

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: BUSHY CREEK CEMETERY

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Bushy Creek Lane GLENTHOMPSON

STUDY NUMBER: 427

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

PRECINCT: outside

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

ALLOTMENT: A **SECTION:** No **PARISH:** PARISH OF BUCKERAN YARRACK
Section
s

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 476 A5; VicRoads 74 B6; located off Bushy Creek Lane (off the Glenthompson-Caramut Road) on the south-west bank of Bushy Creek

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local



Bushy Creek Cemetery, Bushy Creek Lane, Glenthompson

Image Date: 18/03/03

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the cemetery including the monuments, the fencing and the planting and all the land within 20m of the fence.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The Bushy Creek Cemetery is a typical isolated homestead cemetery with several graves, memorial plantings and wrought iron fences surrounding the gravestones.

HISTORY:

Bushy Creek was first taken up as a pastoral run by John Kidd in September of 1840 (B&K 185). In September 1845, James Kidd (a relative of John) and Peter Hutcheson took over the lease which they retained until 1853, when it was subdivided into Bushy Creek and Glenronald. Kidd retained the portion known as Bushy Creek and Hutcheson took the portion known as Glenronald, which he retained until 1864 (ibid.).

There is some confusion surrounding the date when James Kidd sold Bushy Creek to the Beggs family. Billis and Kenyon (185) states that Francis Beggs took ownership in February 1858, while Sutherland (534) states that Hugh Lyons Beggs (father of Francis) took ownership of the property in 1853. Hugh Beggs married twice, first to Elizabeth Smith, who died without issue, and then to Lavinia Heney (De Serville, 460).

It is generally believed that Hugh L. M Beggs purchased the property in the 1850s, and his son Francis was born on Bushy Creek (Sutherland, 534). The entry in Victoria and Its Metropolis states that Francis Beggs was "... educated at the Hawthorn Grammar School, near Melbourne. In 1875 he left school, and took over the management of the estate, and, after his father's death in 1885, conducted the property on account of the trustees in the estate for a period of seven years, and then leased it from them." (Sutherland, 534). At this time, the holdings of Bushy Creek were about 15,00 acres, of which about 7,000 was under cultivation. It was said to have been excellent land for producing high yields of grain and other crops, as well as running Hereford cattle, and 15 000 stud sheep, described as "... all pure merino, and the stud sires used in this flock for the last twenty years are from the flocks of Scone, Eskvale, and Bellevue, Tasmania, which are splendid wool yielders" (ibid.). Bushy Creek had some international success with its wool "In 1889 Mr. Beggs obtained a diploma for merino wool at the Greater Britain Exhibition, Earl's Court, England, and a very complimentary notice appeared in the "British Australasian" of 22nd June, 1899, of which we quote and extract:—"I was now drawing near to the end of the exhibits, but there was certainly the best—if that could possibly be—left until the last. The next table contained the wool grown by Mr. Francis Beggs, of Glenthompson, and, if I had been called in to judge the wool, I should have placed 'first prize' on this table. My notes made on the spot say 'best in the lot.' This was greasy merino wool of 80's quality, and, though greasy, it looked almost like scoured. Comment here is superfluous, for its quality was perfect in every known wool characteristic." (Sutherland, 534).

Francis Beggs married Edith Turnbull, the daughter of James Turnbull of Emu Plains, with whom he had three daughters, Katherine, Rose and Jane (De Serville, 460).

The exact date of the construction of the present house is not known but its style, form and materials indicates a date early in the twentieth century and before the First World War. No architect or builder have been associated with its construction. The original homestead, or at least a very structure was moved up from the lower slopes of the hill to be incorporated in the new house. The use of concrete blocks is unusual, although pressed cement blocks were being used about this time.

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:

Overgrown and in poor condition.

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INTEGRITY:

Very high degree of integrity

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

The Bushy Creek Cemetery is a typical small, square burial area associated with a homestead. The burials are primarily those of the Beggs family, who have had a long association with Bushy Creek. Many of the graves have stone or granite headstones, surrounded by wrought iron fencing. A number of memorial plantings are included within the cemetery, which are overgrown and in poor condition. Bushy Creek has had a long association with the Beggs family, who retained the property within the family for over 130 years prior to its recent sale outside the family. The cemetery is in overgrown and poor condition, but retains a very high degree of integrity.

How is it significant?

Bushy Creek Cemetery is of historical significance to the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

Bushy Creek Cemetery is of historical significance for its associations with the Beggs family and the early pastoral run, taken up as early as the 1840s by James Kidd. The cemetery is the final resting place of many of influential and important Beggs family through over 130 years. It is of further historical significance as a tangible link to the past, which provides information about a previous way of life.

COMPARISON:

092 Blackwood Homestead and Cemetery, Blackwood Road, Dunkeld

ASSESSED BY: AEN

ASSESSMENT DATE:

13-Feb-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
R V Billis and A S Kenyon	Pastoral Pioneers of Port Phillip	1974	87, 92, 185