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# Coonanga Homestead



B2090 Coonanga Homestead



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## Location

575 Mywee-Bearii Road,, STRATHMERTON VIC 3641 - Property No B2090

## Municipality

MOIRA SHIRE

## Level of significance

State

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0329

## Heritage Listing

National Trust

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - October 13, 2005

What is significant?European settlement in the Numurkah district of Northern Victoria began in the 1830s led by Victorian pastoralists and New South Wales overlanders. The Strathmerton [or Ulupna] run on which the Coonanga homestead stands was first taken up by a pastoralist named Mundy in 1840. Benjamin Boyd, whose ambitious pastoral schemes in the Australian colonies were funded by the Royal Bank of Australia, with which he was closely associated, took over the run in 1842 and named it Strathmerton. Boyd also had substantial pastoral interests elsewhere and as a result of difficulties within his complicated company structures, shareholders put Strathmerton in the control of his brother William Sprott Boyd. During the 1840s and the 1850s, the property

changed hands many times. In 1873, a portion of the run given the name Strathmerton West [or Ulupna West] passed into control of a partnership which included the Western District pastoralist George Currie. Currie had initially commenced pastoral activities in partnership with his brother John Currie on the Larra run in the Western District which became one of the foremost merino studs in Australia. George Currie also became well known in pastoral circles as an enthusiastic breeder of high class fine wool merinos. In May 1874, Currie completed construction of a sawn timber slab house with the detached kitchen and school room wings at the rear. Currie called his new residence Coonanga.

Currie sold Coonanga to James Stewart in 1886. Stewart held the property until 1889 when he sold it to schoolteacher William Whyte, a well-known local figure in the district. In 1933 the property passed to his son William Adam Campbell Whyte. Whyte, who was a leading member of the Numurkah Methodist Church, lived at Coonanga until 1952. Whyte sold Coonanga to Henry J Lang who did not live on the property and frequently worked abroad. In its unoccupied state, the house fell into disrepair. The Numurkah Historical Society approached Lang, who was by this time living in Israel, with a view to preserving the old house. In 1976, Lang's widow donated Coonanga on a reduced area to the society.

How is it significant? Coonanga Homestead is of architectural and historical significance to the State of Victoria. Why is it significant? Coonanga Homestead is of architectural significance as one of the largest timber slab homesteads in Victoria and also significant for the refinement of its sawn horizontal timber slab construction. It is notable for the unusual use of stud framing to the interior for the fixing of the conventional lathe and plaster internal linings. The canted bay form to the principal rooms is rarely seen in buildings employing horizontal timber slab construction.

Coonanga Homestead is of historical significance for its associations with its first owner pastoralist George Currie through his partnership with his brother John Currie at Larra station, the home of one of the foremost merino studs in Australia. George Currie also had a strong association with the merino breed and was well known in pastoral circles as an enthusiastic breeder of high class fine wool merinos. The site is of historical interest as part of the Strathmerton (or Ulupna) pastoral run owned from the early 1840s by entrepreneur Benjamin Boyd.

Adapted from Heritage Victoria Statement of Significance: 29/07/2013

Classified: 17/09/1969

Other Names      Ulupna,

Hermes Number    69024

Property Number

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*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/>*