

# **Stuart Park**

## **A Landscape History**

**A Report On Some Historical Features Of The Present Landscape Of  
Stuart Park, Darwin**

**With A Brief History Of The Various Types Of Land Use That Have  
Occurred In The Suburb**

**With Particular Reference  
To Pre Contact Aboriginal Usage  
And Subsequent Transport, Residential, Horticultural,  
Cemetery, Quarrying, Manufacturing, And  
Public Utility Land Use**

**With Recommendations For The Recording And Safe-Keeping Of  
Significant Sites And Structures**

**This report is derived from two papers submitted for the completion of a  
Bachelor of Arts at Northern Territory University 1997.**

**Donal Raethel  
PO Box 40007 Casuarina NT 0821  
1999**

The Present: One Mile Railway Dam is located below Dinah Beach Road and just above the maximum high tide mark within the Railway Dam town camp (lot 5027). The dam is spring fed and also receives runoff from some of the C.B.D.'s storm water drains. It is delightfully set amid trees and is a favourite swimming hole for children living in the town camp but is often polluted with street waste including used syringes.



One Mile Railway Dam

In the park overlooking the dam (lot 5221) is a circular tank of rusty corrugated iron set on a concrete base. It may be picturesque but awaits a dubious future.

*Since the original writing of this report, this old water tank has been demolished.*

Running along the southern side of Stuart Highway are two mains that supply Darwin's water. They are of steel and are either buried or fixed above ground by solid concrete bracing. They link the PAWA water treatment station in Berrimah with the several large tanks that service the city. Sections have been decorated with murals by children. These are now very faded but still show images mostly of sea creatures and ships that were painted by pupils of Henbury Avenue Primary School, Nakara School and children from Beluen, Borroloola and V.R.D. Near the intersection of the highway and Parap Road is a set of concrete steps over the mains that would have once given easy access from the railway houses north of the highway to the rail yard that is now the PAWA depot.



Close to the steps stands the landmark No. 3 water tower. It is a cylindrical steel tank held aloft by a steel framed tower. A zigzag ladder ascends the exterior of the tank and open frame, while the spindle-looking mains rear vertically to the centre of the tank. Painted a clean metallic grey and exhibiting the engineered aesthetics of pure function it rises thirty metres above the road and pleases the eye of those with an industrial bent. (see photo in section 9.1.) The tower is listed on the register of the National Estate database as an "indicative place". Much larger, at 36 megalitres (8 million gallons), and definitely more aesthetically minimalist, is the concrete reservoir at the end of Armidale Street (lot 5241).

The Past: The oldest surviving evidence of European water supplies in Stuart Park is One Mile Railway Dam. This reservoir and the now-filled dam at 2 ½ Mile were formed on portions gazetted as railway reserves in 1894. They were essential elements of the railway infrastructure and supplied water not only to the locomotives that operated on the North Australia Railway, but also to steamships, railway houses, workshops, the station, Railway Hill Mess area and Vestey's meat works.<sup>150</sup> For forty years they were the town and port's only reticulated supply but once the Manton Dam scheme was operating their importance slumped and One Mile Railway Dam became a swimming hole and catch pit for the city's runoff.

When Administrator Gilruth forced many of Darwin's Asian population to move to Police Paddock he told them to fetch their water from the railway dam. They refused and he had a bore put down. A windmill was used to raise the water and children carried water buckets from the bore to 44 gallon drums at their homes. The bore casing was still visible in a Voyager Street property until at least twenty years ago.<sup>151</sup> Various wells also survived until the early 1960s<sup>152</sup> but this report is not able to identify any surviving bores or wells.

The history of the Duke Street water tank is uncertain. A cursory inspection of the concrete base revealed no inscribed name or date and the tank is not discernible on an aerial photograph of 1945. However, it was constructed prior to the building of nearby houses in the 1950s. It may be associated with a long disused steel water pipe that runs parallel to Duke Street, and probably supplied huts at the far end of the street.<sup>153</sup> A straight line that may result from this pipe's trench does appear in a 1940s aerial photograph.<sup>154</sup>

The first of the mains that run alongside the highway was installed in 1938 as a part of the Manton Dam supply scheme which was designed by the Civil Engineering Section of the Works Branch, Dept, of the Interior. The dam was constructed by the military and the mains by a Perth contractor, Daniel (Darn) Hunt and several work gangs, including one that had travelled overland from northern New South Wales at the request of army recruitment officers. These officers declined to enlist the men in the armed services but, knowing that the men had earlier been engaged in the installation of a similar scheme in northern Queensland, urged them to take their skills to Darwin and participate in war preparations. In 1939 the mains were extended beyond No. 3 water tank to supply Larrakeyah army base, the port and the town centre.<sup>155</sup> With the opening of Darwin River Dam in 1972 these supply mains were superseded by much larger ones and were converted to city reticulation mains.



