



**HERITAGE
COUNCIL**
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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)

- 2.4.2 Migrating to seek opportunity
- 3.23 Catering for tourists
- 3.4.4 Making forests into a saleable resource
- 3.5.1 Grazing stock
- 4.5 Making settlements to serve rural Australia
- 5.8 Working on the land
- 8.1.4 Enjoying the natural environment
- 8.3 Going on holiday
- 8.14 Living in country and rural settlements

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 101 Immigration, emigration & refugees
- 107 Settlements
- 301 Grazing, pastoralism & dairying
- 304 Timber industry
- 311 Hospitality industry & tourism
- 405 Sport, recreation & entertainment

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

Lewana is an especially picturesque property, where a group of simple vernacular timber buildings are set amongst a wide variety of mature exotic and indigenous tree plantings in a parkland formation, with simple gravel roads leading to a number of other distinctive arboreal elements, within the wider setting of the scenic Blackwood Valley. (Criterion 1.1)

Lewana is an important and particularly picturesque element among the rural properties of the Blackwood Valley. (Criterion 1.3)

* 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Canberra, 1991, with additional reference to Richards, O. *Theoretical Framework for Designed Landscapes in WA*, unpublished report, 1997.

The combination of simple timber buildings set in a parkland of mature exotic trees, together with a number of other distinctive arboretum elements and backdrop of pine plantation set on the steep flanks of the Blackwood Valley make *Lewana* a significant precinct/cultural environment. (Criterion 1.4)

11. 2. HISTORIC VALUE

Lewana is associated with a wide range of land uses, such as pastoralism dairying, forestry and recreational tourism that reflects the changing patterns of usage that have occurred in many areas of the southwest since European settlement. (Criterion 2.2)

Lewana demonstrates the manner in which the Forests Department functioned during the twentieth century in establishing pine plantations and small arboreta to trial tree species to determine their suitability, and the type of housing that they provided for their employees. (Criterion 2.2)

Lewana is part of a wider cultural landscape, which saw large portions of the Blackwood River Valley transformed during the 1950s-60s from a largely farming environment to one that became dominated by tree plantations. (Criterion 2.2)

Lewana demonstrates the successful adaptive re-use of a forestry settlement to that of a recreational facility. (Criterion 2.2)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

The arboretum at *Lewana* demonstrates the practice of the Forests Department of establishing trial plantings to further its scientific work, and together with the extensive plantings of more than 50 exotic and indigenous species in the wider area, especially around the area of the forestry settlement, has the potential for use as a teaching site and a reference site. (Criterion 3.2)

Lewana has the potential to yield information contributing to a wider understanding of the history of European settlement and land use in the South West through its uses as a pastoral property and farming property, a forestry settlement, cottage style recreation camp, and for tourist accommodation. (Criterion 3.2)

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

Lewana has a high degree of social value to members of the public who stayed at the place during its time as a recreational facility (c.1976 - 2001) and more recently as *Lewana Cottages* holiday accommodation (2002 to present [2012]). (Criterion 4.2)

Lewana is highly valued by the local and wider community for social, cultural and aesthetic reasons, and also for its educational associations by some members of the community who have so used the place. (Criterion 4.1)

Lewana contributes to the community's sense of place as a well known site on the main road between Balingup and Nannup and is a well recognised beauty spot in the district and as viewed from the Bibbulmun Track. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12.1. RARITY

Lewana is one of only four former forestry settlements converted to a recreation camp in the 1970s before being sold into private ownership, an unusually intact former forestry settlement, and so far as is known the only such place with an arboretum and extensive plantings of more than 50 varieties of exotic and indigenous trees. (Criteria 5.1 and 5.2)

12.2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Lewana is a good representative example of an intact former forestry settlement in southwest Western Australia. (Criterion 6.1)

Lewana is representative of the fluctuating forestry settlements in Western Australia, which were relatively portable with timber construction buildings being relocated to and from other sites as required, during wartime and periods of shortage. (Criterion 6.2)

Lewana demonstrates the variety of land uses that have historically taken place in the southwest area of the state and is part of a wider cultural landscape that saw large areas of the Blackwood valley transformed through the development of tree plantations in the 1950s-60s. (Criterion 6.2)

12.3 CONDITION

Lewana is in good condition and has generally been well maintained as tourist accommodation by the current owners. The grounds and cottages are attractive and well maintained albeit with areas of intrusive invasions of some problematic and noxious weeds such as Blackberries. While the homestead house is in fair condition, and is well protected by the wrap around verandah, a number of general maintenance items require attention including the stumps and roof sheeting, some of which were being attended to in July 2011. The barn is in fair to poor condition with rusting roof sheeting and a number of other elements that are missing or require attention.

12.4 INTEGRITY

Lewana displays a moderate to high degree of integrity. Although the place is no longer used for its earlier purposes of homestead and forestry settlement, the present use of tourist accommodation with some farming and agricultural production of cheese is a compatible use. Although there have been some modifications, the place could easily revert to its former use.

12.5 AUTHENTICITY

Lewana displays a high degree of authenticity. A high proportion of the fabric is original. The buildings have received minor modifications, the main being a toilet introduced to the bathroom of each cottage, and enclosure of the rear verandah of some of the cottages, to comply with twenty first century expectations of internal bedrooms and bathrooms. There has been very little modification to the landscaping since the plantings of the 1960s-1970s, apart from the enlargement of the dam in the creek bed on the east side of the property.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The documentation for this place is based on the heritage assessment completed by Robin Chinnery, Historian, and Lynne Farrow, Architect, in July 2010, with amendments and/or additions by HCWA staff and the Register Committee.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

Lewana comprises a homestead house and barn (1931), five forestry cottages (relocated in 1960), a cabin (originally an office, 1961), a five bay garage/workshop, an oil store and drum ramp (1961), a storage shed (1965), seven single garages (1965 - 1969) all constructed of jarrah timber weatherboard with corrugated iron roofs in the vernacular style, and the concrete floor slab remains of a shop (c.1958), on a picturesque hillside setting on about 39 ha land, with a wide variety of tree plantings (1930s -1990s), an arboretum (1969-70), and a steel shed (c.2004) that contains a small cheese factory and retail outlet.

