

# VICTORIA PARK

ABBOTSFORD

## *Conservation Management Plan*





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Prepared for  
CITY OF YARRA

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# Executive Summary

## *Report Structure*

Chapter 1 provides an introduction to the report, including an overview of the principal aims and objectives of the study. A history of Victoria Park, its evolution, development and use, is contained in Chapter 2, and is complemented by an analysis of historic aerial photographs in Appendix C, and a chronological overview of the development of the site and its associated structures in Appendix D. Chapter 3 contains a description of the ground and its various components, with a more detailed physical overview contained in Appendix B. Chapter 4 provides an analysis of the historical and social significance of Victoria Park, including a brief comparison with other VFL/AFL grounds in Victoria. The grandstands at Victoria Park are also assessed in the context of grandstand development in Victoria. The chapter concludes with a statement of cultural heritage significance. Chapter 5 contains detailed conservation policies and strategies for Victoria Park, which are complemented by recommendations relating to the individual elements (on retention, conservation, adaptation, redevelopment, etc) in Appendix B.

## *Significance*

This study concludes that Victoria Park is of considerable historical and social significance (at a State level), while the stands and built elements are generally of moderate aesthetic/architectural significance. The following is a summary of the more complete statement of cultural heritage significance found at the end of Chapter 4. Appendix B also contains assessments of the significance of the individual elements of Victoria Park.

Victoria Park derives considerable historical and social significance from its association with the Collingwood Football Club for over 110 years, and for being a stronghold of football tribalism. The football club was a founding member of the VFL in 1897, became a powerhouse in the competition, and one of the most successful and popularly supported of all football clubs in Victoria. Collingwood has also been influential in the ongoing development of the game, has produced notable players, coaches and administrators, and has helped to shape the distinctive and fanatical character of football following in Victoria. Collingwood's continuous use of Victoria Park (having played home games there for 107 years) is the longest association at the highest level between any Victorian AFL club and its ground. In 1999 Victoria Park was also the last suburban VFL/AFL ground in Melbourne (excluding Princes Park), to host a league game. The community of Collingwood Football Club supporters have a strong attachment to the ground, regard it as the spiritual home of the club, and invest the place with great symbolic and iconic importance. Victoria Park is additionally of significance as a focal point of the Collingwood community for a long period, and for its associations with the Collingwood Cricket Club from 1906 to 1996.

Architecturally, the stands and built elements at Victoria Park have some distinguishing qualities, without being structures of high architectural merit. The rear treatment of the Ryder Stand, with its architectural presentation to Abbott Street, is of some note. The Sherrin Stand has a strong presence within the ground, and a high degree of external prominence and visibility. The Social Club Stand originally had some architectural distinction, but this has been diminished by later works, while the Rush Stand is a generally utilitarian structure of limited significance. The oval, sections of perimeter wall, and remnant grassed embankment at the eastern end of the ground are important elements.

*Understanding the Place*

As the stands and built elements at Victoria Park are generally of moderate to low aesthetic/architectural significance, an emphasis on retaining all these elements is not considered essential for maintaining and conserving the important aspects of significance (historical and social). In terms of conservation objectives, and in the context of Victoria Park no longer being a league football venue, and ceasing to be the football club’s base in the future, it is considered more critical to retain elements that will ‘hold’ or help to reflect or demonstrate in the future:

- ☞ the long association with the Collingwood Football Club;
- ☞ the attachment and experience of the Collingwood supporters; and
- ☞ the traditional character of the place.

Accordingly, the policy sets out to:

- ☞ keep symbolic and iconic aspects of Victoria Park;
- ☞ maintain the historical character of Victoria Park in its Abbotsford setting, including the sense of enclosure and separation;
- ☞ maintain a sense of the history of the ground through appropriate interpretation; and
- ☞ allow for adaptation of existing structures, and/or the introduction of new structures and elements in the future, in a way which is consistent with the above.

*Summary of Recommendations*

The following is a summary of the table of recommendations found in Chapter 5, and described in greater detail in Appendix B:

Oval	Retain the overall form of the oval at the centre of the facility. A form of low boundary fence should also be maintained, as should one of the existing players’ benches (preferably the Collingwood bench on the north of the oval).
Grassed embankment (east end)	Retain the form of an embankment (standing room) at the east end of the ground, including the high point of ‘One Eye Hill’. The open aspect of the embankment should also be retained, with no substantial new structures introduced to the area. Views of the industrial and

	residential development (backdrop) on Trenerry Crescent and Bath Street are also important.
Ryder Stand (1929)	Retain, although consideration can be given to retaining the rear (Abbott Street) wall only, due to the poor condition of the structure and the substantial modifications to the viewing and seating areas on the south of the stand.
Social Club Stand (1959/80/89)	Retain or remove as required. If retained, the structure can be upgraded or adapted, with the internal spaces suited to a range of uses.
Rush Stand (1966)	Retain or remove, although if removal is considered, the concrete risers of the lower terraces should be retained, together with elements of the fixed bench seating.
Sherrin Stand (1969/78)	Retain, including the black and white striped treatment to the Lulie Street elevation. The undercroft spaces can be refurbished and reused.
Perimeter wall (various dates)	Retain and conserve the following sections of wall: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>≠ concrete wall along Turner and Bath Streets;</li> <li>≠ wall to the rear of the Ryder Stand on Abbott Street; and</li> <li>≠ the section of brick wall on Lulie Street to the rear of the Sherrin Stand.</li> </ul> New openings can be made in the retained sections, and selected entrances (gates, turnstiles, ticket boxes) should also be kept.
Entrance/exit gates, turnstiles, etc (various dates)	Retain examples, including the entrance at the junction of Lulie and Turner Streets (which is the principal entrance to the outer reserve, and the first entrance encountered when arriving at Victoria Park from Johnston Street).
Scoreboard (1966)	Preferably retain.
Time clock (1966)	Preferably retain.
Caretaker's residence (1960s)	Retain or remove, including fence, although the site should remain within the Victoria Park property boundary.

## Project Team

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# Acknowledgements

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# 1.0 Introduction

## 1.1 BACKGROUND AND BRIEF

This Conservation Management Plan for Victoria Park, Abbotsford, has been commissioned by the City of Yarra, the owner of the site, in the context of developing a Master Plan for the ground. The Collingwood Football Club will be relocating from Victoria Park in 2004, to a new headquarters and training facility at the old Olympic Pool and Olympic Park, after which time the facility may become available for a range of potential new uses.

The purpose of this report is to analyse and assess the cultural heritage significance of Victoria Park, including its component parts, and to provide guidance, in the form of policies and strategies, for future management, conservation, interpretation, use and works to the place. The guidelines are principally aimed at maintaining the identified heritage significance of Victoria Park, while allowing for appropriate new forms of development.

## 1.2 METHODOLOGY

The report broadly follows the format of the Australia ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites) guidelines for the preparation of conservation plans<sup>1</sup> and the principles set out in the *Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter*, 1999, adopted by Australia ICOMOS to assist in the conservation of heritage places.

## 1.3 AIMS & OBJECTIVES

The principal aims and objectives of the Conservation Management Plan (CMP) are to:

- ## identify and assess the cultural heritage significance of Victoria Park (historical, social, spiritual, architectural and technological/scientific significance), including its component parts;
- ## consider the place in its totality, including its setting and context;
- ## examine and analyse the physical development and evolution of Victoria Park, looking at buildings, structures and spatial elements;
- ## provide practical policies and guidelines to manage the identified heritage values and aspects of significance in the (post-Collingwood Football Club) future;
- ## assess the relative significance of Victoria Park in the context of other Victorian-based Australian Football League (AFL) football grounds; and
- ## provide a succinct statement of significance for Victoria Park which clearly articulates the nature of significance.

#### 1.4 SOURCES

Records held in the Collingwood Football Club archives were of great assistance during the writing of this report. Reference is also made throughout this document to several key publications on the football club and Victoria Park, notably:

- €# Glenn McFarlane & Michael Roberts, *Collingwood at Victoria Park* (1999) (much use has been made of the material and historic illustrations in this book).
- €# Richard Stremski, *Kill for Collingwood* (1986).
- €# Brian Hansen, *The Magpies: the Official Centenary History of the Collingwood Football Club 1892-1992* (1992).

#### 1.5 OBJECTS & MEMORABILIA

Collingwood Football Club has a comprehensive collection of club memorabilia and objects, including honour boards, historic photographs, clippings, documents, paintings, prints and engravings, certificates, cloth banners, trophies, plaques, medallions, pennants, premiership cups, and numerous football-related objects such as guernseys, boots and footballs.

The scope of this study has not allowed for an assessment of these items, however it is recognised that the memorabilia and objects are of great historical and social significance to the club, its members and supporters. It is also understood that the collection will move with the club to its new headquarters. Policies relating to objects are included in Chapter 5.

#### 1.6 COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

During the development of this report, consultation was undertaken with local community representatives, including representatives of the Collingwood and Abbotsford Residents Association. An open day for local residents was held at Victoria Park, which was followed up with another open day at the Collingwood Town Hall, for the broader community. Questionnaires were also handed out and reviewed.

#### 1.7 LISTINGS AND CLASSIFICATION

Victoria Park is not included in the *Victorian Heritage Register*, *National Trust of Australia (Victoria) Register*, or the *Register of the National Estate*.

##### *Planning Scheme*

Victoria Park is included in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay of the City of Yarra Planning Scheme, as being within the 'Victoria Park Precinct' (HO337).

##### 1.7.1 *Terminology*

The conservation terminology used in this report is of a specific nature, and is defined within *The Australia ICOMOS Charter for the Conservation of Places of Cultural Significance (the Burra Charter)* as endorsed by all statutory and national heritage bodies (See Appendix A).

## 1.8 LOCATION

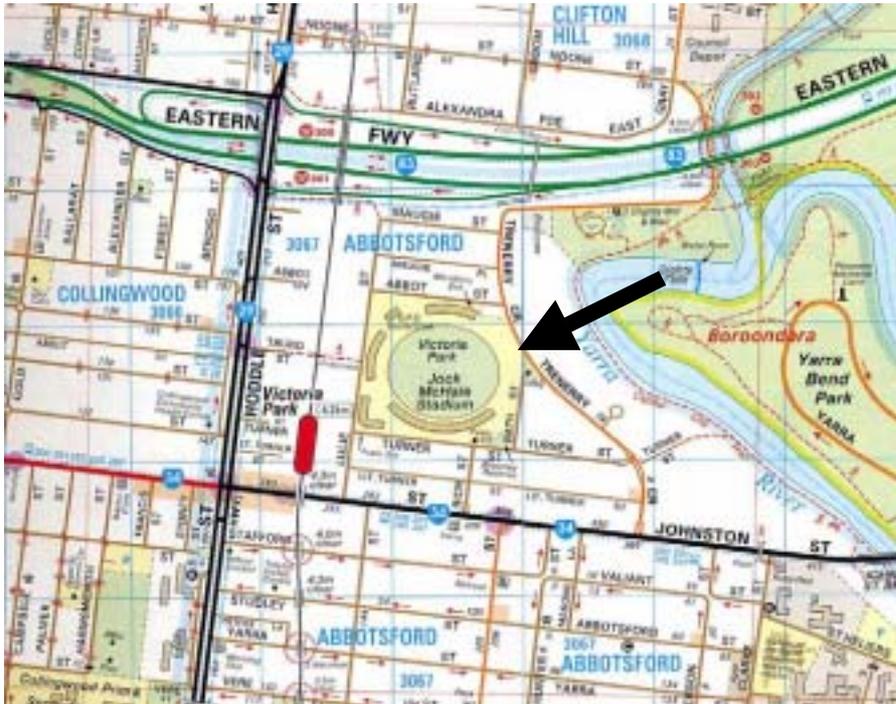


Figure 1 Location plan  
Source: Melways

The terms most frequently referred to are: *place, cultural significance, fabric, conservation, preservation, restoration, reconstruction, adaptation and interpretation*. These terms are defined in the revised charter as follows:

*Place* means site, area, land, landscape, building or other work, group of buildings or other works, and may include components, contents, spaces and views.

*Cultural significance* means aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value for past, present or future generations. *Cultural significance* is embodied in the *place* itself, its *fabric, setting, use, associations, meanings, records, related places* and *related objects*.

*Fabric* means all the physical material of the *place* including components, fixtures, contents and objects.

*Conservation* means all the processes of looking after a *place* so as to retain its *cultural significance*.

*Maintenance* means the continuous protective care of the *fabric* and *setting* of a *place*, and is to be distinguished from repair. Repair involves *restoration* or *reconstruction*.

*Preservation* means maintaining the *fabric* of a *place* in its existing state by removing accretions or by reassembling existing components without the introduction of new material.

*Restoration* means returning the existing *fabric* of a *place* to a known earlier state by removing accretions or by reassembling existing components without the introduction of new material.

*Reconstruction* means returning a *place* to a known earlier state and is distinguished from *restoration* by the introduction of new material into the *fabric*.

*Adaptation* means modifying a *place* to suit the existing use or a proposed use.

*Use* means the functions of a *place*, as well as the activities and practices that may occur at the *place*.

*Compatible use* means a *use* which respects the *cultural significance* of a *place*. Such a *use* involves no, or minimal, impact on *cultural significance*.

*Setting* means the area around a *place*, which may include the visual catchment.

*Related place* means a *place* that contributes to the *cultural significance* of another *place*.

*Related object* means an object that contributes to the *cultural significance* of a *place* but is not at the *place*.

*Associations* mean the special connections that exist between people and a *place*.

*Meanings* denote what a *place* signifies, indicates, evokes or expresses.

*Interpretation* means all the ways of presenting the *cultural significance* of a *place*.

## 2.0 History

### 2.1 IN THE BEGINNING

#### 2.1.1 *Dight, Trenerry & Collingwood Council*

In 1837, Surveyor General Robert Hoddle produced a plan showing ‘the surveyed lands to the northward of Melbourne’. This plan illustrates the first subdivision of land in the future suburbs of Collingwood and Abbotsford, where all but two of the large allotments (of between 70 and 120 acres), had Yarra River frontage, and were generally intended for agricultural purposes. Johnston Street was a feature of the plan, starting at Smith Street and running east down to the river.

The land was re-surveyed in July/August 1838 to increase the number of allotments, which were eventually auctioned in Sydney on 13 February 1839. The site of the future Victoria Park was included in these first land sales, outside the original Melbourne town reserve. The land was primarily purchased by speculators, although one of these early Collingwood landowners was John Dight, who established his flour mill on the banks of the river, and gave his name to Dight’s Paddock (where Victoria Park would later be established). The mill, when it came into operation in the early 1840s, was the first industry in Collingwood, but was soon followed by other operations on the river, which led to the gradual pollution of the waterway.<sup>2</sup> Readily available water was vital to the operation of many nineteenth century industries.

At the time of these early land sales, the Collingwood area was covered with eucalyptus and casuarinas, and heavily encumbered with boulders. The future suburb was located on a basalt plain, downhill from the highest point to the west, at Eastern Hill (near today’s St Vincent’s Hospital). As a result of the topography, water flowed directly down to the Collingwood flats from the hill. As vegetation was increasingly removed with advancing settlement, the water flowed faster down to the flats. These less than satisfactory conditions, combined with the expansion of local industry, resulted in the development of Collingwood as a working class and industrialised suburb, with pockets of poor quality housing.

The boom in Melbourne’s population, however, with the commencement of the gold rushes in the 1850s, together with the rapidly developing local industry, resulted in the gradual disappearance of Collingwood’s ‘paddocks’. Dight’s Paddock (at about 85 acres) was sold in 1878, when it was still largely wooded, to Englishman, Edwin Trenerry, who intended to subdivide the landholding and sell off the allotments.<sup>3</sup>

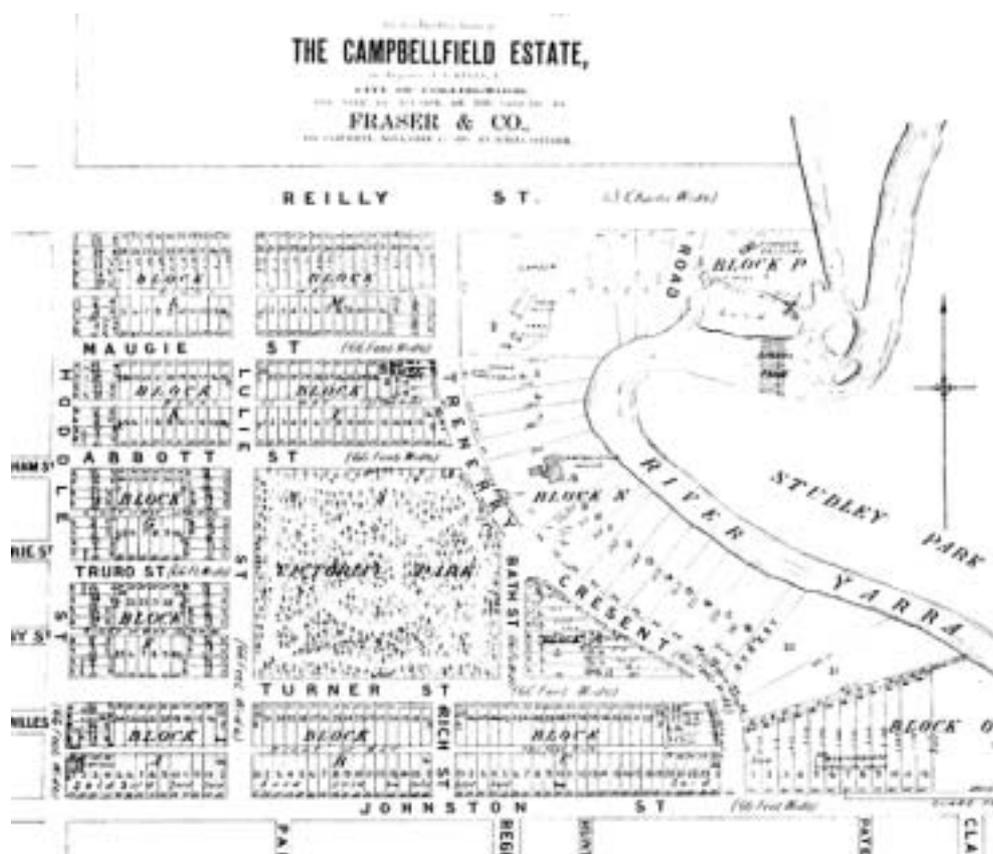


Figure 2 1881 subdivision plan of the former Dights Paddock, showing Victoria Park (pre-football ground and pre-railway line) at the centre of the subdivision. Note also Campbellfield House (after which the estate was named) near the bend in the river. Source: McFarlane & Roberts, 1999.

Trenerry, through his agent in Australia, proposed that ten and a quarter acres of the land be transferred to the Collingwood Council, for community recreation use, on the proviso that Council spend in the order of 250 pounds per acre, making and improving the surrounding streets. Clearly, this would make Trenerry's subdivision more attractive to prospective purchasers. The notion that the future site of Victoria Park was 'gifted' to the Collingwood Council by Trenerry is also not the case, given the financial outlay required by Council as part of this transaction.<sup>4</sup>

The deal was struck with Council in May 1878, with only one significant restriction in place, and that was a covenant which deemed that Council could not sell the recreation reserve to any private individuals.<sup>5</sup> This would later prove to be a major impediment to the football club, when it sought to acquire freehold at Victoria Park. The terms of the transaction were also later amended to allow for charging public admission to the ground.

Trenerry's land was subsequently subdivided and auctioned off in 1881, as 262 building allotments. Part of the subdivision was known as the 'Campbellfield Estate', after Campbellfield House, which was located on a bend in the river (see Figure 2).

### 2.1.2 *A Place of 'Public Resort and Recreation'*

Victoria Park was established as a place of 'public resort and recreation' in 1878, 14 years before the creation of the Collingwood Football Club. George Langridge, a local parliamentarian, suggested to Council in that year that part of the new reserve should be set aside for use as a cricket ground (he was then President of the Yarra Yarra Cricket Club).<sup>6</sup> The Capulet Cricket Club (which succeeded Yarra Yarra as the most prominent cricket team in the suburb) also used the reserve in these early years, and were active in early ground development. In 1886-7, for instance, the cricket club was given permission by Council to charge admittance to the ground, in order to raise funds for the erection of a portable grandstand. By that time, the Britannia Football Club (which was formed in 1877) had also made its home at Victoria Park, having played its first Australian rules football game at the ground in 1882.<sup>7</sup> In 1890, Britannia also charged a fee for admittance to a football game at Victoria Park, the first time this occurred.<sup>8</sup>

## 2.2 AUSTRALIAN RULES FOOTBALL

According to historian, Keith Dunstan, Australian rules football was invented by the Melbourne Cricket Club (MCC) secretary, T W Wills, as a means of providing exercise for cricketers during winter. Wills was apparently not keen for his cricketers to play the popular game of English rugby, where the hard tackling could result in injuries. These 'rougher' aspects of the rugby game were also deemed to be unacceptable to the largely middle class, professional cricket players.<sup>9</sup>

The first game of Australian football was reputedly played on 7 August 1858, between Scotch College and Melbourne Church of England Grammar School. It involved two teams of 40 and was eventually declared a draw, when neither team was able to score the necessary two goals to win. Team sizes were soon reduced to 20, and the scoring regime altered to ensure that games had a result. In 1872, further revisions were made to the code, including formalising the role of the umpire, and introducing a requirement for sides to change ends at half-time. Teams were quickly formed in inner Melbourne suburbs, and in Geelong, and to a lesser extent in other states. Victoria remained the focus of the sport, however, with the Victorian Football Association (VFA) formed in 1877.<sup>10</sup>

For the first few decades football was not permitted on the MCG. It was common practice in England for cricket and rugby to be played on separate fields, as the latter was considered too rough for cricket fields where an optimum playing surface was required. The MCC changed its mind, however, after a football game played between Melbourne and Carlton in the winter of 1877 generated over £95 in income for the club. This was indicative of the rising popularity of the new game. Australian football grounds were also initially rectangular in form, but matches played on ovals became more common from the 1870s, when football clubs increasingly came to share cricket grounds.<sup>11</sup>

When the Victorian Football League (VFL) came into existence in 1897, the VFA continued to run its own competition, with the two leagues operating in parallel, although the VFL came to dominate the game in Victoria. Further developments to the rules at this time included the introduction of the system of semi-finals and finals, the method of scoring

using goals and points, and a reduction of team sizes to 18. The VFL also officially turned professional in 1911, with players having been informally paid before this time.<sup>12</sup>

## 2.3 COLLINGWOOD AT VICTORIA PARK

### 2.3.1 *A New Team for the Suburb*

By the early 1890s, there was growing support from within the Collingwood community, for the establishment of a new local football team. Britannia Football Club had been refused permission to join the VFA, the State's premier football competition of the day, as it was deemed 'too disorganised and amateurish'. The Britannia club broke up, with some players going off to join the nearby Fitzroy Football Club, with which it had some associations. It has also been noted that the social reputation of Collingwood in this period also possibly hampered the club's attempts to break into the then highest ranks of football.<sup>13</sup>

Any aspirations for a Collingwood-based team to join the VFA, however, required a local football ground of a reasonable standard, and in that context urgent works were undertaken at Victoria Park. In 1891, Collingwood Council spent considerable funds on levelling the ground and erecting a picket fence around the playing arena. The ground was also extended by 30 yards at this time. *The Argus* reported on the works at Victoria Park, and noted that Council intended to build a new stand.<sup>14</sup>

In 1892, the VFA admitted the new Collingwood Football Club (and its ground, Victoria Park) into its competition. The first club President was William Beazley, and the Committee held its first meeting in March 1892 at the Grace Darling Hotel, in Smith Street, Collingwood (the hotel had been the main 'watering hole' for the Britannia club).<sup>15</sup> The new club was seen as being truly representative of the suburb, having the support of the Collingwood community as well as its civic leaders. Moreover, the club had been founded to help raise the status and dignity of the suburb, and to unite the residents behind the new team in pursuit of on-field success.<sup>16</sup> A severe economic depression was also looming, however, with the suburb of Collingwood destined to take the full brunt of its impacts.

### 2.3.2 *First Years at Victoria Park*

On 7 May 1892, the first game played (and lost) by the new Collingwood Football Club at Victoria Park was against Carlton, who would become great foes in decades to come. *The Age* reported:

Great pains have been bestowed by the Committee to bring it [Victoria Park] to suitable form. The whole of the playing ground, four acres, has been well turned over, top dressed and sown with English grass, at a cost of nearly 100 pounds, and enclosed by a neat picket fence necessitating an expenditure of 130 pounds.<sup>17</sup>

An 'incline' around the ground was provided for spectators, and plans were underway for a grandstand, training room and separate pavilion. The grandstand was to be designed by prominent Melbourne architect, local politician and patron of the Collingwood Football Club, William Pitt. The planned grandstand was intended to hold 700 spectators and provide the club with offices and dressing rooms. The worsening economic situation,

however, meant that only a partial stand was constructed, with just 300 seats, some standing room space, and a cramped training room beneath the structure. The stand was later described as being '45 feet X 35 feet...with wood walls, wood framed iron roof and wood floors'; the rooms in the undercroft beneath the stand were also 'lined with soft wood'<sup>18</sup>. The structure was originally located near the site of the current Sherrin Stand, before being relocated further south 17 years later (see Figure 3). This stand was eventually demolished in the 1950s.<sup>19</sup>

The first (and only) win for Collingwood at Victoria Park in their debut year of 1892, was against St Kilda. Their performances improved in 1893 and 1894, however, under the new captain, Bill Strickland (who ironically was recruited from Carlton). Although these first few years of competition were lean in terms of success, the supporters continued to come. In the difficult economic environment, many could not afford the 6d entrance fee, and opted instead to sit on neighbouring rooftops.<sup>20</sup>

Collingwood won its first VFA premiership in 1896, against South Melbourne, just five years after entering the competition. This was in fact the first Grand Final ever held, as the two teams had finished joint top of the ladder and were therefore required to play off against each other.<sup>21</sup>

Due to the 1896 win, and the rising prominence of the club, Collingwood was invited to participate in the discussions that led, in 1897, to the formation of the VFL. Eight clubs were founding members: Collingwood, South Melbourne, Essendon, Fitzroy, Geelong, St Kilda, Carlton and Melbourne. E W 'Bud' Copeland was Secretary of Collingwood by this time, and with the young club already in debt due to outlays on ground improvements, he launched into the difficult task of making Collingwood financially viable and solvent.<sup>22</sup>

Collingwood played its first VFL game at Victoria Park against Geelong in 1898. One of club's earliest and most bitter rivals, however, was Fitzroy, with battles between the two teams at their most hostile during the hard Depression years of the late 1890s. The off-field rivalry between the suburbs, to win the new railway line extension from Princes Bridge (a battle which Collingwood also won) was another cause of conflict.<sup>23</sup>

Collingwood played in its first VFL Grand Final in 1901, and lost to Essendon. The following year it played Essendon again, this time in the first Grand Final to be staged at the MCG, and won by 33 points in front of 35,000 fans. A back-to-back flag was then won in 1903, against Fitzroy. In 1901 and 1904, finals games were also played at Victoria Park, neither of which involved Collingwood.<sup>24</sup>



Figure 3 An early c.1902 postcard image of Victoria Park, showing William Pitt's 1892 grandstand on the left, the 1900/02 Women's Pavilion in the centre, terraced levels on the embankment, and a timber picket fence. Note also the gravel track around the oval, which is believed to have been used for cycling.  
Source: State Library of Victoria collection.

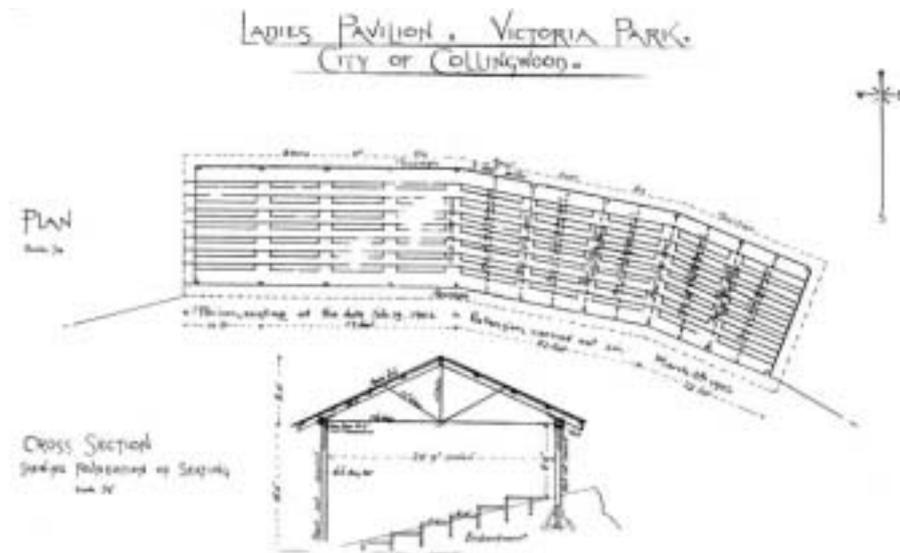


Figure 4 Plan and cross-section of the Women's Pavilion, indicating that the structure (in curved plan form) was built in two stages, with the original portion extended to the east in 1902.  
Source: Health Department Records, PRO.

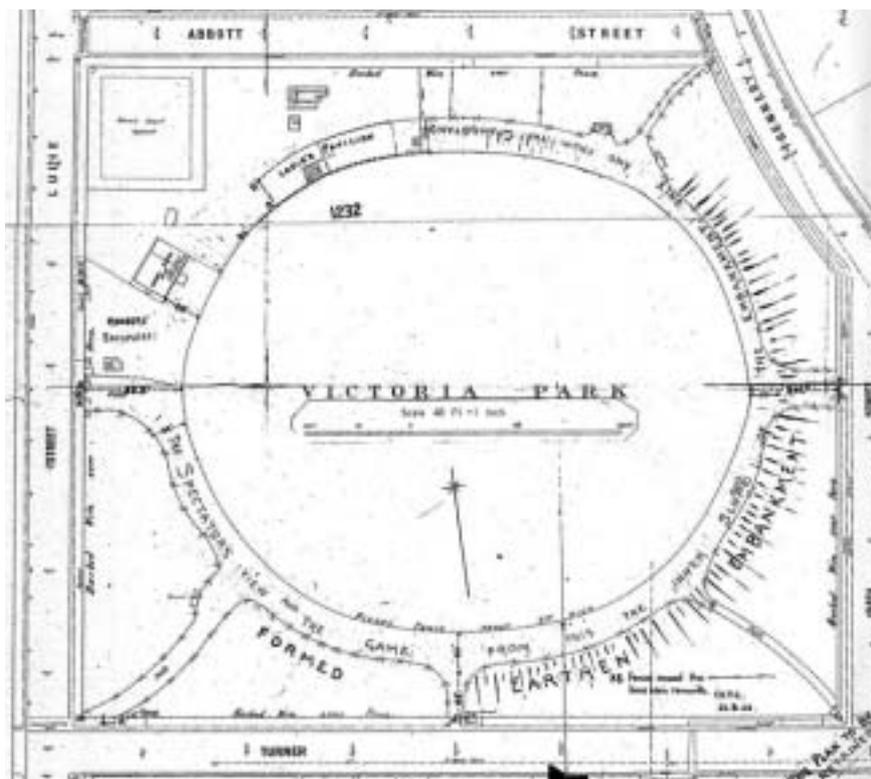


Figure 5 1904 plan of Victoria Park. Note the ‘earthen embankment’ and the spectator viewing area on the ‘inner slope’, and the caretaker’s cottage adjacent to Abbott Street.  
Source: Health Department Records, PRO.

