

Godden Mackay Logan

Heritage Consultants



# Cronulla Sharks Redevelopment

## 461 Captain Cook Drive, Woollooware

### Archaeological Assessment

Report prepared for Bluestone Capital Ventures No.1 Pty Ltd  
August 2011

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## 1.0 Introduction

### 1.1 Background

This Archaeological Assessment has been prepared on behalf of Bluestone Capital Ventures No. 1 Pty Ltd. It addresses Director General's Requirements (DGRs), specifically clause 10, for a proposed development at Toyota Stadium, Cronulla—*The EA shall provide an Archaeological Assessment of Aboriginal and non-Indigenous archaeological resources, including an assessment of the significance and potential impact on the archaeological resources.* The Cronulla Sharks own an area of approximately 10ha at Captain Cook Drive, Cronulla, which they propose to develop.

This report has been prepared in accordance with the Department of Planning 2005 Draft *Guidelines for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment and Community Consultation* and the *Archaeological Assessment* guidelines contained in the *NSW Heritage Manual*.

### 1.2 Site Location

The Cronulla Sutherland Leagues Club site is legally described as Lot 11 DP 526492 and Lot 20 DP 529644 and is known as 461 Captain Cook Drive, Woollooware. Three lots owned by Sutherland Shire Council (being Lot 21 DP 529644, Lot 1 DP 711486 and Lot 1 DP 501920) are also included within the proposed scheme.

The site is located on the northern side of Captain Cook Drive approximately 1.5 kilometres from Caringbah (to the south west) and 2 kilometres from Cronulla (to the south east). The site is bounded by the Solander playing fields to the west, Woollooware Bay to the north, and a service station and gymnasium to the east. The Woollooware Golf Club and the Captain Cook Oval are located to the south of the site across Captain Cook Drive.

The overall site is irregular in shape with an area of approximately 10 hectares, of which approximately 6ha is occupied by Toyota Stadium, Leagues Club building and the eastern carpark and 4ha is occupied by the western training fields and car park.

Toyota Stadium (also known as Endeavour Field and Shark Park) and the Cronulla Sutherland Leagues Club building occupy the central portion of the site, and represent a major community and entertainment hub within the region. The western playing fields within the site are private open space used as training fields for the Cronulla Sharks and for local games by the Cronulla Caringbah Junior Rugby League Football Club, whilst the remainder of the site is occupied by car parking.

The Taren Point Employment Area is located approximately 200 metres to the northwest of the site and occupies land located generally between the waterfront, Taren Point Road and the Captain Cook Bridge. Woollooware Railway Station is located 1 kilometre to the south west of the site, and Caringbah Town Centre is approximately 3 kilometres by road to the south west.

The sporting grounds and carpark to the west of the Sharks club is referred to as the Western Land, while the larger carpark to the east is referred to as the Approved Site (Figure 1.2).

### 1.3 Development Proposal

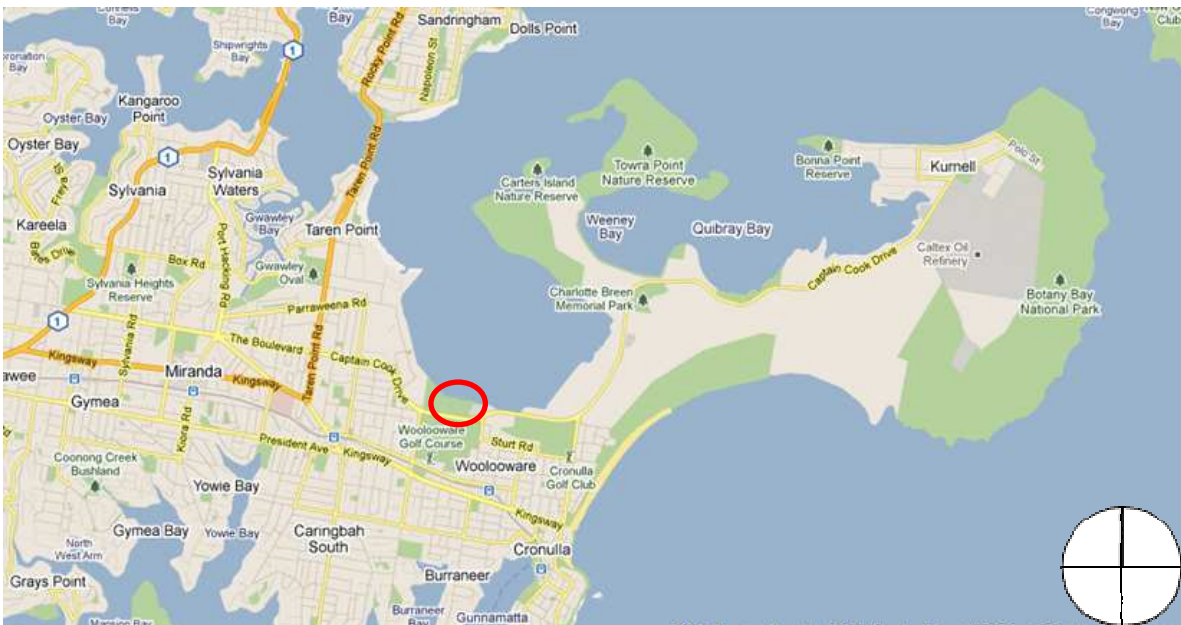
The proposed mixed use redevelopment of the Cronulla Sutherland Leagues Club site includes a new neighbourhood retail centre, residential development and upgrades to the sports facilities, including the Toyota Stadium. This will create a long term sustainable and viable solution for the Club as well as create a new centre and destination location that meets the needs of the surrounding community. The Concept Plan prepared for the site is seeking to develop the site in three stages, being:

- Stage 1 – New Neighbourhood Retail Centre, Medical and Leisure facilities on the eastern car park site and redevelopment of the Leagues Club facilities;
- Stage 2 - Residential Masterplanned Estate on the western car park and field area; and
- Stage 3 - Extension and improvement of the Sharks playing field facilities including grandstand extensions.

Should the Concept Plan be approved, future project or development applications will be lodged for the assessment of the detailed design of the various components of the Concept Plan and will be released progressively over a number of stages.

### 1.4 Author Identification

This report has been prepared by Sally MacLennan, Research Assistant, and Jenni Lennox, Consultant, of Godden Mackay Logan (GML). The report has been reviewed by Anne Mackay, Senior Associate.



**Figure 1.1** General location of study area, circled red. (Source: GoogleMaps, with GML additions 2011)



**Figure 1.2** Current aerial photograph, showing property boundary (outlined in orange) and areas of proposed development (outlined in red). (Source: Department of Lands, with GML additions 2011)





## 2.0 Statutory Controls

### 2.1 Part 3A of the Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979

The proposed developments at 461 Captain Cook Drive, Woollooware, are subject to major projects approval under Part 3A of the EP&A Act. The Director General's Requirements (DGR's) issued on 25 March 2011 require an Environmental Assessment (EA) be prepared. In particular, Issue 10 of the DGR's requires that:

*The EA shall provide an Archaeological Assessment of Aboriginal and non-Indigenous archaeological resources, including an assessment of the significance and potential impact on the archaeological resources.*

This report responds to this DGR.

### 2.2 Non-Indigenous Heritage Legislation

In NSW non-Indigenous (historic) heritage is principally protected under two Acts:

- *Heritage Act 1977* (NSW) (Heritage Act); and
- *Environmental Planning and Assessment Act 1979* (NSW) (EP&A Act).

As this project falls under Part 3A of the EP&A Act, most of the provisions of the Heritage Act do not apply.

Importantly, Part 3A does not switch off Section 146 of the Heritage Act, which requires notification to the Heritage Council in the event that unexpected archaeological remains are discovered at the site.

#### 2.2.1 Heritage Act 1977

If the Minister were to determine under section 75P(1)(b) of the EP&A Act that the carrying out of the proposed works were subject to the other provisions of the EP&A Act (ie other than Part 3A), then the Heritage Act would apply to the development.

The Heritage Act is a statutory tool designed to conserve New South Wales' environmental heritage. The Act defines a heritage item as 'a place, building, work, relic, moveable object or precinct'. Specifically for archaeology, 'relic' means any deposit, object or material evidence:

*(a) that relates to the settlement of the area that comprises New South Wales, not being Aboriginal settlement; and*

*(b) is of State or Local heritage significance.*

Sections 139–145 of the Heritage Act prevent the excavation of a relic, except in accordance with a gazetted exception or an excavation permit issued by the Heritage Council of NSW (except where such excavation is permitted pursuant to other prevailing legislation). Until such time as the Minister declares that planning control on the site, or a portion therefore, is to revert to Part 4 of the EP&A Act, the relics provisions of the Heritage Act do not apply.

