

The Heritage Homes
of the
Australian Defence Force



Defence Housing Authority

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One Hundred Australian Homes
and Two Hundred Years of History



'The Tap Room' at Anglesea Barracks, Hobart, now flies the RAAF Ensign. Built as a garrison canteen for British Imperial troops, it has served recently as a married quarter. But for most of its life, it housed the Tasmanian Weather Bureau.



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The Defence Housing Authority

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These 'before and after' photographs show one of the picturesque and historic homes at Ordnance Reserve, Maribyrnong, in Victoria which have been renovated to provide gracious homes for the staff of the Army Technology and Engineering Agency.

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Foreword

This book is a small contribution to the rich and colourful military heritage of Australia. It tells something of the houses that are or have been provided for members of the Australian Defence Force and which are now listed on the Register of the National Estate, by the National Trust, or in other community heritage listings. It is about some grand houses like 'Bridges House' at Duntroon, the home of the Chief of the General Staff, and 'Tresco', the home of the Flag Officer Commanding Navy's Support Command at Elizabeth Bay, Sydney; and it is also about the modest homes of junior ranking servicemen like the 'Gunners' Cottages' in Fremantle and the historic war-ravaged precinct in the RAAF Base at Darwin.

The Australian Defence Force places great store in its history and traditions. This heritage is important to each of the Services - the Royal Australian Navy, the Australian Army, and the Royal Australian Air Force - not only as a record of their remarkable achievements but also as a means of imbuing in succeeding generations of Service men and women the ethos of service and sacrifice on which that proud record rests.

The weapons, equipment and facilities used by the Services have a place in that record and so also do the houses which have been provided for Service people and their families. For the most part, the record over 200 years discloses a parsimonious approach by Colonial and Commonwealth governments to the provision of housing for Service families so it is all the more credit to the Services that their heritage-listed homes have been preserved so well.

This book was first commissioned by the founding Managing Director of the Defence Housing Authority, Mr Bill Kirkby-Jones AM and is published at the direction of his successor, Mr Louis Milkovits. It is not intended to be a definitive history of the Australian Defence Force's historic homes but it does provide, for the first time, an overview which tells something of the fabric of all of these houses, their cultural significance and social history, and something of their varied contribution to Australia's life and times. Some, which have long ceased to be used as family homes, and some, which have been recently declared for disposal, are included to round out this record.

Since its inception in 1988, the Defence Housing Authority has undertaken the restoration of most of the more than one hundred heritage-listed houses which it inherited. The Board of the Authority led by its founding Chairman, Mr John Graham AM, has been mindful of its responsibilities to preserve our built heritage. It is hoped that in the process of sympathetically refurbishing these houses, the Authority has made a contribution to maintaining Australia's military heritage.

As the Army, Navy and Air Force approach their centenaries, the Authority is pleased to be able to present the Services with this book as a record of a small part of their proud heritage and in appreciation of their cooperation with the Authority since it was formed some nine years ago. It is hoped that its publication will assist in encouraging further the preservation of these fine houses from around Australia and add another dimension to the military heritage.

This book was assembled from information kindly provided by the tenants of the houses in 1995 and 1996, by the Heads of the Defence Centres in each State and their staffs, consulting architects, and the staff of the Australian Heritage Commission. The Authority wishes also to acknowledge the assistance provided by the Commandants of the Royal Military College and of the Army Command and Staff College, the Department of Defence Facilities and Property Division and Public Information Branch, the Returned & Services League of Australia, the Museums of Victoria Barracks (Sydney) and Victoria Barracks (Brisbane), Allom Lovell Marquis-Kyle Architects, Ms Agnes Hannan, Ms Sandy Ward, Mrs Jennifer Pakes, Mrs Angela Bishop, Mrs Sandy Carwardine, artists Jeff Isaacs, Jenny Robbins and Arch Robertson, and especially Flight Lieutenant Steve Campbell-Wright and Mrs Susan Campbell-Wright. The Authority offers them its grateful thanks and is pleased to provide them with copies of the book in appreciation.