



REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES – ASSESSMENT DOCUMENTATION

11. ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The criteria adopted by the Heritage Council in November 1996 have been used to determine the cultural heritage significance of the place.

PRINCIPAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME(S)

- 8.5 Forming associations
- 9.2.2 Joining youth organisations

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 405 Sport, recreation and entertainment
- 408 Institutions
- 604 Local heroes and battlers

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

The cohesive aesthetic character of brick structures and low pitched simple roof lines of *Paxwold Girl Guides Camp* combine sympathetically with the picturesque sloping natural bush landscape of the Darling Scarp. (Criteria 1.1 & 1.3)

Paxwold House is an important demonstration of the post World War Two architectural design work of Nancy Lorne Allen of W. G. Bennett, Allen & Allen, particularly demonstrated by the scale and detail of the training room and adjacent terrace, and is a good representative example of the Post-War Melbourne Regional style. (Criterion 1.2)

11.2 HISTORIC VALUE

Paxwold Girl Guides Camp was the Western Australian state campsite and training centre for the Girl Guide Association, and a meeting place for important international and national gatherings, from 1953 to 2004. (Criterion 2.1)

Paxwold Girl Guides Camp is a representation of the social and cultural values and attitudes of the inter-war and post World War Two years when the training of youth to be capable, confident, loyal and patriotic were seen as important for the future survival of the British Empire. (Criterion 2.1)

Paxwold Girl Guides Camp and the Guide movement were important for the women's movement in Western Australia in providing an avenue for young

* For consistency, all references to architectural style are taken from Apperly, R., Irving, R., Reynolds, P. *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture. Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present*, Angus and Robertson, North Ryde, 1989.
For consistency, all references to garden and landscape types and styles are taken from Ramsay, J. *Parks, Gardens and Special Trees: A Classification and Assessment Method for the Register of the National Estate*, Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra, 1991, with additional reference to Richards, O. *Theoretical Framework for Designed Landscapes in WA*, unpublished report, 1997.

women to develop the confidence and leadership skills necessary to take up a greater involvement in public and work life. (Criterion 2.1)

Paxwold Girl Guides Camp is significant for the community involvement in its development and operation over a fifty year period, from the initial gift of land from G. H. Johnston, the generosity of adjoining landowners for free use of their bush lands for camping, parents and friends of the guides who gave of their time and effort in various projects and state wide fundraising, community members, including those who gave of their professional services, and visiting dignitaries. (Criterion 2.3)

The two major buildings at *Paxwold Girl Guides Camp*, Paxwold House and Boomajaril, were designed for the Girl Guide Association by architect Nancy Lorne Allen, the second woman to be registered by the WA Institute of Architects. (Criterion 2.3)

11.3 SCIENTIFIC VALUE

11.4 SOCIAL VALUE

Paxwold Girl Guides Camp is highly valued by the generations of Brownies, Guides and Rangers who attended camps, meetings and other events at the place, forming friendships and gaining enjoyment, knowledge and confidence from their activities, and for their parents and Leaders who were involved with the operation of the place. The sale of the place, prompted by economic reasons has been a significant loss to guiding community. (Criterion 4.1)

Paxwold Girl Guides Camp provides a sense of place for the local and wider community for its historical, social and aesthetic associations. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12.1 RARITY

12.2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Paxwold House is a fine representative example of the post World War Two architectural design work of Nancy Lorne Allen of W. G. Bennett, Allen & Allen. (Criterion 6.1)

12.3 CONDITION

Paxwold Girl Guides Camp is in fair to good condition.

12.4 INTEGRITY

Paxwold Girl Guides Camp no longer functions in its original purpose. Although the original user group will no longer be associated with the place, there are opportunities to reinstate the functions of a training and short term group residential facility. The interpretation of the original functions is clear and as such, the place has a high degree of integrity.

12.5 AUTHENTICITY

Paxwold Girl Guides Camp shows only minimal evidence of intervention to original fabric, such as the alterations to the Paxwold House bathroom to facilitate use by disabled people. The place displays a high degree of authenticity.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The documentation for this place is based on the heritage assessment completed by Irene Sauman, Historian and Laura Gray, Heritage and Conservation Consultant, in April 2005, with amendments and/or additions by HCWA staff and the Register Committee.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

Paxwold Girl Guides Camp comprises several single storey brick buildings, namely, Paxwold House (1957, 1960), ablution blocks (1964), Caretaker's Lodge (1970), Boomajiril (Brownie House, 1973), the formed concrete Ranger Hut (1970), several metal clad sheds, the Ceremonial Ground (1960), remains of Bimbimbie (1961-64), the Chapel (1984), and the Campfire, which are located within the bush environment. The Johnston and Fyfe campsites are located immediately outside the boundary of the place.

