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Our Ref: 2659

Re: Doveton Pool in the Park, 64 Tristania Street, Doveton—Detailed Assessment

Dear Jamye,

Thank you for the opportunity for Context to provide a detailed heritage assessment of Doveton Pool in the Park, located at 64 Tristania Street, Doveton. This detailed assessment continues the work previously undertaken by Context which involved a preliminary assessment of the site to ascertain its potential to meet the threshold as a place of local significance to the City of Casey. Following the findings of the preliminary assessment, which determined that the site has potential local cultural heritage significance, and as instructed by Council, Context has prepared a full heritage citation for the Doveton Pool which assesses the place against the recognised heritage criteria for local significance.

Methodology

This detailed heritage assessment has been prepared in accordance with guidance provided in 'The Burra Charter: The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance' (2013) and 'Planning Practice Note 1: Applying the Heritage Overlay' (August 2018).

In preparing the assessment Context has conducted a site visit at Doveton Pool to assess the place and its site context and reviewed primary and secondary historical records listed in the *References* section as well as historical aerial photography. A locality history of the Doveton area was prepared and provides an overview of the historical use and development of the area. A site history for the place was prepared to provide an understanding of the development of the place itself. As part of the detailed assessment, a comparative analysis was undertaken, comparing the subject site to similar typologies within the municipality and more broadly throughout Victoria.

Findings and recommendations

Having carefully considered the history and integrity of Doveton Pool, Context has determined that the site meets the threshold for local significance under Criterion A (historical significance) and Criterion D (representative significance).

We note that it is possible that the property is also of social significance, and recommend that Council pursue a detailed social values assessment of the Doveton Pool site. This could comprise a series of direct methods (e.g. focus groups, interviews, online survey) combined with indirect methods (e.g. social media research, historical research), depending on sources available to Council. We would recommend targeted interviews, and some historical research into past use and users. Should the social significance of the Doveton Pool site be determined, we would recommend revising the heritage citation and Statement of Significance to incorporate the findings of the detailed assessment, including a relevant 'community associations' section and assessment against Criterion G.

Context recommends that the City of Casey recognises Doveton Pool as a locally significant place and that Council includes the site as an individually significant place in the Planning Scheme and Schedule to the Heritage Overlay.

The Statement of Significance prepared as part of the detailed assessment reads:

The Doveton Pool is of local historical significance as an example of an outdoor public swimming pool complex of the type established in many local councils across Victoria in the postwar period. In part this was a result of the strong promotion of swimming in Victoria following the 1956 Melbourne Olympics. It was also a result of sustained suburban growth across Melbourne and postwar prosperity which combined with community action saw the development of significant community recreational facilities of this type by local municipalities. In suburban Melbourne, these large new swimming complexes were made possible by available land in the newer 'greenfield' areas, such as Doveton, where ample space was available.

Like many of the large public swimming pools established in this era, Doveton Pool provided a choice of swimming pools depending on a swimmer's level of ability. Public pools at this time took advantage of, and were designed around, the concept of large open spaces and generally adopted a restrained approach to landscaping. While partially attributable to Modernist planning and landscaping principles, this also enabled surveillance of behaviour and enforcement of water safety.

The Doveton Pool is unusual for being established in a suburb that was created by the Housing Commission of Victoria in the mid-1950s, specifically for the purpose of providing accommodation for workers in this new industrial area. It was developed in direct response to calls for increased recreational facilities by the community. The Doveton Pool is a rare, and possibly the only example in Victoria, developed for a public-built housing estate for an industrial area. (Criterion A)

Doveton Pool is an excellent and intact representative example of a mid-twentieth century outdoor swimming facility. The facility building was carefully designed as a Modernist building with a prominent position on a rise overlooking housing estates developed by the Housing Commission of Victoria. In addition to the Modernist building, the site retains three original pools, including a 50-metre Olympic pool, a learners' pool and a toddlers' pool. In the 1980s a large water slide and smaller pool which was added to the site. The site also includes early outdoor seating and the original two-storey plant room which continues to service the site. Pools at the facility are surrounded by concrete paving and extensive lawns, providing ample space for community gatherings and events.

Internally and externally the building and associated facilities are relatively intact demonstrating that as built the centre has functioned as a successful community leisure centre and gathering place for over half a century.

The Doveton Pool complex is a strong representative example of applied Modern architectural and planning principles. The main building with its elevated and symmetrical concave façade has a commanding street presence as it overlooks the HCV Doveton Estate to the northwest. The building's flat roofed form with its horizontal massing, expressed structural bays and the use textural variance in materiality and construction to provide visual interest in lieu of decoration speaks of its Modern architectural influences. These design principles are equally apparent in the largely intact interior of the building. Similarly, the simple layout of its three original pools connected by concrete paved pool deck and surrounded by grassy expanses is typical of the landscape treatment of suburban public swimming pools.

The annotated aerial photograph below (Figure 1) To complement the heritage citation Context has prepared a diagram of the subject site, noting the location of contributory fabric (Figure 1 below) for inclusion within the heritage citation This diagram shows the proposed Heritage Overlay boundary and broadly indicates key significant built and landscape elements.



Figure 1. Site Plan showing existing title boundary and proposed HO boundary (dashed in red). Significant built and landscape elements are indicated in red.

A second diagram, also included in the citation, indicates the significant and non-significant spaces and elements of the 1968 facilities building.

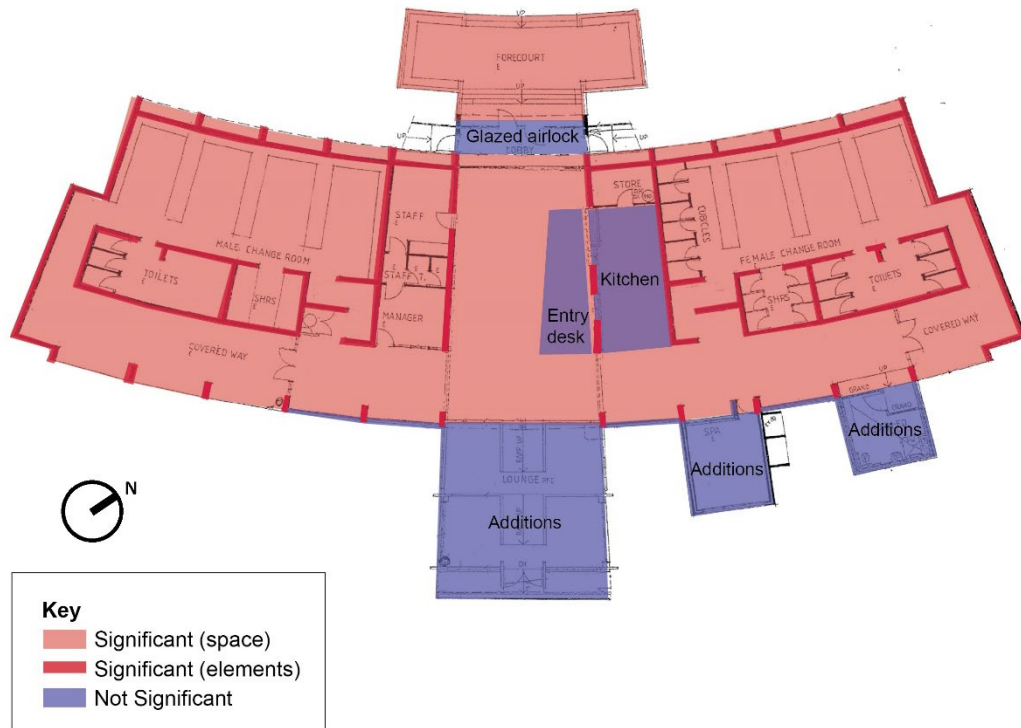


Figure 2. Diagram of 1968 facilities building indicating significant and not significant spaces and elements.

High level conservation guidelines

To help Council understand the conservation requirements of Doveton Pool, Context has prepared the following high-level guidelines (and included them within the place citation) to assist them in planning for the future management of the site. More detailed conservation advice should be sought when specific actions are considered.

1. Conserve the place with regard to the heritage values outlined in the Doveton Pool citation and Statement of Significance.
2. Conserve all significant elements and fabric listed in the Statement of Significance for Doveton Pool (and as broadly indicated in Figure 1 above). This generally includes original elements and fabric related 1968 Doveton Pool complex. It also includes the setting and presentation of the place, spatial relationships between the built form and public realm, landscape and spatial relationships and views to and from the site.
3. Discourage demolition or removal of significant fabric. Partial demolition of significant fabric may be justifiable
 - a. if this will not adversely effect the heritage significance of the place of a whole;

- b. where fabric has failed and required replacement;
 - c. if it will assist with the long-term conservation of the place as a whole;
 - d. if it will facilitate the historic use of the place, or a suitable alternative community use that will allow the heritage significance of the place to be readily interpreted.
- 4. Demolition of elements and fabric which do not contribute to the significance of the place is permissible and should be encouraged where it will assist in revealing or enhancing the significance of the place and its interpretation.
 - 5. Seek expert heritage advice when considering any major changes to or development of the place.
 - 6. Ensure any alterations or new development considered are sited and scaled so not to overwhelm the place and its setting. Ensure key views to and from the place and its significant elements are preserved and enhanced.
 - 7. Ensure any alterations or new development are complementary in form, scale and materiality to the significant elements of the site.
 - 8. Ensure any subdivision of the site retains significant built-form and landscape elements within one allotment and that the curtilage is sufficient to allow the significant elements to be readily interpreted.
 - 9. Attend to ongoing maintenance requirements of the place to ensure its long-term conservation.

