

#### 4.7.4 Schooling

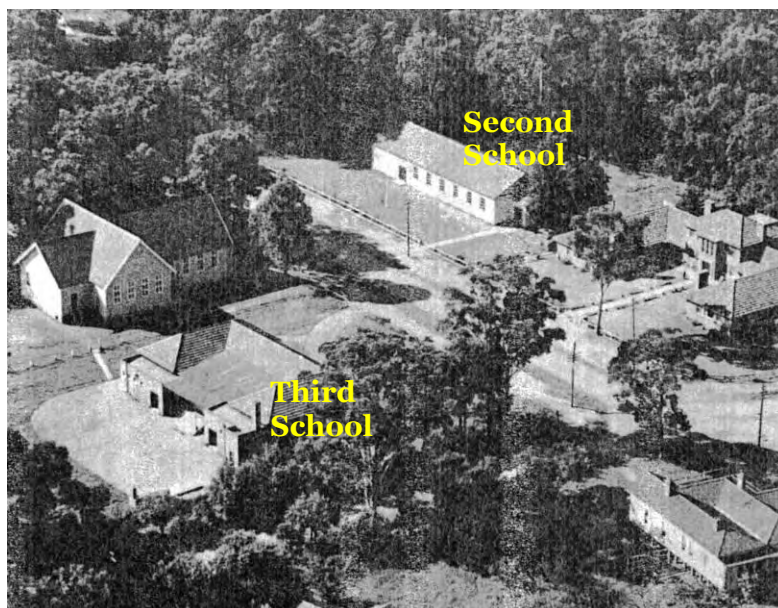
The Wahroonga Adventist School was established to meet the educational needs of the children of staff members. The first classroom of the school was a room at the rear of the Sanitarium hospital building (2005 School Newsletter). Before long this room was needed by the hospital, so a small timber building was erected on land behind the present shop at 124 Fox Valley Road (Figure 4.27).



**Figure 4.27 Wahroonga Adventist School located at 124 Fox Valley Road c.1905 (Merritt Kellogg Museum).**

Increasing pupil numbers prompted construction of a new two room building, which opened on 9 September 1922. This building was located on the east side of Fox Valley Road opposite the present school, and adjacent to the site currently occupied by the Mission **Hostel on the intersection with Brown's Road (now the Comenarra Parkway)** (see Figure 4.28). This building has also been identified as the Social Hall, which was demolished in 1965.

By 1932, the school had 56 pupils, a number that steadily grew. In 1941, a new school was completed on the west side of Fox Valley Road at the Comenarra Parkway intersection. One hundred students were enrolled, seventy in the primary school and thirty in the secondary school. The building was extended in 1961 and again in the late 1970s with a second storey extension. Due to overcrowding in the main school, in the 1960s classes were resumed in the old school hall across the road. The northern wing extension of the school may have encroached on the site of original church, which had been removed in the 1960s. Additional classroom space in the form of demountables was added to the primary school in 2000-2.



**Figure 4.28** The second and third (current) Wahroonga Adventist School diagonally opposite one another. The timber church, Mission Hostel at the intersection of Fox Valley Road and Browns Road are also shown (Merritt Kellogg Museum c.1950).

#### 4.7.5 Accommodation

Drs Daniel and Lauretta Kress were founders of the hospital and the family residence, Coorajeba, the “home of the medicine man”, was built in c.1907. However, as the Kresses were recalled to the USA in 1907, the cottage must predate this time (Figure 4.29). The cottage was removed in the 1950s to make way for the new Wahroonga Adventist Church.



**Figure 4.29** Coorajeba home of the Kress family, demolished to make way for the new church (Source: Merritt Kellogg Museum).

The Adventists were the first to train and admit male nurses as medical personnel. To house the male nurses at the San, a six room cottage, **Angels’ Rest**, was built for male nurses at a cost of £525. This building was near the gymnasium, and was soon overcrowded so that some male nurses were accommodated in tents (Patrick 2003:83). The male nurses’ residence completed in 1961 replaced this building.

In 1918, a nurse built a ‘shaded one room building for the nightwatchman’ which has also been identified as being the old mortuary (Patrick 2003:83, Cook 1991:390) (Figure



4.30). The small building was probably located on the site of the later nurses' residential block (Figure 4.31).



