

# ROBERT COCHRANE KINDERGARTEN



RCK north east facade.jpg



RCK rear playroom doors to playground.jpg



RCK rear elevation.jpg



RCK rear playroom interior view.jpg



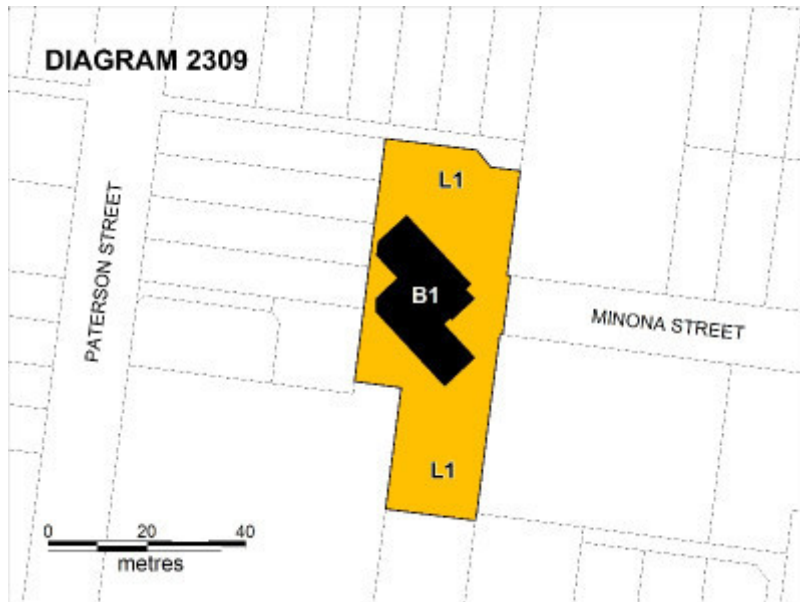
RCK Kitchen.jpg



RCK Bathroom.jpg



RCK front playroom view to bathroom.jpg



robert cochrane plan.jpg

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### Location

2A MINONA STREET HAWTHORN, BOROONDARA CITY

### Municipality

BOROONDARA CITY

### Level of significance

Registered

### Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H2309

### Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO580

### VHR Registration

February 14, 2013

### Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

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### Statement of Significance

## What is significant?

Robert Cochrane Kindergarten, Hawthorn is a single storey timber building that was constructed in 1948-50 as part of the Free Kindergarten movement in Victoria.

A free kindergarten was first established in Auburn in 1911, only a few years after the first kindergartens were established in inner-city Melbourne suburbs. The establishment of the Free Kindergarten Union (FKU) in 1909 resulted in an increase in pre-school facilities throughout the Melbourne metropolitan region, particularly in poor areas. Robert Cochrane, chairman of directors of Brooks Robinson Pty Ltd, philanthropist with a particular interest in child welfare, and prominent figure in the establishment of Congregationalism in Victoria, organised the establishment of the Auburn Free Kindergarten in the denominational school hall at the rear of the Augustine Congregational Church. In 1934 Cochrane donated land at the rear of the church to enable construction of a purpose-built kindergarten, and after his death the following year it was decided to name the new building in his honour. Financial difficulties and World War II delayed progress, however in 1946 the architectural firm Martin and Tribe were commissioned to design the kindergarten. Marcus Martin had been involved in kindergarten design, most significantly in the design of the Lady Gowrie Child Centre, Carlton in 1938, which became a prototype for kindergarten planning at a time when new pre-school educational theories were developing. A partnership established with the younger Horace Tribe that year continued until 1949 when Tribe left to open his own office. Substantial contributions to the design of kindergartens in Victoria were made by the partnership and by Tribe in sole practice.

Due to financial constraints, the Robert Cochrane Kindergarten was built from 1948-50 to a modified design attributed to Horace Tribe. It is a single storey building containing two main rectangular playrooms which are parallel and offset to allow the principal frontage of both rooms to receive favourable north-east light. These rooms flank a central circulatory spine, with amenity and administration areas located at either ends of the main playrooms. Separate steep skillion roofs over each playroom are supported on roof trusses, the top chords of which project to form unlined eaves. External walls are clad with vertical ship-lap timber boarding and the original corrugated cement sheet roof has been replaced with metal tray decking. The north-east frontages incorporate vast areas of glazing: full height bays of multi-paned timber framed windows and rows of tripartite clerestorey windows above. Both playrooms have a pair of large glazed sliding doors to the playground. Internally, walls are lined with Caneite with Masonite dadoes, and the walls of the central corridor have glazed windows and sliding doors. Cathedral ceilings have exposed timber trusses with later panelled lining. Original features include a brick fireplace and row of asymmetrically placed shelves above, enamel steel troughs, low height toilet partitions, built-in cupboards with push button latches, door and window furniture, simple timber architraves and skirtings, and early external signage.

