

## HERITAGE CITATION

**Malvern Cricket Ground & Grandstand (Lansbury Pavilion), 1253 High Street, Malvern**



*Figure 1. Looking west across the Malvern Cricket Ground & Grandstand, Malvern (Malvern Town Hall in background) (GJM Heritage, November 2020).*

DATE: June 2021

## MALVERN CRICKET GROUND & GRANDSTAND (LANSBURY PAVILION), 1253 HIGH STREET, MALVERN

<b>Place type:</b> Sporting Ground	<b>Architect:</b> Hudson & Wardrop, in association with Sydney Wilson (Grandstand)
<b>Construction Date:</b> 1862 (Cricket ground); 1926 (Grandstand)	<b>Builder:</b> Not known
<b>Recommendation:</b> Include in the Heritage Overlay	<b>Extent of Overlay:</b> To the extent of the oval and Grandstand, as shown in Figure 11

### Locality History

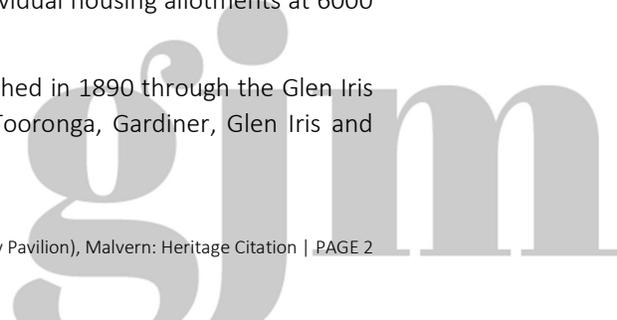
The City of Stonnington stands on the Traditional Lands of the Woi wurrung and Boon Wurrung Peoples of the East Kulin Nations. Archaeologists believe that Aboriginal People have been in Victoria for more than 30,000 years. Throughout this long history their relationship with the landscape (where and how they live) has changed according to factors such as climate change, resource availability, and cultural change (Context 2006:10).

The first European settler in the Malvern district was John Gardiner in 1835, a pastoralist from New South Wales who was one of the first overlanders to Port Phillip. He pastured his stock near the junction of Gardiner's Creek and the Yarra River and is the namesake of Gardiner's Creek, Gardiner's Creek Road (now Toorak Road) and both the locality and the Shire of Gardiner (before they were re-named Malvern). The first recorded use of the name Malvern was in January 1854, when barrister Charles B. G. Skinner named his hotel on the corner of Malvern and Glenferrie roads the 'Malvern Hill' after a district in England. The name for the Shire of Malvern was derived from Malvern Hill Estate, a private subdivision in the area dating to 1856 (City of Stonnington [CoS]; Context 2006:34).

The first land sales in the area were held in 1854 and most original Crown grantees subdivided their allotments for resale (Context 2006:41; 2009:4). Gardiner's Road District was proclaimed in 1856 before Gardiner Shire was formed in 1871, which was renamed Malvern Shire in 1878 (CoS). The municipal boundary comprised the current localities of Malvern (previously Gardiner), Malvern East, Glen Iris (south of Gardiners Creek), Kooyong, Armadale (east of Kooyong Road), Toorak (east of Kooyong Road) and Chadstone (west of Warrigal Road). Early directories listed Malvern and Malvern East as the one locality, until 1910.

The former Malvern Shire saw slow population growth to 1881, by which time it totalled just under 2,000 people (Victorian Places). In 1879, the Oakleigh Railway Line was opened along the southern extent of the municipality, through Malvern, Armadale, Toorak and Hawksburn to join the existing line at South Yarra. The arrival of the Oakleigh railway coincided with the start of the land boom, which resulted in considerable urban growth. In the 1880s the district comprised substantial residences on large allotments, as well as pastoral and agricultural holdings (including market gardens and orchards) and commercial development (Context 2006:41, 65-6). During the 1880s boom period, the municipality saw a dramatic increase in population, quadrupling to approximately 8,000 by 1891, and steadily increasing to 10,000 by 1901 (Victorian Places). In the 1890s a number of timber houses were built in Malvern as an economy measure, but some residents complained that wooden houses would degenerate into slums. Concern about this development led to a slum abolition movement and subsequently, c1912, Malvern Council began to declare brick areas, where timber houses were not permitted. By 1916 the Council had also fixed a minimum area for individual housing allotments at 6000 square feet, with minimum frontages of fifty feet (Context 2006:128).

