

# CALEMBEEN PARK



H0398 Callembeen Pk 14  
Feb 07 PM2 Diving Tower



H0398 Callembeen Pk 14  
Feb 07 PM2 Footbridge



H0398 Callembeen Pk 14  
Feb 07 PM2 Wading Pool



H0398 Callembeen Pk 14  
Feb 07 PM2 Main Pool



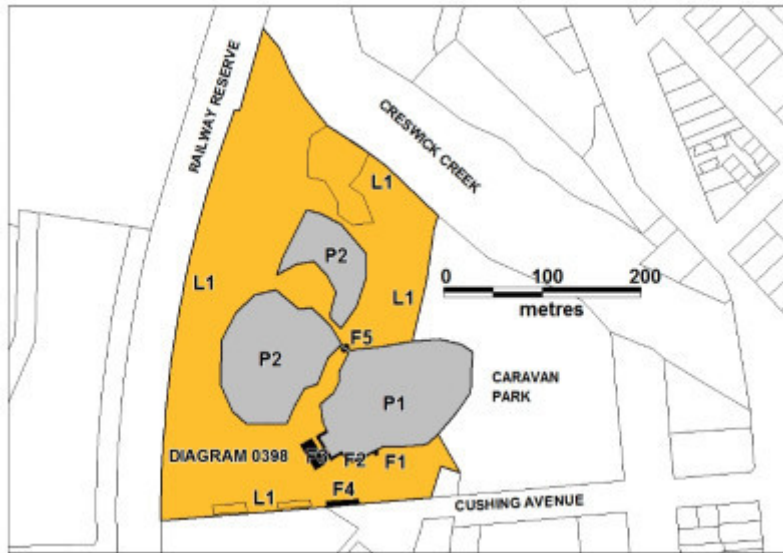
H0398 Callembeen Pk 14  
Feb 07 PM2 Back Pond 1



H0398 Callembeen Pk 14  
Feb 07 PM2 Gateway



H0398 Callembeen Pk 14  
Feb 07 PM2 Toddlers Pool



H0398 Callembeen Park Diagram H0398

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## Location

12-18 CUSHING AVENUE CRESWICK, HEPBURN SHIRE

## Municipality

HEPBURN SHIRE

## Level of significance

Registered

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0398

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO210

## VHR Registration

November 1, 2007

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

What is significant?

Calembeen Park is a recreation reserve of ten hectares on the western edge of Creswick. The reserve contains three ponds filling nineteen gold mining excavations. The park is approached on the south through a stone faced concrete gateway bordered on one side by a large California Redwood and a Cypress tree. A grassed slope containing picnic facilities forms an amphitheatre around the deepest and largest pond which is used for swimming. The south eastern edge of the pool is formed by a concrete platform, with a rectangular area marked off for a wading pool. A tubular steel framed diving tower with three diving platforms projects out over the pond. Above the wading pool is a toddler's pool with a separate water purification system. The shallower back pond to the north is stocked with fish for angling. An arched stone faced footbridge crosses a channel which links the two ponds. Another broad shallow pond is located at the north boundary. The north eastern part of the reserve contains a plantation of Corsican pine and Monterey pine from the 1910s and 1920s. A scattering of Southern Mahogany trees around the ponds probably date from the same period.

The park area and surrounds were mined for shallow alluvial gold between the early 1850s and the early 1860s. This area was worked over a number of times by Chinese miners, and it later became the site of a Chinese settlement which was occupied up until the late nineteenth century. In the late 1890s, the Black Lead Hydraulic Sluicing Company mined the black lead deposits which extend under the site, creating the large excavations which subsequently became ponds.

