

# **Graham Lodge - Nowra Interpretation Plan**

**Incorporating Review, Guidelines & Recommendations on Graham  
Lodge Exhibition Concept, Content & Collections**



**Prepared for Shoalhaven City Council**

**September 2000**

**3-D Exhibitions**



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# ***1 INTRODUCTION***

## **1.1 Executive Summary**

The Graham Lodge precinct comprising historic residence, surrounding grounds and the Graham family cemetery has been acquired by the Shoalhaven City Council (SCC) for the purpose of establishing a local history interpretative facility. The SCC also plans to acquire the surviving part of the original Greenhills property which remains undeveloped immediately to the east of Graham Lodge to ensure that its rural character is preserved and interpreted.

Graham Lodge is particularly well suited to its proposed interpretative function in terms of its location adjacent the historic Shoalhaven River bridge and Visitors Centre, and its close proximity to both Nowra and the original site of Greenhills Village. Furthermore, the high cultural significance of Graham Lodge, its elegant design, generous scale and internal layout, and remnant rural context combine to enhance its suitability as a key heritage and tourism destination

Based on the Shoalhaven City Council's December 1999 *Graham Lodge Interpretative Display Design Brief*, review of the *Conservation Management Plan* prepared in March 1999 by Peter Freeman Pty Ltd and Heritage Archaeology's May 2000 *Report to the Heritage Council of New South Wales on Test Excavations at Greenhills Nowra NSW*, and an on-site assessment of Graham Lodge and associated Shoalhaven heritage sites and collections carried out by the consultant team, 3-D Exhibitions has developed the following preliminary proposal for the adaptive reuse of the Graham Lodge residence and precinct as a modern museum and heritage facility

While this Interpretation Plan provides recommendations and costings for interpretative installations and exhibitions within and around the Graham Lodge precinct, the project heritage architect may be required to make further recommendations on the appropriate restoration approach for the buildings and grounds in light of this report, and provide cost estimates for these works. It is also envisaged that minor archaeological input may be necessary to guide some of the proposed interpretative actions.

This Interpretation Plan is an integral document in the development of the identity and scope of the museum and interpretative project. It brings a holistic approach to the interpretative process, considering the Shoalhaven's multiple cultural histories, collections and other historic evidence, alongside planning, visitation, design, exhibition, financial and interpretation issues affecting the proposed interpretative complex. The findings of this study are summarised as follows.

### **Graham Lodge & Precinct Interpretative Works**

A range of interpretative actions are proposed for Graham Lodge and the surrounding precinct. Major elements include: the preservation of the former Greenhills landscape and its in-situ archaeological remnants in its current rural setting; the conservation and interpretation of Graham Lodge; the interpretation of former buildings, structures and events at Graham Lodge through artwork installations, signage and landscaping works; the adaptive reuse of Graham Lodge as a public museum containing high level exhibitions and collection storage facilities, temporary exhibitions gallery, staff areas and a function room for general meetings and private hire; and utilisation of the SCC Visitors Centre for museum ticketing, visitor orientation and facilities, and merchandising.

It is envisaged that the Graham Lodge museum would display, store and conserve the site archaeology collection, the SCC Samuel Elyard art collection, as well as important material borrowed from other institutions and individuals. A key component of the proposed museum is a high definition audio visual delivery system which enables comprehensive utilisation of the wealth of relevant pictorial, oral and written historical evidence relating to Graham Lodge and other aspects of settlement in the Shoalhaven.

#### Management & Staffing

Upon completion of the proposed museum and interpretative works, an anticipated annual visitation of 25,000+ will require that the facility is open 7 days a week, will demand site and building maintenance, regular guided tours, and ongoing financial and management input. The temporary exhibition program suggested in this study will also require ongoing input from curatorial personnel. Consequently, it is recommended that a small professional staff is engaged to effectively operate, promote and maintain the facility. It is proposed that the museum staff include an experienced Curator, 1 full-time and 2 part-time Guides.

#### Recurrent Funding & Income

The ongoing operation, management, promotion and maintenance of the proposed Graham Lodge museum and site interpretative works will require recurrent funding of approximately \$197,875 per annum. While the proposed annual recurrent cost is considerable, the projected museum income of approximately \$200,500 should be sufficient to offset salaries and other recurrent costs.

#### Project Budget & Priorities

The estimated costs for capital works, and professional fees and expenses to fully develop the Graham Lodge museum and on-site interpretation as detailed in this report amounts to a project total of \$350,650 including GST. While a number of significant interpretative actions are proposed in this report, some elements could be staged to ensure that key components are progressively completed as funding becomes available.

This study recommends that the outdoor Picture Stands proposed for the Graham Lodge grounds and detailed in section 3.2.3 are developed in the immediate future using the remaining funds available from the current interpretative project.

### **1.2 Authorship**

This study was prepared by 3-D Exhibitions, a Sydney based firm specialising in the interpretation and design of museums, historic sites and collections. 3-D Exhibitions principal, Peter Tonkin, undertook site based and historical research, developed the interpretative concept, and oversaw and wrote this report. 3-D Exhibitions designer, Christina Carayanides, developed the design concept and schematic design drawings, and prepared construction cost estimates. Karl Dyktynski of See Hear Productions provided excellent technical and developmental advice, and cost estimates for the audio visual components proposed in this study.

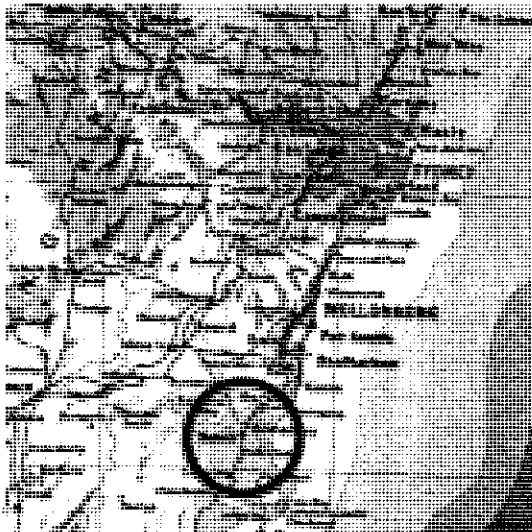
### **1.3 Acknowledgments**

The consultants would like to thank all parties involved for providing their assistance with this study and imparting their invaluable knowledge of Graham Lodge's and the Shoalhaven region's history. During the preparation of the report the consultants spoke to and/or received assistance from the following informants:

- Ms Una Thurgate, Bomaderry.
- Ms Jennifer Tracey, Heritage Archaeology.
- Mr Michael Tracey, Heritage Archaeology.
- Ms Robyn Oliver, Lady Denman Heritage Complex.
- Mr Peter Freeman, Peter Freeman Pty Ltd.
- Mr Allan Baptist, Shoalhaven City Council.
- Mr Wayne Brighton, Shoalhaven City Council
- Mr John Drummond, Shoalhaven City Council.
- Mr John Flett, Shoalhaven City Council.
- Mr Ajith Goonatilleke, Shoalhaven City Council.
- Mr Paul Jennings, Shoalhaven City Council.
- Ms Lorraine McCarthy, Shoalhaven City Council.
- Mr Tom Phillips, Shoalhaven City Council.
- Ms Carol Andrews, Shoalhaven City Council Library
- Ms Lynn Hawkins, Shoalhaven City Council Library
- Mr Allan Clark, Shoalhaven Historical Society
- Ms Robyn Florance, Shoalhaven Historical Society.
- Ms Kate Harrison, Shoalhaven Historical Society.
- Ms Helen Rutley, Shoalhaven Historical Society

#### **1.4 Project Background**

The City of Nowra is located approximately 170 kilometres south of Sydney on the Shoalhaven River. Established in 1852, Nowra comprises the Shoalhaven's main commercial and administrative centre with a population of approximately 20,000. The historic city is set in an area which is renowned for its significant natural environment with the Shoalhaven River, Budawang National Park and Jervis Bay in close proximity.



Map of south east NSW indicating study area

In 1998, the Shoalhaven City Council purchased the significant Graham Lodge property and associated buildings for \$550,000 with the intention of restoring and conserving the historic mansion and surrounds for its use as a local history museum and centrally located Nowra visitors centre. A Conservation Management Plan was subsequently prepared by conservation architects, Peter Freeman Pty Ltd, and emergency repairs including new roofing were effected to Graham Lodge.

During 1999-2000, most of the recently constructed unsympathetic additions to Graham Lodge were demolished, while the substantial northern-most masonry wing of the additions was retained, renovated and fitted out as the new Nowra Visitors Centre. This facility is now in operation together with an associated cafe which is privately leased. Archaeological consultants, Heritage Archaeology, were engaged to monitor some of the demolition works and installation of new underground services, and also conducted a series of exploratory excavations around the grounds to help ascertain the site's archaeological potential.

In 1999, the Shoalhaven City Council obtained a Centenary of Federation grant to develop an Interpretation Plan which sets out an overall interpretative scheme for Graham Lodge and the surrounding Greenhills precinct, and implement an initial component of the exhibition strategy detailed in the interpretative scheme. In January 2000, the Shoalhaven City Council commissioned 3-D Exhibitions to prepare the Graham Lodge Interpretation Plan.

### **1.5 Scope of Report**

This Interpretation Plan is intended to guide the interpretative approach, content, research, design, development, conservation, and ongoing management and staffing requirements for the sustainable public interpretation of Graham Lodge, the associated site of Greenhills and the wider Shoalhaven region.

It reviews the Nowra region's history and heritage assets, proposes a range of interpretative options for the site and Graham Lodge, and recommends on the appropriate project development team personnel necessary to successfully bring these interpretative works to fruition to the highest possible standard. It also provides indicative cost estimates for full project development, and assesses the proposed museum's recurrent annual expenses potential income.

While this report provides proposals and recommendations for specific works, it is not a definitive blueprint for final interpretative options, content and actions. The interpretative issues raised, museum rationale and scope, exhibition proposals, and projected museum development costs and recurrent budget need to be reviewed by SCC staff and other stakeholders and decided upon before suitable funding is obtained, and an appropriate exhibition development team is briefed and appointed to fully develop these proposals, and research, design, produce and install Graham Lodge interpretative elements and associated works.

### **1.6 Constraints**

This report focuses specifically on the development of physical interpretative elements located within Graham Lodge and the surrounding Greenhills and Shoalhaven River precinct. While acknowledging that the region has a far broader natural and social history comprising numerous other cultural groups, events and episodes, it is beyond the scope of this study to provide a detailed assessment of these histories or related interpretation actions which extend outside the immediate Greenhills area.

Although physical interpretative installations outside the study area are not covered by this report, the exhibitions within the proposed Graham Lodge museum and adjacent grounds are intended to explore and interpret the wider cultural history of settlement in Nowra and the Shoalhaven district through its multi-media displays of sound, image, artefact and text. These displays would in turn encourage visitors to remain in the district to investigate these regional heritage sites first hand.

It is envisaged that future physical site-based interpretation outside the study area could be implemented utilising the Picture Stand display system once the Graham Lodge museum exhibitions have been fully developed.

While a number of key local heritage sites, documents and artefacts have been assessed during this project, it has not been possible to research all relevant historic places and collections held by individuals and institutions. However, it is anticipated that an extensive survey of pertinent heritage items would be conducted by the exhibition team commissioned to implement the Graham Lodge interpretative works during the developmental stage of the project.

This Interpretation Plan acknowledges the traditional occupation and ownership of the Shoalhaven area by the Wodi-Wodi, Wandandian, and Walbanga people. However, the significance of the site of Greenhills and Graham Lodge itself to indigenous people has not been explored.

## ***2 REVIEW: HISTORY, COLLECTIONS & HERITAGE SITES***

## 2.1 Historical Overview

In order to understand and interpret the history of Graham Lodge, the surviving house and remnant property needs to be considered within the wider historical context of the surrounding Shoalhaven district. Stretching along the coastline from Berry to Durras North and bounded by the Budawang ranges to the west, the City of Shoalhaven has such a rich and complex history that it is pointless to attempt to adequately recount it in this study. Rather than stringing together a tight chronology of dates, names and events which are already documented in other published histories and heritage studies, the historical overview below attempts to highlight some of the key episodes of cultural history in the Shoalhaven district between 1770-2000. This period has seen the radical transformation of the lives and land of the indigenous people, racial conflict, immigration and the development of a cosmopolitan society, expansion of industry, commerce and construction which is symbolised by the remnant heritage buildings and landscapes seen today.

### 2.1.1 Indigenous & European Contact

When the Shoalhaven's first European outpost was established at Mt Coolangatta by Alexander Berry and Edward Wollstonecraft in 1822, the history of the place was changed forever. At that time the Shoalhaven region was home to the indigenous Wodi-Wodi, Wandandian, and Walbanga people as it had been for several millennia. These first inhabitants lived on the abundant natural resources of the region - fish, eels, birds, kangaroos, edible seeds and plants. From bark they made sleek canoes in which they fished, and navigated the sea and river, buckets for carrying water, and huts in which to shelter.

*Here we saw the seaforthea elegans, a palm equal in size to the Cabbage tree with pinnate fern and cocoanut leaves, from the stalks of which the natives make their water buckets by tying up each end like bark canoes. In like manner the dairy farmers make their milk pails and cream pans, and of the leaves they make hats and thatch. (Justice Barron Field, 20 October 1823)*



*Fishing by Torchlight*, Joseph Lycett, 1820-22,  
National Library of Australia.

The various groups spoke different dialects and possibly had different religious beliefs and ceremonies. They marked their bodies with scars and paint during initiation and other rituals, and recorded their presence and culture through artworks.

Before white settlement in the Shoalhaven, an unknown number of European visitors had arrived both intentionally and accidentally as shipwreck castaways, explorers, whalers and timber getters long before the new settlers arrived. Captain James Cook's *Endeavour* voyage chartered the Shoalhaven coast in 1770, named several features and prominent landmarks, and recorded the presence of Aboriginal inhabitants.

*The hills within land were remarkably flat: we discovered five men upon them, through our glasses, who were quite naked. It is probable they live upon the produce of the earth, as we did not see any canoes and the coast seems to be unfavourable to fishing* (Sydney Parkinson, 22 April 1770)

Following the establishment of the British penal settlement at Port Jackson, explorer, George Bass, passed the Shoalhaven River mouth in 1797 on his voyage south. During the same year a band of survivors of the *Sydney Cove*, which was shipwrecked in Bass Strait, passed through the Shoalhaven region while walking the 800-kilometre stretch from the Victorian coast to Sydney. While in the Shoalhaven area one of the castaways recorded that:

*... natives accompanied us a few miles and returned, leaving us a plentiful supply of fish* (William Clark, 30 April 1797)

By 1801 when an exploration party in the ship *Lady Nelson* landed at Jervis Bay it was observed that the Aborigines were already suffering from the deadly smallpox epidemic which decimated much of the indigenous population in the Shoalhaven as it did at Sydney and elsewhere.

Government surveyor, James Meehan explored and mapped the Shoalhaven and Crookhaven Rivers and the Shoalhaven Valley during 1805, drawing attention to the abundant cedar forests. In 1809 Alexander Berry also examined the Shoalhaven River and recorded the appearance of the landscape.

*I had intended during this exploration to have entered the Shoalhaven River but I found it opening into the sea to a sand beach and with a chain of breakers across the entrance. At a distance of about eight miles from the sea the shores become high and consist of perpendicular sandstone cliffs. The original mouth appears to have been here and to have formerly discharged itself into a large bay sheltered by an island. This bay is now filled up and presents the appearance of a low alluvial land of swamps and lagoons. Twelve miles higher up we were stopped by a rapid. At this place (Burrier) the river was about 150 yards wide ...* (Alexander Berry, 1809)

Cedar getters from Sydney began harvesting Shoalhaven cedar and shipping it to the Sydney market from 1812 until 1815 when a party of cedar cutters disappeared, perhaps during a confrontation with the Shoalhaven Aborigines.

Following the establishment of Berry and Wollstonecraft's Coolangatta Estate in 1822 and a further grant on the south of the river at Numbaa, other European settlers were quick to take up land along the banks of the Shoalhaven. Initially, William Graham occupied Butler's 100-acre grant in 1826 which he named Greenhills, Prosper de Mestre took up a 1,300-acre grant at Terara in 1829 and William Elyard was granted 2,516 acres

at Brundee. The land was progressively deforested and fenced for crops and grazing animals which in turn dispersed and depleted traditional Aboriginal food resources and effectively forced them from their ancestral land, making it difficult for them to continue living in their traditional manner

Nonetheless, some indigenes remained in the Shoalhaven region as attested by the anonymous watercolour dated c1869 which depicts an Aboriginal camp just to the north east of Graham Lodge. Furthermore, archaeological excavations at Graham Lodge uncovered evidence that local Aborigines had adapted European materials to make traditional tools. A number of glass cutting blades and scrapers were unearthed in the grounds of Graham Lodge which had been skilfully fashioned from glass bottle fragments. Some Aborigines were employed on the European estates in the sawmills or as labourers, servants and shepherds. Others were self employed as fishermen in the area throughout the nineteenth century.