### 2.3.3 A Football Powerhouse

It has been said that, in 1902, Collingwood made one of the greatest contributions to the game of Australian rules football, when Dick Condon introduced the stab pass and the short game that followed it. The short kick enabled the team to move the ball forward quickly, and helped to put an end to the slow (stop and start) style of play that had characterised Australian football up until that time.<sup>25</sup> According to E L Wilson, the first secretary of the VFL, ‘Up to that stage in the life of game, it was mostly rough and tumble, but Collingwood’s introduction of the system began to make it a really scientific game’.<sup>26</sup>

Collingwood, in this period, was also considered to be the most disciplined team in the competition, with its training methods lauded. In 1905, the *Weekly Times* featured a pictorial on the team, showing the players variously engaged in hand ball, skipping, using a punching ball, and practising kicking, marking and picking up (see Figure 6). Collingwood were innovative in other ways too, being the first VFL team to discard the long shorts (which covered the knees and restricted movement), in favour of shorts that finished just above the knees (and were known as the ‘rugby look’).<sup>27</sup>

Richard Stremski, in *Kill for Collingwood*, has analysed the development of the new football club, and its outstanding successes in the first decades of the twentieth century. Collingwood missed the finals only once during the first 25 years of the VFL’s existence, and between the wars won seven out of fourteen grand finals. The club was renowned for its

emphasis on teamwork, rigorous discipline and pride in the club, including the ‘subjugation of stars’.<sup>28</sup> The team was more important than the individual, and the club more important than the team. The growing numbers of supporters gladly fell in behind this, and won a reputation for being amongst the most ardent and committed of any league club.

Collingwood also developed a reputation for drawing large crowds, whether to home games at Victoria Park, or away games elsewhere. The crowd at Collingwood’s first (VFA) game at Victoria Park, against Carlton in May 1892, numbered 16,000 – a portent of things to come. There was a ‘good sprinkling of ladies’ in attendance, and the crowd was reputedly well behaved. By 1896/97, Collingwood boasted the largest following of any of the clubs in the VFA. As the club moved into the first decades of the twentieth century, the supporter base continued to grow, with record numbers watching games at Victoria Park.<sup>29</sup>

Female seasons ticket holders were also prominent, encouraging the club to construct a separate pavilion for female supporters (known as the Ladies or Women’s Pavilion) in 1900 (this is discussed in more detail below). As early as 1899, women accounted for one third of season ticket holders (although this figure varied over time).<sup>30</sup>

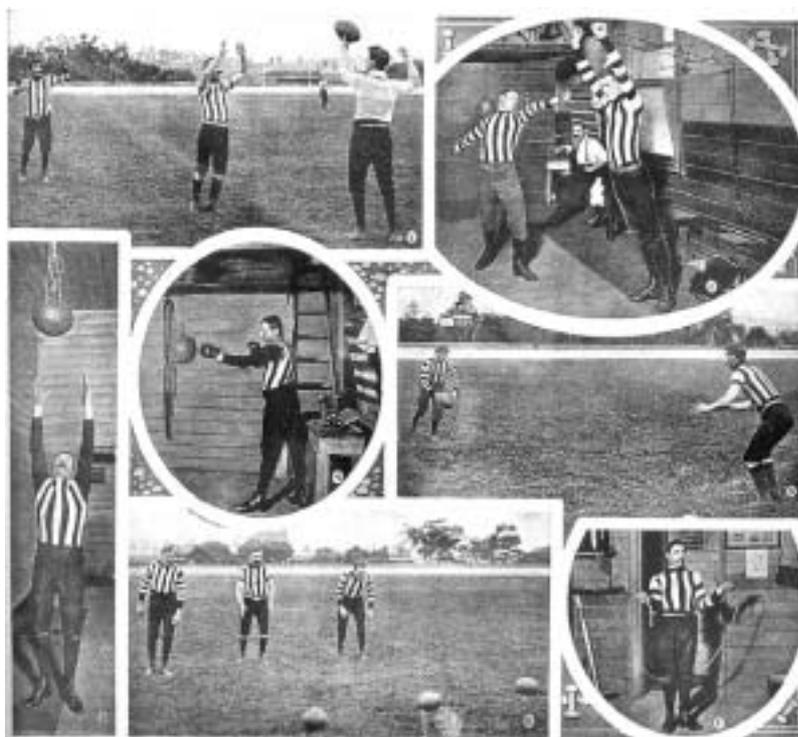


Figure 6 1905 *Weekly Times* spread on Collingwood training methods. The training room shown is presumably beneath the 1892 stand.  
Source: McFarlane & Roberts, 1999.



Figure 7 Victoria Park in c.1907. Note the 1892 stand on the left, the Women's Pavilion on the right, and the Victoria Park Primary School on Abbott Street to the rear (demolished in the 1990s).

Source: McFarlane & Roberts, 1999.

Women supporters have remained an important part of Collingwood football club culture, although they were not voted in as full members until 1982.<sup>31</sup> The 'Dolly Greys', Collingwood's original women's coterie group, are also believed to have been the first such group associated with any of the VFL clubs. The female members group today is known as the 'Women in Black'.<sup>32</sup>

Pre-match and half-time entertainment was another feature of football at the Abbotsford ground, in the first decades of the twentieth century. Entertainment could include a performance from the Collingwood Highland Pipers, a brief lacrosse game, foot races, boomerang displays, or even baseball matches. These were generally replaced in the 1930s, however, by schoolboy football matches, which were another innovation of the club. Some of these schoolboy teams in turn produced several of Collingwood's greatest players.<sup>33</sup>

#### 2.3.4 *Early Ground Improvements*

As noted above, the next structure of any substance to be built at Victoria Park after William Pitt's 1892 stand, was a separate ladies' stand (the Women's Pavilion). It was constructed in 1900, and extended to the east in 1902, and was a fairly basic structure (see Figure 3 & Figure 7). The stand was located in the area where the Ryder Stand is today, and was demolished in 1929 to make way for the latter. The pavilion was also known as the Smokers' Pavilion (after women seasons ticket holders moved into a new stand in 1909), and later (affectionately) as the 'Cowsheds'.<sup>34</sup>

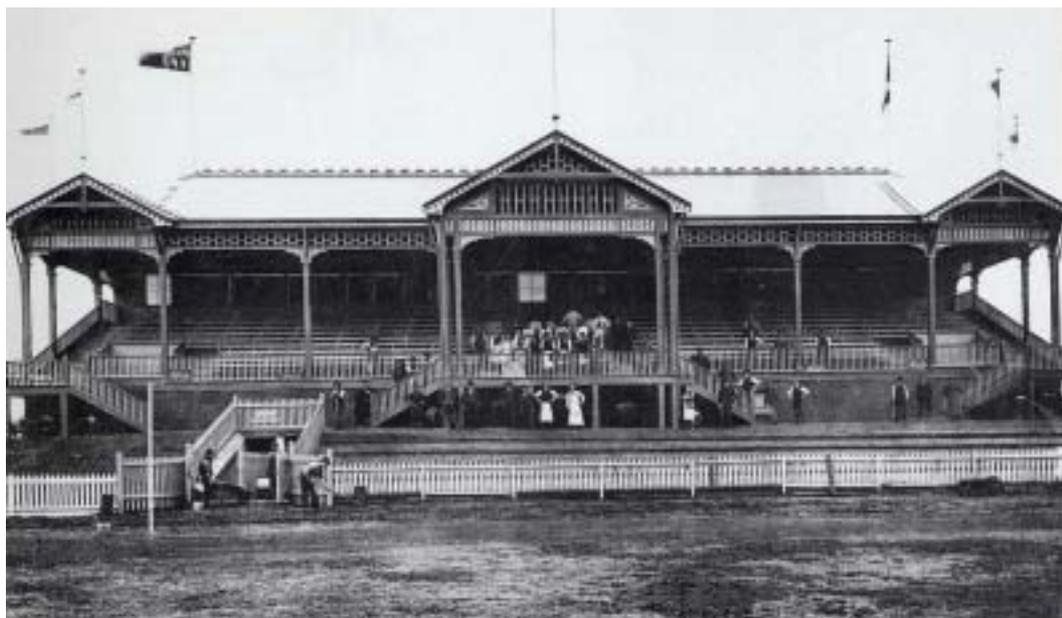


Figure 8 The 1909 Members Stand, just before its official opening.  
Source: McFarlane & Roberts, 1999.



Figure 9 The football club Committee, in what is believed to be the first meeting in their new room beneath the 1909 stand. Note the framed photographs and other memorabilia, which the club had already collected.  
Source: McFarlane & Roberts, 1999.



Figure 10 Demolishing the old 1909 stand, in 1968.  
Source: McFarlane & Roberts, 1999.



Figure 11 1962 team photograph, with the old 1909 grandstand in the background. Note the striped roof, and the premierships pennants on the flagpoles.  
Source: McFarlane & Roberts, 1999.



Figure 12 A 1920 view of Victoria Park, appearing to be taken from near the junction of Turner and Bath Streets. Note the plantings and landscape treatment.  
Source: McFarlane & Roberts, 1999.



Figure 13 1930 plan of Victoria Park. Note the various stands, bars, tennis courts and the edge (top) of the embankment around the outer reserve.  
Source: Health Department records, PRO

A 1904 plan of the ground (see Figure 5) clearly shows the delineation between the inner 'Members' Enclosure' and the general admission outer area. The spectators' viewing area in the outer is marked as being on the inner slope of a 'formed earthen embankment'.

Interestingly, this plan still has echoes, in the diagonal layout of pathways, of the landscape plan for the (pre-football) Victoria Park in Trenerry's 1881 subdivision (see Figure 2). A report prepared on Victoria Park at about this time (1904) also discusses at some length the exit and entry points sited at various locations in the perimeter fence around the ground (up to 11 gates).<sup>35</sup>

In 1909, in recognition of the growing membership, another stand was constructed at Victoria Park, and was the most substantial structure built at the ground up to that time. The Members' Stand, at the Lulie Street end of the ground, was paid for with a loan of 3000 pounds from Collingwood Council, plus club contributions. Members also took up debentures to help fund construction. The architect of the new building was Thomas Watts, who had designed a much admired stand in Maryborough, Central Victoria. Watts was also a former resident of Collingwood. The 1909 grandstand (Figure 8) was a brick structure, 120 feet long and 40 feet wide, with 1500 seats, and five main rooms in the undercroft area, incorporating dressing rooms, a Committee room (Figure 9), gymnasium, and bathroom and toilet facilities for both the home and visiting teams. When constructed, it was considered to be 'the grandest of grandstands in Melbourne'. Multiple flagpoles on the roof were intended to hold premiership 'pennants from one end to the other'. The old 1892 stand was relocated to the south-west corner of the ground, to make way for the new building.<sup>36</sup>

The 1909 stand was eventually demolished in 1968 (see Figure 10), by which time the rooms in the undercroft were variously being used as dressing rooms by the cricket, reserves, Under 19 and visiting teams, and were on the verge of being 'condemned' by the Health Department.<sup>37</sup>

### 2.3.5 *The Great Depression*

In 1928, at the beginning of the great economic downturn, the City of Collingwood had a population of 38,000 and unemployment was rife. By 1930, over 30% of the suburb's male population was out of work, second only to the worst of all Melbourne's depressed suburbs, Fitzroy.<sup>38</sup> Collingwood Council, in an effort to offer some relief to the local unemployed, opted to build a new stand at Victoria Park (the Ryder Stand), and to construct a new training room, medical room and toilets, as well as terracing in the outer. The Council used funds from the Government's Unemployment Relief Scheme, and raised additional loans to cover the capital expenditure.<sup>39</sup>

When it came to recreation for Collingwood people during the Depression, football was a priority. The club had been successful in the years up to the time of the Wall Street collapse in 1927, but between that year and the end of the 1930 season, added another four premierships to its tally. The club was known and feared at this time for sporting a machine-like team, and for playing with a 'clinical ruthlessness'. The extraordinary success provided the struggling community with a source of pride and pleasure; they 'followed the club's fortunes with an abiding passion' and 'lived vicariously through the achievements of the club'.<sup>40</sup>

Although entrance to the outer cost less than a bottle of beer, the hardship was such that men on sustenance relief ('susso' workers) were given free admittance to games during the height of the Depression. The club also put on free (non-football) entertainment at the ground for the community, including sporting carnivals and athletic competitions. It is also interesting to note that in the interwar years, despite the ground being enclosed, people could get into the ground during matches by climbing over, or crawling under, well known weak points in the wall.<sup>41</sup>

## 2.4 THE EVOLVING GROUND

### 2.4.1 *Developments 1920s - 1940s*

As noted above, the Ryder Stand was built in 1929 with the help of local unemployed men (on the 'susso'). It replaced the old Smokers' Pavilion (originally the Women's Pavilion), and was constructed with finance arranged by Council, using 1,200 pounds from the Government Relief Fund, and a loan of 8,000 pounds. The architects were Peck & Kemter, who were associated with (the architect of Canberra) Walter Burley Griffin's office in Melbourne. The new structure was described in the football club 1929 Annual Report as a 'very large concrete pavilion', with accommodation for more than 3,000 spectators.<sup>42</sup>

The stand was named after cricketer Jack Ryder, who was known as the 'King of Collingwood', was the district's leading cricketer, and an Australian test captain. The Collingwood Cricket Club, which shared Victoria Park with the football club (see Section 2.6 below), recommended to Council in November 1929 that it name its portion of the stand after Ryder, although the name has endured for the whole of the stand. The football and cricket clubs in fact squabbled over the rights to use the stand, with the structure eventually dissected by a wire fence from top to bottom, with one third of the stand being allocated to the cricket club (which had 300 members at the time), and the remaining two thirds given to the football club (for the use of some of its 3000 members).<sup>43</sup> (The stand is described in more detail in Appendix B.)

Council spent another 8,560 pounds on ground improvements in 1935, while the Depression continued, including on new club rooms under the Ryder Stand. The growing numbers of supporters also encouraged the Committee to extend the Members Reserve area.<sup>44</sup>

In 1942, the army briefly 'occupied' Victoria Park, with army personnel taking over part of the Ryder Stand, while the officers used the 1909 Member's Stand for their headquarters. The club negotiated with the military to allow the team to continue to train and play at Victoria Park, although pre-season training was held at the Northcote football ground. Up until the army occupation, the football club had not been allowed by Council to lock the ground, as it was a community facility. For 60 years there had been intermittent debate on the topic, over the rights of local rate-payers to enter the ground, particularly during non-match times. Homeless people actually sheltered in the grandstands during winter, and youths partied on the oval in summer evenings. The army, however, overrode these concerns, and for security reasons padlocked the gates in 1942. The club followed suit thereafter.<sup>45</sup>

Collingwood was responsible for several more innovations in football in these years, becoming the first VFL club to be awarded a liquor licence, and as a direct result of this, the

first to establish a social club. Liquor licences were very difficult to obtain in this period, with the acquisition of Collingwood's licence coming about through a complicated process involving the relinquished licence of the German Club (Tivoli Club) in Victoria Street, Abbotsford. The licence also required the club to be a member of the Victorian Registered Clubs Association, and to adhere to the strict licensing laws under which such clubs operated, with respect to dress, behaviour, banning gambling, etc.<sup>46</sup>

Collingwood supporters, in the years before the club acquired its licence, satisfied their collective thirsts by a number of means. Alcohol had been available at liquor booths in the early years at Victoria Park (with a local publican operating the facility), but was banned from sale by Council between 1903 and 1922. During this period of prohibition, spectators used pass-outs to leave the ground during the 'long interval' at half time, to drink at one of the many nearby hotels. In fact, the half time breaks were lengthened to give patrons more time to have a drink and make it back to the ground for the second half. Diversionsary entertainments were also introduced during the break, to amuse those who stayed behind. In the years after alcohol sales were reintroduced, however, the club resented missing out on the considerable income to be derived from the sales, and sought to redress the situation.<sup>47</sup>

#### 2.4.2 *Social Club*

The Collingwood Football Social Club (CFSC) was formed in February 1940, and officially opened in April the following year. By 1947, there was a 12 month waiting list to become a member.<sup>48</sup>

As noted above, this was the first such social club of any team in the VFL. The (newly licensed) clubrooms under the Ryder Stand were leased from the football club, with the latter in turn renovating the rooms. In 1942, the assets of the football club were in fact transferred to the social club, which from that time until the late 1960s, ran the football team. There were two sections of the club, the football club section and the social club section, with one committee running the two sections.

The registration of the CFSC enabled Collingwood to emerge from the 1940s as the wealthiest club in the competition. The new arrangement also led to social club members and seasons ticket holders being in different groups, with different rights, a situation which continues to the present.<sup>49</sup>

#### 2.4.3 *Tussles With Council*

It has been noted that Collingwood Council was, for a very long time, the football club's chief off-field foe. At the heart of the strife between the two bodies, was the right to control Victoria Park, and responsibility for maintaining and improving the ground. As the football club prospered, membership boomed, and Collingwood's financial situation improved, Council expected greater returns from the club's use of the ground, and more of club funds to be expended on ground maintenance and improvement. Collingwood, on the other hand, resented Council's lack of ground assistance, and interference in what were deemed to be football matters.

As early as 1898, in recognition of the emerging ground management issues, football club Secretary, Bud Copeland, proposed the establishment of a committee with responsibility for

overseeing maintenance and improvement of Victoria Park. He also threatened to move the club to another ground if a satisfactory resolution wasn't reached (in this case, to the then East Melbourne Ground). A Victoria Park Committee was established, consisting of five Councillors, and with Copeland as its Secretary. The Committee was charged with spending 500 pounds annually on works to the ground, with 25 pounds to be contributed by the club. One of the first outcomes was the construction of a caretaker's cottage at the ground (this can be seen in Figure 5). The composition of the Committee would also change over the years, with greater representation from the football club achieved by the early 1930s.<sup>50</sup>

A threat to leave Victoria Park was a largely successful strategy which the club adopted many times over the years in its dealings with Council, with Council invariably responding by providing funds for ground refurbishment. The club's leasing arrangement for Victoria Park was, however, the source of much frustration with regard to ground improvements. It was renewable only every seven years, a situation that was believed to be regulated by local government legislation, and which did little to encourage the club to fund its own improvements. Works had also to be approved by Council, forcing the club to deal with municipal bureaucracy.<sup>51</sup>

A breakthrough came in the mid-1950s, when the club went to the Council after finding a clause in the *Local Government Act* which allowed municipalities to grant a 40 year 'improvements lease' to occupiers of Council land (i.e. longer leases could be granted provided substantial improvements were made to the site).<sup>52</sup> The club saw this as a means of winning control over Victoria Park, and although Council initially resisted the proposal, it eventually agreed in June 1956, with the decision subsequently ratified by State Government. The football club 'came into possession of Victoria Park on 1 March 1957', and became one of the first VFL clubs to win control over development of its own ground (Carlton was also in a strong position at Princes Park, which was Crown land and not municipally-owned). The agreement locked the club into paying an annual rent of 500 pounds to Council, and funding 250,000 pounds in improvements during the life of the lease. The most pressing plans included the construction of the VFL's first purpose-built social club rooms, in order to allow the club to take full advantage of the liquor licence.<sup>53</sup>

The 1956 agreement in fact resulted in over \$1,000,000 (500,000 pounds) being spent on buildings and other ground improvements (in both the inner and the outer) in the period between 1957 and 1974 (these are documented in some detail in Appendix D). The new arrangement also led to the establishment of an 'Outer Ground Improvement Fund' (to be administered by the 'Victoria Park Outer Ground Trust'), which was effectively a joint Trust Fund between the club and Council, to fund works to the outer – an area of Victoria Park that had been neglected for a long time. The VFL also increasingly provided all league clubs with funds for improvements to the various outers or general admission areas, through an 'Outer Ground Levy', the administration of which varied over the years.<sup>54</sup>

#### 2.4.4 *Post-WWII Developments*

Victoria Park, at the start of the 1950s, was in a state of disrepair. The old (relocated) 1892 timber stand was on the verge of collapse and required demolition. The 1909 Members' Stand was also in very poor condition. The greatest priority for the club, however, was the construction of the social club building. This was expected to help attract new members, and

provide additional income for the club through providing much improved facilities for hosting (licensed) events and club activities.

### *1959 Social Club Stand*

The new three-storey social club facility, known as the S A Coventry Pavilion (after the former Collingwood President, Brownlow medallist and captain), opened on 26 August 1959 (Figure 14 & Figure 15). The architects, Robert H McIntyre & Associates, were briefed to design a building that could accommodate an extra floor (fourth level) to be built at a later date (this was added in 1980/1). The builder was Clements Langford Pty Ltd, and the construction costs were in the order of 200,000 pounds. The new building, when opened, was described as the most modern of its type in Victoria. The club also used the old method of issuing interest-bearing debentures to members to help raise the funds needed for shortfalls in the cost of construction.<sup>55</sup>

The 'Fighting Magpie' emblem was placed in a prominent position on the two principal facades of the new building (facing into and out of the ground).



Figure 14 Social Club Stand entrance, c.1959, prior to modifications.  
Source: Stremski, 1986



Figure 15 C.1970 view of the Social Club Stand, also prior to modifications (with captain Des Tuddenham in centre picture).  
Source: McFarlane & Roberts, 1999.



Figure 16 Interior of the new clubrooms, c. 1959.  
Source: McFarlane & Roberts, 1999.



Figure 17 Interior of the Social Club, c. 1968.  
Source: McFarlane & Roberts, 1999.

This, combined with the use of club colours on the exterior, ‘was a symbol to the community and to visitors about who [now] controlled Victoria Park’.<sup>56</sup>

The Social Club Stand, as it was more commonly known, was constructed on the site of old tennis courts, with a car parking area, the old press and timekeepers box, and ladies toilets having to be demolished. The new building (at the time of its opening) consisted of a car park (under the building), with administration spaces, cool rooms, large island bar, Committee room and toilets on the ground and first floors. The entrance foyer was named the J F McHale Hall of Fame, in honour of the great Collingwood player and coach, and was used to display player photographs, trophies and other memorabilia. The first floor level also had a raised glass-fronted viewing area over the arena, and doors leading out onto a sloping concrete stand with room for 1200 spectators. A large dance and entertainment room was on the next level, together with a members’ bar, billiard room, kitchen, toilets and TV room (see Figure 16 & Figure 17). Extensive glazing allowed for views over the arena from these spaces. A press box, radio commentators’ rooms, television stands and timekeepers’ box were located on the flat roof. The floors were accessed by a panelled staircase with terrazzo tile floors, and a 15-passenger lift.<sup>57</sup>

The club made many changes made to the use and configuration of the floors over the next 30 years, with various uses being moved around the building, including, in later years, the gaming room. When the fourth level (and partial fifth level) was added in the early 1980s, it incorporated additional office accommodation and members’ facilities, together with a new viewing balcony. Less than ten years later, more substantial works were undertaken, with a large new viewing area opened in 1989, and named the Bob Rose Stand, in honour of another great Collingwood identity.<sup>58</sup>

*1966 R T Rush Stand*

The construction of the R T Rush Stand in 1966 came about through the creation of the ‘Outer Ground Improvement Fund’ established in the late 1950s, under Collingwood’s new leasing arrangements with Council. Many other outer ground improvements were also made as a result of this fund. The new structure was named after Bob Rush, one of Collingwood’s longest-serving players and officials. Up until this time, the outer area (from the old 1909 stand in Lulie Street around the south side of the ground to Bath Street) consisted in part of open concrete rises and a large grassed and terraced mound which turned into mud in winter (Figure 19).

To remedy the situation, the club commissioned architects McIntyre & McIntyre to design the new concrete cantilevered stand, which was 700 feet long, with steel-girders, and concrete terraces (which were mostly for standing room only at this stage – not fixed bench seating) partly covered by the cantilevered roof. The old concrete rises in the outer were demolished and regraded, with between 28 and 32 rises incorporated into the new structure, 12 of which would be covered by the cantilevered roof (Figure 20). The total cost was \$267,000, of which \$200,000 was borrowed from Council. The new stand opened in April 1966 (see Figure 21), with Clements Langford as the builders (as they had been for the Social Club Stand).

Collingwood initially planned to extend the stand around the whole of the outer, to bring it up to near the Ryder Stand (see Figure 22).



Figure 18 Laying agricultural drainage pipes on the oval, c.1963.  
Source: McFarlane & Roberts, 1999.



Figure 19 The terraces in the outer, c.1960s.  
Source: McFarlane & Roberts, 1999.

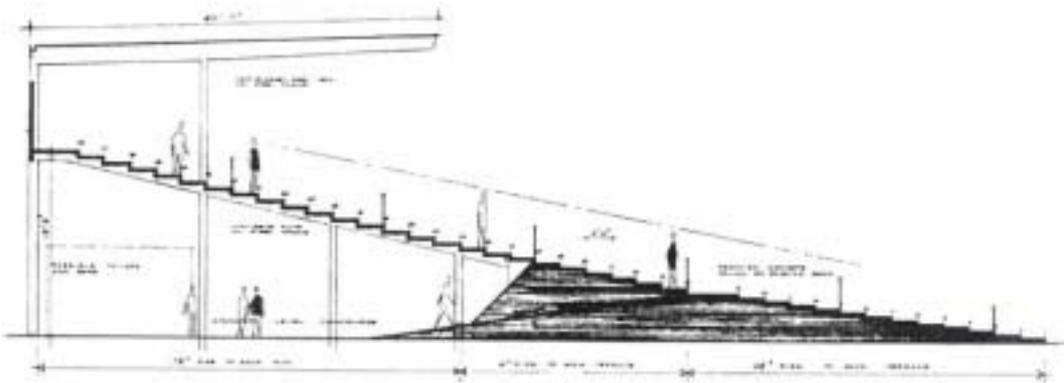


Figure 20 Cross sectional drawing of the R T Rush Stand.  
Source: CFC Annual Report, 1965.



Figure 21 A crowded and newly opened R T Rush Stand, in 1966.  
Source: McFarlane & Roberts, 1999.

This would have increased Victoria Park's capacity to about 65,000, and created a 'mini-MCG', but the club had insufficient funds to do so.<sup>59</sup>

Collingwood was praised in the press for erecting the public stand, and for providing improved conditions for patrons in the outer. The stand provided cover for up to 10,000 spectators, and had refreshment kiosks installed in the concourse.<sup>60</sup>

When opened, the new stand was described as follows:

It is a weather-resistant modern stand, requiring little upkeep and maintenance. The wide concrete plats rise gradually from the boundary fence to the back of the stand, and combine with the cantilevered roof, providing an uninterrupted view of the ground. Patrons enter the new stand from the rear via the turnstiles over an extensively paved concrete area on to the concourse from which nine equally spaced ramps lead into the stand.<sup>61</sup>

#### *1968 Sherrin Stand*

Plans to demolish and replace the old 1909 Members' Stand had been in the pipeline for some time, but club finances prevented this from happening until 1968 (Figure 10). The possibility of renovating the stand was also explored, but was abandoned in favour of total replacement. The architects for the new stand were Peter McIntyre & Associates, with the building contractor, L U Simon Pty Ltd. The new structure was proposed to consist of training and committee rooms in the undercroft, 1800 members seats under cover, with another 700 seats in the open area in front of the stand. The construction costs of \$250,000 were partly met through the club issuing debentures again, and through the sale of additional reserved seating for members.<sup>62</sup>



*William Pitt*

William Pitt, the designer of the first (1892) stand at Victoria Park, was one of the most renowned architects in Victoria in the second half of the nineteenth century. After setting up practice in 1879, Pitt was responsible for the design of many prominent (and landmark) Melbourne buildings, including the Princess Theatre in Spring Street; the celebrated Foy & Gibson complex in Collingwood (warehouses, factories, shops and showrooms); Victoria Brewery in Victoria Parade, East Melbourne; and Bryant & May in Richmond. Pitt was also a councillor with the City of Collingwood in the 1880s, became mayor in 1891 (which may help to explain his involvement at Victoria Park), and was elected to the Legislative Council (as a representative for North Yarra Provinces), a position he held for nearly 20 years.<sup>65</sup> Pitt in fact won several commissions for grandstands from the late 1880s, the first being the grandstand at the Mentone Racing Club (in conjunction with William Salway), with later commission for structures at the MCG, and Flemington and Caulfield racecourses.<sup>66</sup>

*Thomas Watts*

Thomas Watts, whose practice was responsible for the now demolished 1909 Members' Stand at Victoria Park, was born in England in 1827, and arrived in Victoria (as a qualified architect) with the gold rushes of the early 1850s. After being a partner in several practices, he established his own firm in the 1870s, with his sons joining him in the 1880s. During his extensive career in Victoria, Watts (and his firm) was responsible for a substantial body of work in both metropolitan Melbourne and regional areas. His diverse commissions included churches, warehouses, shops, hotels, commercial and industrial buildings, and residences. One of his major works included the 1870s sugar refinery buildings at the CSR complex in Yarraville.<sup>67</sup>

*Peck & Kemter*

The firm of Peck & Kemter, who were responsible for the design of the 1929 Ryder Stand, are perhaps best known for their association in the early 1920s with Walter Burley and Marion Mahoney Griffin, including their collaboration on the Capitol Theatre in Swanston Street.<sup>68</sup> The renowned Griffins, in turn, came to Australia from the United States in the early years of the twentieth century, having won the commission to design the new Australian capital at Canberra.

*McIntyres*

Both Robert and Peter McIntyre have been involved in the design of buildings at Victoria Park, including the 1959 Social Club Stand, 1966 Rush Stand and 1969 Sherrin Stand.

Robert McIntyre began his career by serving engineering articles before joining the AIF and serving overseas in World War One. On being discharged, he attended the Melbourne Technical College and studied architecture and building construction. He was also for a time employed as a draftsman for the Department of Works and Railways in Victoria. McIntyre then started an architectural practice (Joy & McIntyre) in the 1920s, which was dissolved in the 1930s, after which he ran a sole practice until teaming up with his brother, son (Peter) and daughter-in-law in 1961. Robert McIntyre developed particular expertise in hotel work. He died in 1966.<sup>69</sup>

Peter McIntyre is regarded as a pioneering Modernist in Victoria, and one of the most prominent and awarded architects in the post-WWII era. He commenced practice in the early 1950s, before teaming up with Robert McIntyre (R H McIntyre & Associates) in the

early 1960s, to form McIntyre & McIntyre (and later, McIntyre Partnership). Together with his wife, Dione, McIntyre won acclaim in 1955 for a striking cantilevered house on the Yarra River in Kew, which was regarded as a 'structural-functional' experiment of engineering. Peter was also one of a team of emerging architects behind the design of Melbourne's Olympic Swimming Stadium in the early 1950s, which is one of the city's most admired Modernist buildings (and ironically will become in 2004, the new home of the Collingwood Football Club).<sup>70</sup>

#### 2.4.6 *Trying for Tenure*

In the 1980s, the VFL launched into a long phase of ground rationalisation, which would result in many league clubs ceasing to play home games at their grounds (although most would continue to train at their old facilities). League administration wanted clubs to play at one of the three premier venues of the day, the MCG, Waverley Park or Princes Park, thereby fully utilising these grounds, and their larger capacities. Interstate venues were also coming online, as the league expanded nationally. Collingwood resisted this pressure for a very long time, however, and strenuously fought to keep home games at Abbotsford.

