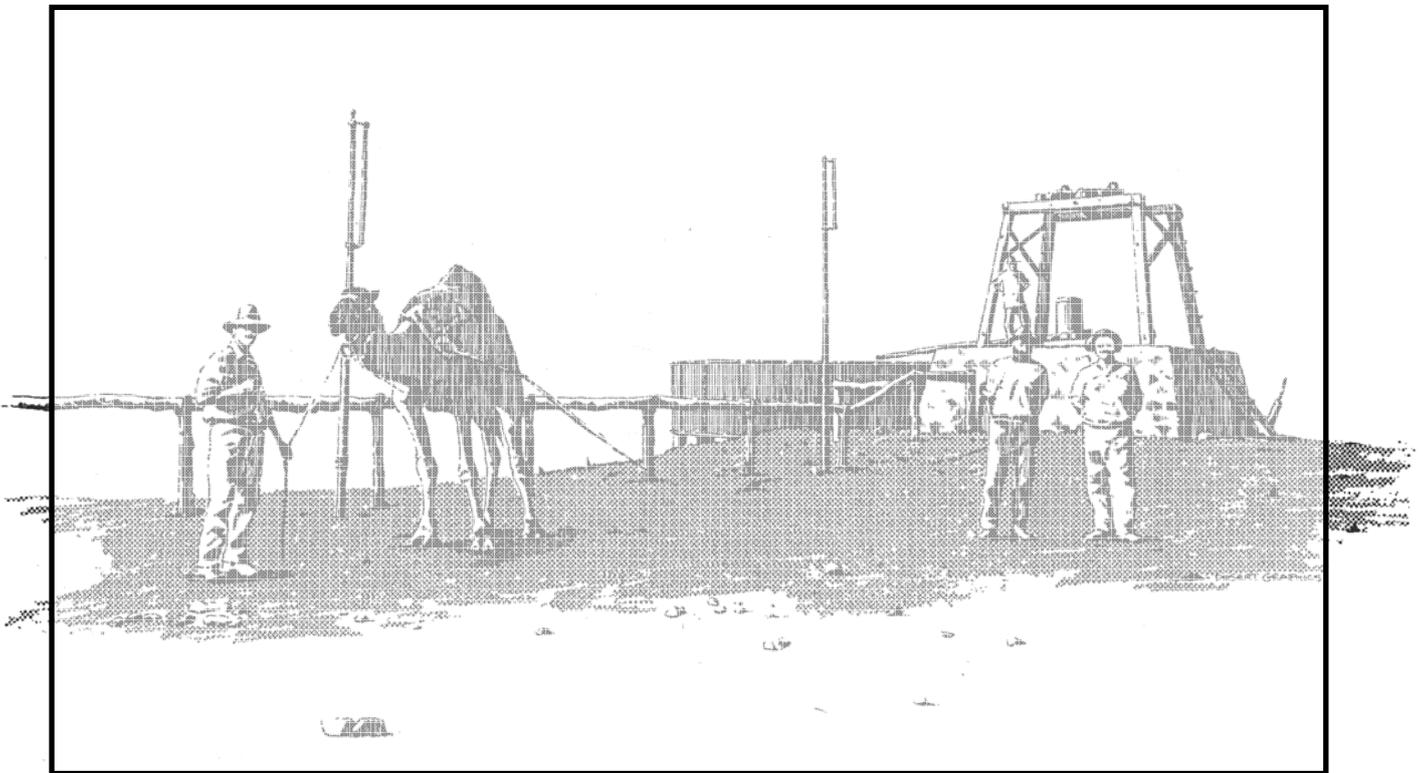


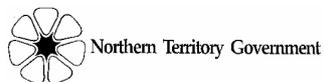
RYAN WELL HISTORICAL RESERVE

PLAN OF MANAGEMENT

January 1999



PARKS AND WILDLIFE COMMISSION OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY



Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory
P.O. Box 1046
Alice Springs NT 0871

Ryan Well Historical Reserve
Plan of Management

January 1999

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Foreword

Ryan Well Historical Reserve serves as a rest area of considerable historical interest for travellers using the Stuart highway north of Alice Springs. The Reserve contains the remains of two important historic sites, a water well constructed in the 1890s and associated with the early settlement of central Australia and the remains of Glen Maggie Homestead erected early this century.

The South Australian Government named the well after Ned Ryan, who with the aid of his nephew, Jeremiah Ryan and his well sinking team known as “Ryan’s Camel Party”, completed Ryan Well in 1889. Samuel Nicker and his family established Glen Maggie as a sheep and cattle station in 1914. The station homestead was named after Margaret, the daughter of Samuel and Elizabeth Nicker.

The Reserve today allows visitors to appreciate the history associated with the site and of some of the hardships endured by early pioneers who used Ryan Well as a watering point.

The Plan sets guidelines for the future management of the Reserve in order to conserve its resources while providing opportunities for visitors to appreciate the historic values of the area.

Major management directions for the Reserve are:

- Continued conservation of the Reserves historical resources.
- Restoration / reconstruction of Ryan Well as recommended in the Conservation Plan.
- Further development of interpretation signage at the Reserve.
- Rehabilitation and prevention of soil erosion.
- Manage appropriate visitor activities to ensure the historic sites at the Reserve are not adversely affected.

STATEMENT OF HERITAGE VALUE RYAN WELL HISTORICAL RESERVE

Ryan Well Historical Reserve is of historic significance and illustrates a significant part of the development of the Northern Territory, particularly the watering systems associated with the movement of stock along the Overland Telegraph Line. Glen Maggie Homestead ruins, within the Reserve, is associated with the Nicker family and the Central Australian personality “Cloudy” Beale. It also provides evidence of the ways of life of pastoral settlers during the early part of the Twentieth Century.