The Girl Guide movement began in 1910 as an offshoot of the scouting movement, which had its official start in 1907. The instigator of scouting was Robert Stephenson Smyth Baden-Powell. Baden-Powell served with the British Army in India and South Africa, rising to the rank of major-general. He learnt the elements of scouting and trained army scouts and guides, publishing a booklet entitled *Aids to Scouting*, which was unexpectedly taken up by groups of British boys looking for their own adventures. Baden-Powell then wrote *Scouting for Boys* for the use of the Boys Brigade, but after scouting spread beyond Britain, he resigned from the Army in 1910 to concentrate on developing the scout movement. He was knighted for his services to the Army.¹

When more than 8,000 girls registered to join the scouts in 1909, Baden-Powell enlisted the assistance of his sister Agnes, who established the Girl Guides Association in 1910, and was its first president. By 1912, she had adapted *Scouting for Boys* to suit girls, published under the title *How Girls Can Help Build the Empire*. In 1917, Princess Mary, daughter of King George V, became president of the Association, and Agnes Baden-Powell remained as vice-president until her death in 1945, at the age of 86. Lord Baden-Powell married in 1912 to Olave St. Clair Soames, who was 30 years his junior. Olave Baden-Powell worked with her husband in scouting and guiding, becoming Chief Guide of Britain in 1918.²

The object of the scout and guide movement was to encourage the physical, mental, social and spiritual development of the young so they could take a constructive place in society as responsible citizens. Girls aged 7 to 25 were eligible for membership of the Guides, first as Brownies (7-11 years), then Guides (11-14 years), and then as Rangers (14-25 years in two groups). Badges were awarded for acquiring proficiency in a variety of activities and tasks including first aid, homemaking, bushcraft, the arts, service to others, fitness, and self-sufficiency.³

When Lord Baden-Powell visited Australia in 1912, several groups of girls under various names existed, such as the Tasmania Girl Peace Scouts, the Australian League of Girl Aids (NSW), and the Florence Nightingale Girl Aids (Victoria),

¹ Coleman, Margaret & Darling, Honor, *Blue and Gold, the story told: a brief history of the Girl Guides Association in Australia*, Girl Guides Assoc of Australia, Sydney, c.1986, pp. 1-3.

² Coleman, Margaret & Darling, Honor, op cit, pp. 3-4.

³ Bartlett, Linley, *Australian Guide Handbook: Part 1*, Girl Guides Association of Australia, Melb., 1980; *The Australian Encyclopaedia*, Sydney, Grolier Society, 4th ed 1983, Vol. 9, p. 36.

some of whom were affiliated with the Boys Scout movement and were later recognised as Girl Guides.⁴

In Western Australia, Guiding began with a public meeting in the Perth Town Hall on 28 June 1915, under the sponsorship of the Women's Service Guild. On the motion of Mrs Edith Cowan, a Council was formed and girls invited to enrol as Captain or Guide. The response was overwhelming and Guide troops were quickly established throughout the State. Grace Holder was the first West Australian Guide commissioner, while Mrs McMillan, wife of the Chief Justice, was the first president, and Bessie Rischbieth and Edith Cowan were vice-presidents. Lady Barron, wife of Governor Sir Harry Barron, took up the position of Chief Guide for Western Australia, and a room was made available in Government House as an office for the WA Guides Association.⁵

The first Guide rally in Western Australia was held in May 1916, with 300 Girl Guides participating. The Guide uniform of a navy blue dress and hat with brown stockings and shoes was established by this time, with each company able to choose the colour of its tie. During the 1920s membership grew rapidly. There were 130 guides present for a mass enrolment during one rally at Government House. Two Ranger companies were started in 1928, at Beverley and Subiaco. In 1929, almost 1,000 guides attended a rally at King's Park during Western Australia's centenary celebrations, and there were 14 registered Brownie packs by that time. A 1931 visit by Lord and Lady Baden-Powell gave impetus to the scouting and guiding movement throughout Australia, and the first Sea Rangers Company was formed in Western Australia in that year. Information on scouting and guiding in Western Australia was provided in the joint publication *The Scout and Guide Courier* until 1939, when the WA Guides Association established its own publication, *The Guide Courier*.⁶

During World War Two, the Guides of Australia raised money for an ambulance, a lifeboat and two air ambulances, collected clothing for air raid victims in Britain, and collected silver paper and tinfoil for recycling for use in aircraft manufacture. In Western Australia, guides and rangers enlisted to become signallers and held positions requiring specialised training. The WA Women's Land Army was under the command of Sally Carlton, a former guide and ranger leader and the state's Guide Training Commissioner. After the War, a number of guides assisted the international relief organisation, Guide International Services.⁷

In 1947, the WA Guides Association leased an area of land at Swanbourne from the Army for a camp site. The camp was named 'Seaward'. Administrative buildings were erected and several State camps were held there in 1948. In 1950, the lease was terminated when the Army required the land for its own use. In 1952, Gilbert Hartley Johnston of Kalamunda donated fifteen acres of bushland in the Darling Range to the WA Guides Association. The land comprised a portion of Canning Location 156.⁸ Gilbert Johnston was an engineer who managed the engineering firm Kelly and Lewis, a Melbourne based firm that were particularly prominent in the sale of tractors in Western Australia. Johnston had lived in Nedlands but moved to Kalamunda and was known to live in an 'old

4 Miller, Joy, *Promises Made Promises Kept: A history of Guiding in Western Australia*, Guides Western Australia (Inc), Perth, 2000, pp. 1-5.

