

## INDIVIDUAL HERITAGE PLACE – CITATION

HO263

**NAME OF PLACE:** Kooyong Tennis Stadium

**OTHER NAMES OF PLACE:**

**ADDRESS / LOCATION:** 489 Glenferrie Road, Kooyong

**PROPERTY INFORMATION:** part of Crown Portion 20

**LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE:** State/Local.

**ASSESSED BY:** Graeme Butler, Francine Gilfedder.

**ASSESSMENT DATE:** May 2002

**REVISED ASSESSMENT** January 2004

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The 1920s sections of the Kooyong Tennis Stadium at 489 Glenferrie Road, Kooyong, are of State significance and parts of the 1920s, 1930s, and 1950s sections are of Local significance:

- as the first sporting stand in the State to almost surround an outdoor sporting arena in this type of horse-shoe amphitheatre architectural form (Criterion B2, F1);
- as the first to use reinforced concrete in a circular stadium configuration and among the earliest group of reinforced concrete stands in any configuration (Criterion B2, F1);
- for the association with the designers, JT Knox and the firm Bates Smart & McCutcheon, both renowned in their field within the State (Criterion H1);
- as, by far, the most substantial sporting structure designed for tennis in Victoria and Australia over a long period after its construction (Criterion A4, B2);
- as the venue for most international tennis championships held here until the 1980s, as well as a number of major popular music concerts in the 1970s and 1980s (Criterion A4, G1);
- as, from its construction in the 1920s, the focus for tennis in Victoria, following the lead of Wimbledon in promoting tennis through the construction of large and modern facilities as a comparison with the many more traditional grandstands at sporting grounds already constructed throughout the state;
- for its association with most of the internationally famous names in tennis of the 20th century, as a primary venue for their contest within the sport (Criterion H1).

## PLAN

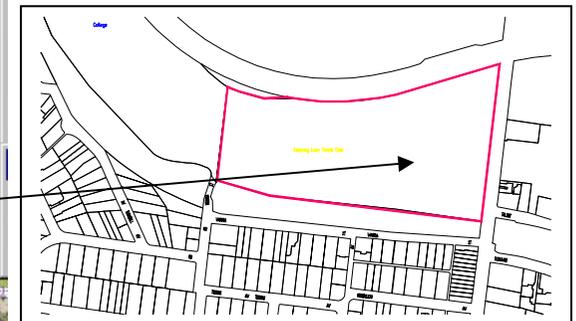
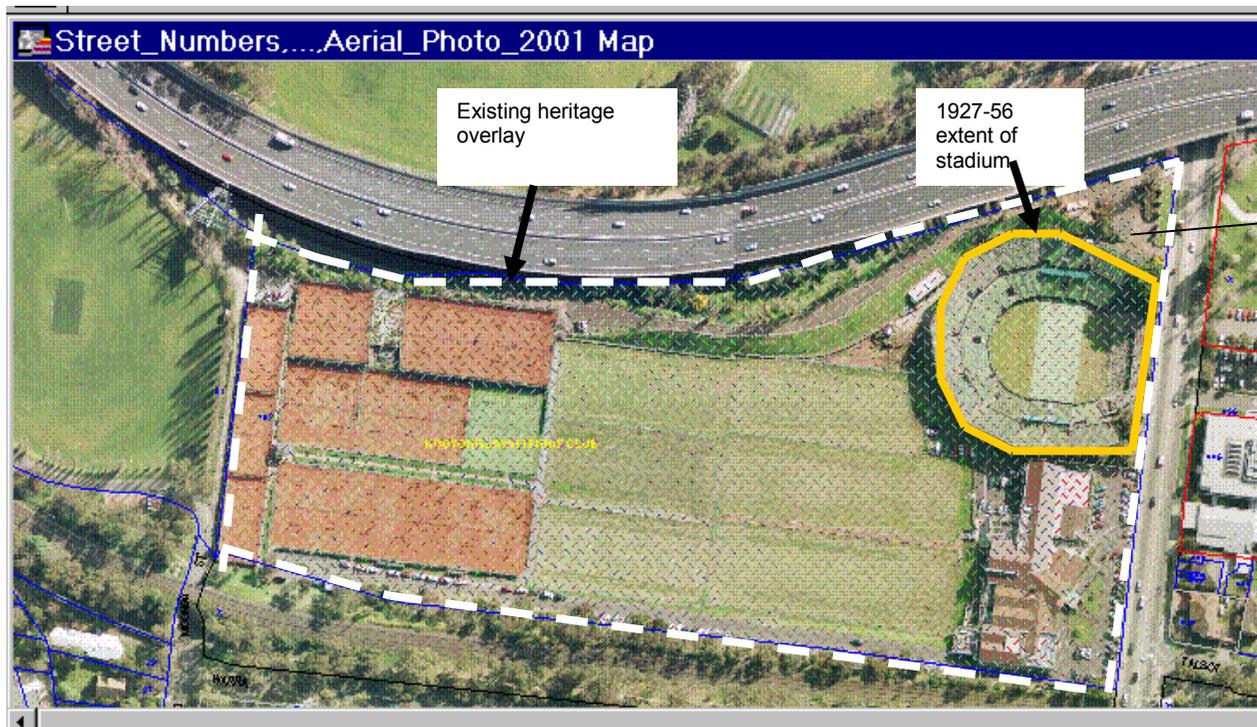
**NAME:** Kooyong Tennis Stadium