In 1852, a survey by Surveyor A. C. Gregory included parts of the districts around the Blackwood and Donnelly Rivers. In 1858, Surveyor Austin surveyed the Nannup district.¹ In 1859, Walter Padbury took up the first pastoral lease in the Balingup district, and further leases and freehold land in the 1860s-70s, which were used for pastoral purposes under his nephews. From the 1860s, European settlers from around Bunbury and Vasse (Busselton) and other areas in the South West began pushing southwards in search of fresh pastures. As the Blackwood River running east to west across their migratory path offered a limited number of suitable crossings the pattern of road development and growth of settlements and towns was integrally linked to the location of the fords.² In c.1893, when Charles Brockman came to the Balingup district, he recognised its potential for dairying with the introduction of improved pastures and pioneered progressive farming methods enabling the use of smaller areas and yielding a greater return per acre. His success influenced others to follow his example, transforming land utilisation in the district.³

In c.1897, John Gillick leased Nelson Location 694, part of which was the future site of *Lewana*. His property became known as Gillick's, and this name persisted after Robert Smith, who owned Riverton Farm on the opposite side of Balingup-Nannup Road, leased it in c.1916.⁴ In 1918, Smith purchased Nelson Location 694, 100 acres in area, and it was registered in his name on 19 November.⁵ Robert Smith served on Balingup Road Board in 1920-22.⁶

In the mid-1920s, the Kauri Timber Company closed its timber mill at Barrabup, and re-erected it about a mile south of Nannup at Nannup Brook Mill, which was one of the biggest mills in the southern hemisphere when it opened in 1925.⁷ Around this date the Forests Department stationed a forest ranger in the Nannup

1 Gilbert, Charles *History of Nannup* (Nannup Shire Council, 1973) pp. 10- 13.

2 Frost, A. C. *Baylya-Balinga: A history of Balingup W. A. Donnybrook-Balingup Shire Council, 1979, pp. 13-27; & Jalbarragup Bridge (ruin) 1900, HCWA Data Base No. 3364, p. 3.*

3 Frost, A. C. *Baylya-Balinga: A history of Balingup W. A. Donnybrook-Balingup Shire Council, 1979, p. 88.*

4 Historical notes, courtesy Ben Slyns.

5 Certificate of Title Vol. 699 Fol. 168.

6 Frost, A. C., op. cit., p. 158.

7 Talbot, Len *Nannup: A Place to Stop and Rest* Hesperian Press, Carlisle, 2003, pp. 70-72.

district, where the timber industry became the mainstay.⁸ In 1926, Robert Smith moved to live in Nannup, where he managed Kauri Timber Co., leaving his sons, Donald (aged 22) and Billy (aged 19), who continued to reside at Riverton Farm to operate his pastoral property.⁹ In 1931, Billy Smith married Hazel Wauchope, and his father built a timber weatherboard house for them at Gillick's, where they took up residence. Henceforward Billy worked Gillick's and Don worked Riverton. In c.1931, Billy and Don Smith experimented with growing tobacco at Gillick's and proudly harvested their first crop, which was dried in two kilns (not extant) they erected. However, due to the high salt content of the soil their tobacco did not meet the required standard and could not be sold.¹⁰

In 1933, Manjimup Dairy Produce Co. Ltd. erected a cheese factory on Nannup-Balingup Road on the outskirts of Balingup, where it was the only secondary industry to be developed, and dairying became the major industry in the district.¹¹ In the mid-late 1930s, rabbits infested the Blackwood Valley, consuming much of the pasture and crops, and natural bush began to regrow on many properties, including Gillick's. In 1936, Don Smith left farming to assist his father in managing Kauri Timber Co., and Billy and Hazel Smith moved to Riverton, which he continued to farm, until his death in 1938. In the 1940s, Gillick's was leased to Wakelam Bros., earthmoving contractors, who cleared some of the property.¹²

In October 1946, a small portion of Nelson Location 694 was transferred to Donald Garton Smith, and his father retained the balance.¹³ In 1948, Riverton was sold to Stephen Garvin, who used it for dairying, and Robert Smith continued to lease Gillick's to various tenants.¹⁴ In 1954, it was leased to Danish migrant Erik Slys, who had arrived with his wife and family in 1949. Erik and Lisa Slys and their three children took up residence at the homestead at Gillick's, and ran dairy cattle, sheep and pigs on the property.¹⁵ In June 1954, photographs show the homestead house, outbuildings and the home paddocks.¹⁶

In June 1956, portion of Nelson Location 694 was transferred to Wilfred Walter, storekeeper, of Balingup, who was a member of Balingup Road Board (1955-59). In early 1957, he sold it to Erik Slys, who was recorded as farmer, of "Lewana", Balingup¹⁷, indicating it was known by this name by 1956. According to Slys Lewana was 'Aboriginal for wind.'¹⁸ Kim and Ben Slys believe their father bestowed the name.¹⁹ The existing dairy was at the rear of the barn building, and Erik Slys made additions to enable the introduction of mechanised milking, and

8 Heritage and Conservation Professionals 'Forestry Cottages Comparative Assessments' Prepared for the Department of Housing and Works On behalf of GEHA and CALM, October 2005, Chronology, p. 7, and Nannup, p. 2.

9 Historical notes, op. cit.

10 *ibid.*

11 Frost, A. C., op. cit., pp. 88-89.

12 Historical notes, op. cit.; & Frost, A. C., op. cit., pp. 120-123.

13 Certificates of Title Vol. 699 Fol. 355 & Vol. 1097 Fol. 355.

14 Historical notes, op. cit.

15 *ibid.*; & Kim Slys, telephone conversation with Robin Chinnery, 2010.

16 Photographs held by Ben Slys.

17 Certificate of Title Vol. 1097 Fol. 355; & Frost, A. C., op. cit., p. 158.

18 Erik Slys to Forests Department, in Land & Tenure Application for Land Nelson Slys E. A. Lewana Purchase of Land from Nelson Location 694, Vol. 2, SROWA Cons. 5094 item 010268F2726, 13 July 1959.

19 Ben Slys, conversation with Robin Chinnery, April 2010; & Kim Slys, op. cit.

sold his milk to the cheese factory. He planted a number of trees, including exotic and indigenous species, such as lilly pilli (*Syzigium coolminianum*), fruit trees such as apricots, apples and walnuts and sold the produce. Some of these trees were still extant in the early 2000s.²⁰ It is not certain whether three mature oak trees (*Quercus robur*) shown on a later plan of Lewana²¹ were established before he purchased the place or whether he planted them.

