

# VICTORIA PARK



VICTORIA PARK SOHE  
2008



h00075 1 victoria park  
abbotsford june05 rush stand  
sherrin stand



h00075 victoria park  
abbotsford june05 abbot  
street longview



h00075 victoria park  
abbotsford june05 bath street  
concrete wall



h00075 victoria park  
abbotsford june05 bath street  
reserve tree



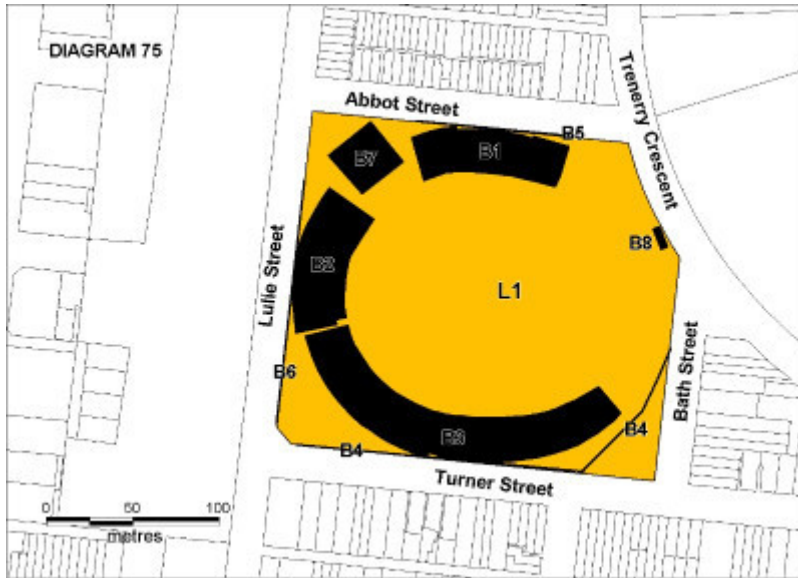
h00075 victoria park  
abbotsford june05 rush stand  
snackbar



h00075 victoria park  
abbotsford june05 sherrin  
stand lulie street2



H0075 Victoria park  
abbotsford June05 Sherrin  
stand lulie street



H0075 Victoria park abbotsford amended plan

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## Location

LULIE STREET ABBOTSFORD, YARRA CITY

## Municipality

YARRA CITY

## Level of significance

Registered

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0075

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO352

## VHR Registration

April 6, 2006

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - April 6, 2006

What is significant?

Victoria Park is a former Australian Football League (AFL) ground acquired for use as a municipal reserve by Collingwood Council in 1882. The Collingwood Football Club played at Victoria Park from 1892 to 1999 and continued to use the ground as its base until its move to Olympic Park in 2005. The Collingwood Cricket Club made the ground its home from 1906 to 1996.

When the area of land along the Yarra River known as Dight's Paddock was sold in 1878 to Edwin Trenerry for a housing subdivision, Collingwood Council negotiated the acquisition of 10¼ acres of the land for a recreation reserve in return for spending £250 per acre towards street-making. The small triangular park at the corner of Bath and Turner Streets was originally part of the reserve. A covenant was placed on the land prohibiting the sale of the reserve to private individuals. Local cricket and football clubs used the reserve from the early 1880s.

Collingwood Football Club was formed in 1892 and the Council undertook works at Victoria Park to meet the standards necessary for the Victorian Football Association (VFA). Collingwood was admitted as a member of the VFA and played its first game at Victoria Park against Carlton on 7 May 1892. The major VFA clubs broke away and formed the Victorian Football League (VFL) in 1897 with the two leagues running their own competitions although the VFL (renamed the AFL in 1990) became the pre-eminent league. Collingwood was a founding member of the VFL. Its first game in the new league was against St Kilda at Victoria Park on 8 May 1897.

Architect, councillor and supporter William Pitt designed the first of the grandstands built at the ground in 1892. This was later demolished, as have other earlier pavilions and stands including a 1900 Ladies Pavilion and a 1909 Members Stand designed by architect Thomas Watts.

The Ladies Pavilion made way for the Ryder Stand in 1929, built with funds raised by the Collingwood Council including money from the Government Relief Fund which provided employment for local sustenance ("susso") workers. Designed by architects Peck & Kemter, the steel-framed concrete stand with cantilevered roof was named after cricketer Jack Ryder. The stand was shared with the Collingwood Cricket Club. The stand housed Collingwood Football Club facilities including administrative, training and club rooms and the players' race to the ground. A red brick wall with patterned brick panels is at the rear of the stand facing Abbott Street.

