The Archaeology of the Japanese World War II occupation of Christmas Island.

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Evacuation of European families from Christmas Island in 1942 and RAAF Reconnaissance flights over Christmas Island and the arrival of *HMS Rother* in 1945

Declaration

This thesis is my own work, and has been substantially accomplished during enrolment in the Bachelor of Arts (Honours), and is an account of my research, written in the full knowledge of what constitutes plagiarism and documented accordingly. All of the research in this thesis is work which has not previously been submitted for a degree at any university, or any work written or published by another person to my knowledge.

I have received approval for my research on Christmas Island from the Human Research Ethics Committee at the University of Western Australia through Dr Gregory Acciaioli Ref: RA/4/16850.

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Abstract

This research project concerns the archaeological physical remains of the Japanese occupation of Christmas Island, Indian Ocean, during World War II. The Japanese occupied this Island territory for three and half years, and there are sites surviving which reflect their presence. Many of the remaining sites are now being encroached upon or taken over by the rainforest jungle; most are in a state of deterioration or disintegration and may soon be lost forever. Since human occupation began in 1888, Christmas Island has had a turbulent history including the exploitation of immigrant labour, mining, surviving World War II, a struggle for human rights, unionism and a demand for some measure of autonomy. However the Japanese occupation is unique in the Australian historical narrative, as it is the only current Australian territory that was conquered and controlled by the World War II antagonist. Therefore it is time, now, for this heritage to be rediscovered, researched, properly analysed and an assessment of its significance prepared for presentation to a much wider public as a part of Australia’s war history.
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This text has been proofread and copy-edited by Jane Fyfe. The editing detected and corrected errors and inconsistencies in the text including accepted spelling, punctuation, grammar and usage and ensured accuracy and completeness of references. It did not change the substantive content of the thesis. I am solely responsible for any errors, inaccuracies or misleading statements in this dissertation.
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1. Christmas Island at War

Research Topic and Question

Christmas Island, an Australian Indian Ocean Territory, is the only current Australian territory which was occupied by the Japanese during World War II (Figure 1.1). It therefore has a special story to tell within Australian wartime history; yet few people are aware of this story. No systematic survey has been made of the archaeological remains of the Japanese occupation of Christmas Island, and no systematic record or inventory of sites exists, so at present there is limited information about this important period of the Island’s history to share that would increase awareness of it.

Figure 1.1: Japanese take possession of Christmas Island 31 March 1942
This thesis sets out to investigate and assess the material remains of the Japanese occupation of Christmas Island during World War II. It focuses on evaluating the archaeology of the Japanese occupation. Its primary aim is to assess the extent of the corpus of World War II related heritage on Christmas Island, so as to provide recommendations about its management (safeguarding) and interpretation. Therefore, my thesis question is:

What archaeological remains survive from the Japanese occupation of Christmas Island (Indian Ocean) during World War II, and what should be done to safeguard them and present them to future generations?

The thesis endeavours to bring together the oral and written histories of the Christmas Island war ordeal and to create an inventory of extant physical remains, this [thesis] sits at the intersection of archaeology and heritage studies. As per commissioned archaeological reports, the thesis contains a detailed Phase 1 archaeological assessment of the sites and goes on to make broader heritage recommendations to ensure the project will be useful to those who funded it (in particular the Shire of Christmas Island). The significance and archaeological potential of each site is assessed, and this will aid the Shire of Christmas Island with its development planning and tourism policies. I provide recommendations as to how best to use these sites for education and tourism purposes. With proper management, the sites have potential to generate economic activity in the spheres of education, heritage management and tourism (Throsby 2003:4).
The Island and Previous Heritage Work

Christmas Island (Figure 1.3) is located in the Indian Ocean about 2600 kilometres northwest of Perth, it is 19 kilometres long and 14 kilometres wide and covers an area of 135 square kilometres (Kerr 2009:316; National Archives of Australia 2018; Stanhope et al 2016:96).

It is situated much nearer to Indonesia than Australia. This tropical Island is only 360 kilometres south of Java (Figure 1.2). Its nearest Australian neighbour is the Australian Indian Ocean Territory of Cocos Keeling Islands, 1000 kilometres to the west (Stanhope et al 2016:92). Under the *Christmas Island Act 1958–59* the Island became an Australian Territory on 1 October 1958 (Kerr 2009:330; Stanhope et al 2016:92; Sturis et al 2016:20). For the next 10 years administration was provided by an Official of the Representative of the Australian Government. In 1968 the responsibilities moved to the Minister for Regional Development, Territories and Local Government represented by an Administrator (Kerr 2009:331; Stanhope et al 2016:93). There is no state level of governance and the Island follows a mixture of Western Australian state laws and Commonwealth federal laws set out under the *Territories Law Reform Act 1992* (Dimasi 2015:4; Stanhope et al 2016:93; Sturis et al 2016:18). Prior to the Australian acquisition of Christmas Island, it was a British possession and administered from the Colony of Singapore (Kerr 2009:317; Stanhope et al 2016:92).
Figure 1.2: Christmas Island in relation to Indonesia and Australia.

Figure 1.3: Christmas Island
There have numerous reports on the heritage of Christmas Island, the first by Sweetland (1982) and the most recent the National Trust of Western Australia (Sturis et al. 2016). Other reports, including by Peter Forrest (1988) included sites important to the history of World War II on Christmas Island. In 1998, this report was supplemented by a more substantial heritage consultancy report (Godden Mackay Logan 1998) that set out a heritage policy for Christmas Island, including a Heritage Review, Development Control Policies and Development Guidelines. The Godden Mackay Logan (1998a:37) report contains a single reference to the Japanese occupation. This report was commissioned by the Commonwealth Department of Transport and Regional Development through the Christmas Island Administration (Godden Mackay Logan 1998a:i). The National Trust of Western Australia undertook a review of the Godden Mackay Logan (1998a and b) report; commencing in 2013 with active community engagement, culminating in the publication of the Christmas Island Heritage Policy and Heritage Strategy (2016) document. This most recent report also very briefly mentions the World War II heritage as ‘a few WWII remains, such as the defence heritage remnants of the 6-inch guns and bunkers’ (Sturis et al. 2016: 9).

In all cases, they consider Christmas Island’s unique cultural heritage and biodiversity and, all attempts to provide alternative revenue streaming opportunities for Christmas Island. All unequivocally suggest that Christmas Island develop its tourism potential believing that the heritage cachet she possesses makes her an attractive holiday destination.
The Entangled Heritage

Australia has an early relationship with Christmas Island; approaching the British Government in 1926 seeking to purchase the phosphate rights from the Christmas Island Phosphate Company (Kerr 2009: 317; Williams and Macdonald 1985:236). This was because the Australian and New Zealand governments felt that the demand for superphosphate would not be met from the Pacific Ocean islands of Nauru and Ocean (Banaba), but the issue lapsed until the conclusion of World War II (Kerr 2009: 317; Williams and Macdonald 1985:236). At the outbreak of World War II Christmas Island was a British colony, so this history is also part of the colonial history of the United Kingdom.

Papua New Guinea had been a League of Nations mandated territory under Australian jurisdiction since 1920 when it was invaded and occupied by Japanese forces in 1942 (Noonan 2018) and continued as an Australian territory following the conclusion of the war. Today, however, Papua New Guinea is a sovereign state (Figure 1.4) (Noonan 2018), particularly reflecting the cultural and national independence of the nation. Christmas Islanders, on the other hand, increasingly see themselves as Australians (Stanhope et al 2016: 93), and the story of their Japanese occupation needs integration into the wider Australian war narrative.

Christmas Island was a World War II target for Japanese occupation because of its rich phosphate deposits (Hunt 2011:185; Williams and Macdonald 1985:318). The Island was also of strategic importance to Japan, as a possible seaplane base and as a perfect control post for the East Indian Ocean (Hunt 2012). At the outbreak of war, the Christmas Island defences consisted of a single 150mm gun of 1904 vintage, four
British non-commissioned officers and 27 Indian soldiers under the command of Captain Williams (Hunt 2011:175). The intense aerial and naval bombardment of 7 March 1942 by the Japanese demonstrated that their intent was to take Christmas Island, and the Island’s defences were woefully inadequate (Hunt 2011:179; Neale 1988:78).

Japanese propaganda implied that they would grant independence to British Asian colonies and it appeared that the Indian troops on Christmas Island believed this (Figure 1.5). The text in the poster is in Bangla and Hindi and acclaims

*All the Asians are marching towards victory. Forward. We shall also break the chains of slavery and fight for our independence* (Friedman nd).
The Japanese had persuaded many Indian soldiers to fight against the British during the surrender of Singapore (Allen 1977:262; Neale 1988:66). This could have been one of the motivating reasons for the events of the night 10 March 1942 when under the leadership of Havildar (sergeant) Mir Ali, some of the Indian troops and Sikh police murdered the five British officers and held the remaining Europeans as prisoners (Allan 1945:1; Hackett 1945:2; Hunt 2011:180; Neale 1988:66; van der Gaast 1945:7; Williams and Macdonald 1985:318).

The Japanese Government had plans for a ‘New Order’ in Asia, and Christmas Island was included in this East Asian Co-Prosperity Sphere (Hunt 2011:184). The Japanese had estimated that there were deposits of up to 90 million tons of phosphate on Christmas Island (Hunt 2011:185). The Japanese forces rounded up the workforce, most of whom had fled into the jungle (Hunt 2011:185), the sabotaged mining equipment was quickly repaired, and work to restart on the mining and export of phosphate (Figure 1.6) (Hunt 2011:184; Kerr 2009:318).

The conquest and occupation of Christmas Island was reported in *Photo News Weekly* (Hunt 2011:185) a Japanese-language magazine as follows:

> Although Christmas Island is small in size, it is immersed in the attention of the world because there is an unlimited supply of phosphate rocks which are indispensable as a basic ingredient for manufacturing phosphate fertiliser. Immediately upon landing, our naval forces recognised the value of the island and with the co-operation of the local people, started mining operation for phosphates for phosphate rocks … (Translated by Miss Lee Hui Yin in Hunt 2011:185).

During the occupation, and with 850 Japanese personnel arriving on 31 March 1942 and at least half that number remaining for the next 18 months, Christmas Island witnessed major adaptation or modification of its existing buildings and several new structures were built. Much effort was put into building defences for retaining the newly acquired Japanese territory.
The Research Impact of this Project

Islands are rarely self-sufficient (Baldacchino 2006:56). This is unquestionably the case with Christmas Island which has been subject to economic cycles of boom and bust due to its reliance on single industries; first phosphate mining, then a Casino, and, more recently, the Immigration Detention Centre shown in Figure 1.7 (C Change Sustainable Solutions and Antony Whitaker Strategic Planning Services 2013:7). As I write the final paragraphs of my thesis the Sydney Morning Herald newspaper reported that the Detention Centre has been closed and Immigration Minister David Coleman said

*the centre will be kept in a state of “operational readiness” so it can be re-opened at short notice* (Koziol 2018).
Christmas Islanders wish to see their economy diversified with a growing emphasis on sustainability and ‘green’ industries (C Change Sustainable Solutions and Antony Whitaker Strategic Planning Services 2013:8). Christmas Island has some substantial historic heritage assets and precincts including industrial and mining infrastructure, places of worship, cemeteries, and defence remains and residues (Forrest 1989:1; Godden Mackay Logan 1998a:ii; Sturis et al. 2016:18). These places reflect the history of Christmas Island and can assist in providing a deeper understanding of how the Island developed. The National Trust of Western Australia’s recent assessment of Christmas Island’s heritage does not bode well for the Island, as the organisation believes that:

*Continued lack of action in managing heritage on Christmas Island will lead to further deterioration of places, missed opportunities to develop*
economically and socially and a loss of information related to the history and personal experiences of the Christmas Island community (Sturis et al. 2016:11).

This research has the capacity to assist Christmas Island to diversify its economy further through the strategic use of their cultural property in education and tourism. The Japanese World War II occupation and their sites will complement the abundant biodiversity, both terrestrial and marine, and assist in attracting tourists to Christmas Island. Research commissioned by the Northern Territory Government (Tourism NT) demonstrates that visitation to museums and attractions which showcase military heritage is steadily increasing. This is demonstrated at the Australian War Memorial Museum; whose own visitation numbers have steadily increased over the decade ending 2014 (Figure 1.8).

Christmas Island can take advantage of this trend because her war heritage assets have the potential to provide a deeper immersion into the experience of visiting the Island. The success of growing the visitation numbers is based on authenticity, high quality interpretation and presentation of exhibits (Tourism NT 2015:2).
Thesis structure

This thesis is divided into four chapters.

Chapter One has introduced the research question, aims and objectives, outlining the background to the Japanese occupation of Christmas Island during World War II and the research impact of this project.

My second chapter provides a brief history of Christmas Island including the war saga, using published sources and oral histories to identify the nature and location of the physical remains survive from the Japanese occupation. This chapter concludes with the production of a map of the location of sites described in the literature.
The penultimate chapter describes my field methods and fieldwork findings, setting out my new inventory of the World War II sites and discusses the value of my approach for relocating ‘lost’ World War II sites on the Island.

Chapter Four is the final chapter. It discusses the archaeological, educational and tourist potential of the Japanese occupation sites recorded. The chapter concludes with recommendations for a) further archaeological research, b) urgent management interventions and c) for the development and promotion of the most significant sites.
2. Terra Nullius to Australian Territory: A brief history of Christmas Island

Prior to 1888 Christmas Island may be described as *terra nullius* (Ritter 1996:7). To date there has been no evidence discovered of permanent human occupation of the Island prior to that time. In 1888 Christmas Island was settled in order to exploit the rich phosphate deposits on the Island (Hunt 2011:4; Williams and Macdonald 1985:47). Thereafter, the story of Christmas Island is a story of immigrant labour, survival during occupation by the Japanese during World War II, struggles for human rights, unionism and the quest for autonomy.

**Early landings**

Before 1888, early Dutch and British nautical charts of the seventeenth century indicated islands in the vicinity of Christmas Island (Burstyn 1975:5; Hunt 2011:3; Kerr 2009:316; Tiernay and Tiernay 2007:10). Captain William Mynors of the East India Company’s *Royal Mary* gave Christmas Island its name on Christmas Day in 1643 (Hunt 2011:3; Kerr 2009:316; Tiernay and Tiernay 2007:10) and there is an account of the first landing by two crewmen from the British privateer ship the *Cygnet* (Dampier 1697:473; Hunt 2011:3; Kerr 2009:316). From 1827 onwards the Clunies-Ross family from the Cocos Keeling Islands (See Figure 1.4) made regular stops at Christmas Island to collect timber, fresh water and food, establishing a semi-permanent camp in a cove on the north east side of the Island (Kerr 2009:317; Williams and Macdonald 1985:46). In 1886 Captain Maclear of *HMS Flying Fish* named the anchorage point in the cove *Flying Fish Cove* (Figure 2.1) (Kerr 2009:317; Purcell 1965:178) and Wharton, the
hydrologist on board, made the following observations in a lecture delivered to the Royal Geographical Society

Man has never lived on Christmas Island, nor would it be a pleasant residence, apart from the fact that there is no water ... [T]he extreme discomfort of locomotion and the absence of any harbour ... will deter any settlers from seeking a home there until other more favourable spots are occupied (Wharton 1888:622).

The 1872-1876 expedition of the Challenger included the hydrologist John Murray, who was researching coral reefs and their origins, and was sceptical of some of Darwin’s theories on their formation (Burstyn 1975:5, 8, 13; Williams and Macdonald 1985:47). He sought geological samples from oceanic islands, including Christmas Island to further his research, and through this discovered the rich phosphate deposits on
the Island (Burstyn 1975:5, 8, 13; Neale 1988:83; Tiernay and Tiernay 2007:13; Purcell 1965: 178; Williams and Macdonald 1985:47). Murray proceeded to successfully lobby the British Admiralty to annex the Island (Figure 2.2) in June 1888 (Burstyn 1975:8; Hunt 2011:3; Tiernay and Tiernay 2007:12).

![Figure 2.2: Britain Annexes Christmas Island – June 1888](image-source)

The Island became a commercial venture between Murray and the Clunies-Ross family (Kerr 2009:317). They established the Christmas Island Phosphate Company in 1897 (Burstyn 1975:24, Hunt 2011:4; Tiernay and Tiernay 2007:12; Williams and Macdonald 1985:46). Phosphate mining commenced in 1899 using indentured workers from Singapore, Malaysia and China who endured appalling conditions (Ayris 1993:7). Japan began purchasing phosphate from Christmas Island in 1900 (Williams and Macdonald 1985:48) and between 1918 and 1941, 75 percent to 80 percent of Christmas Island’s phosphate was sold to Japan (Hunt 2007:167). The Christmas Island Phosphate Company was totally reliant on the Japanese market (Hunt 2007:167) and in fact the
year before Christmas Island became a Japanese territory 80 percent of its mined phosphate had been purchased by Japan (Hunt 2011:170).

Invasion and Mutiny

At the outbreak of World War II in South-East Asia in December 1941 Christmas Island was a target for Japanese occupation because of its rich phosphate deposits. A c.1901 150mm naval gun had been installed which would, perhaps, repel a single battle ship, and some military concrete pillboxes were constructed under the command of British officer Captain Williams (Foster 2011:4; Hunt 2011:172). The garrison consisted of Captain Williams, four British Non-Commissioned Officers and 27 Indian soldiers (Foster 2011:4; Hunt 2011:175). On January 21, 1942, the Japanese torpedoed and destroyed the Norwegian cargo vessel *MV Eidsvold* as she was loading phosphate at Flying Fish Cove (Foster 2011:5; Hunt 2011:175; Neale 1988:60). This led to the evacuation of most of the Island’s European families to Singapore or Fremantle (Foster 2011:4; Hunt 2007:175; Neale 1988:58; Williams and Macdonald 1985:317).

World War II began in earnest for Christmas Island on 7 March 1942 with shelling from a Japanese naval group accompanied by aerial bombardment. This led District Officer Thomas Cromwell to hoist a bedsheet as a white flag of surrender (Hunt 2011:179; Williams Macdonald 1985:318). This action appeared to halt the attack but seemed to offend Captain Williams who raised the Union flag once more (Hunt 2011:179; Williams and Macdonald 1985:318). That act of defiance by Williams probably framed the following mutiny.
Axis propaganda radio had been extolling Asian populations ‘get ready to beat the English’ with promises of independence from Britain (Figure 2.3) (Hunt 2011:181; Williams and Macdonald 1985:318). The text in Bangla and Hindi reads

*Fight for Liberation. India shall make herself free and fight for the defense of the Indian races. The tyrannical British are the enemies of all Indians* (Friedman nd).

Figure 2.3: This propaganda leaflet extolling the Indian population to fight against the British and thus gain Independence

Some of the Indian troops on Christmas Island concluded that the Allies would lose the war, as Singapore was already occupied by the Japanese (Allen 1977:262). The display of Japanese military prowess a few days earlier meant that defending Christmas Island was futile. Captain Williams’ re-hoisting of the Union Jack appeared pointless. The Japanese attack on 7 March 1942 clearly demonstrated their intent to take the Island, and defences in place would not be able to withstand the Japanese onslaught. As a result some of the Indian soldiers mutinied and on the night of 10 March murdered the five British soldiers, dumping their bodies into the ocean, and the remaining 21 European were held as prisoners (Hunt 2011:190). The population remaining on the Island consisted of 21 European¹ men, 27 Indian soldiers, 28 Sikh police and 1565 Asians (Neale 1988:65).

At dawn on 31 March 1942, a Japanese fleet of two aircraft carriers, two battleships, two cruisers, a destroyer, and at least five merchant ships returned and launched a second attack on Christmas Island (Ayris 1993:8; Hunt 2011:183; Foster 2011:6; Williams and Macdonald 1985:318). The radio station situated on the Pandang was completely destroyed this was followed by a heavy bombardment which lasted for nearly two hours. The Island surrendered (Ayris 1993:8; Hunt 2011:183). The event was described by a Japanese war correspondent in the Shonan Times (Syonan Shim bun) on 7 May 1942 as follows

   *Immediately the party was divided into two units which occupied all important points of the Island, rapidly taking over the enemy barracks and*

¹ Neale (1985:68) claims only 15 European men remained on the Island. All other texts state 21.
By the end of the day about 850 Japanese elite soldiers and construction personnel came ashore (Hunt 2011:183; Williams and MacDonald 1985:318). The population had increased by a third as the Japanese settled in. The victors embarked upon fortifying Christmas Island and

*Anti-aircraft guns were brought in, lookouts were built high on the cliffs above Flying Fish Cove and at Waterfall and an ammunition-storage cave was hollowed out of an inland shore-terrace limestone cliff* (Hunt 2011:192).

The Japanese naval officer in charge was Commander Ando of Ambon, who permitted his soldiers to loot and pillage, unrestrained, for three days; one Chinese bed-ridden woman was raped and subsequently died (Hunt 2007: 184; Neale 1988:68). The Japanese conquest, contrary to fears, had not been as brutal as experienced elsewhere in the region. Ando was replaced after two months, taking with him the Naval Task Force, and leaving behind a garrison of 500 soldiers with 100 Japanese civilian staff to supervise the mining operations (Hunt 2007:184; Neale 1988:68).

**Occupation**

In the first week of occupation, Ando forced the entire Christmas Island population to stand in the full sun for the whole day (Figure 2.4) and anyone who rendered assistance to a companion was severely beaten (Neale 1988:68). At 17:00 he addressed the crowd informing them that they were now part of the South East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere, therefore, they were to continue to work as before and they would receive a wage which

*phosphate plant (phosphate industry is the only important industry of the Island (Anon. 1942:3).*
the Islanders called ‘banana money’ (Neale 1988:79). By and large the Asian population were left to their own devices. They foresaw the deprivations that would likely occur and set up market gardens and fished for food, supplemented by the irregular and limited supplies which came with the small 833-ton Japanese ship *Nissei Maru* that plied back and forth from Surabaya (Neale 1988:75). One of the policies the Islanders resented the most and which was enforced by the Japanese was to worship at the Shintō Temple (Hunt 2011:193). The shrine was built behind the Christmas Island Club after the occupation commenced near the European cemetery. It was offensive to the Malays as they were Muslims and for the Chinese it was unpatriotic to worship Japanese gods.

The Europeans were treated as prisoners of war (POWs) and as a result were under a harsher regime (Neale 1988:68; Pettigrew 1962:45). For nearly 18 months the POWs were marched down Waterfall Road (Figure 2.5) to cut timber for the kitchen fires

![Image](image1.jpg)
(Neale 1988:69; Pettigrew 1962:48; Williams and MacDonald 1985:318). Jack Pettigrew, a POW, dreamt that this cleared land would be the beginning of a golf course, and he went on to see this established after the war (Neale 1988:69; Pettigrew 1962:48). The POWs suffered from food shortages, confinement and forced labour.

![Figure 2.5: POWs daily forced march to cut timber for the kitchen fires](Image Source: Landgate 2018 Landgate Map Viewer Plus)

The Malay and Chinese population assisted them through this ordeal by smuggling in food and clothes (Hunt 2007:190; Neale 1988:69; Pettigrew 1962:46). In his official report District Officer Cromwell wrote

> We should have starved without gifts from the Sikh police, Chinese labourers, prostitutes, drivers and woodcutters (Neale 1988:68).

Phosphate continued to be processed, but because of the damage to the loading conveyer during the bombardment of the Island on 7 and 31 March 1942, the phosphate had to be bagged then manually loaded into the hold and shipped to Java for despatch to Japan (Figure 1.2) (Neale 1988:69; Pettigrew 1962:47). The Nissei Maru was used for
transporting the phosphate, but on 17 November 1942 she was torpedoed by an American submarine and sank in Flying Fish Cove (Hunt 2011:193; Neale 1988:69, Pettigrew 1962:47; Williams and MacDonald 1985:318), to the delight of many of the Islanders.

*We [the European prisoners] had a good view of the incident from the top window of our quarters. The Chinese were jubilant, and we could see them running from the scene of the torpedoed ship giving the thumbs up sign* (Pettigrew 1962:47).

The submarine attack ended the export of phosphate for the rest of the war, work on mining operations gradually ceased (Williams and MacDonald 1985:318). Only 20 000 tons had been mined and only 5 000 tons was exported between April 1942 and November 1943 down from the monthly average of 24 000 tons exported to Japan before the war (Hunt 2007:194).

In December 1943 the Japanese decided to transfer all the Indian soldiers, the POWs, the police, about 750 Chinese workers, 50 men of Indonesian origin, the Javanese girls who had been brought over as prostitutes, the Japanese phosphate company staff and most of the garrison to Surabaya, and onward to various camps or prisons (Hunt 2011:194, Neale 1988:70, Pettigrew 1962:48). Most of them never returned. Fewer than 500 people remained on the Christmas Island, including about 60 Japanese soldiers (Hunt 2007:194; Neale 1988:70). The remaining Japanese installed dummy defences made of wood, these included two 150mm guns installed at Rocky Point, an anti-aircraft gun at Waterfall manned by dummy soldiers and a further two 150mm guns at Smith Point (Hunt 2011:194). Evidently, they were so well camouflaged that Allied
surveillance planes in January 1944 and 1945 failed to see them (Hackett 1945: 4; Hunt 2011:194).

For the next 20 months, the population survived on limited supplies shipped in from Borneo, from their own vegetable gardens, fishing and supplementing their diet with crabs and wild birds (Hunt 2011:194; Neale 1988:79).

Return to the Fold

By June 1945 most of the Japanese soldiers had left Christmas Island and only a sergeant and 14 soldiers remained (Hunt 2011:196). In August they left too, and it was not until 18 October that the Allies arrived on board *HMS Rother* to officially relieve the Island (van der Gaast 1945:1). Major van der Gaast had been ordered to re-hoist the Union Jack, issue food and medical supplies and furnish a report on the state of the Island (Hackett 1945:1; Hunt 2011:202; van der Gaast 1945:1). At dawn of that day the landing party made its way through fortifications left behind by the Japanese (Figure 2.6) and were greeted by an enthusiastic crowd (Hackett 1945:1; Hunt 2011:203, van der Gaast 1945:3) Major van der Gaast and Sub-lieutenant Hackett drew up an inventory of the Island which focussed on the state of the mining equipment, almost no mention was made of the Japanese built structures other than the Shintō Temple. Hackett describes the construction of the boat ramp, confirming that it was a seaplane ramp but had never been used (Hackett 1945:3; Hunt 2011:195). The temple was burnt down at the request of the Islanders by the crew of the *HMS Rother* (Hackett 1945:3; Hunt 2011:204; Neale 1988:71; van der Gaast 1945:3). Hackett described the temple as follows
The people had been forced to worship here and particularly requested that it be destroyed. It was a beautiful little shrine with many examples of exquisite carpentry work (Hackett 1945:3).

Christmas Island was once again a British colony and was placed under the jurisdiction of the newly regained colony of Singapore (Kerr 2009:318). Australia acquired Christmas Island in 1957 after purchasing the Island from the Singapore Government, and the United Kingdom transferred sovereignty in 1958 (Kerr 2009:325).

Figure 2.6: Beach defences at Flying Fish Cove. Barricade of railway sleepers erected by the Japanese
Image Source: Anon. 1944 Xmas Isl. [Christmas Island]: Commonwealth of Australia.

Christmas Island was in a state of disrepair having endured aerial bombardment and three and half years of neglect and abuse under Japanese occupation. Naturally the focus was on revitalising the mining operations – the raison d'être for the first known human occupation. As people returned and normality resumed, the evidence of the
Japanese occupation slowly became absorbed by the jungle environment. In Figure 2.7 I have marked on a map the places where the literature mentions Japanese built structures. In the following chapter I will discuss the attempts to find the Japanese occupation sites during their time on the Island.

Figure 2.7: Japanese sites located through archival research
Image Source: Landgate 2018 Landgate Map Viewer Plus.
3. Going on a Site Hunt

In this chapter I outline the methods I used to locate and record the Japanese World War II occupation sites on Christmas Island.

To achieve the aim of locating and recording the sites I undertook the following tasks, after successfully seeking and receiving funding to assist with flights, accommodation, vehicle hire and other expenses to enable field work on the Island:

1. Identified sites and potential site locations using aerial photographs, maps, reports, desktop and archival research.

2. Compiled a list of all the sites mentioned in the published literature and ephemera which I could expect to find when I visited the Island.

3. Planned and conducted field survey, and rudimentary site recording and assessment incorporating the archaeological potential of the sites.

