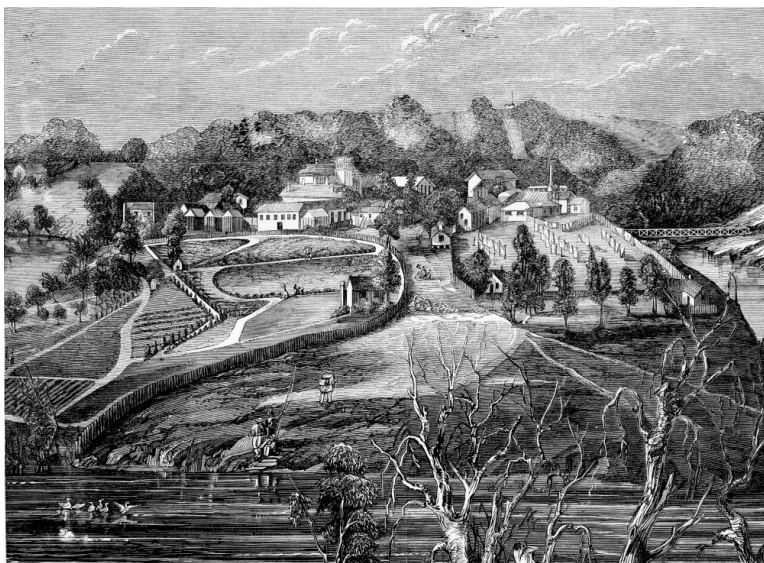


Recommendation of the Executive Director and assessment of cultural heritage significance under Part 3, Division 3 of the *Heritage Act 2017*

HERITAGE
VICTORIA
HERITAGE
VICTORIA
HERITAGE
VICTORIA

Name	Yarra Bend Park
Location	Yarra Bend Road, Fairfield, City of Yarra
Provisional VHR Number	PROV H2398
Provisional VHR Categories	Registered Place/Registered Archaeological Place
Hermes Number	5968
Existing Heritage Overlay	City of Yarra, HO147, HO300, HO301, HO302 and HO307



1868, Yarra Bend Asylum for the Insane.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RECOMMENDATION TO THE HERITAGE COUNCIL:

That Yarra Bend Park be included in the Victorian Heritage Register under the *Heritage Act 2017* [Section 37(1)(a)] as:

- Registered Place
- Registered Archaeological Place

This report may contain images and/or names of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are now deceased.

STEVEN AVERY
Executive Director

Recommendation Date: Monday 20 January 2020

Advertising Period: Friday 24 January 2020 – Monday 23 March 2020

This recommendation report has been issued by the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria under s.37 of the *Heritage Act 2017*.

EXTENT OF NOMINATION

Date that the nomination was accepted by the Executive Director
19 September 2019.

Written extent of nomination

All of the land in yellow, as shown in Figure 1.

Nomination extent diagram

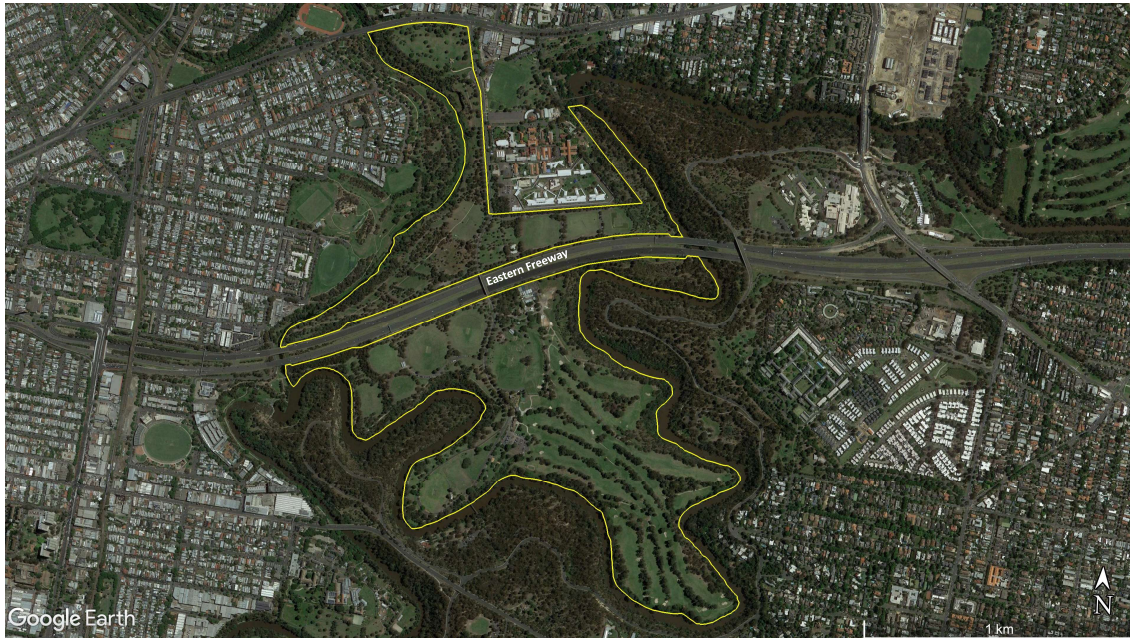


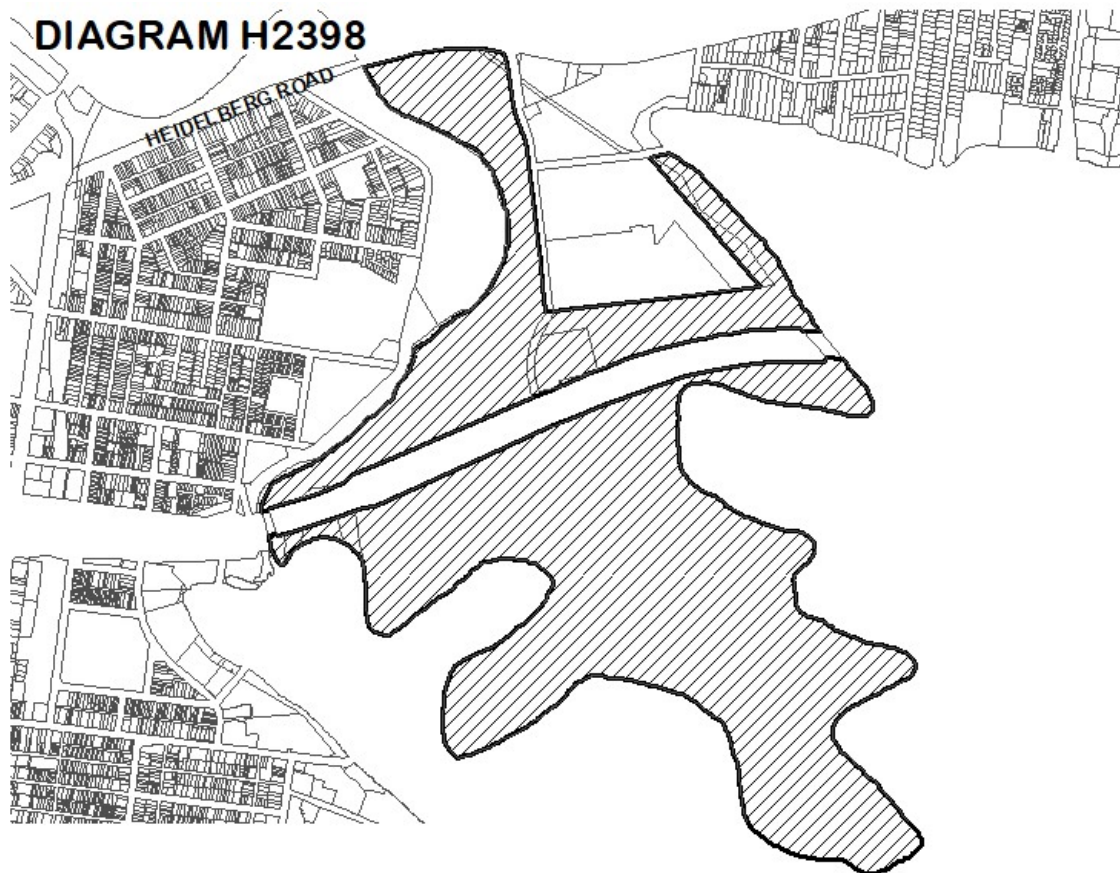
Figure 1: 2019 Google Earth image showing proposed extent of Yarra Bend Park (yellow).

Is the extent of nomination the same as the recommended extent?

Yes.

RECOMMENDED REGISTRATION

All of the place shown hatched in Diagram 2398 encompassing all of Crown Allotments 113F, 113J, 113L, 113M, 113N, 113P, 113Q Parish of Jika Jika and part of Crown Allotment 113E Parish of Jika Jika.



The recommended extent of registration of Yarra Bend Park in the Victorian Heritage Register affects the whole place shown on Diagram 2398 including the land, archaeological features, buildings and structures, roads, trees, landscape elements and other features. This contains areas of known and likely archaeological deposits and sufficient land to reflect the history and protect the cultural heritage significance of the place.

RATIONALE FOR EXTENT

The proposed extent:

1. Is naturally bounded by the Yarra River (south, east and west), Merri Creek (west) and Heidelberg Road (north), and includes the land historically reserved for government/public use.
2. Encompasses areas of post-contact Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal significance, including the Merri Creek Protectorate Station, Merri Creek Aboriginal School and the Native Police Corps Headquarters (1842-1852).
3. Encompasses all the area historically documented as the grounds of the former Yarra Bend Lunatic Asylum, including areas adapted by the asylum, and/or later re-used by subsequent government institutions and for associated recreational activities.
4. Excludes areas reserved by the Fairfield Hospital (VHR1878) (c.1901) and Fairfield Park (c.1912), which co-existed with, but demonstrated a clear physical and thematic separation from the Yarra Bend Asylum during the years of its operation (c.1848-1927).

AERIAL PHOTO OF THE PLACE SHOWING PROPOSED REGISTRATION



Name: Yarra Bend Park
Hermes Number: 5968

BACKGROUND

WHAT IS AT THE PLACE?