## 2.3 Indigenous Heritage Legislation

### 2.3.1 NSW State Legislation

In NSW Aboriginal heritage is principally protected under two Acts:

- *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (NSW) (NPW Act); and
- EP&A Act.

On 1 October 2010 the mechanisms for the protection and management of Aboriginal heritage places and objects changed with the adoption of the *NPW Amendment (Aboriginal Objects and Places) Regulation 2010*.

New offences relating to the harm to, or desecration of, an Aboriginal object or declared Aboriginal Place were introduced. The definition of 'harm' now includes to destroy, deface, damage or move an Aboriginal object or declared Aboriginal Place. OEH has stated:

*The most significant change is the introduction of tiered offences and penalties. Offences committed with knowledge, in aggravating circumstances or in relation to an Aboriginal Place will attract higher penalties than previously. There is a new strict liability offence of harming Aboriginal objects and of harming or desecrating Aboriginal Places.<sup>1</sup>*

The strict liability offence of harming Aboriginal objects has a number of defences. The two defences relevant to this project include the statutory defence of due diligence through complying with an adopted industry code of practice (see due diligence below), or compliance with the conditions of an Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permit (AHIP).

As the development is a Part 3A project under s75B of the EP&A Act, provisions associated with Section 90 of the NPW Act will not apply. In accordance with the OEH's *Due Diligence Code of Practice for the Protection of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (September 2010), projects under Part 3A should refer to the 2005 (draft) *Part 3A EP&A Act Guidelines for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment and Community Consultation*. Adherence to this guideline is also required under the DGRs issued for this project.

### 2.3.2 Indigenous Heritage Management

In order to administer the NPW Act and EP&A Act, the OEH has issued a series of best practice guidelines and policies. The application of these depends upon the approval mechanism for a project. It is understood that the current project will be determined under Part 3A of the EP&A Act. DGRs have been issued for the project, outlining aspects of heritage to be addressed and guidelines to be followed. Therefore the approach for this project was based on the following current best practice guidelines:

- Department of Planning's (DoP) *Part 3A EP&A Act Draft Guidelines for Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Impact Assessment and Community Consultation* (2005); and
- The *Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter 1999* (Burra Charter).

The DGRs require adherence to the OEH *Aboriginal Community Consultation Requirements for Proponents 2010*. However, the 2005 Draft Guidelines allow a staged approach to assessment, with consultation only required if the Stage 1 preliminary assessment identifies potential for Aboriginal objects or places to be present within the study area.

### 2.3.3 Assessment Requirements under Part 3A

The draft Guidelines for Part 3A assessments set out reasonable and practicable steps which individuals and organisations need to take in order to:

- identify whether or not Aboriginal objects are, or are likely to be, present in an area;
- determine whether or not their activities are likely to harm Aboriginal objects (if present); and
- determine whether any further investigation under Part 3A of the EP&A Act is required.

The guidelines list the following tasks to identify whether Aboriginal objects are, or likely to be, present in the study area:

- search the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System (AHIMS);
- describe the location and nature of the proposed development;
- describe any identified Aboriginal social or cultural values for the study area;
- recommend strategies to avoid harming Aboriginal objects; and
- desktop assessment and visual inspection to confirm the presence or absence of Aboriginal objects.<sup>2</sup>

Consultation with the Aboriginal community is not a formal requirement under the draft Part 3A Guidelines. Consultation may be undertaken at the discretion of the proponent. Past experience has indicated that consultation with the relevant Local Aboriginal Land Council is appropriate when undertaking preliminary assessments. Consultation with the La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC) has been undertaken, with the LALC participating in the site inspection.

Although this project is approved under Part 3A of the EP&A Act, any subsequent applications to a consent authority (such as a local council) may be determined under Part 4 or Part 5 of the EP&A Act (ie staged development or concept plan approvals) and any Aboriginal heritage matters not already covered by the Part 3A approval may still require an AHIP. In such a case, adherence to the following guidelines will be necessary:

- DECC *Guide to Determining and Issuing Aboriginal Heritage Impact Permits* (2009);
- DECCW *Aboriginal cultural heritage consultation requirements for proponents 2010. Part 6 National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974* (April 2010); and
- DECCW *Code of Practice for Archaeological Investigation of Aboriginal Objects in New South Wales* (September 2010).

## 2.4 Sutherland Shire Local Environment Plan 2006

As this project falls under Part 3A of the EP&A Act, the provisions of the Sutherland Shire Local Environment Plan (LEP) 2006 and Sutherland Shire LEP 2000 do not apply. However, Appendix A of the DGRs require that the 2000 and 2006 LEPs be considered. The 2006 LEP applies to the Western Land and Toyota Stadium, while the 2000 LEP applies to the Approved Site.

There are no heritage items listed on the 2006 or 2000 LEP in the vicinity of the site. This assessment of potential non-Indigenous and Indigenous archaeological resources and impacts is in accordance with the requirements of Clause 54 of the 2006 LEP, and Clause 16 of the 2000 LEP. The sections of Clause 54 of the 2006 LEP relevant to archaeological remains are included below:

*(6) Archaeological sites of non-Aboriginal heritage significance*

*The consent authority must, before granting consent under this clause to development on an archaeological site (including development referred to in subclause (2) (d)):*

*(a) consider the effect of the proposed development on the heritage significance of the site and any relic known or reasonably likely to be located at the place, and*

*(b) be satisfied that any necessary excavation permit required by the Heritage Act 1977 has been granted.*

*(7) Subclause (6) does not apply to:*

*(a) any development that, in the opinion of the consent authority, does not involve:*

*(i) any disturbance of below-ground relics, or*

*(ii) any adverse impact on the heritage significance of above-ground relics, or*

*(b) any site or relic that is listed on the State Heritage Register.*

*(8) Places of Aboriginal heritage significance*

*The consent authority must, before granting consent under this clause to carrying out development in a place of Aboriginal heritage significance (including development referred to in subclause (2) (e)):*

*(a) consider the effect of the proposed development on the heritage significance of the place and any Aboriginal object known or reasonably likely to be located at the place, and*

*(b) notify the local Aboriginal communities (in such way as it thinks appropriate) about the application and take into consideration any response received within 21 days after the notice is sent.*

*(9) Heritage impact assessment*

*The consent authority may, before granting consent to any development on land on which a heritage item is situated, require a heritage impact statement to be prepared.*

*(10) For the purposes of considering the matters referred to in subclause (6) (a) or (8) (a), the consent authority must require a heritage impact statement to be prepared.*

*(11) A heritage impact statement prepared for the purposes of considering the matters referred to in subclause (8) (a), must be prepared in consultation with a person who, in the opinion of the consent authority, is a suitably qualified Aboriginal archaeologist.*

*(12) However, a heritage impact statement is not required to be prepared for the purposes of considering the matters referred to in subclause (8) (a) if:*

*(a) the proposed development involves the erection or use of a building and is to be carried out wholly within an existing or previous building footprint, or*

*(b) the proposed development is located away from sandstone rock features, shell deposits or other sites that, in the opinion of the consent authority, are, or have the potential to be, of Aboriginal heritage significance.*

The relevant sections of Clause 16 of the 2000 LEP are included below:

*(1) Consent may be granted to the carrying out of development on an archaeological site or potential archaeological site that has Aboriginal cultural heritage significance only if the consent authority:*

*(a) has considered a heritage impact statement of how the proposed development would affect the conservation of the site and any relic known or reasonably likely to be located at the site.*

*(2) Consent may be granted to the carrying out of development on any other archaeological site or potential archaeological site only if the consent authority:*

*(a) has considered a heritage impact statement of how the proposed development would affect the conservation of the site and any relic known or reasonably likely to be located at the site.*

## **2.5 Endnotes**

<sup>1</sup> DECCW 2010. NPWS Act 1974. *Fact sheet 1*. September 2010.

<sup>2</sup> DECCW 2010. NPWS Act 1974. *Fact sheet 2*. September 2010.



## 3.0 Historical Overview

### 3.1 Introduction

This historical overview provides a brief background to the development of the Cronulla area with specific reference to the land now occupied by the Cronulla Sutherland Rugby League Club. It also provides a history of the formation and development of the Cronulla Sutherland Rugby Leagues Club (Sharkies) and its Woollooware Bay site.