The facilities at Victoria Park expanded throughout the 20th century reflecting changes and developments in the Collingwood Football Club. In 1956 the club was granted a forty year ground improvements lease, thus becoming one of the few VFL clubs with control over development of its ground. A number of major works followed as a result of the club's greater control.

In 1940 Collingwood became the first league team to form a social club and the first to obtain a liquor licence for its social club room, which opened in April 1941. The social club rooms were originally under the Ryder Stand. The Social Club Stand (S A Coventry Pavilion), built in 1959 to a design by architects Robert McIntyre & Associates, has been substantially altered and extended. A glassed-in viewing area incorporated into the S A Coventry Pavilion in 1989, was named the Bob Rose Stand.

Other major works at the ground took place during the 1960s including a new stand for the outer (general admission) area, the R. T. Rush Stand, designed by McIntyre and McIntyre, completed in 1966 and named after Bob Rush, one of Collingwood's longest serving players and officials. The outer area in the south and east of the ground had comprised a large grassed embankment and concrete terraces. The terraces were demolished and new ones included in the new structure. The concrete cantilevered stand with steel girders provided cover for up to 10,000 spectators and had kiosks installed in the concourse.

The Sherrin Stand, named after the well-known Collingwood family and the largest capacity members' stand at the ground, was built in 1969 to a design by Peter McIntyre & Associates. The steel-framed concrete and brick cantilevered stand accommodated the visiting team, as well as umpires and police, in the undercroft. The stand was extended by about a third in 1977-78 at its southern end providing 1000 additional seats and players' and umpires' rooms. Private boxes were added in the 1980s. The west elevation to Lulie Street cantilevers over the brick rear of the stand and has a pronounced arc form overhanging the street with black and white stripe painted metal cladding.

Other important elements at the ground are the oval, grassed embankment and walls, the main scoreboard and time clock, distinctive signage, entrances and exits, ticket boxes and turnstiles. The grassed embankment in the outer area extends from the east end of the Rush Stand to near the east end of the Ryder Stand. It dates back to

1892 although its original extent was reduced when the Rush Stand was built in 1966. The highest part of the embankment at the Trenerry Crescent end is traditionally associated with Collingwood supporters and known as "One Eye Hill". The concrete wall along Turner and Bath Streets was built in the 1920s. The brick wall along Abbott Street with patterned brick panelling appears to be contemporary with the 1929 Ryder Stand. The Lulie Street brick wall was built in 1957. There are a number of entrances, exits, turnstiles and ticket boxes, including the main entrance to the outer reserve at Lulie and Turner Streets, 1957; and members' exit with turnstile along Lulie Street installed in the 1960s.

Although supporters and initially the Collingwood Football Club itself resisted pressure from the AFL to move from Victoria Park, the club eventually agreed to play major games at the Melbourne Cricket Ground from 1993. Collingwood played its last game at the ground against the Brisbane Lions in August 1999. Victoria Park was renamed Jock McHale Stadium and continued as Collingwood's training, social club and administrative base until the club moved to Olympic Park in 2005.

How is it significant?

Victoria Park is of historical, social and architectural significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

Victoria Park has historical and social significance for its associations over a period of 112 years with the Collingwood Football Club, one of the best known sporting clubs in Victoria. The Collingwood Football Club has been one of the most successful and popular league football clubs in the history of football in Australia. It was one of the eight founding members of the VFL in 1897 and has been influential in the development of the football code and in the evolution of the distinctive culture of football following in Victoria. In addition it inspired a play, *The Club*, by David Williamson in 1977 and the subsequent film which used Victoria Park as a backdrop. Collingwood's use of Victoria Park is one of the longest associations at the VFL/AFL level and, apart from Carlton at Princes Park, the longest period of time a league team has played at its original home ground. The ground and many of the elements such as the stands and the embankment have great value to Collingwood Football Club supporters who continue to regard it as the spiritual home of the club.

Victoria Park has historical significance for its associations with notable figures in Victorian sporting history including Bob Rose, Syd and Gordon Coventry, Jock McHale, Bob Rush, Lou Richards, the Sherrin family, and cricketers Keith Stackpole and Jack Ryder. Some of these figures have been commemorated in the naming of stands. The club also had a strong association with businessman and Collingwood supporter John Wren who provided financial help to many players particularly through the Depression.