The first recorded use for swimming was around 1910, with an earth step cut in the bank for easier access and a wading pool bounded by a paling fence established in 1912. A temporary reserve for a public park was gazetted in 1916 - this included the area to the east now used as a caravan park. Primary schools began using the pool and 2,000 pines were planted. The local Progress Association set up a swimming club in 1926. A number of facilities were constructed over the next 25 years, including concrete dressing boxes, lockers, showers, a timber diving tower, two spring boards, rafts, kiosk, lighting and extensive seating. Annual carnivals were held, attracting national and international swimmers and large crowds. Frank Beaurepaire is said to have described Calembeen's pond in its heyday in the 1950s as "Victoria's finest inland swimming basin". The 'Junior' pool was separated off with a boardwalk which was also used to stage "Miss Creswick" competitions. A separate toddler's pool was added in 1940. The back ponds were stocked with native and introduced fish for angling. The entrance gates were built in 1952 and the existing steel diving tower replaced the original timber structure in 1960. A number of features, such as the concrete seating, dressing sheds and springboards have been removed. The park is still popular for swimming, angling and general recreational activities.

How is it significant?

Calembeen Park Creswick is of historical and social significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

Calembeen Park, Creswick is of historical significance as an intact and operational example of the group of pools which were developed as natural water features around the State. From the early to the mid-twentieth century swimming facilities on natural waters or remnant mining features were ubiquitous throughout Victoria. The pools varied from a majority of simple sites featuring a few basic facilities for diving and easy access to the water, to a small number which could cater for highly organised competitions with crowds of thousands. Calembeen Park represents these more developed sites which combined natural assets and facilities developed by the community to accommodate major carnivals and also acted as tourist attractions.

Calembeen Park, Creswick is of historical significance in the development of swimming as a sport in Victoria, and as a venue for major regional swimming carnivals in an era before artificial and 'Olympic' pools became commonplace.

Calembeen Park Creswick is of historical significance as an inland swimming hole and park which has been adapted from a landscape which was heavily altered by gold mining, and as the only such facility to make use of a remnant excavation from a hydraulic sluicing landscape, as distinct from a creek or river mined for gold.

Calembeen Park Creswick is of social significance as a community swimming venue which has been in continuous use since the early twentieth century and serving as an important component in the development of swimming as a sport in Victoria.

## 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 Heritage Victoria 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, Heritage Victoria before the undertaking any works that have a significant sub-surface component. **General Conditions:** 3. If there is a conservation policy and plan endorsed 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, Heritage Victoria 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.

**Regular Site Maintenance :** The following site maintenance works are permit exempt under section 66 of the Heritage Act 1995: a) regular site maintenance provided the works do not involve the removal or destruction of any significant above-ground features or sub-surface archaeological artefacts or deposits; b) the maintenance of an item to retain its conditions or operation without the removal of or damage to the existing fabric or the introduction of new materials; c) cleaning including the removal of surface deposits, organic growths, or graffiti by the use of low pressure water and natural detergents and mild brushing and scrubbing; d) repairs, conservation and maintenance to plaques, memorials, roads and paths, fences and gates and drainage and irrigation. e) the replacement of existing services such as cabling, plumbing, wiring and fire services that uses existing routes, conduits or voids, and does not involve damage to or the removal of significant fabric. **Note:** Surface patina which has developed on the fabric may be an important part of the item's significance and if so needs to be preserved during maintenance and cleaning. **Note:** Any new materials used for repair must not exacerbate the decay of existing fabric due to chemical incompatibility, obscure existing fabric or limit access to existing fabric for future maintenance. Repair must maximise protection and retention of fabric and include the conservation of existing details or elements. **Fire Suppression Duties :** The following fire suppression duties are permit exempt under

section 66 of the Heritage Act 1995, a) Fire suppression and fire fighting duties provided the works do not involve the removal or destruction of any significant above-ground features or sub-surface archaeological artefacts or deposits; b) Fire suppression activities such as fuel reduction burns, and fire control line construction, provided all significant historical and archaeological features are appropriately recognised and protected; Note: Fire management authorities should be aware of the location, extent and significance of historical and archaeological places when developing fire suppression and fire fighting strategies. The importance of places listed in the Heritage Register must be considered when strategies for fire suppression and management are being developed.