In 1982, a new administration (under Ranald Macdonald) took over at Collingwood. One of the immediate changes they made was to extend the oval at its eastern end, to bring it more in line with size of the MCG (believing that the size of the ground was a factor in Collingwood's poor record in Grand Finals in the post-1950s period). The extended oval also cut the ground capacity by about 2000.<sup>71</sup>

Another development in this period, was the invitation extended to the Fitzroy Football Club, to make Victoria Park its home ground. This co-tenancy arrangement, which lasted for just two years (1985-6), was not regarded as a success (financially or otherwise), and was particularly problematic for local residents, who resented the increased number of games played at Abbotsford (and associated traffic and parking problems).

In 1987, with Allan McAlister as the new Collingwood President, and the VFL pressuring the club to consider a move to Waverley (the team was already playing some of its bigger matches there), the club reaffirmed its determination to stay at Victoria Park. A 'Keep Collingwood at Victoria Park' supporters group was formed, to lobby for remaining at Abbotsford.<sup>72</sup> The ability of the ground to host big games was increasingly questioned, however, as lock-outs frequently occurred, and larger crowds turned out to watch Collingwood games at the premier venues.

In the late 1980s, the club seriously considered a major upgrade and refurbishment of Victoria Park, including the replacement of the Ryder Stand with a more modern facility. The administration also sought to acquire the land (6% percent of the ground) on which the Social Club building stood (where the Bob Rose Stand addition had just been completed). The latter proposal was regarded by the club as a means of ensuring security over an asset, and propping up the club's use of Victoria Park. The old covenant over the facility, which was intended to ensure that the ground would always remain 'a place of public resort and recreation', and not be sold to private interests, would also have to be lifted.



Figure 23 c.1990s view of the (extended) Sherrin Stand (right of picture), with the Rush Stand at left.  
Source: McFarlane & Roberts, 1999.



Figure 24 The 'glue pot' in the centre of Victoria Park, c.1980-1.  
Source: McFarlane & Roberts, 1999.

The bitter battle that ensued (involving the club, Collingwood Council, State Government, local resident groups, and Collingwood supporter groups) would last for five years.<sup>73</sup>

By the time the issue was resolved in favour of the sale of the land to the club, the club itself had turned around. Throughout all the legal wranglings, the (by then) AFL had continued to pressure the club into moving games away from Abbotsford. The league had in fact won the rights to transfer any match to the venue of its choice. Collingwood finally abandoned its plans to buy the Social Club Stand site, when it conceded that the plan was not effective when the club could only be guaranteed (by the AFL) a minimum number of games at Victoria Park (by 1992, the club was playing only seven games there per season).<sup>74</sup>

In 1993, Collingwood decided to follow the financially successful example set by Essendon, and to allow all big games to be moved to the MCG (beginning in 1994). This would result in only three games being played at Abbotsford, and by the late 1990s, only two or three games a year were played there.<sup>75</sup>

In the mid-1990s, the McAlister administration also launched into a programme of buying up houses and land bordering Victoria Park (including the old Victoria Park Primary School), in an attempt to develop a much larger club precinct. Indoor sports facilities, a new Social Club building, a theatre, hotel and entertainment centre, were proposed, but the costly plans came to nothing, with many of the properties later sold off, at a loss.<sup>76</sup>

Also at about this time, the new City of Yarra signed an updated lease with the football club for Victoria Park, which would allow for elements of the ground (the oval, Social Club building, stands, etc) to progressively be returned to Council management and responsibility, after the club ceased to occupy or use the facilities.<sup>77</sup>

The last Collingwood home game played (and lost) at Victoria Park was in the last round of 1999, against the Brisbane Lions. This represented the last game played by any league team at a suburban venue in Melbourne (save for Princes Park, which is considered to be a premier venue, and Kardinia Park, Geelong, which is a regional AFL ground).

## 2.5 HOME GROUND ADVANTAGE

There was, there is something special about the place. It is the home of Collingwood. Everyone, from the players to the supporters, walks taller there, feels more confident and brash there – you could say they are a little more arrogant at Vic Park.<sup>78</sup>

We felt invincible there...the fans were so passionate – it must have scared the living daylights out of many an opponent...If I'd been playing for another team I'd have hated playing there.<sup>79</sup>

Victoria Park is one of those grounds you loved as a Magpie fan because it was like a Roman fortress. If you were an away fan it was like visiting Pentridge prison on a day pass! Tight grandstands and a small outer always gave you the feeling of being squeezed in.<sup>80</sup>

Collingwood has been described as ‘the most loved, and hated, team in Australia’.<sup>81</sup> The supporters are renowned for being passionate and ardent, and were never more so than at home games at Victoria Park.

The suburb of Collingwood, well before the advent of the football team, had a reputation for ‘larrikinism’. This predisposition meant that, when the first members and supporters were told at a meeting in February 1892 (before the new football club had even played its first VFA game), that the ‘very name Collingwood would strike terror into the hearts of the opposing players’, it fell on receptive ears. Moreover, the new barrackers were exhorted to ‘give such unearthly shrieks as would terrify’ the opposition, flagging the type of crowd behaviour for which Victoria Park would become renowned.<sup>82</sup>

When the first timber grandstand was opened for the game against South Melbourne in June 1892, the rowdy behaviour of the early Collingwood fans gave rise to concern. The barrackers stamped their feet loudly in the new stand, leading some to question the safety of the structure, and the ability of the foundations to withstand such behaviour.<sup>83</sup>

Collingwood supporters quickly developed a reputation for being parochial and passionate, and for being ‘downright unpleasant’ to opposition teams and fans. The local *Leader* newspaper complained in 1895, about a disturbing trend at Victoria Park, whereby several hundred supporters would gather in front of the timekeepers box in the last quarter, when Collingwood was in front, and ‘clamour’ for the keepers to ‘ring the bell’.<sup>84</sup> The embankment at the river end of the ground, where the non-members gathered, was also becoming known for poor crowd behaviour, and won the title of ‘One-Eye Hill’.<sup>85</sup>

When the 1909 Members’ Stand was completed at the Lulie Street end, one of its most remarked-upon features was the ‘protection’ it afforded to visiting teams. Opposition players could run directly onto the ground via a tunnel from their dressing rooms in the new stand, and thereby be safe from ‘projectiles’ and other forms of abuse thrown at them from the ‘excited’ Collingwood barrackers. In that year, Collingwood membership also rose to nearly 5000, which is considered to be a record level for the period (although during both World Wars, this figure would plummet to below 1000).<sup>86</sup>

Richard Stremski, in *Kill for Collingwood*, has examined the origins of Collingwood Football Club, in the context of the lowly status of the suburb, and the fierce need felt by its residents to overcome the scorn of the rest of the metropolis. He describes a ‘xenophobic pride’ among the early Collingwood supporters, and a need to seek ‘vengeance’ against the suburb’s neighbours. The football club, and Victoria Park, arose out of the socially deprived environment of the suburb in the late nineteenth century, and were required to ‘carry the banner of the city in battle against other suburbs’. The ‘drive for football superiority’ was motivated by a strong sense of social inferiority.<sup>87</sup>

The explanation for the huge numbers of Collingwood supporters (the so called ‘Magpie Army’) is a little harder to find. Victoria Park hosted some huge crowds over the years, with its best ever home ground attendance on Easter Monday 1948, when over 47,000 fans watched Collingwood defeat South Melbourne. In 1972, there was another huge attendance at Abbotsford, when 44,861 people turned up to watch Collingwood. Grand Finals featuring Collingwood have also always attracted large numbers, particularly against arch rival, Carlton. In 1936, a crowd of around 96,000 made its way to the MCG for the big day in September, while in 1970, an extraordinary 121,696 saw Collingwood defeated by Carlton in one of the club’s most heart-breaking Grand Final appearances.<sup>88</sup>

Collingwood's record at Victoria Park is also outstanding, with the ground giving the team an enormous head start over the years. In the first five years of the VFL, Collingwood maintained an 83% success rate for games played at the ground.<sup>89</sup>

Conditions for visiting teams were very poor, however, with only cold showers provided in the visitors' rooms. The Collingwood fans were also inclined to stand outside the doors and windows, to 'rubbish' the opposing players.<sup>90</sup> Visiting players often commented on the difficulties of playing at Victoria Park:

If you played well against Collingwood in the middle of July, you knew you'd become a man. You had to survive the cold showers after.<sup>91</sup>

## 2.6 CRICKET & OTHER ACTIVITIES

Victoria Park has been home to more than just the football club, and has hosted many other sports and activities over the years.

As noted previously, both the Yarra Yarra and Capulet cricket clubs were in residence at Victoria Park in the 1880s and 1890s. The Collingwood Cricket Club, however, was formed in c.1906, to play in the Victorian Cricket Association (VCA) season of 1906/7. It was born out of an arrangement between the football club and a local cricket team, La Mascotte, and was in response to a push to found a cricket club with the same name as the football club. Many cricket greats came out of the Collingwood Cricket Club, including the aforementioned Jack Ryder (an Australian test captain) and Keith Stackpole (the latter also played with the football team).<sup>92</sup>

There was always a huge discrepancy in the popularity of the two clubs, however, which was reflected elsewhere in football-mad Melbourne. For instance, in 1920-26 the gate receipts for cricket amounted to 236 pounds, while football raised 8,891 pounds. The cricket club was also involved in a near constant battle with the football club over tenancy issues at Victoria Park. The problems were part of a larger battle between the VFL and the Victorian Cricket Association (VCA), over the use and control of the many shared football/cricket grounds. The timing of the beginning and end of their respective seasons, and pre-season practice periods, was one of the main sources of conflict.<sup>93</sup>

The problems at Collingwood reached a peak in the early 1930s, with the football club actively undermining the cricket club through interfering with practice sessions. The cricket club was briefly expelled from the VCA, and forced to reach an agreement with the football club over access to the ground, in order to be readmitted to its competition. This is generally regarded as a victory for the football club, because it helped to cement Collingwood's control over Victoria Park.<sup>94</sup> The ongoing tension between football and cricket over control of nearly all the league grounds, was one of the driving forces behind the then VFL constructing its own ground and headquarters at Waverley Park in the 1970s.

Despite the tension, the Collingwood cricket and football clubs co-existed at Victoria Park (and shared players on many occasions), up until the cricket team merged with Camberwell in 1996, to become the Camberwell Magpies, and moved away from the Abbotsford ground.<sup>95</sup>

### 2.6.1 *Other Sports & Activities*

In addition to league football and cricket, a number of other sports and one-off events have been held at Victoria Park. In the 1890s, local cycling clubs (Abbotsford, Clifton Hill and Collingwood) used Victoria Park as their home base. A gravel cycling track is evident in early images (see Figure 3). An athletics carnival was held at the ground in 1911. Local football teams, including local 'business' teams such as the team from Foy & Gibson (one of the suburb's largest employers) also played games at the ground in the early twentieth century.<sup>96</sup>

In the 1950s and 1960s, the ground was used by schools for sporting functions, and charity football matches were also played there.<sup>97</sup> The football club's 1968 Annual Report provides details on the non-VFL football events held at the ground that year: first and second eleven cricket, Victorian Marching Girls Championships, senior, under 19 and school boy football matches, local schools' sports days, cricket and football practice, finals matches of the Victorian Amateur Football Association, and YCW competitions.<sup>98</sup> Many of these activities continued into the 1970s.<sup>99</sup> Football 'superclinics' for children (with players assisting) were also introduced at Victoria Park in the 1980s.

In the mid-1990s, the football club supported the establishment of the Collingwood Warriors Soccer Club, in the national soccer league. The soccer club was based at Victoria Park, and initially attracted reasonable crowds. It was not a financial success, however, and was soon wound up.<sup>100</sup>

## 3.0 Physical Survey and Analysis

### 3.1 INTRODUCTION

The following survey of Victoria Park is based on an examination of the available documentary evidence, and on a physical examination of the existing fabric of the place (physical and spatial elements). Victoria Park has also been analysed in the context of its setting. The objective of the survey has been to assess and establish, as far as possible, those elements which are original, early and/or significant to the place, and those elements which have been added, altered or removed at various times and which may or may not be significant. This chapter should be read in conjunction with Appendix B, which contains more detailed descriptions and analyses of the individual elements, including histories, assessments of the significance, and recommendations on retention, conservation, adaptation, redevelopment, etc.

### 3.2 DOCUMENTATION

The physical development of Victoria Park has been traced through architectural drawings (where available), historic photographs (including aerial photographs), and documentary sources (including Collingwood Football Club annual reports). Records held in the football club archives were of particular assistance. Existing histories of the club have also been used in the preparation of this chapter.

### 3.3 THE SITE

Victoria Park is located in Abbotsford, in an area bounded by the railway reserve (and Victoria Park Station) to the west, the Eastern Freeway to the north, the Yarra River to the east, and Johnston Street to the south. Lulie Street abuts the west boundary of the facility, with Abbott Street on the north, Trenerry Crescent and Bath Street on the east of the site, and Turner Street to the south. The surrounding area is predominantly residential, with housing stock dating from the late nineteenth century, including a mix of single and double storey attached and detached houses, intact rows of single storey brick terraces, and some Italianate houses and villas. A contemporary unit development is located on the north side of Abbott Street (across from the ground), with a number of notable early- to mid-twentieth century former industrial complexes (incorporating medium rise buildings) on Trenerry Crescent. These include the former Yarra Falls Weaving Mills site, and the former Austral Silk and Cotton Mills (which have been, or are in the process of being, converted to commercial and residential uses).

## VICTORIA PARK

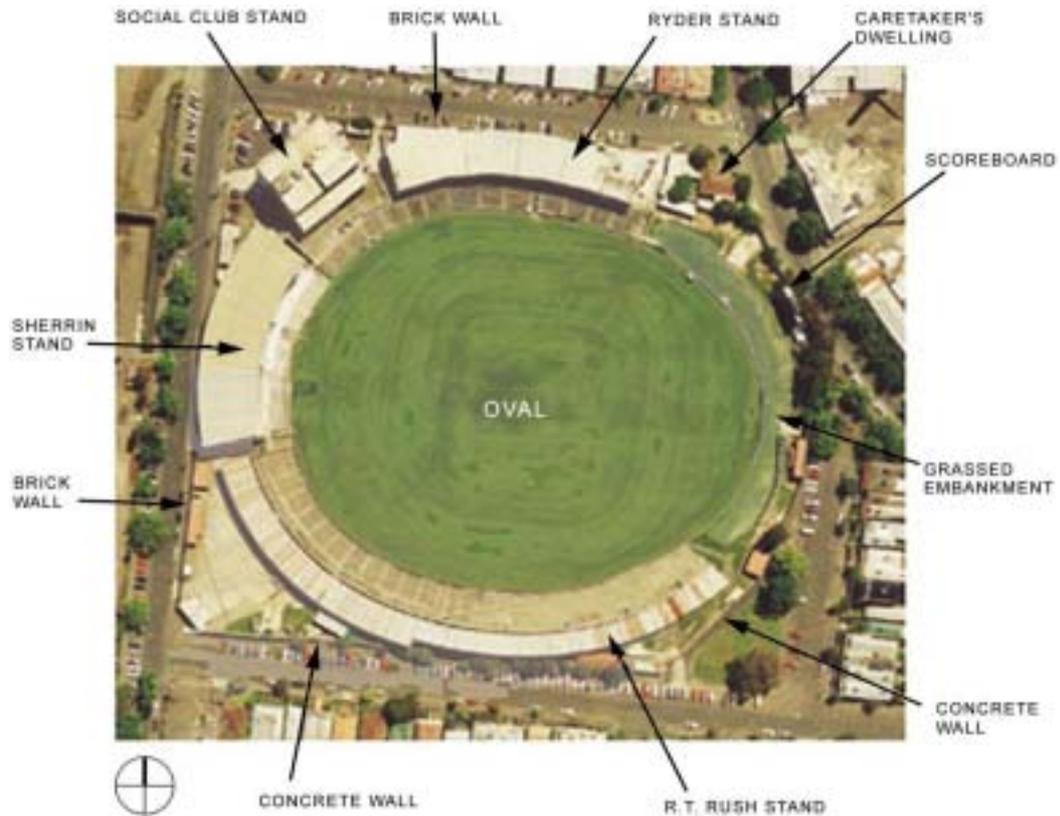


Figure 25 Site plan of Victoria Park

Victoria Park is a dominant element within this context, with several prominent structures including the Social Club Stand at the north-west corner (at the junction of Lulie and Abbott Streets), the Ryder Stand on the north of the ground (abutting Abbott Street), the Rush Stand on the south side of the ground (on Turner Street) and the Sherrin Stand at the west end (abutting Lulie Street). The Sherrin Stand is the largest and most visually dominant.

The stands are all oriented towards the oval, which is at the centre of the complex and in turn is surrounded by a mound (which has been built up over time). Concrete terraces with fixed bench seating and at varying levels (i.e. they are not wholly contiguous) occupy the slope of the mound, save for the east end of the ground. The covered areas of the stands are set back behind the lower terraces, with the elevated and curved form of the structures emphasising the form of the mound. Concourse areas (at or above ground level) are located to the rear of the stands. A high perimeter wall (of various materials including face brick, reinforced concrete, and corrugated iron) encloses the whole of the site, save for the Social Club Stand and carpark in the north-west corner. The perimeter wall incorporates a number of entrance gates and exits that are currently locked or boarded up, and which generally provide access to the concourse areas. Victoria Park is at present entered via the Social Club Stand, from where the oval and concourses can also be accessed.

### 3.4 BUILDINGS & OTHER ELEMENTS

The following is a summary of the major elements of Victoria Park, with photographs and greater detail provided in Appendix B.

#### 3.4.1 *Oval*

The oval at the centre of Victoria Park is 'egg' shaped in form, with a turf surface and a low cyclone wire fence (with signage) around its circumference. The oval fence is interrupted in places by gates and the race entrances from the stands onto the oval. Several covered players' benches are also located along the oval boundary, with removable goal and point posts sited at the Lulie Street and Trenerry Crescent ends of the oval.

#### 3.4.2 *Grassed embankment*

The grassed embankment at Victoria Park is in the outer standing area at the east (Trenerry Crescent) end of the ground. It is of irregular form, with retaining walls of various materials (including concrete block and bluestone). The area has some plantings including eucalyptus behind the goals and several deciduous trees at the south end. Structures associated with the embankment include signboards, toilets, the Trenerry Crescent exit, scoreboard, time clock and refreshment booths.

#### 3.4.3 *Ryder Stand*

The 1929 J C Ryder Stand is located on the north of the ground (abutting Abbott Street), at the eastern end of the members reserve. The stand addresses the oval to the south, with the grassed embankment in the outer to the east again. It is a steel-framed concrete structure that is curved in plan, and incorporates a single tier covered stand and undercroft rooms. Access to the stand is via stairs on the south elevation, or via elevated (non-original) stairs to the rear. Access to the undercroft spaces is provided at each end of the structure, and off Abbott Street. The players' race is located in the centre of the south elevation. The rear of the structure has exposed aggregate concrete with brickwork infill and patterned brickwork panelling (and is highly visible as the north elevation to Abbott Street).

#### 3.4.4 *Social Club Stand*

The 1959 Social Club Stand is located in the north-west corner of the ground, and is centrally sited in the members reserve area, between the Ryder Stand to the east, and the Sherrin Stand to the west. The Social Club Stand was originally a three level, steel-framed, concrete and brick building, in a cuboid form, with aluminium curtain wall cladding, and external enamel (black and white) panelling. A fourth level, and partial fifth level (mezzanine, on the eastern half of the roof) were added in 1980-1, with an enclosed glazed viewing area added at the original second floor level of the south elevation in 1989 (known as the Bobby Rose Stand). The street entrance is located on the north-west elevation, with access to the standing room terraces facing the oval via doors on the south elevation.

#### 3.4.5 *Rush Stand*

The 1966 R T Rush Stand is located on the southern side of the ground, abutting Turner Street, in the outer (general admission) area. The grassed embankment is at its eastern end. The stand faces north, and is a long, single tier, steel-framed cantilevered concrete structure. It is curved in plan, and has exposed metal decking to the roof and rear wall. Fixed bench seating occupies the concrete rises in western half of the stand, with standing room terraces in the eastern half. The rear third of the stand is beneath the roof. Access is via a series of ramps from the extensive concourse to the rear of the structure.

#### 3.4.6 *Sherrin Stand*

The 1969 Sherrin Stand (which was extended to the south by a third in 1978) is the largest capacity stand at Victoria Park, and is located at the west end of the ground (behind the Lulie Street goals), in the members reserve. The stand is a steel-framed, concrete and brick single tier cantilevered structure which faces east, with separated undercroft rooms. Timber seating is fixed to concrete plats, with approximately one half of the seating in the stand located beneath the roof. The prominent west elevation (to Lulie Street) has an external alternating black and white painted panel treatment, and a pronounced arc form. Access to the rear of the stand and at ground level is provided by four concrete stairs from a mid-level terrace.

#### 3.4.7 *Perimeter wall*

The high perimeter wall at Victoria Park comprises sections of different materials, including face brick, reinforced concrete, corrugated iron and chain mesh, with the sections constructed in different periods. The reinforced concrete wall along Turner and Bath Streets has panels of exposed aggregate between regular piers, while the brick wall on Abbott Street is partly integrated into the rear of the Ryder Stand and has patterned brick panelling. A series of entrance gates and exits are located at various points in the wall.

#### 3.4.8 *Entrances, turnstiles and ticket boxes*

As noted above, a number of entrances, exits, turnstiles and ticket boxes are located around the perimeter of Victoria Park, including public entrances at the corner of Lulie and Turner Streets, and in Turner Street at the end of Rich Street. Seasons ticket holders and Collingwood Football Club members entrances are located on Lulie and Abbott Streets. These elements were constructed in different periods, and utilise a variety of materials including iron, timber, brick and reinforced concrete. They area also varied in form and have been regularly upgraded. A number of steel roller doors (vehicle entrances and post-match exits) are additionally dotted around the perimeter.

#### 3.4.9 *Caretaker's residence*

The c.1960s caretaker's residence is located on a small site in the north-east corner of the ground, near the junction of Abbott Street and Trenerry Crescent (to both of which the building has street frontages). It is a double-fronted brick veneer dwelling, with a hipped and tiled roof, a projecting bay on its north elevation, and metal-framed windows. A cyclone wire fence defines the street boundary, while a corrugated iron fence (topped with barbed wire) separates the site from the football ground on its south side.

#### 3.4.10 *Other elements*

Other elements of interest at Victoria Park include the elevated 1960s scoreboard and time clock at the eastern end of the ground. A series of utilitarian toilet blocks and portable refreshment booths, etc, are also located around the ground.



## 4.0 Assessment of Significance

### 4.1 INTRODUCTION

The following analysis of the cultural heritage significance of Victoria Park, focuses on historical, social and aesthetic/architectural significance. The criteria of spiritual and technological/scientific significance are not addressed here, as they are not considered to apply in this case.

The chapter begins with an analysis of the historical significance of Victoria Park, including a brief comparison with the histories of other current and former VFL/AFL grounds in Victoria. Social significance is then examined, followed by an analysis of the development of grandstand architecture in Victoria, so as to place the grandstands at Victoria Park in the context of this development. The chapter concludes with a statement of cultural heritage significance, and an analysis of Victoria Park against a standard suite of heritage criteria (in this case, the criteria applied for the *Register of the National Estate*, and those adopted by Heritage Victoria).

### 4.2 HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

A place may have historical significance because it is the site of an important event or activity. The place may also have historical value because it has been associated with an important person, group or operation, or because it has influenced, or been influenced by, an historic figure, event, phase or activity. For any given place, the significance will be greater where evidence of the history survives (i.e. the fabric of the place is intact), and where the fabric can demonstrate aspects of that history. Some historical associations (which have been defined as ‘the special connections that exist between people and a place’<sup>101</sup>) may also be so important that the place retains significance regardless of subsequent treatment and changes to its fabric. Unlike places valued for architectural reasons, a place or building of historical significance can be assessed ‘in a wider context of social, political or intellectual history’.<sup>102</sup> These places have a human history to tell, which need not necessarily have an aesthetic or technological dimension.

#### 4.2.1 *Home of the Collingwood Football Club*

Victoria Park is historically significant because of its association, for more than 110 ten years, with the Collingwood Football Club. The club was founded in 1892, as a member of the Victorian Football Association (VFA), and played its first football game at Victoria Park. The club quickly rose to prominence, winning its first premiership in 1896, and becoming a founding member of the Victorian Football League (VFL) in 1897.

Although Collingwood is not one of the oldest teams in the AFL (Carlton, Essendon, Geelong, Footscray, North Melbourne, St Kilda, Richmond, Fitzroy, South Melbourne and Port Adelaide are all older), the club has been a powerhouse in the competition, and has been associated with Australian rules football as it has been played, promoted and managed at the highest level. The club has also been one of the most successful and popularly supported of all league football clubs in Victoria. In the context of the game, Collingwood has been influential in the development of the code, and in the evolution of the distinctive culture of football following in Victoria. Victoria Park is of historical significance for being the focus of much of this activity for more than a century.

Collingwood's continuous use of the facility (with the team playing its home games at Victoria Park for 107 years) is the longest association that any VFL/AFL club has had with a ground. (It is recognised that Carlton, at Princes Park since 1897, will surpass that record in the near future. Footscray also played their home games at the Western Oval for 111 years, but at VFL level for only 72 of those years.) In 1999, as a result of the league's ground rationalisation programme that began in the 1980s, Victoria Park was also the last suburban VFL/AFL ground in Melbourne (excluding Princes Park), to host a league football game.

Victoria Park is of historical significance for being the focus of club operations in the 1920s to 1950s period, when Collingwood achieved a range of on- and off-field firsts and initiatives. The club won four 'back-to-back' premierships between 1927 and 1930 (a feat which has not been equalled by any other club at the highest level); introduced the concept of 'curtain raiser' (pre-match) schoolboy football games at the ground; created the first players' provident fund; became master of its Reserves side (second eighteen), which up until the late 1930s was run by a separate management; was the first league club to win a liquor licence; the first club to establish a social club, and the first to build a purpose-built social club stand. In this period, Collingwood also became the wealthiest football club in the league.<sup>103</sup>

In addition to hosting football games, Victoria Park has also been the focus of infamous off-field political, financial and legal wranglings, as the football club strove to manage its own affairs and football destiny. Conflict with Collingwood Council over the management and use of Victoria Park was a frequent occurrence, which came to a head on a number of occasions, including in the 1950s when the club achieved longer tenure at Victoria Park, and more effective control over ground development. Another struggle with Council ensued in the late 1980s and early 1990s, when the club sought to purchase (as freehold land) the site on which the Social Club Stand is located (this was ultimately abandoned). Collingwood was also often at loggerheads with the league's managing body, and used its considerable financial and political clout to resist (in the late 1980s) pressure to move home games away from Victoria Park to one of the league's premier venues, the MCG or Waverley Park. Despite Collingwood's substantial spectator drawing power, and the obvious commercial and financial benefits to be obtained from such a move, the club's attachment to Victoria Park was at the heart of this resistance.

The configuration and appearance of Victoria Park today is a direct result of the club's use of the ground for over 100 years. More particularly, the current fabric of the place predominantly reflects the programme of ground development that commenced in the aftermath of the club being granted a forty-year ground improvements lease in 1956. Between the late 1950s and the 1980s, in the inner members' area, the club constructed the

1959 Social Club Stand (extended in 1980 and again in 1989), and the 1969 Sherrin Stand (also extended in 1978). Substantial improvements were also made to the outer, with the club assisting Council in the construction of the 1966 Rush Stand, and the introduction of other public facilities. The playing surface was also subjected to a series of substantial upgrades in these years. Moreover, Collingwood stamped its mark on Victoria Park through the naming of buildings, structures and spaces at the ground, after football club identities (including Syd Coventry, Bob Rose, Bob Rush, Jock McHale, and the Sherrin family). The use of black and white striped external finishes, and the prominent display of the 'Fighting Magpie' emblem on club facilities, was another means of visibly proclaiming Victoria Park as Collingwood Football Club territory.

Victoria Park also gains significance from being associated with the distinctive form of fanaticism expressed by football fans of all persuasions, and the tribal nature of the game in Victoria. In this context, Victoria Park has witnessed some of the best and worst of football culture, and extremes of supporter behaviour. Victoria Park has also engendered great passion among football followers, being both loved and loathed by generations of supporters and players.

#### 4.2.2 *Focus of the Collingwood Community*

Victoria Park is of historical significance for being the sporting focus (and some would argue, the social and emotional focus) of the Collingwood community for a long period. The founding of the club in the early 1890s and its establishment at Victoria Park, came about as a direct result of local community action and support. The club was intended to help raise the status of the suburb, and to unite residents behind the fledgling team in pursuit of success in the increasingly popular (and still relatively new) game of Australian rules football. In the early years in particular, many of the club's players were local men, who lived in the surrounding area and often worked in nearby industries. The club subsequently maintained strong associations with the Collingwood and Abbotsford communities, although these associations have declined with the changing social and economic makeup of inner Melbourne.

The connections between the club and the community, and the focus on Victoria Park, were at their most evident during the Depression of the late 1920s and 1930s, when the suburb of Collingwood was one of the hardest hit and most severely depressed of any in Melbourne. The community turned to the club in these years for some respite from their struggles, and the club repaid their loyalty with a period of success on the football field that has never been equalled by any other league club. Victoria Park also hosted many free community events and public entertainments in these years, and chiefly through the efforts of Collingwood Council, provided local employment opportunities, including through the construction of the 1929 Ryder Stand.

#### 4.2.3 *Other Sports & Events*

Victoria Park is of historical significance for being the home of the Collingwood Cricket Club from 1906 to 1996. The club produced many talented players, including the renowned Keith Stackpole and Jack Ryder (the latter was known as the 'King of

Collingwood' and became an Australian test captain). Despite an uneasy relationship between the football and cricket clubs, not least of all due to overlapping and competing use of the facility for training, playing and practice purposes, the two clubs co-existed at Victoria Park for 90 years. They also shared team members from time to time, including Keith Stackpole. The Ryder Stand is the most obvious physical remnant of the cricket club's association with the ground, with little else at Victoria Park currently providing much evidence of this other sport. Other local cricket teams also played at Victoria Park in the period before the football club was established, including the Yarra Yarra and Capulet cricket clubs, emphasising the early popularity of the sport within the Collingwood community.