Please find the draft heritage citation for Doveton Pool, 64 Tristania Street, Doveton attached. We welcome feedback and discussion. Do not hesitate to contact Ruth Redden or Kim Roberts on 9380 6933 if you wish to discuss or require any further information.

Yours sincerely,
GML Heritage Victoria Pty Ltd
trading as Context



Dr Kim Roberts
Associate

Attached:

- Heritage citation for Doveton Pool, 64 Tristania Street, Dovet

Doveton Pool in the Park

Address: 64 Tristania Street, Doveton

Prepared by: Context

Survey Date: December 2020

Place Type: Public / recreational

Significance level: Individually significant

Architect: Unknown.

Builder: Unknown.

Construction Date: 1968

Extent of overlay: To title boundaries



Figure 1. Doveton Pool as seen from the street front. (Source: Context 2020)



Figure 2. Doveton Pool 50-metre pool with facilities building beyond. (Source: Context 2020)

Historical Context

Locality history: Doveton

Doveton, formerly part of the Shire of Berwick, is located today within the City of Casey. It is located 32 km southeast of central Melbourne and sits immediately to the east of Dandenong Creek and to the north of the Princes Highway. The area occupies the traditional country of the Bunurong and Wurundjeri people.

The early development of the Shire of Berwick centred around grazing, agricultural pursuits and fruit-growing (Victorian Places 2015). The area was deemed highly suitable for grazing purposes and declared by stock agent Harry M. Peck to be:

That wide area... from just beyond Dandenong on the west to the Bunyip on the east ... carried a great deal of native grasses, and with its good rainfall fattened cattle in spring and summer (Harry M. Peck 1941, Memoirs of a Stockman, p178)

Doveton was originally part of the early Eumemmerring pastoral run which occupied the present-day suburbs of Doveton, Hallam, Endeavour Hills and Eumemmerring. It was leased to Dr Farquhar McCrae in 1839, to the Foster brothers in 1840, and to Edward Wilson and James Stewart Johnston in 1842. The auctioneer and pastoralist, and later Member of the Legislative Council, Thomas Herbert Power, took up the run in 1856 (Harding 1993). During Power's ownership, the Eumemmerring pastoral run became known as Grassmere Estate.

In the 1880s, the run was subdivided into smaller holdings, with the area retaining the name Grassmere. The Berwick District Road Board was created in 1862 and the Shire of Berwick proclaimed in 1868. In the early-twentieth century, there was a hotel, a state school and a racecourse serving the small farming community. Berwick was initially the major town in the area, but Pakenham soon emerged as the prominent town as new townships sprung up along the Gippsland railway line. The Shire headquarters moved to Pakenham in 1902.

In the 1950s, former agricultural land towards the western extremity of the Shire of Berwick was transformed into an industrial suburb, with new factories and residential areas established. The Housing Commission of Victoria created the suburb of Doveton in September 1954 — named after John Doveton who settled in the area with his wife Margaret in the 1890s. The earliest industry in Doveton was the abattoirs. In 1950, the WA Smith lace factory was established on a site on the Princes Highway, close to Eumemmerring Creek (Context 2004). In 1952, a major truck plant was opened (Context 2004) followed by three international companies, which moved into the Doveton area on the southern side of the Princes Highway in the early to mid-1950s. These companies would go on to employ thousands of workers by the mid to late 1950s. International Harvester Co. bought land at the junction of the South Gippsland and Princes Highway in 1953. During 1954, General Motors-Holden Ltd purchased 154 acres on the south side of the Princes Highway, which later increased to 318 acres. By the end of 1956, an automotive body and assembly plant was in operation, enabling the company to assemble its car bodies in Victoria for the first time. A third company, HJ Heinz, opened its Australian headquarters in the Doveton area in 1955. Many smaller factories followed and a railway station, built for General Motors-Holden, was opened in 1956 (Harding 1993).

In 1953 the Housing Commission of Victoria (HCV) purchased large tracts of land in Doveton in anticipation of the housing need of workers employed at local factories. By 1954 plans for the first section of the HCV Doveton Estate had been completed, with the first houses handed over for occupation in 1956 (Context 2008).

The Shire of Berwick was split up in 1973, forming the City of Berwick and the Shire of Pakenham. The City of Berwick, with a population of 50,000 in 1986 increasing to 88,000 in 1994, was one of the most rapidly growing areas in the state during this time. The portion of Doveton between Eumemmerring Creek and the Princes Highway was annexed into the new suburb of Eumemmerring and gazetted on 20 May 1981.

In 1994, most of the City of Berwick was amalgamated with the majority of the Shire of Cranbourne to form the City of Casey (Victorian Places 2015).

Doveton Estate

The postwar period saw considerable expansion of industry in the northern and western suburbs of Melbourne. From 1942, the Housing Commission of Victoria was responsible for developing housing estates for low-income families who lived close to these industrial areas. Later, through the production of precast concrete sections at its Holmesglen factory (purchased in 1945), the Housing Commission pioneered mass-produced housing. Funding assistance was provided by the Chifley Labor Government through the Commonwealth/States Housing Agreement.

The Housing Commission of Victoria purchased land for the Doveton Estate in 1954, with the initial target to provide 2500 houses for an anticipated population of 10,000 people. The Doveton Estate was defined as that being 'in the Shire of Berwick situated between Kays Ave and the western boundary of the shire'. Four factories were located within this boundary, including International Harvester Co., HJ Heinz Pty Ltd. General Motors-Holden Ltd, Perkins Deisel Pty Ltd and WA Smith Pty Ltd (*Dandenong Journal*, 22 September 1954:1). In September 1954 Doveton was officially declared a suburb and land was reserved for a post office.

The first houses were occupied in 1956 and the Housing Commission continued to construct houses in Doveton until 1971 (Harding 1993:16). The HCV Doveton Estate was mostly constructed from pre-fabricated concrete components produced at the Holmesglen factory and was designed and developed in stages. The first area, Section A, was located north of Eumemmerring Creek, bounded by Kidds Road to the north and Power Road to the west (Context 2008). This area was low lying and as a result many of the houses were affected by the swampy damp conditions. Car ownership was not anticipated by the Housing Commission, and so had not been a factor in developing house designs. Faced with the problems of unmade roads and under-serviced public transport, it became difficult for Doveton residents to access community services and events (Harding 1993:17).

Doveton residents formed a local progress association in the early 1960s and lobbied the Shire of Berwick to develop community infrastructure. While the development of Doveton Pool was the major expense, other sites in the area were acquired for public purposes and various community facilities were constructed (Pargeter 2005). By 1970, Doveton had a swimming centre, a kindergarten, two infant welfare centres and a public hall.

Sub-theme: Public pools in Victoria

The earliest public swimming baths in Victoria were typically enclosures set within an existing body of water or water supply, typically on a riverbank or at the beach. In 1838, surveyor Robert Hoddle advised that the sole proposed reserve for recreation in Geelong should be 'sufficiently near the Sea to offer the means of Sea bathing' (Wright 1989: 28). In Melbourne the earliest example was the swimming baths established on the Yarra in 1844. The Yan Yean water supply enabled public baths to open in central Melbourne in 1858. Most of the earliest swimming enclosures in Melbourne were enclosed sea-baths at the bayside beaches, including early examples at St Kilda and Williamstown. By the 1880s, there were open sea baths at South Melbourne, Brighton, Sandringham, Mordialloc and Mentone.

In the nineteenth century, public baths were filled by various means of supply. At Buninyong a bluestone bathing basin was filled by means of a natural spring (Coleman Sutherland 1983: 48). Public baths at Warrnambool in the 1870s pumped water from Lake Pertobe, and the swimming bath at Chiltern was supplied by the local waterworks (VMD 1880: 125). A public bathing pool at Hepburn Springs was created by placing a weir across the natural water source. The Ballarat East baths was an extensive complex which was claimed in 1885 as the most 'superior to any in the colony' (VMD 1885: 23). The baths comprised of a cement and brickwork basin, measuring 187 x 80 feet and of graduating depth, springboards, caretaker's cottage, open sheds, dressing-boxes, and shower-baths (VMD 1885: 23).

Swimming spots along the Yarra were popular at the turn of the century. Swimming clubs were formed around natural swimming holes along the river for example at the Survey Paddock in Richmond, Deep Rock at Fairfield, and at Alphington Park. An early public swimming pool was built in Richmond in 1897 in response to the frequent drownings at the Survey Paddock. The Melbourne City Baths were built in 1903, comprising 'two large swimming pools, one for men and one for women' as well as Turkish baths, and a mikvah or Jewish ritual bath (Priestley 1983, p. 230). In inner-suburban Fitzroy, public baths were opened in 1908 (VHD). The 1920s and 1930s saw a large number of public baths opened by local municipalities—for example at Northcote (1923), Camberwell (1927), Brunswick (1928-29; initially established 1913), and Box Hill (1930s). Natural water sources also continued to be used, especially in the country, as did quarry holes.

