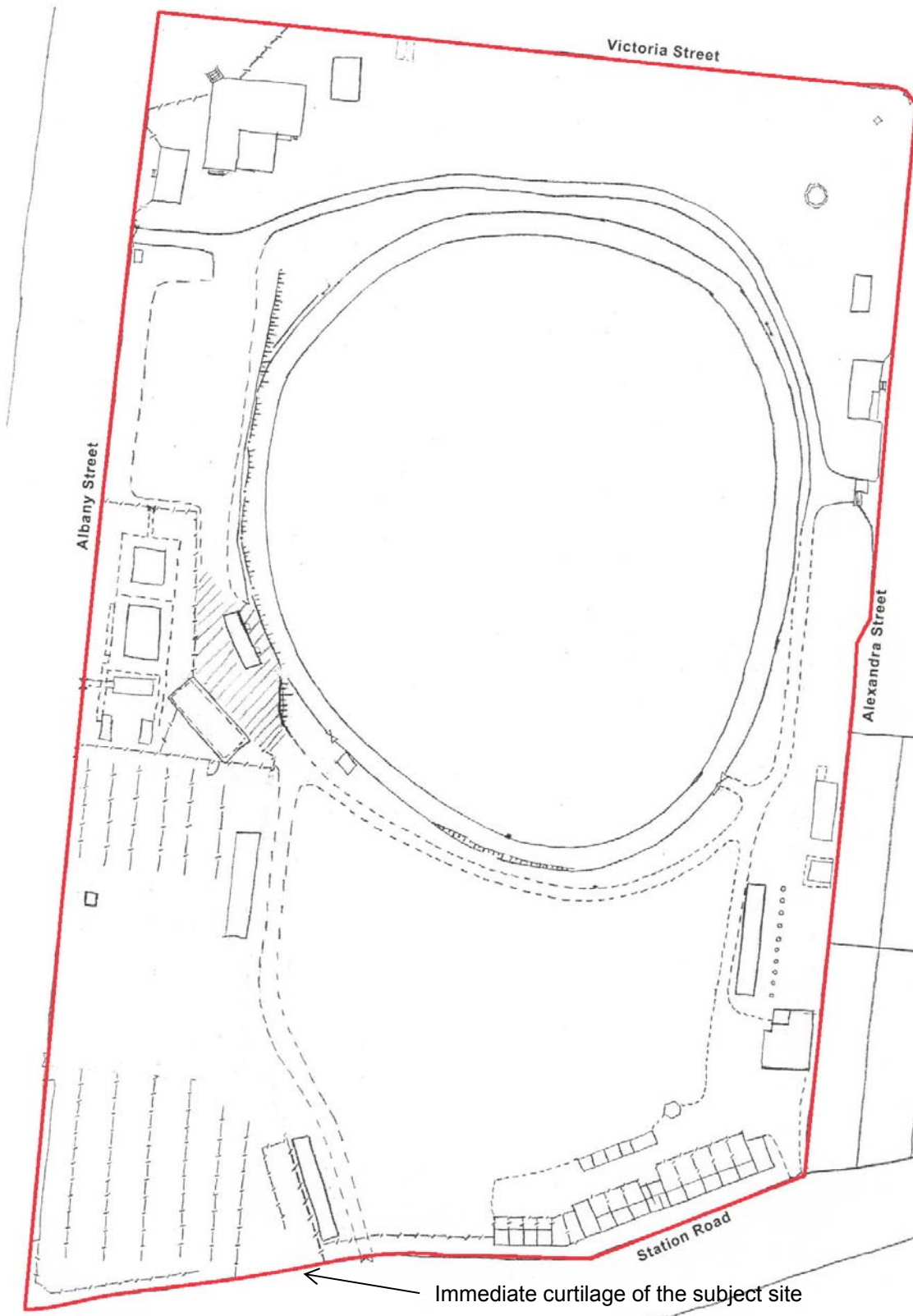
*The Berry Showground Precinct encompasses the Hazelberry Parklands and those streetscapes which are bounding elements to the showground. The latter include Albany Street to its intersection with Victoria Street, Victoria Street to its junction with Alexandra Street, Alexandra Street to its junction with Station Road and Station Road itself. The precinct includes Victorian, Georgian and Federation style houses, the Court House, Showground and Pavilion, the early Council Chambers, memorials to Sir John Hay and David Berry, the railway station and stationmaster's residence, the Berry War Memorial and Memorial Avenue in addition to the School of Arts and Scots Presbyterian Church.*

*In conjunction with the contiguous Berry Core Precinct, the Berry Showground Precinct encompasses those major public spaces and buildings which illustrate the growth of the community in response to economic, political and social parameters which began in the nineteenth century. Today, Alexandra Street remains an important ceremonial link in the townscape between the town centre and the railway station and features along its length almost all those memorials erected in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The Showground continues to act as a focus for the community with facilities for showground days, field sports and swimming.*

The significance of this area is as follows.

*The Berry Showground Precinct is important, in conjunction with the Berry Core Area and Pulman Street Precincts, for its ability to demonstrate the growth of Berry in response to economic, social and political pressures during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The importance of the Showground as a social focus in the townscape is highlighted by a range of domestic buildings and complemented by the Court House and the ceremonial nature of Alexander Street which documents events in the history of the community.*

This precinct forms an appropriate extended curtilage for the subject site. (Refer to Figure No.13)



Not to scale. N↑

Figure No.12: Immediate curtilage of the Berry Showground.



This page is intentionally blank.