The club purchased two parcels of land on Woollooware Bay in the late 1960s-early 1970s to build their facilities, making them the first football club in Australia to own their own ground. The first parcel, Lot 20/DP529644 is the land currently referred to in development applications as 'Western Land' and was purchased in 1968. This site has had limited development and today contains additional car parking space and open grassed fields. The second, Lot 11/DP526492 currently referred to as 'Shark Park' and the 'Approved Site', was purchased in 1971 and contains the Toyota Stadium (originally the Endeavour Field, now traditionally known as Shark Park) and the existing club house, plus a large bitumen carpark (Approved Site).

Sharkies was constructed between 1973 and 1977 for the Cronulla Sutherland Rugby League Club soon after they entered the NSW Premier Rugby League Competition in 1967. Shark Park, adjoining the Leagues Club to the west, was officially opened on 1 April 1969.

### 3.2 Contextual History

#### 3.2.1 Aboriginal Ethnographic Context

The earliest inhabitants of the Sutherland Shire were the Tharawal (Dharawal) people. For thousands of years they lived off the district's abundant resources and sheltered in the rock overhangs around the bays of Port Hacking. Plentiful bird life, game and ample bush tucker could be found around the shores of Woollooware Bay. Radiometric dating of archaeological deposits in the Cronulla area have returned dates of around 4000 years BP<sup>1</sup> and therefore the area has been used for at least this length of time.

In the 1920s there remained an enormous amount of shell middens in the Port Hacking area which gave a good indication to the eating habits of the local Aboriginal people. Reptile, bird and frog bones have been recovered from coastal shell middens in the Cronulla area, along with other faunal remains of small and large mammals such as quolls, kangaroos, bush rats, possums and bandicoots.<sup>2</sup> Stingray spines have also been identified within middens and have been worked to form spear barbs.<sup>3</sup>

Generally, Aboriginal groups living in the coastal regions of NSW used bone or shell for items such as spear barbs, scrapers and adzes, rather than the stone favoured by groups further inland.<sup>4</sup> However, stone artefacts were still used in coastal zones; and raw materials were traded among different groups. Artefacts were made from stones such as silcrete, tuff, rhyolite, petrified wood and chert, none of which occur naturally in the coastal geology of NSW and therefore must have been transported in for use.<sup>5</sup>

James Cook arrived at Botany Bay on the *Endeavour*, in April 1770. Cook observed that fishing was important to the Aboriginal people on the southern side of Botany Bay and also mentioned the poor quality, in his opinion, of their canoes which were made of bark.

In 1796, at Port Hacking, Bass and Flinders made contact with some of the surviving Dharawal but no indication of numbers is given in their records. Anecdotal accounts of white settlers suggest that there were still significant numbers of Dharawal people in the district in the 1840s, and perhaps as late as 1870s.<sup>6</sup>

### **3.2.2 Early European Development of the Area (1788–1940)**

Early European settlers showed little interest in the Cronulla-Sutherland area, which had sandy soil and few marketable resources. Consequently, the Cronulla District was virtually unsettled and rarely visited until the 1880s. The area remained largely Crown Land interspersed with a sprinkling of comparatively small free holdings.

In the early 1860s the successful pioneer, wool merchant, financier, and parliamentarian, Thomas Holt, began purchasing freehold and Crown Land in the Sutherland Shire, amassing an estimated 12,000 acres (4856 ha).<sup>7</sup> His aim was to establish the Holt Family Estate, like that of an English Lord, in this largely undeveloped area. Despite various attempts to make his land productive he had limited success. In 1881 Holt delegated his land to the Holt Sutherland Estate Land Company Ltd with the plan to lease his estate to tenant farmers on small farmlets. Unfortunately the soil was not sufficiently fertile and many of the tenant farmers were soon in arrears to the company, which in turn fell deeply into debt to the Holt family. In this atmosphere, and with the blessing of Frederick Holt, Thomas' son, the NSW Government in 1900 unanimously passed a special Act of Parliament which allowed the leasehold land to be converted to freehold.<sup>8</sup> This Act marked a new era in the development of the area.

The Sutherland Railway line opened in 1885, making it possible for large numbers to visit the district, but this had limited impact on what is now Cronulla, where fishermen, shell gritters and the occasional timber getters were the only visitors. The Cronulla peninsula was a government reserve and very few prospective settlers took up leases on the Holt-Sutherland Estate. In 1890 there were only three people on the electoral roll residing at Cronulla Beach.

Changes began to occur in 1895 when the government reserve was subdivided allowing permanent residents to settle in the area. Despite this, there were only 13 residents on the electoral roll for Cronulla by 1900.

The Village of Gunnamatta, now Cronulla, was gazetted in 1899 and five roads were constructed giving access to the beach. While the area became a popular picnic spot, no other residential subdivision occurred and in 1901 numbers on the electoral roll had only grown to 30 people.

When a tram service connected to the Sutherland trains was established in 1911, the number of residents and visitors grew. Nevertheless Cronulla remained a semi-rural outpost until 1945 and has only become a Sydney suburb in the postwar period.<sup>9</sup>

## **3.3 Historical Development of the Site**

### **3.3.1 Undeveloped Land (1838–1962)**

Sharkies and Toyota Stadium lie on land that was included in two early land grants on Woollooware Bay. The first consisted of 26 acres 24 perches granted to Patrick Dolan in 1857 (Portion 36 of the Parish) and the second being 100 acres granted to John Connell in June 1838 (Portion 13 of the Parish) (Figure 3.1).



Both these land grants were included in the land purchased by Thomas Holt between 1861 and 1863.<sup>10</sup> They both came under the management of Holt Sutherland Estate Land Company Ltd from 1881 and were still in the ownership of the Holt family (great grandson Thomas Allison Holt) in 1958.<sup>11</sup>

Aerial photographs of the site from 1930 to 1960 show the land largely in its natural state fronting the mangroves on Woollooware Bay (Figures 3.2–3.5). Only limited clearing is evident, with a possible fence line extending east-west across the northern half of the site. The only change to the land was the construction of Captain Cook Drive, which took place in 1953.

The subject land was included in a subdivision of 132 acres on Woollooware Bay known as DP 17999 in 1959 (Figure 3.6). This land was subdivided as Lots 1 & 2 in DP 17999 and sold to the Woollooware Bay Estate Pty Limited.<sup>12</sup> Lot 2, which relates to this study, was around 50 acres and was sold to the Council of the Shire of Sutherland in June 1962 with the intension of ‘filling these low-lying areas with “hard fill” (non-putrescible wastes) to enable the long term development of sports fields’.<sup>13</sup>

### **3.3.2 Sutherland Shire Council Land Infill (1962–1967)**

Sutherland Shire Council owned the site from 1962 to 1967. Filling was completed in a number of stages managed by private contractors and by Council. Lester, in his book on the history of the Sharks, states that the land was filled with fly ash, carted by the truckloads during airport constructions.<sup>14</sup> Council minutes from 1965 records that tipped rubbish was being dumped and covered to a desired level with the hope that the first area would be available about Christmas time for loaming and sodding.<sup>15</sup>

Under the surface of the playing field as it is today lies any number of car wrecks and unwanted rubbish.<sup>16</sup> In the first two or three years of playing at the original Endeavour Field, the ground would slightly shift as it had not settled properly after being a rubbish dump. The movement caused depressions in the field that constantly needed to be filled in.<sup>17</sup>

In 1962 the electricity commission of NSW resumed a portion at the north of the site for the Kurnell Transmission Line. In 1965 a drainage culvert was constructed across the site from captain Cook Drive to Woollooware Bay at the north.<sup>18</sup>

The 50 acres of Lot 2 were re-subdivided in 1963 as Lots 1 and 2 in DP 218308.<sup>19</sup> Lot 2 of this subdivision was again re-subdivided in 1967 as Lot 10 (10 acres) and Lot 11 (14 acres) in DP 526492 (Figure 3.7).

### **3.3.3 Endeavour Field and the Cronulla Sutherland Leagues Club (1968–Present)**

Lot 10 was re-subdivided in 1968 as Lot 20 in DP 529644 (4.1ha) (Figure 3.8). This land (Western Land) was purchased in December 1968 by the Cronulla Caringbah Leagues Club Limited as the club was then known.<sup>20</sup> Little development has occurred on this land since its purchase by the Club. From the 1980s part of the area was grassed for junior sporting events and in the 1990s the lands closest to Captain Cook Drive were covered with a bitumen surface and used as an additional carpark.