Victoria Park has historical significance for its associations with the Depression era. The Ryder Stand remains as a tangible link with this period in Victoria's history which had an enormous impact on people's lives, in particular in Collingwood, one of the hardest hit of Melbourne's suburbs during the Depression. The Collingwood Football Club, league premiers between 1927 and 1930, played a major role in the lives of many men, women and children, providing a source of pride and pleasure during a time of great hardship.

Victoria Park has historical and social significance for its associations with the Collingwood and Abbotsford area. The Collingwood Football Club is rich in the tradition of local working class identification and Victoria Park's location in the industrial and residential heart of the Collingwood area symbolises the centrality of the football club to the lives of generations of Collingwood supporters. In a wider sense it shows how important league football clubs were as social and cultural cohesive forces in local communities.

The stands and walls at Victoria Park are of architectural significance as representative examples of facilities at a suburban league ground. The scale, extent and strong visual presence of the Sherrin Stand from both inside and outside the ground and the sweep of the Rush Stand concrete terraces are particularly evocative features integral to an understanding of the use of Victoria Park as a major league ground. The fortress-like appearance of the walls demonstrates the need to control access and maintain security at league grounds.

## **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:**

General Conditions: 1. All exempted alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the fabric of the registered place or object. General Conditions: 2. Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of works that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place or object are revealed which relate to the significance of the place or object, then the exemption covering such works shall cease and the Executive Director shall be notified as soon as possible. Note: All archaeological places have the potential to contain significant sub-surface artefacts and other remains. In most cases it will be necessary to obtain approval from the Executive Director before the undertaking any works that have a significant sub-surface component. General Conditions: 3. If there is a conservation policy and plan approved by the Executive Director, all works shall be in accordance with it. Note: The existence of a Conservation Management Plan or a Heritage Action Plan endorsed by the Executive Director provides guidance for the management of the heritage values associated with the site. It may not be necessary to obtain a heritage permit for certain works specified in the management plan. General Conditions: 4. Nothing in this determination prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions. General Conditions: 5. Nothing in this determination exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the responsible authorities where applicable. Minor Works : Note: Any Minor Works that in the opinion of the Executive Director will not adversely affect the heritage significance of the place may be exempt from the permit requirements of the Heritage Act. A person proposing to undertake minor works may submit a proposal to the Executive Director. If the Executive Director is satisfied that the proposed works will not adversely affect the heritage values of the site, the applicant may be exempted from the requirement to obtain a heritage permit. If an applicant is uncertain whether a heritage permit is required, it is recommended that the permits co-ordinator be contacted.

#### Exterior

All maintenance works to the oval to provide for quality turf and a safe playing surface.

Signage which complies with the City of Yarra planning scheme.

Repairs, replacement or installation of rubbish bins, seating, bicycle racks and other small items and street furniture.

#### Buildings and Structures:

Minor repairs and maintenance.

Painting of previously painted walls, posts, and roofing in the same colour.

Treatments to stabilise and protect timber, masonry and metal structures.

Repair and/or replacement of seating

Interiors of stands:

All non-structural works.

Non-registered buildings and structures

All works, including demolition and internal modification, but not additions.

Landscape:

The process of gardening and maintenance, mowing, removal of dead plants, disease and weed control, emergency and safety works to care for existing plants.

Removal of vegetation that is not significant to maintain fire safety and to conserve significant buildings and structures.

Repairs, conservation and maintenance to hard landscape elements, ornaments, roads and paths, drainage and irrigation system.

Management of trees in accordance with Australian Standard; Pruning of amenity trees AS4373.

Removal of plants listed as noxious weeds in the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994.

Installation, removal or replacement of garden watering and drainage systems.

Non-commercial signage, lighting, security fire safety and other safety requirements, provided no structural building occurs.

Resurfacing of existing paths and driveways.

Construction dates	1892,
Architect/Designer	McIntyre & McIntyre, McIntyre, Robert & Associates, Peck & Kemter,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Other Names	COLLINGWOOD FOOTBALL GROUND,
Hermes Number	12655
Property Number	

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## History

The land which became known as Victoria Park was originally part of Dight's Paddock, an area of 86 acres named after John Dight who established a flour mill on the banks of the river in the 1840s. Dight's Paddock was sold in 1878 to David Abbott and Frederick Trenerry Brown (or Edwin Trenerry?) who intended to subdivide and sell the allotments for housing. The Collingwood Council negotiated the acquisition of 10¼ acres of the land for a recreation reserve in return for spending £250 per acre towards making the surrounding streets. A covenant was

placed on the land forbidding Council from selling the reserve to a private individual. Part of the reserve was set aside for use by the Yarra Yarra Cricket Club and later by the Capulet Cricket Club. The Britannia Football Club made the park its home from 1882 when the first game of football was played at Victoria Park. The Collingwood Cricket Club made the ground its home from 1906 to 1996. Important players included Keith Stackpole and Jack Ryder.

