

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT



ALPINE SHIRE

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<b>name:</b>	Mongans Bridge State School, former	<b>File No:</b>	AS0264
<b>Address:</b>	Bay Creek Lane, Mongan's Bridge CORAL BANK		
<b>Place Type:</b>	School - State (public)		
<b>Citation Date:</b>	2007	<b>Significance Level:</b>	Local



*Mongans Bridge State School, former*

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<b>Recommended Heritage Protection</b>	<b>VHR -</b>
	<b>HI -</b>
	<b>PS -</b>

## History and Historical Context

The Mongan's Bridge School 3403 was opened on 1 March 1902 and John A Hill was the head teacher. In 1903 it worked half time with Dederang State School (1772). Then in 1904 full time teaching resumed. In 1907 building works were undertaken and these included repairs to the school and the two roomed quarters. A two roomed cottage used in conjunction with the local 1964 creamery was purchased from the Kiewa Butter Factory and relocated to the school.

From 1907 to August 1909 the school operated half time in conjunction with Upper Gundowring and then became full time until it closed in 1964

References:

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Temple E & Lloyd D, A History of the Kiewa Valley  
Dept of Education, 1973, Vision and Realisation Vol 3, p. 1006



## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

4.5 Making settlements to serve rural Australia.

6.2 Establishing schools

6.5 Educating people in remote places

## Description

### Physical Description

The weatherboard school building with a corrugated iron roof is utilitarian in design and typical for its size and rural location. There is a small entrance porch attached to the main school building. The windows are timber-framed sash windows. The door is timber with vertical boarding.

### Physical Condition

Good

### Usage / Former Usage

1902 - 1964

? - present, recreation room, Mongans Bridge Caravan Park

### Intactness

The integrity of the building is good and it is in moderate to good condition.

### Recommended Management

Maintain as free-standing building in present form - weatherboards (matching profile), window style and corrugated iron roof.

### Comparative Analysis

No similar schools are known to survive in Alpine Shire. Harrietville Primary School has some similarities, but is larger and is established in a well-entrenched township.

## Statement of Significance

### What is significant?

The Mongan's Bridge school was built in 1902 and served the farming community until 1964. In its early years, the school sometimes operated half-time with nearby rural schools - Dederang and Upper Gundowring. The small weatherboard building with its corrugated iron roof is utilitarian in design and typical for its size and rural location.

### How is it significant?

The Mongan's Bridge State School is of historical, social & architectural significance to the rural community of the Kiewa Valley, and the Alpine Shire.

### Why is it significant?

The Mongan's Bridge School is historically and architecturally significant to the Alpine Shire as the only surviving, in situ, one-classroom rural school building in the Shire. It is historically and socially significant to the

Kiewa Valley and Alpine Shire communities as a poignant and important reminder of a era when education was brought to the people of remote rural communities, rather than schoolchildren being transported to centralised schools.

## Assessment Against Criteria

### Criterion A

ITS IMPORTANCE IN THE COURSE, OR PATTERN, OF AUSTRALIA'S NATURAL OR CULTURAL HISTORY

A.1 Importance in the evolution of Australian flora, fauna, landscapes or climate.

A.2 Importance in maintaining existing processes or natural systems at the regional or national scale.

A.3 Importance in exhibiting unusual richness or diversity of flora, fauna, landscapes or cultural features.

A.4 Importance for association with events, developments or cultural phases which have had a significant role in the human occupation and evolution of the nation, State, region or community.

The Mongan's Bridge School is historically and architecturally significant to the Alpine Shire as the only surviving, in situ, one-classroom rural school building in the Shire. It is historically and socially significant to the Kiewa Valley and Alpine Shire communities as a poignant and important reminder of a era when education was brought to the people of remote rural communities, rather than schoolchildren being transported to centralised schools.

### Criterion B

ITS POSSESSION OF UNCOMMON, RARE OR ENDANGERED ASPECTS OF AUSTRALIA'S NATURAL OR CULTURAL HISTORY

B.1 Importance for rare, endangered or uncommon flora, fauna, communities, ecosystems, natural landscapes or phenomena, or as a wilderness.

