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# Odyssey House Suspension Bridge



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Odyssey House Suspension Bridge.jpg

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## Location

Bonds Road LOWER PLENTY, BANYULE CITY

## Municipality

BANYULE CITY

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO178

## Heritage Listing

Banyule City

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - February 10, 2010

What is significant?

The Odyssey House suspension footbridge across the Yarra River between Bonds Road in Lower Plenty and Finns Reserve in Templestowe, is of significance.

How is it significant?

The Odyssey House suspension footbridge is of local scientific and historic significance to the City of Banyule.

Why is it significant?

The Odyssey House suspension footbridge is of local scientific significance as an excellent example of the design and technology utilised in the construction of suspension bridges during the 1950s, reflecting a period of exploration and innovation. It is unique in the City of Banyule and has further rarity as one of two footbridge suspension bridges crossing the Yarra River. It is a significant built element on the Yarra Trail and complements the surrounding parkland. (Criterion D, F)

The Odyssey House suspension footbridge has local historic significance for its reflection of the difficulty of access to Lower Plenty during the 1950s, despite residential booms in surrounding areas, and remains a local landmark. (Criterion A)

Heritage Study/Consultant	Banyule - Banyule Heritage Review, Context P/L, 2009; Banyule - Banyule Heritage Study, Allum Lovell & Associates, 1999;
Hermes Number	124130
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

Odyssey house in Lower Plenty occupies a large rural allotment adjacent to the Yarra River. It consists of a number of large neo-classical buildings dating from the 1940s to the 1990s. Odyssey House is listed as HO95 in the Banyule Planning Scheme. The footbridge is located in the grounds of Odyssey House and is reached by a ramped footpath from the carpark. There is a bluestone embankment constructed at the foot of the bridge. The area is characterized by Parkland associated with the Yarra Trail and has a range of exotic and native tree species. The area is managed by Parks Victoria.

The Odyssey House Suspension Bridge crosses the Yarra River between Odyssey House on Bonds Road, Lower Plenty, and Finns Reserve in Templestowe. The bridge incorporates a hybrid structure, combining cables, stays and suspension cables (Allom Lovell 1999). The footway is laid with wooden planks, although whether or not these are original is unclear, while wire mesh stretches across the railing either side. The bridge demonstrates an established engineering system of footbridge construction.

*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/>*