



**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)

- 1.4 Appreciating the natural wonders of Australia
- 3.1.1 Regulating waterways
- 8.1.1 Playing and watching organised sport
- 8.1.3 Developing public parks and gardens
- 8.14 Living in the country and rural settlements

HERITAGE COUNCIL OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA THEME(S)

- 106 Workers
- 405 Sport, recreation & entertainment
- 506 Tourism

11.1 AESTHETIC VALUE*

Pemberton Swimming Pool is an exceptionally picturesque element in the forests of the South-West. The naturalistic appearance of the large pool, together with the sloping lawn provides a simple setting and a dramatic backdrop to the nearby karri forest. The generally calm flat surface of the water reflects the mature karri trees with unusual clarity. (Criteria 1.1 and 1.3)

11.2. HISTORIC VALUE

Pemberton Swimming Pool illustrates the development of the Swimming Pool and surrounds by the community of Pemberton as a community facility and a tourist attraction over more than 80 years, and their appreciation and care for its natural beauty evident in the intent from its initiation to retain the natural forest setting of the hillside as an integral part of the Pool. (Criterion 2.1)

Pemberton Swimming Pool was developed by the local community including timber workers and Group settlers in 1928-29, but the Great Depression delayed

* For consistency, all references to architectural style are taken from Apperly, R., Irving, R., Reynolds, P. *A Pictorial Guide to Identifying Australian Architecture. Styles and Terms from 1788 to the Present*, Angus and Robertson, North Ryde, 1989.

For consistency, all references to garden and landscape types and styles are taken from Ramsay, J. *Parks, Gardens and Special Trees: A Classification and Assessment Method for the Register of the National Estate*, Australian Government Publishing Service, Canberra, 1991, with additional reference to Richards, O. *Theoretical Framework for Designed Landscapes in WA*, unpublished report, 1997.

further improvements until the late 1930s, and from the early 1930s it has been associated with the development of tourism in the district. (Criterion 2.2)

Office bearers of the Pemberton Parents' and Citizens' Association (P & C), Edwin Fuge, C. A. Glew and Dr. Abbott, initiated reservation of the scenic hillside and the development of *Pemberton Swimming Pool* and were the first Trustees for the place. Well known Pemberton identities Arthur Ralph Kelly and Roy Kelly were also associated with the place. (Criterion 2.3)

11. 3. SCIENTIFIC VALUE

Pemberton Swimming Pool has the potential to yield information relating to the development and use of recreational facilities and the natural environment in this State, including the development of tourism in the South-West. (Criterion 3.2)

At *Pemberton Swimming Pool* the construction of a dam on a small brook for a community swimming pool and the development of the surrounds to provide recreational facilities in which the natural setting of the hillside was retained demonstrates the technical innovation and achievement of a small community in the South-West in the inter-war period. (Criterion 3.3)

11. 4. SOCIAL VALUE

Pemberton Swimming Pool is highly valued by the community for social, cultural, educational and aesthetic reasons evidenced by its continued involvement in development and maintenance of the place since 1928-29, and inclusion in the Municipal Inventory. It is also highly valued for aesthetic reasons by the wider community including tourists to the South-West and continues to be a much appreciated and admired attraction. (Criterion 4.1)

Pemberton Swimming Pool contributes to the community's sense of place as an integral part of the environment and social life of Pemberton. (Criterion 4.2)

12. DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE

12. 1. RARITY

Pemberton Swimming Pool is unique in the creation of a dam on a natural watercourse for a recreational and competition swimming facility with retention of the natural forested hillside as an aesthetic intention and an integral part of the place. (Criteria 5.1 & 5.2)

12. 2 REPRESENTATIVENESS

Pemberton Swimming Pool is an outstanding example of a swimming pool created by constructing a dam on a natural watercourse in a forest setting that succeeds in retaining the appearance of being natural. (Criterion 6.1)

Pemberton Swimming Pool demonstrates the innovation, determination and ability of an isolated regional forestry community to work together to provide and construct its own infrastructure to provide facilities for the betterment of the community, despite limited financial resources, while consciously endeavouring to retain the natural beauty of the place. (Criterion 6.2)

12.3 CONDITION

The physical condition of *Pemberton Swimming Pool* is generally good. The place is managed by the Pemberton Visitor Centre and a programme of inspection and maintenance is in place, although work is limited by financial constraints. The major defect is the condition of the concrete edging, which appears poor in some areas, and requires a structural assessment and maintenance work. The timbers on the west jetty require maintenance, with the timber in poor condition and some boards missing.

12.4 INTEGRITY

Pemberton Swimming Pool displays a high degree of integrity. It has been used for its intended purpose of public swimming pool and associated recreation area since its construction and continues to be used as such.

12.5 AUTHENTICITY

Pemberton Swimming Pool displays a high degree of authenticity and the pool itself has had little modification. Elements such as the Kiosk and Shelter area have been introduced to the site (in the 1950s and 1980s respectively), but reflect the developing needs of its users.

13. SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

The documentation for this place is based on the heritage assessment completed by Robin Chinnery, Historian, and Lynne Farrow, Architect, in November 2010, with amendments and/or additions by State Heritage Office staff and the Register Committee.

13.1 DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

Pemberton Swimming Pool is a large irregular tear drop shaped pool of natural appearance about 50 metres wide and 200 metres long, created in a forest setting by the Pemberton community in 1929/30 by damming a tributary of the Lefroy Brook.

