

Historical archaeological site card

Heritage Inventory number and name

BEACONSFIELD SAWMILL
H7921-0138

Date received

Friday, 05 July 2024

Date accepted

30/7/2024

Hermes Number

212344

1. Place details

Place name: BEACONSFIELD SAWMILL

Heritage Inventory Number (if any):

Other or former names:

Municipal Council: CARDINIA SHIRE

Address: 53-65 WOODS STREET, BEACONSFIELD

Geographical coordinates (GDA94 or WGS84)
expressed in degrees and decimals of a degree:

Mapsheet name and number (1:100,000 only):

2. Cadastral location

County: Mornington

Parish: Pakenham

Historical archaeological site card

Township: Beaconsfield

Section:

Allotment: 2123

Standard Parcel Identifier (SPI): 2123/PP3363

3. Details of site owner or land manager (where known)

First Name:

Surname:

Business or organisation name:

Position title:

Address:

Email address:

Telephone:

4. Details of site occupier (where known)

First Name:

Surname:

Business or organisation name:

Position title:

Address:

Email address:

Telephone:

5. Aboriginal cultural values

Site has known Aboriginal values NO

Site is recorded on the Victorian
Aboriginal Heritage Register NO

6. Current description of site

Please provide description:

Site sits within an overgrown vacant lot on the southern boundary of the property.

Date recorded:

Sunday, 21 July 2024

On Victorian Heritage Register

On Heritage Overlay

Associated sites:

7. Place history

Please provide a brief history of the place (at least 1 to 2 paragraphs):

Site of a late C19th sawmill. William Brisbane entered into a partnership with John Day and built a sawmill near the Gippsland Hotel in Beaconsfield. The sawmill is shown on the 1879 survey map located to the north of the Beaconsfield station. Mike McCarthy's book 'Settlers and Sawmillers, A History of West Gippsland Tramways and the Industries they Served', describes the Beaconsfield sawmill as operating between 1876-1883, when the plant was dismantled and moved to Bessie Creek Narre Warren.

Prior to the advertised new township of Beaconsfield the area was part of a 1920 acre size station known as Panty Gurn Gurn, which was gazetted in 1848 and bought by a Thomas Jackson. The station changed hands every three years or so until in 1873 the lease was forfeited.

In 1879 the railway line from Sale to Oakleigh opened in 1879, there were stations at Berwick and Officer but none at Beaconsfield, a local man William Brisbane (when the line was beginning to be built in 1876), and knew there would be a demand for firewood and timber in Melbourne, petitioned the government to build a siding/station at Beaconsfield. Brisbane entered into a partnership with John Day and built a sawmill near the Gippsland Hotel (owned by Charles Souter on the Panty Gurn Gurn Station), Brisbane needed the railway siding to get his goods into Melbourne. The sawmill is shown on the 1879 survey map is located to the north of the station (opened in 1879).

The Beaconsfield saw mill is first shown on a 1879 survey map of the Panty Gurn gurn station with subdivided lots shown throughout, on the sale poster for the "New town of Beaconsfield". The survey plan was completed by A.W Robinson in 1879. The sawmill is shown in the southern section of the map in lot 200. An auction of the Panty Gurn Gurn estate into subdivided lots was advertised for auction by J.R Patterson on Saturday May 14 1881 of the Charles Souter Esq estate at the Gippsland

hotel, forming the new township of Beaconsfield. There appears to be no record of the sales of the Panty Gurn Gurn station, but in 1893 William Brisbane requests a transfer of land for the south section of the Panty Gurn Gurn station to become Crown land. Brisbane is listed as one of the owners of the Melbourne and Beaconsfield sawmill and the Beaconsfield and Cannibal Creek Company. Brisbane was also heavily involved with the building of the Beaconsfield to Gembrook railway line for the transportation of timber to Melbourne. There were several sawmills in and around the Mornington and Gippsland areas, which were rich in timber, with timber needed for builds in a growing Melbourne. A sawmill close to the railway line would save on transportation of timber.

8. Analysis of site (interpretation)

Include phases in the development of the site, functions and activities represented, as well as current place use:

The site is a small sawmill, with potentially the remains of a sawmill plant with remaining footings of the structure built over the plant. The sawmill is only shown in the 1879 survey map, it is not visible in any later aerial photographs as the study area is extremely overgrown with thick tree cover. Recent archaeological survey located the potential location of the sawmill, however visibility was extremely poor. The property is currently a vacant lot. Archaeological features that may be expected to survive from a sawmill include brick or stone building and machinery footings; post holes; saw pits; trenches for machinery footings; sawdust; remains of boilers, machinery remains like saws or metal roofing remains. The history of land use is unclear but appears to have been largely stock and orchard until becoming vacant and overgrown, suggesting that some archaeological remains of the short-lived mill may survive under the foliage.

9. Statement of Significance

What is significant?

Archaeological features indicating the site of a late 19th century saw mill.

How is it significant?

The site is of archaeological and historical significance

Why is it significant?

The site may be of some local historic significance for its association with local entrepreneur William Brisbane, who in addition to running this and other sawmills, was also instrumental in ensuring a railway station was built at Beaconsfield. The site may also be significant for its association with timber getting in the area the late C19th supporting the needs of a growing Melbourne.

10. Suggested Protection : Heritage Inventory

11. Threat

Is the place under any threat? If so, what is the threat?

