

## Heritage Council Determination

---

<b>Determination date</b>	4 June 2026
<b>Place/Object name</b>	Melbourne University Mountaineering Club (MUMC) Hut
<b>Location</b>	Northwest Spur Track, Mount Feathertop, Hotham Heights, Alpine Shire
<b>VHR number</b>	H2470
<b>Category</b>	Registered Place and Registered Objects Integral to a Registered Place
<b>Relevant legislative provision/s</b>	Inclusion in the Heritage Register, pursuant to section 49(1)(a) and 49(1)(ca) of the <i>Heritage Act 2017</i>

### Determination of the Heritage Council

The Heritage Council of Victoria determined on **4 June 2026**, in accordance with sections 49(1)(a) and 49(1)(ca) of the *Heritage Act 2017*, that the above place and objects integral to the place are to be included in the Heritage Register in the categories of Registered Place and Registered Objects Integral to a Registered Place.

The Heritage Council also determined to:

- Include categories of works or activities which may be carried out in relation to the place for which a permit is not required (specific permit exemptions), that would not harm the cultural heritage significance of the place, pursuant to section 49(3)(a) of the *Heritage Act 2017*.
-

## Executive Director's Recommendation ('the Recommendation')

On **16 March 2026** the Executive Director made the Recommendation to the Heritage Council that the Melbourne University Mountaineering Club (MUMC) Hut ('the Place') be included in the Heritage Register.

The Recommendation was advertised publicly for a period of 60 days, beginning on **20 March 2026**.

## Section 44 submissions

During the 60-day public advertisement period, **three (3)** submissions were received pursuant to section 44 of the *Heritage Act 2017*. No request for a hearing was received. The submissions are summarised below:

- **Hut Warden of the Melbourne University Mountaineering Club (MUMC)** made a submission supporting the Executive Director's Recommendation, and suggesting minor corrections to the Executive Director's Recommendation by clarifying the number of memorial plaques (9) and timber benches (7) present at the Place.
- **Two submitters** made submissions supporting the Executive Director's Recommendation.

## Executive Director's response to submissions

The Executive Director was provided with a copy of the submissions and confirmed support for the corrections as put forward by the MUMC Hut Warden.

## The Place

### Description

Extracted verbatim from page 3 of the Executive Director's Recommendation with the exception of amendments suggested by the Heritage Council (shown in red). In-text references have been removed:

*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. 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. 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 **[seven]** timber benches, tables and a sink bench. ~~Eight~~**[Nine]** 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.*

## Heritage Council's findings

### State-level cultural heritage significance

The Heritage Council finds that the Melbourne University Mountaineering Club (MUMC) Hut is of State-level cultural heritage significance and is to be included in the Heritage Register.

The Heritage Council agrees that the MUMC Hut is of historical significance to the State of Victoria for its association with the development of outdoor pursuits such as hiking and mountaineering in Victoria.

The Heritage Council agrees that the MUMC Hut is architecturally significant as a notable example of an alpine hut.

The Heritage Council determines that the MUMC Hut meets the following Criteria for Assessment in the Heritage Council's *Victorian Heritage Register Criteria and Thresholds Guidelines (Attachment 1)* at the State-level:

- **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.

The Heritage Council's findings generally accord with the Executive Director's Recommendation. The Heritage Council resolved at its meeting HC294 to refer to 'seven timber benches' in the Extent of Registration (**Attachment 2**) and the Objects Integral Inventory (**Attachment 3**). This has the effect of combining references to the 'four freestanding timber benches' and the 'fixed timber benches' as included in the Recommendation, and changing the listed number of Objects Integral from eight (8), to seven (7). The actual number of Objects Integral included in the Heritage Register has not changed.

### Extent of Registration

The Extent of Registration is provided as **Attachment 2** and includes all of the Place shown hatched on Diagram 2470 encompassing an area measured 5 metres from the base of the stone perimeter of the MUMC Hut located at 36.8850 degrees south, 147.1269 degrees east on Mount Feathertop; and the Objects Integral to the Place. An inventory of Objects Integral to the Place is provided as **Attachment 3** to this determination.