In the early 1860s, Edward Revely Brockman established a pastoral station on the Warren River in the present day Pemberton district, and Pemberton Walcott took up land on the northern outskirts of the townsite later named after him but he left within two years.¹ In the late nineteenth century there was little European settlement in the district known as Wandergarup, the Aboriginal name meaning 'plenty of water', and the name given to their property by the Thomsons, one of the first families to take up land in the district in the early 1900s.²

The granting of Responsible Government in 1890 had opened the way for more rapid development of Western Australia as the new Government was able to embark on a full-scale borrowing programme to fund public works, including railways. In 1896, the extension of the South-Western Railway from Bunbury to Bridgetown ushered in a new period of development for the South-West. In 1910-11, the line was extended to Jarnadup (later named Jardee), and as elsewhere the opening of the railway furthered development of the district.³ In December 1912, the Government Trading Concerns Act was passed, under which various State operated businesses were established including hotels, brickworks, sawmills, a shipping line, butchers' shops and secondary schools.⁴ In 1913, State Saw Mills commenced with the purchase of South-West Timber Hewers' Co-operative and construction began on State Saw Mills' Deanmill (No. 1) at Manjimup and twin mills (No. 2 and No. 3) at Big Brook (later re-named Pemberton) to provide sleepers for the Transcontinental Railway contract.⁵ Extension of the railway line from Jarnadup had not been authorised so State Saw Mills constructed the line to Big Brook that opened in 1914, to service No. 2 Mill, which commenced operation in 1914, followed by No. 3 in 1915, and it continued in use until the mid-1920s.⁶

In the World War I period through to completion of the Transcontinental Railway in 1917, State Saw Mills' No. 3 Mill was the largest timber mill in Australia. Big

¹ Morris, John and Underwood, Roger *Tall Trees and Tall Tales: Stories of old Pemberton* Hesperian Press, Victoria Park, Western Australia, 1992, pp. 1-3.

² Daubney, Alison (ed.) *Pemberton: Family Stories* Introduction.

³ Evans, H. D. *The Story behind the Manjimup-Northcliffe Railway Line* Times Offset, Manjimup, Western Australia, 198-, p. 3.

⁴ Mills, Jenny *The Timber People: A History of Bunnings Limited* Bunnings Limited, Perth, 1986, p. 51.

⁵ Southcombe, M. R. H. *Steam in the Forests* Hesperian Press, Victoria Park Western Australia, 1986, pp. 89-90 & p. 110; & Evans, H. D., op. cit., p. 9.

⁶ Evans, H. D. op. cit., p. 11 & p. 23.

Brook became a thriving mill town, with a hall, store, staff accommodation, mill workers' cottages, single men's huts and two boarding houses. In the late World War I and immediate post-war periods, the Western Australian timber industry experienced stagnation. In the early 1920s, there was economic recovery from the war and renewed activity in building stimulated the timber industry.⁷

By the early 1920s, the mill town was well established at Pemberton. The main road extended out to Brockman's property and was known as Brockman Street.⁸ Introduction of the Group Settlement Scheme brought more European settlers to the district although many of the properties were later abandoned.⁹ On 30 October 1925, the town was officially re-named Pemberton and the townsite was declared, which was distinct from the area that remained under State Saw Mills.¹⁰

In 1928, the Pemberton Parents and Citizens' Association (P & C) raised funds for 140 students to go to Bunbury for a two week holiday at the seaside. Because of the costs associated with the trip, the idea of constructing a pool for the children and the wider community to enjoy, emerged as a cheaper alternative. The office bearers in the P & C, namely the President, Edwin Fuge, Secretary Dr. Abbott and Treasurer C. A. Glew, the school teacher, were the driving force in the P & C, who requested 'the hillside opposite the siding and town' between Group 26 and the siding 'be permanently reserved as a scenic reserve', stating 'it was too steep to cut'.¹¹ After District Surveyor J. A. Hall reported this was 'one of the best stands of virgin karri in the district', the hill was 'too steep for safe falling and hauling', and recommended 'the area be declared a National Park', the Minister for Lands gave his approval and Reserve 15978, reserved for timber cutting, was reduced in area by about 100 acres.¹²

On 4 November 1928, a pay day for the Mill, a scheduled fund raising saw almost every worker and local citizen donate 5s. each to raise a total of £58, and that same evening a contract was let to build a dam on a 'small stream running into Big Brook' (i.e. Lefroy Brook) in proximity to the townsite and overlooked by the aforementioned hillside.¹³ In mid-January 1929, Mr. Glew reported that the walls of the dam were 110 ft. long and 10 ft. high, impounding about 8 ft. of water that 'would extend back along the creek about 250 yards' and improvements including 'springboards, chute, dressing sheds and fences are being put in'.¹⁴ The chute at *Pemberton Swimming Pool* gave a very fast ride for sledges and was popular for many years. After a tree fell across it the length of the slide was halved.¹⁵

Recognising there was no security of tenure the P & C applied to the Lands Department for creation of a National Park or a 'B' Class Reserve 'at the foot' of the scenic reserve 'sufficient to include the pool and its environs' to enable them

⁷ Kelly, Roy, in Daubney, Alison (ed.) op. cit., p. 9.

⁸ Evans, H. D. op. cit., p. 17; photo in Daubney, Alison (ed.) op. cit., p. 58; & Morris, John and Underwood, Roger, op. cit., p. 13 & p. 26.

⁹ Evans, H. D. op. cit., pp. 10-11; & Kelly, Roy in Daubney, Alison (ed.) op. cit., p. 57.

¹⁰ Daubney, Alison (ed.) op. cit., Introduction.