**Figure 4.30** T J Roberts, the night watchman in front of his shelter house (Patrick 2003:82).

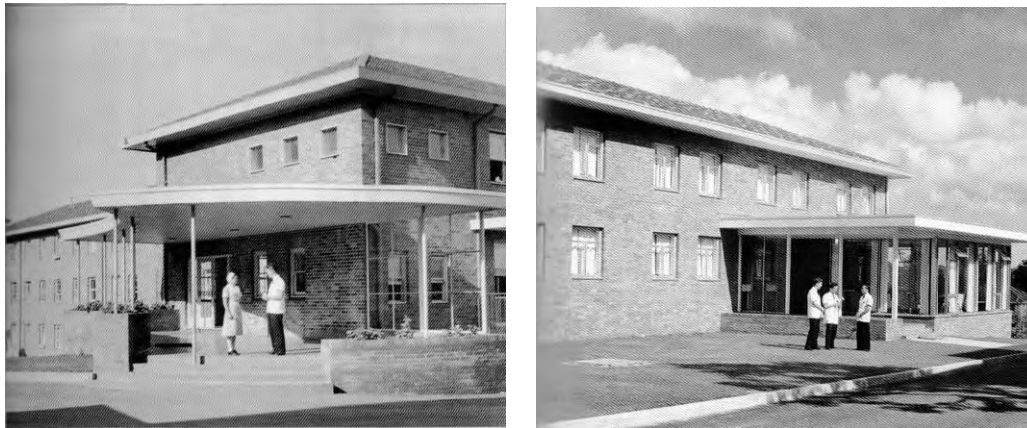


**Figure 4.31** 1943 aerial showing Bethel, Coorajeba, Sanhaven and a tentative location for the nightwatchman's shelter (circled)

## 4.8 Post-War Developments

In 1952, a new nurses' wing was opened, thus freeing up bed space in the main 1903 building (see Figure 4.32). This was a four-storey steam-heated dormitory for female nurses with 126 single bedrooms. The rooms were furnished through donation. The building was extended in 1963 to provide housing for an additional 40 nurses and an enclosed foyer was added. The nurses' home was extended again in 1971 to accommodate 88 new rooms and a portico.

In 1961, a male residential building was erected to provide 24 single rooms and two flats on the site of, and replacing, the original wooden cottage. This building is now the Foundation House (Figure 4.32).



**Figure 4.32 Female nurses' residence built 1952 (left) and male nurses' dormitories built 1961 (right) (Patrick 2003:105).**

Since the 1960s the hospital facilities have been extended with the consequence that the removal of earlier structures has made way for new facilities.

In 1961, a new three-storey services building built to provide space for classrooms, the kitchen, staff and patient dining rooms, doctors' offices, X-ray laboratory and medical records (Figure 4.33) (Patrick 2003:105). This building was extended in 1989.



**Figure 4.33 New services building (left) replaced original kitchen (right) (Merritt Kellogg Museum).**

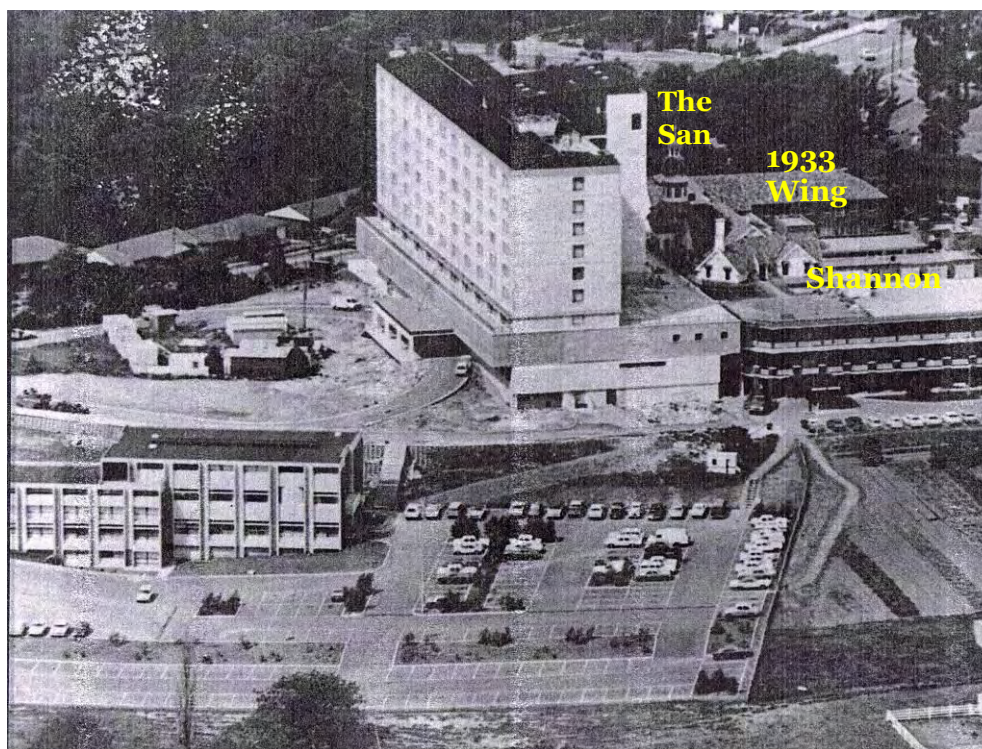
From the 1970s the hospital facilities have been substantially upgraded and expanded to include the Fox Valley Medical and Dental Centre, School of Nursing and Wahroonga Activities Centre and the Elizabeth Lodge Hostel and Esther Somerville Nursing Home (part of the new Adventist Retirement Village) on the northwest side of Coups Creek. In 1986, the new Sanitarium Health Food Company offices were constructed, adjoining the Australasian Conference Association Administration Offices on Fox Valley Road, on the site of the 1910 cottage Sanhaven.

