

## WALHALLA BOARD OF MANAGEMENT INCORPORATED

ABN 49 386 978 102

A Committee of Management under the Crown Land (Reserves) Act (1978)



C/- PO 18, Moe, Vic, 3825  
Email: [info@walhallaboard.org.au](mailto:info@walhallaboard.org.au)

### Historic Chinese Gardens – Walhalla

Walhalla had a thriving and industrious Chinese Community, with groups settled at the southern and northern fringes of the town as early as 1865. In the 1870's, the local Chinese community established a market garden on the north side of town, supplying important fresh produce to the town from two alluvial flats on the banks of Stringer's Creek. These two alluvial flats are the site of the Chinese Gardens camping ground. In 1871 freehold title was held by How Shaw, Ah Sue and Ah Nin (as named in the title deed).

*[Insert old b/w photograph of the CG]*

The photograph shows a sophisticated system of terraced gardens with a water supply to irrigate the crops. The location also provided the maximum amount of sunlight in a valley which quickly loses sunlight due to the steep hillsides.

The gardens rapidly declined after the last Walhalla mine closed in 1914; they became known as the Chinese Gardens and have remained so ever since. The Chinese Gardens have had a number of owners since including an Italian, Tony Schirato who re-established the market garden in the 1950's. Tony ran the gardens for 3 years and built the wooden bridge across Stringer's Creek that you see leading to the northern field.

The Chinese Gardens site was purchased by the Victorian government in 1982. In 2004, the site was officially reserved as an "Area of Historic Interest", under the Crown Land (Reserves) Act and has been listed on the Register of the National Estate and the National Trust of Victoria Register.

The Walhalla Board of Management Inc managed the site since the early 2000's on behalf of the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning. The Chinese Gardens was opened for camping early in 2013.

---