

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: WAR MEMORIALS

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Port Fairy-Hamilton Road Byaduk-Penshurst Road BYADUK

STUDY NUMBER: 064

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

PRECINCT: Byaduk

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 473 B; VicRoads 72 H9; located on either side of the Port Fairy-Hamilton Road at the centre of Byaduk at the intersection with the Byaduk Penshurst Rd.

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local



War Memorial (WW1&2), Port Fairy - Hamiton Rd, Byaduk

Image Date: 01/10/01

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. Both the memorials, their immediate curtilages on each side of the road and the Avenues of Honour in the Hamilton-Port Fairy Road and the Byaduk-Penshurst Road..

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

There are two war memorials located in Byaduk, as well as an avenue of honour dedicated to those who served in World War One, and a Memorial planted dedicated to those who served in World War Two. Both memorials are located in Byaduk's 'memorial precinct'. This area contains several memorial buildings, a memorial sports ground, a memorial reserve, the Mechanic's Institute, the World War One Avenue of Honour and several other memorials.

The larger of the two memorials is dedicated to those who served and fell a on the east side of the road, and is associated with the Avenue of Honour along the Port Fairy-Hamilton Road and along the Byaduk-Penshurst Road. The smaller is on the west side of the road. The memorials are almost but not exactly opposite each other. The other Avenue of Honour is along both sides of the Byaduk-Penshurst Road.

The larger memorial is one of the most elaborate in the Shire being raised on a three step podium of rough hewn granite, around which there is a low fence of iron chains supported eight small rough hewn obelisks. The base is a single block of smoothly dressed bluestone [or basalt], with sides which are rough hewn, tapered for its upper half and inscribed with the words "Their name shall live forever". The plinth is comprised of three stones. The upper and lower are rough hewn granite and the shaft is polished bluestone and inscribed on the west of front side with the words "Erected in remembrance of the Byaduk soldiers who made the supreme sacrifice in the Great War of 1914 - 1919." The north and south sides are inscribed with the names of those who died in the First World War. The east or rear side is inscribed with the names of those who died in the Second World War. This stone is capped by two blocks of rough hewn bluestone, the lower rough hewn and tapering outwards, the upper dressed and curved inwards. A statue in white marble of an ordinary soldier stands at ease. The memorial is on slab of concrete edged by bluestone, in front of which are two pentagonal blocks of rendered brick surmounted by five pointed stars. The whole memorial is surround by a Cyclone wire fence with a gate at the front. A white flagpole stands in the north-east corner of the area.

The smaller memorial is comprised of four stones. A rough hewn block of bluestone with dressed edges forms the base. The three other stones are polished red granite. A square block forms a lower plinth. It includes the inscription in gold lettering to "Pte. Donald Ross. / Byaduk Det. V.M.R. First Victorian Contingent. / Died from illness contracted in the [Boer] War / Nov. 15th 1900 aged 23 years. / "Lest we forget"" The upper plinth is tapered and bears the inscription "Erected to the Memory of / Pte. Frank Suttie / Byaduk Det. V.M.R. / First Victorian Contingent / killed in Action at Baster's Nek ' Feb. 10th 1900. / Aged 32 Years. / the first Victorian soldier who fell in the Boer War." (The claim that Suttie was the first Victorian killed is incorrect.) The plinth stones are surmounted by the obelisk which tapers and is topped by a pyramidal point.

Both memorials were erected by Wooles and Carpenter, stonemasons and 'sculptors', of Warrnambool according to ungolded lettering on their bases.

A plantation of trees was planted after World War 2 to commemorate those who served. It is located to the north of the township, on the hill overlooking Byaduk, on the east side of the Hamilton-Port Fairy Rd.

HISTORY:

Information from the Australian War memorial suggests that Frank Suttie was not the first Victorian to die in the Boer War, although he was one of the very first casualties. Sgt N Grant and Pte A H Wilson were both killed on 10 February 1900 at Rensburgh. Four other soldiers of different ranks were killed at Rensburgh on 12 February 1900. Suttie was wounded at Bastard's Nek on 10 February and died on 12 February at the Boer Hospital at Rensburg. Some 26 soldiers were wounded at Rensburgh, mostly on 12 February, some of whom were taken prisoner.