In 1973, the San timber building was demolished as it was deemed too expensive to upgrade in order to meet fire regulations and standards and regulations for nurse training (Figure 4.34). A new ten-storey tower block was built directly in front of the 1903 building. The east and west wing extensions were not removed at this time.

By the time general superintendent of the Sydney Adventist Hospital Dr Bert Clifford retired in 1990, the original timber Sanitarium had been demolished and replaced by a



modern hospital wing housed in a ten storey tower block (the HE Clifford Tower) and ancillary facilities, and the complex renamed as the Sydney Adventist Hospital. The new hospital reflected the transition from a Sanitarium to a modern medical facility with a greater emphasis on surgical procedures and short hospital stay. Further additions included an upgrade of the maternity wing, new physiotherapy and cardiac rehabilitation facilities including a gymnasium and ozone treated hydrotherapy pool opened adjacent to the maternity wing.



**Figure 4.34 Construction of the H. E. Clifford Tower 1973 dwarfs the 1903 San building. The Nurses training college and carpark are in the foreground (Merritt Kellogg Museum).**

In 1995 a five level extension which included the library, Avondale College with various operating theatres and surgeries, the A. K. Tulloch Theatre Block, was constructed adjoining the Clifford Tower and the Jacaranda Lodge cancer unit. The Media Network Centre was constructed adjacent to the Pacific Regional Head Quarters of the Seventh Day Adventist Church.

The current decade has seen the opening of the San Clinic, the Wai Fong Poon Childcare facility to the south of the Nurses Residential block and twenty villas and thirty apartments were added to the Adventist Retirement Village.

#### 4.9 Fox Valley Road

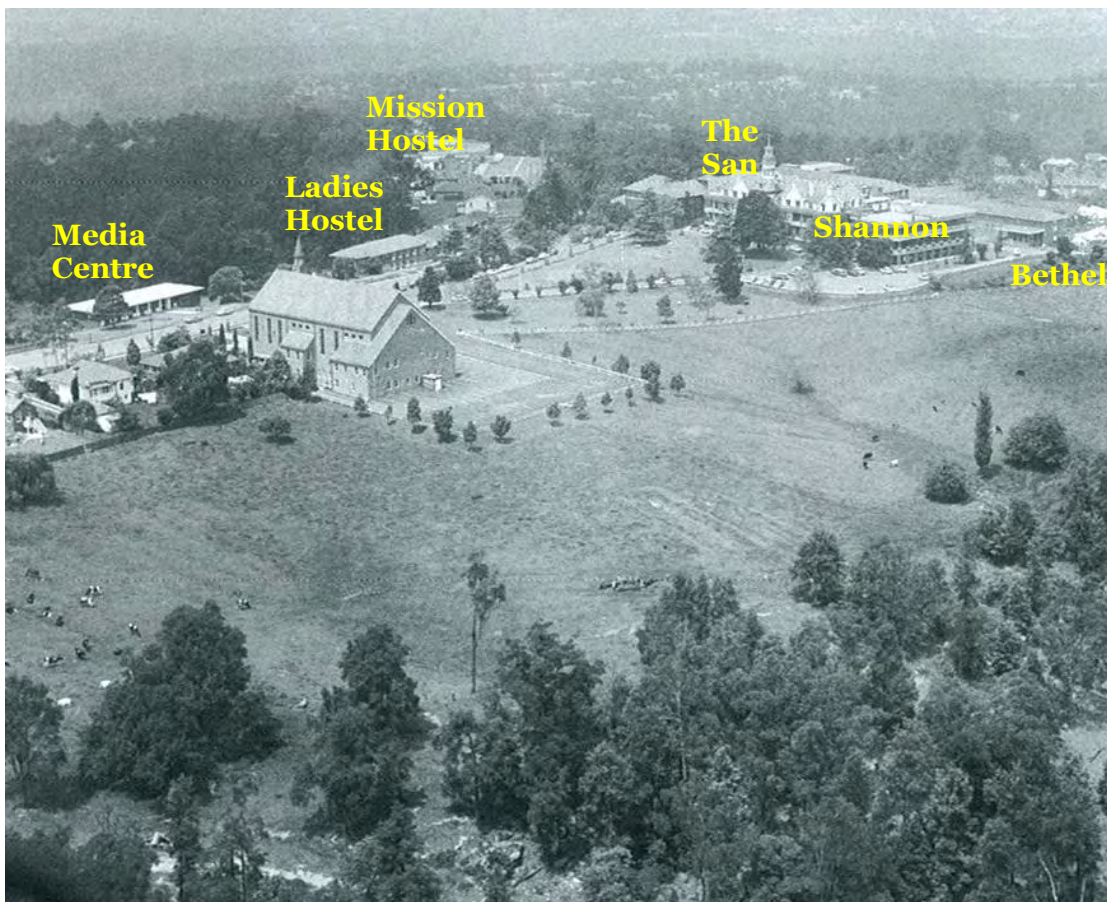
The earliest cottages along Fox Valley Road are those adjacent to Strone Avenue, on the west side, and those on the east side of the road. These are a discrete group of predominantly early twentieth century timber-framed weatherboard Federation-style workers cottages. It seems likely that these cottages were constructed to house Sanitarium and church staff. Many have been modified. Adjacent to the church is an early surviving cottage, with two later 1930s brick and tile cottages beyond. Interspersed, particularly on the west side of the road are a number of later 1960s cottages. The so-called Ladies Hostel, housing staff in flat-like apartments, was constructed in the late 1930s or 1940s, while the Mission Hostel, on the corner of Fox Valley Road and Comenarra Parkway, does not appear in the aerial photograph of 1943 but does appear in



