

# HERITAGE PLACE

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**NAME OF PLACE:** BYADUK CEMETERY

**ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE:** Cemetery Road BYADUK

**STUDY NUMBER:** 209

**HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:**

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**PRECINCT:** Byaduk

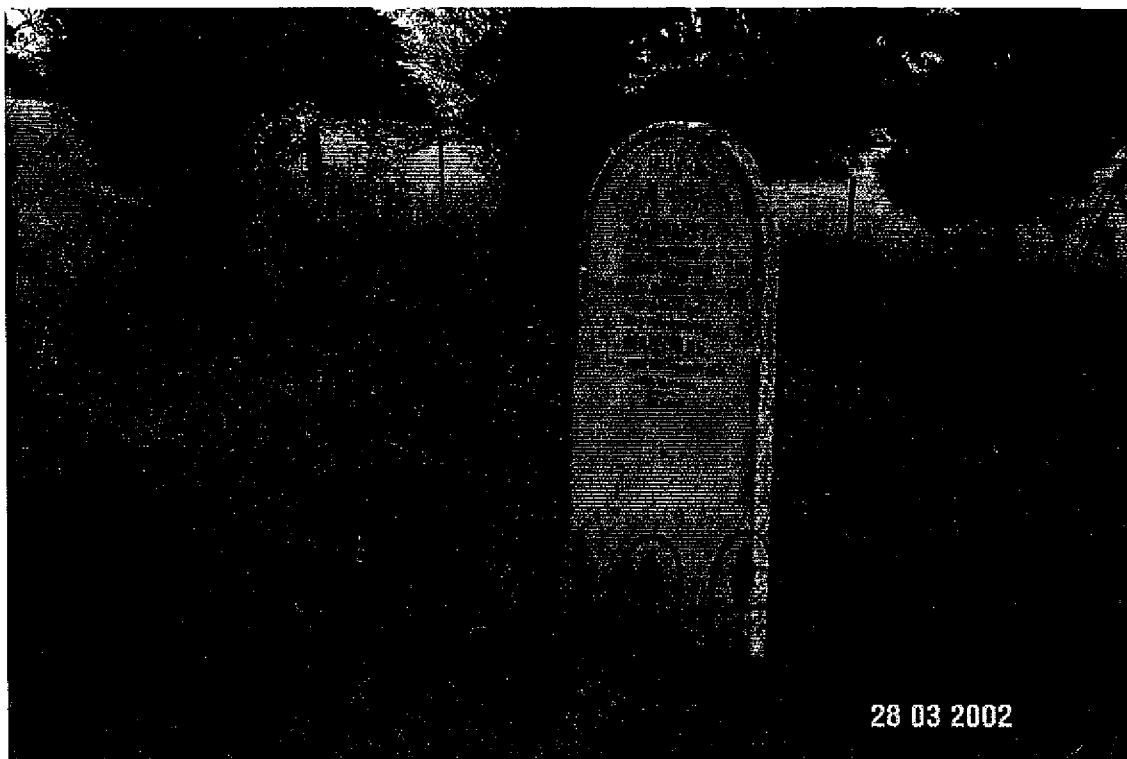
**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:** Southern Grampians Shire

**ALLOTMENT:** 15      **SECTION:** 2      **PARISH:** PARISH OF BYADUK

**ACCESS DESCRIPTION:**

CFA 473 D, 1.5 kilometres east of the intersection of Cemetery Road and Hamilton - Port Fairy Road.

**SIGNIFICANCE RATING:** Local



Byaduk Cemetery, Cemetery Road, Byaduk. Grave of Tomkins Family, early residents of Byaduk

**Image Date:** 28/03/02

**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 Byaduk Cemetery is located on the south side of Cemetery Road, approximately 1.5 kilometres east of the Hamilton-Port Fairy Road. The cemetery is positioned on an elevated site on the township boundary in an area of about 4 acres. The graves are approached through a set of low wrought iron gates of 20th century origin, along a central pathway. The graves are grouped in the conventional manner. According to denominations. One isolated grave, that of Mary Tomkins, who died in 1872, is located about 50 metres distant from the other graves, although still within the boundary fence. The only structure on the site is a wooden toilet near the south boundary. A number of native and European trees and shrubs are planted along the boundaries, including a row of mature *Pinus radiata* on the west side. No formal plantings or landscape elements are visible.