Table 3.1 is a timeline of my approaches used for the project.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| March  | Desktop and archival research  
- WA and National Archives: requests placed  
- Digitised materials United Kingdom, Singapore and Japan National Archives  
- Trove: requests placed  
- Publications and ephemera |
| April  | Funding Applications:  
- Administrator of Christmas Island  
- **Shire of Christmas Island SUCCESSFUL**  
- AACAI **SUCCESSFUL**  
- AAA  
- **University of Western Australia- Study Abroad SUCCESSFUL**  
- Bellamine Wines Batavia  
- Capstone Editing  
- Virgin Airlines  
- Dean of FABLE |
| May    | Draft Record sheets.  
Contact Shire of Christmas Island, Department of Territories.  
Contact John Hunt. |
| June   | Identify and arrange equipment with Lab Manager UWA.  
Arrange travel. |

### Pre Field Work

**Day 1:** Met with Oliver Lines to arrange access to sites identified in preliminary research. Meetings with various officials (David Eizenberg and Stephen Elliott) to introduce myself. Prepared equipment for recording sites, and accessing sites, with the latter provided by Mr Lines.

**Day 2:** Visited and recorded data at the following sites:
- Smith Point Barracks.
- Shintō Temple remains.

**Day 3:** Mr Lines introduces Joy Wickenden from the Mine. Safety protocols. Visited and recorded data at the following sites:
- Drumsite 1 & 2.

**Day 4:** Visited and recorded data at the following sites:
- Boat Ramp
- Rocky Point 1 & 2.

Met Eric Chong - born and grew up on Christmas Island.

**Day 5:** Visited and recorded data at the following sites:
- Drumsite 4.

Went to local library and researched back issues of *The Islander*. Met Chris Su - born and grew up Christmas Island.

**Day 6:** Visited and recorded data at the following sites:
- Smith Point Barracks.

Met Penny Power long term resident of Christmas Island.

**Day 7:** Visited and recorded data at the following sites:
• Waterfall 1
• Jap House.

Day 8: Visited and recorded data at the following sites:
• Smith Point Barracks.
Met Jon Kerr - long term resident of Christmas Island.

Day 9: Visited and recorded data at the following sites:
• Rocky Point 3 & 4
• Runaway Cave.

Day 10: Visited and recorded data at the following sites:
• Drumsite 3 & 5.

Day 11: Departed.

Post Field Work

July
Complete Site Records and Preliminary Heritage Assessments
Update and convert GPS from Lat/Longitude to UTM
Analyse site records, field notes and archival materials.
Continue to add information to desktop and archival research for inclusion in analysis.

August-October
Writing.
Maintain contact with John Hunt, Oliver Lines, Chris Su and Chris Tremayne.

Desk Top Research

Aerial Photography
I started my desktop research by analysing aerial photographs. Reconnaissance flights were made by the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) in 1943, 1944 and 1945 and aerial photographs were taken. The National Library of Australia kindly provided me with these photographs in PDF format. I compared these to recent Google Earth images and to Landgate’s (Western Australia’s Land Information Authority) satellite imagery. My aim was to look for areas in the old photographs where the forest had been cleared during the war or where wartime structures had been built, however many areas in the RAAF images were obscured by cloud cover and this limited the usefulness of the work (Figure 3.1). Furthermore, jungle coverage in most areas was so dense that Japanese structures could not be seen. Having worked on the images myself, it now does not
surprise me that fortifications remained undetected by the RAAF surveillance flights\(^2\) (Hackett 1945:4; Hunt 2011:194).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The photograph does not reveal any built structures.</td>
<td>The photograph clearly shows the establishment of the Detention Centre.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RAAF photograph of Flying Fish Cove, 17 June 1945</td>
<td>Google Earth Satellite Image of Flying Fish Cove 2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Changes can be observed but it is difficult to single out military installations.</td>
<td>The jetty and boat ramp are visible, as are the new loading gantries.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 3.1: A Comparison of RAAF photographs and Google Earth

Image Source: Anon. 1943-1945 Xmas Isl. [Christmas Island]: Commonwealth of Australia; Google Earth 2018.

\(^2\) There is a discrepancy with the dates. The RAAF photographs are dated 1943, 1944 and 1945, yet Neale (1988:82) and Hunt (2011:194) only discuss the flights of 1944 and 1945.
Archival Research and Published Materials

My very first search was on the Australian War Memorial’s data base, the second the National Archives of Australia. The War Memorial directed me to John Hunt’s 2011 text *Suffering through Strength; The Men who made Christmas Island*. The National Archives held a copy of Marge Neale’s 1988 text of *We were the Christmas Islanders: reminiscences and recollections of the people of an isolated island, the Australian Territory of Christmas Island, Indian Ocean*.

The National Archives provided access to the following three texts which Oliver Lines then gave me hard copies. These are reports which British military personal made after *HMS Rother* departed from Christmas Island in October 1945:

- Allan’s (1945) account of the mutiny 14 September 1945. Hunt (2011) uses Allan’s report of the mutiny for his text, which had been reported to Allan by Lieutenant Commander T.A Donavon of the United States Navy who had been present at the time (Allan 1945: 1; Neale 1988:67).
- Hackett’s (1945) account of the relief and the state of the Island’s infrastructure.
- Van der Gaast’s (1945) report of the same events

The latter two reports describe the arrival on Christmas Island of Hackett and van der Gaast abroad *HMS Rother* and the two days they spent auditing the Island.

The following texts provided additional additional context in this study.


   The biography provides background to the union movement of the mine workers and their leader Gorden Bennett. Whilst not strictly relevant to the thesis it
provided me with a deeper understanding of the Island’s indentured labour and union movement history.


This text is an extensively researched chronicle of phosphate mining practices on Christmas Island, Nauru and Banaba. The history of phosphate mining was intertwined with complex global diplomacy of the late nineteenth century to at least the end of World War II. It was essential to read the book because phosphate mining is pivotal to Christmas Island’s narrative.

3. Two reports by Godden Mackay Logan (1998 a and b) on the heritage of Christmas Island.

The National Trust provided access to the reports of the heritage work undertaken on the Island in 2013 (Sturis et al 2016).

During the archival research stage, it became evident that there is a paucity of literature relating to the wartime occupation of Christmas Island in Australia. It is possible that British, Singaporean and Japanese institutions have archival material relevant to the topic but international archive research was beyond the scope of this project. Therefore, my principal sources became the two Australian texts which were researched and written by people who had lived and worked on Christmas Island, John Hunt (2011) and Marge Neale (1988). I found it useful to compare Hackett’s (1945) report of 21 October 1945 which he wrote a day after he departed aboard *HMS Rother* from Christmas Island with Hunt’s (2011) text.
Neale (1988)

Neale lived on Christmas Island between 1982 and 1985 and taught at the Christmas Island District High School (Neale 1988). In the 1980s she embarked upon a project to interview Islanders who had survived the Japanese occupation and recorded their stories. The result is her 1988 publication.

The oral histories are now lodged at the National Library of Australia (Neale 1988:9). The recollections provided information about the relationships between the different ethnic groups and how each fared during the occupation. The captions to the photographs in her book provided the best clues of how the Japanese utilised the buildings of the Christmas Island Phosphate Company, including activities such as the clearing of land where the Christmas Island Golf course is located today (see Figure 2.7) and the remains of the Shintō Temple. Neale (1988:66) has a photograph of a Japanese Ack-Ack gun which was found during clearance for mine operations (Figure 3.2). Unfortunately, there is no contemporary knowledge of it, or its activity. Two of the photographs (Neale 1988:76) confirm the oral stories that the Japanese garrison administration occupied the Chief Engineers’ house at Drumsite (Figure 3.3). Today this property is referred to as Jap House and its heritage value is assessed as exceptional by Godden Mackay Logan (1998b:17). Neale (1985:76) claims that the servants’ quarters were used as a detention cell by the Japanese and that today there are Japanese ghosts in residence. I spoke with the current owners and they have not been troubled by the ghosts and are aware of the heritage value of their home (Cindy Eng 2018 Pers. Comm., 29 June).

All the oral histories which Neale researched provide a version of the sinking of the SS Nissei Maru (Neale 1988: 75, 79, 82;). Hunt (2011) further elaborates on its sinking,
stating that Peter Harvey, an experienced scuba diver, confirmed its location in Flying Fish Cove and

*did some important marine archaeology work on the wreck of the Nissei Maru in 1978 and 1979 ... checked details through correspondence with me, the Japanese Department of Transport and the Western Australian Maritime Museum* (Hunt 2011:261).

Figure 3.2: Japanese Ack-Ack gun on Christmas Island

Image Source: Neale, M. 1988 *We were the Christmas Islanders: reminiscences and recollections of the people of an isolated island, the Australian Territory of Christmas Island, Indian Ocean*. Chapman ACT: B. Neale.
A search of the shipwrecks database on the Western Australian Maritime Museum’s website does not appear to record the wreck (Western Australia Museum 2018). Christmas Island is provided services from the Western Australian Government, but its heritage is under the jurisdiction of the Federal Government (Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities 2018). I did not conduct underwater observations and confine my report to the land based sites of the Japanese World War II.

Figure 3.3: The Chief Engineer’s House (Jap House) Christmas Island at Drumsite occupied by the Japanese Garrison during World War II

Image Source: Neale, M. 1988 *We were the Christmas Islanders: reminiscences and recollections of the people of an isolated island, the Australian Territory of Christmas Island, Indian Ocean.* Chapman ACT: B. Neale.

**Hunt (2011)**

Hunt was the Resettlement Officer and Special Magistrate of Christmas Island and lived there for four years in the 1970s (Hunt 2011). He resolved to recount the history of
Christmas Island from the indentured labour perspective, beginning in 1888, with the first arrivals through to 1948 (Hunt 2011:v). *Suffering through Strength: The Men who Made Christmas Island* was published in 2011, and detailed the history from a documentary, photographic and exploratory perspective.

Included in the publication is a sketch map (Figure 3.4) of Japanese sites (2011: 195) which were explored when Hunt was resident on Christmas Island (John Hunt 2018 Pers. Comm., 19 July).

![Figure 3.4: Sketch map of Japanese sites](image)


**Other archival and unpublished sources**

While Neale’s and Hunt’s publications were important resources, they were not the only sources of information available on Christmas Island concerning the wartime activities
of the Japanese. Newspaper and magazine articles, personal recollections and individuals currently living there were also important sources of information and guidance in locating sites and determining their past and present uses.

Hunt and Neale’s texts use much of Hackett’s (1945:3) report but interestingly he mentions two sites on North East Point. These sites are not corroborated in any of the literature, but amongst the Islanders there are vague recollections of them (Gary Foo 2018 Pers. Comm., 26 June).

Van der Gaast (1946: Appendix F) and Hackett (1945), felt that the Japanese had not substantially added to the built fabric of Christmas Island

> The Japanese have left no records or equipment of intelligence value on the island, although a camera and films were at my disposal, I saw nothing of sufficient intelligence interest to warrant a photograph (Hacket 1945:4).

Hackett (1945:4) suggests that the Japanese built some dugouts at the Smith Point Barracks. However, I was unable to locate them during my field survey on Christmas Island in 2018 even though Mr Tremayne informed me that he had seen them but, unfortunately, he had not taken GPS coordinates (Chris Tremayne 2018 Pers. Comm., 15 June). This is a pity, as the descriptions in previous reports indicates that the remains are extensive (Godden Mackay Logan 1998b).

Mr Tremayne, an enthusiastic hiker, amateur historian, with a strong passion for heritage has found many interesting historical places on Christmas Island (Chris Tremayne 2018 Pers. Comm., 15 June). Mr Tremayne together with Mr Jon Stanhope (Administrator of Christmas Island between 2012 and 2014) would often take visitors to the sites (Stubbs 2015:117). Stubbs (2015) submitted an article to *The Griffith Review*,
describing the day he spent with the Administrator exploring the World War II sites. Using a hard copy of Stubb’s article I highlighted the sites he described visiting as part of the process of trying to numerate how many sites I could expect to find.

By marrying Stubbs’ (2015) article and Hunt’s (2011) sketch map I framed how I would approach the task of locating the sites. This, however, did rely on local intelligence to establish the validity of the research. I was now ready to ground truth the information I had compiled. Table 3.2 details the sites in which I expected to find based on Hunt’s (2011) research, his sketch map, and Stubbs’ (2015) article.

In the Field on Christmas Island

I arrived at Christmas Island late in the evening of 19 June 2018. I was assisted by Mr James Prout a retiree and octogenarian, who completed two years as an officer with the Royal Engineers in the United Kingdom in the 1950s (James Prout 2018 Pers. Comm., 20 June). He kindly volunteered to join me on Christmas Island to assist with the fieldwork. The Shire of Christmas Island generously paid for my flights and accommodation and I am enormously thankful to them for this support, without it, this research would not have been possible. I rented a motor vehicle because there is no public transport on the Island. The cost of this was covered by grants from the Australian Association of Consulting Archaeologists Incorporated and the University of Western Australia. Most of the recorded World War II sites are within a few hundred metres of a road and so I had relatively easy access to all my targeted survey areas.

In terms of my survey and recording practice, I had hoped to establish a routine of commencing work by 07:30 because by 11:00 it is very hot and the high humidity makes fieldwork slow going once the heat of day has settled in. I then intended to meet
with people and hold discussions during the lunch hour. This was not always possible.

For example in the case of Rocky Point 3 work only commenced at noon and I describe
the limitations that I encountered because of the heat and humidity at that site in
Appendix 1. My fieldwork typically finished by 17:00, except on the weekend when I
finished by 14:00.

I was on Christmas Island for 10 days. Whilst there, I relied extensively on Mr Oliver
Lines’ knowledge and took guidance from him. Mr Lines is the Manager of Recreation
Services and Training Officer with the Shire of Christmas Island, and has been a
resident of Christmas Island since the early 1990s. Mr Lines took me to all of the major
known World War II remains. These are Smith Point 1, 2 and 3, Rocky Point 1, and 2
and Drumsites 1 and 2. Once he had departed, I conducted my own field survey around
these known sites and at other places I had identified during my archival research.

When I arrived at a site together with Mr Prout, up to an hour could be spent clearing
each site of jungle growth. We took basic measurements, trying to interpret why it was
located there and what it could have been. As we cleared sites together, we actively
discussed them, we attempted to address the following:

- An interpretation of the function of the site;
- What materials were used to build the structure; and
- Its relationship to other sites that are interpreted as Japanese in origin.

In the cases of the Drumsites 1, 2, 3 and 4, Rocky Point 3 and Waterfall 1 we were
unable to walk round the sites because they are situated on the edges of precipices or
very steep cliffs. The use of drone technology would have assisted with seeing and
recording the sites.
### Table 3.2: Comparison of sites from sources and field observation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hunt (2011).</th>
<th>Stubbs (2015).</th>
<th>Number of days allocated to locate site/s.</th>
<th>Number of days actually spent at the site/s.</th>
<th>My name for the site/s. Oral and archival mention of other sites</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boat Ramp</td>
<td>Japanese pillbox.</td>
<td>Half day.</td>
<td></td>
<td>Boat Ramp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Observation posts x 2 in Drumsite.</td>
<td>Observation posts by the Mine’s conveyor belt.</td>
<td>One day.</td>
<td>Two days.</td>
<td>Drumsite 1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>75mm anti-aircraft gun x two and Japanese air-raid shelter</td>
<td>Drumsite: gun installation and observation posts</td>
<td>One day.</td>
<td>One day.</td>
<td>Drumsite 4. Only air-raid shelter found. Two more sites to locate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ammunition storage cave.</td>
<td>Japanese ammunition store and anchor point.</td>
<td>One day.</td>
<td>One day.</td>
<td>Rocky Point 1, 2 and 3.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mentions anti aircraft guns and realistic dummy guns.</td>
<td>Japanese two pound gun.</td>
<td>Half day.</td>
<td>Unable to locate their remains.</td>
<td>Not verified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shintō Temple</td>
<td>Shintō Temple steps</td>
<td>Half day.</td>
<td>Half day.</td>
<td>Shintō Temple Remains</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smith Point Fort (British Barracks).</td>
<td>WWII road and concealed gun site (Smith Point)</td>
<td>One day.</td>
<td>One day.</td>
<td>Smith Point Road remains found but not concealed gun site.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smith Point Fort and Barracks</td>
<td>Smith Point Fort and Barracks</td>
<td>Two days.</td>
<td>Two days</td>
<td>Smith Point Ablutions on N/S side of Jalan Pantai not located</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waterfall Harbour</td>
<td>Not mentioned</td>
<td>One day.</td>
<td>One day.</td>
<td>Waterfall 1. Possibly two more sites in the vicinity</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
It was very useful to have Mr Prout’s input as he had survived World War II in England as a child and then subsequently learnt how to build for military purposes because of his experience as a sapper or combat engineer (James Prout 2018 Pers. Comm., 20 June).

All of the known and unknown sites were visited, photographed, and a GPS reading taken. Runaway Cave, Rocky Point 3, Drumsite 3 and 4 are examples of sites which were not discussed in the literature but there are oral recollections of them and I had to go and find them. I tried to make a detailed inventory report at each using my site record sheet (Figure 3.5). Included in this record are preliminary assessments of the significance as well as archaeological potential of each site. One of the limits of my fieldwork was not being able to excavate any sites; funding, time and the constraints of permits meant that this was not possible. The result of those limits is that my preliminary assessments are based solely on visible surface remains and archival research.

Each of my site records is supplemented with a statement discussing its archaeological and cultural significance. Besides following the guidelines of the Burra Charter (Australia ICOMOS 2013) in assessing significance, I used two further ways in which to access their significance using the attributes of representativeness and rarity as selection criteria. In the Australian context the Japanese occupation is undeniably rare. In order to ascertain their representativeness, it would be useful to makes comparisons to similar sites across Australia, Papua New Guinea and other British territories in South East Asia. Whilst this would add considerably to the knowledge of and the context of Japanese occupation on Christmas Island in the wider context of Japanese economic and political priorities, it is outside the scope of my thesis.
My initial reaction to finding a site was always excitement. Mr Prout and I would begin by clearing the sites so that we could at least have some idea of the extent of the site. As we tried to pace out the extent of the site, its length and breadth, we would usually have to do more clearing of jungle. This was followed by a scramble around the surrounding terrain which was often on a cliff edge (I am glad that I enjoy bouldering as a pastime). It is fortunate that Christmas Island’s fauna does not include venomous jungle snakes however the Island’s robber crab gave me a fright or two (Figure 3.6)! We would photograph the site and inevitably we were always disappointed in the visuals. Maybe, it was because the light was too bright or the jungle greenery made it difficult to get a perspective. Or the concreting, tuff rock or cave interiors are not photogenic? Having worked out the extent of remains surviving at the site and discussed the possible original nature and purposes of the site, I would then fill out my site record sheet. I have scanned in my Waterfall 1 field recording form, as an example, which I used whilst at the site (Figure 3.5).

In total I have located and recorded GPS locations for nineteen sites and I tabulated them in alphabetical order in Table 3.3. In terms of site name protocols, I decided to adopt the National Trust’s recommendation of grouping the sites into nodes and applying the name of the area to them (Pickering 2016:33). There are some standalone sites such as the Boat Ramp, Jap House, Runaway Cave and the Shintō Temple remains which I have named separately in keeping with local naming and/or historical naming of the sites. I will discuss the sites in alphabetical order beginning with the Boat Ramp.

**Boat Ramp**

Mr Lines was not aware that the boat ramp had been built by the Japanese (Oliver Lines 2018 Pers. Comm. 23 June), however whilst I was at the ramp many of the locals confirmed that it had been built by the occupying force. The boat ramp, which is still in
use today, features in Hunt’s map (2011:195) and Hackett describes it in his report referring to it as a slip way

*It is understood that the Japanese had it constructed in order to beach seaplanes, but it was never used. A passage 150 feet wide has been cleared through the reef to enable small craft to be beached without damage* (Hackett 1945:3).

**Drumsites 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5**

Mr Lines was familiar with Drumsites 1 and 2, and accompanied us to the sites. In the case of Jap House Mr Lines effected the introductions to the owners. Access to Drumsites 1, 2 and 3 required permission from Christmas Island Phosphates Mine which Mr Lines facilitated through Joy Wickenden, Senior Environment Advisor at the mine. Ms Wickenden arrived on Christmas Island in the early 2000s and considers heritage to be an integral part of the environment both human and natural (Joy Wickenden 2018. Pers. Comm., 22 June).

Mr Prout and I discussed at length the placement of the Drumsite sites. We were unable to understand why such defensive structures would be placed 100m above Flying Fish Cove on the edges of sheer cliffs. Additionally, the jungle hideout of Drumsite 4 was perplexing too. However, it begins to make sense when reading Price and Knecht’s (2012:8) work on Peleliu in the Pacific Ocean. Their historical research and archaeological work demonstrates the change of tactic used by the Imperial Japanese Army for defence.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site Name:</th>
<th>Reference Number:</th>
<th>Date of Record:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Resort?</td>
<td>0012</td>
<td>20/08/2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alternate Names:</td>
<td>LGA: Shire of Christmas Island/ National Park/Private:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nearest Town/Habitation:</td>
<td>Address/Location/Category/GPS: Source of isolation data - relevant to species (s)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Settlement</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distance from:</td>
<td>S 10° 37' 61.4&quot; E 105° 42' 35.7&quot;</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Contact Details of Landowner (if not SOC):**

**Photo/Video:**

**Digital Numbers:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>105</th>
<th>106</th>
<th>107</th>
<th>108</th>
<th>109</th>
<th>110</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Well</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>Poor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Room</td>
<td>Bat</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Time of Day:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>09.30</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Weather:**

1. Cloudy, wind from northwest
2. Good

**Visibility:**

1. Good

**Topography/vegetation:**

1. Cliff top, steep - very steep
2. Grass, scrub

**Description of Site:**

The site looks promising; it could probably hold 2-3 octos - all could be firm-to-adhesive. Site is heavily overgrown with young coconut palms because the coconuts have been chopped here from resort gardens. The site is used as a garden tip.
Figure 3.5: An example of a field recording form which complemented my field notes of Waterfall 1.
Before the Battle of Peleliu defensive positions had usually been focussed on the beachhead and suicidal *banzia* charges (Price and Knecht 2012:8). The battle plan changed in Peleliu, and the new strategy consisted of locating primary defensive positions along the high ridges (Price and Knecht 2012:8). The Japanese were going to engage in prolonged defence rather than surrender. The Japanese fortified their positions by turning

... *the ridge into a single extended fortress, honeycombed with caves — some natural, some augmented, some wholly artificial — linked by intricate networks of tunnels. Between them were gun emplacements and foxholes, while individual sniper positions were dug into the cliff tops, accessible only through a steep climb from which there was no retreat. Most of the caves were left bare hewn, while some were reinforced with concrete and turned into major bunkers* (Price and Knecht 2012:8).
Table 3.3: Sites I physically located and sighted related to the Japanese occupation sites of Christmas Island between 1942 and 1945.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site Reference</th>
<th>My name for the site</th>
<th>Nearest Road</th>
<th>Date Located</th>
<th>UTM with GRS80 ellipsoid</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CIJO 005</td>
<td>Boat Ramp</td>
<td>Jalan Pantai</td>
<td>23 June 2018</td>
<td>E: 573187.530, N: 8846943.090</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIJO 003</td>
<td>Drumsite 1</td>
<td>Murray Road</td>
<td>22 June 2018</td>
<td>E: 573733.071, N: 8846938.451</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIJO 004</td>
<td>Drumsite 2</td>
<td>Murray Road</td>
<td>22 June 2018</td>
<td>E: 573448.303, N: 8846769.513</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIJO 019</td>
<td>Drumsite 5</td>
<td>Sung Miaw Low</td>
<td>29 June 2018</td>
<td>E: 573740.556, N: 8846943.958</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIJO 014</td>
<td>Jap House</td>
<td>9 Lam Lok Loh</td>
<td>26 June 2018</td>
<td>Not taken</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIJO 007</td>
<td>Rocky Point 1</td>
<td>Gaze Road</td>
<td>23 June 2018</td>
<td>E: 573951.949, N: 8848550.528</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIJO 008</td>
<td>Rocky Point 2</td>
<td>Gaze Road</td>
<td>23 June 2018</td>
<td>E: 574164.125, N: 8848808.081</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIJO 017</td>
<td>Rocky Point 3</td>
<td>Gaze Road</td>
<td>28 June 2018</td>
<td>E: 573666.971, N: 8849231.164</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIJO 015</td>
<td>Rocky Point 4</td>
<td>Rocky Point Crescent</td>
<td>28 June 2018</td>
<td>Not taken</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIJO 016</td>
<td>Runaway Cave</td>
<td>Golf Course Road</td>
<td>28 June 2018</td>
<td>E: 572874.275, N: 8847060.061</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIJO 002</td>
<td>Shintō Temple/Shrine</td>
<td>Club Road</td>
<td>21 June 2018</td>
<td>E: 572690.164, N: 8847126.792</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIJO 001</td>
<td>Smith Point 1</td>
<td>Jalan Pantai</td>
<td>21 June 2018</td>
<td>E: 572624.448, N: 8847106.658</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIJO 010</td>
<td>Smith Point 3</td>
<td>Jalan Pantai</td>
<td>27 June 2018</td>
<td>E: 572878.156, N: 8848906.637</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CIJO 011</td>
<td>Waterfall 1</td>
<td>Waterfall Bay</td>
<td>26 June 2018</td>
<td>E: 467823.337, N: 8843686.789</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
If indeed this practice was applied to the Indian Ocean islands, there is every probability that there are more sites to be found on the contour ridges and cliffs behind Jap House, locals also think this is likely (Cindy Eng 2018 Pers. Comm., 29 June).

The location of the sites Drumsite 4 and 5 relied on Mr Tremayne providing instructions via WhatsApp (Chris Tremayne 2018 Pers. Comm., 29 June). Mr Tremayne is no longer a resident of Christmas Island, which is another limiting factor, as it is apparent he is very knowledgeable about the location of other sites which are not referred to in published documents or reports, and I have not been able to find other sources in archives, newspapers or geographical data sources that relate to Drumsite 4 and Drumsite 5 other than on Hunts’(2011:195) sketch map. It was frustrating for both of us as the sites are on vacant Crown Land and usually in the jungle so directional instructions were difficult, but through perseverance and Mr Tremayne’s encouragement I was able to locate Hunt’s air-raid shelter (Hunt 2011:195), which I am inclined to think is more of a soldier hideout. This is because I believe that people would have placed the air raid shelters in their gardens or very near their homes. This structure is a substantial distance from any domestic homes and unless the warning siren gave at least 30 minutes warning it is unlikely you would have reached the shelter in time to be safe from aerial bombardment. The defensive strategies used on Peleliu as described by Price and Knecht (2012:8) support my hypothesis. I have termed this site Drumsite 4.

All the Drumsite sites required clearance of secondary jungle growth, and I did this using a machete supplied by Mr Lines. As with all rainforest environments the ground is relatively clean; this is especially so on Christmas Island because the Island’s
endemic red crab population as omnivore scavengers clears the ground (Department of Environment and Energy 2018). Unfortunately, the sites were usually heavily covered with jungle creepers and young saplings, but once cleared, revealed their remains.

Drumsite 1 and Drumsite 4 are the biggest sites of a military nature found in the locality of Drumsite, and the use of concrete possibly reflects that the sites had transitioned from hastily built fortifications to deliberate fortifications (Chief of Engineers 1940: 25). The concrete buttresses attached to Drumsite 1 are probably indicative that this site was the main junction from which soldiers dispersed to undertake duties at Drumsite 2 and 3 (and any other unlocated sites which I believe lie along that contour ridge).

**Jap House**

The owner of Jap House had returned to the Island the morning of 29 June and I spent an hour with her in the evening as she recounted the building renovations that she had undertaken. She was unable to locate any of the World War II sites that are associated with her home (Eng 2018 Pers. Comm., 29 June), however, she admits she has not explored the area behind her home which lies on the contour ridge with Drumsite 4 and where I believe there are more sites to be found. Hunt undertook an excavation in the garden of Jap House and sent me the following summary of his findings

> It was in the garden there that I led a team of Island youngsters in early 1976 excavating one of the bomb shelters (I am pretty sure that there were others). I did not keep a field journal, just loose notes and sketches. I recorded that the air raid shelter was 16 ft 5 ins long (5 metres) and 6 ft 9 ins (2.08 metres) high with steel walls and ceiling and a concrete floor. It was reached by about ten concrete steps and at the far end was 9-inch-wide (24 cm) air vent (John Hunt 2018 Pers. Comm., 19 July).
Ms Eng has not been able to locate the air-raid shelter; it is lost (Cindy Eng 2018 Pers. Comm., 29 June).

