

Ref: .mb.class.ltr

29 July 2011

Land and Management Authority
1 Prince Albert Road
SYDNEY NSW 2000

Dear Sir/Madam

**Re: Hornsby, Hornsby & District CWA Tea Rooms and Rest Centre, Hornsby Park,
Pacific Highway**

I wish to inform you that the above item has been classified by the National Trust of Australia (NSW) and included in its Register.

The Register lists those buildings, sites, areas, and items which, in the Trust's opinion, falls within the following definition:


"Those places which are components of the natural or the cultural environment of Australia, that have aesthetic, historical, architectural, archaeological, scientific, or social significance or other special value for future generations, as well as for the present community."

Classification by the National Trust does not have any legal force. It is however, recognized as an authoritative statement of the historical and architectural importance of a building, site, item, or area, and by listing such items in its Register, the Trust hopes to advise the public of the value of Australia's national heritage.

The Trust does not advocate rigid and unnecessarily restrictive development controls with regard to listed items or places. However, it recommends that their significance as part of the national, state or local heritage should be conserved through controls that allow, where necessary, for new and compatible development and associated works. All of which respect the character of the place or item through enhancement rather than conflict.

Please find enclosed the listing card.

Yours sincerely,



Graham Quint
Advocacy Manager

- 4 AUG 2011

LAND AND PROPERTY
MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

**THE NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA (NSW)
LISTING REPORT**

| LOCALITY | ITEM NAME | ADDRESS |
|-----------------|---|--|
| POSTCODE | Hornsby & District CWA Tea Rooms and Rest Centre | Hornsby Park, Pacific Highway, Hornsby 2077 |

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| LGA: | Hornsby |
| OWNER: | NSW Land & Property Management Authority under Trustee of Hornsby Shire Council |
| PROponent: | Lyn Braico |
| AUTHOR: | Jennifer McMonnies, Bronwyn Hanna and the NSW NT Built Advocacy Committee |
| DATE OF PROPOSAL: | May 2011 |
| ABORIGINAL NATION: | Dharug, Kuringai and Darkinjung language groups |

APPROVED 27/07/2011

BIBLIOGRAPHY:

Jennifer McMonnies interview with Lyn Braico, 21.4.11
 Australian Institute of Architects biographical information on Ross Aynsley, 2011.
 Australian Women's Register entry on CWA. www.womenaustralia.info/browse.htm
 Jones, Jennifer "Inside the CWA Rest Room", *History Australia* Volume 3.1, 2006.
 Heritage Branch NSW "Hornsby Railway Station Group and Barrack", heritage data
 entry for State Heritage Register listing, cited 2011.
 Heritage Branch NSW, "CWA Rest House, Barellan", cited 2011,
http://www.heritage.nsw.gov.au/07_subnav_02_2.cfm?itemid=5055125
 Darian-Smith K & Willis J, "A Healthy Start: Buildings for Babies" in H Lewi, D
 Nichols (eds) "Community: Building Modern Australia", 2010.
 Helen Townsend, "Serving the Country", *History of CWA of NSW*, 1988
 Conybeare Morrison, "Heritage Impact Statement of Anvil Creek Master Plan", 2005
 Minutes of Hornsby & District CWA, Book 1, 18 April 1956 - 16 September, 1958
 Hornsby District Advocate, 30 July 1958, pp.1-2; 6 August 1958, p.2.
 Jennifer McMonnies interview with Hugo Kocken and Mrs Kocken (13.7.11).

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Hornsby & District Country Women's Association Tea Rooms and Rest Centre, erected in 1958, is of historical and social significance as a women's centre that provided a location for social activity, recreation and safe and private facilities for the feeding and changing of babies in an era when these essential facilities were rare in Australia. It was particularly important for migrant and country women and babies travelling through the Hornsby Railway hub.