*... most of the half-castes are employed. The Jervis Bay people live by fishing and Government rations ... Three boats in the area - one at Terara, one Broughton Creek, one Jervis Bay. All good order. Provided by Government. About thirty half-caste children are at school in Coolangatta, five at Jervis Bay, and three black ... (George Thornton, Protector of Aborigines, 1882)*



Roseby Park Aboriginal Mission reproduced in WA Bayley's *Shoalhaven*, 1975

However, indigenous numbers continually declined as the population of new settlers increased. Government records estimated that between 130-327 Aborigines occupied the Shoalhaven between 1834-40. By 1900 only 13 full-bloods remained in the Nowra region. Between 1881-1901 the remaining native population was removed to four Aboriginal reserves established at Wreck Bay, Kangaroo Valley, Seven Mile Reserve and Roseby Park. Several Aboriginal children were also removed from their families and relocated to a mission at Bomaderry.

### 2.1.2 European Settlement

The influx of Europeans and others followed on the heels of the pioneering land holders who required labour to clear and develop their holdings. Berry and Wollstonecraft utilised numerous convicts at Coolangatta and other Shoalhaven properties from 1822 who were immediately put to work digging a canal connecting the Shoalhaven and Crookhaven Rivers which opened the Shoalhaven to ocean going vessels and trade with Sydney and beyond. Convicts were also employed in shipbuilding, brick making, timber cutting, building, farming and road making.

*... I have lately launched at Shoalhaven a new vessel of nearly 100 tons, coppered and copper fastened, making the 3rd vessel for the use of my establishment, the smallest being a cutter of 40 tons This new vessel, called the Edward after my late partner, arrived here yesterday being her fourth trip from Shoalhaven, her cargo all farm produce, viz, 50 tons of cedar or mahogany plank, 200 bushels of barley, 50 tons of salt beef, besides flour, dairy produce and a variety of etceteras. The beef casks are made in Shoalhaven of Colonial wood, and my beef is estimated to be equal to Irish. At this moment they are sheep shearing at Shoalhaven, planting maize or Indian corn, and making hay, and the wheat harvest will commence in about a week, and yet I am unable to leave this and go down to the place (Alexander Berry letter to his brother John, 1834)*

Berry and other land holders also employed free settlers and emancipated convicts to work their holdings and attracted tenant farmers who were required to clear, cultivate and fence the native scrub as part of their leasing arrangements. By the 1850s the gold rush had created a serious labour shortage in the Shoalhaven which saw the importation of Chinese and German immigrants to work the estates. By the 1860s, the Shoalhaven boasted a cosmopolitan population with some 1,700 Asians and Europeans based at Coolangatta alone.

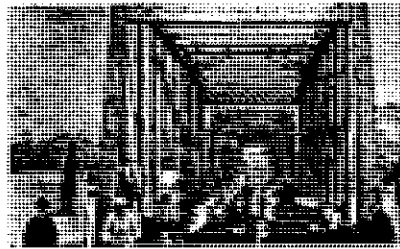
*The lands south of the Shoalhaven are chiefly owned by Mr Berry, the heirs of the late Mr de Mestre, and the Elyard family. They include three townships - Numbaa near the river and opposite the mouth of Broughton Creek with its comfortable houses, well stocked stores and excellent farms, separated by the highway. Terara, on the sands with its big houses and little cottages, almost on the banks of the river and likely to be swept into it by the next flood. Nowra, on the hill and out of reach of the floods and most other things, too. (Mr Justice McFarland, 1875)*

Nowra was proclaimed a government town in 1852, however, commercial activity continued to gravitate around the small villages which had sprung up on the various Shoalhaven estates. The Sir Walter Scott Inn was established near Ferry Lane in 1847, as was the timber slab and shingled Church which held services at Greenhills between 1851-75. A day school operated adjacent the church from 1851-57. Greenhills Iron Store and wharf was established on the Shoalhaven in 1854, Richard Kemp built a wine and spirits store in 1856 which also hosted a post office from 1860, and several dwellings also sprung up to collectively form Greenhills Village. By 1864 the Greenhills Cricket Club were playing their first matches on Monaghan's Meadow at Greenhills.

Based in Nowra, the short lived Shoalhaven Municipal Council was formed in 1859, with James Graham elected as Mayor in 1860. Nonetheless, Nowra, situated high above the Shoalhaven, remained an infant town with a tiny population until two floods devastated the river towns. The first big flood struck in 1860, but in 1870 a catastrophic flood destroyed the towns of Greenhills, Numbaa and Terara and the residents began evacuating the river for higher ground.

*Shoalhaven has been visited by a flood so terrible as to be unparalleled in the records of the Colony ... accompanied by a wind, the violence of which it is almost impossible to describe. (Shoalhaven News, 5 May 1870)*

Between 1870-80 Nowra's population increased by almost 400% and in 1881 the Shoalhaven River bridge was opened, linking Nowra to Bomaderry. In 1893 the railway from Kiama had reached Bomaderry which enabled rapid transport of passengers and goods between Sydney and the Nowra district, causing local commerce to flourish.



left: A Tronier, 1880, Shoalhaven Historical Society  
right: 1974 flood Nowra Sailing Club

With direct rail access to the huge Sydney market, the Shoalhaven dairy industry became particularly successful. The dairy trade was further augmented when the Princes Highway reached Nowra in the 1920s. With ever increasing road traffic through Nowra, it was decided in the late 1960s that Bridge Road would to be bypassed. The Princes Highway bypass, together with a new Shoalhaven River bridge, was completed between 1980-83.

### 2.1.3 Greenhills & the Graham Family

Emancipated convict William Graham, together with his wife, Margaret, and children, Jane, William, John and James, took up the unoccupied Butler's Grant of 100 acres on the banks of the Shoalhaven in 1826. They named this place Greenhills and established a cottage near the present site of Graham Lodge. William Graham cleared the land for farming and grazing and by 1829 had crops under cultivation and possessed, 130 pigs, 19 steers, 16 heifers, 17 cows and 6 bullocks.

*It is now three years or thereabouts since I first settled myself here for the purpose of being near my two sons, who had previously obtained orders for a small grant of land each and I have already been at a considerable expense in clearing off the land, erecting a cottage, and making stockyards, etc and I have hitherto succeeded in procuring a small herd of cattle and cultivating a small portion of land for the support of my family ... (William Graham to Colonial Secretary Alexander McLeay, 13 January 1829)*

Graham's sons, William and James, took up John Layton's unoccupied 640 acre land grant adjoining Butler's Grant in 1827, significantly expanding the Greenhills estate.

*... opposite the Shoalhaven River at the North West corner of P. De Mestre's one thousand three hundred acres and bounded on the East by part of the West boundary of the said P. De Mestre thirteen hundred acres, being a line bearing South ninety chains, on the South by a line bearing West eighty chains, on the West by a line bearing North seventy two chains to the Shoalhaven River downwards to the North West corner of P. De Mestre's one thousand three hundred acres aforesaid, Being the land promised to John Layton, on or before the date mentioned; and of which he was authorised to take possession on 21 March 1829 as a Primary Grant being in lieu of the like quality of which he received possession on 28 November 1827 but now Granted to the said William Graham, and John Graham and to their heirs and tenants in common. (Land Titles Office Sydney, January 1843)*

Initially Greenhills produced dairy products and meat for the local and Sydney markets, and operated a blacksmith's forge on the property. During the 1840s Graham leased parts of Greenhills to tenant farmers to assist in clearing and cultivating the land. By 1848 approximately 13 tenant farmers occupied Greenhills.

Barely one year after officially being granted Butler's 100 acres, William Graham senior died in 1852 and was buried in what was to become the Graham family cemetery just to the east of the original cottage. William's wife, Margaret, died during the following year and was buried in the Graham cemetery. James Graham became the executor of his father's will and subdivided the 640 acre grant among his family, retaining Butler's 100 acre portion for himself.

#### 2.1.4 Graham Lodge

James Graham married Mary Gardener at Greenhills in 1857 and continued to live in the cramped Greenhills cottage with their five young children. Subsequently, James commissioned the construction of a large new house, Graham Lodge, just east of the original family cottage. Local stonemason, Charles Moore, and Nowra carpenter, Willet Burrey were engaged and construction began in 1860.

*The said Charles Moore agrees to supply the said James Graham with Fourteen Stone Window Sills, 4ft x 1 ft six inches thick at 6/- each to be dressed and finished in a workman like manner . . . Two Door Steps 4ft long x 1ft square at 6/- each . . . Eight Hearth Stones, 4ft 6 inches long x 1ft 6 inches wide dressed and finished at 18d per foot . . . One hundred and sixty feet of Base Course, 16 inches wide 1ft thick at 18d per foot, to be dressed . . . One Hundred and Fifty Five feet of rough stone, 1ft deep x 16 inches wide, at 8/- per perch . . . The laying of Stone Work for the foundation of Mr Graham's House at 5/- per perch . . . Brickwork to be done at £4 per rod - struck joints outside to be left for plastering inside - outside opening to be measured in . . . (Memorandum of Agreement between James Graham & Charles Moore, 24 January 1860)*

When completed around 1862, Graham Lodge was a two storey Georgian mansion comprising four rooms downstairs and four upstairs bedrooms, with a balcony and a formal entrance garden on the eastern side. Behind the house to the west, a number of earlier brick and timber structures including cottages, a kitchen, wells, stables and sheds were retained to service Graham Lodge as well as the pastoral and agricultural enterprises of James Graham and his family.



Graham Lodge & associated Graham Farm buildings,  
S Elyard, c1877, Shoalhaven Art Society

James Graham died at Greenhills in 1867 and was buried in the family cemetery. Four months later his 16 year old son, John, was tragically killed when struck in the head with a cricket ball during a school match at Newington College, Sydney.

*Death of Mr James Graham, Esq. J.P.*

*We have the painful duty this morning to chronicle the demise of James Graham Esq., one of Her majesty's Justices of the Peace for the district, who died at his residence, Green Hill, on the evening of Wednesday, the 24th July, instant. The deceased gentleman had for a long period been declining, and for some months past had not been able to leave his house and for the fortnight preceding his dissolution was altogether confined to his bed. Mr Graham was one of the earliest pioneers of the district, and has resided permanently here over thirty years. As a magistrate he stood very high in the opinion of all, as a fair, just and impartial administrator of justice; and as a private gentleman none could have been more highly esteemed and deservedly respected by all classes of the Shoalhaven community. The deceased gentleman had attained his 66th year. The interment took placē yesterday in the family burial ground, on Green Hill estate, and was numerously and respectably attended by friends who desired to pay the last tribute of regard to departed worth. Mr Graham leaves a wife and family of young children to mourn their sad bereavement (The Shoalhaven News, 27 July 1867)*

Widowed Mary Graham remarried and left Greenhills with her new husband James Graham junior remained at Graham Lodge, marrying Emily Ann Hewitt in 1871 They had seven children and remained at the residence for more than 50 years until their deaths Emily passed away in 1924 and James finally passed away in 1927. The following year James and Emily's surviving daughter, Madge Moss, disposed of some of the Greenhills holdings, selling Graham Lodge to her cousin John Thomas Bourne

*... a noted maize and lucerne grower. He was one of the first committeemen and the only survivor of the Shoalhaven Agricultural Society formed in 1874, also for many years a member of the Shoalhaven Licensing Bench and local Land Board. A keen sporting enthusiast, he figured prominently as a cricketer, and played against the English team that visited Nowra in 1885. (The Book of Shoalhaven, As It Was and As It Is, 1926)*

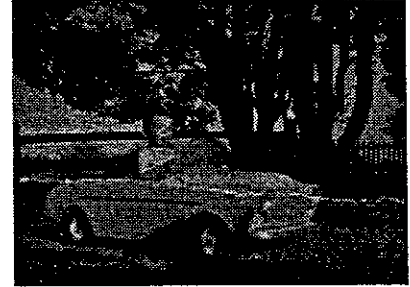
#### **2.1.5 Bourne Period**

Jack Bourne, his wife Maud and children Colin, Keith, Una, Ray and Gladys moved into Graham Lodge in 1930 and continued farming the property for some years, making slight alterations to the house and property to suit the family's needs. A new balcony was added to the western facade of the house, the gardens were altered and replanted, and the former back door became the front entrance to Graham Lodge connecting it to Bridge Road.

*We moved to the farm when I was about 12 years of age ... Mum and Dad had the front bedroom on the right ... I had the front bedroom on the left and my sister had the back one. My brothers shared the other one ... We had no kitchen so dad arranged for a kitchen to be built at the rear of the existing one ... one of the windows was turned into a door. (Una Thurgate, 5 May 1998)*

Jack and Maud built themselves a retirement cottage nearby which was completed in 1948, however, Jack died in 1949. Maud and Una stayed on at Graham Lodge. In 1952 Una married Patrick Thurgate and they subsequently had two sons, Graham and Noel. The Thurgate family left Greenhills for a new house in Bomaderry when Graham was six years old, and Graham Lodge was sold in 1960. Maud resided at the Bridge Road cottage until her death in 1962.

*We were married at the Church of England Church, Kiama because Mum had been born at Kiama ... we had a small reception at Graham Lodge ... about 30 guests ... the dining room was used ... Mrs B helped with the preparations ... (Una Thurgate, 5 May 1998)*



left: Jack Bourne & his band. Una Thurgate  
right: Noel Thurgate at Graham Lodge Una Thurgate

#### 2.1.6 Ashcroft Occupation

Greenhills and Graham Lodge was purchased by the consortium of Theo and Andrew Mavramattes, Helen Kastrisos and George Simos who subdivided the Greenhills land holdings and sold off Graham Lodge separately during 1960. Ted Ashcroft bought Graham Lodge and lived there for several years before re-selling it to local businesswoman, Mary Theresa (Tess) Sherlock during the mid to late 1960s.

#### 2.1.7 Prague Lodge

Tess Sherlock modified the ground floor rooms for use as a function centre while residing upstairs. In 1967 a large modern wing had been attached to the northern facade of the original building which radically altered its appearance. Tess renamed the complex Prague Lodge and it was officially opened in May 1968. In 1969 three of the upstairs rooms had been converted to a restaurant, offices and preparation areas, with the fourth room retained by Tess as her bedroom. An external spiral fire stair was also appended to the western balcony linking it to the ground. Prague Lodge hosted a number of parties, wedding receptions and other events during its short lived existence.



Opening of Prague Lodge 1968, Mrs Patti Fowler

### **2.1.8 Nowra Bomaderry Leagues Club**

Following the formation of the Nowra Bomaderry Leagues Club Committee in 1968 with some 113 members and representatives from local rugby clubs the Bomaderry Tigers, The Saints and the Nowra Warriors, Prague Lodge was sought as a club house. The complex was purchased in 1970 and remodelled to accommodate a bar, games room and other facilities.

*Alterations had been carried out to the premises and the successful opening for business was made last Friday ... At present the club has the full facilities necessary for the liquor license with the bar opening both to a carpeted lounge and the main floor, which will also be available for dances, receptions and other social functions ... Upstairs there are facilities for dining room with a fully equipped kitchen, a games room, office and committee room ... (undated newspaper cutting courtesy Noel Payne, Bomaderry)*

Further radical additions were effected in 1978 which saw a major new masonry wing attached to the north of the complex and subsequent adaptation of the upstairs bedrooms to create a separate Board Room and Club Room.

*The addition represented 381 square metres of space ... Auditorium 164, dining room 79, entry foyer 31, bar service areas 12, toilet and change rooms 46, kitchen 32 and offices 17 ... (The South Coast Register, 6 September 1978)*

Some remnant structures erected during the Graham period had managed to survive south west of the club complex until they were demolished between 1980-83 during the construction of the adjacent Princes Highway bypass. The Nowra Bomaderry Leagues Club continued its active operations at the site until its demise in 1992. Subsequently, the disused building complex deteriorated until it was purchased by the Shoalhaven City Council in 1998.

### **2.1.9 Conservation, Archaeology & Restoration**

Since 1998 the Shoalhaven City Council has undertaken to repair and restore, preserve and interpret Graham Lodge and its surrounds for future public visitation. To date heritage architects, Peter Freeman Pty Ltd, and archaeologists, Heritage Archaeology, have been engaged to prepare a conservation management plan and an archaeological assessment of the grounds and residence.

Based on the conservation management plan, most of the unsympathetic Prague Lodge and Nowra Bomaderry Leagues Club additions and landscaping works have now been demolished and removed from the site under archaeological supervision. The large masonry building erected to the north of Graham Lodge by the NBLC has been substantially renovated by the SCC and is now occupied by the Shoalhaven Visitors Centre and a privately leased cafe. Graham Lodge has also been re-roofed and has undergone emergency repairs during the initial stage of the projected full restoration of the building for use as an interpretative museum and local history centre.

