



*Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*

INCLUSION OF PLACES IN THE NATIONAL HERITAGE LIST

I, Ian Gordon Campbell, Minister for the Environment and Heritage, having considered, in relation to the places listed in the Schedule of this instrument –

- (a) the Australian Heritage Council's assessment whether each place meets any of the National Heritage criteria; and
- (b) the comments given to the Council under section 324G of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*; and

being satisfied that the each place specified in the Schedule has the National Heritage value or values specified in the Schedule include, pursuant to section 324J of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, the places listed in the Schedule in the National Heritage List.

Dated this 10th day of January 2005

Ian Gordon Campbell  
Minister for the Environment  
and Heritage

**SCHEDULE**

## STATE / TERRITORY

Local Government Area

Name:

Location Boundary

Criterion / Values

**VICTORIA****Hepburn and Mount Alexander Shires****Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park:**

About 7480ha, at Castlemaine

**Criterion****Values**

A. the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's importance in the course, or pattern, of Australia's natural or cultural history

Castlemaine was one of the major gold rushes of Victoria and of Australia. In 1852 the goldfield had acquired a population of 30,000 and was by then regarded as the richest goldfield in the world. Significant mining continued for many decades, and some mining has been evident right up almost to the present. The goldfield, which played a major role in drawing overseas immigrants to the colony, and in raising from the ground so much of the golden wealth which flowed into Australian and overseas markets, played a substantial part in all those changes which gold wrought on Victoria and Australia: increased population, increased wealth, the growth in manufacturing, the improvement in transport, the development of regional centres and townships, the further development of a middle class, democratization of political institutions, reform of land laws, the genesis of an Australian Chinese community, and so forth. Its impact was felt beyond Australia as well.

The Castlemaine Goldfield has an association with defining events and processes in Australian history which have fundamentally shaped the modern nation, as described above.

Castlemaine Goldfield has one of the richest collections of mining sites and landscapes in Australia. These range from large areas of high integrity remaining from the early alluvial phase of the 1850s, through the more technologically complex alluvial workings involving races, puddling, ground and hydraulic sluicing and dredging, deep lead mining, and then reef mining sites which contain a large variety of individual types of sites. The Castlemaine Goldfield's collection of mining sites is, in terms of diversity, integrity and time-depth, possibly the richest in Australia. In addition there are large numbers of habitation sites and groups of sites which form a rich tapestry depicting the pattern of settlement on the goldfield. (Pearson, Lennon, Marshall, 2002)

The attributes include the early and later alluvial workings (pits, shafts and other earthworks), stream diversions, water races, puddling machines, dams, ground sluicing sites, hydraulic sluicing sites, dredging sites, deep lead mining sites, the extensive range of sites associated with reef mining (eg stamper batteries and remains, building remains, buildings, roasting kilns, all other elements of reef sites), Chilean mills, Cornish technology, landscapes of multiple mining sites, habitation sites ranging from intact structures to ruins, tracks, cemeteries and other sites.

B. the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Australia's natural or cultural history.

Castlemaine Goldfield possesses sites and landscapes which reflect the whole period of gold mining in Australia, and has particularly important large areas relating to the early phase of the great Australian gold rushes. In this regard, the goldfield is a very rare entity. Some of the types of sites represented are very rare, such as the expanses of early alluvial workings, roasting kilns, Cornish technology, the Vaughan Chinese Cemetery, large numbers of puddling machine sites, the unusually well preserved hydraulic sluicing sites, the early reefing sites which are among the earliest surviving in Australia, and an early Chilean mill site.

The goldfield is associated with a large range of earlier forms of gold mining which are no longer practised, and earlier forms of habitation which are now foreign to most Australians. Mining in Australia has for some time been almost wholly the preserve of mining companies, and the era of independent gold miners is long passed. The work and life of these miners is well represented on the Castlemaine diggings.

The attributes are as listed above and previously at Criterion A.

C. the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Australia's natural or cultural history.

The goldfield's numerous mining and habitation sites have potential to yield new information about the conduct of Australian gold mining over a lengthy period, and particularly during the nineteenth century. These sites include the early alluvial landscapes, the cemeteries, the later alluvial sites reflecting various technologies, the many reef mining sites, and the habitation sites which are likely to yield further evidence of living practices during the goldfield's lifetime.

