



30 | YEARS
1993–2023
Wellington Park

Historic heritage significance of the kunanyi / Mount Wellington huts

WELLINGTON PARK MANAGEMENT TRUST

October 2023



In recognition of the deep history and culture of the land within Wellington Park, we acknowledge Palawa as the traditional and ongoing custodians of this land.

We acknowledge the determination and resilience of Palawa, who have survived invasion and dispossession and continue to maintain their identity, culture and connection to country. Although the Muwinina people whose land included that of Wellington Park did not survive invasion, we honour their legacy in our efforts to look after their mother mountain, kunanyi.

We recognise that we have much to learn from Palawa today. We pay our sincere respect to Elders past and present.

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Introduction

Nestled within the forests and fern gullies of kunanyi / Mount Wellington are a number of small stone huts. Many walkers may use these huts as picnic shelters, or as refuges from the cold, but few would understand the unique cultural heritage of the mountain huts. Nearly a hundred years ago, the lower slopes of the mountain were scattered with ornately designed rustic huts, built and used by members of the community who wished to spend their weekends on the mountain. Today, most of these huts exist only as ruins, destroyed by fire, hidden relics of the mountain's past.

Huts are an iconic feature of the backcountry, but unlike elsewhere in Australia, the majority of huts on kunanyi / Mount Wellington were built solely for recreational purposes, rather than the hydro workers and stockmen's huts that are features of the Australian Alps. Many of these huts were not just simple corrugated iron shacks, but elaborately built timber structures that featured verandahs, bridges, summer houses, and even tennis courts, all built from materials found on the mountain. Other mountain huts include Woods' Cottage, the first tourist accommodation built in a natural area in Tasmania, a number of ski huts, and public day use shelters built by unemployed labour during the Great Depression.

Mountain huts capture the imagination. They provide safety in bad weather, a fire to warm up from the cold, a place to rest your head after a tiring day exploring. They are a home away from home. As heritage sites, they tell us the stories of the people who adventured and sheltered on the mountain before us. The huts on kunanyi / Mount Wellington are a reminder of the mountain's wildness, that although the mountain forms the backdrop of a bustling city, it is part of the wilderness, prone to harsh weather and dangerous conditions that we might need to be protected from.

Some of the histories of the mountain huts are unknown – they may only be featured in a single photograph, or scattered rocks may be the only evidence that a hut ever stood. The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of the historical evolution of the mountain huts and explain their cultural heritage significance. This report focuses on huts on the plateau and the eastern face of kunanyi / Mount Wellington, constructed between 1830-1970. Huts that do not have sufficient historical information on which to base an assessment of significance, and those located outside the modern boundaries of Wellington Park, have been excluded from this report.

From rudimentary huts to rustic weekenders – the history of the kunanyi / Mount Wellington huts

1. Before invasion

There has never been a systematic survey for Tasmanian Aboriginal cultural heritage in Wellington Park, and therefore no remnants of a hut or other living space has ever been found, but that does not mean they never occurred. Generally, Tasmanian Aboriginal people built huts and camps close to the coast, near where abundant food resources could be found such as rocky outcrops. Temporary shelters would have been erected where needed. The many sandstone caves and overhangs that dot the lower slopes of the mountain would have been suitable shelter if it was ever needed when walking on the mountain's slopes. kunanyi is an extremely significant site for the Palawa people and further research should be conducted in order to fully understand and document the Aboriginal history of the mountain.

2. Worker's huts and Woods' cottage, 1810s–1890s

Much of the eastern face of kunanyi / Mount Wellington was originally granted to Peter Degraives and the Cascade Brewery in the 1820s. Some of the earliest huts on the mountain were built on this land – simple, temporary structures that housed pit sawyers working in the Cascade Valley. Other temporary huts were constructed to house convicts employed in the construction of the watercourse that supplied water to Hobart Town near the upper reaches of the Sandy Bay Rivulet. Levelled earth platforms and jumbles of stone are all that remains of these early huts. When the watercourse was extended beginning in 1839, additional worker's huts were constructed further up the mountain, as was a hut built for the constable or overseer¹, located near the modern-day intersection of the Ice House and Milles Tracks. The hut was used as a refuge shelter and rest stop for walkers, as well as being an important waypoint, marking the junction up to the Pinnacle that would later become the Ice House Track and the route to the Wellington Falls². By 1839, there was also

likely a hut at the Pinnacle, built under the auspices of Lady Jane Franklin³.

The hut was often referred to as the “Springs hut”, referring to the water springs that emerge from the bedrock at this location. “The Springs” eventually came to refer to a much larger land area in part as a result of the application of Henry Woods for permission to build a cottage for himself and “a good substantial house for the accommodation of respectable inhabitants⁴”. Permission was granted, and Woods began clearing in an area approximately 400 m north-east of the existing hut, near modern-day Grays Fire Trail. The cottage was a simple, Georgian-style cottage built of vertical timber planks⁵. By the 1860s, Woods and his wife were well-known fixtures on the mountain, with Henry clearing paths, maintaining the watercourse, and guiding walkers, and his wife Jane providing refreshments and accommodation to the ever-increasing number of tourists on the mountain⁶. A new shelter shed was also built for the benefit of walkers⁷. In the 1890s, after Woods' death, Charles Gadd was appointed as the mountain ranger, and he too had a cottage built at the Springs. This infrastructure cemented the Springs as the nexus for visitation on the mountain, but it wasn't the only place where walkers could take shelter from the mountain's occasionally wild weather.



Woods' Cottage, 1870. The Springs shelter can be seen in the background. https://eprints.utas.edu.au/6719/3/springs_sml.pdf

¹ Stone 2022, 'The original Springs hut', THRA vol. 69, no. 2, p. 28; TAHO G033/1/88

² Stone 2022, p. 30

³ A roofless stone hut is shown in sketches by RC Poulter and others - FA1304 <https://stors.tas.gov.au/858c5727-0e5b-4584-8a0b-42921bc1402e>

⁴ Letter to Mr. Calder of the Lands Department from Henry Woods, 28/8/1859

⁵ McConnell n.d., *Woods Cottage Data Summary*, WPMT

⁶ Extract from Irene Schaffer's *The Old Man of the Mountain* <<https://www.tasfamily.net.au/~schafferi/index.php?file=kop59.php>>

⁷ See image in Grist 2021 'A timeline for the buildings at the Springs, Mount Wellington' p. 17 which shows the location of the Springs Hotel, shelter shed, and Ranger's Cottage.

3. Rustic recreational huts, 1880s–1920s

The huts are the work of young fellows who spend their week-ends in the bush, and they have spared no pains in making their temporary dwelling places pleasing to the vision, and also comfortable to inhabit. The tenements are built of timber and bark, and beautified with ferns and shrubs, and are placed picturesquely on the banks of running streams, in groves of the tall man-ferns, which grows in luxuriant profusion in every direction⁸. – Roy Davies

There is nothing more Tasmanian than a holiday shack, a tradition that may very well have originated on kunanyi / Mount Wellington in the late 19th century. From the 1880s to the 1920s, a number of private recreational “weekender” huts were built on the eastern slopes of the mountain on land that at that time belonged to the Cascade Brewery. Hut members would pay a “peppercorn”⁹ rent to the Cascade Brewery, usually around a shilling a week¹⁰. The earliest recreational huts were simple, one-roomed bark huts, but over time a unique rustic aesthetic began to evolve. The huts featured ornate lattice verandahs built of dogwood branches¹¹, decorative awnings, summer houses, bridges, outdoor furniture, arches, hand railings, and even on occasion, tennis

courts¹². The construction of the huts was often an evolutionary process, with a hut often going through two or three iterations – being enlarged, re-roofed, or dismantled and rebuilt from the ground up¹³.

The huts were run on a membership basis, with the hut “members” and keyholders usually consisting of the hut builders and their friends and often family, however many of the hut groups welcomed visits from the public. The huts were a popular attraction, attracting local and interstate visitors¹⁴ – over 90 people picnicked at the Grass Tree Hut in the summer of 1895¹⁵. Many of the huts had charming names related to the natural environment, such as Falls Hut, Forest Hut, Clematis Hut, Wattle Grove Hut, and Fern Retreat Hut. These huts also often featured in postcards.



Postcard showing the Falls Hut. From the Grist collection.

Unfortunately, the popularity of some huts led to vandalism. Vandals frequently broke into huts, smashing windows and stealing or destroying any property inside¹⁶, and occasionally huts were set on fire¹⁷. Fires both natural and human-caused were a frequent occurrence on the mountain, and many a hut met its end in flames. In February of 1920, a large and destructive fire¹⁸ burnt across the mountain, incinerating a number of the mountain huts. Some huts were rebuilt in stone, but the golden age of recreational hut building had gone up in flames.

⁸ Davies, R 1972, 'The Mount Wellington Huts', *Tasmanian Tramp* vol. 20 – quoting *The Complete Guide to Tasmania* 1906

⁹ "HOBART AND THE SOUTH." *Examiner (Launceston, Tas. : 1900 - 1954)* 23 February 1903: 3 (DAILY.). Web. 6 Sep 2023 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article35535251>>.

¹⁰ Grist, M 2019 *The Huts of kunanyi / Mount Wellington*, p. 9

¹¹ "CAMPING OUT." *The Sydney Mail and New South Wales Advertiser (NSW : 1871 - 1912)* 26 December 1906: 1641. Web. 6 Sep 2023 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article163683374>>.

¹² "Dame Durden's Post Office." *Australian Town and Country Journal (Sydney, NSW : 1870 - 1919)* 15 June 1895: 12. Web. 22 Aug 2023 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article71231248>>.

¹³ Grist 2019, p. 24

¹⁴ "VISIT OF MELBOURNE FOOTBALLERS TO THE HUTS." *The Mercury (Hobart, Tas. : 1860 - 1954)* 3 July 1896: 3. Web. 23 Aug 2023 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article9376909>>.

¹⁵ "CLACKERY" *The Clipper (Hobart, Tas. : 1893 - 1909)* 27 April 1895: 5. Web. 23 Aug 2023 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article83365209>>.

¹⁶ "VANDALISM." *The Mercury (Hobart, Tas. : 1860 - 1954)* 8 April 1913: 4. Web. 6 Sep 2023 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article10280528>>.

¹⁷ "MOUNTAIN HUT DESTROYED" *The Mercury (Hobart, Tas. : 1860 - 1954)* 27 September 1932: 9. Web. 6 Sep 2023 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article24703710>>.

¹⁸ "GREAT FIRE ON MOUNT WELLINGTON" *The Mercury (Hobart, Tas. : 1860 - 1954)* 4 December 1920: 7. Web. 6 Sep 2023 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article11504334>>.

4. The decline of the weekender and the rise of tourism, 1920s–1967

Only a handful of recreational huts were built after the 1920 fire, most of which were built without the knowledge of the Hobart City Council. As a result, there are far fewer photos and much less information about these huts than the earlier recreational huts. Walkers wanting a bit of respite from the mountain weather didn't need to worry about the destruction of the recreational huts, however. The 1930s were a boom period for the development of tourism infrastructure on the mountain as a result of the Mayor's Unemployment Fund, a "work-for-the-dole"-style scheme that paid a wage to men who had lost their employment as a result of the Great Depression. Many of the mountain's walking tracks were built in this period, as were a number of shelters, some of which still stand today. A large crowd gathered at the summit of the mountain in April of 1928 for the opening of a new public shelter shed at the Pinnacle, then known as Rock Cabin^{19,20}. A large wooden shelter was also built at the Springs in 1932²¹. Junction Cabin, Rock Cabin, the Old Hobartians Hut, and the two Chalets were also built in the 1930s.