At the time of construction, this building was a progressive example of kindergarten design and early example of modern architectural thinking. It incorporated planning ideals already used in earlier designs by Martin and Tribe and the economical use of materials in a highly modern design. At the time of completion the kindergarten was acknowledged in local, interstate and international newspapers and journals as an innovative, modernist building, including comment and extensive illustrations in *Architectural Record* (USA) in 1952. The building became a prototype for a large number of kindergartens constructed in the 1950s and 1960s throughout Victoria, many of which were designed by Horace Tribe.

Robert Cochrane Kindergarten continues to operate as a local kindergarten and both the exterior and interior remain substantially intact. A small addition was added to the rear of the building in 1982 and the playground has been altered.

This site is part of the traditional land of the Kulin Nation.

## How is it significant?

Robert Cochrane Kindergarten, Hawthorn satisfies the following criteria for inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Register:

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

Criterion B Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Victoria's cultural history

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

Criterion H Special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in Victoria's history.

## Why is it significant?

Robert Cochrane Kindergarten, Hawthorn is significant at the State level for the following reasons:

Robert Cochrane Kindergarten, Hawthorn has close associations with the development of pre-school education in Victoria as part of the Free Kindergarten Movement. It demonstrates the combination of new pre-school

educational theories of the late 1930s, modern architectural thinking of the 1950s and 1960s and reflects the economic austerity of the immediate post war period. [Criterion A]

Robert Cochrane Kindergarten, Hawthorn is a highly intact example of an early post-war kindergarten in Victoria. It retains much of its original exterior and interior fabric and fittings. [Criterion B]

Robert Cochrane Kindergarten, Hawthorn is a prototype of progressive post-war kindergarten design which had a profound influence on kindergarten design in Victoria. It was the first kindergarten to combine innovative planning and orientation with modern architectural expression; characteristics which became typical of many kindergartens designed by Horace Tribe and other architects throughout the 1950s. It was well regarded as an important work at the time of construction and was widely acknowledged both locally and overseas as a fine, progressive and influential design. [Criterion D]

Robert Cochrane Kindergarten, Hawthorn has close associations with Horace Tribe, a prolific and influential architect, particularly in the field of kindergarten design in Victoria. [Criterion H]

## Permit Exemptions

### General Exemptions:

General exemptions apply to all places and objects included in the Victorian Heritage Register (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 Heritage Act 2017.

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 of Heritage Victoria 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 of Heritage Victoria 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:

#### General Conditions: 1.

All exempted alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the fabric of the registered place or object.

#### General Conditions: 2.

Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of works that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place or object are revealed which relate to the significance of the place or object, then the exemption covering such works shall cease and Heritage Victoria shall be notified as soon as possible.

#### General Conditions: 3.

If there is a conservation policy and plan all works shall be in accordance with it. Note: A Conservation Management Plan or a Heritage Action Plan provides guidance for the management of the heritage values associated with the site. It may not be necessary to obtain a heritage permit for certain works specified in the management plan.

**General Conditions: 4.**

Nothing in this determination prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions

**General Conditions: 5.**

Nothing in this determination exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the responsible authorities where applicable.

**Minor Works:** Note: Any Minor Works that in the opinion of the Executive Director will not adversely affect the heritage significance of the place may be exempt from the permit requirements of the Heritage Act. A person proposing to undertake minor works may submit a proposal to the Executive Director. If the Executive Director is satisfied that the proposed works will not adversely affect the heritage values of the site, the applicant may be exempted from the requirement to obtain a heritage permit. If an applicant is uncertain whether a heritage permit is required, it is recommended that the permits co-ordinator be contacted.

**Exterior:**

\*Removal of extraneous items such as air conditioners, pipe work, ducting, wiring, antennae, aerials etc, and making good.

