

Place name The Knob Recreation Reserve	Survey Date: 31/03/1999
Other name The Knob. Knob Reserve	Id: 536
Street Slavins Lane (old Redbank Road?)	Last Update
Locality Stratford	Postcode
Official Locality	Property No
Local Government Area Wellington Shire	Property Info
Precinct: Not in precinct	
Easting 508700	Northing 5796200
Map Stratford	
Workshop number Primary - S2/01: Other - S1	Workshop votes 8
Field survey number	Community priority
Designer	Builder
Ownership Public	Built Date Change Date

Description Natural red gum forest area - red gum grassy woodland with natural peak or rise hence the name 'The Knob'. Standing above the Avon River, rich with Aboriginal significance, ie. scarred tree, grinding stones, etc. Still has examples of threatened flora species, eg. purple diuris orchid and rough grain love grass. (Sale Workshop) Part of the Gippsland Koori trail. (Heyfield Workshop) A picnic area with two sheds and an oval set in a stand of red gums (*E. tereticornis*). A good example of the forest in the area when white settlement occurred. There is a canoe tree near the oval and Aboriginal grind stones on the bluff. The bluff acts as a viewing place for the Avon River flats and the mountains to the north and west. For some years in the 1980s the local music festival venue. (Submission))

This place is in close proximity to the township of Stratford. The Reserve was gazetted in 1906. At one end of the Reserve is a high point overlooking the Avon River valley, the farmed river flats around Stratford, and views west and northwest to Mount Wellington and Ben Crauchan. It is one of a dozen places on the Bataluk Cultural Trail, established by the Aboriginal communities of Gippsland and East Gippsland. Recreational facilities, such as a grassed oval, horse riding tracks, picnic/BBQ facilities, toilet blocks have been provided in the central area of the reserve. The entrance gate to the reserve is flanked by cast cement lions on brick piers, and the entrance road is lined with an avenue of pines in poor condition. The Stratford Country Music Festival is held annually here, and is attended by people from throughout Gippsland.

The remainder of the reserve, including the 'knob' bluff overlooking the Avon River, have a light forest cover with native grasses. At the bluff, a viewing platform, with a directional marker and cairn have been recently constructed. The bluff area has been fenced, with horse riding prohibited. This area is known as an important campsite for Aboriginal people, being well sheltered and close to the river (known as Dooyedang to the Gunai). The area was close to the border between two Gunai clans - the Brayakoolong and the Tatungaoolong, and was a meeting place. (Fletcher, 1988) Scarred trees, some grinding stones/grooves are located in the Reserve. In 1886, the site was a meeting place for people from Ramahyuck Mission to secretly meet with their 'mixed race' relatives who had been excluded from the Mission. A large information board has been placed here which tells the story of the Bataluk Cultural Trail, and of the survival of the Gunai people of Gippsland since the period of European invasion. Koori people are represented on the Committee of Management of the Reserve.

The Bataluk Cultural Trail is a joint initiative of the Far East Aboriginal Corporation, the Gippsland and East Gippsland Aboriginal Corporation, Lake Tyers Aboriginal Trust, Moogji Aboriginal Council, Ramahyuck Aboriginal Corporation, the East Gippsland Shire and Wellington Shire. 'Bataluk' is a Gunai word for lizard - the trail is thought to wind through the region like a lizard's tail. Other places on the trail are: Ramahyuck, Wetlands Information Centre (Sale), the Den of Nargun, Howitt Park (Bairnsdale), Krowathunkoolong Keeping Place (Bairnsdale), Legend Rock (Metung), Buchan Caves, Burnt Ridge Reserve (Nowa Nowa), Moogji Aboriginal Council (Orbost), Cape Conran, Nullak Gundji (Cann River). Work on the Knob Reserve interpretation, fencing and facilities was carried out in 1994 as part of the Contract Employment Program for Aboriginals in Natural and Cultural Resource Management, and involved the Central Gippsland Aboriginal Health and Housing Cooperative and Ramahyuck Aboriginal Corporation.