Ryan Well Historical Reserve contains a well, the storage tank stand and the ruins of Glen Maggie Homestead and serves as an example of the use of local materials. The whole well system shows how stock were watered in those early days.

Acknowledgments

This Plan of Management has been prepared by Syd Milgate, Planning Officer with the Strategic Planning & Development Unit of the Parks and Wildlife Commission’s Southern Regional Office in Alice Springs.

Special acknowledgments for assistance in preparation of the Plan are due to the Ryan Well Historical Reserve Planning Team:

Andrew Bridges (Chair)	Regional Parks Manager, (Parks South), PWCNT
Chris Day	Chief District Ranger, Central/East, (Parks South), PWCNT
Paul McCluskey	Planning Officer, Strategic Planning and Development, PWCNT
Marcus Sandford	Senior Interpretation Officer, (Parks South), PWCNT
Phil Asmussen	Technical Liaison Officer, (Parks South), PWCNT
Dave Heard	Ranger in Charge ASTS, (Parks South), PWCNT

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1. INTRODUCTION TO THE PLAN

1.1 Location, Tenure History and Values

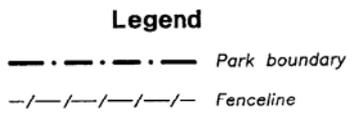
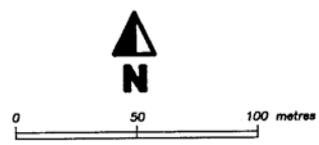
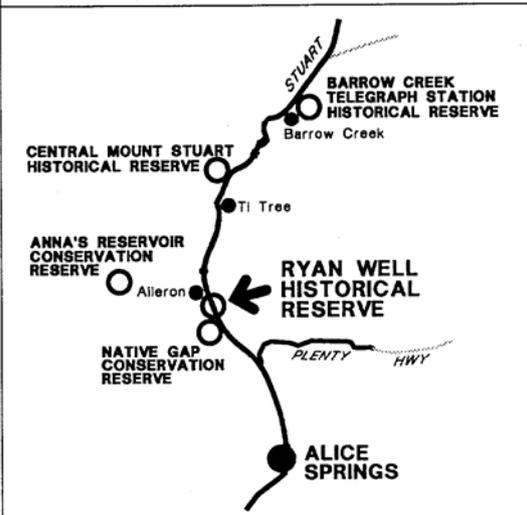
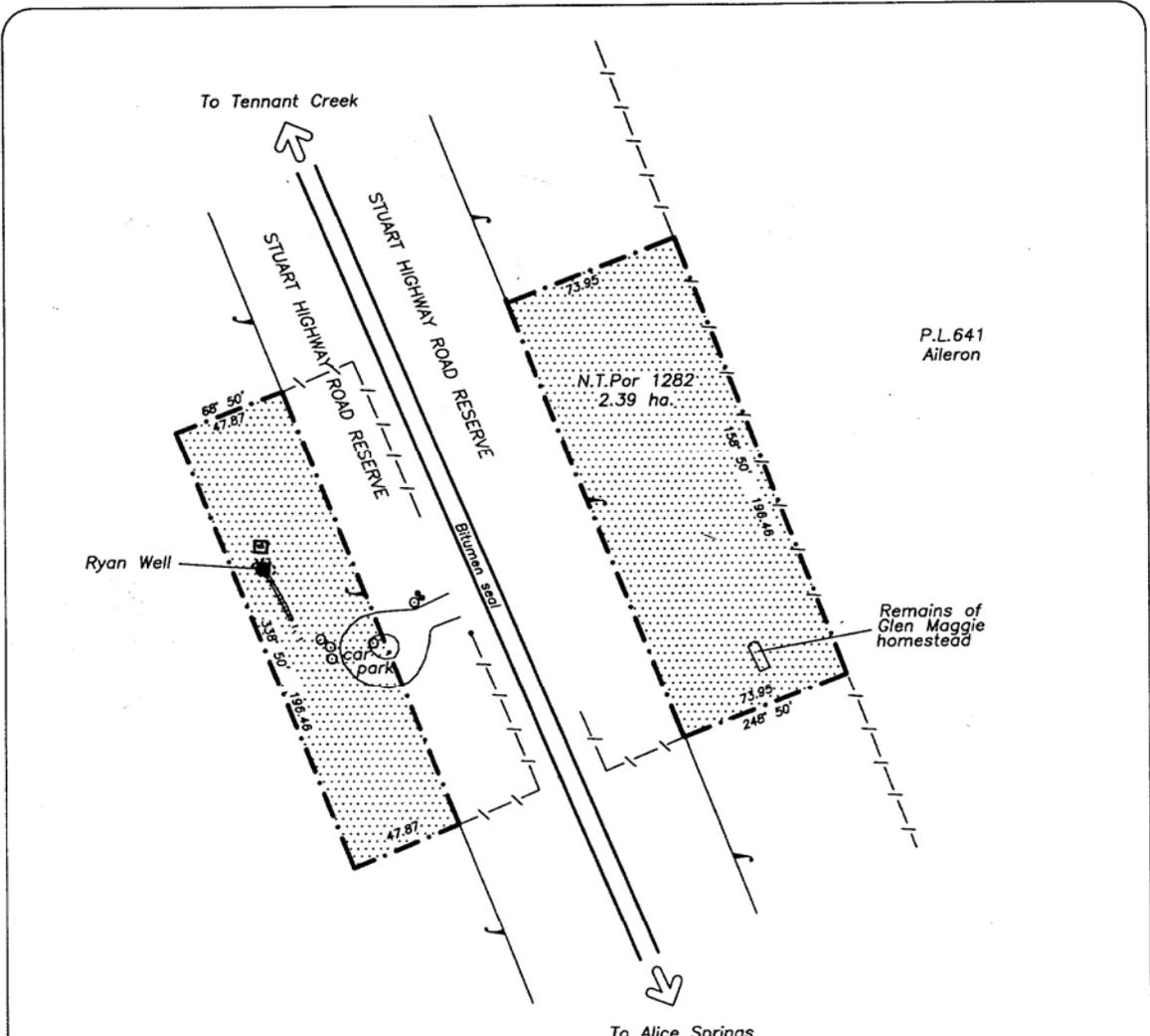
Ryan Well Historical Reserve is located astride the Stuart Highway approximately 129 kilometres north of Alice Springs. The Reserve (NT Portion 1282) covers an area of 2.39 hectares and positioned each side of the road reserve for the Stuart Highway (see Figure 1.)