New walking tracks, visitor facilities, and the construction of Pinnacle Road in 1936 greatly increased the number of visitors to kunanyi / Mount Wellington, and particularly to the Pinnacle, which had previously only been accessible on foot. Skiing also had become a popular winter sport, with the improvement of ski facilities at Mount Field and the experimental construction of an ice-skating rink and

a number of ski runs on the mountain²². A handful of ski huts were built to provide shelter and warmth for winter sportspeople, some near Collin's Bonnet and two near the Pinnacle. Luckman's Hut, constructed in 1938, is still intact, and is still used by a small number of walkers each year, although skiing no longer occurs on the mountain. Luckman's Hut was partially rebuilt following the 1967 fires²³, which unfortunately destroyed many of the remaining huts.



A more refined version of the rustic Arts and Crafts style – the A. C. Walker Memorial Shelter at the Springs, c. 1932. Lantern slide from the Grist collection.

5. After the fires

A small number of recreational huts continued to be built after the 1967 fires, in part as a response to the devastation of the fires and the lack of places to retreat to on the mountain. These huts were built of corrugated iron, rather than ornate timber, and were located far from where the other huts had been, sheltered in rock embankments so as not to alert the Council of their presence. Today,

only a handful of the historic mountain huts remain standing, to varying degrees of their original condition – St. Crispin's Well Hut (1890), Lone Cabin (built 1911), Kara Hut (1923), Retreat Hut (1930s), Pinnacle Shelter (1928), Junction Cabin (1930s), the lower Chalet (1936), and Luckman's Hut (1938), SAMA Hut (1967), and Scout Hut (1969). The rest of the huts exist only as ruins.

¹⁹ "MOUNT WELLINGTON" *The Mercury* (Hobart, Tas. : 1860 - 1954) 16 April 1928: 5. Web. 6 Sep 2023 <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article29789719> – the article makes reference to an earlier shelter on the Pinnacle built by Lady Jane Franklin, however there is no evidence that this shelter actually existed.

²⁰ The current Rock Cabin on the mountain was called Log Cabin until it was burnt down and rebuilt in stone in 1936

²¹ "NEW SHELTER SHED ON MOUNTAIN" *The Mercury* (Hobart, Tas. : 1860 - 1954) 22 April 1932: 11. Web. 6 Sep 2023 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article29952279>>.

²² "Ski-ing Popular" *Examiner* (Launceston, Tas. : 1900 - 1954) 13 July 1938: 6 (DAILY). Web. 6 Sep 2023 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article52215779>>; "SKI-ING ON MT. WELLINGTON" *The Mercury* (Hobart, Tas. : 1860 - 1954) 28 March 1939: 2. Web. 6 Sep 2023 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article25598227>>.

²³ McConnell n.d., *Luckman's Hut Site Data Summary*, WPMT

Understanding the cultural heritage significance of the mountain huts

Huts featured in nearly every phase of the mountain's European history, tracking the shift of the mountain from a place valued for its resources to a place of scenic beauty and recreation. The mountain is rarely considered to be a landscape of punishment²⁴, however there are a number of heritage sites associated with both convict and imprisoned labour, and the labour of unemployed workers during the Great Depression who undertook backbreaking work in exchange for low pay²⁵. The ruins of the huts in which these men temporarily lived are some of the few remnants of this unpleasant aspect of the mountain's history.

The era of recreational hut building, on the other hand, is a celebrated component of the mountain's past, a testament to the pleasures of recreation in natural areas. Recreational huts were large, beautiful, well-decorated and well-resourced – a far cry from the conditions in which the convicts and other workers would have lived. The recreational huts are also a record of a time long past when the mountain was largely unregulated, when a group of mates could get together and build a hut purely for their own enjoyment on land that ostensibly belonged to the public. The Hobart City Council's purchase of large swathes of Cascade Brewery Land in 1930, combined with the impacts of the 1920 fire, brought the recreational huts to an end, but also led to the construction of a number of shelters available to all the public, not just for those who held the keys.

The physical fabric – ruins and restoration

All of these huts have been destroyed by one or other of the fires which have swept the mountain but here and there one comes across their tumbled foundations by the track-side.²⁶ – Kelsey Aves

Many of the mountain huts are in ruins, but this doesn't diminish their cultural heritage significance. Ruins are often the only way of communicating a way of life that no longer exists, or communicating the impacts of a tragedy that has led to a site being abandoned²⁷. In the case of the recreational huts in particular, their remnants are evidence of both – the golden age of hut building,

and the devastating fires that brought the era to an end. The fact that chimney butts, mounds, foundations, and other stone features are some of the only remaining fabric reinforces the destructiveness of fire. The hut ruins also contribute to the mountain's sense of place – a reminder that although the mountain sits on the doorstep of a city, it is still a wild place from which respite might need to be sought in the comfort of a hut. The ruins also have their own distinctive aesthetic quality, evocative and poetic, relics of a forgotten past. Some of the huts have no fabric remaining in the Park, and others are known only from photographs and have never been properly relocated. These huts still have value to the people who built them and spent time inside their walls, and further work should continue to be done to locate the remains of these huts.

The historic huts that still exist on the mountain today have been altered to varying degrees from their original form, predominantly as a result of being rebuilt after fire. The Pinnacle Shelter and Luckman's Hut are the only two huts that retain the majority of their original built form. The extant huts are simple stone huts with earth floors and corrugated iron roofs, reflecting the shift to less fire-prone materials following the 1920 and 1967 fires. Today, these huts are used as day shelters rather than for overnight stays.

²⁴ Tuffin et al 2019, 'Landscapes of production and punishment: convict labour in the Australian context', *Journal of Social Archaeology* vol. 18, no. 1

²⁵ Cloudsdale 2006, 'Depression of 1929-1935', *The Companion to Tasmanian History*, <https://www.utas.edu.au/library/companion_to_tasmanian_history/D/Depression%20of%201929%20-c1935.htm>

²⁶ Aves 1955, 'The History of Mount Wellington Part 1' *Tasmanian Tramp* no. 12, p. 40

²⁷ Australian Heritage Council 2013, *Ruins: a guide to conservation and management*, p. 15

Aesthetic value – rustic design in all its forms



The earliest image of a hut on the mountain is a simple watercolour of the first Springs Hut, painted by H.G. Lloyd in 1847. Like many of the early huts on the mountain, the hut was simple, single-roomed, and likely made from bark. The first recreational hut, built in 1888, was similarly simple, but not without rustic charm. Subsequent huts, such as Fern Retreat (1890), Wellington Hut (1890), and Blue Bell and Forest Huts (1890 and 1891 respectively) would begin the trend of rustic design elements that would go on to become synonymous with the mountain huts. As time went on, the designs on the huts became more and more extravagant, the culmination of which is perhaps the “double-decker” bridge built at the Falls Hut.

The Constable's Hut at the Springs, 1847. H. G. Lloyd, from the State Library of NSW. <https://collection.sl.nsw.gov.au/record/1DrNBjb9>



The 1888 Hut. Grist collection.



*The 'double-decker' bridge at the Falls Hut, 1904. From Grist 2016, *A timeline for the Falls Hut*, p. 17.*

The recreational huts exemplified a rustic vernacular style likely influenced by the Arts and Crafts movement, an artistic and architectural movement that was a reaction against poorly made, factory-produced materials towards simple, informal and rustic designs influenced by nature and using natural materials²⁸. The hut builders used the materials that the mountain provided – dolerite boulders, dogwood branches, clematis vines²⁹ – to create these unique and intricate decorations. The use of local materials was not only practical, it allowed the hut builders to express their appreciation for the rustic beauty of the mountain. Gardening and landscaping were also a feature of the mountain huts – ferns in particular were appreciated, often planted in the grounds of huts or encircled with mounds of stones³⁰.

²⁸ Sheridan 2010, *The Historic Landscape Values of Mount Wellington, Hobart*, vol. 4, p. 79, WPMT

²⁹ Grist 2016, *A timeline for the Clematis Hut*, p. 4

³⁰ “VISIT OF MELBOURNE FOOTBALLERS TO THE HUTS.” *The Mercury (Hobart, Tas. : 1860 - 1954)* 3 July 1896: 3. Web. 23 Aug 2023 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article9376909>>.



Clematis Hut, 1908. Grist collection.



Luckman's Hut, 2014. <https://hikinginsetasmania.blogspot.com/2014/02/mount-wellington-huts-and-ruins.html>

The beauty of the mountain huts were frequently praised in newspaper articles³¹, featured in postcards encouraging tourism to Tasmania, and the hut builders were recognised for their skill and expertise in rustic work³². The design of the recreational huts likely influenced later public infrastructure work on the mountain, the Depression-era suite of track and public shelter shed building which deliberately utilised rustic design principles, and the construction of the Fern Tree Bower³³. The recreational huts built after the 1920 fire did not feature the same

degree of rustic ornamentation, perhaps out of an unwillingness to use large amounts of timber after the fire. Many of the later huts were instead built of stone, usually local dolerite, and while simple in nature still exemplified the beauty of natural materials in the landscape. All of the extant public huts on the mountain are built of stone. The post-1967 huts were often constructed from corrugated iron, for fire safety but also for the comparative ease of transport.

³¹ Such as "Dame Durden's Post Office." *Australian Town and Country Journal* (Sydney, NSW : 1870 - 1919) 15 June 1895: 12. Web. 6 Sep 2023 <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article71231248>; "TALKS WITH A NATURALIST." *Tasmanian News* (Hobart, Tas. : 1883 - 1911) 22 March 1909: 3 (FOURTH EDITION). Web. 6 Sep 2023 <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article180393318>; "ODDS AND ENDS." *Tasmanian News* (Hobart, Tas. : 1883 - 1911) 14 January 1907: 3 (FOURTH EDITION). Web. 6 Sep 2023 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article177561228>>; "THE HUTS, CASCADES." *The Mercury* (Hobart, Tas. : 1860 - 1954) 27 October 1896: 3. Web. 6 Sep 2023 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article9384366>>.

³² "THE MERCURY." *The Mercury* (Hobart, Tas. : 1860 - 1954) 19 July 1897: 2. Web. 6 Sep 2023 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article9401367>>; "ODDS AND ENDS." *Tasmanian News* (Hobart, Tas. : 1883 - 1911) 14 January 1907: 3 (FOURTH EDITION). Web. 6 Sep 2023 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article177561228>>.

³³ Ibid; also of influence was Alan Cameron Walker, a proponent of the Arts and Crafts tradition and architect who designed, amongst other things, the Springs Hotel

Setting – springs, snow, and fern gullies

The setting of a site – the geographical location, as well as the natural and human-made features around it – is a crucial component to understanding its cultural heritage significance. The earliest huts on the mountain were located near areas of resources – the Hobart and Guy Fawkes Rivulets, near the site of the early timber-getting stations, and the Springs, the location of Hobart's early watercourse. These locations would not have been chosen for their beauty but for their practicality – their proximity to the worksite, the flatness of the land for building, and access to water for drinking and cooking. The construction of the watercourse was significant for cementing the Springs as the centre of recreational tourism on the mountain, leading to the creation of one of the most popular walking tracks on the mountain³⁴ and the hut which was used for recreational purposes by walkers on the mountain long after the watercourse was complete³⁵. The topography of the Springs lent itself to the development of infrastructure, being one of the only naturally flat areas on the mountain. Woods' hut, the cottage occupied by Ranger Gadd, and the later Springs Hotel all took advantage of the flat bench of the Springs, as well as the striking view up towards the Organ Pipes, which was no doubt a drawcard for hotel guests and other tourists. This view is now obscured by trees but is evident in earlier photos.

In contrast, the sites for the 1890s-1920s recreational weekends were chosen for their hidden natural beauty – and for access to drinking water³⁶. These huts were located in lush wet forest gullies with verdant ferns, large trees, creeks, and often waterfalls. The majority of them were also conveniently located within easy walking distance from the Cascade Brewery, where many of the hut builders worked, and the terminus of the Cascade Tram³⁷, which meant that hut members could knock off from their jobs and get to their hut ready for the weekend. As a result of these factors, many of the recreational huts were constructed within walking distance of each other, which created connections and friendly rivalries between hut groups³⁸.