Yarra Bend Park is characterised by open parkland and recreational areas including a golf course and club house, sporting ovals, picnic areas, playgrounds, Parks Victoria administration buildings, fly fishing ponds, a plant nursery and walking tracks. The place is bounded by Heidelberg Road to the north, the Yarra River to the south, east and west, and the Merri Creek to the west. It is bisected by the Eastern Freeway.

Surface remains from the former Yarra Bend Lunatic Asylum and subsequent institutions include a gate pillar and artefact scatters (glass, ceramic and brick). Vegetation growth and landscape undulations indicate the strong likelihood of sub-surface archaeological features relating to the former Merri Creek Protectorate Station (c.1842-1851), Merri Creek Aboriginal School (c.1845-1851), Native Police Corps Headquarters (1842-1843), Yarra Bend Lunatic Asylum (c.1848-1927), Fairhaven Venereal Disease Clinic (c.1926-1951) and Fairlea Women's Prison (c.1954-1996).

WHAT IS THE HISTORY OF THE PLACE?

In the late 1830s, land including Yarra Bend Park was made a government reserve. This area became the location for several government institutions in the 1840s, beginning at the confluence of Merri Creek and the Yarra River with the former Merri Creek Protectorate Station, the Native Police Corps Headquarters and the Merri Creek Aboriginal School. From 1848, the government reserve was also occupied by the Yarra Bend Lunatic Asylum and associated grounds, with the original complex of buildings established in the western loop of the Yarra River. The complex had expanded into the present-day Fairlea Reserve by the mid-1880s and remained in operation until its closure in 1924. In 1927, several buildings of the now-decommissioned Asylum were adapted for use by the Fairhaven Venereal Disease Clinic while others were demolished in preparation for the use of the place as a park and a golf course. The Fairhaven Venereal Disease Clinic closed in 1951 and from 1954, was reused as the Fairlea Women's Prison. The construction of the Eastern Freeway (c.1973) resulted in the bisection of Yarra Bend Park and the removal of surviving Asylum infrastructure within the road corridor. The confluence of the Yarra River and Merri Creek was also altered, possibly resulting in the destruction of elements associated with the Aboriginal institutions, and of the burial site of Billibellary, Ngurungaeta (leader) of the Woi wurrung. Improvements to the Prison's facilities in the mid-1980s resulted in further demolition and removal of all remaining historical structures except one gate pillar. In 1996, the Prison was closed. All remaining buildings and structures were demolished and the area was landscaped and incorporated into the surrounding parkland. The place is now primarily open parkland with infrastructure associated with active and passive recreational activities.

WHO ARE THE TRADITIONAL OWNERS/REGISTERED ABORIGINAL PARTY(IES) FOR THIS PLACE?

This site is part of the traditional land of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people. The Registered Aboriginal Party under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* for the area on which this place exists is the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Aboriginal Corporation.

STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

WHAT IS SIGNIFICANT?

The Yarra Bend Park including all the land, trees, plantings, open parkland, roads and paths, asylum gate pillar, golf club house and course, and all archaeological deposits associated with the former Merri Creek Protectorate Station, Merri Creek Aboriginal School, Native Police Corps Headquarters, the Yarra Bend Lunatic Asylum, Fairhaven Venereal Disease Clinic and Fairlea Women's Prison.

HOW IS IT SIGNIFICANT?

Yarra Bend Park is of historical and archaeological significance to the State of Victoria. It satisfies the following criterion for inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Register:

Criterion A

Importance to the course, or pattern, of Victoria's cultural history.

Criterion B

Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Victoria's cultural history.

Criterion C

Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Victoria's cultural history.

WHY IS IT SIGNIFICANT?

Yarra Bend Park is significant at the State level for the following reasons:

Yarra Bend Park is historically significant for its associations with a number of government initiated and/or operated institutions from the mid-nineteenth to the late-twentieth centuries and for its long association with active and passive recreational use. **[Criterion A]**

Aboriginal cultural connection pre-existed the formation of Melbourne by tens of thousands of years. Yarra Bend Park is historically significant as a place of contact and interaction between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in the formative years of Victoria's development. This resulted in the establishment of institutions near the confluence of Merri Creek and the Yarra River, including the Merri Creek Protectorate Station, Merri Creek Aboriginal School and Native Police Corps Headquarters. **[Criterion A]**

Yarra Bend Park is significant for its associations with Billibellary, Ngurungaeta (leader) of the Woiwurrung (who was buried near the confluence of the Yarra River and Merri Creek in 1846) and Assistant Protector William Thomas. Their mutually respectful relationship, which extended to Billibellary's son Simon Wonga, was instrumental in the negotiation of land for Aboriginal people, which led to the establishment of Coranderrk Aboriginal Station near Healesville. **[Criterion A]**

Yarra Bend Park is significant as the location of Victoria's first asylum. The Metropolitan Lunatic Asylum, later known as the Yarra Bend Lunatic Asylum, was the first asylum established in Victoria in 1848 and was constructed in a 'village style'. **[Criterion A]**

Yarra Bend Park is historically significant for the ongoing development of facilities for active and passive recreational use, including open parkland, walking tracks and sporting grounds. **[Criterion A]**

Yarra Bend Park is an uncommon example of an expansive inner-city area which has remained largely undeveloped and retains a high potential for significant archaeological evidence of government initiated and/or operated institutions. **[Criterion B]**

Yarra Bend Park is archaeologically significant for its potential to contain features, deposits and/or artefacts that relate to various government initiated and/or operated institutions, their establishment, use and change over time, and landscape and garden features. As a place of intensive institutional use, Yarra Bend Park has a high potential to contain a well-preserved and distinct historical archaeological landscape, which has high potential to provide information which is not currently understood. **[Criterion C]**

RECOMMENDATION REASONS

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDING INCLUSION IN THE VICTORIAN HERITAGE REGISTER [s.40]

Following is the Executive Director's assessment of the place against the tests set out in *The Victorian Heritage Register Criteria and Thresholds Guidelines (2014)*.

CRITERION A

Importance to the course, or pattern, of Victoria's cultural history.

STEP 1: A TEST FOR SATISFYING CRITERION A

The place/object has a *CLEAR ASSOCIATION* with an event, phase, period, process, function, movement, custom or way of life in Victoria's cultural history.

Plus

The association of the place/object to the event, phase, etc *IS EVIDENT* in the physical fabric of the place/object and/or in documentary resources or oral history.

Plus

The *EVENT, PHASE, etc* is of *HISTORICAL IMPORTANCE*, having made a strong or influential contribution to Victoria.

Executive Director's Response

Yarra Bend Park has a clear association with government initiated and/or operated institutions since the 1840s. These include the former Merri Creek Protectorate Station, Merri Creek Aboriginal School, Native Police Corps Headquarters, the Yarra Bend Lunatic Asylum, Fairhaven Venereal Disease Clinic and Fairlea Women's Prison. It has also been used as public space for active and passive recreational activities since the 1920s.

These functions and uses are evident in the physical fabric of the place through land formations, remnant vegetation, formal plantings and landscaping, archaeological remains including exposed features and surface artefacts, the Yarra Bend Golf club house and course, sporting facilities, walking tracks and open parkland. They are also evident in documentary resources including maps, newspaper articles and images.

These functions and uses are of historical importance, having made influential contributions to Victoria. The Aboriginal institutions contributed to an understanding of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal relationships in the mid-nineteenth century. The former use of the place as an asylum, clinic and prison contributed to an understanding of the management of mental health, disease treatment and criminal justice from the mid-nineteenth century. The recreational use of the places demonstrates changing approaches to recreation from the 1920s to the present day.

Criterion A is likely to be satisfied.

STEP 2: STATE LEVEL SIGNIFICANCE TEST FOR CRITERION A

The place/object allows the clear association with the event, phase etc. of historical importance to be *UNDERSTOOD BETTER THAN MOST OTHER PLACES OR OBJECTS IN VICTORIA WITH SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME ASSOCIATION.*

Executive Director's Response

Yarra Bend Park, through the physical fabric and archaeological and documentary evidence, allows the association with the various government institutions formerly located at the place, and with the development of active and passive recreational activities to be understood better than most other places with substantially the same associations.

The government initiated and/or operated institutions at the place were among the earliest in Victoria, and archaeological evidence has the potential to provide a better understanding of this phase of Victoria's history.

Infrastructure to support recreational activities has developed over time and demonstrates the changing approach to recreation during the twentieth century.

Criterion A is likely to be satisfied at the State level.

CRITERION B

Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Victoria's cultural history.

STEP 1: A TEST FOR SATISFYING CRITERION B

The place/object has a *clear ASSOCIATION* with an event, phase, period, process, function, movement, custom or way of life of importance in Victoria's cultural history.

Plus

The association of the place/object to the event, phase, etc *IS EVIDENT* in the physical fabric of the place/object and/or in documentary resources or oral history.

Plus

The place/object is *RARE OR UNCOMMON*, being one of a small number of places/objects remaining that demonstrates the important event, phase etc.

OR

The place/object is *RARE OR UNCOMMON*, containing unusual features of note that were not widely replicated

OR

The existence of the *class* of place/object that demonstrates the important event, phase etc is *ENDANGERED* to the point of rarity due to threats and pressures on such places/objects.

Executive Director's Response

Yarra Bend Park has a clear association with the early development of government initiated and/or operated institutions in Victoria. This association is evident in the physical fabric of the place, archaeological remains and in documentary evidence. Yarra Bend Park is an uncommon example of an expansive inner-city area which was the location of various institutions from the 1840s to the 1990s. It has remained largely undeveloped since the demolition of the nineteenth century buildings in the 1920s. Because of this, there is a strong likelihood that the place retains significant archaeological evidence that is not widely replicated at other places.

Criterion B is likely to be satisfied.

STEP 2: STATE LEVEL SIGNIFICANCE TEST FOR CRITERION B

The place/object is *RARE, UNCOMMON OR ENDANGERED* within Victoria.

Executive Director's Response

Yarra Bend Park is rare as one of few surviving places in Victoria where archaeological evidence from Victoria's formative years remains largely undisturbed, particularly in comparison to other urban areas where substantial twentieth century development has occurred.

