

# HERITAGE PLACE

**NAME OF PLACE:** TAWONGA GAP

**ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE:** Tawonga Gap Rd MOUNT BEAUTY

**STUDY NUMBER:** ASHS 350      **HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:** 202

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**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:** Alpine Shire

**ALLOTMENT:** 1      **SECTION:** 20      **PARISH:** PARISH OF MULLINDOLINGONG

**SIGNIFICANCE RATING:** Local



Tawonga Gap Lookout & memorial

**Image Date:** Feb 2004

**EXTENT OF LISTING:**

To the extent of Tawonga Gap parking area, memorial cairn, commemorative plaque and facilities.



# TAWONGA GAP LOOKOUT & COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE

Heritage Overlay No  
PropertyNo  
File Number  
Heritage Study No ASHS  
Heritage Grading

HPD Number 350

HI Number

VHR Number

Other Names/s

Precinct

Group Number

Extra Files

Location Tawonga Gap Rd MOUNT BEAUTY  
PARISH OF MULLINDOLINGONG

1

20

Planning Authority

Ward

Access Description

Map Number

0

Map Scale

1:25000

Latitude

36d42m44s

Longitude

147d07m12

S

s E

UMG Zone 55

Easting

510722 GDA94

Northing

5937056

Location Validity

Spatial Accuracy

Extent of Listing

To the extent of Tawonga Gap parking area, memorial cairn, commemorative plaque and facilities.

Published Extent of Listing

Significance Local

Statement of Significance

What is significant? -

The Tawonga Gap road was built in 1896, its construction driven by agitation from upper Kiewa Valley farmers who required access to the Bright railhead to get their produce to market. Previously, the farmers in the isolated upper valley had had to transport their produce all the way to Yackandandah, a difficult journey in those years. As a condition of the construction of the road, the upper Kiewa Valley was incorporated into the Shire of Bright. When completed, the opening ceremony was held at Tawonga Gap. The road was financed by the Shire of Bright, but became part of the mining track network of eastern Victoria, linking Bright and Glen Wills. As tourism further developed in the area, Tawonga Gap became a popular stopping point for its superb views of Mt Bogong and the Kiewa Valley, and it has maintained this role to the present day.

How is it significant?

Tawonga Gap is of historical & social significance to the Alpine Shire

Why is it significant?

Tawonga Gap is historically and socially significant to the Alpine Shire for its symbolism associated with the union of the upper Kiewa and upper Ovens communities in 1896, both physically and politically. It has also been a long-standing and widely-appreciated tourism viewing point.

Gazettal Details

Permit Exemptions

Exemptions Policy

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.

Criterion B

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

# TAWONGA GAP LOOKOUT & COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE

Heritage Overlay No

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File Number

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HPD Number 350

HI Number

VHR Number

Other Names/s

Precinct

Group Number

Extra Files

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## 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 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

Date Assessed 10/08/2006 Assessed By R Kaufman

## Comparisons

Tawonga Gap has special, symbolic historical associations, relating to the union of the upper Ovens and upper Kiewa valley communities, politically in 1895 with annexation to the Shire of Bright, and physically with the completion of the Tawonga Gap Road in 1896. Few places carry this sort of symbolism.

## Rare Assessment

-

## Intact Assessment

-



# TAWONGA GAP LOOKOUT & COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE

Heritage Overlay No

PropertyNo

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ASHS

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HPD Number 350

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Extra Files

Include in VHR  Include in RNE  Include in Local Planning Scheme  No Recommendations for Inclusions

## Recommended Management

- Retain cairn, rock wall and commemorative plaque;
- Maintain look-out & picnic facilities at Tawonga Gap in some form, sympathetic to the natural environment.

### Heritage Act Categories

Heritage object/s

Not categorised

Not categorised

### Heritage Item Groups

Monuments and Memorials

Landscape - Natural

Landscape - Cultural

### Heritage Item Categories

Memorial

Alpine environment

Historic Landscape

## Title Details

Tawonga Gap is on boundary between Allotment 1 Section 20, Parish of Mullindolingong, and Allotment 84, Parish of Freeburgh. Car park etc are in Parish of Mullindolingong

## Physical Description

Tawonga Gap is a saddle in the range between the Ovens and Kiewa valleys. It is the highest point traversed on the Tawonga Gap Road, which connects the Kiewa and Ovens valleys, and is the principal connection between Bright and Mount Beauty. Where the road crosses the saddle, an area has been set aside for viewing down into the Kiewa Valley and across to Mt Bogong, Victoria's highest peak.

