

FORMER BALLARAT RAAF BASE



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BASE SOHE 2008



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14247 Former Ballarat RAAF
Base



14247 Former Ballarat RAAF Base Admin building



14247 Former Ballarat RAAF Base



14247 Former Ballarat RAAF Base water tower



14247 Former Ballarat RAAF base Bellman Hangars



14247 Former Ballarat RAAF Base gymnasium



H2113 FORMER BALLARAT RAAF BASE LHA 2015 1.JPG



H2113 FORMER BALLARAT RAAF BASE LHA 2015 2.JPG



H2113 FORMER BALLARAT RAAF BASE LHA 2015 3.JPG



H2113 FORMER BALLARAT RAAF BASE LHA 2015 4.JPG



H2113 FORMER BALLARAT RAAF BASE LHA 2015 5.JPG



Before Photographs - Reference F3893 2014



Before Photographs - Reference F3893 2014



Before Photographs - Reference F3893 2014



Before Photographs - Reference F3893 2014



Before Photographs - Reference F3893 2014



After Photographs -
Reference F3893 2016



After Photographs -
Reference F3893 2016



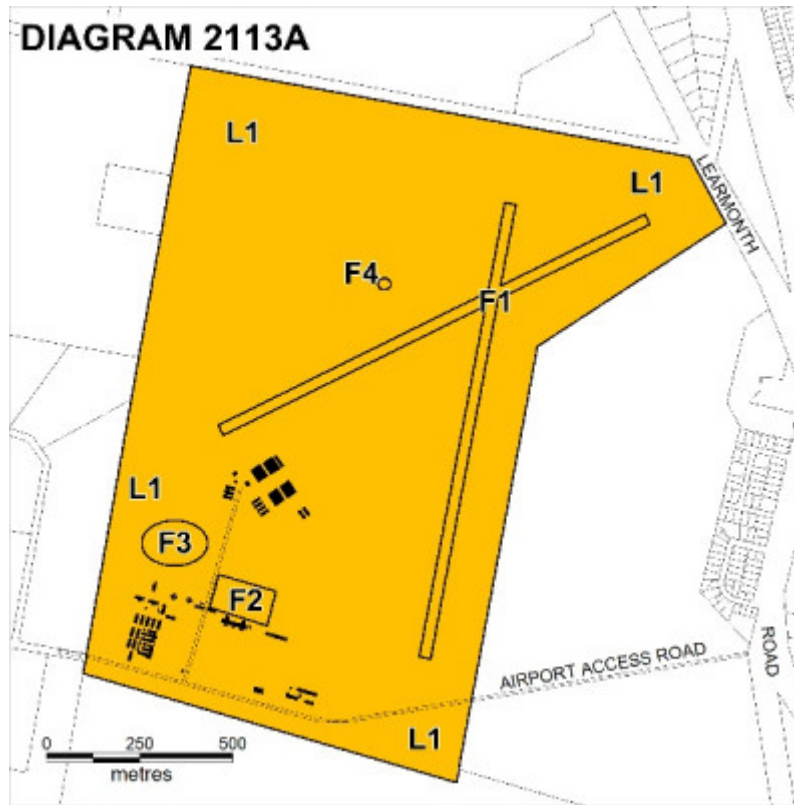
After Photographs -
Reference F3893 2016



