ROGERS RESERVE

Prepared by: Context Pty Ltd

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Address: 109 Cumberland Road, Pascoe Vale</th>
<th>Survey Date: March 2017</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Name: Rogers Memorial Reserve</td>
<td>Architect:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Place Type:</td>
<td>Builder:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grading:</td>
<td>Construction Date:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Extent of Overlay: To title boundaries</td>
<td>Architectural Style: Interwar Period (c.1919-c.1940)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

History

The Rogers Memorial Reserve was purchased by Council by c.1928 along with others for public recreation purposes, funded by a 50 000 pound loan to the local council (Argus 13/8/1928:19). The reserve was first known as the Raeburn Reserve, and renamed the Rogers Memorial Reserve c.1938, after Councillor Harry Rogers who served as the Chairman to the Coburg Council Parks and Gardens Committee, and was a firm advocate of creating new parks within the municipality (City of Moreland Thematic History 2010:78).

Works on the reserve commenced approximately in 1938 when school children from nearby Pascoe Vale State School planted trees in the reserve for Arbor Day “…under the supervision and to a design by the City Curator…” (Argus 15/6/1939:20). It is not known if any of these trees survive, although the Cherry Plum and Monterey Cypress may date this period.

A swimming baths was constructed in the lower part of Rogers Reserve in 1941, and opened Frank Beaurepair, Lord Mayor of Melbourne and former swimming champion in (City of Moreland, 2010:78). Although the swimming pool fabric and area has been refurbished, changed and extended over time, it has served continuously as a public swimming pool site for over 70 years. Almost no original fabric of the pool, outbuildings or plantings from the mid twentieth century are believed to survive at the site.

A [First World War] Memorial Drinking Fountain (c.1916), originally erected on the south east corner of P Pleasant and Gyles Street, Pascoe Vale was relocated to its current location in Rogers Reserve fronting Cumberland Road in 1948, and was used to commemorate those who had served in the subsequent Second World War also. Memorials to later conflicts were added to the memorial space over time. These include memorials to Korea, Malaya, Borneo, South Vietnam, and United Nations Peace Keeping Forces. An Aleppo Pine (Lone Pine) was planted to the south of the Memorial c.1990-2000. An Olive Tree was planted to the west of the Memorial space in 2012 to honour the Australian and Greek men and women who died during the
Battle of Crete.

The Memorial and its setting, including land in Rogers Reserve was added to the Heritage Overlay of the Moreland Planning Scheme (HO291) in 2005.

New paving, garden beds and seats were erected in the reserve, as well as a central path to the swimming pool c.1997 as part of a beautification program.

Rogers Memorial Reserve in its entirety was nominated to the Victorian Heritage Register by community members in 2014 in response to a proposal by Moreland City Council to build a community facility in the Reserve. Heritage Victoria deemed that the place did not meet the threshold State Significance, but was likely to be of local significance. The assessment recommended the Memorial Drinking Fountain (HO291) should retain a separate Heritage Overlay as it had alternate values to the Reserve itself.

A community centre was constructed in Rogers Memorial Reserve in 2015 by Moreland City Council. This building is located in the western portion of the Reserve, and immediately east of the Swimming Pool complex.

Description & Integrity

The Rogers Memorial Reserve is a long irregular shaped reserve of approximately 1.5ha reserve with a 45m frontage on to Cumberland Road. Unusually, parts of area considered as the Reserve (and zoned as such) have been subdivided into housing allotments. These include 5 lots on Prospect Street (between 7 and 9 Prospect Street) and a single lot in Eddie Street (No. 20). These lots are used to either access the Reserve from the surrounding streets, or have been planted out (Prospect Street frontage) with native trees and shrubs and appear to form part of the Reserve, although cut off from the main Cumberland Street frontage by built structure.

There is a row of mature Monterey Cypress (Cupressus Macrocarpa) on the northern side of the reserve and some other commemorative plantings. A small number of trees dating from c.1928 to 1945 survive in the reserve, including one Cherry Plum and three Monterey Cypress in the central portion of the site, and possibly a row of Monterey Cypress on the northern boundary. A number of Australian natives, dating from c.1970 to 1980 are planted throughout the reserve. These include specimens of Melaleuca, Spotted Gum and Silky Oak. There are a number of immature specimens of Queensland Kauri and Kurrajong that were planted c.2010 to 2014.

