Eastern Beach, Geelong’s Aquatic Playground: Its Physical History, Context and Conservation

David Rowe
Abstract

Eastern Beach, Geelong, arguably represents the most intact, purpose-built interwar Art Deco beach complex in Australia. It has long-term associations with beach recreation from the 1840s, and particularly in its current form from the 1920s and 1930s. These associations are embodied in the extant physical fabric, as a legacy of interwar era mixed bathing and the pursuit of sport and leisure. This fabric includes the integrated combination of the foreshore landscape in a natural amphitheatre, expansive semi-circular promenade timber sea bathing enclosure, enclosed concrete children’s pool, Art Deco inspired concrete sea wall, buildings, rotundas and garden features, children’s playground, mature surviving trees and in the pathway layout. This professional practice paper examines the history of Eastern Beach and compares it with similar historic bay side beach enclosures in Australia to provide an historic context and give an understanding of its uniqueness. Recent and continuing conservation works, largely sponsored by the public purse, and necessitated by the challenges confronting significant fabric in a marine environment, are also outlined.

Introduction

Located on the Corio Bay foreshore in Geelong, Victoria, Australia, Eastern Beach is a legacy of the beautification of the area from the 1920s and 1930s and a traditional focus for beach recreation. A harbour-side interwar Art Deco landscape, it is characterised by a foreshore setting of pathways, bluestone retaining walls, grassed slopes and mature Elm, Cypress and Phoenix Palm trees; central stairs and fountain; terrace; broad sweeping sea walls (adorned with lamp stands); kiosk and dressing shed buildings; children’s pool; wide semi-circular two-tiered timber promenade and sea pool enclosure (equipped with diving towers and a central island) and a series of rotundas along the western portion (Figures 1-4). Today, the character and appearance of Eastern Beach – largely based on the early designs – is testimony to previous and ongoing publicly-funded conservation works.

Figure 1: Eastern Beach, Aerial View, 2005.
Source: City of Greater Geelong
History of Eastern Beach

Early Sea Baths at Eastern Beach

In 1844, the first sea bath in Geelong was built by W. Rea (Brownhill et al. 1990: 627-628). It was superseded in 1853 when the Geelong Sea Bathing Company established new sea baths (Brownhill, et al. 1990: 628). Located east of the Swanston Street intersection with Victoria Parade (Eastern Beach Road), the ladies’ and men’s baths extended 800 feet into the bay. By 1873 the baths were highly popular, with large excursion trains from Ballarat and elsewhere bringing ‘down hundreds’ of visitors (DSE file RS 3841, 30 Aug. 1873) (Figure 5).

In 1878, the Eastern Beach foreshore was gazetted as a temporary reservation, covering an area of 12 acres. Known as the Eastern Beach Public Park, it was permanently reserved and gazetted on 6 February 1885 (HLCD, et al. 2005:17).

While Eastern Beach was more of a quarry in the 1890s (with local contractors sourcing dirt and sand for top dressing) (HLCD, et al. 2005:17), change came after the turn of the century. In 1912 the Joy Ark floating picture theatre was erected above the sea water on the western foreshore (Aitken 1980: 29). The need for more substantial improvements was a major consideration of the Geelong City Council and the Geelong Harbour Trust in the ensuing years (Butler, 1991).

Early Twentieth Century

Beautification Scheme

In 1904, improvements at Eastern Beach included the construction of an octagonal rotunda near the baths (Aitken 1980). It was followed by a series of other rotundas. However, the most significant developments came in the 1920s. The Geelong Council appointed an Improvement and Beautification Committee to address the state of the Corio Bay foreshore. Contemporary accounts described Eastern Beach as ‘most unattractive, especially at low tide’ (Dearnley, unpub. 1997: 11, 21-22).
The Committee’s work culminated in 1925 with an open design competition for a beautification scheme to enable safe swimming and recreational activities. Provision was made for the awarding of prizes and the entries were assessed by the architects F. Stapley and A.M. Blackett (on behalf of the Royal Victorian Institute of Architects) and H.L. Tisdall, Geelong City Engineer (Geelong Advertiser 3 July 1925, 18 & 25 Aug. 1925).