Lot 11 (Toyota Stadium and Approved Site—5.91ha), was purchased in June 1971 in the club’s new name—Cronulla-Sutherland Leagues Club Limited.<sup>21</sup> In November 1965 Council minutes record a report submitted to Council regarding the development of a first class rugby league football field within the shire and Council spent \$40,000 preparing the site of the present Toyota Stadium.<sup>22</sup>

While the Sharks did not purchase the site until 1971, construction of the sports oval began in late 1967 (Figures 3.9 and 3.10). It was officially opened on Sunday 1 April 1969.<sup>23</sup> Appropriately named Endeavour Field, this oval has since moved through a series of name changes from the 1980s, depending on the club's sponsor at the time, to the widely accepted and continuing traditional name of Shark Park in 1996. It officially became Toyota Park in 2000.<sup>24</sup>

On the eastern side of the oval, construction of the club's \$3 million Rugby League Club began in 1973 (Figure 3.11). Few changes have been made since then (Figures 3.12 and 3.13).

### **3.4 Cronulla Sutherland Rugby League Club and Premises (1967–Present)**

In 1967 the New South Wales Rugby Football League (NSWRFL) added two new clubs to the competition, Cronulla and Penrith. They were the first clubs to join the competition since Parramatta and Manly were admitted 20 years earlier in 1947.

They debuted in 1967 wearing a sky blue and white jersey connecting them with their coastal location. In mid-1968 the club moved permanently to Endeavour Field at Woolooware.

Junior clubs called Sutherland and Cronulla had first played before World War I when the sleepy little shire area was known as Port Hacking. With the growth of the Bate Bay surf lifesaving clubs, and the establishment of an electric tram connection in the 1920s, the game began to grow in this still mainly agricultural district. The Cronulla All Blacks, Woronora Dam and the Icebergs Surf Club all formed teams which were later joined by South Cronulla. In 1952 the combined Cronulla-Caringbah club (forerunner to the Cronulla Sharks Rugby League Club) was formed.<sup>25</sup> The club used Sutherland Oval as their main ground with officials providing tents, temporary seating and portable toilets for home games.

The Cronulla-Carringbah Leagues Club was formed in September 1956, using premises on the Kingsway Caringbah before moving to Banksia Avenue near Sutherland Station. Nine years later, they moved to their current Captain Cook Drive location on Woolooware Bay.<sup>26</sup>

When elevation to the NSW premiership became a possibility, the name Cronulla-Sutherland (already in use by the junior teams) was registered instead of Cronulla-Carringbah, to reflect the extent of the club's catchment area.

Buying their own ground meant that the Cronulla Sutherland Rugby League Club was already unique among football codes in Australia as the only club to own its own ground.<sup>27</sup> They had originally wanted to lease Caringbah Oval but Council would not permit this ground to become a football oval. Instead Council offered the club two other sites. The first was at Sylvania Heights, an amphitheatre-styled parcel of land on the southern side of Bates Drive. This was declined since it was considered too far from the Leagues Club at Caringbah. The alternative was 25 acres (10 ha) of swampy land next to the Woolooware Bay mangroves which was being in-filled by Council.<sup>28</sup> This site was chosen, and is now the current home of the Cronulla Sutherland Rugby League Club.

The official opening of Endeavour Field on 1 April 1969 saw several thousand spectators watch a match between Cronulla Sutherland and North Sydney.

The club were soon to take on the popular name, The Sharks, reflecting their coastal identity.

News that the club would build a \$3 million 'ultra-modern' leagues club on the eastern side of Endeavour Field enhanced expectations for the future of the club. It was envisioned that the three-

storey licensed premises would sit majestically on the site by the bay. Development approval was obtained in 1973 and construction began in August when the first piles were driven into the ground.<sup>29</sup> A two-tiered grandstand was also planned for the site near Endeavour Field. The club building incorporated three floors and a mezzanine, plus a basement with a half –Olympic-size pool, squash courts, two sauna rooms and a gymnasium. Included in the planning was the provision for 600 cars in a sealed and landscaped parking area, plus a further area for 650 cars on the western side of the oval.

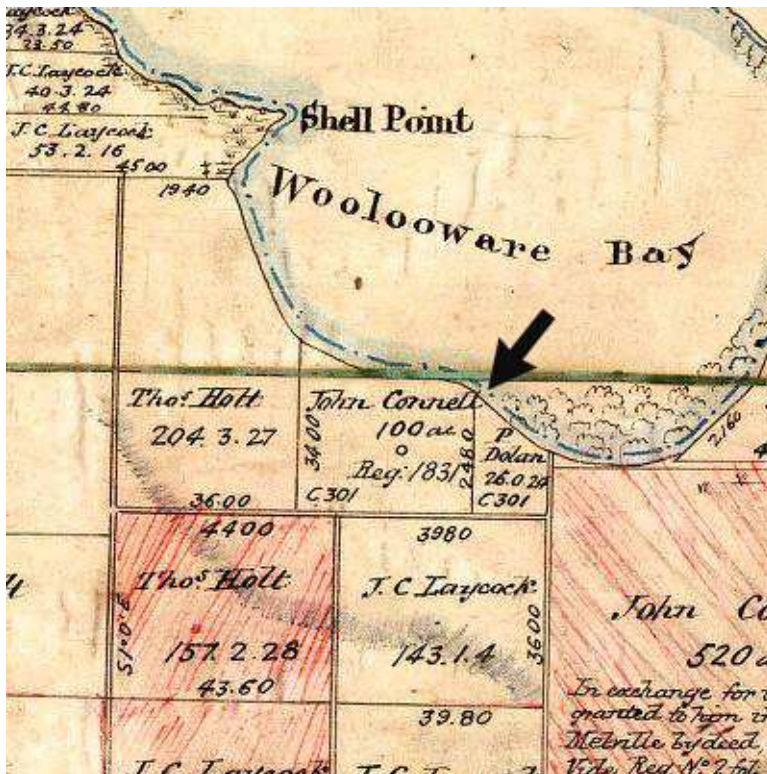
This promising beginning was to fall foul of financial difficulties, and the club was almost sent bankrupt in the first few years. Their new club house was only at lockup stage and needed a further \$1 million to finish it. Industrial Acceptance Corporation (IAC), who had loaned Cronulla the initial \$2.3 million were unable to increase their backing and the Sharks were forced to close their doors and walk away.

It was not until the Labour Government won the state election in 1976 that Neville Wran recommended that the State Bank loan the Club the needed \$1 million and the Sharks also raised considerable funds. In April 1977 the club's dreams were fulfilled and the Sharks finally opened the doors to their new club.<sup>30</sup>

Over the next 30 years, the club's economic stability wavered. There were some periods when the club was financially viable and other periods when its future looked uncertain. During this time few improvements were made to the club building, its facilities and grounds.

In 2000, after a period of financial success, plans were formed for a major redevelopment of the site, including residential and aged care apartments. In 2006 the State Government approved a redevelopment application for their land combined with a \$10 million Federal Government grant to improve Toyota Stadium, including an undercover grandstand at the southern end of the ground and a new gymnasium complex.<sup>31</sup> Improvements to the stadium and a new gymnasium were completed.

Currently, planning is underway for a staged mixed use residential, retail, entertainment and sporting development including redevelopment of the existing Cronulla Sharks League Club facilities.

