



**HERITAGE
COUNCIL**
OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES – ASSESSMENT DOCUMENTATION

11. ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

The criteria adopted by the Heritage Council in November 1996 have been used to determine the cultural heritage significance of the place.

PRINCIPAL AUSTRALIAN HISTORIC THEME(S)

- 8.9 Commemorating significant events and people

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 404 Community services and utilities

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE

Scarborough Clock Tower demonstrates creative design and use of materials chosen particularly to suit the coastal environment. (Criterion 1.2)

Scarborough Clock Tower is a landmark structure within the Scarborough Beach area. There are important views to *Scarborough Clock Tower* from both land and water. (Criterion 1.3)

Scarborough Clock Tower contributes to the landscape setting of the Scarborough Beach foreshore area. (Criterion 1.3)

11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

Scarborough Clock Tower was constructed by the Scarborough Rotary Club and the City of Stirling to commemorate the 150th anniversary of white settlement of Western Australia and the 75th anniversary of Rotary International. (Criterion 2.2)

The concept for the construction and design of *Scarborough Clock Tower* was a result of the work of members of the Scarborough Rotary Club, which was formed in 1956 and has made important and valued contributions to the local community since that time. (Criterion 2.3)

11.3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

11.4. SOCIAL VALUE

Scarborough Clock Tower is valued by the Rotary Club of Scarborough as one of their more important community projects, built to commemorate both the 150th anniversary of white settlement of Western Australia and the 75th anniversary of Rotary International. (Criterion 4.1)

Scarborough Clock Tower contributes to the local and wider community's sense of place as a prominent landmark associated with a popular beach. Since its construction, the Clock Tower has been a focus of Christmas and New Year celebrations, and naturalisation and other ceremonies. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12.1. RARITY

Scarborough Clock Tower is one of the few community amenity projects undertaken to commemorate the 150th anniversary of white settlement of Western Australia and was undertaken as a joint project between a local service group and a local government authority. (Criterion 5.1)

12.2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Scarborough Clock Tower is representative of a range of projects and commemorative activities undertaken during 1979 to celebrate 150 years of white settlement in Western Australia. While many projects were ephemeral, *Scarborough Clock Tower* is one of the few permanent built outcomes of the commemorative year. (Criterion 6.2)

12.3 CONDITION

Generally *Scarborough Clock Tower* and its surrounds are in a good condition, however the precast, sandblasted concrete legs are showing signs of deterioration. In some areas the steel reinforcing is exposed and rusting.

The place has generally been well maintained, although as mentioned above the concrete legs require attention.

The surrounding development has decreased the prominence of *Scarborough Clock Tower* in the landscape, although it still has landmark qualities.

12.4 INTEGRITY

Scarborough Clock Tower has a high degree of integrity as its original intention is still intact and the likely long-term sustainability of these values is high.

12.5 AUTHENTICITY

Generally, *Scarborough Clock Tower* has a high degree of authenticity. The majority of the fabric is in its original state. The surrounds of the roundabout have, however, been altered over time and contain a moderate degree of authenticity (in particular the semicircular garden beds).

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

Documentary evidence compiled by Jacqui Sherriff, Historian and physical evidence compiled by Annabel Wills, Conservation Practitioner, with amendments and/or additions by HCWA staff and the Register Committee.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

Scarborough Clock Tower is a precast sandblasted concrete and stainless steel clock tower, constructed in 1979, with paved surrounds, bench seats, garden beds and a time capsule, located in a traffic roundabout at the intersection of Scarborough Beach Road and The Esplanade, Scarborough.

Scarborough Clock Tower was constructed in 1979 by the Rotary Club of Scarborough and the City of Stirling to commemorate both the 150th anniversary of white settlement in Western Australia and the 75th anniversary of Rotary International. It was designed and constructed by Rotarians with the assistance of the City of Stirling, with much of the labour and materials donated. Since its construction, the Clock Tower has been a prominent landmark on Scarborough Beach and the focus of annual celebrations and commemorative activities.

