

**BACCHUS MARSH HERITAGE STUDY.****Ref:** 320

Richard Peterson Architect &amp; Conservation Consultant. Daniel Catrice Historian 1994.

**NAME:** Merrimu Reservoir.**PREVIOUS NAME:** Coimadai Town.**ADDRESS:** Bennetts Lane, Coimadai.**TITLE DETAILS:****USE:** Water storage.**PREVIOUS USE:** Town, lime kilns, quarry etc.**SIGNIFICANT DATE:** c1990? **CONSTRUCTION DATE:** 1850s **SOURCE:** 1**CRITERIA:** H1,2,6; Ar 1.**HISTORIC THEME:** Mining & quarrying.**CONDITION:** **INTACTNESS:** Under water**SIGNIFICANT INTACT ELEMENTS:**

ENGINEERING STRUCTURE.

VIEWS.

**SIGNIFICANCE:****TYPE:** HISTORICAL. ARCHITECTURAL. SCIENTIFIC**LEVEL:** LOCAL.**DESIGNATION EXISTING:** Nil**RECOMMENDED CONTROL:** PLANNING SCHEME.**MAP NO:** R3.04 **SURVEY:** RP **DATE:** 19.3.94 **NEGS:** 25.17 & 18 & 27.0

**HISTORY & VISUAL DESCRIPTION:**

1. Hopgood's lime kiln and quarry. (Operating 1850s-1875). Possible remains of two early kilns: a circular random rubble stone wall, 3.5-4m diameter and .4m height.<sup>1</sup>
2. Alkemade's lime-burning kilns and lime extraction quarries. (Operating c1886-1953-4). Lime was quarried here loaded into the kilns which were fired. The burnt lime was unloaded, crushed, sieved, bagged, transported to market and sold. The fuel was always timber, cut locally. Lime was transported from quarry to kiln on cable tramway trolleys, prior to 1930s, after that horses were used. The Tramway was then relocated to the antimony mines. Alkemade's lime was highly regarded and particularly by architects. The site includes:
  - two groups of two (western) and three kilns, 4m diameter of squared rubble; brick-lined.
  - quarry
  - rail sections including turntable, water tanks, remains of a trolley, etc.Note: machinery and storage sheds, engine, well, tramway, track viaduct turntable, winch-house etc had all be demolished.<sup>2</sup>
3. Dibleys Kilns, workings and quarry. (Operating 1872-1893). These kilns were constructed in 1886. Three kilns of squared random rubble, lined with bricks and red brick corner dressings, 8m. high, with battered walls with round headed stoke holes. The western kiln is a square, flare kiln, the other two continuous process kilns. A loading ramp, tramway, drawing and crushing shed, and storage shed had been removed.<sup>3</sup> The Alkemades extracted lime to be sold unburnt from near here in 1943 and 1953-69.<sup>4</sup>
4. Burnip/Coopers lime kilns. (Operating 1865 - resited to Antimony Mine Road, site, ref: 334). There are the shafts of two kilns, internal diameter 2.5m.<sup>5</sup>
5. Hjorth's Quarry. (Operating C1867-1923). Low grade limestone was quarried by blasting and transported by dray to Alkemade's kilns.<sup>6</sup>

The area was flooded c1990.

**COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS:** Lime workings are found at ref: 334. There is no other visible evidence of the lime extraction industry in Bacchus Marsh.

<sup>1</sup> Christine Johnston for the Rural Water Commission, *Coimadai Lime Kilns. Volume 2. Conservation Analysis*, pp52-56,

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., pp57-65. Historic Buildings Council file nos. H7722/1 & H7722/2, 5. Also: 'Homesteads' file nos. H7722/3-4, 6.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid., pp66-67. Described in detail.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid., p82-84.

<sup>5</sup> Ibid., pp79-80

<sup>6</sup> Ibid., pp.81