CHMP testing and Housing development

12. References / Informants

Please list books or other sources that may provide historical information about this place.

Cardinia Shire blog: <https://caseycardinalinkstoourpast.blogspot.com/2010/09/woods-street-beaconsfield-by-ann-taylor.html>

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Berwick -Pakenham historical society (1982) In the wake of the pack tracks: a history of the Shire of Berwick, now the city of Berwick and the Shire of Pakenham.

Beaumont, N (1996) Early Days of Berwick and its surrounding Districts, Beaconsfield, Upper Beaconsfield, Harkaway, Narre Warren North.

Odd History Blog: <https://www.oddhistory.com.au/beaconsfield/dr-l-l-smith/>

Spreadborough, R & Anderson, H., (1983) Victorian Squatters, Red

Rooster Press, Ascot Vale VIC

Robinson, A.W, 1879 Plan of the Township of Beaconsfield: State Library of Victoria.

1863 London Wool Report. The pastoral Times and Deniliquin and Moama reporter. Accessed 25.06.24

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/271082699?searchTerm=panty%20gurn%20gurn>

1881 Advertising The Argus. Accessed 25.06.24

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/5985698?searchTerm=panty%20gurn%20gurn>

1882 Parliament The Argus. Accessed 25.06.24

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/11561564?searchTerm=beaconsfield%20sawmill>

1893 Law and Judicial The Herald. Accessed 25.06.24

<https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/241456214?searchTerm=panty%20gurn%20gurn%20sale>

13. Attachments

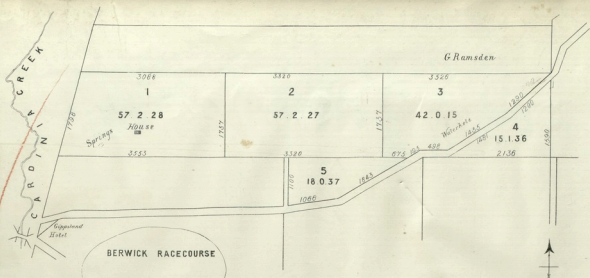
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- Spatial Extent files-2 MV.cpg
- Spatial Extent files-3 MV.sbn
- Spatial Extent files-4 MV.shx
- Spatial Extent files-5 MV.prj
- Spatial Extent files-6 MV.sbx
- Spatial Extent files-7 MV.shp
- Site card supporting documents-1 MV.png
- Site card supporting documents-2 MV.png
- Site card supporting documents-3 MV.png
- Site card supporting documents-4 MV.jpg
- Application form MV.pdf
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14. Recording archaeologist's details

First Name:	Madeleine
Surname:	van Ewyk
Business or organisation name:	Alpha Archaeology Pty Ltd
Position title:	
Business or company address:	188 Union Road, Ascot Vale VIC 3032
Email address:	
Telephone:	

15. Declaration

I state that the information I have given on this form is correct to the best of my knowledge.



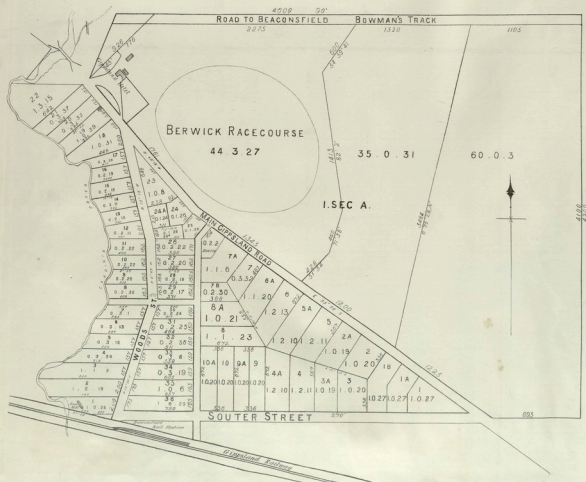
PLAN
OF THE
TOWNSHIP OF BEACONSFIELD,

Being Sub-Division of the Panty Gura Gura Estate, Crown Portion 1A, Parish of Pakenham,

The Property of Charles Souter, Esq.,

To be Sold by Auction, at the GIFFSLAND HOTEL, which is portion of the Property, by J. B. PATTERSON, Auctioneer,
6 Collins Street East, at One o'Clock, on SATURDAY, 14th May, 1881.

To be offered at the same time, Five Allotments, being Sub-Division of Crown Portion 31 & 34.



*Hayes, Jeffrey & Bullen,
Solicitors,
25 Collins St. West.*

*J. W. Robinson, C. E.,
Surveyor.*



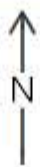
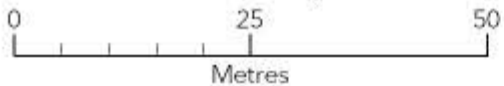
16,650 m²

Legend

- Study Area
- Cadastre
- Contours (1m)



Horizontal Datum : GDA 1994
 Map Projection : GDA 1994 MGA Zone 55
 Map Units : Metres
 Scale : 1 = 1,250



53-65 Woods Street, Beaconsfield 3807
 LGA : Cardinia Shire

Study Area

Source Document : ALPHA46 - Study Area
 Published : Andrew Maland on 2/07/2024

356600

356650

356700

356750

5787550

5787500

5787450

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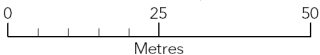
356650

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