

# Statement of Recommendation from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria

Melbourne University Mountaineering Club (MUMC) Hut, VHR PROV H2470

Northwest Spur Track, Mount Feathertop, Hotham Heights, Alpine Shire



## Executive Director recommendation

Under section 37 of the *Heritage Act 2017 (the Act)* I recommend to the Heritage Council of Victoria (**Heritage Council**) that the Melbourne University Mountaineering (**MUMC**) Hut, located on the Northwest Spur Track, Mount Feathertop, Hotham Heights is of State-level cultural heritage significance and should be included in the Victorian Heritage Register (**VHR**) in the categories of registered place and registered object integral to a registered place.

In accordance with section 38 of the Act I include in this recommendation categories of works or activities which may be carried out in relation to the place without the need for a permit under Part 5 of the Act.

I suggest that the Heritage Council determine that:

- MUMC Hut is of State-level cultural heritage significance and is to be included in the VHR in accordance with section 49(1)(a) of the Act
- the proposed categories of works or activities which may be carried out in relation to the place for which a permit under the Act is not required will not harm the cultural heritage significance of the place under section 49(3)(a) of the Act.



**STEVEN AVERY**  
Executive Director, Heritage Victoria

**Date of recommendation: 16 March 2026**

## The process from here

### 1. The Heritage Council publishes the Executive Director's recommendation (section 41)

The Heritage Council will publish the Executive Director's recommendation on its [website](#) for a period of 60 days.

### 2. Making a submission to the Heritage Council (sections 44 and 45)

Within the 60-day publication period, any person or body may make a written submission to the Heritage Council. This submission can support the recommendation, or object to the recommendation and a hearing can be requested in relation to the submission. Information about making a submission and submission forms are available on the [Heritage Council's website](#).

### 3. Heritage Council determination (sections 46, 46A and 49)

The Heritage Council is an independent statutory body. It is responsible for making the final determination to include or not include the place, object or land in the VHR or amend a place, object or land already in the VHR.

If no submissions are received the Heritage Council must make a determination within 40 days of the publication closing date.

If submissions are received, the Heritage Council may decide to conduct a hearing in relation to the submission. The Heritage Council must conduct a hearing if a submission requests a hearing, and that submission is made by person or body with a real or substantial interest in the place, object or land.

If a hearing does take place, the Heritage Council must make a determination within 90 days after the completion of the hearing.

### 4. Obligations of owners of places, objects and land (sections 42, 42A, 42B, 42C, 42D and 43)

The owner of a place, object or land which is the subject of a recommendation to the Heritage Council has certain obligations under the Act. These relate to advising the Executive Director in writing of any works or activities that are being carried out, proposed or planned for the place, object or land.

The owner also has an obligation to provide a copy of this statement of recommendation to any potential purchasers of the place, object or land before entering into a contract.

### 5. Further information

The relevant sections of the Act are provided at the end of this report.

## Definitions and abbreviations

<b>Icosahedron</b>	One of five Platonic Solids which comprises 20 equilateral triangles arranged with five triangles meeting at each of the 12 vertices. It was selected as a basis for the dome portion of the igloo shape as it more closely resembled a sphere. These solids were described by Plato in c360 BCE.
<b>Geodesic dome</b>	The term geodesic dome describes a spherical or part-spherical structure comprising a framework of triangles constructed of short lengths and often enclosed by cladding. The structure's forces are in tension or compression, producing a lightweight, stable, self-supporting frame that can be anchored to the ground. They can be single-layered, as is the case with the MUMC Hut, or if using two layers can be built to a substantial size – as in the later United States Pavilion designed by Buckminster Fuller (1967). The most common geometric arrangement for a geodesic dome is based on subdividing the edges and faces of an Icosahedron.
<b>MUMC</b>	Melbourne University Mountaineering Club
<b>Mountaineering</b>	The activity of scaling alpine terrain, often in extreme conditions, including ice and snow. Mountaineering may require both specialist equipment and skills.

## Description

The MUMC Hut is an alpine hut situated on the Northwest Spur Track of Mount Feathertop. It is positioned at an altitude of 1600 metres in an exposed location, remote from townships and other huts. This location reflects its original purpose as a base for MUMC members to hone their mountaineering skills on Mount Feathertop.

The hut resembles an igloo in shape, and was constructed using what has come to be called a geodesic dome approach.<sup>1</sup> The dome measures approximately 6.5 metres in diameter and comprises an aluminium frame, clad in overlapping triangular aluminium sheets, originally unpainted and now painted green. The dome geometry is based on subdividing each of the edges of an Icosahedron Platonic solid into three – which nowadays would be called a 3-frequency geodesic dome. Visually, the repeating triangles form a convex surface of pentagons and hexagons, with transparent fibreglass panels on the top of the building completing the dome shape. Several facets at the base of the dome are glass, providing natural light and framed views over the surrounding mountains, including the slope of Mount Feathertop, which enabled those in the hut to observe climbers approaching and leaving the mountain.<sup>2</sup> The dome is set on heavy red-gum posts keyed into concrete footings which in turn key into a rubble stone plinth, which mirrors the plan of the dome. This construction resists substantial uplift forces from wind.

The hut is accessed via timber stairs (not original) that provide access to a timber framed anteroom clad in corrugated aluminium sheeting. The nearest water source is about 1.5 kilometres away, so rain and melting snow is collected off the more conventional cladding of the entrance airlock. The elevated entrance door is well clear of winter snow drifts – a major defect with many alpine huts. The anteroom provides an airlock to maintain temperatures in the rest of the hut and provides for gear storage. Internally, there is a ground level that provides space for socialising and food preparation. The floor on the ground level is of hardwood and furnished with timber benches, tables and a sink bench. Eight memorial plaques commemorating MUMC members who have died while pursuing outdoor adventure are affixed to the stone plinth's internal face. A sleeping area constructed of 15 radiating hardwood beams with plywood flooring is suspended from the top of the dome at its centre and at the 15 joints around the dome. The sleeping area can be accessed via a timber ladder. The strength of the dome structure enables the platform to rely on suspension from the frame rather than on additional supports.

<sup>1</sup> According to MUMC Hut designer, Peter Kneen, he was not aware of the geodesic domes popularised by Buckminster Fuller in United States and taken up by architecture students and others with an interest in progressive design in Australia until after he had designed the hut and it was under construction. Phone conversation with Peter Kneen, 2 December 2025.

<sup>2</sup> Phone conversation with Peter Kneen, 2 December 2025.

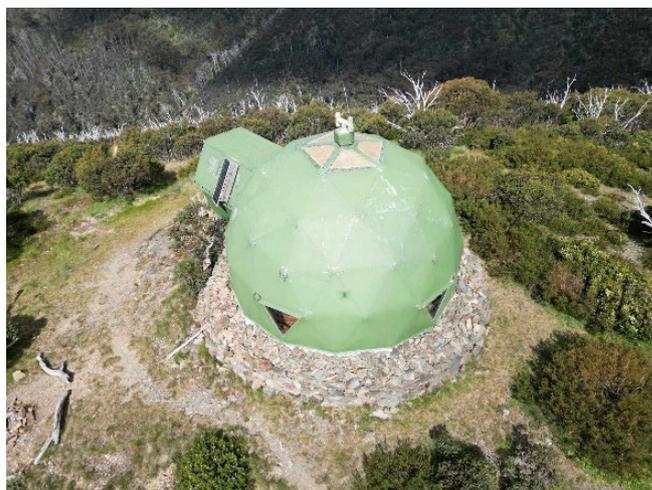
## Description images



*2025, aerial view of the MUMC Hut, Source: MUMC*



*2025, aerial view of the MUMC Hut, Source: MUMC.*



*2025, aerial view of the MUMC Hut, Source: MUMC.*



2025, aerial view of the MUMC Hut, Source: MUMC.



Undated, the hut in alpine conditions, Source: MUMC website, <https://www.mumc.org.au/hut>.



2025, interior of MUMC Hut, showing memorial plaques, Source: supplied with nomination.



c2010, Interior of MUMC Hut, showing sleeping mezzanine. Source: supplied, Peter Kneen.



c2010, interior of MUMC Hut, Source: Lightweight Structures Association of Australasia, Source: <https://lisa.org/948-bob-cahill-honoured-with-sta-life-membership-may-2025>



2026, interior of MUMC Hut, Source: Alltrails <https://www.alltrails.com/poi/australia/victoria/hotham-heights--2/mumc-hut>

## History

### Aboriginal occupation

The region now known as the Australian Alps is a place of immense cultural significance to a number of Traditional Owner groups, who have had a connection to its land and waters from time immemorial. There is archaeological evidence that Aboriginal people occupied rock shelters in and around the alpine area at least 21,000 years ago. The Australian Alps have particular significance as a place for large cultural gatherings that coincided with the migration of the Bogong moth. Bushfires in 2003 revealed a vast number of previously unrecorded archaeological sites that indicated intensive Aboriginal occupation of the Australian Alps.<sup>3</sup>

The Yoorrook Justice Commission has recorded how colonisation brought irreparable damage to First Peoples in Victoria with the introduction of diseases, massacres, dispossession from Country, confinement on missions and reserves, forced labour, separation of families and ongoing policies and practices that perpetuate systemic injustice.<sup>4</sup> This was also the case in the high country, where disease and practices introduced by European people, such as cattle grazing, had disastrous consequences for Aboriginal people and for Country. Despite this, Aboriginal people continue to live, work, practice culture and manage land and waters in Victoria's high country, and have an ongoing connection to their land, sky and waters.

### Outdoors recreation in Victoria

The first walking and skiing clubs were formed in Victoria in the late nineteenth century. They utilised towns connected to the rail network, such as Bright, as a base for their activities. The first huts for recreational use were constructed in the early years of the twentieth century.<sup>5</sup> In the 1920s and 1930s, a boom in walking, skiing and 'touring' (overnight bushwalking) in areas distant from town and cities was aided by the proliferation of motor vehicles. Many walking clubs were formed in the interwar era, including the first women's clubs. Several alpine huts for walkers and skiers were also established at this time, including Cope Hut (1929) and Cleve Cole Hut (1937). Huts in alpine areas were particularly important to provide shelter for winter activities.<sup>6</sup> The popularity of outdoor activities continued through the 1940s, when several large and longstanding clubs were formed, including the MUMC, which was founded in 1944. Participation in activities like hiking and mountaineering increased in the 1970s and 1980s, in line with growing environmental awareness and advances in technical equipment, and remain popular pursuits today.