¹¹ Court, T. *Trout in the Karri Country* R. Wellburn, 1947, p. 26; & Sec. for Group Settlement to U/Sec. in Reserves Recreation Caravan Park Swimming Pool etc., Reserve 19857, SROWA Cons. 6196 Item 1928/1629/01RO, 11 April 1928.

¹² Correspondence & memos etc. in Reserves Recreation ..., ibid, May - July 1928.

¹³ C. A. Glew to Mr. Bray in ibid, 18 Jan. 1929; & Court, T., op. cit.

¹⁴ C. A. Glew to Mr. Bray, ibid.

¹⁵ Kelly, Roy, op. cit.

to 'go ahead at a later date and beautify the spot and perhaps enlarge the pool to a miniature lake.'¹⁶ They suggested 'a portion of Reserve 15978 on either side of the creek' be vested in the P & C to enable the organisation 'to have control of the Swimming Pool', keep it in good repair and 'maintain a high moral standard, rather than in the Warren Road Board situated 'over 20 miles' away', which 'would not tend to give such adequate or effective supervision.'¹⁷

In February 1929, *Pemberton Swimming Pool* was being well used and providing 'great fun for the youngsters.'¹⁸ This inspired the community to raise funds for 'a bigger and better pool' and a further subscription was organised and voluntary work undertaken enabling the dam wall to be raised to a height of 14 ft.¹⁹ Overnight water seeped through the bank washing out a gap 10 ft. wide to the dismay of the community, whose endeavours to raise further subscriptions to rebuild the wall and improve the pool were hampered by the Great Depression.²⁰

In late 1929, the Minister for Lands approved 'an area embracing the Swimming Pool to be declared a reserve for National Park and Recreation', and Reserve 19857, 110 acres 1 rood 28 perches in total including the scenic hillside, was duly gazetted and vested in the Trustees nominated by the P & C, Messrs. Fuge and Glew, and Dr. Abbott.²¹ In 1930, it was placed under the newly constituted Pemberton National Parks Board and the three Trustees were appointed to the Board, whose area of responsibility was later increased by the addition of Warren National Park, Brockman Forrest, Beedelup National Park and Vasse River Bridge.²² In 1931, trout fry were air lifted from Victoria to Pemberton to establish a trout hatchery for recreational fishing that was developed as a tourist attraction from the 1930s.²³ In the early 1930s, a golf course was established on a portion of Reserve 19857 and leased to the Golf Club for 10 years. After the Club House was built 'in the wrong position encroaching on Location 972' approval was granted for the area of Reserve 19857 to be increased by about 1 rood.²⁴

In c. 1933, C. A. Glew and Dr. Abbott departed Pemberton, and *Pemberton Swimming Pool* languished somewhat until 1937, when a Swimming Pool Board was formed.²⁵ On 8 November 1937, at its first Annual Meeting, T. Carmichael was elected President, R. Rosmas Secretary and B. P. McGeary swimming coach, and it was decided to hold the first swimming carnival on 5 December and

16 C. A. Glew to Mr. Bray

17 *ibid.*

18 Court, T., *op. cit.*

19 *ibid.*

20 *ibid.*

21 Correspondence & memos in Reserves Recreation ..., *op. cit.*, Oct. – Dec. 1929; & A. R. Kelly to U/Sec. Lands in Reserves, Recreation Caravan Park Swimming Pool Reserve 19857 Nelson Location 13018 7360 8977 13010 112899 11906 to 11908 12176 Pemberton Forest Park Shire of Manjimup, SROWA Cons. 6196 Item 1928/1629/04R, 16 July 1971.

22 Jenkins, C. F. H. *The National Parks of Western Australia* National Parks Authority of Western Australia, Crawley, 1980, p. 20; & Members of the Board, 1930 to 1971, memo in Reserves, Recreation Caravan Park Swimming Pool Reserve 19857 Nelson Location 13018 7360 8977 13010 112899 11906 to 11908 12176 Pemberton Forest Park Shire of Manjimup, SROWA Cons. 6196 Item 1928/1629/04R, 20 Jan. 1971.

23 Refer to Court, T. *Trout in the Karri Country* R. Wellburn, 1947, for further information.

24 Correspondence & memos in Reserves Recreation ..., *op. cit.*, August 1931 - April 1933.

25 Correspondence in *ibid.*, March 1937; & Court, T. *Trout in the Karri Country* R. Wellburn, 1947, p. 26.

the next carnival on the second Sunday in February 1938.²⁶ The first Annual Report noted the four year plan for the place included 'to provide for a standard 55 yards swimming course; sunbathing area; a water warming device; picnic ground shade; grassing; running track for sports; playground and facilities for children'.²⁷ The river bed was to be straightened to avoid erosion, the emergency spillway was to be re-built, and the base and walls of the bathing and paddling pools concreted. A beautification policy specified the forested hillside overlooking the pool was to remain in 'virgin state', and the Pool was to be kept 'in as natural a setting as possible, no exotic tree or shrub to be planted.'²⁸ Undesirable shrubs were removed from the picnic grounds where ornamental trees were planted to provide shaded areas and the headmaster and senior schoolboys planted Kikuyu grass that formed 'a good playground' by late 1937.²⁹ Policy and practice have continued to reflect the appreciation and concern for the natural beauty of the place evident in the inception of the Reserve and *Pemberton Swimming Pool*, a Recreational/Educational/Entertainment landscape in Naturalistic/Informal style.³⁰

