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# R.G. RATCLIFF COMMUNITY CENTRE



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## Location

1A SOUTH ROAD, AIRPORT WEST, MOONEE VALLEY CITY

## Municipality

MOONEE VALLEY CITY

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO388

## Heritage Listing

Moonee Valley City

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - December 9, 2013

### What is significant?

The R.G. Ratcliff Community Centre, designed by the office of Harry Winbush and constructed in 1967, at 1A South Road, Airport West is significant. The hall is composed of rectilinear forms with a central area flanked by symmetrical annexes. A central vertically proportioned window provides the focus to the facade. The smooth blockwork of the main space is contrasted with the rough-face stacked brickwork facades that conceal the entry and amenities area (to the right) and a kitchen (to the left). Affixed to the right wall is the name of the centre in raised letters. The central space is lit with a continuous band of clerestory windows to both sides, and there is a porte cochere over the entry on the right side.

Non-original alterations and additions to the hall are not significant.

### How is it significant?

The R.G. Ratcliff Community Centre is of local historic, architectural, aesthetic and social significance to the City of Moonee Valley.

### Why is it significant?

It is historically and socially significant for its association with the development of Airport West, and with the civic improvements made in the municipality of Keilor after it was proclaimed as a City in 1961. It was the first community building erected by the City of Keilor in the suburb and demonstrates the efforts of the Council to provide modern and up to date facilities for its citizens. As well as being a community meeting place the hall also served as the venue for the Infant Welfare Centre for three years until a permanent facility was built on an adjoining site. (Criterion A & G)

It is architecturally and aesthetically significant as a simply designed, but well-composed example of a post-war hall. Of note is the symmetrical composition of the facade with the central vertically proportioned window providing the focus to the smooth blockwork facade, that is flanked by and contrasted with the rough-face stacked brickwork facades of the projecting entry and cloak room. (Criteria D & E)

## Theme

6. Building towns cities and the garden state 8. Building community life

Heritage Study/Consultant	Moonee Valley - Moonee Valley Heritage Study, Context Pty Ltd, 2015, 2015; Moonee Valley - City of Moonee Valley Stage 1 Heritage Gap Study, Context PL, 2013;
Construction dates	1968,
Architect/Designer	Winbush, Harry and Associates,
Other Names	Ratcliff Community Hall,
Hermes Number	196104
Property Number	

## Physical Description 1

The R.G. Ratcliffe Hall is composed of rectilinear forms with a central area flanked by symmetrical annexes. A central vertically proportioned window provides the focus to the facade. The smooth blockwork of the main space is contrasted with the rough-face stacked brickwork facades that conceal the entry and amenities area (to the

right) and a kitchen (to the left). Affixed to the right wall is the name of the centre in raised letters. The central space is lit with a continuous band of clerestorey windows to both sides and there is a porte cochere over the entry on the right side.

The brickwork has been overpainted and additions have been made to the hall on the east side.

*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/>*