



Hin Lim Photography, 2019. *Wall Bridge*. [Digital Photograph] Wadawurrung Country, Teesdale.

Post Contact Heritage

Growing Places Strategy

May 2024

Acknowledgement Of Country

Golden Plains Shire spans the Traditional lands of the Wadawurrung and Gulidjan people of Eastern Maar. Council Acknowledges them as the Traditional Owners and Custodians and pays its respects to both Wadawurrung and Eastern Maar Elders past, present, and emerging. Council extends that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People who are part of Golden Plains Shire.



Map based on current Registered Aboriginal Party boundaries as at June 2022.
Source: Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council- <https://achris.vic.gov.au/weave/wca.html>

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Definitions

Word/Acronym	Definition
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders First Peoples Indigenous People Traditional Owners	The groups of people whose ancestors lived in Australian before European colonisation ¹
Overlander	A person who uses a form of travel or transportation that occurs over land rather than via air or sea; often used to describe droving stock overland to a new location.
Overstraiter	A person who uses a form of travel or transportation that occurs over the strait/sea.
Solider Settlement	A government scheme designed to develop rural areas, encouraging returned servicemen to become property-owning farmers. ²
RAPs	Registered Aboriginal Party

¹ (Cambridge University, 2023)

² (Australian War Memorial, 2024)

Background

This report has been prepared to inform the Golden Plains Growing Places Strategy which directs future growth and development in the Shire through to 2051 and beyond. With this in mind, the following have been considered in developing the Post-Contact Heritage Actions:

- the intricate relationship between history and heritage
- the proposed new development areas.

As a land manager with statutory obligations, Golden Plains Shire has a responsibility that post contact heritage within the locality are acknowledged and protected as part of both strategic planning and throughout the planning approval process.

The Growing Places Strategy provides an opportunity to make improvements to the way these statutory obligations and heritage values are protected, respected, and interpreted within the Shire. These Post Contact Heritage actions within the Growing Places Strategy will underpin this commitment.

Post Contact Journey

The Shire is approximately 70 kilometres south-west of Melbourne between two of Victoria's larger regional cities, Ballarat, and Geelong.³ Being the home to diverse environmental landscapes and features including granite rock formations, river valleys and volcanic plains.⁴ These distinctive landscapes and waterways are integral to its cultural, social, environmental, and spiritual story.⁵

Golden Plains Shire is located on the traditional lands, along the waterways and under the skies of the Wadawurrung of the Kulin Nation and the Gulidjan people of Eastern Maar. These First Peoples have for countless generations nurtured, protected, and learnt from Country establishing strong cultural and spiritual connection to place.

In the mid-1830s Golden Plains Shire was walked and surveyed by John Helder Wedge of the Port Phillip Association, this contributed to a break in First Peoples' connection and would be the start of the impacts and influence of colonisation on Country and their peoples.

Wedge surveyed the land from the Bellarine through to Inverleigh-Shelford for economic purpose, and as a direct result, there was conflict between the First Peoples and colonists who established their new homes on the land during the mid-1830s and 1840s.

By the late 1830s Assistant Protectors were appointed to look after the interests of the Aboriginal people in Victoria.⁶ They set up stations in four regions in an attempt to promote European religion and values, as well as provide Aboriginal people with food and medical supplies.⁷ There was an Aboriginal Reserve of 160 acres [64 ha] at Murgheboluc, located where Native Hut Creek enters the Barwon River.⁸ The Protectorate was largely unsuccessful and was disbanded in 1849.⁹ Several missions were also set up across the state during this early period including at Steiglitz, however, most of these were closed after only a few years.^{10 11}

The Shire's post contact history is characterised through four key colonial timeframes; firstly the colonists known as 'Overlanders' and 'Overstraiters', who saw the landscape as ideal for grazing sheep and the native grasslands were soon overtaken by a land rush to accommodate their flocks.¹² The first wave from 1838 to 1850 was characterised by the domination of vast pastoral empires financed from outside, including the Derwent Company funded from Van Diemen's Land and the Clyde Company funded from Scotland.¹³ But the early 1840s saw a major depression when the price of wool fell dramatically.¹⁴

The colonists, mostly staunch Scottish Presbyterians, consolidated their grip on the land under the 1847 Orders in Council which further legitimized their occupation and led to permanent pre-emptive

³ (Victorian Planning Authority [VPA], 2021)

⁴ (Victorian Planning Authority [VPA], 2021)

⁵ (Victorian Planning Authority [VPA], 2021)

