



# Relics of WWII Camp Columbia at Pooh Corner Bushland Reserve

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Coordinator - Pooh Corner Environment Centre (PCEC)

for

**Information session held at PCEC**

**19 May 2022**



# SCOPE

## Pooh Corner Bushland Reserve

- Current status
- How it came into being in 2005
- Post-war history 1950s to 2005
- Present status and its natural values
- Relevance for prior WWII history

## WWII history – Camp Columbia

- Mapping overview – US Army Block Plan
- Overlay mapping comparison with current-day land use

## Relics within Pooh Corner Bushland Reserve



## Pooh Corner Bushland Reserve

- **Natural area reserve** owned and managed by **BCC**
- **Nature refuge** under the Nature Conservation Act 1992 (Qld) - to conserve significant cultural and natural values
- Under vegetation management legislation, classified as as an **endangered regional ecosystem** RE 12.3.3
- Home to over **100 plant** species, **127 bird** species, and Brisbane's largest urban population of **eastern grey kangaroo**. Other macropods are **rednecked wallaby** and **swamp wallaby**.

# Birds of Pooh Corner – 127 species recorded



Double-barred Finch



Crested Pigeon



Galah



Brown Quail



Rainbow Lorikeet



Australian King-Parrot



Sacred Kingfisher



Rainbow Bee-eater



Breeding male Red-backed Fairy-wren



Breeding male Superb Fairy-wren



Breeding male Variegated Fairy-wren



Lewin's Honeyeater



Scarlet Honeyeater



Red-browed Finch



Peaceful Dove



Sulphur-crested Cockatoo



Scaly-breasted Lorikeet



Pale-headed Rosella



White-necked Heron



Dollarbird



Willie Wagtail



Grey Fantail



Welcome Swallow



Noisy Miner



Noisy Friarbird

## Birds of Pooh Corner

The ones we're most likely to see.



