



Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999

INCLUSION OF A PLACE IN THE NATIONAL HERITAGE LIST

I, Peter Robert Garrett, Minister for the Environment, Heritage and the Arts having considered, in relation to the place specified in the Schedule of this instrument -

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

being satisfied that the place described in the Schedule has the National Heritage values specified in the Schedule, pursuant to section 324JJ of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, include it in the National Heritage List.

Dated 18 February 2008

[Signed by]

Peter Robert Garrett AM
Minister for the Environment,
Heritage and the Arts

SCHEDULE**STATE / TERRITORY**

Local Government

Name

Location / Boundary

Criteria / Values

VICTORIA**Macedon Ranges Shire****Mitchell Shire****Mount William Stone Hatchet Quarry:**

About 18ha, 9km north east of Lancefield, off Powells Track, being an area enclosed by a line joining the following MGA points consecutively: 305577E 5879227N, 305630E 5879507N, 305909E 5879457N, 305886E 5879154N, 305748E 5879071N, 305661E 5879087N, 305623E 5879055N, 305567E 5878927N, 305637E 5878910N, 305632E 5878885N, 305541E 5878868N, 305476E 5878889N, 305456E 5878890N, 305377E 5878896N, 305355E 5878958N, 305394E 5879066N, 305444E 5879147N, 305568E 5879230N, then directly to the commencement point.

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.

During the late Holocene, as woodlands expanded, ground-edged stone hatchets became an essential part of the Aboriginal toolkit in eastern Australia. They were an important all-purpose tool as well as being an item of prestige. Material for these tools was obtained from specific quarries. The Mount William stone hatchet quarry was an important source of stone hatchet heads which were traded over a wide area of south-east Australia. The quarry area has evidence for both surface and underground mining, with 268 pits and shafts, some several metres deep, where sub-surface stone was quarried (McBryde & Watchman, 1976:169). There are 34 discrete production areas providing evidence for the shaping of stone into hatchet head blanks. Some of these areas contain mounds of manufacturing debris up to 20 metres in diameter. At Mount William, the number, size and density of the quarry pits; the number and size of flaking floors and associated debris; and the distance over which hatchet heads were traded is outstanding for showing the social and technological response by Aboriginal people to the expansion of eastern Australian woodlands in the late Holocene.

The Mount William hatchet quarry was well-known to Europeans when Blandowski (1855) visited the place during the mid-1800s. By the early 1900s people from all walks of life were visiting Mount William to see the remains of the intensive Aboriginal quarrying and extensive flaking floors. The place's importance and the need for protection attracted the interest of a number of well respected Victorians who sought Mount William's protection from 1910 to 1923. While the place was not formally protected until 1976, the early public interest and recognition that the place showed that the Aboriginal history of Australia extended back well before the arrival of Europeans is exceptional in the course of Australia's cultural history.

- (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.
- Although there are no first hand descriptions of the operations of Mount William, in 1882 and 1884 William Barak, a Wurundjeri man who witnessed the final operations of the quarry, described aspects of the custodial control over this resource to the anthropologist Alfred Howitt (1904:311). Records of Aboriginal custodial control of stone resources are uncommon in Australia, and the information on Aboriginal custodial control at Mt William is one of two examples in Australia (McBryde, 2000:248; Jones & White, 1988:54-55). The detailed ethnographic records of custodial control of the valuable stone resource at Mount William quarry by an individual, Billi-billeri of the Wurundjeri, demonstrate a rare occurrence that makes this place of outstanding significance in Australia's cultural history.

For a description of any references quoted above, and more information on each of the places please search the Australian Heritage Database at <http://www.environment.gov.au/cgi-bin/ahdb/search.pl> using the name of the place.