
Grampians National Park, HALLS GAP



HG 01 - Shire of Northern
Grampians - Stage 2 Heritage
Study, 2004

Location

Grampians National Park HALLS GAP, NORTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

Municipality

NORTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

Level of significance

Recommended for Heritage Overlay

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1556

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO25

HO26

Heritage Listing

Northern Grampians Shire

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - July 16, 2004

The Grampians are the dominant landscape feature in the Shire. They can be viewed from many places in the municipality and as such a significant feature have been adopted as the logo for the Northern Grampians Shire. The Grampians have been an important part of aboriginal culture prior to settlement by Europeans and were one of the first features identified and visited in the vicinity. The Grampians are significant for their natural features including their geology, flora and fauna. The Grampians contain a range of significant sites relating to water supply, timber getting, charcoal burning, gold mining, wattle bark stripping, bee keeping and early and continuing tourist attractions. The Grampians are a significant tourist and recreational destination.

The following places of State significance are within the Park: Heatherlie Quarry and associated structures and Zumsteins.

The Grampians are of **aesthetic** significance at the **STATE** level as a prominent and definitive feature of the Northern Grampians Shire and can be viewed from many places within the Shire and is thus valued by the local community and the state as a whole. The numerous natural and cultural features, abundant flora and fauna contribute to the significance of the place and include: Heatherlie Quarry (HVR 1556), Zumstein's cottages and remnant garden layout (HVR No H1049). Wonderland and Reid's Lookout Rotundas, Former railway line from Stawell to Mount Difficult Quarry, Burma Track Survival Hut, Site of Childe's Sawmill and "Glenbower" homestead, Borough Huts Charcoal Kilns, Borough Huts Site at Borough Huts Camp Ground, Major Mitchell Memorial Cairn on Mount Zero, Mount Zero Quarry and Tramway, Mount Difficult Camp Site, Mount Victory Road, Mackenzie Fall, Reid's Lookout and "The Balconies", Grand Canyon, Major Mitchell and Mount William Road Memorial cairn, Smith Sawmill Site, Silverband Road, Stony Creek Diggings, Silverband Falls, Cranage's Cottage, Horsham Angling Club, Lake Wartook, Old Adelaide Road and Monument, Stony Creek sawmill and Tramway, The Basin Sawmill Site, the *Angophora costata* at Zumsteins and Sanderson's Gap Track.

The Grampians are of **historical** significance at a **LOCAL** level. The area has a large number of sites relating to the early exploration of the area, early industries such as timber getting, gold mining, charcoal burning, early tourism and bee keeping. The area is also significant as the catchment and start of the Wimmera Mallee Water Supply. Moora Moora Reservoir, Lake Wartook and Lake Bellfield. These major water storages are also of significance as part of the Wimmera Mallee Water supply System.

The Grampians are of **social** significance at a **LOCAL** and **STATE** level. They are recognised and valued by the Victorian community as a well-known place of recreation and area of high aboriginal significance.

Overall The Grampians are of **STATE** significance.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Northern Grampians - Shire of Northern Grampians - Stage 2 Heritage Study, Wendy Jacobs, Vicki Johnson, David Rowe, Phil Taylor, 2004;
Hermes Number	105105
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

The significant place is all of the Grampians National Park which falls within the Northern Grampians Shire. The area is dominated by rocky lines of ranges which rise abruptly from the surrounding plain. The area surrounds major water storages which are excluded from the park including Moora Moora Reservoir, Lake Wartook and Lake Bellfield. These major water storages are also early features of the Wimmera Mallee Water Supply System as are the weir, fluming, syphons, tunnel, pipeline and associated elements.

The area contains numerous places of natural beauty and heritage values which include but are not limited to the following places:

Heatherlie Quarry and Associated Structures (State Significance HVR No H1556 Northern Grampians Planning Scheme HO 26). Also known as the Mount Difficult Quarry.

The Heatherlie Quarry provided the first really durable freestone (sandstone) discovered in Victoria, and its development exemplifies the technical, political and social problems associated with isolated industrial locations in the state. It remains today as the most complete illustration of quarrying methods for cut stone. Its north end has a sheer raking face and examples of partly extracted blocks which retain the evidence of the traditional wedge and fether technique. Associated buildings, structures, approach and on-site railway workings, and machinery relics, provide insights into the infrastructure essential to any major quarrying operation.