Victoria Park is also of some historical interest for being used by cycling clubs from its earliest years, for hosting athletics and school sports carnivals, and as the venue for matches played by other local football teams, including 'business' teams from nearby factories such as Foy & Gibson. Victoria Park was also briefly the home of the (ultimately unsuccessful) Collingwood Warriors Soccer Club.

#### 4.2.4 *Early Collingwood & Abbotsford*

Victoria Park derives some significance from being associated with the 1878 Trenerry subdivision in Abbotsford. The landowner, Edwin Trenerry, sought to subdivide and auction his large landholding (of c.85 acres) for predominantly residential purposes, with a 10 acre recreation reserve (the future Victoria Park) at its centre. Collingwood Council was offered the reserve, and subsequently played a key role in the development of the residential area, as well the original Victoria Park. In this context, the Victoria Park landholding can also be traced back to Dight's Paddock of the 1840s (which was later purchased by Trenerry), one of many large 'paddocks' that originally abutted the Yarra River in the middle of the nineteenth century. The impact of Trenerry's bargain with Council was also evident for many years in the form of the restrictive covenant placed over Victoria Park, which prevented Council from selling any of the land for private purposes.

#### 4.2.5 *Comparisons: VFL/AFL Football Grounds in Victoria*

The following is a brief overview of the history and development of other suburban VFL/AFL grounds, with an emphasis on their use by a particular league football club, so as to place Victoria Park in this context. The larger stadiums, such as the former Waverley Park, or current Docklands Stadium, are not examined here, as they were developed for more general football use by the VFL/AFL. The MCG, while it has long been the home of the Melbourne Football Club, is also not included, as it derives much of its significance through its cricketing history and associations (at state and national level). The grounds of the interstate AFL clubs are also not included.

The dates in the left column represent the period of time in which the facility was used by the relevant team as its home ground, when playing at VFA or VFL/AFL level.<sup>104</sup>

<p><i>Princes Park</i> (VFL: 1897-present)</p>	<p>The <b>Carlton Football Club</b> was established in 1864, and played at a number of grounds before moving to Princes Park in 1897, the first year of the VFL. Princes Park was established in conjunction with the Carlton Cricket Club. As a Crown reserve (unlike the other municipal-owned grounds), the facility has historically been administered by a committee of management (with representatives from the football and cricket clubs), rather than directly by Council. From the time of its establishment, Princes Park was one of the largest cricket and football grounds in the metropolitan area, being almost as long as the MCG but slightly wider. Various other clubs have used the ground as well as Carlton, including Fitzroy (1967-69), Hawthorn (1974-91) and Footscray (1996-99). Princes Park has undergone extensive redevelopment since the early 1980s, including the provision of large areas of covered reserved seating and corporate viewing areas (see Figure 42). In no small part due to these works, Carlton is one of only two of the remaining AFL clubs (together with Geelong), to have retained its home ground as a playing venue. The social club building was constructed in the 1960s.<sup>105</sup></p>
<p><i>Windy Hill</i> (VFL: 1922-1991)</p>	<p><b>Essendon Football Club</b> was founded in 1873, and played at a number of grounds (including ovals at Jolimont and East Melbourne) until 1921. When these facilities became unavailable in 1922, Essendon Council invited the club to use a local recreation reserve. Substantial improvements were subsequently made to the ground, which became known as ‘Windy Hill’. The R S Reynolds Stand (Figure 31) dates from c.1922; the A F Showers Stand (Figure 37) was completed in 1939; another stand, initially known as the Memorial Grandstand, was opened in 1969 (which was later renamed the W H Cookson Stand, see Figure 40), with the A T Hird Stand constructed in 1973 (Figure 41). In September 1991 the Essendon Football Club announced it would be moving to the MCG for home matches from the following year, with the last game played at the ground in 1991 against the then Brisbane Bears. The ground is still used for training, administrative and social club purposes (as well as by the Essendon Cricket Club).<sup>106</sup></p>
<p><i>Kardinia Park</i> (VFL: 1941-present)</p>	<p>The <b>Geelong Football Club</b> was created in c.1880, and played its early games at the Argyle Oval in Geelong, and then at Corio Oval (overlooking Corio Bay), from where it relocated to Kardinia Park in 1941 (due to the army taking occupation of Corio Oval in 1940). Prior to this, Kardinia Park had been used for athletics, cycling and dirt track motorcycling. Geelong continues to play its home games at the ground. Substantial ground improvements were undertaken from the 1960s and 1970s, with a number of stands constructed, together with a large social club building.<sup>107</sup></p>
<p><i>Western Oval</i></p>	<p><b>Footscray Football Club</b> (now the Western Bulldogs) formed in 1875, joined the VFA in 1886, and was admitted to the VFL in 1925, the year</p>

<i>(VFA: 1886-1924; VFL: 1925-1997)</i>	it played its first game at the Western Reserve (later named the Western Oval), which was also the home of the Footscray Cricket Club. The club played its early matches on a paddock near Cowper Street, Footscray, then moved to Market Reserve in Barkly Street. The ground was renamed the E J Whitten Oval in 1995. The last game at the Whitten Oval was against the West Coast Eagles in 1997. The large E J Whitten Stand was built in 1968 (Figure 39). A long covered stand (the E J Smith Stand, built in 1955) covers much of the outer area (Figure 45). <sup>108</sup>
<i>Arden Street (VFA: 1892-1924; VFL: 1925-1985)</i>	The <b>North Melbourne Football Club</b> was established in 1877, as the Hotham Football Club, and was a founding member of the VFA (it was not admitted to the VFL until 1925). For some years the team played its home games at an oval on Royal Parade, before shifting to Arden Street in 1892 (leasing it from the Melbourne City Council). The club temporarily relocated to the Coburg City Oval in 1965, due to a conflict with the MCC. A social club was built at Arden Street in 1969. The oval ceased to be used as a league playing venue in 1985, with the last game played there against Richmond. Arden Street was also known as the Gasometer Oval, due to the large gasometer (associated with the nearby gasworks) that loomed over the ground for many years. Greyhound racing was conducted at the oval in the 1950s and 1960s. North Melbourne football club still trains, and has its social club facilities, at Arden Street. Most of the other facilities have been removed. <sup>109</sup>
<i>Junction Oval (St Kilda VFA: 1886-1896; VFL: 1897-1964) (Fitzroy VFL: 1970-1984)</i>	The <b>St Kilda Football Club</b> was founded in 1873, and played its first games at an oval near the railway station. The club (as a member of the VFA) moved in 1886 to the Junction Oval, which was already occupied by the St Kilda Cricket Club. St Kilda was a founding member of the VFL. The Kevin Murray Stand (previously the G P Newman Stand), erected in 1925, still remains (Figure 30). St Kilda played its last game at the Junction Oval in 1964 (against Geelong), then relocated to Moorabbin. Fitzroy Football Club played its home games at the ground from 1970-1984. <sup>110</sup>
<i>Moorabbin (VFL: 1965-1991)</i>	<b>St Kilda Football Club</b> began playing home games at Moorabbin in 1965. Considerable ground improvements were made from this period, including the construction of a social club building in 1967, and a substantial covered stand in the outer in c.1965, that was extended in c.1970 (Figure 38). In 1992, the Saints moved their home games to Waverley Park, although retained their training, administration and social club facilities at Moorabbin. <sup>111</sup>
<i>Punt Road Oval (VFA: 1885-1907; VFL)</i>	<b>Richmond Football Club</b> formed in 1885, and began using the Punt Road oval almost immediately. The club was admitted to the VFL, from the VFA, in 1908. The current social club building was reconfigured

<i>1908-1964)</i>	from the old 1930s Ernest H King Stand in 1980 (Figure 47). The original component of the Jack Dyer Stand dates from 1914, was extended in 1927, and refurbished in more recent times. The Tigers moved their home games to the MCG in 1965, while keeping training and administrative facilities at Punt Road. <sup>112</sup>
<i>Brunswick Street Oval (VFA: 1884-1896; VFL: 1897-1966)</i>	The <b>Fitzroy Football Club</b> was established in 1883, and began playing at the Brunswick Street oval the following year. It was a power team in the VFA, before becoming a founding member of the VFL in 1897. Fitzroy played its last game at Brunswick Street in 1966, against St Kilda. The club moved to Princes Park in 1967, after which it became an itinerant team, moving from venue to venue in Melbourne, before finally relocating north and merging with the Brisbane Bears in 1996. The ground was opened up (fences removed, etc) in the early 1990s, and retains a substantial (heritage listed) brick grandstand, constructed in 1888 (Figure 29). <sup>113</sup>
<i>Lakeside Oval (VFA: 1878-1896; VFL: 1897-1981)</i>	The genesis of the <b>South Melbourne Football Club</b> dates back to the 1860s, with a club bearing the ‘South Melbourne’ name established in 1874. Early games were played at a number of venues in the locality, before the club moved to the Lakeside Oval in 1878, sharing it with the South Melbourne Cricket Club from that time. The football club was in the VFA, before becoming a founding member of the VFL in 1897. South Melbourne moved to Sydney in 1982, becoming the Sydney Swans. A brick grandstand, dating from 1926, remains at the site (Figure 32), although the ground and oval have been reconfigured for other purposes. <sup>114</sup>
<i>Glenferrie Oval (VFA: 1914-1924; VFL: 1925-1973)</i>	<b>Hawthorn Football Club</b> was founded in 1873, but was not admitted to the VFA until 1914, and the VFL in 1925. After playing at a number of venues, the club settled at Glenferrie Oval in 1906 (pre-VFA days). The last game played at Glenferrie was against South Melbourne in 1973, but the club retains its administrative base and training facilities at the ground (although it now plans to move to the reconfigured Waverley Park). The social club is located in a building across the road from the oval. Two grandstands remain at the ground, including the A S Ferguson Stand, and the heritage listed 1930s Michael Tuck Stand (Figure 36). <sup>115</sup>

### *Conclusion*

When compared to other VFL/AFL football grounds, Collingwood Football Club’s association with Victoria Park (VFA: 1892-1896; VFL: 1897-1999) is one of the longest of any league club’s association with a particular ground, and the longest connection in terms of playing football at the highest level (VFL/AFL), although Carlton at Princes Park will soon pass this mark. Along with Richmond and Fitzroy (who began playing at their respective

ovals from the very earliest days of their clubs' existence), Collingwood's first VFA game was at Victoria Park, as was its first VFL game. The club also resisted moving home games away from Victoria Park until comparatively late, when compared with other clubs (save for Carlton, and obviously Geelong).

In terms of ground development and improvement, the evolution of the stands and built elements at Victoria Park is generally in accordance with that of the other league grounds, particularly in the period after the 1950s. This is also understood to be consistent with development in the era of the 'Outer Ground Levy', which was administered by the VFL in the post-WWII period, to assist clubs in developing their general admission facilities.

#### 4.3 SOCIAL SIGNIFICANCE

Social value is defined in the guidelines to *The Burra Charter* as follows:

Social value embraces the qualities for which a place has become a focus of spiritual, political, national or other cultural sentiment to a majority or minority group.

As suggested by its Burra Charter definition, social value is difficult to define and assess, but places of social value tend to fall into one or more of the following categories:

- # public places
- # places of 'meeting'
- # places of 'resort' and public entertainment
- # places associated with recent significant events
- # commemorative places; and
- # places with special meaning for particular communities (a 'community' can be local or broader, or have shared experiences or values).

In her methodological paper *What is Social Value?*, Chris Johnston has commented that it is often difficult to distinguish social value from historical value. While social value need not be rooted in the past, equally it is clear that in many cases a sense of historical continuity and particular historical events and associations may contribute to a sense of the meaning of a place. As Johnston notes, 'the continuity of associations over time creates shared community perceptions that may be regarded as evidence of its social value...it is likely that one of the major sources of meaning will be historical events associated with a place'.<sup>116</sup>

##### *Sacred Site*

Victoria Park has been described as 'one of the most sacred sites in Australian sport'.<sup>117</sup> This is due to the ground's long association with the Collingwood Football Club, but perhaps more particularly, its association with the club's legion of ardent supporters. While social value can be highly personalised and relate to individual experiences and attachments, the social value of Victoria Park is predominantly drawn from collective associations, experiences and memories.

For the 'community' of Collingwood supporters, and despite the deterioration of the venue and the football club's impending move, Victoria Park is regarded as the spiritual home of the club, and is invested with great symbolic and iconic significance. The

connection between the place and the supporters is strong, and derives from more than a century of use and attachment, and dedication to the success of the club at its home base.

Victoria Park's social significance also derives from the experiences of other football supporters. In the hierarchy of AFL grounds, a Saturday afternoon at Victoria Park, spent barracking for the opposition, could be a most unpleasant experience.

Victoria Park is additionally of social significance in a local context, for its role as a local sporting facility, which has hosted many Collingwood and Abbotsford community events and activities.

#### 4.4 AESTHETIC/ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

Aesthetic value is defined in the Burra Charter as follows:

A place may have aesthetic value because of the form, scale, colour, texture and material of the fabric; the smell and sounds associated with the place and its use.

Victoria Park contains several structures of aesthetic/architectural interest. These are discussed below, in the context of the evolution of grandstand architecture in Victoria; comparisons are also made with other similar football ground structures and grandstands.

##### 4.4.1 *Grandstand Architecture*

###### *Early Stands*

Many early grandstands at Victorian football (and cricket) grounds tended to be largely simple structures, reflecting their primary role of providing cover for patrons, rather than the adornment of the ground. Many comprised only a roof and a sloping or terraced surface from which spectators gained an elevated (and preferably covered) view of proceedings.

Typical of simple early stands was the use of a gabled or skillion roof supported on perimeter posts, with a wall to the rear. The **1900 Women's Pavilion** at Victoria Park (demolished) was a simple structure of this type, without the rear wall (see Figure 26). It had a single tier, curved form (was built to the oval edge), with a hipped roof with timber gabled ends, and decorative ridging iron. Perimeter posts supported the roof, and there were no side walls (the stand was accessed via the open sides).

For more substantial or elaborate stands, the structure was often raised on a plinth to provide for better viewing, and the sides were enclosed for additional weather protection. Small gablets were also sometimes introduced to the roof form along with decorative joinery or cast iron, to provide aesthetic and picturesque interest to what was an otherwise



Figure 26 Women's Pavilion at Victoria Park, b.1900 (demolished).  
Source: State Library of Victoria collection



Figure 27 Two postcard views of the William Pitt designed stand at Victoria Park, b.1892 (demolished).  
Source: State Library of Victoria collection (left), and McFarlane & Roberts, 1999 (right).

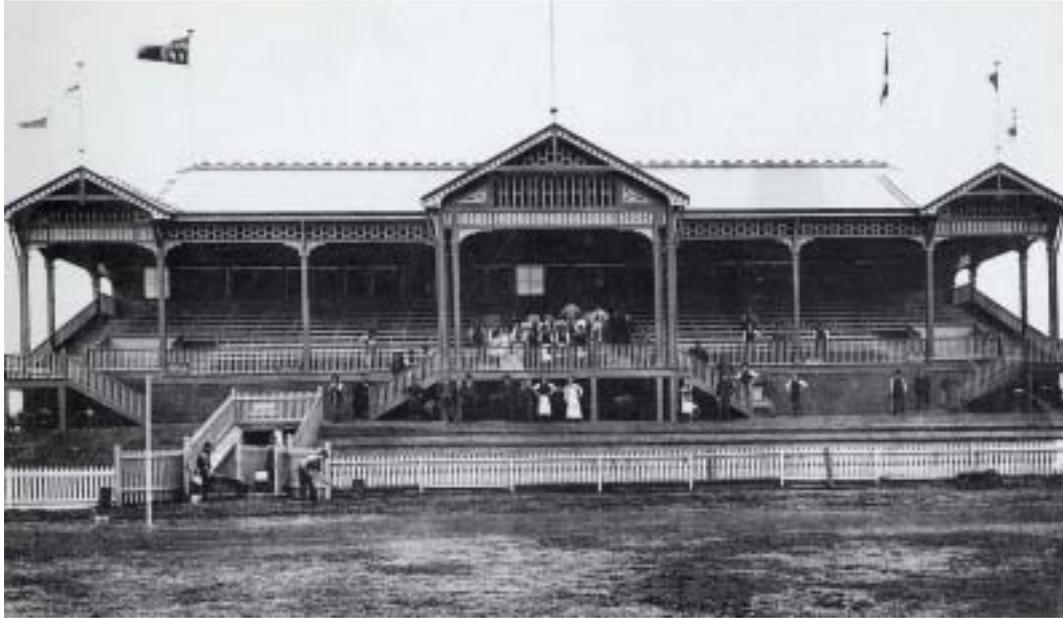


Figure 28 Members' Stand, Victoria Park, b.1909 (demolished).  
Source: McFarlane & Roberts, 1999.



Figure 29 Grandstand, Brunswick Street Oval, b.1888.  
Source: Heritage Victoria.



Figure 30 Kevin Murray Stand, Junction Oval, St Kilda, b. 1924/25.



Figure 31 R S Reynolds Stand, Windy Hill, b. c.1922.  
Source: Caruso,

utilitarian structure. The William Pitt designed **1892 stand** at Victoria Park (demolished) is an example of a smaller although more elaborate stand (Figure 27). It had a hipped and gabled roof, with a mansard-roofed turret, and perimeter posts supporting the roof at the front of the structure. It was also single tier, with steeply raked seating, and training spaces in the undercroft beneath. The seating was accessed by three sets of stairs to the front of the stand.

Larger examples of the more elaborate stands were found at the Brunswick Street Oval in North Fitzroy (1888, see Figure 29), Maryborough (c. 1900), Ballarat City oval (c. 1900), Jolimont (1913), and the 1913 stand at Flemington racecourse.

The **1909 Members' Stand** at Victoria Park (demolished) was an Edwardian stand of the larger type, and as noted previously, was designed by the architect of the Maryborough stand, Thomas Watt (it is strongly reminiscent of the Maryborough structure). The 1909 stand was single tier, with a hipped roof, projecting central and flanking gabled bays, and perimeter posts (Figure 28). The stand had ornamental timber fretwork, brackets, and timber balustrading and was elevated on a masonry plinth accessed by four sets of stairs. Undercroft spaces were located beneath the stand.

### *Interwar Developments*

In the third and fourth decades of the twentieth century, when metropolitan cricket and football grounds were expanding and improving their facilities, there was a changing emphasis in grandstand design. While stands such as the 1924/1925 structure at the Junction Oval, St Kilda (Figure 30) retained a perimeter post configuration, the 1922 Reynolds Stand at Windy Hill (Figure 31), and the 1926 stand at South Melbourne's Lakeside Oval (Figure 32) show a development towards cantilevered structures. This engineering development improved spectator viewing through the removal or reduction of load bearing elements supporting the roof. The Lakeside Oval example retains the gabled picturesque roof form, but had open steel trusses supported by intermediate posts set back well under the canopy, rather than at the perimeter. Although constructed earlier, the clear-span skillion roof form adopted at Windy Hill, is another confident development of this type. Parallel to the potential offered by cantilevered engineering in the design of grandstands, the improved view-lines from within the stands enabled the rear sections to be modified to accommodate enclosures such as time keeper's boxes, coaches' boxes and later, private boxes.

By comparison, the roof design of the 1927-28 MCC Members Pavilion at the MCG (designed by architects Stephenson & Meldrum), adopted a flattened gable form which reads as a skillion from within the ground (Figure 33). The enclosure of the sides of the pavilion with steel-framed glass also added to the sense of the design's modernity. Notably, however, cantilevered engineering allowed for a degree of autonomy to develop between the form of the roof and the seating bank. Previously, roof forms of timber-framed gabled structures more or less followed the perimeter plan form of the seating. The transverse section of the MCC Members Pavilion, however, indicates that the seating that extends to the oval is not fully covered by the roof. Additionally, while the Junction Oval and South Melbourne stands contained dressing rooms and like facilities, they did not have the extensive facilities that were included in the MCC Members Pavilion, such as bars, members' rooms and dining areas.



Figure 32 Grandstand, Lakeside Oval, b.1926.



Figure 33 MCG Members Pavilion, soon after completion, b.1927-28.  
Source: Royal Victorian Institute of Architects Journal.



Figure 34 J C Ryder Stand, Victoria Park, b. 1929.



Figure 35 View from rear of the Ryder Stand, looking east.



Figure 36 Michael Tuck Stand, Glenferrie Oval, b.1930s.



Figure 37 Arthur Showers Stand, Windy Hill, b.1939.  
Source: Caruso

The 1923-24 Members' Stand at Flemington Race Course, designed by architects Robertson & Marks of Sydney and engineers James Hardie & Co & C Reed, also of Sydney, was a much more substantial structure than the MCC Members Pavilion, but placed a similar emphasis upon clear span views and cantilevered form.

At Flemington the roof terminates in line with the structural columns below, but the intermediate terraces cantilever out past the alignment of the roof, thus capturing some of the same 'floating', modern aesthetic found at the MCC Members Pavilion.

The Flemington stand also incorporates special steel work prepared by the Trussed Concrete Co. of Sydney. The building is detailed and finished in a manner comparable to that of the MCC Pavilion and, indeed, much contemporary commercial work, including extensive use of fine wrought iron. Like the MCC Members Pavilion, it also incorporates a range of function spaces and other rooms in its interior.

By contrast, although much smaller in scale to the MCC Members Pavilion, the extant **1929 Ryder Stand** at Victoria Park (see Figure 34 & Figure 35), designed by architects, Peck & Kemter, represents a development of the principal elements incorporated in the cantilever grandstand type. The ground level undercroft is of concrete construction and comprises raked roof beams which support a steel-framed skillion roof structure. Seating areas are accessed from the front, while the undercroft is accessed from Abbott Street (on the north side of the structure). As with the MCC Members Pavilion, the building has a multi-faceted architectural presence to the rear, sides and oval, incorporating decorative brickwork, striped balustrading and patterned infill in the external rear wall. Subsequent additions to the building's rear have capitalised on this aspect of the design and include the construction of the rear flanking stairs, which provide additional circulation along the top (and back) of the stand. The structure also includes rooms in the undercroft, which the club has used for a variety of purposes over the years, including the players' rooms.

The potential of cantilevered engineering for architectural effect was further developed in the mid-1930s with the construction of the stand at Hawthorn's ground at Glenferrie, now known as the Michael Tuck Stand (Figure 36). It was designed by Marsh & Michaelson, in collaboration with Stuart Calder. The structure adopted a streamlined appearance, with a roof form sculpted with a large curvilinear sweep, which has a gestural force that derives from the German Expressionist movement of the 1930s. Prominently located at the corner entry to the ground, the time keeper's tower provides aesthetic contrast and tension to the overall composition. The rounded 'conning tower' form is also of interest in that it provides articulation to the generic grandstand form, beyond the principal circulatory concerns of attaching stairs for access to the upper level seating. Other stands, such as the Heatley Stand at Princes Park, Carlton (1932), or the 1939 A F Showers Stand at Windy Hill by architect Harry Winbush (see Figure 37), also capitalise on the engineering possibilities of cantilevered structures and steel-framing, but appear not to develop the grandstand structure or programme in an architecturally expressive way.

#### *Post-WWII Ground Development*

In the post-WWII era, particularly in the 1960s and after, many new stands were constructed at VFL grounds. Leaving aside the stadiums (MCG and Waverley Park), these included the c.1965 stand in the outer at Moorabbin (Figure 38), the 1968 E J



Figure 38 The large covered public stand in the outer at Moorabbin, b.c.1965, and extended in 1970.  
Source: Caruso



Figure 39 E J Whitten Stand, Western Oval, b.1968.  
Source: Caruso



Figure 40 W H Cookson Stand, Windy Hill, b.1969.  
Source: Caruso



Figure 41 Allan Hird Stand, Windy Hill, b.1973.  
Source: Caruso



Figure 42 Princes Park, oblique aerial (recent), showing the substantial development of the ground.  
Source: Caruso



Figure 43 R T Rush Stand (in the distance), Victoria Park, b. 1966.



Figure 44 Sherrin Stand, Victoria Park, b.1969/78.



Figure 45 E J Smith Stand (covered outer stand), Western Oval, b.1955.  
Source: Caruso



Figure 46 Social Club Stand (Coventry Pavilion, Bob Rose Stand), Victoria Park. b.1959/81/89.



Figure 47 Social Club building, Punt Road oval, reconfigured in 1980 from the old 1930s Ernest H King Stand.  
Source: Caruso

Whitten Stand at the Western Oval (Figure 39), the 1969 W H Cookson Stand at Windy Hill (Figure 40), and the 1973 Allan Hird Stand at Windy Hill (Figure 41). Princes Park in Carlton (Figure 42) and Kardinia Park at Geelong, were also increasingly developed with new stands from these years.

The 1966 R T Rush Stand (Figure 43) and 1969 Sherrin Stand (Figure 44) at Victoria Park, which were designed by the architects McIntyre & McIntyre, and Peter McIntyre & Associates respectively, are contemporary with these developments.

The **Rush Stand**, together with the public stand at Moorabbin, are differentiated through being constructed in the general admission reserve (outer). A long covered stand, the E J Smith Stand, was also built in the outer area at the Western Oval in 1955 (Figure 45). This was of very simple construction, however, and was effectively a shallow roof covering the rear of the standing room terraces. The large curving covered stand in the outer at Moorabbin, is generally comparable with the Rush Stand in terms of its scale and extent, although the St Kilda stand is more substantial, provides cover for larger areas of fixed seating, and has two tiers (the Rush Stand is a single tier structure).

The **Sherrin Stand** at Victoria Park, by contrast, is larger than the Rush Stand, curved in plan form and prominently located behind the western goals. The structure is primarily of steel-framed construction with masonry infill. The rear of the stand, which is cantilevered, allows for circulation around the structure at ground level, with rear access to the seating as well as the undercroft area below. The rear curved form of the stand, which overhangs the Lulie Street boundary wall, has metal cladding (painted in black and white stripes). Although the stand is generally contemporary and broadly comparable with a number of other stands, including the 1960s and 1970s stands at Windy Hill and the Western Oval, none achieve this strength of presence and composition from the rear.

The **1959 Social Club Stand** at Victoria Park, which was designed by Robert H McIntyre & Associates, is believed to be the first purpose-built social club building at any of the league grounds, which integrated club function and administration spaces, with viewing areas to the oval. The building in its original form and exterior detailing had some architectural distinction, although this has been diminished through subsequent works. The extensive alterations have included the addition of the fourth level in 1980/81 (although this was anticipated in the original design), and the Bob Rose Stand addition to the south elevation in 1989. The north (Lulie Street) elevation has also been altered.

Social clubs were established by all VFL teams in the years following Collingwood's initiative. The spaces set aside for club activities at the grounds were either existing spaces under stands (which were adapted for club use), or entirely new structures. Some social club rooms were also located elsewhere, including Hawthorn's which are across the road from the ground at Glenferrie. Many new club rooms were built in the 1960s and 1970s, and are generally utilitarian structures (as is the building at Victoria Park). Others were converted from existing buildings, as occurred at the Punt Road Oval, where the old 1930s Ernest H King Stand was reconfigured to social club use in 1980 (see Figure 47).<sup>118</sup>

### *Conclusion*

The existing stands at Victoria Park, when compared to stands at other VFL/AFL grounds, and assessed in the context of the development of grandstand architecture, have some distinguishing qualities, without being structures of high architectural merit. As noted

above, the Ryder Stand reflects a development of the principal elements incorporated in the then evolving cantilever grandstand type, without necessarily advancing the typology. The structure's multi-faceted architectural presence to the rear, sides and oval is of interest, particularly the decorative treatment of the rear external wall and its presentation to Abbott Street (which has echoes of the rear treatment of the MCC Pavilion at the MCG). The Rush Stand is a utilitarian structure, which ably served its purpose of providing cover for the outer terraces (standing room and fixed seating), in an era of ground improvement (including improvements to general admission areas). The Sherrin Stand, while also being generally contemporary and broadly comparable with a number of other football grandstands of the 1960s and 1970s, nevertheless achieves a strong presence within the ground, and a robust composition to the rear. The structure also has a high degree of prominence and visibility within the context of Victoria Park. The Social Club Stand, which in its original exterior form and materials was of some distinction, is nevertheless a utilitarian structure, and has been modified.

#### 4.5 STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

##### *What is Significant?*

Victoria Park, Abbotsford, is a former league football ground which was established in the late 1870s as a municipally-owned recreation reserve. A number of sporting clubs utilised the facility in the period before the Collingwood Football Club was formed, and played its first VFA game at the ground in 1892, and its last AFL game there in 1999. The facility was also the home of the Collingwood Cricket Club from 1906 to 1996.

The current configuration and appearance of Victoria Park reflects the football club's use of the facility for more than 110 years, and more particularly the ground improvements undertaken in the period from the late 1950s to the 1980s. Architects Robert and Peter McIntyre were involved in the design of all the major structures added to the facility in this period. The inner members' reserve is the most developed part of the ground, and demonstrates substantial expenditure by the club after 1956, when it was granted a long term improvements lease by Collingwood Council. The building programme in the members' reserve included the 1959 Social Club Stand (extended in 1980 and 1989), and the 1969 Sherrin Stand (extended in 1978). The latter was the third members' stand to occupy a site behind the Lulie Street goals at the western end of the oval. The 1929 Ryder Stand on the north side of the ground, designed by architects Peck & Kemter, is also located in the members' area, and is the second structure in this location. The general admittance outer area in the southern and eastern parts of the ground was left largely undeveloped (as open grassed or concrete terraces) until 1966, when the club, in association with Collingwood Council, constructed the large covered R T Rush Stand.

Other elements at Victoria Park include the oval, which has been at the centre of the facility from its earliest days, and the perimeter wall (with sections dating from different periods, and utilising different materials and methods of construction). The latter reflects the club's need to secure and enclose the ground, with the concrete perimeter wall on Turner and Bath Streets, and the detailed brick wall on Abbott Street to the rear of the Ryder Stand, being the oldest sections of wall. A mound or embankment around the oval has also been

evident since the earliest days, with the grassed embankment (standing room) at the eastern end of the ground (on Trenerry Crescent) being a remnant of this.

*How is it Significant?*

Victoria Park is of considerable historical and social significance (at a State level), with the stands and built elements generally of moderate aesthetic/architectural significance (at a local level).

*Why is it significant?*

Victoria Park derives considerable historical significance through its association with the Collingwood Football Club for over 110 years. The football club was a founding member of the VFL in 1897, became a powerhouse in the competition, and one of the most successful and popularly supported of all football clubs in Victoria. Collingwood has also been influential in the ongoing development of Australian rules football, has produced notable players, coaches and administrators, and has helped to shape the distinctive and fanatical character of football following in Victoria. Moreover, Collingwood's continuous use of Victoria Park (having played home games there for 107 years) is the longest association at the highest level between any Victorian AFL club and its ground. In 1999 Victoria Park was also the last suburban VFL/AFL ground in Melbourne (excluding Princes Park), to host a league game.

