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# PORT FAIRY NEW CEMETERY

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## Location

PORT FAIRY, MOYNE SHIRE

## Municipality

MOYNE SHIRE

## Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

## Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7321-0053

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

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Interpretation of Site	<p>The dunes within the site appear to have shifted since the mid-nineteenth century and some graves and headstones are possibly buried. There does not seem to be any erosion evident. Sand movement across the site would have been stabilised with the introduction of marin grass which now covers the site. There are signs of vandalism on Connolly's headstone, which suggests that some markers may have been destroyed and/or removed. The very thick vegetation most likely obscures more grave markers that have fallen over.</p>
Archaeological Significance	<p>Though an unknown number of the approximately 200 burials were removed, there are at least six burials remaining. The archaeological significance of the site relates to what information can be obtained from the grave markers both from their inscriptions and the quality of the marker. These graves are associated with the pioneers of the area. Human remains within the burials are also of archaeological significance in that much could be learnt about the life, health and diet of the early pioneers of the area.</p>
Historical Significance	<p>The cemetery contains the remains of the earliest settlers of Port Fairy and district and is one of the earliest formal European cemeteries of Victoria.</p>
Other Names	<p>SANDHILLS CEMETERY, BEACH CEMETERY, BELFAST NEW CEMETERY,</p>

Hermes Number 146569

Property  
Number

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## History

The Port Fairy New Cemetery or "Beach Cemetery" was established in 1849 at the request of Superintendent of Port Phillip District, Charles Joseph LaTrobe, on a section of land among the sand dunes on the coast road from Port Fairy to Portland. Surveyor Alexander John Skene selected the land on the Portland coast road and laid out the plan of the cemetery.

The cemetery was officially in operation for 40 years and may have contained up to 200 burials, the majority of which date from the 1850s to 1860s. By the mid to late 1880s, proposals were put forward to officially close the Port Fairy New Cemetery. On 23rd May 1887, the Governor in Council approved the "discontinuance of burials" and this was gazetted on 27th May 1887.

Following the closure of the New Cemetery, many burials and headstones were removed and relocated to Port Fairy Old Cemetery.

*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/>*