Melbourne's Olympic Pool was built in 1956 as an indoor competition venue, to a striking Modernist design by architects John and Joan Murphy. The Melbourne Olympics inspired enormous interest in swimming, seeing the construction of many public pools in Melbourne, regional cities, and country towns across Victoria. The scale of these outdoor complexes reflected the postwar prosperity and suburban idealism of the 1950s and 1960s. The provision of a full-length 'Olympic' pool as a public facility was considered a hallmark of progress. In Melbourne, examples included Oakleigh (c.1955), Moonee Ponds (1957-58), North Balwyn (1961), Ashburton (1961), Coburg (1965), and the Harold Holt Memorial Swimming Centre, Glen Iris (1969). The municipal swimming baths built in the late 1950s and 1960s represented a shift away from the functional contained design of the 1920s and 1930s, with a greater emphasis on open space, probably influenced by US-inspired models. It was common for multiple swimming pools to be laid out amidst a landscaped parkland, with areas of lawn and concrete paving, as well as concrete paths, shade trees, and simple timber shelters. The area was arranged with three to four separate pools, providing suitable depths for different age-groups and skill levels: for example, a wading pool, a learners' pool, an Olympic-sized pool, and a diving pool. Change rooms and showers were provided as part the complex, and the ubiquitous kiosk provided icy poles and drinks. Postwar population growth and suburban expansion both created the demand for new public recreation facilities and allowed the use of greater space for public pools. In many cases public swimming pools were established on land acquired by the local municipality rather than on existing Crown reserves, such as recreation reserves.

The expansive park-like layout of the public pool, or complex of pools, became a popular summer playground and meeting place for young people in the suburbs and towns across Victoria in postwar Australia, including the acceptance of 'mixed bathing' and less restrictive bathing costumes. During this time it was unusual for private homes to have their own pool. Public pools celebrated outdoor living and many also provided a barbecue area and outdoor furniture, mimicking the domestic fashion derived from California of poolside patios for outdoor dining. From the late 1970s and into the 1980s, as backyard swimming pools became more common, municipal swimming pools in some areas lost patronage. The threat of closure in the last twenty years has seen some fierce heritage battles, for example in the case of the Coburg Pool.

History of the place

The subject site sits within Section 15 of the Parish of Eumemmerring, which was purchased by Thomas H Power in 1855. Power held the Eumemmerring run and was a major landholder in the region.



Figure 3. Detail from 2002 Eumemmerring Parish Plan with approximate location of the Doveton Pool outlined in red. (Source: Public Record Office Victoria)



Figure 4. Approximate location of the site outlined in red in 1951 surrounded by paddocks. (Source Landata)

Prior to the construction of the Doveton Pool in 1968, local people used the Eumemmering Creek for swimming. However, there were strong concerns over drownings in the creek and the people of Doveton lobbied the local council (Shire of Berwick) for a public swimming pool (recollections of former mayor Syd Pargeter, *Berwick Star News*, 18 July 2008). The public began raising funds for the pool and a donation 'thermometer' was installed at the police station in Hawthorn Road (Harding 1993:23).

The construction of the so-called Olympic Swimming Complex was a significant undertaking and major expense for the Berwick Shire Council. At the same time, Council was making many land purchases, and undertaking projects for library expansions, sports facilities, and social welfare. Half a dozen vacant blocks of land had been purchased on the south side of Kidds Road to house the future pool (Pargeter 2005:19). Council was able to finance the project through significant rate reform, enabled by new industrial ratepayers, which provided extra income needed to finance borrowing loans (Pargeter 2005:20). In 1967, Davey Consulting Engineers invited tenders on behalf of the Shire of Berwick for 'the supply, delivery, installation and testing of a water purification plant' and 'the construction of pools and ancillary works' associated with the Doveton Swimming Centre (*Age*, 4 February 1967:13). In 1968, tenders were invited for the lease of the Doveton Swimming Pool Kiosk for one season, with Council providing all fittings as specified by the tenderer or alternatively, a lease for three seasons with the tenderer to supply fittings (*Age*, 25 September 1968:49). In 1968 the Doveton Amateur Swimming Club, later known as the Doveton Amateur Swimming and Lifesaving Club, was formed and the Governor of Victoria, Sir Rohan Delacombe, opened the pool on 14 December 1968 (*Age*, 16 December 1968:7).



Figure 5. Photograph showing Doveton Pool crowded with patrons in 1968. (Source: Casey City Council)



Figure 6. Photograph of the front of the main building in 1968. (Source: State Library Victoria, Accession No: H92.20/11389-11400, in copyright)



Figure 7. Photograph of the main pool in 1968. (Source: State Library Victoria, Accession No: H92.20/11389-11400, in copyright)



Figure 8. Photograph showing the original diving tower in 1968. (Source: State Library Victoria, Accession No: H92.20/11389-11400, in copyright)



Figure 9. Photograph showing the learners' pool in 1968. Note clerestory windows visible in this image. (Source: State Library Victoria, Accession No: H92.20/11389-11400, in copyright)

Aerial photographs from 1970 shows the main building, three pools (50 metre pool and two learner pools) surrounding tiled paving, diving boards, pumping station, plant room and early planting towards the perimeter of the site (Figure 10). Two symmetrical garden beds are evident on either side of the central path at the rear of the main building (Landata, 197, 1974). By 1974, two structures were added in the grassed area southeast of the pools (Figure 11).

In 1977 a new clubroom, subsequently named the Maxine Gambetta Room, was officially opened (plaque on site). In 1983–84, two waterslides were added, constructed from steel and fibreglass. An additional fourth pool was inserted within the existing paved area as the end point of the giant waterslide (Figure 12). It is unknown when the original diving tower was removed but aerial photography indicates that this was after 1984. In 1993, a facility upgrade was undertaken, including three extensions to the rear of the main building comprising a disabled bathroom, spa and a lounge area extending from the central concourse (Figure 13 and Figure 15).



Figure 10. Aerial photograph taken in 1970 showing the original site configuration and layout. (Source: Landata)



Figure 11. Aerial photograph showing the pool and environs in 1974. New structures are evident in the grassed area. (Source: Landata)



Figure 12. Aerial photograph taken in 1984 showing the waterslide, associated pool and the clubroom building built in 1977. (Source: Landata)



Figure 13. Aerial image taken in 2009 showing extensions to the rear of the main building. (Source: Nearmap 2009)



Figure 14. Aerial image of the site taken in 2020 showing the expansion of the school (south) and temporary building in the northeastern corner. (Source: Nearmap 2020)

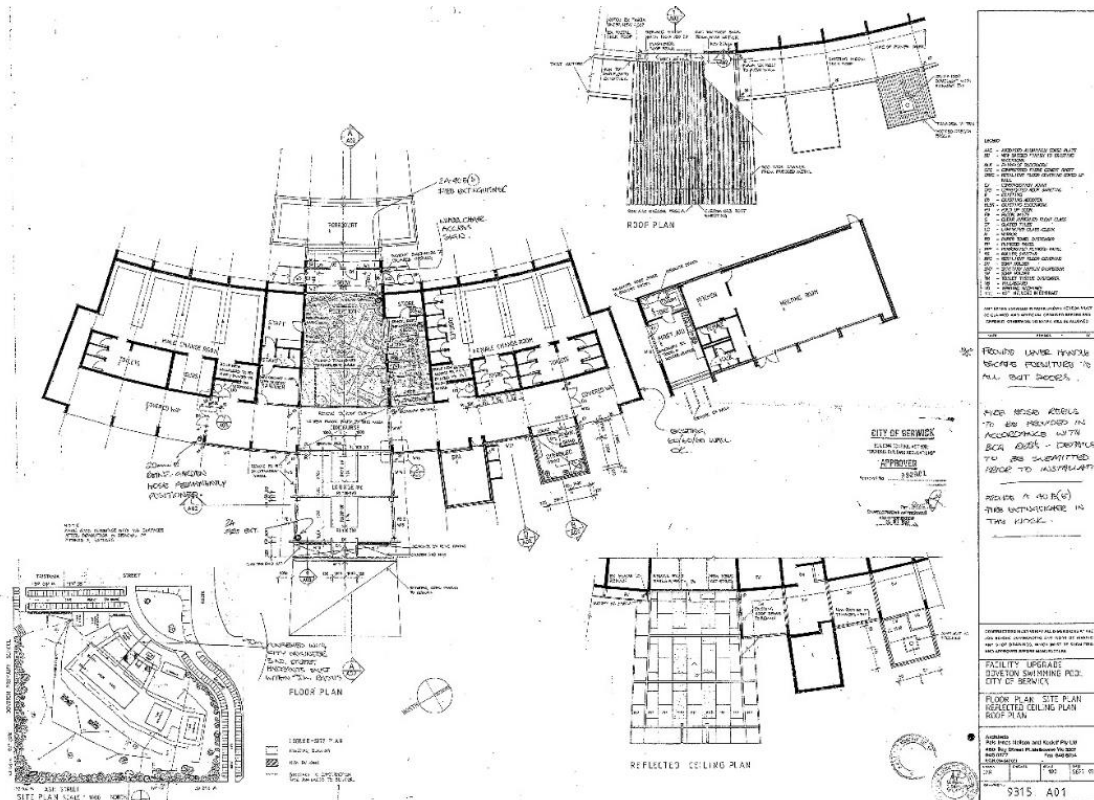


Figure 15. Architectural plan by Pels Innes Neilson and Kosloff Pty Ltd, 1993. (Source: City of Casey)

In 2004, M L Design prepared plans for the new entry counter, kitchen and front entry design. This included enclosing the recessed entry to create a new airlock, the construction

of the accessible ramp on the eastern side of the entrance, removal of the ramps running each side of the entry steps and replacement of paving to the entry stairs (Figure 17). These works changed the appearance of the building from the street front, altering important design features such as the recessed entry and symmetrical landscaping to the front of the building (seen in Figure 16 taken in 1992).

