

# HERITAGE PLACE

**NAME OF PLACE:** KARABEAL INN (FORMER)

**ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE:** Cavendish-Dunkeld Road KARABEAL

**STUDY NUMBER:** 445

**HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:**

**OTHER NAME/S OF PLACE:** DONELAN'S INN, CHERRY WOOD INN

**PRECINCT:** outside

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:** Southern Grampians Shire

**ALLOTMENT:** 3a      **SECTION:** 17      **PARISH:** PARISH OF CAVENDISH

**ACCESS DESCRIPTION:**

CFA 432 D ; VicRoads; Located on the south-west side of the Cavendish Mortlake Road about 1.0km south-east of the intersection of Victoria Point Road

**SIGNIFICANCE RATING:** Heritage Inventory

Former Karabeal Inn, Cavendish-Dunkeld Road, Karabeal

**Image Date:** 02/04/2003

**EXTENT OF LISTING:**

To the extent of: 1. The whole of the land and all of the surviving fabric.

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## PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

It was vernacular in its style and form, single storey and built of bluestone. The former Karabeal Inn, which was in ruins in 1950, no longer survives, except as footings (Clabburn, 31). There is a sheep dip at the rear and there are extensive footings suggesting many outbuildings. The whole block is fenced with low dry stone walls.

## HISTORY:

Karabeal was, for a short time, a thriving small community of some thirty selector families. There was a formal township, described as a "village" on one early plan, which included a primary school built in 1870 but which closed in 1896. The Donelans operated the Cherry Wood or Karabeal Inn on the south side of the Dunkeld-Cavendish Road, about 12kms south-east of Cavendish and immediately opposite the township. It was vernacular in its style and form, single storey and built of bluestone. The inn, which was in ruins in 1950, no longer survives, except as footings (Clabburn, 31). There is a sheep dip at the rear and there are extensive footings suggesting many outbuildings. The whole block is fenced with low dry stone walls. Robert Donelan (also spelled Donellan and Donnelan) was the licensee at least from 1870 to 1874 (Marriott, 191-2).

He bought allotment 3A of section 17 of the Parish of Cavendish comprising about 58 acres in July 1872. This was immediately adjacent to cemetery reserve. It was this proximity, presumably, which lead to the infants' internment there, at some distance from Karabeal, rather than in the public cemeteries operating at both Cavendish and Dunkeld. Robert Donelan had also bought a corner block of land, allotment 17, in the centre of the township, now gone, about 1.0km south of the cemetery reserve. Perhaps this was also intended for a public house. It is not known if and why the children were the only persons buried in the cemetery or if others from Wilton are also buried there. Robert died in 1901 and Bridget died in 1909, both were aged 67 and both were buried in the new Dunkeld Cemetery.

Most of the land in the parishes of Karabeal and Cavendish, when it was thrown open for selection, was purchased by established squatters. Robert Donelan purchased allotment 11 (no section) of the Parish of Karabeal, comprising 101.5ha in December 1874 and allotment 14 with T Cox, comprising 18.1ha in December 1875. This and the land near Cavendish was farmed, presumably. The family must have maintained its interest in the district because Valentine Donelan purchased allotment 17A of the Parish of Karabeal comprising 14.4ha on the west side of the township as late as 1909.

The lone graves in Old Tannery Road are those of Eliza Donelan, who was born in Dunkeld and who died 1875 aged one year, and of Viola Donelan, who was born in Hamilton and who died 1886 aged one year. They were the children of Robert Donelan and his wife, Bridget, nee Lally (PI, Reg. No. 9898 & 25923). The Donelans married in 1863 and had 11 children, 5 boys and 6 girls, one of whom, born in 1878, was called Eliza after her dead sibling (PI, Reg. No. 2148 & 2070). The Donelans appear to have been typical small selectors under the Land Selection Acts of the 1860s.

## THEMATIC CONTEXT:

3. Developing local, regional and national economies
- 3.12.5 Retailing foods and beverages
- 3.22 Lodging people
- 3.23 Catering for tourists

4. Building settlements, towns and cities
- 4.5 Making settlements to serve rural Australia

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HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

- 8. Developing Australia's cultural life
- 8.4 Eating and drinking
- 8.14 Living in the country and rural settlements

## CONDITION:

Ruins

## INTEGRITY:

all buildings demolished; sheep dip and dry stone walls survive

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

The former Karabeal Inn was located on the south-west side of the Cavendish Mortlake Road about 1.0km south-east of the intersection of Victoria Point Road. This location was specifically chosen to be a convenient stopping point on the road between Dunkeld and Cavendish. The inn, which was in ruins in 1950, no longer survives, except as footings (Clabburn, 31). There is a sheep dip at the rear and there are extensive footings suggesting many outbuildings. The whole block is fenced with low dry stone walls. The Karabeal Inn was started by Robert Donelan, who was the licensee from at least 1870 to 1874. The site is in ruinous condition and retains a low degree of integrity.

How is it significant?

The site of the Karabeal Inn is of archaeological and historical significance to the Southern Grampians Shire as a heritage inventory site.

Why is it significant?

The site of the Karabeal Inn is of archaeological significance for its potential to demonstrate the situation and condition of a typical mid-nineteenth century coaching inn and the occupants' lifestyles. It is of historical significance as one of the only reminders of the Karabeal settlement, and for its association with the Donelan family.

## COMPARISON:

130 Wannon-Redruth Inn, Brung Brungle Road, Wannon

ASSESSED BY: tfh

ASSESSMENT DATE:

2/04/2003

## 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 |
|----------------|---------------------------------------|------|------|
| Elise Clabburn | Dunkeld and District, a Short History | 1995 | 31   |