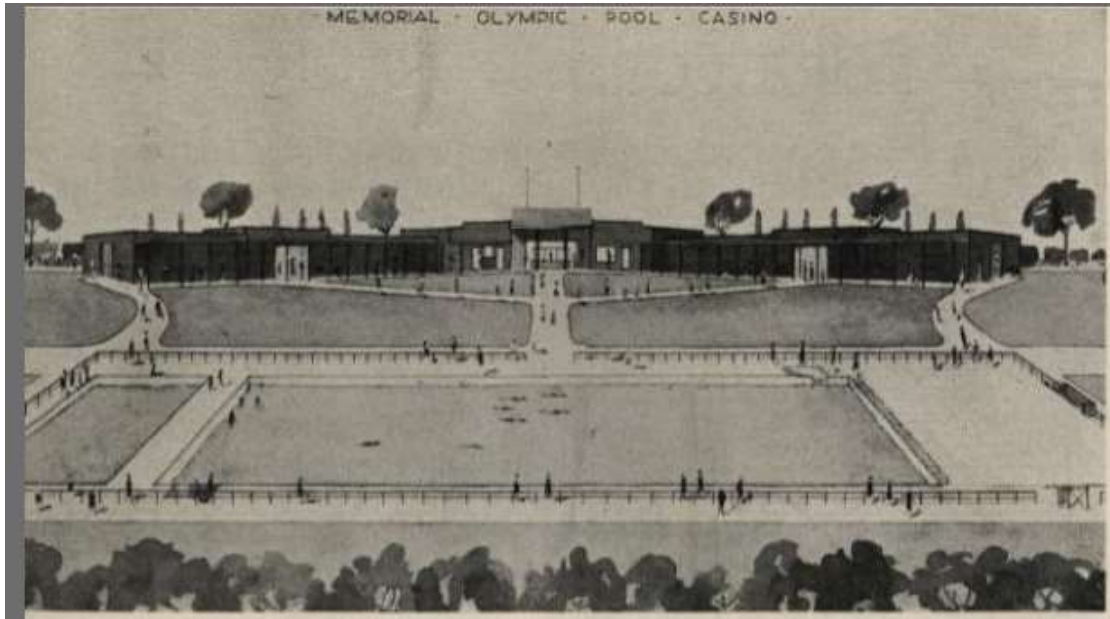


Heritage Referral: DA 2021/0250

Casino Memorial Pool



Extract from Casino War Memorial Olympic Pool- Souvenir booklet. Saturday, October 25, 1952.

April 2021

Prepared by
CLARENCE HERITAGE
for Richmond Valley Council

1.0 Proposal

Upgrades and additions including a new 25m pool, associated buildings and a water slide are proposed at Casino Memorial Pool under DA 2021/0250. Plans and an SEE by Facility Design group were reviewed.

Scope of Works

- Partial demolition of existing building;
- New indoor 25 metre program pool/learn to swim pool;
- New family accessible amenities;
- New adult change room;
- New enclosed walkway from entry;
- New plant room;
- New Store room;
- Refurbishment of control/kiosk, administration, first aid, staff facilities;
- New swim club;
- Refurbished gym and swim squad room;
- New twin flume waterslide;
- Solar Photovoltaic roof panels;
- Removal of one (1) tree – Poinciana

2. Heritage Status

Casino Memorial Pool has a 1950s façade on a prominent corner on the main town highway, which is protected as a heritage item with a mature Poinciana tree to the corner. The pool complex holds historical, associative and social significance locally and is a noted Memorial to those who served and lost lives in WW2. The Memorial Pool is listed in the Richmond Valley LEP 2012 and included in SHI 2850478 and is also listed on the NSW War Memorials Register.

3. Assessment of Impacts

The following elements were investigated with regard to possible impact on the significance of the item:

- a. **Removal of original curved metal entry gates within the brick pillars.**



EXISTING METAL GATES- TO BE REMOVED

Extract from SEE.

