
RECREATION RESERVE and SWIMMING POOL



23303 Recreation Reserve
Branxholme Memorial Gates
0728

Location

Henty Highway BRANXHOLME, Southern Grampians Shire

Municipality

SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

Level of significance

Stage 2 study complete

Heritage Listing

Southern Grampians Shire

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - December 11, 2003

What is significant?

The Branxholme Recreation Reserve was gazetted in 1870 and the Swimming Pool Reserve was gazetted in 1929. The reserves which total over 6.5 hectares straddle the Arrandoovong Creek immediately to the east of the Henty Highway. Both represent the efforts, in two centuries, of the town's leading citizens to provide sporting facilities for the benefit of the community. Many individuals, both men and women, have contributed to the management of the reserves and the administration of the various sporting clubs. The reserves also represent an effort to use and develop the creek aesthetically and as a memorial to those who served in the two World Wars. This should be seen in association with the adjacent formal planting along the highway. The sport buildings and public facilities in the recreation reserve are of no particular significance. The swimming pool structure is significant. It retains a high degree of integrity but is in poor condition.

How is it significant?

The Branxholme Recreation Reserve and Swimming Hole are of historical, social and aesthetic significance to the township of Branxholme.

Why is it significant?

The Branxholme Recreation Reserve and Swimming Hole are of historical and social significance for the long term, although intermittent, provision of sporting and recreational facilities. They are of aesthetic significance for their use and development of the natural landscape of the Arrandoovong Creek and its flood plain and as a memorial to those who served in the two World Wars.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Southern Grampians - Southern Grampians Shire Heritage Study, Timothy Hubbard P/L, Annabel Neylon, 2002;
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Hermes Number	23303
Property Number	

Physical Conditions

The Swimming Pool and its equipment are in fair condition. The recreation structures and other facilities are in good condition.

Physical Description 1

The Branxholme Recreation Reserve and Swimming Pool is located on a reserve of over 6.5 hectares which straddles the Arrandoovong Creek immediately to the east of the Henty Highway. The reserve is approached by a large concrete memorial gateway, which is dedicated to those who served and fell in World War Two. On either side of the gate, a row of English Oaks (*Quercus robur*) forms a memorial planting. Immediately inside the gates to the reserve is a single memorial planting marked by a plaque dedicated to those who fell in World War One. The swimming pool is a concrete tank with a weir across the downstream end, fed by the Arrandoovong Creek. There are metal cages and a ladder in the pool. The banks appear to have been maintained as lawns for sunbathing. The reserve also has several later twentieth century structures, including sporting clubrooms, cream brick toilet block and timber ticket booth. A large sporting oval dominates the centre of the reserve.

Historical Australian Themes

Theme 8: Developing Australia's cultural life

8.1 Organising recreation

8.5 Forming associations

8.14 Living in country and rural settlements

8.5.4 Pursuing common leisure interests

Usage/Former Usage

recreation ground

Integrity

The buildings of the recreation reserve are not significant but the swimming pool is relative intact and significant.

Physical Description 2

The community of Branxholme

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/>