Binoculars may be needed



Pied Currawong



Australian Magpie



Grey Butcherbird



Pacific Baza



Great Egret



Spangled Drongo



Black-faced Cuckoo-shrike



Striated Pardalote



Silvereye



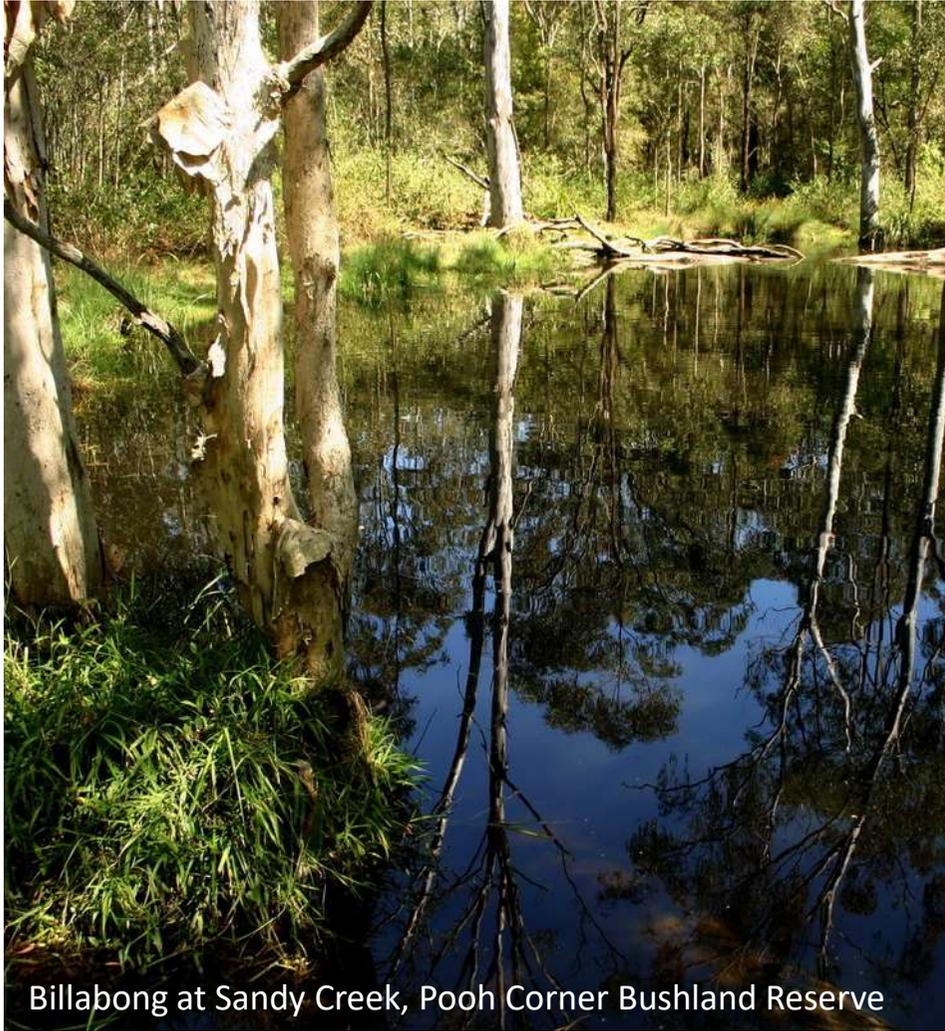
Golden Whistler



Rufous Whistler

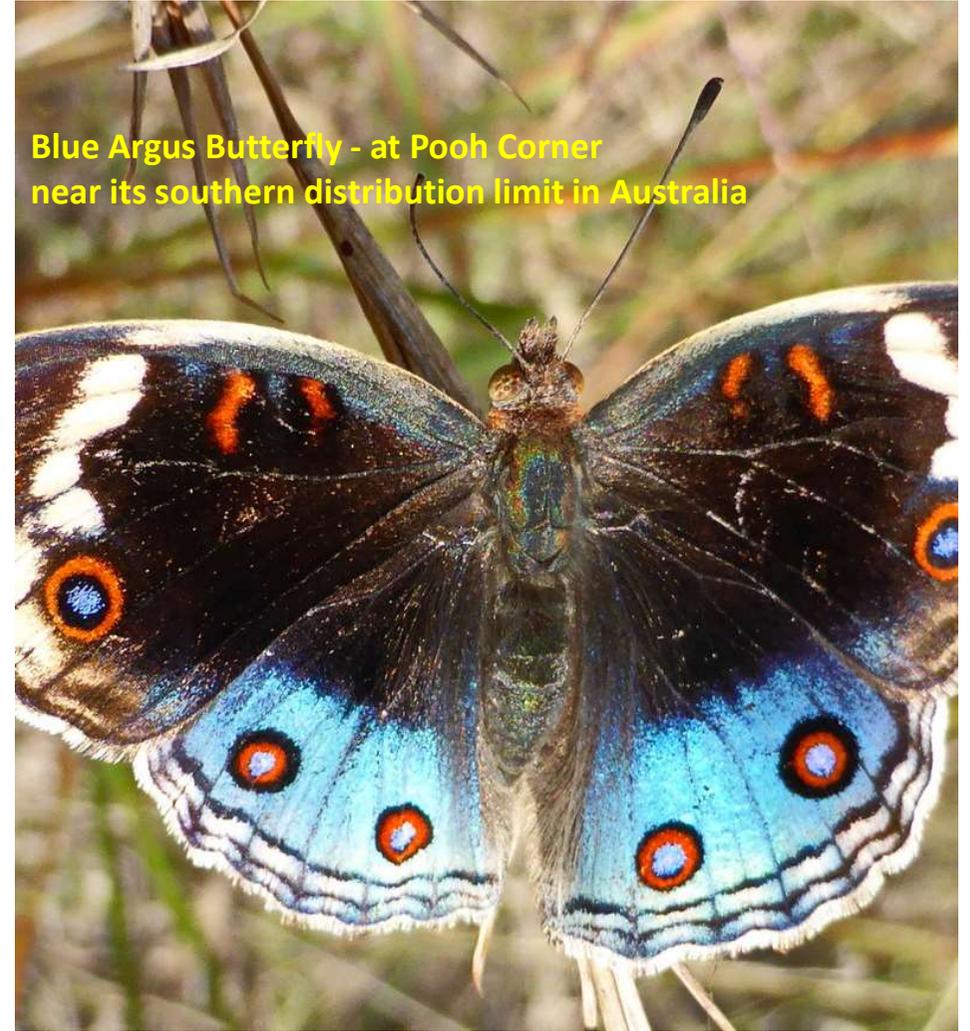


White-throated Honeyeater



Billabong at Sandy Creek, Pooh Corner Bushland Reserve

Photo: EP Oct 2010



Blue Argus Butterfly - at Pooh Corner  
near its southern distribution limit in Australia

Photo: EP May 2015



Red-necked Wallaby

Photo: Glenda Parker Oct 2010



Badge Huntsman Spider  
(*Neosparassus* sp)