⁶ (First Peoples State Relations, 2021)

⁷ (First Peoples State Relations, 2021)

⁸ (Heritage Matters Pty Ltd, 2009)

⁹ (First Peoples State Relations, 2021)

¹⁰ (First Peoples State Relations, 2021)

¹¹ (Public Records of Victoria [PROV], 2024)

¹² (Heritage Matters Pty Ltd, 2009)

¹³ (Heritage Matters Pty Ltd, 2009)

¹⁴ (Heritage Matters Pty Ltd, 2009)

rights and the construction of more substantial buildings.¹⁵ However, settlement was sparse and isolated, and it was a male dominated society.¹⁶

The second change to the colonial demographics came after the discovery of gold in central Victoria, within a few weeks of the Separation of Victoria from New South Wales.¹⁷ After this, miners were actively searching within the northern parts of the Shire.¹⁸

Scarsdale's first colonists in 1837 developed deep lead gold mines operating 1869-1870.¹⁹ Smythesdale took up a run in the area in 1838 with gold discovered in the nearby Woady Yalook Creek in April 1853, miners flocked to the area before it began to reduce in the 1870s.²⁰ Alluvial gold was found in 1853, on colonists Charles and Tobar von Steiglitz run. Steiglitz locality is an abandoned goldmining town on the edge of the Brisbane Ranges National Park.²¹ There were various waves in mining over the 1860s and 1870s, however by the mid-1890s low commercial activity saw the township's population drop.²²

The gold rush decimated the farm labour force of shepherds, so fences were needed. Alternatives were almost impossible to construct in the stony western plains. With the landscape dotted with stones from the dormant and extinct volcanoes, dry stone walls emerged and are visible today along the Shire's roads and highways.

The years that followed saw improved communication, especially from the new railways and telegraph resulting in less isolation, safer travel, and better trade.²³ Similarly, gardens were established around homesteads and smaller farms.²⁴ A small number of these can still be seen through the Shire today.

The third change to the colonial demographics was the 'soldier settlers' and their families in the early 1900s; after World War 1 returned service men and women were provided farming land under the *Returned Soldiers Settlement Act 1916* to develop their homes.²⁵ These 'soldier settler' locations are scattered across the Shire including areas of Shelford, Rokewood, Barunah Plains and Mannibadar. It would see less than half 'soldier settlers' remaining on the land in under fifteen years.

During this time commemorative trees were also being planted in public spaces, and this tradition can still be seen around the Shire. Known as Avenues of Honour they were planted during and after the World War 1 consisting of trees lining significant streets commemorating soldiers, where rank was not considered.

After the Second World War times changed with gold mining in complete decline and the overwhelming prominence of a wool collapse after the boom created by the Korean War.²⁶ Pasture was turned over to new crops such as rapeseed; tiny local schools were consolidated into larger

¹⁵ (Heritage Matters Pty Ltd, 2009)

¹⁶ (Heritage Matters Pty Ltd, 2009)

¹⁷ (Heritage Matters Pty Ltd, 2009)

¹⁸ (Heritage Matters Pty Ltd, 2009)

¹⁹ (Publications, 2006, p. 262)

²⁰ (Publications, 2006, p. 265)

²¹ (Publications, 2006, p. 268)

²² (Heritage Matters Pty Ltd, 2009)

²³ (Heritage Matters Pty Ltd, 2009)

²⁴ (Heritage Matters Pty Ltd, 2009)

²⁵ (Museums of History NSW, 2024)

²⁶ (Heritage Matters Pty Ltd, 2009)

centres and secondary education was emphasized; and the introduction of mains electricity and television changed recreational pursuits dramatically.²⁷

The Golden Plains Shire (Shire) was established on 6 May 1994, incorporating the former Shires of Bannockburn and Leigh; and parts of the former Shires of Grenville and Buninyong.²⁸ The former town halls of Bannockburn, Grenville, and the Leigh survive within the Shire.²⁹ In addition to these town halls, are both the Meredith Town Hall originally within the Meredith Shire before uniting with Bannockburn Shire in 1915 and Scarsdale Town Hall originally within the Scarsdale and Brown Borough proclaimed in 1862.