In January 1926, Henry Hare, architect and consulting engineer, Melbourne, was awarded first prize. Hare’s design was published in the Geelong Advertiser on 29 October 1927 and 29 October 1928 (Figure 6). It showed 10 acres of reclaimed sea frontage and the creation of a sea wall and esplanade, and landscaping, including an avenue of palm, plane and vergilla trees, and large areas of lawn and shrubbery. A central feature was a landmark fountain accessed by formal stairs, giving the scheme a City Beautiful-like emphasis on order and monumentality. Flourishing in America from the 1890s, the precepts of the City Beautiful Movement included grand avenues, vistas and water features. Hare adopted the essence of this Movement at Eastern Beach. An Art Deco kiosk and dressing pavilion flanked the central axis and a beach foreshore and small pool to the north completed Hare’s scheme. The whole design was to give the park a ‘garden effect.’ The estimated cost of the work was £50,000 (Geelong Advertiser 4 Feb. 1926).

Originally, Hare’s plan was to extend beyond Eastern Beach towards Limeburner’s’ Point and include the nearby mineral springs located to the east of the Eastern Beach site. The third section of the scheme to the west was to be developed over time, and it included a large concrete swimming pool, although this pool was not to extend into the bay (Geelong Advertiser 21 July 1927).

In 1928, construction began on the first part of Hare’s scheme. The works were undertaken by 150 unemployed men as part of the State Government’s unemployment relief program (Heritage Victoria file 852322G). By the early 1930s, the Eastern Beach foreshore had been transformed (Figure 7). The central fountain had been completed and adorned with models of tortoises and storks (the storks having been relocated from the garden of St. Albans Homestead, east of Geelong) (Geelong Advertiser 20 Dec. 1929) (Figure 8). It was accessed by a grand series of steps (Figure 9). The red brick kiosk (Figure 10) and dressing sheds

![Figure 6: Hare’s Sketch for Eastern Beach, 1927. Source: Geelong Advertiser, 29 October 1927, Geelong Heritage Centre collection.](image)

![Figure 7: Aerial view of Eastern Beach showing pathways, buildings & sea walls, c.1930. Source: C. Pratt, La Trobe Picture collection, State Library of Victoria, image H91.160/731.](image)
had been built, and a landscaped playground area – encircled by a promenade walkway – had been laid out. From this time Eastern Beach was a well-known tourist destination and it formed the basis of a panoramic background in a Victorian Railways postcard promoting Geelong as ‘The City with a Holiday Charm’. The postcard also showed the redundant sea baths that had closed in 1929 (HLCD et al. 2005:22).

Completion of the People’s Playground

The demise of the sea baths was an impetus for a new open sea pool at Eastern Beach as a monument to Geelong’s pioneers in the city’s centenary year of 1938 (HLCD et al. 2005:22). Plans were prepared by Ian McDonald, Geelong Council Engineer and Surveyor. The circular design for the new pool was apparently modelled on similar sea baths at Scarborough Beach in England (HLCD et al. 2005:22), although inspiration also came from the swimming enclosures at Manly, New South Wales (N.S.W.) and the metropolitan Melbourne foreshore schemes at Mordialloc and Middle Brighton (Geelong Advertiser 23 Mar. 1922, 9 Jan. 1938, 22 Jun. 1938).

The new semi-circular enclosure featured an outer promenade deck and a lower or swimmers’ deck (both built in timber) with bronze shark-proofing bars below sea level (Figure 11). There was a central island with chutes and other sports gear, and a dive tower (Figure 12). A stone and concrete children’s pool (in the location of the former central beach foreshore) (Figure 13) completed the works. These improvements were officially opened by Geelong’s Mayor, Cr. S. Jacobs in March 1939, when he described them as ‘unique in character’ and ‘unsurpassed in the world’ (Geelong Advertiser 29 Mar. 1939). They represented the last major enclosed sea bathing facility constructed within Port Phillip, Victoria.

Eastern Beach has enjoyed great popularity especially since the interwar era. In 1946 it was reported that ‘... many thousands of visitors come from all over Victoria, and in fact Australia, and enjoy themselves at this aquatic playground’ (Butler, 1991:3-9). In addition to its role as a place for beach recreation, Eastern Beach has played host to numerous organised community gatherings including swimming carnivals, beauty pageants, New Years’ Eve celebrations and musical events. In 1953, Emile Verfurth, carnival proprietor, opened the Hy-Lite Amusement Park at the western end of the foreshore with a range of amusement rides (it closed in 1985) (Timbury, unpub. 2009, Geelong News 22 Jul. 1986) (Figure 14).
Eastern Beach and organised sea bathing in Australia

Eastern Beach represents one of several sea bathing complexes established throughout Australia, but it is one of the few surviving examples today. It can be categorised as an integrated, purpose-built complex comprising sea bathing and beach recreation infrastructure, and foreshore landscaping and public foreshore structures. Comparisons with other similar beach complexes in Australia give an appreciation of the special significance of Eastern Beach.

