CLIFFORD PARK

ADDRESS Clifford Drive Wonga Park

Place No. 285

Last Update

DESCRIPTION

Within Clifford Park, extensive evidence of the Pan Pacific Jamborees of 1948 and 1955 and of the 1961 World Rover Moot remains. Some of the features are within Clifford Park, while others are now within the Warrandyte State Park.

Within Clifford Park are located:

- extensive areas with levelled camp sites, most overgrown
- footings of the stage used at the Jamboree
- bases of the large boomerangs used first at the 1956 Olympics
- flagpole (near boomerang bases)
- three large eucalypts visible in photographs of the Jamboree
- tower
- recent chapel c1989.

Within the State Park, there are (at least) the following sites:

- toilet block and storage building (near Rowallan Hall).
- Rowallan Hall, a timber framed building, externally clad with vertical weatherboarding. [1] The Management Plan records that the building was moved here from Frankston, however John Upton recalls that it was built by John Wolt with volunteer local labour prior to the 1948 Jambouree.[2] The building has been removed (with parts reused within Clifford Park and elsewhere); the concrete floor remains.
- near Rowallan Hall site are four 'tables' dug by the Latvian scouts at the Jamboree
- swimming hole in the river
- timber-framed and corrugated iron clad pump house which predates scout use of area
- a camp fire circle dug into the ground close to the river (c1960)
- concrete cesspit/grease trap site
- concrete base of shower block
- camp site areas.

Condition Fair Integrity Intact

Threats Deterioration Key elements

Designer

HISTORY

Clifford Park, the site of large Pan-Pacific Scout Jamborees in 1948-49 and 1955-56, was named after Lord Clifford, owner of the land.[3] The property was originally part of two large allotments, Crown Allotments 5 and 6, leased in the 1850s by the pioneer settler, Peter Davis.[4] In 1941, following an auction, Clifford bought the Yarra Brae property (which included the Clifford Park site)[5] formerly owned by the Henty family.[6]

Clifford, who came to Australia with his wife in 1940, was Chairman of Directors of the Hume Pipe Company and was on the Board of Directors of the Eagle Star Insurance Company.[7] Also, according to one account, he had 'big business interests in South-East Asia'.[8] His wife was a daughter of Sir Adrian Knox, a Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. Clifford had a long interest in scouting while his wife took a great interest in the Girl Guide Movement.[9] In 1962 Clifford became Lord Clifford on his succession to the title of the 12th Baron of Chudleigh in the United Kingdom.[10]

Following the end of the Second World War, it was decided to hold a post-war Scout Jamboree. Named the Pan-Pacific Jamboree, it was held from 29 December 1948 to 9 January 1949 at the Clifford's Yarra Brae property at Wonga Park. There were representatives from all the Australian States, Pakistan, Malaya, Canada, India, Hong Kong, Nauru, Fiji, Noumea, Tahiti and New Zealand, totalling some 10,000. They had the use of a campsite of approximately 100 acres. Lord Rowallan, the Chief Scout of the British Commonwealth and Empire, attended this Jamboree.[11]

The Second Pan-Pacific Jamboree (from 28 December 1955 to 9 January 1956) was held at the same site by then known as Clifford Park. This time the camp accommodated 16,000 Scouts from all States of Australia and contingents from 21 overseas countries. The wet weather and extremely muddy conditions led to this Jamboree being called the "Mudboree." [12] A detailed account of

the campsite appeared in a local press report of the Opening Ceremony in December 1955 by the Governor General.

Seven miles of all-weather roads had been made on the Clifford property as well as the construction of a big dam and causeway and a great arena for "the VIPs to sit and watch the pageants and displays". A "mighty boomerang arch" was erected on Reception Hill, where the camp HQ was located. This symbolised the Australian land and its original people. There was also a new building, a "charming little cottage hospital", erected on the top of Hospital Hill. The Scout Township at the Jamboree had its own electric light, water and septic tanks, and temporary structures for banking, catering, and a souvenir Scout Shop. The Chief Scout, Lord Rowallan, who attended, described this as "the finest Scout camp in the world."[13]

A map provided by the National Bank titled "Where To Find Him" showed some of the Jamboree structures, a number of chapels, a cinema area and the location of the hospital and Boomerang Arch. [14]

Later, from December 1961 to January 1962, the 7th World Rover Moot was staged at Clifford Park. It was the first World Rover Moot to be held in the Southern Hemisphere. Officially opened by the Governor-General of Australia, Viscount de L'Isle, it was attended by 970 Rover Scouts from all Australian States and 15 overseas countries. Later in January, after the Moot had ended, all the Rover Huts erected for the use of the World Moot were destroyed by bushfire. Rowallan Hall (now gone) survived these fires.[15]

SOURCES

- [1]Photograph held by Lesley Taylor/school collection.
- [2] Warrandyte State Park Management Plan, p. 140; John Upton comments on draft Heritage Study report 1997.
- [3] A. R. Milne, Those Boy Scouts. A Story of Scouting in Victoria, pp.126, 136-151.
- [4] Parish of Warrandyte Parish Plan.
- [5] Lilydale Express, 4 Dec. 1940.
- [6] Shire of Lillydale RB 1913-14 SW Riding No.2050.
- [7] Milne, p.152.
- [8] Lilydale Express, 2 Dec. 1955.
- [9] Lilydale Express, 2 Dec. 1955.
- [10] Milne, p.152.
- [11] Milne, p.122.
- [12] Milne, pp.136-137.
- [13] Lilydale Express, 2 Dec. 1955.
- [14] A copy held SLV Map Room.
- [15] Milne, p.157.

Creation Date -	Change Dates		
Associations	Local Themes		
Lord Clifford, Scouting movement	6.09 - Forming associations		

SIGNIFICANCE

STATEMENT OF This property has high regional significance as the site of large Scout Jamborees in 1948-49 and 1955-56, and of the 1961 World Scout Moot, significant events for Victoria. Extensive evidence remains of these scouting activities, some within Clifford Park and other features within the Warrandyte State Park. Clifford Park has historical significance for its associations with Lord Clifford, successful businessman with a long interest in scouting, and owner from c1940 of the Yarra Brae property, the site of Clifford Park created after the 1948 Jamboree. (Criterion A4, H1)

LEVEL						
RECOMMI	ENDATIONS					
	Heritage Register Listin	ngs				
	Register	Reference	Zoning	Status		
	None Specified					
	Extent					

Heritage Schedule

External Paint Controls: On VHR: VHR Ref No:

Internal Alteration Controls: Prohibited Uses:

Tree Controls: Aboriginal Heritage Place:

Outbuildings or Fences: Incorporated Plan: Incorporated Plan Details

Description:

Conservation Management

Extra Research

BIBLIOGRAPHY