Paul Harris and three friends established the first Rotary Club in Chicago in 1905 with the primary purpose of promoting the business interests of the members. By 1910, there were 16 clubs across America forming the National Association of Rotary Clubs and, following the formation of clubs in Canada and Great Britain, in 1912 the name was changed to the International Association of Rotary Clubs (shortened to Rotary International in 1922). Rotary rapidly expanded into a worldwide network of professional and businessmen and women and was the world's first service organisation. By 1947, there were 300,000 members in 75 countries, and by 2003, there were 1.2 million Rotarians in 31,000 clubs in 166 countries. The object of Rotary has expanded over the years to encourage and foster the ideal of service and high ethical standards in business and professions, as well as the advancement of international understanding and goodwill through a world fellowship of professional persons.¹

Rotary clubs were established in Melbourne and Sydney in 1921 and in Perth in 1926. Following the establishment of the Fremantle club in 1928, no clubs were established in Western Australia for another 20 years. However, by the end of 1955 there were 21 clubs in the State.²

The Rotary Club of Scarborough was provisionally formed on 5 July 1956 and admitted to Rotary International the following month.³ By this time, as a result of large-scale development by the State Housing Commission, Scarborough had evolved from a remote, hard to access seaside resort to a rapidly growing suburb with schools, churches and a number of clubs and service groups. Throughout this time, Scarborough Beach remained a popular surfing and swimming beach for local residents, people from the wider Perth area and visitors.⁴

Over the years, the Rotary Club of Scarborough has initiated various community projects, including the establishment of a Police Boys Club, the contribution of

1 'Rotary International – About Rotary', at www.rotary.org/aboutrotary and 'Rotary Global History Fellowship' at www.historynewsletter.org, both accessed 15 December 2003.

2 P P Carl Riedel (Paul Harris Fellow), *A History of Rotary in Western Australia from 25 August 1926*, Rotary in Western Australia, Perth, c. 1984, pp. 28-28a.

3 *ibid.*, p. 107.

4 W S Cooper and G McDonald, *Diversity's Challenge: A History of the City of Stirling*, City of Stirling, 1999, pp. 330-61.

surf boats to the Surfsider Club, a surf reel and radio for fully controlled patrol of Scarborough Beach and sponsoring holidays for single parent families.⁵

In March 1979, the Rotary Club of Scarborough approached the City of Stirling regarding an 'appropriate project' to commemorate 150 years of white settlement in Western Australia. The Club also wished to commemorate 75 years of Rotary International and felt that a single large project undertaken during 1979 could commemorate both anniversaries. The Club wished to build something of 'grace and beauty' to mark the 'special year'.⁶

The Club suggested that a suitable project might be the construction of a large clock 'in a prominent position on the Scarborough water front' and sought financial and in-kind support from the Council.⁷ The Club felt that a clock would be an appropriate way of marking the anniversaries, 'which help us to understand the meaning of time and... are measured by the steady ticking of the clock'.⁸

The Club's approach was considered by the City's Planning Committee, which agreed to participate in the project on a dollar for dollar basis to a maximum of \$10,000.⁹

Planning and design occupied several months. The main points to be considered were vandalism, location, material types, aesthetics, design and cost.¹⁰

The tower was designed by architect and Rotarian, Peter Otto, who provided an outline of the thinking behind the design at a Rotary meeting in July 1979:

The 3 legs may be representative of Rotary, the City of Stirling and WAY '79 and the curve of each is a radius ingeniously conceived and constructed. The tower will be 40 metres high and 4 metres wide at the top. The Clock will face East up Scarborough Beach Road, North-West towards Trigg – and South-East towards City Beach with a face about 900mm in diameter. They should be readable from a distance of at least 500 metres. The legs will be of concrete with the Clock structure of stainless steel so that the whole thing will last indefinitely. The Tower will be placed in a new roundabout at the beach end of Scarborough Beach Road and will be floodlit at night. The roundabout will be landscaped in wave forms to bring the theme of wave and surf right up to the Tower.¹¹

The 'futuristic tower' was designed to provide 'an impressive focal point at one of Western Australia's most popular beaches'.¹²

Joint construction by the Technical Services Division of the City of Stirling and the Rotary Club of Scarborough commenced in August 1979. Other contributors to the project included honorary builder Norman Gillon (Rotarian), honorary structural engineers Wood & Grieve, electrical consultant Thomas Appleyard (Rotarian), landscape consultant Barry Waldeck (Rotarian), Maurice E Moller (Rotarian) for the clock housing and Douglas Timms (Rotarian) for the bronze

5 Riedel, op. cit., p. 107.

6 Media Release, 20 August 1979, Stirling City Council, Scarborough Clock Tower, AN 63, Acc 2655, Item 0.4.9.2, State Records Office of Western Australia (SROWA).