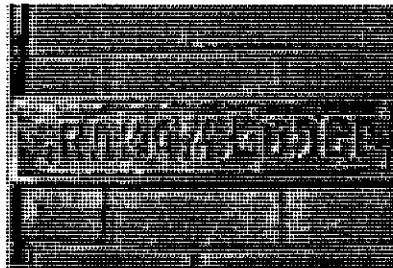
## **2.2 Shoalhaven Collections & Sites**

The Shoalhaven region has an extraordinary assemblage of important historic buildings, sites and collections, many of which are clearly evident in Nowra's streets and are well documented in available tourist guides and

brochures. Nowra retains numerous examples of commercial and public structures erected between the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries including: Shoalhaven River bridge, Nowra Wharf, Nowra Showground structures, churches, hotels, the School of Arts, Shoalhaven Commercial Printers, Nowra Post Office, the Roxy Theatre, the Church of England Rectory, the Nowra Court House and the former Nowra Police Station to name a few. There is also a good survival rate of both grand and humble nineteenth century residences such as Graham Lodge, Meroogal, Hazelmere and numerous other houses dotted throughout Moss Street, Bridge Road and elsewhere.

Nowra and the wider region also contains numerous collections of artefacts and historic records within a range of specialist museums, private collections and keeping places which document, reflect and preserve particular facets of local and general history. Among other important pictorial and artefactual holdings, the Shoalhaven City Council owns a very significant collection comprising 28 original photographs and 112 watercolours and pencil sketches by nineteenth century Nowra artist, Samuel Elyard. The SCC also owns one of the two c1860s flood boats built from local cedar on Coolangatta Estate. The boats were commissioned by David Berry and presented to the residents of the Shoalhaven following the disastrous flood of 1860.

The Nowra Museum and Shoalhaven Historical Society holds some important local history records and artefacts including a 1834 breastplate together with an original lithograph of Shoalhaven Koori, Neddy Noora, as well as some original Elyard watercolours and a large collection of photographs and maps which record early Shoalhaven history. Other related local heritage collections are housed at the State Library NSW, Nowra City Council Library, Meroogal Historic House Museum, Bundanon, Berry Museum, Tarbourie Lake Museum and the Lady Denman Heritage Complex.



Feb 7 1849  
 Mary Gardner  
 1 cash  
 4 cash  
 1 cash  
 1 cash for husband

left: Original Graham Lodge plaque. Una Thurgate  
 right: Detail of 1848-54 Greenhills Account Book  
 Anne Pulvertaft

Individuals who are known to possess items relevant to this study include Mrs Una Thurgate (nee Bourne) of Bomaderry who retains some important photographs, and other artefacts and documentation which record her family life at Graham Lodge, while Mrs Anne Pulvertaft of Sunshine Beach in Queensland holds the original 1848-54 Greenhills Account Book. It is also quite likely that other significant items relating to Graham Lodge are owned by descendants of the Graham and Bourne families, however, only preliminary enquires towards this end were made during this study.

Numerous vestiges of the initial European settlement survive scattered across the cultural landscape in close vicinity to Nowra such as the buildings of Coolangatta Estate and the 1822 convict-dug canal linking the Shoalhaven and Crookhaven Rivers. The 1841 convict built Wool

Road also remains partly intact in two sections - between Running Creek and Sassafras, and the section from Turpentine Road towards Yerrawangala. Just east of Graham Lodge at the site of Greenhills Village, John MacArthur's c1860s *Greenhills Cottage* also survives intact

Signs of traditional Aboriginal occupation of the region is clearly evident at Hidden Valley where a remarkable rock painting depicting a river serpent has survived on a stone outcrop situated in rugged bushland at the south western fringes of Nowra's suburbs. Two Aboriginal scrub tracks can also be seen in the nearby Budawang National Park. While an adequate survey of local indigenous sites and collections was not possible during this study, it is probable that a number of other significant cultural sites and material exists which should be explored further as this project takes shape

## **2.3 Graham Lodge Collections**

### **2.3.1 Graham Lodge**

Graham Lodge is the primary artefact of the former Greenhills site. Although its building fabric has been substantially altered and degraded by some of its occupants throughout its 140 year history, much of its original form, materials and finishes have survived. Furthermore, the marks, residues and layers of its use and abuse are not simply building damage, but can also be read as physical evidence for the changing fortunes and circumstances of Graham Lodge's residents, and its adaptation to new purposes, new situations and new technology

The sandstone footings remain largely undisturbed, while most of the original brick walls and early internal and external plaster and render also remain intact. An in situ brick marked 'ARDNER' was uncovered at the north external wall which may have been intended as a dedication to James Graham's wife, Mary Gardener. Much of the original eastern balcony, together with its cast iron columns, has survived as has the Bourne period western balcony

The original internal room layout has also been largely retained, although the dividing walls between the north east and north west rooms have been demolished on both levels. The south west room on the ground floor retains a sink, southern window and western doorway introduced by the Bourne's in the 1930s when it was converted from a dining room to a kitchen. The timber partition erected by the Bourne's during the 1930s to create a bathroom in the upstairs hallway has also survived.

### **2.3.2 Greenhills & Graham Cemetery**

Approximately half of the original Greenhills property which spread over Butler's 100 acre grant, and a small portion of the adjoining 640 acre Layton's Grant taken up by William and James Graham remains undeveloped in the area immediately east of Graham Lodge. As open grazing land on the Shoalhaven flood plain, this landscape retains much of its original function and character, contextualises Graham Lodge as an early agricultural and pastoral estate, and enables a visual connection between Graham Lodge and the site of mid nineteenth century Greenhills Village.

Set within the open flood plain just to the east of Graham Lodge, the Graham family cemetery survives in much of its original rural environment. The grave yard contains the remains of the original land holders, William Graham senior and his wife Margaret, and is known to have received a total of nine burials between 1852-1927. Today it comprises three

inscribed headstones and a prominent memorial structure. Right of ways exist between the burial ground, Hawthorn Avenue and Lyrebird Drive, however, cemetery access is currently fenced off from the public.

### **2.3.3 Archaeology & Artefacts**

A considerable number of artefacts have been recorded, documented and retrieved from Graham Lodge and its immediate vicinity during an archaeological assessment and test excavations conducted by Heritage Archaeology during 1999. The artefact assemblages provide important evidence for Aboriginal presence on the site, early European farming and domestic activity, and building techniques and materials used in the construction of Graham Lodge. The archaeological material also reflects the changing occupants and uses of Graham Lodge and its grounds 1860-1992. All archaeology artefacts thus far recovered have now been cleaned, catalogued and stored at Shoalhaven City Council. The archaeologists are also likely to possess a range of field records such as photographs, plan drawings and field notes which might be utilised in the future interpretation of Graham Lodge.

*The artefacts recovered offer insights into the availability and use of household wares, building construction, and the activities of the property's occupants during the 19th and early 20th century. Their economic status, consumer choices, and an enhanced awareness of their lifestyles, represents an important glimpse into the lives of a significant local community (Archaeologists Jennifer & Michael Tracey, Test Excavations at Greenhills, Nowra, NSW, May 2000)*

Graham Lodge and its surrounds also contain numerous above-ground relics which relate to later uses of the building, particularly during its Prague Lodge and Nowra Bomaderry Leagues Club incarnations, and, as such, constitute another facet of the Graham Lodge collection. It is strongly recommended that all remnant building signage, architectural fittings and finishes, furniture and miscellaneous ephemera across the site should be recorded in situ, selectively sampled and stored for potential future research, display and interpretation under the supervision of an appropriate heritage practitioner before any further cleaning or conservation works are undertaken.



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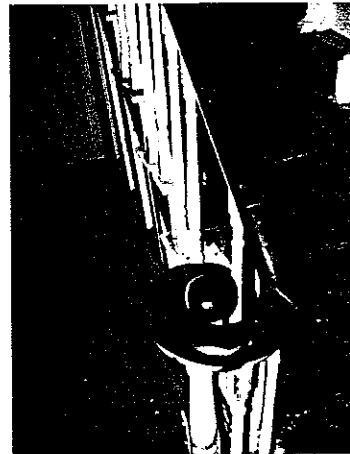
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4



5



6

**Graham Lodge Fabric & Artefacts**  
 1 Graham Lodge eastern facade.  
 2 Dedication brick marked 'ARDNER'.  
 3 Interior view first floor north room.  
 4 Graham family cemetery.  
 5 Remnant NBLC sign.  
 6 Detail of Graham Lodge stair.

# ***3 INTERPRETATION PLAN***

### **3.1 Interpretation Approach**

The location of Graham Lodge at the gateway to Nowra and the Shoalhaven is particularly fitting, bringing townspeople and tourists alike to the original heart of the Greenhills Estate. It is intended that Graham Lodge and its surrounds, together with the adjacent Visitors Centre, will serve as a dynamic focal point for the Shoalhaven tourist experience which integrates and interprets the region's heritage assets. While the story of Graham Lodge and Greenhills needs to be explored, Graham Lodge and the Visitors Centre also need to provide a strong physical and historical orientation to the region, communicate key issues and aspects of its historical and cultural identity, inspire visitors and townspeople to explore the city and region, and offer clear directions to Shoalhaven's many natural and cultural heritage sites and collections.

How do we capture, connect and interpret the essence of the region's past and present in a succinct and effective manner when the story of the Shoalhaven is so vast, rich, brutal and contradictory? While the story of the Shoalhaven 1822-2000 is essentially the story of European settlement and development in the region, it has no one clear cut narrative, chronological or evolutionary logic. Rather, the Shoalhaven is the physical place which has been shaped, grooved and reshaped by the actions of many different cultures with competing interests, aims and ambitions.

Despite the large extent of physical heritage we see today preserved in the form of buildings, structures and collections, these things are only a selected fraction of past activity and can never provide an adequate picture of the Shoalhaven's remarkable cosmopolitan history when seen in isolation. Beneath the historic bricks and mortar of Graham Lodge and other local heritage places lie an amazing range of past human experiences, episodes and interactions which profoundly affected the attitudes of its people then as it continues to do today. The Shoalhaven's bigger picture embraces many cultural histories: Aboriginal, European, Chinese and British.

To capture the essence of Graham Lodge and the Shoalhaven we must consider its history from multiple perspectives. To interpret these histories we must draw on all types of available evidence and media - artefacts, sites, buildings, photographs, written and pictorial documents, film, oral histories, archaeology and more, and reconstruct this evidence in a critical, rigorous and imaginative fashion. To give meaning to the Shoalhaven's heritage assets we must empower people to recognise these places as poignant symbols of competing cultural histories - as places of beauty, dreams, success, fortune, friendship and hope, as well as sites of horror, nightmares, failure, poverty, brutality and despair - all these emotions and issues can potentially coexist at the same site. Places with such loaded significance demand more than the simple face value acceptance as quaint old buildings and decaying historic relics.

This Interpretation Plan proposes a range of interpretative elements and actions to be implemented in and around four distinct zones: the Visitors Centre, Graham Lodge, the Graham Lodge grounds and the former Greenhills flood plain. Each of these components will draw from multi-disciplinary evidence and present this evidence in a manner which is most appropriate to the particular location or feature in question. All proposed conservation and interpretative actions, structures and artworks should only be developed where necessary, and must be executed in a manner which respects and retains the authenticity of the original building and site - the primary heritage resource of Greenhills. While respecting the heritage fabric, future site and interpretative works should be

conspicuously contemporary elements which allow visitors to clearly differentiate between original and imposed material and encourage them to consider the conservation approach adopted for the site.

### **3.2 Graham Lodge & Precinct Interpretative Works**

#### **3.2.1 Visitors Centre & Site Entry**

Located at the corner of the Princes Highway and Pleasant Way, the Shoalhaven Visitors Centre comprises approximately 525 square metres of internal floorspace in the refurbished masonry wing of the Nowra Bomaderry Leagues Club. Around half of the building is dedicated to Shoalhaven region tourist information and related merchandising, and is operated by SCC staff. The remainder of the complex is privately leased and operated as a cafe and restaurant. Externally, the Visitors Centre comprises a sizeable carpark at its northern entrance, and a southern verandah of approximately 75 square metres which looks over Graham Lodge. Toilet facilities are available in both the tourist information area and the cafe.

The Visitors Centre is the obvious point of arrival and entry to Graham Lodge and will need to play an important role in the promotion and operation of the proposed museum. During recent discussions between 3-D Exhibitions and SCC Tourism Manager, Tom Phillips, concerning the future relationship between Graham Lodge and the Visitors Centre, Mr Phillips informed the author that access to Graham Lodge via the southern verandah door of the Visitors Centre would not be possible because of the risk of losing merchandise through theft. As an alternative, people inside the Visitors Centre who wish to visit Graham Lodge will be required to exit the Centre from the northern entrance before proceeding to Graham Lodge.

#### **Entry & Signage**

A large double-sided contemporary signage element is proposed for the roadside area at the junction of the Princes Highway and Pleasant Way. The sign should be of a robust material such as galvanised steel, and should be big enough to be clearly viewed and read by passing traffic. It should collectively name and promote the Visitors Centre and Graham Lodge museum, as well as their respective attractions.

It is also recommended that another signage element is located outside the northern entrance of the Visitors Centre which informs visitors of Graham Lodge's opening hours, facilities, entry fees etc, and directs them to the Visitors Centre reception for ticketing and cloakings, before proceeding to Graham Lodge via its original eastern entrance.

#### **Ticketing & Cloaking**

From the carpark, visitors will enter the Visitors Centre reception area to purchase entry tickets, lodge their bags and obtain an information flyer before proceeding to the Graham Lodge museum and site installations. The reception area could also display and sell a small range of specialist publications and other merchandise related specifically to Graham Lodge and Greenhill's history.

#### **Flyer & Publications**

The information flyer should be well illustrated and provide a clear orientation map and succinct overview of the museum, interpretative displays, site installations and artefact collections, and the history and significance of Graham Lodge and Greenhills. Available at the museum reception desk, the flyer will enable visitors to undertake an informed self-guided tour of the museum, site and surrounds.

In addition to the flyer it is recommended that a more substantial full colour guide book is developed which explores the Graham Lodge site, history and exhibits in considerable detail. Perhaps an attractive and informative 25-50 page publication, the guidebook would be sold from the Visitors Centre reception and other appropriate outlets for around \$10 to \$15.

In the future, a range of specialist publications relating to particular aspects of the site's remnants, research and history, or exploring the individual displays and art installations proposed in this report might be developed.

#### Flood Boat Display

It is further recommended that the c1860 Numbaa flood boat owned by the SCC is relocated to the southern verandah of the Visitors Centre as part of the proposed flood plain interpretation which is detailed below. While providing improved security and shelter for this important heritage item, it would also be visible from within the Visitors Centre and entice people to go outside and inspect it at close range before moving on to explore the various interpretative installations both within Graham Lodge and around the grounds.

### 3.2.2 Graham Lodge

#### Layout

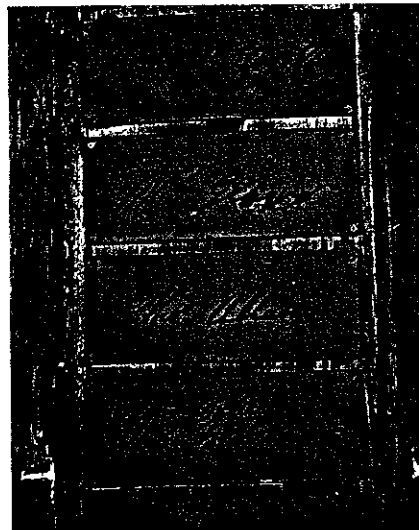
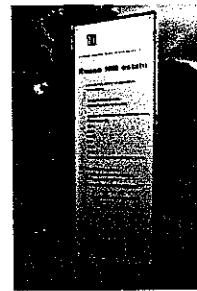
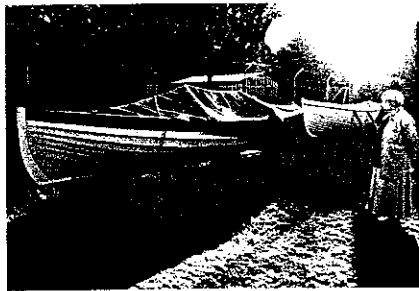
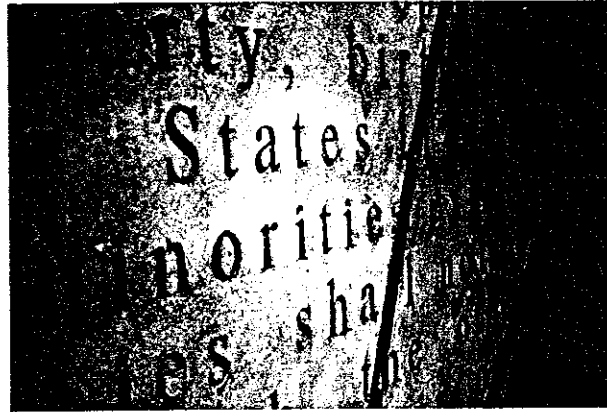
Following ticketing and cloakroom in the Visitors Centre, it is proposed that all visitors enter Graham Lodge via a gravel path leading from the Visitors Centre to the original eastern door. The entire ground floor space is dedicated to interpretative exhibits which can be readily accessed by both general and disabled visitors, and which explore the history of Graham Lodge throughout its 140 year occupation as well as the general history of the wider Shoalhaven region. It is proposed that the first floor accommodates a large flexible multi-purpose area for meetings, lectures, performances and other related uses; a separate area for research and secure storage of the Graham Lodge collection and other artefacts; a small kitchen area; and an office and library for the use of guiding staff, a curator and the Friends of Graham Lodge.