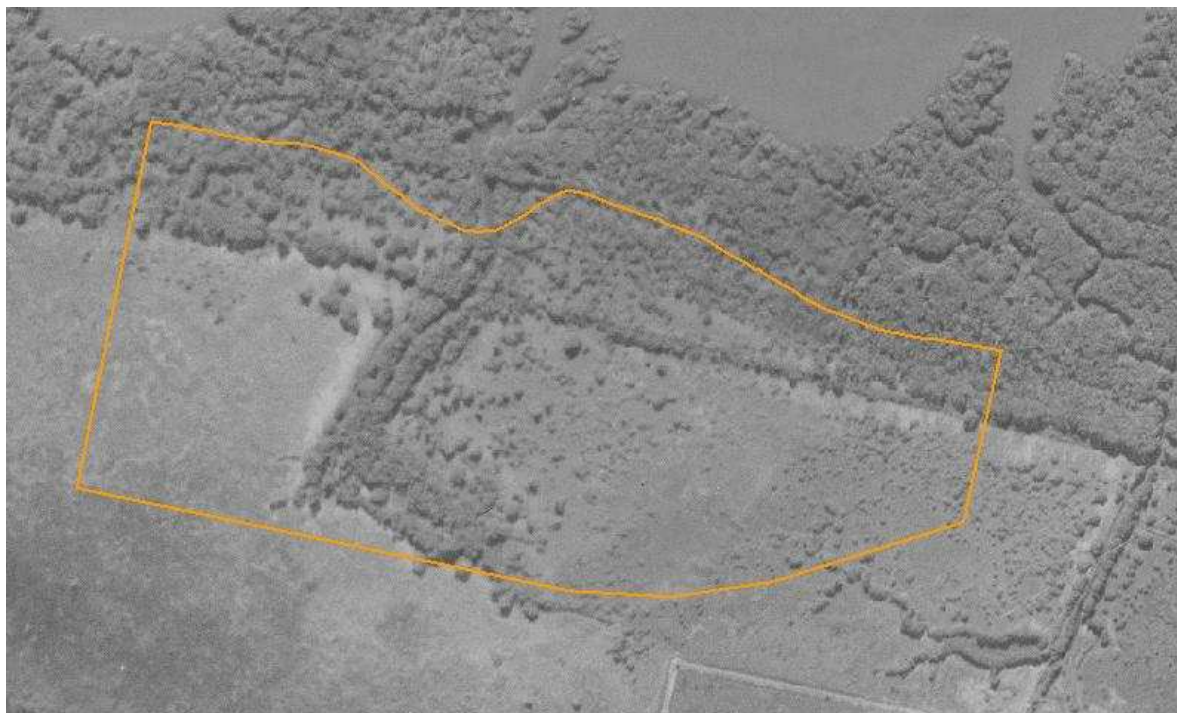


**Figure 3.1** Parish Map No. 14039301 showing the original land grants to John Connell and Patrick Dolan which were purchased by Thomas Holt in the 1860s. (Source: Department of Lands)

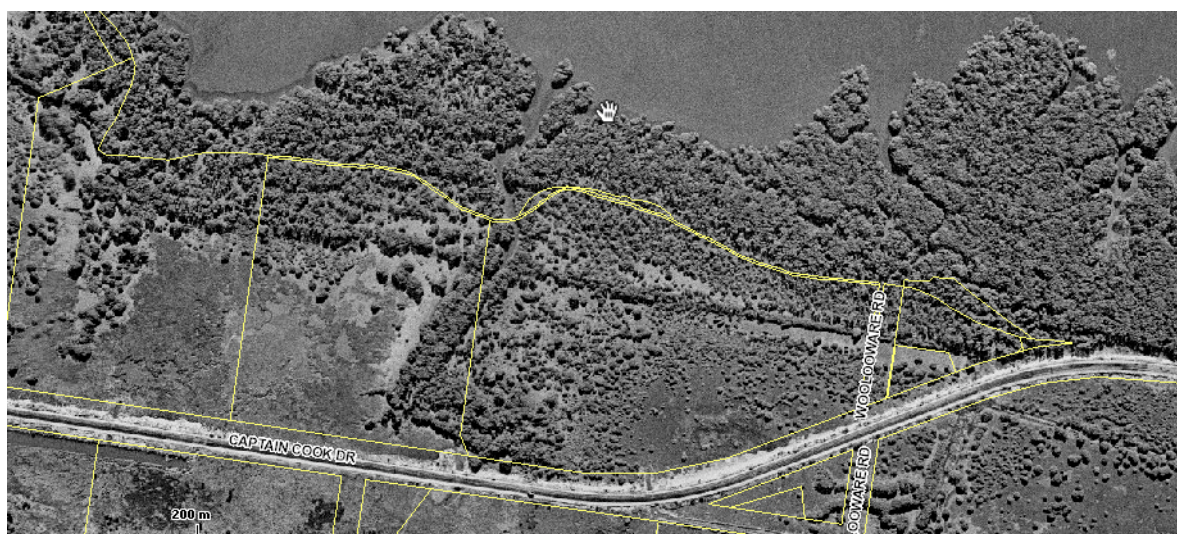


**Figure 3.2** 1943 aerial showing the rural nature of the landscape still at this time. Subject site outlined in orange. (Source: Department of Lands)





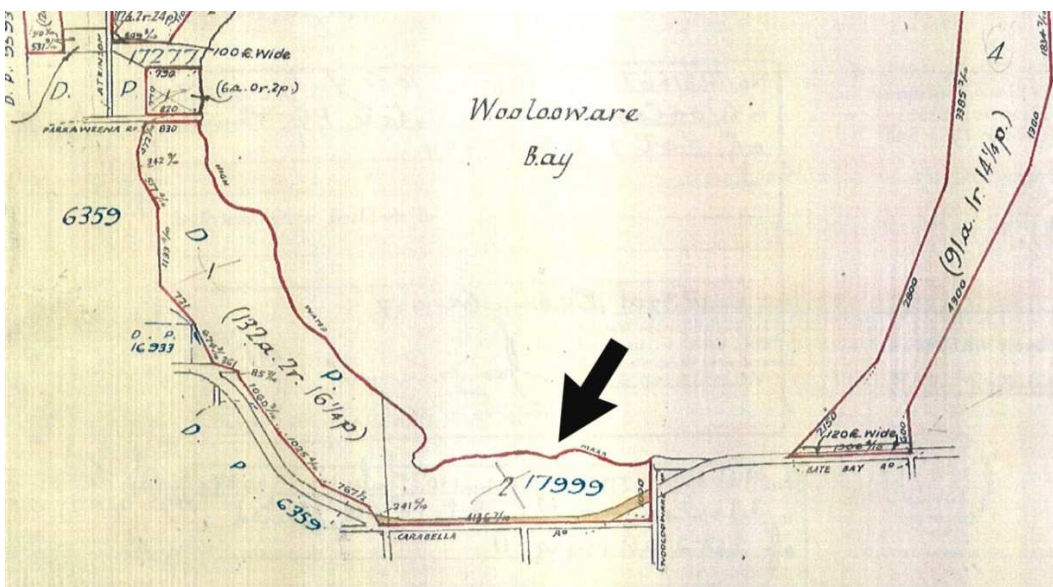
**Figure 3.3** 1943 detail aerial photograph of the subject site (outlined) showing the land largely undisturbed. (Source: Department of Lands)



**Figure 3.4** 1955 detail aerial photograph of the subject site, following the construction of Captain Cook Drive in 1953. (Source: Sutherland Council website)

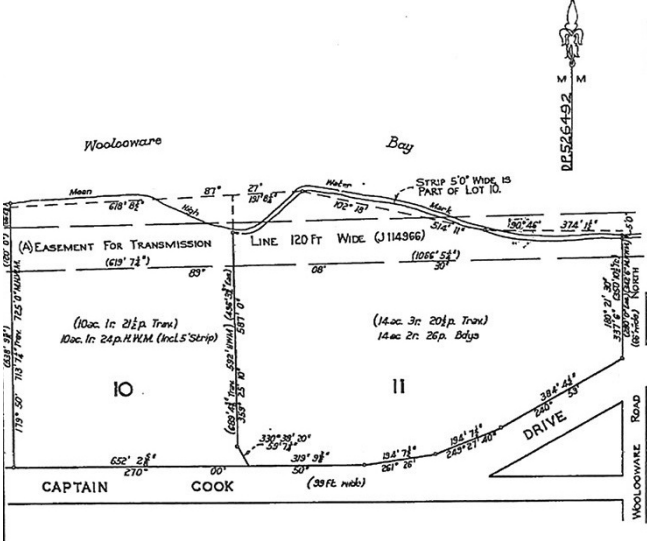


**Figure 3.5** 1961 aerial photograph of the subject site (outlined), after the construction of Captain Cook Drive in 1953. (Source: Sutherland Council website)

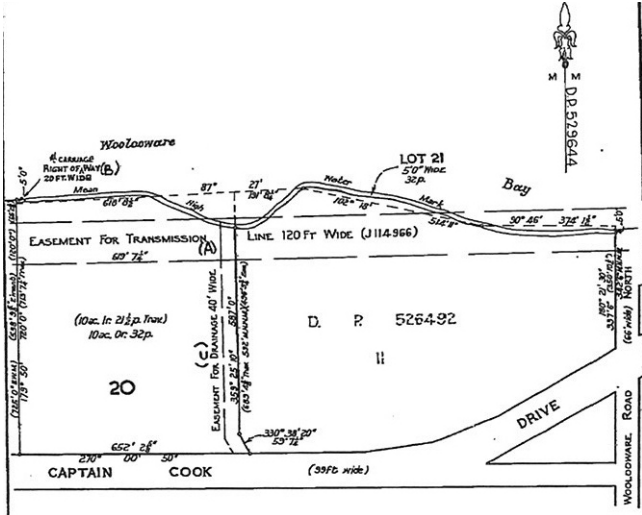


**Figure 3.6** Showing subject land on Woollooware Bay shown as Lot 2 in DP 17999 dated 1958. (Source CT 7558-88, Department of Lands)