Criterion B is likely to be satisfied at the State level.

CRITERION C

Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Victoria's cultural history.

STEP 1: A TEST FOR SATISFYING CRITERION C

The:

- visible physical fabric; &/or
- documentary evidence; &/or
 - oral history,

relating to the place/object indicates a likelihood that the place/object contains *PHYSICAL EVIDENCE of historical interest* that is *NOT CURRENTLY VISIBLE OR UNDERSTOOD*.

Plus

From what we know of the place/object, the physical evidence is likely to be of an *INTEGRITY* and/or *CONDITION* that it *COULD YIELD INFORMATION* through detailed investigation.

Executive Director's Response

The physical fabric and documentary evidence of Yarra Bend Park indicates a strong likelihood that the place contains physical evidence of historical interest that is not currently visible or understood. There is very high potential for surviving archaeological evidence including remnant foundational features and associated deposits and/or artefacts which relate to the various institutions formerly located at the place. From what is known from prior archaeological excavation, the physical evidence (archaeology) is likely to provide information of historical interest that is not currently visible or understood. It is also likely to be of an integrity and condition that could yield information through detailed investigation.

Criterion C is likely to be satisfied.

STEP 2: STATE LEVEL SIGNIFICANCE TEST FOR CRITERION C

The knowledge that might be obtained through investigation is likely to *MEANINGFULLY CONTRIBUTE* to an understanding of Victoria's cultural history.

Plus

The information likely to be yielded from the place/object is *not* already *well documented* or *readily available* from other sources.

Executive Director's Response

Yarra Bend Park has the potential to provide knowledge relating to various government institutions, including the former Merri Creek Protectorate Station, Merri Creek Aboriginal School, Native Police Corps Headquarters and the Yarra Bend Lunatic Asylum, Fairhaven Venereal Disease Clinic and Fairlea Women's Prison. The information likely to be yielded through archaeological investigation, will meaningfully contribute to an understanding of Victoria's early history and is not already well documented or readily available from other sources.

Criterion C is likely to be satisfied at the State level.

CRITERION D

Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural places and objects.

STEP 1: A TEST FOR SATISFYING CRITERION D

The place/object is one of a *CLASS* of places/objects that has a *clear ASSOCIATION* with an event, phase, period, process, function, movement, important person(s), custom or way of life in Victoria's history.

Plus

The *EVENT, PHASE, etc* is of *HISTORICAL IMPORTANCE*, having made a strong or influential contribution to Victoria.

Plus

The principal characteristics of the class are *EVIDENT* in the physical fabric of the place/object.

Executive Director's Response

Yarra Bend Park has a clear association with the classes of government institutions and recreational activities, both of which have made important contributions to Victoria. Archaeological investigation is likely to provide a better understanding of the place, however, the principal characteristics of the class of government institutions are not currently evident at the place.

The principal characteristics of recreational activities are evident in the parkland setting, which was set-aside as public open parkland and later for formalised recreation which is represented by the golf course and club house (c.1936), sporting ovals, picnic areas, playgrounds, fly fishing ponds and a plant nursery.

Criterion D is likely to be satisfied for recreational activities.

STEP 2: STATE LEVEL SIGNIFICANCE TEST CRITERION D

The place/object is a *NOTABLE EXAMPLE* of the class in Victoria (refer to Reference Tool D).

Executive Director's Response

The recreational activities at Yarra Bend Park are defined by open parkland, walking tracks and sporting facilities. The open parkland, the golf course and club house, and the ovals are the earliest recreational facilities at the place. The golf course has been modified a number of times and no longer represents the original design. The open parkland and other sporting facilities are typical of such facilities in other locations and cannot be considered notable. The development of Yarra Bend Park was not influential or pivotal, as many parks were established in Victoria at earlier dates.

Criterion D is not likely to be satisfied at the State level.

CRITERION E

Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics.

STEP 1: A TEST FOR SATISFYING CRITERION E

The *PHYSICAL FABRIC* of the place/object clearly exhibits particular aesthetic characteristics.

Executive Director's Response

Yarra Bend Park exhibits aesthetic characteristics through its open parklands, landscapes and recreational areas initially designed by Hugh Linaker in 1930. Landscape features including areas of dense native vegetation, formal plantings, undulating topography and the proximity to the Yarra River contribute to the aesthetic qualities of the place. The enclosed nature of the place, bounded by the Yarra River on most sides informed Linaker's plan, and prior to that, the location and layout of the 'village style' Yarra Bend Lunatic Asylum.

Criterion E is likely to be satisfied.

STEP 2: STATE LEVEL SIGNIFICANCE TEST FOR CRITERION E

The aesthetic characteristics are *APPRECIATED OR VALUED* by the wider community or an appropriately-related discipline as evidenced, for example, by:

- *critical recognition* of the aesthetic characteristics of the place/object within a relevant art, design, architectural or related discipline as an outstanding example within Victoria; or
- wide public *acknowledgement of exceptional merit* in Victoria in medium such as songs, poetry, literature, painting, sculpture, publications, print media etc.

Executive Director's Response

Yarra Bend Park is appreciated and valued by the community for its landscape setting and recreational activities. However the aesthetic characteristics of the place have not received critical recognition within a relevant art, design, architectural or related discipline as an outstanding example within Victoria. Hugh Linaker's landscape designs are better recognised elsewhere including places in the VHR such as Caloola (Former Sunbury Mental Hospital) (VHR H0937), the Pioneer Women's Memorial Garden – Domain Parklands (VHR H2404) and Buchan Caves Reserve (VHR H1978).

Criterion E is not likely to be satisfied at the State level.

CRITERION F

Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period.

STEP 1: A TEST FOR SATISFYING CRITERION F

The place/object contains *PHYSICAL EVIDENCE* that clearly demonstrates creative or technical *ACHIEVEMENT* for the time in which it was created.

Plus

The physical evidence demonstrates a *HIGH DEGREE OF INTEGRITY*.

Executive Director's Response

There are no above-ground structures which contain physical evidence that clearly demonstrates creative or technical achievement for the time in which the place was used. There is no documentary evidence to suggest that any of the below-ground elements would contain creative or technological achievement for the time in which the place was created.

Criterion F is not likely to be satisfied.

CRITERION G

Strong or special association with a particular present-day community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.

STEP 1: A BASIC TEST FOR SATISFYING CRITERION G

Evidence exists of a community or cultural group.
(*A community or cultural group is a group of people who share a common interest, including an experience, purpose, belief system, culture, ethnicity or values.*)

Plus

Evidence exists of a strong attachment between the COMMUNITY OR CULTURAL GROUP and the place/object in the present-day context.

Plus

Evidence exists of a time depth to that attachment.

Executive Director's Response

The Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Council, Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation, Birrarung Council and Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation were contacted regarding this nomination.

Aboriginal cultural connection to the land which is now known as Yarra Bend Park pre-existed the formation of Victoria and Melbourne by tens of thousands of years. The Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people are the Traditional Owners of the land on which Yarra Bend Park is located. Like all places located on Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung country, there is an attachment between the place and the Traditional Owners. There may be a stronger attachment to the area near the confluence of the Yarra River and Merri Creek, where institutions for Aboriginal people were located, and where Billibellary was thought to be buried.

Criterion G is likely to be satisfied.

STEP 2: STATE LEVEL SIGNIFICANCE TEST CRITERION G

Evidence exists that the social value resonates at a State Level,
that is across the 'broader Victorian community'.
*('Resonance' means the extent to which the social value of a place/object
can be demonstrated to exert an influence. The social value must resonate beyond a particular local,
social or cultural community into the 'broader Victorian community').*

Plus

Evidence exists that the social value is part of an event or story that contributes to 'Victoria's
identity.

Executive Director's Response

The social value of Yarra Bend Park may be strong for the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people, however there is no known evidence that the social value resonates across the broader Victorian community.

Criterion G is not likely to be satisfied at the State Level.

CRITERION H

Special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in Victoria's history.

STEP 1: A TEST FOR SATISFYING CRITERION H

The place/object has a *DIRECT ASSOCIATION* with a person or group of persons who have made a
strong or influential *CONTRIBUTION* to the course of Victoria's history.

Plus

The *ASSOCIATION* of the place/object to the person(s) *IS EVIDENT* in the physical fabric of the
place/object and/or in documentary resources and/or oral history.

Plus

The *ASSOCIATION*:

- directly relates to *ACHIEVEMENTS* of the person(s) at, or relating to, the place/object; or
- relates to an *enduring* and/or *close INTERACTION* between the person(s) and the place/object.

Executive Director's Response

Yarra Bend Park has a direct association with many individuals who have made a strong contribution to the course of Victoria's history including:

- Billibellary, Ngurungaeta (leader) of the Woi wurrung, who was buried near the confluence of the Yarra River and Merri Creek in 1846 and who's close working relationship with William Thomas contributed to the operation of the Merri Creek Protectorate Station and Merri Creek Aboriginal School.
- William Thomas, Assistant Protector of Aborigines for the Westernport and Melbourne Districts of the Port Phillip Aboriginal Protectorate, and who was responsible for the operation of the Merri Creek Protectorate Station.
- Thomas Embling, first resident medical officer to Yarra Bend Lunatic Asylum.
- Hugh Linaker, who prepared plans for Yarra Bend National Park in 1930.

Criterion H is likely to be satisfied.

STEP 2: STATE LEVEL SIGNIFICANCE TEST FOR CRITERION H

The place/object allows the clear association with the person or group of persons to be *READILY APPRECIATED BETTER THAN MOST OTHER PLACES OR OBJECTS IN VICTORIA*.

Executive Director's Response

It is now difficult to appreciate the association between the individuals identified in Step 1 and Yarra Bend Park at the place itself. The place has changed substantially since the individuals were present at the place. The association is now better understood through documentary resources.

Criterion H is not likely to be satisfied.

INTRODUCTION TO PERMIT EXEMPTIONS

Preamble

It is recommended that any proposed works be discussed with an officer of Heritage Victoria prior to making a permit application. Discussing proposed works will assist in answering questions the owner may have and aid any decisions regarding works to the place.

