

# MARYBOROUGH MUNICIPAL OLYMPIC SWIMMING COMPLEX



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SOHE 2008



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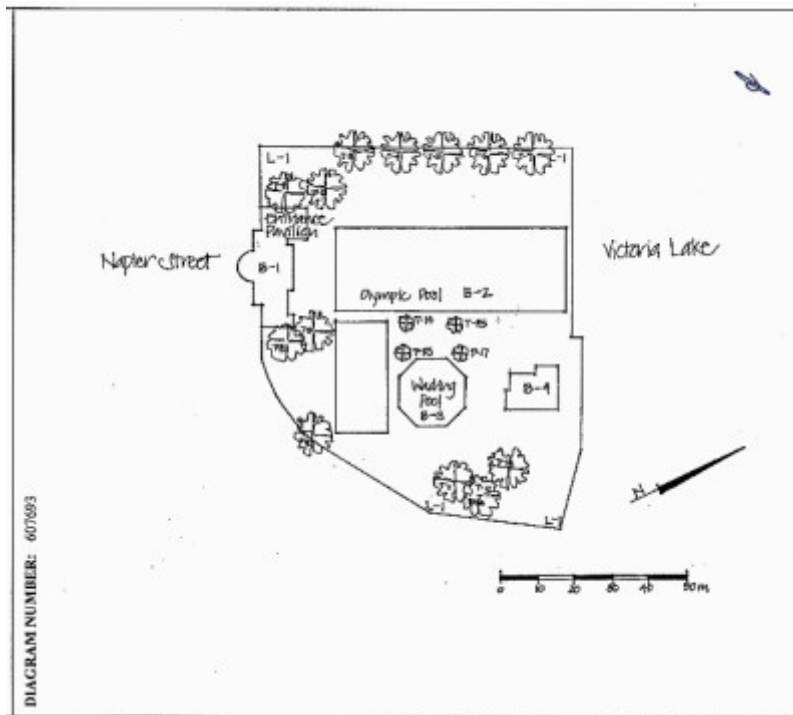
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1 maryborough olympic  
complex building entrance



maryborough olympic complex plan

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## Location

LAKE ROAD MARYBOROUGH, CENTRAL GOLDFIELDS SHIRE

## Municipality

CENTRAL GOLDFIELDS SHIRE

## Level of significance

Registered

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1319

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO172

## VHR Registration

June 19, 1997

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - May 13, 1999

What is significant?

The Maryborough Municipal Olympic Swimming Complex was opened by Sir Frank Beaurepaire in 1940 and designed by local architect EJ Peck and city engineers EJ Muntz and J Hocking. As constructed, the complex comprised an entrance pavilion, an Olympic swimming pool, an octagonal wading pool, and service buildings all within a garden setting. The reinforced concrete and brick entrance pavilion was designed in a style strongly influenced by the aesthetics of European functionalism. The Maryborough complex was contemporary with a number of other similar municipal council schemes providing modern, safe and hygienic swimming facilities, manifesting the changing public nature of bathing and swimming from chiefly a health related activity to a recreational pursuit. An intermediate pool was added to the Maryborough complex in 1973. The site remains remarkably intact, with the original pools, entrance pavilion and planting scheme retained in close to original condition.

How is it significant?

The Maryborough Municipal Olympic Swimming Complex is of architectural, aesthetic and historical significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The swimming complex is architecturally significant as a rare, intact example of a swimming pool complex designed in the late 1930s. The entrance pavilion is architecturally important as a recreational building employing the architectural language promoted by European functionalist architects of the 1920s and 1930s and symbolising a concern for modernity, safety and hygiene.

The complex has aesthetic significance as a well planned recreational facility with an intact, late 1930s garden setting, all picturesquely set within and overlooking a nineteenth century municipal park.

The Maryborough Municipal Olympic Swimming Complex is historically significant as an example of a municipal pool complex illustrating the development of swimming in Victoria during the inter-war period. The pool complex has historical significance for its special association with Frank Beaurepaire, being one of the few surviving pools opened by him as part of his long commitment to swimming in Victoria and, particularly, associated with his fostering of building programmes encouraging the provision of municipal pools throughout the state.

## Permit Exemptions

### General Exemptions:

General exemptions apply to all places and objects included in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR). General exemptions have been designed to allow everyday activities, maintenance and changes to your property, which don't harm its cultural heritage significance, to proceed without the need to obtain approvals under the Heritage Act 2017.

Places of worship: In some circumstances, you can alter a place of worship to accommodate religious practices without a permit, but you must **notify** the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria before you start the works or activities at least 20 business days before the works or activities are to commence.

Subdivision/consolidation: Permit exemptions exist for some subdivisions and consolidations. If the subdivision or consolidation is in accordance with a planning permit granted under Part 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the application for the planning permit was referred to the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria as a determining referral authority, a permit is not required.

Specific exemptions may also apply to your registered place or object. If applicable, these are listed below. Specific exemptions are tailored to the conservation and management needs of an individual registered place or object and set out works and activities that are exempt from the requirements of a permit. Specific exemptions prevail if they conflict with general exemptions.

Find out more about heritage permit exemptions [here](#).

