

BUCHAN CAVES RESERVE

European Heritage Action Plan

Commissioned by Parks Victoria

Richard Aitken Pty Ltd
in association with Lee Andrews

12 Oban Street South Yarra Victoria 3141

December 2003

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Appendix Two: Tree list (arranged alphabetically)

Appendix Three: Tree list (arranged numerically)

Appendix Four: Text of address by Elery Hamilton-Smith given to community meeting, 20 May 2003

Appendix Five: Extracts from official files regarding 1938 National Park works

Appendix Six: Inventories of stores from 1931 and 1942

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

This report was commissioned by Parks Victoria on 13 January 2003 in accordance with a consultant brief to prepare a European Heritage Action Plan for Buchan Caves reserve.

1.2 HISTORY (SECTION 2.0)

The history in Section 2.0 is given in the form of a brief chronology derived from research by Elery Hamilton-Smith and John Rogerson. Additional detail by the consultants is given in Section 3.0 (where the various components are treated individually).

1.3 ANALYSIS AND ASSESSMENT OF COMPONENTS (SECTION 3.0)

Within Section 3.0, the following arrangement has been followed:

- Main sections are arranged chronologically by date of first development
- Under 'Caves' infrastructure (section 3.2) means underground; all above ground stuff treated under 'Buildings and structures' (section 3.5)
- Under Buildings and structures (section 3.5), individual components are arranged in sequential order from the Entrance archway
- Areas have not been used except to group the attributes of the various camping areas (section 3.4)

Within each sub-section the following material is presented:

- 'History': extremely brief notes arranged chronologically
- 'Description/integrity': extremely brief notes supplemented by the risk analysis tables in the section treating the development of the Conservation Policy (section 5.0)
- 'Analysis of cultural significance': listing of relevant themes which are then discussed in the separate section on Assessment of Cultural significance (Section 4.0); some themes could apply to all components listed, but themes have generally been listed only where they are particularly relevant and substantially aid an understanding of the component in question.
- 'Ranking of heritage values': treats each of four values (Historic, Aesthetic, Social/spiritual, and Scientific) with a ranking (Primary value, Contributory value, No appreciable value, Intrusive, Value jeopardised by demolition or removal); these rankings will then form the basis for conservation actions (Section 6.0)

1.4 ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE (SECTION 4.0)

Section 4.0 assesses the cultural significance of the place by using detailed themes derived from an understanding of the history and development of the place. The Australian Historic Themes (called for in the brief) will be mentioned under relevant thematic headings in this section. Relevant AHT Theme Groups include:

- '1 Tracing the Evolution of the Australian environment', especially theme 1.4 Appreciating the natural wonders of Australia

- ‘3 Developing local, regional, and national economies’, especially theme 3.23 ‘Catering for tourists’
- ‘8 Developing Australia’s cultural life’, especially theme 8.1.3 ‘Developing public parks and gardens’, 8.3 ‘Going on holiday’, 8.1.1.2 ‘Myth making and story-telling’

These AHT themes are quite broad when assessing an individual place such as Buchan Caves Reserve, and more detailed, site-specific themes have been developed, and these are as follows:

- Interpretation and tourist use of Australian caves (see Section 4.1.1)
- Pre-war Australian National Parks (see Section 4.1.2)
- Government social policy (see Section 4.1.3)
- Continuity of use (see Section 4.2.1)
- Links to Buchan township and immediate locality (see Section 4.2.2)
- Linear qualities of designed landscape (see Section 4.3.1)
- Rustic design ethos (see Section 4.3.2)
- European influence on planting (see Section 4.3.3)
- Collection of trees of horticultural importance (see Section 4.4.1)
- Protection of outstanding natural features (see Section 4.4.2).

This section concludes with a Statement of Cultural Significance, which summarises the significance of the place, and is then used as a basis for the preparation of the Conservation Policy (Section 5.0).

1.5 CONSERVATION POLICY (SECTION 5.0)

The section which develops a conservation policy (Section 5.0) highlights the obligations arising from cultural significance, and also includes other matters relevant to the formulation of a policy. As part of this, a risk assessment is undertaken using four main headings:

- Visitor use and abuse
- Structural adequacy
- Environmental factors
- Social and political factors.

Present and potential impacts are assessed using the following levels:

- none
- low
- medium
- high
- very high.

1.6 CONSERVATION ACTIONS (SECTION 6.0)

Conservation actions (Section 6.0) have been recommended for each of the components treated in Section 3.0. These have been divided into the following priorities:

- ongoing
- urgent (next 12 months)
- short term 1-3 years)
- medium term (3–5 years)
- long term (5–10 years).

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[not included in this draft]

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