The tenure history for the Reserve area provided by the Department of Lands Planning and Environment with additional information from the National Trust (NT).

Table 1. Tenure History

SPL - Special Purpose Lease, PL - Pastoral Lease, GL - Grazing Lease, ML - Miscellaneous Lease and PPL- Perpetual Pastoral Lease.	
Historic Tenure	
01/10/1881 -	PL 197 pursuant to Pastoral Application 3645/81
01/01/1900 - 13/11/1901	PL 2101 in Vol 23 Folio 8. Determined 13/11/1901
28/8/1911	PPL 319 granted to Samuel Foreman Nicker. This was located east of Ryan Well
01/01/1919 - 31/12/1939	ML 15 in Vol 32 Folio 57. It is assumed that this title lapsed after its 21 year term and became part of GL 944.
11/08/1933 -	North-South Stock Route declared CG 48 17/08/1933
1940 - 1947	GL 944 issued in this area
01/07/1948 - 16/10/1961	PL 467 in Vol 13 Folio 100. Determined 16/10/1961. The title diagram suggests a strip 2 mile wide was excluded from the lease to accommodate the North-South Stock Route, the Overland Telegraph Line and the Stuart Highway. (The 1933 gazettal of the Stock Route determined the width to be 1 mile). The subject land would have been regarded as an exclusion from PL 467.
01/07/1961 - 12/11/1993	PL 641 in Vol 45 Folio 45 (NT Portion 703). Excluded the North -South Stock Route, and the subject land. Became PPL 1097.
20/05/1970 -	NT Portion 1282 first surveyed on survey plan B537. The western section containing Ryan Well lay within the North-South Stock Route while the eastern section containing Glen Maggie encroached into PL 641 (Aileron).
06/10/1971 -	Reserve No 1343 proclaimed over NT Portion 1282 as a place of historic interest - NTG No 40 06/10/1971.
03/05/1974 -	The eastern section of NT Portion 1282 was surrendered from PL 641 vide instrument No 47593.

- 30/06/1978 - Reserve No 1343 (Ryan Well Historical Reserve) was declared a reserve under Section 12 of the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Act* - NTG No 26A 30/06/1978.
- 10/09/1979 - Renamed Ryan Well Historical Reserve - NTG No G38 21/09/1979.
- 06/06/1985 - Reservation from Occupation (RO 1117) declared over NT Portion 1282 under section 178(1) of the *Mining Act*. NTG No S25 06/06/1985.
- 06/01/1992 - Addition of North South Stock Route and NT Portion 1280 to PL641 vide instrument No 258019. Reserve No 1343 (NT Portion 1282) remained an exclusion from PL 641.



1.2 The Concept of the Reserve and its Purposes

The main purpose of the Reserve is to protect the historic resources within the Reserve, namely Ryan Well on the western side of the Stuart Highway and Glen Maggie Homestead on the eastern side.

Management of the Reserve will aim at the retention of its historic character and the protection of its historical and recreational values. Consequently, all future developments at the Reserve will be designed to facilitate visitor enjoyment without impairing these intrinsic values.

The principal purposes of the Reserve are to;

- conserve and in the long term restore or reconstruct Ryan Well as set out in the Conservation Plan,
- conserve Glen Maggie Homestead as set out in the Conservation Plan,
- protect the area's native plant and animal communities,
- provide a rest stop along the Stuart Highway enabling travellers the opportunity to appreciate and understand the Reserve's historic and natural values.

1.3 The Intent of this Plan

The aim of this Plan is to ensure protection of these values whilst providing opportunities for people to enjoy the Reserve.

The Plan states the intent of the Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory (PWCNT) with respect to the management and conservation of Ryan Well Historical Reserve. The Plan provides management objectives, addresses current management issues and proposes appropriate measures to guide future management and development on the Reserve. Management of Ryan Well and Glen Maggie Homestead will be based on the Conservation Plan prepared for the PWCNT in 1994.

This Plan has been prepared in pursuance of sections 18 and 19 of the *Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act* and will fulfill the function of a Plan of Management.

The PWCNT is obliged under section 21 of the *Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act* to manage the Reserve in accordance with this Plan once it has come into operation.

Due to its historic significance, the Reserve was declared an Heritage Place and entered into the NT Heritage Register on 30 January 1995. This Plan of Management and the Conservation Plan will be submitted for approval under section 33 of the *Heritage Conservation Act*.

The Plan will be in force for a minimum of five years and a maximum of ten years, unless revoked by a new plan, or amended in accordance with section 20 of the *Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act*.