**Rocky Point**

Mr Lines took me to the Rocky Point 1 and 2 sites. Considerable time was spent on the four Rocky Point sites. Rocky Point 4 required permission from the Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities (Commonwealth). I needed access to the Administrators’ residence at 4 Rocky Point Crescent so that I could record the graffiti under the floor boards. I took photos of all the graffiti and the best example is Figure 3.7.

Students of the University of Western Australia had been on the Island in 2016 and had also taken photographs of the graffiti, which at that time were sent to the School of Asian Studies for translation. This proved difficult, but the writing seems to include a person’s name and a navy unit (Romit Dasgupta 2016 Pers. Comm., 2 August). Dasgupta (2016) suggested that translations might be obtained direct from Japan as the translators there are better able to understand the script that was used at that time.

*In relation to your query, my feeling is that for a matter like this (connected to research/work matters) it is probably best you consult with a professional translator – handwriting, letters, etc. (which seems to be the case here) can often be hard to decipher and translate accurately unless you have been professionally trained to do so. This is especially so for materials from the World War Two and pre-war period, which can often be difficult to decipher for people familiar with contemporary Japanese (the language was modified and changed somewhat after WW2 during the US Occupation years* (Romit Dasgupta 2016 Pers. Comm., 2 August).
I have called this site Rocky Point 4 which also includes the graffiti found in the servants’ quarters located in a holiday villa called Sea Spray Villa at 8 Rocky Point Crescent. This graffiti was photographed by Mr Tremayne\(^3\) prior to renovations to Sea Spray Villa (Appendix 1 Photograph 7a-f), and while much of it has been covered by tiles a small part has been left visible. The current owner has renovated this room and it is now a shower room and the scripts are under tiling. The new owners were persuaded to retain a few characters, but it is unlikely that they will survive the moisture of a shower environment.

![Figure 3.7: Graffiti found under the Administrators’ House on Christmas Island at Rocky Point.](image)

The other three Rocky Point sites were photographed, and basic measurements were made. All four sites are within walking distance of one another and not more than 250m apart. The elevated aspect of the site at Rocky Point 3 is completely overgrown by the

\(^3\) Mr Tremayne is responsible for finding the graffiti in both locations and ensured that the graffiti under the administrator’s home was not lost during recent renovations (Chris Tremayne 2018 Pers. Comm., 16 September). He has very generously shared the photographs of them with me.
introduced noxious plant dragon fruit plant. Distressingly, if I had not seen the remains of the foot ladder on the plinth at Rocky Point 1 and assessed that it led (possibly) to a lookout on the cliff face above, this site, too, would be lost forever. Having decided that that interpretation was feasible; I set about questioning Islanders and, finally, Jon Kerr confirmed my conclusion (Jon Kerr 2018 Pers. Comm., 22 June). Mr Kerr grew up on Christmas Island and is now the maintenance manager and security officer of the Port of Christmas Island. As a young child he would climb up the cliff face to the lookout and play on the site. He described his climbing route to me and stated quite categorically that he would not attempt that climb today (Jon Kerr 2018 Pers. Comm., 22 June)! I subsequently used his climbing route to confirm my theory.

I am doubtful that the Rocky Point 2 site is a structure built for military purposes and am more inclined to believe it was built by the Christmas Island Phosphate Company as a store for explosives for mining purposes. If this is the case, then it was built under British supervision and not under the supervision of Captain Williams. However, Hunt maintains

... an ammunition-storage cave was hollowed out of an inland shore-terrace limestone cliff (2011:193).

Therefore, he believes that it is of Japanese construction. My doubts arise from the fact that it is located near the Island’s mine manager house (which today is now the residence of the Island’s Administrator) and the Incline, the latter constructed by the mine in 1911 (Hunt 2011:82). The Incline is a massive concrete embankment which up until the 1960s was the only way up the hill to Drumsite and into the interior of the Island (Hunt 2011:107; Neale 1985:49; Chris Su 2018 Pers. Comm., 13 October). The Incline runs from Drumsite down to Rocky Point in the Settlement. It was used to lower
phosphate hoppers by cable down to the foot of the Incline which then connected to the rail tracks on Gaze Road and onwards to the loading wharf at Flying Fish Cove (Hunt 2011:82; Chris Su 2018 Pers. Comm., 13 October). Mr Tremayne directed me to the text *Shays, Crabs and Phosphate: A History of the Railways of Christmas Island, Indian Ocean* by David Jehan (2008) where I would find a well-researched history about the structure (Tremayne 2018 Pers. Comm., 12 October). The text is out of print and is available from the National Archives. The Incline was closed in the 1960s as soon as Murray Road was built (Chris Su 2018 Pers. Comm., 13 October).

Therefore, I think the manager would have felt he had more control over the explosives as they were near his home, more so if he kept the keys which is standard safety practice (Ulio 1942:112). It is an important aspect of the Island’s heritage and if I am correct, it belongs to the Island’s strong industrial and mining heritage. Naturally, an archaeological excavation might answer this conundrum. Even if it was built for industrial purposes before the war, this does not mean that it was not used by the Japanese during the war.

Mr Prout and I spent a substantial part of the morning at the Rocky Point 2 site as we interpreted the large fallen down 30cm diameter pipe with vents to be integral to the ventilation system installed to keep temperatures even within the cave and extract toxic fumes (Ammunition Branch, Ordnance College 1915:6; Ulio 1942:112). These features are necessary to maintain stability of explosives (Godden Mackay Logan 2007: 21; Ulio 1942:112) The measurements of the blast walls demonstrated that they were indeed an effective barricade and appear to confirm to technical advice of the era

… at least 4 feet from the magazine, at least 3 feet thick at the top, at least high enough so that a straight line extended from the top of the side wall of
the magazine to the top the barricade and will pass any part of the building to be protected and at least 12 feet from any public highway or public railway (Ulio 1942:113).

The ammunition store is indeed that distance from the public road.

**Runaway Cave**

Mr Lines knew of Runaway Cave, but he had never been there, and he was insistent that I visit the site. I admit reluctance on my part (because I am a rock climber not a caver) but subsequently because many Islanders whom I met would often refer to the cave in conversations in relation to the occupation, I went to explore it. It is a difficult location to find as it is not sign-posted and is some way off into the jungle on the southwest side of Golf Course Road. I received the following directions “Oh it’s opposite the Grotto”; the Grotto is well sign posted and is situated on the north east side of Golf Course Road. Runaway Cave is in fact on the south west side of Golf Course Road and over 500m away. This is a fissure cave, meaning there are ‘vertical fissures parallel to a cliff face and formed by mass movement (Grimes 2001:48, 51)’.

I spent half a morning at Runaway Cave which was used by locals to hide from the Japanese (Renata de Jonge 2018 Pers. Comm., 28 June; John Hunt 2018 Pers. Comm., 19 July; Oliver Lines 2018 Pers. Comm., 27 June). The cave would, indeed, make a good place to hide from the Japanese. It is not a typical cave and one of its entrances is located over a difficult scramble up an ascending and descending passage of about 20m of large and very sharp boulders. Conveniently it has several exits (Figure 3.8).
Figure 3.8: Runaway Cave with several entrances and exits.


### Shintō Temple Remains

I located the Shintō Temple remains which Godden Mackay Logan (1998b:14) refer to as ‘cut stone steps’ and they classify the remains as ‘exceptional’. Part of the site is integrated into the gardens of the Christian Church and the final steps are located behind the deserted tennis courts of the abandoned Christmas Island Club. The temple is documented by Hackett (1945: 3) and van der Gaast (1945: Appendix B, 3) who facilitated the Islanders’ request that it be burnt down.

The two sets of steps are easy to find because of where they are situated. Their conformity and layout reflect the correct configuration for a Shintō Temple (Manabu
2016). The third set was pointed out to me on my penultimate day, late in the evening and are located 50m away traversing in a westerly direction from the first two sets. Distressingly if the third set of steps had not been pointed out to me, I believe they would now be lost forever. They are completely overgrown by the introduced obnoxious coral vine weed and secondary jungle re-growth. They are not visible at all. I believe that the burnt remains of the Shintō Temple are in this locality and it would be exciting to prove this through an excavation.

**Smith Point 1, 2 and 3**

The archaeological remains at the Smith Point Barracks are perplexing. This is because it seems that Captain Williams built them with the garrison of soldiers who arrived with him late 1940 or early 1941 and were stationed there (Godden Mackay Logan 1998b; Neal 1985: 58). It became known as ‘The Fort’ (Neal 1985: 58). The actual 1904 150mm gun at the Gun Emplacement is on public display and every other decade undergoes a renovation, which consists of a severe sandblast and new coat of paint (Swinden 2002). Eventually all the engravings and information related to firing instructions will be removed through this process.

The uncertainty regarding the Smith Point Barracks arises because it is not clear if the Japanese used these facilities. Almost all of the oral accounts refer to the Japanese taking over the civilian housing (Hunt 2011:191; Neal 1985: 78), however, I did spend three days examining the site and found many remnants of man-made structures. Benjamin Smith (2018 Pers. Comm. June 22) had been shown extensive remains on the north side of Jalan Pantai past Tai Jin House when he was on Christmas Island in 2016. He had been shown them by Mr Tremayne who is aware of their location. I was unable
to locate these remains on this occasion because Mr Tremayne had not recorded any GPS coordinates.

On the south side of Jalan Pantai, past the accommodation quarters built for the European NCOs and before the modern sewage plant, there is a lot of evidence of human activities. This is where the temporary quarters were situated as described by Baker (Neale 1985:58). The barracks are described by Godden Mackay Logan (1998b) when they undertook a heritage assessment. The consultants regarded the site as exceptional in terms of historical, aesthetic and rarity values and that the site has archaeological potential because

*The Fort is symbolic of the Island’s position at the beginning of WWII and the effectiveness of the British defence of its South East Asia territories. It has aesthetic qualities arising from its military character and its picturesque location. The area has potential to provide archaeological evidence relating to the number, arrangement and equipment of its garrison and information which may also be related to the Japanese occupation of the site* (Godden Mackay Logan 1998b).

The report goes on to describe building footings and ‘well defined drainage systems running to the cliff edge’ past the building erected for the British officers (Godden Mackay Logan1998b). I observed some building footings and some of the drainage systems which I have described in the Appendix under Smith Point 2. The Fort and its surrounds need to be revisited and a proper systematic survey performed. The site has never been properly excavated and it should be done soon. The National Trust of Western Australia undertook a review of this locality and in its final report
recommended that a proper management plan be put in place for this area (Pickering 2016:43).

Colonel (Ret’d) Robert Mitchell from the Army Museum of Western Australia assisted the National Trust in 2013, and described revetments he saw in the locality of Observation Tower, on the hillside above the Gun Emplacement (Robert Mitchell 2018 Pers. Comm., 30 May). I visited the Observation Tower on my first day on the Island, with the intention of returning during my stay. Unfortunately, I ran out of time and frustratingly for a few days the approach to the site had been closed due to roadworks. Conducting a systematic survey of the entire area (see Figure 4.2) would assist in deciding where to conduct excavations and locate additional remains that enrich the World War II narrative of the Smith Point Barracks.

**Waterfall 1**

Mr Lines assisted in locating Waterfall 1 through Mr Gary Foo, who recalled playing there as a child. Mr Foo spent the morning with me and helped me find the site and devoted some time reminiscing about the picnics his mother would organise so that he and his friends would spend the day there. Mr Foo recollects at least two more sites in the vicinity of Waterfall 1. This makes sense because Waterfall was the second harbour for Christmas Island. For three months of the year berthing in Flying Fish Cove was impossible, therefore the anchorage at Waterfall Bay was used (Gary Foo 2018 Pers. Comm., 26 June). The anchor points are still visible (Figure 3.9). This second harbour is no longer in use (Figure 3.10).

In line with military practice (Chief of Engineers: 1940:6; Price and Knecht 2012:8) the Japanese would have wanted to defend this location. The Japanese would have taken advantage of the terrain, in particular the elevated positions in the horse-shoe shaped
bay (Chief of Engineers: 1940: 6; Price and Knecht 2012: 8). It is unlikely that they would have relied on a single lookout post to defend the second harbour (Chief of Engineers: 1940:5; Price and Knecht 2012: 8), however, I was unable to locate other defensive sites. It is possible that remnants of them still exist on the southern and western sides of the bay and further survey to locate them may verify Mr Foo’s recollections. The Waterfall 1 site is intriguing because it uses much more concrete than those found at the Drumsite sites. Additionally, the concrete has a much smoother finish as opposed to the five Drumsite sites, which have a very coarse finish. I found it noticeable.

Figure 3.9: One of the remaining anchor points at Waterfall Bay. Almost, immediately above the anchor points are the remains of Waterfall 1.
Overview

In total I was able to locate and to document nineteen World War II sites on Christmas Island thanks to the assistance of many locals. I list these in Table 3.3 and provide their locations. Full descriptions are given in Appendix 1. My survey was not comprehensive; there are sites on the Hunt (2011) list that I did not visit due to time constraints or the lack of permissions for access. One of these was a site (or sites) located in the abandoned village of South Point, as visiting this area required permission from Parks Australia. At the time of my visit the road to the nearest embarkation point was unusable and the hiking track required clearing. Parks personnel have also located another site which consists of a midden with Japanese beer and sake bottles in the vicinity of the Dales, see Figure 3.11.
It is clear that during the 10 days I spent on Christmas Island the physical traces of the occupation are still visible but disappearing rapidly, as are the memories because it is over 70 years since the last soldier left to return to Japan.

In the following chapter I discuss the archaeological research potential and recommendations for education and tourism.

Figure 3.11: A Midden in the Vicinity of The Dales
Image Source: Craig Brockway.
4. Recommendations

The Management Context

This chapter discusses my recommendations for the management, conservation and development of the Island’s World War II sites for education and tourism purposes. In Chapter Three and Appendix 1 I have described the physical traces from World War II Japanese sites that I recorded during my fieldwork on Christmas Island. Some remains are worth restoring or preserving and others so small that they need to be recorded quickly before they are lost forever. Currently most sites are deteriorating rapidly due to the moist tropical climate, fossicking and a lack of any management interventions to arrest these processes (Christiansen 2002:62; Matero 2003:60; Price and Knecht 2012:16).

The current dilapidated state of the Christmas Island World War II sites will be hard to address. The cost of heritage maintenance and upkeep on the Island is exceptionally high because of the costs of moving materials to the Island, the need for special materials suited to heat, humidity and sea salt, as well as the high cost of travel to the Island (Sturis et al. 2016:18). For example, the last refurbishment of the Gun Emplacement relied on the voluntary input of the crew of *HMAS Kanimbla* (Swinden 2002), as the cost of hiring and transporting professional restoration/refurbishment experts was prohibitive. The Gun Emplacement has undergone two refurbishments, one in 1984 and the second in 2002 (Swinden 2002).

Exacerbating this is the fact that no one on the Island is formally charged with managing heritage. In terms of legislation, heritage management is the responsibility of the government of the Commonwealth of Australia, but their representative on the
Island, the Administrator, has repeatedly failed to take any actions to conserve the Island’s cultural heritage. As Stephen Elliott, Manager, Indian Ocean Territories Administration, said to me, “I have to choose carefully where to direct the funds, for instance I am currently bound to direct public money to a portable mammography machine rather than to the maintenance of heritage sites” (Stephen Elliott 2018 Pers. Comm., 26 June). The local Shire Council realises the great value of the Island’s cultural heritage and works as best it can to protect it, but the Shire does not have the budget to embark on major conservation programmes. Their value is reflected in this project because they provided so much personal assistance so that I could undertake my thesis.

With limited funding available, it is important to be realistic in any recommendations concerning the World War II heritage of the Island and to prioritise actions clearly so that they can be conducted sequentially. The National Trust of Western Australia performed a SWOT analysis in consultation with the Christmas Islander people in 2016 (Sturis et al. 2016:18). The result was the identification of substantial strengths in cultural heritage that could help to diversify the local economy:

*The industrial and mining infrastructure from the old rail line to the port; network of places of worship; the distinctive character of each precinct; hierarchical housing; defence heritage remnants including the 6-inch guns and bunkers; and Chinese, Islamic and European cemeteries* (Sturis et al. 2016:18).

The report recommended that a strategy be put in place for the management of the heritage assets on Christmas Island, including the ‘structures associated with the Japanese and other defence heritage’ (Sturis et al. 2016:26). The report also
recommended that Christmas Island develop and implement general archaeological guidelines, complete an archaeological zoning plan to assist with the archaeological management of the Island (Sturis et al. 2016:28). These recommendations are not entirely new; Forrest (1988) and Godden Mackay Logan (1998a) made similar recommendations decades ago.

This is the first project and report to focus specifically on the World War II heritage of the Island and my recommendations are therefore inherently new. I aim to propose a series of smaller actions that are practical to implement and that can be largely achieved within existing budgets.

There can be no doubt that the World War II remains are of tourist interest, there is a large regional economy in World War II tourism (Christiansen 2002:63; Dunkley et al. 2012:861; Grimwade and Ginn 2002:90; Tourism NT 2015) and so development of these sites has the potential to generate income and help promote Christmas Island as an interesting and attractive place to visit (Burtenshaw 2017:38; Christiansen 2002: 63; Grimwade and Ginn 2002: 90; Tourism NT 2015). The question is how best to achieve this.

As well as the above surface remains that I have described, there may be significant remains buried on the Island. These could be recovered by targeted archaeological excavations. Excavation is an inherently destructive and irreversible process (Burke and Smith 2004:117; Matero 2002: 56; Walker and Carr 2013: 243); so, it needs to be done well and by qualified archaeologists, but it can contribute substantial information about life on the Island during the war. It will likely reveal many aspects of the war experience that were not recorded in the oral or written histories. Excavation would also contribute to preparations for preservation and potential restoration or rebuilding of
sites. All the sites are in a bad state, but they still have a story to tell which an excavation would reveal and therein lies their archaeological potential.

These stories will complement the National Trust of Western Australia’s *Interpretation Strategy for Christmas Island* (Pickering 2016:33) which recommended that Christmas Island develop tourism through a ‘Way Finding and Nodes’ process. It is envisaged that tourist nodes will be identified according to significant heritage themes and then incorporated into self-walk trails and guides where the remarkable places and paths are integrated into the trail. The trails are proposed to have well-developed, informative signage. The report strongly recommends that the signage be to the same standard and type as provided by Parks Australia, Christmas Island; drawing on the organisation’s expertise in this matter which would provide uniformity and continue the cultural style, including the trilingual approach currently used (Pickering 2016:33).

The node called the *Ceremonial Node* deals with the Island’s defence heritage which includes the Japanese invasion and occupation (Pickering 2016:43).

**Tourism Recommendations**

The National Trust suggests that the *Ceremonial Node* uses Tai Jin House as its focal point and incorporates the Smith Point Barracks and the Gun Emplacement. They then suggest a series of nodes along the main foreshore road (Gaze Road). The nodes are only a few hundred metres apart and they could form a pleasant walking trail. The full length of the Gaze Road Trail is about 3km. Figure 4.1 shows the National Trust’s Gaze Road walking trail which could begin at the *Ceremonial Node* and encompasses other

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4 The National Trust (2016) calls the area Point Smith all other references cited in this thesis refer to the area as Smith Point.
nodes which the Trust (Pickering 2016:42) has identified that reflect Christmas Island’s unique heritage.

There is long gap between the Chinese Literary Association node and the Cemeteries node and this could usefully be filled by the Rocky Point World War II sites located at Rocky Point and is halfway between the two above mentioned nodes. The Rocky Point sites are in poor condition and currently unsafe for visitors, but they are spectacular and could be of great tourist interest if restored and maintained. I, therefore, recommend that these sites are given special attention. Proper signage should be made and installed. This extra node would need to be named; I propose the name *Japanese Occupation Node*. This new attraction would greatly enhance the experience of the Gaze Road Trail. I have marked its location in yellow on Figure 4.1.

I would also suggest adding the remains of the Shintō Temple which would be adjacent to the European Cemeteries node. The location is also marked in yellow in Figure 4.1. I have discussed in detail the background to the Shintō Temple remains and its connection to the war previously (Chapter 2, Chapter 3 and Appendix 1) and set out my recommendations below. The site has a story which is relevant to the occupation. This was a building built by the occupiers in which the Islanders were forced to worship (Hackett 1945: 3; Hunt 2011:193; Neale 1988:71; van der Gaast 1945: Appendix B, 45). Hackett appeared reluctant to destroy it

*We were all a little sorry to have to destroy it. None of the population turned out to watch its destruction and we afterwards learned that they were disturbed in case there should after all be some truth in Shintoism* (Hackett 1945: 3; Neale 1988:71).
The idea of creating nodes in which cultural heritage is presented will be transformative for the Island. Most visitors to Christmas Island come for the nature-based experience and are unaware of its rich cultural heritage (Sturis et al. 2016:13). This rich heritage also has great educational value. It is relevant to many aspects of the Western Australian Curriculum (the curriculum used by the Christmas Island District High School), and the local school can use the newly presented heritage sites as a experiential learning tool. In the Humanities and Social Sciences stream in Year One, the unit theme of Past and Present Life is continued through to Year 12 with the learning unit *The Modern World Since 1945* (Schools Curriculum and Standards Authority 2014b.). The school on Christmas Island would have an opportunity to provide excursions using these nodes to begin project-based learning, or on completion of a unit of learning such as the Year 10 History topic of Investigating *World War Two* and the in-depth study of the *Treaty of*
Versailles and its repercussions on Japanese expansionism (Schools Curriculum and Standards Authority 2014a).

Tai Jin House is also used as a turning point or midway point for an existing scenic walking trail called the Territory Day Park Nature Trail (Figure 4.2) which begins at Territory Day Park in the locality of Drumsite (Christmas Island Tourism Association 2017; Parks Australia 2018; Tiernay and Tiernay 2007:60). Continuing with the process recommended by the National Trust of making connections though nodes (Pickering 2016:33), I recommend that this walk is redeveloped and expanded with an additional focus on the heritage found in the Drumsite locality. This could include the Japanese occupation sites which I have called Drumsite 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 and Jap House.

The Territory Day Park Nature Trail is currently managed by Parks and the Shire of Christmas Island and its focus is on the Island’s flora - it is a nature trail (Figure 4.2) (Christmas Island Tourism Association 2017; Parks Australia 2018; Tiernay & Tiernay 2007:61). It is recommended that first time visitors to the Island begin their exploration here so that they will be more appreciative of what the rest of Island has to offer (Tiernay & Tiernay 2007:61). It is sound advice, the park has a lookout point with a telescope, barbeque facilities, a children’s playground and good vehicle parking with well-maintained boardwalks (Tiernay & Tiernay 2007:61). The walk is steep and descends down to Tai Jin House and the Smith Point Barracks, the return walk is two kilometres long (Parks Australia 2018). However, the walk could be extended eastwards going towards the Drumsite Township. This would be a relatively flat trail which would connect it to Drumsite 2 and then traverse onwards to Drumsite 1 and 3 with signage explaining their significance. Now the walk has encompassed both nature and heritage and its starting point in the Territory Day Park becomes its midway point.
Management Recommendations for the Christmas Island WWII Sites

I agree with Godden, Mackay, Logan (1998a) and Sturis et al. (2016) that the relevant agencies on the Island need to develop an up-to-date management plan for the Japanese World War II occupation sites on Christmas Island which would include identification of all the sites. More specifically I set out below a possible approach to some of the sites. I have made specific recommendations for each site in the Appendix 1.

The allocation of funding for the appointment of a Heritage Officer to forward the development of the management plan in conjunction with the Shire of Christmas Island, Indian Ocean Territories Administration and other Community organisations is really essential to kick start the process. The National Trust has recommended this too (Sturis et al. 2016:26).
**Boat Ramp**

This site is extant and could form part of the Gaze Road Trail by being acknowledged, and appropriate signage put in place recognising that it was initially constructed during the Japanese occupation.

**Drumsite Site 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5**

*Jon [Stanhope] scrambles down the rock face and hacks away a tangle of brush with his machete. ‘Just so you know, we’re trespassing right now,’ he says matter-of-factly. We skid down the slope, which is littered with fallen trees and jungle debris from the January 2014 cyclone. At the edge of the cliff, Jon pulls back the creepers to reveal a Japanese observation point and bunker hidden in the undergrowth behind the phosphate mine’s conveyor belt* (Stubbs 2015:117).

Jon Stanhope continued to express his frustration to Stubbs (2015:119) at the lack of knowledge and ownership of this heritage on the Island. He showed Stubbs (2015:120-121) Drumsite 1, Drumsite 4 and Drumsite 5 (Figure 4.3). In my survey of Christmas Island, seeking to identify sites of Japanese occupation during World War II, I identified Drumsite 2 and Drumsite 3 and believe that there may be more sites in the vicinity of Drumsite 3, traversing eastwards along the contour ridge below the conveyor belt ridge.

It is noticeable that the construction of these sites is markedly different to those found at Smith Point and Rocky Point. This is often a discussion point (Stubbs 2015:121) and it is interesting to compare and contrast the construction methodology and materials used by the British and the Japanese. The Drumsite sites use rolled steel joists, steel plates and railway sleepers and integrated the structures into the landscape using the cliff faces or rock shelters whereas are the Smith Point and Rocky Point sites have a more formal
approach to their construction with proper concrete footings, built walls, roofs with doors and windows.

Figure 4.3: Jon Stanhope pictured in World War II Japanese structural remains, September 2014

It is my assessment that all Drumsite sites would benefit from archaeological excavations and this is included in Table 4.1. The excavations would clear away the detritus and prepare the sites for preservation. The Burra Charter defines preservation as ‘... maintaining a place in its existing state and retarding deterioration’ (Australia ICOMOS 2013:2).

Access to these sites is problematic because they lie below the Christmas Island Phosphates mine conveyor belt ledge. They are technically on vacant Crown Land, and access to them must be granted by the mine, after health and safety protocols have been followed. This is tricky as it restricts access to the sites which have a “wow” factor. However, a boardwalk, similar to those which Parks have in place at the Dales and at
the Territory Day Park Nature Trail (Parks Australia 2018), could be installed and so connecting Drumsites 1, 2 and 3. The walk would commence at Drumsite 2 which is close to the Christmas Island Radio station. There is sufficient space here to install a small car park. The boardwalk would be below the ledge and therefore be on vacant Crown Land. I have discussed this proposal earlier in this chapter. The walk could be connected to the Territory Day Park Nature Trail, it then becomes a walk which incorporates both nature and cultural heritage reflecting the strengths identified in the National Trust of Western Australia’s SWOT analysis (Sturis et al.2016:13).

Drumsites 5 is located in the back yard of the Baha’i Community Meeting House. This site should be fully excavated. It is easily accessible, the surrounding back yard is cleared and it is within walking distance of amenities. It is therefore an ideal choice to be the first site excavated. It could be a publicly accessible excavation, open to visitors, perhaps taking on volunteers to help clean, sort and label the finds. This would provide a good archaeological entry point for the Islanders and visitors and build up expectations about what they could expect to learn from future excavations. Permission to excavate would need to be obtained from the Baha’i community. Currently the site is difficult to interpret. Its exact function is uncertain. Excavation might reveal this and provide a more comprehensive narrative on the grouping of the Drumsite sites.

The final site in the Drumsite group is Drumsite 4; located in the jungle behind house No. 24B on Jelan Ketam Merah. This site is on a contour ridge which lies alongside the cliffs behind Jap House. According to the locals there should be several more sites in the vicinity (Cindy Eng 2018 Pers. Comm., 29 June; John Hunt 2018 Pers. Comm., 19 July). This makes sense if this site is regarded as a bomb shelter as suggested by Hunt (2011:195), but I suggest that it is a soldiers’ hideout for defensive purposes (Price and
Knecht 2012:16), as it is located a considerable distance, and nestled in a steep cliff face overlooking Jap House, and would have provided concealment for the soldiers. If it is a bomb shelter, then it appears to be too great a distance from the dwellings, therefore it is likely that there are more of that type of shelter closer to the dwellings. A systematic survey needs to be conducted along this ridge to establish if there are a) more bomb shelters, or b) more soldier hideouts.

On this basis Drumsite 4 is worth excavating and the remains preserved. It would be an important addition to the node for a trail for Drumsite, especially if more sites are found alongside this contour ridge. This is not improbable as there are several sites on the lower ridge by the conveyor belt, and it would be in keeping with military practice to position sites here for defensive purposes (Chief of Engineers 1940: 23; Price and Knecht 2012:16).

**Rocky Point 1, 2, 3 and 4**

I was unable to locate the gun emplacement at Rocky Point (Neale 1988:66), shown in Figure 4.4. Remains may be extant, or it is possible that the structure has undergone a change of use and is now a garden shed or something similar. But I wonder if this could be site that Stanhope showed Stubbs

> Across the road, we pull back a tangle of scrub to reveal a hidden and crumbling Japanese pillbox, right on the corner of their suburban street

(Stubbs 2015:119).