**Interior:**

\*Painting of previously painted walls and ceilings provided that preparation or painting does not remove evidence of any original paint or other decorative scheme.

\*Installation, removal or replacement of floor coverings.

\*Installation, removal or replacement of electrical wiring.

\* Installation of new fire hydrant services including sprinklers, fire doors and elements affixed to plaster surfaces.

\*Removal or replacement of electric clocks, detectors, alarms, emergency lights, exit signs, luminaires and the like.

Landscape:

\*All work to playground areas that does not affect original fabric is permit exempt.

**Theme**

1. Shaping Victoria's environment 8. Building community life

Construction dates 1948,

Architect/Designer Tribe, Horace J,

Heritage Act Categories Registered place,

Hermes Number 192138

Property Number

**History****CONTEXTUAL HISTORY**

[refer: H Lewi & D Nichols, *Community ; Building Modern Australia*, 2010 and Built Heritage Pty Ltd 'Nomination for inclusion on Victorian Heritage Register of Robert Cochrane Kindergarten' September 2012]

The origins of the modern system of kindergarten education in Victoria can be traced back to the Free Kindergarten movement of the early 1900s which was influenced by overseas developments, particularly in the United State, Japan and Germany. In the *Argus* (1 June 1906, p 7) an article titled 'Free Kindergartens: An appeal to the public' it was stated that:

*'The object of the kindergarten, or child-garden, is to bring them under wholesome and elevating influences at what is recognised as the most impressionable period of their lives; to inculcate the principles of right conduct; to form the habits of cleanliness, truthfulness, order and obedience; to awaken moral sentiment and inspire a reverence for all that is great and good, and generally to guide and train all the natural activities of the child in the right direction.'*

The first kindergartens in Australia were typically established in poorer areas by philanthropists and religious groups and were often set up in existing buildings such as church halls. In Australia the first Free Kindergartens were established in New South Wales, at Woolloomooloo (1897) and Newtown (1898). By the end of the first decade of the 20th century, kindergartens had been established in all Australian cities, with early kindergartens established in Victoria at Carlton, North Melbourne, Burnley and Collingwood from 1901 to 1907.

The establishment of the Free Kindergarten Union of Victoria (FKU) in 1909 resulted in the provision of facilities throughout the inner Melbourne metropolitan region with kindergartens opening in Fitzroy, central Melbourne, South Melbourne and Prahran in 1910. The following year a free kindergarten was established in a hall at the rear of a church property in Auburn. These were generally run by voluntary bodies, were associated with a particular Christian mission (eg Baptist, Presbyterian, Methodist, Women's Christian Temperance and Interdenominational) and were invariably held in church halls. The FKU provided advice, encouragement and eventually staff, but not establishment funds. In 1919 the FKU provided about a third of the running costs of union kindergartens; by 1936, almost half. Non-union free kindergartens, wholly dependent on charity, were established from c1916. It was not until 1944 that both FKU and denominational kindergartens in Victoria received government funding, the following year 43 of 76 kindergartens in Victoria were union-affiliated.

The Victorian Kindergarten Training College was first established by the FKU in 1916 and kindergarten teaching became an appropriate career choice for women. By 1920 a total of twenty kindergartens had opened in depressed inner areas of Melbourne. The number of kindergartens continued to grow during the 1920s and 1930s, with the involvement of middle and upper class women as organisers.

In the late 1930s there was growing interest in the health and well being of the preschool child and the Australian government established model demonstration centres in each capital city. In addition to learning through play, and increasing the hygiene of the poorer classes, the physical and emotional development of the growing child could then be observed, recorded and studied. The six centres were named the Lady Gowrie Child Centres, after the wife of the Governor-General who was involved in the kindergarten movement. American educationalist Christine Heinig, as Federal Officer for the Australian Association of Pre-School Development from 1939-44, played a large role in their establishment.