The extent of registration of Yarra Bend Park in the Victorian Heritage Register affects the whole place shown on Diagram 2398 including the land, archaeological features, buildings and structures, roads, trees, landscape elements and other features. Under the *Heritage Act 2017* a person must not remove or demolish, damage or despoil, develop or alter or excavate, relocate or disturb the position of any part of a registered place or object without approval. It is acknowledged, however, that alterations and other works may be required to keep places and objects in good repair and adapt them for use into the future.

If a person wishes to undertake works or activities in relation to a registered place or registered object, they must apply to the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria for a permit. The purpose of a permit is to enable appropriate change to a place and to effectively manage adverse impacts on the cultural heritage significance of a place as a consequence of change. If an owner is uncertain whether a heritage permit is required, it is recommended that Heritage Victoria be contacted.

Permits are required for anything which alters the place or object, unless a **permit exemption** is granted. Permit exemptions usually cover routine maintenance and upkeep issues faced by owners as well as minor works or works to the elements of the place or object that are not significant. They may include appropriate works that are specified in a conservation management plan. Permit exemptions can be granted at the time of registration (under s.38 of the *Heritage Act*) or after registration (under s.92 of the *Heritage Act*). It should be noted that the addition of new buildings to the registered place, as well as alterations to the interior and exterior of existing buildings requires a permit, unless a specific permit exemption is granted.

Conservation management plans

It is recommended that a Conservation Management Plan is developed to manage the place in a manner which respects its cultural heritage significance.

Aboriginal cultural heritage

If works are proposed which have the potential to disturb or have an impact on Aboriginal cultural heritage it is necessary to contact Aboriginal Victoria to ascertain any requirements under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*. If any Aboriginal cultural heritage is discovered or exposed at any time it is necessary to immediately contact Aboriginal Victoria to ascertain requirements under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*.

Under the *Heritage Act 2017* permits are required for any works or activities which alter the place or object, unless a permit exemption is granted. This applies to all parts of the registered place including fabric associated with Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal cultural heritage values. If this place is registered under both the *Heritage Act 2017* and the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* the requirements of both Acts need to be met. To establish whether this place is registered under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* please contact Aboriginal Victoria. The *Heritage Act 2017* and the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* are separate pieces of legislation. Please be aware that satisfying the requirements of one Act may not satisfy the requirements of the other.

Human remains

If any suspected human remains are found during any works or activities, the works or activities must cease. The remains must be left in place and protected from harm or damage. Victoria Police and the State Coroner's Office must be notified immediately. If there are reasonable grounds to believe that the remains are Aboriginal, the Coronial Admissions and Enquiries hotline must be contacted immediately on 1300 888 544. As required under s.17(3)(b) of *the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* all details about the location and nature of the human remains must be provided to the Secretary (as defined in the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*).

Other approvals

Please be aware that approval from other authorities (such as local government) may be required to undertake works.

Archaeology

Ground disturbance that may affect the archaeological significance of the place and, subject to the exemptions stated in this document, requires a permit.

Cultural heritage significance***Overview of significance***

The cultural heritage significance of Yarra Bend Park lies in the archaeological remains of the government initiated and/or operated institutions including the former Merri Creek Protectorate Station, Merri Creek Aboriginal School, Native Police Corps, the Yarra Bend Lunatic Asylum, Fairhaven Venereal Disease Clinic and Fairlea Women's Prison. It also lies in the facilities associated with active and passive recreational activities including open parkland, remnants and introduced landscape, walking tracks, sporting facilities and the golf club house and course.



Yarra Bend Park Permit Exemption Zones (1-3)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR EXEMPTED WORKS OR ACTIVITIES (PERMIT EXEMPTIONS)

It should be noted that Permit Exemptions can be granted at the time of registration (under s.38 of the *Heritage Act 2017*). Permit Exemptions can also be applied for and granted after registration (under s.92 of the *Heritage Act 2017*).

Under s.38 of the *Heritage Act 2017* ('the *Act*') the Executive Director may include in his recommendation categories of works or activities which may be carried out in relation to the place or object without the need for a permit under Part 5 of the *Act*. The Executive Director must not make a recommendation for any categories of works or activities if he considers that the works or activities may harm the cultural heritage significance of the place or object. The following permit exemptions are not considered to cause harm to the cultural heritage significance of the Yarra Bend Cultural Landscape.

General Condition 1

All exempted alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the fabric of the registered place or object.

General Condition 2

Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of works that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place or object are revealed which relate to the significance of the place or object, then the exemption covering such works shall cease and Heritage Victoria shall be notified as soon as possible. This place is likely to contain archaeological features, deposits and/or artefacts including glass and ceramic fragments, brick/bluestone foundations related to the construction, use, abandonment and demolition of government institutions.

Note: All archaeological places have the potential to contain significant sub-surface artefacts and other remains. In most cases it will be necessary to obtain approval from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria before the undertaking any works that have a significant sub-surface component.

General Condition 3

All works should ideally be informed by Conservation Management Plans prepared for the place. The Executive Director is not bound by any Conservation Management Plan, and permits still must be obtained for works suggested in any Conservation Management Plan.

General Condition 4

Nothing in this determination prevents the Heritage Council and/or the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions.

General Condition 5

Nothing in this determination exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the relevant responsible authority, where applicable.

Specific exemptions

Note: Yarra Bend Park and the golf course in particular is located on the site of the former Yarra Bend Lunatic Asylum. All above-ground structures including buildings and features associated with the Asylum and its subsequent use by other institutions have been demolished. A single gate pillar survives from the Asylum, although not in its original location. There is extremely high potential that State level archaeological remains survive across the site. During the construction of the Yarra Bend Golf Course, fill materials were introduced which are likely to have preserved the condition of the archaeological remains in these areas.

The following works do not require a permit as they do not harm the cultural heritage significance of the place (inclusive of archaeological features, deposits and/or artefacts). However, if any archaeological remains are found during any works (including those exempted below), works must cease and Heritage Victoria is to be contacted immediately.

Buildings

Club house building

General

- Minor patching, repair and maintenance which replaces like with like without large-scale removal of or damage to the existing fabric or the large-scale introduction of new materials. Repairs must maximise protection and retention of fabric and include the conservation of existing details or elements. Any new materials used for repair must not exacerbate the decay of existing fabric due to chemical incompatibility, obscure existing fabric or limit access to existing fabric for future maintenance.
- Repair to or removal of items such as external lighting, air conditioners, pipework, ducting, flues, wiring, antennae, aerials and flyscreens and making good.
- Maintenance and replacement of existing external electrical and fire services in the same location and of the same size.

Exterior

- Painting of existing plain painted external surfaces in the same colour, finish and type provided that preparation or painting does not remove all evidence of earlier paint finishes or other decorative schemes.

Interior

- Repair to or removal of items such as air conditioners, pipe work, ducting, wiring, antennae, aerials and making good.
- Painting of previously plain painted internal surfaces in the same colour, finish and type provided that preparation or painting does not remove all evidence of earlier paint finishes or other decorative schemes.
- Works to the parts of the building which have undergone recent changes providing such work do not alter the original fabric of the building.

All other buildings and structures including buildings and structures associated with the Golf Club (Pro shop, Driving Range, Pavilion, Pump House, Yarra Bend Adventure Golf, Maintenance Facility), as well as all other buildings and structures at the place.

All of the above and:

Interior

- All works within the internal footprint of the buildings which do not exceed the depth of existing foundations.

Exterior

- All maintenance works which do not exceed the depth of existing foundations.
- Repainting in the same colour, type and finish.
- Demolition to the surface of the existing ground level (to grade).

Fire suppression activities

Fire suppression activities provided the works do not involve the removal or destruction of any significant above-ground features or sub-surface archaeological features, deposits and/or artefacts. Note: Fire management authorities should be aware of the location, extent and significance of historical and archaeological places/sites when developing fire suppression and firefighting strategies. The importance of places in the VHR must be considered when strategies for fire suppression and management are being developed.

Safety and security

- Works or activities, including emergency stabilisation, necessary to secure safety in an emergency where a structure or part of a structure has been irreparably damaged or destabilised and poses a safety risk to its users or the public. Every attempt must be made to conserve and retain as much significant fabric as possible. The Executive Director, Heritage Victoria, must be notified within seven days of the commencement of these works or activities.
- The erection of temporary security fencing, scaffolding, hoardings or surveillance systems to prevent unauthorised access or secure public safety.

Events

- The erection of temporary infrastructure associated with temporary events up to seven days in duration that will not alter or disturb the club house building or archaeological features, deposits and/or artefacts, trees, garden beds or pathways.

Landscape

Zone One (sites of the Yarra Bend Lunatic Asylum cemetery and former Merri Creek Protectorate Station /Merri Creek Aboriginal School/Native Police Corps)

- The process of gardening including mowing, disease, weed and invasive species control.
- Management and maintenance of trees including formative and remedial pruning, removal of deadwood, pest and disease control and above-ground tree cabling.
- The removal or pruning of dead or dangerous tree to maintain safety.
- Maintenance, repair and replacement of existing park and/or interpretative signage and surveyor markers in the same location and of the same size provided no new supports are required.
- Maintenance, repair and replacement (of the same size, in the same location, and using the same depth of footings) of all existing hard landscape elements including walls, roads, shared-

user paths, pedestrian footpaths/pathways, fencing/gates, safety barriers, lighting and fire hydrants.

Zone Two – (site of primary Yarra Bend Lunatic Asylum infrastructure, excluding the areas within the Yarra Bend Golf Course)

- All permit exemptions for Zone One, as well as:
- Maintenance to care for existing plants and replacement with similar species (like with like) where the works do not include sub-surface disturbance to a depth greater than 300 mm from the existing ground surface.

Zone Three (all other areas)

General

- All permit exemptions for Zones One and Two.