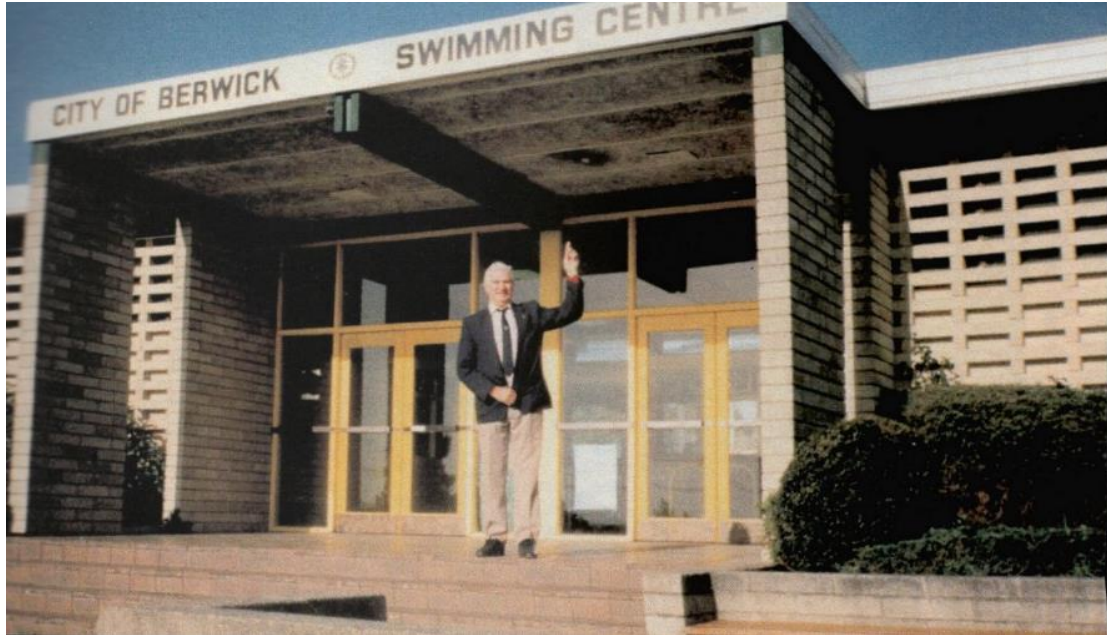


Figure 16. Former Mayor of the City of Berwick, Sydney Pargeter, outside the front entrance of the Doveton Pool in 1992, showing the original recessed entrance and signage to fascia. (Source: Pargeter 2005)

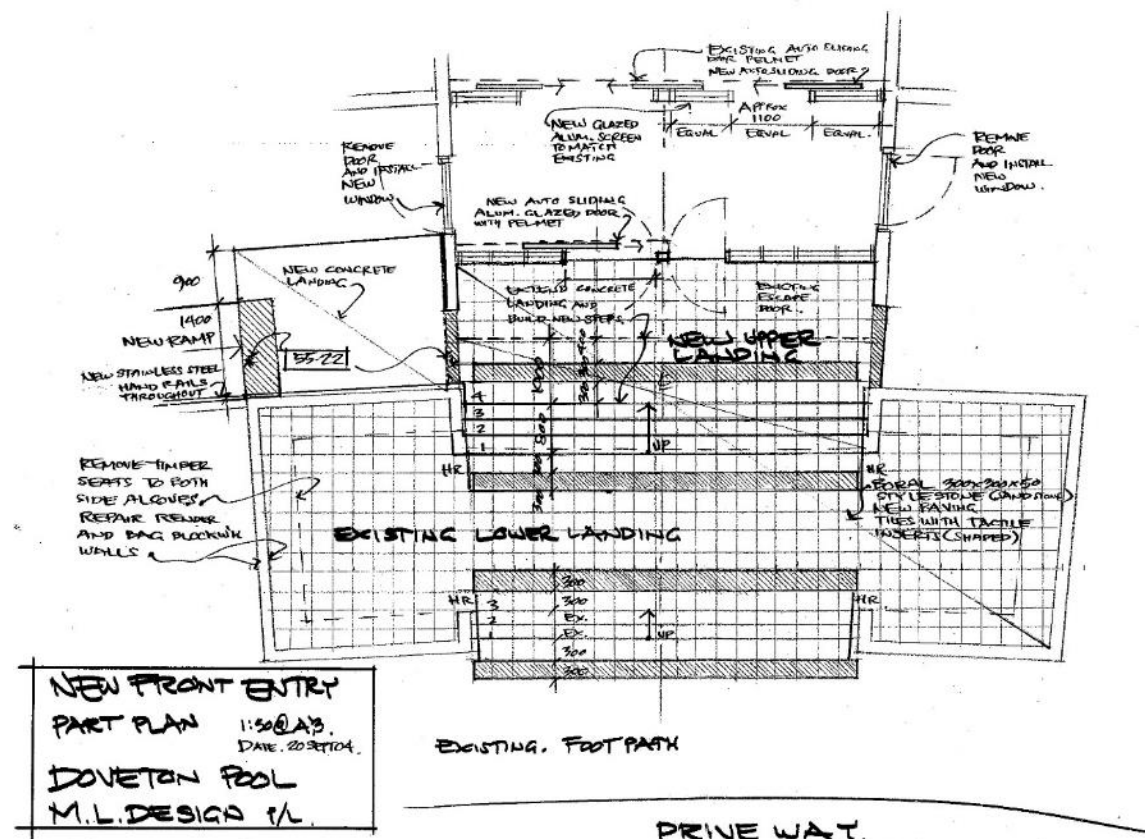


Figure 17. Architectural plan of new front entry by M L Design, 2004. (Source: City of Casey)

By 2009, two paved areas within the grassed area, one containing basketball hoops, were constructed. Concrete pads with picnic tables and shade structures had also been constructed by this time and further shading structures to the south of the main pool had been erected. The two structures within the grassed area present in the 1974 and 1984 aerials appear to have been moved slightly or replaced. Rules and warnings painted on the paving surrounding the main pool appear to have been added during this period. However, the quality of earlier aerial photography may have rendered it invisible.

The two carparks appear to be informal without asphalt surfacing until 1984. By 2009, both carparks have asphalt surfacing and linear carspace markings. In c.2008, a portion of the southern section of the swimming pool site was purchased by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development for \$2 million for the Doveton Heights Primary School (now Doveton College 2013). In 2009, McKerrell Lynch Design prepared plans for the new 'splash area' and in 2010 the new southern boundary fence was erected, reducing the area of the site. In 2012, the four tanks abutting the eastern carpark were replaced with vertical tanks. In 2017, a demountable building and associated shade structures and fencing were constructed in the northeastern corner of the site.

A variety of community events have been held at the pool. A family 'fish-in' competition was held in July 1978. Four hundred rainbow trout were released, and contestants competed for the tagged fish and provided their own hooks, lines and sinkers (*Age*, 28 July 1978:43). In April 1979 and 1980, Doveton Swimming Centre hosted a 'Water Corroboree', with proposed activities and demonstrations in life saving, wind surfing, canoe building, and scuba-diving (*Age*, 18 April 1980:48; 27 April 1979:39).



