
MOUNT ROUSE AND CRATER RESERVE



23358 Mount Rouse and
Crater Reserve Penshurst
1553



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Location

Mount Rouse Tourist Road PENSHURST, Southern Grampians Shire

Municipality

SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

Level of significance

Stage 2 study complete

Heritage Listing

Southern Grampians Shire

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - December 19, 2003

What is Significant?

The Mount Rouse Crater reserve is located at the Termination of the Mount Rouse Tourist Road, approximately five kilometers south of the township of Penshurst. The reserve consists of 63 hectares around the summit of Mount Rouse, an extinct volcano that has a large crater in the centre. The lower slopes of the reserve have had the indigenous vegetation denuded, and there are substantial plantings of Monterey Pines (*Pinus radiata*) on the higher slopes, particularly on the northwestern and northeastern sides. There are some built structures within the reserve, a fire tower located on the summit, steps up to a lookout and a carpark. Major Mitchell named Mount Rouse in 1836, presumably after the early Sydney settler, Richard Rouse who established Rouse Hill. The Mountain was the centre of the 100 square mile 'Reserve', which was the Mount Rouse Aboriginal Protectorate from the 1840s. The Protectorate failed and from about 1852 the township of Penshurst began to develop centred on the Protectorate's remaining buildings, now the Police Reserve. The current reserve dates from the 1850s,

when land immediately around the crater was reserved as a "Public Park" and a water reserve. The Mount Rouse Reserve was formally gazetted in 1870. Plantings of exotic species, such as buffalo grass, Monterey Pines and the removal of indigenous vegetation have led to serious erosion on the Mountain. A revegetation program started in the 1960s has halted this, planting a number of species of native trees and shrubs. Quarrying has been undertaken on the northeast face of Mount Rouse since the nineteenth century. The reserve is in good condition and retains a high degree of integrity.

How is it significant?

The Mount Rouse and Crater Reserve is of historical, social and aesthetic significance as a Significant Landscape to Southern Grampians shire and to the township of Penshurst.

Why is it significant?

The Mount Rouse and Crater Reserve is of historical significance for its associations with the very early squatting run of John Cox and with the Aboriginal Protectorate. It is of continuing historical significance for its development as a cultural landmark through various planting programs. It is of social significance for its role as a recreation reserve. It is of aesthetic significance for its association with the homestead, Kolor and its landscaping, located on its western slope.

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| Heritage Study/Consultant | Southern Grampians - Southern Grampians Shire Heritage Study, Timothy Hubbard P/L, Annabel Neylon, 2002; |
| Construction dates | 1857, |
| Heritage Act Categories | Registered place, |
| Hermes Number | 23358 |
| Property Number | |

Physical Conditions

The built structures are in good condition. The reserve is in good condition, although has been affected by erosion, invasion by weed species and vermin such as rabbits.

Physical Description 1

Mount Rouse is an extinct volcano, the summit being about 400m above sea level and about 175m above the surrounding plain. The land comprising some 63ha, is reserved as a public park and for water purposes. Much of the lower slopes remains cleared but there are extensive plantings of Monterey Pines (*Pinus radiata*) on the higher slopes, particularly on the north-western and north-eastern sides. The other major plantings are dominated by native species of trees and shrubs. There is a fire tower located on the summit. Access is by sealed road and a car park.

Historical Australian Themes

- Theme 8 Developing Australia's cultural life
 - 8.1 Organising Recreation
 - 8.1.3 Developing public parks and gardens
 - 8.14 Living in the country and rural settlements

Usage/Former Usage

Public reserve

Integrity

High degree of integrity

Physical Description 2

Major Thomas Mitchell, Surveyor General of NSW who named the mount
John Cox, first squatter of the Mount Rouse run
The Twomey family, owners of Kolor

Physical Description 3

Public Park Reserve and Water Reserve

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/>