Further survey is needed to locate it. However, there are other substantial remains at Rocky Point which I have suggested be incorporated into a node for the Gaze Road Trail (Figure 4.1). Excavations at the Rocky Point 4 sites are unlikely to reveal much as substantial building renovation has been undertaken at the two properties. Excavations
at Rocky Point 1, 2 and 3 may also be difficult because the structures are built on rock foundations and into the cliff face and there is evidence of fossicking and camping there.

I recommend that these sites be reconstructed. Unfortunately, there are not sufficient materials left in situ to allow for restoration. Conservation strives to protect cultural heritage wherever possible through remedial processes by limiting the causes of deterioration (Matero 2002:56). The role of conservation is to preserve the original fabric of the cultural heritage from loss and depletion (Matero 2002:55).

Figure 4.4: A possible gun emplacement site

Image Source: Neale, M. 1988 *We were the Christmas Islanders: reminiscences and recollections of the people of an isolated island, the Australian Territory of Christmas Island, Indian Ocean*. Chapman ACT: B. Neale.

The Rocky Point sites are too far gone to conserve and therefore reconstruction is ethically acceptable and the only practical way of preparing the sites for tourism. The Burra Charter defines reconstruction as
... returning a place to a known earlier state and is distinguished from restoration by the introduction of new materials (Australia ICOMOS 2013:2).

The Rocky Point sites have an element of “wow” factor; they are located on the peak of a five metre cliff overlooking Flying Fish Cove, with a view to the Naval Gun and the Barracks directly opposite the sites. Restoring them will not be arduous as the materials used originally to construct them are materials commonly used today: concrete; rolled steel joists; steel plating; and wood. There is the potential that interesting finds will be made when the sites are cleared to prepare them for reconstruction and when are they examined to assess how best to restore them. The restoration will need to prepare the sites in a way that ensures they meet the requirements of Australian Health and Safety legislation and regulation for public access. When the sites have reached this point, they will be ready to be included as a node into the Gaze Road Trail (Figure 4.1).

Reconstructing Rocky Point 1 and connecting it to Rocky Point 3 by use of a ladder and raised walkway would be an exciting project and provide Christmas Island with another lookout point. Most of the Island’s lookout points are nature based; this one would be strongly heritage based (Parks Australia 2018).

The restoration of the sites could involve the local community and harness the assistance of the Shire and the Tourism Association. Whilst I was on the Island I met tradesmen who stated that they would be willing to assist with restoring the Island’s heritage in a voluntary capacity, especially the sites at Rocky Point (Douglas Scott 2018 Pers. Comm., 28 June). It would be the task of the Heritage Officer to harvest this good will and maintain it.
The Shintō Temple

The fate of the Shintō Temple is well documented (Hackett 1945: 3; Hunt 2011:193; Neale 1988:71; van der Gaast 1945: Appendix B, 45). However, the site needs further investigation because I located three sets of steps all built in the same precise manner in the field survey, which are likely to have all been part of the temple. The question which needs to be explored is whether the temple was situated at the top of the second set of steps or above the third set. I would like the recently laid concrete between sets 1 and 2 to be removed and that area in particular to be excavated. If this area represents the sandō, the concreting of this pathway is inappropriate (Manabu 2016). See Appendix 1 for further clarification. As the temple was burnt down following World War II an excavation of these areas will reveal its exact location, its positioning and its footprint. Such results would facilitate its identification as a heritage site, and appropriate signage would enable it to be incorporated in the Gaze Road Trail (see Figure 4.1).

Smith Point 1, 2 and 3

The National Trust of Western Australia (2016) suggested that the Smith Point area or the locality south of Tai Jin House, which incorporates the Barracks or the Old Fort (Godden Mackay Logan 1998b; Neale 1988:58) and the Gun Emplacement required more research. My observations in the field survey on Christmas Island in 2018 support this assessment.

Currently the Officers’ Quarters are used as storage facilities and the Battery Building and Wash House are empty. These buildings should be renovated and then utilised as a sort of mini museum to display and exhibit the World War II history. This is because

5 See Appendix 1 for all Site Records.
the buildings are structurally sound, there is parking nearby and currently Tai Jin House is used as a museum. Using them for storage is not a good visual nor is it a good use of their heritage potential.

On both sides of Jalan Pantai going towards the sewage plant a systematic survey should be performed and excavations undertaken. According to Godden Mackay Logan (1998b):

   The area has the potential to provide archaeological evidence relating to the number, arrangement and equipment of its garrison and information which may also relate to the Japanese occupation (Godden Mackay Logan 1998b).

I have shown this area as yellow shading in the map presented in Figure 4.2

The area, so clearly, speaks of the garrison living here because of the remains of paraphernalia associated with ablutions such as water tank bases and containers for harvesting fresh water. Intriguingly there are several sheets of corrugated iron with bullet holes in them (Figure 4.5). Were these used for target practice or is it evidence of some resistance when the Japanese first landed?

Any artefacts that are excavated can be added to the exhibits in the Officers’ Quarters. Additionally, there should be an amnesty established so that artefacts which have been fossicked and currently reside in private collections can be added to the displays (Chris Tremayne 2018 Pers. Comm., 25 August). The Heritage Officer would cultivate positive relationships with the Royal Australian Navy and Border Force so that volunteers might continue to assist with maintenance and upkeep as has happened before (Swinden 2002).
The Smith Point 3 site, or the Guardhouse, is situated next to the second set of traffic lights on Jalan Pantai is currently completely obscured by jungle to all passing traffic whether they are walkers, cyclists or motorists. This is sad and is underutilising a heritage resource which requires minimal maintenance. The site should be cleared and kept clean and then over time gradually rebuilt to resemble a Guardhouse. Purcell describes the approach as follows

… reached by a narrow path that had been blasted through the cliff face (a man with a rifle could have held up an army in such a defile (Purcell 1965:179).

This might have been the case when Purcell was on the Island, but I do not believe this site was of much use in military terms for warfare in World War II, it certainly would have had a function for ceremonial purposes during colonial times. Signage should be installed which explains its background and included in the Gaze Road Trail.
**Waterfall 1**

This is the only site in this locality, as described in Chapter 3, and I have suggested that a systematic survey be undertaken in this area as it is possible that may be other sites nearby. This would also be in accordance with good military practice and the Japanese attitude towards defence (Chief of Engineers 1940: 23; Price and Knecht 2012:16). Waterfall 1 would be another ideal site for extensive excavations. The site should be preserved and then made safe for presentation. The dilemma for this single site is that it is located on land that is managed by the Christmas Island Resort, which has been mothballed since 1998 (Purtill 2014). However, if other sites are found in a systematic survey and prepared for presentation, the group of sites could be used to create a walking trail which would be situated to further enhance the resort complex, should it re-open in the future. There are calls for this to happen in light of the closure of the Detention Centre (Cowrie 2018). Another node, a ‘Waterfall node’, can be created which would incorporate the importance of this area being the second harbour for the Island, an important source of fresh water and the structures put in place to defend it by the Japanese (Hackett 1934:3; Hunt 2011:33).

**Education Recommendations**

**Children**

I have identified strands within the Western Australian Curriculum for the lower primary school level (Table 4.2) which demonstrates that there are themes within the curriculum which can be adapted to provide an enriching and relevant learning experience for the young children of Christmas Island (Schools Curriculum and Standards Authority 2014a.; b.). In the secondary curriculum the Japanese occupation
sites are relevant for Years 10, 11 and 12 History and would provide realistic hands on connectivity which will not be experienced on the mainland.

One of the threats identified by the National Trust (Sturis et al. 2016:21) in the SWOT analysis was the transient population and small numbers in the pool of volunteers on the Island. This pool can be enlarged by engaging the school and students in all aspects of Christmas Island’s heritage. Schools are good at this and can provide networking opportunities, as parents and guardians usually like to involve themselves in particular hands-on projects.

**Visitors and Adults**

Engaging adults in the Island’s heritage can be achieved with those adults whose children attend school especially parents engaged in their children’s educational journey. For other adults and visitors, the National Trust (Sturis et al. 2016:31) identified that the Christmas Island Airport terminal can be developed into a node which delivers the background and orientation to the Island’s natural and cultural heritage. This would enhance the arrival and departures processes; attracting visitors to engage with the heritage after arrival, and to spread the word on the heritage experiences when they depart.
Table 4.1: Recommendations for archaeological investigation and preservation of Japanese World War II occupation sites for future generations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site name</th>
<th>Ground Survey</th>
<th>Excavate</th>
<th>Preservation</th>
<th>Reconstruction</th>
<th>Integrate into a node</th>
<th>Abandon</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Boat Ramp</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drumsite 1</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drumsite 2</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drumsite 3</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drumsite 4</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drumsite 5</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jap House</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rocky Point 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rocky Point 2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rocky Point 3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rocky Point 4</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Runaway Cave</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shinto Temple/ Shrine</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smith Point Barracks</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waterfall 1</td>
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<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Table 4.2: Elements of Western Australian Curriculum which can use the heritage of Christmas Island.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year level</th>
<th>History - Strand</th>
<th>Geography - Strand</th>
<th>Civics and Citizenship-Strand</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Pre -primary | **Personal family histories**  
How the stories of families and the past can be communicated and passed down from generation to generation (e.g. photographs, artefacts, books, oral histories, digital media, museums) and how the stories may differ, depending on who is telling the story. | **People live in places** |  |
| Year One | **Present and past family life** | **Places have distinctive features**  
The activities (e.g. retailing, recreational, farming, manufacturing, medical, policing, educational, religious) that take place in the local community which create its distinctive features. |  |
| Year Two | **The past in the present**  
The history of a significant person, building, site or part of the natural environment in the local community and what it reveals about the past. | **People are connected to many places**  
Local features and places are given names, which have meaning to people. |  |
| Year Three | **Communities and remembrance**  
The role that different cultural groups have | **Places are both similar and different**  
The similarities and differences between | **Communities**  
Why people participate in |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year level</th>
<th>History - Strand</th>
<th>Geography - Strand</th>
<th>Civics and Citizenship-Strand</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>played in the development and character of the local community (e.g. as reflected in architecture, commercial outlets, religious buildings), compared with development in another community.</td>
<td>places in terms of their type of settlement, the diversity of people (e.g. age, birthplace, language, family composition), the lives of the people who live there, and feelings and perceptions about places.</td>
<td>community groups, such as a school or community project, and how students can actively participate and contribute to their local community.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year Four</td>
<td>The curriculum focus is on the European colonisation of Australia – this could extend to how Christmas Island was colonised.</td>
<td><strong>The Earth's environment sustains all life</strong>&lt;br&gt;The importance of environments to animals and people, and different views on how they can be protected.</td>
<td><strong>Government and society</strong>&lt;br&gt;People belong to diverse groups, such as cultural, religious and/or social groups, and this can shape identity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year Five</td>
<td>The curriculum focus is on the Australian colonies this could extend to how Christmas Island was a British colony.</td>
<td><strong>Factors that shape the environmental characteristics of places</strong>&lt;br&gt;Features of environments (e.g. climate, landforms, vegetation) influence human activities and the built features of places</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
On arrival one has to queue for processing by Australian Quarantine officials, this can often take more than an hour. This presents an opportunity to begin the engagement of visitors using visual displays incorporating digital and interactive media.

The Island’s Heritage Officer would work with the Tourism Association and Airport Terminal management to provide advice on upcoming events, such as excavations, restoration work or openings of new sites which would ensure that the information was always up to date. The public like watching excavations and talking to archaeologists about their finds and the significance of sites; opening up a series of archaeological excavations to visitation would greatly help to maintain the profile of heritage sites (Colley 2007:35; Copeland 2004:137; Moshenska 2017:9).

**The Role of Archaeology**

Archaeological excavation is an inherently destructive process. Towards the end of the twentieth century archaeologists became more attuned to their guardianship responsibilities towards site management and protection (Wendrich 2002:186). Adopting this approach will ensure that there is recognition that these rediscovered sites are integral to Christmas Islands’ heritage, and additionally that they contribute to both tourism and economic development on the Island. The sites will provide intrinsic value for education, both on the Island and in the wider Australian Curriculum which could incorporate new archaeological information on the experiences of an Australian Territory during World War II. This would be of special relevance in schools in Western Australia where there are settlers from Christmas Island, such as Katanning in the Great Southern where large numbers of Islanders settled in the 1970s and form an important cultural group within the community (Jane Fyfe 2018 Pers. Comm., 26 September).
Archaeological and heritage sites represent a destination and are becoming increasingly popular with a wide variety of tourists (Copeland 2004:137; Walker and Carr 2013:23). Sites however first need to be investigated and interpreted before they can be presented, and my thesis aimed to consider the archaeological potential of each site to provide new knowledge, and whether they possess educational and/or tourism potential. The sites described all possess potential in both those spheres. In particular, if sites are systematically recorded, further surveys conducted at specific sites, as identified in Table 4.1. As most of the identified Japanese World War II occupation sites stand now, they are neglected and are likely to disappear forever. Resurrecting them and incorporating them into Christmas Island’s rich cultural heritage would be an exciting prospect for the Islanders and visitors and build a rich narrative and insight into the lives of both the Islanders and the occupiers. It is not a difficult task, but it is a challenging one because there is limited funding available for investigation, restoration and preservation.

To pursue such an outcome would be an important facet of the work of the recommended position for a Heritage Officer. This work would include identifying funding and partnership opportunities as well as engaging the local community in the work required to restore, preserve and present the sites.

**The Benefits of a Heritage Centre**

Currently Tai Jin House is a museum run on a voluntary basis. This should continue, and it would be the role of Heritage Officer to manage volunteers and seek ways of expanding the use of this Commonwealth Heritage listed building (Godden Mackay Logan 1998b; Pickering 2016:55). The arrangement at Tai Jin House should be considered a temporary arrangement and the Island should have a bespoke Heritage
Centre. This may consist of adapting and expanding Tai Jin House or utilising a building in the Kampong area or near the Roundabout.

The role of a Heritage Centre is to curate exhibitions, and update guidebooks and brochures. The Heritage Centre would provide education through signage for both natural and cultural heritage and incorporate digital technologies for public engagement. The Haeberlin Consulting Report (Reiser et al. 2014) on Visitor Centres in Western Australia demonstrated that when properly run, financed and branded, centres provide significant positive economic outcomes in the form of increased tourist spending (Reiser et al. 2014:15). Heritage Centres actively engage with the public in providing visitors insights about the region and give out information that is helpful for tourists (Reiser et al. 2014:12; Tourism Research Australia 2011:2). There are three things that visitors expect to receive from such Centres:

1. Knowledgeable, professional staff, skilled in customer service,
2. Unbiased and authoritative information; and

Christmas Island has many stories to share and tell, the Japanese occupation is but one, and they will all make the visitor experience deeply rewarding. The Heritage Officer can, through a series of workshops, provide the historical background for the volunteer staff working at the Centre, who in turn will pass it on to visitors. The school would also be addressing the issue of background information, and very soon the younger generation would be able to assist in the Heritage Centre. It is normal practice for Heritage Centres to rely on voluntary help (Reiser et al. 2014:52), and this should be regarded as a positive outcome as it ticks the box for community engagement. In time
the Islanders will see that their heritage is connected to their vision statement which they produced through community consultation with the National Trust in 2016;

*Support and stimulate community connections to the Island’s exceptional history, cultures and environment* (Sturis et al. 2016:12).

I have performed my task and located Japanese built structures on the Island and linked them to the stories, I now desire, desperately, I believe the community does too, that the Island heritage is properly managed before the prediction outlined in Chapter One by National Trust eventuates

*Continued lack of action in managing heritage on Christmas Island will lead to further deterioration of places, missed opportunities to develop economically and socially and a loss of information related to the history and personal experiences of the Christmas Island community* (Sturis et al. 2016:11).

For most of the world’s destinations, heritage remains a key aspect of what they have to offer to tourists, having a rich cultural heritage gives a destination a competitive advantage (Throsby 2004:4). This is especially true for places included on UNESCO’s World Heritage List (Buckley 2004:83) and the National Trust has recommended that Christmas Island aspire for world heritage listing (Pickering 2016:19). The process can begin by incorporating the Japanese occupation sites onto the heritage assets of Christmas Island and implement a management plan for this cultural capital.
One step at a time: Recommendations

Considering the difficulties that beset Christmas Island, such as access to funding and the tyranny of distance, I propose a four-phase approach to the rehabilitation of the Japanese occupation sites.

**Phase One**
The Shire, Mine and Administration collaborate to secure funding to employ a Heritage Officer on a three-month contract to begin the implementation of Phase One.

- A proper survey is conducted of the Smith Point 2 site and excavation undertaken in locations where qualified and experienced archaeologists deem there is potential for information to be discovered. There are at least 17 universities of the 38 public universities in Australia where archaeology is studied (Colley 2007:35). It is a matter of approaching these institutions and requesting they consider undertaking a field school on the Island. Traditionally Australian Universities conduct field schools in the July break which is a good time to conduct this activity on the Island because it is the dry season. The field school should be directed to locate the sites I was unable to find on the north side of Jalan Pantai and the revetments by the Observation Tower.

- The Christmas Island District High School is approached to undertake the project of converting the Garrison buildings into a mini-museum to tell the war story. This is a topic of study for the Years 10, 11 and 12. These Year groups can be charged with curating the changing exhibitions. Islanders at this point be granted an amnesty to share their fossicked items for display. Both the Shire and the Island Administration will need to make other storage arrangements for the materials that are currently lodged in these buildings.
The Parks personnel assist with renovating the signage and information points for the area as recommended by the National Trust (Pickering 2016:33; Sturis et al. 2016:25).

**Phase Two**
As recommended in Phase One, further funding be allocated towards a Heritage Officer for a (longer) six-month contract, so he/she can facilitate the following:

- The preservation and presentation of Drumsites 1, 2 and 3. This might entail excavations, nevertheless during this phase the Shintō Temple area may be excavated. Both these tasks can be done utilising archaeology undergraduates as recommended in Phase One.

- These sites are prepared for incorporation into the Territory Day Park Trail and the Gaze Road Trail respectively. It is unfortunate that the latter trail has not been implemented, despite the recommendations of the National Trust (Pickering 2016:33).

- The Gaze Road Trail is implemented and opened for use on a significant day such as Territory Day.

- Artefacts from the Drumsite excavations incorporated in the exhibitions at the Garrison. Students from the high school continue with curating the exhibitions which began in Phase One.

- A commitment in principle is sought from the Island’s major stakeholders to commence planning for the Heritage Centre.

- Signage and information displays continue with the collaboration of Parks Australia.
**Phase Three**
Renew the six month-contract of the Heritage Officer so that the following can be achieved:

- The Heritage Officer together with major stakeholders locate and pursue funding sources for the implementation of the Heritage Centre.
- The Rocky Point sites undergo reconstruction and preparation for presentation to be incorporated in the Gaze Road Trail. Reconstructing these sites is a large task but once completed will significantly enhance the Gaze Road Trail.
- The Smith Point 3 site be cleared of jungle growth and be preserved with some rebuilding. This sentry house will provide an entry point for visitors to Tai Jin House and the rest of the barracks and make a strong statement of the military nature of the heritage enclosed within the area.

**Phase Four**
The Shire, Mine and Administration review the role of the Heritage Officer and with the view that such a role become fulltime and therefore employment be offered on a permanent basis.

- The Heritage Centre is made ready for opening.
- The Heritage Officer oversees and organises the completion of the archaeology which is relevant to the following sites.
  - Waterfall 1 preservation and excavation. Conduct an extensive survey to find any other Japanese remains in the locality. Prepare the site for presentation and readiness for when the resort reopens (Cowrie 2018; Wright 2009) and incorporate it into the Waterfall node.
Drumsites 4 and 5. Implement surveys to find other similar sites in the locality and undertake an excavation of Drumsite 5. I had suggested that Drumsite 5 was an ideal first excavation and I still maintain this. However this four phase approach allows this small excavation to be undertaken by the Heritage Officer with Islanders as volunteers once the role has become embedded within the Island’s heritage management plan.

- Locate, record and assess the sites in the North East Point which Hackett mentions (1945:3).
- Locate, record and assess the sites at South Point.
- Excavate the midden in The Dales.
- Begin the same process that I have conducted with this thesis on the mining and industrial heritage of the Island.

**Final Reflection**

This archival and field research has given me a unique opportunity to identify and catalogue sites relating to the Japanese occupation of Christmas Island during World War II; both known sites that have been documented, and those which had been forgotten. Identifying and recording the sites has provided insight into the scope of the Japanese occupation and the impact it had on the Islanders, particularly events such as the post war destruction of the Japanese built Shintō Temple. This is the first stage in fully documenting this important stage in the history of Christmas Island, and it will inform and shape future heritage preservation, restoration and the development of an
economically sustainable heritage tourism industry. As outlined above, to make this a reality further research, systematic survey and appropriate funding will be required, and this is the basis of my set of recommendations building upon those previously put forward by others (e.g. Forrest 1988; Godden Mackay Logan 1998a; Pickering 2016; Sturis et al. 2016).
References


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Mexico, the Isle of Guam, one of the Ladrones, Mindanao and other Philippine
and East India Islands near Cambodia, China, Formose, Leonia, Cleles &c, 
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Developmental Guidelines, Unpublished report prepared for Commonwealth
Department of Transport and Regional Development, Canberra. Christmas Island: Shire Archives


Hackett, P. 1945 The Relief of Christmas Island by H.M.S. Rother, 18th 20th October 1945, Unpublished Report for the Chief of Intelligence Staff, East Indies Fleet. Canberra: National Archives of Australia.


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Appendix 1: Site Records and Preliminary Heritage Assessments
SITE RECORD/PRELIMINARY HERITAGE ASSESSMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site Name: Boat Ramp</th>
<th>Reference Number: CIJO 005</th>
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</tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nearest permanent structure:</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Authority Building, 009</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 Jalan Pantai and Marine Jetty.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<tr>
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<td>Contact details of Landowner (if not Shire of Christmas Island):</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Photo: Digital Numbers: IMG_6075.jpg IMG_6076.jpg</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unless stated otherwise all photographs have been taken by Helena van der Riet.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Time of day 1. 09.45
3. Visibility 3. Clear

Description of Site:

The Boat Ramp is located on the south western side of Flying Fish Cove, which is on the north eastern tip of the Island, and where the waters are calm and easily accessible for small vessels. The overall appearance the boat ramp is similar to those one would find in many areas of Western Australia, and includes a safe approach from Jalan Pantai, with an adjacent parking area for vehicles and boat trailers.

The extant ramp is concrete, and it would require the specialist skills to differentiate which parts are remains of the original ramp built by the Japanese. Discussion with boat users and the Malay and Chinese Islanders provided anecdotal confirmation that the ramp was originally a seaplane ramp built by the Japanese.

The boat ramp is approximately 5m wide, and 30m long. It is partially on land, covering the sanding soil of the beach area and extending into the water, with raised
Kerbing on both sides to provide a safety edge for vehicles and boat trailers. The concrete over the length of the ramp appears to be of different grades/composition with the land-based part of the ramp showing a rougher surface than that which extends into the water.

The local people also indicated that there was a British pill box on the small promontory located about 50m south of the ramp. There is no evidence of this structure as it has been completely demolished and replaced by a viewing platform. However, Hunt (2011:195) includes both these oral histories in his map of 1977.

**Current land use and threats:**

The site has undergone a change of use and therefore is lost completely. It is now well maintained as a recreational boat ramp.

**Site mentioned in the following reports/publications:**


Hackett, P. E. 1945 The Relief of Christmas Island by H.M.S. Rother, 18th 20th October 1945. National Archives of Australia. PAGE: 3

**Sketch and/or other observations:**

No sketch was made.

**History:**

Hunt (2011:195) has drawn the ramp in his map. Hackett describes it briefly in his report where he makes comments about Flying Fish Cove

*It is understood that the Japanese had it constructed in order to beach seaplanes, but it was never used. A passage 150 feet wide has been cleared through the reef to enable small craft to be beached without damage* (Hackett 1945:3)
Heritage Significance

Nature of Significance
☑ Aesthetic ☑ Historic ☑ Scientific ☑ Social

Degree of Significance
☑ Rarity ☑ Representativeness

Condition, Integrity and Authenticity for Significance

Condition:
The site is well maintained as it has undergone a change of use. It is currently used by recreational boaters to launch small vessels. The site is in constant use by amateur fishermen, canoeists and other activities associated with water-related leisure activities.

The Boat Ramp complies with the current health and safety regulations administered in Western Australia because of the Service Delivery Arrangement put in place by the Commonwealth Government,

Integrity:
The site as Japanese seaplane ramp is no longer extant. It has undergone a change of use. There is no visible integrity left, however the foundation of the ramp and areas around it have not been excavated or ground surveyed and may reveal evidence of previous use.

Authenticity:
The site is authentic because of its undisputed origin and is a well-built structure which has allowed it to undergo a change of use ( Hackett 1945:3).

Preliminary Heritage Significance Assessment:
Christmas Island is today the only Australian Territory which was occupied by the Japanese during World War II. It therefore has a special story to tell within Australian World War II history and yet few people are aware of this story.

The boat ramp has historic value as a place associated with an important event and theme in history; the Japanese occupation of an Australian Territory during World War II. Its heritage value is as a structure that was constructed under Japanese supervision on Australian Territory during World War II.

It has a strong relationship with other Japanese occupation on Christmas Island. As it is one of several extant structures which were constructed either by the Japanese occupiers or under their supervision during World War II. This suggests that the structures may have commonality in design, construction and purposing during this significant period in the history of Christmas Island and have ongoing value as a group of heritage sites related to the occupiers, and their impact and influence on the
lifeways of the people of Christmas Island both during the occupation and through time to the present.

**Archaeological Assessment:**
An archaeological assessment is not possible because the site has undergone alterations which have rendered any archaeological remains in accessible, obscured or entirely removed.

**Recommendations:**
The site would benefit from information signage outlining its origins. For example, the signage should acknowledge the boat ramp as a historical site and the information would be of benefit to the Islanders as it acknowledges this as part of their history and preserving the information for generations to come. It would also be of benefit to visitors to Christmas Island and benefit local employment as a component of history tourism.

**MAPS AND PHOTOGRAPHS**

Map 1. Location Map for Boat Ramp. Map Source: Landgate adapted by van der Riet
Photograph 1. View of Boat Ramp looking south.

Photograph 2. View of Boat Ramp from land, looking west to towards the Indian Ocean.
SITE RECORD/PRELIMINARY HERITAGE ASSESSMENT

Site Name:
Drumsite 1

Reference Number:
CIJO 003

Date of Record:
22 June 2018

Name of Recorder:
Helena van der Riet

Alternate Names:

Vacant Crown Land/ Christmas Island Phosphates

Nearest permanent structure:
Christmas Island Phosphates mine:
conveyor belt

Road frontage:
Lot 575 Murray Road, northern end of Drumsite Park.

Location:
handheld GPS (Garmin 63):
007
S 10° 25.815'
E 105° 40.421'
UTM
Zone 48
Easting 573735.071
Northing 8846938.451

Contact details of Landowner (if not SOCI):
Stephen Elliott
Manager | Indian Ocean Territories Administration
Indian Ocean Territories Branch | Local Government and Territories Division
Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities
PO Box 868, Christmas Island WA 6798

Joy Wickenden
Senior Environment Advisor
Mine Operations
PO Box 104, Christmas Island, Indian Ocean 6798

Photo:
Digital Numbers:

| IMG_6052.jpg | IMG_6053.jpg | IMG_6054.jpg | IMG_6055.jpg | IMG_6056.jpg | IMG_6057.jpg | IMG_6058.jpg | IMG_6059.jpg | IMG_6060.jpg | IMG_6061.jpg | IMG_6062.jpg | IMG_6063.jpg | IMG_6064.jpg | IMG_6065.jpg | IMG_6066.jpg | IMG_6067.jpg | IMG_6068.jpg | IMG_6069.jpg |
|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| JB Transfer Shed Drumsite (4).jpg | JB Transfer Shed Drumsite (2).jpg |

Unless stated otherwise all photographs have been taken by Helena van der Riet.

1. Time of day
08.20

2. Weather
Heavy cumulus cloud overhead with a stiff south easterly breeze.

3. Visibility
Good

4. Topography/
Steep slope below a ledge purposely made for the Mine’s conveyor belt. The site has years of spoil and initial building works shovelled on top of it.
Vegetation
Overgrown with jungle creeper and secondary jungle growth, young saplings, strangler fig, dead organic debris. The site has a direct view over Flying Fish Cove, 100m below.