The attributes are as listed previously at Criterion A.

D. the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's importance in demonstrating the principle characteristics of (i) a class of Australia's natural or cultural places; or (ii) a class

The goldfield's many mining sites provide key examples of early and later alluvial workings (ranging from shallow pits and shafts to puddling machines, races, ground sluicing, hydraulic sluicing and dredging, and deep lead mining), and many reef mining processes over a lengthy period of time with sites reflecting a large number of the elements of the reefing process. In addition to individual sites, the area contains excellent examples of cultural landscapes consisting of multiple elements.

The many habitation sites scattered through the goldfield are exemplary of ruined miners' huts and houses. Consisting in general of mud-mortared stone chimneys and hearths, they reflect the major characteristics of remnant

of Australia's natural dwellings in a goldfields environment.  
or cultural  
environments.

Similarly, the mining sites illustrate the main characteristics of the goldminers' working way of life, with its emphasis on manual labour, hardship, the utilization of natural resources, the dependence on water and a lifestyle intimately connected with the earth.

The goldfield as a whole reflects very well the land use of gold mining. The mining sites and the habitation sites combine to characterise this form of land use.

The attributes are as listed above and previously at Criterion A.

E. the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group.

The Castlemaine Goldfield is redolent of a sense of the past. Situated within regenerating box-ironbark forest, the mining remains and habitation sites immediately convey to the visitor a feeling of passed ways of working and living. The great number and extent of remains reinforces to the visitor the historical significance of the goldfield. The degree of alteration of, and intervention in, the natural landscape makes a strong impression on visitors. The Castlemaine diggings are a place of strong aesthetic significance.

The attributes include the wide expanses of regenerating box-ironbark forest, the landforms of hills, ridges, gullies, creeks and rivers, together with the multitude of mining and habitation remains listed previously at Criterion A.

## AUSTRALIAN ANTARCTIC TERRITORY

### **Mawsons Huts and Mawsons Huts Historic Site**

About 130ha, located at Cape Denison, Commonwealth Bay, King George V Land, Australian Antarctic Territory, being an area bounded by a line commencing at the intersection of the coastline and Latitude 67° 00' 47" S at Land's End (approximate location 67° 00' 47" S, 142° 39' 28" E), then northerly via the Low Water Mark (LWM) to the intersection of the coastline with Latitude 67° 00' 21" S (approximate location 67° 00' 21" S, 142° 39' 18" E), then north easterly via a straight line to the intersection of the eastern coastline of Boat Harbour with Latitude 67° 00' 20" S (approximate location 67° 00' 20" S, 142° 39' 27" E), then northerly and south easterly via the LWM to its intersection with Latitude 67° 00' 47" S at John O'Groats (approximate location 67° 00' 47" S, 142° 41' 27" E), then westerly via a straight line to the point of commencement.

#### **Criterion**

#### **Values**

A. the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's importance in the course, or pattern, of Australia's natural or cultural history

Mawson's Huts Historic Site was the first base for scientific and geographical discovery in Antarctica by Australians. The site of Mawson's Huts marks the location of the earliest large-scale scientific inquiry by Australians outside Australia following Federation. The Australasian Antarctic Expedition (AAE) 1911–1914, carried out major scientific experiments and laid the foundation for the eventual claim to a large portion of the Antarctic continent by Australia. The expedition was also the first to pioneer the use of wireless communication and the first to attempt to obtain an aeroplane for use in Antarctica.

The place is one of six surviving Heroic Era (1897 to 1917) expedition bases which symbolise the first period of land-based scientific research and geographic discovery in Antarctica.

The attributes are embedded in the AAE fabric including four timber buildings, two intact and two as standing ruins. These include the Main Hut with living section, workshop and verandahs (intact), the Magnetograph House (intact), Absolute Magnetic Hut (standing ruin with no roof), and Transit Hut (standing ruin with no roof).

Mawson's Huts Historic Site also includes wireless masts (ruins), survey markers and memorials, and a large amount of stores, equipment, animal food caches and AAE artefacts remain in concentration around the Main Hut and across the whole of Cape Denison.