The railway line along the northern extent of the municipality was established in 1890 through the Glen Iris Valley from Burnley. Stations were established at Heyington, Kooyong, Tooronga, Gardiner, Glen Iris and



Darling, however, expected residential development in their vicinity stalled during the 1890s following the economic collapse (Context 2006:66). The 1893 *Australian Handbook* (as cited in Victorian Places) described Malvern as ‘an elevated residential suburb’, served by a line of omnibuses from Prahran, with many leading merchants and professional men living in the area in pleasantly situated ‘dwellings of a superior class’. The entry noted that a number of notable mansions had been erected by this date, and that the market gardens and orchards were ‘steadily being reduced, and cut up into building allotments, on which [were] being erected many handsome villas and business establishments’ (Victorian Places). The municipality saw rapid development and urbanisation from 1900 and it was declared a Borough and then a Town in 1901. In 1911 the municipality was declared a City, with a residential population of 16,000 (Context 2006:86; Victorian Places).

The Prahran and Malvern Tramways Trust was established in 1908, with electric tramlines opening along High Street in 1910-14, Glenferrie Road in 1910-13, to the south along Wattletree Road in 1910-12, and Malvern Road in 1915. The arrival of the tramlines further drove the development of commercial centres in the immediate vicinity and residential development beyond. New train stations were built at Armadale, Hawksburn, Malvern and Toorak between 1908 and 1918, and at Malvern East in 1929 (Context 2006:70-2, 113; Victorian Places).

Residential development during the early twentieth century generally occurred on newly subdivided estates or on nineteenth century subdivisions that had remained partly or wholly undeveloped during the 1890s depression (Context 2009:5). In 1912 it was reported that 800 houses a year were being built in the (by then) City of Malvern, which boasted ‘a progress unprecedented by any other suburb’ (Context 2009:128). In the decade between 1911 and 1921 the population in the City of Malvern doubled, from 16,000 to 32,000 residents, and then increased steadily to 43,000 by 1933 (Victorian Places). This population growth saw development spread to the Glen Iris Valley and the outer reaches of the City, in Malvern East. The housing stock in this eastern part of the municipality was more characteristically uniform and unadorned in comparison to housing in Malvern. Kooyong’s development was substantially completed by the end of the 1920s (Context 2006:128, 131).

By 1946 the *Australian Blue Book* (as cited in Victorian Places) stated that Malvern was one of the ‘leading residential suburbs of the Metropolis’. It comprised the substantial homes of many of Melbourne’s leading citizens, in what was termed ‘The Garden City’ due to the number of parks and public gardens. Development in the City of Malvern steadied from the 1930s, with the population averaging 45,000 until the 1990s (Victorian Places). The City of Malvern amalgamated with the City of Prahran in 1994, to form the City of Stonnington.

### **History of Cricket in Victoria**

Cricket was one of the earliest sports established in Victoria. The first match between the newly formed Melbourne Cricket Club and the military took place in 1838 and the game was firmly established in Geelong and Brighton by the 1840s. Inter-club cricket in Melbourne had its beginnings in the 1850s when a number of clubs formed in suburban and rural centres from Richmond to Ballarat (Haig-Muir et al 2000:43-46). Many of the clubs formed at that time have operated continuously or near continuously to the present day.