Photo: EP May 2022

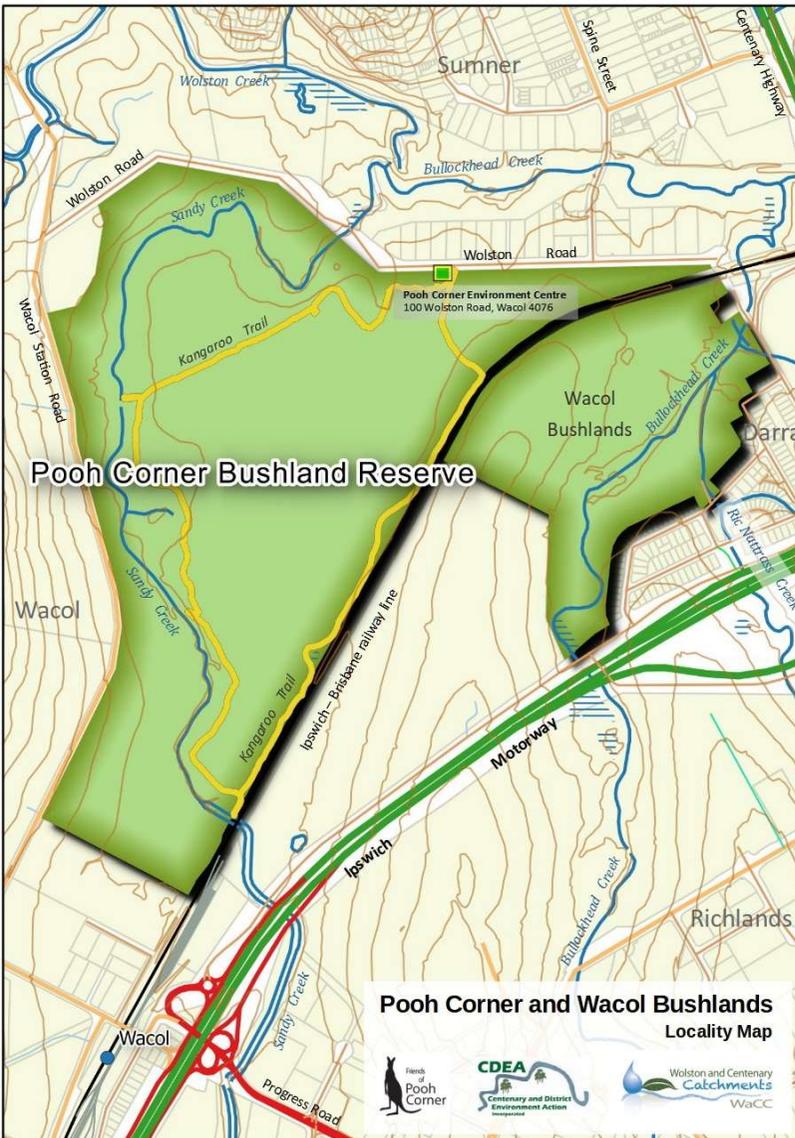
Common Brushtail Possum  
(*Trichosurus vulpecula*)



Photos: EP May 2015



Squirrel Glider  
(*Petaurus norfolcensis*)



## How the reserve came into being – in 2005

- A former Defence training ground, the bushland was saved for the people of Brisbane in April 2005
- Result of a short but intense community campaign
- Led by **Friends of Pooh Corner (FoPC)** and supported **Centenary and District Environment Action (CDEA)**
- Initiated when Defence advertised the site for sale for development in Feb 2005
- Defence withdrew site from sale, and ‘sold’ to BCC for peppercorn \$1



## Community campaign – Mar-Apr 2005

- Led by **Friends of Pooh Corner (FoPC)** and supported **Centenary and District Environment Action (CDEA)**
- Initiated when Defence advertised the site for sale for industrial development in Feb 2005
- By April 2005, Defence withdrew site from sale, and 'sold' to BCC for peppercorn value of \$1

