

# The Royal Military College, Duntroon

## 'Duntroon House' and the Lodges

'Duntroon House' in the nation's capital has a special place in the Australian Army's heritage. Not only is it the first home, built in 1833, on the Limestone Plains, now Canberra, but it has stood as the central and a revered feature of the Royal Military College, established in 1911 to train the Army's permanent force officers. Although it has never served the Army as a married quarter, it has provided the College with an officers' mess, an office for the Commandant and rooms for various other purposes through the last 85 years, with the exception of the 1930s Depression years when the College was moved to Victoria Barracks in Sydney.

Duntroon House evokes heartfelt memories for the many officers of the Army's Staff Corps and of the fledgling Royal Australian Air Force who have trained at the College since 1911. Today, it serves to train all of the Army's Regular officers as well as some officers of the Reserve. No description of the houses at Duntroon could be seen in context without reference to this gracious, historic building and the Campbells who built and owned the property until 1903.

Robert Campbell, a Sydney merchant, and descendant of the younger branch of the Campbells of Duntroon Castle in Argyllshire, Scotland, was awarded an original grant of 4000 acres, known as 'Pialaga' or 'Pialligo'. Campbell had his shepherd, the former trooper, James Ainslie, settle there in 1825. Additional land purchases and grants followed and, in 1833, Campbell authorised construction of a homestead. This structure, 'Limestone Cottage', was built on a flat terrace overlooking the Molonglo River in typical Georgian style of one storey with surrounding verandah and a separate kitchen and servants' quarters. Built of local stone by convict and other stonemasons who had trekked for weeks from Sydney, this home with its many changes and additions stands proudly to this day.

The Campbells were to have a substantial impact on the district, establishing an outstation at Mugga Mugga and St. John's Church and Schoolhouse. Robert Campbell died in the gardens of his house in 1846, the same year that it was named 'Duntroon' after the family castle in Scotland. By strange chance, Campbell's memorial tablet in St Phillip's Church, Sydney, refers to him as a 'Cadet of Duntroon', curious given that 68 years after his death the first of the Army's staff cadets



*Duntroon House is the oldest building in Canberra and, along with its gardens, is listed by the National Trust and on the Register of the National Estate. Its architectural history is displayed in the main hallway.*

of Duntroon were graduating to serve in World War I.

Although managed by Robert's third son, Charles, until 1854, ownership passed to the fourth son, George, on Robert's death. In that year, George married Marianne Collinson Close, of Morpeth, NSW, who changed the cottage into a fashionable country home. She designed, in the Victorian Gothic style, the two storey extension added in 1862 as well as the picturesque outbuildings. The garden and its maze were developed and Blundell's Cottage was built further down the river. Later 111 acres were provided as glebe land to the Rector of St. John's. With increasing affluence further changes and additions were made to Duntroon House in 1876.

Duntroon Gardens are said to have a tree planted from every country that George Campbell visited. A massive oak on the western side of the House was said to have been planted to mark son Frederick's birth and its final demise in recent years was greatly mourned by the many Army officer graduates who had the custom of gathering each year under its branches. The Maze was copied from that at Hampton Court in London and the long hawthorn hedge is shown in a painting of 1870.

George and Marianne Campbell went to live in England in 1876 where their children were educated. Here George died in 1881 but his widow returned to Duntroon to live until her death in 1903. Much of the plant and furniture was sold in 1906 and the House stood empty until the development of the Royal Military College commenced in 1910. The original College buildings were thrown together rather hurriedly but these were to be replaced by the new parade ground and impressive barracks opened in 1937. Subsequent changes at the College and the development of the nearby Australian Defence Force Academy have not detracted from the gracious charm of the original Duntroon homestead.

Duntroon House had extensive conservation work executed on its external fabric in 1984 and, more recently, the Conservatory has been restored. In 1996, work commenced on a major project to construct an annex in sympathetic form to the west of Duntroon House which will provide further officers' accommodation.



