

CORRYONG GRANDSTAND

Corryong Recreation Reserve, Strzelecki Way, Corryong 3707

Construction date 1907

Existing heritage listings



Significance

What is Significant?

The grandstand at the Corryong Recreation Reserve.

How is it significant?

The Corryong Grandstand is of historic, social and aesthetic significance to the Shire of Towong.

Why is it significant?

The Corryong Grandstand is of historical significance as an early 20th century sporting structure built in 1907 by district carpenter, Tom Greenhill who also built the Towong Racecourse Grandstand. It was built for the Corryong Agricultural & Pastoral Society, which was established in 1890 however became based at the current site (recreation reserve) in 1899, and represents the scale of facilities that were required during an early key phase in the development of the town.

(AHC Criterion A4)

The Corryong Grandstand is of social significance for its association with and use by the Corryong Agricultural and Pastoral Society as well as other community groups from its inception to the present day.

(AHC Criterion G1)

The Corryong Grandstand is of aesthetic significance as an intact example of a sporting facility and one of the more substantial, early structures in the town. The timber-framed, utilitarian structure is two-tiered, has seating to the upper level and an enclosed undercroft. Decoration is sparingly used on the gables. It has been modified less than the similar Towong Grandstand.

(AHC Criterion E1)

Heritage Place Citations

Description

The grandstand is a substantial two-storey timber-framed building set back from an oval with a gravelled roadway in between. The grandstand is comprised of a raised seated area with an understorey which extends to a single-storey section at the rear.

The two-storey front section has a gable roof with an additional, smaller gable to the façade. The gable ends are clad in vertical timber boards, the larger with scalloped edging (some boards are missing); the smaller also with a timber interlocking circle pattern. The king truss roof framing is exposed with unpainted timbers. The single sections to the rear have skillion roofs with skylights. There is a flat-roofed veranda to the south elevation with metal posts and concrete paving. The roofs are clad in corrugated metal sheeting.

The detailing of the upper storey is restrained – there are chamfered timber posts, plain vertical balusters (some are missing and other sections replaced with corrugated metal sheeting), and vertical fretwork to the rear wall (missing in the middle). The most elaborate element is the brackets to the posts across the front of the structure. The seating likewise is simply detailed with only a post and rail system to define the backrests. The upper storey is accessed by a flight of stairs at either end, which extend across the façade. A series of *ad hoc* repair works have been undertaken, for instance an additional rail has been added over existing and deteriorated balusters have been replaced with different elements. The side, angled walls at the first floor level, are clad in corrugated metal sheeting, horizontally orientated and unlined. The latter extends over the other enclosed sections of the building.

There are several openings to the lower level including a ticket window below the left stair, double timber doors central to the front and rear walls, as well as a single door and an elongated opening with metal grilles to the west elevation.

The undercroft is also simply detailed – the timber framing is exposed (including the stump footings) as there are few internal linings, and the floor is concrete. An internal timber frame (previously an outer wall) with wire mesh over, separates two sections. There is a booth in one corner with vertical boards and metal display cabinets throughout.

History

The Corryong Agricultural & Pastoral Society was established in 1890 holding the first shows at saleyards in the town and transferring to the Recreation Reserve to the west of the township in 1899 where the first pavilion was erected in 1905, when the Corryong Racing Club submitted plans for a grandstand to the Public Health Department for approval, donating £60 towards its construction. The grandstand with a pavilion area below was completed by January 1907.¹ It was built by a district carpenter, Tom Greenhill, who also built the Towong Grandstand, which is similar in scale. The single storey sections to the rear have been added in either one or two phases.

In 1944 the Public Health Department closed the upper level (seated area) as it was considered structurally unsafe, though the pavilion area was still in use – the stairs had rotted, the toilets were in poor condition and the upper storey required extensive repairs. By 1952 an ultimatum was issued that the grandstand be totally closed or it was to be demolished. In 1955, the grandstand was still closed and a letter from the Department noted that toilets had been constructed without permission. By 1958 repairs had been undertaken and the stand reopened. However by 1971 more repairs were required, including rebuilding the stairs. The work was completed in 1972 and a new toilet block was opened in 1973.² The Lions Club recently built a veranda to the west elevation.

Many community groups utilise the Reserve including the Agricultural Show, Snowy River Festival, Camp Draft, Football Club and Corryong Hot Rod Car Club.

Thematic context

Community & Cultural Life

Sub-themes

Associations

Recommendations

It is recommended that Corryong Grandstand be added to the Schedule to the Towong Planning Scheme Heritage Overlay as an individual place.

¹ VPRS 7882/P1, Unit 338 PB 1861

² Ibid.

Extent of Designation

The extant building and the land within 10 metres of it.

Conservation Recommendations

Maintain and conserve significant items and context.

Reinstate missing timber elements including: vertical timber boards with scalloped edging to the gable ends, vertical fretwork to the upper rear wall, original railings, balusters which have been replaced with different elements.

Repaint, preferably undertaking paint scrape analysis to determine original colour scheme.