Australian Rules Football evolved from a game first designed as a means of keeping cricketers fit through winter. The first game was played between Scotch College and Melbourne Grammar School on 7 August 1858. The rules for the Melbourne Football Club were drafted at the Parade Hotel on 17 May 1859 by T.H. Wills, W.J. Hammersley, H.C.A. Harrison and J.B. Thompson. The Victorian Football Association was formed in 1877 with five teams Albert Park (later South Melbourne), Carlton, Hotham, Melbourne and St Kilda, with Geelong joining a year later, followed by Essendon in 1882, Fitzroy, Footscray and Williamstown came next, as did Richmond, Collingwood and Port Melbourne. The major clubs broke away and formed the Victorian Football League in 1897 with the two leagues running their own competitions although the VFL became the pre-eminent league and turned professional in 1911.

The Britannia Football Club broke up after it had been refused admission to the VFA. Collingwood Football Club was formed in 1892 with the first committee meeting held at Grace Darling Hotel in March 1892. Council undertook works at Victoria Park to meet standards necessary for the VFA. Collingwood was admitted as a member of the VFA and played its first game at Victoria Park against Carlton on 7 May 1892. Prominent architect and supporter William Pitt designed a grandstand which was demolished in the 1950s. Collingwood played its first VFL game at Victoria Park against Geelong in 1898. The last Collingwood game was played at Victoria Park in the final round of 1999.

Collingwood made an important contribution to the game of football with Dick Condon introducing the stab pass and the short kick in 1902. By 1896-7 Collingwood boasted the largest number of supporters of any of the clubs. The club won four premierships in a row between 1927 and 1930, introduced the idea of pre-match games and was the first VFL club to obtain a liquor licence in 1941.

A Ladies Stand was constructed in 1900, demolished in 1929 to make way for the Ryder Stand. Pitt's 1892 grandstand was relocated in 1909 to make way for the Members Stand at the Lulie Street end of the ground designed by architect Thomas Watts. The 1909 stand was demolished in 1968 when the Sherrin stand was built.

The Ryder Stand was built in 1929 with the help of local unemployed sustenance workers. Council raised the funds, using £1200 from the Government Relief Fund and a loan of £8000. The architects were Peck & Kemter, associated with the Melbourne office of Walter Burley and Marion Mahony Griffin and collaboration on the Capitol Theatre project. The stand was named after Jack Ryder, the Collingwood cricketer who had played with the Australian team in the 1920s. The stand reflects developments in the evolution of the cantilevered grandstand without being innovative. The stand has an undercroft of concrete construction and comprises raked roof beams supporting a steel-framed skillion roof structure. A red brick wall with patterned brick panels is at the rear of the stand along Abbott Street.

After an ongoing battle between the club and council on funding of maintenance and control of the ground, in 1956 the club was granted a forty year ground improvements lease, thus becoming one of the few VFL clubs with the control over development of its ground. A number of major works followed as a result of the club's greater control over the ground.

Collingwood was the first league team to form a social club and the first to obtain a liquor licence. The social club was formed in 1940 and clubrooms were originally under the Ryder Stand. The Social Club stand (S A Coventry Stand) was built in 1959 to a design by architects Robert McIntyre & Associates that allowed for the later addition of another storey at the fourth level. It was originally a three level steel framed concrete and brick building in a cuboid form with aluminium curtain wall cladding and external enamel (black and white) panelling. The additional storey was built in 1980-81. Some other alterations have been made including new windows to the office areas in 1974 and extending the members' terraces in front of the stand in the 1970s. A large viewing area was added at the second level in 1989 and named the Bob Rose Stand.

The R T Rush stand was built in 1966, named after Bob Rush, one of Collingwood's longest serving players and officials and designed by McIntyre & McIntyre. It was a concrete cantilevered stand 700 feet long with steel girders and concrete terraces partly covered by the cantilevered roof. The stand, the only covered stand in the outer area, provided cover for up to 10,000 spectators and had kiosks installed in the concourse. It was among

the first of the larger public stands built in metropolitan VFL grounds.