## 6.0 CONSTRAINTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

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

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

- 6.1.1 No activity/development should be allowed on the site that will confuse the fact that the Berry Showground constitutes an important component of the cultural development of the Berry township, the Shoalhaven City Council area, the Illawarra region and the State of New South Wales.
- 6.1.2 The subject site's early planning, detailing and design features which identify it as an Agricultural Showground should be conserved.
- 6.1.3 Significant landscape elements and plantings should be retained and conserved. This includes, but is not limited to, the Hoop Pine (*Araucaria cunninghamii*) to the front of the Agricultural Pavilion; the coral trees at the cattle yards and the box trees around the showground ring. For significant landscape elements and plantings refer to Section 3.4 of this report.
- 6.1.4 Significant buildings and features of the site should be retained and conserved. These include, but are not limited to: the Rotunda; the Former Council Chambers; the Poultry Pavilion; the Wood Chopping Arena; the Showground Grandstand; the two Alexandra Street entrances; the John Hay memorial; the Agricultural Pavilion (for associated items of significance relating to the Agricultural Pavilion, refer to the 2002 BSAP CMP); and the showground ring. Refer to Section 5.4.1 and 5.4.2 of this report.
- 6.1.5 Relocated or reconstructed items (eg. Rotunda, Grandstand) continue to remain significant to the site because of their historical significance.
- 6.1.6 Significant fabric should be retained in-situ and conserved. 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.
- 6.1.7 The Agricultural Pavilion should be conserved as an example of a late nineteenth century building. No additions or alterations should be allowed which compromise this significance. (Refer 2002 BSAP CMP)
- 6.1.8 Intrusive elements should be removed from the site or relocated on site as appropriate (eg. the pool fence adjacent to the Grandstand; the Rural Youth Hall and the brick toilet block adjacent to the Agricultural Pavilion, fencing adjacent to the Agricultural Pavilion, perimeter fencing. Refer Section 7.0 Conservation Policy).
- 6.1.9 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. However, there is little archaeological potential located on the site (refer to Section 4.1.2 of this report and Figure No.4).
- 6.1.10 Any new building, services, landscaping or activities on the site or in the vicinity of the site should have regard to the setting and design of the site and to the scale, style and character of the Showground and existing adjacent development.
- 6.1.11 The subject buildings should continue to be used for their original purpose where possible and generally for community and recreational use.
- 6.1.12 The subject site should continue to be used for recreational, sporting and community purposes, and for the annual Berry Agricultural and Horticultural Show.

## **6.2 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.*

## **6.3 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. This new information should be taken into account when making any decisions regarding the future of the item.

## **6.4 Constraints and Requirements Arising from the Physical Condition**

### **6.4.1 Generally**

The subject buildings retain sufficient of their fabric to allow interpretation of their early configuration. Many early design features remain in place.

### **6.4.2 Structural Stability**

The general condition of the buildings located on the subject site appear 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 and general maintenance as necessary is essential.

### **6.4.3 Water Damage**

Water damage is evident in the function area located under the Grandstand. It should be noted that a specific expert examination has not been carried out in conjunction with this study.

### **6.4.4 Pest Infestation**

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

### **6.4.5 Pedestrian Access**

Pedestrian access to the site is currently available from Victoria, Alexandra and Albany Streets and Station Road.

### **6.4.6 Vehicle Access, Car Parking And Delivery**

Vehicle and delivery access are currently available from Albany and Alexandra Streets and Station Road. Car parking is presently taking place to the front of the Agricultural Pavilion (on the gravelled area), in the designated car parking area off the Albany Street entrance, and around the showground ring. Vehicular parking is also available on the opposite side of Albany Street.

### **6.4.7 Access and Mobility**

The showground site in general is accessible to all users. There is an accessible entry to the Agricultural Pavilion via a concrete ramp through the southern door of the Supper Room. It should be noted that the existing access to the Agricultural Pavilion is not adequate and does not comply with Australian Standard 1428.4D – Standard for Disability. Consideration should be given to its improvement. The other buildings throughout the site are accessible except for the viewing level of the Grandstand, and the Former Council Chambers.

### **6.4.8 Vegetation**

Canopy reduction of tall shrubs closer to the subject buildings is required to maintain presentation and amenity of rooms. Removal of weed spp (eg. privet) and inappropriate plantings (eg. Callistemons) is required, especially around the Agricultural Pavilion. A thorough survey of the trees by a trained arborist is required to determine the presence of pests or damaged/diseased trees. Regular inspections and maintenance by a trained arborist is required.

### **6.4.9 Fencing**

The fencing to the site is generally in good condition, however the character and location of current fencing in many areas is inappropriate to the heritage significance of the site (Refer 7.1.8).

## **6.5 External Constraints**

### 6.5.1 Statutory Heritage Constraints

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

#### *6.5.1.1 NSW Heritage Council*

The subject site is not listed on the State Heritage Inventory.

#### *6.5.1.2 Shoalhaven City Council*

The subject site is listed in the City of Shoalhaven Local Environmental Plan, 1985.

#### *6.5.1.3 Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources (DIPNR)*

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

### 6.5.2 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.

#### *6.5.2.1 Australian Heritage Commission*

The subject site is not listed on the Register of the National Estate.

#### *6.5.2.2 National Trust of Australia (NSW)*

The Berry Showground is incorporated in a National Trust Conservation Area listing.

## **6.6 Opportunities and Constraints Arising out of Ownership and Use**

### 6.6.1 Ownership

The site is Crown land reserved for Public Recreation and is under the trusteeship of the Berry Showground (R81105) Reserve Trust, the affairs of which are managed by Shoalhaven City Council as the appointed Trust Manager. The Hazel Berry & David Berry Parks Management Committee manage the reserve on behalf of Shoalhaven City Council.

The original purpose of the site was for use as an agricultural showground. This use continues with the Berry Agricultural and Horticultural Show being held on the grounds each year. The site has also been developed to accommodate community, recreational and sporting uses.

Any development for the above purposes should take into consideration the heritage significance of the site, including its structures and landscape elements, and not intrude upon or diminish this significance.

Any future development on the site should ensure the continued viability of holding the Annual Berry Show on the grounds.

### 6.6.2 Existing Uses

The showground is used by many different groups in the community, and for private and community purposes.

#### *6.6.2.1 General*

The showground is mainly used for recreational pursuits, both organised and passive.