#### Building Conservation & Adaptation

Conservation works both internally and externally will retain and restore the building where appropriate to its form and appearance during the Graham and Bourne periods. This will involve reconstruction of some masonry walls, structural elements and joinery, and the removal of others. It is also envisaged that each room will be repainted to its original colour scheme based on paint scrapes and surviving written evidence. It is proposed that extensive paint scrapes which reveal the layering of the wall finishes are clearly exposed in appropriate locations in each room - in some cases it may be possible to expose the original finishes of entire walls.

#### Threshold & Wall Footprint Panels

It is proposed that the doorways of each room are fitted with an inlaid timber or metal threshold panel which is inscribed with the former uses of the room so that visitors can trace the transformation of Graham Lodge 1860-1992 from pastoral estate to suburban residence, function centre and finally rugby club. It is also proposed that the footprints of the former walls between rooms in the northern area of the residence on both levels are similarly interpreted with an inlaid and inscribed panel.



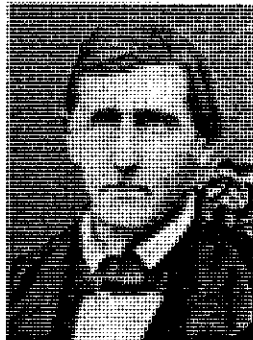
- Potential Interpretive Samples & Exhibits**
- 1 Graham Lodge & Visitors Centre relationship
  - 2 Sample text-engraved concrete, University of Technology Sydney.
  - 3 Numbaa flood boat.
  - 4 Steel signage panel, Rouse Hill House
  - 5 Sample text-engraved metal, Museum of Sydney

While the conservation works should endeavour to return the building to its original appearance where possible, the practical requirement for Graham Lodge to be utilised as a contemporary public interpretative facility necessitates that certain areas are handled in an alternative manner. This is certainly the case for the two northern rooms on both levels which will be far more useful if their previously demolished walls are not reinstated. Furthermore, the double room area on the ground floor designated as the Elyard Gallery will require modern track lighting, picture rails, environmental controls and security devices which are at odds with the room being restored fully to its nineteenth century appearance.

### Portrait Gallery

It is proposed that the original entrance lobby at the eastern door of Graham Lodge contains an introductory panel which provides a succinct overview of the changing use of Greenhills and Graham Lodge, and lists its six main occupants from pre 1826 European settlement through to the 1992 abandonment of the building. The six occupants include: Aborigines, the Grahams, the Bournes, Ted Ashcroft, Prague Lodge and the Nowra Bomaderry Leagues Club

Reproduced paintings, drawings and photographs of the actual occupants of the site are mounted in contemporary picture frames and hung on each side of the lobby walls in the style of a traditional portrait gallery. While suitable images of most of these occupants have already been located further research is required to collect the remaining portraits



left: James Graham senior, *The Book of Shoalhaven*, 1926  
centre: Shoalhaven Aborigine Neddy Noora c1834 Shoalhaven Historical Society.  
right: Graham Thurgate at Graham Lodge, Una Thurgate

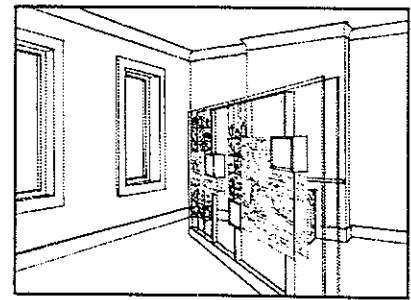
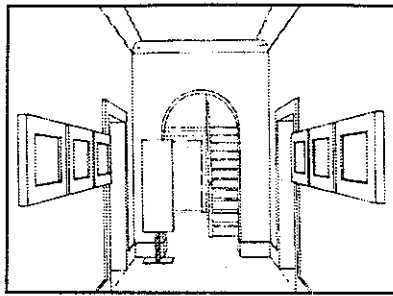
### Episodes

#### Concept

It is proposed that the south eastern ground floor room is utilised to provide two parallel histories - the story of the wider Shoalhaven region, and the specific history of Graham Lodge and Greenhills itself. The display device proposed for the Episodes exhibition comprises a thin, double sided internally lit showcase which is angled across the room. The showcase is essentially two transparent vertical glass sheets which enables visitors to see right through it in certain places and thus appreciate the interior space, window views and finishes of the room.

#### Themes

One side of the showcase is devoted to the wider history of the Shoalhaven region from the time of indigenous occupation through to the present. The other side of the showcase focuses on the occupation of Graham Lodge and Greenhills from the time William Graham senior took up the original Butler's Grant until the recent round of site conservation and interpretation.



left: Perspective view of Portrait Gallery  
right: Perspective view of Episodes showcase

Six key thematic sections for the Episodes exhibition are proposed which are explored through interpretative text, quotations, historic images and relevant artefacts derived from the Graham Lodge archaeology collection and elsewhere. These themes include:

#### Shoalhaven

- 1770-1822 Aboriginal & European Contact
- 1822-1860 Settlement & Immigration
- 1860-2000 Expansion & Development

#### Greenhills & Graham Lodge

- 1826-60 Greenhills & the Grahams
- 1860-98 Occupants
- 1998-2000 Conservation, Archaeology & Interpretation

Within the six core sections a far wider range of overlapping sub themes can be explored which will expand as further research brings new issues to light. As a starting point the following sub themes should be considered:

- Traditional Aboriginal life
- Aboriginal & European contact
- Convicts, explorers & castaways
- Pioneer settlement
- European & Asian immigration
- Inter-colonial relationships
- Colonialism & Federation
- Racial conflict/interaction
- Maritime trade
- World context
- Gold rush
- Economic development
- Wealth, status, poverty
- Gender
- Power, politics & protest
- Natural environment - flood, fire, drought, human impact

#### Sample Quotations, Images & Artefacts

Each of the six sections of the exhibition will comprise interpretative text, possibly screen printed to the showcase glass or on an opaque panel within the showcase, which provides an overview of the core themes. It is envisaged that the text would draw from a range of historic quotations and oral histories which reflect the different perspectives of the history and people of Greenhills and the Shoalhaven district across time.

A rich assortment of related historic images and text would be digitally recorded and transferred to CD ROM format, and displayed on six high resolution 15" LCD monitors, driven by a single Macintosh G4 computer with CD ROM capability located in the store room beneath the stairway. It is proposed that approximately 20-30 slow dissolving still images would be displayed on each monitor together with supporting text and historic quotations.

The Macintosh G4 computer is an extremely reliable platform under stable operating conditions which are anticipated for the proposed installation. While anyone with basic training can operate this equipment, a qualified AV technician should periodically check and maintain the hardware and systems approximately every 6 months.

Artefacts drawn from the Graham Lodge archaeology collection and other local heritage collections would be strategically positioned at different points within the showcase so as to relate to the adjacent stories and images. It is envisaged that the artefacts would be visible from both sides of the showcase.

#### 1770-1822 Aboriginal & European Contact

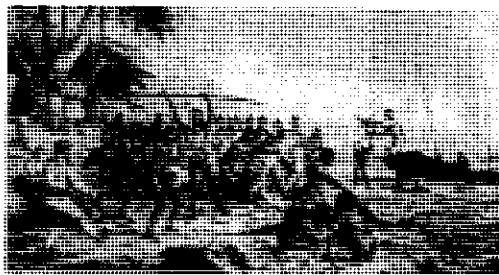
*The hills within land were remarkably flat: we discovered five men upon them, through our glasses, who were quite naked. It is probable they live upon the produce of the earth, as we did not see any canoes and the coast seems to be unfavourable to fishing. (Sydney Parkinson, 22 April 1770)*

*... natives accompanied us a few miles and returned, leaving us a plentiful supply of fish. (William Clark, 30 April 1797)*

*I had intended during this exploration to have entered the Shoalhaven River but I found it opening into the sea to a sand beach and with a chain of breakers across the entrance. (Alexander Berry, 1809)*

*... a remarkable peaked hill which resembled a square dove house, with a dome at the top, and which for that reason, I called the Pigeon House (Captain James Cook, 21 April 1770)*

*After going up the Northern branch the party returned and pitched our tent for the night on the left bank of the Shoal-Haven River near its junction with the northern branch in a rich bottom amongst palm trees where we found a small well, or rather, hole of indifferent water which had been dug by the natives - much incommoded by leeches - on a small ridge beyond us there were the forest trees of the usual kind - but in neither situation is timber excellent - we enlarged one of the holes and bored six feet, the soil was sandy and the water did not collect faster than before ... (Alexander Berry, 10 January 1822)*



Shoalhaven Aborigines c1825, Voyage of the Corvette L'Astrolabe WA Bayley Shoalhaven 1975

#### 1822-1860 Settlement & Immigration

*We now have between 6 and 7 acres of tobacco at Lower Numbaa and 2 here. I shall continue planting until we have a clear 10 acres. The maize looks well; there are altogether about 60 acres. The barley and rye are certainly very fine, the former will yield 50 bushels. The Mangel Wurzel (a kind of large beet used for cattle fodder) is growing very well at Upper Numbaa (Edward Wollstonecraft, November 1830)*

*... left 3 men at the Isthmus to build a hut and cut a boat passage through the Isthmus separating the waters of the Crook Haven from those of Shoal Haven River ... (Alexander Berry, 25 June 1822)*



left: Alexander Berry, *The Book of Shoalhaven*, 1926  
centre: Mrs De Mestre Senior, *The Book of Shoalhaven* 1926  
right: John MacArthur *The Book of Shoalhaven* 1926.

*I rode to Shoalhaven, a distance of 36 miles still farther distant to the south, six or seven of which were through a mass of dense vegetation requiring pioneers to penetrate it; the vines wreathed the trees like boa constrictors and festooned away The valley reminded me of Humbolt's description of South American vegetation. The ground was unequal to boot, and was extremely difficult and fatiguing. (Justice Barron Field, 20 October 1823)*

*Took six men to Cullengatta to commence (building) beginning with their own huts - also Hume and natives, who proceeded on their way to cut a passage across the mountain. Had much difficulty in returning on account of violent westerly ... (Alexander Berry, 9 July 1822)*

*After heavy rain it is often a dangerous undertaking to travel the road when creeks are swelling, there being in most instances no bridges or crossing places. (Illawarra Mercury, 3 November 1856)*

*Went across with Hume and ascended his road to the head of the mountains; indifferently formed and, in some places steep and rugged still - still, with a little trouble, may be rendered passable for carts ... (Alexander Berry, 13 July 1822)*

#### 1860-2000 Expansion & Development

*The lands south of the Shoalhaven are chiefly owned by Mr Berry, the heirs of the late Mr de Mestre, and the Elyard family. They include three townships - Numbaa near the river and opposite the mouth of Broughton Creek with its comfortable houses, well stocked stores and excellent farms, separated by the highway. Terara, on the sands with its big houses and little cottages, almost on the banks of the river and likely to be swept into it by the next flood Nowra, on the hill and out of reach of the floods and most other things, too. (Mr Justice McFarland, 1875)*

... a Court House, public house, a store, post office and 120 citizens (Mr Justice McFarland, 1875)

*Shoalhaven has been visited by a flood so terrible as to be unparalleled in the records of the Colony . accompanied by a wind, the violence of which it is almost impossible to describe. (Shoalhaven News, 5 May 1870)*

*In Mrs Isaac's bar room it was four feet seven inches deep or nearly one foot above the bar. In the Church of England School, where in 1867 it came over about an inch, it was three feet six inches deep (Shoalhaven News, 5 May 1870)*

*There are several ferries on the river ... There is a Council ferry some miles higher up where Bomaderry Creek joins opposite Nowra or near so ... (Mr Justice McFarland, 1875)*



Shoalhaven Aborigines undated WA Bayley, Shoalhaven. 1975

*... most of the half-castes are employed. The Jervis Bay people live by fishing and Government rations ... Three boats in the area - one at Terara, one Broughton Creek (Berry), one Jervis Bay. All good order. Provided by Government. About thirty half-caste children are at school in Coolangatta, five at Jervis Bay, and three black (full bloods) ... A number of these are given to drink. But ... drunkenness has ceased. (George Thornton Protector of Aborigines, 1882)*

#### 1826-60 Greenhills & the Grahams

*It is now three years or thereabouts since I first settled myself here for the purpose of being near my two sons, who had previously obtained orders for a small grant of land each and I have already been at a considerable expense in clearing off the land, erecting a cottage, and making stockyards, etc and I have hitherto succeeded in procuring a small herd of cattle and cultivating a small portion of land for the support of my family ... (William Graham to Colonial Secretary Alexander McLeay, 13 January 1829)*

*... opposite the Shoalhaven River at the North West corner of P. De Mestre's one thousand three hundred acres and bounded on the East by part of the West boundary of the said P. De Mestre thirteen hundred acres, being a line bearing South ninety chains, on the South by a line bearing West eighty chains, on the West by a line bearing North seventy two chains to the Shoalhaven River downwards to the North West corner of P. De Mestre's one thousand three hundred acres aforesaid, Being the land promised to John Layton, on or before the date mentioned; and of which he was authorised to take possession on 21 March 1829 as a Primary Grant being in lieu of the like quality of which he received*

possession on 28 November 1827 but now Granted to the said William Graham, and John Graham and to their heirs and tenants in common (Land Titles Office Sydney, January 1843)

... near Worrigee, at lower Shoalhaven, Commencing at the North Western corner of Layton's land; being a line bearing North forty chains to the Shoalhaven River, and on the North by that River to the North West corner of Layton's land as aforesaid. Being the land promised to Walter Butler on or before the date afore mentioned, and of which he was authorised to take possession on the 23 April 1831, but now granted to the said William Graham the Elder, in accordance with the Report on the Case No. 1350 made ... by the Commissioner. (Land Titles Office Sydney, June 1851)

#### 1860-98 Occupants

We were married at the Church of England Church, Kiama because Mum had been born at Kiama ... we had a small reception at Graham Lodge ... about 30 guests ... the dining room was used ... Mrs B helped with the preparations ... (Una Thurgate, 5 May 1998)-



Graham Lodge eastern facade Una Thurgate

The said Charles Moore doth hereby agree with the said James Graham to do all the plastering of his new House at Greenhills ... giving the same three coats of plaster ... in a thoroughly workman like manner ... at the rate of 1/ shilling per square yard ... All cornices to be paid for at the rate of two shillings and six pence per superficial foot. (Memorandum of Agreement between James Graham & Charles Moore, 6 July 1861)

... to finish all the carpenter work for the House of the said James Graham at Greenhills ... the work to be done according to the Specification already made - and to be completed in a business and workman like manner for the sum of £125 - Four of the rooms to be completed immediately and the remainder when required ... (Memorandum of Agreement between James Graham & Willet Burrey, 20 May 1862)

We moved to the farm when I was about 12 years of age ... Mum and Dad had the front bedroom on the right ... I had the front bedroom on the left and my sister had the back one My brothers shared the other one ... We had no kitchen so dad arranged for a kitchen to be built at the rear of the existing one ... one of the windows was turned into a door. (Una Thurgate, 5 May 1998)

*Alterations had been carried out to the premises and the successful opening for business was made last Friday ... At present the club has the full facilities necessary for the liquor license with the bar opening both to a carpeted lounge and the main floor, which will also be available for dances, receptions and other social functions ... Upstairs there are facilities for dining room with a fully equipped kitchen, a games room, office and committee room ... (undated newspaper cutting courtesy Noel Payne, Bomaderry)*

*The addition represented 381 square metres of space ... Auditorium 164, dining room 79, entry foyer 31, bar service areas 12, toilet and change rooms 46, kitchen 32 and offices 17 ... (The South Coast Register, 6 September 1978)*

*The camellia trees were so high that they were shading the rooms over the balcony, and they had to be cut back to let light into the house. The pink camellia was magnificent. Dad would often pick a clothes basket full of camellia flowers and take them to Mrs Rodway to sell for the Red Cross. (Una Thurgate, 5 May 1998)*

#### 1998-2000 Conservation, Archaeology & Interpretation

*Graham Lodge is historically important as an early example of the work of the Moore family, noted builders and masons in the Shoalhaven district. The Graham Lodge building represents a social benchmark which sets new standards in architectural design and construction. (Peter Freeman, Graham Lodge Conservation Management Plan, March 1999)*