The fourth change saw growth through young families being attracted to the area for its affordable housing, rural character and proximity to Ballarat and Geelong. The rural character and biodiversity across landscapes consists of post contact historic heritage sites such as goldfields and homesteads.³⁰

Today, the Shire retains areas of nationally significant biodiversity including native grasslands, plains grassy woodlands and the endangered Striped Legless Lizard, Golden Sun Moth and Growling Grass Frog.³¹ Reserves and conservation areas, such as the Brisbane Ranges National Park, Enfield State Forest, Moorabool River, and the Inverleigh Nature Conservation Reserve, contribute to the Shire's environmental features.³²

While the Shire has a strong tradition of wool and grain growing, intensive animal farming, particularly poultry and pigs, became increasingly common. A food 'Production Precinct' made up of 4,000 hectares located near Lethbridge was established to provide intensive food production. The region also includes the Moorabool Valley in the Shire's east and is home to a well-established wine production, fast becoming known for many gourmet food producers. The Shire balances this agriculture alongside the emerging industry of Berrybank, Mt Mercer and Golden Plains wind farms and a distinct blend of music and art with annual festivals.

The Shire continues to be a fantastic place to experience amazing food and wine, nature and recreation, arts and culture, alongside heritage experiences.



Source: Millen, F. 2023. *Unknown*. [Digital Photography] Gulidjan Country.

²⁷ (Heritage Matters Pty Ltd, 2009)

²⁸ (Golden Plains Shire Council, 2016)

²⁹ (Heritage Matters Pty Ltd, 2009)

³⁰ (Victorian Planning Authority [VPA], 2021)

³¹ (Victorian Planning Authority [VPA], 2021)

³² (Victorian Planning Authority [VPA], 2021)

Golden Plains Shire Community Vision 2040

The Community Vision 2040 outlines how the entire Golden Plains community can work together towards common goals and meet the Shire’s needs, both now and into the future. The Post-Contact Heritage Actions link into the following community themes and priorities:

Community

- We want to celebrate through arts and culture, activities, and events.
- We want to be engaged, cohesive and aligned in our forward aspirations.

Liveability

- We want a diversity of quality rural and urban living alternatives that balances growth and retains a strong country feel.

Sustainability

- We want to value and preserve our natural ecosystems, landscapes, features, open spaces, bushland, and connection to cultural heritage.



Heritage Protection in Victoria

The Heritage Council of Victoria explains heritage protection in Victoria to be the respect for our cultural heritage that involves protecting places and objects that have importance to us as a community. Identifying and registering places and objects of cultural significance helps us to protect and conserve them, is enacted under the *Heritage Act 2017*.

Heritage places and objects in Victoria are of either:

- state significance, or
- local significance.³³

State Level (Victorian Heritage Register)

Heritage places and objects of 'State level cultural heritage significance' are important to understanding the history and development of Victoria; and are included in the Victorian Heritage Register.³⁴ A state registered places and objects are managed under the Heritage Act 2017 (including VHI and VHR places).

Local Level (Heritage Overlay)

Local Council's manage the identification, recording and protection of places and objects of value to the local community. Places and objects of local significance may be protected by listing on a schedule to the Heritage Overlay under the local Council's planning scheme.

If the local place or object is listed under the Victorian Heritage Register and a Heritage Overlay the approval process is management through the *Heritage Act 2017*, not the Planning Scheme.

Archaeology (Victorian Heritage Inventory)

The Victorian Heritage Inventory is a list of known historical archaeological site in the State. Site can be included in both the Victorian Heritage Register and the Victorian Heritage Inventory.

An archaeological site is a place which:

- Contains buried evidence like an artefact, deposit or feature which is 75 years old or more
- Provides information about past activity/ies
- Needs archaeological methods to reveal information about the place.³⁵

Victorian War Heritage Inventory

The War Heritage Inventory contains information and images of the places related to Victoria's war history including memorials, avenues of honour, memorial buildings, former defence sites and places of commemoration.³⁶

³³ (Heritage Council of Victoria, 2023)

³⁴ (Heritage Council of Victoria, 2023)

³⁵ (Heritage Council of Victoria, 2023)

³⁶ (State Government of Victoria, 2021)

Classification by the National Trust

The National Trust of Australia is a community organisation playing an important role in advocating heritage protection for future generations. As a community organisation, they do not form part of the government, rather they work with the government and their industry partners to deliver their mission ‘to champion Victorian’s diverse heritage; embrace the complexity of the past; and inspire connections to place for the benefit of current and future generations’.³⁷

³⁷ (National Trust of Australian (Victoria), 2024)

Historical Context

Cambrian Hill

Located approximately eight kilometres south of Ballarat near the Golden Plains Shire border with the City of Ballarat, is Cambrian Hill.

