
KORUMBURRA RAILWAY STATION ARCHAEOLOGICAL PRECINCT

Location

50 KORUMBURRA-BENA ROAD, WHITELAW VIC 3950

Municipality

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE

Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H8021-0058

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - November 11, 2020

This site is associated with the Great Southern Railway which linked Melbourne in the west with Port Albert in the east. An early rudimentary station functioned until the current Queen Anne style station was constructed 1906-1908. The railway station complex has archaeological potential which could provide further information relating to Linking Victorians by Rail (Historical Theme 3.3). This is a rare example of an large intact station complex on the South Gippsland line which also contains features that require further investigation by an archaeologist to interpret.

Interpretation of Site	1891: railway line reaches Korumburra 1891-1906: Rudimentary station for passengers and goods including coal. 1906-1908: current station constructed. 1970s – declining use. Tourist railway 1994-2015
Hermes Number	206959

Property
Number

History

Korumburra Railway Station was opened in February 1891, with a banquet held at the Korumburra hotel to mark the first train arriving at the station (Great Southern Advocate 1891: 2). An initial use of the station was for the freight of coal. By 1894 over 3500 tons of coal was dispatched from the railway station in one week (Age 1894: 6). It was also used to carry passengers and goods. The initial station seems to have been rudimentary, with one description referring to primitive offices and a platform covered with Foster gravel (Bowden 1979: 77).

Construction for the current Korumburra railway station complex commenced in 1906. It comprises a four-track carriageway with a station building and other buildings in the north and a goods shed in the southeast. The station building (Figure #) was completed in 1908 (Gee 2011: 2), built in the Queen Anne style of red brick with rendered bands and terra cotta hipped tiled roof. Korumburra was a prosperous town before the arrival of rail (Gee 2011: 2) and went on to become one the largest and most significant station complexes in the region (South Gippsland Shire Heritage Study 2004: 336-338). The construction of the complex was much celebrated at the time, being described as a pocket edition of the Maryborough Railway Station, the most elaborate station building in Victoria at the time (Herald 1908: 3).

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/>