*The artefacts recovered offer insights into the availability and use of household wares, building construction, and the activities of the property's occupants during the 19th and early 20th century. Their economic status, consumer choices, and an enhanced awareness of their lifestyles, represents an important glimpse into the lives of a significant local community (Michael & Jennifer Tracey, Archaeologists, May 2000)*

*The cultural landscape of the Lodge and its adjacent eastern river flats is of high significance within the region as a testament to the early importance of the river villages; the early dependence on dairying and cropping; and the growth of the town/city of Nowra, to the west of the marshy river flats. (Peter Freeman, Graham Lodge Conservation Management Plan, March 1999)*

*Graham Lodge emerges as an extremely important relic considering the destructive impact that subdivision, housing and development has had on the landscape ... However, the primary research interest to any archaeologist is not the relic but the human influence behind the relic, and that impact on the defined landscape. (Michael & Jennifer Tracey, September 1999)*

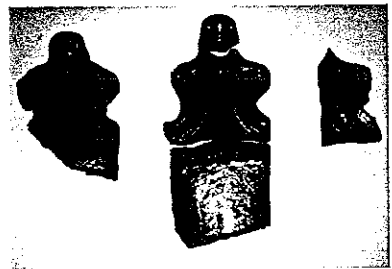
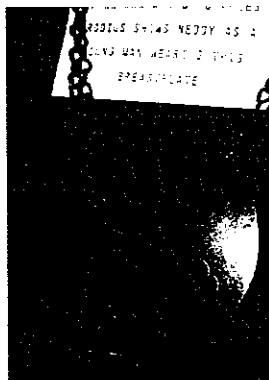
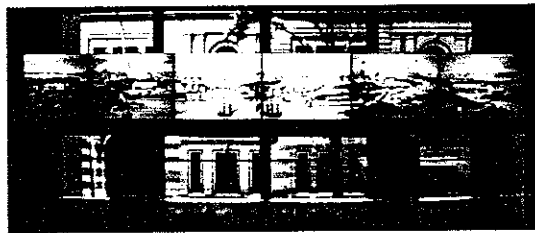
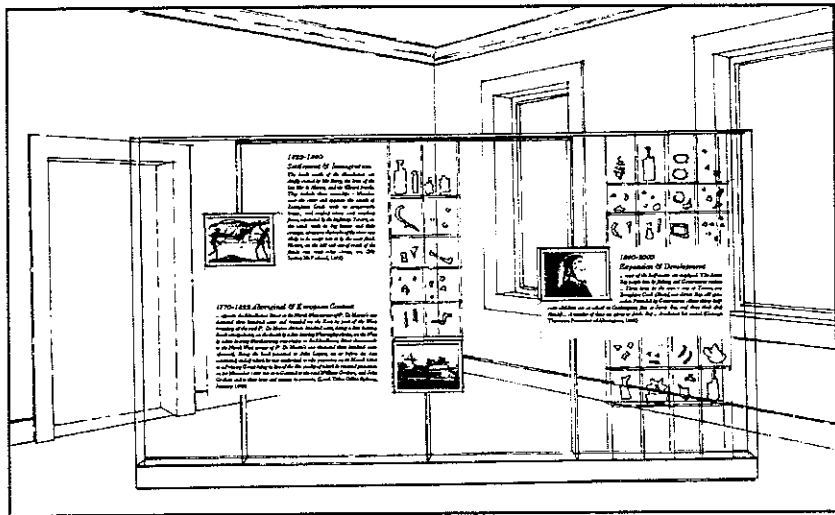
#### **Conversations**

##### Concept

It is proposed that the south western ground floor room is interpreted as a metaphorical dining room where previous occupants of Graham Lodge and Greenhills - ghosts from the past and characters of the present - meet together and converse about their different experiences at this place.

##### Table Showcase

The room should have very low light levels and the windows should be covered with timber panels or similar devices which reduces the ambient



**Sample Episodes Exhibits**

- 1 Episodes showcase with LCD screens
- 2 Audio visual display, Museum of Sydney
- 3 Aborigines *Hunting Waterbirds*, Joseph Lycett 1820-22, National Library of Australia.
- 4 Neddy Noora's breast plate, 1834, Shoalhaven Historical Society.
- 5 Garden tiles, Graham Lodge archaeology collection.

light while still expressing window apertures. At the centre of the room is a contemporary interpretation of a dining table with six stools spaced around the table for visitor seating. The dining table has a glass top and doubles as a thin showcase which contains an array of fragmentary artefacts which relate to the different occupants of the place, primarily drawn from the Graham Lodge archaeology collection. These artefacts - glass fragments, flint tools, pot sherds, building materials, jewellery, playing marbles etc might be grouped according to their owner, user or function, and would be back-lit from within the showcase.

#### Characters

Hanging around the walls of the room are six timber framed portraits, reminiscent of the faces suspended in the lobby Portrait Gallery. In the Conversations room, however, each portrait is displayed on an LCD screen linked to a separate concealed DVD player, amplifier and audio speaker. Rather than remaining inanimate pictures, these portraits come to life in the form of filmed actors characterising one key occupant from each of the six phases of the site's history 1826-1992 - Aboriginal, Graham, Bourne, Ashcroft, Prague Lodge and the Nowra Bomaderry Leagues Club.

As this installation will be in film format, it is recommended that edited footage and sound be transferred to digital video disc (DVD) for high fidelity playback through a DVD player. In terms of reliability, DVD media and players are proving as dependable as audio CD/CD ROM with negligible quality deterioration after 10,000 repeats, and are easy to install and operate.

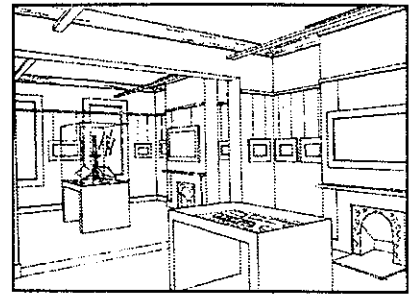
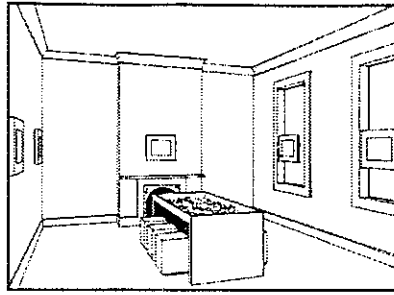
#### Conversations

When somebody enters the room a sensor triggers a new conversation between the characters. One character would speak for a few minutes at a time while the five others listen. When the first character finishes their story the next character begins a new story and so on until everybody has spoken. A new set of stories would then begin, though this time, and during subsequent stories, the order of the speaker changes randomly. It is proposed that at least three short stories is written for each character which would enable a conversation of 18 stories over a period of 30 to 40 minutes.

It is envisaged that the scripts for each character are creatively written, but based on historic records, events and quotations. While the individual stories might concern similar issues, they will each reflect an alternative viewpoint consistent with the class, period, sex, race or agenda of the character in question. Further, some of the stories would refer to the use, manufacture, loss or disposal of archaeology artefacts visible within the central table showcase.

The museum visitors seated at the table would listen to the competing stories of the characters moving back and forth across the room, gradually coming to terms with the many and divergent histories of Graham Lodge and Greenhills, while finding relevant social meanings behind the inanimate archaeological relics on display.

The production of this interpretative film piece should be undertaken by appropriate film making professionals. Production cost estimates are provided in section 4 of this report which incorporate likely fees and expenses for a Producer, Director, 6 actors, script research and writing, costumes, make-up, camera, lighting, sound, assistants, film media, catering and post production.



left: Perspective view of Conversations installation  
right: Perspective view of Elyard Gallery.

## Elyard Gallery

### Collection & Exhibitions

It is proposed that the two connected rooms at the northern area of the ground floor are dedicated to exhibition of the Shoalhaven City Council's significant Elyard collection. The collection comprises some 28 original black and white photographs and 112 drawings and watercolours created by artist Samuel Elyard. The images are an excellent record of the people, events and places of the Shoalhaven region during the late nineteenth century and several have a direct link to Graham Lodge itself. The Shoalhaven Historical Society also possess several Elyard works and have verbally agreed to their long term loan to Graham Lodge for future display in the proposed gallery

Related artefacts held by the Shoalhaven City Council, Shoalhaven Historical Society and other institutions and individuals might also be displayed within the Elyard Gallery during certain exhibitions. At least two demountable showcases should be commissioned for displaying artefacts within the gallery which can be easily dismantled and relocated to the Study Store when not required

Based on the various sizes of artworks in the Elyard collection, it is estimated that exhibitions consisting of between 20-30 framed pictures could be hung in the proposed gallery at any one time. This would enable at least four to seven substantial Elyard exhibitions to be hung each year, though the requirement of resting certain items on display for conservation reasons may necessitate that exhibitions are mounted and turned over more frequently.

While some of the Elyard collection is already framed, a number of works held by the SCC and Shoalhaven Historical Society will also need to be consistently mounted and framed to a standard suitable for exhibition purposes. Consequently, framing and mounting costs for 140 artworks are estimated in section 4.

### Gallery Fitout

Rather than restoring the gallery rooms back to their original colour schemes and detailing, it is proposed that it is adapted as a conspicuously contemporary space with high level gallery hardware, environmental controls and security systems which meet the strict exhibition requirements of state galleries and museums. It is proposed that substantial picture rails are attached to the gallery walls for flexible picture installation, and that all external windows are screened with timber panels or similar so as to minimise UV radiation. It is also proposed that well sealed self-closing glass doors are installed in both doorways so that adequate environmental control can be maintained while allowing visitors to view and access the Elyard Gallery from the central hallway.

### **Environmental Conditions & Lighting**

Environmental conditions within the gallery should be controlled by means of mechanical air conditioning or a dehumidification system. The gallery climate should be maintained at the approximate temperature range of  $20^{\circ}\pm 5^{\circ}$  Celsius and a relative humidity range of  $50\%\pm 5\%$  which is the optimum climate for long term preservation of artefacts and original materials.

Besides general building illumination, a flexible high quality lighting system is required for the gallery displays which can be easily adjusted to suit the particular lighting levels of individual objects and exhibitions. The international standard lighting level for original photographs, textiles and other archival printed material is 50 lux, while oil paintings and more robust artefacts can typically be illuminated to 200 lux.

### **Gallery Security**

During opening hours it is proposed that a museum guide is located in the vicinity of the gallery at all times. Wherever necessary, all original artefacts should be secured in lockable and alarmed showcases. It is also recommended that surveillance cameras are installed to monitor the gallery from the Visitors Centre reception desk, Curators/Guides office, as well as recording gallery entry 24 hours a day. After hours the gallery doors should be locked off and alarmed separately from the rest of the building security system with an audible back to base alarm so as to ensure gallery security during evening functions. General site security should be maintained after hours through random security patrols by an appropriate local firm.

### **Ancillary Room**

It is recommended that the small partitioned room located at the east end of the first hallway is reconnected to water and drainage services, and adapted as a kitchenette and tea making facility for use by museum personnel and the Friends of Graham Lodge. It could also be utilised for catering during lectures and events held in the adjacent Meeting Space.

### **Meeting Space**

It is proposed that the double room at the northern section of the first floor is restored to accommodate a large open multi-purpose area for meetings, lectures, presentations, performances and other related interpretative uses with removable seating which could be stored in the adjacent study store. It is also recommended that this area should be hired out for miscellaneous corporate events and private functions to supplement the museum's income.

### **Study Store**

It is recommended that the room on the south west corner of the first floor is restored and fitted out with a work table, computer and storage systems to accommodate the Graham Lodge archaeology collection and surface artefacts, Elyard Gallery showcases, SCC Elyard collection and other items on loan from institutions and individuals. It is envisaged that the Study Store would be utilised by archaeological researchers and others and would also double as a preparation area for temporary exhibitions staged in the Elyard Gallery. The Study Store would be locked and alarmed at all times, and accessible by authorised Graham Lodge and SCC personnel, and approved researchers only.

### **Office & Library**

It is proposed that the room located in the south east corner of the first floor is restored and fitted out as an office and library for the use of the Friends of Graham Lodge, museum guides and the museum curator. Internally, this room would need to accommodate shelving for library books and research files, as well as desks and working areas, telephone, fax and computer facilities.

### **3.2.3 Graham Lodge Grounds & Landscaping**

A range of proposals have been put forward regarding the landscaping treatment in the grounds surrounding Graham Lodge. It has been proposed that replica gardens of the Bourne and Graham periods are replanted at the east and west entrances of the residence, and that the timber post and rail fence and gateways are re-established around the gardens. It has been suggested that a camellia hedge be grown between Graham Lodge and the Visitors Centre to help obscure the latter, that an ornamental rose garden be established near the Graham family cemetery, and that the existing cyclone fence around the site be retained for security reasons.

While some of these proposals may have considerable merit, it is this consultant's opinion that the above landscaping options are attempting to achieve too much in too limited an area. Furthermore, any carefully recreated historic ornamental garden planted in the vicinity of Graham Lodge is likely to be a little lost while sitting next to the incongruous bulk of the late twentieth century Visitors Centre building.

It seems impossible and therefore pointless to attempt to screen out the Visitors Centre or any other form of modernity in the vicinity of Graham Lodge. Consequently, it is proposed that the Graham Lodge grounds should be presented in a simple, low maintenance and contemporary manner which allows for effective and dramatic interpretation.

### **Landscaping**

It is suggested that, excepting for a decomposed granite gravel path connecting the front eastern door of Graham Lodge to the Visitors Centre, the grounds are completely surfaced with grass around the residence right up to the edge of the Visitors Centre, Hawthorn Avenue and the car park. It is recommended that neither fencing, gates or a garden is established around the Graham Lodge grounds as these would offer little in the way of interpretation, while the ornamental garden would require considerable maintenance.

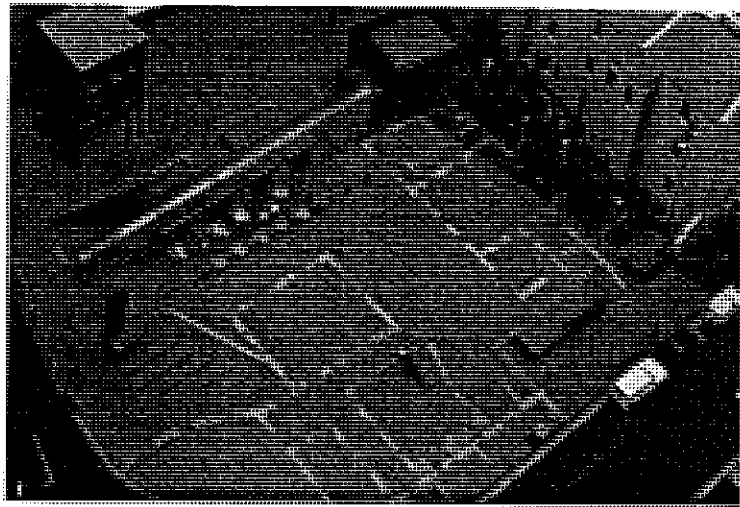
The proposed visitor gravel path would typically lead visitors into Graham Lodge and the exhibitions therein via the original front entrance of the residence. Visitors would then exit either via the east or west door and explore the various interpretative elements located outdoors. Disabled access could be enabled through the ground-level western door or via a ramp up to the higher level of the eastern door. As the external interpretation will be dotted throughout the grounds it is impractical to attempt to link each element with additional pathways and, consequently, only the front path to the Visitors Centre is recommended.

### **Footprints**

A series of building footprints are proposed which interpret the former positions, functions, dates and materials of outbuildings in the area west of Graham Lodge and the Visitors Centre.

Based on historic images and images, oral sources and archaeological evidence, it is envisaged that each former outbuilding is delineated by a footprint of stone, brick or timber, which reflects the original construction materials of the outbuilding in question, set flush into the grass surface for easy mowing and maintenance. The footprints would also be engraved with their probable function and date of construction. While further research is needed to fully develop this proposal, current evidence suggests that at least seven outbuilding footprints could be installed in the remaining western yard area.

The footprints would be further interpreted by historic images of the outbuildings and their relationship to Graham Lodge seen on the Picture Stands located throughout the grounds.



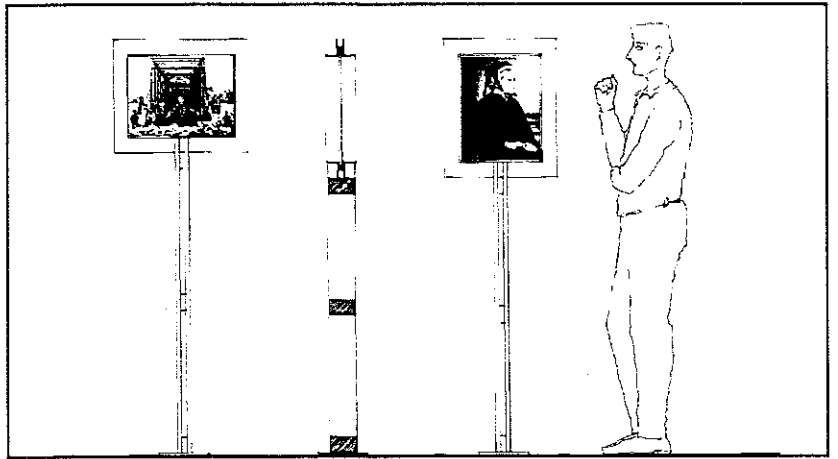
Building footprint installation Museum of Sydney plaza

### Picture Stands

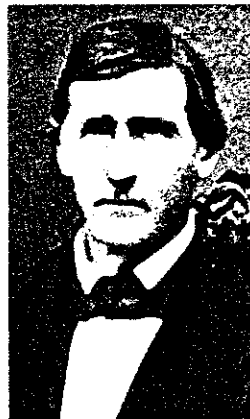
A range of elegant modern signage structures are proposed which would be positioned throughout the grounds and potentially into the adjacent landscape to interpret the people, place and events of Graham Lodge and Greenhills 1826-2000.