B. the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Australia's natural or cultural history.

The AAE was the first and the only expedition organised, manned and supported by Australians during the Heroic Era. It is, therefore, unique in Australian history. The Mawson's Huts Historic Site is the only surviving site representing the work of an Australian expedition of the Heroic Age. It is one of only six sites remaining from the international contribution to the Heroic Age exploration of Antarctica.

The site has a high level of integrity, retaining the Main Hut, plus the three scientific huts and a large number of artefacts.

The attributes are the same as Criterion A.

C. the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Australia's natural or cultural history.

The whole of Cape Denison contains evidence of the AAE, with the largest concentration in the Main Valley. This is an area of substantial archaeological deposit and archaeological potential. The interiors of the huts contain evidence of the domestic and work life of the AAE during the period of occupation (1912-1913). The site retains a great deal of physical evidence which can be interpreted by archaeological study.

As an archaeological resource, the significance of Mawson's Huts Historic Site lies not only in the provisions and equipment available to expeditions during the early twentieth century, but also in the insights they provide into human responses to isolation and confinement and extreme climactic conditions. Of all the remaining historical hut sites in the Antarctic region, it appears to have been subject to the least intervention. The scientific huts still allow for research to be undertaken, with potential to yield information on climatic impact and environmental change as well and material deterioration and conservation in arctic environments.

The significance of the site comes from the powerful interplay of documentary and physical evidence in Australia and physical evidence on-site. Unlike sites where only physical evidence or only documentary evidence is available, the significance of the site has the potential to be accessed and understood both on-site and elsewhere.

The attributes are the AAE fabric including the four timber buildings, and the original points from which surveying, cartographic, meteorological, and magnetic observations were made. The interiors of the Main Hut and the Magnetograph House include foodstuffs, personal memorabilia and clothing. A large amount of stores, equipment, animal food, caches and AAE artefacts remain in concentration around the Main Hut and the whole of Cape Denison.

D. the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's importance in demonstrating the principle characteristics of (i) a class of Australia's natural or cultural places; or (ii) a class of Australia's natural or cultural environments.

Mawson's Huts Historic site is one of six surviving Heroic Era wintering bases. It demonstrates the range of building uses, scientific equipment and artefact types typical of its class and period. All elements of the site contribute to the demonstration of what a Heroic Era base was like.

The buildings were purpose built for polar winter accommodation and were associated with specific scientific and exploration expeditions. The design form, construction materials, structure, functional planning and services of these huts all reflect the function of the expedition and their polar location. As a group, Mawson's Huts retain the most intact and diverse range of accommodation and scientific huts of all the Heroic Era complexes.

The site of the extant AAE Main Base demonstrates, in its surviving form and setting, the isolation and harsh conditions encountered by members of the expedition in their important work. It shares the typical characteristics of Heroic Era huts, it is located in a remote area for temporary occupation associated with scientific and geographic discovery, the design and placement of the buildings, the artefacts, materials used, the type of scientific equipment and the scientific data and samples collected.

The intactness of the buildings as a group demonstrates their function during a particular and intense period of time. The weathering of the huts and the patination of the building fabric and of other artefacts serves as a gauge of time elapsed since the AAE. The Main Hut contains a clear and strong internal structure and an efficiently planned use of space which provided both the functional requirements of accommodating eighteen men and a strong sense of communal focus and camaraderie around the central table, so well documented in Hurley's photographs.

Mawson's Huts Historic Site demonstrates the types of building uses, scientific equipment and artefacts typical of Heroic Era scientific and discovery expeditions. The use of verandahs and hipped roof form provides Mawson's Main Hut with distinct Australian design characteristics.

The strength and clarity of the spaces and functional arrangements in the living section of the Main Hut are greater than that revealed in the plans of other surviving Heroic Era huts. The arrangement of bunks around the outside of the central communal area, reinforced as a focus by the raking pyramid ceiling, creates a spatial volume of great character. Mawson's Huts Historic Site is one of the small set of Heroic Era expedition bases which symbolise the first period of land-based scientific research and

geographic discovery in Antarctica.

