

6.0 CONSERVATION ACTIONS

6.1 USE

Ongoing

Maintain the current use (i.e a continuity of the original use, which was well established by the time of main period of significance) of the Buchan Caves Reserve as a venue for day visits and extended stays, involving individual and organised travel, and self-guided and organised tours of the Reserve and the caves (where appropriate)

6.2 MANAGEMENT

Ongoing

- Ensure that management permits transfer of oral history traditions by continued use of dedicated local guides who are given opportunities to become familiar with, and if possible to undertake research into, the history and traditions of the Buchan Caves and the reserve

Short term

- Undertake detailed conservation management plans of highly ranked places; these could most economically be undertaken as a group, but could also proceed as individual commissions as needs or funds arise
- Undertake additional historical research and analysis on under-researched components to supplement information contained in the current European Heritage Action Plan

Priority

- Create an arboretum data bank, listing trees on the reserve and recording planting and management details for each tree
- Develop and implement a tree maintenance policy, including a programme of tree propagation from significant trees

6.3 EXISTING FABRIC AND SETTING

6.3.1 THE RESERVE OVERALL

(i) Reserve boundaries

Ongoing

- Use the information in the current European Heritage Action Plan as a predictive tool to identify and note culturally significant aspects or evidence of this component pending completion of a conservation management plan

Medium term

- Undertake an accurate survey of the reserve (capable of being manipulated in digital form)
- Commission a conservation management plan of the reserve boundaries

(ii) The outer reserve

Ongoing

- Maintain current walking tracks that extend from the inner to outer reserve [see 6.3.6 (iv)]
- Maintain contrast in vegetation between the inner and outer reserve [see 6.3.3]

6.3.2 CAVE INFRASTRUCTURE

(i) Moon Cave infrastructure

Short term

- From a natural heritage perspective, it is important to protect the platypus environment at the river level; place appropriate sign on the present gate to explain why access to the river has been closed

(ii) Federal Cave infrastructure

Ongoing

- Continue to support the redevelopment being carried out by the Friends group

Short term

- At an appropriate display point, conserve one switchboard in working order (used to control two or three of the original style of light fittings, with 12-volt globes being powered from the battery supply) for interpretative purposes
- Maintain a detailed record of visitor reaction and of any technical problems for two years after opening
- Discuss with the Friends group the feasibility of any changes indicated by this monitoring

(iii) Royal Cave infrastructure

Ongoing

- Conserve the protective netting and associated structure in the *Font of the Gods* area
- Conserve the stalagmite display in the *Font of the Gods* area
- Conserve the wrought iron uprights (for handrails) and retain in use, unless installation of new infrastructure for conservation and interpretation dictates their removal (but note the requirement to retain the original protective netting and associated structure in the *Font of the Gods* area)

Short term

- Implement works recommended in Sinclair Knight Merz report (1999)

Medium term

- Remove the pipe that currently protects the main electrical power supply
- Employ expert contemporary design and state-of-art technology to optimise the quality of visitor experience when replacing existing infrastructure

(iv) Fairy Cave infrastructure

Ongoing

- Conserve the wrought iron uprights (for handrails) and retain in use, unless installation of new infrastructure for conservation and interpretation dictates their removal

Short term

- Implement works recommended in Sinclair Knight Merz report (1999)

Medium term

- Remove the pipe that currently protects the main electrical power supply
- Employ expert contemporary design and state-of-art technology to optimise the quality of visitor experience when replacing existing infrastructure

6.3.3 VEGETATION

(i) Indigenous species

Ongoing

- Conserve existing indigenous trees as identified in 3.3.1

Medium / long term

- Replant avenue trees (*Eucalyptus melliodora* and *E. viminalis*) with material propagated from these existing trees

(ii) Early plantings (pre-1929)

Ongoing

- Conserve these plantings as identified in 3.3.2

Medium / long term

- Replace senescent trees with material propagated from these trees

(iii) Linaker-era plantings (1929–38)

Ongoing

- Conserve these plantings as identified in 3.3.3

Medium / long term

- Replace senescent trees with material propagated from these trees

(iv) Owens/Sandford era plantings (1939–42)

Ongoing

- Conserve these plantings as identified in 3.3.4

Medium / long term

- Replace senescent trees with material propagated from these trees

(v) Post-war plantings (1946–72)