The western half of the site is taken up by the large Pascoe Vale Swimming Pool complex, which comprises a number of swimming pools in various sizes, associated built facilities, high fencing and an area of grass with specimen trees dating from the c1975 -2010 period.

A modern community facility is currently being constructed in the central part of the Rogers Memorial Reserve, in the ‘dip’ to the west of Cumberland Road frontage. This structure The built form now dominates the reserve, effectively separating public open space (traditional parkland/reserve space) into three parts – the lawn associated
with the Swimming Pool complex, and the native planting fronting Prospect Street and the area of Reserve between Cumberland Road and the new community centre. The northern portion on Prospect Street – a grassy space with 1970s native trees – is effectively cut off by the swimming complex security fence. The open space to the west is only accessible through the swimming complex, and therefore not truly part of the free, public reserve.

The Pascoe Vale War Memorial (Memorial Drinking Fountain, HO291) is located in Rogers Memorial Reserve, on a paved area about 10m from Cumberland Street. This memorial is a small granite memorial comprising a stepped base, a lower section with engraved plaques bearing the names of those from the Pascoe Vale community who served in conflict including the First and Second World Wars, Korea, Borneo, Malaya, South Vietnam and UN Peacekeeping missions. It is surmounted by four columns supporting a cupola that shelters a drinking fountain. It is set within a paved area within the reserve and is set back from Cumberland Road on a centrally aligned path. A memorial Lone Pine (descendant of the original Lone Pine of Gallipoli) has been planted to the south of the war memorial and paved area. A memorial Olive Tree commemorating Australians and Greeks those who fought and died in the Battle of Crete has been planted to the west of the war memorial.

**Comparative Analysis**

**War memorials**

It is common for war memorials commemorating local service people to be located in public parks and reserves, or even in central road reserves. There are hundreds of examples of war memorials located in public reserves and parks across Victoria, and many parks and reserves have been named as memorial spaces.

There are a total of 16 war related places within the City of Moreland that are included on the Victorian War Heritage Inventory in the HERMES Database (five war memorials, three honour boards /memorial plaques, three avenues of honour /memorial gardens, three memorial stained glass windows and three memorial/military related buildings).

**War memorials in Moreland**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>place name</th>
<th>Materials and form</th>
<th>Construction date</th>
<th>Associated conflicts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HO149 Brunswick Boer War Memorial Hooper Reserve, Royal Parade, Brunswick</td>
<td>Granite base with solider statute atop</td>
<td>c.1903</td>
<td>Boer War</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HO204 Coburg War Memorial Bell Street, Coburg</td>
<td>Granite cenotaph</td>
<td>c. 1924</td>
<td>WW1 WW2 Korea, Borneo, Malaya, Sth Vietnam, UN Peacekeeping</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No HO Glenroy War Memorial 186 Glenroy Road, Glenroy</td>
<td>Traditional granite obelisk mounted atop a square concrete base</td>
<td>Unknown, presumed c.1919</td>
<td>WW1 WW2 Korea, Malaya, Vietnam</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
HO414  
Pascoe Vale Primary School War Memorial  
Cnr Gaffney Street and Cumberland Road, Pascoe Vale  
Squat obelisk mounted on a square plinth, with stepped concrete base (two levels). Material appears to be painted concrete block.  
Unknown, presumed c.1919  
WW1 WW2

HO291  
Pascoe Vale War Memorial Drinking Fountain  
Rogers Reserve, Pascoe Vale  
Bluestone drinking fountain in cenotaph style, base stepped (two levels). Drinking fountain removed c.1916 relocated to site c.1938  
WW1 WW2 Korea, Borneo, Malaya, Sth Vietnam, UN Peacekeeping

The Memorial Drinking Fountain at Rogers Memorial Reserve (HO291) is the only war memorial with an Individual Heritage Overlay applied in the Moreland Planning Scheme. Other than the Glenroy War Memorial, which has no heritage protection through the HO, all other war memorials within the municipality are part of a larger HO, associated with a heritage precinct or a heritage place.

Three of the five war memorials within the municipality include reference to post WW2 conflicts, including Korea, Borneo, and Malaya, Vietnam and UN Peacekeeping missions.

The memorial at Rogers Reserve HO291 is the only example of a war memorial expressed as a drinking fountain within the municipality. It is the only example which uses carved bluestone on a bluestone stepped base within the municipality.

