
CANUNDA (FORMER GLENISLA) SHEEPWASH, SHEEPDIP, LONE GRAVE AND WOOLSHED SITE

Location

Henty Highway, GLENISLA VIC 3408 - Property No 0460

Municipality

SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

Level of significance

Stage 2 study complete

Heritage Listing

Southern Grampians Shire

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - January 12, 2004

What is significant?

The Canunda (former Glenisla) sheepwash and yards complex is located on a property named Canunda, on part of the former Glenisla Run. The sheepwash is located some distance from the Woolhpooer Swamp, now drained, to its north which was the principal supply of water. A feeder channel led 80.0m south from the swamp to a circular dam created by an earth bank and a stone section on the southern side which fed the water into a sluice. The sheepwash was on the far of south side of the dam. It consisted of two areas, a shallow depression which was used as a holding area and to soap the sheep, and a deep washing area for spraying the sheep. The two halves were divided by an earth bank with the sluice above it. The shallow half sloped down towards the bank and the men soaking the sheep. The deep half sloped up and away from the men spaying the sheep. Other men yarded the sheep into and out of the sheepwash. Much of the masonry which lined the dam and the sheepwash survives. About 10.0m from the dam there was a boiler mounted in a stone and brick pit.

Glenisla was established in 1843 by Scottish pastoralist Hector Norman Simpson (c.1820-80) who named the run after an area near Balmoral in Scotland. At the time it was licenced, Glenisla consisted of 96,000 acres, with 500 head of cattle and 25,000 sheep. In 1847 the lease was transferred to Donald Campbell Simson, as trustee for Jane Charlotte Simson and John Coghill Simson when it was subdivided into Glenisla North and South. The next owners, Charles Carter and Sons played an important role in the improvement of sheep, and ran many thousands on the vast tracts of land which they owned or leased throughout the Grampians and Wimmera, including Glenisla. The Sheepwash is the second Glenisla sheepwash, the first being a simple arrangement, dating from the 1840s located on Cultivation Creek. This was superseded, possibly about 1874, by a very large and elaborate hot water sheepwash, of which much of the masonry which lined the dam and the sheepwash survive. It was fed by water from the lake channelled into a stone lined pit. Sheep were assembled on a paved

area and then driven into the pit where men stood in special clothing and barrels ready to wash them. The washed sheep moved out of the water and onto another standing area where they drained. Once drained, they moved on a specially constructed board-walk towards holding yards near the shearing shed. The whole was perhaps the most largest and sophisticated arrangement developed for washing and shearing sheep in Victoria. It can be compared with the Bessiebelle sheepwash. There has been no architect, engineer or builder associated with the structures. The sheepwash is in ruinous condition, but retains an excellent degree of integrity.

How is it significant?

The Canunda (former Glenisla) sheepwash is of historical and archeological significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The Canunda (Glenisla) sheepwash is perhaps one of the most sophisticated, intact surviving examples of a traditional sheepwash associated with a large pastoral property in Victoria. It clearly demonstrates the logistics, engineering skill and thought behind developing a system which was able to wash the grease from the wool of thousands of sheep over a short period of time. The location, adjacent to the woolshed is also important, as when all associated structures are viewed as a whole, it provides an understanding of a previous way of life. The sheepwash is of archaeological significance for its archaeological potential, as its complexity suggests the potential to reveal more about the sheepwashing processes and associated pastoral occupation and activity in the area.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Southern Grampians - Southern Grampians Shire Heritage Study, Timothy Hubbard P/L, Annabel Neylon, 2002;
Construction dates	1850,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Other Names	GLENISLA,
Hermes Number	23452
Property Number	

Physical Conditions

The sheepwash is poor condition but has an excellent degree of archaeological potential.

The sheerdip is in fair condition and has an excellent degree of archaeological potential.

The lone grave is in good condition.

The woolshed does not survive and has little archaeological potential.

Physical Description 1

The sheepwash is located some distance from the Woohlpooer Swamp, now drained, to its north which was the principal supply of water. A feeder channel led 80.0m south from the swamp to a circular dam created by an earth bank and a stone section on the southern side which fed the water into a sluice. The sheepwash was on the far of south side of the dam. It consisted of two areas, a shallow depression which was used as a holding area and to soap the sheep, and a deep washing area for spraying the sheep. The two halves were divided by an earth bank with the sluice above it. The shallow half sloped down towards the bank and the men soaking the sheep. The deep half sloped up and away from the men spaying the sheep. Other men yarded the sheep into and out of the sheepwash. Much of the masonry which lined the dam and the sheepwash survives. About 10.0m from the dam there was a boiler mounted in a stone and brick pit.

It comprises post and rail holding yards, a brick-lined trough, and a draining area as well as a dam.

The lone grave is located beside the swamp about .5km from the second sheepwash and 1.0km from the former woolshed. The 'headstone' is a simple timber plank with a cross painted in black. There is no name or date. The grave is fenced. From the orientation of the headstone, the grave faces west.

Historical Australian Themes

Theme 3: Developing local, regional and national economies

3.5 Developing primary production

3.5.1 Grazing stock

3.5.2 Breeding animals

3.5.3 Developing agricultural industries

Theme 5: Working

5.8 working on the land

Usage/Former Usage

The sheepwash is abandoned and now used as a tip.

Integrity

Now abandoned, in ruins and used as a tip.

Physical Description 2

Jane Charlotte Simson & John Coghill Simson, second owners

Donald Campbell Simson, trustee for the above

Samuel Carter of Carter & Sons, later and longtime owner of Glenisla

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/>