Victoria Park is of historical and social significance for being a stronghold of football tribalism, where some of the best and worst aspects of supporter fanaticism and crowd behaviour have been evident. The community of Collingwood Football Club supporters have a strong attachment to the ground, regard it as the spiritual home of the club, and invest the place with great symbolic and iconic importance. The Collingwood Football Club has also exercised considerable financial, political and legal clout from its power base at Victoria Park. Strong ties to the ground have been at the core of this, with the club struggling to wrest control of the facility from Collingwood Council, and to resist league pressure to move home games away from Abbotsford (a battle that was ultimately lost).

Victoria Park is additionally of historical and social significance as a focal point of the Collingwood community for a long period, with the connections between the football club and the community at its strongest during the dark years of the Depression. The facility was also associated with the Collingwood Cricket Club from 1906 to 1996, and was the home ground of several cricketing greats including Jack Ryder (an Australian test captain) and Keith Stackpole.

Victoria Park also derives some significance through being associated with the 1878 Trenerry subdivision in Abbotsford, and before that, with Dight's Paddock of the mid-nineteenth century.

Architecturally, the stands and built elements at Victoria Park have some distinguishing qualities, without being structures of high architectural merit. The rear treatment of the Ryder Stand, with its architectural presentation to Abbott Street, is of some note. The Sherrin Stand has a strong presence within the ground, and a high degree of external prominence and visibility. The Social Club Stand originally had some architectural distinction, but this has been diminished by later works, while the Rush Stand is a generally utilitarian structure. The association with architects Robert and Peter McIntyre, in the post-

WWII period, and before that, with Peck & Kemter, is additionally of interest. The oval, sections of perimeter wall, and remnant grassed embankment at the eastern end of the ground are also important elements, with the latter additionally being of high aesthetic significance.

#### 4.6 ASSESSMENT AGAINST HERITAGE CRITERIA

The following is an assessment of Victoria Park against the relevant heritage criteria (in italics) of the Australian Heritage Commission (AHC) and Heritage Victoria (HV).

<b>HV A</b>	<i>The historical importance, association with or relationship to Victoria's history of the place or object.</i> Victoria Park is of considerable historical importance due to its long association with the Collingwood Football Club, and its use as a league football ground for over a century.
<b>AHC A3</b>	<i>Importance in exhibiting unusual richness or diversity of cultural landscapes or features.</i> N/A
<b>AHC A4</b>	<i>Importance for association with events, developments or cultural phases which have had a significant role in the human occupation and evolution of Victoria.</i> Victoria Park is important for its association with the development of league football, and the distinctive and tribal nature of football following in Victoria.
<b>AHC H1</b>	<i>Importance for close associations with individuals whose activities have been significant within the history of Victoria.</i> Victoria Park has been associated with many successful and influential sporting figures, including Jock McHale, Bob Rose and the Sherrin family (football), Jack Ryder and Keith Stackpole (cricket), and numerous other sporting identities.
<b>HV B</b>	<i>The importance of a place or object in demonstrating rarity or uniqueness.</i> N/A
<b>AHC B2</b>	<i>Importance in demonstrating a distinctive way of life, custom, process, land use, function or design no longer practised, in danger of being lost, or of exceptional interest.</i> Victoria Park (as a former suburban league football ground) demonstrates many aspects of the experience of football games and football culture in Victoria, as occurred in the period before the nationalisation of the league competition, and the era of ground rationalisation.
<b>HV C</b>	<i>The place or object's potential to educate, illustrate or provide further scientific investigation in relation to Victoria's cultural heritage.</i> N/A
<b>AHC C2</b>	<i>Importance for information contributing to a wider understanding of the history of human occupation in Victoria.</i> N/A

HV D	<p><i>The importance of a place or object in exhibiting the principal characteristics or the representative nature of a place or object as a part of a class or type of places or objects.</i></p> <p>Victoria Park exhibits many of the principal characteristics of a suburban league football ground.</p>
AHC D2	<p><i>Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of the range of human activities in the Victorian environment (including way of life, custom, process, land-use, function, design or technique).</i></p> <p>N/A</p>
HV E	<p><i>The importance of the place or object in exhibiting good design or aesthetic characteristics and/or in exhibiting a richness, diversity or unusual integration of features.</i></p> <p>N/A</p>
AHC E1	<p><i>Importance for a community for aesthetic characteristics held in high esteem or otherwise valued by the community.</i></p> <p>N/A</p>
HV F	<p><i>The importance of the place or object in demonstrating or being associated with scientific or technical innovations or achievements.</i></p> <p>N/A</p>
AHC F1	<p><i>Importance for its technical, creative, design or artistic excellence, innovation or achievement.</i></p> <p>N/A</p>
HV G	<p><i>The importance of the place or object in demonstrating social or cultural associations.</i></p> <p>Victoria Park is important for demonstrating strong social and cultural associations for the large community of Collingwood Football Club supporters.</p>
AHC G1	<p><i>Importance as a place highly valued by a community for reasons of religious, spiritual, symbolic, cultural, educational, or social associations.</i></p> <p>Victoria Park is important for being highly valued by the community of Collingwood Football Club supporters, for symbolic, cultural and social reasons.</p>
HV H	<p><i>Any other matter which the Council considers relevant to the determination of cultural heritage significance.</i></p>



## 5.0 Conservation Policy and Management Plan

### 5.1 INTRODUCTION

The following conservation policy and management plan has been developed on the basis of the preceding assessment of the cultural heritage significance of Victoria Park. In the broadest sense the intention of the policy is to provide direction and guidelines for the future use, conservation and possible adaptation or redevelopment of the site and its component parts, in a manner which will retain the significant elements and not diminish the identified heritage values. Accordingly, the directions and guidelines included here should be considered in determining future strategies and outcomes for Victoria Park.

At the time of writing this report, a Master Plan for Victoria Park was also being prepared. The intention of the Master Plan is to canvass a range of potential new uses for the site, which may or may not involve the reuse of some or all of the existing structures and elements. In preparing the policies, therefore, consideration has been given to possible future user requirements, the condition of the structures in the general sense, and the need to find and sustain a new use for the facility as a whole.

#### 5.1.1 *Policies*

The policies in this chapter include *general policies*, which apply to the site as a whole and provide an overall framework for its future management and conservation, and some *specific policies* that apply to the significant qualities and attributes of the site. Attention is also drawn to Appendix B, which contains *specific recommendations* relating to the principal built and spatial elements of Victoria Park.

### 5.2 UNDERSTANDING THE PLACE

Victoria Park is a former league football ground and the historic home of the Collingwood Football Club. The fabric of the place reflects the layered development of the ground for over a century, although much of it in fact reflects the major building programme that followed the football club's signing of a 40 year ground improvement lease in 1956. Victoria Park, therefore, has an overlay of 1950s-1980s fabric, with little earlier fabric remaining.

#### 5.2.1 *Conservation Objectives*

As concluded in the preceding chapter, the stands and built elements at Victoria Park are of considerable historical and social significance, and generally of moderate to low aesthetic/architectural significance. In this context, an emphasis on retaining all the built

elements is not considered essential for maintaining and conserving the identified important aspects of significance. In terms of conservation objectives, and in the context of the place ceasing to be a league venue and the football club’s base, it is considered more critical in this case to retain elements that will ‘hold’ or help to reflect or demonstrate in the future:

- €# the long association with the Collingwood Football Club;
- €# the attachment and experience of the Collingwood supporters; and
- €# the traditional character of the place.

Accordingly, the policy sets out to:

- €# keep symbolic and iconic aspects of Victoria Park;
- €# maintain the historical character of Victoria Park in its Abbotsford setting, including the sense of enclosure and separation;
- €# maintain a sense of the history of the ground through appropriate interpretation; and
- €# allow for adaptation of existing structures, and/or the introduction of new structures and elements in the future, in a way which is consistent with the above.

### 5.3 SIGNIFICANT ELEMENTS

As noted above, Appendix B provides an overview of the major elements of Victoria Park, together with their assessed levels of significance, and recommendations regarding retention, conservation, upgrading, removal, etc. This is summarised below in Table 1.

Oval	
<p>High historical &amp; social significance. High aesthetic &amp; architectural significance.</p>	<p>Retain.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>€# The form of the oval (perimeter and extent) can be marginally altered, provided a large open oval playing surface is retained in the existing location.</li> <li>€# The ‘humped’ form (rise in the centre) should be retained.</li> <li>€# The turf playing surface, and subsurface elements can be upgraded as required.</li> <li>€# The goal posts can be removed if required.</li> <li>€# The existing fence can be retained, upgraded or replaced, although a form of low boundary fence should be maintained.</li> <li>€# One of the existing players’ benches should be retained (preferably the Collingwood players’ bench on the north of the oval), and its fabric maintained and conserved.</li> <li>€# Signage can be removed from the fence.</li> <li>€# New openings can be inserted if required.</li> </ul>

<b>Grassed embankment (east end)</b>	
High historical & social significance. High aesthetic & architectural significance.	<p>Retain.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⌘ The form of an embankment at the east end of the ground should be retained, including the high point of 'One Eye Hill'.</li> <li>⌘ A grassed surface should preferably be retained.</li> <li>⌘ The sections of bluestone retaining wall should be retained, and upgraded with similar material if required. The remaining retaining walls can be replaced or upgraded as required.</li> <li>⌘ The open aspect of the embankment should be retained, with no substantial new built structures introduced to the area.</li> <li>⌘ Views of the industrial and residential form of Trenergy Crescent and Bath Street should be retained, with no large new elements constructed within the Victoria Park boundary that would impact on these views.</li> <li>⌘ The corrugated iron wall to the rear of the embankment (on Trenergy Crescent) can be retained, upgraded or removed as required.</li> </ul>
<b>Ryder Stand (1929)</b>	
High historical & social significance. Moderate aesthetic & architectural significance.	<p>Retain (poor condition may require the retention of the rear wall only).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⌘ The south elevation (viewing and seating areas) has been so modified there is little merit in recommending the retention of fabric in this part of the stand.</li> <li>⌘ Consideration can be given to partially demolishing the stand, but retaining and refurbishing the rear elevation to Abbott Street. This would assist with maintaining the historic character of the ground in this area, and retaining a distinctive element of the stand and the ground.</li> <li>⌘ If the stand is retained, the internal spaces in the undercroft can be modified or adapted as required.</li> </ul>
<b>Social Club Stand (1959/80/89)</b>	
High historical & social significance. Moderate to low aesthetic & architectural significance.	<p>Retain or remove.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⌘ If retained, the structure can be upgraded or adapted as required, with the internal spaces suited to a range of uses.</li> </ul>

<b>Rush Stand (1966)</b>	
High historical & social significance. Moderate to low aesthetic & architectural significance.	Retain or remove. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⌘ If removal is considered, it is recommended that the concrete risers of the lower terraces be retained for the extent of the stand, and elements of the fixed bench seating also be retained (this would help to demonstrate the extent of the structure, while also retaining the form of the terraces that have been located on the south side of the ground for a considerable period).</li> <li>⌘ If the structure is retained, it is recommended that the black and white striped external panel treatment be maintained, together with elements of the signage (players' names) to the north fascia.</li> </ul>
<b>Sherrin Stand (1969/78)</b>	
High historical & social significance. Moderate aesthetic & architectural significance.	Retain. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⌘ The original plan, form and external materials should be retained and conserved.</li> <li>⌘ The black and white striped treatment to the Lulie Street elevation should be retained.</li> <li>⌘ The boxes in the viewing area, although later additions, should be retained as evidence of these facilities.</li> <li>⌘ Elements of the signage (players' names) to the east fascia should be retained and conserved.</li> <li>⌘ The interior spaces can generally be refurbished without impacting on the significance of the structure, although it is recommended that the concrete stepped ceilings and portal steel structure remain exposed within the building, together with the unpainted condition of the brick and off-form concrete walls.</li> </ul>
<b>Perimeter wall (various dates)</b>	
High historical & social significance. Moderate (in sections) aesthetic & architectural significance.	Retain and conserve the following sections of wall: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⌘ concrete wall along Turner and Bath Streets (the barbed wire at the top can be removed);</li> <li>⌘ wall to the rear of the Ryder Stand on Abbott Street; and</li> <li>⌘ the section of brick wall to the rear of the Sherrin Stand (which is part of the character and presentation of this stand to Lulie Street).</li> </ul> <p>The remainder of the wall along Lulie and Abbott Streets can be removed, as can the non-concrete walls along Trenerry Crescent and part of Bath Street.</p> <p>With regard to the retained sections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>⌘ New openings can be made, provided they are sensitively placed (such as utilising the existing bays between piers).</li> <li>⌘</li> <li>⌘ Selected entrances (gates, turnstiles, ticket boxes) should be kept in a retained section of wall (see also below).</li> </ul>

	<p>⚡ The walls should remain unpainted.</p> <p>⚡ An assessment of the structural condition of the retained wall sections should be made.</p>
<b>Entrance/exit gates, turnstiles, etc (various dates)</b>	
<p>High historical &amp; social significance. Low aesthetic &amp; architectural significance.</p>	<p>Retain examples.</p> <p>⚡ As above, selected entrances, turnstiles and ticket boxes should be retained in association with a retained section of wall. These should include the entrance at the junction of Lulie and Turner Streets (which is the principal entrance to the outer reserve, and the first entrance encountered when arriving at Victoria Park from Johnston Street to the south).</p> <p>⚡ The fabric of these elements should be refurbished and conserved.</p> <p>⚡ The remainder of the elements can be retained, upgraded or removed, as required.</p>
<b>Scoreboard (1966)</b>	
<p>Historical interest. Low aesthetic &amp; architectural significance.</p>	<p>Preferably retain.</p>
<b>Time clock (1966)</b>	
<p>Historical interest. Low aesthetic &amp; architectural significance.</p>	<p>Preferably retain.</p>
<b>Caretaker's residence (1960s)</b>	
<p>Historical interest. Little or no aesthetic &amp; architectural significance.</p>	<p>Retain or remove.</p> <p>⚡ The fence surrounding the building can be removed, including the fence that delineates and separates the building from the ground.</p> <p>⚡ Should these elements be demolished, the site should remain within the Victoria Park property boundary, in recognition of its historical association with the place.</p> <p>⚡ The site could also be used as open space.</p>
<b>Toilet blocks (various dates)</b>	
<p>Little or no historical &amp; social significance. Little or no aesthetic &amp; architectural significance.</p>	<p>Retain or remove.</p>

Table 1 Summary of elements and structures (significance and recommendations)

Figure 48 illustrates the elements that are recommended for retention. The objective is to keep some of the existing form and character of Victoria Park, together with functional and iconic items. Retention of these key elements will ensure that:

- ☞ The relationship between the Sherrin Stand in the members reserve at the western end of the ground (behind the Lulie Street goals), the oval in the centre, and the grassed embankment in the outer at the eastern end (behind the Trenerry Crescent goals) is retained. The retention of the elements will also maintain a key heritage component of the inner (main Members' Stand) and the outer (the embankment).
- ☞ The grassed embankment will continue to represent a traditional standing room area.
- ☞ The external character and appearance of the ground is partly retained through keeping sections of perimeter wall. The Sherrin Stand will continue to visually dominate the western end of the ground, and maintain its prominence, landmark qualities and visibility from the surrounding area.
- ☞ The extent of the traditional outer terraces will be evident through the retention of the lower concrete terraces of the Rush Stand.
- ☞ Select turnstiles, gates and ticket boxes, together with the scoreboard and time clock, are iconic football elements that are maintained.

#### 5.4 CONSERVATION POLICIES

The principal objectives of the following policies are the maintenance and conservation of the cultural heritage values of Victoria Park, as identified and analysed in this report, including the conservation of the fabric (where appropriate) of the elements recommended for retention.

##### 5.4.1 *Conservation Works*

*All future conservation and adaptation works to the significant elements at Victoria Park should be carried out having regard for the principles of the Australia ICOMOS Charter for the conservation of Places of Cultural Significance (The Burra Charter) as amended.*

The principles of the Burra Charter provide guidance on the conservation and adaptation of places and elements of cultural heritage significance. The principles should be referred to when assessing the suitability of any proposed works at Victoria Park (in conjunction with the specific recommendations contained in Appendix B), particularly where they support the conservation of historical and social significance. A copy of the charter is included at Appendix A.

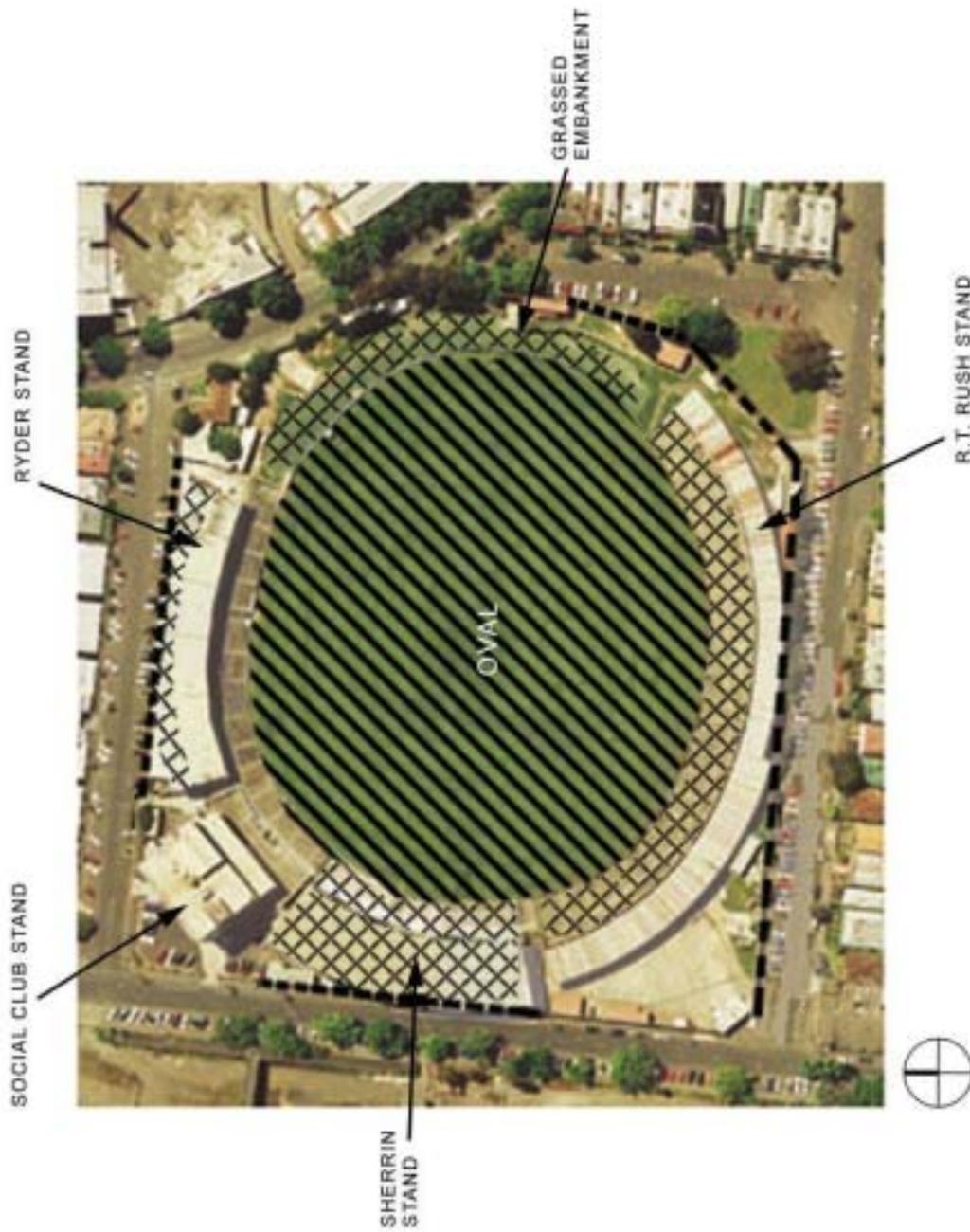


Figure 48 Photograph of Victoria Park indicating the elements recommended for retention (hatched and shaded). The dotted line in places around the perimeter of the ground also indicates the sections of perimeter wall recommended for retention.

In formulating these policies, the following principles of the Burra Charter have been uppermost:

*Article 5: Conservation of a place should take into consideration all aspects of its cultural significance without unwarranted emphasis on any one at the expense of others.*

*Article 6: The conservation policy appropriate to a place must first be determined by an understanding of its cultural significance and its physical condition.<sup>119</sup>*

#### 5.4.2 Exteriors

*Future works to the exteriors of the significant structures at Victoria Park should have regard to the identified significance of the exteriors, and where appropriate, should be carried out having regard for the principles of the Australia ICOMOS Charter for the conservation of Places of Cultural Significance (The Burra Charter) as amended.*

Victoria Park is a place that has functional and utilitarian structures of generally recent origin, with fabric that is mostly of a standard or generic nature. As such, recommendations relating to the conservation of fabric of significant elements at Victoria Park, recognise that the fabric in question is not necessarily distinguished in all cases. In this context, the principal conservation works recommended in this plan include the refurbishment and conservation of the retained sections of the perimeter wall; select entrances, turnstiles and ticket boxes; the rear (north) wall of the Ryder Stand; and the external fabric of the Sherrin Stand. The exterior fabric of the other structures (if they are retained) can generally be altered or adapted as required, although it should be done in a manner that is consistent with the policies relating to new development and works (see below).

#### 5.4.3 Interiors

*Future works to the interiors of the significant structures at Victoria Park should have regard to the identified significance of the interiors, and where appropriate, should be carried out having regard for the principles of the Australia ICOMOS Charter for the conservation of Places of Cultural Significance (The Burra Charter) as amended.*

As with the exterior fabric, the interiors of significant elements at Victoria Park are generally of a standard and generic nature, and do not require detailed policies regarding their conservation. The interiors of the Social Club and Ryder Stands, moreover, have been modified and refurbished on a number of occasions in the past, and have little early fabric or original elements (save for several monogrammed glazed doors in the former, and monogrammed carpet and light fittings in the Woodsmen's Room in the latter). If these buildings are retained, the interiors can be altered or upgraded as required, although it is recommended that the glazed doors be retained in any redeveloped Social Club Stand. A remnant of the monogrammed fittings and materials should also be retained in the Ryder Stand.

The interior spaces of the Sherrin Stand (which date from the late 1960s and 1970s) are the most intact of all the interiors at Victoria Park, but are also utilitarian and not

particularly distinguished. These spaces can also generally be refurbished without impacting on the significance of the place, although it is recommended (as a means of retaining the utilitarian ‘football club’ character) that the concrete stepped ceilings and portal steel structure remain exposed within the building, together with the unpainted condition of the brick and off-form concrete walls.

#### 5.4.4 *Symbolic & Iconic Elements*

*Future development and use of Victoria Park should have regard for the importance of maintaining the symbolic and iconic elements, which are recognisable aspects of the place and evocative of its considerable historical and social significance.*

The Collingwood Football Club has stamped its mark on Victoria Park in a number of ways, including through the naming of buildings, structures and spaces at the ground, after football club identities. The use of black and white metal panels and external paint treatment, the attachment of the players name signage to the fascias of stands, and the prominent display of the ‘Fighting Magpie’ emblem on club facilities, have been other means of visibly proclaiming Victoria Park as Collingwood Football Club territory.

In the future, in addition to retaining the elements recommended in this report, it is also recommended that the football club names of structures and spaces be maintained, together with the external black and white decorative treatments, and elements of the players name signage (it is recognised that some of the latter are in poor condition).

#### 5.4.5 *Memorabilia & Moveable Objects*

*Collingwood Football Club memorabilia and objects are an important means of recognising the history of the club and its associations with Victoria Park, and have great symbolic significance to the club and its supporters.*

This report has not examined or considered in any detail the Collingwood Football Club’s comprehensive collection of honour boards, historic photographs, paintings, prints and engravings, certificates, banners, trophies, plaques, medallions, pennants, premierships cups, and numerous other football-related objects. This is partly due to the fact that the collection is moving with the club to its new home, and much of it has been catalogued and put in storage in preparation for the move.

Although the collection will no longer be based at Victoria Park, much of it has direct relevance to the history of the ground. With the cooperation of the football club, it is recommended that select objects be made available in the future for temporary display at Victoria Park. The collection should also remain accessible in the future, as much of it has historically been at Victoria Park in the past.

#### 5.4.6 *Setting & Curtilage*

*Management of Victoria Park in the future should have regard for the ground being at the centre of a clearly defined area, which is bounded by the railway to the west, the Yarra River to the east, the Eastern Freeway to the north and Johnston Street to the south.*

While Victoria Park has a defined boundary and hard edge to its urban context, the ground is nevertheless at the centre of a clearly defined area. Within this area (and leaving aside the residential and industrial development), several elements can be seen as contributing to the context and setting of the ground. These elements include the triangular pocket park at the corner of Bath and Turner Streets (which was originally within the Victoria Park boundary), the other pocket park on Trenerry Crescent (at the rear of the eastern grassed embankment), and the railway land to the south (which incorporates a footbridge to Lulie Street and the ground).

It has already been recommended that sections of the existing perimeter walls be retained at Victoria Park, due to their historical role in enclosing the ground, but also because they help to define and delineate the ground within its urban setting. The triangular pocket park at the corner of Bath and Turner Streets should also be retained, as an historical element of the ground's context. While the railway land to the west is not the subject of this study, it is recommended that any new approaches to the ground from this site should maintain Victoria Park as the focus. Any development in this area should also have regard for views of the ground from this direction (see Section 5.4.7 below). The elements that first greet visitors arriving from the south (from Johnston Street), such as the entrance gates at the corner of Lulie and Turner Streets, are also recommended for retention.

#### 5.4.7 Views, Vistas and Visual relationships

*Important views and vistas are key considerations in the conservation and management of heritage values.*

There are several important views and vistas associated with Victoria Park, including within and without the ground, which should be respected with any future redevelopment. They include:

- ☞ The view from the west of the rear elevation of the Sherrin Stand, which overhangs Lulie Street, including views from the railway line and station. The structure, with its distinctive black and white striped exterior treatment, is also visible from areas to the north and south.
- ☞ The 'goal to goal' vista up the oval from the west to the east end of the ground.
- ☞ The 'wing to wing' vista across the oval, from north to south.
- ☞ Views into and out of the ground from Trenerry Crescent and Bath Street to the east.
- ☞ The prominent rear (north) wall of the Ryder Stand in views along Abbott Street.

Recommendations in this report support the maintenance of these views and vistas through the retention of the Sherrin Stand and Ryder Stand wall, the relationship between the Sherrin Stand and the grassed embankment ('goal to goal' vista), the 'wing to wing' relationship across the oval, and the views into and out of the ground from Trenerry Crescent and Bath Street (through no new development on the grassed embankment or at the eastern end of the ground).

#### 5.4.8 *New Uses*

*Use of Victoria Park should have regard for those factors that have been identified in the statement of significance as contributing to its significance and should not detract from the identified cultural significance of the place.*

With regard to future uses of Victoria Park, a range of uses could be considered that would be consistent with the historical values of the place and its use as a league football ground for over a century. A new use that incorporated football-related activities and events would be particularly appropriate, as would other sporting uses of the site. As a local community facility, a variety of community uses could also be considered, with many of the existing (internal) spaces having the potential to be adapted for these purposes. It is also important that Victoria Park retain a degree of public access in the future, particularly access to the oval.

#### 5.4.9 *New Buildings & Works*

*Any new development and works at Victoria Park should have regard for the utilitarian 'football ground' character of the place, including the historical form of development, orientation of buildings, central focus of the oval, etc.*

In considering potential new buildings, additions or works to Victoria Park, the bulk, scale and location of works should be key determinants of any new design. New structures built around the oval, for instance, should be oriented towards the oval and should preferably adopt a curved plan, as do existing structures. New works should also be set back from the edge of the oval, at a distance which is approximate to the extent of the lower terraces to the front of the Ryder and Sherrin Stands. This will maintain a degree of separation between the edge of the oval and any new structures, and also recognises that lower terraces have historically been located between the stands and the edge of the oval.

The retained Sherrin Stand should remain as the dominant element at Victoria Park. All new structures should be deferential in scale to the stand, and any new structures built adjacent to it (to the north or south of the stand) should be set back behind the structure, allowing it to remain forward in terms of addressing the oval.

In terms of potential locations for new works, the open concourse area at the south-west corner of the ground (to the rear of the Rush Stand), and the site of the Social Club Stand (if the structure is demolished) could be considered for new development. New structures could also be built on the site of the Ryder and Rush Stands, should they be demolished, or the caretaker's dwelling. No new elements should be built on the oval, or on the grassed embankment at the east end of the ground.

The design and materials of new elements should respond to the character of Victoria Park and its surrounds, where materials such as brick, concrete and steel predominate. New works should also be clearly contemporary. In addition, environmental sustainability should be a basic principle in the design of any new elements, and green technology (solar, compost, recyclable water) should be integrated wherever feasible.

New fencing, seating, lighting, etc, should be sympathetic to the existing character (i.e. be of a standard, utilitarian nature), and should not be historicist.

It is also recommended that, for the whole of the ground, the form of the elevated mound surrounding the oval should be retained in any future redevelopment of the place.

#### 5.4.10 *Landscaping*

*The character of Victoria Park has historically been that of a football ground. There has been some minimal landscaping, including eucalypt specimens around the perimeter of the ground, and extensive hard areas that have accommodated crowds, portable structures, service elements, vehicles, etc. Future landscaping should have regard for this character.*

Any new landscaping proposed for Victoria Park should be informal, and should avoid overly designed or elaborate landscape treatment which would not be in keeping with the character of the place. New perimeter plantings could be considered, as could individual specimens elsewhere around the site. Some forms of public art or landscape interpretation could also be considered, which interpret or reflect the football history of the place (see also Section 5.4.11). While it is not suggested that extensive hard surfaces be retained throughout the facility, it is recommended that the generally utilitarian character of the existing open areas be recognised in any future landscape proposals.

#### 5.4.11 *Interpretation*

*An interpretation plan for Victoria Park should be developed, to deliver publicly accessible interpretation aids and displays, which will help to convey and reveal the rich history of the site in the future.*

In any future use and development of Victoria Park, in addition to keeping the structures and items recommended in this policy, it is also recommended that an interpretation plan be developed, which utilises the rich collection of historical photographs and graphic material which currently exists for the site (much of it in the Collingwood Football Club collection). The interpretation plan should seek to emphasise the history of the ground, its contribution to the evolution of Australian rules football, its association with football club, and its importance to Collingwood supporters. The interpretation plan should also explain the cultural heritage significance of the site, the requirement to retain and conserve certain elements, and the history of these elements. A number of spaces would lend themselves to displays, including the Social Club Stand (if it is retained), or elsewhere within the public areas, such as near entrances to the site. A program of structured guided tours could also be considered for the future, if there is a demand, in recognition of the many people who visit the facility out of curiosity or a desire to see the home ground of their club.

#### 5.4.12 *Records & Archives*

*Before any demolition or new construction occurs an archival record of the site should be made.*

It is recommended that an archival photographic record and/or a digital or video record of the site, including interiors, should be made before any demolition or new construction occurs. Ideally this should be undertaken in accord with the standard guidelines prepared by Heritage Victoria for such projects. Photographs and negatives should be lodged with the State Library, the Collingwood Football Club archives, the local historical society or other approved archival repository.