**Other types of memorials or commemorative structures**

There are few other non war related memorial structures to individuals or conflicts included on the Schedule to the HO of the Moreland Planning Scheme, or in the HERMES database (such as the drinking fountain at Rogers Reserve).

There are at least three other comparative examples of commemorative drinking fountains currently included under the HO within the municipality. There is one c.1935 located on Lake Reserve erected by a Mr. Taylor, another erected to commemorate the first Chair of the Brunswick Municipal Council at Hooper Reserve and a third, being Cr. Harry Malcomson Rogers Memorial Drinking Fountain located in Bridges Reserve, Bell Street, Coburg. This structure has an individual HO (HO31), while the others are included in larger area HOs.

The third drinking fountain is described as being constructed of artificial freestone, in an exuberant Art Deco Style. It memorialises Cr. Harry Rogers (after who Rogers Reserve is also named). It is quite different in style and materials to the drinking fountain in Rogers Reserve, and memorialises the services of an individual rather than a conflict.

Memorialised RSL Halls, Drill Halls, and Town Halls are not included in this assessment as they are not appropriate comparative examples. They are classed as memorial buildings rather than memorial/commemorative structures.
Memorial reserves, parks, gardens and avenues

There are three memorial landscapes included as such on the Schedule to the HO of the Moreland Planning Scheme. These are generally memorials to those who served in conflict, or to specific individuals. They are:

- Rogers Memorial Reserve, 109 Cumberland Road, Pascoe Vale (the war memorial section only) - HO291
- Coburg Avenue of Honour, in Coburg Lake Reserve, Coburg – HO390
- Coburg Memorial Garden, School Grounds, Bell Street, Coburg – HO31

As discussed earlier, Cr. Roger’s service to the municipality is already recognised through the fine Art Deco drinking fountain located in Bridges Reserve, Bell Street, Coburg (HO31). The Avenue of Honour and Memorial Garden are memorials to those who served in World Wars 1 and 2, and are not directly comparable to Rogers Reserve as they are different types of places with different values.

Other reserves

The Schedule to the HO of the Moreland Planning Scheme includes 11 reserves listed as either individual places or precincts. All 11 are either evolved or designed landscape types. There are likely to be many more reserves within existing heritage precincts which are not specifically listed individually as such in the Schedule.

Rogers Reserve is considered to be less complex than most reserves on the HO, with fewer original intact elements including paths, plantings or original path network or layout. Jacob’s Reserve in Brunswick West, Lake Reserve and Bridges Reserve in Coburg and DS Bain Reserve in Coburg North/Merlynston are all considered to be more intact examples. However, Edgars Creek Reserve in Coburg and Hooper Reserve in Brunswick are also both significantly altered.

The place has a clear association with Cr. Harry Rogers, after which it was named, who was instrumental in ensuring adequate parks, reserves and recreational facilities were created for the new suburbs during the interwar period. The work which Cr. Rogers undertook to create recreational spaces has shaped the municipality and the way in which its occupants live. The DS Bain Reserve in Merlynston is another good example of the link between a reserve’s name and its philosophy and inception - Bain was the developer and instigator of the ‘model’ suburb of Merlynston, after whom this reserve is named. While Anderson Reserve in Coburg does not presume historical significance or associations with Anderson, nor does Jacobs Reserve in Brunswick West - although both express other values perhaps better than Rogers Reserve.

Rogers Reserve is not in possession of any uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of the municipality beyond that any other reserve, and in many ways it is less remarkable than most. There are a number of war memorials located within other parks and reserves across the municipality; and there are at least three other memorial drinking fountains (in Lake Reserve, Bridges Reserve and Hooper Reserve). The open nature of the parkland can be compared to Anderson Reserve and countless other reserves across the municipality which are not included on the HO as they also have nothing in particular to warrant their inclusion on this basis. There are other examples of swimming baths and pools being created in public reserves and parks within the

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1 The Fawkner Memorial Park (HI216, VHR H2331) is not included here, as is a cemetery, rather than a memorial reserve
municipality, including Edgar Reserve. No other examples of the Aleppo Pine (Lone Pine) descendants are known of within the municipality, which makes the tree unique. Rogers Reserve has an aesthetic sensibility, as do all of the reserves on the HO. The aesthetic is not highly distinctive, and is best compared the Edgars Creek Reserve and the Oak Park Reserve.