Historical Background

Organised sea bathing in Australia has its origins in the 19th century when segregated and fenced-off sea baths were constructed at the end of piers or as promenades to ‘keep out large fish’ (Priestley 1984:228). In N.S.W. and Victoria in particular, sea bathing was important for personal hygiene, with sea water and fresh sea air being promoted as therapies for a range of ills (Barnard 2008:59).

In N.S.W., baths were constructed along the coast and in the bays and harbours of the Sydney environs. By 1839, bathing facilities were in place at Brighton Le Sands while further baths were known to have been established in the 1850s in Wollongong (N.S.W. Heritage Branch Register online 3 Dec. 2010). In the later 19th century, public enclosed baths were erected in Double Bay and at the Soldiers Baths in Newcastle in 1879 (Aust. Heritage Database online 3 Dec. 2010).

In Victoria in 1854, the first Eastern Beach baths in Geelong were built and they were followed by those in St. Kilda, Brighton and Queenscliff (HLCD et al. 2005:15). By the 1880s, there was greater enthusiasm for sea bathing and baths were built at seaside resorts including Portarlington, Sorrento, Portland, Warrnambool, Ocean Grove, Clifton Springs, Barwon Heads and Lorne (Rowe 2005: 5, Rowe 2009: 92-94). Baths were also built in other parts of the country, such as those at Redcliffe, Sandgate and Southport in Queensland.

The greater availability of public transport, deteriorating 19th century bathing structures, changing social standards and weather conditions played a substantial role in the transformation of seaside recreation both during and after the First World War. In 1917, mixed beach bathing was no longer prohibited in Victoria and prohibitions on bathing during daylights hours were gradually relaxed (Priestley 1984: 230, Barnard 2008: 58). Amenities were needed to cater for the growing population of beach goers.

The interwar period in N.S.W. and Victoria brought about a proliferation of new swimming enclosures, pools and associated structures, even though enclosed bathing was no longer mandatory. In Victoria between 1935 and 1939 for example, £200,000 was spent on foreshore protection and improvement works, primarily in Port Phillip (Barnard 2008: 58).
Beach complexes in N.S.W.

N.S.W. provides numerous comparative examples with Eastern Beach. Sea baths and pools are ubiquitous throughout the Sydney environs and along the N.S.W. coastline. In 1994, E.J.E. Landscape identified 74 pools with 55 of them having heritage value. The ‘New South Wales Ocean Baths’ website also gives a range of other examples. Some of the more well-known baths include the North Bondi Children’s Pool, Bondi Beach (1947, reconstructed 1960s); Bondi Icebergs Pool, Bondi Beach (1880s, altered 1911, 1915, 1922 and 1931-32); Merewether Bathing Pavilion and Baths, Newcastle (1930s), Wylie’s Baths, Coogee (1907, timber boardwalk built in 1912) and the North Beach Precinct, Wollongong (1924).5 Most of these examples represent ocean baths (with natural rock or masonry enclosures), or harbour-side baths that often feature enclosing timber decks. The majority lack the extent of development and integration of bathing infrastructure and landscaping of Eastern Beach. Those that were and/or continue to be the most comparable include the following.

Manly Cove Harbour Pool Enclosure

Inspiration for the shark-proofed promenade enclosure and associated structures at Eastern Beach came from the Manly Cove Harbour Pool that opened in December 1931 (‘Manly Harbour Pool’). Located adjacent to the ferry wharf, it provided an enormous enclosed bathing area with its pool and play equipment of pontoons, slides and treadmills designed and built by the Port Jackson Steamship Company (‘Manly Harbour Pool’). A narrow expanse of foreshore was lined with Cypress trees and lawns. In 1933, a Mediterranean styled dressing pavilion and refreshment building was built at one end of the pool while in 1938 a substantial pavilion was built at the other end near the Manly Amusement Pier. Huge crowds flocked to the pool on public holidays and this continued after the Second World War (‘Manly Harbour Pool’). By the 1960s, this once substantial pool enclosure met its demise through a lack of regular maintenance and exposure to the weather (‘Manly Harbour Pool’).

While the Manly Cove complex was the most comparable with Eastern Beach from the late 1930s, Eastern Beach is considerably more intact today: in the retention of the design layout and in the promenade, diving pool, children’s pool, and landscape infrastructure.