Early games were arranged on an informal basis and often relied on local initiatives. By the middle of the 1860s there were a substantial number of clubs – Melbourne, East Melbourne, Richmond, South Melbourne, North Melbourne, Carlton and St Kilda – to organise a regular calendar of games (eMelbourne). Cricket grounds with grandstands were established in suburbs to cater for local teams and in 1870, the Challenge Cup was introduced, aimed at ‘infusing a little life, if possible, into the game, and of awakening public interest’ (*Australasian*, 26 November 1870:11) and creating a more structured competition.



The Victorian Cricket Association was established in 1875 to oversee and manage inter-club matches (*Age* 24 September 1875:3). Over the ensuing years, inter-club cricket in Melbourne began to assume a stable structure and in 1906-7 the District Cricket Competition commenced. The twelve inaugural District teams were Carlton, Collingwood, East Melbourne, Essendon, Fitzroy, North Melbourne, Melbourne, Prahran, Richmond, South Melbourne, St Kilda and University, with the later addition of Northcote. At the next tier, Sub-District cricket comprised teams from Brighton, Caulfield, Coburg, Elsternwick, Hawthorn, Malvern, Port Melbourne and Williamstown (eMelbourne).

Inter-club cricket in Melbourne is today managed by Cricket Victoria, the governing body for the sport in Victoria.

### **Place History**

*The following history includes detail contained within 'Heritage Places in the City of Stonnington Stage 2', Raworth, 2013 and the Nomination Report for the Inclusion of the Malvern Cricket Ground in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR), Hermes Database.*

Malvern Cricket Ground is located near the corner of High Street and Glenferrie Road, in proximity to Malvern Town Hall, Malvern Police Station and St George's Church.

The Malvern Cricket Ground and Grandstand has had a long association with the Malvern Cricket Club. The fourth oldest cricket club in Victoria, the club was founded in 1859 and has been associated with the Malvern Cricket Ground since the reserve's establishment in 1862. A number of prominent people have played for the club, including former Premier of Victoria, Lindsay Thompson. The ground also became home to the Malvern Lacrosse Club in 1903 and was used by the Malvern Harriers Athletic Club from 1922 to 1976.

The cricket ground forms part of Crown Allotment 20 in the Gardiner District of the Parish of Prahran. The first subdivision of this land occurred in 1857 when the Church of England was allotted part of the land for a school and other purposes. Five years later, in 1862, the land on which the Malvern Cricket Ground is located was set aside as a public recreation reserve (Bower: City of Stonnington Archives). Additional land was added to the reserve in 1869 and in 1877 the Shire of Gardiner paid £10 to the Church to obtain the remaining land, which had originally been designated as the site for a Wesleyan Church (Cooper 1935:102; *Telegraph, St Kilda, Prahran and South Yarra Guardian* 24 December 1869:2). The following year, the Shire of Malvern invited tenders for the erection of a 'stand and dressing room on the Malvern Recreation Reserve' (*Age*, 14 December 1878:1). The timber pavilion was erected on the west side of the ground at a cost of £65. It is shown in a postcard dating to 1907 as a modest structure with striped roof supported by timber posts (Figure 4). It was demolished in 1926 to make way for extensions to the Malvern Town Hall. The cricket ground also comprised a band rotunda (located to the rear of the Town Hall) (Figure 5) and a number of rockeries. These have since been removed and largely replaced by car parking.

In 1926, architects Hudson & Wardrop, in association with architect and local councillor, Sydney Wilson, invited tenders for the 'erection of brick grandstand at the Malvern Cricket Ground for the City of Malvern' (*Age*, 10 April 1926:1) (Figures 6 and 7). The new grandstand, built at a cost of £3,000 (*Argus*, 11 August 1926:19), was constructed to replace the timber pavilion, which was considered to have outgrown its usefulness. It was reported that the new structure 'provides seating accommodation far in excess of the old stand' (*Australasian*, 26 February 1927:40). The new grandstand was in part financed by a loan taken out by Council in 1924-5 as well as a combined £350 contribution from the Malvern Cricket, Lacrosse, Harriers, and Baseball Clubs (*Herald*, 29 May 1926:10). Officially opened by the mayor, Councillor W S Turnbull in October 1926 in the presence of 500 spectators, the Malvern Cricket Ground and its new grandstand were described at the time as 'one of the leading suburban sports ovals' and 'an indication of the earnestness of the Malvern



Council in attacking the question of proper accommodation for sporting bodies' (*Prahran Telegraph*, 22 October 1926:2) (Figures 8 – 10).