2. ZONING SCHEME

The Zoning Scheme (see Figure 2) is an important tool in pursuing the intent of this Plan. The scheme provides the basis for regulating the activities of visitors and allowing for appropriate management of the Reserve's resources.

Visitor access to any of the zones may be restricted if it is seen to be having a deleterious effect on the values of the Reserve.

Any developments will be carried out with a minimum of interference to the natural environment and according to the requirements of the *Environmental Assessment Act*, the *Heritage Conservation Act*, the *Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act*, and other relevant legislation.

2.1 Outline of the Zoning Scheme

Two zones have been identified to regulate the use, development and management of the Reserve:

- Visitor Use Zone
- Historic Sites Conservation Zone

The purpose of each zone is outlined below having been determined on the basis of the values occurring in the specified areas.

2.2 Visitor Use Zone

As Ryan Well Historical Reserve is intended as a rest stop only, day use facilities such as park furniture will not be provided.

Facilities provided in the zone will include car parking, walking tracks, unobtrusive information and interpretive signs. Access in this zone will be by vehicle to car parking areas then by walking tracks to Ryan Well and Glen Maggie.

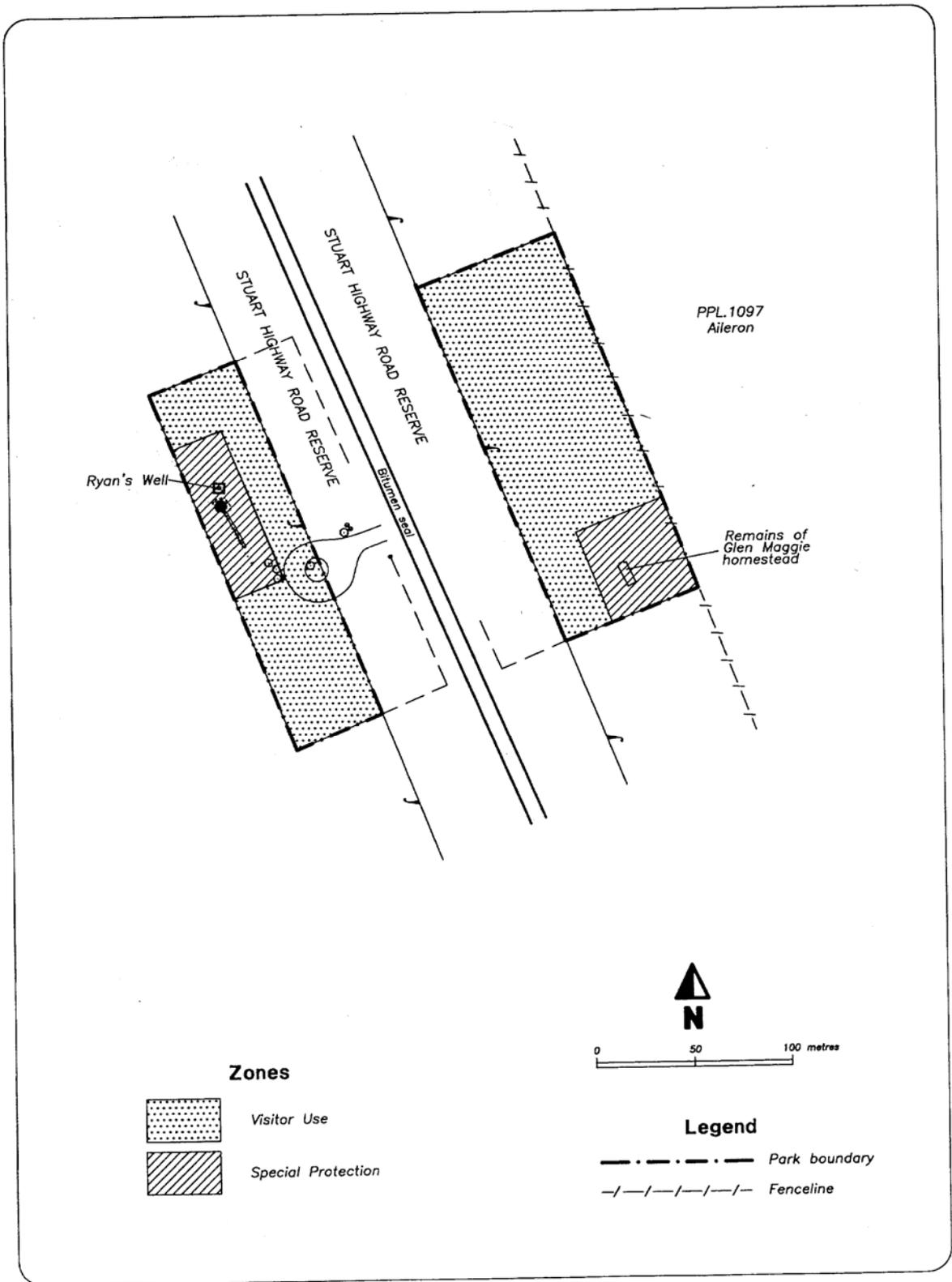
Visitors should be encouraged through pre visit information and on site signage to utilise Aileron Road House approximately 7 kilometres to the north where all facilities, including toilets, are available.

2.3 Historic Sites Conservation Zone

Conservation of the Ryan Well, associated remains and the historic homestead is the aim of management in this zone. Restoration and/or reconstruction of elements of the historic fabric will be permitted.

Facilities will be limited to carefully located information and interpretive signs advising visitors of the historical significance of the area and the need for appropriate behaviour. Visitor access through this zone will be by foot only.