a photograph dated c.1950 (Figure 4.36). Therefore its construction can be dated to this period. Houses built in the 1950s, 1960s and 1970s to accommodate staff, are also present on the north side of the Comenarra Parkway and on Mount Pleasant Avenue on the northwest side of Coups Creek.



**Figure 4.35 The Sydney Adventist Hospital c.2003 (Patrick 2003:59).**



**Figure 4.36 View of the site across pastures, c.1958-1968 (Patrick 2003:107).**

## 5 Aboriginal Heritage Survey

### 5.1 Survey Methodology

The Aboriginal cultural heritage survey was undertaken on 19 June 2008 by AMBS archaeologists Christopher Langeluddecke and Jenna Weston, accompanied by Aboriginal community representatives (see Table 5.1). The fieldwork methodology, the proposed development and available mapping information were discussed with all Aboriginal community representatives prior to fieldwork. Copies of topographic maps and aerial photographs were made available to all participants to guide the survey. The findings of the survey and recommendations were discussed with all representatives in the field, and no objections were raised.

**Table 5.1 Aboriginal Community Participants**

Aboriginal Community Group	Representative
Metropolitan Local Aboriginal Land Council	Darren Duncan
Guringai Tribal Link Aboriginal Corporation	Tracey-lee Howie
Darug Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessments	Gordon Morton
Darug Custodian Aboriginal Corporation	Justine Coplin

The aims of the survey were to:

- employ the predictive model to inform the survey areas;
- ensure appropriate sampling of undisturbed land, and land not previously the subject of archaeological investigation;
- relocate AHIMS site 45-6-2040, which was previously recorded within the study area, and record its current condition;
- record any Aboriginal sites/objects within the study area; and
- determine any areas of potential Aboriginal heritage sensitivity.

The survey methodology involved pedestrian transects throughout undeveloped sections of the study area. As Figure 1.2 shows, part of the study area has been developed for the nursing and retirement villages (off Mt Pleasant Ave), residential homes (at the northern end of Fox Valley Road), a school (at the corner of Fox Valley Road and The Comenarra Parkway), and the Sydney Adventist Hospital and associated buildings. The undeveloped sections of the study area which the Aboriginal survey aimed to sample were broadly defined as the vegetated areas:

- along Coups Creek (flowing through the centre of the study area; see Figure 3.2);
- along a tributary of the Lane Cove River (on the western boundary of the study area); and
- within the area containing the Blue Gum High Forest (BGHF area east of Fox Valley Road).

These areas appeared to comprise predominantly regrowth vegetation. Although the majority of these areas have been previously surveyed by Val Attenbrow in 1989 and Cosmos Archaeology in 2004 (see Section 3.3.2), the predictive model indicated that these are the areas where evidence of Aboriginal occupation are most likely to occur. Further, it was considered possible that in the intervening years archaeological material may have been exposed, which was not visible during the previous surveys.