### Structural experimentation and mid-twentieth-century buildings

The post-war era witnessed increased experimentation with building forms and structural techniques. Major public buildings, such as the Olympic Swimming Stadium (completed 1956, VHR H1977) and Sidney Myer Music Bowl (completed 1958, VHR H1772) combined new approaches to both architecture and engineering to create open spaces with large spans. Experimentation with building form and technique was also seen in smaller structures, such as the Rosebud Soundshell (1967, VHR H2299) which employed a hyperbolic paraboloid of reinforced concrete, and in domestic architecture, such as in Peter McIntyre's River House (1954, VHR H2455). Structures such as 'Binishells', thin concrete shells formed by using a large inflatable membrane as the formwork, also appeared in Victoria and elsewhere in Australia in the 1970s, and were particularly adopted by the NSW Department of Education.

Geodesic domes had been popularised by influential US theorist, futurist and designer R. Buckminster Fuller, who experimented with the approach from the 1940s. The form's ability to enclose a large interior space with minimal materials led to its use in auditoriums, weather observatories, storage facilities, and military installations through the 1950s and 1960s. The most well-known geodesic dome is a large example that housed the United States exhibit at Expo 67 in Montreal. In Australia, the geodesic dome was embraced by architecture students and came to be associated with the rejection of architectural orthodoxy and the embrace of countercultural ideals.<sup>7</sup> This was particularly the case after the publication in 1970 of Lloyd Kahn's *Domebook One* and *Domebook 2* – practical guides to geodesic dome construction. Notable Australian architects, including Robin Boyd and Roy Grounds, also expressed interest in the form during the

<sup>3</sup> Australian Alps National Parks, *Aboriginal People and the Australian Alps*,

<sup>4</sup> Yoorrook Justice Commission. *Truth be Told*. 2025.

<sup>5</sup> Graeme Butler, *Victorian Alpine Huts Heritage Survey*, 1996, p. 19.

<sup>6</sup> Butler, 1996, p. 19.

<sup>7</sup> Andrew Murray and Leonie Matthews. "Geodesic Domes and Experimental Architectural Education Practices of the 1960s." In *Proceedings of the Society of Architectural Historians, Australia and New Zealand*: 32, Architecture, Institutions and Change, edited by Paul Hogben and Judith O'Callaghan, 435-445. Sydney: SAHANZ, 2015.

period – Boyd was inspired by the geodesic dome in his 1969 design for ‘Neptune’s Fishbowl’ in South Yarra (demolished), and Grounds at his holiday retreat Penders on the NSW south coast. Structures inspired by the geodesic dome have proliferated in recent years, and the form is used in play equipment, ‘glamping tents’ and seen in large public buildings such as AAMI Park.

## The MUMC Hut

In the early 1960s, the MUMC conceived of an alpine hut as a base for members to learn, train and hone their mountaineering skills in snowy and icy conditions following the deaths of members Doug Hatt and Russel Judge in extreme conditions on Mount Cook in New Zealand. The exposed Northwest Spur of Mount Feathertop, well above the snowline, was selected as an ideal location. The hut was also to serve as a memorial to Hatt and Judge, a characteristic shared by the Cleve Cole Hut (1937) on Mount Bogong and the Vallejo Gantner Hut (1971, VHR H00456). A design for the MUMC Hut was devised by club member and Melbourne University Civil Engineering student Peter Kneen in 1965.

After initially considering a more conventional design, the dome or igloo design was subsequently selected. According to Kneen, he was not yet aware of Fuller’s work with the geodesic dome when he came to design the MUMC Hut. Kneen’s final year undergraduate project involved load testing of a spaceframe system. Given this background, Kneen chose the icosahedron shape as best suited to forming the dome section of the hut, being an excellent construction technique for its durability, lightweight construction, ability to withstand uplift high winds and snow, and efficient utilisation of space.<sup>8</sup> The MUMC club members fabricated aluminium framing members and connecting star joints in the University’s Engineering workshops to minimise assembly time and potential mistakes on site. The final geometric dimensions were optimised based on the width of the aluminium sheets employed for the cladding. All building materials and tools – including the aluminium frame members, aluminium sheet cladding, and timber for the flooring – were walked approximately 5.5 kilometres into the site. As many as 200 club members contributed to construction of the hut, some carrying multiple loads a day, while others provided catering.<sup>9</sup> The hut originally had a central wood stove for heating which was subsequently removed.

The location was chosen close to the treeline so climbers could gauge conditions on Mount Feathertop before setting out.<sup>10</sup> The construction was completed in 1967. Originally referred to as the Mount Feathertop Memorial Hut, it was built under a Permissive Occupancy lease issued by the Mount Hotham Committee of Management.<sup>11</sup> While the aluminium sheeting was originally left unpainted, in 1971 it was painted a muted green after complaints about its highly visible reflectiveness. The hut provided shelter for those undertaking ice climbing and also proved popular with walkers in summer; 800 people are reported to have used the hut in 1977.<sup>12</sup> Mount Feathertop, including the location of the hut, was incorporated into the Bogong National Park in 1981, which subsequently became part of the Alpine National Park in 1989. The hut has survived two bushfires since its construction.<sup>13</sup> It continues to be a popular destination for MUMC members and other hikers and skiers.

## Selected bibliography

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LRGM Services, *Thematic Environmental History of the Alpine Shire North East Victoria*, 2008.

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<sup>8</sup> ‘MUMC Hut’, Melbourne University Mountaineering Club website, <<https://www.mumc.org.au/hut>>.

<sup>9</sup> Graeme Butler & Associates, *Victorian Alpine Huts Heritage Survey*, 2005, p. 722.

<sup>10</sup> Notes provided by Peter Kneen, 2025.

<sup>11</sup> Email correspondence from Emma Ferris, Hut Warden. 30 October 2025.

<sup>12</sup> Graeme Butler & Associates, *Victorian Alpine Huts Heritage Survey*, 2005, p. 723.

<sup>13</sup> Peter Kneen Photography, [peterkneen.photography/index.php/photography/heritage-items/29-mountain-huts-in-victoria](http://peterkneen.photography/index.php/photography/heritage-items/29-mountain-huts-in-victoria).

RBA Architects, 'MUMC Memorial Hut', *Alpine Shire Heritage Study*, 2024.

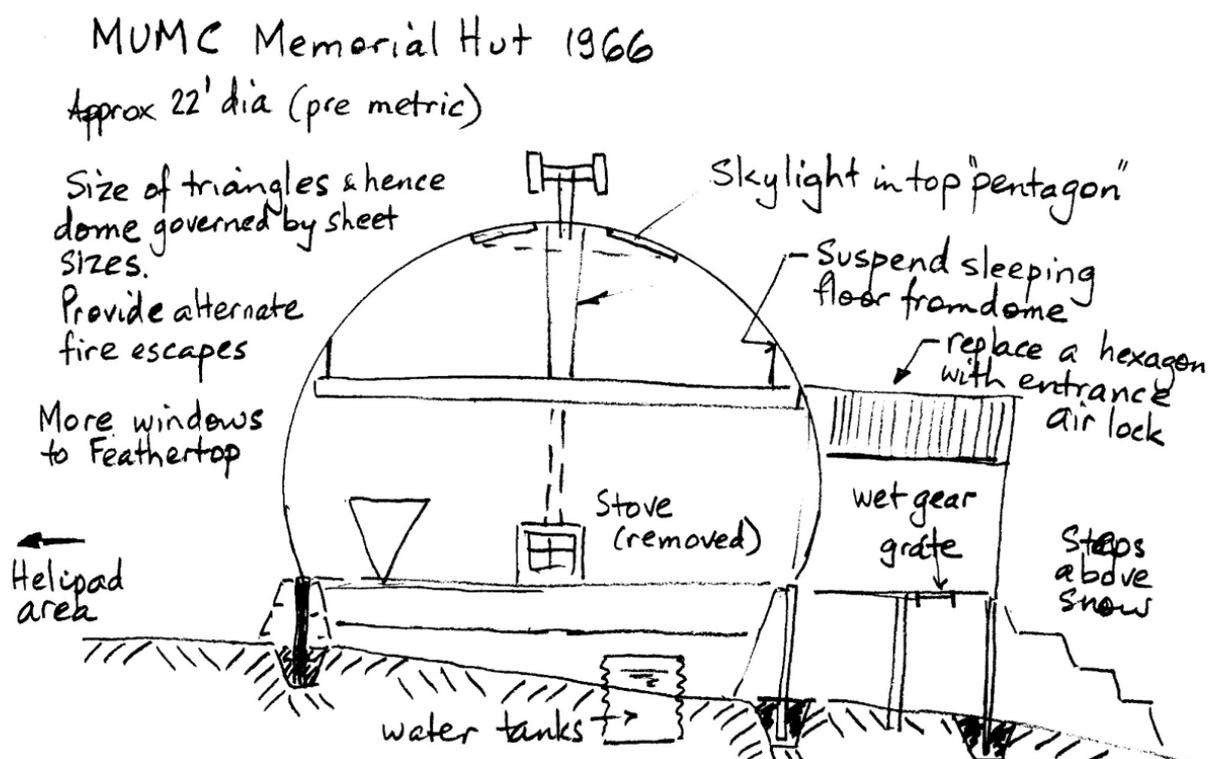
Lee Stickells, 'And Everywhere Those Strange Polygonal Igloos': Framing a History of Australian Countercultural Architecture', in *Proceedings of the Society of Architectural Historians, Australia and New Zealand: 30, Open*, edited by Alexandra Brown and Andrew Leach (Gold Coast, Qld: SAHANZ, 2013), vol. 2, p 555-568.

## Acknowledgements

The Executive Director thanks the following people for sharing their knowledge of MUMC Hut, and valuable background materials:

- Emma Ferris, Hut Warden, Melbourne University Mountaineering Club.
- Felix Schaap, Archive Deputy, Melbourne University Mountaineering Club.
- Peter Kneen, engineer and MUMC Hut designer.

## Historical images



Sketch plan of the MUMC Hut as it was in 1966.  
Source: Supplied by Peter Kneen.



