

Heritage Overlay No.: 082
Citation No.: 220
Place: Melton Valley Golf Course

Other Names of Place: N/A
Location: Yuille Street, Melton.
Critical Dates: 1848-1855 (Pyke settlement) to mid twentieth century (establishment of Golf Club)
Existing Heritage Listings: Western Region Heritage Study (Pykes Graves).¹
Recommended Level of Significance: LOCAL



Statement of Significance:

The Melton Valley Golf Course, Yuille Street, is significant for the variety of locally important historical themes and events that are associated with the place, and with the remnant fabric which represents some of these events.

The Melton Valley Golf Course, Yuille Street is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A4, B2). The links retain unique evidence of some important themes and events in the history of Melton. The 1850 and 1855 graves and headstones of the Pyke brothers, whose pastoral station on Toolern Creek (then 'Pennyroyal Creek') was the foundation of the settlement of Melton. Evidence survives, in the form of remnant road pavements and domestic

¹ Walker, M, Johnston, C, Boyce, C, 'Melbourne Western Region Heritage Study: Evidence of Change' (Melbourne Western Region Commission, 1986), p.259

trees and underground tanks, of the original street pattern of Melton, before this flood-prone area was largely abandoned in favour of the higher land, mainly to the west of Yuille Street. Lynch's Cottage, Melton's first hospital, established by the locally revered Hannah 'Grannie' Watts', was historically a highly important domestic building on these streets. Archaeological evidence may also exist in relation to other properties for which historical documentation exists, notably the Melton Hotel, the first hotel in Melton, and the place of the first meetings of the Melton Roads Board (Shire Council) and the first court proceedings in the district. Other sites include those associated with notable local farming and community identities such as Hornbuckle, Minns, and Cecil, such as underground tanks, and cacti. Archaeological evidence of sites of other former places (eg the first 'Combined Church', shops and a Temperance Hotel) that have also been referred to in local historical literature may survive.

The links also has associations with events and themes for which no physical evidence is likely to survive, but which are nonetheless historically significant at the local level. The links now incorporates the former Town Common, which accommodated the first Melton school, and the first church building in the town (the combined Protestant church), and the Gun Club, in which international shooters Donald Mackintosh, and Hector Fraser were nurtured. The area of the links was also the original site of other important sporting events in the town, including horse-races, holiday athletic and cycling sports meetings, coursing events, and hunt club meetings.

A *Pinus radiata* locally known as the 'dairy pine' marks the site of the most successful of the extremely important bore water exploration ventures in the 1890s; this was later the site of a milk cooler.

The Melton Valley Golf Course, Yuille Street is of social and aesthetic significance at a LOCAL level (AHC E1). Numerous sites on the links were identified as places significant to the Shire in a Community Workshop.

The Melton Valley Golf Course, Yuille Street is scientifically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC C2). The site has the potential to provide archaeological information that assist in the understanding of early settlement in the town of Melton. The site also has a high potential to provide educational interpretation regarding the history of Melton.

Overall, the Melton Valley Golf Course is of LOCAL significance.