The new grandstand was named after Charles Frank Lansbury, who was a long serving lacrosse club official (*Argus*, 11 August 1926:19). He was Honorary Secretary of the Malvern Lacrosse Club between 1936 and 1976 and in 1988-9, Honorary Treasurer from 1932 to 1988 and President from 1977 to 1981. At a state level he was Malvern's delegate to the Victorian Lacrosse Association (VLA) from 1950 to 1968 as well as the VLA's Honorary Treasurer from 1960 to 1968. Lansbury was also active in organising inter-state tours and coaching at junior level.

The Malvern Cricket Ground has been a centre of community activity since it was set aside as a public reserve in 1862. Malvern Council, the Malvern Poultry Show and the Malvern Horticultural Society have used the ground and it continues to have a close association with its two long-term leaseholders, the Malvern Cricket Club and Malvern Lacrosse Club. The ground has also been used for events such as Air Raid Precaution training during World War II, sports days and training sessions by De La Salle College and Kildara College, an arts display for the Centenary of Government in Malvern in 1965 and as the site for fireworks to celebrate Australia's Bicentenary in 1988.

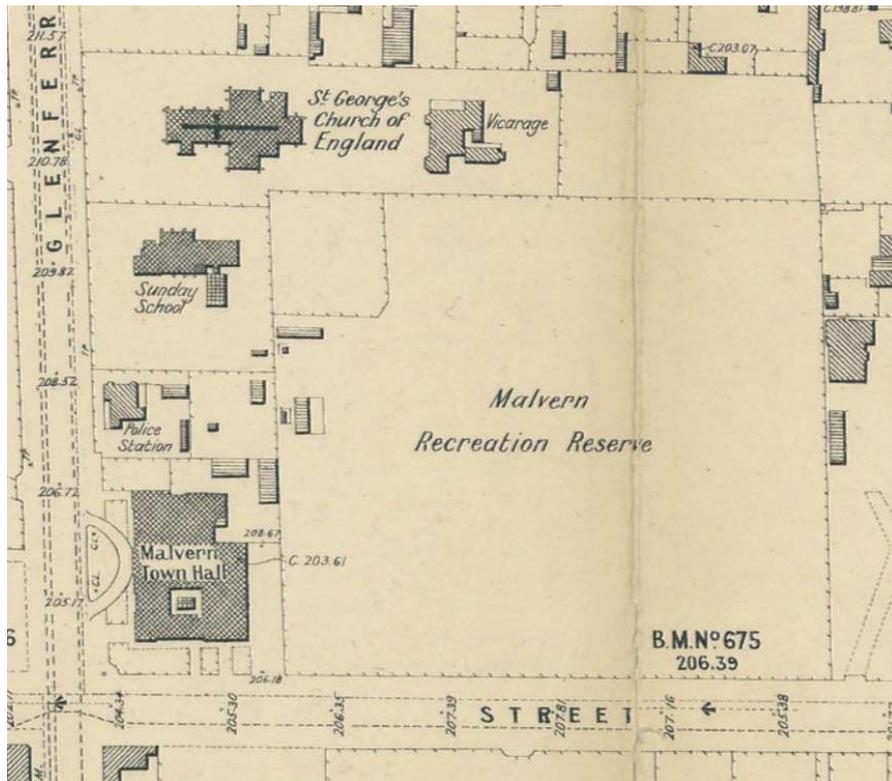


Figure 2. MMBW Base Plan No 59 showing the recreation reserve, 1902 (SLV)