7 Surfside Rotary, Minutes of Meeting, 12 July 1979, p. 4, copy on HCWA file P16764.

8 Happy 25th Birthday Scarborough Rotary Club', Rotary Club of Scarborough publication, 1981.

9 Correspondence from Town Clerk, City of Stirling, to Rotary Club of Scarborough, 23 April 1979, Stirling City Council, Scarborough Clock Tower, AN 63, Acc 2655, Item 0.4.9.2, SROWA.

10 Correspondence from Rotary Club of Scarborough to Town Clerk, City of Stirling, 2 March 1979, Stirling City Council, Scarborough Clock Tower, AN 63, Acc 2655, Item 0.4.9.2, SROWA.

11 Surfside Rotary, Minutes of Meeting, 12 July 1979, p. 4, copy on HCWA file P16764.

12 *East Suburban News*, supplement to *The West Australian*, 30 August 1979, p. 7.

casting.¹³ The clock's mechanisms were made in Switzerland and the clock faces were obtained from Rotarian Don Mazzuchelli of Mazzuchelli Jewellers.¹⁴

The clock faces were installed on 3 September, with the windy conditions challenging the rigger and builders.¹⁵ The three concrete piers supporting the clock faces had sandblasted surfaces and the clock faces were of marine aluminium plate.¹⁶

The Governor of Western Australia, Sir Wallace Kyle, officially dedicated *Scarborough Clock Tower* on 13 September 1979. Members of the Scarborough Surf Life Saving Club formed a guard of honour and the Scarborough Senior High School Band made its first official public appearance at the ceremony. Sir Kyle unveiled the commemorative plaque, while Lady Kyle commenced the clock mechanism. The Scarborough Life Saving Club were appointed 'Honorary Guardians of the Clocktower' in perpetuity and it was expected that 'this tower will become the focal point at Scarborough Beach. A meeting place, a landmark for small craft at sea, the centrepiece'.¹⁷

After the ceremony, guests moved to the Scarborough Surf Life Saving Club for refreshments and the presentation of a time capsule to the Scarborough Rotary Club. The time capsule was later placed below the centre of the clock and is to be opened in 2079.¹⁸

A week after the opening, City of Stirling defended its expenditure on the clock tower, stating that the Rotary Club had been able to reduce the commercial cost of the tower (estimated at \$50,000) to \$20,000 through donations, materials and labour.¹⁹ The three faces of the clock could easily be seen by swimmers in the water and from all approaches to the beach and was lit by spotlights at night.²⁰

Since its construction, *Scarborough Clock Tower* has been the focus of 'Carols by the Clock Tower', an annual Christmas celebration, flag raising ceremonies, naturalisation ceremonies, Australia Day functions and New Year celebrations.

In July 2001, the City of Stirling released an environmental area strategy for Scarborough. The streetscape and landscape strategy for Scarborough Beach included investigation of the relocation and renovation of the clock tower. In 2003, the City of Stirling has no immediate plans to relocate the clock tower.²¹

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

Scarborough Clock Tower is a precast sandblasted concrete and stainless steel clock tower, constructed in 1979, with paved surrounds, bench seats, garden beds and a time capsule, located in a traffic roundabout at the intersection of Scarborough Beach Road and The Esplanade, Scarborough.

Scarborough Clock Tower is located in the beachside suburb of Scarborough. Scarborough is approximately 12km from the centre of Perth in a north-west

13 City of Stirling Memo, 13 August 1979, Stirling City Council, Scarborough Clock Tower, AN 63, Acc 2655, Item 0.4.9.2, SROWA.

14 Surfside Rotary, Minutes of Meeting, 6 August 1979, p. 3, copy on HCWA file P16764.

15 *The West Australian*, 4 September 1979, p. 1.

16 *East Suburban News*, supplement to *The West Australian*, 30 August 1979, p. 7.

17 'Official Dedication of the Clocktower', programme from dedication ceremony, 13 September 1979, copy on HCWA file P16764.

18 *ibid*; 'The Rotary Clock Tower Scarborough Beach: History and Background Information', HCWA file P16764.

19 The final cost was \$22,936 shared equally by City of Stirling and Rotary Club of Scarborough.

20 *North Suburban News*, supplement to *The West Australian*, 26 September 1979, p. 10.