Designed in 1939, these centres were derived from the same basic plan developed by Melbourne architect Marcus Martin, who had been involved in some form of kindergarten design since 1923, and Horace Tribe who joined the practice in 1938. The design and planning of the Lady Gowrie Child Centres had a profound impact on the design of kindergartens in the 1940s and 1950s throughout Australia. The architectural style was unassuming and reflected a relatively new functional type for Australia. In the 1945 publication by Cumpston and Heinig, *Pre-School Centres in Australia*, Marcus Martin stated:

*'The plan should be essentially functional in character, the conception of which should result in a building with a definite appeal, for the psychological effect on the child mind by immediate surroundings is far reaching. Economy in Building will as a rule be essential, therefore a structure that can be quickly erected, and materials that will be adaptable to alteration and addition are desirable.'*

This book recorded the new approach to the care of the pre-school child by the Commonwealth Government and provided advice on all aspects of the building of a kindergarten, its interior finishes and equipment. It became the standard handbook for post-war kindergarten design. It noted the importance of northern light; functional design; a direct relationship to the playground with large double doors; large, low window areas; glass partitions and doors to toilet areas and sound-absorbent walls. Economy of construction and adaptability were noted, leading to the use of timber rather than brick construction.

The plan form developed by Marcus Martin (and Horace Tribe) for the Lady Gowrie Child Centres, as illustrated in *Pre-School Centres in Australia*, had a wide-ranging impact on the design and form of kindergartens nationally from the 1940s. The firm of Martin and Tribe, and later Horace Tribe, itself were commissioned to design a large number of Victorian kindergartens.

From the 1950s the need for community facilities in the growing suburbs of Melbourne was recognised and local government and proactive communities financed kindergartens, particularly in the middle and outer suburbs of Melbourne, such as Camberwell, Beaumaris and Ringwood. A number of Melbourne architects, often local to the area, were employed to design these buildings and a range of individually designed kindergarten buildings resulted particularly in the 1950s.

A regional interpretation of modern architecture developed in Melbourne in the 1950s: the Melbourne Regional Style, and was applied particularly to residential buildings and other buildings domestic in scale. Typical characteristics such as simplicity, lightness, unpretentiousness, utilisation of sunshine and shade, wide eaves, exposed rafters and joists, vertical boarding and large areas of glass with regularly spaced timber mullions can be seen applied to many of these kindergarten designs in the 1950s.

## The Architects

### Martin and Tribe

[refer: B Raworth in *Encyclopedia of Australian Architecture*, p 432 and Built Heritage Pty Ltd 'Nomination for inclusion on Victorian Heritage Register of Robert Cochrane Kindergarten' September 2012]

Marcus Martin (1893-1981) was a significant interwar and immediate post war Melbourne architect, particularly in terms of his residential work. From the early 1930s he was also an important force in the emerging science of kindergarten design, with most of his projects completed in partnership with Horace Tribe from 1938 to 1949.

Martin arrived in Melbourne from Launceston in 1908, served articles with A & K Henderson and established practices with Rodney Alsop (1921-24) and then Walter Butler and Butler's nephew (1926-31). He worked in a predominantly neo-Georgian style from this time until retirement in 1958, with much of his domestic work for wealthy clients in Toorak, South Yarra and the Mornington Peninsula.

Martin's involvement in kindergarten design contrasted with his work for wealthy clients. He was involved from c1923 when he undertook work at Yooralla Hospital School's Free Kindergarten, Carlton. From 1930 he undertook work for the FKU; the connection was probably formed due to his wife's association with their work and his family connection with Ada Mary a'Beckett, foundation vice-president of the FKU and protagonist of the kindergarten movement in Victoria.

Martin subsequently undertook further work for the FKU, culminating in the commission to design the prototype Lady Gowrie Child Centre in Carlton in 1938. In that year he admitted a much younger architect, Horace Tribe, into the partnership, and the firm was renamed Marcus Martin & Tribe.

### Horace Tribe

Horace Tribe (1909-1992) was articled to H W & F B Tompkins in 1924 and subsequently worked for Stephenson & Meldrum, working in both Melbourne and Sydney on large hospital and industrial projects. At this time he also worked as a relieving draftsman for firms such as Oakley & Parkes and Hudson & Wardrop. Forming the partnership Martin & Tribe in 1938, the practice was interrupted by Tribe's involvement in World War II from 1942 to 1945, and ended in 1949 when Tribe formed his own practice.

