

Victorian Heritage Database Report  
**Mt Evelyn Water Supply System**

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**Location:**

114 Birmingham Road, MOUNT EVELYN VIC 3796 - Property No S05829

**Heritage Status / Level of Significance:**

Included in Heritage Overlay

**Heritage Inventory (HI) Number:**

**Listing Authority: HI**

**Heritage Overlay Number: HO255**

**Statement of Significance:**

The remains of the Mt. Evelyn Water Supply System, the water race which provided Lilydale's original water supply from 1905-1915, has high local significance. The construction of the water race has scientific significance as part of the engineering history of Yarra Ranges Shire. The water race and reservoir remains have significance, too, as part of a walking track through bush and fern gullies which lead to the Cascades, a popular beauty spot since the 1880s. The Reservoir, which remained in use until the 1930s, is being transformed into a wetland area.

**Description**

The Mt Evelyn water supply system consists of a series of elements including: the water take-off point at the Cascades and weir, the water race alignments, the Birmingham Road reservoir, Quinn Reserve. Within Quinn Reserve are the Horseshoe Falls, a clay bank dug out to install a waterwheel on the Olinda Creek as part of the Cave Hill tramway system (see also Place 120), which became a popular swimming spot in the 1920s and 30s.

The water race is an important surviving feature, now filled in and serving as a walking track. Quinn Reserve, which is bounded in part by the water race, is an important area of remnant bushland containing stringybarks and gums. The reservoir at Birmingham Road was not inspected.

In 1998 a new path was cut down to the Horseshoe Falls, and in 1999 the Reservoir was cleared of rubbish and environmental weeds as a co-operative effort between the Friends of Water Race and Quinn Reserve, Shire of Yarra Ranges, Eastern Water and Birmingham School.

Within Quinn Reserve there is also said to be a Canoe Tree.

Varies

Altered

Heritage Study / Consultant	Yarra Ranges - Shire of Yarra Ranges Heritage Study, Context Pty Ltd, 2000
Construction Date Range	
Architect / Designer	
Municipality	YARRA RANGES SHIRE
Other names	
Hermes number	115608
Property number	S05829

*This place/object may also be State heritage listed. Check the Victorian Heritage Database. For further details, contact the local Council or go to Planning Schemes Online*