*Pictured late last century, the Campbell's Duntroon House was the centre of a busy grazing property.*

## 'Waller Lodge'

Built originally as the eastern lodge or gatehouse to the Campbell estate, it was probably first occupied by an overseer. It was designed by Marianne Campbell in the Victorian Gothic style contained in her household book and appear to have been drawn from J. C. Loudon's *Encyclopedia of Cottage, Farm and Villa Architecture*, published in seven editions between 1833 and 1869. It has been suggested that Alberto Dias Soares, the Queanbeyan Anglican Minister, a former architect and engineer, may have turned Marianne's sketches into reality. The building is a stone cottage of cruciform plan with a steeply pitched roof.

The house was sympathetically extended with timber cladding in 1913 whence it was occupied by Captain R. L. Waller, Royal Engineers, the first instructor in Military Engineering, following his marriage to Clara Grace, daughter of E. K. Grace of Gungahlin. Waller returned to England and rose to the rank of brigadier general at the end of World War I. Today, 'Waller Lodge', as it is now known, is home to the Commanding Officer of the Corps of Staff Cadets and family. It was extensively restored, preserved and adapted in conservation work completed in 1995.

## 'Shappere Lodge'

The other of the two Stone Lodges or Gatehouses built in the 1860s, this residence was also extended in 1913, the more recent timber portion being similar to other timber residences of the same era at Duntroon. It was first occupied by Mr H. Shappere, formerly of the Royal Horse Artillery, who was granted the honorary rank of Lieutenant. Shappere took up duty as Instructor in Mounted Drill and Riding, though commonly referred to as the Riding Master. Shappere retired in 1922 and the College lost a respected identity who had rendered sterling service.

## 'Sophie', the Ghost of Duntroon House

Several of the residents living at Duntroon today will vouch for the presence of 'Sophie', the ghost of Duntroon House! A recent occupant of Shappere Lodge, Mrs Pauline Gillet, said that Sophie's presence can be felt in the dressing room of the Lodge, 'usually as a cold breeze, when all the windows are shut!'. The spectre is said to have appeared also as a lady in a cape who is happy to engage the family in conversation! Mysterious noises off, blinds and doors closing of their own accord - but fortunately, this unearthly presence has a gracious and responsible attitude and responds to words of concern or even a curt, 'Stop it!'



*'Waller Lodge' in Robert Campbell Road, Duntroon, was built in 1862 as the eastern gatehouse of the Campbell's Duntroon property. In this sketch by Jenny Robbins, the original gatehouse is seen at left and the 1913 weatherboard extensions made to convert it into a captain's residence can be seen on the right.*

## 'Bridges House', Duntroon

The Australian Heritage Commission's official statement of significance describes 'Bridges House' as 'an elegant example of an early 20th century official residence, designed appropriately to house the principal officer of the Royal Military College. The residence is an excellent example of Inter-War Georgian Revival, exhibiting a balanced facade, columned portico with entablature and a hipped roof'.

Bridges House was one of five substantial two-storey houses constructed at Duntroon to house senior military and academic staff at the newly established Royal Military College. The construction of these houses commenced in October 1911, four months after the official opening of the College. It is of interest that these houses were probably the first in Australia to be constructed of concrete blocks which were manufactured on site.

'The Commandant's House', as it was then known, was completed in December 1912 and occupied by the founder and first Commandant of the College, Brigadier General W. T. Bridges (later, Major General Sir William Throsby Bridges KCB, CMG). Bridges was the son of a Royal Navy Captain who married into the well known NSW Throsby family and retired to Moss Vale.

Bridges was to raise the first Australian Imperial Force and command its 1st Division at Gallipoli where he was killed in action. His remains are interred in an imposing grave, on the slopes of Mount Pleasant, overlooking the College and his former home.

Depression years aside, Bridges House has been the residence of successive Commandants of the College until July 1992 since when it has been occupied by the Chief of the General Staff. There has been little change to the fabric of the

building since it was first constructed.

Apart from its prominent wide porch and Doric columns on the south-eastern facade, the other notable feature is the front door, with its art nouveau stained glass, centred in the front facade within a slightly projecting midsection. Inside, the entrance hall opens to the drawing room and dining room which can also be accessed from the south-eastern loggia. A handsome stairway in the entrance hall leads to the bedrooms and upper storey terrace. Original fire-places provide some warmth to a home which, for residents of earlier years, was difficult to heat adequately in Canberra's chill winter.