Edwards and Balmoral Beaches and Baths, Balmoral

The Balmoral Swimming Baths were first installed at Balmoral Beach by the Mosman Council 1899. Until the 1920s, the 19 hectare foreshore expanse was characterised by sand dunes (N.S.W. Heritage Branch Register online 3 Dec. 2010). In 1929, the Mosman Council commenced the Balmoral Beautification Scheme that produced a Bathers Pavilion (1929), promenade (1930) bordered by grassed areas and Morton Bay fig trees, and a rotunda (1930) (N.S.W. Heritage Branch Register online 3 Dec. 2010). The area also features a picturesque island (Rocky Point) accessed by a stone bridge and a baths areas with a timber boardwalk.

By comparison, Eastern Beach is a more considerable and intact complex of beach and landscape infrastructure, although the Balmoral Bathers’ Pavilion is architecturally more distinctive than the Eastern Beach kiosk.

Redleaf Pool, Double Bay

In November 1941, the Redleaf Pool, Double Bay, was opened. It included a semi-circular pool with two extended sides returning to form a continuous timber walkway to the shoreline, depth boards, ladders, diving pontoon and turning boards (Aust. Heritage Database online 3 Dec. 2010). A smaller children’s pool with a viewing deck has been located at the eastern side. A low concrete sea wall, flat lawn area with seats, showers, kiosk, change rooms, toilets, office and entry, club rooms and games areas are located behind the pool area.

Overall, the Redleaf Pool lacks the scale, redeeming design attributes of the promenade and other infrastructure such as the sea wall balustrades and Art Deco lamps, and the complexity of buildings, gardens structures and landscaping found at Eastern Beach.
Bronte Baths, Beach and Park, Bronte

In 1887, a swimming hole at Bronte Park was opened at the southern end of Nelson Bay. The adjoining beach was enclosed by sandstone headlands with the park reserve behind. The reserve was developed between 1920 and 1940. It retains much of its interwar era character and for this reason it is considered a rare foreshore in N.S.W. (Aust. Heritage Database online 3 Dec. 2010, N.S.W. Heritage Branch Register online 3 Dec. 2010 & ‘N.S.W. Ocean Baths’).

The combination of enclosed pool, beach and interwar parkland reserve with palm and other exotic trees and beach buildings at Bronte Beach and Park has an affinity with Eastern Beach. Yet, the latter is a more integrated and intact symmetrically-derived landscape and beach infrastructure complex.

Bay side complexes in Victoria

In Victoria, many of the bay side baths and associated structures have disappeared. There are at least three surviving structures, baths and/or foreshore landscapes comparable with Eastern Beach.

St. Kilda Baths Pavilion

The surviving fabric of the St. Kilda Baths Pavilion was constructed in 1931 to a design by the St. Kilda City Surveyor, Richard Kelly (Vic. Heritage Database online 3 Dec. 2010). The Spanish Mission-inspired design was unique in providing protected sea bathing for men and women in separate enclosures, as well as hot sea baths, a gymnasium, open air cafe and several kiosks. Unlike the Eastern Beach complex, the Kilda Baths structure has been altered or destroyed, with only the hot sea baths, a pair of towers and some arcading in the external walls surviving. It is not directly comparable to Eastern Beach.

Middle Brighton Baths and Pavilion

The existing baths at Middle Brighton were built in 1936 and they appear to have partly inspired the design of the promenade at Eastern Beach. Rebuilt in c.1988, the baths are framed on three sides by two rows of timber piles supporting a walkway. The baths are dominated by a landmark pavilion built in 1936 in a modern Functionalist style to a design by Oakley and Parkes (Aust. Heritage Database online 3 Dec. 2010). The layout, design and features of the Middle Brighton Baths lack the sophistication, scale and aesthetic appeal of the Eastern Beach promenade enclosure, although like the Geelong baths, they are a rare survivor in Victoria.

Catani Gardens, St. Kilda, Victoria

Catani Gardens possibly represents the most comparable Victorian foreshore gardens with Eastern Beach. They were developed on 6 hectares of reclaimed land between 1890 and 1916, although most of the principal landscaping was planted by the late 1920s (Vic. Heritage Database online 3 Dec. 2010). The main feature is the rows of palm trees, with secondary promenades of Monterey Cypress and specimen plants. The principal pathway axes – aligned with the contours of the foreshore, terminating in the centre and southern ends with circular features from which secondary paths radiate – has a similarity to the original scheme at Eastern Beach in 1927. This scheme featured circular focal points and radiating and connected pathways. Although the original, competition-winning concept at Eastern Beach was altered in the 1930s, the core circular pathway with the central landmark fountain survives.