The Agricultural Show held once a year utilises the entire site for the duration of the show. The Berry Country Markets operate from the showground once a month and utilise the north-east perimeter.

The main use of the showground is for organised sport. In the football season, the showground is used by the local football club three days a week for training and for matches. The football



club makes use of the showground ring, and occasionally rents the meeting room under the grandstand for functions. The change rooms in the amenities block behind the grandstand are also used at this time.

The cricket practice nets to the east of the Agricultural Pavilion are no longer used.

The swimming pools are used by the community.

The showground also has a large number of passive users. Of a weekday, service vehicles can be found parked around the showground at lunch time; young mothers come to the park with their children and use the playground in the north-east corner of the grounds; the showground is also used by bike riders, joggers, picnickers, dog owners and as a shortcut to the town centre of Berry from the retirement village to the south of the showground.

Use of the site for regular organised and passive community and recreational use should continue to be encouraged to ensure ongoing regular use of the site. The cricket practice nets are now obsolete on the showground and are not significant to the site. They may be removed if required.

#### 6.6.2.2 *The Rotunda*

The Rotunda is no longer used for its original purpose as a judges box and bandstand. It is now used as sheltered seating by people using the park in the north-east corner of the showground.

The Rotunda should continue to be used as a shelter and seating area for users of the showground.

#### 6.6.2.3 *The Former Council Chambers*

The Former Council Chambers is used as a meeting room for Show Society meetings, the Management Committee and the Women's Auxiliary of the Show Committee.

This use of the chambers should be encouraged to continue and increase.

#### 6.6.2.4 *The Wood Chopping Arena*

The Wood Chopping Arena is only used during the annual Berry Show for Wood Chop events.

#### 6.6.2.5 *The Showground Grandstand*

The Grandstand is generally used during show time and by sporting spectators and passive users of the showground site throughout the year. The area beneath the Grandstand is used every Tuesday by a playgroup. This area is also hired for functions such as birthday parties. During the show, this area is used as a café.

This existing use is compatible with the community's needs and use of the showground. However, the perimeter fence around the swimming pool area is intrusive to the grandstand. It should be moved further west away from the grandstand to reduce its impact and to improve the flow of pedestrian traffic around the grandstand.

#### 6.6.2.6 *Alexandra Street Entrances*

The Alexandra Street entrances are used by vehicles and pedestrians as entrances into the showground.

The pedestrian entrance in the north-east corner of the showground should be enhanced to reflect its formality, importance and significance.

#### 6.6.2.7 *The Agricultural Pavilion*

The Agricultural Pavilion is used as a display area during show time. Throughout the remainder of the year, Lodge Broughton holds a 20-year licence, (pending renewal) over one room of the

pavilion giving them exclusive use of this area (except for two weeks of each year when the Berry Show Society has use of the whole facility). The remainder of the building is used on a regular basis as rehearsal space for the Berry Silver Band. During the two weeks of the Berry Show, the Masons are required to move all of their furniture and other items out of the Lodge Room. As there is no room to store the items on site they are removed to a location off the site.

The Agricultural Pavilion should continue to be used during the annual Berry Agricultural and Horticultural Show, during the Berry Markets, as a Masonic Lodge, and by the Berry Silver Band. Other/greater use of the Pavilion should be encouraged (eg. during markets, functions). Fencing and vegetation around the building should be addressed to facilitate amenity of the building (refer 2002 BSAP CMP).

#### 6.6.2.8 *The Hockey Field*

The hockey field is used for 1½ hours one night a week for 12-13 weeks a year during hockey season. It should be noted that the hockey players are dissatisfied with the surface of the field, and would prefer a synthetic surface, however this would not be in keeping with the heritage significance of the showground, nor be warranted for such a short period of usage.

The hockey field is also used as a caravan camping ground over the Australia Day long weekend. The campers also make use of the amenities block, and also use the meeting room under the grandstand for meetings.

The hockey field should be maintained as a large, naturally grassed open area.

#### 6.6.2.9 *The Rural Youth Hall*

The Rural Youth Hall to the west of the Agricultural Pavilion is used every Thursday by the Berry Spinners and Weavers, and every Monday by the Berry Brushes. As previously stated, it is also used during show time as a display area.

The current use of the hall should be encouraged to continue. Increased use of the hall should be encouraged.

#### 6.6.2.10 *Regal Lodge Stables*

The southern section of the showground is leased from Council and contains commercial stables run by Kevin Robinson. Robinson trains the horses on the track around the showground. He maintains the track and the area around the stables at his expense. This is an added bonus for the showground is that there is always someone around, increasing the security of the showground.

The use of the site by the Regal Lodge Stables and its long association with the showground contributes to the overall significance of the site and should be encouraged to continue.

#### 6.6.2.11 *The Berry Markets*

The northern area running around the northern perimeter of the showground from the swimming pool to the edge of the Former Council Chambers is used one Sunday of every month for the Berry Markets. This area houses approximately 250 stalls. The western end of the Agricultural Pavilion is also rented during this time for homemade produce.

Use of the site by the Berry Markets is appropriate and should be encouraged to continue. The markets could also expand further around the showground.

#### 6.6.2.12 *The Berry Show*

The entire showground, apart from the Former Council Chambers and the area containing the commercial stables, is used for 2 weeks a year for the annual Berry Show. The Berry Show Society has exclusive use of the Agricultural Pavilion during this time, with the space being used for exhibitions.

The Rural Youth Hall is also used for exhibitions during this time. The area running from the east of the Agricultural Pavilion around the showground ring to the Poultry Pavilion is a "sideshow alley" taken up with rides, games and kiosks. The area to the east of the Agricultural Pavilion is also used as a camping ground, housing the caravans of the workers of the sideshow.

The hockey field immediately around the showground ring is also taken up with displays, stalls and kiosks. Continuing around the ring, is the stall for goats and alpacas with a small judging area behind the stall. The cattle stalls and stand under the coral trees is used to house both horses and cattle, depending on the days scheduled to show the animals.