Remnants from 1950s Defence training area at Pooh Corner Bushland Reserve



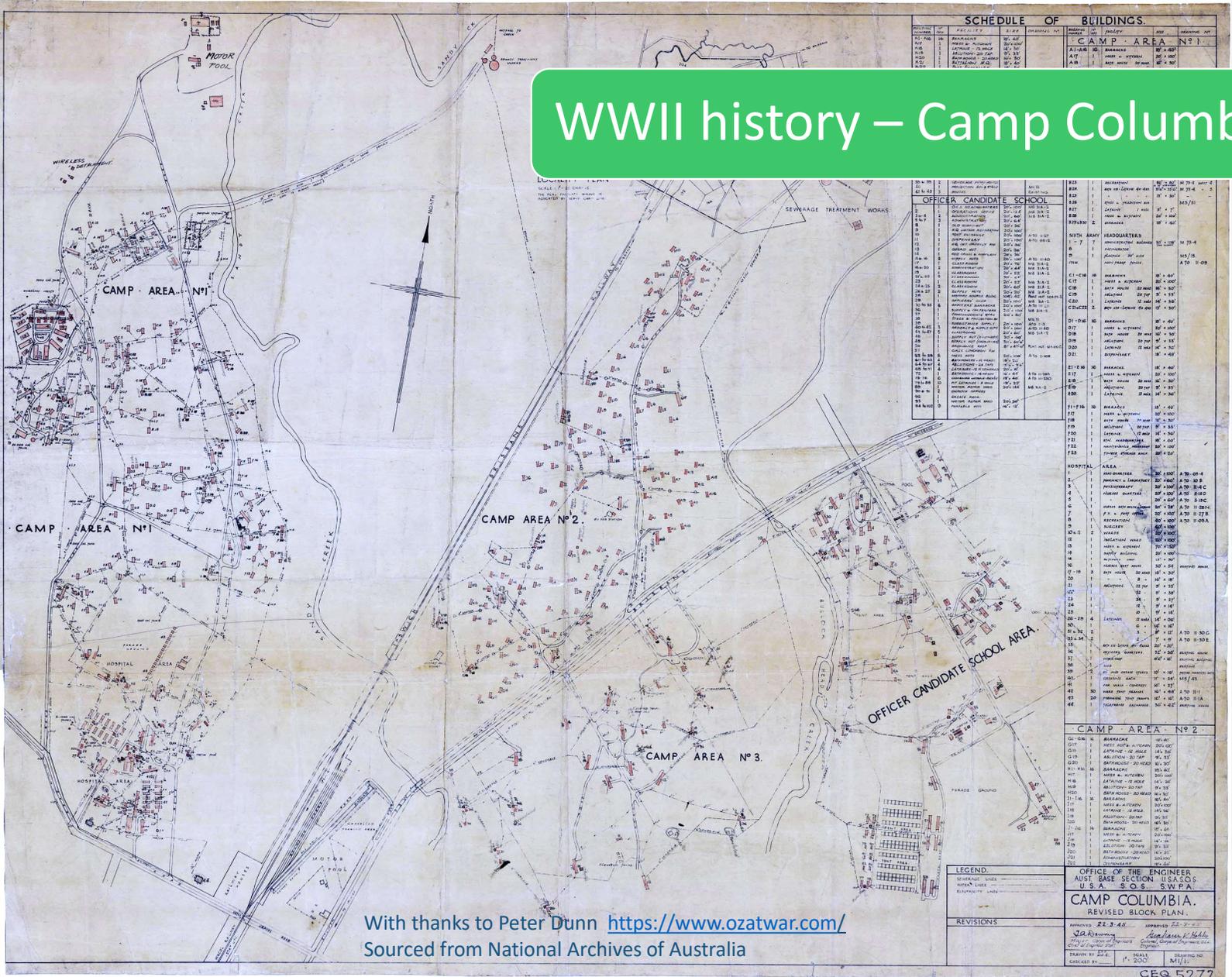
Photo: EP April 2005

## Post-war history 1950s to 2005

- Early 1950s – this land came into ownership of Defence
- Training area for National Servicemen during the Korean War which lasted until 1953
- Remained in Defence ownership for over 5 decades until transferred to BCC after the 2005 community campaign
- In the intervening 50 years, the bushland was a haven for wildlife, becoming more valuable as preserved habitat while the surrounding land was progressively developed
- The bushland, though intact, suffered misuse: rubbish dumping and illegal off-road vehicle use



# WWII history – Camp Columbia



With thanks to Peter Dunn <https://www.ozatwar.com/>  
Sourced from National Archives of Australia





2/22/2022 1 pm

01 - WWII Sewage treatment plant

Start

End

05

04

03

02

06

07

08

09

10

12

11

11 Square concrete pit

10

10 Concrete structure

09a Culvert (east end outlet)

08 Sign

07 Tree with woodchop marks

05 Culvert endwall (western inlet)

06 Culvert endwall (eastern outlet)

03 Small pond

02 Rubbish mattresses

12 SW corner of Pooh Corner

End

434 m

Google Earth

Imagery Date: 10/27/2017 27°34'40.32" S 152°55'49.74" E elev 15 m eye alt 1.80 km