B.2 Importance in demonstrating a distinctive way of life, custom, process, land-use, function or design no longer practised, in danger of being lost, or of exceptional interest

### Criterion C

ITS POTENTIAL TO YIELD INFORMATION THAT WILL CONTRIBUTE TO AN UNDERSTANDING OF AUSTRALIA'S NATURAL OR CULTURAL HISTORY

C.1 Importance for information contributing to a wider understanding of Australian natural history, by virtue of its use as a research site, teaching site, type locality, reference or benchmark site.

C.2 Importance for information contributing to a wider understanding of the history of human occupation of Australia

### Criterion D

ITS IMPORTANCE IN DEMONSTRATING THE PRINCIPAL CHARACTERISTICS OF: (I) A CLASS OF AUSTRALIA'S NATURAL OR CULTURAL PLACES; OR (II) A CLASS OF AUSTRALIA'S NATURAL OR CULTURAL ENVIRONMENTS

D.1 Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of the range of landscapes, environments or ecosystems, the attributes of which identify them as being characteristic of their class.

D.2 Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of the range of human activities in the Australian environment (including way of life, philosophy, custom, process, land use, function, design or technique).

### Criterion E

ITS IMPORTANCE IN EXHIBITING PARTICULAR AESTHETIC CHARACTERISTICS VALUED BY A

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## COMMUNITY OR CULTURAL GROUP

E.1 Importance for a community for aesthetic characteristics held in high esteem or otherwise valued by the community

Criterion F

ITS IMPORTANCE IN DEMONSTRATING A HIGH DEGREE OF CREATIVE OR TECHNICAL ACHIEVEMENT AT A PARTICULAR PERIOD

F.1 Importance for its technical, creative, design or artistic excellence, innovation or achievement

Criterion G

ITS STRONG OR SPECIAL ASSOCIATIONS WITH A PARTICULAR COMMUNITY OR CULTURAL GROUP FOR SOCIAL, CULTURAL OR SPIRITUAL REASONS

G.1 Importance as a place highly valued by a community for reasons of religious, spiritual, symbolic, cultural, educational, or social associations.

Criterion H

ITS SPECIAL ASSOCIATION WITH THE LIFE OR WORKS OF A PERSON, OR GROUP OF PERSONS, OF IMPORTANCE IN AUSTRALIA'S NATURAL OR CULTURAL HISTORY

H.1 Importance for close associations with individuals whose activities have been significant within the history of the nation, State or region

## Recommendations 2007

<b>External Paint Controls</b>	No
<b>Internal Alteration Controls</b>	No
<b>Tree Controls</b>	No
<b>Fences &amp; Outbuildings</b>	No
<b>Prohibited uses may be permitted</b>	No
<b>Incorporated Plan</b>	-
<b>Aboriginal Heritage Place</b>	No

# HERITAGE CITATION REPORT



ALPINE SHIRE

**name:** Tawonga Station Graves  
**Address:** Kiewa Valley Highway CORAL BANK  
**Place Type:** Cemetery/Graveyard/Burial Ground  
**Citation Date:** 2007

**File No:** AS0465

**Significance Level:** Local



*Tawonga Station Graves*

**Recommended  
Heritage Protection**      **VHR -**

**HI -**

**PS -**

## History and Historical Context

The first run in the Kiewa Valley was taken up at Gundowring in 1839 which consisted of seven persons residing in slab huts. Further up the remote valley the Dederang Run was taken up in 1845. The Tawonga Run in Upper Kiewa was taken up in December 1841 by James Roberts and transferred in 1849 to John Routh. The station was then transferred to Thomas Ibbotson in 1854.

Mr Ibbotson installed his cousin John Eyre as manager of the property. John's daughter, Mrs Mary Hobbs, lived at the homestead for 92 years. She died in 1949, and was the "grand old lady" of Tawonga. John Eyre himself was a cousin of John Eyre the explorer (Temple & Lloyd).