5 Miller, Joy, op cit, pp. 1-5.

6 Miller, Joy, op cit, pp. 5-7.

7 Miller, Joy, op cit, pp. 7-9.

8 Certificate of Title, Vol. 1113 Fol. 86, 15 October 1948.

army hut' on Welshpool Road. The reason for his donation of the land to the Girl Guides is not known.⁹

Despite the rugged topography of the site the Association decided to develop it as West Australia's state campsite and training centre. The place was named 'Paxwold' from the Latin 'pax' meaning peace and the old English 'wold' for gentle hills. The home of the Baden-Powells had also been known as Paxhill, giving the name Paxwold an added association.¹⁰

The first development at *Paxwold Girl Guides Camp* comprised the clearing of canvas camping areas and erection of a 30-foot by 15-foot tubular steel and asbestos equipment shed and a rainwater tank. This work was completed by September 1953. The first canvas camp was held at *Paxwold Girl Guides Camp* in February 1954 and two permanent campsites were cleared in August that year. A small dam and pump house was established by voluntary labour at a spring on the valley floor, and water was piped to tanks at the equipment shed and from the tanks to the campsites.¹¹

In the post World War Two reconstruction period, low-interest loans were available for permanent structures that were dedicated as war memorials, so the development of *Paxwold Girl Guides Camp* was officially named 'Paxwold Girl Guides Association Memorial Training Centre'. A £25,000 loan was taken up and a State Campsite Committee was formed under the leadership of Rosemary Foulkes-Taylor to raise funds and manage the site. The annual fundraising drive by the Brownies, Guides and Rangers was begun in 1955 specifically for the development of *Paxwold Girl Guides Camp*. Originally known as the 'Willing Shilling', it was renamed 'Cents for Service' when decimal currency was introduced, and later 'Busy Bee'. Other fundraising events included bridge parties, fetes, fancy dress balls and biscuit drives.¹²

Wallace Fyfe, honorary surveyor for the Association, surveyed *Paxwold Girl Guides Camp* site and the plan for the first stage of Paxwold House, the dormitory section, was designed by Nancy Lorne Allen, honorary architect.¹³ In 1932, Nancy Allen was the second woman to pass the examination of the WA Institute of Architects Board and become a member of the WA branch of the Royal Institute of Architects.¹⁴

Nancy Allen was an associate of William Garnsworthy Bennett and E. T. Dickens from 1936 until World War Two, when their office closed for a number of years. The practice was reopened in 1946 as W. G. Bennett and Associates (later W. G. Bennett, Allen & Allen) with Nancy Allen and her brother George F. D. Allen. The firm undertook numerous commissions for such works as Roads Board halls, country shire offices, schools, churches and church halls and a large number of private houses. It also undertook a number of community based service buildings

⁹ Information from the Kalamunda History House in conversation with HCWA officer Prue Griffin 27/10/05; Kelly and Lewis Pty Ltd, *Fifty Years of Engineering 1899 -1949*, Melbourne, 1949; Western Australian Telephone Directory 1945-1949, Battye library.

¹⁰ Miller, Joy, *op cit*, pp. 23.

¹¹ Girl Guides Association WA Inc, *The "Paxwold" Story*, 8-page booklet, rev. ed, 1990.

¹² Girl Guides Association WA Inc, *The "Paxwold" Story*, *op cit*, pp. 7-8.

¹³ Miller, Joy, *op cit*, pp. 23-24; 'Paxwold – Initiation and development', 1 page typescript in Private archives of Wallace Vernon Fyfe, Battye Library, MN 2070, ACC 5798 Item 3.

