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# Lowen House



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## Location

90-92 Kangaroo Ground - Warrandyte Road NORTH WARRANDYTE, NILLUMBIK SHIRE

## Municipality

NILLUMBIK SHIRE

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO106

## Heritage Listing

Nillumbik Shire

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - January 7, 2010

REVISED STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE, CONTEXT, 2010

### ***What is significant?***

The 1956 house and the surrounding site to the title boundaries.

### ***How is it significant?***

The house is architecturally and historically significant to the Shire of Nillumbik.

### ***Why is it significant?***

The house is historically significant because it was built for Fritz Lowen, then regarded as one of the top furniture designers. Also for its associations with its designers, noted modernist architects, John and Phyllis Murphy (best known for the design of the 1956 Melbourne Olympic pool) (Criterion H). It is architecturally significant as one of a group of notable modernist houses on this part of the Kangaroo Ground-Warrandyte Road designed in the 1950s and 1960s. (Criterion F). The house is architecturally significant because it is an early and notable Modernist house, and on that is representative of the characteristic architectural style of the Eltham-Warrandyte area (Criteria E & D).

Heritage Study/Consultant Nillumbik - Nillumbik Shire Heritage Study, Graeme Butler & Assoc, 1997;

Hermes Number 64037

Property Number

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## **Physical Description 1**

This house' was designed on two levels, the first floor containing a kitchen-dining area, a separate living room with a balcony overlooking the native forest below, and the upper part of a studio which was at ground level beside the car-port below. As a reversal of traditional practice, the ground floor held all of the bedrooms, bathroom. and a laundry. Typically for a Modernist house, .the living areas faced north through ample full-width glazing, with an eaves overhang for shading in summer. Natural timber, fitted by the owner Lowen, was used as internal facings (including vertical 'knotty pine' and hardwood vertical boarding was used on the outside along with timber framed window walls with (originally deep-blue) painted spandrels. The main roof of corrugated cement sheet is in two differently sloping skillion forms, one almost reaching the ground at the rear of the house, over the carport, prompting the observation in 1956 that it was 'tent like', This house is one of a group in this part of North Warrandyte.

## **Historical Australian Themes**

Community growth- local government

8.10.4 Designing and building fine buildings

8.12 Living in and around Australian homes

*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/>*