In his sole practice, Tribe went on to become the state's leading specialist in the design of modern pre-school centres, and was noted in *Arts and Architecture* (November 1955, p 17) as maintaining 'an extensive practice in pre-school and preventative health services, good quality domestic work and industrial buildings'. At the peak of his professional life in the 1950s, he was very active in professional bodies, serving as vice-president of the RVIA and the VASS, and Chairman of Committees to the RVIA Council. In 1953 Tribe was one of more than 2000 prominent Victorians to be awarded the Queen's Coronation Medal for their services to the community. He maintained his registration as an architect until his death in 1992, despite retiring from active practice around 1970.

## HISTORY OF PLACE

[refer: Built Heritage Pty Ltd 'Nomination for inclusion on Victorian Heritage Register of Robert Cochrane Kindergarten' September 2012]

In 1911 businessman Robert Cochrane suggested the establishment of a free kindergarten in Auburn. Cochrane (1842-1935) was a businessman, chairman of directors of Brookes Robinson Pty Ltd, an active philanthropist, champion of child welfare and, as noted in his obituary, 'the Father of Congregationalism in Victoria'. He was a resident of Hawthorn, living in a large Victorian mansion, *Edlington*, on the north west corner of Auburn Road and Oxley Road.

Cochrane met with members of his local church, the Augustine Congregational Church in Burwood Road, to discuss the establishment of a kindergarten. A committee was formed for this purpose and on 27 April 1911 a kindergarten commenced operation in the denominational school hall at the rear of the church property. It was initially known as the Augustine Free Kindergarten, but was soon renamed the Auburn Free Kindergarten to emphasise its non-denominational status.

The church hall provided an adequate base for the kindergarten for over a decade. Despite the desire for a larger purpose-built centre, little action took place until 1934 when Cochrane donated land at the rear of the church for this purpose. This site fronted Minona Street and was initially envisaged as a 'secret garden' for a children's playground and mothers' relaxation area. It was suggested that this site could be utilised for a new kindergarten building and Cochrane became enthused by this idea after visiting other modern kindergartens around Melbourne. He subsequently established a building fund but did not live to see the project commence, dying in 1935 at the age of 92 years.

The project continued and it was announced at the 25th anniversary of the kindergarten that the new building would be named in Cochrane's honour. This was reported in the *Argus*, 21 October 1936, p 14. Additional land in Minona Street, used as tennis courts, was donated by Cochrane's daughter in 1936. However there were delays in the progress of the project, including World War II, and finances became more difficult. Committee members and parents used a variety of activities in an attempt to raise funds, including selling produce grown in the 'secret garden'.

Soon after the end of World War II, architects Martin & Tribe were engaged to design the new building in Auburn. This firm had firmly established itself as the designer of pre-school centres in the late 1930s and had recently re-established itself after a wartime hiatus. Initial plans were prepared for the new building in May 1946, with a substantial single storey building that was laid out on a rectilinear plan of distinctive zig-zagging form, creating maximum northerly frontage for natural lighting and winter warmth. Shadows from the adjacent church building were taken into account and influenced the siting of the building. This was the first scheme for the kindergarten, and provided three separate nursery rooms with separate outdoor play areas for two, three and four-year-olds and two sets of toilet and cloakroom facilities, a kitchen, office, staffroom and two storerooms.

Despite the issuing of a permit, finances were not raised for this size facility and it was reported in the *Argus* 31 October 1947 that '*At Auburn the local committee has had land for about fifteen years....they have been struggling to collect money to build, but when they had a plan drawn up recently, they were appalled at the cost.*' A less expensive option was necessary and Martin & Tribe produced a second scheme in July 1948. Smaller in scale, this scheme attempted to maximise the internal space by eliminating the third nursery room and the second set of toilet facilities, reducing the kitchen size and providing alternative cloakroom facilities. Dictated by limited finances, these revisions were an ingenious exercise in minimalist planning, summarised in the *Australasian Post* on 31 January 1952 as '*....planning and construction studied every economy. Toilet rooms are combined in one between the two main playrooms, communication space is used for cloaks and the kitchen is a semi-enclosed bay off the main corridor.*' Despite modifications, the architectural articulation of the building



related strongly to the original 1946 proposal. The zigzag plan form and north-easterly orientation, the expression of the nursery spaces with steep skillion roofs, clerestorey windows and full height multi-paned window walls with matching glazed sliding doors of the first scheme were all retained.