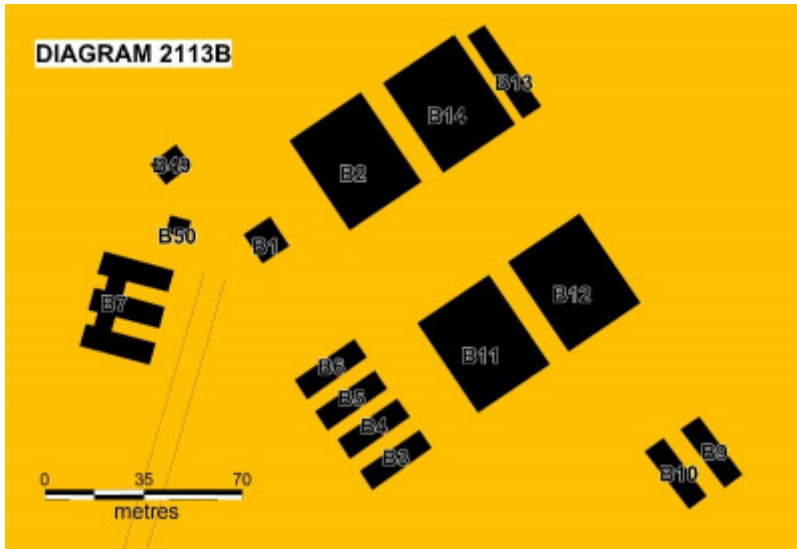
After Photographs -
Reference F3893 2016



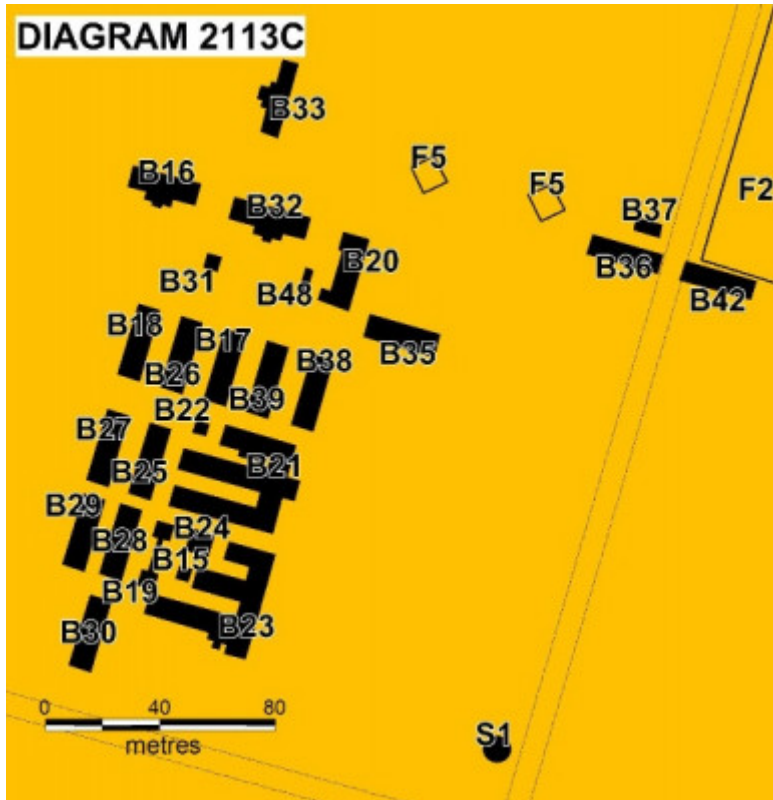
After Photographs -
Reference F3893 2016