The concept for the so-called Picture Stands is a robust but elegant metal picture frame supported on a stem which is in turn bolted to a concrete pad set into the ground. The frame stands at eye-height and holds a sheet of transparent toughened glass which displays an image and a small associated quotation which can not only be viewed from both sides, but viewed right through. In this sense, the Picture Stand not only frames the reproduced historic image, but frames a particular view of today's landscape beyond.

The images proposed for the Picture Stands include portraits of the wide range of people who lived, visited or worked at Greenhills and Graham Lodge; historic Elyard images depicting the house, grounds and outbuildings; and pictures of key local events which affected the people of Greenhills - cricket matches, floods, horse racing etc. The stands would be carefully positioned around the grounds so that their historic images and quotations relate to the actual view seen from that point today. For instance, an image of an Elyard view of Graham Lodge would be located roughly where the original painting was made so the visitor could see how the landscape has changed over time.



2



3



4



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6

**Picture Stands & Sample Images**

- 1 Picture Stands front & side elevations.
- 2 Shoalhaven Aborigine Neddy Noora c1834, Shoalhaven Historical Society
- 3 James Graham senior, *The Book of Shoalhaven*, 1926.
- 4 Una Thurgate at Graham Lodge
- 5 Graham Thurgate at Graham Lodge, Una Thurgate
- 6 Graham Lodge & associated buildings, S Elyard, c1877, Shoalhaven Art Society

It is proposed that approximately eight Picture Stands are erected in the Graham Lodge grounds in the immediate future, with additional stands positioned across the Greenhills landscape as it becomes available for public access. Further stands of this type could also be commissioned for other sites around Nowra such as the public reserve on the banks of the Shoalhaven River where interpretation of the Shoalhaven Bridge, the former Ferry Lane ferry, river trade, Greenhills Village, etc could form part of an extended Greenhills heritage walk circuit.

#### Sample Quotations & Images

*It is now three years or thereabouts since I first settled myself here ... and I have already been at a considerable expense in clearing off the land, erecting a cottage, and making stockyards, etc and I have hitherto succeeded in procuring a small herd of cattle and cultivating a small portion of land for the support of my family ... (William Graham to Colonial Secretary Alexander McLeay, 13 January 1829)*

*We have the painful duty this morning to chronicle the demise of James Graham Esq., one of Her majesty's Justices of the Peace for the district, who died at his residence, Green Hill, on the evening of Wednesday, the 24th July, instant. (The Shoalhaven News, 27 July 1867)*

*The camellia trees were so high that they were shading the rooms over the balcony, and they had to be cut back to let light into the house. The pink camellia was magnificent. Dad would often pick a clothes basket full of camellia flowers and take them to Mrs Rodway to sell for the Red Cross (Una Thurgate, 5 May 1998)*

*We were married at the Church of England Church, Kiama because Mum had been born at Kiama ... we had a small reception at Graham Lodge ... about 30 guests ... the dining room was used ... Mrs B helped with the preparations ... (Una Thurgate, 5 May 1998)*

*... I have lately launched at Shoalhaven a new vessel of nearly 100 tons, coppered and copper fastened, making the 3rd vessel for the use of my establishment ... At this moment they are sheep shearing at Shoalhaven, planting maize or Indian corn, and making hay, and the wheat harvest will commence in about a week ... (Alexander Berry letter to his brother John, 1834)*

*There are several ferries on the river ... There is a Council ferry some miles higher up where Bomaderry Creek joins opposite Nowra or near so ... (Mr Justice McFarland, 1875)*

*Shoalhaven has been visited by a flood so terrible as to be unparalleled in the records of the Colony ... accompanied by a wind, the violence of which it is almost impossible to describe. (Shoalhaven News, 5 May 1870)*

*The hills within land were remarkably flat: we discovered five men upon them, through our glasses, who were quite naked. (Sydney Parkinson, 22 April 1770)*

*... pitched our tent for the night on the left bank of the Shoal-Haven River ... where we found a small well, or rather, hole of indifferent water which had been dug by the natives - much incommoded by leeches ... (Alexander Berry, 10 January 1822)*

*The said Charles Moore agrees to supply the said James Graham with Fourteen Stone Window Sills, 4ft x 1 ft six inches thick at 6/- each to be dressed and finished in a workman like manner ... (Memorandum of Agreement between James Graham & Charles Moore, 24 January 1860)*

#### **3.2.4 Former Greenhills Precinct**

The vast open area east of Graham Lodge is part of the original Shoalhaven flood plain and is reminiscent of the nineteenth century agricultural and pastoral activity of Greenhills. It is proposed that this area remains as an open public landscape so that clear views from Graham Lodge to the site of Greenhills Village is retained.

#### **Flood Lines**

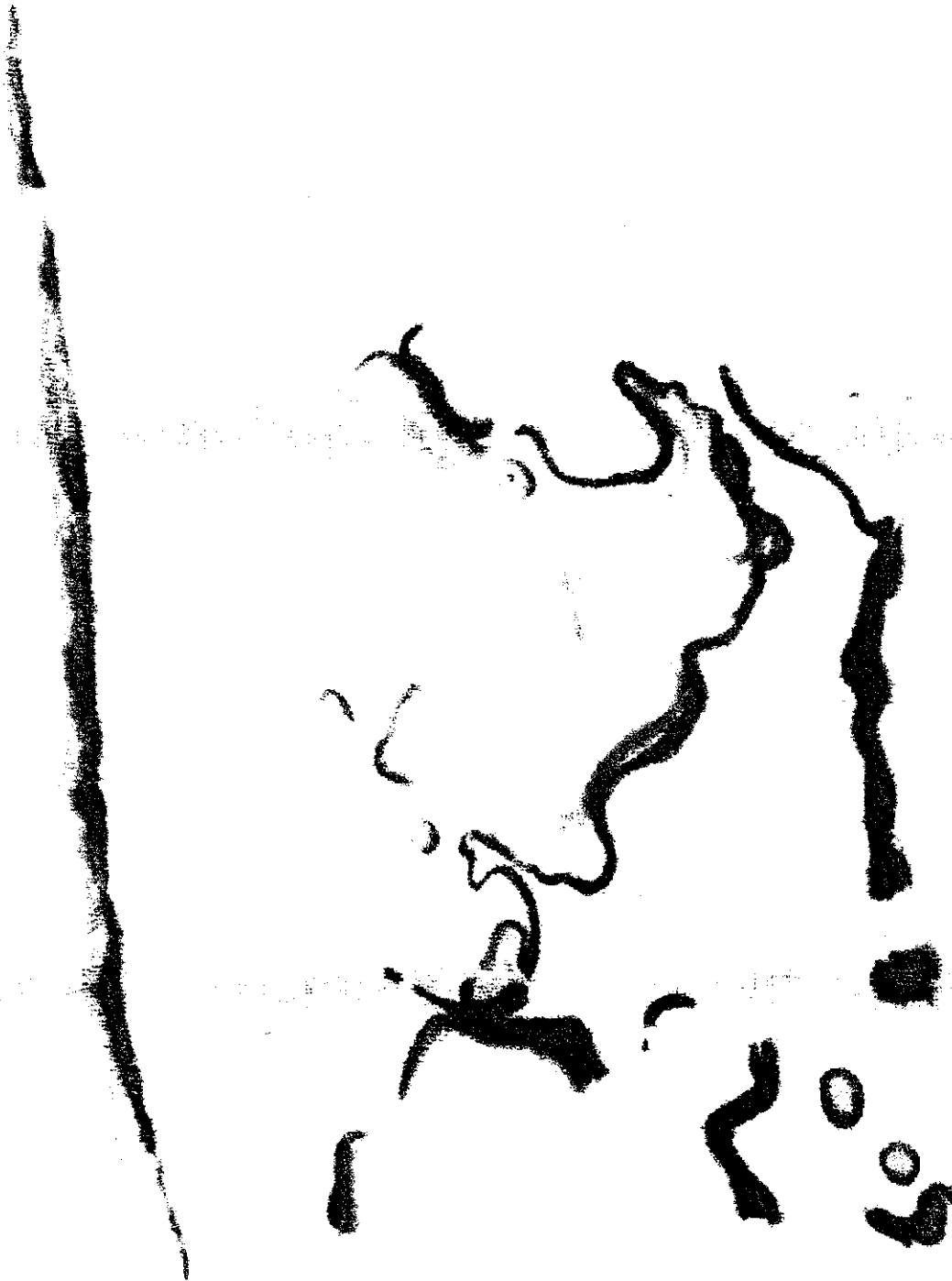
A powerful and beautiful landscape artwork is proposed in this open area which interprets the extent and effects of some of the major floods in the vicinity. Based on the 1981 flood plain survey compiled by the NSW Public Works Department, this artwork will delineate the actual flood water levels across the contoured fields of Greenhills at three different times - 1870, 1925 and 1978 - which can be viewed from above on the balcony of Graham Lodge, or explored up close on the flood plain. As can be seen on the concept plan, flood waters have at times covered most of the Greenhills paddock right up to the edge of Graham Lodge itself. An extension of the flood line interpretation is also proposed in the open reserve immediately south of the SCC administration building on the Princes Highway.

It is proposed that each of the three flood lines are marked with a separate continuous band of vegetation such as river reeds or grasses which symbolise the presence of water. The vegetation selected will need to be of a type which grows to a stable and suitable height, is durable and requires very little maintenance.

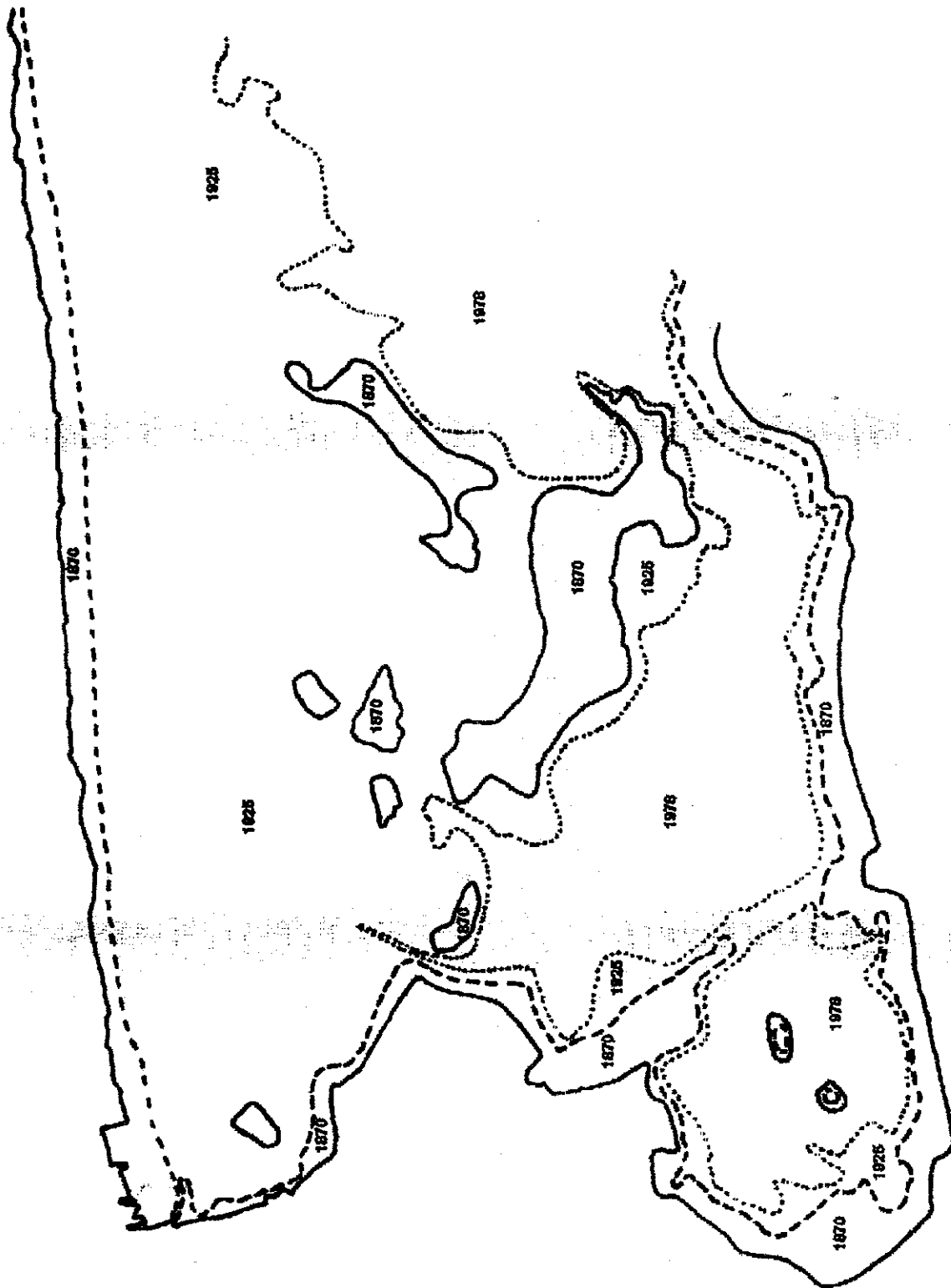
Visitors could explore the Flood Lines installation via trails across the field connecting Graham Lodge to the site of Greenhills Village as proposed in volume three of Peter Freeman's 1999 *Conservation Management Plan*. Further interpretation of the floods and other aspects of Greenhills life such as the Greenhills Cricket Club which played early matches here could be interpreted using the Picture Stand signage system proposed for the Graham Lodge grounds.

#### **Cemetery**

It is proposed that the Graham family cemetery is also integrated into the flood plain interpretation when the Shoalhaven City Council have acquired the wider flood plain region and opened it as a public reserve. Following the future cessation of animal grazing in the area, it is suggested that the cemetery's existing post and chain fence is removed, and that the current cemetery signage is replaced by the new Picture Stand interpretative system to be implemented elsewhere on the site. It is envisaged that the Picture Stands might display portraits of some of the nine people known to have been buried in the graveyard.



GRAHAM LODGE INTERPRETATION PLAN  
GREENHILLS PRECINCT LANDSCAPE PLAN  
INDICATES ORGANIC ARTWORK INTERPRETING  
1870, 1928 & 1978 FLOODS  
SCALE 1:8000



GRAHAM LODGE INTERPRETATION PLAN  
GREENHILLS PRECINCT FLOOD PLAN  
INDICATES EXTENT OF SHOALHAVEN  
RIVER FLOODS 1870, 1925 & 1978  
SCALE 1:3000



### **3.2.5 Ongoing Archaeology**

All proposed building works, landscaping actions and interpretative works on-site should be planned and constructed in consultation with an archaeologist. It is suggested that an archaeologist be engaged to liaise with the design and development team during the next stage of the project to guide the siting and installation of future works. The archaeologist may be required to conduct limited archaeological excavation preceding the construction of proposed works or monitoring during installation.

It is recommended that all previous and future archaeological artefacts recovered from the site, and all accompanying documentation and copies of archaeological reports are located in the proposed on-site Study Store which will comprise a specialist repository for Greenhills archaeological research and conservation.

Archaeological students and researchers should be encouraged and sought to undertake specific research projects into any aspect of the site's archaeology, documentation and artefact collection which could potentially manifest as an on-site exhibition, new site interpretations, scholarly publications, lecture series, collection catalogue, on-line database or other appropriate outcomes.

### **3.2.6 Tours**

While the Graham Lodge museum and interpretative installations across the site are proposed as self-guided visitor experiences, organised tours conducted by professional or volunteer guides will be particularly useful for pre-booked or incidental specialist, school or social groups. While general daily tours might be conducted as required or regularly during opening hours, special booked tours incorporating school education programs or specialist activities related to archaeology, local history, conservation, etc, could be specifically developed for significant sectors of the tour group market.

By way of comparison, Rouse Hill House Museum in western Sydney, which is run by the Historic Houses Trust of NSW, conducts public tours two days per week which allow visitors to view the fragile and significant rooms and original contents of the early colonial mansion which is similar in scale to Graham Lodge. Tour groups consist of a maximum of 15 people who begin the tour in a contemporary orientation space or museum where they pay their admission and receive background information about the property. Tour groups then progress to the original buildings and typically last 1.5 hours. Pre GST costs for Rouse Hill House tours are: \$6 adult, \$3 concession, \$15 family and \$5 educational groups.