During the survey, particular attention was paid to areas of ground surface exposure, rockshelters and other sandstone outcrops. Where older mature native trees were observed within the study area, they were examined for the presence of Aboriginal cultural scarring. If any Aboriginal artefacts were encountered, notes were to be made



regarding their type, size, and material, descriptions of the site were to be recorded including the environmental setting and details of any disturbance to archaeological material in the site's vicinity, and Australian Map Grid (AMG) coordinates were to be taken by a handheld Magellan Explorist 500LE GPS unit. Photographs of objects and their location were also to be taken. Photographs of the study area in general were taken using a Canon EOS 300D digital camera.

## 5.2 Survey Results

No new Aboriginal sites were located during the survey.

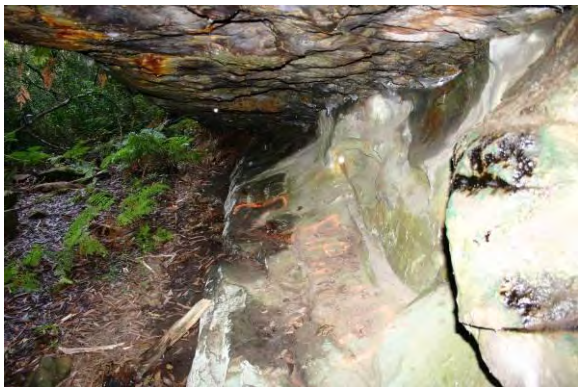
The previously recorded site 45-6-2040 was relocated; however the two quartz artefacts recorded in 1989 were not relocated. Evidence of recent use of the shelter includes broken glass bottles and other rubbish, large pieces of charcoal from recent fires, and spray-painted graffiti on a section of the shelter wall. It is anticipated that the artefacts have been disturbed through this recent use of the shelter.



**View of north eastern end of shelter site 45-6-2040**



**View of ferns at north eastern end of shelter**



**View of south western end of shelter, showing spray-painted graffiti**



**Example of ground exposure in shelter**





View of creek from shelter site



View of shelter site from opposite side of creek

The scope of the survey was impeded by the density of the vegetation, which reduced visibility in many areas, particularly around the creeklines (see Table 5.2).

**Table 5.2 Effective Coverage Table**

Landform of Transect	Description	Approx. Area (m <sup>2</sup> )	Approx. Area Surveyed (m <sup>2</sup> )	Visibility	Exposure	Effective Coverage (m <sup>2</sup> )	Sample Fraction (%)
Creek	Coups Creek	80000	8000	0.8	0.3	1920	2.4
Slope	Urban Conservation Area	62500	7000	0.95	0.1	665	1.1
<b>Total</b>		<b>142500</b>	<b>15000</b>			<b>2585</b>	<b>1.8</b>

### 5.3 Discussion of Survey Results

Coups Creek was traversed between Ferndale Drive in the northern section of the study area, and Comenarra Parkway in the southern section. Pedestrian transects were traversed on both sides of Coups Creek, where vegetation was sparse enough to permit access. The transects generally followed informal unpaved pathways. Numerous sandstone outcrops are present within and adjacent to the creek, and these were inspected for art, engravings, grinding grooves and archaeological deposit (particularly beneath sandstone shelters). Although no artefacts were found, leaf litter obscured large portions of the ground surface, including soil deposits in the shelters.

The banks on each side of the creek are relatively steep, with a relatively level area of approximately 10-20m immediately adjacent to the creekline. Sheer sandstone cliffs and shelter outcrops dominate the north western side of the creek, particularly in the area of site 45-6-2040. Some of these shelters have evidence of modern use, including rubbish and graffiti. Vegetation was dense away from the creekline and the pathways, although there was evidence of some clearing in the area, particularly near paths and on the south eastern side of the creek. Cleared vegetation has been placed into plastic garbage bags which are in piles near the creek. Some revegetation/rehabilitation efforts are also evident, particularly on this south eastern side of the creek. Apart from this clearing, disturbance of the creekline is mainly the result of the introduction of paved and unpaved pathways, and the construction of service access hatches in the vicinity.