Maintenance

- Works associated with the repair and maintenance of existing sporting facilities where the works do not include sub-surface disturbance to a depth greater than 300 mm. This includes repair and maintenance of the surfaces of all sporting courts, fields and pitches, including line marking and returfing and resurfacing with like materials and installation of netting.
- Works associated with the installation and removal of seasonal sporting infrastructure, including soccer and AFL goal posts.
- Maintenance, repairs or replacement of existing external electrical and fire services of the same size and in the same location.
- All works associated with the maintenance, repair and replacement of existing services (including irrigation, power, drainage and sewage) where the works do not include sub-surface disturbance to a depth or width which exceeds that of existing service trenches.
- Repair and maintenance of existing playground equipment and playground area surfaces.
- The construction of new playground equipment and playground area surfaces in existing playground areas which does not exceed the depth of existing equipment.
- Maintenance Standards works as per lease agreement between Parks Victoria and Yarra Bend Golf Holdings. (see Attachment A). All works should be consistent with (as relevant): Lease Maintenance Standards

Road and carpark infrastructure

All works to maintain road safety and the existing road infrastructure. This includes:

- Maintenance and repair of road pavement, speed humps, carparks, shoulder, median, pedestrian refuges/splitter islands, kerb and channels and similar supportive works.
- Maintenance, repair and replacement of safety-critical infrastructure including barriers of all types.
- Maintenance, repair and replacement (like with like) of existing carpark and road signs, including directional, speed and their supporting structures.
- Installation of new road safety signage where the works do not include sub-surface disturbance to a depth greater than 300 mm.
- Maintenance and repair of existing light masts where the works do not include sub-surface disturbance to a depth or width which exceeds that of existing service trenches.

Signage

- Removal, repair and maintenance of existing signage using existing supports or new supports which do not include sub-surface disturbance to a depth greater than 300 mm.

Golf Course

- All works associated with the repair and maintenance of the Golf Course, Driving Range, Yarra Bend Adventure Mini Golf, Event spaces and open areas utilised for golfing purposes.
- Top-dressing of mulch and soils where there is no sub-surface disturbance.
- Soil maintenance practices including aeration by top layer penetration (verti draining and coring) and rotary hoe turning over of soil which does not include sub-surface disturbance to a depth greater than 300 mm.

Other

The installation of standard park furniture and pedestrian facilities (to Parks Victoria specification). This includes rubbish and recycling bins, park seating and shelters, picnic tables, drinking fountains and associated infrastructure outside tree protection zones.

RELEVANT INFORMATION

Local Government Authority	Yarra Council
Heritage Overlays	HO147 (Fairfield Drive, Fairfield) HO300 (Yarra Bend Park, Yarra Bend)- Bluestone Quarry HO301 (Yarra Bend Road, Fairfield), HO302 (Yarra Bend Park, Yarra Bend)- Deep Rock Swimming Club, HO304 (Yarra Bend Park, Yarra Bend)- Yarra Bend Golf Club House HO305 (Yarra Bend Park, Yarra Bend)- Kane's Bridge and HO307 (Yarra River, Yarra Bend Park, Yarra Bend)- Yarra River Protectorate Station Site
Heritage Overlay Controls	External Paint: Yes - HO304 Internal Alteration: No Tree: Yes - HO147
Other Overlays	Significant Landscape Overlay
Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register	Yes
Other Listings	Register of the National Estate Yarra Bend and Fairfield Park- National Trust (70292)
Other Names	Yarra Bend Cultural Landscape

HISTORY

Yarra Bend Park has a multi-layered post-contact history beginning with the use of the place for a variety of government initiated and/or operated institutions in the 1840s. These included the former Merri Creek Protectorate Station, Merri Creek Aboriginal School, Native Police Corps Headquarters and the Yarra Bend Lunatic Asylum, and later, Fairhaven Venereal Disease Clinic and Fairlea Women's Prison. These institutions reflect early interactions between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people, and the management of mental health, disease treatment and criminal justice. Yarra Bend Park is also recognised as a place with a long-history of public recreation from the early twentieth century to the present day.

Government initiated and/or operated institutions

Merri Creek Protectorate Station, Merri Creek Aboriginal School and the Native Police Corps (c.1842-1851)

Yarra Bend Park was set aside for public use in the late 1830s as a government reserve. The Merri Creek Protectorate Station, Merri Creek Aboriginal School and the Native Police Corps were established at the confluence of Merri Creek and the Yarra River from 1842.

William Thomas, Assistant Protector responsible for the Western Port or Melbourne District of the Port Phillip Aboriginal Protectorate, initially built a hut at the location in late 1842 following the abandonment of Nerre Nerre Warren Protectorate Station (VHR H2348). From 1842 many of protectorate functions were transferred from Nerre Nerre Warren to Merri Creek. The location, however, was deserted by the Woiwurrung people following an influenza epidemic in 1847. The Protectorate was abolished in December 1849.

From June 1842 until September 1843 the location was also used as the temporary headquarters of the Native Police Corps under the command of Captain Henry Dana.

In 1845 a permanent day school was established by the Collins Street Baptist Church at the location. Edward Peacock, the former Protectorate schoolteacher, was employed as the schoolmaster and was replaced by Francis Edgar in 1848. In 1846 between 22 and 32 children attended the school, and by 1848-1859 the highest number of pupils was 11. The school cultivated wheat, potatoes and other vegetables which were sold to support its operation. Following declined attendance and a flood in 1850, funding was withdrawn by government and the church, and the school closed in 1851. In 1848, the Yarra Bend Lunatic Asylum began operating in parallel to the Merri Creek Aboriginal School, which supplied it with vegetables, eggs and butter.

Yarra Bend Lunatic Asylum (c.1848-1924)

The geography of the Yarra Bend area made it an ideal location for the establishment of a lunatic asylum. During the mid-nineteenth century, colonial gaols sustained significant population pressure and an inquiry found a need to establish a purpose-built facility to manage the mentally ill and to alleviate the stress placed on the gaol system. In 1848 the government established a mental asylum (variously known as Metropolitan Lunatic Asylum/Melbourne Lunatic Asylum/Yarra Bend Lunatic Asylum). The asylum was the first permanent institution of its type in Victoria. The original layout included single-storey, rectangular cells and associated wards. It is likely the Assistant Protector's station and quarters, associated with the earlier Merri Creek Protectorate Station, was incorporated into the asylum's laundry structure. From 1852, the asylum was managed by Thomas Embling (the first Resident Medical Officer), who was instrumental in the formative years of the asylums' administration and recognised for his interest in the 'moral treatment' of the insane, and later, as a parliamentarian.

By 1854 overcrowding of the asylum necessitated its expansion to the north, under the administration of Dr. Robert Bowie (the asylum's superintendent), who had replaced Embling. This involved the construction of additional structures, utilities and more intensive utilisation of open areas. New structures included cottages, a hospital ward, an infirmary ward, 'L' and 'N' wards (housing troublesome and quiet cases, respectively), the Head Warden's Quarters (entrance lodge), staff quarters, roads, pathways, drainage, a gateway, a bluestone and brick ha ha wall, cultivation paddocks, gardens and a cemetery. Bowie was also responsible for the improvement of recreational infrastructure across the asylum grounds, including the creation of an access road into the asylum (from Heidelberg Road) and playing fields including a cricket ground – pivotal in the later development of Yarra Bend as a place of recreation. By the early twentieth century, the facilities of the asylum had declined, resulting in the cessation of patient admissions in 1924. The remaining patients were transferred to Mont Park Asylum the following year. The Asylum officially closed in 1927 and following a public inquiry into the future use of the place, its grounds were made a 'national' park. The asylum was decommissioned, and a large majority of its infrastructure was demolished by Whelan the Wrecker.

Fairhaven Venereal Disease Clinic (c.1927-1951)

By 1927, several buildings of the now-decommissioned asylum had been adapted for use by the Fairhaven Venereal Disease Clinic. The clinic occupied a small area within the present-day Fairlea Reserve between 1927 and 1951. Alterations were made to the buildings in 1927, including the former asylum's hospital building (c.1860), and Infirmary building (c.1906). Additional structures were constructed including a ward block, boiler room, shelter sheds, plumbing infrastructure, covered walkways, drying rooms and detention cells – all contained by a boundary fence encircling the Clinic's perimeter. The Clinic was closed in 1951.

Fairlea Women’s Prison (c.1954-1996)

In 1954, the Fairhaven Venereal Disease Clinic was adapted for use as the Fairlea Women’s Prison. The prison was the first all-female jail in Victoria, which held inmates relocated from Pentridge Prison. In 1982, a fire destroyed several structures, which initiated an upgrade to prisoner accommodation. By 1986, all remaining asylum structures had been replaced by new Prison facilities and a substantial concrete perimeter wall. After the prison’s closure in 1996, all remaining structures were demolished and the area was re-established as open-park land for recreational use.

Recreation

The Deep Rock Swimming Club was established along the western escarpment of the Yarra River in 1906. From 1918, associated activities along the eastern escarpment within Yarra Bend Park saw the beginning of a change in the use from government institutions of the place, towards public recreational use. Following the closure of the asylum in 1927 and a public inquiry into the future use of the place, the Yarra Bend National Park was established (proclaimed in 1926, but not raised to formal national park status). In 1930, Hugh Linaker – Landscape Gardener to the Lunacy Department, was appointed to develop a landscape plan for the ‘National Park’ – in keeping with its original designation as a government reserve for public-use. Linaker’s work signalled the formalisation of Yarra Bend Park as a place for recreational activities, which is reflected in the present day by sport fields, picnic shelters, seating, public amenities, open parkland, walking tracks, and the Yarra Bend 18-hole golf course and club house (1936). In 1928, Kane’s Bridge was constructed, providing access to the park from Kew. The Bridge was reconstructed in 1934 due to severe flooding.

The club house for the Yarra Bend Golf Club opened in 1936, further establishing Yarra Bend as a place of recreation. The Public Works Department Chief Architect, Percy Everett, supervised the construction of the distinctive, American-inspired bungalow-style structure. The club house was constructed from trees sourced from the park, rubble stone piers, chimney and Cordova-tiled gabled roofs.

Yarra Bend Park continues to develop in response to the demand for recreational areas close to the city.

Other

Fairfield Hospital and Fairfield Park (c.1900s)

From 1900, areas within Yarra Bend were set apart for the Fairfield Hospital (VHR H1878) (c.1901) and the later formalisation of Fairfield Park (c.1912). These places were physically separated from the Yarra Bend Lunatic Asylum and associated grounds and were developed for different functions. For these reasons, Fairfield Hospital and Fairfield Park are not included in the extent of the registration for Yarra Bend Park.