Cambrian Hill was named by the Welsh miners, that had been drawn to the area. The name is derived from the word 'Cambria', which is the Welsh name for Wales. In the mid-1860s Cambrian Hill was described as a hamlet with agriculture, grazing alluvial mining, three hotels and a school which was opened in 1867. Today, it has a rural character, with sites along Colac-Ballararat Road illustrating its past. These are mining sites, the War Memorial & Avenue of Honour and the former Black Lead Uniting Church and Hall, which are listed in the Victorian Heritage Inventory and Victorian Heritage Register.

Victorian Heritage Register

Former Black Lead Uniting Church and Hall

The former Black Lead Uniting Church and Hall is a pair of Methodist buildings dating from 1862 and 1913. Both Black Lead and Cambrian Hill, located between Ballarat and Buninyong, were thriving towns during the early gold rushes around Ballarat and following the opening of the Black Lead goldfield in 1856.

Regular Wesleyan services were being conducted from 1856 in Black Lead, and by 1860 a small Wesleyan chapel was in use. This was replaced by a new church in 1862. In July 1912 the congregation decided to erect a new church on land donated by William Barrett, and the original church, to become a hall, was jacked up and hauled about 500m to the current site by a team of horses.

(Victorian Heritage Register Number H2173)

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Leviathan GM No. 3 – Other Name: The Scottish-Cornish No.2

The company was registered in 1858 with 32 shareholders on the Napoleon Lead. As the direction of the lead was unknown the company amalgamated with the Junction Co. to give it 6200 feet of the Black Lead, 3520 feet of the Napoleons Lead and 1500 feet of the Franklin Lead. With the success of Leviathan and its expansion it began employing experienced Welsh and Cornish miners. The company was purchased by Scottish and Cornish Company during the late 1870s.

(Heritage Inventory Number H7622-0219)

The Scottish-Cornish GM Company No.1

1857 saw Scottish and Cornish Company, commence Black Lead described as being in the vicinity of Sebastopol and Scottish Lead discovered in July 1864), No. 4 or Southern Division.

(Heritage Inventory Number H7622-0218)

Victorian War Heritage Inventory

Avenue of Honour

Cambrian Hill Avenue of Honour consists of sixty-two trees planted in 1917 to commemorate those who served in the First World War. Further research is required on the exact location and condition of this Avenue.

In Australia, commemorative trees have been planted in public spaces since the late nineteenth century. During and after the First World War, avenues of honour consisting of trees lining significant streets became a popular form of commemoration. They represented a new egalitarian approach to the commemoration of soldiers where rank was not a consideration: each tree symbolises a person. Australians, and in particular Victorians, embraced the idea of planting them more enthusiastically than any other country in the world.

Heritage Overlay/s

HO 83 Former Black Lead Uniting Church and Hall

Lethbridge

Located approximately twenty-eight kilometres north-west of Geelong and in the south-eastern region of the Golden Plains Shire nestled atop of the Moorabool Valley, is Lethbridge.

The Lethbridge township was established on the Wabdallah Run, part of the greater Golf Hill holdings of the Clyde Company managed by George Russell, and part of the Moranghurk Run, established by Peter and William Sharp.

After the Second World War, the Government acquired over 11,700 acres of the Moranghurk run for Soldier Settlement, with the remaining part of the run surrounding an 1840s Homestead.

The Geelong-Ballarat Railway line built 1858-62 dramatically reoriented the configuration of the original township and re-focused the commercial, residential, and public activities. The local bluestone is a defining characteristic of key buildings and railway infrastructure, though they are interspersed with timber Victorian houses.

Victorian Heritage Register

Bluestone Bridge – Bruce Creek

The segmental arch masonry bridge over Bruce Creek, when flowing sees the creek flow a north south direction from the Lethbridge Lake, formally the Lethbridge Water Reserve. The contractor George Scithers constructed the bridge in 1862 at a cost of £615.

The bridge provided permanent access over Bruce Creek, linking the Lethbridge Railway precinct and the commercial centre of the township to the Midland Highway and broader colonial trade routes.

(Hermes Number 42827)

Former Railway Station Water Tank and Recreation Reserve

The site was originally gazetted as a Railway Reservoir, located on Bruce Creek which was dammed to form the 'Muddy Waterholes' reservoir and to supply water to replenish the boilers of the steam engines arriving at Lethbridge Station.

The former Railway Water Tank was constructed in the 1860s from riveted cast iron, mounted on a rectangular basalt base which housed the pump station. The bluestone was sourced from the local Lethbridge quarry, which supplied the bluestone used to construct the Lethbridge Railway Station and numerous railway bridges.