¹⁴ Information from the Architects Board of Western Australia. The first woman architect registered by the WA institute of Architects was Margaret Lilian Morison, (also known as Margaret Pitt Morison) registered in 1924.

in an honorary capacity such as the Infant Health Centres at Nedlands and Manjimup, Police and Citizens Club buildings, and *Paxwold Girl Guides Camp*.¹⁵

Construction of the foundations of Paxwold House began on 7 October 1955, and the work of building the dormitory section was started in September 1956 and completed in June 1957.¹⁶ The first stage of Paxwold House was officially opened by Lady Olave Baden-Powell on 27 October 1957. About 2,000 Guides, Brownies, Rangers and adults attended the opening ceremony, which was also attended by: State President, Lady Gairdner; State Commissioner, Lady McLarty; Lady Lee Steere; Commissioner of the Federation of Malaya, Mrs. R. G. Heath; Deputy Commissioner of Malaya, Mrs P. Navaratnam; President of Ceylon Guides, Lady Obeyesekere, and the Hon. Gwendolene Phillips representing the United Kingdom.¹⁷

The first stage of Paxwold House was named the Foulkes-Taylor wing for Rosemary (Mrs. D. C.) Foulkes-Taylor. A plaque attached to the wall at the terrace entrance to the wing reads:

THE		FOULKES-TAYLOR		WING
WAS	OPENED	ON	27 TH	OCT. 1957
BY				
OLAVE,	LADY	BADEN-POWELL		C.B.E.
WORLD		CHIEF		GUIDE
LADY	MCLARTY	—	STATE	COMMISSIONER
MRS.	D.C.	FOULKES-TAYLOR	—	CHAIRMAN
STATE CAMPSITE COMMITTEE				

The Foulkes-Taylor wing comprised sleeping quarters and bathrooms. It was sufficient for small training groups with the verandah used as a dining room and a small asbestos shed, located on what is now the Ceremonial Ground, serving as a kitchen.¹⁸

In November 1958, work began on the second stage of Paxwold House.

This wing comprises entrance hall, dining room, kitchen and annexes, the main Training Room, named after Lady Lee Steere, and the spacious paved piazza overlooking the valley.¹⁹

This work was officially opened on 19 March 1960 by Lady Lee Steere and dedicated by the Right Reverend C. L. Riley.²⁰

The largest gathering held at *Paxwold Girl Guides Camp* took place shortly after completion of Paxwold House. In August 1960, the two-week long international camp 'Djindunga', Camp in the West, was attended by over 300 Guides from Papua New Guinea, Malaya, Singapore, United Kingdom, Kenya and all Australian states.²¹

Early improvements included the planting of the Ceremonial Ground with lawn and the establishment of a steady tree planting program, whereby visitors were invited to plant a tree in memory of their visit. The trees, lawns, buildings and the site were cared for by voluntary work parties but the task proved too great for

¹⁵ Geneve, Yvonne 'Artist of the Month: William G Bennett', *Art Deco Society of WA Newsletter*, Vol. 5 No. 4 July/Aug, 1992, pp. 10-11; Country Women's Association of WA, 'Pioneer Women's Memorial Fund', [1960s], Battye, PR 8894/1.

¹⁶ 'Paxwold – Initiation and development', ACC 5798, op cit.

¹⁷ *The Guide Courier*, Vol. 20, no. 6, December 1957, p. 2.

¹⁸ Girl Guides Association WA Inc, *The "Paxwold" Story*, 8-page booklet, rev. ed 1990, pp. 1-2.

¹⁹ *The Guide Courier*, Vol. 22, No. 10, April 1960, p. 1.

²⁰ Girl Guides Association WA Inc, *The "Paxwold" Story*, op cit, p. 3.

²¹ Girl Guides Association WA Inc, *The "Paxwold" Story*, op cit, pp. 6-7.

occasional workers. In 1962, a paid caretaker was appointed, resulting in improved maintenance for the place.²²

In the early 1960s, the Girl Guides Association sought to purchase another 36.5 acres of bushland surrounding *Paxwold Girl Guides Camp* for camp sites. The purchase did not eventuate, but local landowners freely allowed use of their land for camping purposes until, in the late 1960s, the surrounding lands were acquired by the Government for parklands and the Association was given a lease on the acreage they required.²³

The Brownies created their own area at *Paxwold Girl Guides Camp*. Between 1961 and 1964, with the help of some Guiders and parent volunteers, they created Bimbimbie, a 'place of many birds'. The first work party for Bimbimbie was held in December 1961 and on 21 October 1962, 150 volunteers held a work party and picnic, forming paths, creating the Brownie Ring, installing a concrete bird feeder and a birdbath with water laid on, and building barbeque fireplaces. Bimbimbie was officially opened on 18 April 1964 in the presence of Brownies from 52 Packs, their leaders, families and friends.²⁴ At some time, a sandstone plaque has been installed behind the Brownie Ring. It reads:

Twist me and turn me and show me the elf. I looked in the water and there saw myself. The Brownies remember Winifred Renfrey.²⁵

The brick toilet blocks were installed in 1964, replacing the chemical toilets that had been used up to that time.²⁶