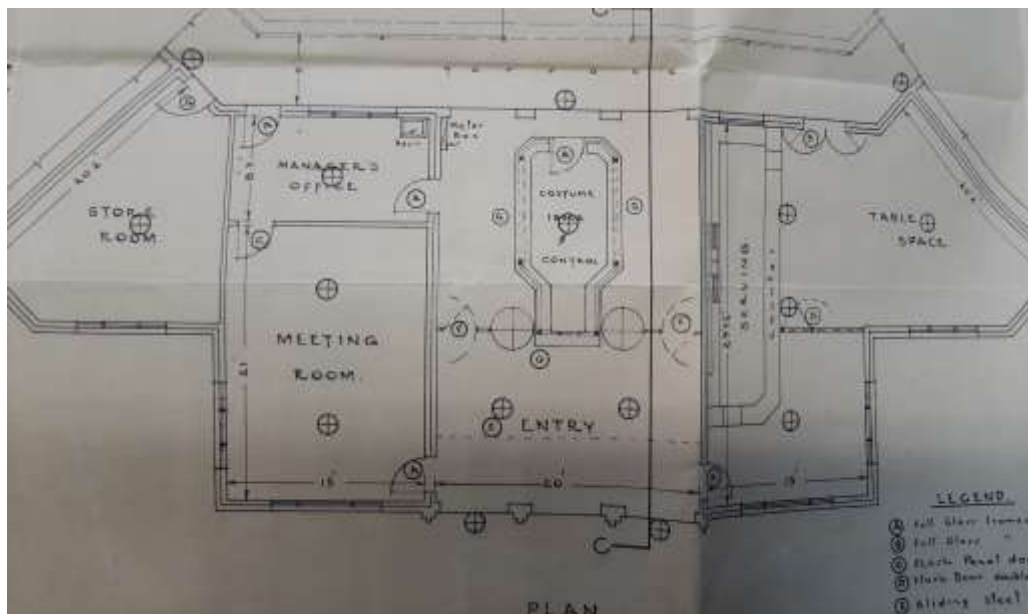
The SEE states that

The design of the proposed replacement glass panels is considered to be sympathetic to the existing entrance facade and will have minimal impact upon the identified heritage items. The proposed design is considered to be uncomplicated in style and sensitive in scale and character with a similar interpretation in design to the previous physical metal gates.

No information was provided in the SEE regarding the significance of these gates. The early photograph of the facade on RVC files shows that the three openings were not originally gated on the frontage, and there was a sliding metal screen setback behind the entry which is different in design to the curved gates.



Original Façade 1950s Source RVC.



Extract from 1950s plans of building Source RVC.

It can be concluded that the curved metal gates are not an original element, and their removal would not have an adverse impact upon the aesthetic or historic significance of the façade.

b. Proposed water slide tower.

This tower is located to the rear of the site at a distance of 100m from the brick facades. It will project higher than the façade with a total height of 13.8m but viewed from the streetscape and opposite the site it is largely screened by the existing façade. The water slide will not detract from the heritage façade provided that the high element of the tower is not composed of bold, primary or harsh colours.

c. Removal of Poinciana Tree

The tree provides good shade and appears healthy. The proposed removal and replacement with two trees symmetrical placement will frame the entry. The early photo of the façade does not show a tree and Council has advised that it was likely to be planted in 1997, a matter to be confirmed. The proposed removal will therefore not remove a planting of significance or one dedicated with to the war memorial.

d. Interpretation

There is potential for interpretation of the site portraying the history of the pool and its part in social history and development in Casino. This could be in various formats including interpretation panels, silhouette cut outs, and digital applications such as a screen or audios. Several historic photographs could be used as large wall images on interior or covered areas such as the gym or change rooms to provide a link to the origins of the complex.

4. Conclusion and Recommendations

Subject to comments outlined above I generally concur with the findings of the heritage assessment component within the SEE and recommend the following;

Conditions

1. The brick façade is to be carefully conserved and must remain unpainted. No advertising panels or signs, murals or other elements are to be affixed to the brickwork.
2. The water tower structure element must not be finished in bold, primary or highly contrasting colours, to avoid an adverse impact on the setting of the memorial façade and its backdrop.
3. Interpretation of the heritage significance of the Memorial Pool should be given consideration in the fit out and design of interior and external spaces. There is potential to portray the history of the pool and its part in social history and development in Casino. This could be in various formats including interpretation panels, silhouette cut outs, and digital applications such as a screen or audios. Several historic photographs could be used as large wall images on interior or covered areas such as the gym or change rooms to provide a link to the origins of the complex.