The Centre is the site of ongoing voluntary and community work in Hornsby for over 50 years (since 1958). The Hornsby & District CWA members have continued to provide a place where women and children have been catered for and welcomed in a

friendly atmosphere. Local charities benefit from the funds raised from the sale of tea and scones by the voluntary members and low cost leasing to community groups at night and weekends meet a local community need.

The building, listed on the Institute of Architects Buildings of Twentieth Century Significance, is designed by Ross Aynsley and Partners. It is of aesthetic significance as a modest but well designed and constructed work of modernist public architecture in the "Post War International Style" that enhances Hornsby Park.

The Centre is of historical significance as a project that marked the 50th anniversary of local government in Hornsby. It contains items of moveable heritage including sandstone sculpture by Hugo Kocken (1921-), Minute Book of Hornsby & District CWA 1956-1958, metal plaque and signage. The building is a representative example of the rest room built by CWA branches throughout Australia in the middle decades of the twentieth century. As such, it was part of a widespread community movement to provide services to improve the lives of country women and children. This rest room is unusual firstly because it is located in an outer Sydney suburb rather than a rural or regional area and secondly because it dates from 1958, making it one of the later CWA rest rooms to be constructed in NSW.

HISTORY:

Aboriginal land

The traditional owners of the land now known as Hornsby are the Aboriginal people of the Dharug, Kuringai and Darkingung language groups.

Colonisation

The earliest European occupants in Hornsby were timber getters who settled in the early nineteenth century. They were followed by small farmers, mainly orchardists. With the coming of the railway in 1890 the orchards were progressively subdivided for housing. The Railway Station was a key regional station acting as a hub for the transport of passengers and goods, the change-over of railway drivers and guards and the minor servicing of rolling stock in a developing area (Heritage Branch, 2011). Despite high numbers of women and babies needing to travel, many of whom were country women travelling to specialist medical treatment only available in the cities, no facilities were provided for feeding and changing of babies at Hornsby Station. This was not unusual at the time, as it was rare to find publicly accessible parent facilities in shopping centres, train and bus stations or airports until the late 20th century.

By 1950s Hornsby Shire Council was a semi rural area of 462 sq kms with a population of only 39,000 and strong connections to the rural community, mainly orchardist, to the north of the shire (Interview with Lyn Braico). In 2011 the population has grown to over 162,000 people.

Baby Care in early 20th Century

The Australian Government was spurred to increase the population through improved baby care following the huge losses of Australian men to World War I and then further huge losses in the civilian population to the Spanish Flu epidemic, as well as the perceived vulnerability of a sparsely populated white Australia within the densely

populated broader Asian region. Municipal governments established baby health and infant welfare services in all Australian states by the 1920s. State-based organisations like the Victorian Baby Health Association, formed 1918, distributed literature, gave lectures and exhibited instructional films on such topics such as 'The Spread of Disease' and 'The Danger of Flies'. Such measures resulted in an extraordinary decrease in infant mortality by two-thirds between 1900 and 1945.

History of the Country Women's Association NSW (from the NSW Heritage Branch draft entry for the CWA Rest House, Barellan, 2011)

The Country Women's Association (CWA) of New South Wales, the first such group in Australia, was founded at a Bushwomen's Conference held in conjunction with the Royal Agricultural Show in Sydney in April 1922. It began and has remained a non-sectarian; non-party-political, non-profit lobby group and service association working in the interests of women and children in rural areas. Although in practice the group has tended to bolster conservative politics, historically it has also been a progressive force in many ways. While it has defended traditional gender roles, it has also advocated a greater public role for country women. As early as 1936 the NSW branch passed a resolution in favour of equal pay for women. Although its influence has declined in recent years, the CWA with its large membership and longevity was arguably the most influential women's organisation in New South Wales in the twentieth century. (Australian Women's Register summarising Townsend, 1988)