In August 1970, the Diamond Jubilee of World Guiding was celebrated by 250 Guides who attended Camp 'Jubilee'. Two more buildings were added to *Paxwold Girl Guides Camp* in the jubilee year. The first was the two-bedroom Caretaker's Lodge, built beside the entrance to the site. *Paxwold Girl Guides Camp* was being hired out for camps and conferences to selected groups of people outside the Guide movement, which further contributed toward the upkeep of the place but also required a permanent presence. The Caretaker's Lodge was opened on 23 August 1970 by State Commissioner Mrs. E. J. Blythe.²⁷ During construction, it was found that the building overlapped the boundary of *Paxwold Girl Guides Camp* by several metres, encroaching onto the leased parkland area.²⁸

The second building added in 1970 was the Ranger Hut. A competition for the design of the building was won by the crew of the Sea Ranger ship 'Parmelia'. The Hut was built of preformed concrete panels to withstand bushfires, and the panels were moulded to resemble rough-finished boards. The Ranger Hut was officially opened by State Commissioner Mrs. D. H. Aitken at a Ranger Jubilee luncheon held at *Paxwold Girl Guides Camp* on 29 November 1970.²⁹

In 1973, Boomajaril, the Brownie House, was constructed a short distance from Bimbimbie on what had been the McCrae campsite. Boomajaril is an Aboriginal word for 'home of the little people'. The Brownie house in Queensland was also called Boomajaril, so the word may be of eastern states origin. Boomajaril was the result of seven years of fundraising, which included fetes held at *Paxwold Girl*

22 Miller, Joy, op cit, pp. 24.

23 Correspondence, Private archives of Wallace Vernon Fyfe, Battye Library, MN 2070, ACC 5798 Item 3.

24 Cooper, Lorna & Mabey, Freeda, *The Origin of Bimbimbie*, booklet, 1986.

25 Plaque located at Brownie Ring.

26 Miller, Joy, op cit, pp. 23.

27 Girl Guides Association WA Inc, *The "Paxwold" Story*, op cit, p. 3.

28 Correspondence between Girl Guides Association and Metropolitan Region Planning Authority, 27 May 1970, from DPI file for the property.

29 Girl Guides Association WA Inc, *The "Paxwold" Story*, op cit, p. 3.

Guides Camp, pet shows, car washes, jumble sales, cake stalls and publication of a Brownie cookbook. The place was designed by Nancy Allen and constructed by contractors Mills & Hassell.³⁰

Boomajaril provided accommodation for 26 with two bathrooms, one for Brownies and one for Leaders. In the Brownie's bathroom, hand painted tiles depicting images of Brownie lore, including the Brownie Sixes, magic pool and the owl in the tree, were placed above the hand basins. The dining room doubled as an activity room and the kitchen was fitted with both wood and gas stoves. State Commissioner Mrs. D. H. Aitken, OBE, opened Boomajaril on 25 November 1973.³¹

Functions held at *Paxwold Girl Guides Camp* during the 1975 celebrations for the Diamond Jubilee of Guiding in Western Australia included a dinner, a luncheon to mark International Woman's Year, and the Festival of Flowers, which was held in the spring when the wildflowers were at their best. In 1979, Western Australia's 150th anniversary was marked by the first International Ranger Gathering in the state. A hundred and twelve Rangers and Leaders from around the world undertook a heritage tour of the South West and the opening and closing ceremonies for the event were held at *Paxwold Girl Guides Camp*.³²

The Guide movement encouraged the membership of girls with disabilities, who participated in 'Extension' activities. In 1980, a section of the bathroom in Paxwold House was remodelled to cater to the needs of the Extension Guides. The new facility was named the Lady Baden-Powell State Memorial and was officially opened by Lady Kyle, wife of Governor Wallace Kyle, in the spring of 1980.³³

In the early 1980s, some 700 tree seedlings, of species indigenous to the site, were planted to replace those lost by fire and the pressures of use of the site. The outdoor Chapel, located on the slope below Paxwold House, was established in 1984 to celebrate the 60th anniversary of Ranging. The Chapel was named Ruah, meaning 'wind in the trees'.³⁴ A granite plaque on the altar reads:

Given by WA Ranger Section to commemorate 60 years of Ranging
1924-1984. Dedicated by Father Brian Morrison 17th June 1984.³⁵

There are a number of features at *Paxwold Girl Guides Camp*, which have been provided in memory of people associated with the place. The granite table and seats beside the steps to the terrace entrance to Paxwold House were presented by the Stirling Trefoil Guild in memory of their president Mrs Barbara Blakey, who was also a secretary of the Girl Guides Association War Memorial Appeal. The drinking fountain on the edge of the Ceremonial Ground was erected by the State Campsite Committee to honour Malcolm McCrae, who worked toward the establishment of *Paxwold Girl Guides Camp*. The McCrae campsite had been named for him. Other campsites were named Kirkwood, Foulkes-Taylor, Fyfe and Johnston (formerly Lucas). Fyfe and Johnston campsites are outside the boundaries of *Paxwold Girl Guides Camp*. The location of the Kirkwood and Foulkes-Taylor campsites has not been ascertained.

