

2.7 Chronology Summary

EXTRACT from  
CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN

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Table 2. Tomaree Head development chronology

Before 1770	The site is land of the First Nations Peoples – the Worimi people	
1770	European sighting of the area by Captain James Cook and the crew of the Endeavour	
1861	Tomaree Head (land) declared a reserve under the Crown Lands Alienation Act, 1861 (NSW). This permitted recreational uses and other uses through special leasing arrangements. The area was known to have squatters.	
1932	Alfred Ernst Dickson applied to lease the headland for the grazing of goats	
1941	Fort Tomaree is established. Plans are prepared for gun emplacement and related structures consisting of buildings and magazines (NAA)	
1942	Fort Tomaree is constructed. Arranged into four structural groups, a lower camp, an upper camp, two 6" gun emplacements (with magazines), a torpedo tube launch wharf. Included within the fort are mortars, machine guns, rifle pits and plotting rooms. Lines of barbed wire are installed. The command post, located on the top of Tomaree, contained a radar and signal post (NAA) Only 10 buildings within the lower camp remain (site inspection)	
1943	A boom gate erected at the southern edge of the lower camp. The lower camp is evacuated by service men and is used for VDC training from August 1943 to February 1944 (Australian War memorial archives)	
1947	NSW Department of Public Health purchase the lower camp of Fort Tomaree for 26,000 pounds and changes the name to Tomaree Lodge, a holiday lodge for long stay patients with a disability. The military huts to the lower camp are converted for separate patient and staff usage (SHR)	
1949	The first six patients and hospital staff move onto the site (SHR)	
1952	Tomaree Lodge houses 118 patients and 11 staff (Wikipedia)	
1950s -1980s	Patients construct rock retaining walls and terraces. Gardens with exotic plants, such as frangipanis, conifers, pines and hibiscuses are established (site inspection). A bowling green, salt water pool and wharf are also built (not located). A permanent population of around 40 residents live on the site and they maintain the grounds	
c.1953 - 1955	Two grass tennis courts, and a concrete cricket pitch are built (SHR )	
1960	Holiday Scheme commences with patients from Paramatta and Rydalmere Hospitals coming. One of the dormitory buildings is adapted for that stay purposes. (Health in NSW, 1965)	
1965	Swimming pool with associated facilities constructed (SHR)	
1966	A new administration building and kitchen with dining room is constructed. Balconies are added to the cottages (SHR)	
1966	NSW Health Branch Architectural Division undertake urgent maintenance and repairs to the cottages (refer State Archives)	
1980s	A large two-storey face brick building for additional accommodation and administration uses is constructed (SHR)	
1989	The NSW government proposes to sell Tomaree Lodge. This is retracted after fierce opposition	X
1990	The site of Tomaree Lodge becomes part of Tomaree National Park	X
2010s	The dwellings are again modified with new kitchens added	
2015	Gabion retaining walls are constructed along the eastern edge of the carparks after a land slide	
2015	NSW government announces that Tomaree Lodge will be sold once residents are relocated to group homes managed under the NDIS (Newcastle Herald)	X