

# HERITAGE PLACE

**NAME OF PLACE:** GLENTHOMPSON CEMETERY

**ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE:** Scott Street GLENTHOMPSON

**STUDY NUMBER:** 309

**HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:**

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**PRECINCT:** Glenthompson

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:** Southern Grampians Shire

**SECTION:** 1      **PARISH:** PARISH OF YUPPECKIAR

**ACCESS DESCRIPTION:**

CFA 434J K3, VicRoads 229 N10, located on the south side of Scott Street one block south of the Glenelg Highway and the Primary School and beside the Shire depot.

**SIGNIFICANCE RATING:** Local



Glenthompson Cemetery, Scott Street, Glenthompson main path

**Image Date:** 29/05/2002

**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 Glenthompson Cemetery is located in its own reserve on the south side of Scott Street immediately to the south of the Primary School and beside the Shire Depot. It is in the centre of the township and is on level ground. The approach to the cemetery is simple although the axis created by the central path has been reinforced by the low wall built to hold funerary ashes located at the far end. The cemetery, as usual, is sub-divided into sections along denominational lines. The largest monument is the Brimacombe obelisk of grey granite. The McLennan plot is beside it. There are no major plantings.

## **HISTORY:**

The Glenthompson Cemetery is located on land which was reserved for the purpose in 1869. Pressure for the reservation appears to have come from John McLennan, local storekeeper and publican. In 1878 Mr. D. Mitchell requested the shire Council to call a meeting to elect Trustees for the cemetery (Shire of Mount Rouse, 1964). Part of the roadway of Thompson Street, the cemetery's eastern boundary appears to have been resumed for municipal purposes in 1969.

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.

## **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 well maintained, and the overall condition of the graveyard is good.

## **INTEGRITY:**

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high degree of integrity

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

The Glenthompson Cemetery is located in its own reserve on the south side of Scott Street, some distance from the centre of the township. The cemetery fits the traditional model of nineteenth century cemetery layout and design, which is simply axial and sub-divided into sections along denominational lines. The largest monument is the Brimacombe obelisk of grey granite. The cemetery is in good condition, and is well maintained. It retains a high degree of integrity.

How is it significant?

The Glenthompson Cemetery is of local significance to the districts of Glenthompson and Woodhouse and to the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

The Glenthompson 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 Glenthompson 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:

074 Tarrayoukyan Cemetery, Tarrayoukyan Rd, Tarrayoukyan  
233 Old Cemetery, Scott Street (extension), Cavendish,  
262 Boram Boram Cemetery, Boram Boram Lane, Peshurst  
209 Byaduk, Cemetery Road, Byaduk

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**ASSESSED BY:** aen

**ASSESSMENT DATE:**

07-Jan-04

## 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
Elsie Clabburn, Iris Field, Betty Gordon & Kathleen Dickie	Dunkeld and District, A Short History	1989	28-29
Shire of Mount Rouse	Shire of Mount Rouse Centenary	1964	