30 'Boomajaril, home of the little people', 6-page booklet, December 1981, Battye PR 10696/10. The Guides Association of WA also hold a complete archive of the construction of Paxwold. These archives are held in off site storage by Guides WA in Welshpool. (Information from Joy Miller)

31 'Boomajaril, home of the little people', op cit.

32 Girl Guides Association WA Inc, *The "Paxwold" Story*, op cit, p. 7.

33 Miller, Joy, op cit, pp. 25.

34 Girl Guides Association WA Inc, *The "Paxwold" Story*, op cit, p. 4.

35 Granite plaque on Chapel altar.

Guiding was popular between the wars and for several decades after World War Two and provided a form of liberation for many girls and young women during that time. In the latter part of the twentieth century, guiding has waned in popularity due to changing social and political attitudes, a faster pace of life and more sophisticated and varied forms of entertainment and activities for young people.

In 2002-2003, the State Campsites Board (formerly Committee) investigated the future viability of *Paxwold Girl Guides Camp*. Cost of maintaining the place for a reduced number of Guides and concerns regarding insurance and liability brought the Board to the conclusion that the place could not be retained.³⁶ In 2004, *Paxwold Girl Guides Camp* was purchased by the Department of Planning and Infrastructure and incorporated into the Darling Range Regional Park, which is under the management of CALM.³⁷

Guide camps were being held at *Paxwold Girl Guides Camp* until the sale of the property was finalised. The opinions of the guiding community were not recorded at the time but have subsequently expressed sadness at the sale of *Paxwold Girl Guides Camp* although recognising the economic difficulties associated with maintaining the place.³⁸ The opinions of the wider community upon the sale of *Paxwold Girl Guides Camp* were also not recorded at the time and no responses have been noted since.³⁹ Guide camps are now held at private or government owned camping facilities.

In 2005, *Paxwold Girl Guides Camp* is not in use but the Caretaker's Lodge is occupied. No future use has yet been decided for the place.

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

Paxwold Girl Guides Camp is located at the western terminus of Gilchrist Road, in the metropolitan hills suburb of Lesmurdie, approximately 20 kilometres from Perth central. *Paxwold Girl Guides Camp* consists of a number of buildings and elements within a predominantly natural bush site of 6 hectares located on the sloping escarpment of the Darling Range. *Paxwold Girl Guides Camp* contains several single storey brick buildings, namely, Paxwold House (accommodation and training block), Boomajiril (Brownie's house), Caretaker's Lodge and several freestanding ablution buildings; the formed concrete Ranger's Hut; several steel framed metal clad sheds; and the Ceremonial Ground, Chapel, Campfire and remains of Bimbimbie, including the Brownie Ring and concrete bird feeder, within the natural environment.

Paxwold Girl Guides Camp entry is denoted by a pair of simple galvanised frame cyclone mesh gates. The Caretaker's Lodge is located immediately inside the property boundary on the north side of the entry. A bitumen road leads south through stands of natural bush several hundred metres to Paxwold House where the one way access road turns west along the entire frontage of Paxwold House, on the south side of the Ceremonial Ground, and returns along the north west side of the Ceremonial Ground to rejoin the main access road. There is a gravel track off the bitumen access road, to access Brownie House, and to the east and north east of Paxwold House there is extensive informal gravel surfaced car park.

³⁶ Girl Guides Association WA Inc, *The "Paxwold" Story*, op cit, pp. 7-8.

³⁷ *Wagtale*, WA Girl Guides Association, March 2004, p. 4; Certificate of Title, Vol. 1169 Fol. 831, 24 June 2004.

³⁸ Information regarding the responses of the Guiding community to the sale of Paxwold were gathered from various members in the Kalamunda district, including Joy Miller author of *Promises Made Promises Kept: A history of Guiding in Western Australia*, Guides Western Australia (Inc), Perth, 2000

³⁹ The editor of the *Community Newspaper Midland Reporter* was contacted and stated that there was no community response noted upon the sale of *Paxwold Girl Guides Camp*.

Paxwold House

Paxwold House dominates the site in form and scale, although it is obscured in most aspects by the surrounding natural environment, as are the other elements on the site. Paxwold House, a single story brick and asbestos building shows influences of the Post-War Melbourne Regional style, evidenced by the bush site, simple, unpretentious, narrow linear plan, simple geometry of the plan, horizontal emphasis, low pitched corrugated asbestos roof, wide eaves and exposed rafters, and the extensive unbroken roof line.⁴⁰

Paxwold House is single storey face brick construction with a low pitched skillion roof clad with corrugated asbestos. The verandah under the main roof, supported by round steel columns, runs along almost the entire north length of the building. Located on a sloping site, the face stone foundation, detailed in pointed regular stone in a diamond configuration, is revealed on the high south side, and a cellar is located beneath the south east wing, (below the training room). The footprint of Paxwold House is a 'Y' with unequal lengths to the three wings. Plans and documentary evidence show that the building was designed in its entirety for a two staged construction.