Zumstein's cottages and remnant garden layout (State Significance HVR No H1049. Northern Grampians Planning Scheme HO 25) - The Green, Blue and Orange cottages at Zumsteins were constructed in 1935 by Walter Zumstein using the pise or rammed earth technique to provide accommodation for the increasing number of tourists visiting the Grampians. Zumstein identified these, and the other cottages he constructed by the colour of the painted lintels over the doors and windows. Gardens and a swimming pool were also constructed and nearby is a large double storey timber house known as "Redgum cottage". Pise cottages are relatively rare in Victoria and these are important examples of vernacular architecture demonstrating the Zumsteins' innovation and resourcefulness. The smooth barked apple myrtle (*Angophora costata*) planted by Walter Zumstein in c.1930 displays unusual and very attractive form with heavily striated trunk and weeping habit with many of the branches touching the ground.

Wonderland and Reid's Lookout Rotundas - These octagonal timber rotundas were constructed in 1939.

Former railway line from Stawell to Mount Difficult Quarry was built in the 1880s to transport stone from the quarry to the Stawell railway, initially the stone was used for the construction of the Victorian Parliament House, Melbourne and the line was also used for agricultural and recreational purposes.

Burma Track Survival Hut - This is a single room timber hut with fireplace used by bushwalkers and as a refuge. It is the only such structure remaining within the Grampians National Park.

Site of Childe's Sawmill and "Glenbower" homestead - In the 1860s John Childe installed a water wheel with the idea of generating electricity at the junction of the Fyans and Glenbower Creeks. He sold the site to J. D'Alton in 1875 who built "Glenbower". Remains, including brick and cut stone, exotic trees and an approach track mark the site.

Borough Huts Charcoal Kilns - This site features three well preserved cylindrical iron kilns situated on the edge of the Borough Huts picnic ground. Each kiln is about 2 metres in diameter and 2.6 metres high. The Forestry Commission of Victoria operated the kilns for charcoal production in the early 1940s. The charcoal burning industry was revived at this time because of wartime petrol shortages, as charcoal could be used to replace petrol in internal combustion engines.

Borough Huts Site at Borough Huts Camp Ground - A small township was formed on this site for workers engaged in building and maintaining Stawell's water supply. A bark and bush timber cottage was built for the caretaker who patrolled the water fluming daily after its completion. Further cottages were built there and it earned its name of Borough Huts as it was used by members of the Borough of Stawell on trips to the area.

Major Mitchell Memorial Cairn on Mount Zero - Monuments and memorials to commemorate Major Mitchell's epic 1836 journey were erected in many locations throughout south-eastern Victoria in 1936 to commemorate the centenary of his journey. This cairn is one of several in the Northern Grampians shire.

Mount Zero Quarry and Tramway - The Mount Zero Quarry provided beaching stone for the construction of the Taylors Lake and Pine Lake storage dams, which were completed in 1919 and 1928 respectively. A horse-worked tramway was laid down from the quarry to Taylors Lake (about 16 kilometres) to carry the stone and was later taken up and moved to perform a similar function for Pine Lake. No rails or bridges remain, but the formation of the tramway can be clearly seen in places.

Mount Difficult Camp Site - This is the site of a forestry camp originally associated with the establishment of the Mount Difficult softwood plantation in 1926, and used again in the 1930s to house men working in the forests on unemployment relief.

Mount Victory Road - The Mount Victory Road was the first tourist road to be completed in the Grampians when it was constructed in the 1920s. It was funded by the Tourist Resorts Committee, at time when similar tourist roads were being built in scenic areas around the State. Work on roads in remote areas such as this was extremely difficult, and was often done with pick and shovel. The workers were housed in camps along the route.

Mackenzie Falls - This is a broad waterfall over tiers of rocks. The descent to the base of the falls is equipped with numerous flights of stone steps, with steel pipe railings, which was built in 1939. The falls became a popular tourist destination after the opening of the Mount Victory Road. The original rough track into the site was blazed by Walter Zumstein.