Baths in other states

The Tobruk Memorial Baths, Townsville, Queensland, built 1941-50, represent Australia’s most substantial public memorial to the Siege of Tobruk of 1941 (Qld. Cultural Heritage Register online, 3 Dec. 2010). The late interwar beach pavilion is located in a landscaped setting. The Tobruk Baths are not comparable with Eastern Beach.

In South Australia, the Henley baths were erected in 1935 as a salt water foreshore pool (‘Australia’s Swimming Success & Swimming Pools’ & ‘Henley & Grange Swimming Club Inc.’).
No longer extant, the pool was rectangular, comprising 8 lanes. It was elevated from the beach and featured a dive tower and small kiosk at the northern end.

At Cottesloe in Western Australia, the beach precinct has been a focus for foreshore recreation since the 19th century. The original beach pavilion and the early shark proof fence (constructed in 1925) no longer survive. Early physical legacies are the mature Norfolk Island Pines and associated open spaces (Western Australia Register of Heritage Places online, 25 May 2011).

Findings from comparative analysis

These comparisons clearly show that Eastern Beach, Geelong, is one of the most intact, purposely-designed, symmetrical interwar Art Deco complexes in Australia, comprising a foreshore landscape in a natural amphitheatre, expansive semi-circular timber sea bathing enclosure (with associated recreational structures), enclosed concrete children’s pool, Art Deco-inspired concrete sea wall promenade with lamp stands, Art Deco inspired buildings, rotundas, garden features and a children’s playground. The semi-circular timber promenade, with upper and lower decks enclosing the sea pool, central island, rectangular racing area and dive tower represent the largest and most sophisticated surviving interwar example in Australia. The landscape at Eastern Beach is one of very few purposely laid out interwar foreshore landscapes in Australia, the design being integrated with the location, layout, form and design of the beach structures, buildings and infrastructure.

Conservation works at Eastern Beach

Several conservation works have been carried out at Eastern Beach. They have resulted from deterioration associated with direct exposure to the marine environment, changing statutory regulations, droughts, tree senescence, theft and vandalism. Managed by the City of Greater Geelong Council, the repairs and reconstruction, following the Burra Charter principles, have been funded by Government, other agencies and the public. Some of the more recent works have been guided by a Conservation Management Plan prepared in 2005.

Major Reconstruction Works

A challenge in the ongoing management of the fabric at Eastern Beach has been its direct exposure to the marine environment. In 1983, the sea walls were suffering deterioration. Repairs were made to the balustrades. As the concrete railings were in poor condition, they were replaced (DSE File RS3841 & HLCD et al. 2005: 24). In 1987, parts of the timber promenade were reconstructed including the replacement of decking, stringers, posts and handrails on the entire top deck (DSE File RS3841). These works were only temporary as by the 1990s most of the 285 stringy bark piles had been concrete-jacketed and were in poor condition (HLCD et al. 2005: 24-25). The island in the centre of the structure had also deteriorated. In 1992, detailed measurements of the existing promenade structure were taken and major reconstruction works (including piles, other structural members and timber decking) were carried out by the Port of Geelong Authority’s Associated Ports Division at a cost of $1.2 million (HLCD et al. 2005: 22-24). In addition to substantial financial contributions by the local Council, State Government and the Port of Geelong Authority, the community and the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) (National Trust) were influential in the success of the project. The public gave donations or purchased a ‘promenade plank’ with over $1 million raised as part of the National Trust’s fundraising campaign (Eastern Beach Source Folder, Geelong Heritage Centre). Names of purchasers were inscribed on plaques on the planks (Figure 15). This gave an additional sense of public pride and ownership to the renewed Eastern Beach structure.

Figure 15: Detail of metal plaques on planks giving the names of the donors, 2010. Source: David Rowe.
By 2006, the walls were in disrepair with severe concrete spalling, exposed steel reinforcement and sections of leaning walls (GHD 2006: 1). This necessitated the replacement of the walls. Major challenges that required resolution included the method of reconstruction (as a consequence of the foreshore location of the walls and because parts of the walls were submerged at high tide) and building materials. The ideal heritage outcome was that the new walls be constructed in the same location as the existing structure. However, this would have required temporary cofferdams to allow excavation and forming and pouring of concrete without significant water inundation. This option was prohibitively costly.