Each winter the pool was drained for maintenance,³¹ which continued in the early 2000s.³² Annual memberships and entrance fees funded maintenance and improvements, community busy bees did much of the work, State Saw Mills donated timber and Pemberton Power and Lighting Company gave sponsorship. There was no funding received from Warren Road Board or the government.³³

In 1938, works to *Pemberton Swimming Pool* included further grass planting, construction of a running track, and erection of a high diving tower utilising a cut off tree trunk about 20 ft. high in the pool area with a platform about halfway up to the top, but only a few people dived or jumped from the very top of the trunk. In view of the high cost of proposed irrigation for the grassed area and showers the Board requested neighbouring swimming clubs such as Manjimup, which utilised Fonty's Pool, to assist with fundraising activities including fortnightly dances.³⁴

In the late 1930s, the annual swimming carnival at *Pemberton Swimming Pool* included competitors from local, regional and city clubs, demonstrations by the State Diving Troupe and novelty events such as tug-of-war, greasy pole, and canoe fights, and was an eagerly anticipated and popular event attended by up to 1,500 people. Organised to coincide with Reso tours that brought visitors by train to regional areas where local volunteers took them on local tours, the carnival and in the evening the Swimming Ball, which was attended by 400 to 500 people, were a considerable drawcard that benefitted the town and community of Pemberton.³⁵ Hundreds of people attended the annual children's Christmas party at *Pemberton Swimming Pool* where the trees were festooned with coloured

26 *Pemberton Post* 12 Nov. 1937.

27 *Pemberton Post* 3 Dec. 1937.

28 *ibid.*

29 *ibid.*

30 Richards, O. 'Theoretical Framework for Designed Landscapes in Western Australia' April 1997, amended June 2003, pp. 86-89 & pp. 100-102.

31 Kelly, Roy, *op. cit.*, p. 73.

32 Mark Hudson, President of Pemberton Visitor Centre, conversation with Robin Chinnery, site visit, April 2010.

33 Kelly, Roy, *op. cit.*

34 *Pemberton Post* 20 Sept. 1938; & Kelly,

35 *Pemberton Post* 2 Feb. 1939.

lights and the children eagerly awaited the arrival of Father Christmas by row boat bringing gifts donated by local businesses.³⁶

In 1939, in the face of a decrease in annual memberships and falling revenue a new by-law was gazetted requiring users to obtain a written permit from the Board at a fee of 6d. per person using the pool or an annual fee of 5s. per person. At the discretion of the Board the latter was reduced from 3s. 6d. to 2s. 6d., which resulted in increased memberships.³⁷

In 1940, the gently sloping hillside of *Pemberton Swimming Pool* was terraced and more grass was planted, and irrigation was planned to water it in summer and for showers. Boat sheds were erected to enable boat and canoe owners to have them on site in the hope it would 'encourage more boating in the pool and so add to its pleasures.'³⁸ Mr. Glew and the Fish and Game Society donated white swans for the school students to release and care for, which proved popular with local children and visitors.³⁹

In 1943, the Trustees became a Board of Management, which was responsible for the management of the National Park and Pemberton Swimming Pool until 1957. In April 1943, Arthur Ralph (known as Ralph) Kelly was appointed to the Board.⁴⁰ He was a well known local identity, having lived in Swimming Pool Road since 1934, and served on the Board for many years. He was a tireless worker for the community, long serving Shire Councillor and office bearer for many local committees. He is 'regarded as the "father" of the tourist industry in the tall timber country', as he 'invented and promoted the idea of the "Kingdom of the Karri", encouraged special tourist trains from Perth to visit Pemberton, and worked with the Forests Department to ensure some former logging tramways were developed as scenic drives, including the Rainbow Trail.⁴¹

In the 1940s, community events held at *Pemberton Swimming Pool* included log chopping competitions. In 1946, when the Duke of Gloucester visited the South-West, a special log chop competition was held there, which was attended by most of the community and is remembered to the present day (2010).⁴²

In 1946, Reserves 15978 and 19920 were cancelled and the area was added to Reserve 19857, increasing in size to 256 acres⁴³

In the late 1940s, annual revenue from membership for swimmers at *Pemberton Swimming Pool* had fallen and because the grounds were extensively used by picnickers permission was sought to amend the by-laws to enable all users to be

³⁶ Morris, John and Underwood, Roger *Tall Trees and Tall Tales* Hesperian Press, Carlisle, 1992, p. 26.

³⁷ *Pemberton Post* 16 Nov. 1939 & 12 Dec. 1940.

³⁸ *Pemberton Post* 9 Jan. 1941.

³⁹ *ibid.*

⁴⁰ Members of the Board, 1930 to 1971, *op. cit.*

⁴¹ Morris, John and Underwood, Roger, *op. cit.*, pp. 28-29.

⁴² Local resident Griff Lunn in *Warren-Blackwood Times* 20 Sept. 1972, p. 7; & John Honniball, who grew up in Pemberton, conversation with Robin Chinnery, June 2010.