This attractive house is set in spacious grounds with mature trees overlooking the Royal Military College golf course and playing fields. The original horse stables still serve as garages. The garden has style and elegance and is remembered for the many garden parties held in its grounds particularly for the families of graduating staff cadets.

The Defence Housing Authority has undertaken extensive remedial work, both internally and externally, including the refurbishment of three bathrooms, recarpeting and repainting. The external repainting, completed in 1995, was a significant contract work. Due to the poor condition of the accumulated surface coatings, they had to be water-blasted and special measures taken to contain contamination from early layers of lead based paint.

The imposing entry driveway has been resurfaced with the inclusion of a circular hardstand of pavers surrounding a magnificent conifer whose obtrusive roots had to be attended to by a specialist arboriculturist. Restoration of this house was supervised by Mr Tony Beauchamp, Defence Housing Authority regional manager in Canberra.



*This photograph of Bridges House was taken just prior to the recent sandblasting of the exterior. This process allowed the external walls to be restored to the original ochre wash colour, rather than the white of the last few decades, and to restore the original colour configuration.*

# The Royal Military College Residences, Duntroon

In addition to the original Commandant's residence, in Robert Campbell Road, Duntroon, four other houses were constructed in the original group of five permanent staff residences commenced in October 1911. Located in Parnell Road, these two-storey residences are now known as 'Hosking House', 'Barnard House', 'Sinclair-MacLagan House' and 'Gwynn House', following the Royal Military College's practice of naming its houses after the foundation instructors or faculty members who first occupied them.

These five homes form an historic precinct adjacent to the Duntroon Gardens though the placement in later years of further quarters to the south east has marred the outlook from some. 'Haydon House', a one level, simple timber residence, constructed in 1913, at 4 Robert Campbell Road, along with nearby 'Waller Lodge', the original Duntroon Gatehouse at 2 Robert Campbell Road, are conveniently grouped in this precinct and compliment the grander residences opposite.

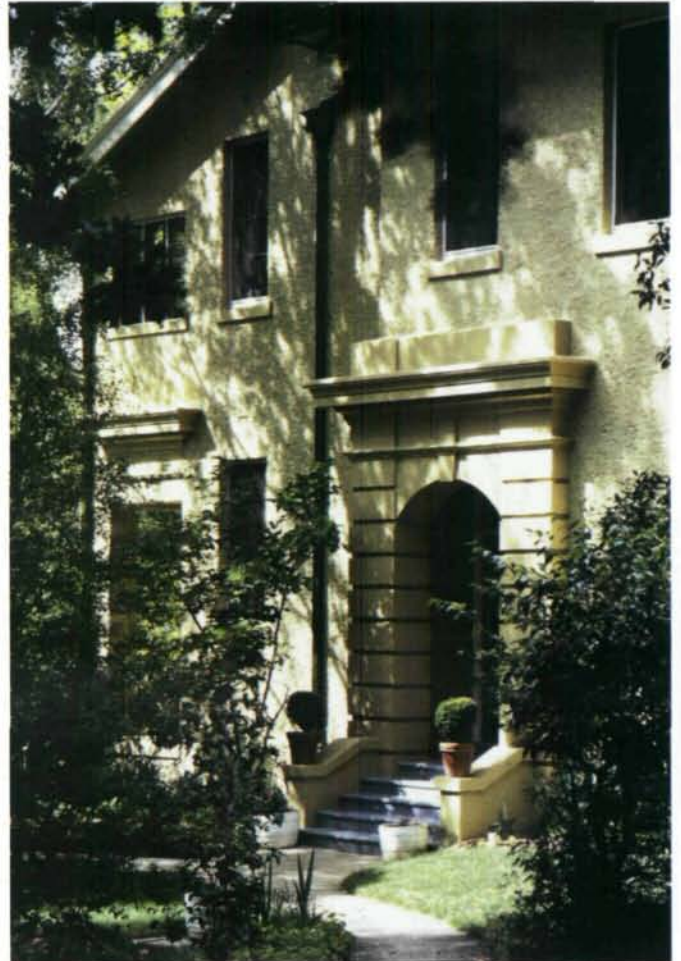
'Hosking House', since 1992, has been the residence of the Commandant of the Royal Military College. It was initially occupied by the first Professor of Physics at the College, Professor R. Hosking who was selected for the position in March 1911. As a result of drastic funding cuts in 1922, Hosking was one of two original staff members retrenched. He moved to a Senior Master post at Melbourne High School.