Ongoing

- Conserve these plantings as identified in 3.3.5

Medium / long term

- Replace senescent trees with similar species to maintain design intention of spectacular autumn display

(vi) Recent plantings (post-1972)

Ongoing

- Conserve plantings as identified in 3.3.6 that adhere to Linaker's design intention

Medium / long term

- Replace senescent trees with similar species

General actions

Urgent

- Set up a programme for propagation from culturally significant trees to provide new progeny for replanting in the future

Short term

- Carry out remaining tree works as specified in Tree Survey 1999 [and Beetham recommendations, 2003]
- Create an arboretum data bank, listing trees on the reserve identified in the 2003 survey and others known to staff, and recording provenance, planting and management details for each tree. Register all new trees (and large shrubs) in this data bank.

Ongoing

- Maintain contrast in vegetation between valley floor/inner reserve and outer reserve by continuing tradition of planting exotics and indigenous/native plants respectively. New planting should be chosen from species not yet or under- represented in the reserve but which illustrate Linaker's design intention. Examples of such genera and species include maple, oak, flowering cherry, as well as indigenous plantings such as lilly pilly and kurrajong.
- Develop and implement a tree maintenance policy, including a programme of tree propagation from significant trees

6.3.4 CAMPING AREAS

(i) Former camping ground

Ongoing

- Maintain evidence of former use as a camping ground by maintaining this area as an open paddock (subject to suitable weed and riverbank management)

(ii) Main camping ground

Ongoing

- Maintain original (i.e. current) use of main camping ground within current boundaries for tents and caravans
- Maintain rustic stone edging to central area of main camping ground (around kitchen and site of former laundry)
- Maintain sewerage plant as part of the ongoing use of the reserve [see 6.3.5 (xv)]
- Maintain cabins as part of the ongoing use of the reserve [see 6.3.5 (xvi)]
- Maintain main toilet and shower block as part of the ongoing use of the reserve [see 6.3.5 (xxi)]
- Maintain interpretation centre as part of the ongoing use of the reserve [see 6.3.5 (xxiii)]
- Maintain children's playground as part of the ongoing use of the reserve [see 6.3.5 (xxiv)]

Short term

- Conserve kitchen [see 6.3.5 (xviii)]
- Conserve car wash site [see 6.3.5 (xiv)]
- Conserve laundry site [see 6.3.5 (xix)]
- Conserve 'communal hall'/kiosk [see 6.3.5 (xxii)]

Long-term

- Consider long-term replacement of information shelter [see 6.3.5 (xx)]
- Consider relocation of interpretation centre [see 6.3.5 (xxiii)] as part of any long-term conservation of the 'communal hall'/kiosk [see 6.3.5 (xxii)]

(iii) North Arm camping ground

Ongoing

- Maintain current use of North Arm camping ground within current boundaries for seasonal overflow camping, including retention of toilet and shower block [see 6.3.5 (xvii)]

(iv) Spring Creek camping ground

Short term

- Consider new use for this area, including new use or demolition of toilet block [see 6.3.5 (xxv)], any works to be subject to a future master plan for the Buchan Caves Reserve

6.3.5 BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

(i) Entrance archway

Ongoing

- Maintain entrance archway as part of the ongoing use of the reserve

Urgent

- Commission a detailed conservation management plan of the entrance archway and its immediate surrounds; this should include expert engineering advice on the structural adequacy of the archway (especially in the light of the recent redesign of the log structure) and an investigation of alternative means of entry for high vehicles to allow reconstruction of the original detailing of the log structure

Short term

- Undertake any conservation actions or other works recommended by the detailed conservation management plan

(ii) Pump House

Ongoing

- Maintain pump house as part of the ongoing use of the reserve

Short term

- Undertake additional historical research and analysis on this building to supplement information contained in the current European Heritage Action Plan

(iii) Caves House

Ongoing

- Maintain Caves House as part of the ongoing use of the reserve

Short term

- Commission a detailed conservation management plan of Caves House
- Undertake any conservation actions or other works recommended by the detailed conservation management plan

(iv) Sheds

Short term

- Consider new use or demolition of sheds as part of any future reorganisation of works depot, works to be subject to a future master plan for the Buchan Caves Reserve