Description of Site:

The Japanese World War II defence structure is below the man-made ledge where the Christmas Island Phosphate Company conveyor belt is located. The site is approximately 23m long and 10m wide. This site was likely to be an observation post armed with light artillery, comprising a bunker which is a composite of rubble and metal struts and sheeting and currently concealed by dense foliage. It is the largest site found on this contour ridge.

The entrance to the bunker is on the south side and is currently 1.5m high. This is likely due to infill by wash and mine spoil. Some corrugated sheeting is placed in front of the entrance in place of a door it is tied in place by copper wire. The west side of the bunker is a coarse rubble structure which widens substantially to a large buttress on the north side overlooking Flying Fish Cove.

The interior of the bunker and the roof are made of interlocking rolled steel joists (RSJs). The walls and roof are buttressed against the course rubble. The interior wall of the bunker is made of steel plates measuring 1.10m x 1.10m.

Exiting the bunker to the west is a solid platform of rubble and concrete. Light artillery may have been placed on this platform which faces Flying Fish Cove.

There appears to be an accommodation area to the east of the bunker, where a levelled area has the remains of heavily rusted corrugated sheeting and remains of roof trusses. 15 sheets are visible, each measuring approximately 83cm x 200 cm. On the westside there is another levelled area. Both areas are overgrown with jungle creepers and secondary forest growth. There are remains of a northerly pathway leading to other smaller site of Drumsite 3.

Current land use and threats:

The site is on vacant Crown Land immediately below the conveyor belt which is owned and operated by the Christmas Island Phosphate Company mine. The ledge is clear of jungle regrowth and mine spoiling which is shovelled over the edge of the ridge, and over time has filled-in and covered parts of the site. The frequent addition of this fresh soil allows jungle creeper to grow, and it will eventually cover the visible remains of the site.
Site mentioned in the following reports/publications:


Neale, M. 1988 *We were the Christmas Islanders: reminiscences and recollections of the people of an isolated island, the Australian Territory of Christmas Island, Indian Ocean*. Chapman, ACT: B. Neale. PAGE:76


Sketch and/or other observations:
Heritage Significance

Nature of Significance
- Aesthetic
- Historic
- Scientific
- Social

Degree of Significance
- Rarity
- Representativeness

Condition, Integrity and Authenticity for Significance

**Condition:**
The site is substantially deteriorated and corroded. This is due to the deterioration of the materials used to build the structure in the wet and humid equatorial conditions. The site has extensive jungle creepers growing over it and strangler figs are in the process of becoming mature specimens. The extent of damage places this site under considerable threat of being lost to the archaeological and historical record. The site is often visited by fossickers which possess a further threat to its integrity.

The site has never been managed and is highly vulnerable to the equatorial climatic conditions and mining practices.
Integrity:
There are sufficient remains of the original structure to be able to restore or rebuild the site.

Preservation of the site using the material used in the original construction will result in the same process of deterioration. The RSJs which are likely to be part of the original construction, are currently intact, and they continue to be integral to the structural integrity of the building. This suggests that their survival in these conditions may continue to support the structure into the future.

Authenticity:
The site is authentic because of its undisputed origin (Hunt 2011:192, 195) and is built in the manner in which military engineers build in the battlefield (Chief of Engineers 1940: 6). Christiansen describes similar Japanese World War II structures on the Marshall Islands (2002:62).

Preliminary Heritage Significance Assessment:
Christmas Island is today the only Australian territory which was occupied by the Japanese during World War II. It therefore has a special story to tell within Australian World War II history and yet few people are aware of this story.

The cultural significance of the site is that it is possibly the only one of its kind in Australia and demonstrates the activities engaged in by the Japanese when they occupied Christmas Island.

The site is unique and appears to be a nodal point from which has other smaller sites are connected. This would reflect the military measures taken to defend a newly acquired territory.

The Drumsite 1 remains have historic value as it is a place which is associated with an important event and theme in history, that is the Japanese occupation of an Australian Territory during World War II. It has heritage value as the only Observation Post and associated structures to have been constructed under Japanese supervision on Australian Territory during World War II.

It has a strong relationship with other Japanese occupation sites on Christmas Island especially with the property known as The Jap House at 9 Lam Lok Loh, 100m west of the intersection with Sung Miao Loh. The bungalow was used as a residence and radio station by the Japanese Garrison.
It illustrates the defences that the Japanese put into place and provides a stark contrast to the defences put in place by the British. It demonstrates the modern practice in military warfare which uses camouflage and a vegetative coverage to hide military installations (Chief of Engineers 1940:224).

The site also has value because of its rarity in the Australian context. It also has some scientific value because of its method of building in the World War II context, and the use of military building materials such as rolled steel joists.

The physical location of the site is part of its cultural significance. It supports the Australian War Memorial aims which are ‘to assist Australians to remember, interpret and understand the Australian experience of war and its enduring impact on Australian society’ (Australian War Memorial 2018)

**Archaeological Assessment:**

The site could be excavated to answer questions on its use, changes and construction materials and methods over time. Disturbance at present is due to mining activity, monsoonal weather cycles and fossicking.

The site should be cleared and managed properly.

**Recommendations:**

The site remains after excavation should be preserved. The site should be incorporated into the extended Territory Day Park Trail (see Chapter Four) and managed under the Island’s Heritage Management Plan

A second approach could be to restore the site through reconstruction which will be a highly engaging and an easily achievable objective. The site can be rebuilt and/or reconstructed after clearance of secondary jungle growth. The original materials used to build the site in the first instance are still readily available today. Should that be the outcome desired then there is potential for engagement in education at primary, secondary and tertiary levels. As the site is adjacent to mining lease, the mine owners may consider incorporating the site into its tours which are popular with visitors to Christmas Island (Joy Wickenden 2018 Pers. Comm. 10 July).
MAPS AND PHOTOGRAPHS

Map 1. Location of Drumsite 1 at Drumsite on Christmas Island. Map Source: Landgate adapted by van der Riet

Photograph 1. Entry to Drumsite 1 (South face)

Photograph 3. Approaching the entry to the site. Photograph courtesy of Oliver Lines.
Photograph 3. Close up of entrance to Drumsite 1. Photograph courtesy of Oliver Lines.

Photograph 5. Wall on the western side of the structure, which is back onto the ridge.

Photograph 6. Entry in relation to southern wall, which is supported by RSJs.
Photograph 7. Corrugated sheet placed in front of entrance to Drumsite 1.

Photograph 8. Part of the roof and wall on the eastern site of Drumsite 1.
Photograph 9. Upright RSJs and the lintel on the roof.

Photograph 10. Rusted corrugated sheeting on level area to the east of the main structure.
Photograph 11. Remains of roof trusses attached to corrugated sheeting to the north of the main structure at Drumsite 1.

Photograph 12. Chicken wire mesh found at the site.
Photograph 13. Close up view of the buttress that curves around the site.

Photograph 15. The RSJ wall which butts against the buttress and is on the north western side of the structure.

Photograph 15. Interlocking RSJs which make up the roof.
Photograph 16. Upright RSJ, roof lintel and interior wall of interlocked RSJs of the main structure at Drumsite 1.
SITE RECORD/PRELIMINARY HERITAGE ASSESSMENT

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<td></td>
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<td>008</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>S 10° 25.907’</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>E 105° 40.264’</td>
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<td>Contact details of Landowner (if not SOCI):</td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephen Elliott</td>
<td>Manager</td>
<td>Indian Ocean Territories Administration</td>
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<td>Indian Ocean Territories Branch</td>
<td>Local Government and Territories Division</td>
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<td>Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>PO Box 868, Christmas Island WA 6798</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joy Wickenden</td>
<td>Senior Environment Advisor</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Mine Operations</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Unless stated otherwise all photographs have been taken by Helena van der Riet.</td>
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1. Time of day 12.10
2. Weather Heavy cumulus cloud overhead with a stiff south easterly breeze, intermittent showers
3. Visibility Good
4. Topography/ Vegetation Steep slope below a ledge purposely made for the Mine’s conveyor belt. Site has mining spoil, wash and initial building works have filled the chamber.
A larger tree has grown on top of the structure and is currently being used enveloped by a strangler fig.
Overgrown with jungle creeper and secondary jungle growth, young saplings, strangler fig, dead organic debris.
Direct view over Flying Fish Cove, 100m below.
Description of Site:

This site is a Japanese World War II defence structure below the Christmas Island Phosphate mine conveyor belt, situated near Christmas Island Radio 6RCI in Drumsite, in the north west of Christmas Island.

The entrance is approached from the south directly in front of and down a steep embankment created by the artificial ridge made to accommodate the Christmas Island Phosphate mine conveyor belt.

The structure is enclosed by a thick circular buttress of rubble and coarse concrete. The eastern wall is made of interlocking rolled steel joints (RSJs) with the rubble and concrete flaring away from it. There are upright RSJ posts on either side of a window ledge opening. A corridor filled with clean spoil leads to a lookout window. The entrance of the corridor is 70cm, but the width of the corridor is 90cm.

The northern side of the structure overlooks Flying Fish Cove. This side has a heavily mortared vertical wall with a window opening, height from the floor to the bottom of the window ledge is 1m and to the top of the window is 1.60m. The window opening is almost totally concaved because a tree is growing on top of the structure with aerial roots invading the site.

The remains of the roof are made of interlocking RSJs. The dimensions of the remaining roof are 1.8m wide x 2.4m long.

Current land use and threats:

The site is on vacant Crown Land immediately below the conveyor belt which is owned and operated by the Christmas Island Phosphates mine and adjacent to the Christmas Island Radio Station. The conveyor belt ledge is kept clear of jungle regrowth and mine spoil which is shovelled over the edge of the ridge which over time have filled and covered the site. At this site the jungle creeper has not yet taken hold of it and this is because there is a large population of crabs keeping the ground clear.

Site mentioned in the following reports/publications:


Sketch and/or other observations:

Front: Facing Flying Fish Cove

Back: Approach from Murray Rd.
Heritage Significance

Nature of Significance
☐ Aesthetic ☑ Historic ☐ Scientific ☑ Social

Degree of Significance
☑ Rarity ☑ Representativeness

Condition, Integrity and Authenticity for Significance

Condition:
The site is deteriorated and corroded, due to the materials and the harsh equatorial conditions. The site is being compressed by a large tree growing on top of it. The tree is itself is enveloped by a strangler fig which is further encasing the remains of the site.

The site has never been managed and is highly vulnerable to the climate and mining practices.

Integrity:
The site is unique and appears to be connected to the sites of Drumsite 1 and 3 along this ridge which are of a similar military nature.

Authenticity:
The site is authentic because of its undisputed origin (Hunt 2011:192, 195) and is built in the manner in which military engineers build in the battlefield (Military History Visualized 2016). Christiansen describes similar Japanese World War II structures on the Marshall Islands (2002:62).

Preliminary Heritage Significance Assessment:
Christmas Island is today the only Australian territory which was occupied by the Japanese during World War II. It therefore has a special story to tell within Australian World War II history and yet few people are aware of this story.

The cultural significance of the site is that it is possibly the only one of its kind in Australia and demonstrates the activities engaged in by the Japanese when they occupied Christmas Island.

The Drumsite 2 remains have historic value as it is a place which is associated with an important event and theme in history, that is the Japanese occupation of an Australian territory during World War II. It possesses heritage value as one of the associated structures to have been constructed under Japanese supervision on Australian territory during World War II.

It has a strong relationship with other Japanese occupation sites on Christmas Island especially with the property known as The Jap House at 9 Lam Lok Loh, 100m west of the intersection with Sung Miao Loh. The bungalow was used as a residence and radio station by the Japanese Garrison.

It illustrates the defences that the Japanese put into place and provides a stark
It demonstrates the modern practice in military warfare which uses camouflage and vegetative coverage to hide military installations (Chief of Engineers 1940:224). It also takes advantage of the natural structure of the cliff face (Price and Knecht 2012:8).

The site has value because of its rarity in the Australian context. It also has some scientific value because of its method of assemblage in the World War II context and the use of military building materials such as rolled steel joists.

The physical location of the site is part of its cultural significance. It supports the Australian War Memorial aims which are ‘to assist Australians to remember, interpret and understand the Australian experience of war and its enduring impact on Australian society’ (Australian War Memorial 2018).

**Archaeological Assessment:**

The site should be excavated as it is unlikely to be hampered by deposits from a range of periods and yet should illustrate a range of activities during the occupation. The levels of disturbance will be due to mining activities, monsoonal weather cycles and to a lesser degree fossicking.

**Recommendations:**

The site remains after excavation should be preserved. The site should be incorporated into the extended Territory Day Park Trail (see Chapter Four) and managed under the Island’s Heritage Management Plan.

A second option is:

There are sufficient remains of the original structure to be able to restore or rebuild the site. The site can easily be rebuilt and/or reconstructed after clearance of the large tree and strangler fig and surrounding young saplings.

The original materials used to build the site in the first instance are still readily available today.

Restoring the site through reconstruction will be a highly engaging and an easily achievable objective. Should that be the outcome desired then there is potential for engagement in education at primary, secondary and tertiary levels. There is also the potential to interest visiting tourists. As the site is adjacent to mining lease, the mine owners may consider incorporating the site into its tours which are popular with visitors to Christmas Island (Joy Wickenden 2018 Pers. Comm. 10 July).
MAPS AND PHOTOGRAPHS

Map 1. Location of Drumsite 2 at Drumsite on Christmas Island. Map Source: Landgate adapted by van der Riet

Photograph 1. The remains of the structure at Drumsite 2.
Photograph 2. The western side of the structure overlooking Flying Fish Cove.

Photograph 3. Part of the structure with the steep ridge to the right of the photograph.
Photograph 4. Remains of the roof.
## SITE RECORD/PRELIMINARY HERITAGE ASSESSMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Site Name:</strong></th>
<th>Drumsite 3.</th>
<th><strong>Reference Number:</strong></th>
<th>CIJO 018</th>
<th><strong>Date of Record:</strong></th>
<th>29 June 2018</th>
<th><strong>Name of Recorder:</strong></th>
<th>Helena van der Riet</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Alternate Names:</strong></td>
<td>None.</td>
<td><strong>LGA:</strong></td>
<td>Vacant Crown Land and Christmas Island Phosphates</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Nearest permanent structure:</strong></td>
<td>Christmas Island Phosphates mine conveyor belt</td>
<td><strong>Location:</strong></td>
<td>Handheld GPS (Garmin 63):</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Road frontage:</strong></td>
<td>Murray Road.</td>
<td>021 &amp; 022</td>
<td>1. Lat: 1010° 25.811' Long: 105° 40.425'</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2. Lat: 10° 25.812' Long: &amp; 105° 40.424'</td>
<td><strong>UTM</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Contact details of Landowner</strong></td>
<td>Stephen Elliott, Manager, Indian Ocean Territories Administration, Indian Ocean Territories Branch</td>
<td>Joy Wickenden Senior Environment Advisor, Mine Operations, PO Box 104, Christmas Island, Indian Ocean 6798</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stephen Elliott, Manager, Indian Ocean Territories Administration, Indian Ocean Territories Branch</td>
<td><strong>Photo: Digital Numbers:</strong></td>
<td>IMG_6075.jpg</td>
<td>IMG_6076.jpg</td>
<td>IMG_6077.jpg</td>
<td>IMG_6079.jpg</td>
<td>IMG_6080.jpg</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Division, Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities, PO Box 868, Christmas Island WA 6798</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unseen otherwise all photographs have been taken by Helena van der Riet.</strong></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. **Time of day** | 1. 10.15 |
2. **Weather** | 2. Cloudy and overcast with some blue sky. Hot and humid |
4. **Topography/ Vegetation** | 4. Steep slope below a man-made terrace which carries the mine’s conveyor belt. The site has years of mining spoil, wash and building rubble dumped upon it. This debris has enabled trees to grow in and around the site. Semi mature trees are established. Heavily overgrown with secondary jungle growth, jungle creepers, young saplings and strangler fig. Direct view over Flying Fish Cove, 100m below. |
**Description of Site:**
The site consists of two embrasures connected by a path 5m apart. The embrasures themselves are connected by a path 50m long leading to Drumsite 1. The embrasures are almost identical and are made from rubble and some coarse concrete. The window sills are made from large, long rocks and not RSJs as in Drumsite 1 and Drumsite 2.

The first embrasure is 130 cm x 270 cm. The top window lintel consists of two rocks each measuring 90cm long. The embrasure is surrounded with tightly packed rubble with little evidence of concrete.

The second embrasure has a window opening of 140cm wide. The embrasure chamber is 180cm x 210cm. It is made of a wall of rubble splaying away from the in-situ rocks with no evidence of concrete being used. There are the remains of a 44-gallon drum in the ‘chamber.’ Each of the embrasures has a semi mature tree growing within them.

**Current land use and threats:**
The site is on vacant Crown Land immediately below the conveyor belt which is owned and operated by the Christmas Island Phosphates mine. The conveyor belt ledge is kept clear of jungle regrowth and mine spoils which are shovelled over the edge of the ridge which has filled and covered the site.

On the site introduced feral noxious weeds are covering the ground together with corrugated iron either in the form of sheets or drums, chicken wire and rubbish from mining activities.

**Site mentioned in the following reports/publications:**


Sketch and/or other observations:

**FLYING FISH COVE**

To large obs. post

SOUTH SIDE OF 1st Embasure/Redoubt

MURRAY ROAD

**FLYING FISH COVE**

South side of 2nd Embasure/Redoubt

North
Heritage Significance

Nature of Significance
- ☑ Aesthetic  ☑ Historic  ☑ Scientific  ☑ Social

Degree of Significance
- ☑ Rarity  ☑ Representativeness

Condition, Integrity and Authenticity for Significance

Condition:
The site is deteriorated but has the potential to reveal information. The condition is degenerated because of the climate and build-up of mining and building rubble. There are significant larger amount of rusted steel materials and chicken wire lying scattered around compared to Drumsite 1 and Drumsite 2. Some of this material may be linked to the site. Correspondence with John Hunt suggests

The chicken wire may well be the remains of the conversion of the structure into a chicken shed – many were built (without permission) by elderly Chinese before and during my time. The path leads to a much cruder lookout which I saw in 1977. It was made of disused railway lines and had room for two soldiers looking out over Flying-Fish Cove. As I recall it was right on the edge of a steep inland cliff. (Hunt 2018 Pers. Comm., 19 July).

The site has never been managed and is highly vulnerable to the equatorial climatic conditions and mining practices.

Integrity:
There are sufficient remains of the original structure to be able to restore or rebuild the site.

Authenticity:
The site is unique and appears to be connected to the other sites along this ridge of a similar military nature. The site is authentic because of its undisputed origin (Hunt 2011:192, 195) and is built in the manner in which military engineers build in the battlefield (Chief of Engineers 1940: 6). Christiansen describes similar Japanese World War II structures on the Marshall Islands (2002:62).

Preliminary Heritage Significance Assessment:
Christmas Island is today the only Australian territory which was occupied by the Japanese during World War II. It therefore has a special story to tell within Australian World War II history and yet few people are aware of this story. The site is authentic because of its undisputed origin and is built in the manner in which military engineers build in the battlefield.

The cultural significance of the site is that it is possibly the only one of its kind in Australia and demonstrates the activities engaged in by the Japanese when they occupied Christmas Island. The site is unique and appears to be connected to the other sites along this ridge of a similar military nature.
The Drumsite 3 remains have historic value as it is a place which is associated with an important event and theme in history, the Japanese occupation of an Australian territory during World War II. It possesses heritage value as the only embrasures and associated structures to have been constructed under Japanese supervision on Australian territory during World War II.

It has a strong relationship with other Japanese occupation sites on Christmas Island especially with the property known as The Jap House at 9 Lam Lok Loh, 100m west of the intersection with Sung Miao Loh. The bungalow was used as a residence and radio station by the Japanese Garrison.

It illustrates the defences that the Japanese put into place and provides a stark contrast to the defences put in place by the British. It demonstrates the modern practice in military warfare which uses camouflage and vegetative coverage to hide military installations (Chief of Engineers 1940:224). It also takes advantage of the natural structure of the cliff face (Chief of Engineers 1940:5; Price and Knecht 2012:8).

The site has value because of its rarity in the Australian context.

The physical location of the site is part of its cultural significance. It supports the Australian War Memorial aims which are ‘to assist Australians to remember, interpret and understand the Australian experience of war and its enduring impact on Australian society’ (Australian War Memorial 2018).

**Archaeological Assessment:**

The site could be excavated as it is unlikely to be hampered by deposits from a range of periods and illustrating a range of activities. The levels of disturbance will be due to mining activities, monsoonal weather cycles and to a lesser degree fossicking.

The removal of the detritus and rubbish can be part of an archaeological ground survey. The artefacts might provide insights into the structure and activities associated with it.

**Recommendations:**

The site remains after excavation should be preserved. The site should be incorporated into the extended Territory Day Park Trail (see Chapter Four) and managed under the Island’s Heritage Management Plan.

A second approach could be to restore the site through reconstruction which will be a highly engaging and an easily achievable objective. The site can be rebuilt and/or reconstructed after clearance of secondary jungle growth. The original
materials used to build the site in the first instance are still readily available today. Should that be the outcome desired then there is potential for engagement in education at primary, secondary and tertiary levels. As the site is adjacent to mining lease, the mine owners may consider incorporating the site into its tours which are popular with visitors to Christmas Island (Joy Wickenden 2018 Pers. Comm. 10 July).

The original materials used to build the site in the first instance are still readily available today.

MAPS AND PHOTOGRAPHS

Map 1. Location of Drumsites 1, 2 and 3 at Drumsite, on Christmas Island. Map Source: Landgate adapted by van der Riet
Photograph 1. Embrasure 1 at Drumsite 3.

Photograph 2. Part of the dilapidated pathways that connect the two embrasures at Drumsite 3 to Drumsite 1.
Photograph 3. The second embrasure at Drumsite 3, with a window opening.

Photograph 4. Remains of low walls along the pathway connecting the two embrasures at Drumsite 3.
Photograph 5. A pathway that leads away from Drumsite 3 in a westerly direction.

Photograph 6. Rusted steel and chicken wire are found around the site.
**SITE RECORD/PRELIMINARY HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

<table>
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<th>Site Name: Drumsite 4</th>
<th>Reference Number: CIJO 019</th>
<th>Date of Record: 24 June 2018</th>
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<td><strong>Alternate Names:</strong></td>
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<td>Name of Recorder: Helena van der Riet</td>
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<tr>
<td>Air Raid Shelter (Hunt 2011:193)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nearest permanent structure:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 B Jelam Ketam Merah (Federal Government housing leased out to Serco)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Road frontage:</td>
<td>Location:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intersection of Sung Miaw Low and Jelam Ketam Merah</td>
<td>handheld GPS (Garmin 63): Due to technical difficulties the handheld GPS was not used. A reading was taken from a hand-held compass (316°). Therefore 136° forward bearing from GPS 0012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contact details of Landowner (if not SOCI):</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephen Elliott</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manager</td>
<td>Indian Ocean Territories Administration</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian Ocean Territories Branch</td>
<td>Local Government and Territories Division</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities</td>
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<td>IMG_6108.jpg</td>
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Unless stated otherwise all photographs have been taken by Helena van der Riet.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. Time of day</th>
<th>1. 09.30</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3. Visibility</td>
<td>3. Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Topography/ Vegetation</td>
<td>4. Thick heavy jungle, clear forest floor, steep slopes with large outcrops of tuft rock. Mosquitoes.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Description of Site:**

This Japanese occupation site takes advantage of a natural grotto found in the cliff side. It is approached from a southerly direction.

The front of the grotto has been enclosed using interlocking rolled steel joists (RSJs) as a wall which then has a large mound of very loose rubble placed in front of it. The rubble wall may have concealed all the RSJ wall at one time. This has resulted in a large cave-like structure. The grotto/cave extends backwards 3.45m from the RSJ wall. It is over 2m high at its lowest point and tapers up higher into the interior. It is approximately 2m wide.

The outer wall of the structure is constructed of interlocking RSJs. Approximately 15 are visible. Tensioned wire has been used to keep the RSJs upright. In front of the wall is a very larger mound of loose rubble and tufa rock.

The roof is supported by two bearers of angle iron, 10m long. The roof is made of steel plate which is projected forward of the RSJ wall by 30 cm. The lintel over the entrance is a rail track 12.50cm wide.

**Current land use and threats:**

The site is on vacant Crown Land. The harsh monsoonal climate and campers continue to impact upon the site. There is evidence that camping occurs on this site because of the litter left behind and a discarded Honda generator. The generator is unlikely to have been left behind by the Japanese because it has a plastic casing.

**Site mentioned in the following reports/publications:**


Heritage Significance

Nature of Significance
☑ Aesthetic ☑ Historic ☐ Scientific ☑ Social

Degree of Significance
☑ Rarity ☑ Representativeness

Condition, Integrity and Authenticity for Significance

Condition:
The site is deteriorated but has the potential to reveal information. The condition is deteriorated due to the use of steel which is corroded due to the moist climate, and salt air.
The site has never been managed and is highly vulnerable to the equatorial climatic conditions and campers.

Integrity:
The site maintains its integrity because it has been neglected, is largely unknown and therefore seldom visited.

Authenticity:
Christmas Island is today the only Australian territory which was occupied by the Japanese during World War II. It therefore has a special story to tell within Australian World War II history and yet few people are aware of this story.
The site is unique and appears to be connected to the other sites along this ridge of a similar military nature. The site is authentic because of its undisputed origin.
(Hunt 2011:192, 195) and is built in the manner in which military engineers build in the battlefield (Chief of Engineers 1940: 6).


**Preliminary Heritage Significance Assessment:**

The Drumsite 4 remains have historic value as it is a place which is associated with an important event and theme in history, the Japanese occupation of an Australian territory during World War II. It will possess heritage value as the only Japanese soldier hideout and associated structures to have been constructed under Japanese supervision on Australian territory during World War II.

It has a strong relationship with other Japanese occupation sites on Christmas Island especially with the property known as The Jap House at 9 Lam Lok Loh, 100m west of the intersection with Sung Miao Loh. The bungalow was used as a residence and radio station by the Japanese garrison.

It illustrates the defences that the Japanese put into place and provides a stark contrast to the defences put in place by the British. It demonstrates the modern practice in military warfare which uses camouflage and vegetative coverage to hide military installations (Chief of Engineers 1940: 224). It also takes advantage of the natural geology of the landscape by converting the grotto/cave into a soldier hideout (Price and Knecht 2012:8).

The site has value because of its rarity in the Australian context. It also has some scientific value because of its method of building in the World War II context and the use of military building materials such as rolled steel joists.

The physical location of the site is part of its cultural significance. It supports the Australian War Memorial aims which are ‘to assist Australians to remember, interpret and understand the Australian experience of war and its enduring impact on Australian society’ (Australian War Memorial 2018: nd).

**Archaeological Assessment:**

The site could be excavated as it is unlikely to be hampered by deposits from a range of periods and illustrating a range of activities. The levels of disturbance will be due to monsoonal weather cycles and to a lesser degree fossicking and camping activities. The excavation might reveal the true nature of the site and its purpose.

**Recommendations:**

The site remains after excavation should be preserved. The site should be incorporated into the extended Territory Day Park Trail (see Chapter Four) and managed under the Island’s Heritage Management Plan.
A second option is:
There are sufficient remains of the original structure to be able to restore or rebuild the site. The site can easily be rebuilt and/or reconstructed after jungle clearance.

The original materials used to build the site in the first instance are still readily available today.

Restoring the site through reconstruction will be a highly engaging and an easily achievable objective. Should that be the outcome desired then there is potential for engagement in education at primary, secondary and tertiary levels. There is also the potential to interest visiting tourists.

The maintenance of the site could come under the jurisdiction of the Administrator’s office as it lies on vacant Crown Land and would probably not be too burdensome. This is because the site can be included in the tours which the Christmas Island Tourist Association advertises for interested tourists and visiting school groups.

MAPS AND PHOTOGRAPHS

Map 1. Location of the Drumsite 4 in Drumsite, Christmas Island. Map Source: Landgate.
Photograph 1. Pierced or perforated steel plank (PSP) close to Drumsite 4.

Photograph 2. The enclosure at the front of the grotto that has been used to create this Drumsite 4.
Photograph 3. Tensioned wire between the RSJs has been used to keep them upright at Drumsite 4.

Photograph 4. The rubble that has deteriorated in front of the RSJs at Drumsite 4.
Photograph 5. Entrance to the grotto and the lintels supporting the roof at Drumsite 4.

Photograph 6. Part of the steel plate projecting from the long bearers of angle iron making up the roof at Drumsite 4.
Photograph 7. View of the roof at Drumsite 4.