The house, completed in March 1913, is attractively landscaped, has a pleasant streetscape and shares common architectural details, massing and forms with its neighbours. It was occupied for many years by Professor E. R. Bryan who is particularly remembered for the garden he established which was said to have had something in flower all year round.

It is described as a two-storey rough rendered concrete block building with a roughly centred front door and a new addition to the right. The assymmetric facade of the Arts and Craft structure is topped by a pyramidal roof of folded rib decking. The front door is a focal point of the entry facade, being accented by blocks and a segmented arch. The interior contains a central hallway which holds the stairs. To the right of the hall are two similarly sized rooms with access to an enclosed side porch, another room to the left and living areas to the rear. Upstairs, are four bedrooms, two bathrooms and a family room, the second bathroom having been added by using a dressing room.

Hosking House was refurbished by the Defence Housing Authority in 1994. Some rooms were rationalised to accommodate modern living requirements and unsympathetic treatments in the past were made good. Open fireplaces were reinstated and a modern damper system and ducted gas heating installed. Obtrusive electrical conduits were chased into the walls and mouldings. The previously white painted mouldings and doors to the formal areas were replaced with french polished timber to match the timber staircase. In these areas, the floors were sanded and resurfaced and carpet mats with dyed border were laid. The deformations to the walls

and ceilings were repaired and the house was painted in period colours which included gold coloured trim to the ornate cornices.



*Hosking House, originally built in 1913, has been the home to the Commandant of the Royal Military College since 1992.*

'Barnard House', at 3 Parnell Road, was initially occupied by the first Professor of Mathematics, Professor R. J. A. Barnard who was selected for the position in March 1911. Construction of the residence was completed in March 1913. It is similar in style to its neighbours, Hosking House and Sinclair-MacLagan House.

'Sinclair-MacLagan House', at 2 Parnell Road, was completed in June 1912, and initially occupied by Lieutenant Colonel E. G. Sinclair-MacLagan DSO, a Yorkshire Regiment Officer and the first Director of Drill (later to be known as the Commanding Officer, Corps of Staff Cadets) at the College.

Sinclair-MacLagan left the College soon after the outbreak of World War I to take up the appointment of Brigade Commander, 3rd Infantry Brigade, AIF, and in 1916 was appointed General Officer Commanding, 4th Australian Division in France. He ended his military career as Major General E. G. Sinclair-MacLagan, CB, CMG, DSO.

The residence has been divided into a duplex for many years but may be reinstated as a single detached residence. The Defence Housing Authority completed major renovations in 1995.

'Gwynn House', at 1 Parnell Road is the last in the row of permanent residences for the Royal Military College commenced in 1911 and completed in June 1912. Like the others it is built of concrete blocks and the aggregate for the building was taken from the nearby Molonglo River. The residence was initially occupied by Lieutenant Colonel G. N. Gwynn, a Royal Engineers Officer and the first Director of Military Art at the College. He left the College soon after the outbreak of World War I to return to England. By the end of the War he was a Brigadier General on the staff of the Second ANZAC Corps and ended his career as Major General Sir Charles Gwynn, KCB, CMG, DSO.

This residence is noted also as the home in which the Hon R. G. (later Baron) Casey and his family lived while he was Assistant Treasurer in the Bruce-Page Government. This arose during the Depression period in which the College was moved to Victoria Barracks, Sydney, and when Duntroon was largely used as a residential site. The Hon C. L. A. Abbott, Minister for Home Affairs, occupied the Commandant's residence and Casey the instructor's quarter nearest to the Maze, Gwynn House.

It seems that this was an enjoyable sojourn for the Caseys. Lady Casey wrote that it was 'a charming house and became more so when lawns grew around it again ... A swimming pool and a log stable we built ourselves. In time we even had an emu to live with us among the ponies ...' There is a concrete slab in the backyard with the inscription 'R.G.C. 1933'. Perhaps this is the only relic of Lord Casey's efforts and the family's swimming pool?

Casey's other link with Duntroon is that he served as aide to Bridges in World War I. His service in that war was honoured by the award of the Distinguished Service Order.

