

WALHALLA CEMETERY



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SOHE 2008



H01976 walhalla cemterey



H01976 walhalla cemterey extent october 2001

Location

OFF MAIN ROAD WALHALLA, BAW BAW SHIRE

Municipality

BAW BAW SHIRE

Level of significance

Registered

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1976

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO22

VHR Registration

February 14, 2002

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - February 14, 2002

What is significant?

Gold was first discovered at Walhalla in 1863. Alluvial gold was worked first and from 1864 larger companies started bringing in stamper batteries to work the reefs. Walhalla's Cohens Reef became the richest gold-bearing reef in the world. The town's population peaked at 4,500 between 1885 and 1895.

There has been a cemetery at this site since at least 1866, although Walhalla Cemetery was not temporarily reserved until 1873 nor permanently reserved until 1894. It has been enlarged in size several times and now comprises 1ha prominently sited on a steep hillside on the eastern side of the Walhalla Road and Stringers Creek at the southern end of the Walhalla township. Access is gained via a meandering track up the hillside.

The cemetery is surrounded by bushland consisting of predominantly eucalypts and acacias while within the cemetery itself aged *Pinus radiata* dominate. Other conifers and smaller exotic trees are present in lesser numbers. In 1884, trees and shrubs from the Mt Macedon Colonial nursery were planted at the cemetery, and more again ten years later. A large Bhutan Cypress grows from the top of one gravesite.

The picket fence that encloses the cemetery to the west and north replaced an earlier fence in 1984. The stumps of original fence posts can still be seen along southern boundary.

Close to the main entrance is the Sexton's Office, built in 1886. The main cemetery paths run parallel to the slope, terraced by dry stone walls with access to graves by paths and stone steps running in various directions. A total of more than 1,100 people are known to have been buried in the cemetery, although less than 200 graves can now be located. Headstones vary between white marble, unpolished grey slate with cast-iron fences, timber memorials and timber picket plot-fences. Many graves are marked by modern timber pieces nailed together to form a T.

Many of Walhalla's leading residents are buried in the cemetery in clearly marked graves. Most notable are Lewis Loan, owner of the Star Brewery in Walhalla, and Henry Dendy of Brighton. Dendy, the purchaser of the Brighton Special Survey in 1841, became a shareholder of the Thomson River Copper Mining Co in the 1870s and died in the town in 1881.

How is it significant?

Walhalla Cemetery is of historic, social and aesthetic (landscape) significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

Walhalla Cemetery is historically and socially significant as tangible evidence of the former status of Walhalla, one of the most populous nineteenth century Gippsland towns, and one of the most prolific gold producing towns

in Victoria. The cemetery represents, by virtue of the majority of its burials before the First World War, the gold mining population of the area. There was no life after gold in Walhalla. Cemeteries are sometimes the only tangible evidence of earlier communities.

Walhalla Cemetery is aesthetically significant for its steep topography, which demanded a unique layout of parallel paths, terracing and dry stone walls, in contrast to the more favoured formal layouts characteristic of contemporary cemeteries on flat land. The exotic plantings are characteristically sombre and melancholic. The magnificent large and mature coniferous trees dominate the cemetery and the dark foliage and formal shapes are in contrast to the bush setting. Pine and Cypress trees were favoured trees in cemeteries for their symbolic associations.

Permit Exemptions

General Exemptions:

General exemptions apply to all places and objects included in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR). General exemptions have been designed to allow everyday activities, maintenance and changes to your property, which don't harm its cultural heritage significance, to proceed without the need to obtain approvals under the Heritage Act 2017.

Places of worship: In some circumstances, you can alter a place of worship to accommodate religious practices without a permit, but you must **notify** the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria before you start the works or activities at least 20 business days before the works or activities are to commence.

Subdivision/consolidation: Permit exemptions exist for some subdivisions and consolidations. If the subdivision or consolidation is in accordance with a planning permit granted under Part 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the application for the planning permit was referred to the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria as a determining referral authority, a permit is not required.

Specific exemptions may also apply to your registered place or object. If applicable, these are listed below. Specific exemptions are tailored to the conservation and management needs of an individual registered place or object and set out works and activities that are exempt from the requirements of a permit. Specific exemptions prevail if they conflict with general exemptions.

Find out more about heritage permit exemptions [here](#).

Specific Exemptions:

General Conditions: 1. All exempted alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the fabric of the registered place or object. General Conditions: 2. Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of alterations that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place or object are revealed which relate to the significance of the place or object, then the exemption covering such alteration shall cease and the Executive Director shall be notified as soon as possible. General Conditions: 3. If there is a conservation policy and plan approved by the Executive Director, all works shall be in accordance with it. General Conditions: 4. Nothing in this declaration prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions. Nothing in this declaration exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the responsible authority where applicable.

* Interments, burials and erection of monuments, re-use of graves, burial of cremated remains, and exhumation of remains in accordance with the Cemeteries Act 1958 (as amended). Continuation of burials and erection of monuments as approved by the Cemetery Trust.

* All works described in Chapter 4.0 Recommendations *Walhalla Cemetery: Landscape and Management Study*, J Hawker Royal Botanic Gardens, 1986 are permit exempt.

Construction dates 1866, 1873, 1894,

Heritage Act Categories Registered place,

Hermes Number 12311

Property Number

Extent of Registration

1. All the building marked as follows on Diagram 1976 held by the Executive Director:

B1 Sexton's Office

2. All the land known as Crown Reserve RS8691 permanently reserved for a cemetery within the area marked L1 shown on Diagram 1976 held by the Executive Director.

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/>