**OTHER NAMES:**

**ADDRESS / LOCATION:** 489 Glenferrie Road, Kooyong

Not to Scale<sup>11</sup>

**489 GLENFERRIE ROAD, KOOYONG**



<sup>11</sup> Cadastral plan and aerial photograph supplied by the City of Stonnington

**PHOTO:**



(Source: Graeme Butler & Associates March 2002)

## DESCRIPTION:

(as assessed from the street)

This in-situ reinforced concrete stadium has a ten-sided, 30-tier ramped seating area supported on arcaded reinforced concrete perimeter walls (with evidence of horizontal boarded formwork), and reinforced concrete columns and beams. Structural efficiency is evident in the use of beam cantilevers at the perimeter of the seating tiers and the slender proportions of the columns. Seating bays have been added to the original amphitheatre in matching form and finish, with new balustrading.

The seating areas are broadly classified as the North, West, and South Galleries or stands (suspended tiers) and the East Bank that adjoins Glenferrie Rd. Concrete fascias, posts and upstands provide the detail of the building, with socketed galvanised (painted) pipe balustrading and continuous timber bench seating supported on steel frames. Two bridge-like ramps provide access from Glenferrie Rd either side of the Eastern Bank, with some of the original 1920s balustrading intact.

A plaque, attached to a balustrade on the south side north end, commemorates the opening of the stadium in 1927 by Norman E Brookes

### Interior

Not inspected.

### Condition & integrity

(as assessed from the street)

Each distinct construction stage is still visible and does not mask or obscure perception of the other stages. Beyond these defined building stages, superficial changes made include the blocking-in of part of the original arcade at ground level; the visually similar replacement of balustrade and seat type; and painting of the concrete. The grass courts have been resurfaced. A new rendered pier and steel spear fence has been erected next to the junction of the stadium to the road reserve.

### Context

The stadium is set on alluvial flats at the edge of Gardiners Creek, largely occupied by grass tennis courts, with the creek itself masked by the former South-eastern now Monash Freeway. Across the creek is Scotch College, on Scotch Hill, a landscaped and early complex with its own heritage significance. To the south is Kooyong Railway Station and associated railway lines.

## HISTORY

### Historical background

(from D Foster 1999)

1840

Crown Portions 19 and 20, consisting of 131 acres of well-drained land bounded by present day Kooyong Road, Toorak Road, Glenferrie Road and Gardiners Creek, were purchased by speculator John William Gosling for £1625 at the first sales of Crown land in June 1840. The value of access to water and a land boom in 1840 was reflected in the high price of Gosling's land. However, land values dropped and in February 1851, just a few months before the discovery of gold was announced in Victoria, Gosling sold his allotments to pastoralist Thomas Herbert Power at a substantial loss.

Thomas Power's rich pastoral lands bordering Gardiner's Creek, were an invitation to the wealthy merchants, pastoralists and politicians of the colony to purchase large estates. The line of Moonga Road separated Power's two allotments.

