HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: BALMORAL CEMETERY

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Cemetery Road BALMORAL

STUDY NUMBER: 178   **HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:**

PRECINCT: outside

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

                    SECTION: 33   **PARISH:**   PARISH OF KONGBOOL

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 388 A24; VicRoads 54F6; located on the Cemetery Road off the Coleraine-Balmoral Road about 3.5kms south of Balmoral overlooking a creek towards Englefield Homestead.

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local

Cemetery, Cemetery Road, Balmoral

Image Date: 30/11/02

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the surviving graves, monuments, fences, etc., plantings and the whole of the cemetery reserve.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The Balmoral Cemetery is located at the extreme southern end of Cemetery Road, between the Coleraine - Balmoral road and the Natimuk Hamilton Road, some seven kilometers south of the township of Balmoral. The Cemetery is sited on a gentle rise overlooking a tributary creek of the Glenelg River.

The gravestones are enclosed in a roughly square reserve of approximately 2 hectares, the perimeter of which is defined through plantings of Cupressus macrocarpa (Monterey Cypress) and Pinus radiata (Monterey Pine). A gate is set into the perimeter planting, the entry emphasised by two specimens of Cupressus macrocarpa 'Aurea'. On either side of the late nineteenth century gate are the remnants of the original post and rail fence.

The graves are grouped in the conventional manner. According to denominations. There are no structures on the site, although a number of graves have small memorial plantings on them.

The graves of many families who made important contributions to the development of the Balmoral community are located in the cemetery.

HISTORY:

The passing of the English Metropolitan Internments Act granted the Board of Health in London to provide burial grounds. This seems to have influenced legislation in the Australian colonies. Cemeteries were usually developed in association with particular churches or as a result of public meetings of concerned citizens. "In 1854, an 'Act for the Establishment and Management of Cemeteries in the Colony of Victoria' was passed by the Victorian Government forming the basis of cemetery management as we know it today. The Government had the power to appoint and remove trustees and lend or pay money for the establishment of cemeteries. The trustees were charged with the responsibilities to construct structures and avenues; impose rules and regulations to manage and protect the cemeteries; allow ministers of religion free access and religious denominations to build mortuary chapels; have the right to veto and remove inappropriate vaults and monuments; and to keep accounts and statements." [Sagazio, 'Our Heritage', p. 13] The passing of the 'Municipal Institutions Establishment Act' in 1854 became the basis of Victoria's local government. Local councils were given control over amenities including roads, bridges, streets, sanitation and public health. The 'Public Health Act' was also passed in 1854 and it was envisaged that local councils would also have the responsibility for management of public cemeteries. "Under the provisions of the Public Health Act 1889 the Minister for Health and the Department of Public Health became responsible for the management of cemeteries and the responsibility has remained within the Health portfolio since that time." [Sagazio, 'Our Heritage', p. 15]

Most small suburban and country cemeteries were simple in layout with graves in straight lines in either a grid or a design of winding paths. The latter was an influence from English cemetery design, particularly from John Claudius Loudon, and to a lesser extent American cemetery design, from such landscape garden designers as Calvert and Vaux. Plantings were typically those with a funereal iconography such as Cupressus funebris, C. sempervirens, various Pinus species, Laurels, Yews and Junipers. Their common quality was their evergreen and sombre foliage. In special cases trees, shrubs or minor plants were planted with specific association for the deceased. Cemeteries were subdivided into sections according to the major Christian denominations. In rare cases there were also sections for non-Christians, such as the Jews.

The cemetery was established on land that was originally part of Englefield pastoral holding. The land was subdivided several times for closer settlement in the early and mid nineteenth century.