Advices

1. Consent Requirements

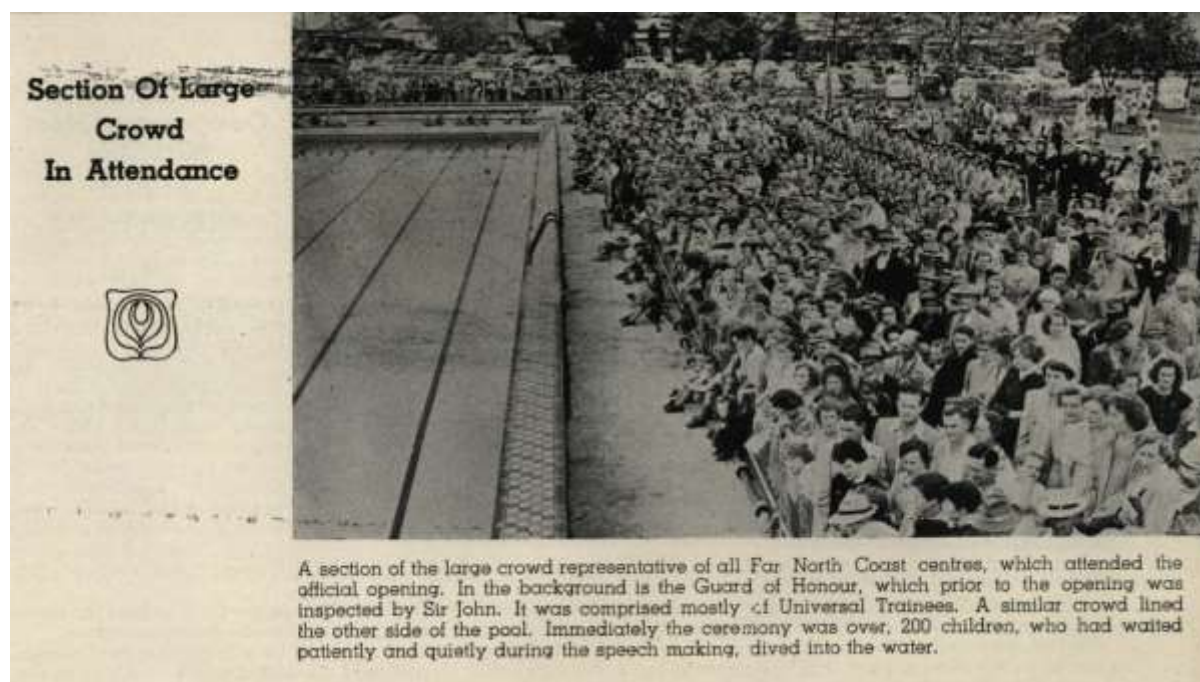
Occupiers, tenants or lessees of the pool complex and facilities are to be made aware of the requirements of the of Clause 5.10 of Richmond Valley LEP 2012 in relation to the need to obtain prior consent for works including 'any alterations to the fabric, finish and appearance' of a heritage item and advised that no advertising panels, signs or any elements are to be affixed to the brickwork. Reason to protect the aesthetic and historical significance of the item and its streetscape setting.