Photograph 8. View into the grotto showing the roof and the grotto tapering up into the cliff face.
Photograph 9. 60 m of thick jungle through which to travel to Drumsite 4.
SITE RECORD/PRELIMINARY HERITAGE ASSESSMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site Name: Drumsite 5</th>
<th>Reference Number: CIJO19</th>
<th>Date of Record: 29 June 2018</th>
<th>Name of Recorder: Helena van der Riet</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Alternate Names:

LGA: Shire of Christmas Island and Private.

Nearest permanent structure:
Baha’i Temple, 2 Sung Miaw Low

Road frontage:
Intersection of Sung Miaw Low and Jalan Ketam Merah.

Location:
handheld GPS (Garmin 63):
022
S 10° 25.812’
E 105° 40.424’
UTM
Zone 48
East 573740.556
North 8846943.958

Contact details of Landowner (if not SOCI):
The Spiritual Assembly of Baha’i, Baha’i Centre
3A Tong Yan Loh
Christmas Island WA 6798
Telephone: (08) 9164 8750

Photo: Digital Numbers:
IMG_0784.jpg  IMG_6188.jpg  IMG_6189.jpg  IMG_66190.jpg

Unless stated otherwise all photographs have been taken by Helena van der Riet.

1. Time of day  13.30
2. Weather
   2. Heavy cumulus cloud on the horizon, high light cloud overhead, slight breeze, very hot.
3. Visibility
   3. Good
4. Topography/Vegetation
   4. Heavily overgrown with garden prickly barbed weeds and other noxious weeds.

Description of Site:
The structure presents as upright interlocking walls made of heavily corroded RSJs and rusted corrugated iron sheets.

The west side is a series of deeply entrenched RSJs. This wall is 255cm long. The south facing wall is 155cm long. The remains appear to be positioned at right angles - south and east facing. There are remains of a RSJ wall on the north side at an angle of 20°. This north facing wall is 100cm long.
The structure is within walking distance from Drumsites 1, 2, 3, 4 and Jap House. Drumsite 4 is located 60m immediately behind the white house (24 Jelam Ketam Merah) in the photograph. Therefore, about 250m behind this site.

Jap House is located about 100m south of this structure and Drumsite 1 is about 200m immediately in front of it.

**Condition of Site:**

The site is substantially deteriorated and corroded. This is due to the materials used to build the structure and the harsh climatic equatorial conditions. The remains at the site are few, and difficult to interpret. The site has been cleared of jungle and is now incorporated into the gardens of Baha’i Temple.

**Current land use and threats:**

There is little remaining of this site and it is currently in the backyard of the Baha’i Temple. It is overgrown with introduced weeds and periodically the block is cleared. It is likely that the site was damaged extensively to facilitate the construction of the Baha’i Temple.

**Site mentioned in the following reports/publications:**

Heritage Significance

Nature of Significance

☐ Aesthetic ☒ Historic ☐ Scientific ☐ Social

Degree of Significance

☒ Rarity ☒ Representativeness

Condition, Integrity and Authenticity for Significance

Condition:

The site is substantially deteriorated but has the potential to reveal information. The condition is deteriorated due to the use of steel which is corroded due to the climate. The corrosion is due to the constant moisture and salt air.

The site has never been managed and is highly vulnerable to the equatorial climatic conditions. It is also likely that the site has been almost completely destroyed due to building and construction activities on the block.
Integrity:

There is almost nothing left of the original structure. The site is unique and appears to be connected to the other sites in the vicinity of Drumsite and of a similar military structure. This reflects the military measures taken to defend a newly acquired territory.

Authenticity:

Christmas Island is today the only Australian territory which was occupied by the Japanese during World War II. It therefore has a special story to tell within Australian World War II history and yet few people are aware of this story. The site is authentic because of its undisputed origin and is built in the manner in which military engineers build in the battlefield.

Preliminary Heritage Significance Assessment:

The Drumsite 5 remains have historic value as it is a place which is associated with an important event and theme in history, that is, the Japanese occupation of an Australian Territory during World War II. It will possess heritage value as a military structure to have been constructed under Japanese supervision on Australian territory during World War II.

It has a strong relationship with other Japanese occupation sites in the vicinity, especially with the property known as The Jap House at 9 Lam Lok Loh, 100m west of the intersection with Sung Miao Loh. The bungalow was used as a residence and radio station by the Japanese Garrison. Drumsite 4 is located about 150m behind in a north easterly direction.

The cultural significance of the site is that it is possibly the only one of its kind in Australia and demonstrates the activities engaged in by the Japanese when they occupied Christmas Island. It illustrates the defences that the Japanese established and provides a stark contrast to the defences put in place by the British.

Archaeological Assessment:

The site has value because of its rarity in the Australian context. It also has some scientific value because of its method of assemblage in the World War II context and the use of military building materials such as rolled steel joists.

The physical location of the site is part of its cultural significance. It supports the Australian War Memorial aims which are ‘to assist Australians to remember, interpret and understand the Australian experience of war and its enduring impact on Australian society’ (Australian War Memorial 2018).
**Recommendations:**

The site should not be rebuilt and/or reconstructed. Evidence of site is almost completely lost. The site should be excavated. Through the excavation some of the remains of the site will be destroyed but it is likely to reveal the nature of the structure. The levels of disturbance will be due to building activities, monsoonal weather cycles and to a lesser degree fossicking.

Any artefacts retrieved should be curated and exhibited in the Museum.

**MAPS AND PHOTOGRAPHS**

Map 1. Location of Drumsite 5 at Drumsite on Christmas Island.
Photograph 1: The structure presents as upright interlocking walls made of RSJs and corrugated iron sheets.

Photograph 2: The west side wall: a series of deeply entrenched RSJs 2.55m long.
Photograph 3: Most of the remains of the structure at Drumsite 5.

Photograph 4: The structure remaining at the site showing 24 Jelam Ketam Merah (the white house) in the background a further 60m behind the house is Drumsite 4.
SITE RECORD/PRELIMINARY HERITAGE ASSESSMENT

<table>
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<th>Site Name: Jap House</th>
<th>Reference Number: CIJO 013</th>
<th>Date of Record: 29 June 2018</th>
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<td>LGA: Shire of Christmas Island and private.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jap House</td>
<td>Current owner /occupier</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ms. Cindy Eng</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Phone: 04392153</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:boongtrading@pulau.cx">boongtrading@pulau.cx</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nearest permanent structure: 7 &amp; 11 Lam Lok Loh</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Road frontage:</td>
<td>Location: 9 Lam Lok Loh, Drumsite, Christmas Island.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South side Lam Lok Loh, 100m west of the intersection with Sung Miaw Loh.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact details of Landowner (if not SOCI): Ms. Cindy Eng</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Phone: 04392153</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Email: <a href="mailto:boongtrading@pulau.cx">boongtrading@pulau.cx</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Unless stated otherwise all photographs have been taken by Helena van der Riet.</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Time of day 1. 13.30
3. Visibility 3. Good

Description of Site:

This site is a bungalow, which is a rendered brick masonry and timber building on rendered masonry piles with prominent concrete caps set approximately 1.5m above ground level, accessed by concrete steps.

The original angled ventilation shutters to the verandah have been removed, and the verandas enclosed.

The building has a central gable-roofed section with masonry walls surrounded by...
a skillion-roofed enclosed verandah. The former asbestos roof has been replaced with corrugated iron sheeted roof and modernised by the use of solar panels to provide power.

Servants’ quarters are connected to the main house by a covered walkway. It is made of rendered concrete masonry with a gable roof.

**Condition of Site:**

The property has been largely rebuilt to meet the standards of a home for modern living. The exterior appears to be generally sympathetic to the original. It was not possible to ascertain if the owners followed the recommendations of GML(1998), and access to the interior was not possible. The property had been uninhabitable for a period of time and its purchase by a local family meant that it was restored to a habitable condition (Olivier Lines 2018 Pers. Comm., 29 June).

**Current land use and threats:**

It is currently occupied as a family home and the owner/occupier is aware of its heritage and significance (Eng 2018. Pers. Comm., 29 June).

**Site mentioned in the following reports/publications:**


Neale, M. 1988 *We were the Christmas Islanders: reminiscences and recollections of the people of an isolated island, the Australian Territory of Christmas Island, Indian Ocean*. Chapman, A.C.T: B. Neale. PAGE: 76
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Heritage Significance</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nature of Significance</td>
<td>☑ Aesthetic ☑ Historic ☑ Scientific ☑ Social</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Degree of Significance</td>
<td>☑ Rarity ☑ Representativeness</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Condition, Integrity and Authenticity for Significance

**Condition:**

It is in good condition.

**Integrity:**

It is likely that some of the integrity has been lost in restoring the home to a habitable condition, and it is not known at present if the home was restored to its original aspect. However, given the difficulties of living on Christmas Island, it is fortunate that the property has not been demolished and that its current owners have largely remained sympathetic to its authentic external structure.

**Authenticity:**

It is similar in style and build to the three properties found on Rocky Lane in the Settlement. It is the only building of its type in Drumsite. It illustrates the difference between building technologies and methods between the wars and is indicative of the class and racial social structure of the period.

**Preliminary Heritage Significance Assessment:**

9 Lam Lok Loh is historically significant as one of the last buildings to be built by the British Phosphate Commission in the 1930s (Godden, Mackay, Logan 1998b). It is similar in style and build to the three properties found on Rocky Point Crescent in the Settlement. It is the only building of its type in Drumsite. It illustrates the difference between building technologies and methods between the wars and is indicative of the class and racial social structure of the period.

It is associated with the Japanese occupation as it was used as a residence and radio station by the garrison soldiers (Godden, Mackay, Logan 1998b). Orally, on the Island today, the local population maintain the that it was occupied by Japanese police as opposed to Japanese soldiers (Eng 2018 Pers. Comm., 29 June).

It demonstrates traditional approaches to building in a tropical climate and is a fine example of English colonial tropical architecture (Godden, Mackay, Logan 1998b). It has aesthetic significance as the largest and finest of the pattern-design surviving on Christmas Island and has an attractive aspect towards the ocean (Godden, Mackay, Logan 1998b).
Archaeological Assessment:

In terms of the statements furnished below, there is an opportunity to use a metal detector to locate any remnants of the structures described:

Ms. Eng and her brother Shawn take a strong interest in the history of their home and have attempted to prove the myths which surround the property’ such as a location of a tunnel which connected the house to the various look-out posts to be found below the Christmas Island Phosphates mine conveyor belt.

Hunt confirmed that he undertook an excavation on the property:

What you call the “Jap House” was the phosphate company’s Chief Engineer’s house before the occupation. It was in the garden there that I led a team of Island youngsters in early 1976 excavating one of the bomb shelters (I am pretty sure that there were others). I did not keep a field journal, just loose notes and sketches. I recorded that the air raid shelter was 16 ft 5 ins long (5 metres) and 6 ft 9 ins (2.08 metres) high with steel walls and ceiling and a concrete floor. It was reached by about ten concrete steps and at the far end was 9-inch-wide (24 cm) air vent (Hunt 2018 Pers. Comm., 19 July).

Recommendations:

Godden, Mackay, Logan (1998b) recommended that the house be conserved in accordance with the Conservation Plan. This has mostly been done. It is unfortunate that the style of window panes is not sympathetic to the original and that the ground level has been filled in to allow some sort of storage facilities. However, the building has been rescued and is now a much-loved home and well-maintained property. The building (with permission from the owners) could benefit from some signage or acknowledgement of its role in the industrial, war and technological heritage of Christmas Island.
Map 1. Location of Jap House site in Drumsite on Christmas Island (Adapted from Landgate 2018)
Photograph 1. The restored Jap House site viewed from the street.

Photograph 2. Photograph of the south side of the Jap House Site (Neale 1988: 76).

Photograph 4. The restored Jap House, front entry.
### Site Name: Rocky Point 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reference Number: CIJO 007</th>
<th>Date of Record: 23 June 2018</th>
<th>Name of Recorder: Helena van der Riet</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

#### Alternate Names:
Military blockhouse (Hunt 2011:175).

#### LGA:
Shire of Christmas Island/Vacant Crown Land

#### Nearest permanent structure:
67 Gaze Road and 2 Rocky Point Crescent

#### Road frontage:
Gaze Road near the junction with Rocky Point Crescent.

#### Location:
**handheld GPS (Garmin 63):**
- 010
- S 10° 24.940'
- E 105° 40.538'
- **UTM**
  - Zone: 48
  - Easting 573951.949
  - Northing 8848550.528

#### Contact details of Landowner:
Stephen Elliott
Manager | Indian Ocean Territories Administration
Indian Ocean Territories Branch | Local Government and Territories Division
Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities
PO Box 868, Christmas Island WA 6798

#### Photo: Digital Numbers:
- IMG_6077.jpg
- IMG_6078.jpg
- IMG_6079.jpg

Other photos supplied by Oliver Lines: SOCI Recreational Manager

Unless stated otherwise all photographs have been taken by Helena van der Riet.
Other photos supplied by Oliver Lines: SOCI Recreational Manager

### Time of day
1. 10.30

### Weather
2. Heavy cumulus clouds on the horizon, clear blue skies overhead. Steadily becoming warmer with a slight breeze.

### Visibility
3. Good

### Topography/Vegetation
4. Located against a limestone and tufa buttress and cliff face. Jungle encroachment onto the site with young saplings and creeper vines. Thick shrubbery growing against the lower buttress.
Description of Site:

Japanese World War II defence structure alongside Gaze Road at the junction with Rocky Point Crescent in Settlement in the north west of Christmas Island. It is probable that the structure was initially built by the British sometime in 1941.

The site consists of eight concrete steps with the remains of a handrail on the left-hand side leading up to a natural platform. There is evidence that there was a handrail in the form of footings and a rusty hand rail on the ground on the right-hand side. The platform has been extended and covered with a thin layer of concrete.

The platform is part of the roof covering an enclosed storage facility to the left of the flight of steps. The rectangular chamber-or enclosed storage facility- is 100cm high and 180cm x 120cm.

The roof and floor of the chamber are both made up of two concrete slabs of 5cm x 70cm x 70cm. Concrete has been poured on top of the slabs.

On the platform there is a concrete plinth against the buttress or cliff face, from which a ladder of approximately 5m high leads up to Rocky Point 3.

Condition of Site:

The site is deteriorated and collapsing. This is due to the materials used to build the structure and the harsh climatic equatorial conditions. The ladder which would have gained access to Rocky Point 3 has mostly disintegrated, with one remaining rung which give clues to the purpose of the site.

Current land use and threats:

The site is on Shire of Christmas Island and vacant Crown Land. As the site is not acknowledged its knowledge and conservation of it may be lost without a professional recording of the site, its history and heritage value.

Site mentioned in the following reports/publications:


Neale, M. 1988 We were the Christmas Islanders: reminiscences and recollections of the people of an isolated island, the Australian Territory of Christmas Island, Indian Ocean. Chapman, A.C.T: B. Neale. PAGE: 66.

### Heritage Significance

#### Nature of Significance
- **Aesthetic**
- **Historic**
- **Scientific**
- **Social**

#### Degree of Significance
- **Rarity**
- **Representativeness**

#### Condition, Integrity and Authenticity for Significance

**Condition:**
The site is deteriorated but has the potential to reveal information. The condition is deteriorated due to the use of steel which is corroded due to the climate of constant moisture and salt air.

The cultural significance of the site is that it is possibly the only one of its kind in Australia and demonstrates the activities engaged in by the Japanese when they occupied Christmas Island.

The site has never been managed and is highly vulnerable to the equatorial climatic conditions and Commonwealth government neglect of heritage assets.
Integrity:
The site is unique and appears to be connected to the other sites which were put in place by the British in the vicinity of the Settlement and Smith Point in 1941. The Japanese made use of these sites when putting defensive structures down. According to Hunt

‘They made ‘guns’ of wood, painted to resemble the real thing. Two 6-inch guns (150mm) models were installed at Rocky Point’ (2011: 194).

Authenticity:
Christmas Island is the only Australian territory which was occupied by the Japanese during World War II. It therefore has a special story to tell within Australian World War II history and yet few people are aware of this story. The site is authentic because of its undisputed origin (Hunt 2011: 175) and is built in the manner in which military engineers build for defensive purposes (Chief of Engineers 1940:26).

Preliminary Heritage Significance Assessment:
The Rocky Point 1 remains have historic value as it is a place which is associated with an important event and theme in history, that is the Japanese occupation of an Australian territory during World War II. It possesses heritage value as a military structure initiated by the British and then used by the Japanese to defend Christmas Island.

It has a strong relationship with other Japanese occupation sites on Christmas Island especially with the property where the Administrator of Christmas Island resides today at 4 Rocky Point Crescent. This property was the Island Manager’s house and the Japanese set up their headquarters there (Hunt 2011:184).

This site represents the defences that the Japanese put into place. It also takes advantage of the natural structure of the cliff face. (Chief of Engineers 1940:5).

The site has value because of its rarity in the Australian context. It also has some scientific value because of its method of building in the World War II British context with the use building materials such as concrete.

The physical location of the site is part of its cultural significance. It supports the Australian War Memorial aims which are ‘to assist Australians to remember, interpret and understand the Australian experience of war and its enduring impact on Australian society’ (Australian War Memorial 2018:).
Archaeological Assessment:

It would be difficult to undertake an excavation because site is mostly built on rock and cliff. However, clearing the jungle growth and conducting a survey might reveal more information about the site and how it was used.

Recommendations:

The site should be restored as it is a significant structure and links closely with the sites Rocky Point 2, 3 and 4. Its restoration will be engaging for the community. It will be of significant educational value for the children at the Christmas Island District High School and covers many aspects of the curriculum in Humanities and Social Sciences.

Once the site is restored, its maintenance will not be arduous or difficult. The site can be incorporated into the Gaze Road Trail and become a heritage node called Japanese Occupation Node. It will be of great interest to tourists. This is a well-used route to other interesting locations on Christmas Island which tourists often frequent as a result it will be place where one would be willing to stop and explore.

MAPS AND PHOTOGRAPHS

Map 1. Location of Rocky Point 1 at Flying Fish Cove, north east Christmas Island.
Map Source: Landgate adapted by van der Riet.
Photograph 1. Eight concrete steps leading to a small platform on which a ladder would have led to Rocky Point 3.

Photograph 2. Rocky Point 1 viewed from across Gaze Road. Photograph courtesy of Oliver Lines
Photograph 3. Rocky Point 1 viewed from the terraced wall bordering Gaze Road. Photograph courtesy of Oliver Lines

Photograph 4. Close up of the site showing the steps, handrail and extended platform the doubles as the roof of the shelter. Photograph courtesy of Oliver Lines
Photograph 5. The steps at Rocky Point 1 showing the handrail on the left and remains of the handrail on the right. Photograph courtesy of Oliver Lines

Photograph 6. The plinth at the top of the steps, and on the platform against the cliff face from which a ladder leads up to Rocky Point 3.
Photograph 7. The rusted metal remains of the ladder to Rocky Point 3.

Photograph 8. The storage facility located below the platform, viewed from the steps (handrail in the foreground).
**SITE RECORD/PRELIMINARY HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

<table>
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<th>Site Name: Rocky Point 2</th>
<th>Reference Number: CIJO 008</th>
<th>Date of Record: 23 June 2018</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alternate Names: Ammunition Storage Cave (Hunt 2011:193)</td>
<td>LGA: Shire of Christmas Island/Vacant Crown Land</td>
<td>Name of Recorder: Helena van der Riet</td>
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</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nearest permanent structure: 69 Gaze Road</th>
<th>Location: handheld GPS (Garmin 63): 011 S 10° 24.800' E 105° 40.654' UTM with GRS80 ellipsoid) Zone 48 Easting 574164.125 Northing 8848808.081</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

**Contact details of Landowner (if not SOCI):**
Stephen Elliott
Manager | Indian Ocean Territories Administration
Indian Ocean Territories Branch | Local Government and Territories Division
Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities
PO Box 868, Christmas Island WA 6798

**Photo: Digital Numbers:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IMG_6077.jpg</th>
<th>IMG_6078.jpg</th>
<th>IMG_6079.jpg</th>
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</table>

Unless stated otherwise all photographs have been taken by Helena van der Riet.
**Other photos supplied by Oliver Lines: Shire of Christmas Island Recreational Manager**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. Time of day</th>
<th>1. 12.00</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3. Visibility</td>
<td>3. Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Topography/ Vegetation</td>
<td>4. Located against a limestone and tuft rock buttress and cliff face. Jungle encroachment onto the site with young saplings and creeper vines.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Description of Site:**

Japanese World War II defence structure alongside Gaze Road at the junction with Rocky Point Crescent in Settlement in the north west of Christmas Island. It is possible that the structure was initially built by the British or even British Phosphate Company to store dynamite for the mine.
The solid wall of stone and concrete is easily seen from Gaze Road and lies directly opposite the residence of 69 Gaze Road and within 100m of Rocky Point 1. This is the primary blast wall which would have mitigated the consequences should the ammunition within the cave have exploded (Ulio 1942: 112).

The blast wall itself is constructed of 4 walls forming a rectangle 45cm thick and 2.20m high. It has then been filled in with rubble and concrete making the blast wall 2.00m wide.

The entrance to the ammunition storage facility is on the western side of the structure. Opposite the entry is another solid wall of concrete and rubble. This secondary blast wall would also have mitigated the consequences should the ammunition within the cave exploded (Ulio 1942: 112).

A heavy steel door, now completely corroded and rusted with the remains of cross bars to strengthen it, provide the entrance to the store. The door is set in a concrete and rubble wall - approximately 45cm thick. Above the remains of the steel door, and on the inside of the vestibule is a heavily rusted piece of sheet metal 1m x 1.60m.

There is a vestibule between the south facing, primary blast wall and the grotto which leads into the hollowed-out cave. This area is 2m x 2m x 2.2m. It is assumed that this area possessed a roof which has is no longer extant, and of which no remains are present.

The grotto leading into the hollowed-out cave is 2.0m x 6.5m and 1.75m high. The inner cave is 3.0m x 7.0m and 1.9m high. The floor is poured concrete with a small ledge running around the entire base.

The cave has an inner door made of heavily rusted and corroded steel. It is set within a concrete wall of stone. The door structure is at an oblique angle which mitigates the consequences of an explosion.

Heavily corroded and rusted pipe is hanging on the wall by one remaining attachment. The other attachments have collapsed. The pipe is 30cm diameter. Within the pipe are vents which are covered with wire mesh which would facilitate the movement of air around the ammunition in storage.

**Condition of Site:**

The site is deteriorated and collapsing. This is due to the materials used to build the structure, the harsh climatic equatorial conditions, lack of maintenance and camping or picnicking activities.
Current land use and threats:

The site is on Shire of Christmas Island and vacant Crown Land and occasionally efforts are made to keep the site clear of jungle regrowth.

As the site is not acknowledged it will soon be lost for ever. Its knowledge and conservation of it may be lost without a professional recording of the site, its history and heritage value.

The site is dangerous, and children actively play there, in the course of which rusted metal is further broken down and trampled upon. There is also evidence of camping as there are recent remains of camp fires and associated rubbish within the cave.

Site mentioned in the following reports/publications:


Neale, M. 1988 We were the Christmas Islanders: reminiscences and recollections of the people of an isolated island, the Australian Territory of Christmas Island, Indian Ocean. Chapman, A.C.T: B. Neale. PAGE: 66


Heritage Significance

Nature of Significance
☑️ Aesthetic ☑️ Historic ☑️ Scientific ☑️ Social

Degree of Significance
☑️ Rarity ☑️ Representativeness

Condition, Integrity and Authenticity for Significance

Condition:
The site is grossly deteriorated but has the potential to reveal information. The condition is deteriorated due to the use of steel which is grossly corroded due to the climate. The corrosion is due to the constant moisture and salt air.

The cultural significance of the site is that it is the only one of its kind in Australia and demonstrates the activities engaged in by the Japanese when they occupied Christmas Island. If it is established that the Japanese did not use the site, the place is still significant in terms of the Island’s mining and industrial heritage.
The site has never been managed and is highly vulnerable to the equatorial climatic conditions, casual use by campers, children playing around the site and Federal government’s neglect of heritage assets.

Integrity:

The site is unique and appears to be connected to the other sites which were put in place by the British in the vicinity of the Settlement and Smith Point in 1941. It seems that the Japanese made use of these sites when putting defensive structures down. Hunt says that

... and an ammunition-storage cave was hollowed out of an inland shore-terrace limestone cliff (2011:193).

The site shares some similar elements of building construction with the heritage listed Defence Site of Maribyrnong in Victoria and with Green Hill Fort on Thursday Island. The Victorian site has blast walls of concrete thus demonstrating the dangerous nature of storing explosives (Godden Mackay Logan 2007: 21). Corresponding structures are in place at Rocky Point 2. The necessity for ventilation is apparent at this site as in the Green Hill Fort site (Grimwade and Ginn 2002:86). Sites had to be carefully constructed because ventilation is paramount to keeping cordite stable (Ammunition Branch, Ordnance College 1915:6).

Authenticity:

Christmas Island is today the only Australian territory which was occupied by the Japanese during World War II. It therefore has a special story to tell within Australian World War II history and yet few people are aware of this story. The site is authentic because of its undisputed origin and is constructed in the manner in which military engineers built in order to store ammunition safely (Ulio 1942: 112).

Preliminary Heritage Significance Assessment:

The Rocky Point 2 remains have historic value as it is a place which is associated with an important event and theme in history, which is the Japanese occupation of an Australian territory during World War II. It possesses heritage value as a military structure initiated by the British and then used by the Japanese to defend Christmas Island.

It has a strong relationship with other Japanese occupation sites on Christmas Island especially with the property where the Administrator of Christmas Island resides today at 4 Rocky Point Crescent. This property was the Island Manager’s house and the Japanese subsequently set up their headquarters there (Hunt 2011: 184).

It demonstrates similarities with other ammunition storage facilities in Australia such as the Explosives Factory at Maribyrnong which currently has heritage listing status in Victoria (Victoria Heritage Database Report: 2018). The importance of
ventilation at this site for ammunition storage is also demonstrated at Green Hill Fort on Thursday Island in the far north of Queensland (Grimwade and Ginn 2002:86). More importantly, it demonstrates a unique method of storing explosives through the use of the natural landscape.

The site has value because of its rarity in the Australian context. It also has some scientific value because of its method of building in the World War II British context with the use building materials such as concrete. And facilitating the ventilation required to keep the store safe (Ulio 1942: 112).

The physical location of the site is part of its cultural significance. It supports the Australian War Memorial aims which are ‘to assist Australians to remember, interpret and understand the Australian experience of war and its enduring impact on Australian society’ (Australian War Memorial 2018: nd).

### Archaeological Assessment:

Limited excavation around the blast wall might reveal some information.

During the course of restoring the site and preparing it for presentation there is a possibility that further information might be revealed.

### Recommendations:

The site should be restored as it is a significant structure and links closely with the sites Rocky Point 1, 3 and 4. Restoration will be engaging for the community. It will be of significant educational value for the children at the Christmas Island District High School and covers many aspects of the curriculum in Humanities and Social Sciences.

Restoring the site through reconstruction will be a highly engaging and an easily achievable objective. Should that be the outcome, there arises the potential for engagement in education at primary, secondary and tertiary levels. There is also the potential to interest visiting tourists. The site will have to be maintained by the Shire of Christmas Island or the Federal government as it is within their jurisdiction. Should the Federal government maintain it, there are connections to the Administrator accommodation which lies about 250m directly in front of the site (see Rocky Point 4).

Once the site is restored, its maintenance will not be arduous or difficult. It will be of great interest to tourists especially if the site is integrated into the gaze Road Trail. This is a well-used route to other interesting locations on Christmas Island which tourists often frequent. As a result, it will be a place where one would be willing to stop, explore and learn.
The site should be listed and have appropriate signage explaining what it represents.

MAPS AND PHOTOGRAPHS

Map 1. Location of Rocky Point 1 and Rocky Point 2 sites. Map Source: Landgate adapted by van der Riet.

Photograph 1. Interior of the ammunition cave looking into the passage.
Photograph 2. Looking into the bunker space. Photo courtesy of Oliver Lines.

Photograph 3. The solid structure is easily seen from Gaze Road and lies directly opposite the residence of 69 Gaze Road and 100m from Rocky Point 1. Photo courtesy of Oliver Lines.
Photograph 4. The blast wall which would have mitigated the consequences should the ammunition within the cave have exploded. Photo courtesy of Oliver Lines.

Photograph 5. The top of the rectangular blast wall.
Photograph 6. The entrance to the ammunition storage facility is on the southern side of the structure.