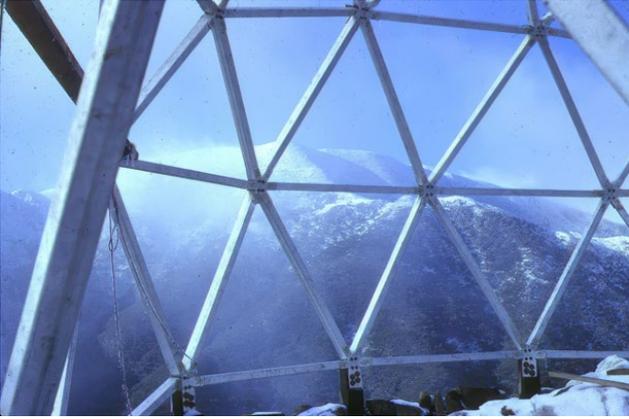
*c1966, the MUMC Hut under construction.  
Source: MUMC Facebook page.*



*c1966, the MUMC Hut under construction.  
Source: Supplied, MUMC.*



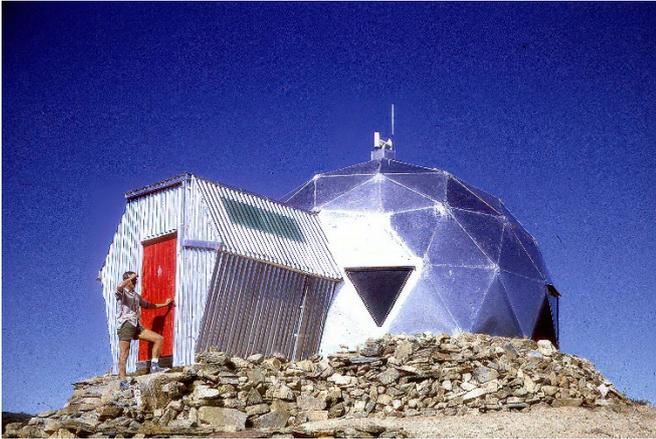
*1966, the MUMC Hut under construction.  
Source: Supplied, MUMC.*



1966, the MUMC Hut under construction.  
Source: Peter Kneen, supplied.



1966, the MUMC Hut under construction.  
Source: Supplied, MUMC.



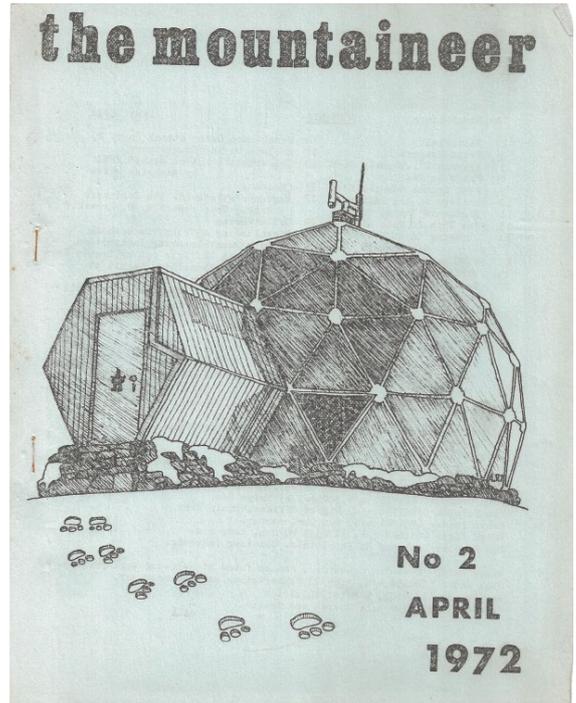
c1967, completed MUMC Hut.  
Source: Peter Kneen, supplied.



c1967, completed MUMC Hut in snow conditions.  
Source: Peter Kneen, supplied.



Late 1960s, interior of the MUMC Hut following completion. The bench and kitchen sink have been replaced.



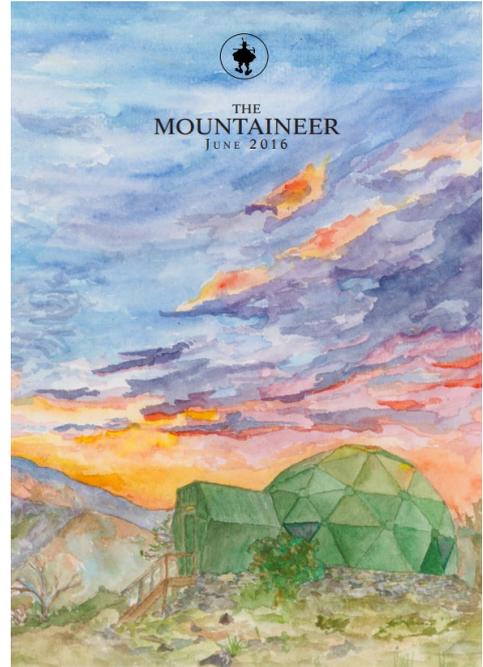
Impression of the MUMC Hut, on the cover of The Mountaineer – the magazine of the Melbourne University Mountaineering Club, April 1972.



Early 1970s, interior of the MUMC Hut. The log heater visible in the middle of the room has now been removed to preserve the surrounding vegetation.



1993, the Hut once painted green. Source: Photograph by G Duncan, accessed via Mountain Huts Australia, <https://mountainhuts.net/region-9-mt-hotham/mumc-hu>.



*c2010, interior of MUMC Hut with current sink bench. Source, Peter Kneen, supplied. Impression of the MUMC Hut, on the cover of The Mountaineer – the magazine of the Melbourne University Mountaineering Club, June 2016.*

## Further information

### Registered Aboriginal Party information

A Registered Aboriginal Party under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* has not been appointed.

### Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register

The place is within an area of cultural heritage sensitivity.

(1 November 2025)

### Integrity

The integrity of the place is very good. There have been some minor changes since the hut's construction, such as painting of the aluminium sheets in muted green and installation of timber entry steps, but the cultural heritage values of MUMC Hut can be easily read in the extant fabric.

(1 November 2025)

### Intactness

The intactness of the place is very good. There have been some minor changes since the hut's construction, such as removal of the central wood stove and original sink cabinet.

(1 November 2025)

### Condition

The condition of the place is good. There have been several maintenance issues over the building's lifespan, including condensation, and water penetration. The hut is still frequently used and actively maintained by both the MUMC and Parks Victoria. Conservation works, including repointing of interior stonework and repairs to the aluminium cladding, have recently been undertaken or are planned for the near future.

(1 November 2025)

Note: The condition of a place or object does not influence the assessment of its cultural heritage significance. A place or object may be in very poor condition and still be of very high cultural heritage significance. Alternatively, a place or object may be in excellent condition but be of low cultural heritage significance.

### Other listings

There are no other individual listings for the MUMC Hut. It is within the National Heritage List Australian Alps National Parks and Reserves listing.

### Heritage Overlay

There is currently no Heritage Overlay for the place. The MUMC Hut was assessed in the 2008 Alpine Shire Heritage Study. Although it was recommended that a Heritage Overlay be applied, at this time, no Heritage Overlay was applied to the place.

More recently, the MUMC Hut has been considered as part of a heritage review by Alpine Shire. This review suggests the MUMC is of heritage significance and that a Heritage Overlay with 5 metre curtilage should be applied. A citation has been prepared, which has informed this assessment.

### Other relevant planning scheme overlays

There are no other relevant planning scheme overlays for the place.

**Other names**

MUMC Hut

MUMC Memorial Hut

Doug Hatt and Russell Judge Memorial Hut

Mount Feathertop Memorial Hut

**Date of construction/creation**

1965-67

**Architect/Builder/Designer/Maker**

Peter Kneen

**Architectural style**

Late twentieth century

## Statutory requirements under section 40

### Terms of the recommendation (section 40(3)(a))

The Executive Director recommends that the Melbourne University Mountaineering Club (MUMC) Hut is included in the VHR.

### Information to identify the place or object or land (section 40(3)(b))

**Number:** VHR H2470

**Category:** Registered place and registered object integral to a registered place

**Name:** Melbourne University Mountaineering Club (MUMC) Hut

**Location:** Northwest Spur Track, Mount Feathertop, Hotham Heights

**Municipality:** Alpine Shire

### Proposed extent of registration

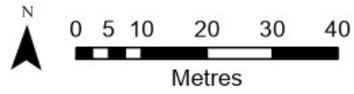
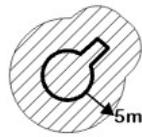
The Executive Director recommends that the extent of registration for MUMC Hut be gazetted as:

All of the place shown hatched on Diagram 2470 encompassing an area measured 5 metres from the base of the stone perimeter of the Hut located at 36.8850 degrees south, 147.1269 degrees east on Mount Feathertop; and the objects integral to the place being:

1. Eight memorial plaques (installed on internal face of stone plinth)
2. Framed sink and hardwood bench top
3. Metal topped hardwood table (designed to be used with camp stoves)
4. Timber table
5. Four freestanding timber benches
6. Timber ladder to access sleeping platform
7. Timber benches fixed to internal wall of hut and anteroom
8. Four hut log books, dating from the period 1966 – (held variously in the Melbourne University archives, by the MUMC and the MUMC Hut).

# DIAGRAM 2470

NORTHWEST SPUR TRACK



## Non-statutory information about the proposed extent of registration

### Aerial photo of the place showing proposed extent of registration



Note: This aerial view provides a visual representation of the place. It is not a precise representation of the recommended extent of registration. Due to distortions associated with aerial photography some elements of the place may appear as though they are outside the extent of registration.

### Rationale for the proposed extent of registration

The recommended extent of registration comprises all of the MUMC Hut, being the dome structure and entrance, the stone plinth, and the modern timber stairs. It also includes an area of 5 metres surrounding the hut. This enables changes to the structure, such as new additions, to be managed under a Heritage Victoria approval process. Given the hut is within a national park it is not thought necessary to include further land in the extent of registration.

The recommended extent of the registration differs slightly from the nominated extent in shape but reflects the same intent.

It should be noted that everything included in the proposed extent of registration including all of the land, all soft and hard landscape features, all of the building (exterior and interior, and any fixtures or objects integral), is proposed for inclusion in the VHR. A permit or permit exemption from Heritage Victoria is required for any works within the proposed extent of registration, apart from those identified in the categories of works or activities in this recommendation.

## Reasons for the recommendation, including an assessment of the State-level cultural heritage significance of the place (section 40(3)(c))

Following is the Executive Director's assessment of the MUMC Hut against the tests set out in [The Victorian Heritage Register Criteria and Thresholds Guidelines \(2022\)](#). A place or object must be found by the Heritage Council to meet Step 2 of at least one criterion to meet the State level threshold for inclusion in the VHR.

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### CRITERION A: Importance to the course, or pattern, of Victoria's cultural history.