Eastern Freeway – Stage 1 (c.1973-1977)

In the mid-twentieth century, the proposal for the Eastern Freeway alignment was being considered. In 1973, the first of three stages of freeway construction commenced, which bisected Yarra Bend and resulted in the partial destruction of the former Asylum grounds and the Protectorate Station site along the Freeway’s alignment. The development of the freeway also resulted in the re-alignment of the confluence of the Yarra River and Merri Creek. Stage One of the Freeway’s construction – which bisects the extent of registration – opened in 1977.

VICTORIAN HISTORICAL THEMES

- 06 Building towns, cities and the garden state**
 - 6.1 Establishing Melbourne town, Port Philip district
 - 6.2 Creating Melbourne

- 08 Building community life**
 - 8.2 Educating people
 - 8.3 Providing health and welfare services

- 09 Shaping cultural and creative life**
 - 9.1 Participating in sport and recreation

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

Yarra Bend Park is a rich historical and archaeological landscape, located at the confluence of Merri Creek and the Yarra River. It is bounded by Heidelberg Road (north), the Yarra River (south, east, west), the Merri Creek (west), and is bisected by the Eastern Freeway. The place is characterised by open parkland and recreational areas and reserves including a golf course and club house, sporting ovals, picnic areas (including shelters and toilet facilities), playgrounds, Parks Victoria administration buildings, fly fishing ponds and a plant nursery. These areas are accessed by a series of paved roads, unsealed/informal tracks and walking trails. The park contains a variety of remnant native flora, including River Red Gums (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) throughout the extent of the place and concentrated along the Yarra River riverbank. In addition, European plantings of which include Morton Bay Figs (*Ficus nacrifhylla*), Elms (*Ulmus* sp.), Monterey Pine (*Pinus radiate*), Pepper Trees (*Schinus molle*) and Common Oak (*Quercus robur*) survive in areas comprising Hugh Linaker's 1930 park layout.

Archaeology

Yarra bend Park encompasses surface and sub-surface remains that relate to the former Yarra Bend Lunatic Asylum and other historic government institutions including the former Merri Creek Protectorate Station, Merri Creek Aboriginal School, Native Police Corps and the Yarra Bend Lunatic Asylum, Fairhaven Venereal Disease Clinic and Fairlea Women's Prison. While all nineteenth century buildings that stood on the site were demolished by 1984, archaeological investigations at Yarra Bend Park indicate that the place is likely to contain archaeological remains, features and deposits associated with these institutions.

Surface remains

Surface remains artefact scatters (glass, ceramic and brick), vegetation growth near the asylum cemetery and landscape undulations indicate a high potential for sub-surface features from numerous phases of activity.

Sub-surface remains

Sub-surface remains are likely to include features (bluestone/brick building foundations, cellars, drainage), deposits (subfloor surfaces, post holes) and/or artefacts (ceramic and glass objects etc.). Archaeological artefacts and features have been documented as a result of prior excavations and are presently indicated at surface level in some areas.

The sub-surface remains likely to relate to the Asylum are:

- Original Asylum building (c.1848).
- Old Hospital Ward/infirmary (c.1848).
- New Infirmary, Male Division (c.1906).
- L and N Wards.
- Entry Gates (c.1860).
- Entrance Lodges/Head Warden's Quarters (c.1860), alterations (c.1902).
- Staff Quarters (adjacent to Old Hospital Ward).
- Main Perimeter ['ha ha'] Wall.
- Wood and iron fence/enclosing walls.
- Roads, paths and drains.
- A series of other as yet unidentified buildings (as per MMBW 1897-98 plans).

The sub-surface remains likely to relate to the Clinic are:

- Alterations and/or additions to earlier [asylum] buildings.
- Boiler Room.
- New Ward east of the [asylum's] New Infirmary.
- Shelter sheds.
- Septic tank and plumbing infrastructure.
- Walkways between buildings.
- Drying Room and Detention Cells.

There is also potential that sub-surface remains of the former Merri Creek Protectorate Station (c.1841-1851), Merri Creek Aboriginal School (c.1845-1851), and Native Police Corps Headquarters (c.1842-1843) survive although it is possible that the construction of the Eastern Freeway may have destroyed some of this evidence:

- Protectors Quarters (also the Asylum Laundry in c.1854).
- Dr. Peter McArthur's former 'station' or residence, and later, School Hut.
- Burial site of Billibellary.
- Foundation of structures associated with the Merri Creek Protectorate Station, Merri Creek Aboriginal School, and Native Police Corps Headquarters.

INTEGRITY/INTACTNESS

Integrity

The integrity of the place as a complex of nineteenth century institutions is poor. All above ground structures have been demolished.

The integrity of the archaeology of the place is good. The parkland and golf course were developed primarily with the use of filling rather than cutting. There is a high potential that significant archaeological remains survive. It has been documented that at the time of the last demolition event, open features relating to these institutions (i.e. deep depressions and cellars) were back-filled with demolition debris – increasing the potential for the survival of archaeological fabric

The integrity of the active and passive recreational use of the place is good. The layout of Hugh Linaker's 1930 landscape plan is still discernible. (1 November 2019).

Intactness

The intactness of the place is fair. The majority of the above ground fabric of the place no longer survives due to demolition, construction of the Eastern Freeway and the establishment of open

parkland. The Fairlea Women's Prison gate pillar, which is no longer in its original location, remains as the only extant feature that is representative of the site's long history of use by government institutions. Sub-surface elements (archaeological materials), that relate to this history are likely to have survived in good condition. The 1936 golf club house survives largely intact although the roof has been recently replaced. (1 November 2019).

CONDITION

The archaeological and recreational aspects of the place are in good condition. Grassed recreational areas associated with playing fields, a golf course and hard landscape elements (i.e. road infrastructure and car parking) cover a large proportion of the place. Documentary evidence suggests that fill material was historically imported to 'level' or 'build-up' environments across Yarra Bend Park protecting archaeological evidence at the place (1 November 2019).

COMPARISONS

Yarra Bend Park is most usefully compared to places in the VHR or VHI with similar associations.

Aboriginal Protectorate and Station

Nerre Nerre Warren, Endeavour Hills (VHR H2348)

Nerre Nerre Warren is of archaeological and historical significance to the State of Victoria, being one of the most important sites in the Melbourne area as a place of contact and interaction between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in the formative years of the Port Phillip settlement. The Native Police Corps was first established at Nerre Nerre Warren in 1837, operated as the main headquarters between 1842 and 1852, and was recognised as the 'home station' for the Westernport District of the Port Phillip Protectorate (c.1841-1843). The agency and co-option experienced by Aboriginal people under British imperial policies and processes, and their significant role in the settlement and policing of Victoria, is expressed in the historically documented interactions at Nerre Nerre Warren. It is also significant in the history of the Victorian Police in relation to the important and changing role of horses in policing. Nerre Nerre Warren has great potential to contain archaeological features, deposits and/or artefacts relating to the Native Police Corps, the Westernport District of the Port Phillip Protectorate, and the Dandenong Police Paddocks and Horse Stud Depot.



Nerre Nerre Warren VHR H2348

Murchison Police Paddocks/Goulburn River Aboriginal Protectorate, Murchison (In the Victorian Heritage Inventory: H7924-0003. Not in the VHR)

The first European settlers arrived in the Murchison district in 1840. Under the supervision of Assistant Protector of Aborigines, James Dredge, a Protectorate Station was set up at Mitchellstown in May 1839. However, in July 1840, Dredge was replaced by William Le Souef who relocated the Protectorate Station to Murchison. It is also documented that the Native Police Corps based in Nerre Nerre Warren visited and assisted the activities undertaken at the Murchison site. The Protectorate Station at Murchison was closed in 1853.

Mental Health Institutions

Former Willsmere Hospital (VHR H0861)

The former Willsmere Hospital is of historic and architectural significance to the State of Victoria. The former Willsmere Hospital, previously known as the Kew Lunatic Asylum, opened in 1872. The former Willsmere Hospital is unique as the largest and most notable example of an institution erected by the Victorian Public Works Department in the nineteenth century. It is of historic importance as an illustration of the evolution of mental health in Victoria over a century. The former hospital is architecturally important in exhibiting the principal characteristics of the Italianate style, and the work of the Victorian Public Works Department in the nineteenth century. In addition to illustrating the mid-nineteenth century move to a grander style of institutional design. The former Willsmere Hospital exhibits aesthetic characteristics of good design in the towers and mansard roofs and the central administration block. The Fever Tents are important in demonstrating the Department of Health's response to epidemics, as well as the prevailing belief in isolation and fresh air as curative measures.



Former Willsmere Hospital VHR H0861

Mayday Hills (VHR H1189)

Mayday Hills Hospital is of historical, architectural, technical and aesthetic significance to the State of Victoria. Mayday Hills Hospital is historically significant for its physical manifestation of the changing approaches to the treatment of mental illness in Victoria from institutional confinement to treatment and rehabilitation. The asylum at Beechworth was a key component in a larger system of nineteenth century state asylums in Victoria which included those at Kew and Ararat. Mayday Hills Hospital is architecturally significant as a particularly fine example of an extensive complex of Italianate asylum buildings dating from the 1860s, and in the case of the cottages, the 1880s. The design is based on an influential asylum at Colney Hatch in England in common with other contemporary institutions notably Willsmere in Kew and Aradale at Ararat, displays key

characteristic features such as the E-shaped plan of the main administration, kitchen and dormitory block with its airing courts and covered walkways, as well as the gatehouse, mortuary and ha-ha wall. The design of the 1860s buildings has been attributed to Public Works Department architect, J. J. Clark. The cob farm building at Mayday Hills Hospital is technically significant for the unusual use of cob construction for a small farm building on the site. Mayday Hills Hospital is aesthetically important for the beauty of its picturesque setting on a prominent hill among extensive parklands, which comprises native and introduced trees and shrubs. The curved drive with its avenue of large oaks is particularly noteworthy.