Reid's Lookout and "The Balconies" - An early shepherd or stockmen cut this track to a lookout for the view across the Glenelg Valley to the Victoria Range. It was made accessible to tourists in 1923 with the construction of the Mount Victory Road. A 900 metre track leads on to The Balconies another popular lookout protected by railings.

Grand Canyon - The Grand Canyon is a spectacular deep gully, with sheer rock faces. It has long been a popular tourist attraction in the Grampians, in an area known as "The Wonderland". The Grand Canyon has also regularly featured in tourist promotion material. The name reflects early attributes to the naming of natural features, in an attempt to help promote and attract attention to such features.

Major Mitchell and Mount William Road Memorial Cairn - The cairn commemorates both the exploration of the area in 1836 by Major Mitchell and the opening of the Mt. William Road in 1963 by the Hon. W. J. Mibus M.L.A., Minister for Water Supply and Mines.

Smith Sawmill Site, Old Mill Road - Sawn milling activities began here in the 1920s and then Smith operated on the site from the 1930s until the 1950s, when the mill was burnt down and rebuilt in Horsham. Traces of the operation include a portable steam engine, concrete slab and blocks a large sawdust heap and remains of cottages and gardens.

Silverband Road - Silverband Road is located between Lake Bellfield and the Mount Victory Road in the Grampians. It was constructed in 1927 as a tourist road, with funding from the Tourist resorts Committee, at a time when similar tourist roads were being built in scenic areas around the State. The road speed was originally limited to 10 mph (17 Km/h).

Stony Creek Diggings - The first alluvial gold found in the Grampians was in 1887 by Alfred D'Alton and Charles D'Alton. A small township of 300 gold seekers formed at this site which is off the Silverband Road.

Silverband Falls - These thin ribbon waterfalls, descending over stepped rock ledges, is accessed by a steep pathway with rough stone steps. The falls have been associated with tourist and recreational activity in the area since the 1870s.

Cranage's Cottage, end Wartook Road - A group of cottages were originally built as tourist rental accommodation on private allotments along the Mackenzie River in the Grampians after they were approved by the Forests commission (following some controversy) in the 1920s. Their construction followed the building of local tourist roads in this period, which provided access to greater areas of the Grampians. Though most of the structures have since been removed, Cranage's original two-storey ripple iron clad cottage is of particular interest.

Horsham Angling Club, junction of Wartook and Mount Difficult Roads - This rectangular masonry building has roughcast walls and smooth stucco trim, strip windows, and verandahs on timber posts. The club was formed in 1901 and built the lodge in 1936, close to the club's trout hatchery.

Lake Wartook - Amongst the earliest major water supply works undertaken in the Wimmera, Wartook reservoir was built by the Wimmera United Waterworks Trust between 1882 and 1887, and enlarged in 1889. The fine sand embankment impounds the upper catchment of the McKenzie River. Believed to be the first irrigation storage on Australia.

Old Adelaide Road and Monument - The route of the Old Adelaide Road through Roses Gap was used by travellers from South Australia to Victoria during the 19th century. the route was used by Chinese gold seekers in the 1850s, who were restricted in landing directly in Melbourne. It is not known whether the "Chinamen's Track"

marked on Grampians maps is the same route. A monument at Troopers Creek marks the location where mounted police inspected the papers of interstate travellers.

Stony Creek Sawmill and Tramway - This was the site of a 1920s sawmill with an associated timber tramway. Remnant features include large sawn longs, a series of trenches and depressions and a very unusual large collapsed stone and earthen structure in the formation of an 'H'.

The Basin Sawmill Site - This sawmill was operated by the prominent Sanderson sawmilling family in the 1930s, on the west side of Fyans Creek. It was reputedly the only operating sawmill in the Grampians to be burnt out in the 1939 fires. The mill workers survived by taking refuge from the fire in nearby concrete pipes.

Sanderson's Gap Track - This is a 19th century sawmilling track (named after the prominent sawmilling family), which was also cited in a field naturalists excursion guide of 1891 and was recently re-opened for fire management purposes.

This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.

For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>