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#### Step 1 Test for Criterion A

No.	Test	Yes/No	Reason
A1)	Does the place/object have a clear association with an event, phase, period, process, function, movement, custom or way of life in Victoria's cultural history?	Yes	The place has a clear association with the development of outdoor recreation in Victoria's history, specifically pastimes like bushwalking, hiking and mountaineering.
A2)	Is the event, phase, period, process, function, movement, custom or way of life of historical importance, having made a strong or influential contribution to Victoria?	Yes	The custom of outdoor recreation is of historical importance to Victoria. Since the late nineteenth century, Victorians have travelled throughout Victoria to pursue activities such as mountaineering, hiking and skiing. This has been an important pastime for many people and a key way that people experience Victoria's wilderness.
A3)	Is there evidence of the association to the event, phase, period, process, function, movement, custom or way of life in Victoria's cultural history?	Yes	There is ample evidence of the association between the place and the custom. This is demonstrated in the hut's location and design. It is also demonstrated in ample documentary evidence. The purpose, design, construction and use of the hut are well documented.

**If A1, A2 and A3 are all satisfied, then Criterion A is likely to be relevant (but not necessarily at the State level)**

Executive Director's Response:	Yes	Criterion A is likely to be relevant.
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## Step 2 State-level test for Criterion A

No.	Test	Yes/No	Reason
SA1)	Does the place/object allow the clear association with the event, phase, period, process, function, movement, custom or way of life of historical importance to be understood better than most other places or objects in Victoria with substantially the same association?	Yes	<p>The MUMC Hut enables the development of outdoor recreation, specifically pastimes such as bushwalking, hiking and mountaineering, to be understood better than most other places or objects in Victoria with substantially the same association.</p> <p>It was purpose built as a base to enable people to practice mountaineering skills in the extreme conditions of Mount Feathertop. This is demonstrated by the hut's siting on an exposed ridge above the snowline, where the location provided ideal conditions for mountaineering in icy, snowy conditions. It is also demonstrated in the hut's design, which was specifically developed to withstand the extreme environmental conditions of the location, including high winds and heavy snowfall.</p> <p>It is markedly different in design to other huts in the high country, which are comparatively conventional.</p> <p>The MUMC Hut is distinguished by its associated objects integral, which include early and original furniture, memorial plaques as well as objects like logbooks, which enable the historical association to be particularly well understood.</p>

If SA1 is satisfied, then Criterion A is likely to be relevant at the State level

<b>Executive Director's Response:</b>	Yes	Criterion A is likely to be relevant at the State level.
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## CRITERION B: Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Victoria's cultural history.

### Step 1 Test for Criterion B

No.	Test	Yes/No	Reason
B1)	Does the place/object have a clear association with an event, phase, period, process, function, movement, custom or way of life of importance in Victoria's cultural history?	Yes	The place has a clear association with the development of outdoor recreation, specifically pastimes such as bushwalking, hiking and mountaineering, as above.
B2)	Is there evidence of the association to the historical phases etc identified at B1)?	Yes	There is evidence of the association, as above.
B3)	Is there evidence that place/object is rare or uncommon, <u>or</u> has rare or uncommon features?	Yes	<p>B3(i) There is evidence that the place is rare or uncommon.</p> <p>Most alpine huts are associated with activities like cattle grazing and gold prospecting. Fewer had a purely</p>

recreational purpose. Very few were established specifically for training in alpine conditions.

B3(ii) There is evidence that the place has rare or uncommon features.

The hut is built to an extremely unusual design, being a geodesic dome.

**If B1, B2 AND B3 are satisfied, then Criterion B is likely to be relevant (but not necessarily at the State level)**

Executive Director's Response:	Yes	Criterion B is likely to be relevant.
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### Step 2 State-level test for Criterion B

No.	Test	Yes/No	Reason
SB1)	Is the place/object rare or uncommon, being one of a small number of places/objects remaining that demonstrates the event, phase, etc identified at B1)?	No	The MUMC Hut is not rare or uncommon being one of a small number of places/objects remaining that demonstrates the development of outdoor recreation (which includes places like campsites, ski chalets and huts). It is distinguished by being able to particularly well demonstrate the development of these pursuits, as addressed under Criterion A, but is not rare or uncommon in this regard.
SB2)	Is the place/object rare or uncommon, containing unusual features, and these features are of note and these features were not widely replicated in Victoria?	No	The design of the MUMC Hut is highly creative. It emerged from an era of experimental and inventive building design, and while its design is uncommon, this is indicative of the era of its establishment. <b>The hut's uncommon design will be addressed under Criterion D.</b>
SB3)	Is the existence of the class place/object that demonstrates the historical phases at B1) endangered to the point of rarity due to threats and pressures on such places/objects in Victoria?	No	The MUMC Hut is of the class of alpine huts. The class demonstrates the historical phases set out at B1.  This class is not endangered to the point of rarity due to threats and pressures in Victoria.

**If any one of SB1, SB2 OR SB3 is satisfied, then Criterion B is likely to be relevant at the State level**

Executive Director's Response:	No	Criterion B is not likely to be relevant at the State level.
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**CRITERION C: Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Victoria’s cultural history.**

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**Step 1 Test for Criterion C**

No.	Test	Yes/No	Reason
<b>C1)</b>	Does physical fabric and/or documentary evidence and/or associated oral history or cultural narratives relating to the place/object indicate a likelihood that the place/object contains evidence of cultural heritage significance that is not currently visible and/or well understood or available from other sources?	No	The: 1) physical fabric and 2) documentary evidence and 3) associated oral history or cultural narratives. relating to the MUMC Hut do not indicate a likelihood that the place contains evidence of cultural heritage significance that is not currently visible and/or well understood or available from other sources. The building and its significance can be well understood through the visible physical fabric and associated records.
<b>C2)</b>	And, from what we know of the place/object, is the physical evidence likely to be of an integrity and/or condition that it could yield information through detailed investigation?	N/A	The integrity and condition of the place may be good, but it is unlikely to yield information through investigation that is not currently visible and/or well understood or available from other sources (see C1).

If **both C1 AND C2** are satisfied, then Criterion C is likely to be relevant (but not necessarily at the State level)

Executive Director’s Response:	No	Criterion C is not likely to be relevant.
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**CRITERION D: Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural places and objects**

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**Step 1 Test for Criterion D**

No.	Test	Yes/No	Reason
<b>D1)</b>	Is the place/object one of a class of places/objects that has a clear association with an event, phase, period, process, function, movement, custom or way of life in Victoria’s history?	Yes	The MUMC Hut belongs to the class of alpine hut. This class has a clear association with the development of outdoor recreation in Victoria.
<b>D2)</b>	Is the event, phase, period, process, function, movement, custom or way of life of historical importance, having made a strong or influential contribution to Victoria?	Yes	As explored under Criterion A, the development of outdoor recreation, specifically pastimes such as bushwalking, hiking and mountaineering, has made a strong and influential contribution to Victoria.
<b>D3)</b>	Are the principal characteristics of the class evident in the physical fabric of the place/object?	Yes	The principal characteristics of the class are evident in the physical fabric of the place. It is located remote from settlements, was erected to provide shelter for alpine activities and is designed and constructed to withstand

extreme conditions. It provides areas and infrastructure to both sleep and undertake activities such as preparing food. It is a basic but self-contained and self-sufficient structure.

**If D1, D2 AND D3 are satisfied, then Criterion D is likely to be relevant (but not necessarily at the State level)**

Executive Director's Response:	Yes	Criterion D is likely to be relevant.
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### Step 2 State-level test for Criterion D

No.	Test	Yes/No	Reason
SD1)	Is the place/object a notable (fine, influential or pivotal) example of the class in Victoria?	Yes	<p>The MUMC Hut is a notable example of the class of alpine huts.</p> <p><b>A fine example</b></p> <p>The MUMC Hut displays a range of characteristics of the class. This is seen in its built form, which includes features such as an anteroom to provide an airlock in the cold conditions, and in its retention of objects integral.</p> <p>It displays the principal characteristics of the class in a way that allows the class to be easily understood and appreciated. It is sited in an exposed location above the snowline. Its unusual design speaks to the demands placed on buildings by the alpine environment. It is highly intact and retains a high degree of integrity. Its collection of furniture, which has been part of the place for many years, creates an assemblage that enables the class to be particularly well understood.</p> <p><i>and</i></p> <p>The MUMC Hut displays characteristics that are of a higher quality than are typical of places/objects in the class.</p> <p>The design of the hut is highly inventive and unlike any other alpine hut in Victoria, which are predominantly designed and constructed along very conventional or vernacular lines. With the exception of the Vallejo Gantner Hut (VHR H0046), they often take the form of simple one-room cottages. The MUMC Hut employs a distinctive design that takes a highly considered approach to the site's requirements and the hut's planned purpose.</p> <p><b>An influential example</b></p> <p>N/A</p> <p><b>A pivotal example</b></p> <p>N/A</p>

**If SD1 is satisfied, then Criterion D is likely to be relevant at the State level**

Executive Director's Response:	Yes	Criterion D is likely to be relevant at the State level.
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**CRITERION E: Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics.**

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**Step 1 Test for Criterion E**

No.	Test	Yes/No	Reason
E1)	Does the physical fabric of the place/object clearly exhibit particular aesthetic characteristics?	Yes	The physical fabric of the place clearly exhibits aesthetic characteristics particular to geodesic domes in its form, geometry and visible structure.

**If E1 is satisfied, then Criterion E is likely to be relevant (but not necessarily at the State level)**

Executive Director's Response:	Yes	Criterion E is likely to be relevant.
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**Step 2 State-level test for Criterion E**

No.	Test	Yes/No	Reason
SE1)	Are the aesthetic characteristics 'beyond the ordinary' or are outstanding as demonstrated by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Evidence from within the relevant discipline (architecture, art, design or equivalent); and/or</li><li>Critical recognition of the aesthetic characteristics of the place/object within a relevant art, design, architectural or related discipline within Victoria; and/or</li><li>Wide public acknowledgement of exceptional aesthetic qualities of the place/object in Victoria expressed in publications, print or digital media, painting, sculpture, songs, poetry, literature, or other media?</li></ul>	No	<p>The MUMC Hut has a striking and unusual appearance. When assessed against the SE1 test, however, there is no evidence that its aesthetic characteristics are 'beyond the ordinary' or are outstanding.</p> <p>The MUMC Hut has notable design characteristics. <b>These are best acknowledged under Criterion D.</b></p>

**If SE1 is satisfied, then Criterion E is likely to be relevant at the State level**

Executive Director's Response:	No	Criterion E is not likely to be relevant at the State level.
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**CRITERION F: Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period.**

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**Step 1 Test for Criterion F**

No.	Test	Yes/No	Reason
F1)	Does the place/object contain physical evidence that clearly demonstrates creative or technical	Yes	The MUMC Hut contains physical evidence that clearly demonstrates creative or technical achievement for the time in which it was created.

	achievement for the time in which it was created?		It was constructed to a highly creative design that was innovative for the period. The ingenuity of engineering student Peter Kneen was key in the hut's establishment.
<b>F2)</b>	Does the physical evidence demonstrate a high degree of integrity?	Yes	The physical evidence at the place demonstrates a high degree of integrity. Very few changes have occurred since its construction, and these are largely superficial.
<b>If both F1 and F2 are satisfied, then Criterion F is likely to be relevant (but not necessarily at the State level)</b>			
<b>Executive Director's Response:</b>		Yes	Criterion F is likely to be relevant.