Chaplain T. H. Mackenzie who resides in the house at present, wrote to mention that it seems the house was occupied by a man of German extraction during World War II who may have harboured pro-Nazi sentiments! 'My wife, Judy, in conversation with one of the tradesmen who worked on the house when it was refurbished in 1992, was told that in the process of removing the bathroom tiles, drawings or paintings which indicated some support for Hitler were uncovered', he wrote. They included swastikas and other militaristic symbols. Regrettably no record was taken!

'Haydon House' is a weatherboard cottage at 4 Robert Campbell Road, constructed to house the College's first Professor of Modern Languages, Professor J. F. M. Haydon, who came from Scotch College, Melbourne, to fill the post in January 1912. The house was completed in July 1913.

Constructed of timber, the one-storey house has a corrugated iron roof. The front facade has twin gables flanking a recessed front verandah and the gable ends contain four unit casement windows topped by transoms. From the verandah, one can enter the door to the left which leads to a chamber with a fireplace. Beyond this room is a hallway which links a

side door to the lounge and dining room as well as a rear corridor. A family room is located opposite the verandah from the first chamber. Two other bedrooms are located to the rear along with kitchen, pantry, laundry and bathroom. A rear verandah stretches across the back of the house.

This utilitarian structure remains intact. One wonders why the Professor of Modern Languages was afforded a more modest home than his colleagues. However, it was a fine home and its plan is somewhat reminiscent of 2 Plant Road with both houses having H-shaped plans with verandahs filling the interior voids. Architecturally, its gables and recessed porches relate to the gatehouses built for the Duntroon estate which were being upgraded to house instructional staff at the new College at the same time as this house was built.

The Defence Housing Authority completed extensive renovation in 1995. The house had suffered significant termite damage and uneven settlement. It had to be restumped; internal layout was rationalised to provide a new study, bathroom, toilet and laundry rooms. Formal areas had the painted doors and moulding replaced with french polished timber. Colours have been returned to original and the landscape refurbished and replanted where necessary

## The Captains' Cottages

This title is used loosely to group the five remaining heritage houses at Duntroon. These houses were built to house the quartermaster and captain instructors. Certainly the Harrison Road houses were colloquially known in their early days as the 'Captains' Quarters'.

'Hiscock House', at 2 Plant Road, was initially used by the officers of the Department of Home Affairs who were responsible for the construction of temporary accommodation at Duntroon and it was proposed that it be used as a single officers' quarters when building operations ceased. This was not to be the case as the residence was first occupied in September 1912 by Honorary Lieutenant C. Hiscock, the second Quartermaster at the College. As a result of the drastic funding cuts of 1922, Hiscock was one along with five other staff officers posted from the College.

The house differs from others at the College being somewhat larger in plan, of masonry construction and features a small verandah in an octagonal shape. Features are a front bay window, folded rip decking roof, rendered concrete and a complex roofline of gables. The interior comprises six rooms arranged around a central hall way, with a back hall to the kitchen.

'McKenzie Cottage' is one of four identical timber house built in 1912 and 1913 which stand in a row under towering eucalypts in spacious grounds along Harrison Road, overlooking the Anzac Memorial Chapel of St. Paul and the nearby Changi Chapel.

4 Harrison Road was first occupied by Mr C. E. McKenzie who was appointed as Lecturer in Chemistry. In August 1915, he gained leave of absence to take up a wartime appointment as explosives expert in munitions in India. He returned to the

College and was appointed Professor of Chemistry in 1923. McKenzie was one of the two academics who accompanied the College when it was temporarily transferred to Sydney in the 1930s. Once again, in World War II, he temporarily left the College to take up an appointment with the Munitions Board. He returned to the College in 1944 and continued to serve with distinction until his retirement in 1948.

'Lalor Cottage', 3 Harrison Road, was first occupied by Captain P. A. R. Lalor, grandson of Peter Lalor of Eureka Stockade fame. He was the first Medical Officer and served with distinction at the College. He departed in May 1915 to join the AIF.