The area under the Grandstand is used as a café during show days. A first aid tent is located immediately outside the Grandstand during show days. The western side of the car parking area immediately north of the Grandstand also houses a number of displays of machinery.

## 6.7 Opportunities

The subject site currently has a good user base. However, a number of the subject buildings are underutilised.

- 6.7.1 The opportunity exists to advertise the availability of the Former Council Chambers and Grandstand for public hire.
- 6.7.2 The opportunity exists for the Former Council Chambers to be used for small functions, or for community meetings/as a business meeting space.
- 6.7.3 The opportunity exists to provide a café facility in the space under the grandstand during football matches and on market days.
- 6.7.4 The Agricultural Pavilion continues to be used for its original purpose as an Agricultural Pavilion and as the meeting place of Lodge Broughton. However, the building is no longer large enough to adequately support the Agricultural Pavilion (show time) use and Lodge Broughton suffers from a lack of storage space. Community use appears to be limited mainly to the Berry Silver Band. The opportunity exists to provide storage space, kitchen amenities and toilet facilities for the Agricultural Pavilion on the site which will encourage further community use. The rear addition space may also be utilised to a much greater extent than at present.
- 6.7.5 The opportunity exists to maintain low-key camping facilities on the site to extend and improve on the use of the hockey field as a caravan camping ground. The field could be used for this purpose on long weekends throughout the year, providing it does not impact on other uses and users of the ground.
- 6.7.6 The opportunity exists for the showground to be used by schools on sports days, or for sports carnivals.
- 6.7.7 The opportunity exists to enhance the amenity of the north-east corner of the site to enhance and encourage existing use of this area as a playground and meeting place by the community, and to create a more defined pedestrian entry or gateway into the site.
- 6.7.8 Opportunities to improve pedestrian and vehicular movement around the site should be explored. This could include:
  - Enhancing the pedestrian entrance at the Alexandra Street corner;
  - Separating vehicular and pedestrian entrances at the Albany Street entrance;
  - Keeping vehicular and pedestrian spaces separate, i.e. edging vehicle road with timber, sealing parking areas and roads, placing timber stops in parking spaces, etc;
  - Enhancing the Station Road entrance and keeping the vehicular and pedestrian entrances separate;

- Utilising south-west corner during markets and show days to improve the flow around the showground ring;
- Preparing a Landscape Masterplan to explore possibilities for the site.

6.7.9 Opportunities to enhance the site visually should be explored. This could include:

- Improving fencing around the site to give the Showground an identity in the area, and to improve its visual amenity to the streetscape;
- Exploring storage alternatives (i.e. remove shipping container and constructing purpose built structure to enhance the Station Road entrance and provide storage space);
- Linking buildings on the site, i.e. having a colour scheme for the buildings, eg. heritage colours;
- Enhancing seating around the showground ring;
- Enhancing the south-west corner with plantings/seating to encourage use of the area;
- Screening amenities block from Agricultural Pavilion.

## 7.0 CONSERVATION POLICY

The following is a conservation policy arising out of the Statement of Significance, the Physical Condition and the constraints and opportunities of the site (refer to Sections 4.0, 6.0 and 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.

### 7.1 Definitions

Following are 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.

*Reconstruction* means returning a *place* to a known earlier state and is distinguished from *restoration* by the introduction of new material into the *fabric*

*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.

Refer to Appendix D for a copy of the Burra Charter.

## **7.2 Conservation procedures at the site**

### 7.2.1 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.

### 7.2.2 Management of the Site

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

The policies outlined in this document should be adopted as the guide to future planning and work at the site.

### 7.2.3 Conservation Team

Personnel skilled in disciplines of conservation practice, including professionals, skilled building and engineering trades, etc should 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.

### 7.2.4 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 Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources (DIPNR) 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.

### 7.2.5 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.

### 7.2.6 Review this Conservation Management Plan

This Conservation Management Plan should be revised after major works have been carried out at the site and otherwise at regular intervals, firstly five (5) years from its adoption.

### 7.2.7 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, should be held at the archive of the site.

### 7.2.8 Archaeological Finds

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

### 7.2.9 Interpretation

An interpretation plan for the whole of the Berry Showground site should be prepared. The subject site should be easily interpreted as being an agricultural showground. Any future uses should be related to agricultural and community activities to assist this interpretation.

Consideration should be given to the installation of an interpretive display in the Agricultural Pavilion's Ante-Room relating to the history of the showground. Interpretive signs could also be located at key points throughout the site so they can be accessed by all users of the site.

Any landscaping features such as fencing and pathways should also be interpretive, reflecting features and layouts of the site.

7.2.10 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.

7.2.11 Funding

Avenues for funding and sponsorship should be explored.

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
- Local Council grants
- Department of Land and Water Conservation

It should be noted that competition for the Heritage Office funding is very strong and the NSW Heritage Office prefers that the site is run at a revenue neutral (or profit) for Council rather than relying on grants.

7.2.12 Management

It is appropriate that the site should continue to be managed by the Hazel Berry and David Berry Parks Management Committee in close consultation with the community and Shoalhaven City Council.

This page is intentionally blank.



