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## FORMER STATE SCHOOL NO.46



former state school number  
46 school lane bulla attached  
residence may1997



former state school number  
46 school lane bulla side  
elevation aug1985



former state school number  
46 school lane bulla side view  
aug1984

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### Location

11 SCHOOL LANE BULLA, HUME CITY

### Municipality

HUME CITY

### Level of significance

Registered

### Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1643

### Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO18

### VHR Registration

August 20, 1982

### Amendment to Registration

May 23, 1998

### Heritage Listing

## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - March 31, 2022

### What is significant?

The Bulla school precinct comprises the primary school and attached residence, a State School Endowment pine plantation on an adjoining parcel of land, and a suspension footbridge (1872) over the nearby Deep Creek.

Former Bulla State School No.46 was erected as a government-funded Common School in 1870-71 and transferred to the State School system following passage of the 1873 Education Act. Operating for 125 years, it has a long connection with the history and development of the rural township of Bulla.

The school consists of a rectangular-shaped schoolroom and an attached three-roomed teacher's residence constructed of even coursed bluestone. The one-roomed bluestone schoolroom has a gable roof, double-hung, multi-paned sash windows, closed-up fireplace, and a bluestone entry porch that is shared with the attached teacher's residence. A timber bedroom and wash-house were added to the residence in 1927. An additional weatherboard classroom, built in 1881 and extended in 1927, abuts the original schoolhouse; this includes a coved and lined ceiling.

The school pine plantation was established in 1929, through the Victorian Government's State School Forest Endowment Plantation Scheme, which was commenced in 1923, and was particularly encouraged at rural and semi-rural schools. The plantation demonstrates the elevated role of forestry education in the state school curriculum in the 1920s and 1930s. As well as engendering an understanding of the conservation and uses of timber, the scheme taught self-sufficiency and self-reliance owing to the self-regulation of the school plantation and the school's control over the revenue from felled timber. In 1950 the Bulla plantation won an award for 'Most Improved School Garden and Grounds' from the Australian Natives Association. The survival of mature pine trees from this plantation provides a strong visual coherence to the precinct.

### How is it significant?

The precinct that comprises the former Bulla State School No. 46, adjacent school pine plantation and suspension footbridge, is of historical, architectural and scientific (technological) significance to the State of Victoria.

### Why is it significant?

Former Bulla State School No. 46 is architecturally significant as a substantially intact example of a nineteenth-century bluestone and attached timber school building erected by the Board of Education (and its successor the Education Department), which served the dual functions of schoolhouse and teacher's residence. The former Bulla state school is the only known bluestone example of this type.

Former Bulla State School is historically significant at a State level for its continuing function as a small rural school for a period of over 125 years.

The narrow suspension or catenary bridge over the nearby Deep Creek is of technical significance as representing a typical bridge design of the late-nineteenth century, as well as a common bridge design for school purposes. It is now a rare example of this type and one of the oldest surviving footbridges in Victoria; the only other surviving footbridge associated with a school is at Myrtle Creek. The bridge is also of historical significance for its long association with the school and as an important contributory element of the broader Bulla state school heritage precinct.

The adjacent pine plantation, established through the State School Forest Endowment, Plantation Scheme, is of historical significance for its practical demonstration of the values of environmental and scientific learning, which were promoted in the Victorian state school curriculum in the 1920s.

*[Online Data Upgrade Project 2004]*

## 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 works 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 works shall cease and Heritage Victoria shall be notified as soon as possible. **Note:** All archaeological places have the potential to contain significant sub-surface artefacts and other remains. In most cases it will be necessary to obtain approval from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria before the undertaking any works that have a significant sub-surface component.

**General Conditions:** 3. If there is a conservation policy and plan all works shall be in accordance with it. **Note:** A Conservation Management Plan or a Heritage Action Plan provides guidance for the management of the heritage values associated with the site. It may not be necessary to obtain a heritage permit for certain works specified in the management plan.

**General Conditions:** 4. Nothing in this determination prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions. **General Conditions:** 5. Nothing in this determination exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the responsible authorities where applicable. **Minor Works :** **Note:** Any Minor Works that in the opinion of the Executive Director will not adversely affect the heritage significance of the place may be exempt from the permit requirements of the Heritage Act. A person proposing to undertake minor works must submit a proposal to the Executive Director. If the Executive Director is satisfied that the proposed works will not adversely affect the heritage values of the site, the applicant may be exempted from the requirement to obtain a heritage permit. If an applicant is uncertain whether a heritage permit is required, it is recommended that the permits co-ordinator be contacted.

Construction dates	1870,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Hermes Number	178

## History

The Bulla Primary School established an endowment pine plantation in 1929. The mature trees are located at the rear of the existing school. The School Plantation Endowment Scheme was an initiative of the Director of Education, Frank Tate. A Forestry Branch of the Education Department was formed in 1923 and the first schools to participate included Porepunkah Primary School, Creswick Primary, Castlemaine High School and Ballarat High School. Some schools did not set up formal plantations but planted trees in portions of the school grounds. The involvement of schools in forestry was an important step in the formation of the Australian environmental movement.

The aim of forestry education was to educate children on the value of trees in the economy and in the care of the land. It was pointed out by the proponents of forestry education that wood was used in the manufacture of buildings, furniture, fencing, newspapers, as a fuel and in the shipping and mining industries. Trees were recognised as important in water-supply, irrigation, the prevention of floods, and soil erosion, and in providing shade and shelter.

The practical process of establishing a plantation was in itself educative. Land was secured by schools through the reservation of areas by the Lands Department. Waste land unsuitable for agricultural purposes such as former mining areas was made available. The first step was to fence the area, with wire-netting fences to keep out rabbits in some areas. Trees were raised from seed provided by the Forests Commission nurseries and cared for by the children at the school. Pines were most often planted, but eucalypts and wattle were also suggested. When the seedlings were ready for sowing in June or July each year, the boys (and occasionally girls) prepared the ground and planted the seedlings. It was suggested that an area of not more than 50 acres was suitable, to be planted at the rate of two acres each year. When harvested, the plantations provided funds to be used for the school.

It was hoped as a result of the scheme that *the rising generation is no longer imbued with the idea that a tree is something to be destroyed and that a forest is a handicap upon human progress.* (W.W.Gay. *School Forestry*. Melbourne, Government Printer, 1925. (Victoria. Education Department. Circular of Information J New Series p. 14.)

The idea proved a popular one. By 1930 there were over 241 plantations in Victoria. By 1972 there were 638 plantations in which 702 schools participated and the total net return from the sale of trees had reached \$377, 784. While initially schools participating raised money for school amenities, some schools chose to plant non-commercial types of trees to provide shelter and food for birds and animals.

### **The draft statement of significance and the above history were produced as part of an Online Date Upgrade Project 2004. Sources were as follows:**

Petersen, Government Schools study.

David Moloney and Vicki Johnston. Bulla Heritage Study, 1997.

National Trust of Australia (Vic.). Timber Bridges Study.

State Library of Victoria. Pictoria online database of images.

W.W. Gay. *School Forestry*. Government Printer, Melbourne 1925. (Victoria. Education Department. Circular of Information J New Series).

## Extent of Registration

Amendment of Register of Government Buildings

Bulla Shire

Former State School No. 46, School Lane, Bulla.

[*Victoria Government Gazette* No. G39 12 October 1988 p3087]

Transferred to the Victorian Heritage Register 23 May 1998 (2 years after the proclamation of the Heritage Act 1995 pursuant to the transitional provisions of the Act)

*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/>*