⁴³ *Government Gazette* 13 Sept. 1946, pp. 1140-1141.

charged a fee, but the Minister for Lands refused. In 1949, membership fees amounted to only £20 and more revenue was needed to maintain the place.⁴⁴

In 1951, the old tramway reserve was added to Reserve 19857, increasing the area to about 300 acres, which was gazetted in October. A. R. Kelly, who was Secretary of Pemberton National Park Board, advised the track had been turned into a scenic road and was 'an attractive addition to the National Park.'⁴⁵

In the early 1950s, it was decided to establish a caravan park in proximity to *Pemberton Swimming Pool*, and the Board concentrated on achieving this goal before turning its attention to improving the facilities at the Swimming Pool, which was well used by visitors to the caravan park and children attending Forest Youth Camp, which opened nearby in February 1954. In late 1954, the Board wanted to ensure the future of the place and successfully sought financial assistance from the State government to erect a bathing pavilion, catering facilities and sanitary facilities to replace the old bathing sheds that had outlived their usefulness. The government grant of £1 for £1 facilitated this project that was completed at a cost of £2,500 in 1955. The brick and tile building comprised two dressing rooms, with shower cubicles and toilets, and to provide refreshments a well equipped kiosk, named Karri Kiosk, with a patio in front with a stone wall, crazy paving and steps leading down to a stone wishing well. A plaque (missing in 2010) on the wishing well recorded it was dedicated to 'the community spirit of Pemberton, through which, between 1929 and 1954, this Pool was built by voluntary labour and subscription', and noted:

So many visitors appreciated its environs, that in 1955, the local National Park Board set it up as a National Property in which "all who have the eye to perceive and the heart to enjoy, have a right and an interest.

Its facilities are now open to all and the aim is to maintain them by the Goodwill of the Public.

IF YOU WISH WELL

HAVE A WISH IN OUR WELL⁴⁶

In May 1955, Frank William Leeman, John Chadwick Meachem, Hubert Frank Jay and Roy John Kelly were appointed to the Board.⁴⁷ In 1955-56, collections from the Wishing Well amounted to £16.0s.7d., but less was raised in subsequent years before it fell into disuse. The kiosk, leased to Mrs. Sutton at £28 per annum, provided a much appreciated service at the place.⁴⁸ In 1954-56, attendances at *Pemberton Swimming Pool* doubled and at weekends the parking area, which was accessed via Swimming Pool Road, was filled with cars, 75% of which originated outside Pemberton. From 1955, the Workers' Amenities Fund and the Shire each contributed £100 per annum towards the increasing running costs and maintenance, together with £100 from the government grant for the

44 Correspondence in Reserves, Recreation Caravan Park Swimming Pool Reserve 19857 Nelson Location 13018 7360 8977 13010 112899 11906 to 11908 12176 Pemberton Forest Park Shire of Manjimup, SROWA Cons. 6196 Item 1928/1629/03R; & *Blackwood-Warren Times* 21 Dec. 1949.

45 Memos & correspondence in SROWA Cons. 6196 Item 1928/1629/03R, August - Oct. 1951.

46 Correspondence, 1954-55, & First Annual Report National Park and Recreation Reserve 19857, 1956, in *ibid*.

47 Members of the Board, 1930 to 1971, *op. cit*.

48 First Annual Report National Park and Recreation Reserve 19857, 1956, *ibid*; & Statements of Receipts and Expenditure, 1958 to 1965, in Reserves, Recreation Caravan Park Swimming Pool Reserve 19857 Nelson Location 13018 7360 8977 13010 112899 11906 to 11908 12176 Pemberton Forest Park Shire of Manjimup, SROWA Cons. 6196 Item 1928/1629/04R, *ibid*.

National Park, which was vested in Pemberton National Parks Board in 1957. In 1956, work began to enlarge the paddling pool and was completed by early 1957. An application to establish a bowling alley at the Pool grounds was refused.⁴⁹ As in the inter-war period, local children learnt to swim at *Pemberton Swimming Pool*, and the local community enjoyed the recreation facilities and its beautiful surroundings and were proud of it.⁵⁰

In the late 1950s, *Pemberton Swimming Pool* provided a 'splendid facility' that continued to attract visitors 'from all parts of the district and the State' to swim and to picnic, and Pemberton National Parks Board recognised the need to maintain the place in sound condition.⁵¹ The place was supported by funds from the Workers' Amenities Fund, the local government authority and National Park Funds, enabling free public access.⁵²

In 1960-61, Pemberton Tourist Bureau was established.⁵³ By 1961, the sluice gate that drained the Swimming Pool had deteriorated requiring major repairs. The karri tree high diving tower was found to be no longer safe and was removed. Hawker Siddeley Building Supplies, donated timber for the erection of a new tower that would be a community facility and 'an advertisement for karri timber'.⁵⁴ It was enjoyed through to 1992, when it and a smaller diving board were removed to meet requirements to obtain public liability insurance.⁵⁵

In 1962, after the accidental death of Herbert Jack Johnson when his sled left the rails of the shute and he was thrown against the retaining wall of the pool, the Board decided to upgrade the shute and to erect a sign warning of the dangers of improper use.⁵⁶ In 1965, his widow and children were awarded compensation of £11,734, and the Board was directed to install warning signage for the shute.⁵⁷

Meanwhile, in 1964, the boundaries to Nelson Location 8977 were amended and the area of Reserve 19857 increased from 44 ha. to 120 ha.⁵⁸ In 1965-66, after concentrating its efforts on making the caravan park self-supporting, Pemberton National Park Board returned its attention to projects at the Swimming Pool, including sealing the car parking area. Following the above public risk claim it was decided to rebuild the toboggan shute that had been 'an important feature in the pool for many years', and a new prefabricated shute was erected.⁵⁹ It is not extant in 2010.⁶⁰ The programme to reconstruct 'in a more permanent and desirable way' features that had been largely built by voluntary labour, sometimes with the cheapest available materials, was to continue into the 1970s, and it was

49 Annual Report, Pemberton National Park Board, to 30 June 1956, in *ibid.*

50 John Honniball, *op. cit.*

51 Annual Report, Pemberton National Park Board, to 30 June 1960, in *ibid.*

52 *ibid.*

53 Annual Report, Pemberton National Park Board, to 30 June 1961, in *ibid.*

54 Annual Report, Pemberton National Park Board, to 30 June 1962, held at Battye Library.

55 Kelly, Roy, *op. cit.*

56 *ibid.*

57 *Warren-Blackwood Times* 6 Jan. 1965, p. 1; & Kelly, Roy, *op. cit.*

58 *Government Gazette* 3 July 1964.