### Step 2 State-level test for Criterion F

No.	Test	Yes/No	Reason
<b>SF1)</b>	<p>Is the nature and/or scale of the achievement of a high degree or 'beyond the ordinary' for the period in which it was undertaken as demonstrated by one or more forms of evidence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>evidence from within the relevant creative or technological discipline that recognises the place/object as a breakthrough in terms of design, fabrication or construction techniques <u>and/or</u> as a successful solution to a technical problem that extended the limits of existing technology;</li> <li>critical acclaim of the place/object within the relevant creative or technological discipline as an outstanding example in Victoria;</li> <li>wide acknowledgement of exceptional merit in Victoria in media such as publications or print/digital media;</li> <li>recognition of the place/object as an outstanding example of the creative adaptation of available materials and technology of the period?</li> </ul>	No	<p>The design of the MUMC Hut is clearly highly inventive. It required developing creative solutions to a series of technical challenges posed by the site, its location, and the chosen building technique.</p> <p>While it is an excellent example of experimental building design of the era, there is not yet evidence of critical acclaim or exceptional merit. Its creative design characteristics are <b>best acknowledged under Criterion D</b>.</p>

**If SF1 is satisfied, then Criterion F is likely to be relevant at the State level**

<b>Executive Director's Response:</b>		No	Criterion F is not likely to be relevant at the State level.
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**CRITERION G: Strong or special association with a particular present-day community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons**

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**Step 1 Test for Criterion G**

No.	Test	Yes/No	Reason
<b>G1)</b>	Does the place/object demonstrate social value to a community or cultural group in the present day in the context of its cultural heritage significance? Evidence must be provided for all three facets of social value listed here:		
i)	Existence of a community or cultural group; <u>and</u>	Yes	There is evidence that a community or cultural group exists, being people in Victoria who participate in outdoor activities like hiking, bushwalking and mountaineering. These activities are often pursued communally through clubs and societies.
ii)	Existence of a strong attachment of a community or cultural group to the place or object; <u>and</u>	Yes	There is evidence of a strong attachment between this community and to the MUMC Hut in the present day.  The MUMC Hut is frequently utilised by people undertaking these activities in the region, including MUMC members and others.
iii)	Existence of a time depth to that attachment.	Yes	There is evidence of the attachment dating to the hut's establishment in 1965-67.

**If all facets of G1 are satisfied, then Criterion G is likely to be relevant (but not necessarily at the State level)**

<b>Executive Director's Response:</b>	Yes	Criterion G is likely to be relevant.
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**Step 2 State-level test for Criterion G**

No.	Test	Yes/No	Reason
<b>SG1)</b>	Is there evidence that the social value resonates across the broader Victorian community as part of a story that contributes to Victoria's identity?	Yes	<p>SG1(i) The social value of the MUMC Hut is part of a story in Victoria that contributes to Victoria's identity. Outdoor activities have been popular in Victoria since the late nineteenth century and remain immensely popular today. They are an important way for people to experience places outside cities and towns.</p> <p>SG1(ii) There is some evidence that the social value of MUMC Hut to the outdoor activities community resonates across the broader Victorian community. Community members from across Victoria visit the area and utilise the hut as a place to stay and socialise.</p> <p>However, much the same could be said of numerous other places across Victoria, such as huts and campsites. The social value of the MUMC Hut appears to be equivalent to these other places.</p>

**If all facets of SG1 are satisfied, then Criterion G is likely to be relevant at the State level**

<b>Executive Director's Response:</b>	No	Criterion G is not likely to be relevant at the State level.
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**CRITERION H: Special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in Victoria's history.**

**Step 1 Test for Criterion H**

No.	Test	Yes/No	Reason
H1)	Does the place/object have a direct association with a person, or group of persons who has made a strong or influential contribution in their field of endeavour?	Yes	<p>H1(i) There is a direct association between the MUMC Hut and the MUMC.</p> <p>The MUMC Hut was designed by an MUMC member, Peter Kneen, and constructed by club members. It was built for the MUMC's use and the Club, alongside Parks Victoria, are its ongoing custodians.</p> <p>H1(ii) The MUMC has made a strong or influential contribution in their field.</p> <p>The MUMC has existed since the 1940s and has had thousands of members over its history. It is a well-known and regarded club in Australian mountaineering and adventuring circles.</p>
H2)	Is there evidence of the association between the place/object and the person(s)?	Yes	<p>There is evidence of the association between the MUMC Hut and the MUMC.</p> <p>There is ample documentary, oral and physical evidence of the relationship between the MUMC and the MUMC Hut.</p>
H3)	Does the association relate: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• directly to achievements of the person(s); <u>and</u></li> <li>• to an enduring and/or close interaction between the person(s) and the place/object?</li> </ul>	Yes	<p>H3(i) The association between the MUMC Hut and the MUMC relates directly to the achievements of the Club.</p> <p>Establishment of the Hut required creativity, resourcefulness and immense effort. It reflects the Club's enthusiasm for alpine locations.</p> <p>H3(ii) The association relates to a close and enduring interaction between the MUMC and MUMC Hut.</p> <p>The MUMC established the Hut and have utilised it and cared for it since the 1960s.</p>

**If all facets of H1, H2 AND H3 are satisfied, then Criterion H is likely to be relevant (but not necessarily at the State level)**

Executive Director's Response:	Yes	Criterion H is likely to be relevant.
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**Step 2 State-level test for Criterion H**

No.	Test	Yes/No	Reason
SH1)	Are the life or works of the person/persons important to Victoria's history?	No	<p>The MUMC is a long-standing and well-regarded outdoors club. It has existed since 1944 and enabled thousands of University of Melbourne students and non-students to pursue a wide variety of outdoor activities.</p> <p>Although this is the case, the club cannot be considered important to Victoria's history overall. Other universities in</p>

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Victoria have comparable clubs, and it is one of potentially hundreds of clubs in Victoria that promote and enable participation in outdoor activities. Although established for many decades, it is not one of Victoria's longest-established outdoor clubs.

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<b>SH2)</b>	Does this place/object allow the association between the person or group of persons and their importance in Victoria's history to be readily appreciated better than most other places or objects in Victoria?	N/A	As above, SH1 is not satisfied, therefore SH2 is not relevant.
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**If SH1 and SH2 are satisfied, then Criterion H is likely to be relevant at the State level**

<b>Executive Director's Response:</b>	No	Criterion H is not likely to be relevant at the State level.
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## Objects integral

### Definition

In the context of a registered place, an 'object integral' is

- a key part of the place; and
- contributes to our understanding of the place's State-level cultural heritage significance.

An object integral does not have to be of State-level significance in its own right. A more detailed definition can be found in the Heritage Council's [Policy: objects integral to a registered place](#).

It should be noted that fixtures (such as window frames or decorative masonry) automatically form part of the registered place and are therefore protected under the Act.

### Background

The MUMC Hut has several associated objects that are original to the building or have been in place for many years. Their survival reflects the ongoing use of the place for its built purpose, and the MUMC's strong sense of custodianship.

### Inventory of objects integral

The objects integral to this place are listed in the Objects Integral Inventory VHR H2470 at the end of this report. They consist of a collection of furniture, documents and other items, being:

1. Eight memorial plaques (installed on internal face of stone plinth)
2. Framed sink and hardwood bench top
3. Metal topped hardwood table (designed to be used with camp stoves)
4. Timber table
5. Four freestanding timber benches
6. Timber ladder to access sleeping platform
7. Timber benches fixed to internal wall of hut and anteroom
8. Four hut log books, dating from the period 1966 – (held variously in the Melbourne University archives, the MUMC clubrooms and the MUMC Hut)

### Assessment of whether the objects are integral to understanding the cultural heritage significance of a registered place (40(3A)(b))

The Heritage Council's [Policy: objects integral to a registered place](#) notes that for the purposes of the Act, an object will be considered integral to a place if it satisfied the following tests:

1.	Does the object/s form a key part of that place, being a component in its design, operation or use that contributes importantly to a richer and more complete understanding of its historical, cultural, technical, aesthetic and/or social meaning at a State level?	Yes	The objects integral provide a greater understanding of the MUMC Hut's establishment and its ongoing use. The furniture, much of it built on site, has been part of the building for many years, and enables the ongoing use of the hut to be well understood. The plaques speak to the establishment and purpose of the hut, while the log books provide a detailed insight into the use of the building.
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2.	Can the contribution be substantiated through physical, documentary or oral evidence?	Yes	The contribution can be well substantiated. There are numerous historic photos of the hut that feature the objects, and their provenance is well understood by past and current custodians of the hut.
Executive Director's Response		The objects can be considered integral to the place	

**Summary of how the object is integral to understanding the cultural heritage significance of the place (40(4)(b))**

These pieces of furniture, including timber benches and a ladder, reflect the place's ongoing use as a hut for recreational purposes. The memorial plaques provide an insight into the MUMC Hut's construction and its dual role as a memorial. The log books greatly enrich the understanding of the hut's history and significance.

## Comparisons

The following were selected as comparators to MUMC Hut because they belong to the same class or have a related historical associations, or assist in putting the hut in the context of other experiments in building form being carried out in a same era. They include comparators from both the VHR, which assist in identifying the threshold for inclusions, and other examples from interstate or that have not been the subject of heritage assessment. These provide useful historical context.

### Places associated with alpine recreation in the VHR

(see also Vallejo Gantner Hut below)

#### MOUNT BUFFALO CHALET

##### MOUNT BUFFALO ROAD, MOUNT BUFFALO, ALPINE SHIRE

###### VHR H0901

Mount Buffalo Chalet opened in 1908. It is of historical significance for its association with the history of leisure in Victoria and the development of the Mt Buffalo National Park, and for its provision of an environment which has remained relatively unchanged since its construction in 1910. It was a popular base for cross-country skiing and was one of the first ski resorts established in Victoria.



### Alpine huts in the VHR

#### WALLACES HUT

##### WALLACES TRACK, NELSE, EAST GIPPSLAND SHIRE

###### VHR H1616

Wallaces Hut was built in 1889 and is likely the oldest surviving hut on the high plains. It was constructed to provide shelter for cattlemen. It is of historical significance for its link to the history of high plains cattle grazing, and of architectural significance as an important example of a nineteenth-century timber hut.