The huts built after the 1920s were more spatially disparate. Only one of the recreational huts built in this period was built with the permission of the Council. The others were built in more secluded locations, further up the mountain's slopes and away from walking tracks. The two ski huts were necessarily constructed high on the mountain's alpine plateau. During the Great Depression, infrastructure works were concentrating on those areas which were already attractive to tourists, namely the Springs, the Pinnacle, and to a slightly lesser extent the Fern Tree Bower.

³⁴ The Fingerpost Track – see volume 1

³⁵ Stone 2022, p. 32

³⁶ "CAMPING OUT." *The Sydney Mail and New South Wales Advertiser (NSW : 1871 - 1912)* 26 December 1906: 1641. Web. 23 Aug 2023 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article163683374>>.

³⁷ "MUSK HUT." *Daily Post (Hobart, Tas. : 1908 - 1918)* 31 December 1914: 2. Web. 7 Sep 2023 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article189574632>>.

³⁸ For example, members of the Forest and Falls Huts would join each other for dinner, and participate in flower-growing competitions, and one hut group saved a number of the other huts from burning down in a fire - see Grist 2019, p. 23, 51 & "BUSH FIRES." *The Mercury (Hobart, Tas. : 1860 - 1954)* 3 February 1914: 3. Web. 7 Sep 2023 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article10360801>>.

Statement of significance for the historic huts on kunanyi / Mount Wellington

The huts on kunanyi / Mount Wellington are of state and local cultural heritage significance.

The collection of huts built at the Springs in the period 1830-1890 have historic heritage significance at the state and local level. The huts built in association with the construction of the mountain watercourse are significant for their association with the state's first large-scale hydrological engineering project, the earliest phase of the still-extant Mountain Water Supply System. The 1839 Constable's Hut has additional historic significance as the first hut to be used for recreational purposes on the mountain and at the Springs. Woods' Cottage and associated infrastructure is also significant at the state level as one of the earliest purpose-built tourist accommodation in a natural area in Tasmania.

As a complex, the recreational huts built between 1890-1920 have historic heritage significance at the state level as an important and unique component of the history of recreation and tourism in Wellington Park and Tasmania more broadly. They are integral in demonstrating the evolution of scenic tourism and recreation in the state, and they provide evidence of a unique way of life that is no longer practiced on kunanyi / Mount Wellington. The recreational huts are historically rare at the state, national, and international scale, which contributes to their significance – there are no comparable collections of recreational huts found anywhere else in the world. Although no longer extant, the historic recreational huts also have high aesthetic value as a result of their rustic, ornate Arts and Crafts-style vernacular architecture. The ruins of these huts are also of archaeological and scientific significance, and have the potential to teach us about historic hut building techniques. Lone Cabin (1911) is of particular significance as the only hut built in this period still in existence, although it has been modified from its original state.

The later 1920-1940s recreational huts are of local heritage significance. These huts represent a shift in hut construction methods from ornate timber design to simple stone huts with greater resilience to fire. They have historic significance as the final phase of the private “weekender” style of tourism on the mountain. The ruins of these huts have archaeological and scientific significance. The two ski huts built in this period also have historical significance, as evidence of an activity that is no longer practiced on the mountain. Luckman's Hut (1938) is of particular significance as an existing hut constructed in this period, which has the potential to provide information about historic hut building

techniques, including stonemasonry techniques on dolerite. Luckman's Hut also has historic and social significance for its association with the Hobart Walking Club, in particular Leo Luckman who constructed the hut and who held a number of roles with the HWC.

The early shelters – Lady Franklin's Pinnacle shelter built in the late 1830s and the Springs shelter constructed in 1869 – are significant for being the first public shelters constructed on the mountain. The suite of public day shelters constructed in the 1920s-1930s by the Hobart City Council are of state cultural heritage significance, being historically significant as a part of the suite of works undertaken during the Great Depression funded through the Mayor's Unemployment Fund. The A. C. Walker Memorial Shelter (1932) has aesthetic significance as an example of the Arts and Crafts design tradition, and significant for its association with Alan Cameron Walker, a notable Tasmanian architect.

The huts built post-1967 are of local heritage significance. They are associated with one of the state's most devastating tragedies, the 1967 fires, which destroyed almost all of the huts on the mountain, and the huts represent the community's attempts to reconnect with the mountain and the ways of life that were destroyed by fire.

All of the huts and hut ruins on kunanyi / Mount Wellington have social value for the people of Hobart. The huts have provided opportunities for thousands of Tasmanians to connect with the mountain, to engage in recreational activities, and to connect with friends and family over centuries. The huts have particular value for the hut builders and their family and friends who spent considerable time in the huts.

Statements of significance for the kunanyi / Mount Wellington Huts

Worker's huts, 1830s–1930s

1 Cascades Sawyers' Huts, c. 1830s

A small number of hand sawyers lived and worked cutting timber in the Cascade Valley in the 1830s^{39, 40}. This created much tension between Degraives and the hand-sawyers over rights to the land. The hand sawyers' huts would have been temporary structures able to be dismantled and moved on as timber was exhausted in particular areas.

■ Fabric

There is still some evidence of these huts visible amongst the regrown forest near Inglewood Road. Levelled areas of land accompanied by stones arranged in an unnatural formation – such as a straight line or a rough square – are indicators that a hut may have been present on the site.

■ Setting

These huts were located in *Eucalyptus obliqua* and *Eucalyptus globulus* forest, which were preferred species for logging. This area would have been made accessible by the network of logging roads and snig tracks created by Peter Degraives when he began his timber-getting operations in 1824.

■ Significance

The Cascades Sawyers' Huts are of historic heritage significance as evidence of the early timber industry in Hobart. They have additional significance for their association with Peter Degraives, a notable early settler, sawmillier, and founder of the Cascade Brewery.

2 Watercourse Workers' Huts, 1820s-1830s

A set of huts were constructed to house workers employed in the cutting of a watercourse that diverted additional water resources into the Hobart Rivulet, increasing the water supply of Hobart Town. This was one of the first large-scale hydrological infrastructure projects in Tasmania.

The first set of huts was constructed at the head of the Sandy Bay Rivulet in the late 1820s, to house convicts engaged in the construction of the water diversion channel. This first iteration of the channel was crudely made and quickly necessitated improvements, which were undertaken in the late 1830s-early 1840s.

A second set of worker's huts was built alongside the modern-day Milles Track, as was a Constable's Hut, which housed a constable responsible for overseeing the convict workers. The Constable's Hut continued to be used as a shelter shed and important waypoint on the mountain for many decades prior to the establishment of tourist infrastructure at the Springs⁴¹. The workers' huts are thought to have been used for housing sawyers after the construction of the channel was complete⁴², and the Constable's Hut was re-used in 1849 by convict workers while building the Ice House Track and related infrastructure⁴³.

³⁹ Backhouse 1843, *A narrative of a visit to the Australian colonies*, p. 34

⁴⁰ Stone 2023, *The King's Pits*, Report for the WMPT

⁴¹ Stone 2022 p. 28

⁴² McConnell 2013, *Upper Sandy Bay Rivulet Huts Datasheet*, WPMT

⁴³ Stone 2022, p. 34

■ Fabric

The remaining fabric of the workers' huts consists of the stone remnants of a chimney butt and a corner of drystone wall foundations. The foundations of the Constable's Hut are still in situ near the junction of the Ice House Track and Milles Track. A stoneware ginger beer bottle was also found during a site survey in 2009, conclusively dating the site to 1841⁴⁴.

■ Setting

The site is located within *Eucalyptus obliqua* forest. The location of the huts is representative of the evolution of the watercourse over time. The location of the Constable's Hut is also significant for the later development of the Springs as the major site of tourism infrastructure on the mountain.

■ Significance

The Watercourse Workers' Huts and the Constable's Hut are of state level heritage significance as a component of one of the earliest hydrological engineering projects in Tasmania.

The huts have additional historic heritage significance as evidence of the mountain as a site of convict labour. The Constable's Hut is historically significant as the first hut on the mountain known to be used for recreational purposes. The existence of this hut contributed to the Springs becoming the epicentre of tourism infrastructure on kunanyi / Mount Wellington, now one of the most visited locations in the state.

3 St. Crispin's Well Hut, c. 1882

A number of huts have been erected in the vicinity of St. Crispin's Well over the years, most of which were built to house workers in the process of building various stages of the Mountain Water Supply System⁴⁵. The first hut was a wooden hut constructed in 1882⁴⁶. There were two huts "on the track towards St. Crispin's" and one hut at St. Crispin's Well itself which were destroyed by fire in 1906⁴⁷. Another hut was marked on a plan in 1915⁴⁸. The current hut was built in the 1970s as a crib shed for council employees working on the MWSS⁴⁹.

■ Fabric

The existing hut is a timber framed, corrugated iron clad hut with a large cemented dolerite and sandstone fireplace with a steel flue. There are several levelled platforms and stone ruins in the vicinity of St. Crispin's Well which may be remnants of the earlier huts.

■ Setting

St. Crispin's Well Hut is located near St. Crispin's Well on the Pipeline Track, the walking track that follows the mountain water pipeline. Like the 1830s Watercourse Workers' Huts, the huts were located in this area to provide accommodation for labourers working on the construction of the pipeline.

■ Significance

The remains of the earlier St. Crispin's Well Huts are of State level significance as a component of the State heritage listed Mountain Water Supply System.

4 The Stockade, c. 1895

The Stockade was used to house prison workers employed in the construction of Pillinger Drive.

■ Fabric

The Stockade was said to be built of timber. Two stone chimney butts, a cut bank, and 4 post holes, and a scattering of noncontemporary bricks remain. Unlike the other chimneys on the mountain, the Stockades chimneys were constructed from mudstone. The site of the Stockade was later used by the Boy Scouts Association for an arboretum.

■ Setting

The Stockade was located on the south side of the Fingerpost Track near the source of the Sandy Bay Rivulet.

■ Significance

The Stockade is of local cultural heritage significance, as a site where prison workers were housed during the construction of major infrastructure on the mountain.

⁴⁴ Correspondence between M. Grist and A. McConnell 2009, WPMT

⁴⁵ Hartzell 1993, *Final Report for the Mt Wellington Pipeline Track Project: Historical and Archaeological Documentation of Sites and Features*, p. 34

⁴⁶ Ibid

⁴⁷ Ibid p. 61

⁴⁸ Ibid p. 66

⁴⁹ McConnell n.d., *St. Crispin's Well Hut Site Datasheet*, WPMT

5 Possum Hunter's Hut, c. 1920s

A stone hut that was used by possum hunters preceding and during the Great Depression that burnt down in the mid-1930s, perhaps in the 1936 fire⁵⁰. Other camps thought to be used by possum hunters have been located in the vicinity of this hut.

■ Fabric

There are no surviving photos of this hut intact, although its location is marked on contemporary maps. There is a small pile of rubble remaining at the mapped location.

■ Setting

The hut is located near the Hunter's Track in *Eucalyptus delegatensis* forest.

■ Significance

The Hunter's Hut is of local cultural heritage significance as an example of a hut built for an activity no longer practiced on the mountain and as a vital source of food and income used during the Great Depression.

6 Pinnacle Road Workers' Shelters, c. 1930s

A number of temporary huts were built to shelter workers during the construction of Pinnacle Road. These shelters would have moved along the road corridor as works progressed. Photographs from the 1930s show a small hut on the upper portion of Pinnacle Road above Big Bend⁵¹ which was likely one of these shelters. Parts of Luckman's Hut were built using materials from these huts⁵².

■ Fabric

The shelter in the 1930s photograph appears to be constructed of corrugated iron. A few pieces of iron remain in situ.

■ Setting

Along the Pinnacle Road approximately 1 km below the Pinnacle.

■ Significance

The Pinnacle Road Workers' Shelters are of cultural heritage significance, as an aspect of the construction of Pinnacle Road, a significant Depression-era public work.