The Forests Department, which was formed in 1896, had initially expected its forest rangers to organise their own accommodation, which might be rental accommodation, a tent, a hut built by the ranger, or simply sleeping in the Departmental office if there was one. In 1912-13, the Public Works Department (PWD) erected standard design two-room huts for forest rangers at Mundaring, Manjimup and Nannup districts as no other accommodation was available.²² In 1919, *The Forests Act (WA)* established the Forests Department as an autonomous government agency.²³ As Conservator of Forests, Charles Lane-Poole organised 3 million acres in the South West into six divisions, each under the control of a district forest officer, and there were 10 divisions by the mid-1930s.²⁴ In the 1920s, his successor, S. L. Kessell oversaw the establishment of a number of permanent settlements associated with the inauguration of forest operations in various centres. Sometimes townships in the districts were little developed and housing accommodation was unavailable, so the Department instituted the erection of standard design houses for its employees, to standard plans as used by the Workers' Homes Board (est. 1911). By 1929-30, such forestry settlements were established at Dwellingup, Mundaring, Collie and Kirup.²⁵ Generally the settlements comprised a house for the Divisional Forest Officer, 'one or two houses for other staff, together with an office building, a stable and a grain shed.'²⁶ Similar to the practice of the Western Australian Government Railways (WAGR), the Forests Department allocated consecutive numbers to all its buildings, to each of which a number plate was attached, and these numbers became the primary means of identification for individual buildings.²⁷

In the late 1940s, the Department faced a shortage of accommodation for employees due to the suspension of building activities during World War II and continuing restrictions in the post-war period. Work to overcome the backlog resulted in the erection of 28 new houses for married couples by June 1951, 48 in

20 Ben & Kim Slyn's, op. cit.

21 Plan of Lewana, no details, held by Ben Slyn's. Note: The plan is later than 1976, as Forest Department Building No. 1683, a UK 7-2 Type house, had been removed by the date at which the plan was drawn.

22 Heritage and Conservation Professionals 'Thematic History of Forestry Cottages', Prepared for the Department of Housing and Works, on behalf of GEHA and CALM, February 2004, pp. 10-12. Note: For information on the development of the Forests Department, later CALM, and provision of accommodation for its employees refer to this Thematic History, and Assessment Document, Kirup Forestry Cottages (RHP 15927).

23 Annual Report of Woods and Forests Department, 1918-19, p. 9, in *Votes and Proceedings*, 1919.

24 Annual Report of Forests Department, 1920-21, p. 16, in *Votes and Proceedings*, 1921-22; & Heritage and Conservation Professionals 'Thematic History of Forestry Cottages' op. cit., p. 19.

25 Heritage and Conservation Professionals 'Thematic History of Forestry Cottages' op. cit., pp. 15-17; and Assessment Document, Kirup Forestry Cottages (RHP 15927), p. 6.

26 Annual Report of Forests Department for 1923-24, p. 17, in *Votes and Proceedings* 1924.

27 Forests Department Building Register, held at DEC, Kensington.

1951-52, 32 in 1952-53, 15 in 1953-54, 35 in 1954-55, and 32 in 1955-56, to achieve its goal by 1957-58.²⁸

In the 1950s, the Forests Department expanded its pine planting program in the South West, for which purpose it purchased considerable tracts of land in the Blackwood Valley, including properties in the vicinity of Nannup and Balingup. Despite objections from local settlers who feared continuation of the program would see the valley taken over by pine plantations, there was a steady increase and consolidation of the program in the late 1950s-1960s, and the rate of planting *Pinus radiata* exceeded 1,250 ha. per annum after 1963.²⁹ Establishment and operation of these extensive pine plantations required an increasing workforce, which resulted in the need for additional accommodation for forestry workers in these districts, including Nannup, where seven houses and an office were erected in 1955-56.³⁰

In the late 1950s, the Department decided to accommodate its employees in towns where facilities were available, and Nannup was made a forest district, necessitating more Departmental accommodation in the town, and land was acquired for this purpose in 1957.³¹ In 1958, three houses were relocated from Willowdale (Nos. 155, 298 and 300), and another house (No. 650) was relocated from Willow Springs in 1959.³² Relocation of timber buildings was a long-standing practice in Government departments such as the Railways and Forests Departments and in the private timber industry.

In 1957, Erik Slyn offered to sell Nelson Location 750 (which is not included in this heritage assessment) at £4 per acre to the Forests Department for pine planting, to enable improvements to his remaining property. In March 1958, he offered to sell the balance of his property, including portion of Nelson Location 694, with all improvements at £13 per acre. The improvements included 'a large weatherboard house' and two sheds, which he stated were in 'excellent condition', and he wanted to retain grazing rights on the property to 15 March 1960.³³ In December, after some months of negotiation, he accepted the Department's offer of £2,450 for 415 acres, with 30 acres on the lower sections of both creeks to remain in his ownership, but it was not transferred until 1959.³⁴

In c.1958-59, Erik and Lisa Slyn erected a small tearoom and shop near the entrance to *Lewana* to sell groceries, vegetables and fuel. They established a

28 Annual Reports of the Forests Department, 1950 to 1958, in *Votes and Proceedings* 1951 to 1959; and Heritage and Conservation Professionals 'Thematic History of Forestry Cottages', Prepared for the Department of Housing and Works, on behalf of GEHA and CALM, February 2004, p. 24. Note: For information on the development of the Forests Department, later CALM, and provision of accommodation for its employees refer to this Thematic History, and Assessment Document, Kirup Forestry Cottages (RHP 15927).

29 Frost, A. C., op. cit., p. 109.

30 Forests Department Contract Register, Vol. 2, SROWA WAS 94 Cons. 3506 Item 10, 1955-56.

31 Certificate of Title Vol. 857 Fol. 142.

32 Forests Department Contract Register, Vol. 2, op. cit., Contract 637, Jan. 1958 & Contract 669, July 1959.

33 Correspondence & memos in Land & Tenure Application for Land Nelson ..., op. cit., Oct. 1957-March 1958.

34 Correspondence in *ibid*, April-Dec. 1958.

camping ground nearby with a children's playground and a swimming hole provided with a small jetty and a diving board.³⁵

The Forests Department proposed to close the settlement at Willow Springs and due to the establishment of pine planting in the Balingup district proposed to establish a new settlement on the Balingup Road to accommodate forestry workers engaged in the planting programme and the subsequent fire protection of plantation areas. In February 1959, after Location 750 was found to be unsuitable for establishment of a forestry settlement, Slyns offered to sell the Department more land from his homestead block, and a contour survey of the area was arranged. Most of the land along the valley slopes was too steep for settlement, and after investigation Slyns' gently sloping property was found to be 'most suitable', had a permanent water supply, and as the site was already cleared construction could commence 'without delay'.³⁶ Slyns accepted the offer of £270 for nine acres, and advised the Department it was 'welcome to adopt the name LEWANA, which was the name of the farm you have purchased, and is Aboriginal for wind.'³⁷ In autumn 1960, he wrote to the Conservator of Forests, on writing paper with the letterhead 'Lewana Park Tourist Centre', to inquire whether the Department would be interested in purchasing the house and other buildings on Location 694 except the tearooms and shop at the roadside, but his asking price for the 17 acres was higher than the Department was prepared to pay.³⁸ Subsequently Slyns arranged to sell part of his property to an elderly man and his son, who operated the business for a period before they ceased to operate the shop and camping ground, and a court case ensued relating to the failed sale.³⁹