**Evidence of clearing for pathways, and drainage (arrowed)**



**Example of unpaved path (centre) and paved path (top left)**



**Formal bridge across Coups Creek**



**Service access hatches near creek**



**Example of sandstone outcrops in Coups Creek**

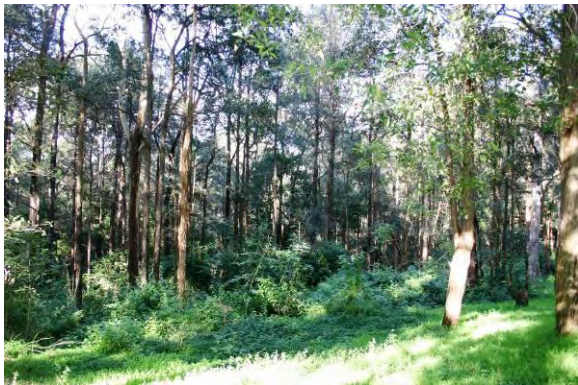


**Example of graffiti**



The steepness of the topography, dense vegetation, and lack of access paths in the vicinity of the creek on the western boundary of the study area, and the small first-order tributary just north of the Comenarra Parkway precluded pedestrian survey in these areas. The thick lantana in the south eastern part of the BGHF area also precluded pedestrian survey in this area. However, the north western section of the BGHF area had been recently cleared of lantana, and hence pedestrian survey was possible in this area.

Apart from clearance of vegetation, including the removal of large trees and lantana, disturbance in the north western section of the BGHF area appears to have resulted from the nearby buildings on Fox Valley Road. A small amount of rubbish was present throughout the area. A small cement drain has been constructed behind the Administrative Headquarters building, which pools into a small depression. Pedestrian use of the area was evident in a small track behind the Fox Valley Road buildings. The landscape in this area is a moderately steep slope, and it is considered an unfavourable area for Aboriginal occupation.