1866

East of Moonga Road, Crown Portion 20 was subdivided into a number of allotments along Glenferrie Road and Toorak Road, retaining a large section between the creek and Toorak Road. In 1866 James Stewart Butters brought the land under the Transfer of Land Act. Ownership of Butter's large allotment east of Moonga Road was returned to the Power family. Herbert Power, pastoralist and stock and station agent, son of Thomas Power and brother and business partner to Robert in Power, Rutherford and Co., owned the land in 1880, the year he built a lodge-house in Toorak Road. Herbert Power's mansion, Moonga was completed in 1884 and built to the design of architect Francis White overlooking Gardiner's Creek.

The Power brothers' landholdings dominated this section of Toorak and their cattle grazed on the low lying flood-prone land of Gardiners Creek. Nonetheless, in 1888 in anticipation of the railway and with the opportunities for speculation and development provided by the inflated economy, a section at the north east corner of Power's land was subdivided and Warra Street, first known as Station Street, was created.

1877

The first Lawn Tennis Championships, an amateur event, was instituted at The All England Croquet and Lawn Tennis Club, Wimbledon. In 1884 the Ladies' Singles was inaugurated and from an entry of 13 players,

1890

The new railway line from Burnley to Darling was opened just before the bank crash.

(Following is from Malvern A Physical History

Georgina Whitehead in Appendix A, Malvern Urban Character Study)

1909-1914

It was not until the early 1900s that land prices (in the City of Malvern) had recovered sufficiently to encourage further subdivision. There was a great increase in building activity in Malvern during the five years prior to the First World War when over 2,000 new buildings were registered.

1910

In 1910 electric tram services commenced operation in Malvern along High Street and Wattletree Road and along Glenferrie Road between Kooyong Station and Malvern Station to Dandenong Road. The Dandenong Road line was opened the following year and the system was further extended {Cooper: 204-19}.

The flexibility of the tram system with north south and east west interconnecting directions of travel, as well as numerous alighting points, gave the public greater ease of movement between and within various localities.

1916

Allotment size in Malvern was fixed at a minimum area of 6,000 square feet with a minimum frontage of 50 feet{ Strahan}. The Malvern Council's designation of certain streets as brick areas was another means by which some residents hoped to maintain 'standards'. ... By the First World War the majority of Malvern's streets were nominated for brick construction { Strahan}.

1920s

A downturn in building activity accompanied the war years, but after the war finished there was another rush to build. During the 1920's many of the remaining orchards and market gardens east of Darling Road were subdivided and sold.

1930s

Development again stalled in the early 1930's with the depression. By then the only vacant land left in Malvern was in the most easterly section, and most of this was subdivided by the end of World War.

### **Specific History**

(From D Foster 1999, 2002)

1878

Within a year of the first Wimbledon championships in 1877, the citizens of Melbourne had embraced with enthusiasm the new sport of lawn tennis.

1892

Fifteen tennis pioneers, representatives of various tennis clubs, met at Young and Jackson's Hotel to found the Lawn Tennis Association of Victoria (LTAV). The game was controlled by the Melbourne Cricket Club until then.

Tennis was the game for the wealthy, as only they had access to the few courts in Melbourne. The sport was played according to the rules of the Lawn Tennis Association in England.

1901

The LTAV set up a committee to look for a ground. In 1905 the first Australasian Championships were held at the Warehousemen's Ground (Albert Reserve) but the search continued for new ground.

1905

The first Australasian Tennis Championships (now Australian Open) were held at the Albert Ground on St Kilda Road, on land leased by the LTAV. Wimbledon had assumed an international character and May Sutton of the United States became the first Champion from overseas when she won the Ladies' Singles title.

1907

Requests for land at Flinders Park and East Melbourne were turned down but an offer of land at Kooyong was not accepted because of its relative inaccessibility and the ground was subject to flooding from Gardiners Creek. Norman Brookes of Australia became the first Gentlemen's Singles Champion at Wimbledon from overseas.

1913

Subdivision of Herbert Power's Moonga created the south end of Power Avenue. Moonga remained on a reduced allotment and Power retained ownership of the mansion, along with more than 15 acres of flood prone land north of the railway line.

LTAV committee appointed to look for a new ground with more space

1915

Herbert Power died- ownership of the property was transferred to both his family and to his estate.

1919

The search for a new ground was urgent, with one year remaining on the lease of Albert Ground.

1920

In 1920 Moonga was demolished when a second subdivision created Merriwee Crescent. According to Richard Yallop, agent William Baillieu purchased Power's land north of the railway line, and sold the 17 acres of land to the LTAV for the purchase price of £175. .