### **7.3 Subject site**

#### **7.3.1 General**

- 7.3.1.1 The character of the subject site, which is that of an Agricultural Showground, should be conserved.
- 7.3.1.2 The relationship between the subject buildings and areas located in the showground complex should be retained. In particular, the relationship between the subject buildings and the showground ring (particularly the Agricultural Pavilion and the Showground Grandstand); between the Former Council Chambers and the showground site; and between the Agricultural Pavilion and the Grandstand.
- 7.3.1.3 The views and vistas between the streetscapes and the showground, and the views to Wedding Cake Mountain, Coolangatta Mountain and the Escarpment should be maintained and conserved.
- 7.3.1.4 Any buildings added to the subject site should be sympathetic to the subject buildings and elements and should not intrude on their significance.
- 7.3.1.5 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.
- 7.3.1.6 All sub-surface areas below and adjacent to the site should be considered to have archaeological potential. Generally, any new works to the subject site should be carefully designed to avoid disturbance of any archaeological items located on the site and adjacent areas.
- 7.3.1.7 In the event of any disturbance having to take place, a suitable heritage consultant or archaeologist should be engaged to assess, record and monitor the works.
- 7.3.1.8 An Interpretation Plan should be prepared for the entire Berry Showground site.
- 7.3.1.9 An interpretive display should be installed in the Agricultural Pavilion's Ante-Room relating to the history of the showground. Interpretive signs could also be located at key points throughout the site, i.e. at the location of the caretaker's cottage. Any landscaping features such as fencing and pathways should also be interpretive, reflecting features and layouts of the site.
- 7.3.1.10 Any advertising signage should be sympathetic to the setting of the showground and be free standing so as not to impact on the heritage fabric of significant structures.
- 7.3.1.11 Storage of machinery/seating etc around significant buildings and features of the site should be kept to a minimum. Ideally all items requiring storage should be kept in the one location. The shipping container currently used to store machinery etc on site (Station Road entrance) should be removed and replaced with a more sympathetic structure.

### 7.3.2 Use of the site

- 7.3.2.1 The subject site should continue to be used as a Showground and community, sporting and recreational facility.
- 7.3.2.2 The subject site should continue to be used for community, sporting, recreational and/or agricultural purposes in keeping with the historical uses of the site.
- 7.3.2.3 The existing use of areas during show time should be regulated to maximise use of space and minimise impact on heritage fabric.
- 7.3.2.4 The use of part of the site for the Regal Lodge Stables should be encouraged to continue. This use is appropriate as it has a long association with the showground.
- 7.3.2.5 The use of the showground by the Berry Country Markets held once a month should be encouraged to continue and possibly expand. The area utilised could be extended around the whole of the showground ring making use of the existing shelters and possibly some of the buildings, rather than being restricted to the north-eastern corner.
- 7.3.2.6 Use of the showground site by schools on sports days or for sports carnivals should be encouraged.

### 7.3.3 Parking

- 7.3.3.1 The existing informal carpark area adjacent to the grandstand should be retained as a sealed area for sports ground users etc. The carpark should ideally not be formalised by asphaltting or paving.
- 7.3.3.2 A formalised car parking area could be developed for the Showground. This area should not be located on the subject site. It should be located so as not to interfere with views and vistas to and from the subject buildings and elements, and should not intrude upon the significance of the site (possibly located on Albany Street). (Refer 7.4.1.1).
- 7.3.3.3 The parking of caravans/mobile homes and vehicles not pertaining to the sideshow alley or other stalls on the showground site, particularly in the northern section of the showground, during the Berry Show should cease immediately. These vehicles should be parked on the street.
- 7.3.3.4 Car parking around the showground site should be similar to the Berry Courthouse and take the form of angled street parking or on an informal gravel area.

## **7.4 Subject Buildings and Elements**

### **7.4.1 General**

- 7.4.1.1 Original and early significant fabric should be conserved. This includes, but is not limited to, the following:
- Agricultural Pavilion
  - Grandstand
  - Rotunda
  - Former Council Chambers
  - Poultry Pavilion
  - Wood chopping arena
  - Cattle & horse stands in the southwest corner of the site
  - John Hay Memorial Drinking Fountain
- 7.4.1.2 Any new use of the subject buildings should relate to the historical use of the site as a showground and community, sporting and recreational facility.
- 7.4.1.3 Any new works to the buildings should be carefully designed so as not to interfere with the significance of the subject buildings and have limited impact on significant fabric.
- 7.4.1.4 New interventions, including repairs, should be reversible, sympathetic and clearly interpreted, by means of introduced interpretative devices or by method of style of construction, as new work.
- 7.4.1.5 Any concrete paving or walkways located on the subject site should not abut the subject buildings to allow for drainage of water away from the buildings. Any paving which currently abuts the subject buildings should ideally be removed. If this is not practicable, Council's Building Managers should closely monitor this issue and undertake any maintenance required.
- 7.4.1.6 The cricket practice nets have little significance and are no longer utilised on the site. They may be removed from the site.
- 7.4.1.7 The brick toilet block located immediately to the east of the Agricultural Pavilion is intrusive to the character of the site. A more appropriately designed and located facility should be considered.
- 7.4.1.8 The existing colours of the elements of the showground are appropriate. However, prior to future painting of the subject buildings, a colour scheme to link the buildings of the showground should be investigated, designed and implemented. (Refer to the 2002 BSAP CMP for proposed colour scheme for the Agricultural Pavilion).

### **7.4.2 Rotunda**

- 7.4.2.1 The Rotunda, although relocated and partly refurbished, remains as an original feature of the Berry Showground. It should be conserved and maintained, and remain as an integral feature of the site. Reinstating the Rotunda in its former location is inappropriate to the current use of the show ring, which has evolved to become an important community sporting ground.
- 7.4.2.2 The immediate setting of the Rotunda should be enhanced to reflect the landmark character of this structure. However new works should be sympathetic to the identified character of the showground (Refer 7.5.3) and to the identified character of the pedestrian entrance here.

### 7.4.3 Former Council Chambers

7.4.3.1 The Former Council Chambers should be conserved and maintained as an integral component of the showground and as a site of importance to the community.

7.4.3.2 Significant fabric and features of the Former Council Chambers should be conserved and maintained. (Refer section 5.4.2).

7.4.3.3 Increased use of the Former Council Chambers should be encouraged. Any new use of the building or new works to the building to facilitate this, should be sympathetic to the identified character of the building and to the identified character of the showground in general.

7.4.3.4 The availability of the Former Council Chambers for private/business functions etc should be advertised.

### 7.4.4 Poultry Pavilion

7.4.4.1 This building should be maintained and conserved as an integral component of the accommodations at the showground and of the importance of this aspect of farming activity to the community in the area.