### Permit exemptions

The Heritage Council determined specific permit exemptions for works or activities which would not harm the cultural heritage significance of the Place of the Objects Integral to the Place, which are provided as **Attachment 4**.

## Conclusion

The Heritage Council of Victoria determined on 4 June 2026, in accordance with sections 49(1)(a) and 49(1)(ca) of the *Heritage Act 2017*, that the Melbourne University Mountaineering Club (MUMC) Hut is to be included in the Heritage Register in the categories of Registered Place and Registered Objects Integral to a Registered Place.



**Professor Philip Goad**  
**Chair, Heritage Council of Victoria**

# Attachment 1

## Victorian Heritage Register Criteria and Threshold Guidelines

<b>Criterion A</b>	Importance to the course, or pattern, of Victoria's cultural history.
<b>Criterion B</b>	Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Victoria's cultural history.
<b>Criterion C</b>	Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Victoria's cultural history.
<b>Criterion D</b>	Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural places and objects.
<b>Criterion E</b>	Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics.
<b>Criterion F</b>	Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period.
<b>Criterion G</b>	Strong or special association with a particular present-day community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.
<b>Criterion H</b>	Special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in Victoria's history.

These were adopted by the Heritage Council at its meeting on 1 December 2022, and replace the previous criteria adopted by the Heritage Council on 6 December 2012.

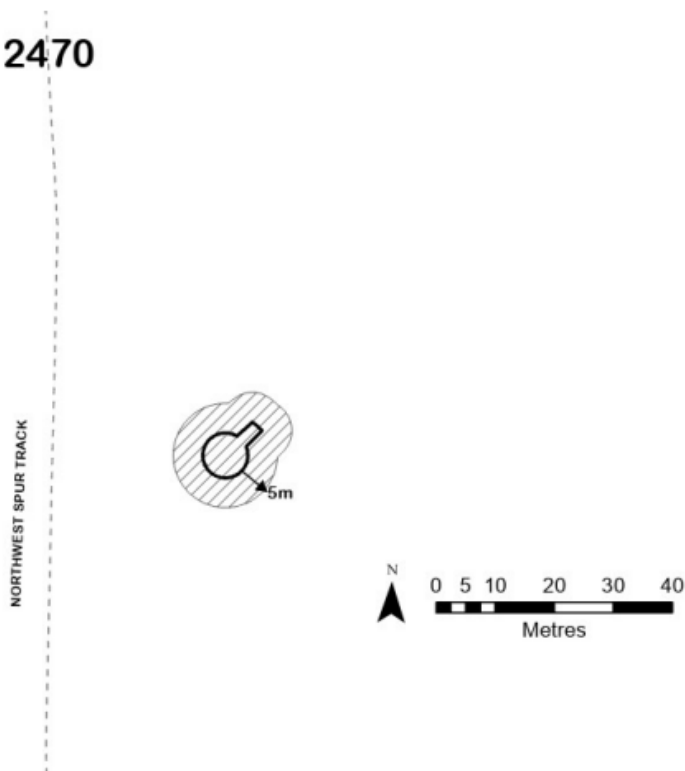
# Attachment 2

## Extent of Registration

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 of Mount Feathertop; and the objects integral to the place being:


1. Nine 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. Seven timber benches
6. Timber ladder to access sleeping platform
7. 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**





## Attachment 3

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

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


<b>Object number</b>	#2
<b>Name of object</b>	Framed sink and hardwood bench top
<b>Object description including maker and creation date(s)</b>	Handmade open timber bench with metal sink. Replaced original kitchen cupboard and sink.
<b>Photo and date of photo</b>	 <p>(2010)</p>
<b>Source/s of information</b>	Emma Ferris, Hut Warden, MUMC