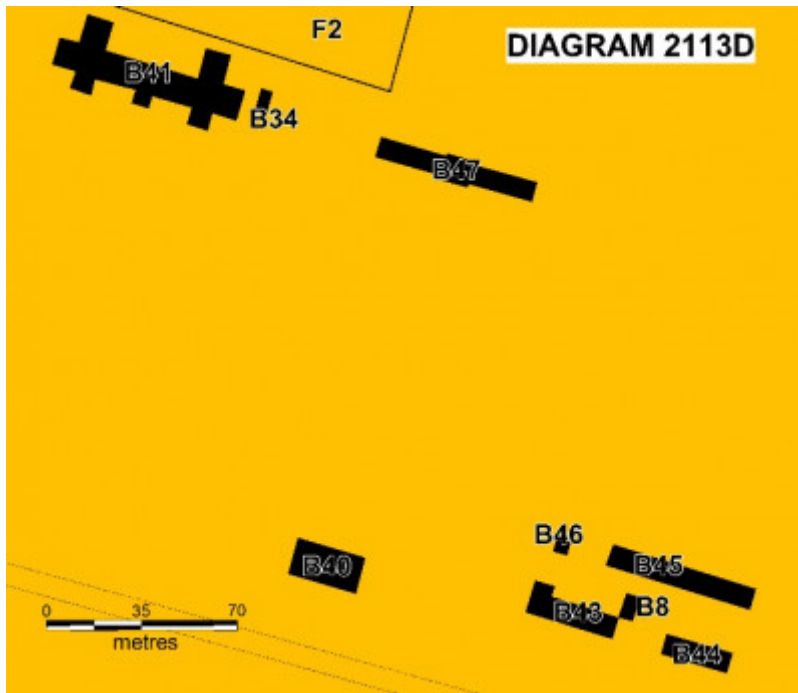
ballarat airport amendment plan A.jpg



ballarat airport amendment plan B.jpg



ballarat airport amendment plan C.jpg



ballarat airport amendment plan D.jpg

Location

1 AIRPORT ACCESS ROAD MITCHELL PARK, BALLARAT CITY

Municipality

BALLARAT CITY

Level of significance

Registered

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H2113

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO190

VHR Registration

July 26, 2007

Amendment to Registration

March 8, 2012

Heritage Listing

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - July 31, 2007

What is significant?

The former Ballarat Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) Base on the site of the present Ballarat Aerodrome, seven kilometres northwest of Ballarat city centre was constructed in 1940 at the outset of the Second World War as a training school for Wireless Air Gunners under the Empire Air Training Scheme (EATS).

The Scheme was established by the British with Canada, Australia and New Zealand to rapidly train air crews for the British Bomber Command to fight the then far superior German Air Force. Under EATS which operated from 1939-1945 the RAAF was committed to training 28,000 aircrew over three years including navigators, wireless operators, air gunners and pilots, equating to around 900 aircrew every four weeks. To achieve this the RAAF embarked on a rapid and extensive program, establishing a network of twenty-eight EATS schools in eastern Australia by the end of 1941, each specialising in specific skill sets required of air crew members. The former Ballarat RAAF Base was Australia's No.1 Wireless Air Gunners School (WAGS), the first of three WAGS created under the Scheme and the only one in Victoria. Gunnery training was undertaken at Bombing and Gunnery Schools such as Sale.

By 1941 there were nearly 800 personnel on the former Ballarat RAAF Base and by the end of March 1942 a total of 1238 air men had been trained in the operation of radio equipment using Avro Anson and Wackett Trainer aircraft. Australia's alliance with the USA had a brief impact on the Ballarat base in 1942 when the ground echelon of a USAAF heavy bomber squadron camped for two months in the field to the south of the main accommodation area of the base.

A radar training wing was established at the Ballarat RAAF Base in 1945. The RAAF's No.7 Operational Training Unit, which was based at RAAF Tocumwal, stationed some of its Liberator bombers at the Ballarat base for a period for radar training of its aircrews.

Basic training for wireless operators ceased in May 1945 by which time 5025 trainees has been through the school. The Wireless Air Gunners School was formally disbanded in January 1946. The RAAF continued to operate the aerodrome until 1961 when it became the property of the Ballarat Council. The Ballarat Aerodrome continues to operate as a civil airport and the surviving Second World War structures on the site provide accommodation for a large number of community organisations including an aviation museum.

The extant Second World War structures associated with the WAGS are primarily 'P-Type Huts' and Bellman Hangars, neither of which were originally intended to be permanent structures, having been prefabricated and erected on military sites throughout Australia in response to the sudden and urgent need for semi-permanent accommodation for service personnel and aircraft hangars at the beginning of the Second World War. The P-Type Huts, consisting of simple rectilinear timber-framed structures with corrugated-iron clad gabled roof could be easily modified as required for particular functions. By 1941 approximately 160 standard P-Type Huts had been erected on the Ballarat site in two distinct functional precincts. In the northern aerodrome precinct around fifteen huts, of which twelve survive, were arranged on the outside of a group of two closely spaced pairs of Bellman hangars. Bellman hangars had been designed in Britain immediately prior to the Second World War to provide a fast, economical solution to the need for aircraft facilities. The surrounding P-Type Huts were used for equipment and clothing storage, maintenance and administrative functions associated with the operation of the aircraft. At the centre of the base was the administrative, domestic and teaching precinct where over 140 huts were erected in rows, singly or in combination with connecting roofs to create larger buildings. They were adapted for various uses including sleeping quarters, recreation rooms and messes, lecture halls, radio huts, stores, offices, workshops and ablution blocks. Thirty-three huts remain in the central precinct. These include the former Officers' and Sergeants' Messes, sleeping quarters, the Headquarters, the maintenance and transport depot, stores, the gymnasium and several ablution blocks.