In 1974 the site was acquired by Shire of Bannockburn as a recreation and amusement reserve.

(Hermes Number 31690)

Lethbridge Public Hall

(Hermes Number 42833)

Lethbridge State School No. 1836

In August 1873 a site was proclaimed for a new State School to be erected at the northern boundary of the township of Lethbridge. The settlement of Lethbridge (formally Muddy Water Holes) was established on land which was part of the Wabdallah Run, a portion of the much larger Golf Hill holdings of the Clyde Company.

Lethbridge Primary School No. 1386 was opened on 15 April 1874 with an enrolment of 106 pupils. The original school building was constructed of locally quarried bluestone and featured brick quoining and a steep gabled corrugated iron roof.

The school moved in late-2010, to the new site of Stephenson Street in preparation for the 2011 school year.

(Hermes Number 118163)

Moranghurk

Moranghurk is the remains of a large pastoral property originally called Morangourke, located on the Moorabool River.

In 1847 the lease to Moranghurk comprised more than 18,000 acres, and in the 1850s it was 26,000 acres. The Soldier Settlement Commission acquired most of the land in the 1950s.

The landscape is dominated by conifers, mainly cypress and pines, and features an impressive driveway planting of a row of *Cupressus macrocarpa* 'Horizontalis' and alternating *Cupressus sempervirens*, now overgrown by the Monterey Cypress.

A substantial collection of historic 19th and early 20th century farm structures survive, including a picturesque hexagonal meat house. The ruined c1870 bluestone stable building contrasts to the imposing 1920s bluestone faced motor garage sited nearby. Other notable structures are the 1920s circular pump house by the river, a greyhound kennel and pens, 1920s bluestone and brick shearers' quarters, and the small 1926 bridge along the driveway, with concrete balusters and rails with earlier bluestone abutments.

(Victorian Heritage Register Number H0266)

Victorian War Heritage Inventory

Lethbridge Memorial Gates

The Lethbridge Memorial Gates form the entrance to the sports ground on Stephenson Street. The gates are dedicated to the memory of Lethbridge men who served in the Second World War.

(Hermes Number 155783)

Heritage Overlay/s

HO9	Railway Station
HO10	Moranghurk
HO54	Road Bridge
HO79	Former Clyde Company Station
HO94	Moranghurk (Balance)
HO98	Lethbridge Heritage Precinct
HO120	Former Railway Water Tank and Recreation Reserve
HO121	Lethbridge State School No. 1386
HO122	St Mary's Catholic Church
HO123	Bluestone Bridge over Bruce's Creek

National Trust

Road Bridge over North Geelong - Warrenheip Railway

The North Geelong-Warrenheip bluestone road bridge over railway built in c. 1859, is just north of Lethbridge.

(Hermes Number 67914)

Lethbridge Quarry

The Lethbridge Quarry located on Quarry Road, is a basalt quarry. In the early years the quarry supplied material for construction of drystone fences in the area, as well as local railway station and those as Meredith and Bannockburn.

(Hermes Number 162214)

Lethbridge Railway Station

The Lethbridge Railway Station on the Geelong-Ballarat line, which is one of the earliest link routes in Victoria, was erected in 1862 by contractors John Campbell and Co from designs prepared by Victorian Railways architects.

The Lethbridge Railway Station is one of a notable group of stylistically similar railway stations erected in 1862 on the Geelong-Ballarat line. The Ballarat-Geelong line, which opened on 10th April 1862, includes important viaduct structures at Moorabool and Batesford.

The Lethbridge Railway Station was extended by construction of a weatherboard kitchen and wash house prior to 1923. Minor internal alterations have also been affected, otherwise the structure is intact. In 1981 the passenger rail service was officially replaced with a bus service, after the railcar working the line came to the end of its operable life in 1978.³⁸

(Hermes Number 67940)



Source: Victorian Railways, ca. 1905-ca. 1928. *Lethbridge Railway Station*. [SLV - Digital Photography Collection] Wadawurrung Country, Lethbridge.

³⁸ (Public Transport Victoria, 2013)

Meredith

Located approximately forty-five kilometres north-west of Geelong and forty-five kilometres from Ballarat in the central region of the Golden Plains Shire, is Meredith.

The pastoral run at Meredith was taken up by Mr Rice in 1849. Meredith was surveyed in 1851-52, following the discovery of gold in the districts surrounding the township. It became an important service centre for travellers between the Ballarat goldfields and the port of Geelong. In 1853 Mr Watson ran the Golden Fleece Hotel at Dickman's Bridge. A cobbled road survives to the east of the township, protected in the Heritage Overlay and Victorian Heritage Inventory.