(v) Tennis court

Ongoing

- Maintain built major elements of the tennis court including the benched landform, the open level surface, and the fenced enclosure

Short term

- Consider new use for tennis courts as part of any future reorganisation of works depot, works to be subject to a future master plan for the Buchan Caves Reserve

(vi) Former engineer's residence

Ongoing

- Maintain former engineer's residence as part of the ongoing use of the reserve

Short term

- Undertake additional historical research and analysis on this building to supplement information contained in the current European Heritage Action Plan

(vii) Swimming pool

Ongoing

- Maintain swimming pool as part of the ongoing use of the reserve

Short term

- Conserve swimming pool including retention of original use and original/early fabric
- Prepare a detailed conservation management plan of swimming pool and its immediate surrounds to guide all future work

(viii) Swimming pool change rooms

Ongoing

- Maintain provision of change rooms to serve the adjacent swimming pool, but not necessarily utilising the current building

(ix) Fence around doline

Ongoing

- Maintain fence around doline as part of the ongoing use of the reserve

(x) Barbecue

Ongoing

- Maintain barbecue as part of the ongoing use of the reserve

Short term

- Conserve barbecue including retention of original use and original/early fabric

- Prepare a detailed conservation management plan of the barbecue and its immediate surrounds (including detailed documentation of existing conditions) to guide all future work

(xi) Offices

Short term

- Consider relocation or removal of existing portable buildings as part of any future reorganisation of offices, works to be subject to a future master plan for the Buchan Caves Reserve
- Consider new use of existing permanent building as part of any future reorganisation of offices, works to be subject to a future master plan for the Buchan Caves Reserve

(xii) Federal Cave entrance

Ongoing

- Maintain Federal Cave entrance as part of the ongoing use of the reserve

(xiii) Rockwork (along creek)

Ongoing

- Maintain rockwork as part of the ongoing use of the reserve
- Undertake annual inspection (or more frequently depending on seasonal conditions) of rockwork to monitor condition, undertake conservation works as necessary

Urgent

- Reconstruct fallen section of rockwork adjacent to Royal Cave entrance

(xiv) Car wash site

Short term

- Maintain archaeological evidence of the car wash site by ensuring that the surface is not disturbed

Medium term

- Prepare a detailed conservation management plan of this component and its immediate surrounds to guide any future reconstruction

Long term

- Consider reconstruction of the former car wash to operable order

(xv) Sewerage plant

Ongoing

- Maintain sewerage plant as part of the ongoing use of the reserve

Short term

- Screen sewerage plant from main camping ground and main drive with suitable plantings such as a flowering evergreen shrub hedge, mixed shrubbery plantings (exotics and native) or autumn foliated vines or native clematis supported by trellis

(xvi) Cabins

Ongoing

- Maintain cabins as part of the ongoing use of the reserve

(xvii) North Arm toilet and shower block

Ongoing

- Maintain North Arm toilet and shower block as part of the ongoing use of the reserve

(xviii) Kitchen

Ongoing

- Maintain kitchen as part of the ongoing use of the reserve

Short term

- Conserve kitchen including retention of original use and original/early fabric
- Reconstruct rustic sign [see 6.3.5 (xxxvii)] to kitchen
- Prepare a detailed conservation management plan of this component and its immediate surrounds to guide all future work

(xix) Laundry site

Medium term

- Prepare a detailed conservation management plan of this component and its immediate surrounds to guide any future reconstruction

Long term

- Reconstruct former laundry building with new information/interpretation facility to replace current information shelter [see 6.3.5 (xx)]

(xx) Information shelter

Ongoing

- Maintain tradition of information/interpretation facility with 24-hour access

Long term

- Replace information shelter by a new building, a reconstruction of the former laundry building but having an information/interpretation use [see 6.3.5 (xix)]

(xxi) Main toilet and shower block

Ongoing

- Maintain main toilet and shower block as part of the ongoing use of the reserve

(xxii) Campers' Lounge / Kiosk

Ongoing

- Maintain campers' lounge /kiosk as part of the ongoing use of the reserve

Short term

- Reconstruct rustic sign [see 6.3.5 (xxxvii)] to campers' lounge/kiosk

Medium term

- Prepare a detailed conservation management plan of campers' lounge /kiosk and its immediate surrounds to guide all future work; such a plan would expand on and supersede the 2001 report (RBA Architects and Conservation Consultants—see 5.2.2) by including a consideration of all relevant documentary evidence and the general findings of the current European Heritage Action Plan for the Buchan Caves Reserve