Public tourism infrastructure, 1859–1930s

1 Woods' Hut, c. 1859

In 1859, Henry Woods, a former convict transported to Tasmania in 1845, applied to the Lands Department for a lease of Crown land at the Springs, on which he intended to build accommodation for "respectable inhabitants visiting Mount Wellington"⁵³. Woods' hut become very well-known to walkers on the mountain, who were able to avail themselves of refreshments, including cooked breakfasts, coffee, and tea, as they rested before tackling the climb to the top of the mountain. The complex consisted of a cottage that Woods and his wife lived in, huts for guest accommodation, a small shed, and a stable⁵⁴. Woods and his wife lived at the Springs for nearly thirty years, the first long-term European inhabitants of the mountain. After the Woods' death in 1882, the huts were occupied by Henry Woods Junior, then Joseph Thomson, then Daniel Lucy, who tragically died only a few months in to his occupation of the cottage in 1890⁵⁵. The hut burnt down in 1891⁵⁶.

■ Fabric

The original hut and cottage were simple structures with vertical plank walls and wooden shingle roofs with stone chimneys. All that remains are flat, benched terrace platforms where the huts once stood and the remains of the chimney butt.

■ Setting

The Springs is a natural sandstone bench located within *Eucalyptus delegatensis* and *Eucalyptus subcrenulata* subalpine wet forest. The area is quite wet owing to the natural springs that seep through the bedrock.

The location of the hut on the upper Springs bench, north-east of the water springs and the Constable's Hut that had previously been the primary infrastructure on the mountain, was a key driver in establishing the area that we now know as the Springs.

■ Significance

This site is of local heritage significance. It is historically significant for being the site of the first natural area accommodation in Tasmania and on kunanyi / Mount Wellington.

⁵⁰ McConnell n.d., *Hunter's Hut Site Datasheet*, WPMT

⁵¹ McConnell n.d., *Pinnacle Road Hut 1 Site Datasheet*, WPMT

⁵² McConnell n.d., *Luckman's Hut Site Datasheet*, WPMT

⁵³ Letter to Mr. Calder of the Lands Department from Henry Woods, 28/8/1859, LSD1/1/32

⁵⁴ McConnell n.d., *Woods Cottage Site Datasheet*, WPMT

⁵⁵ "THE MERCURY." *The Mercury (Hobart, Tas. : 1860 - 1954)* 11 December 1890: 2. Web. 22 Aug 2023 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article12709367>>.

⁵⁶ "HOBART AND THE SOUTH." *The Tasmanian (Launceston, Tas. : 1881 - 1895)* 17 January 1891: 20. Web. 22 Aug 2023 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article199552505>>.

2 Springs Shelter Shed, c. 1869

A large public shelter was constructed at the upper Springs near the late 1860s. The hut can be seen in the background of photos of Woods' hut⁵⁷.

■ Fabric

The shed was initially open on all sides, with weatherboard added to the south, east, and west walls sometime before 1895⁵⁸. There was also a gable roof and a brick chimney. There is limited evidence of the shelter shed remaining today as it was overprinted by the construction of Grays Fire Trail⁵⁹.

■ Setting

Located on the upper Springs bench near Woods' hut.

■ Significance

Of local historical heritage significance as the first known purpose-built day-use public tourism infrastructure at the Springs.

3 Ranger's Cottage, c. 1890

After Lucy's death in 1890, it was decided that new accommodation facilities were required at the Springs and a new caretaker needed to be appointed⁶⁰. A new cottage and shelter shed (see below) were constructed in December of 1890⁶¹, and Charles Gadd was appointed Special Constable in January of 1891⁶². Although few photos of it remain, Gadd's cottage appears to be more sturdily built than Woods' hut, made from weatherboard with a concrete foundation and a brick chimney⁶³. Clement Wragge, the eminent meteorologist, placed the second of his two weather stations at Gadd's cottage at the Springs – the other, placed at the Pinnacle, enabled meteorological recordings to be taken from multiple elevations. Gadd's cottage escaped the damaging 1897 fires which destroyed other structures on the mountain⁶⁴. A number of successive rangers took over after Gadd finished up his term in 1909, many of them staying in the Ranger's Cottage, which stood until at least the mid-20th century⁶⁵.

■ Fabric

The remnants of the cottage are two flat, horizontal terraces with drystone wall embankments on the lower side with associated minor drystone terracing, path edging, and steps. The concrete foundations and brick and stone chimney butt can be seen on the upper terrace.

■ Setting

Much like Wood's Cottage before it, the location of the Ranger's Cottage at the Springs reinforced the intensification of the tourism industry at this area of the mountain above any other. Located in subalpine eucalypt forest, the area around the Ranger's Cottage and the Springs at large was modified for the development of tourism infrastructure, firstly the Springs Hotel in 1907 and thereafter the suite of features constructed during the Great Depression.

■ Significance

The Ranger's Cottage is of local historical heritage significance as the site of the first Ranger's Station on kunanyi / Mount Wellington.

4 Bower Picnic Pavilion, c. 1897

The Bower Picnic Pavilion was designed by architect Alan Cameron Walker, a prominent Hobart architect. The pavilion featured a rustic Arts and Crafts design⁶⁶.

At least three other shelters were erected at the Bower over the years, however there is limited information about when and by whom these were constructed.

■ Fabric

The Pavilion was a high gable roofed hut with a central hexagonal peaked shingle roof and bush pole decorative latticework balustrades and valance under the roof. There are no surviving remnants of this hut.

■ Setting

Located at the Fern Tree Bower, a verdant fern grove that was popular with picnickers and tourists in the Victorian era.

⁵⁷ Davies-Cornish photo collection, WPMT

⁵⁸ McConnell n.d. *Springs Upper Shelter Shed 1 Site Datasheet*, WPMT

⁵⁹ Ibid Springs Upper Shelter Shed

⁶⁰ "LOCAL AND GENERAL." *Tasmanian News (Hobart, Tas. : 1883 - 1911)* 3 June 1890: 2. Web. 22 Aug 2023 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article163574258>>.

⁶¹ "HOBART AND THE SOUTH." *The Tasmanian (Launceston, Tas. : 1881 - 1895)* 13 December 1890: 21. Web. 22 Aug 2023 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article200335377>>.

⁶² "LOCAL AND GENERAL." *Tasmanian News (Hobart, Tas. : 1883 - 1911)* 9 January 1891: 2. Web. 22 Aug 2023 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article163584843>>.

⁶³ TAHO PH30/1/7898 <https://stors.tas.gov.au/PH30-1-7898>

⁶⁴ "TOPICS." *Tasmanian News (Hobart, Tas. : 1883 - 1911)* 31 December 1897: 2 (SECOND EDITION). Web. 23 Aug 2023 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article173659677>>.

⁶⁵ Grist 2021, p. 25

⁶⁶ McConnell 2014, *Fern Tree Bower Site Datasheet*, WPMT

5 Pinnacle Shelter, c. 1928

The Pinnacle Shelter was constructed in 1928 by the Hobart City Council, in particular Robert Reid, a Council employee who oversaw and worked on a number of the Depression-era works on the mountain⁶⁷. The work was carried out by Reid, J. L. Lipscombe, the Superintendent of Reserves, and a number of unemployed men working under the auspices of the Mayor's Unemployment Fund. The hut was originally known as Rock Cabin⁶⁸. The shelter was built on the same site as the earlier shelter under the auspices of Lady Jane Franklin.

■ Fabric

Rock Cabin is one of the only extant huts on the mountain that is largely unmodified from its original form. Only the roof has been replaced, and other than occasional repairs, the stonework is largely unchanged from its original construction. It is constructed of irregular dolerite boulders in a cement mortar. The rear wall is built up against dolerite columns. It features a corrugated iron roof, a dolerite chimney, and an open doorway.

■ Setting

The hut is built into an embankment of dolerite columns that makes up the kunanyi / Mount Wellington Pinnacle.

■ Significance

The Pinnacle Shelter is of local cultural heritage significance. It is historically significant as an early public recreational shelter constructed on the kunanyi / Mount Wellington Pinnacle. It has social value for the community due to its nearly 100 years of continuous use. Its intactness and integrity contribute to its significance, as a largely unmodified example of a Depression-era stone hut.

6 Rock Cabin, c. 1928

Rock Cabin is an extant hut which began its life as Log Cabin, built by Hobart City Council employee Robert Reid in 1928⁶⁹. It is a public recreational shelter located near the Springs. Walkers formerly used it freely to camp overnight, however after it was found to be in poor condition by overnight users it was decided that a permit and fee would be required for anyone who intended to sleep overnight⁷⁰. The cabin burnt down in 1936 and was rebuilt in stone in the same location⁷¹. The works were undertaken by the Hobart Walking Club under the supervision of stonemason Leo Luckman (see Luckman's Hut below). The hut burnt again in the 1967 fires and was again rebuilt⁷². The hut still stands and is frequently used as a picnic shelter by walkers.

■ Fabric

As the name suggests, Rock Cabin is a stone walled hut, with a stone chimney and a gable corrugated iron roof.

■ Setting

Rock Cabin is situated within *Eucalyptus delegatensis* dry forest a short distance from the Lenah Valley Track and Sphinx Rock, a notable natural feature, and near to the Springs, making it an accessible location for recreational walkers.

■ Significance

Rock Cabin is of local cultural heritage significance as a Depression-era public recreational hut. It is also significant for its association with the employees of the Hobart City Council who oversaw its construction. It has social value for the Hobart community due to its ongoing usage for nearly 100 years.

⁶⁷ "MOUNT WELLINGTON" *The Mercury (Hobart, Tas. : 1860 - 1954)* 16 April 1928: 5. Web. 6 Sep 2023 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article29789719>>.

⁶⁸ Ibid

⁶⁹ McConnell n.d., *Rock Cabin Site Datasheet*, WPMT; "MOUNT WELLINGTON" *The Mercury (Hobart, Tas. : 1860 - 1954)* 16 April 1928: 5. Web. 6 Sep 2023 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article29789719>>.

⁷⁰ "MOUNT WELLINGTON" *The Mercury (Hobart, Tas. : 1860 - 1954)* 21 April 1931: 7. Web. 24 Aug 2023 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article29905245>>.

⁷¹ Davies 1972, p. 60

⁷² McConnell n.d., *Rock Cabin Site Datasheet*, WPMT

7 Junction Cabin, c. 1930s

Junction Cabin is an extant hut built in the 1930s, initially out of timber, however it burnt down shortly after its construction and was rebuilt in stone⁷³. After the 1967 fires, the hut was rebuilt again, this time out of corrugated iron⁷⁴. It was later relined with stone. Junction Cabin still stands and is used as a day use shelter by walkers and bike riders.

■ Fabric

Junction Cabin is built of irregular flat-faced dolerite and mudstone rocks set in cement mortar, with a corrugated iron gabled roof and a chimney also of dolerite and mudstone rock. The internal walls are of corrugated iron with timber framing.

■ Setting

Junction Cabin is located in a clearing at the intersection of the Lenah Valley, Hunters, Breakneck, and North-South Tracks and the Old Farm Fire Trail within dry eucalypt forest.

■ Significance

Junction Cabin is of local cultural heritage significance as a Depression-era public hut and day-use shelter. It has social value for the Hobart community owing to its ongoing use for the past 90 years.

8 A. C. Walker Memorial Shelter, c. 1932

The A.C. Walker Memorial Shelter was constructed in 1932 as a component of the Depression-era infrastructure works on the mountain, immediately behind the old shelter shed constructed in the 1860s⁷⁵. A large opening ceremony was held to commemorate the opening of the shed, which was named after and dedicated to the memory of Alan Cameron Walker, an architect who was instrumental in the design and construction of the infrastructure built on the mountain in the '30s, primarily the Springs Hotel⁷⁶. The shelter burnt down in the 1967 fires⁷⁷. An engraved stone commemorating the opening of the hut is now located at the Springs barbeque near Lost Freight.