The former Meredith Police Paddock, which was the region base for the Mounted Police Troup responsible for escorting gold found within the nearby Steiglitz goldfields, was established adjacent to the track. Meredith developed during the gold-rush years as a civic and commercial centre servicing mining communities as well as surrounding pastoral properties. Its prominence was reinforced by the construction of the Meredith Railway Station along the Ballarat to Geelong Railway line in 1862.

During the post-gold rush years, the township continued to prosper as the centre of a farming district that became important for its production of some of Victoria's finest Merino wool. A few significant buildings were constructed in the early twentieth century, including the Meredith Mechanics Institute which was renamed the Meredith Memorial Hall, the Anglican Church of the Epiphany and the former Presbyterian Church, now the Uniting Church.

Residential development is dispersed within the township grid and is characterised by its cottage form and scale, traditional gardens, with limited subdivision of the original allotments. Much of the centre of the township along Staughton Street forms a Heritage Overlay precinct, with key public buildings on cross-streets Wallace and McLeod streets. Most dwellings and public buildings are timber, with exceptions being Victorian Post War Designs such as the former post office and schoolhouse.

Victorian Heritage Inventory

Green Tent Road, Bluestone Foundations

In 1867, gold had been discovered at Steiglitz and Morrisons, both on the Moorabool River east of Meredith. With the discovery of gold came an increase in people, infrastructure, and transport in Meredith.

The area east of the Midland Highway labelled Green Tent Creek includes markings of a green tent site. The area was a camp for miners with the bluestone foundations and ceramic/glass scatter recorded at the intersection of Green Tent Road and the Midland Highway.

(Heritage Inventory Number H7722-0070)

Lal Lal Road Bluestone and Wood Ruin

The wooden structure appears on a 1936 topographical survey map of Meredith labelled as a "ruin". The collapsed wooded structure which appears to be made from old railway sleepers, is completely entwined with trees and thick vegetation.

(Heritage Inventory) Number H7722-0071

Meredith Survey Tree

The Meredith Survey Tree is located Taylors Road Meredith.

(Heritage Inventory Number H7722-0037)

Taylors Road – Cobble Road

(Heritage Inventory Number H7722-0038)

Victorian War Heritage Inventory

Meredith Avenue of Honour

In Australia, commemorative trees have been planted in public spaces since the late nineteenth century. Arbor Days were held regularly in most Victorian State Schools during the late 1800s and early 1900s, and numerous trees were planted throughout Victoria to mark the visits of important and famous people. This tradition of commemorative planting was continued in 1901 when at the end of the Boer War trees were often planted for each soldier of the district who was killed in South Africa. During and after the First World War avenues of honour consisting of trees lining significant streets became a popular form of commemoration. They represented a new egalitarian approach to the commemoration of soldiers where rank was not a consideration: each tree symbolises a person.

The Victorian Heritage Database states further research is required on the Meredith Avenue of Honour including the date of planting and conflict commemorated.

(Hermes Number 125583)

Meredith Memorial Hall *(Formerly the Meredith Mechanics Institute)*

After World War One and Two, memorial buildings were erected in towns and suburbs across Australia in memory of those who fought and died, typically housing honour roll/s which display the names of local servicemen and women. After their construction memorial halls became important venues for local activity and are a central part of these communities' histories.

(Hermes Number 155900)



Source: The Western Front Association – Central Victoria Branch. [*Meredith Memorial Hall. Place of Pride*], Wadawurrung Country, Meredith.

Meredith War Memorial Obelisk

The Meredith War Memorial Obelisk, on Staughton and Wallace Streets, was erected in memory of the First World War.

(Hermes Number 155899)

Heritage Overlay/s

HO11	Darra
HO25	Meredith Railway Station
HO26	Former Meredith Shire Hall
HO27	Woodbourne Homestead
HO36	Brachychiton populneus (Kurrajong), Steiglitz Cottage
HO58	Church of the Epiphany
HO100	Meredith Heritage Precinct
HO131	Former Free Presbyterian Church
HO132	Meredith State School No. 1420
HO133	St Joseph's Catholic Church
HO134	St Andrew's Uniting Church and Manse
HO135	Meredith Cemetery
HO174	Clontarf Homestead

National Trust

Brachychiton populneus (Kurrajong)

With regional significance and located on Staughton Street the species contributing to the landscape of this historic mudbrick 'Steiglitz Cottage'. It was planted circa 1875 by William Thomas Champ for his friend Edmund Kenneally Steiglitz, owner of the cottage. The *Brachychiton populneus*, commonly called Kurrajong, is a native to eastern Australia and is naturally distributed from north-eastern Victoria to Townsville and from the coast through to the semi-arid inland.