Meanwhile, in April 1960, the Forests Department proposed construction of an earthen dam above a future forestry settlement at Location 694, 'known by the farmers as Lewana', that was to comprise 10 houses, 'one tea-room grocery store', and a 10,000 gallon water tank on the hill side above the site for the houses.⁴⁰ After the District Engineer inspected the site he advised the proposed site for the dam was unsuitable and recommended construction of a stone masonry-concrete pipe-head dam in the rocky bed of Lewana Creek, which would obviate need for a service tank. The estimated cost for a dam with a wall 8 ft. high and a storage capacity of 300,000 gallons, which was the amount of water necessary to service two 600 gals. fire trucks was £800.⁴¹ The dam was constructed on the creek in 1960, and enlarged in 2006.⁴²

In December 1960, five Type 8 houses were relocated to Lewana Settlement, as the place was to be known, although the name *Lewana* continued in general usage. Alterations and additions made to each house included the addition of a verandah room/sleep-out and a bathroom opening from the rear verandah, a detached w.c. and a detached wash-house was erected for each house. Two of

35 Historical notes, op. cit.

36 Correspondence & memos in Land & Tenure Application for Land Nelson ..., op. cit., Feb.-July 1959.

37 Correspondence in *ibid*, 13 July 1959.

38 Correspondence & memos in *ibid*, March-April 1960.

39 Memo in *ibid*, 8 June 1961; & Historical notes, op. cit.

40 District Engineer, Collie, to Hydraulic Engineer, PWD, in Lewana Forestry Settlement Water Supply – General, SROWA Cons. 1618 Item 1960/0439, 3 May 1960.

41 *ibid*.

42 Ben Slyns, conversation with Robin Chinnery, April 2010.

the houses were transferred from Huntley, Nos. 207 and 215⁴³, indicating they were built in the inter-war period, and the other three, Nos. 678, 679 and 750, transferred from Willow Springs, were of later date.⁴⁴ The first families to occupy the houses at Lewana Settlement were Mr. and Mrs. T. Wood with one child, Mr. and Mrs. H. Pears with two children, Mr. and Mrs. D. Forrest with three, Mr. and Mrs. M. Murphy with five, and Mr. and Mrs. F. Austgen with 10.⁴⁵ Subsequently the Slyns family moved to Perth for a period before returning to Denmark in 1963. Brothers Kim and Ben Slyns later returned to settle in Western Australia.⁴⁶

In June 1961, a Type 2D Office, Building No. 1521, an oil store, No. 1522, and drum ramp and a five bay garage, No. 1523, were erected at Lewana Settlement.⁴⁷ On 8 June 1961, portion of Nelson Location 694, being Lots 1 and 2 of Diagram 26531, was transferred to the Conservator of Forests, and a new Certificate of Title was issued for the portion that remained in the ownership of Erik Slyns.⁴⁸ In 1963, he foreclosed on his mortgage and this portion of Nelson Location 694 was offered for sale at auction on 4 October 1963. The Forests Department made the only bid, at £500, which was well below the reserve price of £1,250, and subsequently offered £700, which was accepted. In late 1963, the Department leased the shop, (allocated building No. 1693) to Mrs. Pears.⁴⁹ and the original house (allocated No. 1692), was renovated before being occupied by a forestry worker and his family.⁵⁰

In November 1963, another house, a UK 7-2 Type, Building No. 1683, which was more modern, was erected at Lewana Settlement to accommodate the Officer in Charge (OIC).⁵¹

On 22 September 1964, the transfer of portion of Nelson Location 694, 21 acres 2 roods 12 perches in area, to the Conservator of Forests was registered.⁵²

In March 1965, a storage shed, Building No. 1798, was erected at Lewana Settlement. In April, a Type B garage, Building No. 1799, was erected to serve House 1683, and Type A garages, Nos. 1800, 1801, 1802, 1803 and 1804 were erected for House Nos. 207, 215, 678, 679 and 750 respectively. In July 1969, a Type B garage was erected to serve House No. 1692.⁵³ All of the garages are extant in 2010.⁵⁴

Through the 1960s, the pine planting programme in the vicinity progressed and the forestry workers continued to be accommodated at Lewana Settlement.

43 Insurance Schedule in Accommodation & Services Dept. Offices Lewana Settlement HQ, Vol. 2, SROWA Cons. 5945 Item 006286F 1802 (1968-76), 1976.

44 *ibid.*

45 Historical notes, *op. cit.*

46 Ben & Kim Slyns *op. cit.*

47 Historical notes, *op. cit.*

48 Certificates of Title Vol. 1249 Fols. 15 & 16 respectively.

49 Memos etc. in Land & Tenure Application for Land Nelson ..., *op. cit.*, Sept.-Dec. 1963.

50 Estimates & memos in *ibid.*, 1964; & Insurance Schedule, *op. cit.*

51 Insurance Schedule, *op. cit.*

52 Certificate of Title Vol. 1288 Fol. 870.

53 *ibid.*

54 Site visit, Robin Chinnery & Lynne Farrow, April 2010.

Between 1965 and 1968, the number of children fell from 13 to six, and concerns were expressed about continuation of the school bus service to Nannup.⁵⁵

In 1968-69, the Annual Report for the Forests Departments reported plantings of exotic conifers at Collie, Manjimup and Nannup, to test alternative species on sites considered marginal for *Pinus radiata*.⁵⁶ In 1969-70, an arboretum was established at Lewana Settlement, with plantings of a number of exotic species including three varieties of poplar (*Populus deltoides*, *P. Alba* and *P. yunnanensis*), European Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Spanish Chestnut, Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*), Tamarisk (*Tamarix aphylla*), and Cedar (*Cedrus*).⁵⁷ The Annual Report did not mention it, and no specific file relating to it has been located. A later undated plan of *Lewana* shows most of these species in the arboretum but omits the cedars and the tamarisks, some of which appear to survive in the early 2000s, and includes an oak (*Quercus robur*). There are two equally mature Cluster pines (*Pinus pinaster*) at the entrance to the property from Balingup-Nannup Road, but the plan shows only one and is further evidence that it is not totally accurate.⁵⁸ It has not been possible to date to ascertain if the hundreds of exotic and indigenous tree plantings of more than 50 varieties that are a significant feature in the area of the houses were planted in c. 1969-70, or in the late 1970s. They include London Planes (*Platanus acerifolia*), Brush Boxes (*Lophostemon confertus*), Chinese Poplars and an avenue of Lombardy Poplars (*P. nigra* var. *Italica*).⁵⁹ Some trees border the roadways and tracks, some are planted near the houses and other buildings, some are planted in groups of the same species and others in groups of diverse species, and some are individually planted.⁶⁰ According to Richards typological approach to designed landscapes *Lewana* is classified as an institutional landscape type and the arboretum as a scientific type. The combination of the formal and informal plantings is classified as a mixed style, and the arboreta as a plant collection.⁶¹

