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# Great Western Racetrack, 1098 Moyston-Great Western Road , GREAT WESTERN



GW 11 - Shire of Northern  
Grampians - Stage 2 Heritage  
Study, 2004

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## Location

1098 Moyston - Great Western Road GREAT WESTERN, NORTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

## Municipality

NORTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

## Level of significance

Recommended for Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Listing

Northern Grampians Shire

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - July 16, 2004

The Great Western Race Track has significance as an important, longstanding and valued cultural landscape in Great Western. Originally established in 1866 with the setting aside of Crown Land, picnic races were held regularly on Boxing Day. After a lapse in the late 19th century, races were revived in 1899 under VRC rules, and from the 1920s the picnic day races were held on Foundation Day in January of each year. The races attracted hundreds of people from the local area and further afield, and several local people were involved in developing the track (planting of pine trees, improving the track and associated buildings, or acting as officers or members of the Club).

The Great Western Race Track is **aesthetically** significant at a **LOCAL** level. It demonstrates important visual qualities associated with the grassed horse racing track, and the numerous mature native and exotic trees, notably the eucalypts and pines.

The Great Western Race Track is **historically** significant at a **LOCAL** level. It is associated with the cultural and social development of Great Western from 1866, when Crown Land was reserved for the purposes of conducting regular picnic day horse racing meetings on Boxing Day. After a lapse during the 19th century, the meetings were revived in 1899 under VRC rules and from the 1920s the picnic day race was held on Foundation Day each January. Associated with the Great Western Picnic Racing Club have been many locals from the Great Western community, including Hans Irvine of the Great Western Vineyard (now Seppelts Great Western Winery) and M.H.R., Frank Hurley (who was responsible for several working bees and tree planting in the very early 20th century), and Colin Preece, who led the club through 30 years of prosperity between 1933 and 1963. Throughout the 20th century, the regular picnic day race has come to be widely known as the Club's champagne meeting, recognising and capitalising on the importance of the local wineries at Great Western.

The Great Western Race Track is **socially** significant at a **LOCAL** level. It is recognised and valued by the community for cultural and sporting reasons.

Overall, the Great Western Race Track is of **LOCAL** 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	105061
Property Number	

## Physical Description 1

The Great Western Race Track, 1098 Moyston-Great Western Road, Great Western, consists of an open grassed horse racing track having metal guards supported by circular steel posts that define the track boundaries. Numerous early native and exotic trees, including eucalypts and pines, are an important aesthetic feature of the reserve. Some recent open stalls with galvanised corrugated iron gabled roofs, together with other introduced structures (including callers and viewing boxes) are also a feature of the site.

*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/>*