21 City of Stirling, 'Scarborough Environs Area Strategy', July 2001, p. 7.; Correspondence from City of Stirling to HCWA, received 13 November 2003, HCWA file P16764.

direction. The area can be approached from the east via Scarborough Beach Road, or from the north and south via the West Coast Highway. Scarborough is a suburb that had its origins as a traditional beachside holiday destination.

Scarborough Clock Tower is a prominent feature in the Scarborough Beach Foreshore area. It is located in a traffic roundabout at the intersection of Scarborough Beach Road and The Esplanade, Scarborough. The Esplanade is a short road running in a north south direction along the Scarborough Beach Foreshore. The road gives access to beach car parks, foreshore restaurants, apartments, the beach, Scarborough Surf Lifesaving Club and the beachside frontage of the Rendezvous Observation City Hotel. The Rendezvous Observation City Hotel is located immediately adjacent to *Scarborough Clock Tower* on the north-east side.

Scarborough Clock Tower forms an integral part of the Scarborough Beach foreshore environment. It is clearly visible from both land and water.

Scarborough Clock Tower is 40 metres tall and 4 metres wide at the top of the tower. It contains three curved, precast, sandblasted concrete legs with a pressed stainless steel plate clock structure at high level. This clock structure is the element that connects the three legs together. The clock structure is 4 metres wide and hexagonal in plan form with three sides containing clock faces and the other three sides connecting to the legs. Below the hexagonal element the clock structure also contains a cylindrical steel element which also connects to the three legs at a lower level. It sits in the centre of the traffic roundabout, which also contains a flagpole and four lightpoles.

There are three identical clock faces of approximately 900mm in diameter. The clocks face east along Scarborough Beach Road, north west up the beach and south-west down the beach.

At its perimeter the roundabout has a grassed strip edged by concrete curbing. Inside this grassed area is a concrete footpath. There are then raised concrete garden beds. These garden beds slope up towards the centre of the roundabout and have sloping concrete walls in a representative waveform. The garden beds are three semicircular portions separated by red brick paved sets of two stairs. There are three lights in cages located in the garden beds facing up towards the Clock Tower. To the inner side of the garden beds and following the circular form are approximately 10 concrete and timber bench seats that encircle the clock tower. This area is raised by two steps and brick paved. *Scarborough Clock Tower* is located on this level.

There is a time capsule buried below a central concrete block under the clock.

The clock tower remains a dominant element in the landscape although this dominance has been diminished with the surrounding construction developments and growth of the surrounding trees.

There are several commemorative plaques and crests located on the clock tower:

One Government Crest on the north-eastern leg with the number '150' beneath, commemorating 150 years since James Stirling settled the Swan River Colony.

At the same height on the south-eastern leg is the Rotary symbol with the number '75' beneath, commemorating 75 years of Rotary International.

A commemorative plaque located on a leg of the tower is dedicated to Norman Keith Gillon. It reads:

NORMAN KEITH GILLON
1923-1998
THIS PLAQUE IS DEDICATED

TO THE MEMORY OF PAST PRESIDENT
NORM GILLON,
LONG SERVING ROTARIAN AND
BENEFACTOR TO THE COMMUNITY
AND COUNTLESS CHARITABLE CAUSES.

THROUGH HIS PERSISTANCE, ENERGY AND
SUPERVISION THIS CLOCK TOWER
BECAME A REALITY ON
13TH SEPTEMBER 1979

A TRIBUTE FROM HIS FELLOW MEMBERS
OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF SCARBOROUGH

16TH DECEMBER 1999

PRESIDENT : GRAHAM SPILKER SECRETARY : HUGH FROST

A second plaque is located within the garden walls and commemorates the opening of the Clock Tower. It reads:

ROTARY CLUB OF SCARBOROUGH AND CITY OF STIRLING
THIS PLAQUE WAS UNVEILED BY
HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR

AIR CHIEF MARSHALL, SIR WALLACE KYLE
G.C.B., K.C.V.O., C.B.F., D.S.O., D.F.C., K.ST.J.

TO COMMEMORATE THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL
AND THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA
IN THE PRESENCE OF
THE PRESIDENT OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF SCARBOROUGH
MR PETER G TURNER B.E.

HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR, COUNCILLOR GRAHAM BURKETT J.P.

