



HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Name	CAVENDISH CEMETERY (NEW)	File No	322	Study No 225
Address	Cemetery Road CAVENDISH	Grading	2002	
Building Type	Cemetery/Graveyard/Burial Ground			
Date		Extent of Overlay	Refer recommendations.	
Assessment by				



Condition

Heritage Status VHR - HI - PS -

Designer / Architect No information held **Architectural Style** No information held

Maker / Builder No information held

Integrity high degree of integrity

History and Historical Context

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" (Sagazio, 15).

Most small suburban and country cemeteries were simple in layout with graves in straight lines in either a grid or a

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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 Cavendish was first known as 'Wilton' until about 1858, when Thomas Ham surveyed it, and renamed the township 'Cavendish', the family name of the Duke of Devonshire (Rowe, et. al., 15). The Wilton Cemetery, as shown on the 1850 Wade map was located to the north of the present township of Cavendish, where later the site of a tannery was developed. The cemetery was gazetted in 1861, and consisted of an 8 acre reserve, set out with sections for Episcopalians, Roman Catholics, Presbyterians, Wesleyans, Independents and other Denominations (Rowe, et. al., 18). Two graves, with a marble headstone remain on the site of the first Cavendish (Wilton) Cemetery, that of Eliza Donelan, aged 1 (buried 1875) and Viola Donelan (buried 1886), aged 15 weeks. They were the daughters of Robert and Bridget Donelan, the owners of the Karabeal Inn, located on the south side fo the Dunkeld Cavendish Road, about 12 kilometers south east of Cavendish.

The other burial site for the Cavendish area was used from the 1850s, and is what is now referred to as 'Old Cavendish Cemetery', located just west of the township, on the banks of the Wannon River. It is mentioned as a 'burial ground', and noted that it is 'Subject to Flood' on Henry Wade's 1850 survey of Wilton, and Thomas Ham's 1858 survey of the Township of Cavendish. Rowe et. al., 21). Probably due to the close proximity to the township, it seems that the informal 'burial ground' on the banks of the Wannon was the preferred site for the Cavendish Cemetery, and in 1877, the Cavendish Cemetery Committee wrote to the Surveyor General requesting a two acre reservation "to fence in, as graves are left unprotected and it is the unanimous wish of the residents and friends of those buried there, that the small reservation asked for might be granted in order that graves might be enclosed. Already there are considerably over a hundred persons buried there.the ground is part of the town common" (DSE, in Rowe, et. al., 22). The Cemetery Reserve of one acre, two roods and 36 perches was temporarily reserved as a site for the Cavendish Cemetery (also known as the Cavendish settler's cemetery) in 1877. The Inspector of the Board of Health surveyed the Cavendish Cemetery in 1895, and a sketch from this time shows that there were central gravelled paths which intersected off centre, forming a cross. thE paths created four denominational areas divided into Presbyterian, Catholic, Protestant sections. The first burial in the Cavendish (Old) Cemetery was for John Walker in November-December, 1850, and the last recorded burial was in July 1922, for Mathilda Yates (Rowe et. al., 26).

It is not known when the first concerns were raised regarding sanitation and the cemeteries proximity to the Wannon River. In 1894, the Health Officer, A. Bennett inspected the Old Cemetery in response to a request from the Shire of Dundas. His recommendation was not to re-locate the cemetery. His arguments for were that the water of the Wannon was not used immediately for many miles downstream, that any nitrogenous or other material would filter a good deal before reaching the river, and that a substantial amount of money had already been spent on beautification and maintenance of the Cemetery. Despite this report, the Board of Health stated that the site should be given up and a new site obtained, John Taylor, who made the 1895 survey of the Cavendish (Old) Cemetery stated "It is certainly a most undesirable site for burial purposes and should never have been granted" (DSE, in Rowe, et. al., 31).

Two suggestions of land suitable for the new cemetery were put forward; one was the early Wilton Cemetery, reserved and gazetted in 1861 (also known as the Tannery Cemetery), the other being the site of the Cavendish (New) Cemetery. The Cavendish Cemetery Trust, and the townspeople clearly did not want to move their Cemetery, although the Board of Health demanded it. Finally, in 1906, the Cemetery Trust accepted the descision to open a new Cemetery, and applied for funds for fencing and laying out the new site. As the Trust did not have the funds to prepare the site for burials, and the old Cemetery was condemned, the Trust were missing out on burial funds, as local people were buried elsewhere. Funds were eventually supplied, and burials proceeded from 1908. The Cavendish (New) Cemetery still accepts burials

Ref:

R V Billis and A S Kenyon ; 1974 ; Stockland Press, Melbourne ; Pastoral Pioneers of Port Phillip ; page: 166

Relevant Historical Australian Themes

Theme 9: Marking the phases of life

9.7 Dying

9.7.1 Dealing with human remains

9.7.3 Remembering the dead

Description

CAVENDISH CEMETERY (NEW)

Hermes No 23308

Place Citation Report

08-Apr-2008

6:00 pm

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The condition of the cemetery grounds and graves is good.

The New Cavendish Cemetery is located on the west side of Cemetery Road, off the Natimuk-Hamilton Road and approximately 1.5 kilometres north of the centre of Cavendish. The cemetery is positioned on an elevated site in the north-west corner of the township in an area of about 4 acres. The graves are approached through a set of gates of early 20th century origin. The graves are to the south of the entrance. Immediately to the north of the entrance is a new memorial rock with small bronze plaques attached. The only structure on the site is a wooden shed with a verandah located at the entrance. A number of native and European trees and shrubs are planted along the boundaries, including a row of mature Monterey Pines (*Pinus radiata*) on the west side. No formal plantings or landscape elements are visible.

cemetery

Maintain as existing. All works and maintenance should be done according to a CMP and a sabbatical review. Further burials would be acceptable on heritage grounds.

Cemetery Reserve

Comparative Analysis

135 Coleraine Cemetery, Lower Hilgay Road, Coleraine

180 Tarrayoukyan Cemetery, Tarrayoukyan Rd, Tarrayoukyan

041 Glenthompson Cemetery, Scott Street, Glenthompson

130 Balmoral Cemetery, Cemetery Road, Balmoral

261 Byaduk Cemetery, Cemetery Road, Byaduk

291 New Hamilton Lawn Cemetery, Henty Highway, Hamilton

Statement of Significance

What is Significant?

The New Cavendish Cemetery is located approximately 1.5 kilometres north of the centre of Cavendish, on an elevated site in the north-west corner of the township. There are a number of graves dating from the late nineteenth century to now within the cemetery, and a range of memorials. Immediately to the north of the entrance is a new memorial rock with small bronze plaques attached. The only structure on the site is a wooden shed with a verandah located at the entrance. The cemetery is in excellent condition and retains a very good level of integrity.

How is it Significant?

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

What is Significant?

The New Cavendish 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 a source of documentary evidence. The cemetery has further historical significance for the burials of individuals and families who made important contributions to their community. 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 homage and of passive recreation. The New Cavendish 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.

Assessment Against Criteria

No information held

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Recommendations (2002)

Heritage Study Planning Scheme Recommendations

External Paint Controls	No information held
Internal Alteration Controls	No information held
Tree Controls	No information held
Fences & Outbuildings	No information held
Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted	No information held
Incorporated Plan	No information held
Aboriginal Heritage Place	No information held

Other Recommendations

No information held

References

No references held