(xxiii) Interpretation centre

Ongoing

- Maintain an interpretation centre as part of the ongoing use of the reserve

Long term

- Consider relocation of interpretation centre as part of any long-term conservation of the 'communal hall'/kiosk

(xxiv) Children's playground

Ongoing

- Maintain playground in original (i.e. current) location but with modern play equipment as part of the ongoing use of the reserve
- Maintain early rustic sign [see 6.3.5 (xxxvii)]

(xxv) Spring Creek toilet block

Short term

- Consider new use or demolition of toilet block as part of any new use of the Spring Creek camping area [see 6.3.4 (iv)], works to be subject of a future master plan for the Buchan Caves Reserve

(xxvi) Culvert

Ongoing

- Maintain culvert as part of the ongoing use of the reserve
- Undertake annual inspection (or more frequently depending on seasonal conditions) of culvert to monitor condition, undertake conservation works as necessary

(xxvii) Royal Cave toilet block

Ongoing

- Subject to recommendations of future master plan for the Buchan Caves Reserve, retain provision of toilet facilities to serve the Royal Cave entrance, but not necessarily utilising the current building

(xxviii) Royal Cave entrance

Ongoing

- Maintain Royal Cave entrance as part of the ongoing use of the reserve
- [was there a rustic sign to Royal Cave?]

(xxix) Royal Cave exit

Ongoing

- Maintain Royal Cave exit as part of the ongoing use of the reserve

(xxx) Rotunda

Ongoing

- Maintain rotunda as part of the ongoing use of the reserve

Short term

- Conserve rotunda including retention of original use and original/early fabric
- Prepare a detailed conservation management plan of the rotunda and its immediate surrounds (including detailed documentation of existing conditions) to guide all future work

(xxxi) Engine House site

Short term

- Maintain archaeological evidence of the engine house site by ensuring that the surface is not disturbed

Medium term

- Prepare a detailed conservation management plan of the former engine house and its immediate surrounds to guide future interpretation

(xxxii) Store

Ongoing

- Maintain store as part of the ongoing use of the reserve
- Conserve items of moveable cultural heritage [see 6.3.7 (i)]

Medium term

- Prepare a detailed conservation management plan of the store complex and its immediate surrounds to guide future conservation and interpretation

(xxxiii) Guide room

Ongoing

- Maintain guide room as part of the ongoing use of the reserve

(xxxiv) Fairy Cave toilet block

Ongoing

- Subject to recommendations of future master plan for the Buchan Caves Reserve, retain provision of toilet facilities to serve the Fairy Cave entrance, but not necessarily utilising the current building

(xxxv) Fairy Cave entrance

Ongoing

- Maintain Fairy Cave entrance as part of the ongoing use of the reserve
- Maintain early rustic sign [see 6.3.5 (xxxvii)]

Short term

- Reset stone treads on steps leading to Fairy Cave entrance in a manner that balances the high cultural significance of the fabric with their continuing use as part of the major visitor route to this feature

(xxxvi) Fairy Cave exit

Ongoing

- Maintain Fairy Cave exit as part of the ongoing use of the reserve

(xxxvii) Rustic signs

Ongoing

- Maintain rustic signs as part of the ongoing use of the reserve

Short term

- Conserve early rustic signs to playground [see 6.3.5 (xxiv)] and Fairy Cave [see 6.3.5 (xxxv)] by periodic replacement of timber components, and repair of masonry base as required
- [what about Royal Cave? did it have a sign?]
- Reconstruct rustic sign to kitchen [see 6.3.5 (xviii)] and ‘communal hall’/kiosk [see 6.3.5 (xxi)]

(xxxviii) Stone bollards and log fences

Ongoing

- maintain stone bollards and log fences as part of the ongoing use of the reserve

Short term

- Reconstruct missing sections of stone bollards and log fences [where?]