The LTAV concluded that it would cost £4000 to drain the site at Kooyong, and protect it against flooding. Fund raising was needed to purchase the land, construct embankments, lay the courts, and erect fencing and suitable buildings, including permanent stands for international and championship matches.

All England Croquet and Lawn Tennis Club acquired their new ground at Church Road after efforts to extend the old ground by purchasing adjoining properties had failed. In 1922, the Club moved to Church Road and a new era began. Their foresight to build such a large stadium (originally designed for 14,000 people) is thought to have popularised the game more than any other event to date. The same was to apply for Kooyong.

1922

The LTAV move to the new site at Kooyong from the Albert Ground. Twenty lawn courts were laid out.

Women's events were added to the Australasian Tennis Championships.

Architects and engineers, Ballantyne & Hare, prepared plans for new clubrooms on this site for the LTAV, with a sunken lawn and courts on the north. The plans showed a port-cochere at the entry, an entry hall, adjoining bar and lounge, semicircular lounge verandah facing west, a secretary and committee room, small residence with living room, bedroom, bathroom, kitchen and laundry, adjoining caterer's room, and on the north side, the ladies dressing room. Above the lounge verandah was a balcony and gallery in a similar plan form. Under the ground level lounge verandah, in the same semi-circular plan, were the men's locker room and men's toilet, under the ladies dressing room.

1923

Plans prepared for a timber stand, Hudson and Wardrop, architect

1926

James T Knox, engineer of 516 Collins St, Melbourne prepares plans for a reinforced concrete stadium at Kooyong for the LTAV in July. The plans show a 10-sided horseshoe-shape stadium, on an east-west axis, facing Glenferrie Road and three 'championship courts'. There were 12 bays of raked seating (14 seat rows per typical bay), and a small ticket office on the road boundary, on the stadium axis. A 1.5m wide promenade, with a pipe balustrade, encircled the upper deck of the stadium and was approached by a bridge off Glenferrie Rd.

The stadium provides 5,500 seats and 1,000 standing room places.

1927

Stadium opened by Norman Brookes, Australia's first Wimbledon champion.

Kooyong began its long association with the Australian Tennis Championships in 1927, hosting the event on thirty-four occasions until 1987, during which time a succession of international players graced its courts.

1934

Northern stand extension providing an additional 2,000 seats constructed just before floods covered the original stand

An aerial view shows the original horse-shoe form, with its arcaded undercroft base, plus the extra northern tier. The ticket box is a small hipped roof structure surrounded by (and part covered by) crowds seated on the east embankment. Three groups of courts were located in the sunken lawn area drawn in 1922. The clubhouse appears as a highly articulated Bungalow form, with the broad roof expanses, and overlapping roof gables. A tear-drop shaped lawn in front of the clubhouse was bisected by a diagonal pathway to the entry porch. Another broader path was aligned north-south, to reach the stadium from the lounge verandah. Ground-level car parks were opposite the stadium.

1938

Robert S Demain, architect, plans extensions to the north end of the women's change room in the clubhouse.

1946

Kooyong began as the venue for five Challenge rounds and two Final Rounds of the Davis Cup from 1946 to 1986, the year Australia claimed its second victory over Sweden. Other years the Davis Cup was played at Kooyong included 1953, 1957, 1961, 1966, 1983, 1986. White City in Sydney hosted it on five occasions.

JR Robinson, architect, prepares plans for temporary lavatories under the original northern stand- these show the added northern stand but also a 'temporary stand' that added a tier to the west side.

An aerial view shows the two tiers of the northern stand extended around the west and south, with a new steeply angled eastern stand and another (third) tier added on the southern stand. This extra tier has gone by the aerial picture of 1954.

1950

Master plan for site prepared by Bates Smart McCutcheon, architects

1952

Bates Smart McCutcheon plan new public conveniences under the north stand. Extensions to stadium (southern stand),

1953

Davis Cup Challenge round

Bates Smart McCutcheon sketch design for extensions to clubhouse.

Permit Application for brick alterations and additions, valued at \$23,000

Permit Application for concrete stand, valued at \$72,000

1954

Second Extension planned (BSM records)

1956

'Second Extension' to stadium, plans finalised in March by Bates Smart McCutcheon: includes 12 seating bays with an additional central seating strip.

