

# COBURG OLYMPIC SWIMMING POOL



Primary entry



Toilet block



Overview of pool



Interior of primary entrance building - timber panelling



Coburg Olympic Swimming Pool



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## Location

50 Murray Road COBURG, MORELAND CITY

## Municipality

MERRI-BEK CITY

## Level of significance

Recommended for Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

## Heritage Listing

Merri-bek City

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### Statement of Significance

Last updated on - May 12, 2023

#### What is significant?

Coburg Olympic Swimming Pool at 50 Murray Road, Coburg is significant. The use of the site as a public pool is significant, as well as the modernist entry building owing to its design.

#### How is it significant?

Coburg Olympic Swimming Pool is of local historical, representative, aesthetic and social significance to the City of Moreland.

#### Why is it significant?

Coburg Olympic Swimming Pool is historically significant as the site of a mid-twentieth century pool which represented the continuing use of the Lake Reserve. The pool is also historically significant as the site of community activism and fund raising in support of the pool site construction. (Criterion A)

Coburg Olympic Swimming Pool demonstrates the principal characteristics of a swimming facility through its use and facilities. While this is the case, the physical fabric of the pools and related infrastructure is not significant as it has been replaced over time. (Criterion D)

The modernist entry building (including interior) is aesthetically significant, completed in 1965 to a design by City Engineer Maxwell Pawsey, with its cantilevered glazed facade, prominent eaves and roof canopy, planter boxes and slate clad feature walls, and arrangement of the public interior spaces. (Criterion E) Coburg Olympic Swimming Pool has social significance as a community facility which has been active since 1965 and continues to be used by the community for the same purpose today. Prior to this, the same function was carried out close by at Lake Reserve from as early as 1918 and can be seen as the predecessor to the current pool. The pool also has social significance as part of community activism, most recently in 2008 when community activism pushed for the reopening of the pool. (Criterion G)

Heritage Study/Consultant	Moreland - City of Moreland - North of Bell Street Heritage Study, Context Pty Ltd, 2013; Moreland Heritage Nominations Study, Extent Heritage, 2022;
Construction dates	1965,
Hermes Number	139972
Property Number	

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### Physical Description 1

The Coburg Olympic Pool complex consists of three outdoor pools in a parkland setting adjacent to the Merri Creek. The pool complex is sited in a picturesque bend of the Merri Creek at the base of the weir that forms Coburg Lake. The setting for the pool complex has a steep slope from the road level to the creek.

The carpark and entry building are located at road level on the high side of the site enabling views down to the pools from the entrance. There are some grassed areas and concrete bleachers. The main pool is a 50 m "Olympic" pool whilst the other two are small square pools. The buildings that define the site from the carpark include the corner entry and two wings of change rooms and amenities buildings.

The corner entry building has a modern expression with deep overhanging cantilevered roof and angled full length glazing. Of interest is the manner in which a smaller entry canopy beneath the main roofline extends between the inside and the outside, becoming a false ceiling within the space. Also of interest are the Castlemaine slate feature walls and the concrete brick planter boxes. The entry building is prominent in its surroundings and bold in its architectural expression. By contrast the attached amenities buildings are relatively undistinguished.

*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/>*