HERITAGE CITATION REPORT

Name	Redcastle Cemetery		
Address	Redcastle Cemetery Road REDCASTLE	**Grading**	2008 Local
Building Type	Cemetery/Graveyard/Burial Ground		
Assessment by	Context Pty Ltd		

Recommended Heritage Protection   **VHR** No **HI** No **PS** Yes

Integrity

Good

History and Historical Context

History of the Shire of McIvor

The land around the former Shires of Strathfieldsaye and McIvor had a long history prior to the arrival of Europeans. The Jaara Jaara people are the original inhabitants of the area.

The area around Port Phillip was explored by Sir Thomas Mitchell, the Surveyor General of New South Wales, and a large party in 1836, on the homeward leg of a journey to Portland Bay. Impressed by what he perceived as the bounty of the land, Mitchell named the area *Australia Felix*.[1]

The Port Phillip district was opened up for settlement soon thereafter, and much of the land in the Western districts of

Victoria, including the former Shires of McIvor and Strathfieldsaye, was subsequently dominated by a series of pastoral runs. Much of the former Shire of McIvor was licensed to David Jennings as part of the Campaspe Plains run. The run covered an area of more than 144,900 acres and was populated with an estimated 12,000 sheep. Campaspe Plains was subdivided in 1852, and John Hunter Paterson established Derrinal Station on a portion of the land. His license was transferred to William Speed in 1853, and then Alfred Leonard Wilton in 1865. The license was eventually forfeited in 1880.[2]

The discovery of gold at Bendigo and surrounding areas changed the face of the district and brought about new patterns of settlement and expansion. William John Bulling claimed to be the first man to discover gold at McIvor, and he was granted a £400 reward for the find. By 1853, over one hundred prospectors had assembled at Wild Duck Creek in the hopes of striking it rich. This number expanded the following year, and included some 2,000 Chinese immigrants.[3]

Development of the McIvor district was led by Heathcote, where facilities emerged in conjunction with an increasing population brought on by the gold rushes. The town site of Heathcote was surveyed by Phillip Chauncey and first land sale at Heathcote held on the 24th January 1854.[4] The Heathcote and Waranga District Road Board was formed in 1861, and became the Shire of McIvor in 1864, encompassing a number of the small towns in the district.

Religious and educational facilities were established early in the development of the Shire, initially at Heathcote, then gradually spreading to other small towns in the district. Following the cancellation of leasehold, land holdings were of a smaller scale and pastoralists were gradually overtaken by farmers. Pre-emption rights allowed squatters to purchase up to 640 acres of their pastoral leases and many took advantage of the opportunity to establish smaller holdings. Grazing, agriculture, dairying and viticulture were mainstays for the region. Alongside agriculture, the timber industry was of vital importance to the district and a number of sawmills were established. Gold and alluvial mining continued in the district for a number of years after the height of the gold rushes.

Construction of the railway from Wandong to Bendigo took place in three stages and was officially opened in October 1888. The railway encouraged further development of the region and provided an easy means of transportation of both goods and people to and from the district. The development of the Eppalock weir in the 1930s, and its incorporation into Eppalock Reservoir in 1960-65 provided local farmers with an accessible water source for their crops.[5]

In 1994 the Shire of McIvor was amalgamated with nearby Shires to form the City of Greater Bendigo.

History of Redcastle Cemetery, Redcastle Cemetery Road, Redcastle

The earliest grave at the Redcastle Cemetery dates from 1861, and there are a number of graves from the 1860s. Additionally, Heathcote cemetery records comment that at the Redcastle cemetery there were "approximately 50 Chinese burials in unmarked graves, interred along fence near dirt road".

[1] Randell, J. O. (1985). *McIvor: A History of the Shire and the Township of Heathcote,* Shire of McIvor, p. 1.

[2] Randell, J. O. (1985), p. 31.

[3] Randell, J. O. (1985), p. 31.

[4] Randell, J. O. (1985), p. 21.

[5] Heritage Victoria, (n.d), *Eppalock Weir,* Hermes entry 6482

Secondary sources

Randell, J. O. (1985). *McIvor: A History of the Shire and the Township of Heathcote,* Shire of McIvor

Listings of Persons Buried In Redcastle Cemetery: (This information has been extracted from the "Index to Bendigo Region Cemeteries - Series 1, Northern Districts", as compiled by the Bendigo branch of the Australian Institute of Genealogical Studies, and also from Redcastle Cemetery records held by the Heathcote Office of the City of Greater Bendigo). Available: http://home.vicnet.net.au/~jack4wd/club/redcastle/redcastle_cemetery_listing1.htm accessed 27/02/2009

Heritage Victoria, (n.d), *Eppalock Weir,* Hermes entry 6482

Relevant Historical Australian Themes

8.0 Building community life

8.6 Marking the phases of life

Description

Physical Description

The Redcastle cemetery is set in an open forest setting with headstones set within cast metal fences. There is evidence of some planting with bulbs, but essentially the cemetery is naturalistic. Many of the headstones are quite decorative in their incised lettering, as are the grave fences which are of cast iron patterned with hoops, fleur de lys and other designs.

Conservation Policy

Basic landscape maintenance should be carried out in order to conserve graves, burial sites and fencing around the graves.

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The cemetery at Redcastle Cemetery Road is of significance. This includes the whole site including gravestones, grave fencing, introduced plants such as bulbs and the bushland setting.

How is it significant?

The cemetery at Redcastle is of local historical and aesthetic significance to the City of Greater Bendigo.

Why is it significant?

The Redcastle cemetery has historical significance for the record and the remains of local families it contains. *Criterion A*

The Redcastle Cemetery is of aesthetic significance as an example of a naturalistic cemetery in a bushland setting with nineteenth century decorative graves and fencing of cast iron. *Criterion D*

Assessment Against Criteria

HERCON CRITERIA

Importance to the course or pattern of our cultural or natural history. *Criterion A*

Possession of uncommon rare or endangers aspects of our cultural or natural history. *Criterion B*

Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of our cultural or natural history. *Criterion C*

Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural or natural places or environments. *Criterion D*

Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics. *Criterion E*

Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period. *Criterion F*

Strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons. This includes the significance of a place to Indigenous peoples as part of the continuing and developing cultural traditions. *Criterion G*

Special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in our history. *Criterion H*

Recommendations 2008

External Paint Controls	No
Internal Alteration Controls	No
Tree Controls	No
Fences & Outbuildings	Yes
Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted	No
Incorporated Plan	None Specified
Aboriginal Heritage Place	No

Other Recommendations

It is recommended that the Redcastle Cemetery, Redcastle Cemetery Road, Redcastle, be added as an individual place to the Heritage Overlay of the Greater Bendigo City Planning Scheme with the schedule entry as shown above. The extent of registration is the whole of the property as defined by the title boundaries.