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


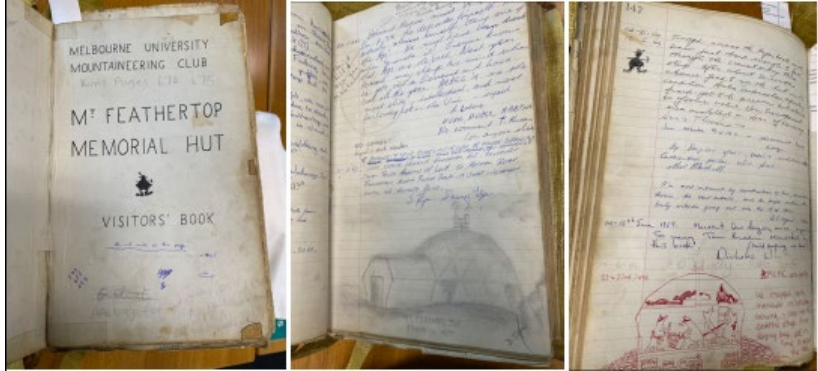
<b>Object number</b>	#4
<b>Name of object</b>	Timber table
<b>Object description including maker and creation date(s)</b>	Handmade timber table with timber top.
<b>Photo and date of photo</b>	 <p>(2025)</p>
<b>Source/s of information</b>	Emma Ferris, Hut Warden, MUMC

<b>Object number</b>	#5
<b>Name of object</b>	Seven timber benches
<b>Object description including maker and creation date(s)</b>	Handmade timber benches

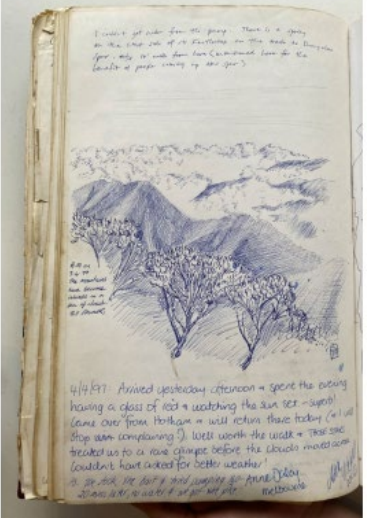
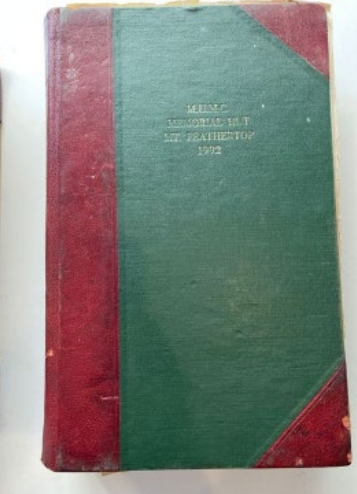
<p><b>Photo and date of photo</b></p>	 <p>(2025)</p>
<p><b>Source/s of information</b></p>	<p>Emma Ferris, Hut Warden, MUMC</p>

<p><b>Object number</b></p>	<p>#6</p>
<p><b>Name of object</b></p>	<p>Timber ladder access sleeping platform</p>
<p><b>Object description including maker and creation date(s)</b></p>	<p>Handmade timber ladder to provide access to sleeping platform</p>
<p><b>Photo and date of photo</b></p>	 <p>(2025)</p>

	 <p style="text-align: center;">(c1965)</p>
<b>Source/s of information</b>	Emma Ferris, Hut Warden, MUMC

<b>Object number</b>	#7
<b>Name of object</b>	Four hut log books
<b>Object description including maker and creation date(s)</b>	Dating from the period 1966 onwards
<b>Current location</b>	As of 2026, one logbook is held in the UoM archives, three are held by the MUMC and one is in the MUMC Hut.
<b>Photo and date of photo</b>	 

		
<p>Source/s of information</p>	<p>Emma Ferris, Hut Warden, MUMC</p>	



# Attachment 4

## Categories of works or activities which may be undertaken without a permit (permit exemptions)

### 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 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.

Places of worship: In some circumstances, you can alter a place of worship to accommodate religious practices without a permit, but you must notify the Executive Director before you start the works or activities at least 20 business days before the works or activities are to commence.

Subdivision/consolidation: Permit exemptions exist for some subdivisions and consolidations. If the subdivision or consolidation is in accordance with a planning permit granted under Part 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the application for the planning permit was referred to the Executive Director as a determining referral authority, a permit is not required. 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 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 the 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 stair 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.