59 Annual Report, Pemberton National Park Board, to 30 June 1965, in Reserves Recreation Caravan Park Swimming Pool Reserve 19857 ..., SROWA Cons. 6461 Item 1928/1629/04RO.

60 Site visit Robin Chinnery and Lynne Farrow, April 2010.

hoped 'the Swimming Pool will then perhaps constitute the best picnic ground in Australia.'⁶¹

In 1966, following the death of S. E. Young and resignation of Messrs. Leeman and Honniball, Howard Douglas Green, George Germantse and Gaston Boyance Todd were appointed to the Board.⁶² In 1971, Edwin Fuge, aged 87, the only remaining original trustee, who had served continuously on the Board administering *Pemberton Swimming Pool*, resigned from Pemberton National Park Board due to old age and illness.⁶³ As directed, the Board relinquished its vesting order and it was reinstated with three representatives, one each from the land, Forests and Fisheries departments to ensure 'continuity in management of the National Park' and that 'important public amenities' such as *Pemberton Swimming Pool* and the Caravan Park 'would continue to operate.'⁶⁴

In 1972, the National Parks Board and the Forests Department constructed new walking trails and bridges during which works an old log chopping area at *Pemberton Swimming Pool* was unearthed, steps were cut into the steep hillside behind the pool and beside the shute, the buildings were renovated, and there were plans to plant tree ferns and wild flowers. A nature playground with logs for children to climb was well used.⁶⁵

In March 1977, *Pemberton Swimming Pool* and the caravan park came under the Pemberton National Park Board and the National Park was vested in the National Parks Authority of Western Australia.⁶⁶ In 1979, the first King Karri Festival was held at *Pemberton Swimming Pool*.⁶⁷

On 25 March 1984, Pemberton Forest Park, including *Pemberton Swimming Pool* and the Caravan Park, were vested in Pemberton Visitor Centre.⁶⁸ In 1985, Pemberton was a successful entrant in the Tidy Towns Competition, and the prize money was used to finance erection of a timber pole shelter with a corrugated iron roof and a paved floor at the east of the parking area to provide a sheltered barbecue area at *Pemberton Swimming Pool*.⁶⁹

In 1993, portions of Reserve 19857 were vested in Pemberton-Northcliffe Tourist Bureau for the purpose of 'Recreation, Caravan Park and Swimming Pool' and income from the caravan park was to pay for improvement and maintenance of *Pemberton Swimming Pool*.⁷⁰ In 1995, Pemberton Swimming Pool was included in the Municipal Inventory for the Shire of Manjimup.⁷¹ In 1997, Pemberton Tourist Centre called for expressions of interest to develop Reserve 19857, including Nelson Location 7360, which encompasses the land area of *Pemberton*

61 Brochure, Pemberton Tourist Authority, c. 1971, in *ibid*.

62 Members of the Board, 1930 to 1971, *op. cit.*.

63 Correspondence in Reserves Recreation Caravan Park Swimming Pool Reserve 19857 ..., SROWA Cons. 6461 Item 1928/1629/04RO, July – August 1971.

64 *Warren-Blackwood Times* 26 Jan. 1972, p. 1.

65 *Warren-Blackwood Times* 20 Sept. 1972, p. 7.

66 Pemberton Pool and Forest Park, 21 Nov. 2008.

67 Events in the history of Pemberton and Surrounds (1831-1992).

68 Keith Smith, in *Manjimup-Bridgetown Times*, 10 Dec. 2008.

69 Signage by the shelter, site visit, Lisa Sturis, National Trust of Australia (W.A.), Jan. 2007, in Pemberton Pool, National Trust Assessment, May 2007.

70 Vesting Order, 26 Oct. 1993; & Keith Smith in *Manjimup-Bridgetown Times*, 10 Dec. 2008.

71 Municipal Inventory, Shire of Manjimup, Adopted 22 Sept. 1995.

Swimming Pool, and Nelson Location 972, 'known as the Pemberton Caravan Park and the Pemberton Forest Park & Pool', but proposals for the latter did not proceed.⁷²

In the late 1990s-early 2000s, as a consequence of high maintenance costs and little available funding the condition of *Pemberton Swimming Pool* deteriorated. In c. 2004, some concerned members of the community formed a group known as Friends of the Pemberton Pool 'to preserve the best interests of the facility'.⁷³ Members of the group had been involved in the 'Karri Karnivals (sic), Forest festivals, annual Christmas and Australia Day celebrations' at the place and became involved in 'decision making processes' relating to the place including 'consultation and networking with the South West Development Commission (SWDC), the Shire of Manjimup' and others.⁷⁴ Pemberton Visitor Centre successfully applied through SWDC for grants totalling \$72,800 towards an upgrade of *Pemberton Swimming Pool* including paving the undercover area, installation of a new septic system and drains, the erection of boundary fencing of the pool area, which was required to secure public liability insurance, new fittings in the change-rooms, and a new trough, taps etc. in the kiosk.⁷⁵ The goal was 'to return the Pemberton pool to a safe fully operational area'.⁷⁶ However, the work on the kiosk was incomplete when a site visit was made in April 2010, due to a lack of funding.⁷⁷