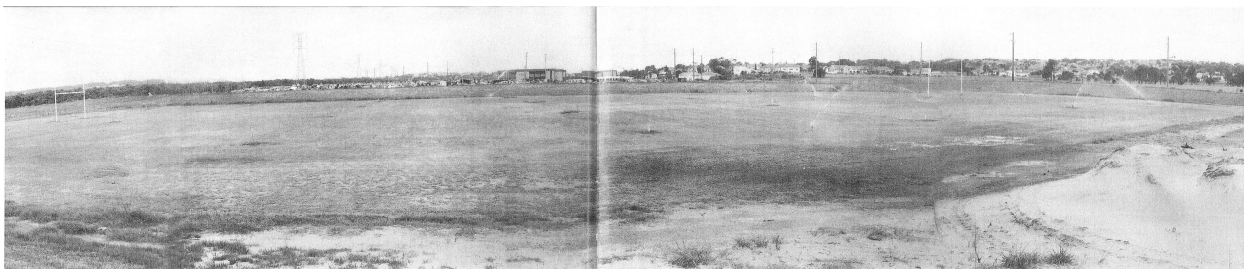




**Figure 3.7** DP 526492 dated October 1967. (Source: Department of Lands)



**Figure 3.8** DP 52964 dated April 1968. (Source: Department of Lands)



**Figure 3.9** Endeavour Field (Toyota Stadium) in January 1968 six months before the first match was played on the site. (Source: Lester G 2001, *The Sharks: Colour Me Black, White and Blue*, Playright Publications Pty Limited, p38-39)



**Figure 3.10** 1970 aerial photograph. Endeavour Field (Toyota Stadium) has been constructed on part of the land. Remaining land shown as disturbed following its use as a rubbish dump. (Source: Sutherland Council website)



**Figure 3.11** 1978 aerial photograph of the subject site showing the Rugby Leagues club premises after construction and the eastern carpark. (Source: Sutherland Council website)



**Figure 3.12** 1984 aerial photograph of the subject site (Source: Sutherland Council website)





**Figure 3.13** 2001 aerial photograph of the subject site showing the western carpark sealed and containing a number of sheds.  
(Source: Sutherland Council website)

### 3.5 Endnotes

- 1 Attenbrow V 2010, *Sydney's Aboriginal Past: Investigating the archaeological and historical records*, UNSW Press, p 18
- 2 Ibid, p 71-76
- 3 Ibid, p 118
- 4 Ibid, p 112
- 5 Ibid, p 123
- 6 Curby P 1998, *Pictorial History Cronulla*, Kingsclear Books, p 5
- 7 Walker J 1970, *Two Hundred Years in Retrospect – Kurnell-Sutherland 1770-1970*, for the Bi-Centenary Publication Syndicate of Cronulla, pp 28-29
- 8 Ibid, pp 35-36
- 9 Curby P 1998, *Pictorial History Cronulla*, Kingsclear Books, p 2
- 10 Primary Application No. 49 to Thomas Holt dated 25 June 1863, Department of Lands
- 11 Certificate of Title Volume 7558 Folio 88, Department of Lands
- 12 Transfer No. H267667 (lot 1) and H263251 (lot 2) in CT 7558-88, Department of Lands.
- 13 Environment Site Assessment 2002, Cronulla Leagues Club, by EIS, p 7, research from a search of the building and development application records held by Sutherland Shire Council.
- 14 Lester G 2001, *The Sharks: Colour Me Black, White and Blue*, Playright Publications Pty Limited, p 38
- 15 Sutherland Council Parkes & Playgrounds Committee 324 of 20/9/65.
- 16 Lester G 2001, *The Sharks: Colour Me Black, White and Blue*, Playright Publications Pty Limited, p 38
- 17 Lester G 2001, *The Sharks: Colour Me Black, White and Blue*, Playright Publications Pty Limited, p 38
- 18 Environment Site Assessment 2002, Cronulla Leagues Club, by EIS, p 7, research from a search of the building and development application records held by Sutherland Shire Council.
- 19 Certificate of Title Volume 7832 Folio 199, Department of Lands.
- 20 Certificate of Title Volume 10869 Folio 55, Transfer No. L302457, Department of Lands.
- 21 Certificate of Title Vol 10705 Folio 12, Transfer No. M301388, Department of Lands.
- 22 Council Records, Finance and Management, 09/05/2100 FIN176-11, Proposed Cronulla-Sutherland Leagues Club Redevelopment p 2
- 23 Curby P 1998, *Pictorial History Cronulla*, Kingsclear Books, p 104
- 24 Lester G 2001, *The Sharks: Colour Me Black, White and Blue*, Playright Publications Pty Limited, p 32
- 25 *Sharks Cronulla Sutherland 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 1967-2006*, Souvenir Book. p14
- 26 Ibid.
- 27 Lester G 2001, *The Sharks: Colour Me Black, White and Blue*, Playright Publications Pty Limited, p38
- 28 Ibid.
- 29 Ibid, p 79
- 30 Ibid, p103-105

<sup>31</sup> *Sharks Cronulla Sutherland 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 1967-2006*, Souvenir Book. P15

## 4.0 Site Analysis

### 4.1 Site Inspection

An inspection of the site was undertaken on Wednesday 8 June 2011 by Jenni Lennox and Sally MacLennan of GML, with Shane Ingrey of La Perouse Local Aboriginal Land Council. The subject site was inspected for visible archaeological remains or evidence of former ground disturbance. The purpose of the site inspection was also to take note of current site conditions and to ensure that GML personnel were familiar with the site and its context.

The site inspection was informed by historical evidence, site plans and aerial photographs. This evidence is analysed below in Section 5.0. During the inspection, various aspects of the study area were recorded, including its topography, ground surfaces and coverage, and the presence of structures or structural remains. The following observations were made for the Western Land and Approved Site, respectively. The inspection did not cover Toyota Stadium (Figure 4.1), as this area was not included in the development brief.

#### 4.1.1 Western Land

- The site is dominated by an open area carpark covered with bitumen to the south (Figure 4.2). The northern half is grassed and used as playing fields (Figure 4.3). The site is very flat across its entire extent, suggesting levelling and grading of this surface prior to its current use.
- The northern extent of the site slopes gradually to meet the intertidal zone of Woollooware Bay dominated by mangroves. Although largely vegetated, several areas of exposed soil were observed. The exposed soil appears to be very disturbed, and represents several phases of introduced fill (Figure 4.4).
- The vegetation along the northern perimeter of the site is disturbed. Some native species remain; however, the area is dominated by introduced weed species such as bamboo (Figure 4.5).
- The western and northwest perimeter of the site is characterised by a large earth bank that rises approximately 2m above the level surface of the playing field (Figure 4.5). This bank is comprised of introduced fill, likely originating from the site's use as a rubbish dump. This is indicated by the presence of modern rubbish fill, including fragments of brick, fibro and other building material (Figure 4.6). The bank is likely associated with levelling of the western site for its use as a carpark and playing field.
- The eastern extent of the site is bounded by a creek that runs south from Woollooware Bay. Analysis of past aeriels indicates the current course of this channel has been significantly altered from its natural one (compare, for example, Figures 3.3 and 3.13). This was confirmed by the highly disturbed state of the creek banks and surrounds (Figure 4.7).
- Several large stormwater drains are evident within the carpark, largely confined to the southern perimeter of the site (Figure 4.8). More subsurface services are associated with the kiosk/public toilet building at the southern edge of the playing field (Figure 4.3). These confirm the presence of services across the site.