In July 1971, Assistant Forester Ashcroft was to transfer from Lewana and it was proposed to transfer the UK 7-2 Type house (No. 1683) he was occupying to Donnybrook when he vacated it, but the house was not relocated at this period.⁶²

In the early 1970s, the Forests Department was establishing the Bibbulmun Track and there were to be plantings of indigenous and exotic species of trees to create interest and enhance views. In 1973, a landscape plan of the Blackwood Valley shows Lewana Settlement to be retained, viewing points overlooking the valley, and plantings of indigenous and exotic species to be planted on road verges including Muricata Road.⁶³

In the 1970s, consideration was given to the future of Lewana Settlement as it was obvious that with the works programme being reduced with the completion of

55 Memo. in Accommodation & Services Dept. Offices Lewana ..., op. cit., 25 Oct. 1968.

56 Annual Report, Forests Department, 1968-69, in *Votes and Proceedings*, 1969-70, Vol. 2, p. 23.

57 Plan of Lewana, no details, held by Ben Slynis; & site visit, Robin Chinnery & Lynne Farrow, April 2010.

58 ibid.

59 ibid.

60 ibid.

61 Richards, O. *Theoretical Framework for Designed Landscapes in WA*, April 1997, amended June 2003, pp. 81-84 & pp. 99-102.

62 Memos. in Accommodation & Services Dept. Offices Lewana ..., op. cit., 26 July 1971.

63 Blackwood Valley Landscape Plan, SROWA Cons. 6928 Item FD1420/09, amended Nov. 1973.

pine planting the settlement would be closed at some future date. With only two employees (Overseer J. Howe-Smith and Forestry Worker N. Allen) resident at the settlement and the other two workers living externally there was discontent and after hours fire control security in the area was 'markedly reduced.'⁶⁴ Operating an outstation was not cheap and if the settlement was to be maintained a full program of viable fire control had to be organised. The alternatives were to 'build up the settlement to an acceptable residential force', which would be costly under the current work load, or to close the settlement completely, and transfer all employees within the Kirup Division or to transfer N. Allen to Nannup.⁶⁵ It was recommended that if it was closed the UK 7-2 House be transferred into Nannup and the possible removal of the other houses from Lewana Settlement to other Divisions be investigated or they be offered for sale⁶⁶, as per the general practice when buildings were no longer required at a settlement.

In January 1976, it was decided Lewana Settlement would be closed at the end of the fire season. The place was to be leased to the Community Recreation Council, and the Estimates for 1976-77 included transfer of House No. 1683 (the UK 7-2 Type house) from Lewana Settlement to Nannup. On 19 August, when Overseer Smith and Forestry Worker N. Allen moved to Grimwade the settlement was closed. It was decided the eastern boundary of the area leased to Community Recreation Council would be the creek as it would be desirable for the occupiers of the settlement to be able to gain access to it without the impediment of a fence. It was specified that House 1683 was to remain the property of the Forests Department and could be removed at a later date. The Department also retained ownership of the petrol bowser and underground tank near building No. 1523 and reserved the right to use the western third of No. 1523 as a storage shed for incidental forestry equipment.⁶⁷ The Shire of Donnybrook-Balingup wrote to the Conservator of Forests to express 'dismay' at the closure of Lewana Settlement, particularly as the nearest fire protection units were now located at Nannup, and asked him to reconsider the decision to close the settlement, but to no avail.⁶⁸

In the 1970s, the Department of Community Recreation, which had operated camps at Bickley and at Point Peron for some years, expanded to the South West. In 1973-74, two forestry settlements were leased to provide low cost family holiday homes and alternative camps for youth and sporting organisations, but Pimelea, near Pemberton, did not proceed after the Forests Department decided it required the caretaker's house for its own use, leaving only three houses available, which was not economically viable. At Wellington Mills, near Collie, the forestry houses were upgraded by the Public Works Department (PWD) before being opened to public use in 1974-75. This recreation camp was hailed as 'an exciting development that will bring pleasure to many thousands of Western Australians in the coming years' and the Community Recreation Council hoped to provide 'similar camps' elsewhere.⁶⁹ In 1975-76, it leased a forestry settlement

64 Divisional Forest Officer to Conservator of Forests in *ibid*, 20 Nov. 1975.

65 *ibid*.

66 *ibid*.

67 Correspondence & memos in *Accommodation & Services...*, *op. cit.*, 29 Jan. & 19 August 1976.

68 Correspondence in *Accommodation & Services...*, *op. cit.*, 25 August 1976.

69 Annual Report, Community Recreation Council, 1973-74 & 1974-75.

at Myalup, near Harvey, and the proximity of this camp to the beach proved popular.⁷⁰ Dryandra, near Narrogin, was leased to Lions International.⁷¹

On 10 October 1976, Community Recreation Council took over occupancy of Lewana Settlement, which was considered to be 'undoubtedly in the most attractive setting of all camps'.⁷² Camp wardens were responsible for everyday maintenance and operation of the respective camp, and Gordon Yardley was appointed as the first permanent warden at Lewana Park, as the camp was to be known, and he took up residence there on 29 December. After the PWD carried out repairs and renovations, the cottages were furnished and equipped, and Lewana Park was opened to the public in mid-1977. The place continued to be generally referred to as *Lewana*. It was in regular use that year, and proved to be 'the most popular of the Council's holiday camps', which was attributed to its attractive location.⁷³ On 16 December 1977, in accord with the lease, it was closed due to the fire risk in summer and early autumn, and re-opened on 1 May 1978.⁷⁴ In 1977-78, tanks were installed at each house for rain water storage and a large tank was added to improve water supply to the camp.⁷⁵

An un-dated plan of Lewana Park following removal of House No. 1683 shows the shop as the Recreation Hall, the original homestead as the Warden's cottage, with the shed and the tennis and volleyball court nearby. The two cottages overlooking the dam are noted as having 10 beds each and the group of three cottages as having eight beds each. The workshop and woodshed are shown and also two water supply tanks some distance away. Extensive tree plantings are shown but no details were recorded on this plan.⁷⁶

In 1983, the Slow Learning Children's Group successfully applied for a grant from WAPSEC (Western Australian Post Secondary Education Commission) to assist with the cost of a camp at Lewana Park. It was held from 13 to 18 September for 32 intellectually disabled adults, who were trainees at three metropolitan training centres and one country centre, and was a noted success.⁷⁷

In 1984-85, the Department of Sport and Recreation continued the operations of its forerunners, the Community Recreation Council and National Fitness Council, including the 12 camps. Eight provided dormitory style accommodation and four (Lewana Park, Wellington Mills, Myalup and Tone River, via Manjimup), were former forestry settlements with cottage accommodation. The aims of the latter were 'to provide an alternative experience and mix to the dormitory recreation camp concept,' to promote 'the actual use and appreciation of natural resource areas', and to provide 'reasonably priced accommodation for groups and family holidays'.⁷⁸

70 *ibid*, 1975-76 and 1976-77.