Present fabric consists of an entry track to a parking area, a viewing platform (recently installed), and an exit track. The land between the entry and exit track has been defined by a rock wall that encloses a round grassy area with picnic table facilities, and several large Eucalypt trees. A white stone cairn has been built in this area, and a commemorative brass plaque has been attached to the wall.

## Physical Condition and/or Archaeological Potential

Good

Usage 1896 - present: road and viewing point

## Associated People

## Historical Notes

The settlement of Tawonga appears to have nucleated in about 1880, after a period of land selection. A school was opened in that year, and a public hall about the same time.

It experienced a significant growth phase from the 1890s. One of the first influences is assumed to have been the estimated 60 gold miners who were working reefs on the hillside above the town in the early 1890s. In 1890 in discussion of the proposed road to Bright, it was acknowledged no matter how much the local farmers produced, their only outlet was Yackandandah, 40 miles away, which placed them at a great disadvantage. The road connection to the Bright railhead in 1896 was critical to the upper valley's access to markets. The connection to the new goldfield at Glen Wills at around the same time increased their access to markets, and gave them regular through-traffic for the first time.

A plaque commemorating the history of the road has the following information:

### "HISTORY BRIGHT-TAWONGA GAP ROAD

This road linking the Kiwa and Ovens valleys was built as the result of years of agitation and a successful petition to the Minister of Public Works by farmers of Tawonga who wished to get their produce to Bright, A dray road was required over the steep hill to the Bright railhead 32 kilometres away.

Severance of the Tawonga area from the Shire of Yackandandah was a condition. In 1895 an area of 177 sq kilometres was added to the North Riding of the Shire of Bright conditionally on the road being completed within 12 months of the severance date.

Contractors using pick and shovel labour and wheelbarrows struggled with its construction and completed the work within the prescribed time. Wages paid were 70 cents per day. To finance the work a 20 year loan of \$4000 was floated by the Council of the Shire of Bright. The official opening was held on 19th March 1896. A 4 horse dray conveyed the official party at the head of a procession of cars (sic), coaches, buggys and horseback riders. Leaving Bright at 8:15 am, equestrians reached the Gap at 12:15 pm.

The 9 mile trip down the Tawonga took only 3/4 hour.

300-400 people including district Members of Parliament, Shire Councillors and Presidents of Shires of Bright, Beechworth and Yackandandah heard the Hon Gavin Duffy, Post Master General, declare the road officially open.

B Lyndon Smith was given a testimonial in appreciation of his work - not only had he built the first mountain road solely financed by the Shire, but he had combined his duties of both Shire Engineer and Shire Secretary as a cut in salary due to the current depression."

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Other Names/s

Precinct

Group Number

Extra Files

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As tourism further developed in the area, Tawonga Gap became a popular stopping point, for its superb views of Mt Bogong and the Kiewa Valley, and it has maintained this role to the present day.

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## Historic Themes

- 4.6 Remembering significant phases in the development of settlements, towns & cities.
- 3.8.7 Building and maintaining roads.
- 3.8.5 Moving goods and people on land.
- 1.4 Appreciating the natural wonders of Australia.

## Listings

### References

Author	Title	Year	Shelf	Location
Shire of Bright Temple, E & Lloyd, D	Information on commemorative plaque, Tawonga Gap A History of the Kiewa Valley	1989		

### Conservation Plans

### Owner Type

## Section 32 Recommendation

### Owners/Occupants/Managers

### Other Notes

### Application Detail

### Adviser Comments

### Planning Scheme Amendments

### Overlay Controls

### Planning Scheme Schedule

External Paint Controls?	No	Included in Vic Heritage Register?	No
Internal Alteration Controls?	No	Prohibited uses may be permitted?	No
Tree Controls?	No	Name of incorporated plan	No
Outbuildings/fences not exempt?	No	Aboriginal Heritage Place?	No



# HERITAGE PLACE

**NAME OF PLACE:** FORMER SECV WORKSHOP

**ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE:** 43 Kiewa Valley Highway TAWONGA SOUTH

**STUDY NUMBER:**

**HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:** 203

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**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:** Alpine Shire