Figure 2. Zoning Scheme



3. MANAGEMENT OF THE RESERVES CULTURAL RESOURCES

Objectives

- To conserve the historical sites (Ryan Well and Glen Maggie Homestead)
- To provide visitors with the opportunity to appreciate the Reserve's historical features and show through on site and pre-visit information how Ryan Well and Glen Maggie played an important part in the settlement of central Australia.

Ryan Well

The official opening of the Overland Telegraph Line in August 1872 from Port Darwin to Port Augusta with regular Telegraph Stations spread along its length soon served as a route for the movement of sheep and cattle, and led to the opening up of central Australia to pastoral activity. In the 1880s the South Australian Government moved to encourage settlement of its Northern Territory by sinking a system of wells along "The Track" of the Overland Telegraph Line.

During 1889, a stock well, later to be known as Ryan Well, was sunk by Ned Ryan's team under a contract to the South Australian Government's Department of the Conservator of Water. This well when first dug was 79 feet deep with a shaft 6 feet by 4 feet wide. A stone dump above the well was at a height required to fill 38 feet of wooden water trough. The well at this time was thought to have been fitted with a hand windlass and two 8 gallon buckets, and produced water at the slow rate of 1700 gallons per 24 hours.

By 1893, it is likely that the Ryan Well was upgraded to include a 10,000 gallon iron storage tank and an additional 100 feet of iron troughing. The stone dump then supported a headframe constructed of bush timber and was equipped with two 20 gallon buckets which were connected to a double horse whip.

Ryan Well served drovers and travellers on the North- South Stock Route until the 1930s when the advent of motorised transportation and machine drilled bores diminished the Well's earlier importance.

Glen Maggie Homestead

In late 1913 Samuel Nicker acquired an annual licence for land surrounding Connor Well and 200 square miles around Ryan Well. In August 1914 Samuel Nicker, his wife Elizabeth and their children settled at Ryan Well. The Nicker's earliest permanent dwelling was constructed of mulga uprights with clay filling the gaps between the timbers. The doors and prop open windows were made of old iron water troughing beaten flat. Nicker named the homestead "Glen Maggie" after his daughter Margaret. A woolshed constructed of bush timber was constructed alongside the house.

In 1918 or 1919 a two room stonework wing comprising a main bedroom and a living room with

fireplace was erected alongside the original dwelling. This stone structure, which had bush timber roof framing and corrugated iron roof, is the remains of Glen Maggie Homestead which can be seen today.

In 1921 a non official post office was opened at Glen Maggie Homestead as the building was located on the Overland Telegraph Line. This was upgraded to a telegraph office in 1923.

The Nickers struggled on after several dry seasons until, in 1929, after Sam Nicker suffered a stroke the family decided to sell the station and move to Alice Springs. The station was purchased by "Morrie" Claxton, a well known cricketer and baseballer of the time. He renamed the station Aileron and employed Fred Colson to manage the station and begin construction of a new homestead at the present Aileron site. Aileron, including Glen Maggie was acquired from Claxton by Fred Colson in about 1935. During that year the post office at Glen Maggie was closed down and the service transferred to Aileron.

A Conservation Plan for Ryan Well Historical Reserve was produced in August 1994 for the PWCNT (then Conservation Commission of the Northern Territory). This was the first formal Conservation Plan for the historic sites at the Reserve and it outlines the history of both sites and provides long and short term strategies for the conservation of these sites. The Conservation Plan details strategies for restoration / reconstruction of Ryan Well and methods to preserve Glen Maggie Homestead.

Conservation techniques listed in the Plan are as defined in Article 1 of The Australian ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance (Burra Charter).

Management Actions

- The historical sites and associated artefacts will be managed in such a way as to conserve the historic values of the Reserve in accordance with the policy and strategy statements listed in the Conservation Plan (1994) and in accordance with the *Heritage Conservation Act*.
- As resources permit in the long term, Ryan Well will be restored / reconstructed to its historic state with headframe, whip, 10,000 gallon tank and steel trough.
- All recent concrete lintels and cement based repairs to Glen Maggie will be removed and refinished in the historical method as set out in the Conservation Plan as resources permit.
- To prevent further deterioration to the walls of Glen Maggie Homestead the tops of the walls and the chimney will be finished with a screed as stated in the Conservation Plan.
- Management staff will monitor the state of the historic sites and associated artefacts during routine patrols to the Reserve.
- The condition of the well timbers will be monitored and maintained.

- The stone dump of Ryan Well will be re mortared to ensure long term stability.
- Any works undertaken at the site to conserve the ruins will be carried out in accordance with the ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites) principals and recommended procedures established in the Burra Charter.
- Any vegetation posing a fire or structural hazard to the historical fabric will be cleared using chemical and physical techniques which will cause minimal interference to that fabric.
- The Reserve's interpretation will engender a sense of respect for the site's history and deter inappropriate behaviour.
- Interpretation signage should discourage visitors from climbing on the well. A viewing platform with steps may be built to prevent visitors from causing damage to the stone dump.

4. MANAGEMENT OF THE RESERVES' NATURAL RESOURCES

Objectives

- To protect the Reserve's natural resources including native plants and animals, soils, geological and water resources.
- To minimise the effects of erosion on the Reserve and, where appropriate, rehabilitate degraded areas.
- To minimise the impact of introduced plants and animals on the Reserve.
- To minimise the impacts of visitors to the Reserve.

4.1 Geology, Landforms and Soils

Ryan Well Historical Reserve is underlain by a basement of gneissic granite forming part of the Precambrian Arunta block. This generally east-west striking material may be seen as scattered, minor exposures near the old homestead. The Reserve's topography is extremely gentle and represents part of an eroded peneplain known as the Ryan Land System.