The football club already has an active archives programme. The importance of maintaining archives and records is emphasised here and strongly recommended as a way of continuing to document the history and use of Victoria Park.

#### 5.4.13 *Repairs & Maintenance*

*All future repairs and maintenance to the elements of significance should be carried out within the principles established in the Burra Charter and in a manner consistent with the assessed significance of the place and individual elements, and the conservation policy.*

It is recognised that many of the existing structures at Victoria Park are currently in poor condition (although a conditions survey has not been undertaken as part of this study). They have had minimal maintenance undertaken in recent years, with the impending relocation of the football club. In this context, a recommended programme of conservation-oriented maintenance would have little relevance or prospect of being implemented unless a viable new use (or number of uses) can be found for the facility. The identification and assessment of potential new uses for Victoria Park should therefore have regard for their ability to undertake or contribute to a regular and ongoing maintenance programme. The securing of a new use will also be dependent upon having existing spaces at Victoria Park that are at a suitable standard. One of the more immediate tasks is to ensure that the fabric of the significant elements does not deteriorate further.

Generally, future day-to-day maintenance work can be carried out in accordance with these conservation policies without particular reference to a conservation specialist. However, any major maintenance or interventionist works to the significant retained structures, should be undertaken under the direction of an appropriately qualified conservation practitioner.

#### 5.4.14 *Implementation and Review*

*City of Yarra or any other future managers of the site should be responsible for the implementation of the conservation plan.*

The City of Yarra, as the managers of the site, should have overall responsibility for the implementation of the conservation plan. The conservation policy should be subject to review, normally at not less than five yearly intervals however, should the circumstances affecting the site alter in any significant way, then the policy should be reviewed at that time.

# Endnotes

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## Chapter One

- 1 Kerr, *The Conservation Plan*, passim.

## Chapter Two

- 2 Kinsella, 'History and Conservation of Collingwood', pp. 1-9. See also Taylor, *Collingwood Football Club 1892 to 1948 - Story of the Magpies*, 1949, pp. 14-25.
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- 5 McFarlane & Roberts, *Collingwood at Victoria Park*, p. 8.
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- 8 Stremski, *Kill for Collingwood*, , 1986, pp. 6-7.
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- 14 Taylor, *Collingwood Football Club 1892 to 1948 - Story of the Magpies*, 1949, pp. 14-25. See also McFarlane & Roberts, *Collingwood at Victoria Park*, p. 11.
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- 21 McFarlane & Roberts, *Collingwood at Victoria Park*.
- 22 McFarlane & Roberts, *Collingwood at Victoria Park*, p. 19.
- 23 McFarlane & Roberts, *Collingwood at Victoria Park*, p. 23-4.
- 24 McFarlane & Roberts, *Collingwood at Victoria Park*, pp. 25-30.

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- 25 McFarlane & Roberts, *Collingwood at Victoria Park*, p. 29.
- 26 Collingwood Football Club, *History and 1974 Year Book*.
- 27 McFarlane & Roberts, *Collingwood at Victoria Park*, p. 35.
- 28 Stremski, *Kill for Collingwood*, p. 114.
- 29 McFarlane & Roberts, *Collingwood at Victoria Park*, p. 13, p. 20 & p. 35.
- 30 Stremski, *Kill for Collingwood*, p. 52.
- 31 McFarlane & Roberts, *Collingwood at Victoria Park*, p. 131.
- 32 Peter Furniss, pers. comm.
- 33 McFarlane & Roberts, *Collingwood at Victoria Park*, p. 35, p. 74 & p.79.
- 34 McFarlane & Roberts, *Collingwood at Victoria Park*; see also Collingwood Football Club, *Annual Report*, 1902.
- 35 Report on 'Victoria Park Collingwood: Egress', 1904, CFC archives.
- 36 McFarlane & Roberts, *Collingwood at Victoria Park*, pp. 34-39; see also Metropolitan Fire Brigade, report on 'Fire Protection at Victoria Park', February 1948, CFC Archives.
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- 38 McFarlane & Roberts, *Collingwood at Victoria Park*, p. 65.
- 39 Levy (ed) *Gordon Carlyon's Collingwood Football Club Scrapbook*, 1997, pp. 3-7.
- 40 McFarlane & Roberts, *Collingwood at Victoria Park*, pp. 54-5.
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- 46 Stremski, *Kill for Collingwood*, pp. 142-3; Collingwood Football Club, *Annual Report*, 1959; see also McFarlane & Roberts, *Collingwood at Victoria Park*, pp. 78-82.
- 47 Stremski, *Kill for Collingwood*, pp. 140-2; McFarlane & Roberts, *Collingwood at Victoria Park*, pp. 78-82.
- 48 McFarlane & Roberts, *Collingwood at Victoria Park*, pp. 87-91.
- 49 Stremski, *Kill for Collingwood*, pp. 157-9.
- 50 McFarlane & Roberts, *Collingwood at Victoria Park*, pp. 21-3 & p. 43; see also Collingwood Football Club, *History and 1974 Year Book*, and Taylor, *Collingwood Football Club 1892 to 1948 - Story of the Magpies*, pp. 14-25.
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- 73 McFarlane & Roberts, *Collingwood at Victoria Park*, pp. 130-4.
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- 75 McFarlane & Roberts, *Collingwood at Victoria Park*, p. 141.
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# Appendix A Burra Charter

THE AUSTRALIA ICOMOS BURRA CHARTER, 1999

## *Preamble*

Considering the International Charter for the Conservation and Restoration of Monuments and Sites (Venice, 1964), and the Resolutions of the 5<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) (Moscow 1978), the Burra Charter was adopted by Australia ICOMOS (the Australian National Committee of ICOMOS) on 19 August 1979 at Burra, South Australia. Revisions were adopted on 23 February 1981, 23 April 1988 and 26 November 1999.

The Burra Charter provides guidance for the conservation and management of places of cultural significance (cultural heritage places), and is based on the knowledge and experience of Australia ICOMOS members.

Conservation is an integral part of the management of places of cultural significance and is an ongoing responsibility.

## *Who is the Charter for?*

The Charter sets a standard of practice for those who provide advice, make decisions about, or undertake works to places of cultural significance, including owners, managers and custodians.

## *Using the Charter*

The Charter should be read as a whole. Many articles are interdependent. Articles in the Conservation Principles section are often further developed in the Conservation Processes and Conservation Practice sections. Headings have been included for ease of reading but do not form part of the Charter.

The Charter is self-contained, but aspects of its use and application are further explained in the following Australia ICOMOS documents.

## *Article 1. Definitions*

For the purposes of this Charter:

- 1.1 *Place* means site, area, land, landscape, building or other work, group of buildings or other works, and may include components, contents, spaces and views.
- 1.2 *Cultural significance* means aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual value for past, present or future generations. Cultural significance is embodied in the *place* itself, its *fabric, setting, use, associations, meanings, records, related places* and *related objects*.

- 1.3 *Fabric* means all the physical material of the *place* including components, fixtures, contents and objects.
- 1.4 *Conservation* means all the processes of looking after a *place* so as to retain its *cultural significance*.
- 1.5 *Maintenance* means the continuous protective care of the *fabric* and *setting* of a *place*, and is to be distinguished from repair. Repair involves *restoration* or *reconstruction*.
- 1.6 *Preservation* means maintaining the *fabric* of a *place* in its existing state and retarding deterioration.
- 1.7 *Restoration* means returning the existing *fabric* of a *place* to a known earlier state by removing accretions or by reassembling components without the introduction of new material.
- 1.8 *Reconstruction* means returning a *place* to a known earlier state and is distinguished from *restoration* by the introduction of new material into the *fabric*.
- 1.9 *Adaptation* means modifying a *place* to suit the existing use or a proposed use.
- 1.10 *Use* means the functions of a *place*, as well as the activities and practices that may occur at the *place*.
- 1.11 *Compatible use* means a *use* which respects the *cultural significance* of a *place*. Such a use involves no, or minimal, impact on cultural significance.
- 1.12 *Setting* means the area around a *place*, which may include the visual catchment.
- 1.13 *Related place* means a *place* that contributes to the *cultural significance* of another *place*.
- 1.14 *Related object* means an object that contributes to the *cultural significance* of a *place* but is not at the *place*.
- 1.15 *Associations* mean the special connections that exist between people and a *place*.
- 1.16 *Meanings* denote what a *place* signifies, indicates, evokes or expresses.
- 1.17 *Interpretation* means all the ways of presenting the *cultural significance* of a *place*.

#### CONSERVATION PRINCIPLES

##### *Article 2. Conservation and Management.*

- 2.1 *Places* of *cultural significance* should be conserved.
- 2.2 The aim of *conservation* is to retain the *cultural significance* of a *place*.
- 2.3 *Conservation* is an integral part of good management of *places* of *cultural significance*.
- 2.4 *Places* of *cultural significance* should be safeguarded and not put at risk or left in a vulnerable state.

##### *Article 3. Cautious approach.*

- 3.1 *Conservation* is based on a respect for the existing *fabric*, *use*, *associations* and *meanings*. It requires a cautious approach of changing as much as necessary but as little as possible.
- 3.2 Changes to a *place* should not distort the physical or other evidence it provides, nor be based on conjecture.

##### *Article 4. Knowledge, skills and techniques.*

- 4.1 *Conservation* should make use of all the knowledge, skills and disciplines which can contribute to the study and care of the *place*.

- 4.2 Traditional techniques and materials are preferred for the conservation of significant *fabric*. In some circumstances modern techniques and materials which offer substantial conservation benefits may be appropriate.

*Article 5. Values.*

- 5.1 *Conservation* of a *place* should identify and take into consideration all aspects of cultural and natural significance without unwarranted emphasis on any one value at the expense of others.
- 5.2 Relative degrees of *cultural significance* may lead to different *conservation* actions at a *place*.

*Article 6. Burra Carter Process*

- 6.1 The *cultural significance* of a *place* and other issues affecting its future are best understood by a sequence of collecting and analysing information before making decisions. Understanding *cultural significance* comes first, then development of policy and finally management of the *place* in accordance with the policy.
- 6.2 The policy for managing a *place* must be based on an understanding of its *cultural significance*.
- 6.3 Policy development should also include consideration of other factors affecting the future of a *place* such as the owner's needs, resources, external constraints and its physical condition.

*Article 7. Use*

- 7.1 Where the use of a *place* is of *cultural significance* it should be retained.

*Article 8. Setting*

*Conservation* requires the retention of an appropriate visual *setting* and other relationships that contribute to the *cultural significance* of the *place*.  
New construction, demolition, intrusions or other changes which would adversely affect the setting or relationships are not appropriate.

*Article 9. Location*

- 9.1 The physical location of a *place* is part of its *cultural significance*. A building, work or other component of a *place* should remain in its historical location. Relocation is generally unacceptable unless this is the sole practical means of ensuring its survival.
- 9.2 Some buildings, works or other components of *places* were designed to be readily removable or already have a history of relocation. Provided such buildings, works or other components do not have significant links with their present location, removal may be appropriate.
- 9.3 If any building, work or other component is moved, it should be moved to an appropriate location and given an appropriate *use*. Such action should not be to the detriment of any *place* of *cultural significance*.

*Article 10. Contents*

Contents, fixtures and objects which contribute to the *cultural significance* of a *place* should be retained at that place. Their removal is unacceptable unless it is the sole means of ensuring their security and *preservation*: on a temporary basis for treatment or exhibition for cultural reasons: for health and safety: or to protect the *place*. Such contents, fixtures and objects should be returned where circumstances permit and it is culturally appropriate.

*Article 11. Related places and objects*

The contribution which *related places* and *related objects* make to the *cultural significance* of the *place* should be retained.

*Article 12. Participation*

*Conservation, interpretation* and management of a *place* should provide for the participation of people for whom the *place* has special *associations* and *meanings*, or who have social, spiritual or other cultural responsibilities for the *place*.

*Article 13. Co-existence of cultural values*

Co-existence of cultural values should be recognised, respected and encouraged, especially in cases where they conflict.

*Article 14. Conservation processes*

*Conservation* may, according to circumstance, include the processes of: retention or reintroduction of a *use*: retention of *associations* and *meanings*: *maintenance, preservation, restoration, reconstruction, adaptation* and *interpretation*: and will commonly include a combination of more than one of these.

*Article 15. Change*

- 15.1 Change may be necessary to retain *cultural significance*, but is undesirable where it reduces cultural significance. The amount of change to a *place* should be guided by the *cultural significance* of the place and its appropriate *interpretation*.
- 15.2 Changes which reduce *cultural significance* should be reversible, and be reversed when circumstances permit.
- 15.3 Demolition of significant *fabric* of a *place* is generally not acceptable. However, in some cases minor demolition may be appropriate as part of *conservation*. Removed significant fabric should be reinstated when circumstances permit.
- 15.4 The contributions of all aspects of *cultural significance* of a *place* should be respected. If a *place* includes *fabric, uses, associations* or *meanings* of different periods, or different aspects of *cultural significance*, emphasising or interpreting one period or aspect at the expense of another can only be justified when what is left out, removed or diminished is of slight *cultural significance* and that which is emphasised or interpreted is of much greater *cultural significance*.

*Article 16. Maintenance*

*Maintenance* is fundamental to conservation and should be undertaken where *fabric* is of *cultural significance* and its maintenance is necessary to retain that *cultural significance*.

*Article 17. Preservation*

*Preservation* is appropriate where the existing *fabric* or its condition constitutes evidence of *cultural significance*, or where insufficient evidence is available to allow other *conservation* processes to be carried out.

*Article 18. Restoration and reconstruction*

*Restoration* and *reconstruction* should reveal culturally significant aspects of the *place*.

*Article 19. Restoration*

*Restoration* is appropriate only if there is sufficient evidence of an earlier state of the *fabric*.

*Article 20. Reconstruction*

- 20.1 *Reconstruction* is appropriate only where a *place* is incomplete through damage or alteration, and only where there is sufficient evidence to reproduce an earlier state of the *fabric*. In rare cases, reconstruction may also be appropriate as part of a *use* or practice that remains the *cultural significance* of the *place*.
- 20.2 *Reconstruction* should be identifiable on close inspection or through additional *interpretation*.

*Article 21. Adaptation*

- 21.1 *Adaptation* is acceptable only where the adaptation has minimal impact on the *cultural significance* of the *place*.
- 21.2 *Adaptation* should involve minimal change to significant fabric, achieved only after considering alternatives.

*Article 22. New work*

- 22.1 New work such as additions to the *place* may be acceptable where it does not distort or obscure the *cultural significance* of the *place*, or detract from its *interpretation* and appreciation.
- 22.2 New work should be readily identifiable as such.

*Article 23. Conserving use*

Continuing, modifying or reinstating a significant *use* may be appropriate and preferred forms of *conservation*.

*Article 24. Retaining associations and meanings.*

- 24.1 Significant *associations* between people and a *place* should be respected, retained and not obscured. Opportunities for the *interpretation*, commemoration and celebration of these associations should be investigated and implemented.

- 24.2 Significant *meanings*, including spiritual values, of a *place* should be respected. Opportunities for the continuation or revival of these meanings should be investigated and implemented.

*Article 25. Interpretation*

The *cultural significance* of many *places* is not readily apparent, and should be explained by *interpretation*. Interpretation should enhance understanding and enjoyment, and be culturally appropriate.

CONSERVATION PRACTICE

*Article 26. Applying the Burra Charter process.*

- 26.1 Work on a *place* should be preceded by studies to understand the *place* which should include analysis of physical, documentary, oral and other evidence, drawing on appropriate knowledge, skills and disciplines.
- 26.2 Written statements of *cultural significance* and policy for the *place* should be prepared, justified and accompanied by supporting evidence. The statements of significance and policy should be incorporated into a management plan for the *place*.
- 26.3 Groups and individuals with *associations* with a *place* as well as those involved in its management should be provided with opportunities to contribute to and participate in understanding the *cultural significance* of the *place*. Where appropriate they should also have opportunities to participate in its *conservation* and management.

*Article 27. Managing Change.*

- 27.1 The impact of proposed changes on the *cultural significance* of a *place* should be analysed with reference to the statement of significance and the policy for managing the *place*. It may be necessary to modify proposed changes following analysis to better retain *cultural significance*.
- 27.2 Existing *fabric*, *use*, *associations* and *meanings* should be adequately recorded before any changes are made to the *place*.

*Article 28. Disturbance of fabric*

- 28.1 Disturbance of significant *fabric* for study, or to obtain evidence, should be minimised. Study of a *place* by any disturbance of the fabric, including archaeological excavation, should only be undertaken to provide data essential for decisions on the *conservation* of the *place*, or to obtain important evidence about to be lost or made inaccessible.
- 28.2 Investigation of a *place* which requires disturbance of the *fabric*, apart from that necessary to make decisions, may be appropriate provided that it is consistent with the policy for the *place*. Such investigation should be based on important research questions which have potential to substantially add to knowledge, which cannot be answered in other ways and which minimises disturbance of significant fabric.

*Article 29. Responsibility for decisions*

The organisations and individuals responsible for management decisions should be named and specific responsibility taken for each such decision.

*Article 30. Direction, supervision, and implementation*

Competent direction and supervision should be maintained at all stages, and any changes should be implemented by people with appropriate knowledge and skills.

*Article 31. Documenting evidence and decisions.*

A log of new evidence and additional decisions should be kept.

*Article 32. Records*

- 32.1 The records associated with the *conservation* of a *place* should be placed in a permanent archive and made publicly available, subject to the requirements of security and privacy, and where this is culturally appropriate.
- 32.2 Records about the history of a *place* should be protected and made publicly available, subject to requirements of security and privacy, and where this is culturally appropriate.

*Article 33. Removed fabric.*

Significant *fabric* which has been removed from a *place* including contents, fixtures and objects, should be catalogued, and protected in accordance with its *cultural significance*.

Where possible and culturally appropriate, removed significant fabric including contents, fixtures and objects, should be kept at the *place*.

*Article 34. Resources.*

Adequate resources should be provided for conservation.



# Appendix B Data Sheets

This Appendix contains the following data sheets:<sup>1</sup>

1. Oval
2. Grassed embankment
3. Ryder Stand
4. Social Club Stand
5. Rush Stand
6. Sherrin Stand
7. Perimeter wall
8. Entrance/exit gates, turnstiles, ticket boxes, etc
9. Scoreboard
10. Time clock
11. Caretaker's dwelling
12. Toilet blocks

## 1.1 OVAL



Figure 1 Different perspectives on the oval, including at the Trenerry Crescent end of the ground (1), a recent aerial photograph illustrating the 'egg' shape of the oval (2), looking south across the oval to the Rush Stand from the Ryder Stand terraces (3), and the Collingwood players' bench on the north side of the oval (4).

1.1.1 *Description*

The oval at the centre of Victoria Park is 'egg' shaped in form, slightly elevated or 'humped' in the middle, and sloping towards the oval edge where drainage is located. It has a turf surface and subsurface drainage pipes and sprinkler system. A low cyclone wire fence (with signage) wraps around its circumference. The oval fence is interrupted in places by gates and the race entrances from the stands onto the oval. Several covered players' benches are also located along the oval boundary, with removable goal and point posts sited at the Lulie Street and Trenerry Crescent ends of the oval.

1.1.2 *History*

In 1891, on the eve of the newly formed Collingwood Football Club entering the VFA, and in anticipation of the games to be played at the facility, Collingwood Council spent considerable funds on levelling the playing surface at Victoria Park, and erecting a picket fence around the arena. The ground was also extended by 30 yards at this time, to bring it

up to a suitable VFA standard. From this period, the oval playing surface at Victoria Park was subjected to regular maintenance, including ‘turning over’, top dressing and re-seeding. A near constant programme of laying and re-laying agricultural drainage was also undertaken over the years, in an attempt to improve the condition of the surface.

In the summer of 1960-61, the playing area was totally ‘reconstructed’, including the removal of all the turf, resurfacing the ground area underneath, and then re-laying the turf in its original location. This was reputedly the first time such a method was used on an oval of this size in Australia. A gentle rise of up to nine inches was also created in the centre of the oval, to help improve the drainage. Further works to the oval were undertaken in subsequent years, including the installation of 1,000 feet of agricultural drains in 1965. By the end of this period, the club had expended in the order of 50,000 pounds on improving the playing surface.

Poor surface conditions re-emerged in 1980, during a very wet winter, with the oval deteriorating to its worst condition in many years and causing injury concerns. Additional agricultural drains were laid in this period. In 1983, the oval was extended at its eastern end (see Figure 1), to bring its size in line with that of the MCG and Waverley Park. This required substantial works to the oval proper and to the embankment area behind. The works included removing and replacing the oval fence, drains, pipes, sprinkler system and pits; relocating a trainers box; demolishing and rebuilding retaining walls; moving elevated signs; undertaking earthworks; and reconstructing elements of the walls along Bath Street and Trenerry Crescent. The extension of the ground also resulted in the current ‘egg’ shape of the oval.

The old wooden picket fence around the playing area at Victoria Park survived until c.1951 (although pickets were regularly replaced), when it was replaced with a reinforced wire fence. As noted above, this element was in turn replaced in 1983. Signage and banners began to be attached to the fence in the c.1960s.

The goal posts have always been located at the Lulie Street and Trenerry Crescent ends of the ground (west and east ends). Historic photographs of the early 1900s indicate that the goal posts were painted with black and white bands, and black and white striped flags were attached to the point posts.

### 1.1.3 *Significance*

The oval at Victoria Park is of high historical, social and aesthetic/architectural significance. It has been the central focus of the site since the earliest days, and the focus of spectator attention. It is also the site of the great displays of skill and athleticism that are traditionally associated with Australian rules football, and with Collingwood as a major exponent of the game. As with all football grounds and sporting arenas, the terraces, grandstands and other major structures at Victoria Park are oriented towards the oval, reinforcing its central role and prominence within the site.

### 1.1.4 *Recommendations*

The oval should be retained as the focus of Victoria Park in any future use or redevelopment of the site. The form of the oval (in terms of its boundary shape and extent) has been altered

over time, and can be marginally altered in the future if required, provided a large open oval playing surface is retained in the existing location (and is not built out or developed). The 'humped' form (rise in the centre) should also be retained. The actual turf playing surface, and subsurface elements can be retained, upgraded or removed as required. The goal posts can be removed from the oval if required. The existing fence can also be retained, upgraded or replaced, although a form of low boundary fence should be maintained. One of the existing players' benches should also be retained (preferably the Collingwood players' bench on the north of the oval), and its fabric maintained and conserved. Signage can be removed from the fence, and new openings inserted if required.

1.2 GRASSED EMBANKMENT (OUTER STANDING AREA)



Figure 2 Views of the outer standing area, including the rear of the bluestone retaining wall near the junction of Abbott Street and Trenerry Crescent (2), another section of retaining wall (3) and ‘One Eye Hill’ (on the left of 4).

1.2.1 Description

The grassed embankment in the general admission area at the eastern end of Victoria Park is of irregular form, and extends from the east end of the Rush Stand to near the east end of the Ryder Stand (it is also located around the arc of the 50m line on the oval). Retaining walls of various materials (including concrete block or bluestone) support the embankment, with the latter material used in the north-east corner of the site for a considerable period. Bluestone is also evident in the retaining wall near the Trenerry Crescent exit (behind the embankment). Vehicular access to the oval is located at the north end of the embankment (adjacent to the Ryder Stand). The area has some plantings including eucalyptus behind the goals and several deciduous trees at the south end.

Structures associated with the embankment include, from south to north: women’s toilets, signboards, men’s toilets, the Trenerry Crescent exit, signboard, Omega time clock, snack bar (port shed), and scoreboard. The structures, other than the toilets and exit, are all elevated off ground level.

The grassed embankment provides an important visual connection with the surrounding Abbotsford context, where the industrial and residential urban form of Trenerry Crescent and Bath Street forms a backdrop to the oval.

### 1.2.2 *History*

An ‘incline’, or raised embankment for spectator viewing, was introduced to Victoria Park as early as 1892. Improvements to the embankment were carried out regularly during subsequent years, including extending the mound, building and replacing retaining walls, terracing, and resurfacing with grass and/or gravel. Various (mostly free-standing and elevated structures) have been added and removed over time, including scoreboards, signs, bars, refreshment booths, etc. A picket fence also defined the top of the outer embankment for many years; historical records indicate that in 1930 this fence separated the embankment from ‘gardens’ located between the mound and the Victoria Park perimeter wall. The extent of open terracing on the broader embankment in the outer was substantially reduced when the Rush Stand was constructed in 1966.

The highest point of the embankment, at the Trenerry Crescent end, has historically been known as ‘One Eye Hill’, in recognition of the vocal and colourful Collingwood fans who traditionally gathered there to watch games.

### 1.2.3 *Significance*

The grassed embankment at Victoria Park is of high historical, social and aesthetic/architectural significance. It is the only largely undeveloped area other than the oval (in terms of built structures) at Victoria Park, with the form of a raised embankment or terrace in this area dating back to the very earliest spectator use of the ground. It is also a remnant of a once more extensive grassed embankment in the outer (general admission area). The highest point adjacent to Trenerry Crescent was the site of ‘One Eye Hill’, from where some of Collingwood’s more colourful supporters traditionally watched games, often fortified by the liberal consumption of alcohol. The embankment also provides evidence of a traditional football ground ‘standing area’, without seating or cover, where committed fans stood in all weathers and conditions (although it is not rare in this regard). Aesthetically, the grassed embankment provides an important visual connection with the adjacent industrial/residential urban form of Trenerry Crescent and Bath Street.

### 1.2.4 *Recommendations*

The form of an embankment should be retained at the eastern end of the ground, including the high point of ‘One Eye Hill’. A grassed surface should also preferably be retained. The bluestone retaining wall in the north-west corner of the ground should be retained, and upgraded with similar material if required. The remaining retaining walls, which have been upgraded over time, can be replaced or upgraded as required. The open aspect of the embankment should also be retained, with no substantial new built structures introduced to the area. Views of the industrial and residential form of Trenerry Crescent and Bath Street should also be retained, with no large new elements constructed within the Victoria Park

VICTORIA PARK

boundary, which would impact on these views. The corrugated iron wall to the rear of the embankment (on Trenerry Crescent) can be retained, upgraded or removed as required.

1.3 J C RYDER STAND



Figure 3 Views of the Ryder Stand, including the rear elevation (2 & 3), Collingwood players' race (6), and players' gym in the undercroft (7).

### 1.3.1 *Description*

The J C Ryder Stand is located on the north of the ground (abutting Abbott Street), in the eastern third of the members reserve, to the east of the Social Club Stand. The stand faces the south. Views from the stand take in the development on Trenerry Crescent and Bath Street to the east, the Rush Stand on the south side of the ground, and the city skyline and high rise (Housing Commission) development to the south-west.

The stand is a single tier, 15 bay, steel-framed concrete structure with a cantilevered roof, curved plan form, and undercroft rooms. Street frontage is to Abbott Street, where access is provided to the undercroft spaces, which in turn have ramp (race) access to the oval. Access to the undercroft spaces is also provided at each end of the structure. Steel columns, with struts, support the main timber roof beams; the roof sheeting is non-original. Approximately one half of the fixed seating on plats is beneath the roof. Seating materials vary, reflecting replacements and upgrades over time. Signage (players' names) is attached to the south fascia of the stand. The east elevation is open, while the west elevation retains a gridded glazed wall. The base of the east and west elevations have been painted with black and white striped panels.

The floor structure is exposed aggregate concrete with a low gradient (the plats are approximately 100mm deep). Access to the top terrace of the stand is by steel primed steps. The lower terrace levels have an asphalt surface. The players' race is located in the approximate centre of the stand, with access to the oval, and has painted off form retaining walls and steel tube and protective wire netting over. The former social club members entry (on the east of the stand) has exposed aggregate steps and off form concrete walls.

The rear of the structure has exposed aggregate concrete with brickwork infill (visible as the north elevation to Abbott Street). Openings on this elevation have been altered, including the infilling (with glass bricks) of the original undercroft entrance and the creation of a new entrance to the west (this is the current entrance to the players' rooms). Non-original corrugated iron-clad additions are located at the upper level of the east and west ends of the north elevation, incorporating stair access to the upper seating areas. The aesthetic presentation of the rear wall is also diminished by surface accretions such as piping, mechanical units.

A red face brick wall, with patterned rectangular brick panels, is integrated into the east and west ends of the elevation at street level, following the street boundary, and is believed to be largely contemporary with the stand. The brick wall detailing is reminiscent of the rear brick elevation of Stephenson's & Meldrum's 1920s Members' Pavilion at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. Toilets (at ground level at the east and west ends) and other minor structures (used for storage, etc) are located to the inside of the wall, between the wall and the rear elevation of the stand (where it curves away from the street boundary).

The building has been substantially altered and is currently in poor condition. Visible alterations and non-original additions on the south of the stand include (from west to east):

• concrete entry to the Woodsmen's Room;

- €# alterations to the undercroft T-framed square windows on the south wall (beneath the seating area);
- €# installation of steel framed stairs;
- €# installation of brick retaining walls behind the players' race;
- €# alterations to the rear wall, incorporating glazed banks at either end and slatted timber boarding;
- €# installation of corporate/private boxes, with timber partitions;
- €# removal of the east end glazed wall;
- €# steel-framed stair to the former coaches box on the roof at the east end (demolished);
- €# new glazed openings to the players rooms on the east elevation; and
- €# additional lighting structures.

### *Undercroft*

The undercroft of the Ryder Stand comprises a number of administrative, training and club spaces, including the players' rooms and ramp/race to the oval. The spaces have been used for a variety of purposes over the years, including as social club facilities (bars and lounges) and as a crèche for players' children. The current configuration of the undercroft is as follows (beginning at the west end):

- €# The Woodsmen's Room (a space set aside for a coterie group) has an entry on the west elevation, monogrammed carpet on the concrete floor, exposed brickwork walls, and timber lining. The raked ceiling is painted off form concrete, with monogrammed light fittings. A bar/servery and audio visual storage area are located on the south wall.
- €# The large players' gymnasium has a painted off form raked concrete ceiling with expressed roof structure, exposed concrete structural column, attached fluoro lights, and a feature brick wall with sponsors' plaques. The north wall has irregular fenestration, while the south wall has timber-framed windows with safety wire glass. A series of stores, small offices and trainers' room are located along the south side of the space, with shower facilities on the north side. The gymnasium is entered from a small foyer off Abbott Street.
- €# Administration offices are located to the left of the entrance foyer off Abbott Street, and centrally on the north side of the undercroft. These spaces have exposed concrete roof beams with plasterboard tile infill, and timber-framed partitions with plasterboard lining and clear glazing. The floors are carpeted, and a small L-shaped corridor leads off to a tea room facility. The Football Manager's office is located here behind the bricked up original entry.
- €# A long passage leads from the gymnasium to the west, along the south side of the undercroft. The south wall of the passage is off form concrete with bricks over. Player's spaces accessed from the corridor (on the north side of the undercroft) include training and change rooms, a locker room, medical and physiotherapy rooms, showers, spa, etc. The interiors include rendered and painted brickwork walls, painted off form concrete ceilings, and timber-frame or concrete slab floors with carpet. Many of the window openings have been altered. The ramp and race is also accessed off the corridor. An entrance/exit is located at the end of the corridor, in the east elevation of the stand.