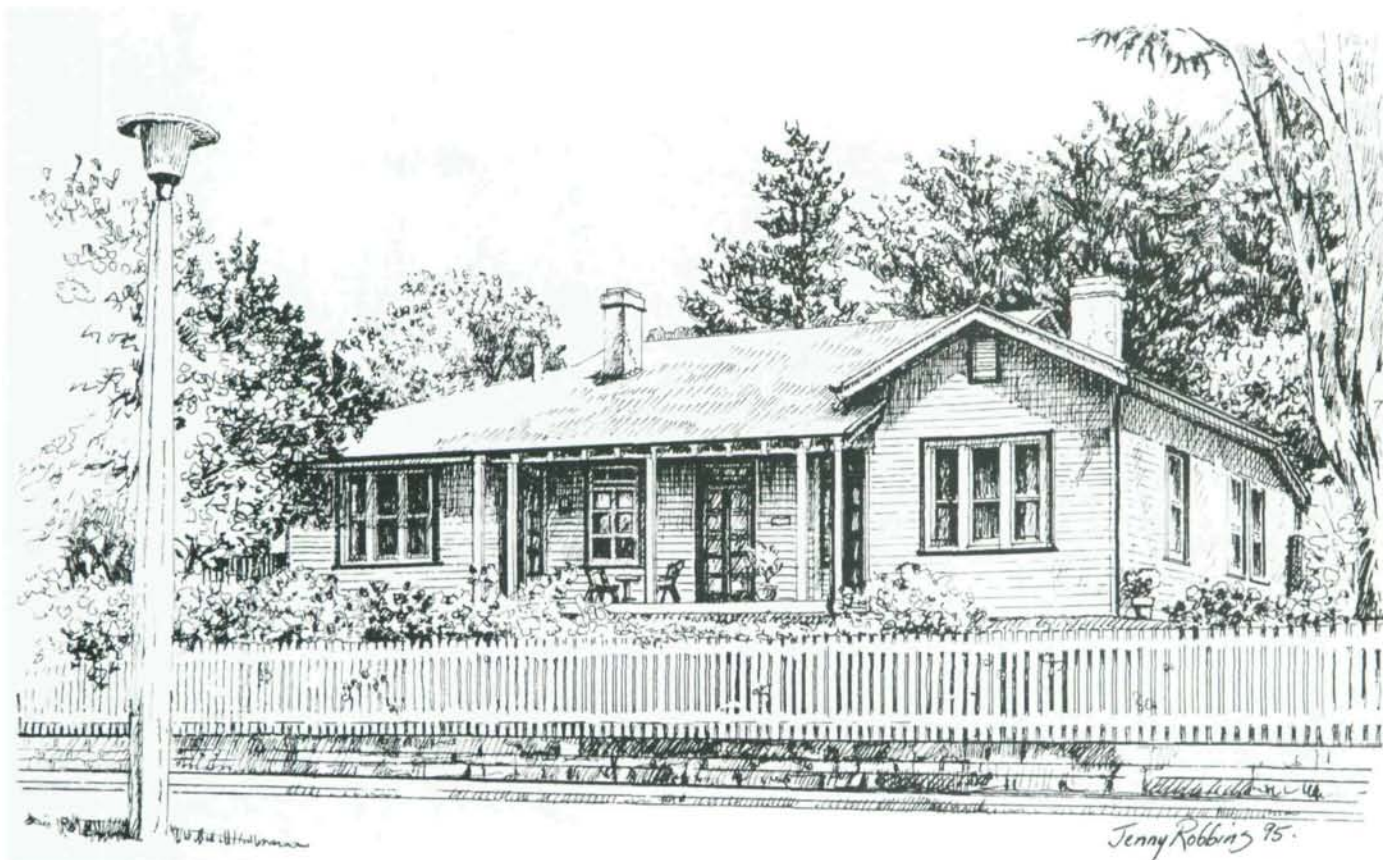
Captain Peter Lalor was one of the first residents of the Captains' Quarters. The Royal Military College's first Medical Officer, He married Nano Annie Joyce, a Dublin-born lass, in Queanbeyan in February 1913 and took up residence in the new house. A month later he was badly injured when his sulky overturned approaching the railway bridge. He recovered and gave valuable service.

Captain Peter Lalor was the son of a doctor and grandson and name sake of Peter Lalor, famous as the leader of the 1854 miners' rebellion at the Eureka Stockade. His brother Joseph, a captain in the 12th Battalion, was killed at Gallipoli.