During construction, Horace Tribe resigned from the practice of Martin & Tribe and set up his own architectural practice, taking a proportion of the jobs with him. The fact that the Auburn Free Kindergarten project was retained by Tribe confirms that he was the design architect for this project. The new kindergarten was completed in 1950 by builder W A O'Donnell, and opened on 22 April by Lady Brookes, the Governor's wife.

On opening, press reports drew attention to the building's innovative planning and fitout. *The Age* (21 April 1950) noted that it was '*Designed with huge plate glass walls, through which delightful autumn sunshine should filter in the next few weeks, the kindergarten has two big airy nurseries, complete with individual easel-blackboards, dolls' corner and all of the attractive equipment that goes to make a modern kindergarten.*' *The Argus* (22 April 1950) noted that '*the two big nurseries are well lighted with plate glass walls and blue and silver ceilings*' and noted the existence of '*a model kitchen as well as model nurseries*' which was '*equipped with many time-saving devices including a huge chromium urn for heating the morning milk*'. A letter written to the kindergarten by Tribe, dated 9 May 1950, mentioned that interest in the new kindergarten had resulted in him sending copies of the plan and photographs to Christine Heinig, co-author of the book mentioned earlier, in America.

The design received widespread attention including a report on 'The State of Architecture in Australia' by John Ely Burchard in the New York-based *Architectural Record* in August 1952. Architect and educationalist, Burchard visited Australia in 1951 and was shown Melbourne and surrounds by Robin Boyd. Buildings illustrated in his article included hospitals by Stephenson & Turner and Yuncken Freeman Brothers Griffiths & Simpson, residential projects by Harry Seidler, Roy Grounds, Robin Boyd, Sydney Archer and John & Phyllis Murphy, and the Robert Cochrane kindergarten by Horace Tribe. The latter was the only example to be given a large spread of images: a sketch plan, exterior photograph and two interior photographs. It was also one of the few Australian buildings and building types to receive positive appraisal in the article, saying '*The other distinguished architecture is to be found in institutions as small as the hospitals are large. Pre-primary schools are apparently not important enough for administrators to interfere with their healthy growth. They are not important enough to need brick. So there are a number of such little buildings throughout the Commonwealth in the freshest possible vein*'.

In 1956 the Robert Cochrane kindergarten was illustrated in a guidebook produced for Melbourne visitors for the Olympic Games. Arranged thematically, a section was devoted to educational buildings, with four of six examples designed by Horace Tribe, including centres at Hawthorn, Swan Hill, Ringwood and Korumburra. The Robert Cochrane Kindergarten was described in this publication as '*the first in a series of kindergartens designed by this architect in a similar manner; low cost, initially and in maintenance, is important in these buildings*'. Three other kindergartens by Tribe were also listed in this publication: at Swan Hill (kindergarten and infant welfare centre, 1953); Korumburra (kindergarten and infant welfare centre, 1954) and Greenwood Park, Ringwood (1955).

The following year a report in the *Sydney Morning Herald* entitled 'Melbourne's big building boom' drew attention to architect-designed office and factory buildings by well known Melbourne firms. A brief discussion of educational buildings drew attention to Horace Tribe who '*has designed a number of delightful kindergartens and pre-school centres at low cost*'. In the *Herald*, 24 April 1961, on the golden jubilee of the kindergarten, the complex was described as '*.....new modern buildings that attract visitors from interstate and overseas*'.

## **KEY REFERENCES USED TO PREPARE ASSESSMENT**

*Argus*, 1 June 1906, p 7, 'Free Kindergartens: An appeal to the public'

*Argus*, 4 March 1935, p 8, 'Obituary: Mr Robert Cochrane'

*Argus*, 21 October 1936, p 14, 'Kindergarten Anniversary'

Cumpston & Heinig. Pre-School Centres in Australia, 1945

*Kindergarten Link*, newsletter of the Robert Cochrane Kindergarten, various dates from May 1946

*Argus*, 31 October 1947, p 8, 'Building of kindergartens halted by costs'

*The Age*, 21 April 1950, p 3, 'Around the Suburbs: New Kindergarten to Open'

*Argus*, 22 April 1950, p 9, 'Youngsters to get model kitchen'

*Australasian Post*, 31 January 1952, p 8, Frank Hill 'Today's children are well planned for'