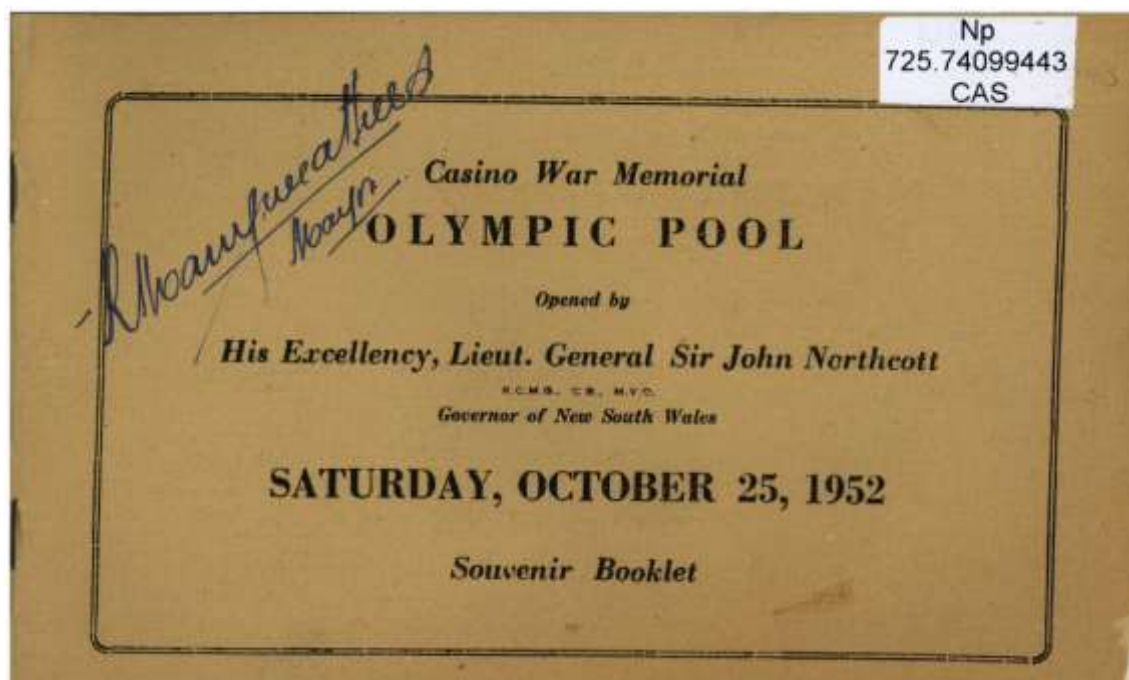
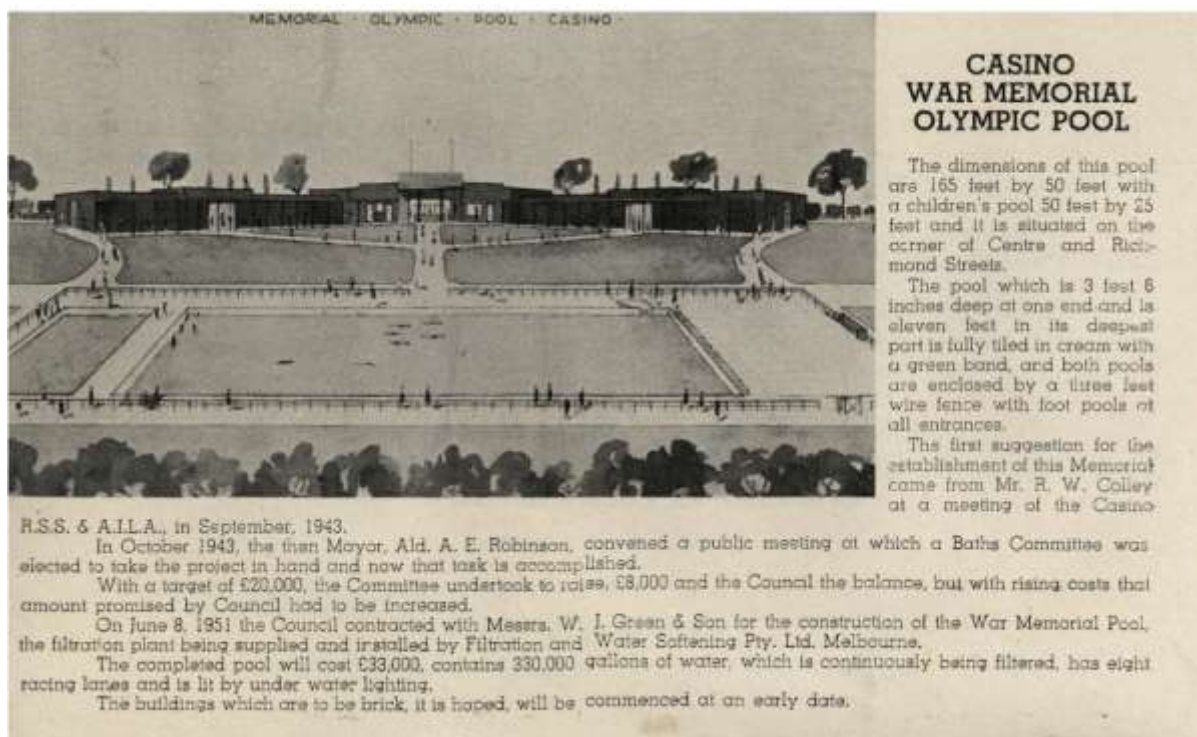
2. Excavation and Relics-Due Diligence

If any deposit, artefact, object or material evidence defined as a relic under the *Heritage Act 1977* is identified as having been uncovered due to development activities, all work shall cease immediately in that area; and the Heritage Council of NSW shall be advised of the discovery. Note. Depending on the possible significance of the relics uncovered, an archaeological assessment and an excavation permit under the *Heritage Act 1977* may be required before further work can continue in that area.

If any Aboriginal object (including evidence of habitation or remains) is identified as being present or uncovered due to development activities; all works shall cease immediately in that area; and the Heritage NSW and the Local Aboriginal Land Council must be advised of the discovery. Note. If an Aboriginal object is discovered, an Aboriginal heritage impact permit may be required under the *National Parks and Wildlife Act 1974*.

3. Example of historic information which would be useful for interpretation.





Casino (N.S.W. Municipality). Council. 1952, *Casino War Memorial Olympic Pool opened ... Saturday, October 25, 1952 : souvenir booklet*, [Casino viewed 22 April 2021 <http://nla.gov.au/nla.obj-612238253>

CLARENCE HERITAGE

Deborah Wray B.A Hons, M.P.I.A. M. ICOMOS

clarenceheritage@gmail.com

PO Box 1759, GRAFTON, NSW 2460 | M: 0427 425558 | P 0266 444 000