

Corio Bowls Skate Park, 256-260 Anakie Road, Bell Park Statement of Significance

March 2026

Heritage Place:	Corio Bowls Skate Park, 256-260 Anakie Road, Bell Park	PS ref no:	HO2064
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Source: City of Greater Geelong, February 2025

What is significant?

The Corio Bowls skatepark at 256-260 Anakie Road, Bell Park, is significant to the City of Greater Geelong. The significant elements onsite include:

- The three reinforced cement skateboarding bowls.
- The concrete path connecting each bowl.

Non-significant elements include:

- The boundary fence around the Corio Bowls.
- Plantings neighbouring the bowls.

Though not in itself significant fabric, the graffiti on the Corio Bowls is considered an ongoing and authentic interpretation of the place's use.

How is it significant?

The Corio Bowls are of historical, representative and social significance to the City of Greater Geelong.

Why is it significant?

The Corio Bowls was constructed in 1980 at a time when skateboarding boomed in interest following the invention of urethane wheels, which in turn resulted in the construction of purpose-built skateparks across the world. In Australia the Albany Snake Run Skatepark located in Western Australia was constructed in 1976 and in Victoria the Berwick Skatepark was built in 1979. The Corio Bowls in Geelong is one of the earliest examples of a skatepark in Australia. Internationally, Kona Skatepark in Jacksonville, Florida that opened in 1977 places Corio Bowls as one of oldest surviving skateparks in the world. (Criterion A)

The Corio Bowls are of representative significance to the City of Greater Geelong as a highly intact example of community skatepark constructed from 1979 and opened in 1980. The Corio Bowls comprises three distinct bowls, each of varying difficulty and shape, constructed of reinforced concrete to challenge community skateboarders. The design of the Bowls is consistent with elaborate linear or interconnected designs represented in the United States and at the Albany Snake Run. (Criterion D)

The Corio Bowls are of social significance to the City of Greater Geelong. The Bowls came to be following the formation of the Corio Skateboard Club, consisting of school children ages 12 to 16, who with the help of their parents formed a partnership with the Corio Shire and Corio Rotary Club in 1979 to construct a local skatepark. Today, original members of the Corio Skateboard Club still use the Bowls, holding anniversary events at the park. (Criterion G)

Primary sources

Corio Bowls, author: Benjamin Petkov, February 2025, peer reviewer: Mim Butcher, The Heritage Conservancy, May 2025.

Greater Geelong Outer Areas Heritage Study. Stage 2, Volume 16, Authentic Heritage Services Pty Ltd, 1998-2000.

This document is an incorporated document in the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme pursuant to section 6(2)(j) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*