

## OOCABOOLINA OUTSTATION

### HISTORY and LOCATION

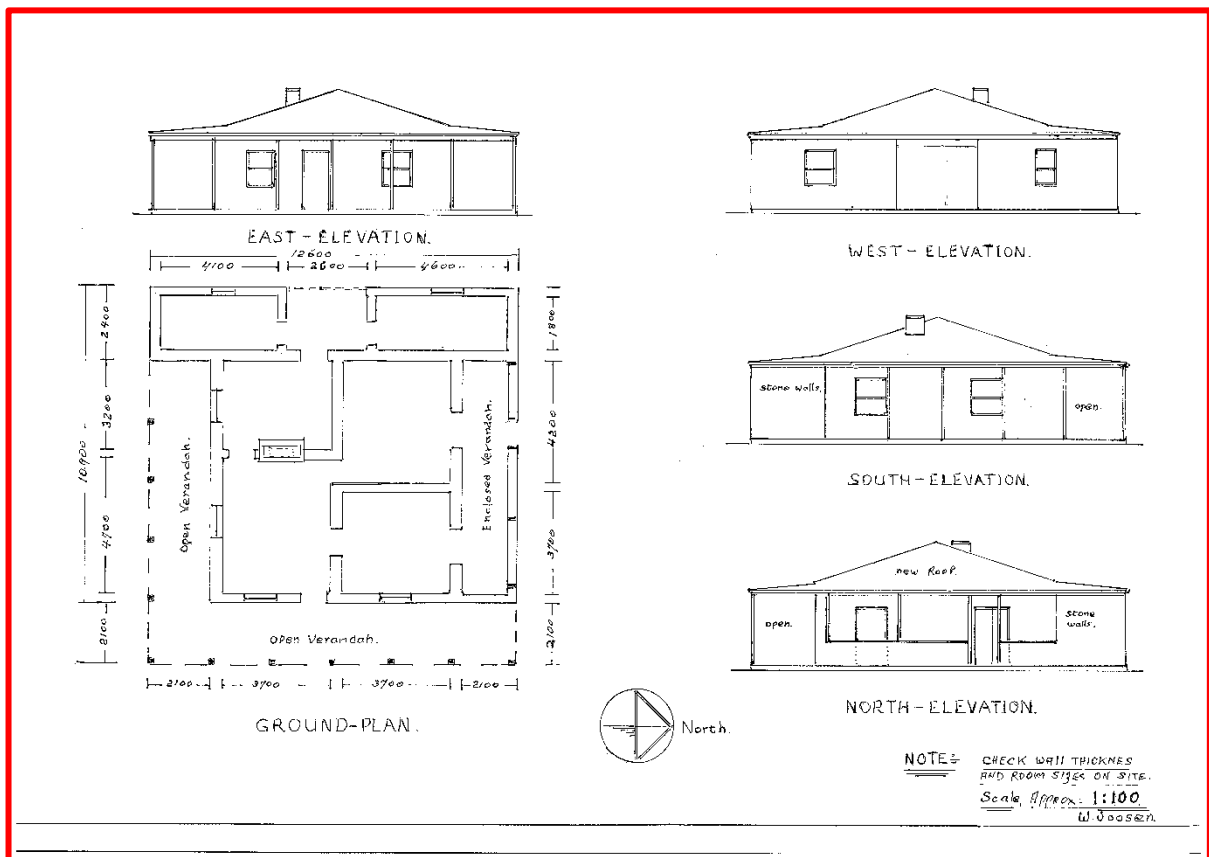


The Oocaboolina Outstation is situated on a small flood plain approximately 5 kilometres east of Nepabunna on the west bank of Mt. McKinlay Creek. It is one of several on the Balcanoona lease that were used during the pastoral era. Although unclear it is thought that it was built during the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century and was occupied by stockmen and their families until 1970 when that portion of



Circa 2016

the Balcanoona lease was declared a National Park. The park forms part of the traditional country of the Adnyamathanha people and is rich with cultural significance.



The drawings prepared by Mr. Wally Joosens in 2017.