Photograph 7. Secondary blast wall opposite the entrance.
Photograph 8. Entrance to the vestibule leading into the grotto and then on into a hollowed-out cave. Photo courtesy of Oliver Lines.
## SITE RECORD/PRELIMINARY HERITAGE ASSESSMENT

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<th>Reference Number:</th>
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<td>CIJO 0017</td>
<td>28 June 2018</td>
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<th>Date of Record:</th>
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<td>Shire of Christmas Island/Vacant Crown Land</td>
<td>28 June 2018</td>
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<th>Road frontage:</th>
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<td>Gaze Road near the junction with Rocky Point Crescent.</td>
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<th>Contact details of Landowner</th>
<th>Location: handheld GPS (Garmin 63):</th>
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<tr>
<td>Stephen Elliott</td>
<td>019 S 10° 24.571' E 105° 40.381' UTM Zone 48 Easting 573666.971 Northing 8849231.164</td>
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<td>Other photos supplied by Google Earth and Col. Robert Mitchell (rtd.) of the National Trust (WA).</td>
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<th>Weather</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. 12.00</td>
<td>2. Heavy cumulus clouds on the horizon, clear blue skies overhead. No breeze, Very hot and humid.</td>
</tr>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Visibility</th>
<th>Topography/Vegetation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3. Good</td>
<td>4. Located on top of a limestone cliff and tufa rock buttress. Jungle encroachment onto the site with young saplings, creeper vines and introduced Dragon Fruit completely enveloping the site. Ironically affording it some protection.</td>
</tr>
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Description of Site:
This site is broadly described as a Japanese WWII defence structure, situated alongside Gaze Road near the junction of Rocky Point Crescent in the Settlement in the north east of Christmas Island.

The site consists of platform of short RSJs covered with concrete, low concrete walls and the remains of a roof.

Site access is difficult and dangerous. I had to climb up and over two buttresses and a slab of tufa. This route was described to me by Jon Kerr who recounted that he climbed up there to the site as a teenage boy adding that he would not be doing that today (Jon Kerr 2018. Pers. Comm., 22 June). I began my ascent at midday and was safety returned by 12.50. The route is only dangerous because of the debris and jungle one is required to clear in order to make a pathway. Because of the debris and jungle cover I was unable to take any measurements or photographs. For safety reason I decide to only carry my machete and water.

Looking west from the disintegrated platform where I finished my ascent there were several pieces of RSJs jutting out of the cliff face. These may have been part of a passageway that led to the ladder at Rocky Point 1.

Condition of Site:
The site is deteriorated and collapsing. This is due to the materials used to build the structure and the harsh climatic equatorial conditions and lack of maintenance. It is completely covered by the dragon fruit plant.

Current land use and threats:
The site is on Shire of Christmas Island and vacant Crown Land. As the site is not acknowledged. Its knowledge and conservation of it may be lost without a professional recording of the site, its history and heritage value.

The site is dangerous, and children actively play here by climbing up to the site (Jon Kerr 2018 Pers. Comm., 22 June).

Site mentioned in the following reports/publications:
Neale, M. 1988 We were the Christmas Islanders: reminiscences and recollections of the people of an isolated island, the Australian Territory of Christmas Island, Indian Ocean. Chapman, ACT: B. Neale. PAGE: 66
I did not make any sketches as I was in a precarious and dangerous position. I had hoped to commence work on locating this site by 7.30 but due to meetings only arrived at midday. I decided that the humidity and heat made the conditions for climbing more dangerous. Especially as I was climbing with steel capped working boots and high vis clothing. I resolved to just take my machete and at least a litre of water. I am glad that bouldering was a strong hobby of mine when I was younger because I certainly needed those skills.

**Heritage Significance**

**Nature of Significance**
- ☑ Aesthetic
- ☑ Historic
- ☐ Scientific
- ☑ Social

**Degree of Significance**
- ☑ Rarity
- ☑ Representativeness

**Condition, Integrity and Authenticity for Significance**

**Condition:**
The site is deteriorated and completely overgrown but has the potential to reveal information. The condition is deteriorated due to the use of steel which is corroded due to the climate, of constant moisture and salt air.

The site has never been managed and is highly vulnerable to the equatorial climatic conditions and the exponential growth of the introduced noxious weed - dragon fruit, children playing around the site and Federal government’s neglect of heritage assets.

**Integrity:**
The site is unique and appears to be connected to the other sites which were put in place by the British in the vicinity of the Settlement and Smith Point in 1941. The Japanese made use of these sites when putting defensive structures down. According to Hunt “…an ammunition-storage cave was hollowed out of an inland shore-terrace limestone cliff” (2011:193).
**Authenticity:**
Christmas Island is the only Australian territory which was occupied by the Japanese during World War II. It therefore has a special story to tell within Australian World War II history and yet few people are aware of this story. The site is authentic because of its undisputed origin and is built in the manner in which military engineers built to be battle ready (Hunt 2011:193; Chief of Engineers 1940: 224).

By analysing the plinth remains against the cliff face at Rocky Point 1, asking the community for confirmation about the feasibility of the existence of a site and observing jutting out pieces of RSJ through the dragon fruit weed and jungle shrubbery, I ascertained that there was a site there.

**Preliminary Heritage Significance Assessment**
The site has value because of its rarity in the Australian context.

The physical location of the site is part of its cultural significance. It supports the Australian War Memorial aims which are ‘to assist Australians to remember, interpret and understand the Australian experience of war and its enduring impact on Australian society’ (Australian War Memorial 2018:nd).

The Rocky Point 3 remains have historic value as it is a place which is associated with an important event and theme in history, that is the Japanese occupation of an Australian territory during World War II.

This site has heritage value as a military structure initiated by the British and then used by the Japanese to defend Christmas Island.

It has a strong relationship with other Japanese occupation sites on Christmas Island especially with Rocky Point 1. The site is probably one large site and connected by a walkway or path overhead. The ammunition store (Rocky Point 2) is approximately 100m away.

Additionally, there is a relationship with the property where the Administrator of Christmas Island resides today at 4 Rocky Point Crescent. This property was the Island Manager’s house and the Japanese subsequently set up their headquarters there (Hunt 2011:184), approximately 100m away.

It illustrates the defences that the Japanese put into place. It demonstrates the modern practice in military warfare which uses camouflage and a vegetative coverage to hide military installations. It also takes advantage of the natural geophysical features of Christmas Island (Chief of Engineers 1940: 224).
The cultural significance of the site is that it is possibly the only one of its kind in Australia and demonstrates the activities engaged in by the Japanese when they occupied Christmas Island.

**Archaeological Assessment:**

There is an opportunity to excavate the site during the preparation for restoring and rebuilding the site. It is in this phase that the site might reveal its true purpose.

**Recommendations:**

The area needs to be cleared of the Dragon Fruit which encompasses the site plus secondary jungle growth of small shrubs and young saplings. Dragon Fruit is an introduced edible fruit and it would be pertinent to find out when the fruit was introduced to the Island. National Parks personnel told me that one often can find abandoned human habitation sites on Christmas Island because of the introduced edible plants growing in the location (Robert Muller 2018 Pers. Comm., 28 June).

The site should be restored as it is a significant structure and links closely with the sites Rocky Point 2, 3 and 4. Restoration will be engaging for the community. It will be of educational value for the children at the Christmas Island District High School and covers many aspects of the curriculum in Humanities and Social Sciences.

The side can be made into a node as recommended by the National Trust and included in the Gaze Road Trail (Pickering 2016:33).

Restoring the site through reconstruction will be a highly engaging and an easily achievable objective. Should that be the outcome desired, there arises the potential for engagement in education at primary, secondary and tertiary levels. There is also the potential to interest visiting tourists. The site will have to be maintained by the Shire of Christmas Island or the Commonwealth government as it is within their jurisdiction. Should the government maintain it, there are connections to the Administrator accommodation which lies about 500m directly in front of the site (see Rocky Point 4).
Map 1. Rocky Point 3 in the Settlement on Christmas Island. Map Source: Landgate adapted by van der Riet.
Photograph 1. RSJ remains, and other rusted iron remains which are part of the Rocky Point 3 site.

Photograph 2. Rocky Point 3

The flowering Dragon Fruit on the top of the cliff indicates where the remains of Rocky Point 3 are to be found.

The remains of the ladder can be found in the plinth on the platform at Rocky Point 1.
Photograph 3. The site from Gaze Road.
Photograph 4. Rocky Point 1 from which Rocky Point 3 would have been approached. Photo courtesy of Col. Robert Mitchell (rtd) of the National Trust (WA) taken in June 2016.
### SITE RECORD/PRELIMINARY HERITAGE ASSESSMENT

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Site Name: Rocky Point 4</th>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Rocky Point Crescent.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Rocky Point Crescent.</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LGA:</strong></td>
<td>Shire of Christmas Island.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Residence of Christmas Island</td>
<td>Administrator and private residence</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8 Rocky Point Crescent</td>
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</tr>
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<td><strong>Contact details of Landowner (if not SOCI):</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephen Elliott</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manager</td>
<td>Indian Ocean Territories Administration</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian Ocean Territories Branch</td>
<td>Local Government and Territories Division</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities</td>
<td></td>
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<td><strong>Unless stated otherwise all photographs have been taken by Helena van der Riet.</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Other photos supplied by Chris Tremaine, previous Owner of 8 Rocky Point Road.</strong></td>
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</tr>
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| 1. Time of day | 1. 08.00 |
| 3. Visibility  | 3. Good |

### Description of Site:

The two bungalows that comprise this site are pre-war built residential buildings constructed by the Christmas Island Phosphate Company in the Settlement on the north west of Christmas Island. They are timber buildings on rendered masonry piles with prominent concrete caps, approximately 1.5 m above the ground. The
buildings have a central gable roofed section surrounded by a skillion-roofed enclosed verandah. Servants’ quarters are located to the rear of the buildings and connected by a covered walkway. The servants’ quarters are of rendered concrete masonry with gabled roofs clad with corrugated iron.

Both sites have extant Japanese graffiti. At No 4 it is found beneath the home on the rendered masonry piles with prominent concrete caps. At No 8 Rocky the graffiti is located in the servants’ quarters.

**Current land use and threats:**

The bungalows are now residential properties and the threats pertaining to them would be alterations which are not sympathetic to their heritage value as laid out in by Palassis Architects in 1998 (Godden, Mackay, Logan 1998b).

**Site mentioned in the following reports/publications:**


Neale, M. 1988 *We were the Christmas Islanders: reminiscences and recollections of the people of an isolated island, the Australian Territory of Christmas Island, Indian Ocean*. Chapman, A.C.T: B. Neale. PAGE: 66


**Sketch and/or other observations:**

No sketches were made.
Heritage Significance

Nature of Significance
☑️ Aesthetic ☑️ Historic ☑️ Scientific ☑️ Social

Degree of Significance
☑️ Rarity ☑️ Representativeness

Condition, Integrity and Authenticity for Significance

Condition:
4 Rocky Point Crescent underwent extensive renovations in accordance with the standards set out by the National Trust. The property is well kept and maintained.

8 Rocky Point Crescent is undergoing renovations and I was unable to ascertain if the new owners would be sympathetic to the heritage of the bungalow.

The servants’ quarters have undergone extensive renovations and change of use. It is now a holiday villa called Sea Spray Villa.

Integrity:
The site is unique and appears to be connected to the other sites which were put in place by the British in the vicinity of the Settlement and Smith Point in 1941. The Japanese made use of these sites when putting defensive structures down. According to Hunt

‘He [Commander Ando] set up headquarters in the Island manager’s house at Rocky Point and summoned the European prisoners for interrogation’ (2011:184).

The Island Manager’s house is 4 Rocky Crescent and is the Administrator’s residence today.

Authenticity:
Christmas Island is today the only Australian territory which was occupied by the Japanese during World War II. It therefore has a special story to tell within Australian World War II history and yet few people are aware of this story. The site is authentic because of its undisputed origin and the graffiti is in the language and script of the Japanese occupation forces.

Preliminary Heritage Significance Assessment
The Rocky Point 4 graffiti remains have historic value as it is a place which is associated with an important event and theme in history, that is the Japanese occupation of an Australian territory during World War II.

It is also of heritage value as a structure used by the Japanese during their occupation of Christmas Island.
The two structures also have strong relationship with other Japanese occupation sites on Christmas Island especially with the property where the Administrator of Christmas Island resides today at 4 Rocky Point Crescent. This property was the Island Manager’s house and the Japanese set up their headquarters here (Hunt 2011:184).

The site has value because of its rarity in the Australian context.

The physical location of the site is part of its cultural significance. It supports the Australian War Memorial aims which are ‘to assist Australians to remember, interpret and understand the Australian experience of war and its enduring impact on Australian society’ (Australian War Memorial 2018: nd).

**Archaeological Assessment:**

There is an opportunity to excavate under the floor boards of the Administrators home. The levels of disturbance will be due to building activities, recent renovations, monsoonal weather cycles and to a lesser degree fossicking. Excavations be undertaken alongside the pathways which lead from the main residences to the servants’ quarters.

**Recommendation:**

The sites should be acknowledged, and link closely with the sites Rocky Point 1, Rocky Point 2, and Rocky Point 3. It is of significant educational value for the children at the Christmas Island District High School and covers many aspects of the curriculum in Humanities and Social Sciences.
MAPS AND PHOTOGRAPHS

Map 1. Location of Rocky Point 4 site. Map Source: Landgate adapted by van der Riet.

Photograph 1. Graffiti found underneath the Administrator’s residence.
Photograph 2. 4 Rocky Point Crescent. Christmas Island’s Administrator’s residence.

Photograph 3. Graffiti found underneath the Administrator’s residence.

Photograph 4. Graffiti found underneath the Administrator’s residence.
Photograph 5. 8 Rocky Point Crescent, and the servants’ quarters behind.

Photograph 6. The servant’s quarters have undergone a change of use and is now a holiday villa known as Sea Spray Villa.
Photograph 7. The graffiti was photographed by the previous owner Mr Chris Tremaine who has generously shared them for this research. This graffiti is located in the servants’ quarters which is not a holiday villa. Photograph (h) is all that remains of the graffiti at No 8 Rocky Point crescent as the new owners have tiled the entire wall when the room was converted to a shower room. Note: brightness and contrast have been increased to improve visibility of the graffiti in these images.
##SITE RECORD/PRELIMIARY HERITAGE ASSESSMENT

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<tr>
<td>Robert Muller</td>
<td>Parks Australia</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PO Box 867</td>
<td>Christmas Island</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>INDIAN OCEAN 6798</td>
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<td>Unless stated otherwise all photographs have been taken by Helena van der Riet.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Photos have been taken from Grimes:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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| 1. Time of day | 1. 10.30 |
| 3. Visibility  | 3. Good |

It required florescent marking tape to mark the track otherwise one could have easily got lost despite the fact the cave is less than 200m from Golf Course Road.
Description of Site:
The cave is described by Grimes (2001:52):

*Runaway Cave is a single 100 m long fissure, 5 to 10 m wide, and from 4 to 15 m high. It runs behind the base of, and more-or-less parallel to, a high southwest trending cliff face; which in turn may be fault controlled. The outer, southeast, wall is generally a smooth sloping, overhung surface; the inner wall is less regular. The roof is composed of large jammed chock stones. The cave contains numerous large angular boulders and blocks up to 5 m across. Some of the rubble has a thin coating of grey sparry calcite and is cemented together; other parts are loose and unstable (2001:52).*

I have used Grimes’ description as I felt that as a speleologist his description would be more accurate than mine. I felt overwhelmed by the dark and long passage and the necessity to climb over very sharp rocks. But I will clarify that where he describes the cave as being 5 to 10m wide this is because of the long passage that has to be travelled through to get to the cave. I have also used Grimes’ cross-section as my sketch for those same reasons.

Runaway Cave is a site of interest because oral histories (Renata de Jonge 2018 Pers. Comm., 28 June; John Hunt 2018 Pers. Comm., 19 July; Oliver Lines 2018 Pers. Comm., 27 June) maintain that the Islanders hid there during World War II. It is a short walk across the road from *The Grotto* (an official tourist site). The cave is about 100m from the road traversing through closely growing thick jungle. The forest floor is clean, which is a particular characteristic of the rainforest on Christmas Island because of its endemic uniqueness, but there is no signage and it requires the guidance of a local to find it.

In visiting Runaway Cave, it is essential to take a torch and water, as the cave is dark and water within it is not potable. There are thick cables leading into and out of the cave. These are likely to have been laid by amateur cavers or speleologists; however, it has also been suggested that ‘… the power cable that runs to an abandoned water pump’ (Grimes 2001:51).

Current land use and threats:
The site is largely forgotten and there is no signage indicating its location. Locals occasionally take visitors to Christmas Island to see it. Otherwise it remains a largely undisturbed site.

Site mentioned in the following reports/publications:

Christmas Island: Christmas Island Tourist Association. PAGE 60 and 61.
Sketch and/or other observations:
Grimes (2001:53) sketched an accurate representation of the site, as shown below, with annotations by van der Riet in red.

Heritage Significance

Nature of Significance
☑ Aesthetic ☑ Historic ☐ Scientific ☑ Social

Degree of Significance
☑ Rarity ☑ Representativeness

Condition, Integrity and Authenticity for Significance

Condition:
The site is infrequently visited. It is located within the confines of the National Park and is protected by the Australian Legislation and Regulation. As it is a natural feature its condition appears to be undisturbed apart from cables leading in and out of
the cave, and it is possible that there may be the remains of occupation within its confines.

**Integrity:**
The site is unique and is entwined in the oral history of Christmas Island. Runaway Cave is always interlaced in conversation with the story that this is one of the places the Islanders used to hide from the Japanese during the occupation (Renata de Jonge 2018 Pers. Comm., 28 June; John Hunt 2018 Pers. Comm., 19 July; Oliver Lines 2018 Pers. Comm., 27 June).

**Authenticity:**
Christmas Island is today the only Australian territory which was occupied by the Japanese during World War II. It therefore has a special story to tell within Australian World War II history and yet few people are aware of this story. The site is authentic because of the oral history which confirms that it was one of the sites in which Christmas Islanders used as refuge during the wartime occupation (Renata de Jonge 2018 Pers. Comm., 28 June; John Hunt 2018 Pers. Comm., 19 July; Oliver Lines 2018 Pers. Comm., 27 June).

As the site is not a man-made structure and no construction or alterations are evident near or within it, it therefore it remains in its natural state.

**Archaeological Assessment:**

There are possible remains of occupation and/or use of the cave, but no apparent evidence on the surface. This cave has little at present to indicate that it may provide archaeological information; however, further investigation using targeted shovel-test samples may reveal the archaeological potential for this site.

**Recommendations:**

The Visitors’ Centre encourages tourists and visitors to join planned caving expeditions. This is the best protocol for ensuring that any damage to the site is limited and controlled and for the safety of the visitors.

In addition, research into the oral histories regarding the use of the cave should be formally recorded and archived, and the cave systematically searched for evidence of use and/or occupation during World War II.
Map 1. Location of Runaway Cave site on the west side of Christmas Island. Map Source: Landgate adapted by van der Riet.
Photograph 1. Nearest parking point to Runaway Cave on Golf Course Road.

Photograph 2. Just before the descent into the cave. The long passageway into the cave.
Photograph 3. Descending into the cave. Photo credit: Grimes 2001:51
## SITE RECORD/PRELIMIARY HERITAGE ASSESSMENT

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<th><strong>Site Name:</strong></th>
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<th><strong>Date of Record:</strong></th>
<th><strong>Name of Recorder:</strong></th>
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<td>Shintō Shrine/Temple Remains</td>
<td>CIJO 002</td>
<td>21 June 2018</td>
<td>Helena van der Riet</td>
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</table>

### Alternate Names:
Mary’s Hill of Faith Grotto

### Nearest permanent structure:
Post Office, Pandang.

### Road frontage:
No 7 Club Road and Lot 573 Club Road. Settlement.

### Location: handheld GPS:

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- IMG_6036.JPG
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- IMG_6040.JPG
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- IMG_6043.JPG
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- IMG_6045.JPG
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- IMG_0779.HEIC
- IMG_0780.HEIC

Unless stated otherwise all photographs have been taken by Helena van der Riet.

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<tr>
<td>3. Visibility</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Topography/ Vegetation</td>
<td>4. Steps sets 1 and 2 within the gardens of the Christian Church and fully cleared. Step set 3 is completely overgrown by coral vine. Located at the bottom of the escarpment of Flying Fish Cove.</td>
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Description of Site:

There is difficulty in finding the exact location of the remains of the Shintō Shrine/Temple as it was destroyed by the British in 1945 (van der Gaast 1945: Appendix B page 3, Hackett 1945:3, Hunt 2011:204). This survey found three sets of steps, with 15 steps in each. Each set was uniform and measured precisely.

Two sets of 15 steps are currently incorporated within the Christian Church shrine leading up to the grotto of Mary’s Hill of Faith. The steps are of uniform size, width, depth and length. The inter-connecting walkway of 14m between sets 1 and 2 has been concreted over by the Christian Church’s caretakers and is not sympathetic to the original precision of the steps. There are four piles of rubble located at the top of each set of steps with remains of concrete posts sticking out. Embedded in the top of the posts are the remains of four bolts. It is possible that these posts are part of the temple structure. This is because shrines are fronted by a distinctive Japanese gate made of two uprights and two crossbars denoting the separation between common space and sacred space (Manabu 2016).

Before proceeding up the steps there is to either side and the first set, evidence of additions to the approach, with circular structures made of concrete which are now part of the Christian Church’s composting heaps.

At the top of the second set of stairs on the left, on the western side, are the concrete remains that appear to be the remains of a washing block. This is a heavy and solid tapered block of concrete of 60cm width, 120 cm long and 35 cm high. The concrete is of superior quality. It is possible that this is the washing block referred to by Tierney and Tierney (2007:33).

Situated behind this block is a solid circular concrete water tank stand of 190cm diameter. 40cm from the west side of the tank and located approximately parallel to the tank base is a 36mm galvanized pipe, rusted and incomplete.

Similar water tank stands can be found throughout the Island. There are also remains of rusty corrugate sheeting which may have been part of the water tank. Close to the concrete base, bamboo is growing.

The third set of 15 steps is located behind the remains of the tennis court at the former Christmas Island Club on Club Road. These steps are about 50 metres south west of the first two Flights currently incorporated in the Christian Grotto. This Flight is overgrown with coral vine (antigonon leptopus) an introduced noxious weed. The steps lead to a large area of levelled land, where it is possible the actual temple was located.
**Current land use and threats:**

Two sets of steps are incorporated within the Christian Church’s Grotto to Mary’s Hill of Faith. This ensures that caretaking of the steps is occurring. However, repairs are ad hoc and do not reflect the same skills with which the steps were originally constructed.

The third set appears to have been abandoned and visibility is poor, with the steps in degraded condition due to the introduced obnoxious coral vine weed and secondary jungle re-growth.

The site is not sign posted or acknowledged in any tourist information as the remains of a Japanese World War II structure.

---

**Site mentioned in the following reports/publications:**

Hackett, P.E. 1945 *The Relief of Christmas Island by H.M.S. Rother, 18th 20th October 1945.* ACT: National Archives of Australia. PAGE: 3.


Neale, M. 1988 *We were the Christmas Islanders: reminiscences and recollections of the people of an isolated island, the Australian Territory of Christmas Island, Indian Ocean.* Chapman, ACT: B. Neale. PAGE: 71.


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### Heritage Significance

#### Nature of Significance
- Aesthetic
- Historic
- Scientific
- Social

#### Degree of Significance
- Rarity
- Representativeness

### Condition, Integrity and Authenticity for Significance

#### Condition:

Little remains of the original Shintō Shrine/Temple. The three sets of steps described above may or may not be part of the original structure. This is also the case of the concrete wash basin and the piles of rubble with protruding posts. The site was deliberately destroyed in August 1945 (Hackett 1945:3; Hunt 2011:193; Neale 1988:71; van der Gaast 1945:3).

The remains appear to be three sets of 15 steps of uniform width, length and depth, a concrete washing block, and mounds of rubble each with a broken concrete post sticking out where the gates may have been mounted, the concrete base of a water tank and rusted galvanized pipes. There is also bamboo growing close to the water tank base.

One set of stairs is obscured by introduced coral vine. Whilst surface evidence is not present there may be sub-surface evidence to confirm the location of the temple.
**Integrity:**

Should the steps be proven to be part of the original Shintō Shrine/Temple then the maintenance of at least two sets that has continued under the care of the Christian Church will be of value to the historical and archaeological record, as will the degraded remains of the third set.

**Authenticity:**

There no visible evidence of the Shintō Shrine/Temple building. However, if it can be demonstrated that the three sets of steps are part of the Shintō Shrine/Temple complex then the sandō may be considered authentic. It will possess heritage value as the only sandō to have been constructed under Japanese supervision on Australian territory during World War II.

The Shintō Shrine/Temple site is in an auspicious location in connection with the landscape, as a sandō is usually lined with large trees, demarcating a path through the sacred forest, or chinju no mori, in which the shrine is situated (Manabu 2016). In Shintō, these groves are considered dwelling places of the kami and are sacred precincts in and of themselves (Manabu 2016). In this case the Japanese have chosen to place their Shrine at the base of the cliff surrounded by the jungle. The 1948 photograph of the first two sets of steps published by Neale (1988:71) shows landscaped garden beds at both sides of the steps, which may be the remains of the original structure and its surrounds.

**Preliminary heritage Significance Assessment:**

The Shintō Temple/Shrine remains have historic value as a place associated with an important event and theme in history. If the location and authenticity of the site is confirmed it will possess heritage value as the only Shintō Temple/Shrine to have been constructed under Japanese supervision on Australian territory during World War II.

This site has a strong relationship with other Japanese occupation sites on Christmas Island because its position is almost central to other buildings and structures the Japanese used and built in the locality of Flying Fish Cove, Drumsite and the Settlement.

**Archaeological Assessment:**

There is potential to determine the location of the Shintō Temple through excavation of the overgrown level ground at the top of the third flight of stairs behind the abandoned Christmas Island Club tennis courts. Should an excavation reveal burnt remains this could confirm the exact location. It is necessary to further research how Shintō temples were built in World War II in order to establish any peripheral activities or buildings that may be associated with the temple, which could also be
identified from ground survey and excavation.

There is also the potential to reveal what lies under the recently concreted 14m long walkway between the first two sets of steps. This walkway may represent the **sandō**, or “worshipper’s path”, that leads one into the shrine and to its constituent structures (Manabu 2016). Most **sandō** are paved with gravel or flagstone (Manabu 2016). Removing the concrete may reveal what building material was originally used for the **sandō**.

**Archaeological Assessment:**

The temple was destroyed but there is potential to excavate especially as the charred remains might reveal exactly where the temple was located and the size of its footprint.

**Recommendations:**

The ground be cleared of jungle growth at the third set of steps so that the levelled platform can be studied and analysed. Set up some test excavation pits, which may reveal the remains of the temple, thus establishing its exact location.

The concreted walkway between the sets of steps be removed and that area excavated to reveal if the steps are integral to the Shintō Temple. The walkway can then be re-laid.

The site is not publicly acknowledged and possesses no heritage signage, this to be rectified.

It has the potential to attract visitors once the **sandō** is properly restored and acknowledged with appropriate signage. The remains can be incorporated into the Gaze Road Trail.

It is apparent that the currently visible remains of the site can be sustainably maintained, as the Christian Church appears to have maintained two of the sets of steps and are likely to continue to do so.
MAPS AND PHOTOGRAPHS

Map 1. Location of site. Shintō Shrine/Temple located in the Kampong area on Christmas Island. Map Source: Landgate adapted by van der Riet.

Photograph 1. Sets of steps. Set 1 and 2, each of 15 steps.
Photograph 2. Photograph of the steps with well tended gardens (Neale 1988:71)

Photograph 4. A pile of rubble and post near the top of a set of steps.

Photograph 3. Recently laid concrete pathway between Set 1 and Set 2
Photograph 4. Concrete wall in circular formation at base of Set 1.

Photograph 5. Remains of concrete washing basin.
Photograph 6. Remains of concrete base and associated materials. To the left is the main basic block with a spout with spiral thread, and to the right (above) parts of the rusted galvanised pipe.

Photograph 7. Concrete tank base close to remains of concrete wash basin.
Photograph 8. This post may be part of a gate.

Photograph 10. Location of Set 3, 60m to the south east of Set 2.

Photograph 12. Overgrown steps of Set 3.