A similar guided tour approach is proposed for Graham Lodge and surrounds. Ideally, it is recommended that one guide would be present in the ground floor exhibition space at all times to supervise visitors and offer further interpretation with the displays. Another guide would be required to conduct tours which extend outside the museum into the Graham Lodge grounds or the wider Greenhills precinct. It is proposed that visitor ticketing and cloaking, museum merchandising and group guided tour bookings is carried out by SCC Visitors Centre personnel.

### **3.2.7 Potential Visitation & Revenue**

Based on comparisons with other Australian cultural history museums operating on a similar scale as the proposed Graham Lodge museum, it is conservatively estimated that annual visitation to the site will be in the vicinity of 25,000+ when the facility is fully operational.

#### Admissions

Based on the current Australian averages for museums, the proposed admission charge for Graham Lodge is \$6 adult and \$4 concession. With an average admission of \$5 per visitor, \$125,000 revenue is projected annually.

#### Merchandising

Based on the average merchandise expenditure of \$2.50 per person, an income of \$62,500 is estimated annually.

#### Venue Hire

It is proposed that the Meeting Space on the first floor of Graham Lodge is marketed as a regular day and night time hire venue for functions, lectures, parties, dinners, corporate launches and conferences. Based on an average of one event per week at the hire cost of \$250 per event, an annual income of \$13,000 is estimated.

#### Estimated Annual Income

Admissions	\$125,000
Merchandising	\$62,500
Venue Hire	\$13,000
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$200,500</b>

#### 3.2.8 Site Management & Staffing Structures

As discussed above, it is proposed that both the Visitors Centre and Graham Lodge are collaboratively operated with the Visitors Centre providing assistance with ticketing, guided tour bookings, merchandising and Graham Lodge security.

The anticipated annual museum visitation of approximately 25,000+ will necessitate that the facility is open 7 days a week. Graham Lodge will also require occasional site and building maintenance, regular guided tours and ongoing financial management input to support the temporary exhibition program, and regular input from curatorial and marketing personnel.

While it is possible that the museum could be run with input from existing SCC personnel, voluntary assistance from the Friends of Graham Lodge and occasional professional input by consultant curators and so forth, it is recommended that a small professional staff is engaged to effectively operate, market and maintain the facility. The following staff structure is proposed together with estimated salaries based on the museum sector award including standard on-costs. While salaries are a considerable recurrent expense, the estimated annual museum income should be sufficient to offset staff wages. On-costs are calculated as follows:

• Superannuation	7%
• Annual leave	9%
• Workers compensation	2%
• Long service leave	2.5%

Curator		\$55,125
Museum Guides	1 x full time	\$30,625
	2 x half time @ \$15,312.50	\$30,625
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$116,375</b>

The museum Curator will need to be an entrepreneurial individual responsible for coordinating the guides and volunteers, managing the museum's finances and actively marketing and promoting the facility. The

Curator will also be responsible for museum and site maintenance, general security, and overseeing the daily operations of the enterprise. It is envisaged that the Curator will be responsible for maintaining, documenting, conserving, researching and interpreting the museum and site, Elyard Gallery, artefact collections, loans and archaeological resources. The Curator will develop and coordinate the temporary exhibitions program, and will provide ongoing support and input for education and visitor programs. The Curator will report directly to the Shoalhaven City Council senior management.

The Museum Guides will be responsible for visitor orientation and general information, guided tours and conducting education and public programs. It is recommended that the Guides undergo an initial training program with input from the Curator and relevant SCC staff before commencing their public role.

It is highly recommended that the Friends of Graham Lodge have continued input into the management and operation of the site, particularly in the capacity of volunteer guides and to assist the Curator with object conservation, exhibition research and development.

### **3.2.9 Project Development Team**

The rich heritage site of Graham Lodge and Greenhills demands an expansive and holistic interpretative approach which fuses its significant original building fabric, landscape and moveable artefacts with historic themes and issues, and which combines conventional conservation and interpretation techniques with cutting edge audio visual media to create an appropriate, meaningful and enduring experience for visitors and locals alike.

In order to develop the proposed Graham Lodge museum, site installations and interpretative works to the highest calibre, it is recommended that a suitably innovative multi-disciplinary project team is engaged to fully research, develop, document and produce the concepts proposed in this study.

The project team should comprise the following qualified personnel with proven ability and experience in the development of similar types of heritage site museum and multi-media interpretative projects. The core project team should work collaboratively with related consultants, as well as the Shoalhaven City Council, and the Nowra Community. Regular liaison with other relevant State and community organisations should also be maintained to keep these parties informed and obtain invaluable local knowledge and expertise.

#### **Project Team**

- Curator
- Exhibition Designer/Architect
- Graphic Designer
- Researcher
- Audio Visual Consultant
- Technical Assistant

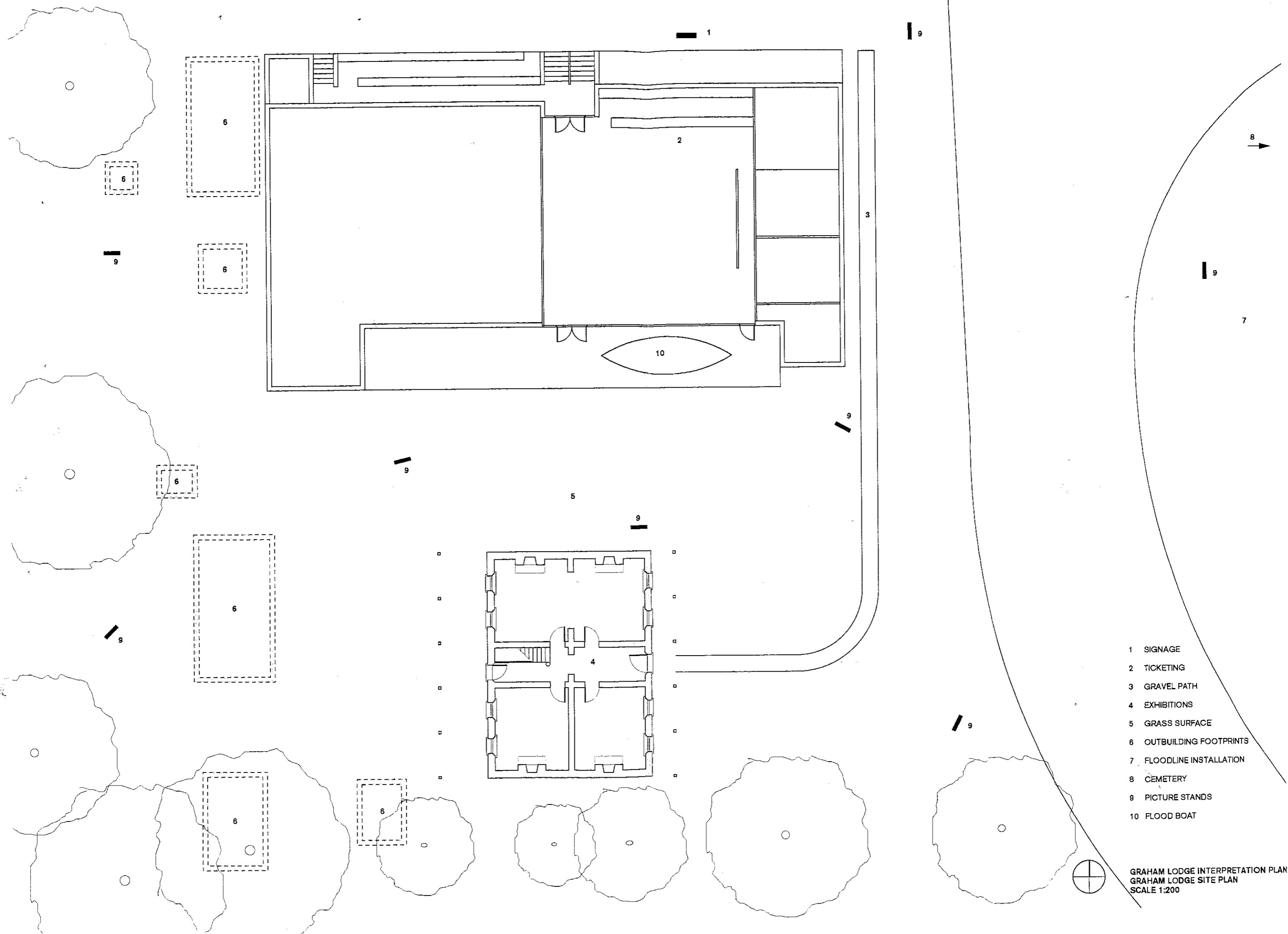
#### **Specialist Consultants**

- Archaeologist
- Lighting & Electrical Consultant
- Heritage Architect
- Landscape Architect

- Engineer
- Mechanical Ventilation Consultant
- Conservator

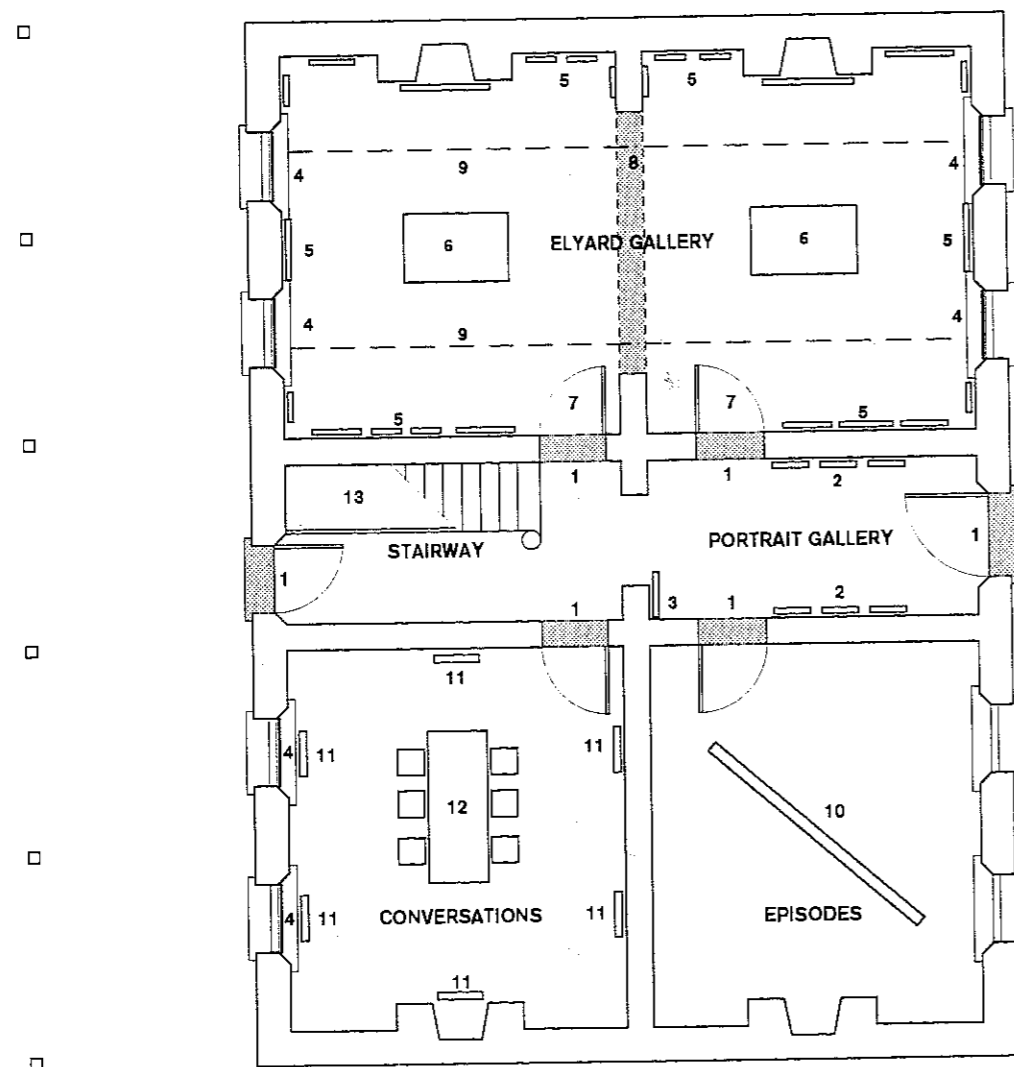
### **3.2.10 Concept Drawings**

The following design drawings include a Graham Lodge precinct plan and a detailed site plan indicating the locations of existing site features and proposed external interpretative elements, and a Graham Lodge floor plan of exhibition components and facilities proposed for the museum.



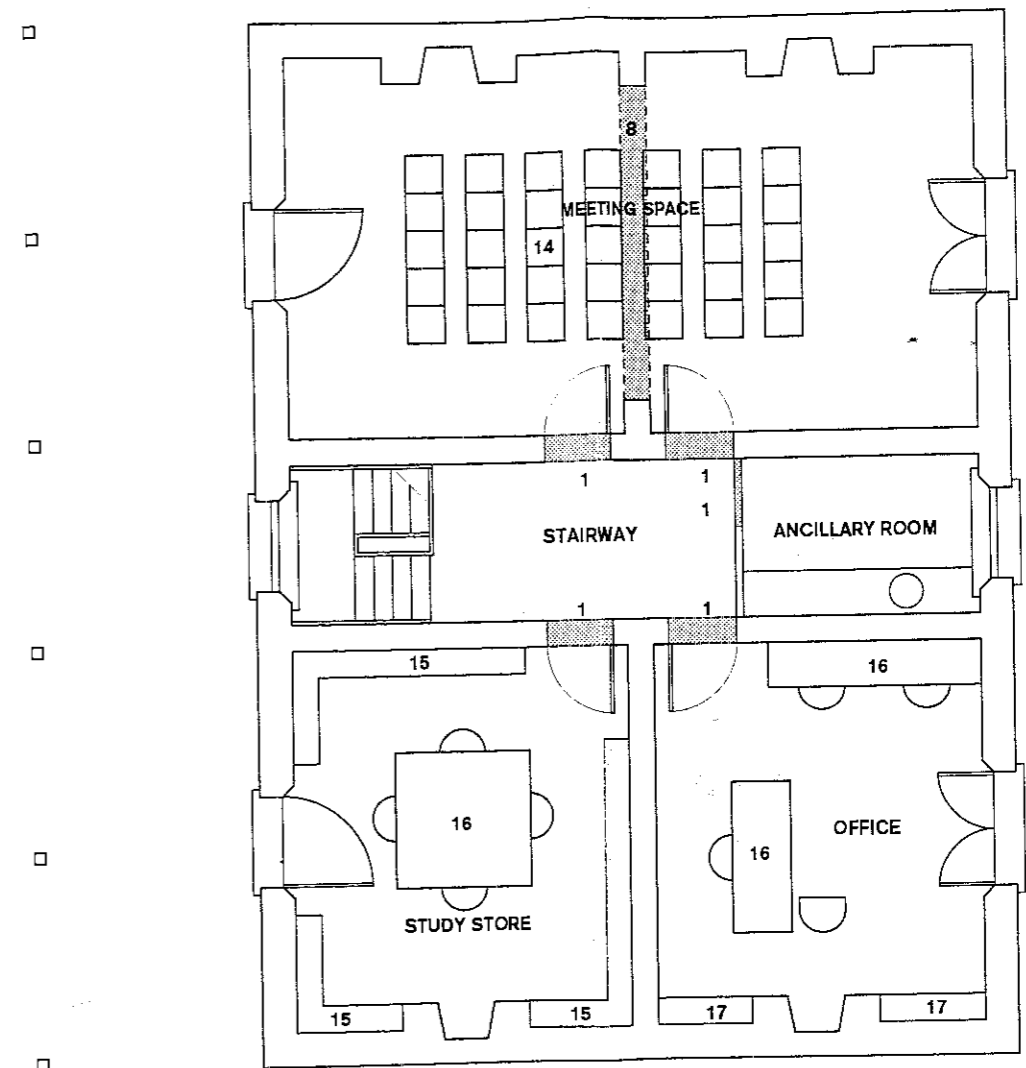
- 1 SIGNAGE
- 2 TICKETING
- 3 GRAVEL PATH
- 4 EXHIBITIONS
- 5 GRASS SURFACE
- 6 OUTBUILDING FOOTPRINTS
- 7 FLOODLINE INSTALLATION
- 8 CEMETERY
- 9 PICTURE STANDS
- 10 FLOOD BOAT