The Sherrin Stand was built in 1968 to replace the 1909 Members Stand. It is the largest capacity stand at the ground. The architects were Peter McIntyre & Associates. The stand was to accommodate the visiting team, as well as umpires and police in the undercroft, 1800 member seats under cover with another 700 seats in the open area in front of the stand. The stand was extended by about a third in 1977-78 at its southern end providing 1000 additional seats and extra players' and umpires' rooms in the undercroft. Private boxes were added in the 1980s. The stand is a steel-framed concrete and brick single tier cantilevered structure with exposed steel roof decking, twelve structural bays, undercroft rooms and a curved plan form. The west elevation to Lulie Street cantilevers over the brick rear of the stand and has a pronounced arc form overhanging the street with black and white stripe painted metal cladding.

The caretaker's residence is located in the north east corner at the junction of Abbott Street and Trenerry Crescent. The 1960s double-fronted brick veneer house with a hipped and tiled roof replaced an earlier cottage built c.1930.

There has been some form of fencing around the ground to control public access since the earliest stage of the club's use of the site. In the 1920s (possibly using sustenance labour) a picket fence along Turner and Bath Streets was replaced by a reinforced concrete wall with panels of exposed aggregate between piers. The brick wall along Abbott Street with patterned brick panelling appears to be contemporary with the 1929 Ryder Stand. The Lulie Street brick wall was built in 1957. There are a number of entrances, exits, turnstiles and ticket boxes, including the entrance at Lulie and Turner Streets, 1957, the main entrance to the outer reserve from the Johnston Street approach.

The oval was extended by 30 yards in 1891 and the surface levelled to meet VFA standards. The playing area was reconstructed in 1960-61 involving the resurfacing of the ground area. In 1983 the oval was extended at the eastern end requiring substantial works to the oval and the embankment area.

The grassed embankment dates back to 1892 with the extent of open terracing being reduced when the Rush Stand was built in 1966. The highest part of the embankment at the Trenerry Crescent end is traditionally associated with Collingwood supporters and known as "One Eye Hill".

The scoreboard, a steel-framed structure on concrete footings with corrugated iron cladding to the sides, dates from 1966, paid for by Dunlop Rubber. It was extended in the 1980s. The time clock is a steel framed structure on concrete footings installed in 1966.

In the 1980s the VFL launched into a long period of ground rationalisation which would end in many league clubs ceasing to play at their home grounds, although continue to train at their old grounds. The VFL wanted clubs to play at the three premier venues: the MCG, Waverley Park and Princes Park with their larger capacities. A Keep Collingwood at Victoria Park group was formed. In the late 1980s the club proposed a major upgrade of facilities and to buy the Social Club land which would involve removing the covenant on the land. A bitter battle was fought for 5 years between the club, the Council, state government, local resident groups and Collingwood supporters groups. Meanwhile the VFL continued to apply pressure and eventually won the right to transfer any match to the venue of its choice. Finally in 1993 the club itself capitulated to allow all big games to be played at the MCG. In the late 1990s the club signed a new lease with the City of Yarra allowing parts of the ground to be progressively returned to council management and responsibility after the club ceased to occupy the facilities. The last game between Collingwood and the Brisbane Bears was played at the ground in the last round of 1999. This was the last game played by any league team at a suburban venue in Melbourne (except for Princes Park, although that was considered a premier venue).

## Extent of Registration

### NOTICE OF REGISTRATION

As Executive Director for the purpose of the **Heritage Act 1995**, I give notice under section 46 that the Victorian Heritage Register is amended by including the Heritage Register Number 75 in the category described as a Heritage Place:

Victoria Park, Lulie Street, Abbotsford, Yarra City Council.

### EXTENT



1.All the following buildings and structures at Victoria Park marked on Diagram 75 held by the Executive Director:

B1 Jack Ryder Stand including the rear wall;

B2 Sherrin Stand;

B3 R. T. Rush Stand;

B4 Concrete wall along Bath and Turner Streets;

B5 Brick perimeter wall along Abbott Street;

B6 Brick wall along Lulie Street including Members Season Tickets entrance (Gates 5, 6, 7 and 8 and turnstile);

B7 Social Club Building;

B8 Scoreboard.

2.All the land marked L1 on Diagram 75 held by the Executive Director being the land described in Certificate of Title Volume 1320, Folio 908.

Dated 6 April 2006

RAY TONKIN  
Executive Director

[*Victoria Government Gazette* G 14 6 April 2006 679]

*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/>*