Mayday Hills VHR H1189

Parks

Fawkner Park (VHR H2361)

Fawkner Park is of historical, archaeological aesthetic significance to the State of Victoria. It is historically significant as part of the vision of Charles La Trobe (Superintendent of the Port Phillip District and later Lieutenant-Governor of Victoria) from the mid-1840s, to develop Melbourne as a city surrounded by extensive public parklands. Fawkner Park was permanently reserved in 1862 and became one of Melbourne's 'outer ring' parks, along with Yarra Park (VHR H2251) and Royal Park (VHR H2337). Formally developed from 1875 by curator Nicholas Bickford, Fawkner Park is a fine example of an 'outer ring' park. While the 'inner ring' of parks reflect more formal planting and symmetrical pathway arrangements, the 'outer ring' of parks and reserves were typically developed for recreation and organised sporting activity. Fawkner Park largely retains its early form, diagonal pathway plantings (established on the 'desire lines' of early pedestrians), impressive avenues, plantings, lawns and playing fields in conjunction with pavilion, caretakers and amenities buildings. Fawkner Park is also of historical significance for its use as an accommodation base for the Australian Women's Army Service (AWAS) and as a camp for British migrants between 1947 and 1955. Fawkner Park is archaeologically significant at the State level for its high likelihood to contain subsurface artefacts and deposits related to the Australian Women's Army Service (AWAS) and the Australian Corps of Signals Land Headquarters, located in the southern portion of the park from 1941 to 1947. Fawkner Park is aesthetically significant as an outstanding example of a metropolitan park in Victoria.



Fawkner Park VHR 2361

Royal Park (VHR H2337)

Royal Park is of historic and aesthetic significance to the State of Victoria. Royal Park is historically significant as an outstanding and largely intact example of the public parks set aside by Lieutenant-Governor Charles La Trobe from the mid-1840s as part of his vision for the city of Melbourne. Royal Park is historically significant as the site of scientific institutions important to the development of the colony, including an Experimental Farm (1858) and the Acclimatisation Society of Victoria (1861), part of which later became the Royal Melbourne Zoological Gardens (VHR H1074) on the site. Royal Park is historically significant for its long association with sport in Victoria. It is the site of one of the earliest public golf courses in Victoria (1903), of Australia's first dedicated baseball field (Ross Straw Field c1970) and from the early 1900s has played an important role in the advancement of women's competitive sport in Australia. At a local level Royal Park is also significant for its long history of recreational use, including the early establishment of the Brunswick Cricket Club in 1858 and its early use for Australian Rules football (by 1865).



Royal Park VHR H2337

Domain Parklands (VHR H2304)

The Domain Parklands is of historical, archaeological, aesthetic, architectural, scientific (horticultural), and social significance to the State of Victoria. The Domain Parklands is of historical importance for its associations with the early settlement of Melbourne and the foundation of British colonial administration in Victoria. The Domain is a tangible link with the British Colonial tradition of establishing a large Government Domain surrounding the vice-regal residence. The Domain

Parklands is associated with important figures in Victoria, including Ferdinand von Mueller, Government Botanist (1853-96) and first Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens (1857-73), who established the initial layout and planting of the Domain; William Guilfoyle, von Mueller's successor as Director responsible for the late nineteenth century layout and planting of the Domain and Government House to Joseph Sayce's plan; Carlo Catani, Chief Engineer of the Public Works Department, who was the main influence in the design of Alexandra Avenue, Alexandra Gardens and the Queen Victoria Gardens and Hugh Linaker, prolific public landscape designer in Victoria and responsible for the layout of the King's Domain. The Domain Parklands is of archaeological significance for its potential to contain historical archaeological deposits, features and/or objects associated with previous activities and uses. This may include archaeological material associated with such sites as the former Immigration Home and the Engineers' Depot.



Domain Parklands VHR H2304

SUMMARY OF COMPARISONS

Aboriginal Protectorates and Stations

In Victoria very little fabric relating to Aboriginal Protectorates survives, particularly above ground structures. The Murchison Police Paddocks was similarly used as an Aboriginal Protectorate Station and Native Police Corps Depot. Like Yarra Bend Park (Merri Creek Protectorate Station), there are no above ground remains. Surface features identified include postholes and mounding which define the potential location of the Protectorate buildings. The Murchison Police Paddocks were less complex than those at Nerre Nerre Warren and Yarra Bend Park (Merri Creek Protectorate Station).

Nerre Nerre Warren comprised a Native Police Corps Headquarters, a Head Station for an Aboriginal Protectorate, and a Police Horse Stud Depot and Paddocks. Like Yarra Bend Park, there is potential for intact archaeological deposits at Nerre Nerre Warren. The Native Police Corps inhabited both Nerre Nerre Warren and the Merri Creek confluence, however the latter was a favoured location due to seasonal movements and its proximity to the city of Melbourne. Although there is more visible fabric at Nerre Nerre Warren, most relates to its later use as a police horse facility, whereas Yarra Bend Park has the potential to reveal information relating to one of Victoria's earliest Aboriginal protectorates, police corps and school.

Mental Health Institutions

Yarra Bend Lunatic Asylum was established in 1848 as Victoria's first mental asylum. It was the only asylum in Victoria for twenty years, and is central to the early history of care of the mentally ill in Victoria. The asylum was based on a 'village style', which was heavily criticised for not conforming to the 'barrack' style asylums as seen in England at the time. The Former Willsmere Hospital and Mayday Hills represent institutional layouts, trends inpatient treatment and other responses to psychiatric care in Victoria which were different to Yarra Bend Lunatic Asylum. No other comparable 'village style' asylums have been identified at this time. The opening of the Former Willsmere Hospital resulted in the closure of the Yarra Bend Lunatic Asylum. The design of the Kew cottages reflects the Zox Commission decision to move towards the Yarra Bend 'village style'. The improved 'cottage' structures represented a new and progressive move for the care and accommodation of people with intellectual disabilities. Unlike the other comparators, Yarra Bend Park provides the opportunity to understand the mid-nineteenth century 'village style' of asylum through the high potential for archaeological remains.

Public Recreational Use

Unlike the establishment of Melbourne's inner and outer ring parks in the early nineteenth century Yarra Bend was not formalised as a park until the mid-twentieth century. Due to the natural boundary of the Yarra River, Yarra Bend Park has not been substantially impeded by development, railway or tram routes or infrastructure built within the reserve, although the redirection of the river and construction of the Eastern Freeway creates a physical divide. Unlike other outer ring parks, Yarra Bend does not have substantial formal plantings or pathway design. The design was informed by the constraints of the Yarra River and retained areas of remnant vegetation.

KEY REFERENCES USED TO PREPARE ASSESSMENT

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- c. 1950-1960, Aerial view of the Collingwood municipal tip and surrounding area, Charles Daniel Pratt, <http://handle.slv.vic.gov.au/10381/385630>

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ADDITIONAL IMAGES



Aerial image showing Yarra Bend Park (yellow) and archaeological hotspots (dashed red).

Name: Yarra Bend Park
Hermes Number: 5968



2019, SE facing image showing location of asylum cemetery.



2019, SE facing image showing location of asylum cemetery.



2019, SW facing image showing modification of golf course.



2019, E facing image showing brick fragment on surface.



2019, SE facing image showing brick fragments on the lower slope at Yarra Bend Park.



2019, W facing image showing existing European plantings.



2019, SE facing image showing ex-leased fly-fishing headquarters within Yarra Bend Park.



2019, E facing image showing the ex-leased RMIT building within Yarra Bend Park.



2019, NW facing image showing reused bluestone edging.



2019, E facing image showing the Victorian Indigenous Nurseries within Yarra Bend Park.



2019, SW facing image showing the location of the asylum cricket ground.



2019, SE facing image showing the modification of the driving range within Yarra Bend Park.

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2019, E facing image showing the layout of the mini golf area.



2019, SE facing image showing the 1936 golf club house.



2019, S facing image showing a spoon drain comprised of potential re-used bricks.



2019, S facing image showing a potential brick path alignment running SE from the drain.



2019, S facing image showing the location of the original asylum site.



2019, SW facing image showing the location of the original asylum site



2019, SW facing image showing the location of the original asylum site.



2019, E facing image showing the location of the former Fairlea Womens Prison.

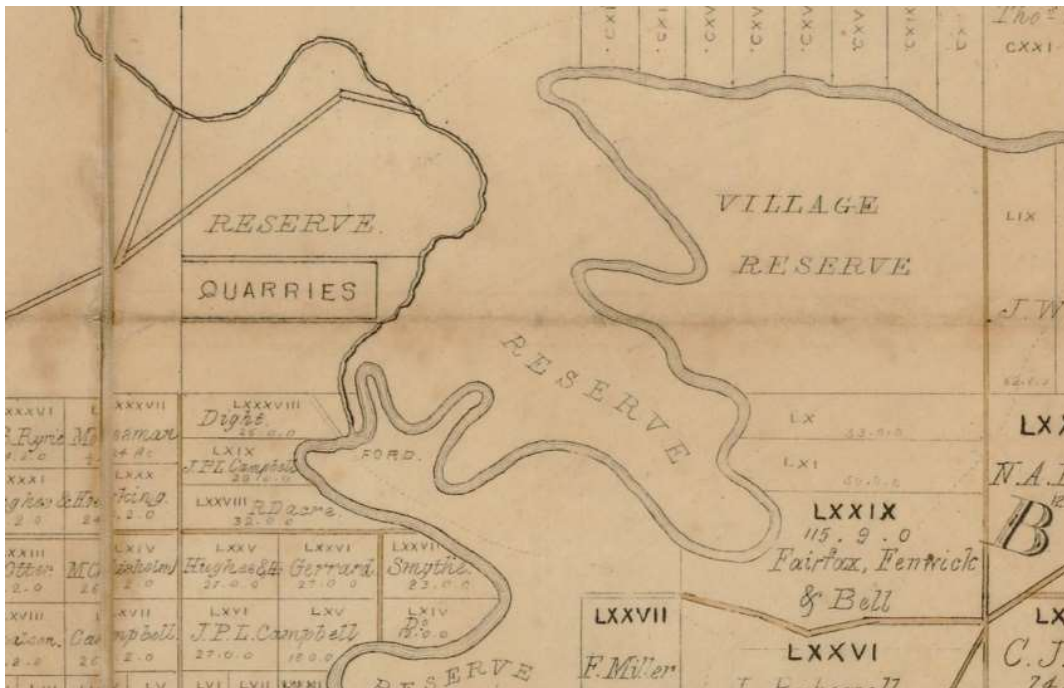


2019, NE facing image showing the location of the former Fairlea Womens Prison.