7.4.4.2 This building should be maintained and conserved as one of the few remaining rudimentary buildings on site.

7.4.4.3 The Poultry Pavilion may be relocated within the showground site.

7.4.4.4 Significant fabric and features of the Poultry Pavilion should be conserved and maintained. (Refer section 5.4.2).

### 7.4.5 Wood Chopping Arena

7.4.5.1 This area and associated structures should be conserved and maintained as an integral component of the showground and of the importance of the past logging industry to the community in the area.

7.4.5.2 Significant fabric and features of this area and associated structures should be conserved and maintained. (Refer section 5.4.2).

### 7.4.6 Grandstand

7.4.6.1 The Grandstand, although relocated, rebuilt and refurbished from its original location and condition, has been identified as an important landmark at the Showground, contributing to the identified heritage character of the Showground site.

7.4.6.2 The grandstand should be conserved and maintained, and its current use continued.

7.4.6.3 Increased use of the building, especially the lower function room, should be encouraged. Its use as a café during football matches and on market days or tuckshop during school carnivals is appropriate. Improved accommodations to facilitate this are appropriate, providing new works are sympathetic to the character of the building, and continue to allow the interpretation of the building as a grandstand associated with the Showground.

7.4.6.4 The availability of the Grandstand for private/business functions/uses should be advertised.

#### 7.4.7 Agricultural Pavilion

- 7.4.7.1 The Agricultural Pavilion should be restored and conserved to its pre-1900 state. This includes the restoration of the rear addition to the open form of pre-1900. Services and wet areas should be modern, but sympathetic to the subject building. (Refer 2002 BSAP CMP for specific policies relating to the Agricultural Pavilion).
- 7.4.7.2 The connection between the Agricultural Pavilion and the Berry Courthouse should be reinforced. (Refer 2002 BSAP CMP).
- 7.4.7.3 Gateposts to the entry of the Agricultural Pavilion should be reinstated to form an entry statement for the site. (Refer 2002 BSAP CMP).
- 7.4.7.4 Cyclone fencing at the corners of the building should be removed, and replaced with appropriate fencing. (Refer 7.4.5.5 above).
- 7.4.7.5 The Rural Youth Hall, while significant in itself, is intrusive in its location to the significance of the Agricultural Pavilion. It should be relocated elsewhere on the site. (Refer Section 7.4.8 below).
- 7.4.7.6 The brick toilet block located to the east of the Agricultural Pavilion is intrusive upon the Agricultural Pavilion and should be removed. If this is not practicable, it should be screened from the pavilion by appropriate plantings.

#### 7.4.8 Rural Youth Hall

- 7.4.8.1 The Rural Youth (Junior Farmer's) Hall is intrusive to the Agricultural Pavilion due to its proximity to the pavilion and should be relocated elsewhere on the Showground site.
- 7.4.8.2 The structure and function of the Rural Youth Hall should be maintained and conserved.
- 7.4.8.3 The use of the hall for community purposes, and as a display space at show time, should be maintained and encouraged, and is appropriate to the historical use of the Showground site in general.

#### 7.4.9 Cattle and Horse stands at the southwest corner of the site

- 7.4.9.1 This area and associated structures should be conserved and maintained as an integral component of the showground and of the importance of this aspect of farming activity to the community in the area.
- 7.4.9.2 Significant fabric and features of this area and associated structures should be conserved and maintained. (Refer section 6.4).
- 7.4.9.3 Conserve and maintain the significant stand of coral trees (*Erythrina sp*) and bunya pine (*Arucaria bidwilli*) in this area. (Refer 7.5.4).

#### 7.4.10 Regal Lodge Stables

- 7.4.10.1 The stables at the showground have a long history of association with the showground. The presence and association of this enterprise is appropriate and should be encouraged to continue.
- 7.4.10.2 The significant structures, fabric and features associated with the stables should be conserved and maintained. New works should be sympathetic to the identified character of the stable complex and to the identified character of the showground in general.

#### 7.4.11 John Hay Memorial Drinking Fountain

7.4.11.1 The John Hay Memorial drinking fountain is a significant early memorial established at the Showground to commemorate a member of the local community important to the development of the area.