Figure 18. Doveton Pool waterslide c1980s. (Source: Casey City Council)



Figure 19. Doveton Pool and slide. Date unknown. (Source: Casey City Council)



Figure 20. Doveton Pool. Date unknown. (Source: Casey City Council)

Timeline

1950	William A. Smith lace factory built at Doveton.
1953	International Harvester Company constructs major truck plant at Doveton.
1954	General Motors-Holden factory established at Doveton.
1954	Housing Commission of Victoria purchase land for the Doveton Estate. First houses occupied by 1955.
1967	Engineers call for tenders for Doveton Pool.
1968	Doveton Pool opened Tenders for the lease of the Doveton Swimming Pool Kiosk.
1972	Clubroom built (however not visible in 1974 aerial)
1984	Steel waterslide completed.
1993	Facility upgrade designed by Pels Innes Neilson and Kosloff Pty Ltd which included two extensions to the rear of the main building – a new disabled bathroom and a lounge area extending from the central concourse.
2004	Kitchen and front entrance, including accessible ramp, designed by ML Design.
2006	Council provided funds to upgrade the leisure features
c.2008	Southern portion of the site sold to DEEC for the school
2009	Splash Park area designed by Mckerrell Design
2012	Pool pumping tanks replaced
2017	Demountable building and shade cloths constructed in northeastern corner

Site description

Doveton Pool, 64 Tristania Street, Doveton, is located on the southeast corner of the intersection of Tristania Street and Kidds Road. The complex is set back from Tristania Street and Kidds Road behind a large, grassed forecourt with a central pedestrian pathway. A crescent driveway provides access to the main building from the bounding roadways and two carparking areas: one along Kidds Road to the northeast and one along Tristania Street to the southwest.

The main entry building of the pool was built in 1968. This building contains the entry foyer, kiosk, change rooms, and office areas, and incorporates a 1977 club room addition to the northeast, and lounge and amenity alterations and additions to the east and southeast that were constructed in 1993. The outdoor pool area to the south and east incorporate three pools and a water slide. The site also includes a purpose-built plant room located on the southwest corner of the site.

The main building is elevated on a rise above street level with views across Doveton to the northwest. A flight of stairs with an interim landing and seating area to each side leads up to the central entry bay of the main section of the building. The building itself is a low, single-storey, flat-roofed form with a concave plan shaped by two flanking wings that follow the curvature of the driveway. These wings contain the female change room facilities to the north and the male change room facilities to the south. Overall, with its large, grassed forecourt and radial paths leading to the main complex and associated carparks, the site has a strong street presence.



Figure 21. Doveton Pool complex as seen from the intersection of Kidds Road and Tristania Street. (Source: Google Streetview)

The entry bay has a glazed, aluminium-framed airlock and signage that extends from the fascia above roof level. Each wing consists of five bays defined by structural wing walls of smooth faced concrete block topped by paired timber roof beams that finish flush with the edge of the roof. Recessed within this strong framework of projecting horizontal and vertical elements are recessed façades comprising split-faced concrete blocks laid in a crib-style system of header and stretcher blocks that create a regular grid-like pattern of open cells (Figure 23). The combined effect results in a distinctive street presentation that reflects the aesthetic preoccupations of mid-twentieth century Modern architecture.



Figure 22. Doveton Pool entry building viewed from grassed area to northwest. (Source: Context 2020)



Figure 23. Detail of front façade of Doveton Pool main building. (Source: Context 2020)

The soffits between the wing walls are clad in strawboard which is carried through as ceiling lining internally where it is modulated by exposed strapping. Behind the openwork split face block façades, the building envelope is secured by high-level fixed and louvered glass windows while the lower level has a secondary inner skin of smooth faced concrete block.

To the northeast end of the building is a flat-roofed 1977 extension constructed in concrete block. It is set back behind the main section of the building, has no street facing windows, a door in its northern end, and a lower roofed section with a double door to its southern end that is screened behind a concrete block wall (Figure 24). A ramp accessing the main entry building and extension is located in front of this northern section of the building. Garden beds with timber retaining walls are also located in this area (Figure 25).



Figure 24. Doveton Pool as seen from the northeast with 1977 addition to the left. (Source: Google Streetview)



Figure 25. Detail of ramp and garden beds with timber retaining walls in front of 1977 addition and northern end of facilities building. (Source: Context)

Further to the north of the 1977 extension is a loading bay and plant area. To the south, adjacent to the Tristania Street carpark, is a two-storey concrete block plant room that is fenced off from the pool grounds.

The southeast façade of the building, facing the pool deck at the rear is convex. It is modulated by a series of smooth blockwork piers that reflect the continuation of the structural line of the corresponding wingwalls of the front façade. Recessed behind the line of the piers is a split faced concrete block wall that is exposed at the southern and northern ends of the main building. The change rooms open out to the pool area via galvanised pipe and chain link gates in this location. Through the central section of the building this wall forms the internal wall of a concourse that has been glazed between the concrete block piers to provide views of the pool area to the southeast. Two roof levels are evident: a higher roof to the street facing side of the building and a lower roof to over the southeastern corridor. Clerestory windows evident in an early photograph (Figure 9) appear to have been covered up.

Originally a continuous open concourse behind the piers the corridor area has been altered by both the introduction of glazing to the outer wall and extensions to the centre and northern end of the building (Figure 26 and Figure 27). To the northeast end of the main building the 1977 addition contains storage areas, an earlier kiosk and the Maxine Gambetta Room has a band of horizontal windows facing out onto the pool deck area (Figure 27). The external walls facing the pool area are part rough-faced, part smooth and part timber. Internally, the space has exposed concrete brick walls, strapped plaster ceilings and linoleum covered floors.



Figure 26. Doveton Pool main building viewed from the southwest. Note smooth-faced concrete block piers and recessed split faced concrete block wall (left) and glazed corridor and projecting skillion-roofed extension to centre of building (right) built in 1993. (Source: Context 2020)



Figure 27. Doveton Pool main building viewed from the top of the water slide to the west. Note clerestory windows which appear to have been covered up above the former covered (now enclosed) walkway and additions to the rear of the building beyond the line of the original concrete block piers. (Source: Tract Consultants 2020)



Figure 27. 1977 addition viewed from the east. Storage and kiosk to left and Maxine Gambetta Room with horizontal band of windows to right. (Source: Context 2020)

Internally, the main section of the building has expressed paired timber beams throughout. These, along with timber columns within the change room areas, reflect the structural logic

evident in the external concrete block wingwall and pier elements. The building broadly maintains its original layout, with reception and kiosk facilities at the entrance (northwest) and access to the change rooms and offices to the northeast and southwest.

The entry area contains a (non-original) service desk and kiosk to the north (Figure 28) and is extended to the southeast by the 1993 addition. This contains a lounge area that leads out to the pool deck area beyond (Figure 30). Walls to the northwest end of entry area have been clad in plaster and the 1993 extension is lined in plywood, however most of the original internal walls are painted or unpainted concrete block. The concrete floors of the entry and corridor that access the change rooms and other facilities are clad in slip resistant vinyl flooring.



Figure 28. View of the entrance foyer and kiosk looking northwest. (Source: Context 2020)



Figure 29. View towards the male changerooms to the southwest from originally open corridor (note non-original aluminium windows to the left). Manager's office is to the right and outdoor pools to the left. (Source: Context 2020)



Figure 30. Entrance foyer looking southeast towards the 1993 addition which leads out to pools. (Source: Context 2020)



Figure 31. Female changerooms showing bench seating. Showers are located behind the part-height concrete brick wall to the right of image. Note more continuous areas of openwork header and stretcher concrete blocks to upper section of wall. (Source: Context, 2020)

The changerooms have part-height painted concrete brick walls with sections of openwork header and stretcher concrete blocks that are similar to the street-facing façade. Ceilings are long narrow expanses of exposed strawboards with strapping, and structural beams and posts are exposed. While showers and toilets have been modified, original bench seating and changeroom doors are extant in both male and female toilets (Figure 31).



Figure 32 Rear of the subject site as seen from beyond the 50-metre pool. Note new additions including rear extension, windows enclosing walkway and spa room to the right. (Source: Tract Consultants 2020)

Immediately to the southeast of the building is the large 50-metre 'Olympic' pool, with three smaller pools to the northeast. Closest to the 50-metre pool is a shallow 1-metre deep learners' pool with a long straight slide; followed by a small pool associated with the large 1980s curved waterslide to the northeast corner of the site. At the northern end of the site is the toddlers pool with its tiled beach grading from west to east, and a recently installed water play area to the west. All three original pools (50-metre pool, middle learners' and the toddlers pool) are relatively intact. They are finished with original square, pale blue tiling but are missing original diving blocks and boards. The central pool has been altered to include a ramped entry. It seems likely that most of these changes to the pool deck area were made c.1980s.



Figure 33. Detail of learners' pool with 1977 clubroom addition beyond to the left. Note original and early tiling in the pool. (Source: Context 2020)



Figure 34. Detail of toddlers' pool with contemporary water play area beyond. (Source: Context 2020)

Historic photographs from 1968 show that the site originally contained furniture such as canvas covered metal chairs. The chairs have since been removed, however one metal structure with a curved roof, wooden seat and shelving remains to the northeast of the 50-metre pool. The metal structure does not appear to date from the 1960s.

In addition to the main building with its alterations and additions, the site includes the original plant room, and a portable building. The two-level plant room is a simple building constructed in a combination of rough and smooth faced concrete bricks. It is located to the southwestern corner of the site, shielded from the pool deck area by timber fencing and established trees. To the north of the plant room is a large, concreted area for pumping equipment. Purpose-built concrete chlorine baths remain internally, as do remnants of early electrical boards.

The portable building located to the north east corner of the site is not architecturally associated with original Doveton Pool complex and is fenced off from the pool grounds.