## **THE BUILDING & SURROUNDS**

Built with local stone, concrete floors, aluminium framed windows and galvanised iron roof and consisting of 2 bedrooms, a kitchen, lounge, storeroom/extra bedroom and laundry/bathroom. A 5000 litre GI tank is connected to the roof gutter with a secured tap adjacent to the western entry. There is a long drop toilet and remnant garden plots within a vermin proof fence on about 1000 m2.

Upstream on the Mount McKinlay Creek is a well fitted with a submersible pump powered by a 6 panel solar array. The Department for Environment & Water are intending to connect this to a fire storage water tank near the hut.

## **FRIENDS – DEW/CMB PARTNERSHIP**

The Friends met with members of the Co-Management Board at Hawker in 2016 providing them with information about the group and a willingness to provide support to the management objectives in close co-operation and liaison with the regional staff of DEW.

Later in early 2018 the Friends again met DEW staff at Port Augusta where the District Ranger provided a list of work that had been identified as work that the Friends Group might be able to complete as part of the immediate goal of making the building 'safe and secure'.

The Friends with valuable assistance from the Park Rangers over the succeeding five years including 10 week long working bees undertook many and varied tasks to refurbish the building and surrounds to be safe and secure. The Friends in late 2022 advised DEW that they had accomplished the tasks.

## **REFURBISHMENT**

**2018** – The first working bees were undertaken in April and July. Initial work was to generally clean the interior of the hut, repair fencing, commence removal of the feral Athel Pine, install rainwater tank delivered to site by DEW and connect to hut, rebuild the long drop toilet, prepare internal and external timber surfaces for painting, paint door frames and skirting timbers brought to site by the Friends and re-erect roadside fence.

**Roadside Fence** – about 200 metres of old fence posts and wires were removed and replaced with pine timber posts brought from Wilpena by Ranger Arthur. Wire rope fencing was donated by Ray & Jan Hutchinson.



**Athel Pine** – there were a number of mature trees which had previously been cut but had regrown to a height of over 10 metres. Scattered around the site were branches of the prior attempt to remove the trees. A team led by Mal Kirkham set about felling the regrowth trees, stacking the smaller

branches and leaves and cutting into useable lengths of the larger branches/trunks for use later as firewood. On the second visit that year most of the smaller timber was burnt with the help of the Nepabunna CFS crew who supplied a water tank. The ash was buried.

**Long drop toilet.** Team Greeneklee were the prime movers ably supported by several others. By the end of that trip we were able to make use on the new establishment.



**Old Car Garage** – along the northern boundary stood a dilapidated timber and iron single car garage. Some timbers eaten out by white ants, sheet of GI roofing and wall missing. The iron was removed; a rope and winch were connected to the frame which collapsed under the slightest of pressure.



**Timber Preparation** – DEW had supplied funds throughout the refurbishment process and that year a supply of various timbers was taken to site by Friends which had to be primed and painted before being used to replace skirtings, door and window frames. Ray Hutchinson identified which door or window frames needed to be replaced.



**Hut Interior Surfaces** – the lounge & kitchen floors were covered with tiles containing asbestos, the kitchen walls had been painted with lead paint. In later years DEW supplied & installed linoleum to the floors & arranged for the kitchen walls to be painted over. Friends removed wasp nests from the walls of the remaining rooms, removed flaking paint & cleaned the walls for painting. Door frames damaged by white ants were removed, others made ready for painting. A ceiling manhole was replaced by Ranger Arthur.



**Hut Exterior** – the timber fascias and other outdoor timber was prepared for painting. Priming and top coats were applied to the steel verandah posts. Gutters cleaned.



**Fencing** – Team Hutchinson, applied their farming skills, dismantled the remnant fencing wires and netting, replaced posts where necessary, installed strainer posts and wire and replaced the existing fencing netting and wire. The hut and grounds were secured.



**Rainwater Tank** – DEW had delivered to site a 5000 litre steel rainwater tank. The Friends prepared the existing tank stand and mounted the tank connected it with 90mm PVC to the hut roof gutters. The Nepabunna CFS provided 2500 litres to stabilise the tank.



### **The Original Oocaboolina Team**

L-R – Graeme, Ray, Cynthia, Jan and Mal

