

Victorian Heritage Database Report  
**Foster Fyans Memorial, Balyang Sanctuary**

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**Location:**

Shannon Avenue, NEWTOWN VIC 3220 - Property No 298709

**Heritage Status / Level of Significance:**

Included in Heritage Overlay

**Heritage Overlay Number:** HO138

**Listing Authority:** Greater Geelong City

**Statement of Significance:**

C Listed - Local Significance

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE - GRC - HISTORIC PLACES DOCUMENTATION SHEET NO.

The stone cairn and plaque in the Balyang Sanctuary at the end of Shannon Avenue, Newtown, commemorates the life and work of Captain Foster Fyans (1790-1870), Geelong's first Police Magistrate and long-serving Commissioner of Crown Lands for the Portland Bay District. Fyan's House, Bellbird Balyang, one of the earliest stone houses in Geelong, stood on this site from 1896. Foster Fyan was a most influential Colonial administrator and pioneer Geelong settler, and the name of his Barwon River property is commemorated in the name, Balyang Sanctuary.

RECOMMENDATIONS: PROTECTIVE MEASURES

Geelong Regional Commission

REFERENCES

The inscription on the plaque reads:

'Hereabouts from 1846 stood Bellbird Balyang.

Home of Captain Foster Fyans (1790-1870)

For details see:

Lang, W. R. - 'Geelong's Monuments and Plaques' No 66. Geelong Historical Records Centre.

Brownhill, W. R. - A History of Geelong and Corio Bay, Wilke & Co., Melbourne, 1955, pp. 62-64.

For details of the Career of Foster Fyans, including several illustrations of the house, Bellbird Balyang, see:

Brown, P. L. - Fyans Memoirs List Print, Geelong, 1986.

The above publication includes a detailed bibliography relating to Foster Fyans.

Foster Fyans was born in England in 1790, and joined the British Army at the age of 20 years. Fyans was appointed Police Magistrate at Port Phillip in 1837. He purchased land in Section 12 for \$5 an acre of the Barwon River known as Saw Pit Bends.

Fyans died at Balyang on 23 May, 1870.

Heritage Study / Consultant	Greater Geelong - Geelong Region Historic Buildings and Objects Study, Allan Willingham, 1986
Construction Date Range	
Architect / Designer	
Municipality	GREATER GEELONG CITY
Other names	
Hermes number	21749
Property number	298709

*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*