Soils are shallow and gritty particularly in the vicinity of the rock outcrops. Severe scalding has occurred on the unstable, texture-contrast soils east of the Stuart Highway. Shallow drainage channels have formed in the more stable red earths within the Reserve. Erosion has occurred on the western side of the highway starting within the road reserve and extending into the western section of the Reserve threatening the well and trough area of Ryan Well.

The Department of Transport and Works Roads Division have recently constructed drains within the road reserve to channel water away from the Well and car park area on the western side of the highway.

The entire Reserve has been reserved from occupation under section 178(1) of the *Mining Act*.

Management Actions

- Efforts will be made to prevent soil erosion by restricting access to areas sensitive to erosion.
- Management staff on regular patrols will monitor areas affected by soil erosion. If necessary, further discussions with the Department of Works will take place to determine appropriate drainage to reduce soil erosion.
- Any future developments should be undertaken with a minimum of soil disturbance. Erosion control measures will be employed as required under the advice of the Department of Lands, Planning and Environment's Land Conservation Unit during the

construction phase and rehabilitation measures undertaken if required following a projects completion.

- Visitor access to areas in the process of rehabilitation will be regulated or restricted where necessary.

4.2 Native Flora

No rare or threatened plant species have been recorded in the Reserve.

A total of seventy two plant species have been recorded from the Reserve, these included eleven species of grasses (*Poaceae*) with daisies (*Asteraceae*) and chenopods (*Chenopodiaceae*) each represented by ten species. There are six species of *Caesalpiniaceae*.

The above families make up about fifty percent of the total number of species found within the Reserve. When in flower the *Eremophila ssp* and *Dodonea ssp* provide a showy display which is attractive to visitors to the Reserve.

Management Actions

- Disturbance to any of the vegetation communities of the Reserve will be minimised. Clearing of vegetation will be kept to the minimum necessary for public safety, to protect the historical fabric, fire protection and to provide recreation and management facilities.
- Disturbed or denuded sites will be revegetated, by colonisation from surrounding natural areas wherever possible. Active management such as scarifying, seeding or planting disturbed areas may be employed where required. Priority areas for action will be high visitor use locations, erosion areas, old roads and tracks and development sites.
- The recovery of disturbed or denuded areas, by means of both natural or active management measures, will be monitored by Ranger staff on their regular patrols to the Reserve.

4.3 Native Fauna

Due to its small area and location astride the Stuart Highway the Reserve is not considered to be important for native fauna.

4.4 Introduced Plants & Animals

Five introduced plant species were recorded for the Reserve, three of these are considered noxious weeds for the Northern Territory (*Noxious Weeds Act, 1994*). They are;

- | | |
|--------------|------------------------------|
| - khaki weed | <i>Alternanthera pungens</i> |
| - caltrop | <i>Tribulus terrestris</i> |
| - mesquite | <i>Prosopis pallida</i> |

Stock extensively grazed the roadsides and the Reserve in the past. Since fencing of the Stuart Highway road corridor, stock have been prevented from entering the Reserve.

Management Actions

- The susceptibility of the Reserve to the invasion and spread of introduced plants will be minimised by:
 - maintaining the majority of the area in a stable natural condition;
 - reducing the incidence and extent of disturbed areas;
 - rehabilitating or revegetating where necessary using local endemic species;
 - effective programs by Reserve staff to observe the occurrence of introduced plants and
 - keeping areas utilised by visitors to a minimum.
- Periodic monitoring during Ranger patrols will be undertaken to determine the distribution and status of introduced plant species. Control measures will be implemented as and when required.
- Dogs will only be permitted within the carpark in accordance with schedule 3 of the Parks and Wildlife Commission's Pets in Parks Policy.
- Ryan Well will be included in the Alice Springs Telegraph Station / Remote Parks weeds strategy.

4.5 Use and Control of Fire

The natural stony plains in and around the Reserve support only sparse vegetation with the potential for a wildfire being extremely low. Any excess fuel loads that may occur near the historic sites should be hand cleared to prevent fire damage to the historic fabric.

Management Actions

- Regular fuel load monitoring during Ranger patrols will occur to prevent vegetation regenerating to a level where fire could become a problem.
- Fireplaces will not be provided and the lighting of campfires will not be permitted.

5. MANAGEMENT OF VISITORS

Objectives

- To offer visitors recreational opportunities consistent with the Reserves cultural values.

- To manage the impacts of visitors on the Reserves resources and values so they are within acceptable limits.

5.1 Regional Context

Ryan Well Historical Reserve is a rest stop of historical interest for travellers of the Stuart Highway north of Alice Springs. Visitors following the Overland Telegraph Line, the NT Heritage Trail or the “Explorer Highway” should find the methods of providing water to travelling stock in those early days interesting and rewarding.

Management Actions

- Pre visit information will advise visitors of the historic character and features to be seen at the Reserve.

5.2 Visitor Access

Visitors at present can access the historic sites from a carpark on the western side of the Stuart Highway. Access from the carpark to the historic sites is by foot only.

Management Actions

- Existing pre visit information for the Reserve should be continued with added information on Glen Maggie and the Nicker family.
- A walking track to Glen Maggie Homestead from the Highway will be provided.

5.3 Visitors Facilities

Present visitor facilities currently provided at the Reserve include a car park and interpretation signage. Unsightly toilet paper and unpleasant smell on the western side of Ryan Well indicate a need for signage advising visitors that toilet facilities are located at Aileron Road House about eight kilometres north of the Reserve.

