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## HO29 - Former Yangardook Cottage



Yangardook Cottage



Yangardook Cottage

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### Location

575-685 Gisborne-Melton Road TOOLERN VALE, Melton Shire

### Municipality

MELTON CITY

### Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

### Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO29

### Heritage Listing

Melton City

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### Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

The former *Yangardook Cottage*, 575-685 Gisborne Melton Road, Toolern Vale, is significant as a rare stone cottage surviving from the first farming period in the Shire, and of the Scottish enclave in Toolern Vale in this period. The cottage, built c.1860s, is the major contributory element of an early and attractive cultural landscape of high significance to both the pastoral and farming histories of the Shire. The place is now situated near a large new house and ornamental lake, which provide an interesting contrast to the restored small cottage, which represents a comfortable farming lifestyle in pioneering times

The former *Yangardook* Cottage, 575-685 Gisborne Melton Road, Toolern Vale, is architecturally significant at the Local level (AHC D2). Although partially reconstructed, the cottage demonstrates original design qualities of a Victorian vernacular style. These qualities include the hipped roof form, squared coursed bluestone wall construction and the window and door openings. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the single storey height, modest scale, symmetrical arrangement of the windows and door on the main facade, timber framed multi-paned double hung windows and the corrugated profile sheet metal roof cladding.

The former *Yangardook* Cottage, 575-685 Gisborne Melton Road, Toolern Vale, is historically significant at the Local level (AHC A4, B2, D2). It is situated in the vicinity of an important early 1840s outstation of the *Green Hills* pastoral station, at that time the largest and most developed in the Shire. The hills of this area, stretching to Gisborne and towards Sunbury, are also of wider significance in the history of Victoria's settlement, as the meeting place of the two streams of Port Phillip's European settlers, the 'overstraiters' from Tasmanian and the 'overlanders' from New South Wales. This upper Toolern Creek valley, between Bensons Road and Toolern Vale, subsequently became a rich part of the farming history of the Shire. The place is the major contributor to a cultural landscape that contains a concentration of early farm dwellings and structures (including dry stone walls), now mainly ruinous due to bushfires and the passage of time, and views from Gisborne-Melton Road over the rich farmlands and attractive valley to the ranges and plains beyond.

The ruin is also a now-scarce relic of the 'first farming' period of the Shire, which date to the creation of farms purchased from the Crown in the 1850s, rather than the later the Selection Acts, or created in the break-up of the large pastoral estates in the early twentieth century. It is one of only four known reasonably intact stone farming cottages remaining in the Shire. It also testifies to the prominence of Scottish settlers in the farming history of the Shire, particularly in early Toolern Vale. It was built by Peter McDonald, a leading member of the large Scottish community in the Shire, and a forebear of numerous large and prominent Melton families, including the Robinsons, Raleighs, and McIntoshs. It is also associated with the McIntosh family, which acquired the property after McDonald's death in 1888.

The former *Yangardook* Cottage, 575-685 Gisborne Melton Road, Toolern Vale, is socially significant at the Local level (AHC G1). It was identified as a place of heritage significance to the local community in a community forum held as part of this heritage study.

Overall, the former *Yangardook* Cottage, 575-685 Gisborne Melton Road, Toolern Vale, is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Melton - Shire of Melton Heritage Study phase 2, David Maloney, David Rowe, Pamela Jellie, Sera Jane Peters, 2007;
Construction dates	1860, 1970,
Other Names	575-685 Gisborne-Melton Road, Toolern Vale (CA 47, Parish of Yangardook),
Hermes Number	29984
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

### Physical Description -

The cottage *Yandardook* is situated on the east side of the Gisborne-Melton Road, Toolern Vale. It is built on a small knoll, within the Toolern Creek valley, and prominently sited next to main road. There are some younger pepper trees nearby. The cottage is also located amongst a substantial residential allotment, with a large new house and ornamental lake.

The modestly scaled, single storey, squared coursed bluestone, Victorian vernacular styled cottage is characterised by a hipped roof form clad in recent corrugated sheet metal. A later brick chimney adorns the roofline.

The symmetry of the design is reveal in the early windows that flank the central doorway at the front. These window openings and the other early openings feature timber framed multi-paned double hung windows.

Although possible planted in a modern times, the adjacent peppercorn trees are appropriate plantings to a mid nineteenth century cottage.

## **Historical Australian Themes**

*Melton Historical Themes: 'Pastoral'; 'Farming'*

## **Integrity**

Integrity - Moderately intact

## **Physical Conditions**

Physical Condition - Fair-Good

*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/>*