No. 3 water tank was built in 1939 as part of the Manton Dam supply scheme. There are four other such tanks: situated at West Lane in the C. B. D., Montoro Court in Larrakeyah, the RAAF base, and Stokes Hill. The No. 3 tank was built by John and Waygood Ltd. It was an integral part of the supply scheme that had been instituted by the Royal Australian Navy in anticipation of the outbreak of war. After the war the scheme was handed over to civilian control and has been one of the most important factors in the growth of Darwin since that time.<sup>156</sup>

The Armidale Street tank is situated on land that earlier had been a Northern Territory Administration metal dump.<sup>157</sup> The tank was built in 1976 as part of the continuing expansion of Darwin's water supply system.

The Future: Only the Duke Street tank is in danger of destruction. It is situated on land that may be converted to housing in the process of turning the whole of the land from Duke Street to the C. B. D. into a medium density residential precinct. This process will also eventually entail the encroachment of the Railway Dam by blocks of units and access roads and the probable relocation of the town camp residents who presently live beside the dam. The mains and PAWA tanks will continue to be used.

## 17. Manufacturing

Darwin has never been a significant manufacturing centre. Nevertheless, small scale manufacturing plants supplying local markets have become a feature of the landscape south of Stuart Highway and east from Woolner Road to Berrimah. Several such plants exist within the study area. They are all to be found on Bishop Street. This is an area that was zoned for heavy industry in the 1950s and remains in marked contrast to the residential suburbs to its north and west.

The Present: The most noticeable of the manufacturing structures is the old brewery situated on Bishop Street (lot 4241). This large corrugated iron building, surmounted by its NT Brewery sign, and surrounded by more recently built brewery structures, is not the largest factory in the precinct but is certainly the most distinctive. It stands as a landmark overlooking the Tiger Brennan Drive quarry face, and is visible from the south for a considerable distance. It is particularly noticeable because of the large red and white porcelain and fluoro tube sign that proclaims the NT Brewery logo. The building has not been used as a brewery for several years. Now it is leased as a storage and distribution depot for building materials. To the west of the former manufacturing complex, in a cul de sac off Woolner Road, are the remnants of a small private residential subdivision built for brewery staff members. All of the four remaining residences are in poor condition. They are still in use as rented accommodation but little or no upkeep is apparent.

The Past: The brewery was constructed for Stuart Brewery Pty Ltd. and the original portions of the factory complex were completed by 1954. They consisted of large concrete slab floors with galvanised iron and aluminium walls that housed the main brewing building, store rooms, an office, an amenities block and sundry vats and tanks.<sup>158</sup> Over the next three decades at least two new office blocks were built, new cold stores, brewing rooms and cellars added, and an electrical substation installed. During that time proprietorship passed to Swan Brewery and then to NT Brewery.

RC  
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# DARWIN CENTRAL AREA

## HERITAGE STUDY

by

ADRIAN WELKE

and

HELEN J WILSON

NORTHERN TERRITORY  
ARCHIVES SERVICE

Report to the Conservation Commission of the Northern  
Territory through the National Trust of Australia (Northern  
Territory)

Darwin

1992

CONSERVATION COMMISSION  
NORTHERN TERRITORY

CALL NO.

ACC. NO.