The brief of the association formed out of the conference was to improve the conditions of women on the land. They adopted the motto 'Honour to God, Loyalty to Throne, Service to the Country, Through Country Women, For Country Women, By Country Women.' The association expanded rapidly. By 1924 there were 120 branches with 4500 members and 21 rest rooms had been financed and fitted out. By 1927 membership had more than doubled and there were 191 branches. By 1928 it was the largest women's organisation in the state. By 1937, there were more than 17,000 members, 345 branches and 133 Younger Sets. By 1953 there were 28,000 members and 517 branches, 182 rest rooms, 157 baby health centres, holiday homes, rest homes, hospitals, school hostels and playgrounds. (Australian Women's Register summarising Townsend, 1988)

'The CWA rest rooms in country towns across New South Wales were the heart of CWA activity, the centres from which activity and comradeship sprang. The name 'rest room' has often been confusing to outsiders, who have seen it as a coy term for public lavatories. But what the women of the CWA were creating in their rest rooms was a home away from home, where they could put up their feet, allow the kids to roam free, make a cup of tea and conduct meetings in dignity and comfort. The rooms certainly contained clean toilet facilities but went far beyond this. They represent the life blood of the branches. . . . Pride in their buildings is representative of pride in the association, their pride in belonging. Over the years of the CWA, rest rooms have continued to be built, bought or rented. The rest rooms began in the 1920s and continued through the years, almost until the present, each branch striving to achieve its own centre, its own home.' (Townsend, 1988, p22-23)

Although the specific activities of individual branches varied, among other endeavours the CWA supported the Bush Nursing Association, the Far West Children's Health Scheme, the Bush Book Club, Girl Guides, and Boy Scouts,

Travellers Aid and the Flying Doctor Service. From the 1930s handicrafts featured prominently among the association's activities, and they also produced numerous cookbooks. Association news was regularly reported in the Stock and Station Journal and in 1937 the CWA's own journal was established. (Australian Women's Register summarising Townsend, 1988)

In the postwar years the CWA took an interest in welcoming new migrants - meeting at least two ships a month and providing catering for 1000-2500 migrants at a time. They also helped families settle and invited women to branch meetings. Special services were set up for migrant women living in the Snowy Mountains. In the late 1950s some branches began to encourage Aboriginal women to join, although they were never prominent among the membership. (Australian Women's Register summarising Townsend, 1988; see also Jones, 2006)

The women of the CWA, while believing deeply that their role in the family is vitally important, have been initiators, fighters and lobbyists. They have made localities into communities by providing social activities and educational, recreational and medical facilities. Helen Townsend's history of the CWA provides an excellent overview of the diverse nature and activities of the group. (Australian Women's Register summarising Townsend, 1988)

From the late 1960s the numerical strength and influence of the CWA began to decline, although there has been some recent revival. In 2004 the Association had over 13,000 members and 500 local branches. (Australian Women's Register)

The Building of Hornsby & District CWA Rest Centre

Mass migration following World War II under the Commonwealth Government slogan 'populate or perish' resulted in over a million immigrants arriving in Australia between 1949 and 1959. Migrants were initially housed in camps, usually former army camps, and were predominately transported around the country to the various the camps and for work by rail. By May 1955 Greta Migrant Camp in the Hunter Valley, to the north of Hornsby, was the main reception and training camp for all migrants allotted to work in New South Wales and Queensland. (HIS Anvil Creek Master Plan).

Following the CWA (NSW)'s interest in assisting new migrants, the women of Hornsby recognised there was a local need for a rest room to cater particularly for the increased numbers of women and children passing through Hornsby Station hub.

The first meeting of the Hornsby and District CWA was held on 5 October 1954 in the Hornsby Council Chambers. The President, Mrs Headen, wife of the Hornsby Council Shire President, Harold George Headon, led the lobbying of Hornsby Council for a suitable site for a Rest Room.