Other remaining fabric associated with the Second World War includes an elevated water tower, the foundations of demolished P-Type Huts, foundations of the Signalling circle, and foundations associated with radar

equipment. Landscape features associated with the former Ballarat RAAF Base include the road and runway layout, the playing fields and parade ground with its border of Monterey Cypress which separates the aerodrome precinct to the north from the domestic and administrative precinct.

How is it significant?

The former Ballarat RAAF Base is of historical significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The former Ballarat RAAF Base is of historical significance for its ability to demonstrate the importance of military aviation to the defence of Australia and its Allies during the Second World War, the first conflict in which aircraft played a major role in combat for the Australian military.

The former Ballarat RAAF Base is of historical significance for its association with the technical training aspects of the wartime development and operation of the RAAF. The former Ballarat RAAF Base is a good representative example of the bases constructed to train aircrew under the Empire Air Training Scheme which included a contingent suite of temporary and semi temporary buildings that in their layout and surviving Second World War fabric reflect both the training and domestic functions of the bases and the hierarchical nature of the military and domestic life on the Second World War bases. This is clearly reflected in the planning of the two main building precincts of the former Ballarat RAAF Base - the aerodrome itself with the large prefabricated Bellman hangars and workshop huts, and the domestic and administrative precinct of standard P-Type Huts.

The Ballarat RAAF Base is of historical significance as the first of only three Wireless Air Gunnery Schools established nationally under the Scheme and the only such school in Victoria. It is also the most intact of the surviving Victorian Empire Air Training Scheme training schools.

Permit Exemptions

General Exemptions:

General exemptions apply to all places and objects included in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR). General exemptions have been designed to allow everyday activities, maintenance and changes to your property, which don't harm its cultural heritage significance, to proceed without the need to obtain approvals under the Heritage Act 2017.

Places of worship: In some circumstances, you can alter a place of worship to accommodate religious practices without a permit, but you must **notify** the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria before you start the works or activities at least 20 business days before the works or activities are to commence.

Subdivision/consolidation: Permit exemptions exist for some subdivisions and consolidations. If the subdivision or consolidation is in accordance with a planning permit granted under Part 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the application for the planning permit was referred to the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria as a determining referral authority, a permit is not required.

Specific exemptions may also apply to your registered place or object. If applicable, these are listed below. Specific exemptions are tailored to the conservation and management needs of an individual registered place or object and set out works and activities that are exempt from the requirements of a permit. Specific exemptions prevail if they conflict with general exemptions.

Find out more about heritage permit exemptions [here](#).

Specific Exemptions:

General Conditions: 1. All exempted alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the fabric of the registered place or object. General Conditions: 2. Should it become apparent during

further inspection or the carrying out of works that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place or object are revealed which relate to the significance of the place or object, then the exemption covering such works shall cease and Heritage Victoria shall be notified as soon as possible. Note: All archaeological places have the potential to contain significant sub-surface artefacts and other remains. In most cases it will be necessary to obtain approval from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria before the undertaking any works that have a significant sub-surface component. General Conditions: 3. If there is a conservation policy and plan endorsed by the Executive Director, all works shall be in accordance with it. Note: The existence of a Conservation Management Plan or a Heritage Action Plan endorsed by the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria provides guidance for the management of the heritage values associated with the site. It may not be necessary to obtain a heritage permit for certain works specified in the management plan. General Conditions: 4. Nothing in this determination prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions. General Conditions: 5. Nothing in this determination exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the responsible authorities where applicable. Minor Works : Note: Any Minor Works that in the opinion of the Executive Director will not adversely affect the heritage significance of the place may be exempt from the permit requirements of the Heritage Act. A person proposing to undertake minor works must submit a proposal to the Executive Director. If the Executive Director is satisfied that the proposed works will not adversely affect the heritage values of the site, the applicant may be exempted from the requirement to obtain a heritage permit. If an applicant is uncertain whether a heritage permit is required, it is recommended that the permits co-ordinator be contacted.