In 2009 works began on the construction of new concrete sea walls approximately 1 metre behind the existing walls, following the same curved alignments (Figures 16-17). The original walls were temporarily propped, and backfill and tie rods were removed. New concrete piles, ring beams and pre-cast panels and anchor tie rods were then installed. Headstocks were poured to match the existing sea walls and the original walls were then demolished (GHD 2006: 6-9).

Other reconstructive and interpretive measures were also carried out or are proposed. The Art Deco lamp stands (missing in the original walling) were reconstructed, archival quality photographs taken of the original wall and an interpretive plaque is to be installed (GHD 2006: 3). Overall, the works to the sea walls cost $1.8 million and were funded by Federal, State and Local Governments (A. Ross, City of Greater Geelong, pers. comm. Dec. 2010, citing internal Council Reports).

The third major task currently being undertaken is the reconstruction of the children’s pool, necessitated by its unstable foundations and dilapidated structure (Figure 18). The pool was mainly rebuilt according to the original layout and design. Some modifications have been made to the concrete construction to meet present day requirements (including disabled access), while the early water filtration system is being upgraded (Heritage Victoria permit P14363).

**Other Conservation Works**

Other works have included the restoration of the main fountain, partial reconstruction of the main staircase, reconstruction of the fountain in the children’s pool, replacement of the storks with fibreglass replicas, rebuilding of shade structures (to the original design), and repairs to some of the equipment in the children’s playground (HLCD et al. 2005: 25).
Environmental conditions have also impacted the landscape. By 1991, many of the trees lining the paths had been lost and very few shrubs and specimen trees had survived. In March 2002, a total of 11 senescent English Elms were removed and new Elms were planted (HLCD et al. 2005: 28).

Since 2008, the City of Greater Geelong’s restoration project has also included the reconstruction of the dive tower (largely to the original design but modified to comply with current regulations) (Figure 19), as well as irrigation and embankment stabilisation. Together with the reconstruction of the children’s pool, these works are to cost $6 million, with half of the funds provided by the Federal Government (A. Ross, City of Greater Geelong, Dec. 2010, citing internal Council Reports).

Conclusion

The Eastern Beach Bathing Complex and Reserve is the last major enclosed sea bathing facility constructed on Port Phillip during the interwar period. It is one of the most intact, purpose-built interwar Art Deco beach complexes in Australia. Eastern Beach is comparable in part only to the bathing and landscaped areas in the Sydney environs of N.S.W.: Balmoral and Edwards Beaches and Balmoral pool; Bronte Beach, Pool and Park, Bronte; and with the Redleaf Pool, Double Bay. Overall, Eastern Beach is one of the purest expressions of Art Deco landscape architecture in Australia, in its foreshore setting integrated with the layout, form, and design of beach infrastructure, garden structures and buildings. Its integrity is not defined by all the fabric being completely original, but rather as a considered reflection and reconstruction of the original design concept. The fabric of Eastern Beach has been and continues to be governed by its marine environment which has brought about significant conservation challenges. Replacement rather than retention has been a necessary approach to the conservation and ongoing viability of the place. The future of Eastern Beach relies on public support given the substantial financial burden involved in maintaining it as a unique aquatic playground and tourist attraction.

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Endnotes

1. Some of the historical documentation has been taken from HLCD Pty Ltd in association with EDGe Environmental Design, ‘Eastern Beach Reserve, Geelong’, Conservation Management Plan, commissioned by the City of Greater Geelong, 2005, with permission from the author.

3. A chute is the early 20th century term for water slides.

4. The comparative analysis is taken from Rowe, D., ‘Nomination of Eastern Beach for the National Heritage List, prepared for the City of Greater Geelong, December 2010.

5. There are numerous other sea baths documented in the references outlined, including The Entrance Ocean Baths (1919, new pool built 1938, children’s pool added 1965); North Narrabeen Rock Pool (early 1930s); Brighton Baths and Pavilion, Bright Le Sands (1900, new baths built in 1928); Giles Baths and Bath House (1928); Roseville Baths Remnants, Roseville Chase (1920s, reconstructed in 1933 and demolished in 1965); Watsons Bay Baths and Promenade, Watsons Bay (1957, extended in 1965), Clovelly Bay Enclosure and Baths, Clovelly Bay (1932) and the Dawn Fraser Swimming Pool, Balmain (1883, remodelled and enlarged in 1904 and 1924).

6. The drawings of the Middle Brighton baths are included in the collection of early drawings of Eastern Beach at the Geelong Heritage Centre.