At the 11 July 1956 meeting, as the CWA reached the peak of its growth in NSW with over 30,000 women in 547 branches, Mrs Headen announced Hornsby Council's decision to make the rest room its first building project, marking the 50th anniversary of local government in Hornsby. Council provided space in Hornsby Park for the building and was responsible for the building construction. The CWA branch

provided the furniture, with money mainly raised through a railway kiosk loaned to the branch by the War Memorial Womens Auxiliary and monthly street stalls selling 'jumble collected' (Minutes of Hornsby & District CWA).

Ross Aynsley and Partners was a medium-sized architectural practice with offices in Sydney, Hornsby and Wollongong. Ross Aynsley, active from 1953 to 1985, was living in Waitara in the mid 1950s when he advertised for tenders to build the Rest Centre in Hornsby Park in December 1957. The building contract was awarded to A McDowell (Hornsby District Advocate, 30 July 1958) and the building was opened on 26 July 1958. (AIA on Aynsley, 2011). The building work was possibly carried out by newly arrived migrants as it is known that Antonio Braico, who was living in a migrant hostel in 1957, did the tiling in the bathrooms and the sandstone carving was created by Hugo Kocken, a migrant from The Netherlands. (Interview with Lyn Braico and Hugo Kocken).

The building design provides a large universal space that can accommodate alternatively the Tea Room, CWA meeting room or community space as well as a safe environment for children to play. It also contains toilets and facilities for women to feed and change babies.

Although Hornsby Station still does not have a Parents Room¹, the introduction of these facilities in many public buildings and malls by 2005 had reduced the demand for the CWA feeding and change rooms. These rooms are currently used as storage areas and although they retain their original fixtures and can be used if required.

Since 1958 tea and scones have been served at the Centre and although it was officially named the 'CWA Women's Rest Centre', it has been always referred to as the "Tea Rooms" by the local community. To reflect this, in recent years it has been named the "Hornsby & District CWA Tea Rooms and Rest Centre".

In 2011 the Tea Room, operating from 10am to 2pm Monday to Friday, utilizing the voluntary labour of CWA members, continues to be a popular venue that provides a friendly atmosphere where women and children are catered for and welcomed. The money raised from the sale of tea and scones by the members is donated to charities such as CWA NSW Disaster Relief Fund, Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Hospital, Hornsby Heights Scout Group and pre-schools.

Evening and weekend low cost leasing is also regularly provided by Hornsby & District CWA to various not-for-profit local community groups including Probis, Friends of Lisgar Gardens, Senior Citizens exercise programs, the disabled dance group and a writers club.

The Hornsby Shire tourism office moved into front (eastern) section of the Rest Centre c2007, but moved out at Christmas 2010.

The building is recognised by the Institute of Architects by being listed on their "Buildings of Twentieth Century Significance" register.

¹ City Rail advised that the Disable Toilet has a bench in it that can be utilized if needed. 15.7.11

Architectural Style and Period:

Post War International style

DESCRIPTION:

Setting

The CWA Hornsby Rest Centre is located on the southern boundary in the south-western corner of Hornsby Park, in close proximity to Hornsby Shopping Centre, Hornsby Library and Hornsby TAFE and Hornsby Railway Station.

The land is gently sloping to the west with parklands to the north and a new public toilet facility and the local swimming pool to the west. To the east are sandstone flagstone (crazy paving) pathways through a garden of lavender and Buxus hedges that lead to a terrace the width of the building. This provides access to the original front entrance, disabled toilet and toilet facilities. The disabled toilet was erected by the Rotary Club of Hornsby Waitara as a community service project in the year of Disabled Persons 1981. A mature Eucalyptus is on the southern boundary. Although the original entrance on the east is intact, it is currently locked for security reasons. An asphalt service road that runs from Pacific Highway to the pool doubles as an access-way to the current entrance in the glazed northern wall of the Tea Room.

Exterior

The Hornsby & District CWA Rest Centre, designed in the "Post War International style", is finely detailed and executed with quality workmanship. This single storey flat-roofed brick building, with large areas of timber-framed glazed walls and rock faced sandstone screen enhances the parklands in form, scale and materials.