#### 4.1.2 Approved Site

- The majority of the approved site is currently in use as an open area carpark covered in bitumen (Figure 4.9). It is very flat, indicating levelling and grading activities in the past.
- The Sharkies building is situated on western edge of the site. The four-storey building incorporates a grandstand that overlooks Toyota Stadium (Figure 4.10).
- Sharkies sits slightly elevated above the carpark, with the ground gently sloping from the level surface of the carpark to meet the front entrance of the building (Figure 4.11). Introduced fill is also evident at the southwest of the site, where a gentle slope rises from the surface of the carpark to meet the earth mound that supports the grandstands (Figure 4.10).
- The vegetation along the northern perimeter of the site is disturbed. Some native species remain; however, these are overgrown by many introduced weed species (Figure 4.12).
- Beyond the study area mangroves are present in the intertidal zone on the shore of Woollooware Bay. The mangroves are a remnant of the natural environment present at the site prior to its occupation as a rubbish dump from 1962, despite being affected by pollution and surrounding development. Oysters still grow among the mangroves (Figure 4.13).
- Several large stormwater drains are evident within the carpark, largely confined to the southern perimeter of the site (Figure 4.14). More services are evident across the carpark, confirming the presence of subsurface services across at least part of the site (Figure 4.15).



**Figure 4.1** Property boundary, outlined in orange, showing the Western Land and Approved Site (outlined in red). (Source: Department of Lands, with GML additions 2011)





**Figure 4.2** Open area carpark, Western Land. (Source: GML 2011)



**Figure 4.3** Playing fields at the Western Land. (Source: GML 2011)



**Figure 4.4** Northern perimeter of the Western Land, showing introduced fill and vegetation. (Source: GML 2011)



**Figure 4.5** Earth bank along the western and northwest perimeter of the Western Land. (Source: GML 2011)



**Figure 4.6** Soil exposure of the earth bank (Western Land), showing fragments of modern rubbish material. (Source: GML 2011)



**Figure 4.7** Highly disturbed creek bank, Western Land. (Source: GML 2011)





**Figure 4.8** Stormwater drain on the southern boundary of the Western Land. (Source: GML 2011)



**Figure 4.9** Open area carpark on the Approved Site. (Source: GML 2011)



**Figure 4.10** Southern elevation of the existing club, incorporating the grandstand overlooking Toyota Stadium. (Source: GML 2011)



**Figure 4.11** Front entrance of the existing club at the Approved Site. (Source: GML 2011)



**Figure 4.12** Vegetation along northern perimeter of the Approved Site. (Source: GML 2011)



**Figure 4.13** Mangroves growing on the shore of Woollooware Bay, just north of the study area. (Source: GML 2011)



**Figure 4.14** Stormwater drain at the south of the approved site.  
(Source: GML 2011)



**Figure 4.15** Services across the Approved Site (circled red).  
(Source: GML 2011)





## 5.0 Archaeological Potential and Significance

### 5.1 Non-Indigenous Archaeology

#### 5.1.1 Potential Non-Indigenous Archaeological Resource

Although the first land grants were made at the site in 1838 and 1857, analysis of historical aerials has revealed the site remained undeveloped at this time, with limited clearing. A possible fence line is visible in the 1943 aerial photograph that suggests grazing may have occurred on the site (Figure 3.3). However, the sandy soil and swampy mangrove environment likely made the land undesirable for early agricultural or residential use.

The first development at the site was the construction of Captain Cook Drive (which forms the site's southern boundary) in 1953, followed by use of the site between 1962 and 1967 as a Sutherland Shire Council Rubbish Dump. Extensive amounts of fill were introduced across the site, which likely sealed earlier ground levels. Environmental and geotechnical reports provided during the preparation of this archaeological assessment indicate that the fill extends to an approximate depth of between 1.1 and 8.6m across the site. The fill consists of mixed deposits and has inclusions of brick, concrete, gravels, organic material, ceramic fragments, coal, ash, timber, PVC and metal fragments.<sup>1</sup> Most disturbance since then, including levelling of the site for playing fields and carparks (from 1967) and construction of the Cronulla Rugby League Club on the Approved Site (1973), would have mostly affected fill deposits only. Natural ground levels are likely to have remained intact and sealed beneath introduced material.

On the basis of the lack of historical development at the site prior to 1962, the site has little or no potential to contain historical archaeological remains.

#### 5.1.2 Non-Indigenous Archaeological Significance

Archaeological significance refers to the heritage significance of known or potential archaeological remains. As with other types of heritage items, archaeological remains should be managed in accordance with their significance. In situations where development is proposed this can influence the degree of impact that may be acceptable or the level of investigation and recording that may be required.

While archaeological remains often form an integral component of the overall significance of a heritage place, it is necessary to assess them independently from above-ground and other historic elements. Assessing the heritage value of archaeological remains is made more difficult by the fact that their extent and nature is often unknown. It becomes necessary for judgements to be made on the basis of expected or potential attributes.

The assessment of significance of historical archaeological sites requires a specialised framework for consideration. The most widely used framework is that developed by Bickford and Sullivan in 1984<sup>2</sup> and comprises three key questions which can be used as a guide for assessing the significance of an archaeological site:

- Can the site contribute knowledge that no other site can?
- Can the site contribute knowledge that no other resource can?

- Is this knowledge relevant to general questions about human history or other substantive questions relating to Australian history, or does it contribute to other major research questions?

The Office of Environment and Heritage (OEH, formerly the Heritage Branch of the NSW Department of Planning) recently issued a new set of guidelines for assessing the significance of historical archaeological sites and relics. This calls for a broader consideration of multiple values of archaeological sites beyond their research potential. The following assessment of archaeological significance for the study area follows the OEH guidelines and is augmented with answers to the above questions posed by Bickford and Sullivan.

### **NSW Heritage Criteria for Assessing Significance related to Archaeological Sites and Relics**

The significance of the potential historical archaeological resource at the study area is summarised in the table below:

**Table 5.1** Assessment of the site's potential archaeological resources against the NSW Heritage Criteria.

<b>NSW Heritage Criteria</b>	<b>Significance Assessment</b>
(a) An item is important in the course, or pattern, of NSW's cultural or natural history	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No development at the site before 1962, thus unlikely to be important in the course of NSW's history.</li> <li>• Any incidental evidence of grazing or other activities at the site would be unlikely to have historical value.</li> <li>• Not considered important in terms of this criterion.</li> </ul>
(b) An item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in NSW's cultural or natural history	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does not have strong/special associations with a person/people in NSW's cultural history before its use the home ground of the Cronulla Sharks Rugby League Club (1967- )</li> <li>• Not considered important in terms of this criterion.</li> </ul>
(c) An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in NSW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No development at the site before 1962.</li> <li>• Not considered important in terms of this criterion.</li> </ul>
(d) an item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in NSW for social, cultural or spiritual reasons	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• While the supporters of the Cronulla Sharks Rugby League Club are likely to have a strong association with the site, no associations with its historical phases of development pre-1962 have been identified.</li> <li>• Not considered important in terms of this criterion.</li> </ul>
(e) an item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of NSW's cultural or natural history	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The site is unlikely to contain intact archaeological evidence related to its history prior to 1962.</li> <li>• Any incidental evidence of grazing at the site or other activities would be unlikely to have archaeological value.</li> <li>• Not considered significant in terms of this criterion.</li> </ul>
(f) An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural or natural history	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unlikely to possess uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of NSW's cultural history.</li> <li>• Not considered important in terms of this criterion.</li> </ul>
(g) an item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of NSW's cultural or natural places or cultural or natural environments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unlikely to demonstrate principal characteristics of class of NSW's cultural places or environments.</li> <li>• Not considered significant in terms of this criterion.</li> </ul>

### Bickford and Sullivan's Questions

The significance of the potential historical archaeological resource as assessed against Bickford and Sullivan's questions is summarised in the table below:

**Table 5.2** Assessment of the site's potential archaeological resources against Bickford and Sullivan's questions.

Bickford and Sullivan's Questions	Significance Assessment
Can the site contribute knowledge that no other site can?	The site is unlikely to possess archaeological resources that can contribute knowledge that no other site can.
Can the site contribute knowledge that no other resource can?	The site is unlikely to possess archaeological resources that can contribute knowledge that no other resource can.
Is this knowledge relevant to general questions about human history or other substantive questions relating to Australian history, or does it contribute to other major research questions	The site is unlikely to possess archaeological resources that are relevant to important research questions.

### 5.1.3 Summary Statement of Significance

The study area remained undeveloped prior to 1962 and has little or no potential to contain archaeological evidence of Local or State significance that would contribute knowledge about the site or NSW's history.

## 5.2 Indigenous Archaeology

### 5.2.1 Previous Archaeological Assessment

A search of the Aboriginal Heritage Information Management System over the study area was completed on 31 May 2011. No Indigenous sites were registered within a 1km radius of the study area.