1985

2/22/2022 1:pm

01 - WWII Sewage treatment plant

Start

End

15

14

CAMP AREA

CAMP AREA N°1

CAMP AREA N°2

Parade Ground

M7

09a Culvert (east end outlet) 08 Sign

07 Tree with woodchop marks

05 Culvert endwall (western inlet) 06 Culvert endwall (eastern outlet)

03 Small pond

02 Rubbish mattresses

Start 12 SW corner of Pooh Corner

End

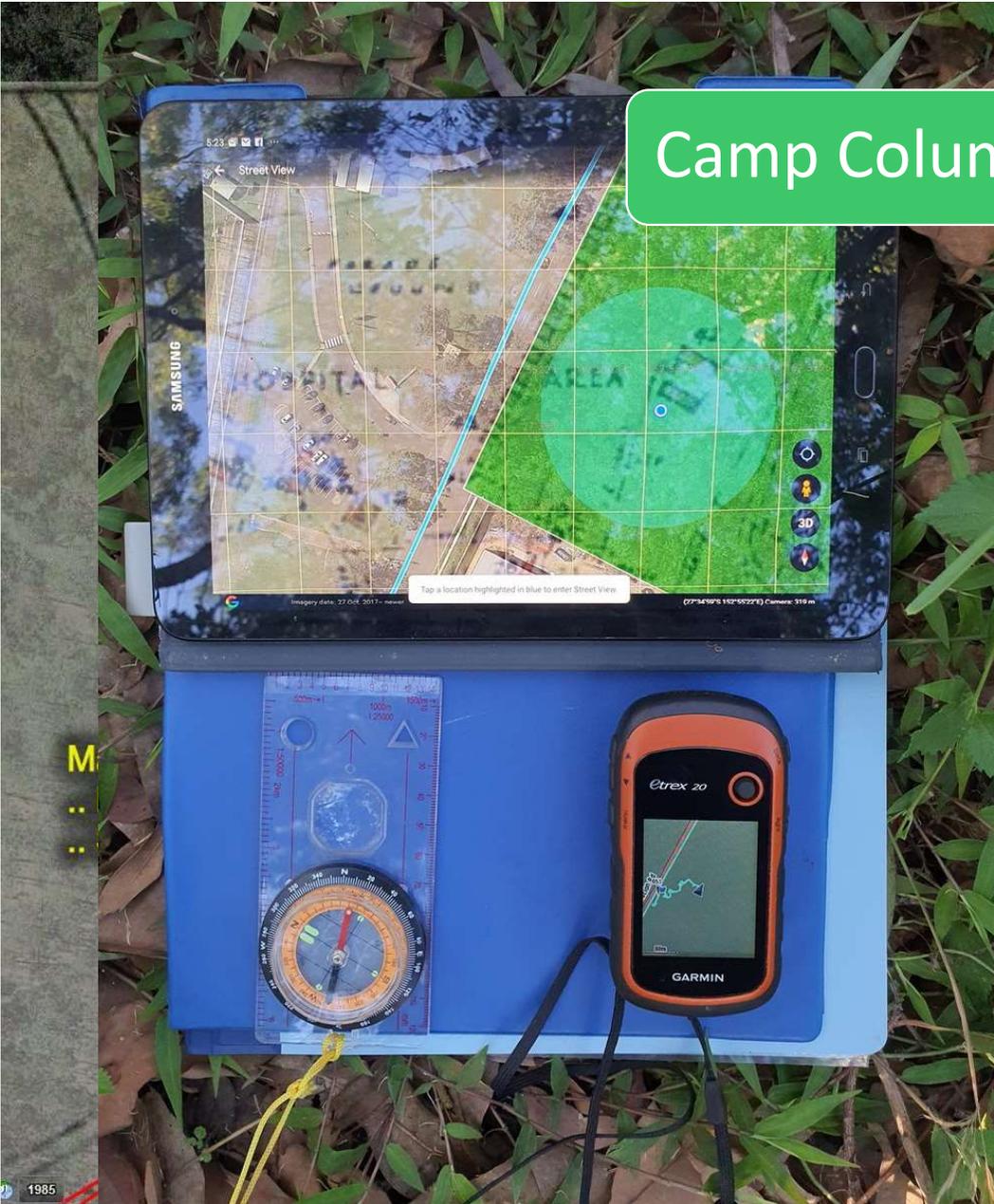
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# Camp Columbia – exploration



