The stone cairn and plaque in the Balyang Sanctuary at the end of Shannon Avenue, Newtown, commemorates the life and work of Captain Foster Fyans (1790-1870), Geelong's first Police Magistrate and long-serving Commissioner of Crown Lands for the Portland Bay District. Fyan's House, Bellbird Balyang, one of the earliest stone houses in Geelong, stood on this site from 1896. Foster Fyan was a most influential Colonial administrator and pioneer Geelong settler, and the name of his Barwon River property is commemorated in the name, Balyang Sanctuary.

RECOMMENDATIONS: PROTECTIVE MEASURES

Geelong Regional Commission
REFERENCES

The inscription on the plaque reads:

‘Hereabouts from 1846 stood Bellbird Balyang.
Home of Captain Foster Fyans (1790-1870)

For details see:

Lang, W. R. - 'Geelong’s Monuments and Plaques’ No 66. Geelong Historical Records Centre.

For details of the Career of Foster Fyans, including several illustrations of the house, Bellbird Balyang, see:


The above publication includes a detailed bibliography relating to Foster Fyans.

Foster Fyans was born in England in 1790, and joined the British Army at the age of 20 years. Fyans was appointed Police Magistrate at Port Phillip in 1837. He purchased land in Section 12 for $5 an acre of the Barwon River known as Saw Pit Bends.

Fyans died at Balyang on 23 May, 1870.

Heritage Study/Consultant

Greater Geelong - Geelong Region Historic Buildings and Objects Study, Allan Willingham, 1986;

Heritage Act Categories

Registered object,

Hermes Number

21749

Property Number

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 data owner.

For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/