The graves of many families who made important contributions to the development of the Byaduk community are located in the cemetery. These include the Fraser, Christie, Cameron, Falkenberg, Harman, Scott, Tyers, Kinghorn, Holcombe and Smith families. A plain white marble tablet with scalloped corners has been erected at the foot of the grave of J M Ross. The tablet bears the inscription 'Erected in memory of the late J M Ross/A worthy citizen/Captain of H Company, VMR/"Precept may lead but example draws".'

## **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, 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" (ibid., 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 township of Byaduk was surveyed in 1867, and Section 2, Allotment 15, an area of 4 acres, 32 perches was reserved as a cemetery at the north east perimeter of the town. According to local sources, (Black, Danaher, 1922) burials had occurred on the site before the area was formally reserved as a cemetery. The first burial was that of Billy Elms, an aboriginal commonly called 'Black Billy', who supposedly took his

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European name from a squatter called Elms. The first Europeans to be buried in the cemetery were Mr. David Kinghorn and Mrs. A Cameron.

An important memorial in the cemetery is the commemorative tablet for J M Ross, Captain of H company, Victorian Mounted Rifles, erected by officers of H Company in 1902. The tablet was originally erected at Craig's Hole, in the public reserve on Louth Road, and was later moved to Ross's grave in the Byaduk Cemetery (HHC file).

John McIntosh Ross was the proprietor of the Byaduk General Store and Post Master from 1880 until his death. Ross was born at Mount Sturgeon in 1856, his father being the Manager of the Station. He married Jeannie Anderson, and together they ran the Byaduk general store for many years. Ross had served as the Captain of H Company of the Victorian Mounted Rifles Home Detachment when the unit was in South Africa (ibid.). He died as a result of an unsuccessful operation on a Hydatids cyst in February 1902.

The cemetery contains modern graves and continues to be used.

## **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 condition of the cemetery grounds and graves is excellent.

## **INTEGRITY:**

Very high degree of integrity

## **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:**

What is significant?

The Byaduk Cemetery, located on Cemetery Road, some 1.5 kilometers east of the Hamilton – Port Fairy Road is a four acre cemetery reserve. It is located on a hill overlooking the township of Byaduk. It is one of two cemeteries in the Byaduk area, the other being the Lutheran Cemetery. The earliest burials date from the late 1840s, when Billy Elms, known by Europeans as "Black Billy" was buried there. There are several important memorials within the cemetery, perhaps the most important is to Captain John McIntosh Ross, a Captain of the Victorian Mounted Rifles, who with his wife Jeannie, owned the Byaduk general store for many years. Ross was an important and revered member of the community who unexpectedly died at age 46 after an operation to remove a cyst associated with Hydatids. There is a large white marble tablet, scalloped at four corners erected by the community in the cemetery. The tablet was originally located in one of the public precinct areas at the centre of Byaduk. The graves are grouped in the conventional manner. According to denominations. One isolated grave, that of Mary Tomkins, who died in 1872, is located about 50 metres distant from the other graves, although still within the boundary fence. There are no significant plantings. The cemetery is in excellent condition, and retains a very high degree of integrity.

How is it significant?

The Byaduk Cemetery is of historical, social and architectural significance to the district of Byaduk and the Southern Grampians Shire.

What is significant?

The Byaduk Cemetery is of historical significance as an enduring record of those who have lived and died in

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the community, as a reflection of passing phases, ways of life and death, particular events, and as documentary evidence.

The 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 Cemetery is of architectural significance for its range of tombstones, memorials and iconography reflecting the aesthetics of different periods and groups within the community. It is also of interest for its overall design and position within the broader landscape.

## COMPARISON:

145 Coleraine Cemetery, Lower Hilgay Road, Coleraine  
074 Tarrayoukyan Cemetery, Tarrayoukyan Rd, Tarrayoukyan  
309 Glenthompson Cemetery, Scott Street, Glenthompson  
233 Old Cemetery, Scott Street (extension), Cavendish,  
178 Balmoral Cemetery, Cemetery Road, Balmoral  
372 Branxholme Cemetery, off Henty Highway, Branxholme

**ASSESSED BY:** AEN

**ASSESSMENT DATE:**

23/08/2003

## 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
Celestina Sagazio, ed.	Cemeteries, Our Heritage	1992	13,15
Hamilton History Centre	Ross Tablet, Byaduk		n.d
Ian Black (ed)	Early Byaduk Settlers	1994	15
J V Danaher	Byaduk	1922	