Weed and Vermin Control : The following weed and vermin control activities are permit exempt under section 66 of the Heritage Act 1995, a) Weed and vermin control activities provided the works do not involve the removal or destruction of any significant above-ground features or sub-surface archaeological artefacts or deposits; Note: Particular care must be taken with weed and vermin control works where such activities may have a detrimental affect on the significant fabric of a place. Such works may include the removal of ivy, moss or lichen from an historic structure or feature, or the removal of burrows from a site that has archaeological values.

Landscape Maintenance : The following landscape maintenance works are permit exempt under section 66 of the Heritage Act 1995, a) landscape maintenance works provided the activities do not involve the removal or destruction of any significant above-ground features or sub-surface archaeological artefacts or deposits; b) watering, mowing, top-dressing and fertilising necessary for the continued health of plants, without damage or major alterations to layout, contours, plant species or other significant landscape features; c) management of trees in accordance with Australian Standard; Pruning of Amenity Trees AS 4373; d) installation, removal or replacement of garden watering and drainage systems outside the canopy edge of significant trees; e) vegetation protection and management of the possum and rabbit population; removal of plants listed as noxious weeds in the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994.

Public Safety and Security : The following public safety and security activities are permit exempt under section 66 of the Heritage Act 1995, a) public safety and security activities provided the works do not involve the removal or destruction of any significant above-ground structures or sub-surface archaeological artefacts or deposits; b) the erection of temporary security fencing, scaffolding, hoardings or surveillance systems to prevent unauthorised access or secure public safety which will not adversely affect significant fabric of the place including archaeological features; c) development including emergency stabilisation necessary to secure safety where a site feature has been irreparably damaged or destabilised and represents a safety risk to its users or the public. Note: Urgent or emergency site works are to be undertaken by an appropriately qualified specialist such as a structural engineer, or other heritage professional.

Signage and Site Interpretation : The following Signage and Site Interpretation activities are permit exempt under section 66 of the Heritage Act 1995, a) signage and site interpretation activities provided the works do not involve the removal or destruction of any significant above-ground structures or sub-surface archaeological artefacts or deposits; b) the erection of non-illuminated signage for the purpose of ensuring public safety or to assist in the interpretation of the heritage significance of the place or object and which will not adversely affect significant fabric including landscape or archaeological features of the place or obstruct significant views of and from heritage values or items; c) signage and site interpretation products must be located and be of a suitable size so as not to obscure or damage significant fabric of the place; d) signage and site interpretation products must be able to be later removed without causing damage to the significant fabric of the place; Note: The development of signage and site interpretation products must be consistent in the use of format, text, logos, themes and other display materials. Note: Where possible, the signage and interpretation material should be consistent with other schemes developed on similar or associated sites. It may be necessary to consult with land managers and other stakeholders concerning existing schemes and strategies for signage and site interpretation.

Mineral Exploration : The following Mineral Exploration activities are permit exempt under section 66 of the Heritage Act 1995, a) mineral Exploration activities provided the works do not involve the removal or destruction of any significant above-ground features or sub-surface archaeological artefacts or deposits; b) preliminary non-intrusive exploration, including geological mapping, geophysical surveys, and geochemical sampling and access to shafts and adits; c) advanced forms of exploration (drilling), including the location of drill pads and access tracks where this has been the subject of on-site negotiation and agreement with representatives of Heritage Victoria, DSE and Parks Victoria, and where all significant historic site features have been identified and protected as part of an approved work plan.

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.

Construction dates	1912, 1926, 1952, 1960,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Other Names	CALAMBEEN,
Hermes Number	14382
Property Number	

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## Plaque Citation

In the late 1890s, black lead deposits were mined under this site, creating large excavations which later became ponds used for swimming from c.1910. It developed into a major recreational and sporting venue for the community.

## Extent of Registration

1. The part of the Recreation Reserve marked L1 on Diagram 398 held by the Executive Director.
2. The two pools marked P1 and P2 on Diagram 398 held by the Executive Director.
3. The following features marked on Diagram 0398 held by the Executive Director:
  - F1 Diving Tower
  - F2 Concrete apron and wading pool
  - F3 Toddlers Pool
  - F4 Entrance Gateway
  - F5 Footbridge

*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/>*