Management actions

- The provision of visitor facilities and recreational opportunities will be in accordance with the Zoning Scheme (Section 2)
- On site and pre visit information should advise visitors that there are no picnic facilities at the Reserve and should encourage visitors to utilise Aileron Road House where all facilities are available.
- Any facilities will be sited and designed to complement the Reserve’s historical setting.

- Rubbish bins will not be provided in the Reserve and all rubbish must be taken from the Reserve by visitors. Information regarding these requirements will be provided in pre-visit information and on site signage.

5.4 Information and Interpretation

The Parks and Wildlife Commission of the Northern Territory has an information and interpretation program for the Ryan Well Historical Reserve which aims to educate and inform visitors of the values of the Reserve.

Information and interpretation at the site will continue to be developed and implemented in a fashion which is in keeping with the Reserve's historic character. The interpretation will link strongly with material currently produced by the PWCNT and the NT Tourist Commission's Explorer Highway information dossiers installed at Aileron Road House and other selected sites along the Stuart Highway.

Detailed interpretation will deal with the historic sites. The information and interpretation program for the Reserve will be reviewed and evaluated in association with the Plan of Management review.

Management Actions

- New orientation information will be located adjacent to the parking area on the eastern side of the Highway at the beginning of the walk to Ryan Well and the beginning of the walk to Glen Maggie Homestead on the eastern side of the Highway. The orientation information will also introduce the Reserve's information and interpretative theme. The focus for interpretive signs will be the history attached to Ryan Well and Glen Maggie. The location of interpretive signs should not detract from the historic fabric of the Reserve.
- Pre visit information currently available through the PWCNT Alice Springs office and the Central Australian Tourism Industry Association office should also be made available through the Aileron Roadhouse.
- Signage to the Reserve will be replaced to meet current PWCNT high standards.
- Visitors will be encouraged through pre-visit and on site signage to adopt appropriate behaviour codes in relation to the protection of cultural and aesthetic values.
- The area surrounding Ryan Well and Glen Maggie is a recorded Sacred Site and as such has strong significance to Aboriginal people. Visitors, through interpretation, will be encouraged to respect and protect Aboriginal cultural values

5.5 Visitor Monitoring

Visitor monitoring has not been conducted at the Reserve however some observations have been made on visitor behaviour and use. Observations show that large percentage of traffic seems unaware of Ryan Well until they are adjacent to the Reserve. By this time the opportunity to turn into the parking area has been missed so most continue on their way. Visitors with caravans travel at lower speeds and often use Ryan well as a rest stop. Observations show most visitors are travelling from south to north.

Management Actions

- The single parking area will make it possible to install a traffic counter to accurately count all traffic entering the Reserve.
- Periodic observations coinciding with ranger patrols should be made on visitor numbers and behaviour.
- Quantative surveys should be conducted to gauge visitor numbers using the Reserve as a rest stop.
- Discussion will be held with the Department of Transport and Works to place signs advising that Ryan Well Historical Reserve is nearby.

5.6 Visitor Safety

Visitors need to be aware of the Reserve's location placed astride the Stuart Highway and to be wary of traffic which often travels at high speed.

Visitors climbing the stone walls of the well are in danger of falling and causing some damage to themselves as well as causing damage to the walls.

Management Actions

- Discussion will be held with the Department of Transport and Works regarding placing warning signs on the highway prior to the Reserve warning motorists that pedestrians could be using the road and the possibility of traffic both turning off and onto the highway.
- Warning signs will be placed in the car park advising pedestrians and traffic pulling back onto the Highway of the dangers of high speed traffic using the highway.
- A 'ladder' and viewing platform will be provided at the rear of the well to enable visitors to safely climb and look into the well without damaging the stonework.

6. RESERVE ADMINISTRATION

Objectives

- To ensure that management procedures and practices achieve the objectives of this Plan by adhering to the Management Actions.

- To administer the *Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act*, its By-Laws the *Heritage Conservation Act*, and other relevant legislation.
- To ensure developments or works on the Reserve meet heritage requirements under the *Heritage Conservation Act*.
- To co-operate with Aileron Station, the Department of Transport and Works Roads Division regarding management of the Reserve.
- To provide sufficient resources for the efficient management and administration of the Reserve.

6.1 Staffing and Management

The Reserve is currently patrolled by PWCNT Ranger staff from the Central District Parks based at the Alice Springs Telegraph Station Historical Reserve. Frequency of visits vary from about monthly during summer to fortnightly during peak visitor periods.

As a recorded sacred site covers the Ryan Well and Glen Maggie area management will need to consult with Aboriginal custodians and their representative organisations over a range of management issues.

Management Actions

- Ranger patrols will be maintained at the present frequency to monitor the historic sites and to determine the impacts of visitors.
- Aboriginal custodians and their representative organisations will be consulted over a range of management issues such as: research into the Aboriginal cultural values and significance of the area; the establishment of a data base of Aboriginal cultural resources; and Aboriginal cultural information suitable for inclusion in the Reserve's Interpretive program.

6.2 Liaison with Neighbouring Landholders

The Reserve is surrounded by Aileron Station which has had an ongoing historical relationship with Ryan Well and Glen Maggie Homestead since the establishment of Aileron at its existing site in 1930. The Reserve's location astride the Stuart Highway necessitates liaison with the Department of Transport and Works.

Management Actions

- The Department of Transport and Works Roads Division will be consulted regarding traffic movement, signposting and any drainage problems due to water runoff from the

highway.

- The owners of Aileron Station will be consulted regarding any ongoing management activities at the Reserve that may affect the station such as fencing or stock problems.