*Architectural Forum* (USA), August 1952, p 119, 'Robert Cochran [sic] Free Kindergarten, Auburn, Victoria'

*Architecture & Arts*, November 1955, p 17, 'Horace J Tribe, FRAIA'

D C Ward, *Guide to Victorian Architecture*, 1956, p 20

*Sydney Morning Herald*, 12 March 1957, p 11, E Buhrich 'Melbourne's big building boom'

*The Robert Cochrane Free Kindergarten Jubilee, 1911-1961*

I stamp. Young Children in Perspective, 1976

L Gardiner, *The FKU of Victoria 1908-1980*, 1982

J Waters, *The Lady Gowrie Child Centre: the place, the people, the programs 1939-1999*

D Nichols & P Goad 'Early Learning: the Modern Kindergarten' in H Lewi & D Nichols (ed), *Community: Building Modern Australia*, 2010

A Stephen, A McNamara & P Goad (eds), *Modernism & Australia: Documents on Art, Design and Architecture, 1917-1967*, p 872 (reproduces article by J E Burchard on 'The State of Architecture in Australia' from *Architectural Record*, August 1952)

P Goad, 'Laboratories for the Body and Mind: The Architecture of the Lady Gowrie Child Centres' in Proceedings of the XXIVth International Conference of the SAHANZ, 2007

P. Goad & J. Willis, *The Encyclopedia of Australian Architecture*, Melbourne 2011

Built Heritage Pty Ltd, 'Survey of Post-War Built Heritage in Victoria', Stage Two, 2010

Built Heritage Pty Ltd, 'City of Boroondara Thematic Environmental History', 2012

Built Heritage Pty Ltd, 'Nomination for inclusion on Victorian Heritage Register of Robert Cochrane Kindergarten, Hawthorn', 2012

Various letters held in PROV and at Robert Cochrane Kindergarten

Original Plans of Initial Scheme by Martin & Tribe, 1946 and Second Scheme, 1948

Various Photographs, including Peter Wille Collection, State Library of Victoria, c1960s; photographs for Kindergarten Union 26 July 1950, State Library of Victoria; photographs taken at Christmas, early 1950s, Hawthorn Library Collection

## **Plaque Citation**

Designed by Horace Tribe, this intact post-war kindergarten was built in 1948-50 on land donated by the philanthropist Robert Cochrane. It reflects the new educational theories, innovative modernist architecture and austerity of the period.

## **Assessment Against Criteria**

## Criterion

Robert Cochrane Kindergarten, Hawthorn satisfies the following criterion for inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Register:

### Criterion A Importance to the course, or pattern, of Victoria's cultural history

Robert Cochrane Kindergarten, Hawthorn is closely associated with the development of pre-school education in Victoria as part of the Free Kindergarten Movement. It demonstrates the combination of new pre-school educational theories of the late 1930s and modern architectural thinking of the 1950s and 1960s. Economic austerity of the 1940s and 1950s is reflected in the fabric of the building.

### Criterion B Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Victoria's cultural history

Robert Cochrane Kindergarten, Hawthorn is a highly intact example of an early post-war kindergarten in Victoria. It retains much of its original exterior and interior fabric and fittings.

### Criterion D Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural places and objects

As a prototype of post-war kindergarten design, Robert Cochrane Kindergarten, Hawthorn had a profound influence on kindergarten design in Victoria. It was the first kindergarten to combine innovative planning and orientation with modern architectural expression; characteristics which became typical of many kindergartens designed by Tribe and other architects throughout the 1950s. This early example of architectural modernism, with prominent skillion roofs, full height window walls and vertical timber cladding, demonstrates construction that was, of necessity, both economical and adaptable. The building was widely acknowledged both locally and overseas as a fine, progressive and influential design.

### Criterion H Special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in Victoria's history.

Robert Cochrane Kindergarten, Hawthorn is important for its association with Horace Tribe, a prolific and influential architect, particularly in the field of kindergarten design in Victoria.

## Extent of Registration

1. All of the land marked L1 on Diagram 2309 held by the Executive Director being all of Lot 1 on Title Plan 846742, Lot 1 on Title Plan 838805 and Lot 1 on Title Plan 442580
2. All of the building marked B1 on Diagram 2309 held by the Executive Director

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*This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.*

*For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>*