
WARRNAMBOOL RIFLE RANGE

Location

55 ELLIOTT STREET WARRNAMBOOL, WARRNAMBOOL CITY

Municipality

WARRNAMBOOL CITY

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7321-0101

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - January 1, 1900

Of the nine themes provided by Victoria's Framework of Historical Themes, the Warrnambool Rifle Range directly relates to the following:

09 Shaping cultural and creative life

As established under the Framework of Historical Themes, this theme displays Victoria's cultural life in its many facets: sport, arts, popular culture and science. It highlights the passion for sport that typifies Australian society and shows Victoria's leading role in developing some of the nation's major sporting events and games.

Subtheme:

9.1 Participating in sport and recreation

. Forming local sports clubs

Furthermore, the concept of cultural significance is discussed in The Burra Charter (Australia ICOMOS 1999) which defines 'cultural significance' as "aesthetic, historical, scientific, social or spiritual value for past, present or future generations" (2013:2).² These are four categories (values) against which the cultural heritage significance of the VHI site within the study area can be assessed. The table below presents the listed values and levels of significance of the Warrnambool Rifle Range, as identified in Heritage Victoria's (2008) Guidelines for Conducting

Historical Archaeological Surveys.

The study area is significant as it represents a recreational activity practiced at the location that dates to the late 19th century and continuing through to the late 20th century. Archaeological deposits and constructed features and materials remain at the location. This includes the original trench and embankment, and associated structures, as well as spent munitions deposited at the site during its use. The artefactual material from the site has the potential to inform questions regarding the operation of rifle ranges and may also address questions regarding the development or typologies of small-arms ammunition used during this period.

The site is representative of the formation of the Warrnambool Volunteer Rifle Brigade and subsequent Warrnambool Rifle Club. The site was utilised by members of the local community for a period exceeding 100 years. It remnant features demonstrates retain early fabrics associated with the original construction of the site, as well as subsequent phases of development the late 20th century. Further investigation of the place has potential to reveal new information about processes or practices with respect to the development and use of small arms munitions throughout the late 1800's and 1900's.

Hermes Number 201587

Property Number

History

The original construction of the rifle range is attributed to the 1850's-60s and associated with the formation of the Warrnambool Volunteer Rifle Brigade. Specific mention of the brigade is made in a newspaper article printed in 1862.

A number of newspaper articles published in the late 1800's refers to the use of the butts. It is evident from these that the range was used by a number of cadets and rifle clubs, including Port Fairy, (Belfast), Portland, and Terang.

Several newspaper articles published in the late 1800's and early 1900 report on the outcomes of rifle competitions held at the range. The early construction of the range suggests that manual methods were utilised. A 1948 aerial image displays the range prior to these works (Figure 1), with a red line marking the extent of the trench. This area retains fabrics most likely associated with the intial construction of the site.

Works to repair or develop the range were undertaken during the mid-late 1900's. Materials used for the works included cement besa bricks in the trench walls, and lengths of metal train line as supports (see plates included below). The works also included the construction of a storage section at the eastern extent of the trench, with a corrugated iron roofed. while a photograph from 1977 clearly shows the roofed storage area at the eastern end of the trench, indicated on Figure 2 below.

A 1976 news article details a dispute between the Warrnambool Rifle Club and the Warrnambool City Council over a consideration to relocate the range to a location further from the city. The article sights the usage of the range by Warrnambool Rifle Club since 1890, and its unique quality of being able to accommodate up to 100

shooters partaking in team shooting events. The range continued to operate until 1993 when it was closed to make way for the waste water treatment plant.

Relevant newspaper articles are attached.

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/>