■ Fabric

The shelter shed was large, capable of accommodating "several hundred people"⁷⁸. It was built of timber with a stone foundation and "rustic effects" in the design of the verandah and awning. The roof was built of iron and there were two "spacious" fireplaces built of concrete and stone taken from the "old underground battery at Prince's Square"⁷⁹.

■ Setting

The shelter was located at the Springs, the centre of tourism development on kunanyi / Mount Wellington.

■ Significance

The hut is of local cultural heritage significance as a Depression-era public recreational shelter. The shelter has aesthetic value as a public example of the influence of the Arts and Crafts tradition in building design on the mountain. It has additional significance for its association with Alan Cameron Walker, a well-known architect who designed a number of prominent buildings in Hobart. It is also significant for its association with the Hobart City Council.

⁷³ It was threatened by fire in 1934 "MOUNTAIN PARK" *The Mercury (Hobart, Tas. : 1860 - 1954)* 12 February 1934: 9. Web. 24 Aug 2023 <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article24910713>, and may have also burnt in the 1936 fire that claimed Log Cabin

⁷⁴ McConnell 2016, *Junction Cabin Site Datasheet*, WPMT; TAH0 NS3195/1/4160
⁷⁵ "NEW SHELTER SHED ON MOUNTAIN" *The Mercury (Hobart, Tas. : 1860 - 1954)* 22 April 1932: 11. Web. 29 Aug 2023 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article29952279>>.

⁷⁶ McConnell 2019, *Exhibition Gardens Visitor Management Plan*, p. 4, WPMT

⁷⁷ McConnell n.d., *Springs Upper Shelter Shed 2*, WPMT

⁷⁸ *Ibid* Springs Upper Shelter Shed

⁷⁹ *Ibid* at 104 New shelter shed on mountain

9 The Chalets, c. 1936

Two look-out shelters were constructed alongside Pinnacle Road while it was under construction between 1936-1937⁸⁰. The upper chalet was destroyed in the historic 1960 landslide that saw over 200 mm of rainfall over three days in Hobart⁸¹. The lower chalet still stands, a rare survivor of the 1967 fires, and is frequently used by walkers and as a stopover on the way up to the Pinnacle by drivers. Like the other Depression-era works on the mountain, the chalets were constructed using the labour of unemployed men working on a “work-for-the-dole”-style scheme.

■ Fabric

Both chalets were of similar construction, being semi-open and rounded in shape, in shape, built from irregular dolerite stone with a steeply pitched corrugated iron roof. Both chalets sat on raised platforms with dolerite dry stone walls. The north and north-western walls are open with two broad dolerite columns supporting the roof. There is limited evidence remaining of the upper chalet other than a small section of wall.

■ Setting

The lower chalet is located at the terminus of the Organ Pipes Track at approximately 519252E 5251385N, situated within *Eucalyptus coccifera* forest. The upper chalet was located approximately 100 m up Pinnacle Road from the lower chalet. The chalets were constructed as lookouts, rather than shelter sheds, and contemporary photos show the vegetation being far less dense than in the modern day, providing greater views of the Derwent and surrounds than are visible today. The upper chalet is located approximately 700 m further up Pinnacle Road also in subalpine *Eucalyptus coccifera* forest.

■ Significance

The lower chalet is of local cultural heritage significance as a historic public day use shelter. It is significant for its association with the construction of Pinnacle Road, a major infrastructure project built during the Great Depression.

10 Old Hobartians Hut, c. 1932

There is limited available information about the construction of Old Hobartians Hut. It was built in 1932 by the Old Hobartian’s Association, who held a fundraising exhibition to donate funds to the Unemployment Fund that enabled works on the mountain during the Great Depression⁸². It was in ruins by the 1950s⁸³.

■ Fabric

The hut was made of stone with large open windows on either side of a central doorway and a low pitch corrugated iron gable roof⁸⁴. Some of the hut walls remain.

■ Setting

The hut was located near the New Town Creek in dry *Eucalyptus obliqua* forest adjacent to the Old Hobartians Track.

■ Significance

Old Hobartians Hut is of local cultural heritage significance as a Depression-era public day use shelter. It is also significant for its association with the Old Hobartians Association.

⁸⁰ “TO WELLINGTON’S TOP.” *Advocate (Burnie, Tas. : 1890 - 1954)* 28 May 1936: 9 (DAILY). Web. 29 Aug 2023 <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article91802104>; “THE PINNACLE ROAD—A DREAM COME TRUE” *The Mercury (Hobart, Tas. : 1860 - 1954)* 23 January 1937: 10. Web. 29 Aug 2023 <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article30135359>

⁸¹ McConnell n.d., *The Chalet 1 Site Datasheet*, WPMT

⁸² “Mountain Improvement” *The Mercury (Hobart, Tas. : 1860 - 1954)* 24 September 1932: 8. Web. 29 Aug 2023 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article24704174>>.

⁸³ Aves 1957, p. 41

⁸⁴ Davies-Cornish photo collection, WPMT

Ski huts, 1903–1939

1 Thark Hut, 1903

Thark Hut was one of four camps established by the surveyor H. R. Hutchinson established during his 1903 survey of the watersheds of the streams west and south of Collins' Bonnet. Allegedly, Hutchinson continued to use it as a "weekender", and it was used by members of the Hobart Walking Club and Wellington Ski Club into the 1920s and beyond⁸⁵. In the 1960s Johnston claims that a group of "young, inexperienced visitors" discovered the hut, which brought about too many visitors, one of whom cut the diagonal brace of the hut, which snapped the whole structure in two. The hut was destroyed in the 1967 fires⁸⁶.

■ Fabric

The original hut was a small rectangular hut built of vertical timber palings with a corrugated iron roof and wooden floor⁸⁷. It is now a ruin; some rusted fragments of corrugated iron remain, as do some stones likely from the chimney.

■ Setting

Located below Thark Ridge in alpine eucalypt woodland. According to Johnston, the area was given the name "Thark" after a signboard was erected on the hut with that name, which is possibly a tongue-in-cheek reference to the 1927 play and 1932 film *Thark*, about a haunted house⁸⁸.

■ Significance

Thark Hut is significant for its association with surveyor H. R. Hutchinson and his survey which resulted in a number of camps being constructed on the mountain. It is also significant for its later use as a ski hut by the Hobart Walking Club and Wellington Ski Club, as evidence of an activity no longer practiced on the mountain.

2 Collins' Bonnet Hut, 1920s.

The remains of several huts can be found near Collins' Bonnet. One of the huts was built by members of the Collinsvale community for the purposes of skiing⁸⁹. The history of the other huts are unknown.

■ Fabric

The photo shows the hut to be a simple wooden hut built with vertical planks with an ironsheet clad roof, a stone chimney butt, and flue made of kerosene tins.

■ Setting

The hut was located somewhere in the vicinity of Collins' Bonnet, but has not been relocated.

■ Significance

Collins' Bonnet Hut is of local cultural heritage significance as a 1920s ski hut.

3 Luckman's Hut, c. 1938

Luckman's Hut was constructed in 1938 by Leo Luckman, a stonemason and member of the Hobart Walking Club, and others. The completion of Pinnacle Road in 1936 enabled a greater number of people access to the mountain's summit for the purposes of skiing, and there was a subsequent explosion in interest in skiing on the mountain that required infrastructure. The Hobart Walking Club formed a skiing subcommittee, of which Leo Luckman was the first convenor⁹⁰. The Hobart City Council financially supported the construction of the hut, as well as an ice-skating rink and works to clear an area to enlarge a natural snow drift for skiing⁹¹. The hut was damaged in the 1967 fires and the roof rebuilt by the Hobart Walking Club⁹². Originally known as the Hobart Walking Club Hut, it was renamed Luckman's Hut when the Hobart City Council took over its management in 1979, named in memory of Leo Luckman who died in 1976⁹³.

■ Fabric

The original hut was built of stone with a corrugated iron roof. The roof, the door, and the windows were taken from the huts used to house workers during the construction of Pinnacle Road. It was re-roofed after the '67 fires by Roy Davies and other members of the Hobart Walking Club with support from the Hobart City Council, and further repairs were undertaken in 2000 by a volunteer group⁹⁴. The hut is still standing. It is constructed of irregular dolerite boulders set into an embankment, utilising existing dolerite boulder formations for the lower part of the southern and western walls. It features an olive green corrugated iron roof.

⁸⁵ Johnston 1979, 'Thark Hut', *Tasmanian Tramp* vol. 23, p. 128

⁸⁶ *Ibid*

⁸⁷ *Ibid* p. 127

⁸⁸ McConnell, n.d., *Thark Hut – Hutchinson's Survey Camp 3 Site Datasheet*, WPMT

⁸⁹ McConnell n.d., *Collins Bonnet Hut and Skifield Site Datasheet*, WPMT

⁹⁰ Hobart Walking Club 2010, *A record of eighty-one years*, p. 10.

⁹¹ "WINTER SPORT AT PINNACLE" *The Mercury (Hobart, Tas. : 1860 - 1954)* 3 May 1938: 9. Web. 4 Sep 2023 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article25500387>>.

⁹² McConnell n.d., *Luckman's Hut Site Data Summary*, WPMT

⁹³ *Ibid* at 93 p. 23

⁹⁴ McConnell n.d., *Luckmans Hut Site Datasheet*, WPMT

■ *Setting*

The hut is located in scrubby *Eucalyptus coccifera* forest in dolerite boulder fields near the Pinnacle, close to the Mount Wellington Ski Club Hut (below) and the former ice skating rink.

■ *Significance*

Luckman's Hut is significant due to its use as a ski hut, an activity no longer practiced on the mountain. It is significant for being an intact and well-preserved example of 1930s stonemasonry. It is significant for its association with Leo Luckman, a well-known member of the Hobart community and prominent member of the Hobart Walking Club. It has social value for the Hobart community with an ongoing use of nearly 80 years.

4 Wellington Ski Club Hut, c. 1939

The Wellington Ski Club built a hut shortly after the Hobart Walking Club in the same area. Its construction was also supported by the Hobart City Council⁹⁵.

■ *Fabric*

Only the hut platform and some stone foundations remain. The hut was thought to have been destroyed in the 1967 fires⁹⁶.

■ *Setting*

Like Luckman's Hut, the Wellington Ski Club Hut was situated on the alpine plateau of kunanyi / Mount Wellington in order to access the winter sports facilities on the mountain – namely the ice skating rink and the several ski runs that were formed.

■ *Significance*

Wellington Ski Club Hut is significant as a 1930s ski hut, evidence of an activity no longer undertaken on the mountain.

Private recreational huts, 1888–1920s

1 1888 Hut, c. 1888

This was the first “weekender” or recreational private hut to be built on the slopes of kunanyi / Mount Wellington. Only one image of the hut remains, which shows a group of approximately ten well-dressed men in front of the hut, some standing outside and others sitting on the roof and a fallen log. Only two members of the hut are known, Charles B. Pitman and a Mr. Freeny.

■ *Fabric*

The original hut was a simple, rough structure constructed of horizontal logs, a bark roof and a stone chimney⁹⁷. A small pile of stones remains.

■ *Setting*

The hut was located “on the western side of [...] the King's saw pits (Junction Cabin) and slate quarry” accessed via the Breakneck Track or Old Farm Track⁹⁸ in *Eucalyptus obliqua* forest. The hut was located near the Guy Fawkes Rivulet which would have provided sufficient water, a critical resource for the weekender hut groups.

■ *Significance*

The 1888 Hut is of cultural heritage significance as a part of the suite of recreational huts built on kunanyi / Mount Wellington from 1888-1920.

1888 Hut is of cultural heritage significance, as the first of many weekender huts on kunanyi / Mount Wellington. It demonstrates the evolution of recreational tourism in Tasmania and demonstrates the rare and uncommon practice of private recreational hut building. It has social value for the families and friends of the hut builders and the descendants of those whose family members spent time at the hut.