71 Annual Report, Forests Department, 1976-77, in *Votes and Proceedings*, 1977, Vol. 2, p. 15.

72 Annual Report, Community Recreation Council, 1975-76.

73 *ibid*, 1976-77 & 1977-78.

74 *ibid*, 1977-78.

75 *ibid*.

76 Plan, n.d., held by B. & M. Slyns.

77 Correspondence in Slow Learning Children's Group – Lewana Park, Nannup, SROWA Cons. 3379 Item 156, 1982-83.

78 Annual Reports, Western Australian Department of Sport and Recreation, 1984-85 & 1985-86.

In 1986-87, a Functional Review Committee recommended 'significant changes to overall management' of the camps in order 'to operate them on a self-funding basis and to integrate them with sport and recreation programmes conducted by the Department and the community. Subsequently the Department adopted 'an entrepreneurial approach', believing the camps offered 'a greater potential than just accommodation', and uses were widened, especially at the six camps in the metropolitan area, and the camps at York and Albany.⁷⁹ In the late 1980s, the number of people using the camps under the Department and its successor, the Ministry of Sport and Recreation increased. In 1988, the Department of Conservation and Land Management (CALM) granted permission for extension of the season for the 'five cottage camp' at Lewana Park from eight months to 12 months, and there was a significant increase in usage in 1989-90.⁸⁰

In mid-2001, 'Lewana Cottages', Lots 1 and 2, portion of Nelson Location 694, 29.83 ha. in area, and a second portion of Nelson Location 694, 8.73 ha. in area, was advertised for sale by tender.⁸¹ It was encumbered with a Deed of Grant of Profit A Prendré for a four year term, yielding \$1,560.00 per annum, and a right of way over Spruce and Muricata Roads where they passed through the property. The land was zoned 'General Farming' and an amendment to rezone the settlement area to 'Special Use' had been initiated but was yet to be finalised. A feature of the property was 'the tapestry of colour provided by over 50 varieties of native and introduced tree species', some of which were shown in photographs in the sale brochure.⁸² The main buildings comprised a caretaker's/manager's residence, five cottages of 'a basic rectangular design', and a sixth cottage with 'basic living/kitchen, bedroom, bathroom, toilet accommodation' that had been refurbished 'approximately five years ago'.⁸³ Outbuildings reportedly included an old barn, a garage and machinery shed, and water was 'supplied from a reservoir with on site storage, filtration and chlorination'.⁸⁴ In August, when the place was advertised for sale at \$495,000, it was described as a 'unique freehold/tourism development opportunity, comprising 'seven timber cottages situated on a picturesque 38.56 ha property ideally located adjacent to the Blackwood River on the Nannup-Balingup tourist drive'.⁸⁵

In 2002, Ben Albert Slyns (younger son of Erik Slyns), who had worked for the Forests Department for a number of years, and his wife, Melody Louise Slyns, purchased *Lewana*, which was registered in their names on 30 May. They took up residence in the homestead house and have continued to operate the place as holiday accommodation, under the name of Lewana Cottages. They are progressively renovating the houses, including installing a toilet in the bathroom of each cottage, and enclosing the rear verandah of some cottages, to meet visitors' standards in the early 2000s. Kangaroos and some farm animals are an added attraction, especially appreciated by families with young children. In c.2004, a metal construction shed was erected to accommodate a cheese factory

79 ibid, 1986-87 & 1987-88.

80 ibid, 1987-88 & 1989-90.

81 Certificates of Title Vol. 1249 Fol. 15 & Vol. 1288 Fol. 870 respectively.

82 Dempsey Real Estate, Sale brochure for Lewana Cottages, 2001. (Copy held by Ben & Melody Slyns).

83 ibid.

84 ibid.

85 *West Australian* 18 August 2001, Real Estate, p. 63.

operation and outlet for their son's business, Heritage County Cheese.⁸⁶ In 2012, the place continues to be used as holiday accommodation.

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

Lewana comprises a homestead house and barn (1931), five forestry cottages (relocated in 1960), a cabin (originally an office, 1960), a workshop (1961), seven single garages (1965, 1969), all constructed of jarrah weatherboard with corrugated iron roofs in the vernacular style, and the concrete floor slab remains of a shop (c.1958), all set on about 39 ha land, and surrounded by over 50 different varieties of trees planted in the vicinity of the homestead and cottages and in an arboretum (1969-70) and pine plantation. A steel shed constructed in c.2004 on the site of the former tennis court (c.1977) contains a small cheese factory and retail outlet.

Lewana is located in the picturesque Blackwood Valley, whose steep flanks are covered with a mix of cleared pasture, introduced pine plantations and indigenous forest, 16 km south-west of Balingup and 27 km north-east of Nannup, at 1435 Balingup-Nannup Road, which runs along the south bank of the Blackwood River.

The site is about 39 hectares in size and is roughly square, apart from a small portion in the northeast corner at Balingup-Nannup Road. The site rises from the river, with a moderately steep slope which becomes steeper at the south side of the property. It is comprised of three irregularly shaped lots. The largest of these is Lot 1, of 27 hectares, which runs across the north, west and south portions of the site. The homestead house, cheese factory and barn are located on Lot 200, which has a frontage of about 250 metres onto the Balingup-Nannup Road, and is an irregular wedge shaped piece of land which runs in a south-westerly direction across the middle of the site. This lot is divided into two portions of 7.3 and 1.7 hectares by a battleaxe driveway to the adjacent Lot 2. The cottages and cabin are located on Lot 2, which has an irregular wedge shape of approximately 3 hectares located to the southeast of Lot 200, with a battleaxe driveway about 80 metres long through Lot 200 to the Balingup-Nannup Road. An irregular shaped easement of about 7 hectares is located on the southwest corner of the site.

There are a number of named tracks on the site. The main one is Spruce Road, which rises from the Balingup-Nannup Road through the battleaxe handle of Lot 2 in a south easterly direction, and continues through the property.