**Thick lantana in south eastern section of Urban Conservation Area**



**Evidence of clearing in north western section of Urban Conservation Area**



**Concrete drain into depression behind Administrative Headquarters building**



**Sloping landscape, showing pedestrian track, and depression**





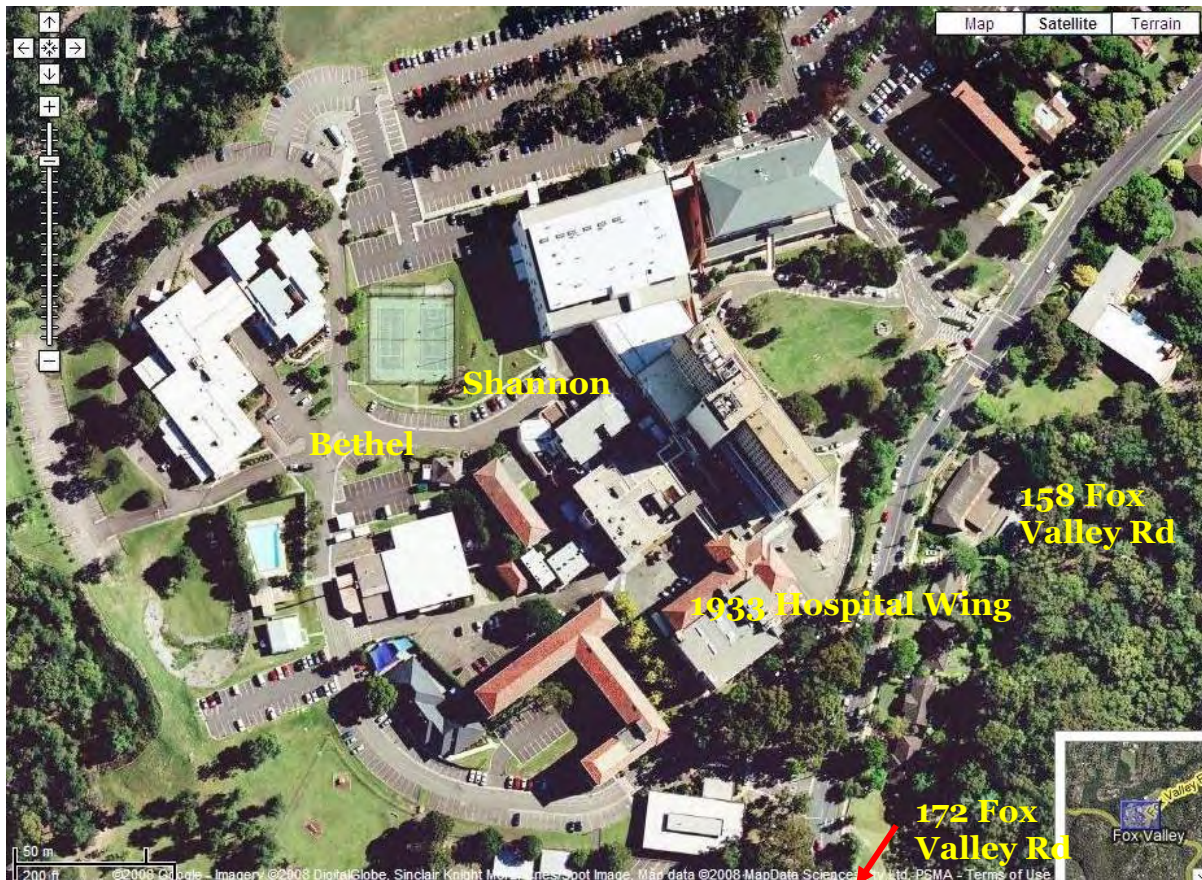
## 6 Historic Physical Evidence

### 6.1 Preamble

An analysis of the physical evidence of the Wahroonga Estate Redevelopment provides a basis for understanding the place in its entirety and the significance of individual built and landscape elements. Although not all built items were inspected, a substantial representative sample was surveyed to provide a good understanding of the site and its associated elements and to inform the assessment of the site's significance.

The Adventist Retirement Village and associated lodges and housing on Mount Pleasant Avenue, to the north of Coups Creek, are relatively modern developments (post 1960s), and are not discussed below.

### 6.2 Hospital Grounds



#### The Sydney Adventist Hospital (Google maps)

##### *Bethel*

Bethel cottage, built in 1915 as labour and delivery rooms, was the original maternity wing, and later served as a staff residence. The cottage opened as the Museum in 2003 and now houses the Merritt Kellogg Museum collection. It is a timber-framed weatherboard cottage with gable end and wide eaves beneath a corrugated steel roof.

The cottage is aligned north south and overlooks the modern tennis court. It has been well maintained and retains much of its original fabric with simple timberwork of the balcony, fascia and Federation detailing of the decorative spandrel panels, timber door with glass panels.

The verandah originally ran across the front and each side. The east and west side verandahs of the cottage have been extended. The east extension has been treated as a natural part of the cottage with weatherboarding, whereas the west verandah has been infilled and clad with asbestos cement (fibro) sheeting. Extensions to the rear are also clad in fibro.

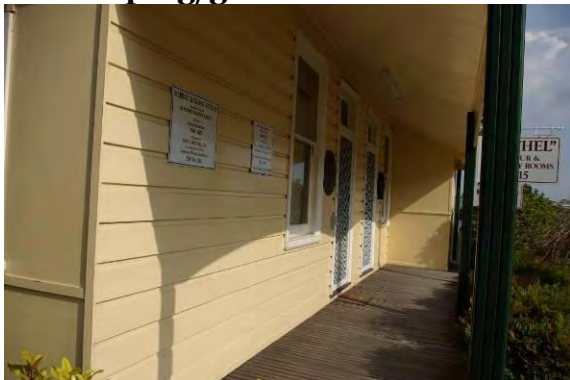
A garden bed at the north of the cottage includes some low shrubbery forming the letters “SAN”. There is a memorial well at the northeast corner, which was initiated by the Sydney Sanitarium & Hospital Class of 1964, and dedicated in 2004 “in memory of nursing graduates and trainees who have died while actively working for the Seventh Day Adventist Church”.



**Bethel, the Merritt Kellogg Museum with memorial well and landscaping/garden**



**Shrubbery spelling "SAN"**



**South elevation**



**Southwest corner**

### *Shannon Building*

The Shannon Building, built in 1920 and renovated in 1955, currently houses administrative offices, including Human Resources. A concrete building addition to house the radiation and oncology facilities, constructed in 1977, is clearly identifiable as a modern addition and butting the south elevation of the building. The balcony on the south elevation has been removed, apparently to make room for the construction of the current Hospital building. Other alterations to the building include the installation of services such as air-conditioning.

The Shannon is a handsome three-storey face brick building, originally with a verandah on at least three sides of each floor (see for example Figure 4.15 and Figure 4.20). Brick pillars support the first floor verandah while the upper floor verandah, and roof, is supported by turned timber columns. The upper verandah has a pressed-metal ceiling, deep timber fascia and the balustrades are simple timber posts. The building retains much of its original fittings and fixtures, including moulded plaster ceilings, staircase



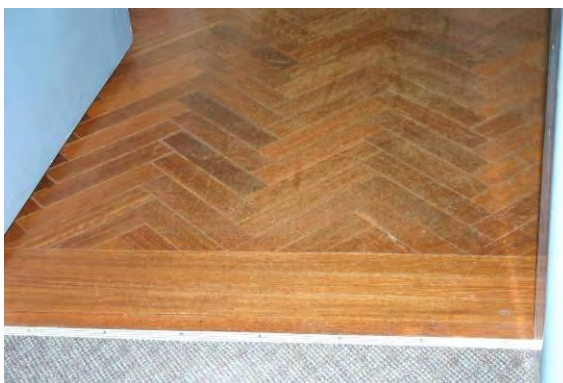
balustrades, windows, floors, skirting boards, and some doors. The wooden flooring on both balcony levels is in a poor state of repair.