Landscaping within the grounds is sparse. The swimming pools are surrounded by large areas of concrete paving, and concrete paths that lead from the pools to the buildings. Apart from a few established trees around the perimeter of the site, the remainder of the site is grassed with scattered trees and shrubs largely located towards the perimeter of the site.

Integrity

The Doveton Pool complex as a whole is largely intact. The original three-dimensional built form, planning, horizontal massing, flat roof, and distinctive materiality of the main building remaining highly legible both internally and externally. The building retains its prominent streetscape presentation with its elevated relationship to the crescent driveway and grassed forecourt to the northwest. Its symmetrical façade comprising a central entrance and two concave wings consisting of five bays of vertical wing walls and recessed crib-style open blockwork facades also remains largely intact. Alterations to the entry and front landscaping and additions to the northeast, east and south east of the building do not overly detract from its presentation. Original building features include the building's elevated street presentation, entry stair and breakout seating layout, horizontal massing and flat roof (with a second lower roof to the rear) and symmetrical and concave plan form. Intact original design features include the building's expressed structural bays comprising wing walls and paired beams, and the distinctive principal concrete block façade with its textural and tectonic mix of split faced and smooth blocks laid in stretcher bond or as gridded openwork blockwork. The underlying structural logic of the original building remains legible, particularly from the inside of the building, if somewhat obscured by additions to the southeast and northeast. Original features internally include the general plan layout, exposed blockwork walls, expressed timber beams, strapped strawboard ceilings, change room benches and cubicle doors. Obscure glazing to the high-level fixed and louvered windows in the change rooms show evidence of ad hoc replacement but their configuration remains intact.

Changes to the main building's streetscape presentation include, addition of access ramps, retaining walls and landscaping to the east and west of the entrance, replacement of entry stair paving, stair balustrades and the insertion of a glazed aluminium airlock into the original recessed entry porch. The rear of the building has been subject to a greater level of change including the 1977 addition to the northeast, and additions to the east and southeast including the spa and universal access toilet and lounge area designed in 1993. The original presentation of the rear of the building with its horizontal emphasis, expressed structural wing walls and flat roof plans separated by a band of clerestory windows has been also altered by the covering over of the clerestory windows and partial enclosure of the open concourse to the rear of the extant concrete block piers. Internally, changes include the addition of a new entry desk, kitchen and plywood lined lounge area.

The layout of the three pools and concrete pool deck area remains intact. The swimming pool complex retains its three original pools and concrete pool deck areas and their original layout intact and largely faithful to the original design and detailing. Their relationship is not disrupted by the 1980s water slide and more recent water play area. Minor changes to the pools include the addition of a ramp to the central learners pool and removal of the diving board and starting blocks from the 50-meter pool. Minor tile repairs and replacements are also in evidence. The overall area of the grounds has been reduced in size through subdivision, however this does not greatly impact on the legibility of the pool deck area.

The original two-storey plant room building is extant and relatively intact. The building remains in its original setting, screened off from the pool area by fencing and a bank of trees.

Comparative analysis

Public swimming pools in the City of Casey and nearby municipalities

There are no public swimming pools protected in the City of Casey Heritage Overlay to provide ready comparators to the Doveton Pool complex. Doveton Pool is the only extant outdoor public swimming pool constructed in the postwar period within the municipality.

Other existing public swimming facilities within the City of Casey include Casey ARC and Casey RACE, both indoor pools and fitness centres opened in the 2000s.

In the nearby Shire of Cardinia, comparable examples include the Pakenham Swimming Pool (1962) built in the former Shire of Berwick (Figure 35), Koo Wee Rup & District War Memorial Pool Swimming Pool (1975) built in the former Shire of Cranbourne (Figure 36), and the Garfield Public Pool (1963) built in the former Shire of Berwick. While these examples all demonstrate community involvement in lobbying for the provision of recreation and leisure facilities in the postwar period, the public swimming pools in the Shire of Cardinia exist in a less thoughtfully planned suburban setting and evidence a far more prosaic Modernist design aesthetic than the carefully considered the main building of the Doveton Pool complex with its strong Modern architectural influences.



Figure 35. Pakenham Swimming Pool (1962), Shire of Cardinia. (Source: Google Streetview, June 2014)



Figure 36. Koo Wee Rup & District War Memorial Pool Swimming Pool (1975), Shire of Cardinia. (Source: Google Streetview, June 2014)

Given the lack of comparable examples currently included on the local Heritage Overlay and neighbouring municipalities and the relative lack of public swimming pools included on Heritage Overlays elsewhere, this comparative analysis seeks to situate the Doveton Pool in a wider historic context of swimming pools in Victoria in order to benchmark its relative heritage significance.

Public swimming pools in Victoria

Public swimming pools in Australia have a long association with Australian identity and its representation, and as Hannah Lewi and David Nicols claim: 'as a stage for iconic images of sport and leisure; as a place for the display of the body.' They have also, as these

authors have argued, been a community meeting place and focus of community action (2014: 115).

In Victoria public swimming pools have played a key role in the development of swimming as a recreational activity and survival skill. Different naming conventions have been adopted for public swimming facilities according to different time periods and different types of pools. In the nineteenth century, the term 'swimming baths' often referred to simple enclosures within existing bodies of water, but later, stand-alone land-based structures were termed 'public baths', 'Olympic Pools', and more recently 'Aquatic Centres'.

During the period from the 1900s to the 1940s the Victorian Department of Education promoted swimming and lifesaving skills in an effort to reduce drownings and encouraged the use of natural bodies of water for swimming practice. The construction of swimming pools or enclosures in rivers, lakes and in the open sea became popular, with some examples from this period of development recognised on the Victorian Heritage Register. Such examples include the Hepburn Pool, Hepburn Springs (H1865); Calembeen Park, Creswick (H0398); and Eastern Beach Bathing Reserve, Geelong (H0929).

At the turn of the twentieth century in Melbourne, purpose-built swimming baths were constructed by some local councils. These included the City Baths (Melbourne CBD), Fitzroy, Brunswick, Hawthorn and Richmond. The Melbourne City Baths (H0446) and the 'Aqua Profunda' sign at Fitzroy Baths (H1687) are included on the Victorian Heritage Register.

Increasing prosperity led to a growing community focus on the provision of amenities for safe and healthy recreation and leisure activities during the first half of the twentieth century. This reached a high point during the postwar period. During this time suburban and rural communities increasingly worked together, lobbying local government, to build public baths and swimming pools (Lewi 2011). During the period 1950–1959, over 50 public swimming pools were built throughout Victoria, and in the 1960s an additional 70 pools were constructed (WWII at Home 2020).

A general interest in sport was buoyed in Victoria by the 1956 Melbourne Olympics. The Olympic Pool movement that responded to this event saw the construction of many pools throughout Victoria. A showpiece within this context was the architecturally and structurally innovative Modernist Olympic Swimming Stadium designed by architects Kevin Borland, Peter McIntyre, John and Phyllis Murphy, and engineer Bill Irwin. The Olympic Swimming Stadium is included on the Victorian Heritage Register (H1977) and is of historical, architectural and technological significance to the State of Victoria (Figure 37).

The Beaurepaire Center for Physical Education, at the University of Melbourne, Parkville was designed by architects Eggleston, MacDonald and Seacombe and opened in 1957 (Figure 38). This swimming pool and gymnasium complex was similarly connected to the Olympic movement through its association with former Olympic swimmer and businessman Sir Frank Beaurepaire. Beaurepaire was instrumental in Melbourne's bid for the 1956 Olympics and his financial gift to the University of Melbourne enabled the construction of the Centre. The pool was used prior to its official opening as a training pool for athletes involved in the 1956 Olympics. This pool complex, a fine example of Modernist International Style architecture, is also listed on the Victorian Heritage Register (H1045) and is of historical, architectural and aesthetic significance to the State of Victoria.

While both the Olympic Swimming Stadium and the Beaurepaire Center were built at the height of the Olympic pools movement, these indoor pool complexes are not directly comparable typologically to the Doveton Pool which is an example of the outdoor public swimming pool which was common throughout the suburbs of Melbourne and regional centres. Outdoor pools are distinct from indoor pools architecturally and experientially. The

buildings required are of a different scale, their use is seasonal and garden settings are as important as the pool itself. However, both the Olympic Swimming Stadium and the Beaurepaire Center are premier examples of postwar swimming pool architecture and its strong links with aesthetic and structural preoccupations of Modern architecture of the time. In its more modest way, the Doveton Pool and its architecturally considered main building shares these preoccupations with its simple geometric forms, expressed structure and materiality and planned aspect within the public realm.



Figure 37. North elevation of the Olympic Swimming Stadium designed by Kevin Borland, Peter McIntyre, John and Phyllis Murphy (1956). Photographer: Wolfgang Sievers. (Source: State Library Victoria. H2000.195/10. In copyright.)



Figure 38. Beaurepaire Centre for Physical Education at Melbourne University designed by Eggleston, MacDonald and Seacombe (1957). Photographer: Peter Wille. (Source: State Library Victoria. H91.244/1910. In copyright.)