Western gallery drawings show added 15 reinforced concrete tiers to former promenade supported on slim rectangular section columns and placed between the north and south galleries (already extended), new 1.1/2 inch pipe balustrade to top, new reinforced concrete stair flights

Permit Application for concrete stand, valued at \$96,000

1966

Bates Smart McCutcheon, architects plan new tournament box to north of clubhouse.

1970

Permit Application for paling fence

1970s

International artists held rock concerts at Kooyong such as Pink Floyd, Bob Dylan, the Rolling Stones and Led Zeppelin:

Rolling Stones

02/17/73 125 Degrees in the Shade\* - Melbourne Kooyong Tennis Centre, Australia

02/17/73 Temperature Rising\* - Kooyong Tennis Centre, Melbourne, Australia

02/18/73 Advantage Melbourne\* - OBR - Kooyong Tennis Centre, Melbourne, Australia

1972

Lawn Tennis Association of Australia (now Tennis Australia) decided that the Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club in Melbourne should become the permanent site because it had the greatest capacity.

1977

Permit Application for extensions below stand, valued at \$6000.

1984

Permit Application for temporary grandstand, valued at \$20,000, plus other associated temporary elements.

1987

Permit Application for temporary grandstand, valued at \$42,000, plus other associated temporary elements.

1988

Australian Open moved to the National Tennis Centre  
The LTAV changed its name to Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club. The Colonial Classic, held each January at Kooyong before the Australian Open, regularly attracts leading overseas players and maintains the Club's tradition as an internationally significant tennis venue.

1994

Child minding centre for club members applied for on site.

1996

Application for a balcony to the club house.

1997

Application for alterations and extensions to stadium for a recreation club.

1998

Application for squash courts, swimming pool and car parking.

1999

Application for altered car parking layout

2001

Ratio Consultants (D Bick architectural historian) report that historic elements remaining in the club house included:

- the original entry wing, with shingled gables
- porte cochere and entry path
- 1938 change room extensions, with some interior elements
- 1928 tea room extensions, with some interior elements
- original rough cast walls

They also note that the stadium 'may contain some elements which have a greater historical significance than the club house'.

2002

Kooyong has twenty-six grass courts and twenty-four courts of artificial grass surfaces, lit by low profile lighting.

Capacity 10,000 (approx.)  
Seats 10,000 (approx.)  
Video Screen No  
Lights No  
Roof No  
Built 1927  
Sports Played Tennis  
Annual Events Commonwealth Bank International

### **James T Knox (1889-1967)**

The designer of the first stage of the stadium, James T Knox, was a noted advocate of reinforced concrete construction and had acted as shire engineer to a number of municipalities prior to this commission. He had also toured the North America examining model dairy farming and returned with a farm machinery agency. He was also the proprietor of South Gippsland Quarries and advertised free plans for concrete block houses, silos and milking sheds. In 1926 he constructed a model farm at his Leongatha property, using reinforced concrete and the American Loudon designs.

### **Knox and the Gelliondale Brown Coal and Oil Co**

The Gelliondale Brown Coal and Oil Co. commenced operations in 1930 and under the direction and ownership of James T Knox started manufacturing briquettes in 1934. The company ceased the production of briquettes in 1944 and was wound up in 1950. The concrete engine footings and machinery remains of the briquette plant today form part of an industrial complex comprised of a factory and conveyor belt system, a water filled open-cut mine, a large mullock heap and the remnants of a tramway system.

The remains of the Gelliondale Briquette plant have an important association with the endeavours of James Knox and the Gelliondale Brown Coal and Oil Co. to retain the rights of individuals and of private enterprise on the face of active opposition from the State Government. The social associations of the site are an illustration of the lack of power granted to the private sector when a conflict of interests arises in relation to the utilization of natural resources, culminating in this instance in the passing of legislation, the 1950 Gelliondale Land (Mineral Lease) Act, which granted the Crown authority for the resumption of both mineral leases and land.

The Gelliondale Briquette plant.. (is) a demonstration of technical accomplishment in the history of briquette production and of the construction and lay-out of a brown-coal mining operation. Of Victoria's three original briquette production facilities the Gelliondale briquette plant is the only one which is represented by physical remains. Due to extended open-cut mining both of the Yallourn sites have been completely removed. It is also the only remaining site that is representative of non-government operated briquette production facility.

