1.0 Introduction

1.1 Project Background

Godden Mackay Logan (GML) was commissioned by the National Capital Authority (NCA) to prepare a Heritage Management Plan (HMP) for the Grave of Major General Sir William Throsby Bridges (General Bridges’ Grave) within the Royal Military College (RMC) Duntroon, Campbell, ACT.

As a Commonwealth Heritage listed place, the NCA is obliged under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (Cwlth) (EPBC Act) to prepare a HMP for General Bridges’ Grave to appropriately conserve and manage its Commonwealth Heritage values.

1.2 Site Location

General Bridges’ Grave is located within RMC Duntroon in Canberra, ACT (Figure 1.1). The Grave is located on the Mount Pleasant hillside beside General Bridges Drive. Figure 1.2 shows an aerial location of General Bridges’ Grave.

1.3 Management Framework

The RMC Duntroon site is subject to management by both the Department of Defence (Defence) and the NCA. General Bridges’ Grave is managed solely by the NCA, however constant consultation with Defence is undertaken.

The NCA are responsible for the management and maintenance within the fenced area of General Bridges’ Grave and its accompanying interpretive and directional signs. Defence manage the surrounding area including the driveway and nearby vegetation.

The Department of Veteran’s Affairs (DVA), Office of Australian War Graves (OAWG), representing the Commonwealth War Graves Commission (CWGC), in matters pertaining to the war dead in Australia from the two world wars, also have a management role at General Bridges’ Grave. The authority for this representation is vested in the Memorandum of Understanding between the Commonwealth of Australia and the CWGC and the War Graves Act 1980. The CWGC are a key stakeholder in the management of General Bridges’ Grave (grave only, not entire memorial site) with responsibilities relating to the condition of the grave and any potential impacts on the interred remains.

1.3.1 Heritage Listings

General Bridges’ Grave is listed for its heritage values on several registers including:

**Commonwealth Heritage List**

- General Bridges’ Grave—Place ID: 13392 (22/06/2004)
- RMC Duntroon Conservation Area—Place ID: 105449 (22/06/2004)

The Commonwealth Heritage List (CHL) was created under the EPBC Act in 2004. This statutory list recognises places of heritage value which are owned or controlled by the Commonwealth Government. This citation is included at Appendix A. A plan showing the RMC Duntroon
Conservation Area is at Figure 1.3. Note that while not included in the listing boundary of the RMC Duntroon Conservation Area, General Bridges’ Grave is mentioned in the CHL citation.

Register of the National Estate

- General Bridges’ Grave—Place ID: 13392 (27/03/1984)
- RMC Duntroon Conservation Area—Place ID: 13375 (18/04/1989)

General Bridges’ Grave was entered in the Register of the National Estate (RNE) in 1989. Developed in 1975, the RNE has been a statutory listing of Commonwealth Heritage places around Australia; however, in February 2007, provisions in the EPBC Act relating to its statutory status were amended. The RNE will cease to have statutory effect in February 2012. Inclusion in the RNE does not provide direct legal protection or prescriptive requirements for management, but it is a relevant matter for other decision making under the EPBC Act. The RNE citations match the CHL citations.

ACT Heritage Register

The ACT Heritage Register includes places of natural and cultural significance, including Indigenous places. It was set up under the Heritage Act 2004 (ACT). General Bridges’ Grave is not individually listed on the ACT Heritage Register; however, the whole of RMC Duntroon is listed as Status 1 on the ACT Heritage Register.

Status 1 denotes that the place has been accepted as a nomination by the ACT Heritage Council. However, the Heritage Act 2004 has no statutory effect for a place that is in Commonwealth ownership.

National Trust of Australia (ACT) Register of Significant Places

- General Bridges’ Grave—Classified Place (20/12/1982)

The National Trust of Australia (ACT) maintains a Register of Significant Places. General Bridges’ Grave is included on this register as a classified place, and the National Trust considers it to be valued by the community. National Trust recognition is not a statutory listing (Appendix B).

Register of Significant Twentieth Century Architecture

- General Bridges’ Grave—RSTCA No: R055F

Members from each state chapter of the Australian Institute of Architects have compiled a register of what they consider to be outstanding examples of twentieth century architecture. The Register of Significant Twentieth Century Architecture is not a statutory listing (Appendix C).

Department of Defence Heritage Register

- General Bridges’ Grave—Asset No: A043

The Department of Defence has developed a Defence Heritage Register of places of Commonwealth Heritage value under their control or ownership. General Bridges’ Grave is included on this register; however the NCA is responsible for the management of the site.
Walter Burley Griffin Society—Griffin Heritage Inventory

• General Bridges’ Grave

The Walter Burley Griffin Society Inc. was established in 1988 as a non-profit association by a group of people inspired by the need to commemorate and promote a better understanding of the lives, ideals, vision and works of Walter Burley Griffin and Marion Mahony Griffin. The society keeps an up to date register of all places designed by the Griffins. Inclusion on this register does not offer statutory protection (Appendix D).