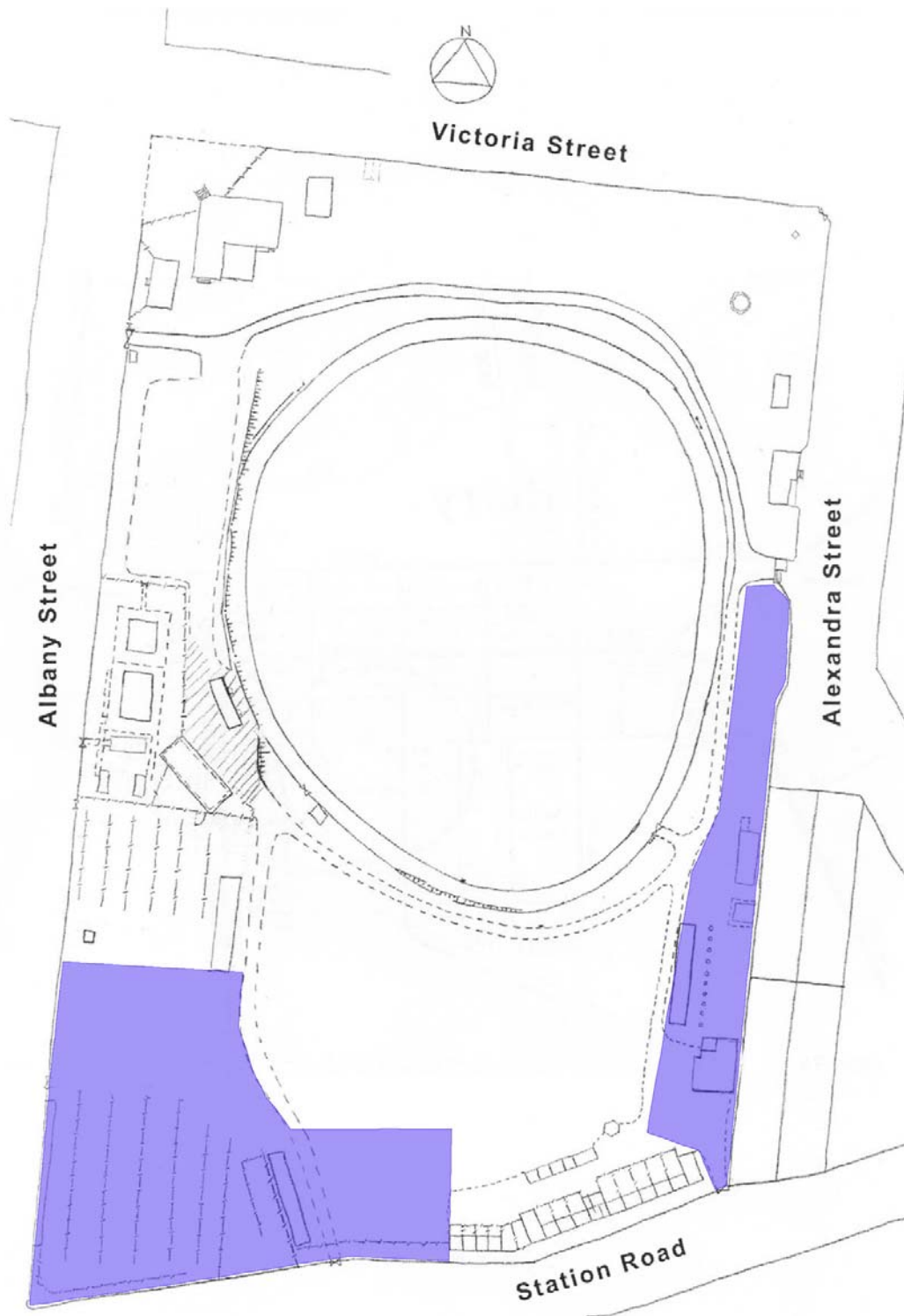
7.4.11.2 The memorial should be conserved and maintained as a significant memorial prominently located at one of the principal entrances to the Showground.

7.4.11.3 Conservation works include, but are not limited to, restoring the fountain to working order and reinstating the missing top section of the fountain.

#### 7.4.12 Swimming Pool

7.4.12.1 The location of the Swimming Pool complex is intrusive to various buildings and landscape features of the Showground. However as it is a popular community facility, located within a larger community activity precinct, its removal or relocation is not indicated.

7.4.12.2 Steps to minimise the intrusion of this facility on the accommodations of the remainder of the Showground should be undertaken. This could include removal of the existing shade-cloth covered chain link fence on the eastern boundary of the complex and replacing it with a metal palisade fence. To improve the visual amenity of the pool from the showground, a hedge could be planted adjacent to the pool fence. All fencing should comply with the relevant Australian Standards.



Not to scale

Figure No.14: Possible areas for sympathetic redevelopment.

This page is intentionally blank.



## 7.5 Subject Landscape

### 7.5.1 General

- 7.5.1.1 A Landscape Master Plan should be prepared for the entire Berry Showground site.
- 7.5.1.2 The mature landscape of the site should be conserved and maintained. This includes, but is not limited to, the configuration and the layout of the site, the significant stands and avenues of trees, the specimen trees located on the site, and the mature tree canopy.
- 7.5.1.3 Original and early significant fabric and features should be conserved. This includes, but is not limited to, the following:
- Showground ring
  - Alexandra Street entrances
  - Coral trees (*Erythrina sp*) at the cattle stand
  - Box trees (*Eucalyptus sp*) around the showground ring, and elsewhere on the site
  - Significant specimen trees in the vicinity of the Agricultural Pavilion including a Hoop Pine (*Araucaria cunninghamii*), a *Photinia serratifolia* (to be confirmed), a *Magnolia campbellii*, a mature *Magnolia grandiflora*, a *Callitrus macleayana* (Cypress), and three (3) mature Camphor Laurels (*Cinnamomum camphora*). (Refer 2002 BSAP CMP).
- 7.5.1.4 Regular maintenance of the plantings on the site should be undertaken as required. This should take the form of a regular inspection by Council staff (arborist) and pruning where necessary.
- 7.5.1.5 Any significant trees which appear to be declining should have a replacement planted before they are removed. This replacement should ideally be from the original stock (a plant propagated from the original tree).
- 7.5.1.6 The callistemons to the Victoria Street frontage should be removed and replaced with a more sympathetic species. The plantings along this frontage may take the form of a hedge similar to that currently located on the Berry Courthouse site.
- 7.5.1.7 Weed species located around the site (eg. privet adjacent to the Agricultural Pavilion) should be removed. Regular inspection and removal of such species should occur.
- 7.5.1.8 The former location of the croquet lawn to the east of the Agricultural Pavilion should be interpreted through signage or landscaping features.
- 7.5.1.9 Rows of shade trees could be established at the horse stalls/yard in the south-west corner of the site in keeping with the character of this area of the site. Species selected should be the grey box (*Eucalyptus sp*) used in the perimeter plantings (eg. around the showground ring and carpark) or species recently planted around the stock judging ring. These plantings should reflect the character of the stand of coral trees (*Erythrina sp*) located at the cattle yards. (Refer 7.4.1.1).

### 7.5.2 Showground ring

- 7.5.2.1 Maintain and conserve the configuration and location of the showground ring.
- 7.5.2.2 Maintain the showground ring as a fenced section of open ground with dirt track on the outer perimeter.
- 7.5.2.3 The existing pipe rail fencing around the ring should be replaced with a low open timber picket fence which is more in character with the early history of the site. (Refer Figure No.9). If timber picket is considered unsafe for the current use of the ring, a low timber fence with a smooth top rail may be considered.