'Macartney Cottage', 2 Harrison Road, was first occupied by Captain H. D. K. Macartney, Royal Australian Garrison Artillery, one of the few Australians appointed to the College's inaugural military instructional staff. He served as a Company Officer and assisted with instruction in Infantry Drill, Physical Training and Musketry. After service in the AIF, Lieutenant Colonel Macartney CMG, DSO returned to the College in September 1919 to serve a further two years as Director of Drill.

'Gilchrist Cottage', 1 Harrison Road, was first occupied by Mr. A. D. Gilchrist who had been appointed the first Lecturer in Mathematics at the college. He was to serve at the College until his retirement in 1938 including the period the College was moved to Victoria Barracks, Sydney, and again during World War II when was called out of retirement in 1941 to lecture in his discipline. Gilchrist is particularly remembered by many for the astronomical observatory he established on top of Mount Pleasant which regrettably did not survive. Two of his sons were graduates of the College.

The Harrison Road houses were originally identical in plan although two extensions were made to Gilchrist Cottage, the latter in 1969. The houses were constructed of a timber frame on a timber sub-floor structure lined with horizontal timber weatherboards externally and plaster internally (probably on a hessian backing and lightly reinforced with hair). Ceilings were probably plaster and the roof of corrugated galvanised iron. The two sets of chimneys were of brick on brick foundations; bathrooms were of concrete slab on fill.



One of the four cottages in Harrison Road Duntroon which were recently renovated.

## Restoring the Duntroon Heritage Properties

Restoration of the Harrison Road quarters posed particular problems for the Defence Housing Authority. As the then Canberra Regional Manager for the Authority, Mr Morrie Evans, explained, 'Most of the stumps were rotten, floors and ceilings were sagging, and in one case, it was only some 80 years of silt washed under the house which was holding it up - it certainly wasn't the stumps, because there just weren't any!'

Heritage Commission listing and their long association with the College were good reasons for the decision to restore the houses to their original form while providing modern bathrooms, kitchens and heating. A Sydney firm, Otto Cserhalmi and Partners, was engaged to undertake the specialist work involved. The work was overseen by Mr Peter Byrne, Assistant Manager of the Defence Housing Authority in Canberra

Contractor, Chris Simmonds, made some interesting discoveries. He says it became apparent, in the course of the work, that the houses underwent refurbishment in 1936, 1951 and 1966. 'We found an interesting link with Canberra's past because in pre-War days it was common for tradesmen to sign their work. For example, behind a built-in wardrobe, we chanced upon the inscription "26.6.36 Cabinetmaker" and, what looked like, "J O'Connor Downer Bailey's". Even more clear was the stencilled design of wallpaper scissors which appeared when one wall was cleaned. Inscribed with the name "Geo. Clark Paperhanger", it is also dated 1936'.

The Harrison Road houses were built of Canadian Redwood with lath and plaster internal walls and timber weatherboards externally. Original material was used in their renovation where possible and, where not, the original had to be reproduced.



*The kitchen of one of the Harrison Road quarters. Of interest were the 'Camberra Cooker' wood-fired ovens in the kitchens which have been retained. Even with modern electric wall ovens, the old cookers bring charm, as well as winter warmth to the handsome kitchens.*



# HMAS *Creswell*, Jervis Bay

## The Royal Australian Naval College

The Commonwealth Government appointed Admiral Sir Reginald Henderson to advise it on the naval defences of the nation. Henderson's report, submitted in March 1911, made ambitious and far-reaching proposals to be achieved over a period of 22 years. First was the restructuring of the Naval Board of which Rear Admiral (later Sir) William Creswell was to be First Naval Member. Soon after, the Royal Australian Navy was to formally come into being on 5 October 1911.

Among his other recommendations, Henderson proposed a naval training organisation on the British model. Captain Bertram Chambers, Second Naval Member of the Board was given the task of establishing a Naval College to provide a corps of officers for the RAN. A start was made with the RAN College at Osborne House, Geelong in 1913 and two years later it was moved to Jervis Bay, a site chosen in part because, like Duntroon, it was on Federal Territory. Modelled on Osborne and Dartmouth in Britain, the RAN College opened with a first intake of 28 cadets of 13 or 14 years of age.