1.4 Relevant Documentation

The following documents were referenced in the preparation of the HMP:

• ERM 2007, General Bridges’ Grave Heritage Management Plan, report prepared for the Department of Defence

• Godden Mackay Logan 2009, RMC Duntroon Heritage Management Plan, report prepared for the Department of Defence

1.5 Consultation

1.5.1 Key Stakeholders

During the development of this HMP, initial consultation was undertaken with key stakeholders as identified in a list provided by the NCA. Stakeholders were initially contacted by telephone (where possible) and follow up was undertaken via email correspondence. The consultation was undertaken to inform relevant stakeholders about the development of the HMP, comply with legislative requirements under the EPBC Act, seek views and information from stakeholders about their perception of the heritage values of the site, obtain information about heritage management issues, expectations and ways of addressing these issues in the HMP. Initial responses were received from the Department responsible for the EPBC Act, the National Trust of Australia (ACT) and the Walter Burley Griffin Society. The key stakeholders included:

• NCA Planning and Estate Management Staff;
• Department of Defence;
• Australian War Memorial;
• Returned and Services League (RSL);
• ACT Heritage Council;
• Department Responsible for the EPBC Act;
• National Trust of Australia (ACT);
• Australian Institute of Landscape Architects;
• Australian Institute of Architects; and
• Walter Burley Griffin Society.
Following public consultation, the Department of Veteran’s Affairs, Office of Australian War Graves, representing the Commonwealth War Graves Commission and the RMC Duntroon Heritage Committee were also identified as interested stakeholders.

This HMP was made available for comment at various draft stages to ensure relevant stakeholders were informed about the management plan process, of the revised heritage values and associated conservations and management policies, and to obtain their feedback. Public consultation for the HMP was held by the NCA from 26 March 2013 until 4 May 2012; identified stakeholders were informed and given the opportunity to respond. Their comments were incorporated into the document. Comment was also sought from the NCA, the Department responsible for the EPBC Act (currently the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities) and the Australian Heritage Council prior to finalising the report.

1.5.2 Indigenous Consultation

In order to correctly assess the Indigenous heritage values under the EPBC Act, consultation was undertaken with the Indigenous community. This practice is standard for assessments under the EPBC Act and serves to draw out the intangible heritage values that cannot be readily assessed through research and site inspections. The Indigenous heritage values of a place, must be identified by the relevant local Indigenous community in line with *Ask First: a guide to respecting Indigenous heritage places and values*, published by the Australian Heritage Commission, 2002.

For land in the ACT, the process of identifying the correct Indigenous community members for consultation has been addressed through the issuing of an official ‘Representative Aboriginal Organisation’ (RAO) list by ACT Heritage.

The RAO list identifies the following four groups for consultation in the ACT:

- Buru Ngunawal Aboriginal Corporation.
- Consultative Body Aboriginal Corporation on Indigenous Land and Artefacts in the Ngunnawal Area.
- Little Gudgenby River Tribal Council.
- Ngarigu Currawong Clan.

The following consultation procedure was undertaken:

1. Each group was contacted by telephone to establish whether or not they had an interest in being part of the project, and a letter outlining the HMP project was sent to each group as a follow up to the telephone call.

2. Each group was invited to discuss the project on site, and to inspect the site to identify heritage values.

Each group has been forwarded relevant sections of this HMP of this report for comment.

Discussions of the Indigenous culture values of the site were undertaken on site with the following representatives:

- Wally Bell—Buru Ngunawal Aboriginal Corporation.
1.6 Authorship and Acknowledgements

This report has been written by Amy Guthrie, Heritage Consultant; Martin Rowney, Senior Heritage Consultant; and Sarah Webeck, Graduate Consultant, of GML. The report has been reviewed by Anne Claoué-Long, Senior Consultant of GML. The updated condition assessment and Outline Schedule of Works was undertaken by Pip Giovanelli, Built Heritage Specialist, subconsultant to GML. All information drawn from previous academic and consulting work has been fully referenced.

GML would like to acknowledge the assistance the following people in the development of this HMP:

- Natalie Broughton, NCA;
- Glen Thomas, NCA;
- Peter Pardy, NCA; and
- Joanne Benson, Defence.

Figure 1.1 Aerial view showing the location of RMC Duntroon (Source: Google Earth.)
Figure 1.2 Aerial view showing the location of General Bridges’ Grave adjacent to General Bridges Drive. (Source: GML on Google Plan.)
Figure 1.3 Plan of RMC Duntroon showing all places listed on the Commonwealth Heritage List. Note: General Bridges Grave is not within the listing boundary of the Conservation Area (Source: Former Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts)