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# OUTTRIM CEMETERY

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## Location

955 OUTTRIM-LEONGATHA ROAD OUTTRIM, SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE

## Municipality

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE

## Level of significance

Heritage Inventory Site

## Heritage Inventory (HI) Number

H8020-0023

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Inventory

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

The small township of Outtrim briefly flourished in the late 19th century, following the discovery of black coal reserves in the area. In 1895 ten acres was allocated for the Outtrim cemetery. It is believed that 220 individuals were buried in the cemetery, which fell out of use as Outtrim declined in the early 20th century. Only a handful of grave sites and monumnets can now be seen on the cemetery site.

The Outtrim Cemetery is of local historical, archaeological, and social significance to the South Gippsland Shire.

The Outtrim Cemetery is of historical significance as a rare surviving element of a once thriving township that has now all but disappeared. The establishment of the Cemetery reflected the optimism that accompanied the discovery and development of coal reserves in Gippsland, but is also testament to the decline that followed the closing of coal mines around the time of the First World War.

The cemetery is of archaeological significance because it contains ruinous, buried and concealed material including grave sites, monuments and markers, landscape and garden features, and burials.

The cemetery is of social significance as the location where more than 200 interments took place, including many individuals from significant local families and with connections to the coal mining industry.

Hermes Number 44895

Property Number

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## History

Outtrim is located in Gippsland, approximately 20 km southwest of Korumburra. The township was first surveyed in 1893, with council records in 1894 showing that three people occupied houses and four others owned shop/dwellings. Following the development of black coal mining operations, Outtrim developed rapidly, and Shire records show that by 1901 the town contained 323 houses and approximately 1,700 inhabitants. Primary School no. 3221 was opened in 1900, and by 1903, 347 students were enrolled.

In 1895 ten acres were allocated for the Outtrim Cemetery. It is believed that 220 individuals were buried in the cemetery, which fell out of use as Outtrim declined in the early 20th century. The last burial is thought to have taken place in 1946.

The township of Outtrim has now virtually disappeared from sight, and the area of the former township has been absorbed into surrounding farmlands.

### *History of Place*

The cemetery site was approved in 1894, and ten acres of crown allotment 25X and 25V of the parish of Kongwak were allocated in 1895. The trustees were elected at a public meeting in the Outtrim hall in 1896.

The first of a total of 220 burials took place on 3 October 1897. It is thought that the last burial took place in 1946.

The site was classified as a Nature conservation reserve in 1984 and has been managed as a nature reserve since that time.

*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/>*