Two of the first intake, John Collins and Harold Farncomb later became admirals. Collins was to become the first Australian-born Chief of the Naval Staff in 1948 until his retirement, in 1955, as Vice Admiral Sir John Collins. The first graduates of the RAN College were sent to the Grand Fleet in 1917. Eight of these youngsters went to HMAS *Australia* and 17 to other units.

The College buildings were constructed during 1913-1915 and define the character of the place. At first, cadet midshipmen were posted to HMAS *Franklin*, after the College yacht which had been named for the explorer and former Governor of Tasmania, Sir John Franklin. As an economy measure, the College moved to Flinders Naval Depot, Victoria, in 1930 and the Jervis Bay buildings were leased for holiday uses as the 'Naval Lodge Hotel'. In 1958, the College returned to Jervis Bay as HMAS *Creswell*.

## Building the Navy's Alma Mater

Located south of Nowra at Jervis Bay and on the northern boundary of the Australian Capital Territory's coastal appendage, the Royal Australian Naval College occupies an area of 210 hectares. It is relatively well protected from southerly gales and has predominantly northern and eastern aspects. The College area is listed on the Register of the National Estate; its buildings are of considerable historical and cultural significance, and are good examples, especially surrounding the quarter deck, of early Australian architecture of the time.

The buildings are in brickwork, plaster and weatherboard construction, mostly with red tiled roofs. The colours are harmonious with each other and with their surroundings; walls are painted white with some buff touches as on the clock tower and blue trim to doors and windows. The landscaping and mature trees complement the buildings.

Town planning was emerging as a design discipline during the early years of this century. The concepts of garden suburbs or cities, housing set in parkland, with industrial areas convenient though screened, and of improved standards of living and hygiene began to influence new development in Australia. The major buildings were usually exercises in the 'free classic' style with central towers and porticos and linked by a formal axis. An English-trained architect, Sir John Sulman was active in promoting those ideas and became known as 'the father of Australian town planning'.

While no evidence has been found which links Sulman with the planning of the College at Jervis Bay, its siting and the general disposition of the buildings provides a link with the contemporary thinking on town planning. Another undoubted influence was the Royal Naval College at Dartmouth in England with its formal 'free classic' design and a central tower dominating a parade ground on a natural terrace high above the River Dart.

At Jervis Bay, while the chief axis, Morrison Road, links the major buildings (academic group, tower, quarter-deck, cadets' quarters, hospital) and open space, there is no formal entry road to the College, since originally the majority of Navy personnel and goods came by sea. A proposed railway line which was intended to form the southern boundary of the College did not eventuate and an encircling road was never completed. The domestic role of the College has been emphasized by informality in the planning, and in the scale and detail of the buildings.

## Residences at HMAS *Creswell*



*An overall effect of the College is of well mannered architecture, carefully detailed with Georgian-derived joinery, slatted timberwork railings and brackets, and expressed rafters at the eaves. The residences maintain this excellent timber vocabulary, though their verandahs and asymmetrical bungalow form link them with typical timber residences of the Federation period.*

All residences, other than the Captain's residence, are freely sited and interspersed between access roads. An attempt was made to create an ordered residential precinct, south of the proposed railway line, with the school sited at the top of an

axial road. Originally pedestrian access was of key significance, with the horse-drawn and motor vehicles taking a secondary role. The lesser roads linking the residences were designed as curving avenues in the rough parkland, avoiding grades unacceptable to horse drawn vehicles.

The Captain's Residence stands imposingly near the quarter deck and apart from the other quarters and facing the sea. The two storey residence has a particularly fine stairway in a large entrance hall which would do justice to any mansion.

The Defence Housing Authority commenced a major program of renovation of the residences in 1995.



*Extensive renovation work being undertaken at 7 Morgan Street, HMAS Creswell.*



*11 Eldridge Road, HMAS Creswell.*



*Architect's sketches of houses to be restored at HMAS Creswell (Courtesy of G J Taylor & Associates Pty Ltd).*







*Architect's sketches of houses to be restored at HMAS Creswell (Courtesy of G J Taylor & Associates Pty Ltd).*