In October 2006, Friends of Pemberton Pool submitted to Pemberton Visitor Centre Board an expression of interest for 'Management of the Pemberton Pool on behalf of the Pemberton Community'.⁷⁸ After the National Trust of Australia (WA) was approached 'to take control of the pool and the reserve', the proposal was discussed over an extended period, during which the Trust assessed and Classified 'Pemberton Pool'.⁷⁹ In late 2008, a public meeting at Pemberton endorsed the proposal but it did not proceed because the Visitor Centre 'only wanted to give the pool to the National Trust and not the surrounding land'.⁸⁰ Paul Nolan, manager of the Centre, said it 'would not relinquish the area because it wanted to establish a world-class mountain bike trail around the pool', which it believed would 'cement this area as a destination to ride in' which would 'build the economy of the town'.⁸¹ SWDC met with the stakeholders and agreed to develop a management framework for future management of the place to "include care of land, ongoing maintenance and use of the pool, and the opportunity for mountain bike trail development that will have minimal impact on the pool environs."⁸²

⁷² Press release & correspondence in Pemberton Visitor Centre Board File Forest Park & Pool, 1997-98.

⁷³ *Manjimup-Bridgetown Times* 26 Nov. 2008, p. 1.

⁷⁴ Friends of the Pemberton Pool to Pemberton Visitor Centre Board, 20 Oct. 2006, in Pemberton Visitor Centre Board File Forest Park & Pool, Vol. 2.

⁷⁵ *Manjimup-Bridgetown Times* 23 April 2008, p. 1. Mark Hudson, conversation with Robin Chinnery & Lynne Farrow, site visit, April 2010.

⁷⁶ Rod Morris, Vice President, Pemberton Visitors Centre, in *Manjimup-Bridgetown Times* 28 Nov. 2007.

⁷⁷ Site visit, Robin Chinnery and Lynne Farrow, April 2010.

⁷⁸ Friends of the Pemberton Pool to Pemberton Visitor Centre Board, 20 Oct. 2006, op. cit.

⁷⁹ *Manjimup-Bridgetown Times* 23 April & 26 Nov. 2008, p. 1; & National Trust of Australia (W.A.) Assessment Pemberton Pool, 14 May 2007.

⁸⁰ Tom Perrigo quoted in *Manjimup-Bridgetown Times* 26 Nov. 2008, p. 1, & *Manjimup-Bridgetown Times* 3 Dec. 2008.

⁸¹ *Manjimup-Bridgetown Times* 26 Nov. 2008, p. 1.

⁸² Don Punch, CEO, South-West Development Commission, quoted in *ibid.*

Pemberton Mountain Biking Group and the Visitor Centre obtained a Commonwealth grant of \$150,000 to develop 'a network' of bike trails 'with technical trail features on the hillside and flat of the Pemberton Forest Park', which was implemented in 2009-10.⁸³

In 2008, there were a number of busy bees at *Pemberton Swimming Pool* as members of the local community 'worked to get it back into pristine condition' and looked forward to re-opening of the pool in December.⁸⁴ Future proposals included construction of an amphitheatre to encourage more use and attract more visitors and interpretation.⁸⁵ In November 2008, when it was reported *Pemberton Swimming Pool* was 'the most widely used public facility in the Pemberton Forest Park' that included the starting point for the Rainbow Trail, the old weir and scenic walk trails including a section of the Bibbulmun Track, the Pool facilities were 'in need of significant upgrading.'⁸⁶ On 1 February 2009, after the Visitor Centre finally obtained public liability insurance and insurance for volunteer workers', the Swimming Pool re-opened for swimming, which was welcomed by the community. The first concert held at the place following the re-opening raised funds for victims of the Victorian bushfires.⁸⁷

In September 2011 the Pemberton Visitor's Centre note that 'the construction of mountain bike trails and the jump tracks have led to the running of the Pemberton Relentless Blue Cross Country State events each April encouraging visitors to ride the tracks and use the facilities in Pemberton Forest Park. The selection in July 2011 of Pemberton and the Pemberton Mountain Bike Park as a future State "trail hub" by the Department of Sport and Recreation and the Department of Environment and Conservation is an exciting development that encourages visitors and locals to use the wide range of trails and to develop facilities that provide services such as guiding, hire of equipment and the development of a café/restaurant at the Pemberton Swimming Pool trailhead location.'⁸⁸

In 2012, *Pemberton Swimming Pool* continues in use for recreational purposes including swimming, canoeing, fishing, picnicking, bird watching, and as the trailhead for the Pemberton Forest Park. The Place is highly valued by the community who want to ensure it will continue to be enjoyed by future generations of local residents and visitors to the South-West.⁸⁹

13.2 PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

Pemberton Swimming Pool is a large irregular tear drop shaped pool of natural appearance about 50 metres wide and 200 metres long, created in a forest setting by the Pemberton community in 1929/30 by damming a tributary of the Lefroy Brook.

⁸³ George South, in *Manjimup-Bridgetown Times*, 11 April 2009; & Mark Hudson, conversation with Robin Chinnery and Lynne Farrow, op. cit.

⁸⁴ *Manjimup-Bridgetown Times* 16 & 30 April & 1 Oct. 2008.

⁸⁵ Pemberton Pool, National Trust Assessment, May 2007, p. 6.

⁸⁶ Pemberton Pool and Forest Park, 21 Nov. 2008.

⁸⁷ Pemberton Community News, 5 Feb. 2009; & *Manjimup-Bridgetown Times* 11 Feb. 2009.