DATE RECEIVED

12908

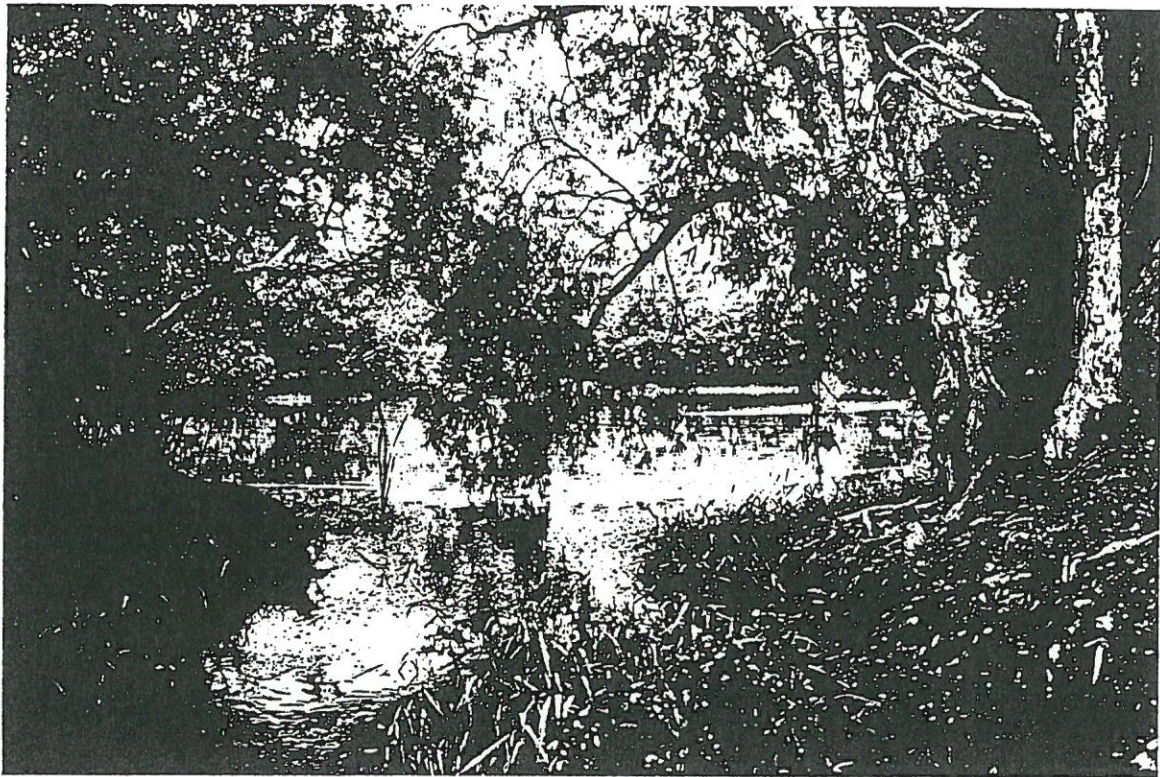


L O T 5 0 2 7

ADDRESS: 16 DINAH BEACH ROAD

LOCATION: DARWIN

PRECINCT - RAILWAY DAM



EXTENT OF AREA OF SIGNIFICANCE: Dam wall and water body and immediate area (of possible archaeological significance).

CURRENT OWNER: ABORIGINAL DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION INC

TITLE REFERENCE: CUCL Volume 157 Folio 040; Special Purpose Lease No 00454 in perpetuity.

DESCRIPTION: Natural water course retained by an earth wall/bund.

**HISTORY/SIGNIFICANCE:** This dam at the foot of McLachlan Street just beyond the original surveyed town lots, on what was once called Donald's Flat, appears to have been initially built to water the first formal gardens site. These were established under the auspices of the second government resident, G B Scott, by the gardener, William Brelsford Hayes in 1871. The first town maps show Horse (or Burton's) Creek running through the site of the reservoir.

The gardens were moved to Fannie Bay some years later and the dam enlarged and made extensive use of after construction of the Palmerston to Pine Creek railway had commenced in 1886.

By June 1926 both the Dam (then known as the One Mile Dam) and Horse Creek had been extensively canalized and were important factors in the town's water and drainage.

The site is now an important Aboriginal area close to the centre of town.

**ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION/SIGNIFICANCE:**

N/A

**COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS:** The dam is the only remaining feature of the first formal gardens site.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY:** SAA: GRS 1, 18/8/1871; GRS 1, 256/1871; SAPP, 35/1872; Administrator's report, year ended 30 June 1926; Commonwealth Parliamentary Papers, No 101 of 1926.

**PLANS:** N/A



## Community Benefit Fund

### 6. Activities of the Organisation

### One Mile Dam Community Association

#### Background

25 years ago, on the 26th March, 1979, a Special Purpose Lease was granted, to provide a permanent place for Aboriginal people to stay when they come to Darwin. The One Mile Dam Community (also known as Railway Dam), situated within the CBD of Darwin, was formally recognised as an Aboriginal Living Area, under the auspices of the Aboriginal Development Foundation.

