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## Charing Cross Civil & Comm Prec



Charing Cross Civic & Commercial  
Precinct - Rotunda ca.1916

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### Location

Beaconsfield Emerald Road BEACONSFIELD UPPER, Cardinia Shire

### Municipality

CARDINIA SHIRE

### Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

### Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO71

### Heritage Listing

Cardinia Shire

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### Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

Charing Cross Civic & Commercial Precinct has significance to Cardinia Shire for its associations with the development of the Upper Beaconsfield area as an important health and tourist resort. The earliest remaining structures are from the 1880s.

The Rotunda (1916), is significant as an important focus of the group, set within a park reserve. The Victorian Orchardists Cool Store and Fruit Packaging Company, opened on the site in the 1920s, is also significant as a reminder of when Upper Beaconsfield became a prosperous orcharding district. Other significant components of

the precinct include the former Salisbury House boarding house, the Assembly Hall and nearby war memorial, all closely linked to public life in the town over an extended period.

### *Regional Significance*

Heritage Study/Consultant	Cardinia - Cardinia Shire Heritage Study 1996, Graeme Butler & Associates, 1996;
Construction dates	1899,
Other Names	Beaconsfield Emerald Road, Upper Beaconsfield,
Hermes Number	30416
Property Number	

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## **Physical Description 1**

Precinct includes:

- \* the reserve and planting,
- \* the timber framed rotunda (1916),
- \* packing shed,
- \* former tea rooms (now the milk bar),
- \* the post office,
- \* Salisbury House (former guest house),
- \* tennis courts
- \* the Assembly Hall and
- \* the nearby war memorial.

These elements represent the early community centre of the settlement and its major structures grouped compactly around the main intersection in the town. Later elements of a related type (but not era), include the RSL hall and the Ash Wednesday Memorial Park.

Just outside of the precinct, on the other side of the Emerald Road, was the site of the Anglican Church which was rebuilt after destruction of the church in the 1983 fires. Although rebuilt in an empathetic form to the rest of the precinct, this church is unrelated historically to the heritage qualities of the early civic structures of the precinct.

## **Physical Conditions**

Most of the elements are in fair to good condition with only the assembly hall being altered more than in detail.

## **Historical Australian Themes**

## **Historical Themes**

7.1 Gentlemen's rural retreats

8.3 Farming townships, e.g. Pakenham Upper, Bunyip

8.5 Tourist centres, e.g. Upper Beaconsfield, Gembrook

9.12 Parks and gardens, sporting grounds, street plantings

*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/>*