The earliest gravestones in the cemetery date from the 1870s, several decades after the township and pastoral holdings of the area were commenced. There may have been an earlier cemetery, however, there is no evidence to suggest this as no cemetery reserve or burial grounds are noted on Balmoral Township plans for 1860, 1866 or 1958, nor on any of the surrounding Parishes of Balmoral, Kongbool or Yarramyljup. The graves of several

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HERITAGE PLACE

important local people survive in the cemetery, such as the Robertson family, Turnbull family, Murray family, McColl family and others. The cemetery continues to be used today.

THEMATIC CONTEXT:

Theme 9: Marking the phases of life
9.7 Dying
9.7.1 Dealing with human remains
9.7.3 Remembering the dead

CONDITION:

The cemetery is in very good condition, with no gravestones vandalised. Most of the gravestones are well maintained, as are the fences and plots.

INTEGRITY:

high degree of integrity

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?
The Balmoral Public Cemetery is located in a two hectare reserve surrounded by farmland. It is located at the extreme southern end of Cemetery Lane, approximately six kilometers to the south of the township of Balmoral. It is Balmoral's only public cemetery, although several large pastoral runs in the area (which date from the 1840s) have private burial grounds associated with them. Burials date from the early 1870s and continue to the present. The layout is typical of a simple nineteenth century cemetery, set on a gentle rise with a heavy perimeter planting of Cupressus macrocarpa (Monterey cypress) and Pinus radiata (Monterey Pine) defining the reserve, and evoking an atmosphere of dignity and repose. The graves are approached through a simple late nineteenth century gate, marked by two Cupressus macrocarpa 'Aurea'. On either side of the gate, the remains of the original post and rail fence survive, although most has been replaced by a conventional six-wire fence. The graves are laid out in typical denominational fashion. The Cemetery is in good condition generally, and retains an high degree of integrity.

How is it significant?
The Balmoral Cemetery is of historical and social and architectural significance to the township of Balmoral and the Southern Grampians Shire.

What is significant?
The Balmoral Cemetery is of historical significance as an enduring record of those who have lived and died in the community, as a reflection of passing phases, ways of life and death, particular events, and as documentary evidence.

The Balmoral Cemetery is of social significance for reflecting the customs and tastes of the community, for reflecting different religious values, and for reflecting different economic and social status. It is also important as a place of passive recreation.

The Balmoral Cemetery is of architectural significance for its range of tombstones, memorials and iconography reflecting the aesthetics of different periods and groups within the community. The planting of Cupressus and Pinus species enhances the funereal aesthetic of the location.

COMPARISON:

145 Coleraine Cemetery, Lower Hilgay Road, Coleraine
074 Tarrayoukyan Cemetery, Tarrayoukyan Rd, Tarrayoukyan
309 Glenthompson Cemetery, Scott Street, Glenthompson

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233 Old Cemetery, Scott Street (extension), Cavendish,
262 Boram Boram Cemetery, Boram Boram Lane, Penshurst
209 Byaduk Cemetery, Cemetery Road, Byaduk
372 Branxholme Cemetery, off Henty Highway, Branxholme

ASSESSED BY: aen & tfh   **ASSESSMENT DATE:**   27-Jan-02

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
Board of Land and Works	Plan of the Agricultural area of Balmoral - Presparted by the Board of Land & Works in accordance with the 'Amending Land Act 1865'	1865	
Celestina Sagazio, ed.	Cemeteries, Our Heritage	1992	13, 15
Department of Lands and Survey	The Township of Balmoral & Suburban Allotments in the County of Dundas	1860	
Department of Lands and Survey	Township of Balmoral, Parish of Balmoral, County of Dundas	1958	
Department of Lands and Survey	Kongbool, County of Dundas	1930	
Department of Lands and Survey	Yarramyljup, County of Dundas	1892	
George C. Darbyshire - Contract Surveyor	Special and Country Lands, Parish of Balmoral, County of Dundas	1863	
George C. Darbyshire - Contract Surveyor	Special and Country Lands Parish of Yarramyljup County of Dundas	1863	
Office of Lands and Survey	Suburban Lands, Parish of Balmoral	1866	