The brickwork is light red in stretcher bond except for the stack bond decorative panel to the toilets on the east. The unpainted metal roof with deep fascia guttering is on various planes with wide eave overhangs.

The eastern (front) facade has a central original entrance, flanked by the toilets on south and a rock face random squared sandstone wall that supports the open roof framing over the now turfed sand pit on the north.

The northern facade has a glazed timber framed wall that includes the current entrance door to the Tea Room. The children's sandpit, enclosed with wrought iron railings and gate, is located on the east of the Tea Room door.

The west facade has a wide brick chimney with a narrow sandstone capping that is flanked by vertical timber cladding to the kitchen on the south and timber framed glazing to the Tea Room on the north.

On the south there is an enclosed courtyard secured by a steel security gate on the west. A narrow verandah provides access from the kitchen, toilets and baby wash up room. On the south western corner of the courtyard is a woodshed clad in fibrous cement sheet.

Interior:

The layout is original with a large Tea Room on the north and the ancillary rooms on the south. The majority of the finishes are original, including timber veneer doors, ball-shaped ceiling lights, timber floors and skirtings and the toilet tiling.

The Tea Room is designed to take advantage of the views through the glazed timber framed walls to the parklands to the north and the raised children's sand pit on the east. The glazed walls include a hinged door and fixed and awning windows with venetian blinds for sun control. Three exposed steel parallel chord trusses span the width of the Tea Room and the floor has 70mm wide polished boards with matching low timber skirtings. The unused fireplace on the western wall has been relined with light red brick pavers in the original wide rock-faced random squared sandstone chimney breast. There is an elevated sandstone hearth and a projecting shelf offset to the right that supports the CWA Motto.

The entrance foyer has the original lined ceiling, cornice and the 'Office' sign hand-painted in gold lettering on the office door. Sheet vinyl flooring, new cupboards on the north wall and the covering to the lower section of the northern windows were recently installed to accommodate the tourism office, are all reversible. The kitchen has recently been remodeled. The office was not available for inspection.

Building Condition: Good

Current Use: CWA Women's Tea Room and Rest Centre

Previous use: CWA Women's Rest Centre.

Moveable Heritage:

A circular sandstone carving of a woman's head and torso approximately 700mm in diameter is mounted on the southern brick boundary wall to the west of the 1981 disabled toilet. The woman's face is in profile looking into a mirror while fixing her long hair. On the base of the sculpture is "HK '58" for Hugo Kocken.

The sculptor Hugo Jacob Wilhelmus Kocken, South Camden, (1921 –) migrated to Australia from The Netherlands in 1950 where he had been working on stone sculptures for buildings and bronze castings before World War II. He was working as a sculptor in Sydney when commissioned to do the Hornsby & District CWA stone carving in 1958. Other work around this time included a bronze private commission from a Campbelltown man, a former body guard of Winston Churchill. The bronze was of the head of Winston Churchill, but as there were no facilities in Australia for casting at that time, the work had to be cast in The Netherlands.

From 1958 Hugo also taught Visual Arts at various schools including Bass Hill High School, Broderick Gillawarna School and Newcastle TAFE. In later life Hugo turned to photographic art. (Jennifer McMonnies interview with Hugo Kocken and Mrs Kocken 14.7.11)

Condition: Good

BOUNDARY OF LISTING:

The boundary of the site is the extent of the building in Hornsby Park as defined in Figure 2.