Figure 3. Early view of Malvern Cricket Ground looking west toward St George's Church and Vicarage, c.1900 (SHC MP81)

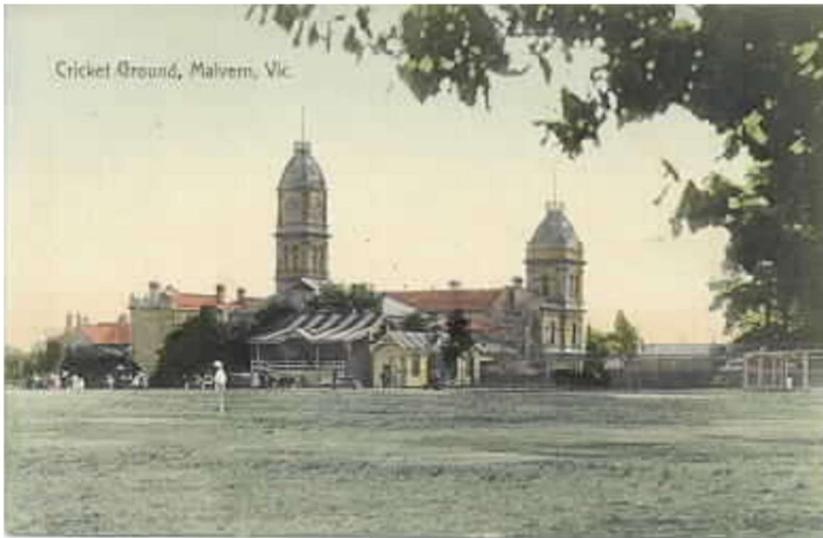


Figure 4. Malvern Cricket Ground looking west towards the Town Hall. The original timber pavilion (with striped roof) can be seen in front of the Town Hall, 1907 (SHC MP1114)



Figure 5. The band rotunda at the Malvern Cricket Ground, 1903 (SHC MP5254)

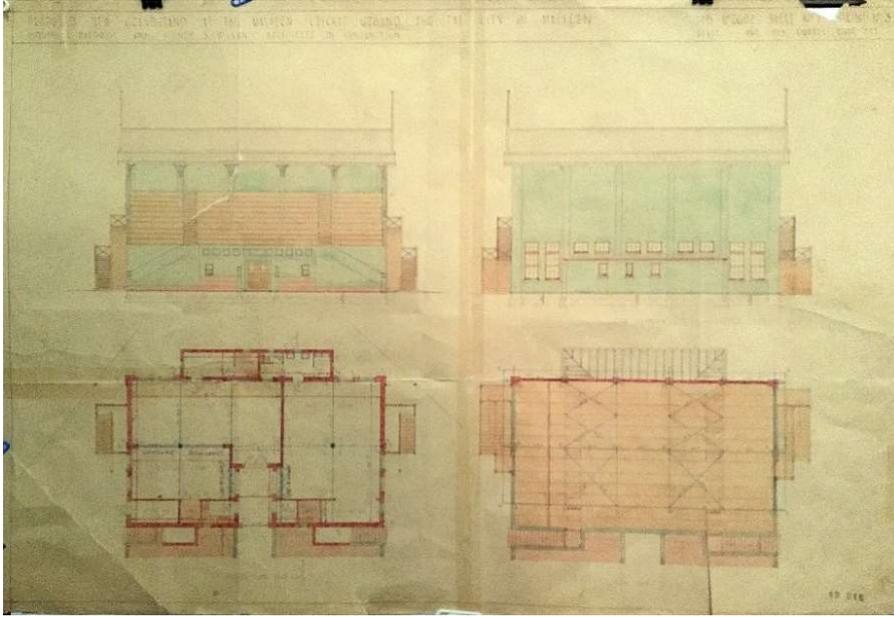


Figure 6. Architectural drawings of the proposed new grandstand at Malvern Cricket Ground, prepared by Hudson & Wardrop in collaboration with Sydney Wilson, 1926 (SHC MB9425)