(Hermes Number 70839)

Stonehaven

Located approximately twelve kilometres north-west of Geelong in the south-eastern region of the Golden Plains Shire, is Stonehaven.

The Stonehaven or Lower Leigh area was part of the Parish of Gheringhap, which was surveyed by John Helder Wedge of the Port Phillip Association. The previous Meltham Homestead on 2,745 acres at Stonehaven was originally the centre of a sheep property, purchased by James Riley's stepfather Thomas Brook in 1839 before it was demolished in 1980. There are dry stone walls, associated with early pastoral properties noted in the Victorian Heritage Inventory, while the former Stonehaven (Lower Leigh) State School No. 2199 established 1879 before closing in 1926, has been identified as a potential heritage place.

Victorian Heritage Inventory Listings

Dalkeith Artefact Scatter

The Dalkeith Artefact Scatter is understood to be associated with the pastoral and cropping site since the 1830s.

(Heritage Inventory Number H7721-0067)

Dry Stone Wall, Friend in Hand Road

The Dry Stone Wall on Friend in Hand Road is understood to be associated with the first land subdivision and landowner John Rock during the late-1800s.

(Heritage Inventory Number H7721-0066)

Warrah Dry Stone Fence

The Dry-Stone Fence/Wall on Hamilton Highway is understood to mark the boundaries of an early run or 'pre-emptive right' and is estimated to be from the 1850s.

(Heritage Inventory Number H7721-0043)

Heritage Overlay/s

HO173 Pollockford Bridge over Barwon River

National Trust

Barrabool Hills

Listed on the Victorian Heritage Register, with National Trust regional significance, are the Barrabool Hills which are a distinctive upland ridge located to the west of Geelong, on the south side of the Barwon River. They slope steeply on the northern side down to the Barwon River, and more gently southward to the coastal lowland.

There are extensive views, many of which have been depicted in well-known landscape paintings, while being the home of the first vineyards in Victoria.

The area has been the source of one of Victoria's most important building stones. The remains of quarries are still visible, and there are several stone buildings including cottages, barns and churches.

Hermes Number 191879

Teesdale

Located approximately thirty kilometres north-west of Geelong in the south-eastern region of the Golden Plains Shire, is Teesdale.

The Teesdale area was part of pastoral run known as Native Creek No. 2, held in 1837 by the Learmonth Brothers. After surveying in 1852, a township followed on Shelford-Bannockburn Road where it crosses Native Hut Creek, as gold miners left mining and opted for steadier occupations. In 1857 a bluestone house, now known as Woolbrook Homestead, was built on the run.

A relatively small number of early buildings survive in the township, including Gowan Brae – an 1865 bluestone cottage, the 1878 State School, the bluestone Presbyterian Church of 1858, the 1949 War Memorial, and the Water Reserve referred to as ‘Chinaman’s Lagoon’. The cemetery and RSL Club have been identified as potential heritage places.

Victorian Heritage Register

Gowan Brae

Gowan Brae in Bridge Road is the original bluestone cottage on land originally purchased from the Crown by Robert Reeves in the 1855 subdivision of the Teesdale township.

By 1940s, while owned by D.K.P Miller, the property included a residence, outbuildings and orchard, situated on a parcel of 16 acres. The bluestone cottage was enlarged during Miller's ownership, with the addition of a relocated Edwardian house, attached to the rear.

(Hermes Number 55583)

Former Teesdale Water Reserve

The former Teesdale Water Reserve was no longer used as an active water catchment for the township after it was connected to reticulated water in 1973. At first, the township's water supply was extracted from the Native Hut Creek, an upper tributary of the Lower Barwon River. However, the water was considered too salty for human consumption and provisions were made to establish a permanent and reliable water source at the former Teesdale Water Reserve for the emerging township in the 1870s.

In 1999, the site of the former water reserve was gazetted for public purposes and a committee comprising local community representatives were appointed to manage it under Section 14(2) of the Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978.

(Hermes Number 118226)

Presbyterian Church

The Teesdale Presbyterian Church, located on Pike Street was the first public building to be erected in the township and one of the first permanent places of worship for the district's Scottish Presbyterians.

