
Melrose

Location

137-163 Harkaway Road,HARKAWAY, Casey City

Municipality

CASEY CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO41

Heritage Listing

Casey City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - May 6, 2004

Melrose, an imposing Victorian villa with a tower on an elevated site, built c1875 for John Edward Deeble, has regional significance as an important district landmark for more than a century and a fine example of a nineteenth century rural retreat. It is significant for its use between 1938 and 1958 as the Try Boys Home, a training farm for boys. It has associations with William Mack Forster, founder of the Try Boys Society and also of the City Newsboys Club and the Gordon Institute for Boys. The E. H. M. Ratcliffe Cottage (named after the Try Society's honorary secretary), and a number of outbuildings provide significant evidence of the property's use during the 1930s era.

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| Heritage Study/Consultant | Casey - Casey Heritage Study, Context Pty Ltd, 2004; Casey - Heritage of the City of Berwick, Context Pty Ltd, 1993; |
| Construction dates | 1864, 1980, |
| Hermes Number | 62890 |
| Property Number | |

Physical Description 1

This imposing Victorian residence with its tower and elevated position commands panoramic views towards Western Port and Port Phillip Bays and, in the distance, the Strzelecki Ranges.

Today, despite some alterations and additions, Melrose is substantially intact providing a good example of a grand Victorian residence. The square tower positioned over the main entrance makes an imposing landmark, but overall the design is very simple with Classical ornamentation on the tower and main facade. The hip roof extends an extraordinary distance back from the facade, complete with enclosing verandah on three sides. A recent rear addition features large windows overlooking the garden. The Ratcliffe building, dairy shed, stables and garage, all dating from the 1930s Try Boys Home era, are also intact. It is set on a rural allotment of 26.51 hectares.

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/>