Historically, people from the Belyuen area had used this place for convenient living and transit, with its natural spring feeding the dam providing permanent fresh water and its location giving easy access to traditional hunting and fishing grounds near the extensive mangrove swamps surrounding Darwin. These people played a key role in the years leading up to the granting of the lease, by lobbying and protesting for a permanent area to be granted for the purposes of aboriginal living. Direct descendants of David Timber were among the people living at One Mile Dam when the lease was granted. David is now the guiding personality in the modern, ongoing existence of this historic settlement.

David has worked for a number of indigenous organisations in Darwin including Night Patrol and Sobering Up Shelter. He is currently the Coordinator of the One Mile Dam CDEP that provides some employment to residents. David is considered by all residents and visitors alike to be the "boss". He facilitates any disputes, which arise on the community, and organises accommodation for people who come to One Mile Dam. He has acted as the manager of One Mile Dam, without any formal recognition or recompense, for 16 years.

During 2003 as aboriginal people were increasingly moved away from the CBD, One Mile Dam's population increased by 300 %, from 30 people to more than 100. One Mile Dam is the only place within the city of Darwin where Aboriginal people can stay, within their cultural comfort zone and within the law. One Mile Dam provides a sanctuary for indigenous homeless people, giving an alternative to living on the streets, providing shelter and basic facilities, and functions in a way that Aboriginal people feel welcome and accepted.

Services that rely on One Mile Dam Community to provide such sanctuary include the Police and Day and Night patrol. Service providers to One Mile Dam include Centrelink, Danilla Dilba and St Vincent de Paul.





NORTHERN TERRITORY OF AUSTRALIA

## Record of Administrative Interests and Information

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(See section 38 of the Land Title Act)

12/05/2004 12:20:08

**Title Reference:** CUCL 157 40  
**Tenure Reference:** SPECIAL PURPOSES LEASE 454  
**Tenure Status:** Current  
**Parcel Reference:** Lot 5027 Town of Darwin from plan(s) S 75/116

**Custodian - Registrar General (+61 8 8999 6252)**

**Tenure Type**  
SPECIAL PURPOSES LEASE

**Previous Titles**  
(none found)

**Transfers**  
(none found)

**Custodian - Surveyor General (+61 8 8999 7934)**

**Property**  
Lot 5027 Town of Darwin from plan(s) S 75/116

**Address**  
16 DINAH BEACH RD, DARWIN CITY

**Survey Plan**  
S 75/116

**Parcel Status**  
CURRENT

**Parcel Area**  
3 hectares, 1200 square metres

**Map Reference**  
Code 200 Scale 2500 Sheet 29.22  
Code 200 Scale 2500 Sheet 30.22

**Parent Parcels**  
(none found)

**Parcel Comments**  
PROP SPL S75/116 RAILWAY DAM LAND CLAIM REF ULA 105 - ALLOCATION AS ABORIGINAL CAMPING AREA. "RAILWAY CAMP".

**Survey Comments**  
(none found)

**Proposed Easements**

Aboriginal land development  
assoc.  
urban land application  
"dome red" now  
referred to as:  
LAP - not a profit  
DA - company.

(none found)

**Custodian - Valuer General (+61 8 8982 5700)**

**Owner's Last Known Address**

ABORIGINAL DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, GPO Box 2784  
DARWIN NT 0801

**3 parcels in valuation**

**Unimproved Capital Value**

\$820,000 on 01/07/2002  
\$750,000 on 01/07/1999  
\$520,000 on 01/07/1996  
\$450,000 on 01/07/1993  
\$280,000 on 01/01/1991  
\$280,000 on 01/01/1988  
\$280,000 on 01/01/1985  
\$210,000 on 01/01/1982  
\$150,000 on 01/05/1979

**Valuation Improvements**

17/07/1997 Water  
17/07/1997 House  
01/08/1982 Water  
Improvement type( DAM)

**Custodian - Property Purchasing (+61 8 8999 7722)**

**Acquisitions**

(none found)

**Custodian - Building Advisory Service (+61 8 8999 8965)**

**Building Permits**

**24/05/1991 Permit to Occupy (Type P) REPLACE SECTION OF SEWER**

Number of residential units	0
Australian Bureau Statistics type	
Building Class	1
Area	0 square metres

**Custodian - Town Planning and Development Assessment Services (+61 8 8999 6057)**

**Planning Scheme Zone**

(DWNR6) Darwin Town Plan - Community living

**Planning Notes**

(none found)