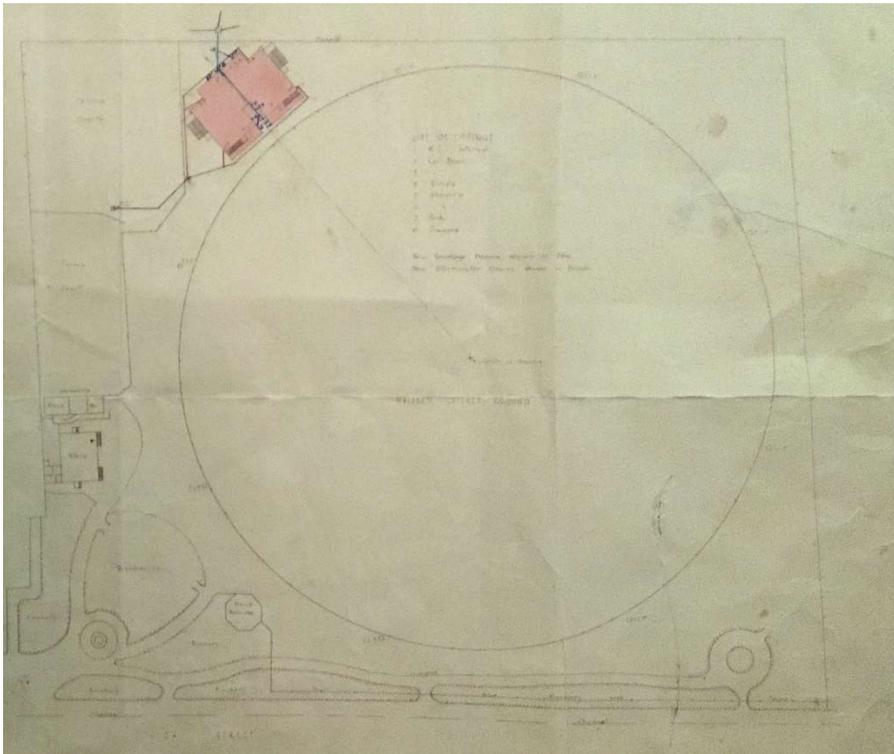


Figure 7. Site plan showing the proposed new grandstand at Malvern Cricket Ground, prepared by Hudson & Wardrop in collaboration with Sydney Wilson, 1926 (SHC MB9425)



*Figure 8. The new grandstand (Lansbury Pavilion) at Malvern Cricket Ground, c 1930 (SHC MP109)*



*Figure 9. Detail of aerial view of Malvern looking south-east showing the Cricket Ground and Grandstand to the rear of the Town Hall, 1920 (SLV)*



*Figure 10. Detail of aerial view of Malvern looking north showing the Cricket Ground and Grandstand to the rear of the Town Hall, c.1925-1935 (SLV)*

### **Hudson & Wardrop, architects**

*The following includes detail contained within The Encyclopedia of Australian Architecture, Goad & Willis (Eds.), 2012.*

Philip Hudson (1887-1952) and James Hastie Wardrop (1891-1975) formed the partnership Hudson & Wardrop in c1919. Early commissions included the St Kilda Army & Navy Club in Acland Street, St Kilda (1923) and the Members' Luncheon Room at the Moonee Valley Racing Club (1923). In 1924, Hudson and Wardrop won first prize in the international competition for the design of Melbourne's Shrine of Remembrance (completed in 1934), which was the most significant commission of its day and became the city's most important public monument (Statham, *Encyclopedia of Australian Architecture*:346). In 1929 the firm was joined by Kingsley Ussher (1899-1973) (Statham 2012:34), however, the firm dissolved in 1932 (Argus, 30 Sep 1932:1). Within the City of Stonnington, the practice was responsible for a number of Tudor Revival houses, including 65 Albany Road, Toorak and 1A Chesterfield Avenue, Malvern.