⁹⁵ McConnell n.d., *Wellington Ski Club Hut Site Datasheet*, WPMT

⁹⁶ Ibid

⁹⁷ Grist 2019 p. 15

⁹⁸ Davies-Cornish photo collection, WPMT

2 Fern Retreat Hut, c. 1890

Fern Retreat Hut was a well-known hut often featured in postcards promoting tourism to Tasmania. The hut went through several iterations and rebuilds over its history, ultimately being destroyed by fire in the 1920s. The members of the hut included throughout the years a Mr. Large, W. Jones, D. Ryland, and A. Cowles.

■ Fabric

The original version of the Fern Retreat Hut was a relatively simple hut with vertical split timber walls and a gable bark strip roof. Later photographs show a verandah with rustic railings and branch detailing, an added dormer window, a rustic entrance bridge, and an ornate Arts and Crafts tradition summer house. At one stage the hut featured a simple tennis court, and even a private phone line connected to the Blue Bell/Forest Hut. It also featured “rustic seats” outdoors that guests to the hut could utilise⁹⁹.

Fern Retreat exists today as a ruin. A large levelled area can be seen where the hut once stood. The remains of the hut include a stone chimney butt, fireplace, the remains of a small weir or dam on the creek banks, and a small section of drystone wall where the entrance bridge was located.

■ Setting

This hut was “situated picturesquely”¹⁰⁰ in amongst the verdant ferns of one of the mountain’s many creek valleys¹⁰¹ – again, access to water being crucial for the hut groups.

■ Significance

Fern Retreat Hut is of cultural heritage significance as a part of the suite of recreational huts built on kunanyi / Mount Wellington from 1888-1920.

It demonstrates the evolution of recreational tourism in Tasmania and demonstrates the rare and uncommon practice of private recreational hut building. It has social value for the families and friends of the hut builders and the descendants of those whose family members spent time at the hut. It has aesthetic value as one of the first huts to feature rustic Arts and Crafts style design elements. It has archaeological value and further research may reveal further information about historic hut building techniques.

3 Wellington Hut, c. 1890s

The original Wellington Hut was built by persons unknown, tradesmen who allegedly moved to the West Coast for the mining boom¹⁰², leaving the hut to be picked up by another member group. The original hut was a simple bark hut with a single window and a stone chimney butt with a timber flue¹⁰³. Wellington Hut was extensively rebuilt by its new owners. At first, a verandah was built onto the existing hut and a barbeque area was added¹⁰⁴. The hut owners decided to completely rebuild the hut sometime in the early 1900s, theorised to be as a result of damp¹⁰⁵. The hut was very similar to the original, with a more ornately detailed verandah and simplified chimney and flue, and it was also raised, perhaps to mitigate the aforementioned damp¹⁰⁶. Like Fern Retreat Hut, Wellington Hut regularly featured in postcards of the mountain.

■ Fabric

Both the first and second versions of Wellington Hut were simple split timber plank huts with stone chimney butts. The hut is now a ruin. The hut site is on a steep slope that has been cut into to place the hut, with two bedrock benches and two terraced sections lined with drystone walling. There are remains of a stone chimney but and a circular stone wall that may have been a cellar¹⁰⁷.

■ Setting

The hut is located within a verdant gully adjacent to a creek with a nearby waterfall.

■ Significance

Wellington Hut is of cultural heritage significance as a part of the suite of recreational huts built on kunanyi / Mount Wellington from 1888-1920. It demonstrates the evolution of recreational tourism in Tasmania and demonstrates the rare and uncommon practice of private recreational hut building. It has social value for the families and friends of the hut builders and the descendants of those whose family members spent time at the hut. It has aesthetic value as one of the first huts to feature rustic Arts and Crafts style design elements. It has archaeological value and further research may reveal further information about historic hut building techniques.

⁹⁹ “Dame Durden’s Post Office.” *Australian Town and Country Journal (Sydney, NSW : 1870 - 1919)* 15 June 1895: 12. Web. 22 Aug 2023 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article71231248>>.

¹⁰⁰ Grist 2019, p. 81

¹⁰¹ Ibid at 100

¹⁰² Davies-Cornish photo collection, WPMT

¹⁰³ McConnell n.d., *Wellington Hut Site Datasheet*, WPMT

¹⁰⁴ Davies-Cornish photo collection, WPMT

¹⁰⁵ Grist 2019, p. 151

¹⁰⁶ Ibid

¹⁰⁷ Ibid

4 Blue Bell Hut/Forest Hut, c. 1890-1891

Forest Hut began its life as Blue Bell Hut, built in 1890-1891. This hut was very simple, built of bark slabs with a bark roof and door. Blue Bell Hut was built and re-built several times, its later iterations far more ornate than the original simple shack. At some stage, the hut members (many of whom were hairdressers, including a Robert Salter and a Mr. Abbott; later members included V. Mason, G. Whittington and W. Miller¹⁰⁸) decided to completely replace Blue Bell Hut, which they allegedly did by building a new hut around the outside of the existing hut and then dismantling it from within. This new hut was named Forest Hut. Forest Hut was the “largest and the best” of all the early mountain huts¹⁰⁹. Like the members of Fern Retreat Hut, the Forest Hut group would host large dinners for other hut groups¹¹⁰. Forest Hut burnt down in June of 1900 and was rebuilt by the members some time before 1902. The hut stood until at least 1919, as evidenced by a photo that shows a Private Albert Harris in front of the hut surrounded by a large group, welcoming him home from World War 1, dated 26 June 1919¹¹¹.

■ Fabric

Forest Hut went through at least six rebuilds or redesigns. A key design feature of the later Forest Huts (after the first iteration of Bluebell Hut, which was a simple shack) was the number of ornate, Arts and Crafts tradition bush pole and branch features. Features of various versions of the hut included a wooden spiral staircase, several ornate bush pole archways, numerous ornate redesigns to the verandah railings, a lookout tower, and a summer house¹¹².

There is little remaining evidence of Forest Hut. There is a flat, level area where the hut likely stood. Other evidence of the hut includes a mound of stones – evidence of a unique practice of many of the hut groups where tree ferns were surrounded by stone mounds – and evidence of modification to the nearby waterfall, where stone has been chiselled away to allow for easier water collection¹¹³.

■ Setting

Forest Hut was located a relatively short distance away from Fern Retreat and Wellington Hut, nearby to a creek again in lush wet forest vegetation.

■ Significance

Forest Hut is of cultural heritage significance as a part of the suite of recreational huts built on kunanyi / Mount Wellington from 1888-1920.

It demonstrates the evolution of recreational tourism in Tasmania and demonstrates the rare and uncommon practice of private recreational hut building. It has social value for the families and friends of the hut builders and the descendants of those whose family members spent time at the hut. It has aesthetic value as an example of rustic Arts and Crafts vernacular architecture. It has archaeological value and further research may reveal further information about historic hut building techniques.

5 Clematis Hut, c.~1890-1896

The members of Clematis Hut were “mostly tradesmen” and included W. Angus, Richard Stanley and William Whittington¹¹⁴. The first version of Clematis Hut was built sometime in the early 1890s, but was destroyed by fire in 1896¹¹⁵. The rebuilt version of Clematis Hut had a large, central, pyramidal roof, three smaller gabled roofs at the front, a wide timber framed chimney, walls made of closely-placed “saplings”¹¹⁶, and an ornate verandah frame decorated with looped clematis vines, from which the hut gets its name¹¹⁷. There was also a summer house. Clematis Hut burnt down in 1909¹¹⁸ but was rebuilt in the exact same fashion in the same location. The third version of the hut did not feature the looped clematis vine decoration, the verandah instead featuring lattice arches.

■ Fabric

All that remains of Clematis Hut is a large, levelled area a small stone wall, and a stone chimney butt.

■ Setting

Clematis Hut was located within wet forest near a creek. The hut was surrounded by multiple large manferns (*Dicksonia antarctica*) which are evident in photos.

¹⁰⁸ Grist 2019, p. 24

¹⁰⁹ Davies-Cornish photo collection, WPMT

¹¹⁰ Grist 2019, p. 23; “WHO CAN TELL?” *The Clipper (Hobart, Tas. : 1893 - 1909)* 20 April 1895: 6. Web. 22 Aug 2023 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article83367819>>.

¹¹¹ Grist 2016b, *A timeline for Blue Bell and Forest Huts*, p. 13

¹¹² Davies-Cornish photo collections, WPMT; Grist 2016b, Grist 2019.

¹¹³ McConnell n.d., *Forest Hut Site Datasheet*, WPMT

¹¹⁴ Davies-Cornish photo collection, WPMT

¹¹⁵ McConnell n.d., *Clematis Hut Site Datasheet*, WPMT; Davies-Cornish photo collection

¹¹⁶ “HOLIDAY MEMORIES.” *Clarence and Richmond Examiner (Grafton, NSW : 1889 - 1915)* 30 March 1907: 6. Web. 23 Aug 2023 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article61434132>>

¹¹⁷ Davies-Cornish photo collection, WPMT

¹¹⁸ “NEWS OF THE DAY.” *The Mercury (Hobart, Tas. : 1860 - 1954)* 8 February 1909: 4. Web. 23 Aug 2023 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article9973090>>.

■ Significance

Clematis Hut is of cultural heritage significance as a part of the suite of recreational huts built on kunanyi / Mount Wellington from 1888-1920. It demonstrates the evolution of recreational tourism in Tasmania and demonstrates the rare and uncommon practice of private recreational hut building. It has social value for the families and friends of the hut builders and the descendants of those whose family members spent time at the hut. It has aesthetic value as an example of rustic Arts and Crafts vernacular architecture. It has archaeological value and further research may reveal further information about historic hut building techniques.

6 Falls Hut, c. 1891

Falls Hut was one of the largest and most elaborate huts on the mountain, and one of the most well-known, frequently visited by locals and interstate visitors¹¹⁹. The members of Falls Hut were well-known for their hospitality, regularly preparing tea, sandwiches, and hot dinners for guests both invited and unexpected regularly¹²⁰. Falls Hut stood for almost forty years and had a number of members come and go – the original members were Mr. C Edwards, B. Tapin, Mush Ward, R. Bowden, and Denne C. Hood, closely followed by George Mason and Alf Hook. Later members included B. Braithwaite, W. Patmore, Jack Crow, Same Merchant, Harry Dart, Alf H. Hook, Phil Moody, E. A. Solomon, G. Gourlay, and Dick Harvey^{121, 122}. The hut likely burnt in the 1920 bushfire.

■ Fabric

Falls Hut went through several iterations. The first structure built in 1891 was a small gable roofed, split timber hut with a rustic verandah at the front and one side¹²³. In 1903 an extension was added to the east of the hut¹²⁴. The rustic design of the verandah at Falls Hut is particularly noteworthy, the photographic record showing that it went through several designs in its lifetime. Falls Hut also had an extremely unique feature – a “double-decker” bridge, perhaps modelled after a double-decker tram¹²⁵, that crossed over the gully and provided access to the hut. It was designed and built in 1904 by George Mason, the only remaining original member, with the assistance of Mr. Patmore¹²⁶. The newspaper

article noted that George Mason “has special aptitude for rustic designing”. There were a number of other features associated with the hut, including rustic outdoor furniture, arches, pathways, and a tennis court¹²⁷.

There is little evidence remaining of Falls Hut. A levelled terrace exists where the hut once stood, with a linear pile of stones nearby which may be the remains of a fireplace.

■ Setting

Like the other recreational huts, the Falls Hut was located in a wet forest gully and, as the name suggests, close to a waterfall.

■ Significance

Falls Hut is of cultural heritage significance as a part of the suite of recreational huts built on kunanyi / Mount Wellington from 1888-1920. It demonstrates the evolution of recreational tourism in Tasmania and demonstrates the rare and uncommon practice of private recreational hut building. It has social value for the families and friends of the hut builders and the descendants of those whose family members spent time at the hut. It has aesthetic value as an example of rustic Arts and Crafts vernacular architecture. It has archaeological value and further research may reveal further information about historic hut building techniques.