**Planning Applications**

Type	Planning Scheme Amendment
Date Received	01/11/1996
Application Purpose	FROM I1 I3 R3 R6 CP & FU TO SU RAILWAY DAM VICINITY <u>FILE WITH DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT</u>
Application Status	<u>Pending</u>
Other Affected Parcels	LOT - 200 04244 LOT - 200 04360 LOT - 200 04989 LOT - 200 05193 LOT - 200 05196 LOT - 200 05619 LOT - 200 05716 LOT - 200 05717 LOT - 200 05718 LOT - 200 <u>05719</u> LOT - 200 05802 LOT - 200 05940 LOT - 200 01661 LOT - 200 01662



Instrument Number  
Instrument Issued  
Instrument Status

Type Planning Scheme Amendment  
Date Received 20/11/1995  
Application Purpose REZONE ALL LOTS TO SU EXHIBITION DATES 1/12/95 - 1/3/96  
Application Status Withdrawn  
Other Affected Parcels LOT - 200 02279 LOT - 200 04244 LOT - 200 04360 LOT - 200 04363 LOT - 200 04796 LOT - 200 04802 LOT - 200 04849 LOT - 200 05221 LOT - 200 05414 LOT - 200 05524 LOT - 200 05649 LOT - 200 05716 LOT - 200 05719 LOT - 200 05799 LOT - 200 01661 LOT - 200 01662

Instrument Number  
Instrument Issued  
Instrument Status

*Supreme court action !?*

**Custodian - Power and Water Corporation (+61 8 8982 7777)**

**Meters on Parcel**

Power Water - Electricity none found  
Power Water - Water none found

For Account balances, contact the Power and Water Corporation.

**Custodian - Mines and Energy (+61 8 8999 5322)**

For information on possible Exploration Licences, contact Mines & Energy on +61 8 8999 5322 or visit the 5th floor Centrepont with this printout.

For information on possible Petroleum Titles, contact Mines & Energy on +61 8 8999 5322 for further details.

**Other Interests**

For Account balances, contact Darwin City Council.

National Trust Significant Place (unverified)

All or part of this parcel is contained within the boundary of a native title application. Contact Aboriginal Land Branch on 8999 6597.

Storm Surge: This lot is within a primary surge zone. For more information contact the Planning Branch on 8999 6109.

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Note: The Record of Administrative Interests and Information is not part of the Land Register and is not guaranteed by the Northern Territory of Australia, and the NT Government accepts no Liability for any omission, misstatement or inaccuracy contained in this statement.

Registrar General

# One Mile Dam Community

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## Community Development

In 2003, a core group of permanent residents decided it was time that positive change was needed at One Mile Dam to address various and profound health and safety issues confronting the residents. They have sought broader community support in initiating community development projects in a professional and coordinated way and seek specialist assistance in planning such development. Part of this planning has included the establishment of the Kumbutjil Association to administer community objectives:

To undertake community development in health, housing, education, recreation, arts, entertainment, employment and cultural renewal. To generate and support employment opportunities and small business/enterprise of benefit to One Mile Dam Community residents. To encourage the wider community to participate in the development of the future of the One Mile Dam community. To encourage and actively seek employment Within projects concerned with the redevelopment of the area.

March 2004



## **Community Benefit Fund**

### **7. Purpose of the Grant**

### **One Mile Dam Community**

#### **Recognising and Celebrating the Past 25 years of One Mile Dam Community Planning the Future 25 years for an Active, One Mile Dam Community**

##### **The Event:**

- 1) 2 day Community Building Workshop 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> April
- 2) One Mile Dam Community Association Public Launch 28th April 10am till 12 noon

In November of 2003, Ken Fernandes from Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions sat down with David Timber at One Mile Dam Community. Out of this meeting a seed was planted to utilise Kens specialised expertise through a tailored workshop program. The key outcome of the workshop for One Mile Dam is a 25 year strategic plan for a safer, active, healthier community for the future.

The One Mile Dam Community have broadened the workshops to other like minded communities in Darwin. Four to six key community representatives from One Mile Dam, Bagot Community and another will benefit from the workshops and individual community planning. (See workshop guideline)

One Mile Dam Community Association Public Launch precedes the workshop on the 28<sup>th</sup> of April from 10am till 12 noon. Invitations will be extended to stakeholders, dignitaries, council, government representatives and members of the public. Posters will be used as key promotional material. The event includes speeches, unveiling of One Mile Dam Community Association sign, historical display, music performances and community BBQ.

The purpose of the grant is to cover the facilitation cost of the workshops. (See budget)

see attached info

**About COHRE**

**COHRE Asia Pacific Program**

**About Ken Fernandes**