HON ARCHITECT : ROTARIAN PETER H. OTTO ARAIA

HON BUILDER : ROTARIAN NORMAN K. GILLON

13TH SEPTEMBER 1979.

The bench seats surrounding the Clock Tower have small plaques recognising past Rotarians reaching the high office of District Governor.

Generally, *Scarborough Clock Tower* and its surrounds are in a good condition, however the precast, sandblasted concrete legs are showing signs of deterioration. In some areas the steel reinforcing is exposed and rusting.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

150th Anniversary commemoration

In 1979, State and local governments, church and community groups throughout Western Australia held events and celebrations to commemorate the 150th anniversary of white settlement. Official activities organised by the State Government included the publication of a series of 14 volumes on the history and development of Western Australia; public art celebrating achievement in industry; a commemorative boat race from Plymouth, England, to Fremantle; restoration of the Avondale Research Station to celebrate agriculture; recipe competitions and fashion parades; a 'colonial ball'; the establishment of the Bibbulmun Track; a new Art Gallery building; and, a commemorative stamp issue.²²

At local government level, cultural, sporting and recreational activities included pioneer receptions, school open days, picnic races, festivals, historical re-enactments, street parties, publications, tree planting, fairs and balls. Many local governments timed the opening of community facilities such as libraries, museums or sport and recreation facilities to coincide with the anniversary. Like

²² *Western Australia 1829-1979: Report on the Celebrations to the Parliament of Western Australia, 150th Anniversary Board*, Perth, 1979, passim.

the State Government, a few local governments committed to infrastructure development during this time as a permanent marker of the celebrations. The City of Perth redeveloped the Perth Railway Station Forecourt, Dongara-Port Denison Chamber of Commerce organised a Fisherman's memorial project, Rockingham opened an Anniversary Park, and Geraldton sponsored a pavement art competition. In addition to part-funding *Scarborough Clock Tower*, the City of Stirling also built Dianella Library as part of its 150th anniversary activities.²³

Scarborough Clock Tower was built to commemorate the 150th anniversary of white settlement in Western Australia and was one of a few permanent public amenities constructed during this time.

Clock Towers

There are seven clock towers listed on the HCWA database. Of these, only Edith Dirksey Cowan Memorial, is on the Register of Heritage Places. Constructed of granite, bronze and sandstone in 1934, it is relatively small compared to *Scarborough Clock Tower*. Other clock towers on the database include Subiaco War Memorial Tower (1922; RHP), Merredin Clock Tower memorial (1991; also known as Rotary Clock Tower), Balingup War Memorial Clock, Katanning Town Clock (1956), Pioneer Memorial Clock, Moora (1968) and City of Melville War Memorial Plaque (1988).

The Town of Cottesloe organized the construction of a sundial as part of a bicentennial landscaping project for Cottesloe Beach.

Other example

Constructed in 1981 to commemorate 50 years of Apex service to the community, the Apex monument, Geelong, has three reinforced concrete legs forming an equilateral triangle at ground level rising to a point six metres high, with coloured Perspex signs featuring the Apex symbol crowning the tripod. Apex was founded in Geelong in 1931 to help people disadvantaged by the Great Depression and at its peak in the 1980s had over 18,000 members in 800 clubs throughout Australia, with clubs in several South-East Asian countries.²⁴

The monument was entered in the Victorian Heritage Register as part of the listing for Johnstone Park in 1995. Johnstone Park was entered for its historical significance for its associations with the 1838 Hoddle Plan for Geelong and its social significance as a public amenity. Along with several other monuments built after major development of the park in the early 20th century, the Apex monument was included in the Register by default (being within the curtilage of the park). The monument is not described, mentioned by name or attributed any particular significance. In 2000, Heritage Victoria undertook a separate assessment of the Apex monument following a proposal to remove it and replace it with another. Although the Apex monument was found to have local significance (and the potential for historic and social significance at a higher level), Heritage Victoria did not allow its removal.²⁵

13. 4 KEY REFERENCES

13. 5 FURTHER RESEARCH

23 ibid.

24 H Larder, 'A monument to our recent past', in D S Jones (ed), *20th Century Heritage – Our Recent Cultural Legacy: Proceedings of the Australia ICOMOS National Conference 2001*, Victoria, 2001, pp. 95-99.

25 ibid.

Engineering expertise to determine the scientific value of the large 40m precast concrete legs. It needs to be determined if this was a technical achievement for 1979.