**Statement of Significance**

**What is Significant?**
The Rogers Memorial Reserve, located at 109 Cumberland Road, to the extent of all of the land included in the title between the Cumberland Road frontage and the new Pascoe Vale Community Centre. The following elements are considered to be significant:

- The early plantings of Cherry Plum tree (1 specimen) and Monterey Cypress (3 specimens) to the west of the Memorial Drinking Fountain
- The Cumberland Street frontage and views to the memorial and Reserve from Cumberland Street
- The original title boundaries of Rogers Reserve on the north and south sides of the Reserve to the extent of the Heritage Overlay area.

It does not include the Pascoe Vale Swimming Pool Complex, the existing curtilage of the Memorial Drinking Fountain (HO291), nor does it include the following titles associated with Rogers Memorial Reserve: Prospect Street Pascoe Vale or 20 Eddie Street Pascoe Vale.

**How is it Significant?**
The Rogers Memorial Reserve at 109 Cumberland Road, Pascoe Vale is considered to be of local historic and associative significance to the City of Moreland.

**Why is it Significant?**
Rogers Reserve is considered to have historical significance as an example of the Councillor Rogers and more broadly, the Coburg City Council’s aspirations to create and facilitate recreational spaces throughout the rapidly expanding residential areas of the municipality in the interwar period, a period of key growth and consolidation in Coburg and Pascoe Vale in particular. Inspired by, but not strictly true to Ebeneezer Howard’s Garden City Movement, it was led in the Victorian context by Saxil Tuxen and other town planners, surveyors and councillors. While the Swimming Pool is not part of the area of significance, the placement of this public facility within the Reserve demonstrates the continued evolution of this ideal. The reserve retains a sufficient degree of integrity and intactness to demonstrate this phase of local development and philosophy to adequately demonstrate this principle (Criterion A).

Rogers Reserve is considered to be of associative significance for its direct association with Councillor Harry Rogers who made a strong and influential contribution to the course of the municipality’s history, through his advocacy while a Councillor of Garden City ideals, especially the provision of public reserves and parks to the growing suburbs of Coburg. The association of the place to the person is evident through its name. There is direct evidence in written and oral history that Rogers had close interaction with the place (it is a symbol of what Roger’s advocated for - Parks and Reserves) and is as memorial to the person, and his ideals (Criterion H).
The reserve is considered to satisfy this Criterion better than most other reserves which are named after influential people within the municipality because of the direct and strong association between the advocacy of parks and reserves by Cr. Rogers and the memorialising of the man through naming the reserve in his honour.

(Criterion G)

Criterion G
Rogers Reserve is considered to meet Criterion G at the local level. The location in the reserve of the Pascoe Vale War Memorial and the Pascoe Vale Swimming Pool is of importance to the local community, who have a strong and special relationship with the place. This is evidenced by the regular and long term use of the place while participating in remembrance services, recreational activities such as swimming, and other types of community activities over many years (continuously since the late 1930s). There is evidence of a direct association between Rogers Reserve and the community of Pascoe Vale.

The attachment to the place does not resonate beyond the local community, nor does it represent a particularly strong example of the association by reason of its important historical events in Victoria and its ability to interpret experiences to the broader community. Nor is there any evidence which suggests that Rogers Reserve is a stronger example within the state of the association between a local community, its war memorial and associated reserve.

Criterion H

Summary of significance for Rogers Reserve

What is Significant?

How is it significant?

Why is it significant?

Planning Control Recommendations

Recommended for inclusion in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay of the Moreland Planning Scheme as an individually Significant place.

Recommendations for the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay (Clause 43.01) in the Moreland Planning Scheme:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Planning Control</th>
<th>Requirement</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>External Paint Colours</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internal Alteration Controls</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tree Controls</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victorian Heritage Register</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incorporated Plan</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Does an Incorporated Plan apply to the site?</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Outbuildings and fences exemptions</strong></td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Are there outbuildings and fences which are not exempt from notice and review?</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Prohibited uses may be permitted</strong></td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can a permit be granted to use the place for a use which would otherwise be prohibited?</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Aboriginal Heritage Place</strong></td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Is the place an Aboriginal heritage place which is subject to the requirements of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006?</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>