Very few public outdoor pools are acknowledged for their heritage significance despite their prominent and celebrated place within the community and culture of suburban Victoria in the early postwar era. As Lewi and Nicols have observed, the 1970s saw a gradual decline in public pools popularity with ‘the rise of indoor and mixed-use complexes, the increasing pressure of privatisation and the growth of private pool ownership’ (2014: 115).

A notable example of the type which does have statutorily acknowledge heritage significance is the Harold Holt Memorial Swim Centre (1969) in Glen Iris, City of Stonnington (Figure 39). The Harold Holt Memorial Swim Centre (VHR H0069) is of State significance as being amongst the most notable examples of the Brutalist style of architecture, as well as the work of two important Victorian architects, Kevin Borland and Daryl Jackson. It is also significant as a memorial to former Prime Minister Harold Holt, who disappeared, presumed drowned at the Cheviot Beach near Point Nepean in 1967. At the local level, the place is significant in demonstrating the ‘provision of aquatic recreation for the people of the south-eastern suburbs’ of Melbourne.

The Maryborough Municipal Olympic Swimming Complex is another notable example of a public outdoor swimming pool listed on the Victorian Heritage Register (H0172). Built in 1940 and with a striking Art Deco Style entrance pavilion, it is not readily comparable stylistically with the postwar Doveton Pool with its clear Modernist architectural influences.

While there are other surviving examples of existing postwar outdoor public pools elsewhere in suburban Melbourne and country Victoria there is a general underrepresentation of the type in local Heritage Overlays. As Lewi and Nicols suggest they are a diminishing typology, with many ‘demolished, severely altered or closed’ (2014: 115).

Surviving metropolitan examples include Coburg (1965) in the City of Moreland (Figure 40, opened 1965) and Oakleigh (1958) City of Monash City (Figure 41). The Caulfield Memorial Swimming Pool (1966), Glen Eira City Council (Figure 42) is an example of one

of the many practical memorial swimming pools built in the postwar period. None of these examples are included with a Heritage Overlay despite the Coburg Pool being recommended for local heritage significance within the Moreland North of Bell Street Heritage Study (Context 2011).



Figure 39. Exterior of Harold Holt Memorial Swim Centre, Glen Iris. (Source: Victorian Heritage Database)



Figure 40. Coburg Olympic Swimming Pool, c.1967. (Source: Friends of Coburg Olympic Swimming Pool)



Figure 41. Oakleigh Swimming Pool, c.1960. (Source: State Library Victoria)



Figure 42. Caulfield Memorial Swimming Pool (1966), Glen Eira City Council. (Source: Victorian Heritage Database)



Figure 43. Former Moorabbin Memorial Olympic Pool (1964). (Source: Victorian Heritage Database)

Many examples of the outdoor public swimming pool have been demolished, such as the Moorabbin Memorial Olympic Pool (1964) in the City of Kingston (Figure 43), the Greensborough Pool (1964) in the City of Banyule which was demolished c.2010 and the former Preston Baths (1965) in the City of Darebin which was demolished late 1980s (Figure 44).

The Broadmeadows Pool (c. 1960s) in the City of Hume (Figure 45), which was identified as being of local significance in the 'Broadmeadows History and Heritage Review' (Context 2011), fell into disuse and was ultimately demolished c.2013.



Figure 44. Former Preston Baths. (Source: Darebin Libraries)



Figure 45. Former Broadmeadows Outdoor Pool, c1950s (Source: State Library Victoria)

Discussion

Consideration of the Doveton Pool in light of the examples provided above indicates it is a strong and largely intact example of a type of recreational facility that was once common throughout the suburbs of Melbourne. This is a typology that is both at threat and generally underrepresented in local government Heritage Overlays.

Architecturally, the Doveton Pool compares very well with surviving and now demolished examples of postwar public swimming pool complexes, demonstrating an observance to Modernist aesthetic and structural principles and Modern planning in its main building, grounds layout and public realm presentation. While not as architecturally significant or refined as the Melbourne Olympic Stadium or the Beaurepaire Centre the main building of the Doveton Pool is a good representative example of Modern architectural principles applied to a public swimming pool complex. It compares very favourably with surviving examples in other municipalities that have a considered street presence and Modern design influences such as the Caulfield Memorial Swimming Pool. It also represents a period of development that is relatively underrepresented on the Heritage Overlay within the City of Casey with the exception of some individual postwar houses and the postwar housing estates - HCV Doveton Estate (HO159) and Fountain Gate Estate (H0162).

Assessment Against Criteria

Criteria referred to in *Practice Note 1: Applying the Heritage Overlay*, Department of Planning and Community Development, revised August 2018, modified for the local context.

CRITERION A: *Importance to the course or pattern of the City of Casey cultural or natural history (historical significance).*

The Doveton Pool is of local historical significance as an example of an outdoor public swimming pool complex of the type established in many local councils across Victoria in the postwar period. In part this was a result of the strong promotion of swimming in Victoria following the 1956 Melbourne Olympics. It was also a result of sustained suburban growth across Melbourne and postwar prosperity which combined with community action saw the development of significant community recreational facilities of this type by local municipalities. In suburban Melbourne, these large new swimming complexes were made possible by available land in the newer 'greenfield' areas, such as Doveton, where ample space was available.

Like many of the large public swimming pools established in this era, Doveton Pool provided a choice of swimming pools depending on a swimmer's level of ability. Public pools at this time took advantage of, and were designed around, the concept of large open spaces and generally adopted a restrained approach to landscaping. While partially attributable to Modernist planning and landscaping principles, this also enabled surveillance of behaviour and enforcement of water safety.

The Doveton Pool is unusual for being established in a suburb that was created by the Housing Commission of Victoria in the mid-1950s, specifically for the purpose of providing accommodation for workers in this new industrial area. It was developed in direct response to calls for increased recreational facilities by the community. The Doveton Pool is a rare, and possibly the only example in Victoria, developed for a public-built housing estate for an industrial area. (Criterion A)

CRITERION B: Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of the City of Casey's cultural or natural history (rarity).

N/A

CRITERION C: Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the City of Casey's cultural or natural history (research potential).

N/A

CRITERION D: Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural or natural places or environments (representativeness).

Doveton Pool is an excellent representative example of a mid-twentieth century outdoor swimming facility. The facility building was carefully designed as a Modernist building with a prominent position on a rise overlooking housing estates developed by the Housing Commission of Victoria. In addition to the Modernist building, the site retains three original pools, including a 50-metre Olympic pool, a learners' pool and a toddlers' pool. In the 1980s a large water slide and smaller pool which was added to the site. The site also includes early outdoor seating and the original two-storey plant room which continues to service the site. Pools at the facility are surrounded by concrete paving and extensive lawns, providing ample space for community gatherings and events.

Internally and externally the building and associated facilities are relatively intact demonstrating that as built the centre has functioned as a successful community leisure centre and gathering place for over half a century.

The Doveton Pool complex is a strong representative example of applied Modern architectural and planning principles. The main building with its elevated and symmetrical concave façade has a commanding street presence as it overlooks the HCV Doveton Estate to the northwest. The building's flat roofed form with its horizontal massing, expressed structural bays and the use textural variance in materiality and construction to provide visual interest in lieu of decoration speaks of its Modern architectural influences. Similarly, the simple layout of its three original pools connected by concrete paved pool deck and surrounded by grassy expanses is typical of the landscape treatment of suburban public swimming pools.

CRITERION E: Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics (aesthetic significance).

N/A

CRITERION F: Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period (technical significance).

N/A

CRITERION G: Strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons. This includes the significance of a place to Indigenous peoples as part of their continuing and developing cultural traditions (social significance).

Doveton Pool has potential social significance for its long and continuing association with the local community as an outdoor pool and aquatic centre that was constructed in part with funds raised by the local community. The site has functioned as an aquatic centre and gathering space since its opening in 1968. Doveton Pool may have social importance for the value placed on the site by local residents in the Doveton (former City of Berwick) area.

CRITERION H: Special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in the City of Casey history (associative significance).

N/A

Statement of Significance

What is Significant?

The Doveton Pool complex located at 64 Tristania Street, Doveton, opened in 1968. Significant elements of the site include, but are not limited to the following elements. Refer also Figure 46 and Figure 47.

- The facilities building, built 1968, including the following features:
 - Recessed hit and miss concrete brick façade, arranged around central entrance bay flanked by wings made of five bays each, being defined by wing walls, exposed beams, deep soffits lined with strapped strawboard and a flat roof with fascia flush with eaves;
 - concave floor plan;
 - unpainted concrete brick walls and concrete floors associated with the 1968 portions of the building;
 - exposed timber beams;
 - strawboard ceilings with exposed strapping;
 - timber benches in male and female changerooms;
 - timber doors and bench seating to cubicles in female changerooms;
 - general layout of the facilities building with central entrance flanked by offices, changerooms and toilets to the northeast and southwest, and a walkway across the southeastern (rear) of the building;
 - general layout of rooms internally in line with the structural layout of party walls at the front of the building and columns at the rear of the building.
- The pool deck areas, established 1968, including:

- Layout of the 50-metre pool, learners' pool, toddlers pool and pool associated with the large slide;
 - the small straight slide associated with the learners' pool;
 - the large curved slide and associated pool;
 - three concrete paths leading from rear of facilities building to pool deck area;
 - concrete tiling around four pools; and
 - concrete path leading to plant equipment area to the south west of site.
- The two-storey plant building, built 1968 including concrete baths, early electrical boards and hedges used to screen the plant area from the pool deck area.
 - Landscape elements of the site, including:
 - Siting of the facilities building on a rise overlooking Doveton;
 - lawn area at the front of the site including radial paths, carparking to the northeast and southwest;
 - curved driveway at the front of building;
 - steps and seating area paved with concrete tiles at the front of the facilities building; and
 - open space provided by lawns and concreted paths at the rear of the site, surrounding pools.