The graves are those of Thomas Ibbotson, John Eyre and his wife Elizabeth (nee Collins). Elizabeth died in 1879 aged 41 years and her grave is marked with a headstone - this was broken by a falling tree, and repaired by setting the pieces into a concrete mount. Thomas died accidentally in 1858 aged 36 years, while chasing cattle on horseback. He ran into a low tree branch and was killed. His headstone was imported (sent?) from England, and is now hidden under a thick bush. His brother Charles then took over the property. John's grave



is unmarked, and lies beneath or just outside the enclosing fence. John died in 1904 aged 78, and the family was given special dispensation to bury him on the property, next to his wife. A fourth person is buried on the property, but the identity of the person and the exact position of the burial are not known. This was a traveller who took ill at Tawonga Station. Despite nursing by Elizabeth Eyre, the man died and was buried by the station hands. (Gwen Hobbs, pers comm, April 2007 - great granddaughter of John & Elizabeth Eyre).

In recent years, the pine log enclosure was constructed by the local Rotary Club.

#### References:

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Temple E & Lloyd D, A History of the Kiewa Valley, Kiewa Valley Historical Society

Hobbs, Gwen (Coral Bank, Kiewa Valley), 2007, pers comm, April 2007, based on family research undertaken by Gwen

## Relevant Historical Australian Themes

3.16 Struggling with remoteness, hardship and failure.

## Description

### Physical Description

The three graves are on a small rise near the vicinity of the homestead. The graves are surrounded by a wood fence and there are two headstones, marking the graves of Elizabeth Eyre (nee Collins) and Thomas Ibbotson. Elizabeth's headstone was damaged by a falling tree, and repaired by setting the pieces in a concrete mount. Thomas' headstone is hidden by a bush. John Eyre's grave is unmarked, and is under/outside the enclosing pine log fence. There are eucalypt trees planted outside the fence.

### Physical Condition

Good

### Usage / Former Usage

Burial ground

### Intactness

Fair

### Recommended Management

Manage as historic graves. Retain graves, headstones and fenced enclosure. Allow addition of interpretive information in suitable form

### Comparative Analysis

Lone graves/burial grounds relating to the squatting occupation of the Alpine Shire are very rare, and relatively rare throughout the State. The only other known example in the Alpine Shire is the grave of Mary Hollonds (nee Gates) at Mullagong Station, Kiewa Valley. This grave is c1862, and has a wrought iron fence with a gate, but no headstone. Mary died after falling into an open fireplace following a heart attack.

## Statement of Significance





## What is significant?

Tawonga Station was taken up in 1841, and in 1854 it was purchased by Thomas Ibbotson, who installed his cousin John Eyre as manager. The three burials were those of Thomas Ibbotson, who died accidentally in 1858 while chasing cattle on horseback, John Eyre, and his wife Elizabeth (nee Collins). A fourth person, an unidentified traveller, was also buried on the property, at a location unknown.

## How is it significant?

The Tawonga Station graves are of historical and social significance to the Kiewa Valley and the Alpine Shire.

## Why is it significant?

The lone graves are historically and socially significant as extremely rare surviving infrastructure that connect to the early squatting runs in the Shire, and reflect the social and living conditions on isolated properties of the era, before proper burial facilities were inaugurated. The graves are significant as the last resting places of three of the European pioneers of the Kiewa Valley and Alpine Shire.

## Assessment Against Criteria

### Criterion A

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D.1 Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of the range of landscapes, environments or ecosystems, the attributes of which identify them as being characteristic of their class.

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D.2 Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of the range of human activities in the Australian environment (including way of life, philosophy, custom, process, land use, function, design or technique).

Criterion E

ITS IMPORTANCE IN EXHIBITING PARTICULAR AESTHETIC CHARACTERISTICS VALUED BY A COMMUNITY OR CULTURAL GROUP

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## Recommendations 2007

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<b>Internal Alteration Controls</b>	No
<b>Tree Controls</b>	No
<b>Fences &amp; Outbuildings</b>	No
<b>Prohibited uses may be permitted</b>	No
<b>Incorporated Plan</b>	-
<b>Aboriginal Heritage Place</b>	No