7 Waratah Hut c. 1892

1888 Hut met an unknown end only a few years after its construction, and some of the members of that hut went on to build Waratah Hut in 1892. Waratah Hut stood until 1903-4. An internal fire caused the hut to burn down in 1897 but it was quickly rebuilt.

■ Fabric

There are only photographs of the post-1897 fire reconstruction of Waratah Hut. A newspaper article from 1894 describes the original hut as a “bark hut” with an interior full of “rustic furniture, ingeniously made out of the branches of the gnarled scrub trees”¹²⁸. The post-fire rebuild shows it to be a rustic hut with vertical bark cladding walls and a verandah made out of bush poles and with ornate detailing constructed using branches.

¹¹⁹ “VISIT OF MELBOURNE FOOTBALLERS TO THE HUTS.” *The Mercury (Hobart, Tas. : 1860 - 1954)* 3 July 1896: 3. Web. 23 Aug 2023 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article9376909>>.

¹²⁰ Grist 2016b

¹²¹ Ibid, p. 2

¹²² “ODDS AND ENDS.” *Tasmanian News (Hobart, Tas. : 1883 - 1911)* 28 January 1907: 2 (FOURTH EDITION). Web. 23 Aug 2023 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article177562156>>.

¹²³ Davies-Cornish photo collection

¹²⁴ Grist 2016b p. 9

¹²⁵ Davies 1972 p. 60

¹²⁶ “A BRIDGE ACROSS THE DERWENT.” *Tasmanian News (Hobart, Tas. : 1883 - 1911)* 3 October 1906: 2 (FOURTH EDITION). Web. 23 Aug 2023 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article180351926>>.

¹²⁷ Ibid at 48 visit of Melbourne footballers

¹²⁸ “MOUNT WELLINGTON AT DAYBREAK.” *The Mercury (Hobart, Tas. : 1860 - 1954)* 7 July 1894: 4. Web. 21 Aug 2023 <<http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article9319335>>.

Today Waratah Hut exists as ruins, with only the chimney butt and hearth remaining.

■ *Setting*

The Waratah Hut was built only a short distance downslope of the 1888 Hut. The 1894 article describes the location of the hut as “a more beautiful site for such a place we never saw”. Much like 1888 Hut before it, the site of Waratah Hut would have been chosen both for its seclusion (with walking tracks sufficiently close by to enable access) and easy access to drinking water.

■ *Significance*

Waratah is of cultural heritage significance as a part of the suite of recreational huts built on kunanyi / Mount Wellington from 1888-1920. It demonstrates the evolution of recreational tourism in Tasmania and demonstrates the rare and uncommon practice of private recreational hut building. It has social value for the families and friends of the hut builders and the descendants of those whose family members spent time at the hut. It has aesthetic value as an example of rustic Arts and Crafts vernacular architecture. It has archaeological value and further research may reveal further information about historic hut building techniques.

8 Brushy Creek Hut, c. 1890s.

Little is known about this hut. It was located in the Brushy Creek area on a wet forest hillslope. Its members included G & D. Griffiths, R. Teague, R. Stanley & W. Whittington. The hut was small and simple; built of timber with a shingle roof and weatherboard walls¹²⁹.

■ *Fabric*

A stone chimney base remains.

■ *Significance*

Brushy Creek is of cultural heritage significance as a part of the suite of recreational huts built on kunanyi / Mount Wellington from 1888-1920. It demonstrates the evolution of recreational tourism in Tasmania and demonstrates the rare and uncommon practice of private recreational hut building. It has social value for the families and friends of the hut builders and the descendants of those whose family members spent time at the hut.

9 Wattle Grove Hut 1, c. 1894-5

Little is known about this hut. It was located in the vicinity of Junction Cabin on the “Brushy Creek” side, and its members included T. Mann, I. Drew, D. Scoles, and “others”. It burnt down in the early 1900s¹³⁰.

■ *Fabric*

The hut was small, with vertical timber plank walls and a gable roof. There was a rustic bush pole verandah on three sides, and a stone chimney with timber flue¹³¹. The stone chimney butt remains.

■ *Setting*

Like the other early recreational huts, this hut was located in a wet forest environment in the vicinity of a water source – in this case, Brushy Creek.

■ *Significance*

Wattle Grove Hut 1 is of cultural heritage significance as a part of the suite of recreational huts built on kunanyi / Mount Wellington from 1888-1920. It demonstrates the evolution of recreational tourism in Tasmania and demonstrates the rare and uncommon practice of private recreational hut building. It has social value for the families and friends of the hut builders and the descendants of those whose family members spent time at the hut. It has archaeological value and further research may reveal further information about historic hut building techniques.

¹²⁹ Grist 2019, p. 31

¹³⁰ Davies-Cornish photo collection

¹³¹ McConnell 2006, *Wattle Grove Hut 1 Site Datasheet*

10 Ellis and Sansom Hut, c. 1906

There is limited information about this hut. It was said to have been built by “Messers Ellis and Sansom Brothers¹³²”. It is not known how the hut was destroyed.

■ Fabric

Photos show the hut to be a small, simple hut built of vertical timber planks with bark strip roofing, a gable roof with a skylight and a glass window. There was also a stone chimney. The hut platform remains, as does remnants of a chimney butt, some drystone edging, and a fern tree mound.

■ Setting

The hut was located adjacent to a tributary of the Guy Fawkes Rivulet in wet eucalypt forest.

■ Significance

Ellis and Sansom Hut is of cultural heritage significance as a part of the suite of recreational huts built on kunanyi / Mount Wellington from 1888-1920. It demonstrates the evolution of recreational tourism in Tasmania and demonstrates the rare and uncommon practice of private recreational hut building. It has social value for the families and friends of the hut builders and the descendants of those whose family members spent time at the hut. It has archaeological value and further research may reveal further information about historic hut building techniques.

11 Musk Hut, c. 1908

Musk Hut was founded by A. Lewis, W. O. Jeffrey, and D. Jeffrey on the 8th March 1908¹³³. Like many of the huts, it went through several alterations in its lifetime, beginning as a simple single-room hut made of horizontal logs to an elaborate Swiss-style chalet¹³⁴. The hut stood until “about 1918”¹³⁵. William Jeffrey, one of the hut originators, was wounded and killed in action in France in 1918¹³⁶ – he is memorialised at the Soldier’s Memorial Oval at the Queens Domain¹³⁷.

■ Fabric

The original hut was built of horizontal logs with a bark roof. It was located on the edge of a steep slope and three sides are supported by bush poles¹³⁸. A platform was levelled for subsequent rebuilds. The final version of the hut boasted multiple gable roofs with shingles, a dormer window, a rustic verandah and hand rails, a levelled walkway and a lookout.

The large levelled area where the hut once stood remains. There are a number of associated features cut into the bedrock, including a square cavity that could possibly have been a cooler. There is also a section of stone walling and a large chimney that is nearly fully intact.

■ Setting

Located in McRobie’s gully, said to be the “last” built in this area. Located in a typically verdant wet forest gully – although the hut builders appear to have planted additional tree ferns to beautify their patch.

■ Significance

Musk Hut is of cultural heritage significance as a part of the suite of recreational huts built on kunanyi / Mount Wellington from 1888-1920. It demonstrates the evolution of recreational tourism in Tasmania and demonstrates the rare and uncommon practice of private recreational hut building. It has social value for the families and friends of the hut builders and the descendants of those whose family members spent time at the hut. It has aesthetic value as an example of rustic Arts and Crafts vernacular architecture. It has additional archaeological value as a particularly intact hut ruin and further research may reveal further information about historic hut building techniques.

¹³² Davies-Cornish photo collection, WPMT

¹³³ Grist 2017b, *A timeline for the Musk Hut*, p. 2

¹³⁴ *Ibid* p. 4-9.

¹³⁵ Davies-Cornish photo collection, WPMT

¹³⁶ William Oakford Jeffrey, <https://www.aif.adfa.edu.au/showPerson?pid=153038>

¹³⁷ Soldier No. 24 – his tree was initially planted on the avenue, but a replacement is now found at the oval https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5b6b8f2d3c3a53a57ae584be/t/5bb47fa6ec212d71f6c3b358/1538555816552/The+Soldiers+Memorial+Avenue_Brochure_A2_2.pdf

¹³⁸ Grist 2017b, p. 4

12 Wattle Grove Hut 2, c. 1910

Wattle Grove Hut 2 was built by some of the members of the original Wattle Grove Hut¹³⁹, perhaps as a replacement after it burnt down. The original structure was a simple, single-roomed hut built of horizontal logs with a shingle roof. A rear extension was later added, as was a shingle-roof verandah and the requisite rustic decorations, although Wattle Grove 2 was much simpler than many of the other huts¹⁴⁰. There are a number of photos showing the construction of Wattle Grove Hut 2, which provides an insight into how the huts were constructed. A charming series of photos in Grist (2018)¹⁴¹ show a number of the hut members sitting outside the hut on rustic outdoor furniture while another is atop the roof laying shingles. Numerous mugs and plates are strewn on a large wooden table, suggesting the photo was taken during a break from work. Other photos show hand saws and logs, indicating the local nature of many of the materials used to construct the huts.

■ Fabric

A triangular levelled area cut into the bedrock remains, with a stone lined outer embankment in the process of collapse. There is also an access track, two stone fireplace remains, a garden border, the remains of a metal bedframe, and the remains of a spiked tree that was used as a lookout.

■ Setting

Wattle Grove Hut 2 was initially located on a steep slope but the site was progressively levelled. It was located within a wet eucalypt forest gully abundant with tree ferns.

■ Significance

Wattle Grove Hut 2 is of cultural heritage significance as a part of the suite of recreational huts built on kunanyi / Mount Wellington from 1888-1920. It demonstrates the evolution of recreational tourism in Tasmania and demonstrates the rare and uncommon practice of private recreational hut building. It has social value for the families and friends of the hut builders and the descendants of those whose family members spent time at the hut. It has aesthetic value as an example of rustic Arts and Crafts vernacular architecture. It has archaeological value and further research may reveal further information about historic hut building techniques.

13 Lone Cabin, c. 1911

Lone Cabin began as a simple bark hut built by Danny Griffiths. Danny was a hairdresser in Hobart and was quite a character, interested in local history and spending much of his free time on the mountain¹⁴². The hut was originally used as a weekender but Danny chose to live in it after he retired¹⁴³. When the Hobart City Council bought the land that Lone Cabin and the other mountain huts were located on from the Cascade Brewery in the 1930s, Danny was named Honorary Ranger to allow him to continue living in his hut. Danny worked to improve the hut structurally, however it burnt down by vandals in 1932¹⁴⁴. The Council put up 10 pounds for it to be rebuilt, which Danny undertook with the assistance of friends. Danny Griffiths died in 1957, and in 1967 Lone Cabin burnt down in the 1967 fires. Ted Cornish, Frank Morely, Bill Waller, and Roy Davies – members of the Hobart Walking Club, some of whom knew Danny – undertook to rebuild the hut in 1970¹⁴⁵. Lone Cabin is the earliest mountain hut that still survives intact, although in an altered form.

■ Fabric

The hut today is made of irregular dolerite stone boulders, with a corrugated iron gable roof, a dolerite boulder chimney, and a dirt floor.

■ Setting

Lone Cabin is located on a side trail running off the Lenah Valley Track just south of Junction Cabin, near the headwaters of the Guy Fawkes Rivulet, which no doubt supplied Griffiths with water. It is located within wet eucalypt forest.

