
BALMORAL SHOWGROUNDS AND OVAL



23262 Showgrounds and Oval Balmoral 2097

Location

Harrow-Balmoral Road BALMORAL, Southern Grampians Shire

Municipality

SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

Level of significance

Stage 2 study complete

Heritage Listing

Southern Grampians Shire

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - July 29, 2003

What is significant?

The Balmoral Showground is situated approximately on a 26 acre reserve within the boundaries of the original township. The site is approximately one kilometer north west from the centre of the township on the Harrow-Balmoral Road. Within the reserve there are a number of structures which relate specifically to the annual Pastoral and Agricultural Society show. These include a large oval showing ring in the centre of the site, a sheep/pig display shed, a poultry shed, cattle/horse stalls, a kiosk, luncheon hall, display hall, office and various other small buildings. There are also buildings for the local football club located on the site, and a large shed which has been built for agricultural research.

How is it significant?

The Balmoral showground is of historical and social significance to the township of Balmoral and the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

The Balmoral Showground is of historical significance for its important early role in the development of a local Agricultural and Pastoral Society, reflecting the interests of the surrounding pastoral community. The showground is of further significance as a physical representation of the importance of pastoralism to the area, particularly in the nineteenth and twentieth century. They are also significant for their social associations with the community, as Pastoral and Agricultural Shows have always been a very important social focus for country people. The Balmoral Show has had a long standing association and recognition throughout the Shire since the 1870s as an important local institution, where local people were able to gain recognition for their produce and skills, where new products were exhibited, and as an important local event on the social calendar. The showgrounds provide an important community meeting place, serving as the venue or clubrooms for a variety of community groups and the local people. The success and popularity of the Balmoral Show demonstrates the continuing strong pastoral and agricultural focus of the local community, and the importance placed on this.

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| Heritage Study/Consultant | Southern Grampians - Southern Grampians Shire Heritage Study, Timothy Hubbard P/L, Annabel Neylon, 2002; |
| Construction dates | 1961, |
| Hermes Number | 23262 |
| Property Number | |

Physical Conditions

The buildings are in good condition.

Physical Description 1

The Balmoral showground is a large 26 acre reserve which is located on the south side of the Balmoral - Harrow road, approximately 1 kilometer from the centre of the township. The reserve has been clear felled to create a large open space. The reserve is marked by a simple post and wire fence. The reserve contains several structures which are representative of its dual usage's. A large oval is located in the centre of the reserve, fenced by curved metal piping fence. The oval is used for animal exhibitions and competitions at Show time, and otherwise is used as the venue for playing football and cricket by the town's teams. There are several wooden benches for spectators located around the oval. A clubrooms for the football and cricket clubs exists overlooking the oval. Four tennis courts and a basket ball court have been erected, these are used for local basketball and netball competitions. A range of typical showground buildings dating from the 1960s have been constructed, including a ticket booth, offices, a publican's booth, pavilions and poultry sheds. These are complimented by the arrival of the usual itinerant amusement rides, games and food stalls.

The structures date from the 1960s are typical of their type being light weight framed structures, mostly clad in corrugated iron. Some are specific in their forms such as the grandstand and poultry sheds.

Historical Australian Themes

Theme 3: Developing local, regional and national economies

3.5 Developing primary production

3.5.2 Breeding animals

3.5.3 Developing agricultural industries

Theme 5: Working

5.8 Working on the land

Theme 8: Developing Australia's cultural life

8.5 Forming associations

8.14 Living in country and rural settlements

Usage/Former Usage

Showgrounds

Netball, Basketball, Football and Cricket clubs meeting and playing venue

Integrity

high degree of integrity

Physical Description 2

Charles Officer, founding member and president of the Upper Glenelg and Wimmera Pastoral Society

Thomas Robertson, first president of the Balmoral Pastoral and Agricultural Society.

Mr. Hayman, first secretary of the Balmoral Pastoral and Agricultural Society

Peter McKecknie, first assistant of the Balmoral Pastoral and Agricultural Society

Physical Description 3

Showgrounds and Recreation 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/>