### **Sydney Wilson, architect**

*The following includes detail contained within The Encyclopedia of Australian Architecture, Goad & Willis (Eds.), 2012.*

Sydney Herbert Wilson was a prominent Melbourne-based architect and the son of architect Ralph Wilson, who, in partnership with Thomas Crouch and later John Beswicke, designed a number of significant Melbourne buildings. Sydney Wilson was born in South Yarra in 1860 and educated at St Kilda and Horton College in Tasmania, before being articled to his father's architectural practice, Crouch and Wilson. He worked with this firm and its successor, Wilson and Beswicke before setting up his own architectural business in the late 1880s. A number of notable buildings were designed by both firms while Sydney Wilson was in their employment, including the Malvern Town Hall in 1885-86.

In the City of Stonnington he is known to have designed his own house, 'Ilfracombe', 15 Forster Avenue, Malvern East (1890, HO310), the house at 21 Denbigh Road, Armadale (1900) and the All Saints Church Hall, 3 Olive Street, Malvern East (1921 & 1927, HO413) (Context citation for *All Saints Church Hall*, HO413). Wilson was also a significant local political figure and performed a number of other notable public functions, serving as a Malvern Councillor from 1905 to 1923. In 1913-14 he served as Mayor.

### **Historical Themes**

The place illustrates the following themes as outlined in *Victoria's Framework of Historical Themes*:

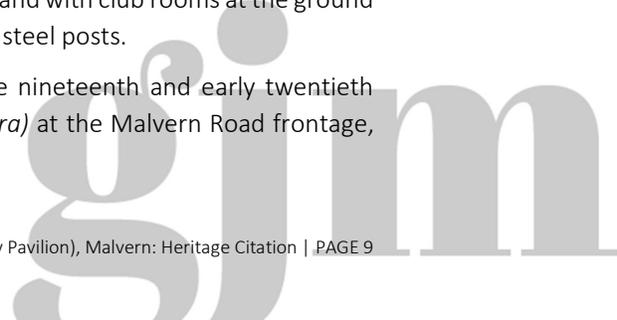
- 9 Shaping cultural and creative life

### **Description**

The Malvern Cricket Ground and Grandstand (Lansbury Pavilion) is located on High Street, Malvern, to the immediate east of Stonnington City Centre (the former Malvern Town Hall), Police Station, and St George's Anglican Church and west of the former mansion Northbrook (now largely hidden behind new buildings). De La Salle College (Kinnoull Campus) and its playing grounds are located to the immediate north of the cricket ground.

The oval has a grassed surface and is surrounded by a low cyclone wire boundary fence. On the north-west side of the oval is the Lansbury Pavilion, a two-storey rendered brick grandstand with club rooms at the ground floor and tiered seating above. The corrugated iron roof is supported by six steel posts.

A number of mature trees located around the oval remain from the late nineteenth and early twentieth century development of the site. These include English Elms (*Ulmus procera*) at the Malvern Road frontage,



and a band of trees (including Oaks) which extend along the northern boundary and to the east. A small area of lawn surrounding the perimeter of the oval remains at the south end of the ground.

Key Features:

- The continuous use of the site for formal and informal recreation since its reservation
- The use of the site as the home ground for the Malvern Cricket Club since 1862 and the Malvern Lacrosse Club since 1903
- The location, form and extent of the oval
- The 1926 grandstand.

### **Intactness/Integrity**

The Malvern Cricket Ground and Grandstand (Lansbury Pavilion) remains largely intact to its 1926 form and presentation; however, the band rotunda and associated rockeries have been replaced by asphalted car parking.

The grandstand remains substantially intact to its original construction in 1926. While some minor alterations have occurred, including the removal of one staircase, these do not diminish the ability to understand and appreciate the place as a fine example of an early twentieth century grandstand in the City of Stonnington.