### 1.3.2 *History*

The Ryder Stand was built in 1929, on a site which was previously (partly) occupied by the 1900 Women's Pavilion (later Smokers' Pavilion). It was constructed during the Depression using the labour of local unemployed men (on the 'susso'), with funds arranged by Council, including money from the Government Relief Fund. When completed, the stand could accommodate more than 3,000 spectators. The architects were Peck & Kemter, and the use of red brick to the rear north wall of the structure would have been sympathetic to the materials of nearby brick terraces and the Victoria Park Primary School, across from the stand in Abbott Street.

The stand was named after Jack Ryder, who was known as the 'King of Collingwood', was the district's leading cricketer, and an Australian test captain. The Collingwood Cricket Club, which shared Victoria Park with the football club, recommended to Council in November 1929 that it name its portion of the stand after Ryder, and the name stuck for the rest of the structure. The football and cricket clubs squabbled over the rights to use the stand, with the structure eventually dissected by a wire fence from top to bottom, with one third being allocated to the cricket club (which had 300 members at the time), and the remaining two thirds to the football club (with some 3000 members).

New club rooms were installed in the undercroft in 1935, with the social club moving into the facilities after the club was formed in 1940. The gymnasium was also used by football club members for many years (when not in use by the players), with indoor games (such as table tennis and billiards) catered for. Roof repairs were carried out in the late 1950s and early 1960s (with the stand re-roofed in 1977, and partially again in 1984 after a severe storm). Works to the players' rooms in the early 1970s included the installation of a sauna. In 1974, new access stairs were constructed to the rear of each end the Ryder Stand, and 26 private boxes were installed in the stand, to be made available for reservation by members (more boxes were added in the 1980s). The players' race was upgraded in the mid-1970s. The internal spaces were also subjected to regular refurbishment in the 1970s and 1980s. In 1979, a new coach's box, with TV cameras and commentators' facilities, were introduced to the roof of the stand, with football administration offices installed in the undercroft. The seating was also regularly upgraded and replaced.

### 1.3.3 *Significance*

The 1929 J C Ryder Stand is of high historical and social significance, and moderate aesthetic/architectural significance. It is the oldest stand in the developed members' area, and the oldest substantial structure at Victoria Park. It also occupies the site of the 1900 Women's Stand (later Smokers' Stand), meaning that a stand of sorts has been located on the north side of the ground for more than a century. The stand has additional significance through its association with the Depression, and the use of local 'susso' labour during its construction. It also had a direct association with Collingwood Cricket Club, and Jack Ryder, of which there are few other obvious elements at Victoria Park. The stand has additionally housed social club facilities and other Collingwood football club requirements, such as the players' facilities from its earliest years (including the players' race).

Architecturally, when constructed in the late 1920s the Ryder Stand incorporated the principal elements in the then evolving cantilever-type of grandstand in Victoria. The building also has a multi-faceted architectural presence, to the rear, sides and oval, incorporating the exposed aggregate concrete structure, with patterned brickwork infill, in the external rear wall. The distinctive detailing of this rear elevation to Abbott Street (together with the integrated brick fence) contributes to the historic and architectural character of Victoria Park on this boundary. The interior spaces are of interest in terms of their plan and form, but are generally utilitarian and have been modified. The south elevation (viewing and seating areas) has been heavily modified.

#### 1.3.4 *Recommendations*

The J C Ryder Stand should be retained at Victoria Park, in recognition of its significance. The structure has been heavily modified, however, and is understood to be in poor condition and in need of substantial refurbishment. The viewing and seating areas on the south elevation have been so modified that there is little merit in recommending the retention of fabric in these areas. The internal spaces could be modified, adapted or converted to new uses, with minimal impact on their significance, but have a limited capacity for adaptation, with little natural light, etc.

In this context, consideration can be given to partially demolishing the stand, but retaining and refurbishing the important rear elevation to Abbott Street. This would assist with maintaining the historic character of the ground in this area, and retaining a distinctive element of the stand and the ground. If the stand is retained, elements of the signage (players' names) to the south fascia should be retained and conserved.

1.4 SOCIAL CLUB STAND (S A COVENTRY PAVILION/BOB ROSE STAND)



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8

Figure 4 Views of the Social Club Stand: standing room terrace in front of the stand (1), south elevation showing Bob Rose Stand (2), view of east elevation with Magpie emblem (3), west elevation (4), view from bistro, level 2 (5), Committee Room (6), President's Room (7), north elevation (8).

#### 1.4.1 *Description*

The 1959 Social Club Stand is located in the north-west corner of the ground (near the junction of Lulie and Abbott Streets), and is centrally sited in the members reserve area, between the Ryder Stand to the east, and Sherrin Stand to the west. The stand faces the south-west, with views that take in the industrial and residential development to the east, and the Rush Stand on the south side of the ground. From the upper floors of the building, distant vistas take in the Yarra River environment, wooded Studley Park and urban form in Kew and beyond. Views to the south are also available over the Rush Stand.

The Social Club Stand was originally a three level, steel-framed, concrete and brick building, in a cuboid form, with aluminium curtain wall cladding, and external enamel (black and white) panelling. Internal viewing areas were oriented towards the oval. A fourth level, and partial fifth level (mezzanine, on the eastern half of the roof) were added in 1980-1, and have also been rendered. A glazed addition on the south elevation (constructed in 1989, known as the Bobby Rose Stand) faces the oval, and provides an enclosed viewing area at the original second floor level.

The building is angled to the intersection of Abbott and Lulie Streets, with a car parking apron in front of the social club entry (with driveway access to Abbott and Lulie Streets). This area is surfaced in bitumen with perimeter raised planter beds. A curved concrete drive is located in front of the building with a small stone clad retaining wall to the front of the entrance (this was formerly a base for posts supporting a canopy over the entrance). Two sets of iron gates date from the 1990s.

#### *Exterior*

The original building was articulated by six structural bays along the south elevation, with the original glazing to the second level removed with the 1989 Bobby Rose Stand addition. The standing room terraced area on the south side of the building (facing the oval) has concrete risers, and is separated by a concrete wall from the lower terrace risers with fixed timber bench seating, which abutt the oval. Centrally located stairs lead to plant rooms located under the standing area.

The east elevation has a brick bay at the south end with horizontal slot windows, and at the north end steel sheet cladding with vertical ribbing, glazed irregular openings and service ducting from the roof. The fourth level addition is an extension of the original materials and composition. The Collingwood Football Club logo (the 'Fighting Magpie') is prominently displayed (see 3 above). Ground level additions to the elevation include a timber-framed awning to the doorway, a brick outbuilding, external shower, and concrete curved outbuilding (with glass blocks) to the street.

The north elevation (with street entrance) is articulated at ground level by brickwork and concrete piers (see 8 above). The upper level floors have large horizontal strip windows with reflective glazing, with the west bay articulated by diagonal boarding. The façade is

dominated by large signage on a light background, including the 'Fighting Magpie' logo. The original canopy over the entrance has been removed.

The west elevation is divided vertically by plain brickwork (south) and diagonal boarding (north), and contains large glazed openings to the main stairway. The 1980s additions include a steel framed fire escape stair located on the south-west corner which also provides access to the front standing area and the Sherrin Stand.

The roofing material is spandek metal decking, and there is a brickwork overrun at roof level, together with other roof equipment.

### *Interior*

The ground floor (first level), which is entered from the north elevation, has an open plan form with exposed structural columns, a concrete slab floor with carpet and ceramic tiles, and suspended plasterboard ceilings. Internal walls are painted plasterboard (including the perimeter walls). The entrance foyer (the J F McHale Hall of Fame) is located on the north side of the floor and has a glass fronted display centrally positioned, with a reception counter to the east and a retail outlet to the west. Other spaces on this floor include the Tabaret Room, with a bar and male toilets on the south, and access to female toilets on the west side. Offices are also located on the north side. South of the shop is the lift and stair to the upper levels.

Whilst the lift cab is standard construction, the stair features terrazzo treads supported on a steel structure with painted metal balustrading. It is rectangular in plan form with timber veneer lined walls, and gold wall paper at upper levels. The west wall features large glazed openings with aluminium frames. The ceilings in the stair enclosure are plasterboard tiles. Standard 1950s detailing includes circular light fittings and aluminium spacers between the veneer panels. The stair is also enclosed at ground floor level, but otherwise open.

The first floor (second level) has carpeted floors, plasterboard tile ceilings and painted plasterboard partition walls. Spaces include a bistro and bar, and a kitchen located on the east side. Toilets in the north-west corner are accessed from the stair landing. A faceted glazed bay window faces the oval with two pairs of double doors either side, which provide access to the standing room terraces in front of the stand. The Committee Room is also on this floor, and has standard fittings and materials, save for monogrammed glazed double doors. The north wall strip window is full width.

The second floor (third level) includes the Presidents' Room (function space), which is open plan, with a proscenium stage on the east wall, and an open bar on the west side. The area is separated by an accordion door. Women's toilets are located in the north-west corner of the room, men's toilets in the north-east. The north window wall has been blocked by a false timber-framed plasterboard lined wall, used as an Honour Wall. The kitchen area has a parquet floor, a finish that may exist elsewhere on the floor under the existing carpet. The glazed balcony viewing area on the south of the floor (the Bobby Rose Stand) has carpet lined concrete plats and fixed bench seating. The ceiling is raked and plasterboard lined.

The football club administration spaces are located on the third floor (fourth level). This level was added in the 1980s, and is generally partitioned with timber frames with clear glazing and plasterboard lined. In plan form the area comprises a small function space and bar along the south elevation (with views to the oval), and a central enclosed office and boardroom area, with an open office area along the north side. Partitioned offices are on the

east side, otherwise the space has standard office work stations. The concrete frame along the north is spalling. The plasterboard tile ceiling is raked along the south. A plant room located on the west side (behind the bar) is of concrete block construction with brickwork lift overrun.

The mezzanine level (fifth level) comprises a small office area and function room on the north side, with a bar area and three rows of balcony seating facing the oval. Materials are standard and include plasterboard units, carpet and bench seating; with plasterboard ceiling raked on the south.

#### 1.4.2 *History*

The social club facility, known as the Social Club Stand, but officially named the S A Coventry Pavilion (after the former Collingwood President, Brownlow medallist and captain), opened on 26 August 1959. The construction costs were in the order of nearly 200,000 pounds, and the builders were Clements Langford Pty Ltd. The architects, Robert H McIntyre & Associates, were briefed to design a building that could accommodate an extra floor (fourth level) at a later date. This was added in 1980/1.

The Social Club Stand came about as a result of a number of developments at Collingwood. The Collingwood Football Social Club had formed in February 1940 (and officially opened in April the following year), and was the first such club in the VFL. Moreover, its formation was a direct result of the club acquiring a liquor licence in 1940, also the first VFL club to do so. An opportunity to construct a large and modern facility for the social club (and to maximise the advantages of winning the liquor licence) did not arise, however, until Collingwood was granted the 40 years ground improvements lease in 1956. The Social Club Stand was subsequently the first of the major works undertaken, with the new facility intended to support and encourage an expansion in social club membership, and raise income for the club (through providing bars, dining and function facilities).

The building was constructed on the site of the old tennis courts, with a car parking area, the old press and timekeepers' box, and ladies toilets having to be demolished. At the time of its opening, the Social Club Stand consisted of a car park (under the building), administration spaces, coolrooms, a viewing area, large island bar, Committee room and toilets on the first floor. A large dance and entertainment room was on the next level, with a members' bar, billiard room, kitchen, toilets and TV room. Extensive glazing allowed for views over the arena from these spaces. A press box, radio commentators' rooms, television stands and timekeepers' box were located on the flat roof (these were removed for the 1980s additions). The J F McHale Hall of Fame in the entrance foyer was used to display player photographs, trophies and other memorabilia.

Many changes were subsequently made to the use and configuration of the floors in the decades following its construction, including a series of upgrades and fit-outs to the different spaces on each floor in the 1970s and 1980s. As noted above, additions were made in 1980-81, with the large new viewing area known as the Bob Rose Stand (in honour of the Collingwood player and coach) added at the second level in 1989. Other works include the erection of the large 'Dunlop' advertising sign on the roof of the building in c.1965; the introduction of a caterers' office at ground floor level (under the viewing area), also in 1965; substantial roof repairs in 1969 (and again in 1975), and the introduction of new windows to

the office areas in 1974. The members' terraces in front of the stand were extended in the 1970s, with seating also introduced to the concrete rises at this time. The external panelling on the building was replaced and repaired in 1975.

#### 1.4.3 *Significance*

The Social Club Stand is of high historical and social significance, and moderate to low aesthetic/architectural significance. Its construction came about as a direct result of Collingwood acquiring what is believed to be the first liquor licence of any football club in Victoria, and establishing the first football social club in order to meet the requirements of the licence. The building is also believed to be the first purpose-built social club stand at any VFL ground, which integrated club function and meeting facilities, administration spaces, and viewing areas to the oval. It was also the first of the major works undertaken at Victoria Park in the period after the club gained control of the ground in the late 1950s, and launched into a major upgrade of their facilities. The Social Club Stand supported and encouraged an expansion in membership at Collingwood, was subsequently a major source of income for the club, and the venue for significant club functions and celebrations.

Architecturally, the stand in its original form and exterior detailing had some distinction, although this has been substantially diminished through subsequent modifications and extensions. Internally, the fittings and fixtures are of a generally utilitarian and standard nature. Club use of many of the spaces has also changed over the years.

#### 1.4.4 *Recommendations*

While the Social Club Stand is of recognised historical and social significance, it is nevertheless a functionally utilitarian structure, with spaces that can accommodate a generic range of activities. The recent removal of the majority of football club artefacts and memorabilia from the building (in anticipation of the club's move to Olympic Park) has further increased the sense of anonymity.

In this context, the building can be retained or removed as required, with the internal spaces suited to a range of new uses.

## 1.5 R T RUSH STAND



Figure 5 The R T Rush Stand, viewed from the terrace in front of the Social Club Stand (1), examples of signage, and press and coaches boxes (2), the rear (south) elevation (3), and looking east from the terraced standing area in the stand (4).

1.5.1 *Description*

The R T Rush Stand is located on the southern side of the ground, abutting Turner Street, in the outer (general admission) area, which it substantially encloses and covers. It is sited to the south and east of the Sherrin Stand, with the grassed embankment at its eastern end. The stand faces north, and views take in the other stands at Victoria Park, together with vistas of Trenerry Crescent. It encloses and covers much of the general admission area on the south of the ground.

The stand is a long, single tier, steel-framed cantilevered concrete structure, with a curved plan form, 36 structural bays, and exposed metal decking to the roof and rear wall. The floor is concrete with one terrace at mid level which leads to nine ramps that in turn lead to the rear concreted concourse at (just above) ground level. Signage (players' names and advertising) is attached to almost the entire fascia, including 1m high signs along the parapet. Fixed bench seating occupies the western half of the stand, with concrete terracing (standing room only) in the eastern half. The rear third of the stand is beneath the roof. Non original petitioned corporate boxes are located at the rear of the seating in the western half. Other

non-original elements include media and coaching boxes at the approximate centre of the stand (these were not inspected internally), with another box behind exit F and a small time keepers' box to the east. The rear of the stand cantilevers over a concreted concourse, with small storage spaces, including former kiosks and refreshment booths, located in the tight undercroft area, which in turn is accessed from the concourse (these spaces were not inspected internally). The undercroft area is also prominent to the main public entrance at the corner of Lulie and Turner Streets, and the large triangular concourse apron in this area.

The depth of the stand is greater at the west end next to the Sherrin Stand. Overall, the structure creates a transition between the scale of the grassed embankment at the east end of the ground, and the large Sherrin Stand at the west end. The concrete standing area in the western half of the stand also creates a transition with the grassed embankment.

The rear (south) elevation has black and white striped metal cladding, a pronounced arc form, and presents a hard edge to Turner Street. This hard interface with the street is also enhanced by the tall concrete and barbed wire topped fence on this side of the ground, which has few openings.

### 1.5.2 *History*

Work commenced on the R T Rush Stand in 1964, and was completed in 1966. The stand came about through the establishment of the Victoria Park 'Outer Ground Improvement Fund' in the late 1950s, which was part of the football club's new leasing arrangements with Collingwood Council. The stand was named after Bob Rush, one of Collingwood's longest-serving players and officials. Up until that time, the outer area in the south and east of the ground consisted in part of concrete rises, and a large grassed and terraced embankment which turned to mud in winter. The construction of the stand also came at a time when funds were being expended on other new stands in the general admission areas of VFL grounds.

The architects were McIntyre & McIntyre, who were commissioned to design a partly covered concrete stand for the viewing public in this area. The new structure was 700 feet long and provided cover for up to 10,000 spectators. The old concrete rises in the outer were demolished and regraded, with between 28 and 32 rises incorporated into the new structure, 12 of which would be covered by the cantilevered roof. The total cost of construction was \$267,000, and Clements Langford were the builders (as they had been for the Social Club Stand). Collingwood initially planned to extend the stand around the whole of the outer area (to near the Ryder Stand), in an attempt to increase the 'mini stadium' effect at Victoria Park. The club believed this would help shore up their attempts to remain at Victoria Park in the long term.

Flood lighting was added to the roof of the stand in the 1970s, and private boxes were added in the 1980s.

### 1.5.3 *Significance*

The R T Rush Stand is of high historical and social significance, and moderate to low aesthetic/architectural significance. It is the only covered stand in the outer area at Victoria Park (although it only partially covers fixed seating terraces), and is among the first of the

larger public stands to be constructed at any of the suburban VFL grounds (with similar but more substantial structures built elsewhere in the late 1960s and 1970s). The stand was also constructed after Collingwood gained 'control' of Victoria Park, and was a component of the massive upgrading of the ground that occurred from the late 1950s.

Architecturally, the scale and form of the stand helped to create a 'mini-stadium' effect and sense of enclosure on the south side of Victoria Park, after it was constructed in the 1960s, although this area of the ground was historically left largely undeveloped for the greater part of Collingwood's occupation of the facility.

#### 1.5.4 *Recommendations*

The R T Rush Stand, while being of recognised historical and social significance, is nevertheless a utilitarian element and in comparative terms, is not a public stand of any particular architectural distinction. In this context, the stand can be retained or removed. If removal is considered, it is recommended that the concrete risers of the lower terraces be retained for the extent of the stand, and elements of the fixed bench seating also be retained (this would help to demonstrate the extent of the structure, while also retaining the form of the terraces that have been located on the south side of the ground for a considerable period). If the structure is retained, it is recommended that the black and white striped external panel treatment be maintained. Elements of the signage (players' names) to the north fascia, could also be retained and conserved.

VICTORIA PARK

1.6 SHERRIN STAND

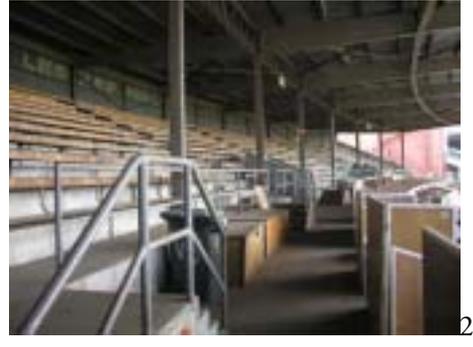


Figure 6 Views of the Sherrin Stand, the east elevation (1), looking towards the Social Club Stand from the mid-level terrace (2), view of the rear of the stand from Lulie Street (3), detail of rear of the stand (4), concourse and undercroft area (5), race (6), VFL umpires' lockers & change room (7), VFL umpires' meeting room.

### 1.6.1 *Description*

The Sherrin Stand (built in 1969, and extended to the south by a third in 1978) is located in the western third of the members reserve area, on the west side of the ground, abutting Lulie Street (and behind the Lulie Street goals). The stand faces east and is equally spaced between the Rush and Social Club Stands. Views from the stand take in the goals at the other end of the ground, with the grassed embankment behind, and the urban form on Trenerry Crescent and Bath Street beyond. From the upper levels, more distant views are available over the top of the other stands, and of eastern Melbourne.

The stand is a steel-framed, concrete and brick single tier cantilevered structure, with exposed steel roof decking, twelve structural bays, undercroft rooms and a curved plan form. The cantilevered beams are tapered, with the bays articulated by I beam unencased steel columns. Bracing (on the walls and roof) is aligned to the stairs, and the rear of the stand is supported by the cranked steel structure. The southern bay is aligned behind the goals, and signage (players names) is attached to the fascia. Concrete plats have fixed timber seating, which is accessed via eight aisles. Approximately one half of the seating in the stand is located beneath the roof.

Access to the stand from the lower terraces adjacent to the oval is via four concrete stairs with masonry walls and off form concrete upstands. Access to the middle and rear of the stand is provided by four additional concrete stairs, from a mid-level terrace. A partitioned area at approximately half way has been set aside for sponsored seating/boxes. The south end wall is partly enclosed with glazing (gridded frame). The west back wall is enclosed with metal decking. The arced form and enclosed nature of the structure provides acoustic quality, and emphasises the sound generated by the members during football matches. The back wall has painted white lining for visibility from the oval when kicking goals.

The west elevation to Lulie Street, which cantilevers over the brick rear of the stand, has a pronounced arc form and alternating black and white painted panel treatment. At concourse level (bitumen surface), the west elevation presents as a face brick wall, with openings to the various undercroft spaces. The plan form of the undercroft is also curved, with access from the concourse. Undercroft spaces include the umpires, police and visiting teams rooms. The concrete roof expresses the seating over, and concrete stairs provide access to the middle terrace of the stand. Various elements have been constructed between the stand and Lulie Street.

Generally, the Sherrin Stand has the largest seating capacity of any stand at Victoria Park; and the strongest architectural presence from within the ground. Due to its scale and overhang on Lulie Street, the structure is prominent to the surrounding area (with Lulie Street in this area dominated by the upper level of the stand).

*Undercroft*

The undercroft area contains a series of spaces, arranged to either side of two corridors which are accessed from the concourse at the rear. The spaces have been used for a number of purposes over the years, including as rooms for the visiting teams, match day umpires, and police on match day duty. Two races (one originally for visiting teams, the other for umpires and police officers) lead out onto the ground. The rooms are currently used for administrative and training purposes by the VFL Umpires Association (lockers, change rooms, toilets, and a meeting/video space with a bar/servery), as an archives centre by the football club, and for various storage purposes.

The internal finishes vary, depending on the use of the spaces, but are generally of a utilitarian nature. They include off form concrete walls and exposed or overpainted brick walls, overpainted or exposed concrete stepped ceilings (reflecting the terraces of the stand above), strapped masonite ceilings, and carpeted floors. The VFL umpires' meeting room has non-original timber board lined ceilings. The exposed portal steel structure is also evident in places in the undercroft area. The showers and toilets have tiled concrete floor and walls. Strip windows are located at the upper level of the west walls of the rooms.

1.6.2 *History*

The football club had planned to demolish and replace the old 1909 Members' Stand for some time, but were not in a financial position to do so until the late 1960s. The architects for the new stand were Peter McIntyre & Associates, with the building contractor, L U Simon Pty Ltd. The new stand was proposed to consist of two training rooms, committee rooms, 1800 members seats under cover, with another 700 seats in the open area in front of the stand. The stand was named after one of the most famous families in the history of Collingwood.

The Sherrin Stand was ready for the first home game of the 1969 season, and had cost \$250,000 to construct. It accommodated the visiting teams, and the match day umpiring and police staff. The stand was later extended in 1977-8 at its southern end, to provide for an additional 1000 seats, plus extra players and umpires rooms in the undercroft. The cost of this work was in the order of \$300,000, with construction under the supervision of the original architects. As with the other stands at Victoria Park, private boxes were added in the early 1980s.

The Sherrin Stand is the third and largest of the Collingwood members' stands to be constructed behind the goals at the Lulie Street end of the ground. The construction and extension of the structure were also the last of the major works undertaken at Victoria Park (save for the addition of the Bob Rose Stand to the Social Club building in 1989), in the period after the club won control of the facility.

1.6.3 *Significance*

The Sherrin Stand is of high historical and social significance, and moderate aesthetic/architectural significance. It is the third and largest of the members' stands to be constructed behind the goals at the Lulie Street end, and the largest stand at Victoria Park in terms of seating capacity. The arced and enclosed form of the building provided strong

acoustic qualities, and accentuated the noise and excitement generated from within the stand on match days. The construction and extension of the stand were also the last of the major works undertaken at Victoria Park (save for the addition of the Bob Rose Stand to the Social Club building in 1989), in the period after the club won control of the facility (and before VFL ground rationalisation put an end to development). The stand (including its southerly extension) also completed the virtual 'build out' of the inner members' area, and in conjunction with the Rush Stand, the development of almost three quarters of the ground around the oval.

Architecturally, the Sherrin Stand has the strongest architectural presence from within the ground, and due to its scale, arced form, proximity to the boundary, and external black and white paint treatment, is one of the most prominent and visually distinctive elements at Victoria Park in terms of the surrounding area.

#### 1.6.4 *Recommendations*

The Sherrin Stand should be retained, in recognition of its architectural presence and prominence, its large capacity and popularity with Collingwood members, and its historic location behind the goals at the Lulie Street end. The structure is also largely unmodified from its 1978 completion (save for the introduction of boxes and signage, upgrading of seats, minor internal modifications to the undercroft spaces, etc). The original plan, form and external materials should be retained and conserved. The boxes, although later additions, should also be retained as evidence of these facilities. Non-original elements can be retained or removed as required. The black and white striped colour treatment to the Lulie Street elevation should also be retained. Elements of the signage (players' names) to the east fascia should also be retained and conserved.

The interior spaces of the Sherrin Stand, although relatively intact, are also utilitarian and not particularly distinguished. These spaces can generally be refurbished without impacting on the significance of the place, although it is recommended that the concrete stepped ceilings and portal steel structure remain exposed within the building, together with the unpainted condition of the brick and off-form concrete walls.

1.7 PERIMETER WALL



Figure 7 Various sections of the perimeter wall at Victoria Park, including the junction of Turner & Bath Streets (1), Bath Street (2), Trenerry Crescent (3), Abbott Street (4 & 5), and Lulie Street (6).

1.7.1 *Description*

The high perimeter wall at Victoria Park comprises sections of different materials, including face brick, reinforced concrete, corrugated iron and chain mesh, with the sections constructed in different periods. The reinforced concrete wall along Turner and Bath Streets has panels of exposed aggregate between regular piers, with a non-original entry (with steel

staircase and gate) located at approximately half way along the Turner Street elevation. The brick wall on Abbott Street is integrated into the rear of the Ryder Stand and has patterned brick panelling. A series of entrance gates and exits, with associated turnstiles and ticket boxes, and steel roller door vehicle entrances/exits are located at various points along the wall. Various signs and painted signage are associated with the wall in places.

### 1.7.2 *History*

A fence or perimeter wall of sorts has been evident at Victoria Park since the earliest years of football club use, with a level of secure fencing enabling the club to regulate entry to the ground on match days. A 1904 historic plan indicates that a fence with ‘barbed wire over’ was in place around the perimeter, and other early references to the boundary fence make mention of a picket fence, at least in places. The brick wall on Abbott Street (at the rear of the Ryder Stand), is believed to be contemporary with the construction of the stand in 1929, while the concrete wall along Turner Street also dates from approximately the late 1920s, and may have been constructed with sustenance labour. It replaced an old picket fence. In 1957 a new brick wall (337 feet long and 14 feet high) was constructed along Lulie Street, replacing an old galvanised iron fence. Sections of cyclone wire, timber and galvanised iron fencing, were built along Bath Street and Trenerry Crescent in the late 1950s-early 1960s. In 1983, sections of the walls along Bath Street and Trenerry Crescent were again reconstructed. Various penetrations have been made to the walls over the years, as additional gates and entries or exits were created.

### 1.7.3 *Significance*

The perimeter wall at Victoria Park, comprising sections constructed in different periods and of different materials, is of high historical and social significance overall, with elements of the wall of moderate aesthetic/architectural significance. The wall demonstrates a need to secure the ground and regulate admittance. The scale and extent of the wall also distinguish Victoria Park as a higher level football ground, where secure fencing was an important requirement. Since the earliest days of league football at Victoria Park, the wall (or earlier versions of it) has additionally served to define, confine and enclose the ground. The 1920s sections of wall (on Abbott and Turner/Bath Streets) additionally have some architectural interest in terms of their construction and detailing. Although the wall currently presents, in places, a hard edge to the surrounding streets, this has been part of the historical character of the ground, and its interface with Abbotsford, for a considerable period of time.

### 1.7.4 *Recommendations*

In recognition of the significance of the perimeter wall, its historic enclosing and confining role, and its contribution to the hard-edged character of Victoria Park, it is recommended that sections be retained and conserved, although it is not necessary to retain the wall for the whole of its current extent. The wall sections recommended for retention are:

- €# the concrete wall along Turner and Bath Streets (the barbed wire at the top can be removed);

- ☒ the wall to the rear of the Ryder Stand on Abbott Street; and
- ☒ the section of brick wall to the rear of the Sherrin Stand (which is part of the character and presentation of this stand to Lulie Street).

The remainder of the wall along Lulie and Abbott Streets can be removed, as can the non-concrete walls along Trenerry Crescent and part of Bath Street. New openings can be made, provided they are sensitively placed (such as utilising the existing bays between piers). It is also recommended that selected entrances (gate, turnstiles, ticket boxes) be kept in a retained section of wall (see 1.7 below). The walls should remain unpainted. An assessment of the structural condition of the retained wall sections should also be made.

## 1.8 ENTRANCES, EXITS, TURNSTILES &amp; TICKET BOXES



Figure 8 Various entrances, exits, turnstiles & ticket boxes at Victoria Park, including Bath Street (1, viewed from inside the ground), junction of Lulie & Turner Streets, inside the ground (2) and outside the ground (3), Lulie Street (4), Turner Street (5, viewed from outside the ground), and Abbott Street (6).

1.8.1 *Description*

A number of entrances, exits, turnstiles and ticket boxes are located around the perimeter of Victoria Park, including public entrances at the corner of Lulie and Turner Streets (see 3

above), and in Turner Street at the end of Rich Street (see 5 above). Seasons ticket and Collingwood Football Club members entrances are located on Lulie and Abbott Streets (see 4 and 6 above). These elements were constructed in different periods, utilised a variety of materials (including iron, timber, brick and reinforced concrete), are varied in form, and have been regularly upgraded. A number of steel roller doors (vehicle entrances and post-match exits) are additionally associated with these elements.