⁸⁸ Mark Hudson, President, Pemberton Visitor Centre. Submission to Office of Heritage for Interim Registration, September 2011.

⁸⁹ Mark Hudson, conversation with Robin Chinnery and Lynne Farrow, op. cit.

Pemberton Swimming Pool is located on part of Lot 13542, part of Reserve 19857, Swimming Pool Road, within a forested area adjacent to the northern outskirts of the Pemberton townsite. This is a large Lot of over 80 hectares, of which *Pemberton Swimming Pool* is located on about 2 hectares in about the centre of the south boundary of the site. Also on this reserve, directly to the west, are Pemberton Camp School and Pemberton Caravan Park. A series of bicycle trails have been formed on the hill to the north of *Pemberton Swimming Pool*.

A large bituminised parking area opens off Swimming Pool Road to the south of *Pemberton Swimming Pool*, with a wide verge and footpath between the car park and the south boundary of *Pemberton Swimming Pool* site. This south boundary is fenced with a green corrugated galvanised steel pool fence, which returns down the west boundary of the site.

The south bank of *Pemberton Swimming Pool* slopes down about 50 metres to the pool at a moderate incline and has been simply landscaped into a grassy area that is interspersed with widely spaced mature karri and marri trees, both individual and in groups. There are also some peppermint trees in the area. The pool itself is about 50 metres wide, and a hillside of dense karri forest rises steeply from its north bank. Because the pool is in a fairly sheltered area, it is usually calm and flat and reflects the karri trees very clearly on its surface.

The brook flows from east to west. The dam wall is located at the west end of the pool, and has a concrete edging about a metre wide. A timber jetty projects into the pool in about the centre of this section, and there is a stainless steel pool ladder at the south end. The overflow is located in the north-west corner of the pool, at the end of the dam wall, and a concrete bridge about 6 metres long and one metre wide spans across from the dam wall to the north bank of the pool. This bridge is part of the Bibbulman Track.

In the south-west corner of the pool the concrete edging returns around the south bank and forms the edge of a 50 metre lap area, a wading pool and a shallow paddling pool, with concrete jetties of about a metre width projecting into the main pool as divisions between these areas.

The north bank of the pool is located at the base of a steep hill which is vegetated with dense mature karri forest and associated undergrowth, and a narrow walk path follows this bank. The edge of the pool is natural along the north bank, apart from a small section of concrete at the west end. The pool narrows down considerably at its east end as it returns to its natural form, and becomes more densely vegetated with wetland plants. At the east end of the south bank there is a recently constructed BMX bicycle track.

About a metre inside the fence on the south boundary is a narrow single storey painted brick building, which contains a kiosk, male and female toilets and change rooms. This is a plain building about 22 metres long and 4 metres deep, with a hipped green corrugated galvanised steel roof of medium pitch and a central projecting gabled portico on the north side, facing the pool. The kiosk is located in the centre of the building, with the servery opening onto the large portico and there are two door openings at each end of the building leading into the respective male and female toilets and change rooms.

A paved area to the north (in front) of the kiosk is fenced with a granite wall of about a metre height, which returns to form a balustrade on either side of a set of

wide steps in front of the portico. At the bottom of the steps is a paved area about 3 metres square with a round granite wishing well with scrolled wrought iron feature over.

The other built element on the site is a covered picnic area about 15 metres by 7 metres, located about 20 metres to the east of the kiosk, but outside the fenced area. This shelter was constructed in 1985 and consists of an open structure of timber poles supporting a medium pitched gable roof.

The physical condition of *Pemberton Swimming Pool* is generally good. The major defect is the condition of the concrete edging which appears poor in some areas, and requires a structural assessment and maintenance work. The timbers on the west jetty require maintenance, with the timber in poor condition and some boards missing.

13.3 COMPARATIVE INFORMATION

The HCWA database does not include a separate category for swimming pools such as *Pemberton Swimming Pool*, which was constructed by damming a section of natural watercourse that is a tributary of Lefroy Brook to create a swimming pool. Most of the swimming pools on the database are of concrete construction, some of which date from the inter-war period including some in the South-West and the Great Southern region, including Aylmore Park Swimming Pool (1934; HCWA Place No. 06038), at Gnowangerup, and Katanning Swimming Pool (1938, 1975; HCWA Place No. 07075). Greenbushes Swimming Pool (HCWA Place No. 06640) was originally a tin mining site and is a large body of natural water in a bushland setting. Fonty's Pool (HCWA Place No. 04469) near Manjimup was created by damming a natural watercourse to irrigate land for vegetable growing purposes on a private property, which came into use as a local swimming pool for recreational and competition swimming. Its landscaped setting contrasts with the natural setting of *Pemberton Swimming Pool*, which is unique in being developed as a community swimming pool, a recreational and competition swimming facility, retaining the forested hillside as an aesthetic intention and an integral part of the place. The aesthetic qualities of *Pemberton Swimming Pool* in a valley in its natural forest setting have been much admired by generations of visitors, including national and international tourists, and its aesthetic value is far greater than Fonty's Pool or Greenbushes Swimming Pool.

13.4 KEY REFERENCES

National Trust Assessment January 2007

13.5 FURTHER RESEARCH

Further research, including research in some files and records held by Pemberton Visitor Centre that were not made available for research for this heritage assessment, and in the records of the Boards responsible for the place at various periods if they have survived and can be located, may reveal additional information about the place.

The possibility of the Wishing Well being a relatively uncommon survivor of such structures should be further examined.