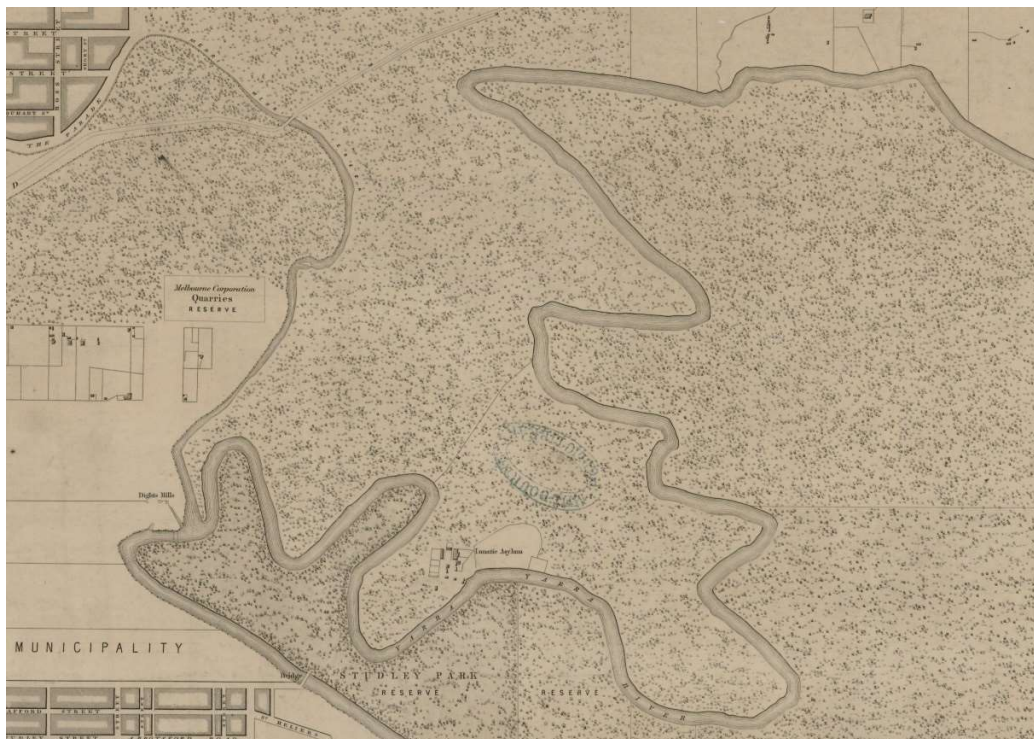
2019, SE facing image showing the fly fishing ponds within the Yarra Bend Park.

HISTORICAL MAPS AND IMAGES



1852, Ham plan showing the Yarra Bend Park site labelled as 'RESERVE'.

Source: SLV



date Kearney Melbourne and Suburbs plan showing the layout of the original asylum and associated cemetery.

Source: SLV

Name: Yarra Bend Park
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1861, Photograph showing Infirmary at Yarra Bend Asylum.
Source SLV



1861, Photograph showing cottages at Yarra Bend Asylum.
Source SLV

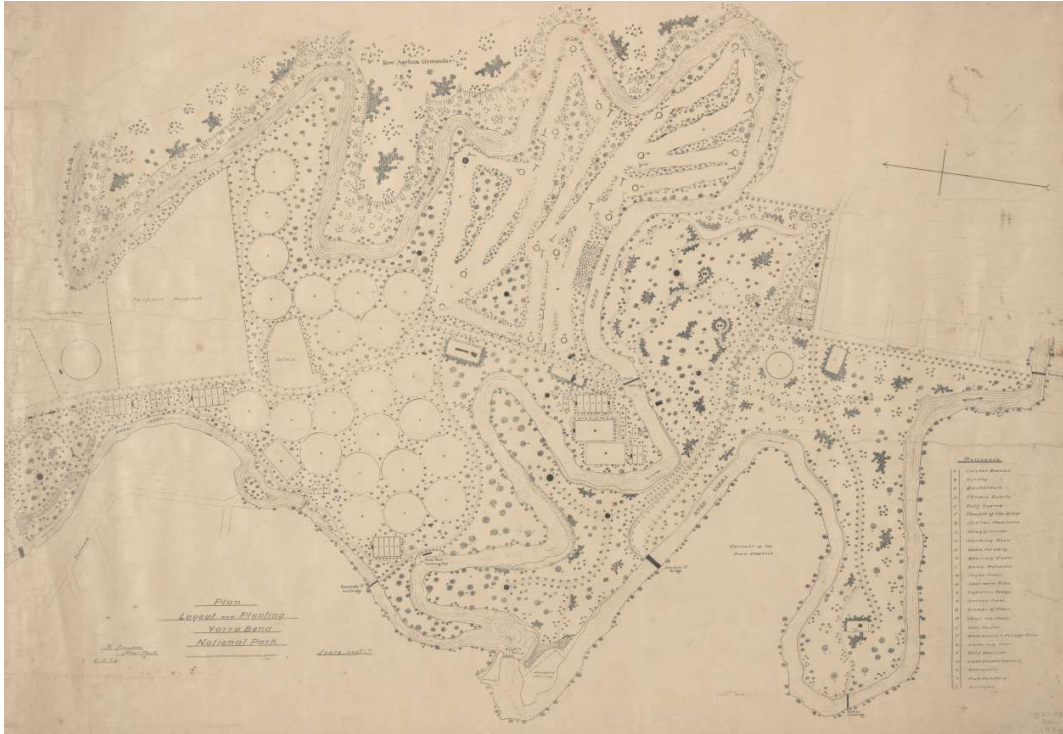
Name: Yarra Bend Park
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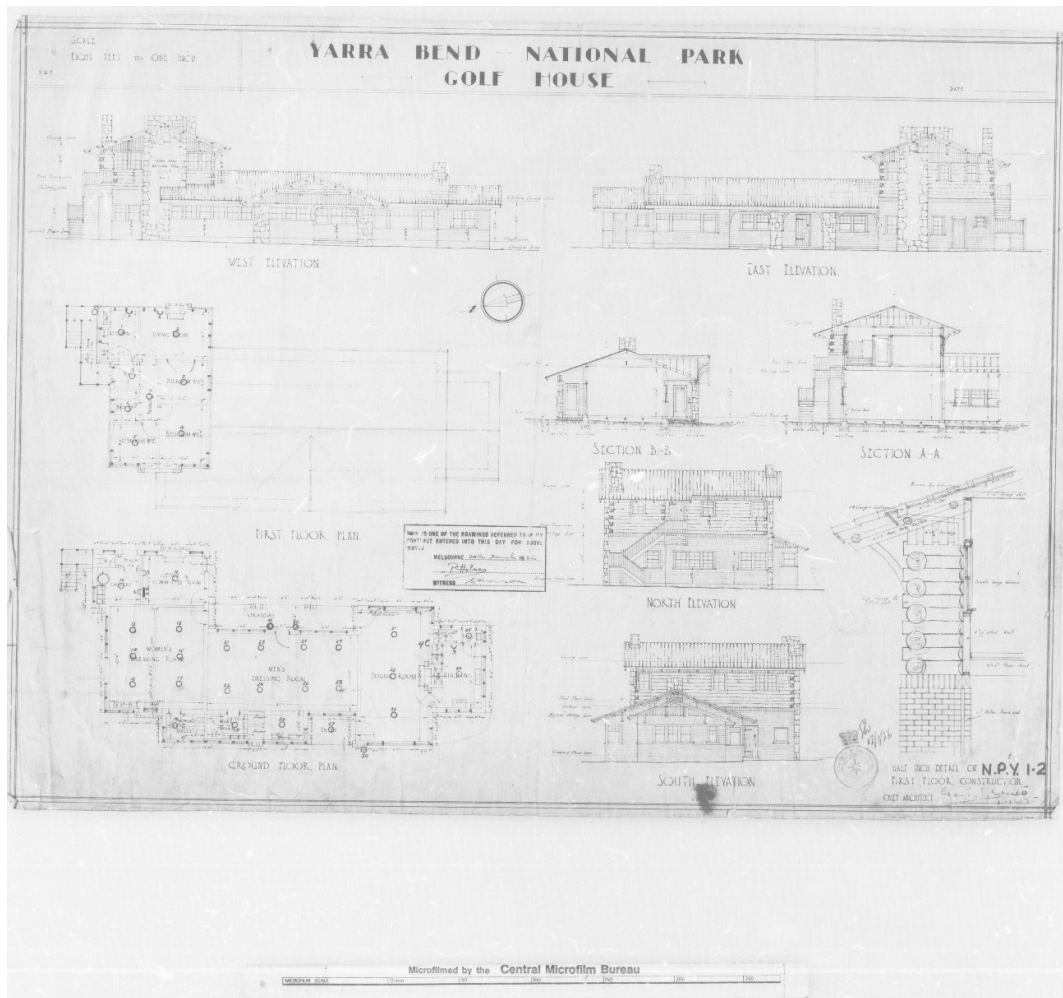
1868, Engraving showing a depiction of the Yarra Bend Asylum for the Insane.
Source SLV



c.1897-1898, Compiled MMBW detail plan 39 and 63 showing the layout of the Yarra Bend Asylum in the late nineteenth century.
Source SLV



1930, Linaker's layout and planting of Yarra Bend 'National' Park.
Source: SLV



1936, Yarra Bend National Park Golf House detail of first-floor construction plans, elevations and sections.
Source: Yarra Bend Golf Club



c. 1950-1960 Aerial view of Yarra Bend Park.
Source: SLV



c. 1945-1954, Photograph showing Yarra Bend Golf Links Course.
Source: SLV