Later additions and alterations are not significant. These include (but are not limited to):

- the 1977 addition to the northeast;
- the 1993 additions to the east and southeast;
- the 2004 alterations to the entry portico, landscaping and paving, entry desk and kitchen;
- 1980s waterslide;
- 2009 splash area.



Figure 46. Diagram of Doveton Pool site indicating Heritage Overlay boundaries and significant elements.

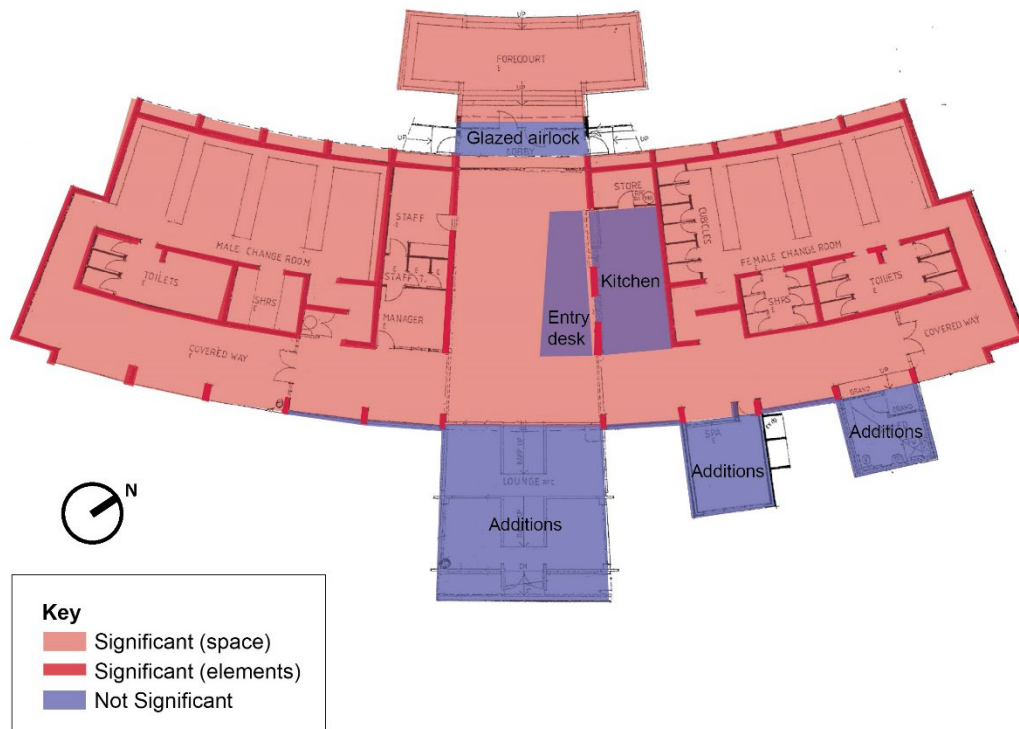


Figure 47. Diagram of 1968 facilities building indicating significant and not significant spaces and elements.

How is it significant?

The Doveton Pool complex is of historical, representative (architectural), and social significance to the City of Casey.

Why is it significant?

The Doveton Pool is of local historical significance as an example of an outdoor public swimming pool complex of the type established in many local councils across Victoria in the postwar period. In part this was a result of the strong promotion of swimming in Victoria following the 1956 Melbourne Olympics. It was also a result of sustained suburban growth across Melbourne and postwar prosperity which combined with community action saw the development of significant community recreational facilities of this type by local municipalities. In suburban Melbourne, these large new swimming complexes were made possible by available land in the newer 'greenfield' areas, such as Doveton, where ample space was available.

Like many of the large public swimming pools established in this era, Doveton Pool provided a choice of swimming pools depending on a swimmer's level of ability. Public pools at this time took advantage of, and were designed around, the concept of large open spaces and generally adopted a restrained approach to landscaping. While partially attributable to Modernist planning and landscaping principles, this also enabled surveillance of behaviour and enforcement of water safety.

The Doveton Pool is unusual for being established in a suburb that was created by the Housing Commission of Victoria in the mid-1950s, specifically for the purpose of providing accommodation for workers in this new industrial area. It was developed in direct response to calls for increased recreational facilities by the community. The Doveton Pool is a rare, and possibly the only example in Victoria, developed for a public-built housing estate for an industrial area. (Criterion A)

Doveton Pool is an excellent and intact representative example of a mid-twentieth century outdoor swimming facility. The facility building was carefully designed as a Modernist building with a prominent position on a rise overlooking housing estates developed by the Housing Commission of Victoria. In addition to the Modernist building, the site retains three original pools, including a 50-metre Olympic pool, a learners' pool and a toddlers' pool. In the 1980s a large water slide and smaller pool which was added to the site. The site also includes early outdoor seating and the original two-storey plant room which continues to service the site. Pools at the facility are surrounded by concrete paving and extensive lawns, providing ample space for community gatherings and events.

Internally and externally the building and associated facilities are relatively intact demonstrating that as built the centre has functioned as a successful community leisure centre and gathering place for over half a century.

The Doveton Pool complex is a strong representative example of applied Modern architectural and planning principles. The main building with its elevated and symmetrical concave façade has a commanding street presence as it overlooks the HCV Doveton Estate to the northwest. The building's flat roofed form with its horizontal massing, expressed structural bays and the use textural variance in materiality and construction to provide visual interest in lieu of decoration speaks of its Modern architectural influences. These design principles are equally apparent in the largely intact interior of the building. Similarly, the simple layout of its three original pools connected by concrete paved pool deck and surrounded by grassy expanses is typical of the landscape treatment of suburban public swimming pools.

Grading and Recommendations

Recommended for inclusion in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay of the Casey Planning Scheme as an individually Significant place.

Recommendations for the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay (Clause 43.01) in the Casey Planning Scheme:

External Paint Colours <i>Is a permit required to paint an already painted surface?</i>	No
Internal Alteration Controls <i>Is a permit required for internal alterations?</i>	Yes
Tree Controls <i>Is a permit required to remove a tree?</i>	No
Victorian Heritage Register <i>Is the place included on the Victorian Heritage Register?</i>	No
Incorporated Plan <i>Does an Incorporated Plan apply to the site?</i>	No
Outbuildings and fences exemptions <i>Are there outbuildings and fences which are not exempt from notice and review?</i>	No
Prohibited uses may be permitted <i>Can a permit be granted to use the place for a use which would otherwise be prohibited?</i>	No
Aboriginal Heritage Place <i>Is the place an Aboriginal heritage place which is subject to the requirements of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006?</i>	No

Identified By

City of Casey 2020.

Conservation guidelines

The following high-level conservation guidelines have been prepared to assist planning for the future management of the site. More detailed conservation advice should be sought when specific actions are considered.

1. Conserve the place with regard to the heritage values outlined in the Doveton Pool citation and Statement of Significance.
2. Conserve all significant elements and fabric listed in the Statement of Significance for Doveton Pool (and as broadly indicated in Figure 1 above). This generally includes original elements and fabric related 1968 Doveton Pool complex. It also includes the setting and presentation of the place, spatial relationships between the built form and public realm, landscape and spatial relationships and views to and from the site.
3. Discourage demolition or removal of significant fabric. Partial demolition of significant fabric may be justifiable
 - a. if this will not adversely effect the heritage significance of the place of a whole;
 - b. where fabric has failed and required replacement;
 - c. if it will assist with the long-term conservation of the place as a whole;
 - d. if it will facilitate the historic use of the place, or a suitable alternative community use that will allow the heritage significance of the place to be readily interpreted.
4. 4Demolition of elements and fabric which do not contribute to the significance of the place is permissible and should be encouraged where it will assist in revealing or enhancing the significance of the place and its interpretation.
5. Seek expert heritage advice when considering any major changes to or development of the place.
6. Ensure any alterations or new development considered are sited and scaled so not to overwhelm the place and its setting. Ensure key views to and from the place and its significant elements are preserved and enhanced.
7. Ensure any alterations or new development are complementary in form, scale and materiality to the significant elements of the site.
8. Ensure any subdivision of the site retains significant built-form and landscape elements within one allotment and that the curtilage is sufficient to allow the significant elements to be readily interpreted.
9. Attend to ongoing maintenance requirements of the place to ensure its long-term conservation.

References

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