Donald Ross is on the memorial

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John McIntosh Ross is Ian Black's rate books research

Don Garden, Hamilton

Settlement in the Byaduk area was stimulated by the subdivision and taking up of land under the Land Selection Act of the 1860s. A village developed at Byaduk in the 1860s which included a store (1863), a flour mill (1868), a Methodist Church (1864) and a school (from the mid-1860s). At North Byaduk a hotel was built in 1866. [p. 110-111] Byaduk missed out on a railway line proposed in the late 1880s from the far north of the colony through Hamilton and possibly Byaduk, to the coast at Port Fairy or Warrnambool. The line did not proceed. The Byaduk area was important for dairying, supplying the Hamilton Butter factory in the late 19th C. The Condah Swamp Butter and Cheese Factory opened in 1901, in one of the chief milk producing areas of the district, perhaps precipitating the closure of the failing Hamilton Butter Factory in 1902.

Dundas Shire Centenary, p. 77

"In 1899 three volunteers--H Brand, D Ross and F Suttie--sailed in a ship the SS Medic to take part in the Boer War. Private F Suttie was killed in action in February in 1900 and became the first Victorian to be killed in this war. Private D Ross died shortly after his return."

SOURCE: Victoria and Riverina: a biographical record of some of the pioneer families of Victoria and the Riverina, McCarron Bird & Co, Melbourne 1933.

p. 238

Mrs. Flora Ross, of "Rosslyn", Byaduk, is the eldest daughter of the late Mr. John Cameron, who was born at Morven, Scotland, and landed at Portland, Victoria, with his family of four children in 1855. He went to "Strathdownie" Station, where he remained for five years, when he selected land near Branxholme in 1861. After many years' residence there he moved to Nebsworth (sic) and, after selling out there, settled in the Wimmera, where he died.

Mrs. Ross was born in 1851 at Morven, Scotland, and was married to her late husband, Mr. George Ross, of Branxholme, in 1870. They carried on the Traveller's Rest Hotel, at Branxholme until 1875, and then selected land adjoining her father's property at Nebsworth. On selling out in 1886, they purchased a business in Byaduk, where Mr. Ross died.

Of the family one of the boys saw service in the South African War, and the three sons were on active service in the Great War - one was killed and another died from war injuries.

Mrs. Ross is now residing in Byaduk with her daughter, Mrs. Lin Crocket.

The late Mr. Ross was the first secretary of the Branxholme Presbyterian Church.

The memorial is deliberately sited at the centre of the township. The memorial is the focus for ceremonies on Anzac Day and Remembrance Day and should be understood in association with the memorial avenues as well as the adjacent park.

THEMATIC CONTEXT:

Theme 7: Governing
7.7 Defending Australia
7.7.3 Going to war

Theme 8: Developing Australia's cultural life

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8.8 Remembering the fallen

Theme 9: Marking the phases of Life

9.7.3 Remembering the dead.

CONDITION:

Both the memorials are in excellent condition.

INTEGRITY:

High degree of intactness

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

How is it significant?

The Byaduk War Memorials are of historic, social and aesthetic significance to the township of Byaduk and the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

The Byaduk War Memorials are of historic significance because they commemorate at a local level some of the most important events in the national history of Australia and especially the roles of those from the community who served and died.

They are of social significance as the focus of acts of commemoration such as Anzac Day and Remembrance Day, and as a place of homage for the community.

They are of aesthetic significance for their use of traditional form, style and iconography to express deep meaning. This significance is enhanced by the setting and location, in the centre of the township.

COMPARISON:

061 War Memorial, Nareen Road, Nareen

063 War Memorials, Stirling St, Balmoral

096 War Memorial, Memorial Road, Glenthompson

358 War Memorial, 78 Whyte Street, Coleraine

367 War Memorial, Parker and Sterling Street, Dunkeld

ASSESSED BY: aen

ASSESSMENT DATE:

10-Aug-03

EXISTING LISTINGS:

HERITAGE STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS:

Include in VHR Include in RNE Include in Local Planning Scheme

No Recommendations for Inclusions

REFERENCES:

Author	Title	Year	Page
Donald, Budge, and , Lloyd, Jenkins	Dundas Shire Centenary, 1863-1963	1963	77
Harold Bradley	War memorials of Victoria : a pictorial record	1994	