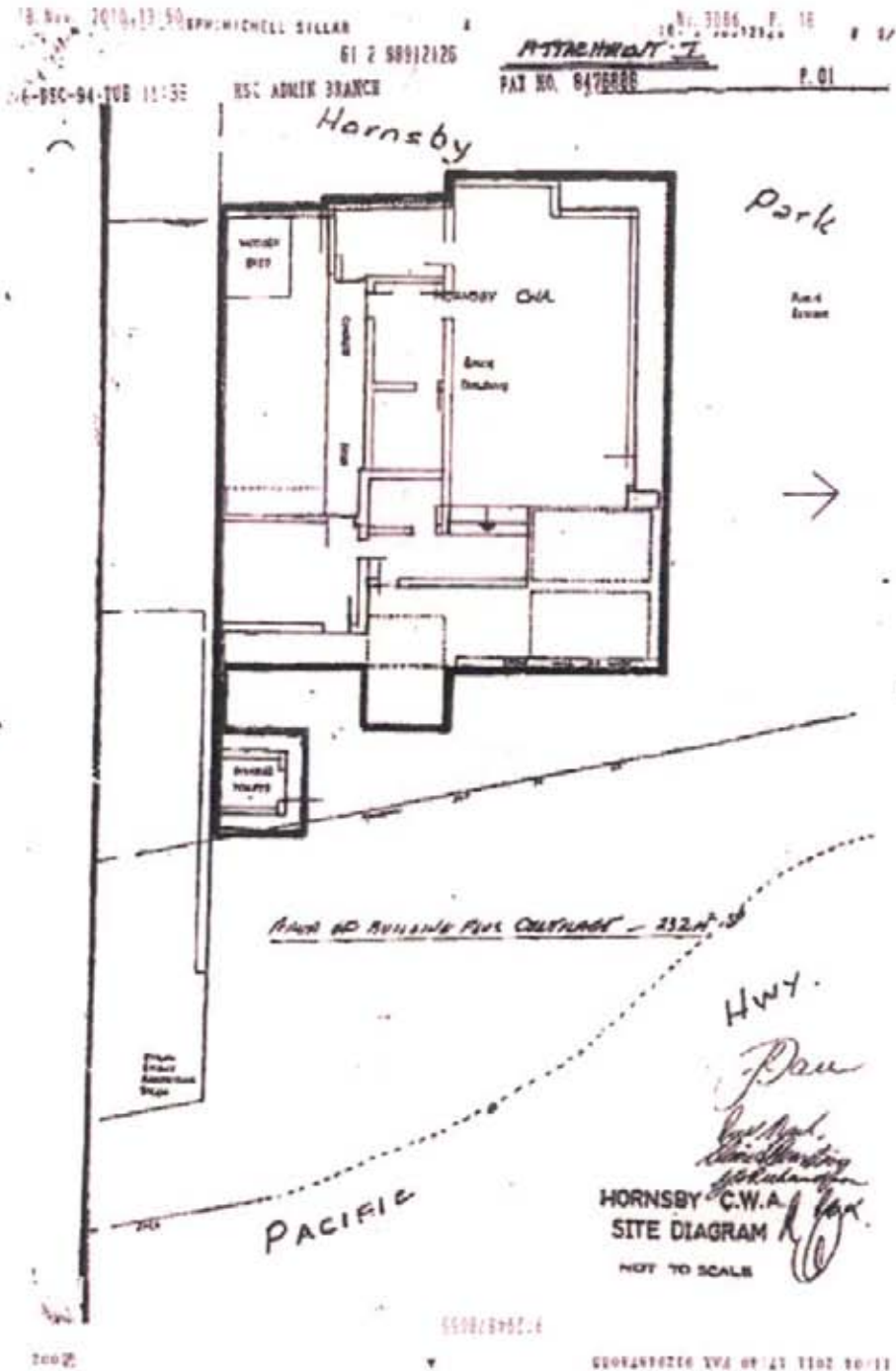


Figure 2: Showing the boundary of the site within Hornsby Park



Hornsby & District CWA Women's Tea Rooms & Rest Centre front (east) façade



Hornsby & District CWA Women's Tea Rooms & Rest Centre front (north) façade



View over Hornsby parklands from Hornsby & District CWA Women's Tea Rooms & Rest Centre



Hornsby & District CWA Women's Tea Rooms & Rest Centre – Tea Room



A circular sandstone carving of a woman's face, approximately 700mm in diameter, mounted on the southern brick boundary wall, signed "HK '58"