
ROYCRAFT'S WATER RACE

Location

GEORGES LAKE ROAD CRESWICK, HEPBURN SHIRE

Municipality

HEPBURN SHIRE

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H7623-0328

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Archaeological Significance

This site has a low level of archaeological significance due to the relatively small length of extant portion remaining. The race is a representative example of an 1850s water race that was utilised over several decades for both mining and water supply purposes. Archaeological features include the race alignment, negative cut features, spoil and sediment deposits, dams, diversions, sluice points and potential gauges, flume remains, pipes, and sluice lining materials. Although water races are common on Victorian Goldfields very few races in Victoria have been documented and mapped in detail and the integrity of remaining goldfield water management complexes is largely under researched

Historical Significance	The site has a high level of historical significance at a local level. The race is associated with John Roycraft, a prominent figure in Creswick. Due to the excellent preservation of a large part of the Creswick goldfield, the intertwined narratives of mining, water supply, environmental consequences and rapidly evolving legislation can be read in the landscape. At a state level the site contributes to broader narratives of water supply and mining (Victorian Historical Theme 4.5 & 4.6) and informs the development of both mining and water management laws for the State of Victoria. The race is one of many on the Creswick alluvial goldfield that together make up an important and well preserved cultural landscape of water management. Combined with Creswick's strong forestry education facilities and proximity to Melbourne and Ballarat, an increased awareness in this well preserved mining complex could provide Creswick with excellent educational and tourism opportunities illustrating mining techniques and how mining shaped Victoria's water laws.
Interpretation of Site	Little is known about this section of race. It was likely operated by John Roycraft during the 1860-1900 to supply miners north of Creswick. Much of the race has been destroyed.
Hermes Number	195085
Property Number	

History

Little is known about this section of race or how long the original race was. It may have had a connection with the Smokey town water race. While there is direct *evidence* to link Raycraft with this section of race it is not clear what Raycraft was doing with the water. It was likely that it was used during the 1860-1900 to supply miners north of Creswick. Much of the race has been destroyed. John Raycraft was a prominent resident at Creswick with interests in mining. He was a major water trader and he and subsequent family members held water rights in Creswick from the 1860's to the 1930's. His main supply of water came from his lease of Eaton's Dam. Raycraft and the Eaton brother were partners in the early gold mining period at Creswick.

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/>