Each floor has been colour-coded with walls painted in different colours: pink and mauve on the first floor, cream and brown on the second floor, and yellow and blue on the third floor.

The building is becoming increasingly difficult to maintain, the balconies are unsafe, particularly the top floor, and is no longer consistent with the requirements of a modern health facility. Pigeons pose a problem and health risk and, despite all attempts, still manage to get into the building, with resultant bird lice infestations.



**The west front elevation of the Shannon Wing. The removal of the balcony from the north elevation is demonstrated by the exposed balcony joists (arrowed right).**



**Extant timber parquet floor in a third floor office**



**Staircase and newel detail**



**A moulded plaster ceiling**



**Blue skirting board on third floor**

### *Maternity Wing*

The four-storey maternity wing was built in 1933, as an addition to the original Sanitarium with medical and obstetric beds. It was extended in 1989-90 to upgrade the maternity facilities and to include physiotherapy and hydrotherapy. Built three years after the Administration Building, it reflects that building in the pale face brickwork and use of fanlight windows over French doors and Juliet balcony overlooking Fox Valley Road. Although there are original elements of the original internal detailing, modifications and upgrades have resulted in the building exhibiting little that would distinguish it from a modern hospital wing. Services, in particular air-conditioning, have been installed in the spaces created by inserting false ceilings.

The small scale of ward rooms, the concrete framing and loadbearing brickwork means that internal modifications are difficult and economically prohibitive.



**Maternity wing south elevation**



**Maternity wing north elevation**



## 6.3 Fox Valley Road



### **The north section of Fox Valley Road (Google maps)**

The Adventist Administration Building, the Media Centre and Hostels are located on the east side of Fox Valley Road while the School is on the west side at the intersection of the Comenarra Parkway. Also the north section of the Wahroonga Estate Redevelopment area on Fox Valley Road is characterised by a rare survival of early twentieth century timber-framed weatherboard cottages.

The survey did not include the interiors of the Media Centre or the School.

#### *6.3.1 Administration Building (148 Fox Valley Road)*

The Administration Building was built in 1931 as the Australasian Conference Association Office of the Seventh Day Adventist Church and houses administrative offices and conference rooms. It is a handsome, two-storey face brick structure with terra-cotta tiled roof in the interwar Georgian revival style. The 1986 addition housing the Sanitarium Health Food Company offices adjoins to the north of the building and created a new entry vestibule. The addition has been sensitively achieved with face brickwork reflecting the original and reuse of original windows in walls. There is a fanlight window over the original entry door surmounted by a Juliet balcony, reflected on the opposite of Fox Valley Road in the north elevation of the 1933 Maternity Wing.



**Administrative Headquarters west Administration building east elevation elevation**

The original wing of the building retains the original internal detailing, with timber built-in cupboards, skirtings, panelling, stair balustrades and much of the original fixtures. Some of the furnishings also appear to be original. Installation of modern services has included air-conditioning and video/teleconference facilities; however, there are no elevators or disabled access facilities in the original wing.

The first floor of the original wing has been recently renovated, and timber work was painted; however, there was resistance from employees against similarly painting the second floor. Therefore the original colour scheme of varnished timber and sensibility of the building has been retained on the second floor. The Conference Room on the second floor is particularly handsome in its detailing.



**Original timber detailing of built-ins and fittings**



**The Conference Room**

The set-back of the building on Fox Valley Road has been filled with landscaped lawns and gardens.





**The staircase**



**Landscaping on Fox Valley Road**

### 6.3.2 Hostels

There are two hostels on Fox Valley Road. The Ladies Hostel, at 158 Fox Valley Road, was built in the 1930s-40s and continues to be used as long-term accommodation for female staff. The Mission Hostel, at 172A Fox Valley Road, was built a decade later than the Ladies Hostel and was used as accommodation for interstate and overseas guests and is currently used as accommodation for those visiting the site for Church business. A more recent wing is located to its rear, and provides motel-style accommodation.

#### *The Ladies Hostel*

The Ladies Hostel is a pale face brick three story old-style apartment with the ground/basement at the rear of the building as it slopes away from Fox Valley Road. Although a generally austere building, there are infill wall sections of textured brick detailing and the internal safety grills on the ground/first floor windows present as an additional decorative feature.

The building has been renovated within the last decade, but retains original features, including staircases, windows and built-in storage areas. An apartment on the upper floor has been extended by infilling the stair landing.



**Ladies Hostel west elevation**



**Ladies Hostel east elevation**