### **Comparative Analysis**

Malvern Cricket Ground and Grandstand is of note for its long and enduring association with local community sporting and recreational activities in the City of Stonnington. The Grandstand (Lansbury Pavilion) is of note as a fine and highly intact example of an early twentieth century grandstand in the City of Stonnington.

No recreational ovals/sporting grounds are currently included in the Heritage Overlay of the Stonnington Planning Scheme on an individual basis or are identified as being a significant element within a heritage precinct. While a number of recreational ovals/sporting grounds are located in the City (including Toorak Park, Como Park and Kooyong Park [Sir Zelman Cowen Park] among others), only Toorak Park dates to the nineteenth century.

Toorak Oval was established by the Prahran City Council at the corner of Orrong and High streets in 1885 with cricket matches commencing eight years later in October 1893. The park was enlarged in c1900 and again in the early 1920s. A brick pavilion was constructed in 1909, with a new pavilion erected in 1925. Significant upgrade works were undertaken in the 1960s, at which time the 1909 pavilion was demolished and a substantial grandstand erected (1966-67). Toorak Park retains few elements from its early period of development and the majority of buildings and structures date to the post-war period, with the exception of the 1925 pavilion.

In comparison, Malvern Cricket Ground retains key elements from its early development, including the oval, and grandstand. Its early twentieth century character is enhanced by its proximity to a number of important nineteenth century buildings, including the Malvern Town Hall. The grandstand retains a high degree of integrity to clearly demonstrate the characteristics of an early twentieth century grandstand.



## Assessment against Criteria

Following is an assessment of the place against the recognised heritage criteria set out in *Planning Practice Note 1: Applying the Heritage Overlay* (August 2018).

### ***Criterion A: Importance to the course or pattern of our cultural or natural history***

Malvern Cricket Ground and Grandstand (Lansbury Pavilion) is important for its long and enduring role as a focus for local community activities and outdoor recreation since its establishment as a public recreation reserve in 1862. It has a clear association with the history of sport in Malvern – and Stonnington more broadly – as the home of the Malvern Cricket Club (the fourth oldest cricket club in Victoria) for over 150 years and the Malvern Lacrosse Club since 1903.

### ***Criterion D: Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural or natural places or environments***

The Malvern Cricket Ground Grandstand (Lansbury Pavilion) is a fine and highly intact representative example of an early twentieth century grandstand. It displays typical features of this class of place, including its freestanding form, symmetrical massing, open tiered seating with post-supported canopy roof, stair access, and enclosed rooms located at the ground floor level.

### ***Criterion G: Strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons***

The Malvern Cricket Ground has a strong association with the local Malvern community as a focus for social and recreational activity since its establishment as a public reserve in 1862. It has a strong and enduring association with local sporting clubs, the Malvern Cricket Club and Malvern Lacrosse Club, which have used the site as their home grounds since 1862 and 1903 respectively. In addition to these formal sporting uses, the Malvern Cricket Ground continues to serve the local Malvern community as a public recreation reserve, providing outdoor space for a range of activities, including sports training and dog walking.

## Grading and Recommendations

It is recommended that the place be included in the Heritage Overlay of the Stonnington Planning Scheme as a locally significant heritage place.

Recommendations for the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay (Clause 43.01) in the Stonnington Planning Scheme:

External Paint Controls?	No
Internal Alteration Controls?	No
Tree Controls?	No
Outbuildings or Fences not exempt under Clause 43.01-3?	No
Prohibited Uses Permitted?	No
Aboriginal Heritage Place?	No

## Extent of the Recommended Heritage Overlay

To the extent of the property boundary, as shown in Figure 11 below.



Figure 11. Recommended Extent of Heritage Overlay

## References

Context Pty Ltd, Stonnington Thematic Environmental History, 2006 & 2009 addendum.

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*The Australasian*.

*The Herald*.

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*The Telegraph, St Kilda, Prahran and South Yarra Guardian*.

Victorian Places, 'Malvern' & 'Malvern East', <http://www.victorianplaces.com.au>.