This place is on the Register of the National Estate for its Aboriginal cultural heritage values. Although this place is of significance to the Aboriginal communities of Gippsland, this has not been assessed or documented by the present project.: Locality - Stratford: Area - 59 ha: Condition and Integrity - The Knob Reserve is a complex cultural and natural landscape with natural, scenic, social, indigenous and recreation values. It is managed by a Committee of Management. The Reserve is part of the Land for Wildlife program. The overall condition of the Reserve is very mixed. The area containing 'The Knob' is managed for the conservation of its natural and

indigenous cultural heritage values and is in good condition. This part of the Reserve has some use restrictions and the impact of vehicles and visitors is less apparent than elsewhere in the Reserve. Good interpretive information on the indigenous values of the Reserve is provided here. Other parts of the Reserve are affected by noxious weeds. Parks Victoria is working on the control of some of the weeds - blue periwinkle, English ivy, bridal creeper. Parts of the Reserve also have too many vehicle tracks, which can facilitate erosion, loss of native ground cover, and the spread of weeds. Planning for better vehicle circulation is recommended. The public and recreational facilities are of mixed age, condition and quality. Some are unattractive and in poor condition and detract from the values of the Reserve. The avenue of Pines at the entrance to the Reserve are in poor condition, and the stone lions on brick pillars at entrance appear to be poorly constructed and are not likely to be major contributors to the social value of the Reserve. A Management Plan which takes account of all the Reserve's values is needed.

Condition

Integrity

History Used as Aboriginal lookout for spotting food sources and as meeting place. Was popular town picnic site as well as police paddock for grazing police horses. (Sale Workshop) On the bluff high above a bend in the Dooyeedang (Avon River) axe heads were sharpened on the sandstone grinding stones. The deep grooves a reminder of the site used by Aborigines for centuries. The Knob was the picnic place for the district New Years Day picnics held pre-1885 and well into the 20th century. The Knob was also used as the police paddock for the horses. (Peak Group Survey)

Heritage Protections Register	Reference	Zoning	Status
Planning Scheme	HO55		Listed

National Estate

Code	Assessment Detail
G	<p>G.1 Importance as a place highly valued by a community for reasons of religious, spiritual, symbolic, cultural, educational or social associations: Value - This place was identified and assessed for social value (Criterion G1) through an analysis of data collected through a community workshop process and is considered to meet the National Estate threshold for social value. Although clearly of significance to Aboriginal people, the Aboriginal community significance of this place was not assessed during the present study. The indigenous cultural heritage values of the Gippsland Forest Region are the subject of a separate process, involving Aboriginal communities throughout the region.</p> <p>The Knob Recreation Reserve is well known and highly valued by communities in Central Gippsland. It was identified at the Sale and Heyfield workshops, and its value was confirmed during the social value research phase.</p> <p>The Knob is valued as a landmark of outstanding natural and scenic qualities. It is of outstanding value to the Stratford community, and is also well known throughout a number of other communities in Central Gippsland. For the local community, it symbolises a the relationship between the Gunai people and the natural landscape of Gippsland. The Reserve also has a long history of close association and frequent use for outdoor recreation and social gatherings. The natural and scenic qualities of The Knob, and its Aboriginal cultural heritage values are important contributors to its social value. The community-wide recognition of these values is illustrated by its listing on the Register of the National Estate for its indigenous values.</p>

Research Required

Recommendations Heritage Status - Register of the National Estate - Registered Place - Database No. 004715RNE Status from RFA - Registered

Fieldwork priority?

Stage 1 Ranking Assessed & protected **Stage 2 priority** No Action: Already include

Final Ranking Regional significance **Final Recommendation** Amendment C26

Statement of significance The Knob is of social significance for the Stratford community and for the surrounding communities

of Central Gippsland as a place with a long history of use for recreation and social gatherings. It also represents, for the community as a whole, the relationship between the Gunai people and the natural landscape of the Avon River valley. (Criterion G1)

Extent of designation Entire Reserve.

Informant Geoff Mansfield, P Synan, CWA Avon Branch, Avon Trees on Farms Group Potential informants - Stratford historical society

Notes

Follow up

Bibliography Context Pty Ltd. 1999. Identification and Assessment of community and heritage values in the Gippsland Forest Region. Report to Environment Australia and Natural Resources and Environment, Victoria as part of the Comprehensive Regional Assessment: National Estate Gippsland Regional Forest Agreement.
M. Fletcher, 1988 Avon to the Alps: History of the Avon Shire.
Information Board, Bataluk Cultural Trail at site.
Context Pty Ltd: C. Johnston, K. Buckley, Name of Recorder
R Crocker, M Sandford, Name of Recorder