6.3.6 ROADS AND TRACKS

(i) Main roadway

Ongoing

- Maintain main roadway as part of the ongoing use of the reserve
- Where alteration to alignment of the main roadway is required as part of any future master plan, ensure that the simple linear nature and unsophisticated nature of the original roadway is respected

(ii) Bridges

Ongoing

- Maintain bridges as part of the ongoing use of the reserve
- Where strengthening or replacement of bridges is required, wherever possible retain existing masonry abutments and incorporate simple detailing that draws on or makes reference to original design elements

(iii) Car parks

Ongoing

- Maintain existing car parks as part of the ongoing use of the reserve
- Where alteration to the car parks is required as part of any future master plan, ensure that the simple placement and unsophisticated nature of the original car parks is respected

(iv) Walking tracks

Ongoing

- Maintain walking tracks as part of the ongoing use of the reserve

6.3.7 DOCUMENTATION AND INTERPRETATION

(i) Moveable cultural heritage

Short term

- Prepare an inventory and assessment of moveable cultural heritage held within the Reserve with a view to detailed cataloguing and preparation of an accession policy

Medium term

- Prepare a detailed catalogue of items to be retained and proceed with an orderly de-accessioning of objects no longer required

(ii) Archival documentation

Short term

- Retain current archival documentation on site and institute a plan to progressively copy the most significant documents and files; this would include the minutes and correspondence files of the Committee of Management as well as copies of plans and drawings
- Organise with Lands Victoria to obtain copies of the early sections of the reserve file (Rs 1228)—say to the end of the second file (1967)—and also early sections of the reserve files for other Buchan caves reserves, including Slocombes (Rs1311), The Pyramids (Rs 1312), Wilsons (Rs 1313), Un-named (Rs1314), Buchan camping reserve (Rs 1315) and Dicksons (Rs 1317)
- Create dedicated storage space within the office at Buchan Caves Reserve for archival documentation, with appropriate sleeving, boxing, shelving, storage and security; this may require advice from a conservator or archivist

Medium term

- Initiate discussion with the Public Record Office of Victoria with a view to placing original records now held at Buchan Caves Reserve into its collection but retaining copies on site

(iii) Oral history traditions

Short term

- Institute a targeted program of oral history interviews and transcripts to ensure that local information and traditions are recorded to aid future interpretation of the Buchan caves and the reserve

6.4 INTERPRETATION

Ongoing

- Ensure that all guides receive appropriate training to assist the interpretation of the Buchan caves and the reserve
- As individual buildings and structures require repainting, institute a consistent colour scheme to enhance the interpretation of the 1938 works (using an appropriate palate of colours derived from detailed physical investigation) and adopt a complementary but more neutral colour scheme for more recent works

- Ensure that archival documentation is made available (under appropriate conditions of security) to bona fide researchers, including guides, to assist with the conservation and interpretation of Buchan Caves and the reserve
- Institute a policy of retaining representative and suitably archived samples of equipment and stores for future interpretation
- Continue and extend practice of labelling culturally significant trees in the reserve to communicate these values to the public

6 5 FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

Ongoing

- Ensure that all future developments are in accord with the Heritage Action Plan and its recommended conservation actions
- Ensure that all future developments comply with detailed recommendations of conservation management plans where such reports have been undertaken for individual components

Short term

- Undertake a comprehensive master plan for the Buchan Caves Reserve; this plan should be based on the cultural values highlighted in the current European Heritage Action Plan as well as a consideration other issues touching on the practical management of the Reserve (such as the works depot and office, provision of toilets, car parking, visitor flow, and the like) and the protection and interpretation of the natural values of the caves in particular and the Reserve generally

Priority?

- For new plantings, choose from species not yet or under- represented in the reserve but which illustrate Linaker's design intention e.g. maple, oak, flowering cherry, as well as indigenous plantings such as lilly pilly and kurrajong ? ~~see tree report in Appendix xx~~ [now to be incorporated in Section 6.0

6.6 ADOPTION AND REVIEW

Ongoing

- Maintain a file within the Reserve to record comments on the Heritage Action Plan, to aid future review of the report

Short term

- Institute a process of formal adoption of this Heritage Action Plan by Parks Victoria
- Negotiate with Heritage Victoria to gain permit exemptions for works that are in accordance with this Heritage Action Plan

Long term

- Implement a review of the European Heritage Action Plan within ten years of its adoption or sooner where significant new evidence is uncovered