#### SPARGOS HUT

##### OFF GREAT ALPINE ROAD, HOTHAM HEIGHTS, MOUNT HOTHAM ALPINE RESORT

###### VHR H1609

Spargos Hut was built in 1928-29 as a base for summer gold prospecting activities. It is of historical significance for its association with gold prospecting activities in the area. It is now a rare relatively early surviving example. It is also of significance for its association with Bill Spargo, who selected the site of several other huts in the high country.



## **VALLEJO GANTNER HUT**

### **MOUNT HOWITT WALKING TRACK, HOWITT PLAINS, WELLINGTON SHIRE**

#### **VHR H0046**

The Vallejo Gantner Memorial Hut is an alpine hut near Mount Howitt, designed in 1970 by David McGlashan, of architects McGlashan & Everist, and built in 1970-71. The hut was built in memory of Vallejo Gantner, a young man who loved the mountains and who died in an accident in 1962 at the age of 19. The Vallejo Gantner Memorial Hut is architecturally significant as a rare example of an architect-designed alpine hut, and its unique A-frame design. It is of historical significance for its association with the history of bushwalking as a recreational activity in Victoria, and with the expansion of outdoor education activities in the mountains in the 1970s-80s.



## **Other comparable huts not in the VHR**

### **CLEVE COLE MEMORIAL HUT**

#### **MOUNT HOWITT WALKING TRACK HOWITT PLAINS, WELLINGTON SHIRE**

##### **Included in Heritage Overlay H02 in the Alpine Shire Planning Scheme**

Cleve Cole Memorial Hut was built in 1937 for the Ski Club of Victoria. The architect was Malcolm McColl. It is significant for its ongoing association with High Plains tourism, and its reflection of that use in its siting, construction and form. It is also significant for its association with renowned cross-country skier Cleve Cole. It was carefully designed to provide more comfort and warmth than the average cattlemen's hut.



### **COPE HUT**

#### **ALPINE WALKING TRACK MOUNT COPE**

##### **Included in Heritage Overlay H02 in the Alpine Shire Planning Scheme**

Cope Hut was built by the Ski Club of Victoria in 1929. It reflected an increase in popularity of alpine recreation, including skiing, in the 1920s and 1930s. It was the first purpose-built tourist structure in the High Plains. Cope Hut is of heritage significance for its ongoing links to alpine recreation.



## Lightweight and tensile structures in the VHR

### SIDNEY MYER MUSIC BOWL

ALEXANDRA AVENUE, MELBOURNE, MELBOURNE CITY

VHR H1772

The Sidney Myer Music Bowl has architectural significance as the largest, purpose built, permanent outdoor performance venue in Australia. The Bowl was constructed in 1958, during a period of experimentation in new forms of construction and since completion its tensile structural system has not been surpassed in scale or complexity. The Sidney Myer Music Bowl is of technical importance for its contribution to the development of engineering and construction techniques which were required to complete this large scale and technically unusual project.



### VICTORIAN ARTS CENTRE

100 ST KILDA ROAD, SOUTHBANK, MELBOURNE CITY

VHR H1977

The spire at the Arts Centre is a significant element of the Arts Centre site and a landmark in Melbourne. A spire had always been part of Roy Grounds' vision for the Arts Centre, and by the 1970s had evolved into a 115-metre tower with a 'skirt' of flowing waves meant to evoke a ballerina's tutu. Key to the design was the utilisation of a space-frame lattice that had been used in stadium construction. The original spire was completed in 1981. The spire was designed with input from structural engineers at the University of Melbourne.



### OLYMPIC SWIMMING STADIUM

10-30 OLYMPIC BOULEVARD, MELBOURNE, MELBOURNE CITY

The Olympic Swimming Stadium was completed in 1952 in preparation for the 1956 Olympics. It is of scientific (technological) significance as an early example of pre-tensioned steel frame construction. Architects Kevin Borland, Peter McIntyre, and John and Phyllis Murphy worked in close collaboration with engineer Bill Irwin to produce the innovative design.



## Lightweight dome structures – not in the VHR (demolished or interstate)

### BARNESLEY MOTORS

#### BEVERLEY, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

##### SHIRE OF BEVERLEY

The Barnesley Motors building dates from 1968 and represents the interesting application of a geodesic dome to a motor dealership office. There were several interesting experiments in geodesic domes in Western Australia in the period, partly emerging from exploration by students within the State's university architecture departments. It was included in the municipal inventory of the Shire of Beverley in 1996.



### GEODESIC DOME, PENDERS

#### TANJA (WITHIN MIMOSA ROCKS NATIONAL PARK)

##### BEGA VALLEY, NSW

Penders is a coastal holiday retreat that comprises a range of modernist buildings designed by Roy Grounds and constructed in a period from 1960s-80s. Now part of the Mimosa Rocks National Park, the land was acquired by Grounds and shared with friend Kenneth Myer. Grounds used the location to experiment with innovative building forms and techniques, including a geodesic dome constructed of circular lengths of locally-sourced timber and garbage bin lids.

It is included in the NSW State Heritage Register.



*2019, geodesic dome at Penders on the NSW South Coast.*



*Late 1960s, Roy Grounds with the geodesic dome he constructed.*

### NEPTUNE'S FISHBOWL (DEMOLISHED)

#### SOUTH YARRA

Robin Boyd produced the design for the 'Neptune's Fishbowl', a drive-in fish and chip shop, in 1969. The shop, on Toorak Road in South Yarra, featured a blue sphere on its roof. Although not technically a geodesic dome, it is reminiscent of one, and demonstrates the interest in form and technique at the time.



## TROPICAL DISPLAY DOME

### MOUNT COOTTHA, QUEENSLAND

Designed by Brisbane City Council architect Jacob de Vries, the 9-metre-high, geodesic (lattice) dome was officially opened back in 1977 by the then Lord Mayor Frank Sleeman as part of Stage One of the garden's construction, and has been visited and appreciated by millions of people since.



## Summary of Comparisons

Given the large number of alpine huts in Victoria, and their importance in Victoria's history, there are relatively few included in the VHR. Examples most relevant to the MUMC Hut are Wallaces Hut (VHR H1616), Spargos Hut (VHR H1609) and the Vallejo Gantner Hut (VHR H0046). Both Wallaces Hut and Spargos Hut are recognised as relatively early surviving examples. They represent different historical associations (goldmining and cattle grazing) to the MUMC Hut and are of vernacular timber construction. The Mount Buffalo Chalet (VHR H0901) shares associations with the history of alpine recreation, but as a 'chalet' represents a different form of accommodation for larger numbers of people.

The MUMC Hut demonstrates Victoria's history of alpine recreation particularly well through its siting, design, intactness and objects integral. When compared with more traditional examples, the MUMC Hut is finely designed and highly experimental because of its geodesic dome form. In this it has the most in common with the Vallejo Gartner Hut, which is architect designed along non-conventional lines and has a similar historical association with alpine recreation. The MUMC Hut can be considered of an equivalent level of cultural heritage significance.

## Summary of cultural heritage significance (section 40(4))

### Statement of significance

#### What is significant?

The Melbourne University Mountaineering Club (MUMC) Hut is an alpine hut sited on the Northwest Spur Track on Mount Feathertop, designed and constructed by members of the MUMC in 1965-67. It comprises a distinctive geodesic dome structure of aluminium framing, riveted aluminium panels (now painted green), and triangular windows atop a stone plinth. It is accessed via an entry anteroom clad in profiled sheet metal with a timber door. Internally, a sleeping platform is suspended above a single, open area. The objects integral comprise:

1. Eight memorial plaques
2. Framed sink and hardwood bench top
3. Metal topped hardwood table
4. Timber table
5. Four freestanding timber benches
6. Timber ladder to access sleeping platform
7. Timber benches fixed to internal wall of hut and anteroom
8. Four hut log books, dating from the period 1966 (held variously in the Melbourne University archives, the MUMC clubrooms and the MUMC Hut).

#### How is it significant?

Melbourne University Mountaineering Club (MUMC) Hut is of historical and architectural significance to the State of Victoria. It satisfies the following criterion for inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Register:

##### Criterion A

Importance to the course, or pattern, of Victoria's cultural history.

##### Criterion D

Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural places and objects.

#### Why is it significant?

The MUMC Hut is historically significant for its associations with the development of outdoor pursuits such as hiking and mountaineering in Victoria. It was purpose-built as a base for honing mountaineering skills in the alpine conditions of Mount Feathertop following the death of two MUMC members, Doug Hatt and Russell Judge, in a mountaineering accident. This purpose is reflected in the hut's location on a relatively inaccessible and exposed ridgeline above the snowline, with sightlines to Mount Feathertop. It is also demonstrated in the hut's distinctive design, which was specifically developed to withstand the extreme environmental conditions of the location, including high winds and heavy snowfall. Its objects integral, including memorial plaques and logbooks, enable its purpose, establishment and ongoing use to be readily understood. [Criterion A]

The MUMC Hut is architecturally significant as a notable example of an alpine hut. Its strikingly modern geodesic dome form is distinctive among huts in Victoria, which tend to be constructed along conventional lines. The lightweight, dome design of the MUMC Hut was an innovative response to the MUMC's functional requirements and the location. The hut was built to withstand the extreme weather conditions of the location, particularly high winds and heavy snow. The construction techniques employed enabled all building materials to be walked into the site, which is remote from townships and roads. Its objects integral, including purpose-built furniture, much of it original and constructed on site, contribute to its fine qualities. [Criterion D]

## Recommended permit exemptions under section 38

### Introduction

A [heritage permit](#) is required for all works and activities undertaken in relation to VHR places and objects. Certain works and activities are [exempt from a heritage permit](#), if the proposed works will not harm the cultural heritage significance of the heritage place or object.

### Permit Policy

It is suggested that a Conservation Management Plan or Condition Assessment is utilised to manage the place in a manner which respects its cultural heritage significance.

### Permit Exemptions

#### General Permit Exemptions

General exemptions apply to all places and objects included in the VHR. General exemptions have been designed to allow everyday activities, maintenance and changes to your property, which don't harm its cultural heritage significance, to proceed without the need to obtain approvals under the Act.

Specific exemptions may also apply to your registered place or object. If applicable, these are listed below. Specific exemptions are tailored to the conservation and management needs of an individual registered place or object and set out works and activities that are exempt from the requirements of a permit. Specific exemptions prevail if they conflict with general exemptions.

Find out more about heritage permit exemptions [here](#).