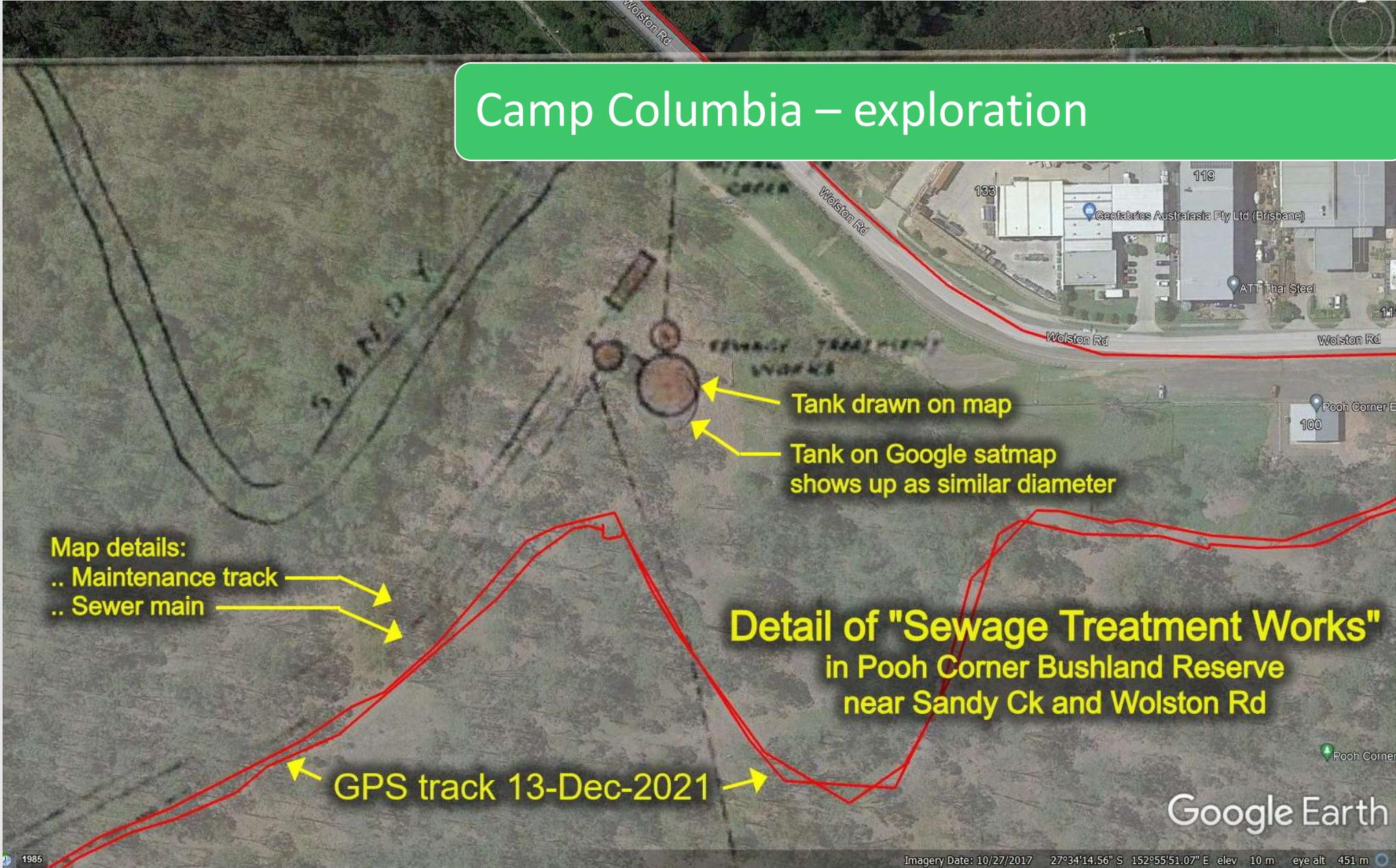
Tank drawn on map

Tank on Google satmap shows up as similar diameter

**Detail of "Sewage Treatment Works" in Pooh Corner Bushland Reserve near Sandy Ck and Wolston Rd**

M  
:  
:

# Camp Columbia – exploration



Map details:

- .. Maintenance track
- .. Sewer main

Tank drawn on map  
Tank on Google satmap shows up as similar diameter

Detail of "Sewage Treatment Works"  
in Pooh Corner Bushland Reserve  
near Sandy Ck and Wolston Rd

GPS track 13-Dec-2021

Google Earth

A man wearing a light-colored shirt, blue jeans, and a hat is standing on a brick-lined path, looking through binoculars. He has a red bag slung over his shoulder. The path is made of gravel and bricks, and is surrounded by tall grass and trees. In the background, there is a dense forest of trees with light-colored trunks. The sky is overcast.

## Camp Columbia – exploration

WWII Sewage Treatment Plant remnants  
at Pooh Corner Bushland Reserve  
near Sandy Creek and Wolston Road, Wacol

Photo: EP Feb 2022



Relics within Pooh Corner Bushland Reserve

End wall for road drainage culvert, and water main

A close-up photograph of a person's hand holding a large, dark, and heavily rusted metal pipe. The pipe is cylindrical and shows significant signs of corrosion, with a mottled surface of dark grey and reddish-brown. The person's hand is visible, with a black wristband and a silver buckle on their wrist. The background consists of green grass and brown, dry leaves, suggesting an outdoor, natural environment.

