

Waurm Ponds Community Hall and Former Schoolhouse, 225 Waurm Ponds Drive, Waurm Ponds Statement of Significance August 2024

Heritage Place: Waurm Ponds Community Hall and Former Schoolhouse, 225 Waurm Ponds Drive, Waurm Ponds	PS ref no: HO2037
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Source: David Scott, March 2022

What is significant?

The Waurm Ponds Community Hall and Former Schoolhouse is a single storey, rectangular weatherboard building with a gable roof constructed in an interwar vernacular style in 1924 and extended in 1999 by the addition of a single storey weatherboard school built in 1922.

The following features contribute to the significance of the place:

- The original 1924 Community Hall including galvanised corrugated iron roof, paired timber sash windows, timber entry doors, galvanised steel roof vents and projecting rafters.
- The 1922 weatherboard schoolhouse addition including the 12-pane timber sash window typical of education facilities.
- The slightly elevated setting of the Hall and its site lines to Waurm Ponds Drive.
- Backdrop of mature trees located primarily on the neighbouring property.
- Internally, the original timber board linings, timber mansard ceiling, stage and proscenium inset into timber board linings on the south elevation
- Movable cultural heritage comprising Waurm Ponds Honour Rolls (3) hung on the internal wall of the northern elevation and recognised on the Victorian War Heritage Inventory

Features that do not contribute to the significance of this place includes alterations and additions to the Hall to including access ramps and air conditioning.

How is it significant?

The Waurm Ponds Community Hall and Former Schoolhouse at 225 Waurm Ponds Drive, Waurm Ponds is of historical, aesthetic, and social significance to the City of Greater Geelong.

Why is it significant?

The Waurm Ponds Community Hall and Former Schoolhouse demonstrates typical aesthetic characteristics associated with community facilities of this type, such as the simple timber construction, large timber-floored hall entered through an external central doorway, stage, kitchen, and other facilities. The situation of the Hall

within a rural setting fringed by well-established trees, and informal carparking contributes to the context of access and community use. The Hall structure has remained virtually unchanged since it was built, representing a rare and substantially intact example of an Interwar hall. (Criterion E)

The Community Hall has been in continuous use for 100 years and it was the community that advocated for its construction to fulfill a need for locals to gather as Waurin Ponds expanded. The addition of the Schoolhouse reflects the growth of both the community and the need to accommodate recreational and social activities as the community had increasing amounts of free time in the early 20th century. It is valued and utilised by the community for events such as dances, balls, picture shows and fetes. The Community Hall and School reflect the growth of education and learning in the local area through the original Mechanics Institute and its library and later integration of the School. (Criteria A & G).

Primary sources

Community Hall & Schoolhouse, Janine Barrand 22 April 2024, peer reviewed by David Scott 3 July 2024. 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*