The concrete pad of the former shop is located at the entrance to the property on the west side of Spruce Road. The original homestead house is approximately 30 metres southwest of the shop, and has a single garage beside it. The cheese factory is located about 25 metres southwest of the homestead house and the cabin is about 30 metres past the cheese factory, all accessed off the north side of Spruce Road. The barn is located 30 metres to the northwest of the cabin. Three cottages (numbers 1-3) are located about 20 metres beyond the cabin on the south side of the Spruce Road.

A track opposite the homestead house leads to a further two cottages (numbers 4 and 5). A further track to the west provides access to the single garages which

⁸⁶ Certificate of Title Vol. 2221 Fol. 979; & Ben & Melody Slyns, conversations with Robin Chinnery, site visit, April 2010.

are located at the rear of each of the cottages, and to the workshop and woodshed located to the south of cottages 1-3.

The property is landscaped with over 50 varieties of mature, mainly exotic, trees many of which were planted in experimental lots (c.1970) as well as throughout the property around the cottages and other buildings. The approach to the property from Balingup-Nannup Road is lined with a variety of species including a Cluster Pine (*Pinus pinaster*), an English Hawthorn (*Crataegus laevigatus*), a Camphor Laurel (*Cinnamomum camphora*), a Tasmanian Blue Gum (*E. globulus*), a Cedar Wattle (*Acacia elata*), a Weeping Willow (*Salix babylonica*) and a Brush Box (*Lophostemon confertus*) providing a glimpse of the wide variety of plantings the property holds. From this entrance visitors head towards the cottages which are surrounded by a spattering of Brush Box (*Lophostemon confertus*), London Plane Trees (*Platanus acerifolia*), Lombardy Poplars (*P. nigra* var. 'Italica'), Sweet Pittosporum (*Pittosporum undulatum*), Pencil Pine (*Cupressus sempervirens*) and Jacarandas (*Jacaranda mimosifolia*) amongst other tree varieties which provides an especially rich backdrop of foliage and colour which changes with the seasons. Around the buildings the plantings are in a widely spaced parkland formation.

A creek runs down the east side of the property sparsely lined in sections with Weeping Willows (*Salix babylonica*), River Red Gum (*E. camaldulensis*) and Sydney Blue Gum (*E. saligna*). A dam has formed in the creek bed about 150 metres above the road. At the east side of the dam, a grove of Sydney (*E. saligna*) and Tasmanian Blue Gums (*E. globulus*) is now interspersed with indigenous trees.

South of the cottages is an avenue of about 50 Lombardy Poplars (*P. nigra* var. 'Italica') and further roads to the south are lined with London Plane Trees (*Platanus acerifolia*) and Lemon Scented Gums (*E. citriodora*) with a number of small collections of Chinese Poplars (*P. yunnanensis*). On the western side of the site, a gravel road leads to the arboretum area, where about eight allotments, each around 20 metres wide, contain plantings of exotic species including Cottonwood (*P. deltoides*), European Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), and Chinese Poplars (*P. yunnanensis*). The hillsides to the south and west of the site are densely covered with a plantation of Monterey Pines (*Pinus radiata*). All these plantings have matured to form an especially picturesque backdrop to the simple and modest forestry cottages.

The homestead house is a symmetrical building with a moderately pitched hipped roof and wrap around mono pitched verandah, which has been partially enclosed on its northeast façade and totally enclosed on the southwest façade. The front (southeast) façade has a central front door with flanking double hung timber sash windows. All the trims have been painted white to contrast with the stained jarrah boards. Internally the layout comprises a central hallway, with a bedroom on either side and a living room at the end. The hallway turns southwest to the kitchen, which is located on the west corner of the building. The kitchen leads through to the enclosed southwest verandah, which contains the bathroom and laundry. The northeast verandah has been partially enclosed to form an office, which is accessed externally. Internal spaces are of moderate to generous size, and ceilings are high. The hallway is 1.6 metres wide, the living room is 4.3 metres by 5.7, and has a corner fireplace in its west corner, back to back with the

kitchen fireplace. The main bedroom on the east corner is 3.8 x 4.3 metres. The floors are jarrah boards and walls are sheeted with plasterboard. Skirtings and architraves are splayed timber.

The five former forestry cottages are all similar, with gable roofs of moderate pitch and a front verandah roofed in the same plane. The front door is central and is flanked by double casement windows with either 8 or 3 light panes. The verandahs are about a metre off the ground with the rear of the cottages being at ground level. Internally, the layout is very simple, with the front door opening into a small (4.2 x 3.6 metre) living room, which leads through to a kitchen of the same size. There are two bedrooms, each 3.6 x 3.6 metres, which open off the living room and kitchen respectively. The kitchen leads through to the back verandah, which in some of the cottages is enclosed, and is 2.7 metres deep, with a third bedroom and bathroom at either side. Floors are jarrah boards and walls are plasterboard with pine wainscoting to sill height. A separate timber toilet and washhouse are located to the side of the rear verandah.

The cabin has an asymmetrical frontage and a shallow pitched gable roof. The front door is on the far right of the façade, and has a small entrance porch with a mono pitch roof over. There are two aluminium windows with timber architraves to the left. Internally there are two main rooms, a kitchen/dining area of 4.8 x 4.8 metres and a bedroom of 4.8 x 3.6 metres. There is a small bathroom accessed off the rear of the kitchen, possibly formerly the rear porch.

The barn is about 6.5 metres deep x 10 metres long and has a gabled roof with an irregularly shaped skillion along its front façade. The roof pitches off a height of 3.6 metres. Internally, a vehicle service pit has been created in the centre of the main space.

The place is in good condition and has generally been well maintained as tourist accommodation by the current owners. The grounds and cottages are attractive and well maintained albeit with areas of intrusive invasions of some problematic and noxious weeds such as Blackberries. While the homestead house is in fair condition, and is well protected by the wrap around verandah, there are a number of general maintenance items that require attention including the stumps and roof sheeting. The barn is in fair to poor condition. The roof sheeting is rusting, and a number of other elements are missing or require attention. Some of these works were being undertaken during a site visit by State Heritage Office staff in June 2011.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

Forestry Cottages

The 'Thematic History of Forestry Cottages' prepared by Heritage and Conservation Professionals for the Department of Housing and Works on behalf of GEHA and CALM in 2004, provided an overview of the Forests Department, subsequently CALM, the development of forestry cottages, and criteria for assessing comparative significance. In 2005, 'Forestry Cottages Comparative Assessments', prepared for the same client, employed these criteria in assessing forestry cottages remaining in State ownership at that date, but the brief did not include those that had been transferred into private ownership. Consequently it did not include former forestry housing in towns such as Nannup or groups of cottages at former forestry settlements such as *Lewana Park*, Dryandra (near