GRAHAM LODGE INTERPRETATION PLAN  
 GRAHAM LODGE SITE PLAN  
 SCALE 1:200



GROUND FLOOR

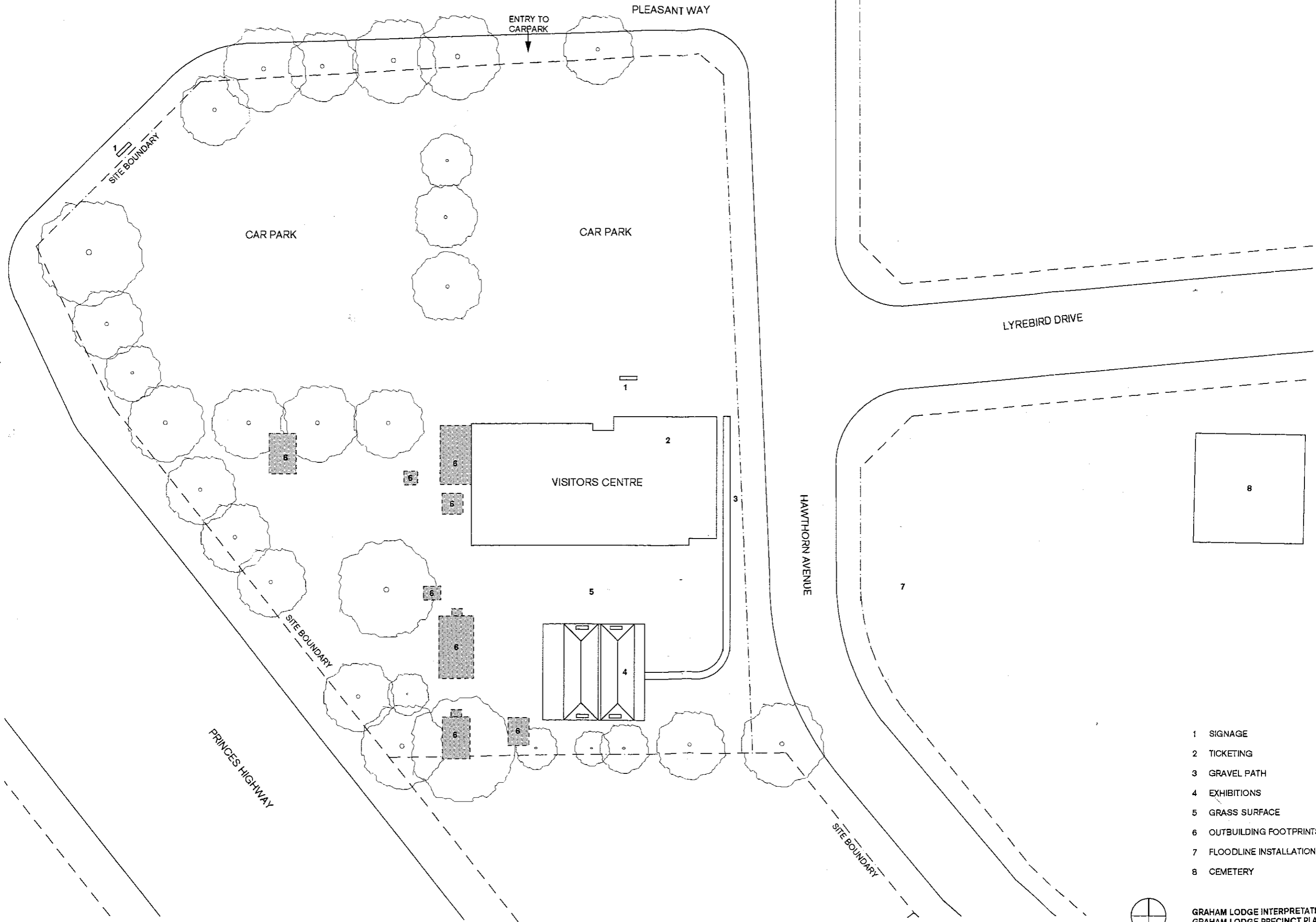
- 1 THRESHOLD PLAQUE DATING VARIOUS USES OF ROOMS
- 2 PORTRAITS OF KEY OCCUPANTS
- 3 INTRODUCTION SIGNAGE
- 4 SCREEN WINDOWS
- 5 ELYARD COLLECTION PAINTINGS & PHOTOGRAPHS
- 6 DEMOUNTABLE SHOWCASES
- 7 GLASS DOORS
- 8 WALL FOOTPRINT
- 9 TRACK LIGHTING
- 10 EPISODES SHOWCASE
- 11 AV PORTRAITS
- 12 GHOST DINING TABLE SHOWCASE & STOOLS
- 13 AV HARDWARE CUPBOARD



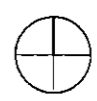
FIRST FLOOR

- 1 THRESHOLD PLAQUE DATING VARIOUS USES OF ROOMS
- 8 WALL FOOTPRINT
- 14 SEATING
- 15 OBJECT STORAGE
- 16 DESKS
- 17 LIBRARY





- 1 SIGNAGE
- 2 TICKETING
- 3 GRAVEL PATH
- 4 EXHIBITIONS
- 5 GRASS SURFACE
- 6 OUTBUILDING FOOTPRINTS
- 7 FLOODLINE INSTALLATION
- 8 CEMETERY



GRAHAM LODGE INTERPRETATION PLAN  
 GRAHAM LODGE PRECINCT PLAN  
 SCALE 1:500

# ***4 RECOMMENDATIONS & IMPLEMENTATION***

#### **4.1 Recommendations**

- It is recommended that Graham Lodge, its surrounding grounds and adjacent Greenhills flood plain are conserved, adapted and interpreted as key components of the proposed Graham Lodge museum development
- It is recommended that the Graham Lodge building be adapted for use as a museum incorporating permanent and temporary exhibitions which interpret both the history of Graham Lodge and the wider Shoalhaven region.
- It is recommended that interpretative exhibitions at Graham Lodge are restricted to the ground floor area so they can be accessible to both general and disabled visitors
- It is recommended that the Shoalhaven City Council's Samuel Elyard art collection is permanently displayed in a dedicated gallery within the Graham Lodge museum.
- It is recommended that Graham Lodge's first floor be utilised for staff and volunteer offices, object storage and exhibition preparation, and a large meeting and performance space which is available for hire
- It is recommended that Graham Lodge museum ticketing, cloakroom and visitor orientation is conducted at the SCC Visitors Centre
- It is recommended that a low maintenance lawn is planted in the Graham Lodge grounds rather than a recreated ornamental garden
- It is recommended that an informative range of interpretative Picture Stands are commissioned in the immediate future as part of the current consultancy, and installed across the Graham Lodge grounds when site landscaping has been completed
- It is recommended that footprints of the former Graham Lodge outbuildings are installed in the grounds as part of the landscaping program.
- It is recommended that the original remnant of the Greenhills flood plain which incorporates the Graham family cemetery is acquired, opened to the public and interpreted through a major landscape artwork.
- It is recommended that, in addition to existing town heritage trails, a Greenhills interpretative walk is developed over the long term which links Graham Lodge the former Greenhills Village, the Shoalhaven River and the Shoalhaven Bridge.
- It is recommended that a small professional staff is engaged to manage and operate proposed museum and site in collaboration with the Friends of Graham Lodge.
- It is recommended that no further site work or cleaning be undertaken until existing artefacts in and around Graham Lodge are recorded and sampled by an appropriate heritage practitioner.
- It is recommended that when sufficient funds become available a detailed project brief be prepared outlining the full scope of works required for the development of Graham Lodge interpretative actions

- It is recommended that an appropriate exhibition development team be engaged to fully research, design, develop, produce and install all interpretative aspects of the proposed Graham Lodge project including the museum exhibitions, multi-media displays, site works and interpretative installations, signage and graphics.
- It is recommended that the exhibition development team comprises the following qualified personnel with experience in developing museums, exhibitions and projects in a heritage environment: Curator, Exhibition Designer/Architect, Graphic Designer, Audio Visual Consultant, Researcher and Technical Assistant.
- It is recommended that a heritage architect be appointed to document, undertake and coordinate building conservation and adaptation works for Graham Lodge in association with the exhibition development team.
- It is recommended that an archaeologist be engaged to assist with the location and installation of interpretative works where necessary.

## 4.2 Cost & Income Estimates

### 4.2.1 Graham Lodge & Precinct Interpretative Works

#### Graham Lodge Museum Capital Costs

##### Episodes

Showcase, fittings & lighting		\$10,500
Graphics		\$3,000
AV hardware & installation		
Apple 15" LCD display	6 @ \$1 995	\$11,970
Apple Macintosh G4 400		\$3,200
Graphic display card	2 @ \$280	\$560
128MB SD RAM		\$300
Macromedia Director software		\$1,800
Required cabling		\$1,300
Director programming & graphics		\$3,100
Installation		\$1,200
Portrait Gallery		
Threshold panels	6 @ \$300	\$1,800
Introductory signage		\$1,050
Portrait frames	6 @ \$200	\$1,200
Printing	6 x \$100	\$600
Conversations		
Showcase table & lighting		\$4,460
Stools x 6		\$4,000
Window screens	2 @ \$125	\$250
Timber monitor frames	6 @ \$200	\$1,200
Graphics		\$500
AV hardware & Installation		
NEC 20" LCD display	6 @ \$2 800	\$16,800
Philips Pro DVD player	6 @ \$2,500	\$15,000
SONY audio amplifier	3 @ \$550	\$1,650
JBL audio speakers	6 @ \$180	\$1,080
AMX control system		\$5,100
Infrared sensor		\$450
Required cabling		\$850
Control system programming		\$2,500
Installation		\$2,400
Elyard Gallery		
Showcases	2 @ \$2,500	\$5,000
Picture hanging hardware		\$2,000
Track lighting		\$20,000
Gallery doors & hardware	2 @ \$600	\$1,200
Window screens	4 @ \$125	\$500
Wall footprint panel		\$1,000
Picture framing	140 @ \$100	\$14,000
First Floor Stairway		
Threshold panels	5 @ \$300	\$1,500
Meeting Space		
Seating	35 @ \$250	\$8,750
Wall footprint panel		\$1,000
Study Store		
Work table		\$1,000
Seating	4 @ \$250	\$1,000
Object shelving		\$10,000
Museum Office		
Desks	2 @ \$1,000	\$2,000
Seating	4 @ \$250	\$1,000
Library shelving		\$2,000

Ancillary Room			
Kitchenette			\$5,000
<b>Sub Total</b>			<b>\$174,770</b>
<b>External Interpretative Elements</b>			
Highway & Orientation Signage			
Double-sided steel signs	2 @ \$2,500		\$5,000
Outbuilding Footprints			
7 x timber, brick & stone text inscribed footprints			\$14,000
Picture Stands			
Steel & glass graphic panels	8 @ \$2,000		\$16,000
Floodlines			
Organic landscape artwork			TBA
<b>Sub Total</b>			<b>\$35,000</b>
<b>Development Fees &amp; Expenses</b>			
Museum, Exhibition & AV Installations			
Exhibition research, design & development			\$58,000
AV installation research, design, development			\$28,500
External Siteworks & Interpretation			
Artwork & signage design, development & production			\$17,500
Photography & Copyright Allowance			\$5,000
<b>Sub Total</b>			<b>\$109,000</b>
<b>Project Capital Costs &amp; Fees</b>			<b>\$318,770</b>
GST @ 10%			\$31,880
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$350,650</b>
<b>4.2.2 Annual Recurrent Costs</b>			
Salaries			\$116,375
Site maintenance & cleaning			\$10,400
Printing & stationery			\$5,000
Electricity			\$10,000
Insurance			\$10,000
Postage			\$5,000
Telephone			\$7,800
Security			\$5,800
Advertising			\$20,000
Display maintenance			\$7,500
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$197,875</b>
<b>4.2.3 Estimated Annual Income</b>			
Admissions			\$125,000
Merchandising			\$62,500
Venue Hire			\$13,000
<b>Total Income</b>			<b>\$200,500</b>

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## **5 Bibliography**

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*The Shoalhaven & Nowra News*, 14 July, 1982

# **6 APPENDIX**



## Consultancy Brief for Interpretative Displays for Graham Lodge - Nowra

### Background

Graham Lodge, situated in Pleasant Way, Nowra near the banks of the Shoalhaven River, is an important heritage resource in the Shoalhaven District whose significance extends well beyond the local region. The surviving house was built in c1860 for John Graham and family to consolidate the family's pastoral expansion and achievements. The property itself was continuously occupied by the Graham's from the 1840's to 1928. Since then the house, out-buildings and property have been used at different times as a residence, reception centre and club house for the Nowra-Bomaderry Leagues Club which have impacted significantly on the land and buildings. Refer attachment 1 – Locality sketch

Today the 1860's house survives in much of its original form despite the loss of most of its original detailing, fittings and decoration. The outbuildings and most of the original property have also been lost, though the family cemetery set in a large adjoining property remains. Archaeological assessments indicate that the site contains many artefacts and evidence of early settlement.

The Shoalhaven City Council purchased the house and adjoining property in 1998 and has undertaken preliminary building conservation works which will see Graham Lodge restored and opened to the general public as an interpretive facility.

It is envisaged that the building will, in the future, serve as a unique tourism attraction housing a contemporary interpretive display and include signage, education kits, landscaping, historical information, self-guided tours and local walks.

The Lodge could also allow space to accommodate appropriate community groups such as writers and historic associations as well as an historian/educator in residence. This synergy would greatly assist in the staffing needed for visitation and community involvement.

### Objectives/Scope of Work

The Shoalhaven City Council is currently seeking expressions of interest from suitably qualified consultants to research, design and produce a range of displays which interpret the history of the Graham Lodge house, its surrounding cultural landscapes, the City of Nowra and the settlements of the Shoalhaven River.

Displays might include but should not be limited to interpretive panels, interpretive artworks/sculptures, and showcase artefacts, audio-visual presentations or other innovative interpretive strategies

It is envisaged the displays could be installed both within and outside the house, but should be designed so they can be publicly exhibited in the nearby Visitors Centre and/or surrounds in the first instance before Graham Lodge building restoration program is completed in December 2000.

Given that the interpretive display is only part of a much larger project, which it is envisaged will be carried out in stages, the consultant will be required to provide a brief vision statement reflecting the total interpretation concept in accordance with the Conservation Management Plan and its conceptual context and interpretation plan. Refer attachment 2.

### **Methodology**

The consultant team will work closely with the Shoalhaven City Council's steering committee to research and develop options for interpretive displays, and will liaise with the project architect, archaeologist and community stakeholders throughout the project.

It is envisaged the project will comprise the following three stages:

#### **1 Review**

- Project briefing
- Investigation of building and property
- Review of historic sources, collections and reports
- Consultation with community and consultants

#### **2 Concept Development**

- Development of interpretation plan outlining interpretive approaches, display content (theses, graphics, objects, structures, AV etc), design options, production cost estimates

#### **3 Production**

- Design development of preferred option
- Tendering
- Production and fabrication of exhibits
- Installation at designated venues/sites

### **Proposed Timetable**

The consultancy will be awarded in February 2000 and should be completed by the end of December 2000. It is desirable but not imperative that the project might be completed by 1 July 2000 if possible.

**Resources and Personnel significant to the project include:**

The Elyard Art Collection; Graham Lodge Conservation Management Plan prepared by Peter Freeman Pty Ltd (available from Council); Local Historian Robyn Florance; Archaeological Report and Assessment prepared by Heritage Archaeology (also available from Council); Council's Heritage Adviser, Bruce Dawbin; Local Interest Group -- 'Friends of Graham Lodge'.

**Consultant Team**

The consultant team should have experience and demonstrated ability in the following areas:

- Historic research
- Interpretation of heritage buildings and sites
- Conceptual development of exhibitions and interpretation plans
- Exhibition design
- Graphic design
- Exhibition production and installation

**Fees**

A lump sum fee of up to \$38,000 is available for this project inclusive of fees, disbursements and display production/fabrication costs. Consultants should indicate cost break down for fees, disbursements and production.

**Client Confidentiality**

Your client on this project shall be Shoalhaven City Council.

The specific material from the outcome of surveys or conclusions arrived at from this project shall be treated as confidential between Council and yourselves. To this end, Council requires a written undertaking that the consultant and any sub-consultant will not release any material, work or finding on the study/project to any other party prior to that study being reported to the Councillors.

**Disclosure of Interest**

As part of the consultant's response to the brief you are required to disclose, in writing, any interest or matters which may prejudice the consultant's ability to act objectively on behalf of Council in this commission

**Insurance**

Your response to the brief shall provide documented evidence to Council that you have adequate insurance cover in respect of professional indemnity and public liability insurance.

**Occupational Health and Safety**

Council requires that the consultant will at all times adopt recognised and appropriate standards in relation to occupational health and safety matters when undertaking this work. The consultant must also ensure all sub-consultants do likewise.

**Conflicts of Conditions**

If there are any conflicts of conditions between this brief and your response then, unless specifically agreed to, in writing, the Council's conditions will take precedence.

Consultants should send their expressions of interest to:

Property Services Manager Shoalhaven City Council PO Box 42 Nowra 2540
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by close of business -- 21 January 2000.

For further information please telephone Lorraine McCarthy 4429 3138.