Among the first trustees were John Bell of Woolbrook, George Russell of Golf Hill and the Rev. Simpson, who was later appointed as a Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria. The Teesdale Presbyterian Church is one of the few active churches in the Golden Plains Shire to celebrate its 150th anniversary.

(Hermes Number 55581)

State School No. 2065

Teesdale State School No. 2065 is situated on Sutherland Street.

Teesdale School No. 2065 commenced from this site on 1 June 1878 with an enrolment of 78 local children. It replaced Teesdale State School No. 628, a former Denominational School established by the Presbyterian Church in 1858.

(Hermes Number 55582)

War Memorial

In 1949, the Teesdale War Memorial is located on a triangular road reserve at the intersection of the Teesdale-Inverleigh Road and the Shelford-Bannockburn Road.

The war memorial consists of the names of the four soldiers who fell in the First World War, along with the names of three soldiers who fell in the Second World War.

(Hermes Number 31712)

Woolbrook Homestead

Woolbrook Homestead (Woolbrook) is situated on the west bank of the Native Hut Creek. The pastoral run lease was held in 1837 by the Learmonth Brothers, changing hands numerous times during the 1840s depression and the 1850s gold rush years. By 1856, the lessee was 'Big John' Bell of Warrambine which saw the original wing built.

Frederick William Fairbairn, pastoralist, Red Cross director, and sportsman, was the following owner of Woolbrook. In 1901, he built a two-storey addition to the original homestead. The extension burnt down in 1906, although the original wing survived, and it was soon rebuilt in a Californian bungalow style.

Christina Gordon Morrison, in partnership with her sister Anne Robertson, bought Woolbrook in 1909. Following Christina's death in 1924, the property passed to her family being John Gordon Morrison. Until 2019, four generations of Morrison's owned Woolbrook until its sale for the first time in more than a century to a local buyer as a long-term investment.³⁹ When sold by Andrew Morrison, his son Lachie and partner Anise Boulot opted to lease Woolbrook back from the owner.⁴⁰ The couple has since renovated the property, and it now operates as a historical accommodation and events venue.⁴¹

(Hermes Number 23767)



Source: Unknown, c1900-1906. *Woolbrook Homestead before the 1906 fire.* [SLV - Digital Photography Collection] Wadawurrung Country, Teesdale.

³⁹ (Farago, 2018)

⁴⁰ (Barnes, 2022)

⁴¹ (Barnes, 2022)

Victorian War Heritage Inventory

Honour Roll

Located at the Teesdale Public Hall, this honour roll records the names of service personnel in the First World War.

(Hermes Number 189077)

Heritage Overlay/s

HO163	Gowan Brae
HO164	Teesdale State School No. 2065
HO165	Former Teesdale Water Reserve
HO166	Teesdale War Memorial
HO167	Teesdale Presbyterian Church
HO168	Woolbrook Homestead Complex

Post Contact Heritage Actions

Action 1

Respecting First Peoples perspectives of colonial history.

Council will engage and consult with the respective Registered Aboriginal Party (RAP) to understand, respect, and support their stories, knowledge, and perspectives of the post contact history of Golden Plains Shire in investigating and protecting post contact heritage.

Action 2

Registered heritage places will be incorporated into the urban landscape that protect and conserves the heritage place/s.

Registered heritage places will be subject to a heritage impact assessment that consider any impact to their fabric and heritage values as part of the detailed design of the surrounding areas, through the required approval process. The curtilage of these places, including driveways and vegetation, should be integrated into the urban landscape to contribute to the local character and sense of place.

Action 3

Investigations of potential heritage places prior to urban development.

Investigations for locations of potential new heritage places or objects will be undertaken to ensure protection. These will be subject to detailed assessment to determine any heritage values, protection, and incorporation into the urban landscape.

Action 4

Dry Stone Walls will be protected and incorporated into the urban landscape to contribute to the understanding of historical family practises in the Shire.

Dry Stone Walls will be subject to mapping their location and a detailed assessment from a qualified specialist undertaken, that will ensure the heritage values and protection is incorporated into the urban landscape including but not limited to:

- appropriate buffers from integrated transport networks
- inclusion within public open space
- where possible be on one title rather than across multiple titles.

Action 5

Major upgrades to the integrated transport network and essential services/infrastructure will be designed to protect adjacent registered heritage places.

There are several registered heritage places within close proximity to the proposed growth areas, these will be incorporated into the design and development of any major upgrades or introduction of new integrated transport networks or essential services/infrastructure.



Source: James,P., 2024. *Nimmon's Bridge*. [Digital Photography] Wadawurrung Country, Newton.

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