**ALLOTMENT:** 21  
PS3385  
27

**SIGNIFICANCE RATING:** Local



Former SECV Workshop Mt Beauty

**Image Date:** 6 March 2006

**EXTENT OF LISTING:**

To the extent of: 1. All the building, and included hoisting apparatus



# FORMER SECV WORKSHOP

Heritage Overlay No 203

PropertyNo

File Number

Heritage Study No

Heritage Grading

HPD Number 796

HI Number

VHR Number

Other Names/s

Precinct

Group Number

Extra Files

Location 43 Kiewa Valley Highway TAWONGA SOUTH

21 PS338527

Planning Authority

Ward

Access Description

Map Number

0

Map Scale

Latitude

36d44m22s

Longitude

147d09m45

S

s E

UMG Zone 55

Easting

514515 GDA94

Northing

5934031

Location Validity

Spatial Accuracy

Extent of Listing

To the extent of: 1. All the building, and included hoisting apparatus

Published Extent of Listing

Significance Local

Statement of Significance

What is significant?

The former SECV workshop was built by the State Electricity Commission of Victoria, probably between 1947 and 1950, and was one of a number built in the vicinity. It served both the construction and operational phases of the Kiewa Hydro Electric Scheme.

How is it significant?

The former SECV workshop is of historical significance to the Alpine Shire.

Why is it significant?

The former SECV workshop is historically significant to the Alpine Shire as a large industrial building that communicates in its prominence and scale the enormous engineering undertaking that the Kiewa Hydro Electric Scheme was, and its impact on the growth of the Kiewa Valley portion of the Shire. The crane is evidence of the maintenance activities carried out in the building, and the large scale of machinery and equipment used.

Gazettal Details

Permit Exemptions

Exemptions Policy

Assessment Against Criteria

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Group Number

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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

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

Date Assessed 24/02/2007 Assessed By R Kaufman

## Comparisons

A number of former SECV workshops survive at Mount Beauty. This one is well-preserved and in a very prominent position on the Kiewa Valley Highway. An adjacent building with a saw-toothed roof was examined, but lacked the height and prominence in the streetscape.

## Rare Assessment

Not rare

## Intact Assessment

Good - only superficial, reversible alterations to suit adapted use as hardware store (2007)

Include in VHR  Include in RNE  Include in Local Planning Scheme   No Recommendations for Inclusions

## Recommended Management

External controls to maintain industrial character of building (form); controls on crane to preserve evidence of use. Retain corrugated iron



# FORMER SECV WORKSHOP

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203

PropertyNo

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Other Names/s

Precinct

Group Number

Extra Files

wall cladding and roofing.

Heritage Act Categories

Heritage Item Groups

Heritage Item Categories

Heritage place

Utilities - Electricity

Other - Utilities - Electricity

Title Details

## Physical Description

The workshop is situated on the Kiewa Valley Highway, Mount Beauty, and is a tall, open-plan, corrugated iron clad building. Structural framing is steel, with timber infill framing for cladding. A movable crane is positioned high in the building.

## Physical Condition and/or Archaeological Potential

Good structural condition

Usage Workshop

## Associated People

### Historical Notes

The workshop was built in association with the construction of Mount Beauty township, to serve the construction phase of the Kiewa Hydro Electric Scheme. Exact date of construction is not known, but it is likely to have been between 1947 and 1950. The building went on to provide service during the operational phase of the Scheme, and today the premises is leased (?) and houses a hardware store (2007).

## Historic Themes

3.4.5 Tapping natural energy sources

3.14 Developing an Australian engineering and construction industry.

## Listings

### References

Author

Kaufman, R &amp; Kemp, D

Title

Mount Beauty &amp; Bogong Village Heritage Study

Year ShelfLocation

2007

## Conservation Plans

### Owner Type

## Section 32 Recommendation

### Owners/Occupants/Managers

### Other Notes

## Application Detail

### Adviser Comment

### Planning Scheme Amendments

### Overlay Controls

## Planning Scheme Schedule

External Paint Controls?

No

Included in Vic Heritage Register? No

Internal Alteration Controls?

No

Prohibited uses may be permitted? No

Tree Controls?

No

Name of incorporated plan No

Outbuildings/fences not exempt?

No

Aboriginal Heritage Place? No