...The Gelliondale Briquette plant demonstrates an association with an important figure as it was owned and operated by James T. Knox (1889-1967), a civil engineer who is noted for promoting the use of concrete in the Australian construction industry. He is purportedly the designer of the original 1937 concrete southern stand at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. Knox's innovative projects extended beyond building design and included attempts to introduce advanced farming technology and his operation of the Gelliondale Brown Coal and Oil Co.' (Heritage Victoria)

### **Knox Rockhill Farm, Leongatha**

(National Trust of Australia (Vic) File No: B5059 )

This complex was classified by the National Trust of Australia (Vic) in the 1980s as '...an innovative dairying complex embodying the total mechanisation of milking, watering and feeding and elements such as double-sided milking lay-out, concrete feed silos and concrete block work.'

'Its owner, James Knox was a practising civil engineer, managing director of the pioneering Gelliondale Brown Coal Company, quarry and farm owner. He built this complex in 1926, after securing the Loudon Machinery Company (USA) agency during an American study tour, erecting this building as a showcase for its wares.'

'The complex demonstrated the company's machinery and building designs, as well as Knox's own concrete blocks. The simulated half-timbered roof gables and the castellated silos contribute to the visual picturesque character, as did the flared profile of a now demolished gable which has itself a direct reference to American barn designs.'

## ANALYSIS

### Thematic context

The Principal Australian Historic Themes (PAHT) have been developed by the Australian Heritage Commission to allow assessment of historical significance within a national historical thematic framework.

PAHT	Subtheme	Category
Organising recreation	Playing and watching	Tennis court

## Comparative analysis

### Conclusion

- This was the first sporting stand in the State to surround an outdoor sporting arena in a similar architectural form;
- it was the first to use reinforced concrete in such as configuration and among the earliest group of stands in any configuration;
- its two main designers, JT Knox and the firm Bates Smart & McCutcheon are both renowned in their field within the State;
- it was by far the most substantial sporting structure related to tennis in Victoria and Australia for a long period after its construction;
- as a result it has been the venue for most international tennis championships held here until the 1980s, as well as a number of major music concerts in the 1970s and 1980s;
- it followed the lead of Wimbledon and gained the same kudos as major new venue for tennis, promoting the game;
- associated with all of the internationally famous names in tennis;
- it is the activity centre for a complex of courts and club activity over a long period.

The stadium has been extended significantly but in doing so the shape and siting has been maintained, along with the finishes and many details. The additions have been such that the original form can still be seen, along with the arcading at the base level.

### Background

The form of the stadium resembles that of Roman theatres, typically according to Vitruvius to be a semi-circle with a colonnade around the top: this was expressed on the outside as a circular building with colonnades at two levels as in the theatre at Ferento. European theatres of the 16th to 18th centuries such as the Teatro Argentina 1732, also used horse-shoe or semi-circular seating forms, typically set within rectangular shells but also in cylindrical forms such as the Dresden first opera house, 1838-41. The Roman Colosseum is the closest historical form to the stadium. The development of the use of reinforced concrete in sporting stands, typically meant concrete platforms or plats but a steel framed

stand. European examples included the St Paul grandstand that had an ornate arcaded façade to the street but inside reinforced concrete platforms and steel framed roof.

### **Comparisons: Other stadia**

(see Heritage Victoria: Waverley Park)

'Grandstands have always provided excellent opportunities for innovative design as reflected by the original 1930s Southern Stand and the replacement 1980s-90s Great Southern Stand at the MCG, as well as the former Hawthorn ground at the Glenferrie Oval, from the 1930s. Last century the Ballarat Oval grandstand remains as one of the most spectacular structures from that period, but many other examples survive that have recognised heritage values, such as Hamilton and Benalla.'

'Many grandstands have individual components of interest such as the original Norman Brooks stand at Kooyong from the 1920s, an innovative concrete structure. Its character has been substantially altered by the 1950s extensions by Bates Smart McCutcheon, which are, however, well designed and executed. Some venues have been rebuilt several times, including the MCG and Flemington. Such staging is a feature of all other sporting venues in Victoria where one stand is replaced by a grandstand of a larger or more functional design.'

