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# FIGHTING WATERHOLES BURIAL SITE

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## Location

Konongwootong Reservoir KONONG WOOTONG, Southern Grampians Shire

## Municipality

SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

## Level of significance

Stage 2 study complete

## Heritage Listing

Southern Grampians Shire

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - November 30, 2003

What is significant?

The Konongwootong Reservoir is the site of the previous chain of waterholes which were linked by Denhills Creek. It was here that in 1840, a hunting party of employees from nearby Kononwootong Station massacred a party of Aboriginal elders, women and children. The bones of those who were killed were buried in the embankment wall of the creek, but were uncovered one hundred years later in major floods. The remains of those who were massacred have since been reburied.

How is it significant?

The Fighting Waterholes Massacre Site is of archaeological and historical significance to the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

The Fighting Waterholes Massacres Site is of historical significance for the associations, and as the physical remnant of the final act of dispossession of an Aboriginal clan, the Konongwootong gundidj, from its ancestral lands by squatters in the earliest phase of settlement in the Western District. The burial ground is of particular archaeological significance as physical evidence of the massacre which took place on the site in 1840.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Southern Grampians - Southern Grampians Shire Heritage Study, Timothy Hubbard P/L, Annabel Neylon, 2002;
Construction dates	1840,

Heritage Act Categories	Registered place, Registered archaeological artefact,
Hermes Number	23227
Property Number	

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## Physical Conditions

To be discovered after further investigation

## Physical Description 1

At the base of the embankment of the Konongwootong Reservoir, the remains of numerous Aboriginal people are buried, beside the overflow creek, formerly Denhills Creek. The bones were exposed after exceptionally heavy rains in 1946, and have been reburied on the site.

## Historical Australian Themes

Theme 2: Peopling Australia  
2.6 Fighting for land

## Usage/Former Usage

Burial site

## Integrity

Unknown

## Physical Description 2

Whyte Brothers  
Konongwootong gundidj people

## Physical Description 3

Water Reserve

*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/>*