Relics within Pooh Corner Bushland Reserve

Water main remnant

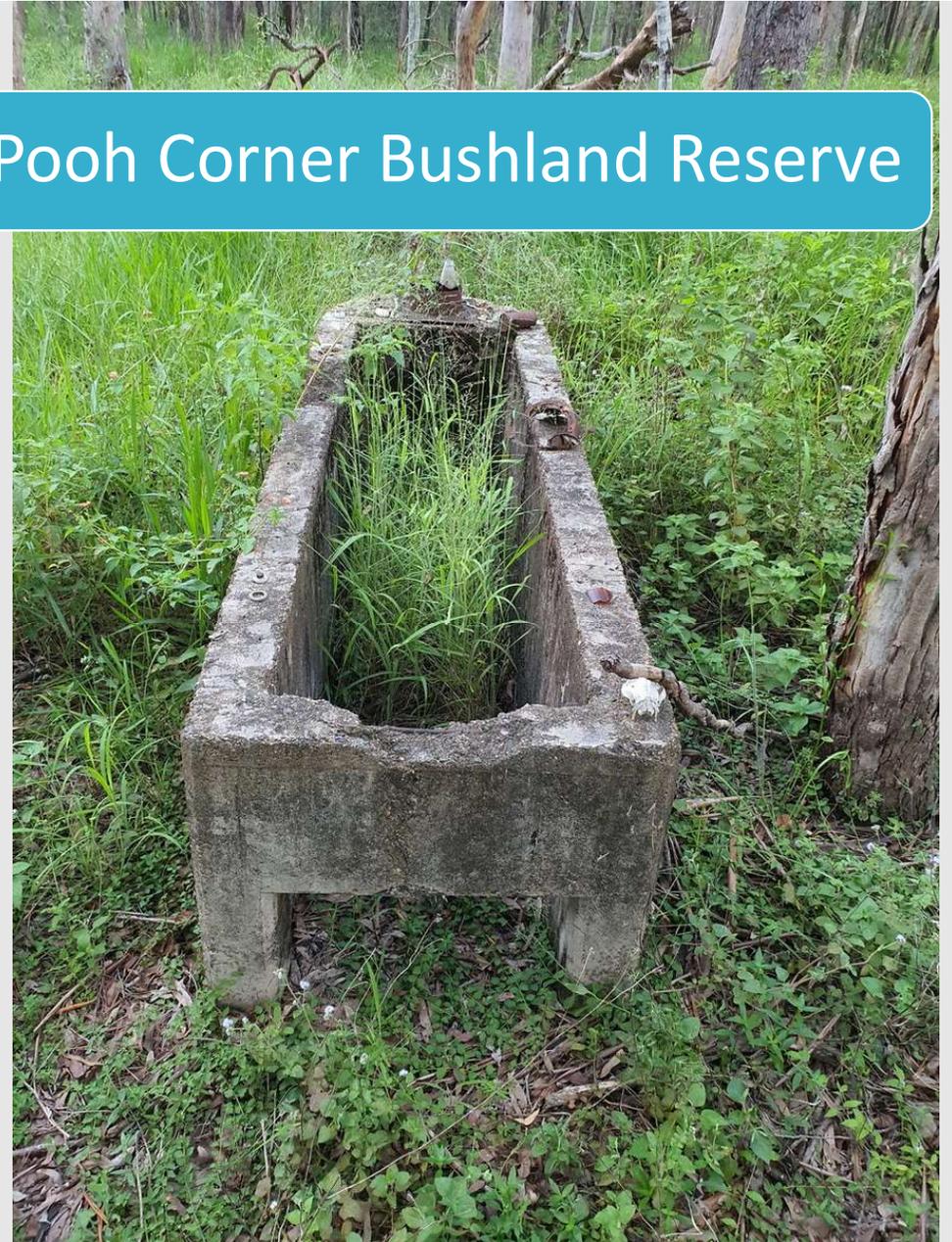
## Relics within Pooh Corner Bushland Reserve



Fire pit?

(Purpose yet to be determined)

Wacol Station Road visible in background



# Relics within Pooh Corner Bushland Reserve

**Concrete bridge abutment at Sandy Creek**  
(at western side of Pooh Corner)  
for WWII maintenance track to sewage treatment plant  
located at eastern side of Pooh Corner, near Wolston Road