The closest comparison to the stadium in the local sense are the numerous outdoor sporting arenas typical served by a grandstand at one end. The only arena that was so developed as to have stands around the entire perimeter in the same development period was the Melbourne Cricket Ground. Currently, the stadium comprises four principal stands, the MCC Members Pavilion (the third on the site, designed by Stephenson and Meldrum and completed in 1927), the Northern (Olympic) Stand (designed by AW Purnell and completed in 1956), the Western (Ponsford) Stand (designed by Tompkins, Shaw & Evans and completed in 1968) and the Great Southern Stand (designed by Daryl Jackson in association with Tompkins Shaw & Evans and completed in 1992), the oval, light towers (1984) and Australian Gallery of Sport (1986). Only part enclosure of the ground was achieved by the 1930s Southern Stand (demolished), well after the Kooyong example.

### **Historical**

It has been fairly argued by Lewis that:

'As the former home of the Lawn Tennis Association of Victoria and Australia, Kooyong has outstanding historical significance for its role in world tennis competition. It is now only rivalled by Wimbledon in London and Roland Garos in Paris. It was the best tennis venue in Australia for many years and has seen many major tournaments including the Davis Cup defending finals of the 1950s and the Australian Open, which became one of the Grand Slam events of world tennis. With the assistance of temporary stands, the stadium seating capacity is said to have peaked at 35,000 during the Davis Cup defences in the 1950s.'

The stadium formed the symbolic focus of the entire Kooyong site, which has more courts than the major overseas venues. The training programme and outstanding facilities that ran at Kooyong lead to Australian dominance of world tennis for a number of years. Apart from overseas champions, Kooyong has strong associations with numerous Australian champions, including Norman Brookes, who led the LTAV in its early years at Kooyong, to Harry Hopman, Adrian Quist, Frank Sedgeman, Ken McGregor, Lew Hoad, Tony Rosewell, Margaret Smith, and John Newcombe.'

### **JT Knox**

The designer of the first and formative stage of this stadium was an innovatory engineer whose promotion of concrete and building systems has made him historically notable. His Leongatha model farm complex and the Gelliondale complex are both recognised by heritage bodies, the latter being on the State register in part for its association with Knox. His association with the 1930s MCG Southern Stand adds significance to his association with this stadium design.

## **Assessment against the criteria adopted by the Australian Heritage Commission**

### **Summary of Australian Heritage Commission criteria**

Code	Summary	Assessment
A.3	Richness and diversity of cultural features	
A.4	Association with important events or historical themes	The venue for most international tennis championships held here until the 1980s, as well as a number of major popular music concerts in the 1970s and 1980s
B.2	Rarity or distinction among a comparable group	The first sporting stand in the State to almost surround an outdoor sporting arena in this horse-shoe Roman amphitheatre architectural form; The first to use reinforced concrete in such as configuration and among the earliest group of reinforced concrete stands in any configuration. By far, the most substantial sporting structure designed for tennis in Victoria and Australia over a long period after its construction
C.2	Research potential or of scientific interest	
D.2	Good example of type	
E.1	Aesthetic importance to the community or a cultural group	
F.1	Design or technological achievement	The first sporting stand in the State to totally surround an outdoor sporting arena in this type of Roman amphitheatre architectural form; The first to use reinforced concrete in such as configuration and among the earliest group of reinforced concrete stands in any configuration.

		By far, the most substantial sporting structure designed for tennis in Victoria and Australia over a long period after its construction
G.1	Social significance	The venue for most international tennis championships held here until the 1980s, as well as a number of major popular music concerts in the 1970s and 1980s, as recorded on many international music fan and sporting websites.
H.1	Association with important person or group	The association with the designers, JT Knox and the firm Bates Smart & McCutcheon, both renowned in their field within the State

## RECOMMENDATIONS:

The stadium and land should remain in the heritage overlay of the Stonnington Planning Scheme. However, further work could be done to define a smaller land area for the planning scheme heritage overlay as part of a Conservation Management Plan for the place and, from this plan, develop an incorporated plan to provide for permit exemptions.

### **Proposed extent of heritage place for the heritage overlay**

The stadium and associated land (nominally 10m from the stadium perimeter within the title) with emphasis on external fabric from its major construction stage in the 1920s, 1930s and the secondary contribution of the 1950s additions.