- 7.5.2.4 Maintain and conserve the sections of open bench seats located around the perimeter of the ring.
- 7.5.2.5 Maintain the continued use of the ring for sporting, community and recreational activities. This includes its use as a riding track by the Regal Lodge Stables, and as a show ring during the Agricultural Show.
- 7.5.2.6 Maintain the significant views and vistas between the ring and the significant buildings and elements located on the site, as well as the prominent landmarks outside the site.
- 7.5.2.7 Maintain and conserve early lighting installed around the perimeter of the ring. Any new lighting works should be of an appropriate design to respect the heritage significance and character of the site, and be installed in addition to, not in place of, the remaining early lighting.
- 7.5.3 Alexandra Street Entrances
- 7.5.3.1 The two Alexandra Street entrances should be conserved and maintained as the principal vehicular and pedestrian entries to the site.
- 7.5.3.2 The pedestrian entry at the corner of Alexandra and Victoria Streets should be enhanced to reflect the significance of this entry to the site. (Refer to Appendix C for landscape plan prepared for the north-east corner of the site by W. H. & G. Smit Landscape Architects).
- 7.5.3.3 The pedestrian entry should be defined by appropriate entry gates and provide view lines and paths to major buildings and elements of the site. An appropriate character for the pedestrian entry would pick up on elements used at the vehicular entry at Alexandra Street, eg. stone entry gate posts. The character of the entry area should remain as an integral section of a rural exhibition ground with informal surfaces, i.e. bitumen paths, open areas (which may be grassed with native turf species or spread with a layer of mulch), and minimal use of informal plantings.
- 7.5.3.4 Any redevelopment of the entries should ensure the continued heritage significance and character of the entries. Materials used in new works should be sympathetic to, and reflect materials and methods historically appropriate to the site, e.g. low timber fencing, and open space.
- 7.5.4 Stand of Coral Trees (*Erythrina sp*) at cattle stand
- 7.5.4.1 Coral trees are significant to the area as typical rural plantings to shade cattle. Their purpose would have been two-fold in this location; they are fast growing and provide good shade for cattle, and they have colourful flowers to provide a decorative backdrop in the showground. The stand should be maintained and conserved. The significant layout of the planting rows between the cattle stands should be maintained.
- 7.5.4.2 Specimens identified as damaged or declining should have a replacement planted before they are removed. This replacement should ideally be from the original stock (a plant propagated from the original tree). If this is not practicable, an alternative to replanting Coral trees could be by Illawarra Flame trees.
- 7.5.4.3 Regular maintenance of the coral trees (i.e. pollarding, pruning) should be undertaken as required. This should take the form of a regular inspection (every six months) by an arborist and careful pruning where necessary.

### 7.5.5 Fencing

- 7.5.5.1 The character of the fencing around the perimeter of the site or bounding individual areas should respect the heritage significance and identified character of the site as a rural showground. The fencing should provide the necessary boundary whilst maintaining the visual connection between adjacent spaces. Ideally, the fencing should be low (1000mm+) timber picket fencing around individual areas of the site (ie. the showground ring [possibly with a timber capping rail if pointed palings are considered unsafe around the ring]), and high (1800mm) timber picket fencing around the perimeter of the site (other options may be explored for perimeter fencing. Refer 7.5.5.2 and 7.5.5.3 below).
- 7.5.5.2 Appropriate boundary treatments should be established to define the perimeter of the site and give the Showground site an identity in the streetscape. New fencing should ideally allow clear sight lines of the site and significant buildings from the street. (Refer 2002 BSAP CMP). The existing high cyclone fence around the perimeter of the showground site is inappropriate and should be removed or treated as indicated below (7.5.5.3).
- 7.5.5.3 Fencing to the Alexandra and Albany Street corners should ideally be the same, with the fence continued along the length of the boundary along Victoria Street and continued along Alexandra and Albany Streets to the vehicular entrances (i.e. as per indicated in the W. H. & G. Smit Landscape Plan, a high palisade fence, refer Appendix C). A lower cost solution may be to instate the more substantial fence on the corners, and retain the existing cyclone fence in between (i.e. along the Victoria Street frontage). To increase the visual amenity and security of this cyclone fencing, a high hedge (i.e. duranta) could be planted on either side of the cyclone fencing.
- 7.5.5.4 Remove the pipe rail fence from around the showground ring and reinstate low picket fence. (Refer to Figure No.9 and to 7.5.5.1 above).
- 7.5.5.5 Cyclone and barbed wire fencing at the edges of the Agricultural Pavilion should be removed. If fencing is required in this location, it should be a continuation of the recommended perimeter fencing (refer 7.5.5.3 above).

### 7.5.6 Hockey field

- 7.5.6.1 Maintain character of this field as an open grassed area adjacent to the show ring and the cattle & horse stands. Resurfacing of the field with artificial or hard surfacing e.g. synthetic turf, concrete etc., would be inappropriate in an area that has been identified as integral to the character of the Showground site.
- 7.5.6.2 Proposed provision of services to facilitate increased use of the area (ie. to accommodate camping vans) would be appropriate to the continued viability of the Showground, providing the service units are designed and located to impact minimally on the character of the hockey field as existing, and to the greater Showground site in general.

### 7.5.7 North side (open space between Agricultural Pavilion and playground)

- 7.5.7.1 The use of this area of this area by the Berry Country Markets is appropriate and should continue.
- 7.5.7.2 Parking should not be allowed in this section of the showground at any time.
- 7.5.7.3 Re-establishment of a croquet lawn may be considered. However, if this is not practicable, its former existence in this location should be interpreted (ie. through signage and/or landscape treatments).
- 7.5.7.4 This area should be kept open. The ground surface should not be covered in hard landscaping treatments but should be kept largely grassed as existing with some paths if required.

This page is intentionally blank.