■ Significance

Lone Cabin is of cultural heritage significance as one of the only remaining extant historical recreational huts on kunanyi / Mount Wellington. It demonstrates the evolution of recreational tourism in Tasmania and demonstrates the rare and uncommon practice of private recreational hut building. It has social value for the families and friends of the hut builders and the descendants of those whose family members spent time at the hut. As an extant hut, it has additional social value for the current community who use the hut. It has additional significance for its association with Danny Griffiths, the former honorary ranger, a significant and well-known member of the Hobart community at the time.

¹³⁹ Grist 2018, *A timeline for the Wattle Grove Huts*, p. 3; Davies-Cornish photo collection, WPMT

¹⁴⁰ See post-1915 photo of the hut in Grist 2018, p. 9

¹⁴¹ Grist 2018, p. 5

¹⁴² Grist 2018b, *A timeline for the Lone Cabin*, p. 2

¹⁴³ Ibid p. 4

¹⁴⁴ Ibid p. 7

¹⁴⁵ McConnell n.d., *Lone Cabin Site Datasheet*, WPMT

14 Scarr's Hut, c.1911-1923

Little is known about this hut and the only evidence of its existence is a single photo¹⁴⁶. It was thought to have been built by Messers C. Pitman, L. Scarr, L. Breedham, D. Wellington, and a Mr. Wilson, and was located somewhere near the Lenah Valley Track at the top of the Myrtle Gully.

■ Fabric

The image depicts a rough bark shingle hut situated on a stone foundation. No remains of this hut have been relocated.

■ Significance

Scarr's Hut is of local cultural heritage significance as one of the later weekender huts on kunanyi / Mount Wellington. It demonstrates the evolution of recreational tourism in Tasmania and demonstrates the rare and uncommon practice of private recreational hut building.

15 Kara Hut, 1923

Kara Hut was built in 1923 by Frank Keats and his family¹⁴⁷. Originally named Stone Hut, Kara was one of the first huts on the mountain to be built from stone from the outset, perhaps as a result of lessons learned from the 1920 fire that wiped out many of the mountain huts. The hut was built as a simple one-room hut with a large stone chimney and tin roof. The hut passed through different owners over time, and was burnt in the 1967 bushfires. Ted Cornish undertook to restore the hut, with the permission of the Hobart City Council. Ted Cornish named the hut "Kara" after an "Aboriginal word for a high-up hut"^{148, 149}. Kara Hut is a "secret" hut, meaning its location is not publicised by land management authorities and it is not featured on any official maps. It receives a small number of monthly visitors who value the hut for its secret nature.

■ Fabric

The exterior of Kara has only been minimally modified since it was rebuilt in 1969. It made of stone with an internal timber frame and cladding, with a corrugated iron roof and large stone chimney. There is a single entrance and a single window with a wooden shutter. The interior of the hut has undergone more changes, namely

the addition of a wooden sleeping platform. Kara is in relatively good condition although there has been some damage to the internal walls and ceiling.

■ Setting

Kara is located within subalpine eucalypt forest, higher on the mountain slopes than the earlier recreational huts. It is located adjacent to a dolerite boulder field, which offers the hut some camouflage.

■ Significance

Kara Hut is of local cultural heritage significance as one of the later weekender huts on kunanyi / Mount Wellington, and one of the few remaining extant huts. It demonstrates the evolution of recreational tourism in Tasmania and demonstrates the rare and uncommon practice of private recreational hut building. It has social value for the families and friends of the hut builders and the descendants of those whose family members spent time at the hut. Kara Hut has additional social value as a "secret" unpublicised hut, known only to those who discover it on their own or are informed about the hut by a friend.

16 Retreat Hut, c. 1930s.

Like Kara, Retreat Hut was built from stone from the outset. The hut was built by Osric Geer with the assistance of Tas Davis for use as a weekend hut. It was originally referred to as "Geer's Hut"¹⁵⁰. The hut was damaged in the 1967 fires and rebuilt by Jack Thwaites, Phillip Whitlam, David McNeil (who became owner of the Retreat in approximately 1962) Lindsay Whitlam, Ron Smith, Allan and Billie Wiggins, and others. Like Kara Hut, Retreat is a "secret" hut, and receives a small number of monthly visitors who value it for its secret nature.

■ Fabric

Retreat is similar in design to Kara, made of stone and earth mortar with a single door and window and a corrugated iron roof and stone chimney. There is a small stone larder located behind the hut.

■ Setting

Retreat is located a short distance from Kara in subalpine eucalypt forest. The site is sheltered from wind and much surrounding sound due to the steepness of the slope.

¹⁴⁶ Cornish collection, WPMT

¹⁴⁷ McConnell n.d., *Kara Hut Site Datasheet*, WPMT

¹⁴⁸ Davies-Cornish photo collection, WPMT

¹⁴⁹ Perhaps taken from this 1966 article in the Australian Women's Weekly: 1966 'ABORIGINAL HOUSE NAMES and their meanings', *The Australian Women's Weekly* (1933 - 1982), 27 April, p. 33. , viewed 24 Aug 2023, <http://nla.gov.au/nla.news-article43200674>

¹⁵⁰ Kays, B & Lowe, S 2016 'Philip Geer's recollections of Geer's Hut', unpublished manuscript, Hobart.

■ Significance

Retreat Hut is of local cultural heritage significance as one of the later weekender huts on kunanyi / Mount Wellington, and one of the few remaining extant huts. It demonstrates the evolution of recreational tourism in Tasmania and demonstrates the rare and uncommon practice of private recreational hut building. It has social value for the families and friends of the hut builders and the descendants of those whose family members spent time at the hut. Retreat Hut has additional social value as a “secret” unpublicised hut, known only to those who discover it on their own or are informed about the hut by a friend.

17 Madison Square Hut, c. 1920s

Madison Square Hut was built sometime in the early 1920s¹⁵¹ by Sam Nicholson, Gordon Mitchell and R. Teague¹⁵². The hut was built with permission from the Council in exchange for the members assisting Danny Griffiths with track work. The hut was damaged in a landslide in 1944, but remained standing until the mid-20th century.

■ Fabric

Madison Square Hut was a unique build, made from swamp gum polls and kerosene tins cut and flattened into long metal strips. It featured a gabled roof, stone chimney and, in a throwback to the original recreational huts, a rustic bush pole verandah. The hut ruins consist of three remnant stone walls and the remnants of a fireplace.

■ Setting

The hut was located on a narrow sandstone ledge near Brushy Creek in wet eucalypt forest.

■ Significance

Madison Square Hut is of cultural heritage significance as one of the later weekender huts on kunanyi / Mount Wellington. It demonstrates the evolution of recreational tourism in Tasmania and demonstrates the rare and uncommon practice of private recreational hut building. It has social value for the families and friends of the hut builders and the descendants of those whose family members spent time at the hut. It has archaeological value and further research may reveal further information about historic hut building techniques.

18 Johnston’s Hut, c. 1928

Little is known about this hut. It was built by Cecil Johnston, the Deputy Town Clerk of the Hobart City Council, for use as a weekender. Only two photos of the hut remain¹⁵³. It possibly burnt in the fires of the 1930s¹⁵⁴.

■ Fabric

The hut was a simple, single-room hut made of split timber planks used for both walls and roof built on a stone foundation with a large, well-built stone chimney. It sits on a terraced platform. It is now in ruins, with a chimney base remaining, some tools, a platform, and a rock garden border remaining.

■ Setting

The hut is located within subalpine *Eucalyptus delegatensis* forest on the eastern slopes of the mountain.

■ Significance

Johnston’s Hut is of cultural heritage significance as one of the later weekender huts on kunanyi / Mount Wellington. It demonstrates the evolution of recreational tourism in Tasmania and demonstrates the rare and uncommon practice of private recreational hut building. It has social value for the families and friends of the hut builders and the descendants of those whose family members spent time at the hut. It has additional significance for its association with Cecil Johnson, the former Deputy Town Clerk at the Hobart City Council and the main proponent of the Depression-era works on the mountain. It has archaeological value and further research may reveal further information about historic hut building techniques.

19 Nicholson’s Hut, c. 1944

After Madison Square Hut was destroyed, Sam Nicholson and Gordon Mitchell set to work on another hut, which was the last hut for which the Hobart City Council gave permission to be built. However, the hut was never finished. The site was levelled and walls were built from stream bed stones, however vandals damaged the in-progress hut and Nicholson and Mitchell took up ownership of other huts.

¹⁵¹ Davies-Cornish photo collection, WPMT

¹⁵² McConnell n.d., *Madison Square Hut Site Datasheet*, WPMT

¹⁵³ Davies-Cornish photo collection, WPMT

¹⁵⁴ McConnell n.d., *Johnston’s Hut Site Datasheet*, WPMT

■ *Fabric*

The site exists as a ruin, with some stone walls, a chimney, and a terraced area still remaining.

■ *Setting*

The hut was located in a wet forest gully on the eastern foothills of the mountain.

■ *Significance*

Nicholson's Hut is of local cultural heritage significance as one of the later weekender huts on kunanyi / Mount Wellington. It demonstrates the evolution of recreational tourism in Tasmania and demonstrates the rare and uncommon practice of private recreational hut building. It has social value for the families and friends of the hut builders and the descendants of those whose family members spent time at the hut. It has archaeological value and further research may reveal further information about historic hut building techniques.

Post-1967 fires huts

① SAMA Hut, c. 1967

The 1967 fires were devastating for those who had spent time within the mountain's huts. Almost all of the recreational huts were destroyed in the 1967 fires and a unique era in the mountain's history came to an end. SAMA Hut was built in direct response to the destruction, by a group who were "pissed off at the lack of places to go after the '67 fires when all the old huts were burnt down"¹⁵⁵. The hut was built without permission.

■ *Fabric*

The hut was a simple A-frame design constructed of corrugated iron with a timber bush pole frame and a chimney.

■ *Setting*

Located amongst snow-gums in a small levelled clearing at the base of a band of dolerite cliffs, hidden by large dolerite boulders.

■ *Significance*

SAMA Hut is of local cultural heritage significance as one of the last private huts to be constructed on kunanyi / Mount Wellington and as one of the few remaining extant huts. SAMA is a "secret" hut and receives a small number of monthly visitors who value the hut for its secret nature. It has additional historic significance for its relationship to the 1967 fires, a devastating and significant natural disaster that influenced Hobart's history.

② Scout Hut, c. 1969

Scout Hut was built secretly by a handful of members from the 8th Hobart Scout Association, assisted by their Scout leader and a parent, who drove the materials up the mountain¹⁵⁶. It was used secretly by the scouts for five or so years, and was discovered by the general public in 1974, which led to it becoming vandalised and neglected¹⁵⁷. In response to recent vandalism, the hut has been made inaccessible to prevent further degradation.

■ *Fabric*

The hut was constructed of corrugated iron nestled amongst large dolerite boulders.

■ *Setting*

Scout Hut is located not far from SAMA Hut in alpine snow-gum forest, nestled within a band of dolerite boulders.

■ *Significance*

Scout Hut is of local cultural heritage significance as one of the last private huts to be constructed on kunanyi / Mount Wellington and as one of the few remaining extant huts. Scout Hut is a "secret" hut. It has additional historic significance for its relationship to the 1967 fires, a devastating and significant natural disaster that influenced Hobart's history. It is also significant for its relationship to the 8th Hobart Scout Association.

¹⁵⁵ SAMA Hut logbook

¹⁵⁶ Abrahams 2001, p. 45

¹⁵⁷ Ibid Abrahams



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“The huts are the work of young fellows who spend their week-ends in the bush, and they have spared no pains in making their temporary dwelling places pleasing to the vision, and also comfortable to inhabit. The tenements are built of timber and bark, and beautified with ferns and shrubs, and are placed picturesquely on the banks of running streams, in groves of the tall man-ferns, which grows in luxuriant profusion in every direction.”

Roy Davies

Above quote: Davies, R 1972, 'The Mount Wellington Huts',
Tasmanian Tramp vol. 20 – quoting *The Complete Guide to Tasmania* 1906
Cover image: postcard showing the Falls Hut. From the Grist collection.



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