Photograph 14. Bamboo growing next to the water tank.
**SITE RECORD/PRELIMINARY HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

<table>
<thead>
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<th><strong>Site Name:</strong></th>
<th><strong>Reference Number:</strong></th>
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<tr>
<td>Smith Point 1</td>
<td>CIJO 001</td>
<td>21 June 2018</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Alternate Names:**
- The Fort (Neale 1988:58)
- Smith Point (Hunt 2011: 172)
- The fort and Gun Emplacement (Godden Mackay Logan. 1998)

**LGA:** Shire of Christmas Island & vacant Crown Land

**Nearest permanent structure:**
Tai Jin House, the former Administrator (District Officer’s) House.
Indian Ocean Oil Company Fuel storage containers.
The Christmas Island waste water treatment plant.

**Location:** handheld GPS:
Garmin 63
Reading taken at the built structure which may have been Captain Williams’ quarters (Hunt 2011:180).

004
S 10° 25.725'
E 105° 39.812'
UTM
Zone 48
Easting: 572624.448
Northing: 8847106.658

**Road frontage:**
Jalan Pantai.

**Contact details of Landowner (if not SOCI):**
Stephen Elliott
Manager | Indian Ocean Territories Administration
Indian Ocean Territories Branch | Local Government and Territories Division
Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities
PO Box 868, Christmas Island WA 6798

**Photo: Digital Numbers:**
|IMG_6006.jpg|IMG_6007.jpg|IMG_6008.jpg|IMG_6009.jpg|IMG_6011.jpg|IMG_6012.jpg|IMG_6014.jpg|IMG_6015.jpg|IMG_6016.jpg|IMG_6021.jpg|IMG_6022.jpg|IMG_6023.jpg|

Unless stated otherwise all photographs have been taken by Helena van der Riet.

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<tr>
<td>3. Visibility</td>
<td>3. Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Topography/</td>
<td>4. The grounds in front of the buildings are kept clear of jungle encroachment with large trees growing behind the</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Vegetation: The grass is kept well cut and has an aspect of manicured lawns.

Description of Site:
These are basic descriptions of the site as I considered it to a British Colonial site and not Japanese in construction. No measurements were taken.

The site consists of seven well-built structures of rendered concrete-masonry, brick and breeze blocks, all are painted white with corrugated iron roofing. The doors are of Jarrah wood. Three of the buildings were the living quarters of Captain William and the four European NCOs who were murdered on the night of 10 March 1942. There is a commemorative plaque at the Gun Emplacement acknowledging their role in the defence of Christmas Island (Figure 1).

Figure 1: The murder of the five British soldiers on the night of 10 March 1942 is commemorated by this plaque (Image Source: Col. Robert Mitchell (rtd.) West Australian Army Museum 2016)

Captain Williams’ quarters consists of a large room, a bedroom, a bathroom and toilet with a connecting passageway to an outhouse kitchen. The other living quarters consist of an identical pair of buildings containing two large bedrooms each and a connecting passageway. Behind the two NCO’s quarters is a large building consisting of two kitchens and two bathrooms. Presumably, this was for the use for the NCOs.

Alongside these 5 buildings to the west is the Gun Emplacement which is made of rendered concrete-masonry, brick, breeze blocks and buttress walls of stone and concrete and painted white. This building consists of a loading bay, two lockable rooms and two large storage areas. It still retains the 1904 150mm Breech-loading naval gun with flanking shell stores and Battery Building.
The gaol is situated 75m behind the Gum Emplacement and is made of breeze block and rendered concrete-masonry room with a broken door and 2 small bar windows.

Behind the gaol are 70 concrete steps with railings leading up to the Observation Tower. The Observation Tower is built on a solid buttress of stone and concrete and is itself made of rendered concrete-masonry and breeze blocks and painted white.

**Current land use and threats:**

Jungle encroachment and neglect.

Lack of consistent maintenance with large sections of concrete cancer found on all the buildings.

**Site mentioned in the following reports/publications:**


Neale, M. 1988 *We were the Christmas Islanders: reminiscences and recollections of the people of an isolated island, the Australian Territory of Christmas Island, Indian Ocean.* Chapman, ACT: B. Neale. PAGES: 58 and 62.


Sketch and/or other observations:

Observation Tower

North

Broadwalk of Stainless Steel.
Heritage Significance
Nature of Significance
☐ Aesthetic ☑ Historic ☑ Scientific ☑ Social
Degree of Significance
☐ Rarity ☑ Representativeness

Condition, Integrity and Authenticity for Significance

Condition:
The site is intact. The site is managed by the Commonwealth. According to Stanhope (Stubbs 2015:119) and Swinden (2002) a substantial amount of the maintenance is done by volunteers. It is this work which has prevented the site from becoming deteriorated.

The site is highly vulnerable to the equatorial climatic conditions and mining practices. Jungle encroachment is kept at bay except for behind the buildings and around the Observation Tower and steps leading up to it. Here the tree canopy and growth prevent one from looking out over Flying Fish Cove which means the objective of the placing the Tower in this location is completely lost and obscured.

The site does not appear to have a management plan.

Integrity:
There are sufficient remains of the original structures to be able to properly care for and conserve the site.

Preservation of the site using the materials used in the original construction will retain the cultural significance of the site.

Authenticity:
The site is authentic because of its undisputed origin (Neale 1988: 58) and is built in the manner in which military build for defence (Grimwade and Ginn 2002:85).

Preliminary Heritage Significance Assessment
Christmas Island is today the only Australian territory which was occupied by the Japanese during World War II. It therefore has a special story to tell within Australian World War II history and yet few people are aware of this story.

The cultural significance of the site is that it is possibly the only one of its kind in Australia. It is symbolic of the Island’s political position at the beginning of World War II and the strategies of the British defence of its South East Asian territories. It has aesthetic qualities arising from it its military character and picturesque location.

The site is unique and is a barracks constructed for small garrison of soldiers from...
the British empire. This would reflect the military measures taken to defend a colonial territory.

The Smith Point 1 remains have historic value as it is a place which is associated with an important event and theme in history, which is the Japanese occupation of an Australian Territory during World War II. It has heritage value as a primary relic of the events of World War II remaining on the Island.

The physical location of the site is part of its cultural significance. It supports the Australian War Memorial aims which are ‘to assist Australians to remember, interpret and understand the Australian experience of war and its enduring impact on Australian society’ (Australian War Memorial 2018).

Archaeological Assessment:

The area has the potential to provide evidence relating to the number, arrangement and equipment of the garrison both from the British and Japanese perspective.

Excavations should be undertaken around the kitchens, ablutions and the fringes of the buildings. However, as the interior flooring is concrete excavating within the building is impossible. It is possible that there are footpaths connecting the buildings. These are no longer visible, this should be investigated.

Additionally, Mitchel reported to me that he had seen revetments to either side of the Observation Tower (Robert Mitchell 2018 Pers. Comm., 30 May). Unfortunately, I was unable to locate them at this time. These need to be found and recorded.

Recommendations

The buildings should be accurately measured thus enabling them to be properly restored. Whilst the site is not grossly neglected it would benefit from more consistent maintenance as all of the buildings have the beginnings of concrete cancer (see Photographs 5, 11 and 12) which will worsen the essential structure of the buildings (2006. Concrete Cancer. McGraw-Hill).

A management plan should be put in place which should include regular maintenance. Maintenance is defined in the Burra Charter as follows, ‘the continuous protective care of a place, and its setting,’ (Australia ICOMOS 2013:2).

The site could be adapted to be incorporated into a small military museum to reflect the World War II heritage and the Gun Emplacement area could be made into a semi outdoor café. Currently the site is underutilised and is used for storage purposes. Should the site be adapted to accommodate the above suggestions the significance of the site will continue to resonate and provide ongoing education and employment to both Islanders and visiting tourists.
MAPS AND PHOTOGRAPHS

Map 1. Location of Smith Point 1 at Flying Fish Cove on the north western side of Christmas Island.

Photograph 1. Smith Point Barracks, The living quarters of Captain Williams and the four British NCOs (Photo credit: Col. Robert Mitchell (rtd.) West Australian Army Museum 2016)
Photograph 2. The NCO’s quarters, Kitchen, washhouse and ablutions (Photo credit: Col. Robert Mitchell (rtd.) West Australian Army Museum 2016)

Photograph 3. Captains William’s quarters.
Photograph 4. The ablutions and kitchens of the NCOs.

Photographs 5 a & b. The living quarters of the NCOs
Photograph 6. The 1904 gun pointing towards Flying Fish Cove (Photo credit: Col. Robert Mitchell (rtd.) West Australian Army Museum 2016)

Photograph 7. The rear of the 1904 gun.
Photographs 8 a & b. Close ups of the gun showing the impact of the environment.

Photographs 9 a & b. Rooms and storage lockers attached to the Gun Emplacement complex.
Photographs 10 a, b & c. Rooms and storage bunkers at the Gun Emplacement.

Photograph 12. The rear and western side of the Gun Emplacement (Photo credit: Col. Robert Mitchell (rtd.) West Australian Army Museum 2016).

Photograph 14. Signage which has deteriorated and does not reflect accurately the story of the Gun. (Photo credit: Col. Robert Mitchell (rtd.) West Australian Army Museum 2016).

Photograph 15. The Goal situated about 75m behind the Gun Emplacement.
Photographs 16 a & b. Seventy steps leading up to the Observation Tower.

Photograph 17. The Observation Tower (Photo credit: Col. Robert Mitchell (rtd.) West Australian Army Museum 2016).
Photographs 18 a & b. The interior of the Observation Tower which should give a view onto Flying Fish Cove harbour.

Photograph 17. Signage to the Observation Tower.
**SITE RECORD/PRELIMINARY HERITAGE ASSESSMENT**

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<th>LGA:</th>
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<td>Shire of Christmas Island &amp; vacant Crown Land</td>
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<td>Tai Jin House, the former Administrator (District Officer’s) House. Indian Ocean Oil Company Fuel storage containers. The Christmas Island wastewater treatment plant.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stephen Elliott</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manager</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian Ocean Territories Branch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PO Box 868, Christmas Island WA 6798</td>
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Unless stated otherwise all photographs have been taken by Helena van der Riet.
### Description of Site:
These are basic descriptions of the site as I considered the Fort to be a British Colonial site and not Japanese in construction. It is not clear in the literature if the Japanese used this site. Some basic measurements were taken.

This area seems to be the garrison for the Punjabi soldiers who arrived with Captain Williams late 1941 or early 1942 (Hunt 2011:172; Neale 1988: 58). There are remains of walls, floor bases, at least two circular bases for water tanks, rusted piping, corrugated sheeting and roof trusses, concrete blocks, asbestos, and broken glass bottles scattered over an extensive area. These remains lie on the south side of Jalan Pantai, beginning at the Gaol and onwards through to the sewage plant.

One of the water tank bases is situated on a rock of tuft about 3m high and I initially interpreted it as a machine gun mounting. This circular base is 2.1m in diameter. The other concrete base is found at ground level and is 2.35m in diameter.

Near the sewage plant there are remains of a sheet metal tank which is positioned against the cliff face; presumably to collect water as it flows from the cliffs. There are remains of piping extending out from this tank.

Finally, there is a large concrete slab measuring 4.7m x 3.7m with drainage holes, which has a small step 90cm x 15cm x 50cm on the north side.

### Current land use and threats:
Jungle encroachment including large trees with ever expanding buttress roots, climate and fossicking.

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<td>4. Topography/Vegetation</td>
<td>4. Large native jungle trees have re-established themselves within the area. The ground is relatively clean and clear. There is some growth of low shrubs and creeping vines.</td>
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</table>
Site mentioned in the following reports/publications:


Neale, M. 1988 We were the Christmas Islanders: reminiscences and recollections of the people of an isolated island, the Australian Territory of Christmas Island, Indian Ocean. Chapman, ACT: B. Neale. PAGES: 58 and 62.


Sketch and/or other observations:
**Heritage Significance**

**Nature of Significance**
- Aesthetic
- Historic
- Scientific
- Social

**Degree of Significance**
- Rarity
- Representativeness

**Condition, Integrity and Authenticity for Significance**

**Condition:**
The site is highly vulnerable to the equatorial climatic conditions and mining practices. Jungle encroachment has become established with buttress roots now enveloping large sections of the site. Numerous pieces of large jungle debris lie all over the site making it almost impossible to see what lies beneath them. It is north of Jalan Pantai that Mitchell, Tremayne and Smith claim to have seen further evidence of drainage and ablutions (Chapter Three of this thesis).

**Integrity:**
There is very little left of the original buildings. All have been reduced to floor level.

**Authenticity:**
The site is authentic because of its undisputed origin (Neale 1988: 58).

**Preliminary Heritage Significance Assessment**
Christmas Island is today the only Australian territory which was occupied by the Japanese during World War II. It therefore has a special story to tell within Australian World War II history and yet few people are aware of this story.

The cultural significance of the site is that it is possibly the only one of its kind in Australia. It is symbolic of the Island’s political position at the beginning of World War II and the strategies of the British defence of its South East Asian territories. It has aesthetic qualities arising from it its military character and picturesque location.

The site is unique and is a barracks constructed for small garrison of soldiers from the British Empire. It reflects the colonial, class and racial divisions of the time, in that it appears that the Indian soldiers almost had to camp in their quarters.

The Smith Point 2 remains have historic value as it is a place which is associated with an important event and theme in history; that is the Japanese occupation of an Australian Territory during World War II. It has heritage value as a primary relic of the events of World War II remaining on the Island.

The physical location of the site is part of its cultural significance. It supports the Australian War Memorial aims which are ‘to assist Australians to remember, interpret and understand the Australian experience of war and its enduring impact on
Australian society’ (Australian War Memorial 2018).

**Archaeological Assessment:**

The area has the potential to provide evidence relating to the number, arrangement and equipment of the garrison both from the British and Japanese perspective. The site should be extensively surveyed and excavated to answer questions on its use, changes and construction materials and methods over time. It is likely to have deposits from a range of periods and reveal a number of different activities and uses over time. Disturbance is present due to mining activity, jungle encroachment, monsoonal weather cycles and possible fossicking.

**Recommendations**

Once the site has been cleared and excavated it could be made into a small interpretative trail which would complement the buildings of the site I have called Smith Point 1 and which the National Trust refer to as the Ceremonial Node (Pickering 2016:43).

The site could be adapted to be incorporated into the small outdoor military museum to reflect the World War II heritage and the Gun Emplacement area could be made into a semi outdoor café (see Smith Point 1). Should the site be adapted to accommodate the above suggestions the significance of the site will continue to resonate and provide ongoing education and employment opportunities to both the Islanders and its visitors.
MAPS AND PHOTOGRAPHS

Map 1. Location of Smith Point 2 at Flying Fish Cove on the north western side of Christmas Island. The Yellow Shaded area reflects the extent of Smith Point 2 site.

Photograph 1. Solid wall on a concrete base. Situated in front of the steps leading to the Observation Tower. No measurements were made. No interpretation was made.
Photograph 2. Track leading away from the Gum Emplacement through to the encampment for soldiers.

Photograph 3. Roof trusses?
Photographs 4 a, b, c, & d. Miscellaneous structures of concrete and RSJs scattered throughout the area.
Photographs 5. Ground level base for a water tank?

Photographs 6a, b & c: Base of a water tank built on large tuft rock about 3m high. Initially thought it was a machine gun mounting?
Photograph 7a & b. The footings of a building interpreted to be an ablution structure.
Photographs 8 a, b, and c: Structures interpreted for gathering fresh water.
Photograph 9: The site has evidence of asbestos. The site needs to be made safe and the removal of this material is essential.

Photographs 10a and b: Corrugated sheeting with bullet holes?
### SITE RECORD/PRELIMINARY HERITAGE ASSESSMENT

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<td>27 June 2018</td>
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**Alternate Names:**
The Fort (Neale 1988:58)  
Smith Point (Hunt 2011: 172)  
The Fort and Gun Emplacement (Godden et al.1998)

**LGA:** Shire of Christmas Island & vacant Crown Land

**Nearest permanent structure:**
Tai Jin House,  
the former Administrator (District Officer’s) House.

**Location:** handheld GPS: Garmin 63 019:  
S 10° 25.748'  
E 105° 39.949'

UTM  
Zone 48  
Easting: 572878.156  
Northing: 8848906.637

**Road frontage:**
Jalan Pantai.

**Contact details of Landowner (if not SOCI):**
Stephen Elliott  
Manager | Indian Ocean Territories Administration  
Indian Ocean Territories Branch | Local Government and Territories Division  
Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities  
PO Box 868, Christmas Island WA 6798

**Photo:**
Unless stated otherwise all photographs have been taken by Helena van der Riet.

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<tr>
<td><strong>3. Visibility</strong></td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>4. Topography/ Vegetation</strong></td>
<td>The ground is clean and clear. There is some growth of low shrubs and creeping vines. Some mature trees are encroaching the site, strangler figs have completely enveloped the eastern side and top of the site. Steep cliffs very close on the north side.</td>
<td></td>
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**Description of Site:**
These are basic descriptions of the site as I considered the Fort and surrounds to be a British Colonial site and not Japanese in construction. It is not clear in the
literature if the Japanese used this site. Some basic measurements were taken. I believe this structure might have been constructed when Tai Jin House was built to complement the status of the District Officer. It would have been sentry post or Guardhouse. The structure is located at the top of the road to Tai Jin House by the second set of traffic lights. Mr Prout felt there was another possible use as a troop deployment post.

The Guardhouse is situated on the north side of Jalan Pantai and is essentially built round a huge rock and small cave. Within the small cave is evidence of concrete flooring. The cave might have been used for storage and shelter. The rock is used as the southern wall and extending from here are two circular solid walls built of local rock and concrete. The walls are no higher than 1.40m. There is no evidence that a roof was place above these walls. The entire structure covers an area 11.35m x 6.25m.

The entrance is found on the north side of the Guardhouse and is 1.70m wide. The distance between the entrance and the start of the cave wall is 2.75m. There is no entrance on the southern side which faces onto the road.

The western side of the Guardhouse has a double wall made of rock and concrete, each wall is about 0.45m thick and the space between the walls is filled with rubble. The distance between the western and eastern walls is 2.00m.

On the southern side next to the road is a tapered block of concrete enclosing a solid metal pipe of 15cm diameter. The block is 45cm high by 0.60m x 0.60m at its base. A block of concrete of the same dimensions is found at the top of the rock.

I spent 45 minutes climbing this rock so that I could take the measurements of the raised block which match the measurements of those at ground level. Whilst up there I found the remains of an anchor point or stay (Photograph 6). This might have been a mechanism for lowering and raising a barrier at this point.

Current land use and threats:
Strangler figs and large trees are enveloping the site. Climate. Lack of consistent maintenance.

Site mentioned in the following reports/publications:


Neale, M. 1988 *We were the Christmas Islanders: reminiscences and recollections of the people of an isolated island, the Australian Territory of Christmas Island, Indian Ocean.* Chapman, ACT: B. Neale. PAGES: 58 and 62.


**Sketch and/or other observations:**

![Sketch](image-url)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Heritage Significance</th>
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<tr>
<td>Nature of Significance</td>
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<td>☑ Aesthetic    ☑ Historic    ☐ Scientific    ☑ Social</td>
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<td>Degree of Significance</td>
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<td>☑ Rarity       ☑ Representativeness</td>
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**Condition, Integrity and Authenticity for Significance**

**Condition:**
The site is highly vulnerable to the equatorial climatic conditions. Strangler figs have become established and now envelop large sections of the site. The site is fairly intact but continues to deteriorate due to lack of maintenance.

**Integrity:**
There are sufficient remains of the original structure to be able to restore or rebuild the site.

Preservation of the site using the material used in the original construction will not be difficult as the materials used are readily available today.

**Authenticity:**
The site is authentic because of its undisputed origin (Neale 1988: 58). Purcell was District Officer of Christmas Island in 1926 (Neale 1958:207) describes the approach as follows

... reached by a narrow path that had been blasted through the cliff face (a man with a rifle could have held up an army in such a defile (Purcell 1965:179).

This might have been the case when Purcell was on the Island, but I do not believe this site was of much use in military terms for warfare in World War II, it certainly would have had a function for ceremonial purposes during colonial times.

**Preliminary Heritage Significance Assessment:**

Christmas Island is today the only Australian territory which was occupied by the Japanese during World War II. It therefore has a special story to tell within Australian World War II history and yet few people are aware of this story.

The cultural significance of the site is that it is possibly the only one of its kind in Australia. It is symbolic of the Island’s political position at the beginning of World War II and the strategies of the British defence of its South East Asian territories. It has aesthetic qualities arising from it its military character and picturesque location.

The site is unique and is connected to the barracks constructed for small garrison
of soldiers from the British Empire, and Tai Jin House which was built as the District Officer’s residence.

The Smith Point 3 remains have historic value as it is a place which is associated with an important event and theme in history, that is the Japanese occupation of an Australian Territory during World War II. It has heritage value as a primary relic of the events of World War II remaining on the Island.

**Archaeological Assessment:**

The site has the potential to provide evidence relating to the number, arrangement and equipment of the garrison both from the British and Japanese perspective.

The site should be excavated to answer questions on its use. Disturbance is present due to, jungle encroachment, monsoonal weather cycles and possible fossicking.

**Recommendations:**

Once the site has been cleared and excavated it can be incorporated into the Gaze Road Trail and part of the Ceremonial Node as recommended by the National Trust (Pickering 2016:43).

The site could be preserved to be incorporated into the small outdoor military museum to reflect the World War II heritage and together with the Gun Emplacement (see Smith Point 1). Should the site be adapted to accommodate the above suggestions the significance of the site will continue to resonate and provide ongoing education and employment opportunities to both the Islanders and its visitors.
MAPS AND PHOTOGRAPHS

Map 1. Location of Smith Point 3 at Flying Fish Cove on the north western side of Christmas Island.

Photograph 1: The enclosure facing west. Tai Jin House is 100m on the other side of the wall.
Photograph 2: The outside of the western wall.

Photograph 3: The outside of the eastern wall, within the rock is a cave with evidence of concrete flooring.
Photograph 4: The southern wall which is a large rock formation with a cave. The second set of traffic lights. The concrete tapered block with a metal pipe

Photograph 5: Anchor point or Stay found at the top of the Rock. Connect by a rusty pipe to the tapered concrete block
Photograph 6: Second small cave found on the eastern side of the structure.

Photograph 8: The extent of the wall. The entrance to the structure is on the other side of the wall. The position of the site gives a good view over Flying Fish Cove.
## Site Name:
Waterfall 1

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<td>26 June 2018</td>
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**Name of Recorder:**
Helena van der Riet

**Alternate Names:**
Lookout (Hunt 2011:193)

**LGA:**
Shire of Christmas Island, vacant Crown Land, Christmas Island Resort

**Nearest permanent structure:**
Christmas Island Resort

**Road frontage:**
None

**Location:**
handheld GPS (Garmin 63):
017
S 10° 27.614'
E 105° 42.359'
UTM
Zone 48
Easting 577263.08
Northing 8843613.51

**Contact details of Landowner (if not SOCI):**
Stephen Elliott
Manager | Indian Ocean Territories Administration
Indian Ocean Territories Branch, Local Government and Territories Division
Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities
PO Box 868, Christmas Island WA 6798

**Photo: Digital Numbers:**

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Unless stated otherwise all photographs have been taken by Helena van der Riet.

### Description of Site:
The site is located on the north eastern side, at the top of steep and dangerous cliffs on a small promontory above Waterfall Bay.

### Description:
1. **Time of day**
   - 09.30

2. **Weather**
   - Clouds traversing overhead. Very warm and windy.

3. **Visibility**
   - Good

4. **Topography/Vegetation**
   - Very steep cliff edge overlooking Waterfall Bay.

   Heavily overgrown with secondary jungle growth, young saplings, strangler fig, dead organic garden debris. Surrounding cliff face heavily loaded with coconuts, coconut palm saplings and coconut palm branches and leaves.

   Direct view over Waterfall Bay and the Indian Ocean.
The structure is a concrete lookout post with a constructed gun hole. The roof is made of heavily corroded interlocking RSJs 240cm long and joined to the concrete walls. The roof is covered by the overgrowth of jungle shrubbery.

The lookout is filled with organic debris from the adjacent garden area, building rubble and bird guano. As a result, it is not possible to stand in the chamber of the structure.

Thick concrete walls are in place either side of the 180cm wide opening which overlooks the ocean to the south. The thick walls are made of local tuff and rock concreted together on both sides of the structure.

The dimensions of the gun hole are: 60cm deep, 25cm high and 50cm wide. The gun hole overlooks the bay and the cliffs opposite. This is the first site where a gun hole constructed of concrete has been recorded in this survey.

**Current land use and threats:**

The site has been, and continues to be, used as a tip by the owner of Resort/Casino. Soon it will be completely covered by garden refuse and bird excrement, which threatens the both integrity of the structure and preservation of the materials.

**Site mentioned in the following reports/publications:**


Heritage Significance
Nature of Significance
☑️ Aesthetic ☑️ Historic ☑️ Scientific ☑️ Social

Degree of Significance
☑️ Rarity ☑️ Representativeness

Condition, Integrity and Authenticity for Significance

Condition:

The site is deteriorated but has the potential to reveal information. The condition is deteriorated due to the use of steel which is corroded due to the wet and humid climate. The site is filled with building rubble from the construction of the adjacent resort. It continues to act as a dumping area for garden waste from the Resort/Casino gardens.

It is further deteriorated because Brown Boobies use the bunker as a permanent nesting and nursery site (personal observation). It is also filled with guano from the Brown Boobies resident in the site.

The site has never been managed and is highly vulnerable to the equatorial climatic condition and clearances practices of from the gardener/caretaker of the Christmas Island Resort.
Integrity:

There are sufficient remains of the original structure to be able to restore or rebuild
the site.

Preservation of the site using the material used in the original construction will
result in the same process of deterioration. The RSJs which are likely to be part of
the original construction, are currently intact, and they continue to be integral to the
structural integrity of the building. This suggests that their survival in these
conditions may continue to support the structure into the future.

Authenticity:

The site is authentic because of its undisputed origin (Hunt 2011:192, 195) and is
built in the manner in which military engineers build in the battlefield (Chief of
Engineers 1940: 6). Christiansen describes similar Japanese World War II structures

Preliminary Heritage Significance Assessment:

The cultural significance of the site is that it is possibly the only one of its kind in
Australia and demonstrates the activities engaged in by the Japanese when they
occupied Christmas Island.

The structural remains at Waterfall 1 have historic value as a place which is
associated with an important event and theme in history, that is the Japanese
occupation of an Australian territory during World War II. It will possess heritage
value as one of a series of defence posts placed at Waterfall Bay to defend the
“second” harbour and freshwater supplies. Additional heritage value is found in the
fact that it has a relationship with associated structures to have been constructed
under Japanese supervision on Australian territory during World War II.

It illustrates the defences that the Japanese put into place and provides a stark
contrast to the defences put in place by the British. It demonstrates the modern
practice in military warfare which uses camouflage and a vegetative coverage to
hide military installations (Chief of Engineers 1940:224). It also takes advantage of
the natural structures of the soaring cliff faces (Price and Knecht 2012:8).

The physical location of the site is part of its cultural significance. It supports the
Australian War Memorial aims which are ‘to assist Australians to remember,
interpret and understand the Australian experience of war and its enduring impact on
Australian society’ (Australian War Memorial 2018: nd).
**Archaeological Assessment:**

The site has value because of its rarity in the Australian context. It also has some scientific value because of its method of building in the World War II context and the use of military building materials such as rolled steel joists.

The site should be excavated and preserved. Disturbance at the site is due to the construction of the Resort/Casino building, monsoonal weather cycles, garden refuse activities and the permanent Brown Boobie residents.

**Recommendations:**

The site should be made safe and preserved. Excavation can occur during the course of clearing the infill.

Once the site has been made safe and preserved it can become part of the Waterwall node and incorporated into a trail for that area.

The original materials used to build the site in the first instance are still readily available today.

The maintenance of the site could come under the jurisdiction of the Owners of the Christmas Island Resort/ Casino and would probably not be too burdensome. This is because the site can be incorporated into the gardens of the Resort/Casino and would be of interest to guests staying there.
MAPS AND PHOTOGRAPHS

Map 1. Location of Waterfall 1 site on west side of Christmas Island adjacent to the Christmas Island Resort/Casino. Map Source: Landgate adapted by van der Riet.

Photograph 1. The site is located about 50m beyond the Coconut Palm trees.
Photograph 2. Inside the structure which is filled with debris.

Photograph 3. View of some of the structure partially obscured by jungle and coastal shrubbery.
Photograph 4. View of the gun hole and part of the roof from inside the structure.

Photograph 5. Close up of gun hole, which has a depth of 60cm.
Photograph 6. Location of the site on the northern side of a cliff.

Photograph 7. Remains of anchor points at the base of the cliff, used when Waterfall Bay was the second harbour for the Island.
Photograph 8. A view of the site location on the cliff.