### **Specific Exemptions:**

#### **CONDITIONS:**

1. Approved works or activities are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the registered place/object. However, if other previously hidden original or inaccessible details of the object or place are uncovered, any works that may affect such items shall immediately cease. The Executive Director shall be notified of the details immediately to enable Heritage Victoria representatives to inspect and record the items, and for discussion to take place on the possible retention of the items, or the issue of a modified approval.
2. If there is a Conservation Policy and Plan approved by the Heritage Council or Executive Director, all works and activities shall be carried out in accordance with the Policy and Plan.
3. Nothing in this Declaration prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exempt alterations provided work has not commenced on the alteration.

ALL ATTENTION OF THE APPLICANT AND/OR OWNER IS DRAWN TO THE NEED TO OBTAIN ALL OTHER RELEVANT PERMITS PRIOR TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF WORKS.

Construction dates	1940,
Architect/Designer	Peck, EJ,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Other Names	MUNICIPAL OLYMPIC POOL, MARYBOROUGH OLYMPIC POOL, MARYBOROUGH POOL, MARYBOROUGH SWIMMING POOL, SWIMMING POOL,
Hermes Number	5091
Property Number	

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## **History**

### **Contextual History:History of Place:**

The Maryborough Municipal Olympic Swimming Pool Complex was officially opened in December 1940 by the then Lord Mayor of Melbourne, Frank Beaurepaire. The complex was designed by local architect EJ Peck with engineering assistance from city engineers, EJ Muntz and J Hocking.

Swimming experienced a remarkable surge in popularity during the inter-war period; a result of social trends and Australian swimming successes at early twentieth century Olympic Games. Previously swimming was undertaken more as a health restoring activity, but during the 1920s it became a recreational pursuit, with swimming popularised at the sea-side and in swimming pools. Previously public bathing was carried out in natural water holes and public baths. The first large municipal pool in Victoria, the Collingwood Baths now Melbourne City Baths opened in 1896. As popularity increased concern for the safety of bathers also increased and the increase in the number of swimming pools was seen to encourage safety. Swimming pools were a particularly important

feature of many inland centres where access to the sea-side was restricted. Manifesting the popularity of swimming during the inter-war years are the extant bathing pavilions and swimming pool pavilions constructed during this period and an important aspect of these buildings was the careful consideration of hygienic provisions. This concern affected the design of many types of other buildings during this period. Hospital design, theatre design high density low-cost housing, airport terminals and recreational buildings were subject to a new aesthetic, influenced by modernist functionalism and affirming, at least aesthetically, the high standards of hygiene and modernity in these new buildings. Many swimming complexes were constructed throughout Victoria during this period the design of which employed the functionalist architectural idiom. In particular complexes constructed at Box Hill and Rutherglen.

The Maryborough pool complex in Maryborough was constructed in 1939-40 at a cost of £8700 to the design of architect, EJ Peck and city engineers, EJ Muntz and J Hocking. Proposals for the new pool began in the late 1930s and were advanced when the local councillor's made a tour of northern Victoria inspecting various pool complexes to aid decision making with their own. Expense was a large issue and although charges were to be made for public use of the pool these would not defray the expense of construction causing much debate among the councillors. However it was decided to proceed with the plan and a site was chosen in a section of Princes Park Reserve, on the banks of Lake Victoria. Princes Park was set aside as a public reserve as early as September 1857 when the Maryborough Cricket Club requested flat land for their games. In the 1880s a section of the park was dug out and Lake Victoria was formed. Previously public swimming baths were located on the banks of this Lake.

When opened the new complex comprised two pools, the main pool and an octagonal wading pool, important in the swimming training of younger children. A formal tree planting scheme implemented at this time which included the Weeping Elms, Bhutan Cypress, Himalayan and Blue Atlas Cedars, Southern Mahogany and Golden Glossy Privet. Frank Beaurepaire opened the Maryborough Municipal Olympic Swimming Complex on Saturday, 7 December 1940 in front of 2000 local residents. To commemorate the opening, a large front page report detailing the event was in the Monday edition of The Maryborough Advertiser.

Beaurepaire, a former Olympics swimming champion was instrumental in the establishment of swimming pools in Victoria after his fostering a state wide campaign in 1928 encouraging swimming training among the young. In his role on the Melbourne City Council, to which he was elected in 1928, he encouraged development of swimming and the establishment of swimming pools. Among those pools constructed while he was on a municipal committee managing the construction of swimming facilities were Footscray, Brunswick, Carlton, North Melbourne and Batman Avenue. During 1929 Beaurepaire opened fifteen pools in regional Victoria and this keen interest in the construction of pools in regional centres continued for many years.

Maryborough Pool has continued in its use as a public swimming pool complex since its construction with very few changes. An intermediate pool was added to the complex in 1973. This maintained the aesthetic established by the first two pools, with a low plinth surrounding the pool's edge clad with rectangular ceramic tiles. The two 1940s diving boards were replaced in the 1980s with a single board at the north eastern end of the main pool. A re-inforced concrete pump house has been extended since construction, though the original filtering system is still in use.

Associated People: Assoc. People BEAUREPAIRE, F

## **Extent of Registration**

1. Part of land marked L1 on Diagram 607693 held by the Executive Director being part of the land described in Certificate of Title Vol. 2577 Folio 515357
2. All the buildings marked B1 pavilion; B2 Olympic pool; B3 wading pool; B4 plant room; on Diagram 607693 held by the Executive Director.
3. All the trees and plants on the above described land and marked T1 to T17 on Diagram 607693.

*This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.*

*For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>*