#### Specific Permit Exemptions

The works and activities listed below under the heading 'Exempt works and activities' are not considered to cause harm to the cultural heritage significance of MUMC Hut. These are subject to the following guidelines and conditions:

### Guidelines for specific permit exemptions

1. Where there is an inconsistency between permit exemptions specific to the registered place or object ('specific exemptions') established in accordance with either section 49(3) or section 92(3) of the Act and general exemptions established in accordance with section 92(1) of the Act specific exemptions will prevail to the extent of any inconsistency.
2. In specific exemptions, words have the same meaning as in the Act, unless otherwise indicated. Where there is an inconsistency between specific exemptions and the Act, the Act will prevail to the extent of any inconsistency.
3. Nothing in specific exemptions obviates the responsibility of a proponent to obtain the consent of the owner of the registered place or object, or if the registered place or object is situated on Crown Land the land manager as defined in the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act 1978*, prior to undertaking works or activities in accordance with specific exemptions.
4. If a Cultural Heritage Management Plan in accordance with the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* is required for works covered by specific exemptions, specific exemptions will apply only if the Cultural Heritage Management Plan has been approved prior to works or activities commencing. Where there is an inconsistency between specific exemptions and a Cultural Heritage Management Plan for the relevant works and activities, Heritage Victoria must be contacted for advice on the appropriate approval pathway.
5. Specific exemptions do not constitute approvals, authorisations or exemptions under any other legislation, Local Government, State Government or Commonwealth Government requirements, including but not limited to the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*, and the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth). Nothing in this declaration exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to obtain relevant planning, building or environmental approvals from the responsible authority where applicable.
6. Care should be taken when working with heritage buildings and objects, as historic fabric may contain dangerous and poisonous materials (for example lead paint and asbestos). Appropriate personal protective equipment should be worn at all times. If you are unsure, seek advice from a qualified heritage architect, heritage consultant or local Council heritage advisor.
7. The presence of unsafe materials (for example asbestos, lead paint etc) at a registered place or object does not automatically exempt remedial works or activities in

accordance with this category. Approvals under Part 5 of the Act must be obtained to undertake works or activities that are not expressly exempted by the below specific exemptions.

8. All works should be informed by a Conservation Management Plan prepared for the place or object. The Executive Director is not bound by any Conservation Management Plan and permits still must be obtained for works suggested in any Conservation Management Plan.

### General conditions for specific permit exemptions

1. All works or activities permitted under specific exemptions must be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents harm to the registered place or object. Harm includes moving, removing or damaging any part of the registered place or object that contributes to its cultural heritage significance.
2. If during the carrying out of works or activities in accordance with specific exemptions original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the registered place are revealed relating to its cultural heritage significance, including but not limited to historical archaeological remains, such as features, deposits or artefacts, then works must cease and Heritage Victoria notified as soon as possible.
3. If during the carrying out of works or activities in accordance with specific exemptions any Aboriginal cultural heritage is discovered or exposed at any time, all works must cease and the Secretary (as defined in the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*) must be contacted immediately to ascertain requirements under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*.
4. If during the carrying out of works or activities in accordance with specific exemptions any munitions or other potentially explosive artefacts are discovered, Victoria Police is to be immediately alerted and the site is to be immediately cleared of all personnel.
5. If during the carrying out of works or activities in accordance with specific exemptions any suspected human remains are found the works or activities must cease. The remains must be left in place and protected from harm or damage. Victoria Police and the State Coroner's Office must be notified immediately. If there are reasonable grounds to believe that the remains are Aboriginal, the State Emergency Control Centre must be immediately notified on 1300 888 544, and, as required under s.17(3)(b) of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*, all details about the location and nature of the human remains must be provided to the Aboriginal Heritage Council (as defined in the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*).

## Exempt works and activities

### Hut

1. Repainting of the exterior in the existing colour.
2. Repair and removal of external timber stairs and deck, and replacement where form, scale and materials are the same.
3. Repair, removal and replacement of the existing solar panel in the existing location.
4. Minor repairs and conservation works (for example, repointing of stonework), that use like-for-like materials and maintain the visual appearance of the hut.
5. Replacement of isolated areas of building fabric (for example, single windows or plywood sheeting), with like-for-like material where the existing material is beyond repair and the introduction of new material is essential for the continued use of the hut.
6. Minor modifications and introduction of new fabric (for example, brackets and capping) where it extends the life of existing fabric and supports the ongoing use of the hut.
7. All maintenance and repairs to sub-floor space, including replacement of water tank and associated pump.
8. All works and activities necessary to protect the hut if it is under threat during a bushfire or other emergency, such as covering in foil wrap or the application of retardants.
9. Ongoing care for objects integral to the place, such as oiling and varnishing of furniture.
10. Transferring of MUMC log books to Melbourne University archives.

### Surrounds

11. All regular land management activities undertaken in accordance with Parks Victoria legislation and associated regulations and guidelines.

## Objects integral inventory VHR H2470 to be held by the Executive Director

Object number	#1
Name of object	Eight memorial plaques. Make unknown.
Object description including maker and creation date(s)	Small brass plaques with details of MUMC members and past members who have died pursuing outdoor adventure activities.
Current location	Installed on internal face of stone plinth
Photo and date of photo	 <p>2025</p>
Source/s of information	Emma Ferris, Hut Warden, MUMC

Object number	#2
Name of object	Framed sink and hardwood bench top
Object description including maker and creation date(s)	Handmade open timber bench with metal sink. Replaced original kitchen cupboard and sink.
Photo and date of photo	

	2010
Source/s of information	Emma Ferris, Hut Warden, MUMC

Object number	#3
Name of object	Metal topped hardwood table
Object description including maker and creation date(s)	Handmade timber framed bench with metal top designed to be used with camp stoves.
Photo and date of photo	 <p>2025</p>
Source/s of information	Emma Ferris, Hut Warden, MUMC

Object number	#4
Name of object	Timber table
Object description including maker and creation date(s)	Handmade timber table with timber top.
Photo and date of photo	 <p>2025</p>

Source/s of information	Emma Ferris, Hut Warden, MUMC
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Object number	#5
Name of object	Four freestanding timber benches
Object description including maker and creation date(s)	Handmade freestanding timber benches
Photo and date of photo	 <p>2025</p>
Source/s of information	Emma Ferris, Hut Warden, MUMC

Object number	#5
Name of object	Timber ladder to access sleeping platform
Object description including maker and creation date(s)	Handmade timber ladder to provide access to sleeping platform

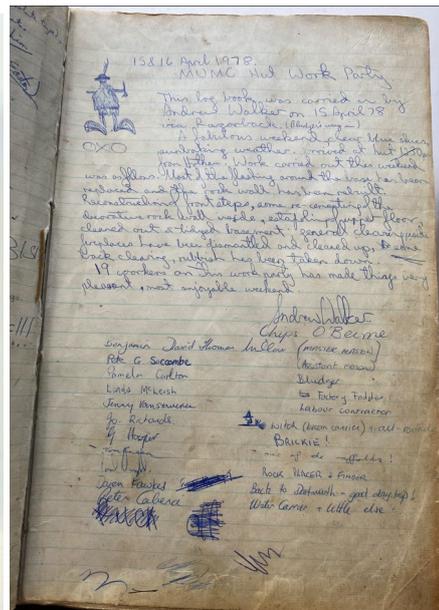
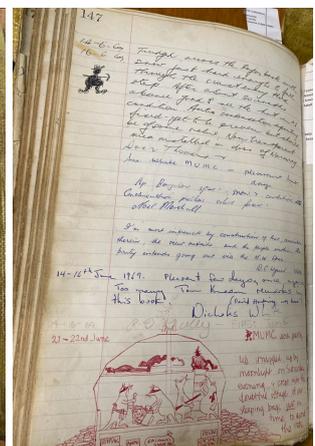
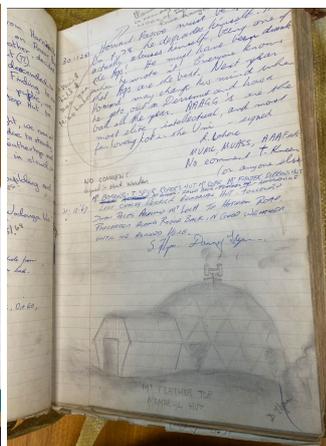
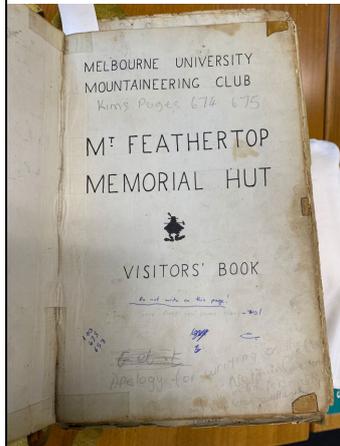
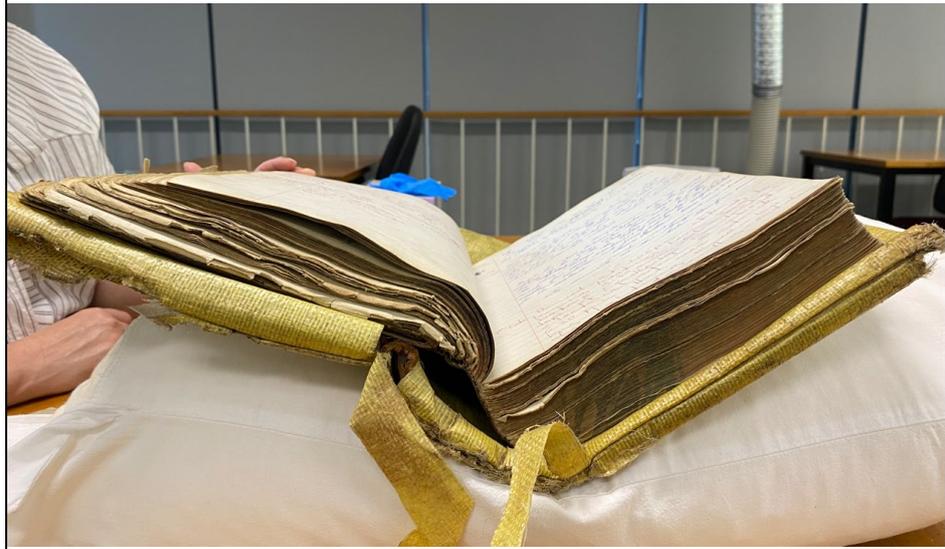
<p>Photo and date of photo</p>	 <p>2025</p>  <p>c1965</p>
<p>Source/s of information</p>	<p>Emma Ferris, Hut Warden, MUMC</p>

