
Milburn's Weir



1592 - Brimbank City Council
Post-contact Cultural
Heritage Study 1999



Site 013 - Milburn's Weir.jpg

Location

Arundel Road; across Maribyrnong River, KEILOR VIC 3036 - Property No 13

Municipality

BRIMBANK CITY

Level of significance

Incl in HO area contributory

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO035

Heritage Listing

Brimbank City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - January 1, 1999

Individual place statement of significance::

Milburn's weir is significant to the State of Victoria because of its historical association with the beginnings of irrigation for agriculture in the state. While representing the later development of irrigation, it is connected directly with David Milburn, who is described as 'Victoria's First Irrigator', having been originally constructed by him to supply water to his third generation of pumping equipment. As such the weir provides a physical link with the beginnings of irrigation and market gardening in the Keilor area.

Precinct statement of significance::

The market gardens of Keilor are of regional historical significance as they are associated with the beginnings of irrigated horticulture in Victoria and have been continuously cultivated since the mid nineteenth century. The landscape is of regional significance as an expression of the early and long-lived farming practices adapted to the richer soils of the river terraces. The farms themselves also have long links with local families, such as the Milburns and Senserricks, and the pattern of houses and farm buildings reflect the original population distribution.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Brimbank - Brimbank City Council Post-contact Cultural Heritage Study, G. Vines, 2000;
Construction dates	1884,
Hermes Number	105934
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

Description

A stone and concrete weir, with some remains of timber structure, rising to a height of approximately three metres and spanning the Maribyrnong River about 100 metres upstream of the Arundel Road Bridge. The downstream face comprises part mass concrete and part roughly-shaped bluestone blocks or natural boulders set in concrete. The structure slopes at about 40 degrees. The upstream side is generally hidden beneath the water level but has a steep face and incorporates some timber structure. Excess water is allowed to spill directly over the weir. The reservoir backing up behind the weir extends for approximately 200 metres, flooding a horseshoe bend which comes to within a few metres of Arundel road. On the tip of the bank, beside the road and almost opposite the 1880s house of John Milburn (David Milburn's son), is a small corrugated iron clad pumping house, containing a modern electrically-driven centrifugal pump. This may be close to the location of the original pumping apparatus as from this rise, channels can deliver irrigation water to a considerable area of market gardens by gravity alone.

Physical Conditions

Condition/integrity

Although reconstructed several times, the weir retains its original configuration.

Historical Australian Themes

3 Developing local, regional and national economies

3.5 Developing primary production

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/>