The accommodation wing aligned east/west, at the west end, was the first construction. It comprises ablutions and several rooms as well as the south verandah enclosure. The north verandah is open. It is likely that the south verandah was enclosed some time after original construction (perhaps with stage 2) as the south wall of the ablutions, now enclosed by the exterior verandah wall, has louvred windows as if the original intension was an exterior wall. The verandah along the south has a low skillion roof off the main wall that rises to the highest of the main roof skillion. The verandah form is replicated on the south east side of the training room, immediately adjacent to the terrace.

The building entry is located centrally between the three wings where the training room wing is cranked at a 45-degree angle to the south east, and the kitchen/dining wing is at right angles to that, aligned north east/south west. The kitchen/dining wing does not have a verandah on the south east side. A pivotal element at the angled juncture is an expansive semi circular flagstone terrace that links the wings. The terrace is elevated due to the slope of the land, and a stone stair case curves up each side against the walls of the verandahs of each wing. Wrought iron balustrade shows influences of the nautical art deco era, with flat horizontal railings, and also features the words 'pax old' in the balustrade centre of the curved edge of the terrace.

The training wing is a singular space that features an expansive cantilevered bay window at the south east end, with jarrah boxed seating around the perimeter. There is similar seating under the windows at the other end of the room. An 8.0 metre section of the north east wall is recessed and detailed in Toodyay Stone, with a low level seating ledge flanking a central fireplace. Directly opposite, the south west wall is timber framed glass, with both fixed panels and expansive sliding doors opening onto the verandah and terrace. The adjoining dining room, accessed by double sliding doors on the north east, in turn adjoins the kitchen and service rooms at the north east end of the building. The interiors are finished predominately in face brickwork as for the exterior, except the kitchen and ablutions areas that are plastered and part tiled. Similarly the floors are 0.075m jarrah floorboards throughout except the ablution areas and verandahs that are concrete. The kitchen and ablution areas have vinyl floor tiles. The ceilings throughout are raked, revealing the widely spaced laminated structural timber beams of the skillion roofs. The ceilings are lined with acoustic plaster panels.

⁴⁰ The style was also typical of Regional Perth, and particularly the hills suburbs. Apperly, R., Irving, R., Reynolds, P., op cit, pp. 218-221

The windows are timber framed throughout. The kitchen fitout is original with open timber shelving, and the wood fired stove remains in situ. The toilet and shower fitouts are original, the showers featuring terrazzo privacy walls between shower and dressing space.

Boomajaril (Brownie's house)

Approximately 50 metres west of Paxwold House, down a gravel track through the bush is Boomajaril, the Brownie's house. The approach on the north east is the rear of the building, with patios flanking a central wing. The single storey building is a face brick construction on a brick foundation of a contrasting darker colour. The building has a hipped clay tile roof. Boomajaril does not display any influences of any particular style. The floor plan is a cross with four equal wings that each terminate in a gable wall with exposed timber battening to the asbestos gable infill. The slope of the site is such that the south west wing (dining and activities room) has a cellar beneath. A brick staircase entry on the south east corner leads to a small verandah and entry into the main activities and dining room, or direct into the dormitory (south east wing). The interior is as for Paxwold House, predominately face brickwork as for the exterior, except the kitchen and ablutions areas that are plastered and part tiled. Similarly the floors are 0.075m jarrah floorboards throughout except the ablution areas and verandahs that are concrete. The kitchen and ablution areas have vinyl floor tiles. The ceilings throughout are raked, revealing the timber beam structure and plaster lining. The windows are timber framed throughout. The kitchen fitout is per original with steel framed open timber shelving. Wood fired and electric stoves remain in situ. The bathroom splash tiles have been hand painted with 'Brownie' designs.

Ranger Hut

The Ranger Hut is located approximately 50 metres north east of Paxwold House, down a narrow pedestrian track through the bush. It is an off-form concrete structure with a low pitched corrugated iron roof and a flat roofed patio across the 'front' on the north east side. Each of the two rooms originally opened onto the north east frontage, and the exterior still evidences the two doors, however on the interior, there is no evidence of the exterior entry door into the south east room. The interior is lined with battened asbestos on the walls and ceiling and the floor is concrete. The north west room has a basic cupboard fitout on one wall, and adjacent to the entry door is a partitioned area with a small sink and a separate shower compartment. Timber framed windows are in place in the end wall of each room, and small highlight windows on the door side.

Caretaker's Lodge

The Caretaker's Lodge is a single story brick dwelling with a low pitched gable roof clad with tiles. Due to the slope, the front is raised on a contrasting brick foundation, with a wide concrete terrace across half the front. The dwelling has a two roomed frontage showing the aluminium framed windows of the period.