Narrogin), Pimelia (near Pemberton) and Ludlow (near Busselton), which was Entered on the Register as *Ludlow Forestry Mill and Settlement* (RHP 15834) in 2006. The latter comprises 11 forestry cottages, outbuildings, and a former sawmill and workshops site in a fenced compound and various other structures in a forest setting of pines and tuarts, and was developed from the 1920s, in association with the pine plantation established from the 1910s.⁸⁷

Dryandra Woodland Settlement comprises a number of forestry buildings and structures, including a hall, forestry cottages, most of which are Types 8 and 6, a group of sheds and outbuildings, and a dam, erected from 1936 to the 1950s, on a 26 ha site. Dryandra also includes a 6ha arboretum, which was established in 1958 and contains a variety of Australian native species.⁸⁸ Pimelia comprises five cottages, a former hall, an office, and outbuildings. To date there is insufficient information available to assess whether the extant cottages, office and outbuildings at Pimelia and *Lewana* are directly comparable. *Lewana* did not have a hall. These four places characterise the development of a forestry settlement in proximity to the forest in contrast with groups or precincts of forestry cottages in towns such as Collie, Pemberton and Nannup. Most former forestry settlements have been considerably depleted. In contrast, *Lewana*, from which only one forestry house has been removed, retains five Type 8 forestry houses that were relocated from Willow Springs and Huntley in 1960, its Type 2D office and Type A and B garages, is an unusually intact former forestry settlement group.

'Forestry Cottages Comparative Assessments' recommended only one group of forestry cottages for consideration for entry in the Register of Heritage Places (RHP), namely a group of eight cottages at Pemberton. At Jarrahdale Townsite, the 14 cottages assessed were considered of Considerable Significance as a group, and were assessed for RHP as part of the larger area of Jarrahdale, which has not been finalised to date (2010). At Collie, 10 of the 12 cottages assessed were considered representative examples of Types 5, 8, and 8D forestry cottages, while a Workers Home Board Type 6 and a DFO Type 2 were moderately rare in this study. Five of the houses at Collie were later demolished. At Harvey, 12 cottages were assessed, most of which were representative examples of Types 5, 6, 8, and 8D, while two were moderately rare, a DFO Type 2 and a 78A. At Manjimup, 10 cottages assessed at various sites were not considered significant as a group, but from external inspection three were identified as relatively intact representative examples of a Type 5, Type 8 and Type 8D. Such examples are uncommon as many forestry cottages were extended from two to three or four bedrooms, and laundry and toilet facilities were brought under the main roof, and aluminium windows with fly-screens often replaced earlier windows when the Department up-graded accommodation to meet changing expectations in the 1970s-80s. In recent years toilet facilities at *Lewana* have been brought under the main roof to meet the standards expected by visitors in the early 2000s.

Smaller numbers of cottages were assessed at various other towns including Margaret River (7), Walpole (5), Northcliffe (4), and Narrogin (3). At Yanchep,

⁸⁷ *Ludlow Forestry Mill and Settlement* (RHP 15834) Assessment Document.

⁸⁸ 'Dryandra Woodland Settlement Conservation Plan' prepared by Kelly Aris, Erickson & Taylor, & Gaye Nayton for Department of Conservation and Management Services, 1998.

nine cottages were assessed, including three located in the National Park, all of which were relocated to Yanchep in the 1970s-1980s.

At Nannup, 16 cottages were assessed in the Comparative Assessments, including seven Dunnet Road Precinct at street nos. 13, 22, 25, 27, 29, 31, 35 and 44, which were considered a relatively intact group, of some local significance as a group, with the recommendation that they be conserved and possibly included in the Municipal Heritage Inventory for the Shire of Nannup.⁸⁹ In *Dunnet Road Precinct*, 11 of the 13 houses assessed are relocated forestry cottages (Types 6C, 8, 8D, 8D(H), all modified to some degree, two are asbestos and tile houses, one of which became a Forests Department house in 1981. Another two houses (street nos. 18 and 37) that were not included in the assessment have been forestry houses also. Between 1955-56 and 1985, more forestry housing was established in this precinct than in any other area of Nannup, where the Forests Department became the largest government employer. It appears to be a more extensive precinct than any assessed to date, and the only one where singlemen's quarters (street no. 13, the so-called Pilot's House) were established near married quarters, and the only place where a standard design forestry house was extended to serve this purpose.

Arboretums associated with forestry settlements

There are a number of arboretums in Western Australia, including Golden Valley Tree Park in Balingup, part of P0707 *Golden Valley*, which is on the State Register. Big Brook Arboretum in Pemberton (1929) 316ha and Helms Arboretum in Esperance (1965) 66ha, were both planted for research purposes by the agency responsible for forests at the time. One other forestry settlement that includes an arboretum is P03856 *Dryandra Woodland Settlement*, which was established in 1958 and comprises 6ha of Australian native species. In addition P23455 Trees at DEC Arboretum and P13948 Tom Muir's Arboretum are included in the HCWA database:

- P13948 Tom Muir's Arboretum is located adjacent to the Strathalbyn Christian College in the Mid West, and comprises approximately 2 hectares of land planted with a wide variety of Australian native trees and vegetation.
- Limited information is available for P23455 Trees at DEC Arboretum situated in Manjimup but this site may be comparable to the plantings at *Lewana*.

A search of the HCWA database for places with Lombardy poplars reveals only one place with this species of tree planting, P04469 Fonty's Pool.

The arboretum at *Lewana* is not directly comparable with the arboretum at P00707 *Golden Valley*, which was originally developed under private ownership, or the arboreta at *Hamel Nursery* (RHP 3084), which was developed as the State Nursery from 1897.

⁸⁹ Pemberton and Nannup Heritage Assessments in Heritage and Conservation Professionals 'Forestry Cottages Comparative Assessments' Prepared for the Department of Housing and Works On behalf of GEHA and CALM, October 2005.

Conclusion

Lewana is one of four former forestry settlements converted to a recreation camp in the 1970s before being sold into private ownership, an unusually intact former forestry settlement, and so far as is known is one of only two such places with an arboretum. While *Lewana* has extensive plantings of more than 50 varieties of exotic and indigenous trees, plantings at Dryandra only comprise Australian native species.

13.4 KEY REFERENCES

No key references.

13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH

Further research, including an oral history program, could be undertaken to examine the social aspects of the place in terms of the life of the forestry workers who were accommodated there, its use as a recreational facility and its more recent use as holiday accommodation.

Further research may reveal information about the early history of *Lewana* before it was purchased by the Forests Department.

Additional information about arboretums and other similar experimental tree planting projects may be ascertained through further research with the potential for comparable arboretums to be located.