**Sandy Creek**

Photo: EP Feb 2022



UQ archeology team members  
crossing Sandy Creek via log bridge

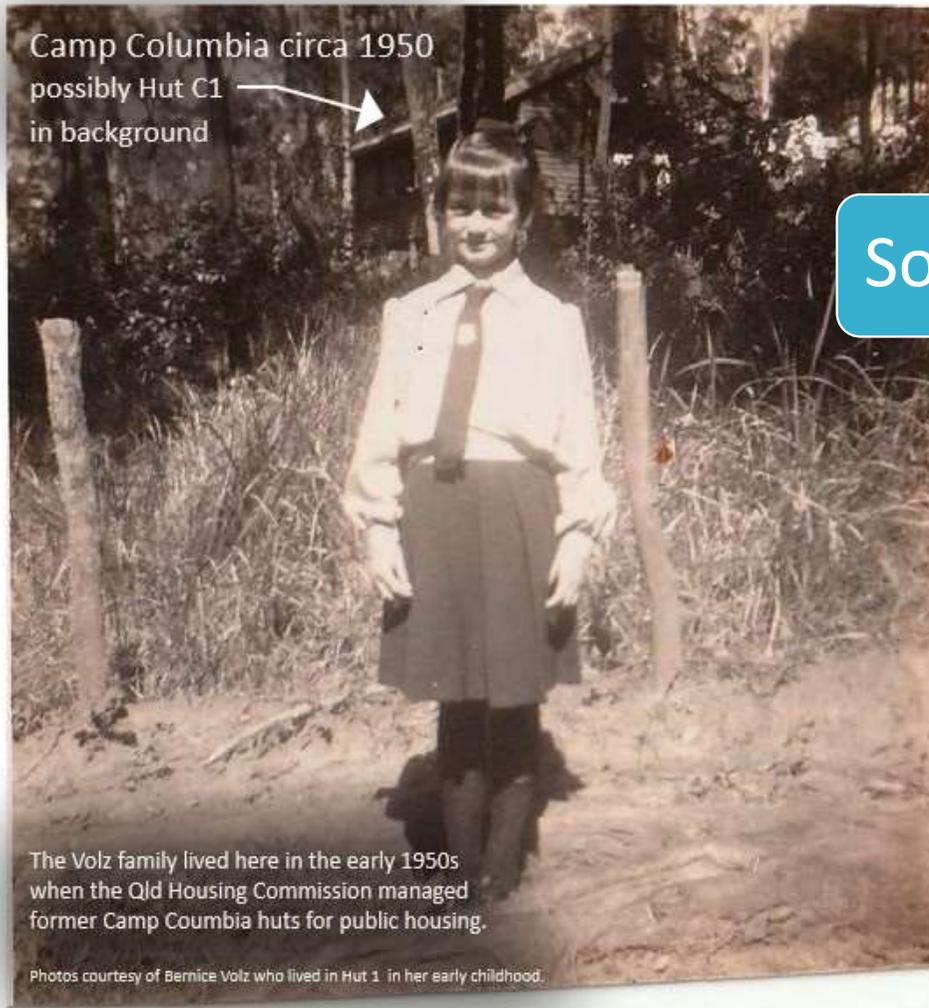
Feb 2022

# Social History

Camp Columbia  
Hut C1



Wacol - Camp Columbia huts  
Photos from Bernice Volz



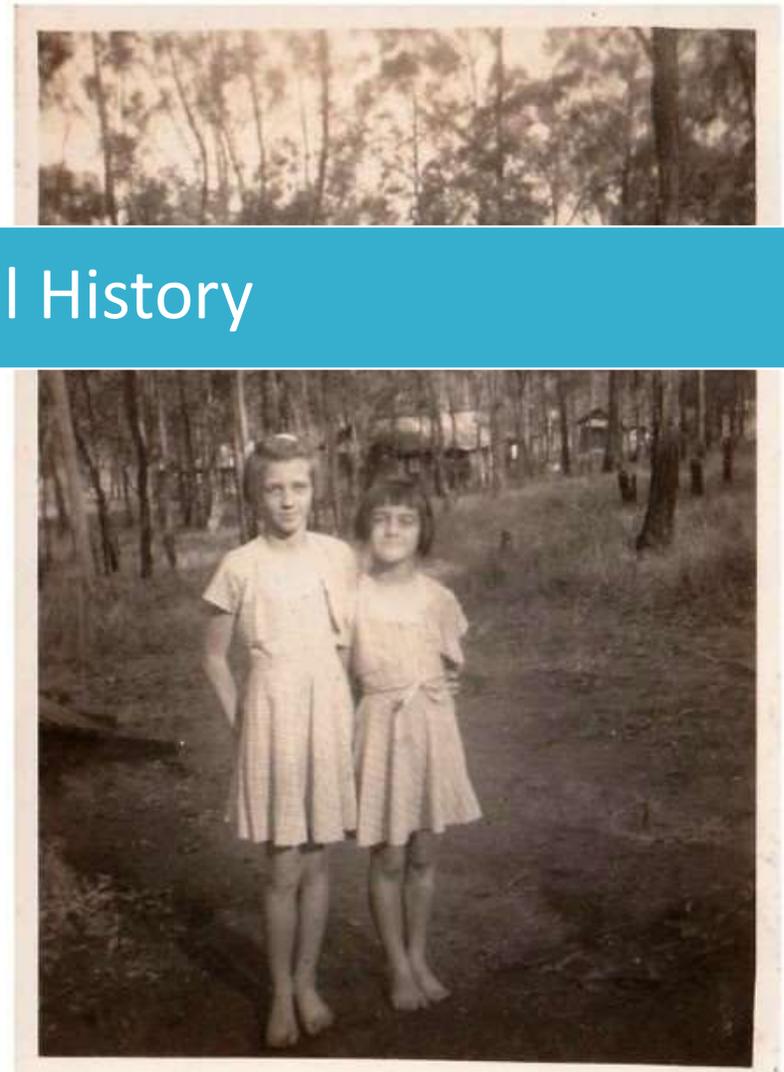
Camp Columbia circa 1950  
possibly Hut C1  
in background

The Volz family lived here in the early 1950s  
when the Old Housing Commission managed  
former Camp Columbia huts for public housing.

Photos courtesy of Bernice Volz who lived in Hut 1 in her early childhood.

Bernice 8yrs 7mths old. This could be our hut in the background, land is steeper and maybe the west side of hut is the road.  
IMG\_20220118\_0001\_xel

Social History



The photo of my sister and me (says on back Camp Columbia) is quite a ways from our hut, too low/flat? Of course I am the dark haired  
cheeky one, my 2 sisters and brother were blond.  
IMG\_20220118\_0002\_xel



## Centenary Archers clubrooms in nearby Wacol Station Road.

This building is one of the original huts from Camp Columbia, built at nearby Wacol by the US 6<sup>th</sup> Army during World War II. It was relocated to this location for ongoing use by this local community group.



10/27/2017 1:00

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12 SW corner of Pooh Corner

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Aerial oblique view of present-day Pooh Corner Bushland Reserve, showing the main locations of relics from the WWII Camp Columbia.

Google Earth

1985

Imagery Date: 10/27/2017 27°34'40.32" S 152°55'49.74" E elev: 115 m eye alt: 1.80 km

Thank you

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- End 15 14
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Ipswich Rd  
Ipswich Motorway  
M7  
Bullock Head Creek  
Ipswich Rd  
Ipswich Motorway  
Mentor Expt

Google