The brick ablutions adjacent to the main buildings are brick structures with low pitched skillion roofs. The sheds on the site are steel and/or timber framed with low pitch gable roofs and are clad with colorbond sheeting or painted corrugated iron. The green colouring of the sheds camouflages them and minimises their visual impact in the natural environment.

The Ceremonial Ground on the north side of Paxwold House is an open area of lawn fringed with some natural vegetation. There is a coffee rock (laterite) stone retaining wall along the south side, along the edge of the road. The Ground features a flagpole and a gazebo.

The Chapel site is south from the Paxwold House terrace. It is located halfway down a steep slope. Seating and pathways have been worked into the slope, the seating being of timber in several tiers above the commemorative altar of stone. A granite plaque is inset in the altar.

The Brownie Ring, about 20 metres east of Boomajaril, is in a clearing with a circular low stone perimeter wall surrounding a toadstool-shaped centrepiece. Adjacent to the Brownie Ring is a concrete bird feeder and adjacent to that is the former barbeque area, marked by two brick plinths and some scattered charcoal. About 12 metres down the slope from the bird feeder are the remains of a concrete birdbath and connecting water pipe.

The Campfire is 30 metres south east of the Ranger Hut. It is a small clearing with a central circular stone fireplace and seats of upright logs forming an outer perimeter circle.

Fyfe and Johnston campsites are cleared areas within the natural bush surround. Fyfe campsite is located south west of Boomajaril, outside the property boundary of *Paxwold Girl Guides Camp*. It is accessed by a gravel road which has a barrier erected to prevent vehicle access. Johnston campsite is located central across the western boundary of the property. Apart from a water tap attached to an upright timber support at the edge of Fyfe campsite there are no structural elements at either site.

Paxwold Girl Guides Camp is in fair to good condition. There is some evidence of moisture ingress in ceiling panels in Paxwold House, and some beams in the dining room and training room are bowing. The place is currently not used, although there is a caretaker presence on site. There is no evidence of intervention to the original fabric except in one section of the bathroom of Paxwold House where some changes have been made to facilitate use by the disabled. The place demonstrates a high degree of integrity and authenticity.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

Paxwold Girl Guides Camp bears comparison to Araluen Botanic Park and Manjedal Scout Camp, which were constructed for similar purposes.

Araluen Botanic Park was built in the 1930s as a recreational camp for boys by the Young Australia League (YAL), which promoted tolerance, patriotism and service. The buildings were designed by architect W. G. Bennett, himself a member of the YAL, and many resemble log cabins. Araluen is particularly valued for its gardens and landscaping. The place was purchased by the State in 1990 and has been largely restored. Araluen Botanic Park is entered on the State Register and the Register of the National Estate.⁴¹ It is currently used as a tourist destination with gardens being the particular attraction.

Manjedal Scout Camp was established on 134 acres off Nettleton Road, Byford in the 1960s. It was officially opened in 1969. Manjedal replaced the much smaller Gilwell Scout Camp at Kelmscott. The place comprises the Baden Powell Conference Centre built for adult Leader training and including an assembly hall, kitchen, mess hall and bunkhouse with ablutions, and the Boy's Activity Centre, comprising bunkhouse, separate ablutions building and Activities Hall with kitchen and mess hall. The buildings are brick, and were designed with high-pitched tent-like roofs. The site has an outdoor chapel and training courses in a bush setting. Scouting continues to draw relatively large numbers and Manjedal continues to function as a camp for Scouts, school groups and other

⁴¹ HCWA assessment documentation, *Araluen Botanic Park* (3277).

activity oriented groups as well as offering leadership and team building events.⁴² Manjedal is not listed on the Heritage Council database.

The only other major Guide campsite in Western Australia is Our Barn, York, originally the 1830s stone stables, coach and store houses attached to John Monger's Faversham House. The buildings were restored by the Guide Association in the 1970s and together with two acres of land provide a meeting, conference, camp and training facility for the Association in the Avon region. The place is listed as Faversham Barns on the York Municipal Inventory.⁴³

Manjimup Infant Health Centre (fmr) (11375) was specifically designed by Nancy Allen and is on the State Register. Her individual input to the firm's extensive portfolio of work over several decades is not known, but there are several buildings on the State Register attributed to the firm of W. G. Bennett in the late 1930s, including the Beaucott Building (6185), Beverley Town Hall (154), Raffles Hotel (1544) and the Regal Theatre (2454).

13.4 KEY REFERENCES

No key references.

13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH

⁴² Scout Association WA, *Annual Report*, 1969, p. 11; 'Official Opening, Manjedal Leader Training and Scout Activities Centre', brochure, Battye PR 1650; Scouts WA store website, www.snowgum.com.au; personal knowledge.

⁴³ Girl Guides Association of WA, 'Our Barn, York W.A.', 1977, Battye PR 10696/8; HCWA database.