6.3 Research and Monitoring

A detailed survey of the Reserve was conducted for the then Conservation Commission of the NT in 1980. This report looked at the historical structures, geology and flora and fauna within the Reserve. The Conservation Commission of the NT also commissioned a Conservation Plan for the two historic sites in 1993 which was completed in 1994. Despite several other reports, this was the first formal Conservation Plan for the built structures on the Reserve. Previous historical information collected by consultants served to provide the bulk of the historical data incorporated into this Conservation Management Plan.

Management Actions

- Monitoring the historic sites will be regularly undertaken in conjunction with Ranger patrols to determine the condition of the historic fabric, the impacts of visitors, vegetation regrowth and natural deterioration.
- All research and monitoring activity proposed by persons or agencies external to the Parks and Wildlife Commission requires the approval of the Director of Parks and Wildlife in accordance with section 111 of the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act* and consistent with the Parks & Wildlife Commission's Scientific Licences Policy.

6.4 Legal Requirements

The area surrounding Ryan Well and Glen Maggie is covered by a recorded sacred site no 5552-25. This requires that the PWCNT obtain an Authority Clearance under section 20 of the *Northern Territory Aboriginal Sacred Sites Act*, providing clearance for any actions, works and visitation within this area.

The Parks and Wildlife Commission is obliged, under section 21 of the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act*, section 33 of the *Heritage Conservation Act* to manage the Reserve in accordance with this Plan of Management once it has been gazetted and is operational.

The management of the Reserve will follow the Actions outlined in this Plan. The Plan may be amended at any time in accordance with the *Territory Parks and Wildlife Conservation Act*.

Management Actions

- Clearance from AAPA will be obtained for any new works or major management actions proposed for the Reserve.

- To prevent the necessity for repeated requests to the AAPA for clearances, the AAPA will be approached to provide an Authority Certificate endorsing the proposed use, management and development of the Reserve as set out in this Plan. This clearance would also enable visitors to enter the Sacred Site without first obtaining an Authority Certificate.
- Management will ensure that use of the Reserve complies with any conditions set down in the Authority Certificate.
- The Reserve's ongoing management will be periodically reviewed to ensure that it complies with the Actions of this Plan.

6.5 Commercial Operations at the Reserve

Well managed concessions make parks and reserves more enjoyable to a greater number of people and contribute to the value of the tourist industry in the Northern Territory. In this case, in the absence of an on site Ranger, a concessionaire operation could provide Reserve maintenance such as rubbish removal and a continual form of monitoring and supervision while providing information to visitors regarding the historic sites.

Management Actions

- If the need arises expressions of interest will be sought from private enterprise for some management operations at the Reserve. The PWCNT Concessions Policy would apply.
- Any commercial operation in the Reserve will be required to operate under a signed concession lease or licence contract. This will include term contracts that clearly set out the rights and obligations of the concessionaire.
- The operation of concessions in the Reserve will be monitored and the information collected will be used to evaluate the application for lease/licence renewal.

7. MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS

Listed below are Management Actions stated in earlier sections of the Plan which are to be implemented systematically as Management Programs. Actions in these Programs are referred back to the Management Actions by page numbers.

Priorities are assigned as follows:

- High** - imperative to achieve the Plan's stated objective;
- Medium** - very important to achieve the Plan's stated objectives but subject to the availability of resources;
- Low** - desirable but will be undertaken only if necessary resources are available or other conditions stated in the Management Actions are fulfilled; and
- Ongoing** - must be implemented on an ongoing basis in order to achieve the objectives of the Plan.

Guideline	Page	Priority
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3. Management of the Reserves Cultural Resources

Management of historical sites and associated artefacts	8	ongoing
Complete stonework and timbering of Ryan Well	8	high
Restoration / reconstruction of Ryan Well	8	medium
Repairs to the walls of Glen Maggie Homestead	8	medium
Installation of a viewing platform	9	medium

4. Management of the Reserve's Natural Resources

Prevention of soil erosion	10	ongoing
Rehabilitation of eroded areas	11	medium
Protection, re-establishment and monitoring of native flora	11	ongoing
Regulation of visitors	11	ongoing
Monitoring and control of introduced species	12	ongoing
Monitoring of fuel loads	12	ongoing

5. Management of Visitors

Development of interpretation and signage at the Reserve	14	high
Monitoring of visitor numbers	15	ongoing
Production of pre-visit advisory information	15	high
Installation of pedestrian warning signs on highway	15	high

6. Reserve Administration

Continue regular Ranger patrols	17	ongoing
Consultation with Transport and Works Roads Division	17	ongoing
Consultation with Traditional custodians	17	ongoing

Ongoing assessment of the Reserve's historic sites	18	ongoing
Review of guidelines in plan and management	18	ongoing
Obtain AAPA clearances for new works and visitor entry to sacred site.	19	high

8. Sources and References

Domenico Pecorari & Associates Pty Ltd. 1994, Conservation Management Plan for Ryan Well and Glen Maggie Homestead, Report prepared for CCNT.

Forrest, P. 1989, Report on a review of Historic Sites in Central Australia, Report for the CCNT, Vol2, Part2.

Pearce, H. 1985, *Homesteads of Central Australia*, National trust of Australia (N.T.)

Service Enterprises Pty Ltd. 1980, *A Rapid Resource Appraisal of Ryan well Historical Reserve*, Report for the CCNT.

Strong, B. W. 1998, *A Timeline, Ryan's Well / Glen Maggie & The Nicker Family 1900-1930* a draft report for the National Trust (NT).

Notes