### 1.8.2 *History*

As with most of the functional elements of Victoria Park, various entrance gates and exits, ticket kiosks, and turnstiles have been introduced, upgraded and replaced over time. In 1901, eight 'automatic turnstiles' were installed (location unknown) and three years later a number of turnstiles were placed in 'more convenient positions'. The 1904 plan for the site indicates that openings or gates (including turnstiles) were located at most points where the (then) diagonal paths intersected with the perimeter of the oval. New entrance gates were also installed on Lulie Street in this early period, with additional gates on Bath Street in 1926, and on Turner Street in 1935. In 1957 the club introduced a new entrance ticketing system, whereby public patrons purchased their admission tickets from ticket boxes, prior to entering the ground through the turnstiles (the new system required employing additional staff). Other entrances added in the late 1950s included on Abbott Street (for members), and on Turner Street (at the end of Rich Street). A members exit (with roll-type exit gate and 'non-return exit') was installed on Lulie Street in the 1960s (it replaced an old wooden structure). More upgrading of entrances and exits occurred in the 1970s and 1980s, including an entrance on Lulie Street added in c.1974 to accommodate spectators arriving at the ground via the railway footbridge from the west.

### 1.8.3 *Significance*

The various entrance and exit gates, turnstiles and ticket boxes are of high historical and social significance, and of low aesthetic/architectural significance. They are generally utilitarian in character, and in terms of fabric have been upgraded and altered over time. The elements, however, nevertheless mark the various public and members entrances to the ground, and represent the point of arrival at Victoria Park for spectators, in anticipation of a game. They also contribute to the experience of attending a league football game. In this way they can be considered as iconic elements.

### 1.8.4 *Recommendations*

It is not necessary to retain all the existing entrances, turnstiles and ticket boxes, although it is recommended that several be retained in association with a retained section of wall. These include the entrance at the junction of Lulie and Turner Streets (see Figure 3 above), which is the principal entrance to the outer reserve, and the first entrance encountered when arriving at Victoria Park from Johnston Street to the south. The fabric of these elements should be refurbished and conserved. The remainder of the elements can be retained, upgraded or removed, as required.

## 1.9 SCOREBOARD



Figure 9 The scoreboard on the embankment at the eastern end of the ground.

1.9.1 *Description*

This is an elevated steel-framed structure on concrete pad footings, incorporating timber in the scoreboard face, and corrugated iron cladding to the sides. Signage is also affixed to the top and bottom edges of the scoreboard face.

1.9.2 *History*

From the earliest period of football use, Victoria Park has had a series of scoreboards located at elevated points around the ground, in both the members and general viewing areas. The current scoreboard in the outer (for football and cricket) dates from 1966, and was paid for by Dunlop Rubber. The company negotiated with the club to erect an advertising sign in a prominent position on the roof of the Social Club Stand (this is evident in Figure 13, Chapter 2), in exchange for constructing the new scoreboard in the outer. Various sponsors and advertisers have paid for signage space on the scoreboard over the years. The scoreboard was extended in the early 1980s.

1.9.3 *Significance*

The scoreboard is of historical interest as one in a long line of scoreboards (in various forms and materials) that have been installed at Victoria Park, and upgraded or replaced over the years. Although it is a utilitarian element, the scoreboard played an important functional role in terms of spectator experience of the ground.

1.9.4 *Recommendations*

The scoreboard should preferably be retained.

## 1.10 TIME CLOCK



Figure 10

1.10.1 *Description*

This is an elevated steel-framed structure on concrete pad footings. The clock face comprises metal panels, and incorporates signage.

1.10.2 *History*

Timekeeping is an essential requirement for any game of Australian rules football, with a prominent and visible clock located at various points around Victoria Park since the earliest days. The current quarter time clock was installed in the outer in 1966, and was sponsored by Prouds Jewellers and Omega.

1.10.3 *Significance*

The time clock is of historical interest as one of several elements at Victoria Park that have been used over the years to inform spectators of the progress of quarters.

1.10.4 *Recommendations*

The time clock should preferably be retained.

## 1.11 CARETAKER'S RESIDENCE



Figure 11 Caretaker's residence, corner Abbott Street & Trenerry Crescent

### 1.11.1 *Description*

The caretaker's residence is located on a small site in the north-east corner of the ground, near the junction of Abbott Street and Trenerry Crescent (to which it has street frontages). It is a c.1960s double-fronted brick veneer dwelling, with a hipped and tiled roof, a projecting bay on its north elevation, and metal-framed windows. A cyclone wire fence defines the street boundary, while a corrugated iron fence (topped with barbed wire) separates the site from the ground on its south side. (Only an external inspection was undertaken).

### 1.11.2 *History*

The first caretaker's cottage was constructed at Victoria Park in the early 1890s, on a site to the east of the current Social Club Stand (and to the rear of the later 1900 Women's Pavilion). By c.1930, another dwelling had been constructed, this time on the site of the current building. Few details are available about these earlier caretaker's dwellings. The current building is believed to have been constructed in the 1960s.

1.11.3 *Significance*

The caretaker's residence is of some historical interest as an element which has had several predecessors at Victoria Park, and which demonstrates the need for an on-site caretaker. Beyond that, however, the structure is of limited interest.

1.11.4 *Recommendations*

The structure can be retained, upgraded or removed as required. The fence surrounding the building could also be removed, including the fence that delineates and separates the building from the ground. Should these elements be demolished, the site should remain within the Victoria Park property boundary, in recognition of its historical association with the place. The site could also be used as open space.

## 1.12 EXTERNAL TOILET BLOCKS



Figure 12 Public conveniences at Victoria Park, adjacent to Lulie Street (1 & 2), beneath the Ryder Stand on Abbott Street (3), and at rear of the Rush Stand (4).

1.12.1 *Description*

The external toilet blocks at Victoria Park are located at various points around the ground, including behind the Ryder, Rush and Sherrin Stands, and in the concourse areas. They are utilitarian structures of mostly recent origin, having been replaced and upgraded, and are predominantly constructed of brick, with skillion and hipped roof forms.

1.12.2 *History*

Little information is available regarding the early external toilet facilities at Victoria Park, although new facilities were progressively added to the ground, and old facilities upgraded or replaced on a regular basis. A 1915 MMBW property service plan indicates toilets within the Victoria Park boundary, near the intersection of Trenerry Crescent and Bath Street. In the late 1920s works were undertaken to male and female toilets located on the site of the present Social Club building abutting Lulie Street (these were demolished in 1958), and at the junction of Abbott Street and Trenerry Crescent. Old toilet blocks abutting Lulie Street (in the outer) were also replaced in the late 1950s. Further upgrading and replacement of toilet facilities occurred in the 1970s and 1980s.

1.12.3 *Significance*

The external toilet facilities at Victoria Park are generally utilitarian structures, and of little or no individual historical, social or aesthetic/architectural significance.

1.12.4 *Recommendations*

The toilet facilities can be retained, upgraded or removed, as required.

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<sup>1</sup> The historical overviews are based on a review of historic photographs and plans of Victoria Park, together with information taken from Collingwood Football Club annual reports. Information has also been sourced from G McFarlane & M Roberts, *Collingwood at Victoria Park*, 1999, and Levy, W (ed) *Gordon Carlyon's Collingwood Football Club Scrapbook*, Collingwood Football Club Library & Archives Committee, 1997.

Appendix C Aerial Photographs (annotated)



Figure 1 1929 (oblique) aerial photograph.

The large structure on the left of the oval is the newly completed Ryder Stand (with the caretaker's dwelling above it, abutting Trenerry Crescent). The 1909 Members' Stand is at bottom left of the picture, with tennis courts to the rear left of this, and a press box/scoreboard between this and the 1909 stand and the Ryder Stand. The relocated 1892 stand is at bottom right. Note the wall encircling the grassed mound/embankment in the outer area (public reserve) along Turner and Bath Streets (on right of picture), with what appears to be landscaping and plantings between the wall and the street boundaries. Plantings are also evident along Lulie Street.

Source: State Library Victoria collection.

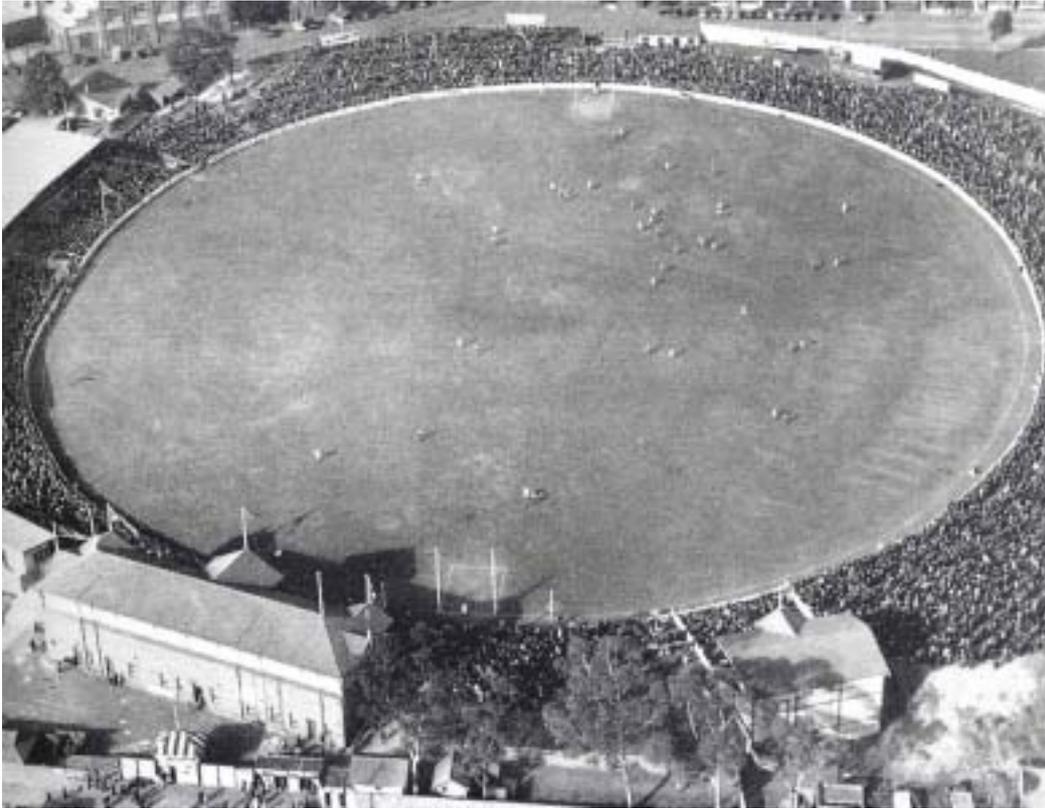


Figure 2 1939 (oblique) aerial photograph (taken during a match).

This image shows a cluster of small structures abutting Lulie Street and behind the 1909 Members' Stand (bottom of picture), including a small entrance pavilion (?) with a striped roof. The eucalypts in this part of the ground are clearly evident, as are the rear elevations of the 1909 and relocated 1892 stands. The press box/scoreboard building (?) is just evident to the left of the 1909 stand. Note also the high picket (?) fence in top right of picture, enclosing the outer area.

Source: McFarlane & Roberts, 1999.



Figure 3 1945 aerial photograph.

Although this is a poor quality image, the plantings on Lulie Street are again evident (bottom of picture), as is a cricket pitch in the centre of the oval, and practice wickets at right. The tennis courts in the bottom left corner of the site are also discernible. Note the wall abutting Bath Street and Trenerry Crescent (top of picture).

Source: Land Victoria



Figure 4 Late 1960s (oblique) aerial photograph.

This image was taken after (or still during) construction of the R T Rush Stand (along top of picture), and before the construction of the Sherrin Stand in 1969. The old 1909 Members' Stand (with striped roof) is evident at right of picture (it was replaced by the Sherrin Stand). The 1958 Social Club building is still in its original form. The 1966 scoreboard is also evident at bottom left of picture.

Source: McFarlane & Roberts, 1999.



Figure 5 1969 aerial photograph.

This photograph clearly illustrates the greater depth of the recently completed R T Rush Stand (top of picture) at its western end, and the Sherrin Stand as it was completed by this time on the right (the remaining southern section, up to the Rush Stand, was finished in c.1978).

Source: Land Victoria



Figure 6 1979 aerial photograph.

This photograph differs from the previous aerial image in that the southern section of the Sherrin Stand has been completed (note the section of new roof in bottom centre of picture).

Source: Land Victoria



Figure 7 1987 aerial photograph.

In this image, the junction in the Rush Stand between the concrete standing room only terraces, and the terraced seating, can be discerned (centre right of picture). The oval has also been extended at its eastern end (top of picture) by this time (in 1983), which accounts for the slightly elongated (egg) shape, when compared to the preceding Figure 6.

Source: Land Victoria

## Appendix D Chronological Overview of Development at Victoria Park

The following table provides a summary of the physical development of Victoria Park. The information is taken from a number of sources<sup>1</sup>, and from the aerial photographs reproduced in Appendix C.

Date	Description
1882	In March, Victoria Park opened as a sports ground. The Britannia Football Club was the first football club to play there in that year. Other junior football clubs, as well as local cricket clubs, also used the reserve in the 1880s.
mid-1880s	The Capulet Cricket Club erected a portable stand for spectators.
1890	Britannia Football Club was permitted for the first time to charge admission to a game at Victoria Park.
c.1891	In anticipation of the new Collingwood Football Club being admitted to the VFA, Collingwood Council spent 600 pounds bringing Victoria Park up to VFA standard. This involved levelling the ground, extending the playing surface by 30 yards, and erecting a picket fence around the oval.
1892	In early 1892, the playing surface was turned over, top dressed and sown with English grass, at a cost of nearly 100 pounds. An ‘incline’ (or embankment around the ground) was provided for spectator viewing. In May, Collingwood played its first VFA game against Carlton. The first timber grandstand, with 300 seats, some standing room, and a cramped training room underneath, was opened in mid-June. It was originally located near the site of the current Sherrin Stand, before being shifted further south in 1909. The structure was designed by William Pitt, and was partly funded through a prospectus issued to members of the new club.
1894	A clock was added to the grandstand.
1895	Works to the ground included improvements to the dressing rooms beneath the grandstand, and provision of a ‘well-fitted and commodious’ room, with shower baths and others conveniences attached, for visiting teams. The location of these additional facilities is not known.
1890s	Early images indicate a gravel track around the circumference of the oval, which is believed to have been used for cycling. At the height of the 1890s Depression, ‘needy souls’ in the Collingwood community stole timber fence pickets and seating from the ground, to use as firewood.

Late 1890s	The first caretaker's cottage was constructed within the ground, just to the east of the current Social Club Stand (on Abbott Street).
1898	The timber grandstand was painted, the floor was repaired, and additional seats were installed. Gardeners were also at work on Victoria Park, attempting to 'beautify' the ground.
1900	The Women's Pavilion was constructed, for the exclusive use of female supporters. It would later become the Smokers' Pavilion, and be known by fans as the 'Cowsheds'. The stand was demolished in 1928/29 to make way for the Ryder Stand.
Early 1900s	Historic photographs indicate that the goal posts at Victoria Park were painted with black and white bands, with black and white striped flags attached to the point posts.
c.1901	300 additional seats were added to the reserve, and the embankment around the ground was raised and widened. Eight 'automatic turnstiles' were also installed. It was estimated that 30,000 spectators could now see a game 'in comfort' at Victoria Park (although most would have to stand).
1904	A historic photograph indicates that a scoreboard had been erected at the ground. A Health Department plan shows that the 'Members' Enclosure' is located in the north-west corner of the ground (in the same area it currently is, although not as extensive), incorporating the 1892 stand and the 1900 Women's Pavilion. The outer area incorporates a 'formed earthen embankment' (which is defined by a fence) together with an 'inner slope', from which 'the spectators view the game'. Tennis courts (for community use?) are located at the junction of Lulie and Abbott Streets, with the caretaker's cottage to the rear of the Women's Pavilion. A series of diagonal paths (which appear to be remnants of the earlier path network laid out for the [pre-football] Victoria Park in Trenerry's original 1878 subdivision). Openings or gates (including turnstiles) appear to be located at most points where the paths meet the perimeter of the oval. A fence is marked around the entire perimeter of the site, and annotated 'barbed wire over fence'.
1904-5	The 1892 grandstand and fences were painted, the grandstand flooring was again attended to, two new gates were installed in Lulie Street, and turnstiles were placed in 'more convenient positions'.
1909	The 1892 timber stand was relocated to the public reserve area in the south-west corner of the ground, to make way for the new Members' Stand. The old stand was re-floored (again).
1909	The large new 1500 seat, brick Members' Stand was constructed (on the site of the current Sherrin Stand), with undercroft spaces. The architect was Thomas Watt, who was also responsible for an earlier stand in Maryborough (Central Victoria). Female seasons ticket holders could use the new stand, allowing the old Women's Pavilion to be used as a smokers' stand.
c.1912	Half of the Smokers' Pavilion was fenced off by Council, for the use of the Cricket Club.

1915	A MMBW property service plan indicates external toilet blocks within the Victoria Park boundary, near the intersection of Trenerry Crescent and Bath Street. The plan also shows that two triangular 'plantation' areas have been cut off at the north-east and south-east corners of Victoria Park by this time. These are currently occupied by the caretaker's residence (north-east) and the triangular pocket park at the corner of Turner and Bath Streets.
1920	A historic photograph shows plantings and other forms of landscape treatment, including stone retaining walls, in the pocket park at the corner of Turner and Bath Streets.
1926	Various improvements were made to the ground, including to the entrances on Bath Street. 'Two fine ramps' were erected (where?), and the embankment in the outer was enlarged (it was then estimated that the ground could hold 50,000 patrons by now, again with most of them standing).
1927	In June, planning commenced for the construction of a new stand on the north side of the ground, with provision for both the football and cricket clubs. It would replace the old Smokers' Pavilion. Works were undertaken to toilets located south of the tennis courts, abutting Lulie Street.
1928	Works were undertaken to toilets located at the junction of Abbott Street and Trenerry Crescent.
1929	The new 3000 plus seat Ryder Stand was completed (architects were Peck & Kemter). It was dissected by a wire fence from top to bottom, with one third of the stand allocated to the cricket club, and the remaining two thirds to the football club. The cricket club was responsible for naming the new facility after Jack Ryder, a Collingwood Cricket Club player, and Australian test captain. The football club sought to utilise undercroft space in the Ryder Stand, adjoining the cricket portion, for new clubrooms. The embankment around the ground was extended again. Urinals abutting Abbott Street, just east of the intersection with Lulie Street, were roofed over. The 'ornamental' concrete wall along Turner and Bath Streets was constructed at about this time. It replaced an old picket fence.
1930	A Health Department plan of the ground shows a press box (and scoreboard) between the Ryder and Members' Stands, with a bar adjacent to this. Another bar is located off Trenerry Crescent, adjacent to the caretaker's house, with another in the outer (off Bath Street), associated with the scoreboard. A series of toilet facilities are located around the ground. A paling fence marks the top of the viewing embankment in the outer, with 'gardens' located between this and the perimeter wall (which is marked as a concrete wall on the Turner Street boundary). Lawns and gardens are marked in the triangular park at the junction of Turner and Bath Streets. The caretaker's house is by now located in the north-east corner of the site, with a retaining wall behind the house (between it and the oval).

1935	Council spent c.8,000 pounds on the ground, including 5,000 pounds from the Government's Unemployment Relief Fund, to construct a new training room, medical room and toilets, under the 1909 Members' Stand. Some additional terracing was also undertaken in the outer. An additional entrance was also installed on Turner Street.
1936	A MMBW property services plan indicates the presence of a number of structures located near the junction of Abbott Street and Trenerry Crescent, to the east of the Ryder Stand. These structures include a bar. The caretaker's dwelling has associated outbuildings, within a fenced area. New football clubrooms were opened under the Ryder Stand.
1938-9	A historic photograph shows that a white-face scoreboard (with black letters/numerals) was in use at this time.
1942	Victoria Park was (briefly) taken over by the army (WWII occupation), and the ground was locked for the first time (the army padlocked the gates for security purposes). The football club continued to do this thereafter. A MMBW plan indicates that a bar was located at the west end of the Ryder Stand.
1950s	Another (elevated) white-face scoreboard is evident in photographs.
1951	The old 1892 timber grandstand was demolished. The old 'dilapidated wooden fence' around the playing arena was replaced with a 'reinforced wire fence'. The bar space at the end of the training room (in the Ryder Stand) was refurbished for clubroom purposes, including use as a supper room for social functions, a gymnasium on training nights, and for table tennis and other indoor games. A report on sanitary conditions at the ground in this year lists the various refreshments available in and just outside Victoria Park on match days. In addition to alcohol, patrons could buy (inside the ground), soft drinks and packeted sweets, and 'savs' with sauce (saveloys); donuts, soft drinks and sweets, peanuts, and more 'savs' and 'sodden rolls', could be purchased from vendors positioned outside the ground.
1953	The old tennis courts were by this time in a poor state, and were being used for carparking.
1957	A brick wall (337 feet long, 14 feet high) was constructed along Lulie Street, to replace the old galvanised iron fence. The old male and female toilet blocks were replaced. New entrances were also introduced, and 5000 feet of concrete terracing was laid down in the outer. Repairs were also made to all the grandstands, and the playing surface was top-dressed and re-seeded. The club introduced a new entrance ticketing system, whereby public patrons purchased their admission tickets from ticket boxes, prior to entering the ground through the turnstiles (this system required employing additional staff). New retaining walls were also added to the outer.

1958	<p>The old press box, cricket scoreboard and ladies toilets, sited between the 1909 Members' Stand and the Ryder Stand, were demolished to make way for the new Social Club Stand. The new structure would also be constructed over most of the old tennis courts, at the corner of Lulie and Abbott Streets.</p> <p>New male and female toilets were added to the outer.</p> <p>A new entrance on Abbott Street was provided for members, and the adjacent area was terraced. Members also had use of a new outdoor bar.</p> <p>Further terracing was added to the outer.</p>
1959	<p>The new three-storey Social Club Stand (known as the S A Coventry Pavilion), was opened (architects were Robert H McIntyre &amp; Associates). The new building consisted of administration spaces, a viewing area, bars and function rooms with press, radio, television and timekeepers accommodated on the roof area. The entrance foyer was named as the J F McHale Hall of Fame. The structure incorporated a sloping concrete stand with seating for 1250 members.</p> <p>A new entrance was installed on Turner Street (at the end of Rich Street), a new cyclone wire gate was built on Turner Street, and the old press box in the outer was refitted as a refreshment booth. The Ryder Stand roof was repaired.</p>
1960	<p>Further terracing was added to the outer.</p> <p>The Ryder Stand roof was painted.</p> <p>The dressing rooms and toilet block used by the Cricket Club and visiting teams were refurbished (in the 1909 Members' Stand?).</p>
1960-1	<p>The playing surface was 'reconstructed' over summer, including the removal of all the turf (cut and rolled up into seven foot lengths), resurfacing the ground area underneath, and then re-laying the turf in its original location. This was apparently the first time such a method was used on an oval of this size in Australia, at a cost of 7,000 pounds, with over 20 men working on the project, which took two months to complete.</p> <p>The centre of the oval was also raised by up to nine inches to provide for a gradual fall to the drainage at the oval edge.</p>
1961	<p>Terracing in the outer was completed.</p>
1962	<p>Dry conditions in late summer, followed by heavy rains in autumn, and then the onset of the football season, caused problems with the surface of the newly relayed oval, and more work was required the following summer. Additional agricultural pipes were also installed.</p> <p>A new galvanised iron and timber fence was installed along part of the Bath Street boundary, with similar work near the Lulie Street entrance.</p> <p>The players dressing rooms in the Ryder Stand were refurbished.</p>
1963-4	<p>More works to the oval surface were required (the club spent in the order of 50,000 pounds in the first half of the 1960s, doing works to the oval).</p>
1963	<p>A new members entrance (with roll-type exit gate and 'non-return exit') was installed on Lulie Street (it replaced the old wooden entrance).</p> <p>Repairs were made to the Ryder Stand roof.</p> <p>The asphalt and concrete at the rear of the old 1909 Members' Stand were repaired.</p>
1964	<p>Work on the new R T Rush Stand commenced.</p>

1965	<p>Dunlop Rubber negotiated with the club to erect a sign on the Social Club Stand, in return for funding a new scoreboard (for football and cricket) in the outer. 1,000 feet of agricultural drains were installed on the oval, with a barrel drain installed to accommodate drainage from the new R T Rush Stand.</p> <p>Toilets were upgraded in the visiting team's rooms.</p> <p>An office for caterers' use was installed under the viewing area of the Social Club Stand.</p>
1966	<p>The R T Rush Stand was completed in the outer, to a design by McIntyre &amp; McIntyre. It was 700 feet long, of concrete and steel girder construction, and had a cantilevered roof. It incorporated concrete terraces, with minimal seating at this stage (principally abutting the boundary fence).</p> <p>The new Dunlop Rubber sponsored scoreboard was erected on the outer embankment at the eastern end of the ground, from where it was visible to all parts of the ground. The scoreboard also provided scores from other league games, horse racing results, and details on match umpires. In the cricket season, the facility displayed information on match scores, with batsmen and bowlers' figures.</p> <p>A new quarter time clock (the current one) was also installed in the outer (sponsored by Prouds Jewellers and Omega).</p>
1968	<p>This was a drought year, and required the transfer of waste industrial water to Victoria Park, to maintain the oval. The trucks used for this purpose damaged the oval surface.</p> <p>The old 1909 Members' Stand was demolished to make way for the Sherrin Stand.</p> <p>\$5,000 was spent on refurbishing and refitting the players' training rooms in the Ryder Stand, into a fully fledged gymnasium (which was able to be used by members, when not needed by players).</p>
1969	<p>The large Sherrin Stand was completed, and had training and committee rooms in the undercroft, 1800 members seats under cover, and another 700 seats in the open area in front of the stand. Funds were raised through issuing debentures and through the sale of additional reserved seating for members. The architects were Peter McIntyre &amp; Associates.</p> <p>The old curator's cottage was demolished and replaced by a new five-roomed brick dwelling (built by J &amp; J Synon, of Reservoir).</p> <p>Works to the Social Club Stand included roof repairs (the concrete roof was cracked and leaking), and some interior refitting of the billiards room on the first floor, and the entertainment room on the second floor.</p> <p>Floodlighting was installed in the members' carpark.</p>
1971	<p>The kitchen in the Social Club was renovated.</p> <p>The players' training rooms and bathroom in the Ryder Stand were also renovated.</p>
1973	<p>Additional floodlighting was installed on the R T Rush Stand (to assist with training during the winter months).</p> <p>The retaining wall at the Bath Street end of the ground was reconstructed.</p> <p>A sauna room was installed in the players' gymnasium under the Ryder Stand.</p>

1974	<p>New access stairs were added to the top level at the rear of each end of the Ryder Stand. 26 private boxes were also installed in the stand, which were to be made available for reservation by members.</p> <p>A new gate was constructed on Lulie Street, to accommodate supporters arriving via the crossover from Victoria Park station.</p> <p>A souvenir sales kiosk was installed.</p> <p>New windows were introduced into the office areas of the Social Club Stand.</p> <p>The members' viewing area (in front of the Social Club Stand) was extended, to help relieve congestion. Seating was also introduced to the concrete terracing in front of the building.</p> <p>Additional terraced seating was installed in front of the Ryder Stand.</p>
1975	<p>Problems with the roof of the Social Club Stand, which 'is not and has never been leak proof', required its total replacement. The panels on the exterior of the building also required attention, as some were coming loose in strong winds. The interior of the building was also subjected to some refurbishment and redecorating.</p> <p>A new players' race was constructed in the Ryder Stand (or the old one upgraded?).</p> <p>The training rooms were refurbished (painting, floor coverings, curtains), as was the crèche (Child Minding Centre) in the Ryder Stand.</p>
1976	A new toilet block was constructed in the outer.
1977	<p>The Ryder Stand was re-roofed.</p> <p>The male toilet block at the rear of this stand was demolished and replaced. New terraced seating was introduced to the open area at the east end of the Ryder Stand.</p>
1977-8	The Sherrin Stand was extended to the south, to provide an additional 1000 seats, plus extra players and umpires rooms.
1978	<p>A new turnstile entrance was provided on Lulie Street for Social Club members.</p> <p>Backs were introduced to the reserved seating in the Ryder Stand.</p>
1979	<p>The female toilet block on Lulie Street was refurbished.</p> <p>A new coach's box, with TV cameras and commentators facilities, was introduced to the roof of the Ryder Stand.</p> <p>New football administration offices were introduced to the undercroft of the Ryder Stand.</p>
1980-1	During a very wet winter, the oval deteriorated to its worst condition in many years. Additional agricultural drains were installed. McCutcheon Oval at Yarra Bend was also made available to the club for training, with the club meeting the cost of installing lights at the oval (\$22,000).
1981	A fourth and partial fifth level (with additional office accommodation and members' facilities) were added to the Social Club Stand, and a new elevator installed.
1981-2	Private boxes were added to the Ryder, Sherrin and Rush Stands.
1982	<p>The players' gymnasium was upgraded, new equipment was installed, and a new spa and sauna were installed.</p> <p>The bistro in the Social Club Stand was redecorated.</p>

	The oval was subjected to a major revamp (reseeded and top dressed). Toilets around the ground were repainted, with turnstiles, fencing, seating and boxes repaired.
1983	<p>Over 1600 seats, plus 643 'debenture' seats, and 42 private boxes were introduced to the R T Rush Stand.</p> <p>The oval was extended at its eastern end, to bring its size in line with that of the MCG and VFL Park. This required substantial works to this part of the ground, both to the oval proper, and the embankment area behind. The works included removing and replacing the oval fence, drains, pipes, sprinkler system and pits; relocating a trainers box; demolishing and rebuilding retaining walls; moving elevated signs; undertaking earthworks; and reconstructing elements of the walls along Bath Street and Trenerry Crescent. The scoreboard was also extended at this time.</p> <p>The new fourth level of the Social Club was completed and fitted out, together with second floor alterations and improvements.</p> <p>A new ground sound system was introduced.</p> <p>The office areas in the Social Club Stand were upgraded and redecorated, as was the ground floor souvenir shop.</p>
1984	A severe storm damaged the Ryder Stand, including severe damage to the roof (which required partial replacement).
1989	A new glazed viewing area (which was 'hung' from the second floor) added to the front of the Social Club Stand was named in honour of Bob Rose.
1997	Iron entrance gates were added to the Social Club carpark, and were paid for by the women's coterie group, the Dolly Greys.
1999	The Collingwood Football Club played its last game at Victoria Park on 28 August 1999.

<sup>1</sup> The information in the table is taken from Collingwood Football Club *Annual Reports*, 1892-1970; documents and correspondence held in the CFC archives; Taylor, *Collingwood Football Club 1892 to 1948 - Story of the Magpies*, 1949; Collingwood Football Club, *History and 1974 Year Book*; Collingwood Football Club, *Magpies Photo Album*, 1966; Levy W (ed) *Gordon Carlyon's Collingwood Football Club Scrapbook*, 1997; McFarlane & Roberts, *Collingwood at Victoria Park*, 1999; Stremski, *Kill for Collingwood*, Sydney, 1986. Information contained in former MMBW property service plans has also been utilised, as have drawings for various buildings and elements at Victoria Park, as held in the Health Department records at the PRO.