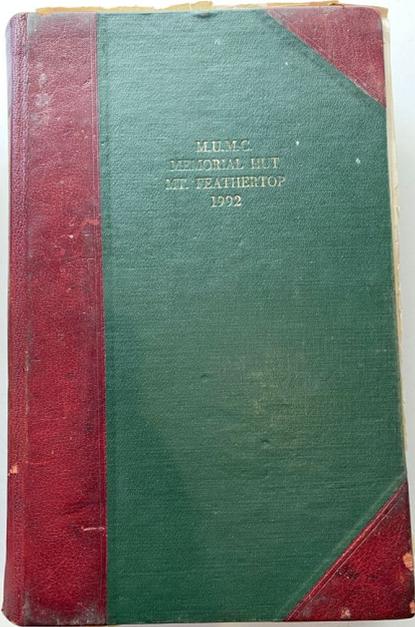
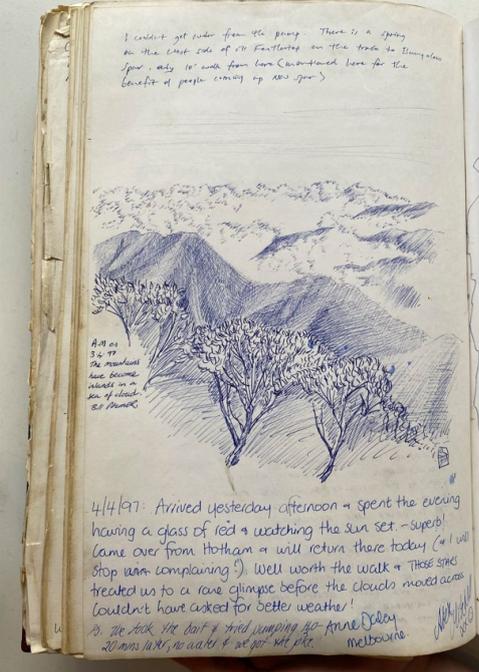
<p>Object number</p>	<p>#7</p>
<p>Name of object</p>	<p>Fixed timber benches</p>
<p>Object description including maker and creation date(s)</p>	<p>Handmade fixed timber benches</p>
<p>Current location</p>	<p>Fixed to internal wall of hut and anteroom</p>

Photo and date of photo	 <p>2010</p>  <p>c1965</p>
Source/s of information	Emma Ferris, Hut Warden, MUMC

Object number	#8
Name of object	Four hut log books
Object description including maker and creation date(s)	Dating from the period 1966 onwards
Current location	As of 2026, one logbook is held in the UoM archives, three are held by the MUMC and one is in the MUMC Hut.

Photo and date of photo



		
Source/s of information	Emma Ferris, Hut Warden, MUMC	

## Appendix 1: Important information for owners and interested parties

### Heritage Council determination (section 49)

The Heritage Council is an independent statutory body that will make a determination on this recommendation under section 49 of the Act. It will consider the recommendation after a period of 60 days from the date the notice of recommendation is published on its [website](#) under section 41.

### Making a submission to the Heritage Council (section 44)

Within the period of 60 days, any person or body may make a submission to the Heritage Council regarding the recommendation and request a hearing in relation to that submission. Information about making a submission and submission forms are available on the [Heritage Council's website](#). The owner can also make a submission about proposed permit exemptions (Section 40(4)(d)).

### Consideration of submissions to the Heritage Council (section 46)

(1) The Heritage Council must consider—

- (a) any written submission made to it under section 44; and
- (b) any further information provided to the Heritage Council in response to a request under section 45.

### Conduct of hearings by Heritage Council in relation to a recommendation (section 46A)

(1) The Heritage Council may conduct a hearing in relation to a recommendation under section 37, 38 or 39 in any circumstances that the Heritage Council considers appropriate.

(2) The Heritage Council must conduct a hearing if—

- (a) a submission made to it under section 44 includes a request for a hearing before the Heritage Council; and
- (b) the submission is made by a person or body with a real or substantial interest in the place, object or land that is the subject of the submission.

### Determinations of the Heritage Council (section 49)

(1) After considering a recommendation that a place, object or land should or should not be included in the Heritage Register and any submissions in respect of the recommendation and conducting any hearing, the Heritage Council may—

- (a) determine that the place or object is of State-level cultural heritage significance and is to be included in the Heritage Register; or
- (ab) in the case of a place, determine that—
  - (i) part of the place is of State-level cultural heritage significance and is to be included in the Heritage Register; and
  - (ii) part of the place is not of State-level cultural heritage significance and is not to be included in the Heritage Register; or
- (ac) in the case of an object, determine that—
  - (i) part of the object is of State-level cultural heritage significance and is to be included in the Heritage Register; and
  - (ii) part of the object is not of State-level cultural heritage significance and is not to be included in the Heritage Register; or
- (b) determine that the place or object is not of State-level cultural heritage significance and is not to be included in the Heritage Register; or

- (c) in the case of a recommendation in respect of a place, determine that the place or part of the place is not to be included in the Heritage Register but—
    - (i) refer the recommendation and any submissions to the relevant planning authority or the Minister administering the Planning and Environment Act 1987 to consider the inclusion of the place or part of the place in a planning scheme in accordance with the objectives set out in section 4(1)(d) of that Act; or
    - (ii) determine that it is more appropriate for steps to be taken under the Planning and Environment Act 1987 or by any other means to protect or conserve the place or part of the place; or
  - (ca) in the case of a recommendation in respect of an object nominated under section 27A, determine that the object, or part of the object, is to be included in the Heritage Register if it is integral to understanding the cultural heritage significance of a registered place or a place the Heritage Council has determined to be included in the Heritage Register; or
  - (d) in the case of a recommendation in respect of additional land nominated under section 27B, determine that the additional land, or any part of the additional land, is to be included in the Heritage Register if—
    - (i) the State-level cultural heritage significance of the place, or part of the place, would be substantially less if the additional land or any part of the additional land which is or has been used in conjunction with the place were developed; or
    - (ii) the additional land or any part of the additional land surrounding the place, or part of the place, is important to the protection or conservation of the place or contributes to the understanding of the place.
- (2) The Heritage Council must make a determination under subsection (1)—
- (a) within 40 days after the date on which written submissions may be made under section 44; or
  - (b) if any hearing is conducted, within 90 days after the completion of the hearing.
- (3) A determination made under subsection (1)(a), (ab), (ac), (ca) or (d)—
- (a) may include categories of works or activities which may be carried out in relation to a place, object or land, or part of a place, object or land, for which a permit under this Act is not required, if the Heritage Council considers that the works or activities would not harm the cultural heritage significance of the place, object or land; and
  - (b) must include a statement of the reasons for the making of the determination.
- (4) If the Heritage Council determines to include a place, or part of a place, in the Heritage Register, the Heritage Council may also determine to include land that is not the subject of a nomination under section 27B in the Heritage Register as part of the place if—
- (a) the land is ancillary to the place; and
  - (b) the person who owns the place, or part of the place—
    - (i) is the owner of the land; and
    - (ii) consents to its inclusion.
- (5) If a member of the Heritage Council makes a submission under section 44 in respect of a recommendation, the member must not take part in the consideration or determination of the Heritage Council.
- (6) The Heritage Council must notify the Executive Director of any determination under this section as soon as practicable after the determination.

## **Obligations of owners (section 42, 42A, 42B, 42C, 42D)**

### **42 Obligations of owners—to advise of works, permits etc. on foot when statement of recommendation given**

- (1) The owner of a place, object or land to whom a statement of recommendation has been given must advise the Executive Director in writing of—

- (a) any works or activities that are being carried out in relation to the place, object or land at the time the statement is given; and
- (b) if the place, object or land is a place or additional land, any application for a planning permit or a building permit, or any application for an amendment to a planning permit or a building permit, that has been made in relation to the place or additional land but not determined at the time the statement is given; and
- (c) any works or activities that are proposed to be carried out in relation to the place, object or land at the time the statement is given.

(2) An advice under subsection (1) must be given within 10 days after the statement of recommendation is given under section 40.

**42A Obligations of owners before determination or inclusion in the Heritage Register—to advise of permits**

(1) This section applies if—

- (a) an owner of any of the following is given a statement of recommendation—
  - (i) a place or object nominated under section 27;
  - (ii) an object nominated under section 27A;
  - (iii) land nominated under section 27B; and
- (b) any of the following occurs within the statement of recommendation period in relation to the place, object or land—
  - (i) the making of an application for a planning permit or a building permit;
  - (ii) the making of an application for an amendment to a planning permit or a building permit;
  - (iii) the grant of a planning permit or building permit;
  - (iv) the grant of an amendment to a planning permit or building permit.

(2) The owner must advise the Executive Director in writing of—

- (a) the making of an application referred to in subsection (1)(b)(i) or (ii), within 10 days of the making of the application; or
- (b) a grant referred to in subsection (1)(b)(iii) or (iv), within 10 days of the owner becoming aware of the grant.

**42B Obligations of owners before determination or inclusion in the Heritage Register—to advise of activities**

(1) This section applies if—

- (a) an owner of a place, object or land is given a statement of recommendation; and
- (b) within the statement of recommendation period it is proposed that activities that could harm the place, object or land be carried out.

(2) The owner, not less than 10 days before carrying out the activities, must advise the Executive Director in writing of the proposal to do so.

**42C Obligations of owners before determination or inclusion in the Heritage Register—to advise of proposal to dispose**

(1) This section applies if—

- (a) an owner of a place, object or land is given a statement of recommendation; and
- (b) within the statement of recommendation period a proposal is made to dispose of the whole or any part of the place, object or land.

(2) The owner, within 10 days after entering into an agreement, arrangement or understanding for the disposal of the whole or any part of the place, object or land, must advise the Executive Director in writing of the proposal to do so.

#### **42D Obligations of owners before determination or inclusion in the Heritage Register—requirement to give statement to purchaser**

(1) This section applies if—

- (a) an owner of a place, object or land is given a statement of recommendation; and
- (b) the owner proposes to dispose of the whole or any part of the place, object or land within the statement of recommendation period.

(2) Before entering into an agreement, arrangement or understanding to dispose of the whole or any part of the place, object or land during the statement of recommendation period, the owner must give a copy of the statement of recommendation to the person who, under the proposed agreement, arrangement or understanding, is to acquire the place, object or land or part of the place, object or land.

#### **Owners of places and objects must comply with obligations (section 43)**

An owner of a place, object or land who is subject to an obligation under section 42, 42A, 42B, 42C or 42D must comply with that obligation.

Penalty:            In the case of a natural person, 120 penalty units;  
                          In the case of a body corporate, 240 penalty units.