Aboriginal archaeological studies have been previously conducted in the Cronulla area, and have concluded that while ethnographic evidence of Aboriginal use of the area is undisputed, the level of disturbance in general across the site has reduced the potential for intact archaeological deposits to be present to be close to nil.<sup>3</sup> Natural movement of sand dunes in the area is also considered to impact the preservation of Aboriginal sites.

Jo McDonald Cultural Heritage Management<sup>4</sup> undertook an assessment for proposed upgrades to the De La Salle College in Cronulla, approximately 2km south of the study area. Two previously unrecorded Aboriginal sites were identified, comprising rock shelters with midden material and art. The sites were not within the impact area for the proposed development. No other sites were identified within the development area.

Mary Dallas<sup>5</sup> completed an assessment for upgrades to the Cronulla Sewerage Treatment Plant and associated effluent transfer pipeline, located approximately 2.5km east of the study area. No previously known Aboriginal sites were identified during the assessment, although three areas were recommended for monitoring to ensure archaeological deposits were not impacted, and known sites were to be fenced to avoid impact.

In the wider Kurnell Peninsula area, Robynne Mills<sup>6</sup> undertook an impact assessment of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal heritage sites within the vicinity of selected overflow outpoints (Kareela Golf

Club, Burraneer Bay, Yowie Bay, GyMEA Bay and Loftus). A total of 180 Aboriginal sites were identified within the Cronulla area, with a number in close proximity to overflow outpoint locations. The closest of these points is located approximately 2km west of the current study area.

### 5.2.2 Potential Indigenous Archaeological Resource

The study area was predominantly either covered with bitumen for car parking facilities, or grassed for sporting fields. This reduced archaeological visibility to nil over the majority of the site. The lack of archaeological visibility coupled with the high level of disturbance across the site resulted in no archaeological potential being identified within the study area. It is considered that any intact deposits would have been impacted by levelling of the ground surface and installation of bitumen. Introduction of fill within the study area has also obscured archaeological visibility across the site.

In general, Aboriginal people in the area would have utilised the mangrove resources for sustenance, with the area further inland used for occasional hunting or travelling routes. The study area is not considered particularly attractive for long-term camping due to the damp and swampy nature of the area. Any archaeological evidence, if present, would be expected to comprise shell midden material or isolated artefacts. No archaeological material was identified within the study area and it is considered unlikely to be present due to the level of disturbance that has occurred. The mangroves located immediately adjacent to the northern boundary of the study area may have potential for Aboriginal objects and cultural values

### 5.2.3 Indigenous Archaeological Significance

No Aboriginal objects were identified within the study area. No Aboriginal places are registered within the study area. Therefore, an assessment of Aboriginal archaeological significance cannot be made at this stage.

The area may hold cultural significance for the Aboriginal people of the area. However, an assessment of cultural significance cannot be made without input from the Aboriginal community. This draft report will be provided to the LALC for comment and any assessment of cultural significance will be made on receipt of comments.

## 5.3 Endnotes

<sup>1</sup> Environmental Investigation Services August 2006, *Environmental Site Assessment for Proposed Upgrade Works at Toyota Park, 461 Captain Cook Drive, Woollooware*, prepared for Cronulla-Sutherland District Rugby Club Ltd, p 33. See also Jeffery and Katauskas Pty Ltd September 2002, *Geotechnical Investigation for Proposed Cronulla Leagues Club Rezoning*, prepared for Cronulla Sutherland Leagues Club Limited.

<sup>2</sup> Bickford, A and S Sullivan 1984, 'Assessing the Research Significance of Historic Sites, in Sullivan, S and S Bowdler (eds), *Site Surveys and Significance Assessment in Australian Archaeology* (proceedings of the 1981 Springwood Conference on Australian Prehistory), Department of Prehistory, Research School of Pacific Studies, the Australian National University, Canberra.

<sup>3</sup> Dallas, M. 1996. *Cronulla Sewage Treatment Plant Upgrade and Additional Effluent Transfer Pipeline Archaeological Study*. Report to Sydney Water; Jo MacDonald CHM 2001, *Survey for Aboriginal Sites: Proposed Extension to De La Salle College, Cronulla*. Report to Glendenning Group Architects Pty Ltd; Mills, R. 1996. *Assessment of the impacts of overflow points in the Cronulla Sewer System on Heritage items adjacent to selected overflow points*. Report to Sinclair Knight Mertz for Sydney Water.

<sup>4</sup> Jo MacDonald CHM 2001, *Survey for Aboriginal Sites: Proposed Extension to De La Salle College, Cronulla*. Report to Glendenning Group Architects Pty Ltd.

<sup>5</sup> Dallas, M. 1996. *Cronulla Sewage Treatment Plant Upgrade and Additional Effluent Transfer Pipeline Archaeological Study*. Report to Sydney Water.

<sup>6</sup> Mills, R. 1996. *Assessment of the impacts of overflow points in the Cronulla Sewer System on Heritage items adjacent to selected overflow points*. Report to Sinclair Knight Mertz for Sydney Water.

## 6.0 Archaeological Impact Assessment

### 6.1 Description of Development

The proposed mixed use redevelopment of the Cronulla Sutherland Leagues Club site includes a new neighbourhood retail centre, residential development and upgrades to the sports facilities, including the Toyota Stadium. This will create a long term sustainable and viable solution for the Club as well as create a new centre and destination location that meets the needs of the surrounding community. The Concept Plan prepared for the site is seeking to develop the site in three stages, being:

- Stage 1 – New Neighbourhood Retail Centre, Medical and Leisure facilities on the eastern car park site and redevelopment of the Leagues Club facilities;
- Stage 2 - Residential Masterplanned Estate on the western car park and field area; and
- Stage 3 - Extension and improvement of the Sharks playing field facilities including grandstand extensions.

The proposal will require disturbance of the ground surface for the installation of footings and services associated with commercial and residential properties. No bulk excavation would be undertaken (ie no underground car parking or other basement levels).

### 6.2 Non-Indigenous Archaeology

The study area has little or no potential to contain significant archaeological evidence associated with the historical development of the area.

The site is likely to contain extensive fill deposits and other material associated with the use of the site as a rubbish dump in the 1960s. This material is not considered to have any archaeological significance. Any disturbance of this material would not be considered an archaeological impact.

### 6.3 Indigenous Archaeology

No Aboriginal objects or places have been identified within the study area. No areas of archaeological potential within the study area have been identified. On this basis, the proposed development is unlikely to have any impact on Indigenous archaeological resources at the site.

No assessment of the impact on Aboriginal cultural values has been made.



## 7.0 Conclusions and Recommendations

### 7.1 Conclusions

- The study area remained largely undeveloped until the late twentieth century. It was used as a rubbish dump in the 1960s and for sporting facilities and associated infrastructure since the 1970s.
- The study area has little or no potential to contain significant archaeological material associated with the historical development of the area.
- The study area has potential to contain cultural material associated with dumping of rubbish on the site in the 1960s; however, this material would have no archaeological value.
- The study area does not contain previously recorded Aboriginal sites.
- Following a site inspection, no landscape features associated with Aboriginal archaeological objects or potential Aboriginal archaeological objects were identified within the study area. The potential for Aboriginal sites or objects to be present on the ground surface, or buried below the current surface level within subsurface deposits, is considered to be low.
- The proposed redevelopment of the study area would have little or no archaeological impact on either Indigenous or non-Indigenous archaeological remains.

### 7.2 Recommendations

- This report should be included in the Environmental Assessment for the proposed redevelopment of the site.
- No further archaeological monitoring, recording or investigation of the site would be required prior to or in conjunction with the proposed redevelopment of the site.
- In the unlikely event that any unexpected non-Indigenous archaeological remains are discovered at the site, work in the immediate area should cease and an archaeologist contacted to assess the remains in accordance with S146 of the Heritage Act 1977. Further assessment or other requirements may be identified at this stage.
- A copy of this report should be provided to the La Perouse LALC for comment, and an assessment of cultural significance should be made on receipt of comments.
- If Aboriginal objects were to be identified during development of the subject land, works must stop and a suitably qualified archaeologist notified immediately to assess the finds. The finds must be reported to OEH and further approvals may be necessary prior to the recommencement of works.
- If human remains were to be discovered during any development works on the property, the finding would need to be reported immediately to the New South Wales Coroner's Office and/or the New South Wales Police. If the remains are suspected to be Aboriginal, OEH would also need to be contacted and a specialist consulted to determine the nature of the remains.