### **Planning Scheme Protection in a heritage overlay: Recommended**

#### **Other heritage registers**

Heritage Victoria Register: Recommended

Register of the National Estate: Recommended

## REFERENCES

N Lewis cites:

Bates Smart McCutcheon archives:

1950 Master plan for site prepared by Bates Smart McCutcheon, architects,  
1952 Extensions to stadium designed, Southern stand, Bates Smart McCutcheon, architects,  
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Yallop, Richard, 'Kooyong: A Serve to Authority', Mappcorp Pty. Ltd. Melbourne, 1992.

Further references:

D Foster 2002 in 'Stonnington History News' Newsletter No. 39 Apr - May. 2002

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Lewis (ed), 1988 '200 Years of Concrete in Australia': 104

Heritage Victoria: Victorian Heritage Register On-Line: VHR Number H1058, File Number 600803

### **Further work**

Further inspection needed of interior of site.

## Appendix 1 Previous citation

Council has considered a series of amendments to the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay of the Stonnington Planning Scheme. During the exhibition period of former Amendments L47 and L61 objections to the inclusion of some properties in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay were received. Therefore Council resolved to undertake further analysis of the heritage citations of affected properties prior to holding an independent panel hearing. The amendments are now known as C5 and C6(2) respectively. The following citation was exhibited with amendment L47.

1922 Lawn Tennis Association of Victoria move to new site at Kooyong from Albert Ground

1923 Plans prepared for a timber stand, Hudson and Wardrop, architect

1926 Concrete stand constructed following intercession of Essington Lewis and others, James Knox, engineer, providing 5,500 seats and 1,000 standing room places, seating area in a horseshoe configuration attached to Glenferrie Road

1927 Stand opened by Norman Brookes

1930 Australian Championships move to Kooyong,

1934 Northern stand extension providing an additional 2,000 seats constructed just before original stand covered by massive floods

1950 Masterplan for site prepared by Bates Smart McCutcheon, architects (BSM records)

1950 -1973 Bates Smart McCutcheon, architects design a range of projects to upgrade facilities to Kooyong, stadium; also includes seating layouts, tournament box, box plans, and television stand and boxes

1952 Extensions to stadium designed, Southern stand, Bates Smart McCutcheon, architects (BSM records)

1953 Davis Cup Challenge round

1954 Second Extension planned (BSM records)

1956 Second Extension constructed, Bates Smart McCutcheon, architects (Malvern Building Plan)

1988 Australian Open moved to the National Tennis Centre

Kooyong stadium has seen four major construction phases. The first major 1926 stand, created a series of arched supports around the perimeter, providing a classical character, relating to a Roman amphitheatre. It was an excellent example of the use of reinforced concrete for a sporting stadium for this time. The upper level was finished with a decorative post and hand rail design which related to the architectural ethos of the club room, and was also used for the two entry bridges from Glenferrie Road. The 1934 northern upper extension expressed a 'Moderne' idiom with curving enclosed upper panels and expressionist access stairs. The 1952 southern upper extension and 1956 west upper extension both expressed the more spare architectural and engineering idiom of stadium design of the 1950s. The ticket box provides a streetscape element that links both the club house and stadium.

The subsequent additions retained the major elements of the 1926 stand except for the upper handrail. The two entry bridges retain the original detailing of the original stand. The lawn centre court was replaced by a synthetic surface after the loss of the Australian Open.

As the former home of the Lawn Tennis Association of Victoria and Australia, Kooyong has outstanding historical significance for its role in world tennis competition. It is now only rivalled by Wimbledon in London and Roland Garos in Paris. It was the best tennis venue in Australia for many years and has seen many major tournaments including the Davis Cup defending finals of the 1950s and the Australian Open, which became one of the Grand Slam events of world tennis. With the assistance of temporary stands, the stadium seating capacity is said to have peaked at 35,000 during the Davis Cup defences in the 1950s.

The stadium formed the symbolic focus of the entire Kooyong site, which has more courts than the major overseas venues. The training programme and outstanding facilities that ran at Kooyong lead to Australian dominance of world tennis for a number of years. Apart from overseas champions, Kooyong has strong associations with numerous Australian champions, including Norman Brookes, who led the LTAV in its early years at Kooyong, to Harry Hopman, Adrian Quist, Frank Sedgeman, Ken McGregor, Lew Hoad, Tony Rosewell, Margaret Smith, and John Newcombe.

The Kooyong stadium is of state significance on account of its outstanding historical significance and architectural and engineering design.