The attributes are the same as Criterion A.

E. the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group.

Mawson's Huts Historic Site is a cultural landscape that retains a sense of historic time and place. The weathering of the huts and the patination of the building fabric and of other artefacts has aesthetic value and serves as a gauge of time elapsed since the AAE and of the conditions endured by its members in this remote and hostile environment.

The weathered buildings of the Mawson's Huts site, as well as the artefacts and the memorial cross, and their relationship to the vast Antarctic landscape around them with its snow and ice scapes, rocks and relentless winds, and the sea beyond, combine in creating an aesthetic entity conveying a strong sense of time and isolation.

The external form of the Main Hut is comprised of pyramid and hip roofs over low external walls. The building has aesthetic value, sitting with great repose in the landscape, made even more dramatic with a build-up of snow around it. The two different room forms also express the change in the AAE's plans that brought them together in the first place.

This sense of awe inspiring isolation experienced by the expeditioners was first demonstrated in the evocative images of the AAE photographer, Frank Hurley. Mawson's Huts Historic Site has continued to inspire artists, writers and visitors.

The attributes are encompassed in the entire Mawson's Huts Historic Site.

F. the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period.

The place is strongly evocative of the endeavours of a group of Australians in one of the fiercest environments on Earth. The remaining buildings reflect the development of building design for Antarctica and extensive experimentation in coping with a new and extreme environment. The pyramid-form Main Hut illustrates ideas learned by Mawson during earlier expeditions, as well as ideas borne out of collaboration with an architect and the suppliers of materials. The whole emphasis of the building is toward the weather, and the vital need for a sturdy yet liveable base in a highly inhospitable climate.

The AAE Main Hut is part of the group of Heroic Era huts where pragmatic considerations for shelter in a foreign and remote environment created the development of the expedition hut form appropriate for polar regions. The Main Hut is, perhaps, a climax of this building type and is clearly designed for its functional purpose.

The AAE is the first Antarctic expedition to pioneer the use of wireless communication and the first to attempt to obtain an aeroplane for use in Antarctica.

The attributes are the Main Hut with living section, workshop and verandahs.

G. the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.

In Australian popular memory, the place is strongly associated with the heroic endeavours of a group composed primarily of Australians in the early twentieth century in one of the wildest and least known natural environments on Earth.

Mawson's Huts Historic Site generally, with the Main Hut and Memorial Cross in particular, are symbolic of the AAE, its members, its achievements and its sacrifices.

The place has symbolic cultural value in the stories of the exploits of the AAE, particularly Mawson's epic return from the tragic Far-Eastern Sledging expedition, and the role this has had in legend building and national psyche. The 'communities' who value these associations include the community of Antarctic veterans, the scientific community, and the Australian community as a whole. The place is especially important to the community of Antarctic workers past and present.

The attributes are the same as Criterion A.

H. the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in Australia's natural or cultural history

Mawson's Huts Historic Site is significant for its associations with all members of the AAE and the crew of the expedition vessel *SY Aurora*. The site's association is not only with the eighteen members of the Main Base at Cape Denison, but also the eight members of the Western Base, and five members of the Macquarie Island Base. These activities and associations are important to Australia's history in terms of early achievement in Sub-Antarctic and Antarctic scientific exploration and discovery.

Mawson's Huts Historic Site is particularly associated with AAE members who continued their Antarctic associations (including Davis, Wild, Hurley and Moyes) and those who continued careers in science and applied science (including Madigan, Webb, Laseron, Stillwell and Kennedy). The AAE is significant for the photography of Frank Hurley, including his innovative use of colour images and cinematography.

The place is directly associated with Sir Douglas Mawson's major Antarctic expedition, one which made him a hero to much of the Australian population. Mawson is a major figure in Australian science and played a huge role in Australia's Antarctic history. The place is similarly, though less prominently in the public mind, associated with all the members of the AAE. A number of these men went on to have significant careers either in Antarctica and/or in science. Perhaps the best known of the other expeditioners is photographer and filmmaker Frank Hurley, who made a major contribution to his fields of endeavour.

The attributes are the same as Criterion A.