

# HERITAGE PLACE

**NAME OF PLACE:** SWIMMING POOL COMPLEX

**ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE:** Penshurst-Byaduk Road BYADUK

**STUDY NUMBER:** 203

**HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:**

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**PRECINCT:** Byaduk

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:** Southern Grampians Shire

**ALLOTMENT:** 5, 6, &  
7 **SECTION:** 2

**ACCESS DESCRIPTION:**

CFA ; VicRoads 72 H9; ;located on the north side of the Penshurst - Byaduk Road about .3km from the intersection with the Hamilton -Port Fairy Road

**SIGNIFICANCE RATING:** Local



Swimming Pool, Penshurst - Byaduk Road, Byaduk.

**Image Date:** 30/01/02

**EXTENT OF LISTING:**

To the extent of: 1. All the structures including the pool, shelter sheds, changing rooms and kiosk, and all the land in a radius of thirty metres from the centre of the swimming pool.

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## **PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:**

The Byaduk Swimming Pool complex is located on low lying land on the north bank of Scotts Creek, some 50 metres north of the Byaduk-Penshurst road, and about 400 metres east of the Hamilton-Port Fairy Road intersection. The pool complex is accessed by crossing the old bluestone and timber mill bridge over Scotts Creek.

The complex consists of an inground concrete swimming pool with timber diving board, separate male and female changing rooms, an covered seating area, and a kiosk. The pool appears to have been constructed in situ using concrete formwork. There are no tiles on the pool surface, which has been painted aqua blue. The timber diving board appears to be a 'vernacular' construction, mounted on a timber frame with a concrete fulcrum. The changing rooms are built of timber frames with corrugated iron walls and roof. The iron cladding of the walls does not continue into the gable of the building, permitting ample ventilation. Inside, there are hooks for hanging clothes, and a wooden bench running around the perimeter of the walls. The covered seating area has wooden benches and a corrugated iron roof. The kiosk is built of timber and corrugated iron.

## **HISTORY:**

In 1929, a public meeting was held on the site of the swimming pool, to raise interest and form a committee to supervise and help with the construction of a swimming pool at the site. The head teacher of the state school at the time, Mr. H. T. Jeffrey, was one of the main instigators of the project, and a committee member with Messrs. J. B. Kinghorn, J. E. Monogham (sic), J Taylor, E. Holcombe, J. Forsyth and A. Anderson, Chairman.

The undertaking of the construction of the swimming pool as we know it today, in the early 1930s was a mammoth task with the limited man power and machinery available. All the concrete work on the pool was done by a local resident Mr. Tom Harper. It has been said that the concrete swimming pool was one of the earliest of its kind in the area and was popular even with people from Hamilton.

Since the official opening of the pool on March 24th 1930, the pool was made available to the residents of the district every year and was a popular resort for families and visitors in the summer months. The pool was designed to be supplied by permanent running water from Scotts Creek which is weired up-stream and flows through the pool by gravity. As the flow of Scott's Creek has diminished and the population of Byaduk has reduced, the pool gradually was abandoned and became derelict.

## **THEMATIC CONTEXT:**

3.14 Developing an Australian engineering and construction industry

3.14.1 Building to suit Australian conditions

3.14.2 Using Australian materials in construction

3.23 Catering for tourists

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

## **CONDITION:**

The swimming pool has been empty for many years, and weeds and debris have collected on the floor of the structure. There is minor evidence of deterioration of the surface. The change rooms, kiosk and shelter shed

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are in very good condition. The site is being used to graze sheep at present. The condition of the buildings in the complex is remarkably good, considering their age and lack of maintenance.

## **INTEGRITY:**

Excellent degree of integrity

## **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:**

What is significant?

The Byaduk Swimming Pool, located on the Penshurst-Byaduk Road is a concrete swimming pool constructed by a committee of local people in the 1930s. It was the first swimming pool ever constructed in the Shire of Southern Grampians, and at the time was considered to be quite an engineering feat. The creek nearby was diverted and dammed and used to fill and clean the pool by moving through it, and the whole structure was dug by hand. People came from long distances, and sometimes from larger towns such as Hamilton to use the pool. The Pool is no longer used, but provided a focus for entertainment to the children and families of the district every Summer for over 50 years. The Byaduk Swimming Pool complex consists of an inground concrete swimming pool with timber diving board, separate male and female changing rooms, an covered seating area, and a kiosk. No architect, engineer or specific builder was used in the construction of the structure. The pool is remarkably intact, despite being overgrown and weed infested.

How is it significant?

The Byaduk Swimming Pool complex is of architectural, historical and social significance to the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

The Byaduk Swimming Pool complex is architecturally significant as a rare intact example of a rural swimming pool complex designed the early 1930s. It is of further architectural significance as an excellent example of a hand dug swimming pool, and for its use of engineering intelligence, which diverted the local creek through the structure to both fill and clean it. The pool is of historical significance as an example of a small community co-operating to build a substantial structure for the benefit of all in the community. Of further historical significance is the pool's representation of the social movement toward health and wellbeing, popular in the late 1920s and early 1930s. It is socially significant as an important meeting place for the Byaduk community for over fifty years.

## **COMPARISON:**

220 Recreation Reserve and Swimming Pool, Henty Highway, Branxholme.

**ASSESSED BY:** AEN

**ASSESSMENT DATE:**

9/12/2003

## **EXISTING LISTINGS:**

## **HERITAGE STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Include in VHR  Include in RNE  Include in Local Planning Scheme

No Recommendations for Inclusions

## **REFERENCES:**

Author	Title	Year Page
Gordon Rentsch	Back to Byaduk School Centenary 1872-1972	1972