Construction dates	1940,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Other Names	RAAF Buildings, BALLARAT AIRPORT, BALLARAT AERODROME,
Hermes Number	14247
Property Number	

Plaque Citation

The Base was constructed in 1940 as Australia's No.1 Wireless Air Gunners School under the Empire Air Training Scheme. Between 1940 and 1945 over 5000 crew men trained here for British Bomber Command and the Pacific War

Extent of Registration

All the land known as Ballarat Aerodrome marked L1 on Diagram 2113A held by the Executive Director.

All the features marked as follows on Diagram 2113A held by the Executive Director

F1 Runways

F2 Parade Ground

F3 Playing Field

F4 Signalling Circle

All the buildings marked as follows on Diagram 2113B held by the Executive Director

B1 Building 184 Propeller Test House

B2 Building 132 Bellman Hangar

B3 Building 133 Maintenance Workshop

B4 Building 141 Parachute Hut

B5 Building 189 Woodwork, Fabric and Paint shop

B6 Building 188 Mechanical Workshop

B7 Building 138/139/140 Equipment Stores

B9 Building 191 Operations and Crew Room

B10 Building 190 Operations and Crew Room

B11 Building 130 Bellman Hangar

B12 Building 180 Bellman Hangar

B13 Building 182 Flight Office

B14 Building 131 Bellman Hangar

B49 Building 177 Inflammable Store

B50 Building 183 Canteen Store

All the buildings marked as follows on Diagram 2113C held by the Executive Director

B15 Building 114 Boiler House

B16 Building 212 Temporary Married Quarters

B17 Buildings 116/117 Sergeants Ablution Block and Latrine

B18 Building 125 Sergeants Sleeping Quarters

B19 Building 118/119 Officers Ablution Block and Latrine

B20 Building 126 Store

B21 Building 111 Sergeants Mess

B22 Building 115 Boiler House

B23 Building 110 Officers Mess

B24 Building 207 Laundry and Drying Room

B25 Building 121 Sergeants Sleeping Quarters

B26 Building 122 Sergeants Sleeping Quarters

B27 Building 124 Sergeants Sleeping Quarters

B28 Building 120 Officers Sleeping Quarters

B29 Building 123 Officers Sleeping Quarters

B30 Building 196 Officers Sleeping Quarters

B31 Building 208 Garage

B32 Building 213 Temporary Married Quarters

B33 Building 210 Temporary Married Quarters

B35 Building 107 Sleeping Quarters

B36 Building 233 Radio Hut

B37 Building 232 Emergency Power House

B38 Building 112 Sergeants Sleeping Quarters

B39 Building 113 Sergeants Sleeping Quarters

B42 Building 234 Radio Hut

B48 Building 209 Garage

The features marked as follows on Diagram 2113C held by the Executive Director

F5 Radar Features

The structure marked as follows on Diagram 2113C held by the Executive Director

S1 Elevated water tower

All the buildings marked as follows on Diagram 2113D held by the Executive Director

B8 Building 268 Plumbers Shop

B34 Building 171 Latrine

B40 Building 154 Gymnasium

B41 Building 170 Station Headquarters

B43 Building 135 M/T Office and Workshop

B44 Building 136 Barracks Store

B45 Building 134 Barracks Office Store

B46 Building 144 Latrine and Change Room

B47 Buildings 20/30/61 Sleeping Huts and Ablution Block

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/>