

Elwood Foreshore Facilities Strategy Heritage Review

Final Report

Prepared for Port Phillip City Council

September 2020



Report Register

The following report register documents the development and issue of the report entitled 'Elwood Foreshore Facilities Strategy Heritage Review', undertaken by Context in accordance with its quality management system.

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Context acknowledges the Kulin Nation as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which the City of Port Phillip is located and pays respects to their Elders both past, present and emerging. We acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the history and life of this site and wider region.

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background and brief

The Elwood Coastal Foreshore Reserve comprises Crown Land managed by the City of Port Phillip under a committee of management. The Reserve contains two carparks and recreational facilities including sports ovals, tennis courts, soccer pitches, croquet greens, playgrounds and shared pedestrian and bicycle pathways. It is home to a number of buildings associated with community use, and sport and recreation. These include a kindergarten, a café, the Elwood Lifesaving Club, the Elwood Scouts Hall (Bay WAC), the Elwood Angling Club, the Elwood Sailing Club and the Elwood Croquet Club. There are also a number of mature trees on the site.

The City of Port Phillip is currently in the planning stages of a masterplan for the Elwood Foreshore area. An assessment of heritage considerations and constraints forms a part of this work. Two places within the Foreshore environs are included in the Port Phillip Planning Scheme Heritage Overlay (HO):

- HO427, former Elwood Bowling Club
- HO428, Elwood Lifesaving Club.

A further four places in the study area have been identified by the City of Port Phillip as having potential heritage value. On 4 June 2020 Context was commissioned to prepare a preliminary heritage assessment of these places so that their heritage potential could be carefully considered in the development of the Elwood Foreshore masterplan.

These four places are:

- Elwood Sailing Club
- Elwood Angling Club
- Elwood Scouts Hall (Bay WAC)
- Elwood Croquet Club.

The purpose of the heritage assessments is to provide an understanding of the history and heritage potential of each of these four buildings in order to inform the master planning of these facilities.

1.2 Study area

The Elwood Foreshore Reserve, located in Elwood, is bounded by Head Street to the South, Ormond Esplanade to the West and Elwood Beach to the East.



Figure 1. Study area (Source: Nearmap with Context overlay)

1.3 Project team

Dr Janine Major, Project Director

Kim Roberts, Project Manager

Mark Huntersmith, Consultant

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Gloria Gamboz, Graduate Consultant

1.4 Acknowledgments

The assistance of the following people is gratefully acknowledged:

Julian Hawkins, Port Phillip City Council

Amanda Innes, Elwood Sailing Club

Tom Barton, Elwood Angling Club

Steve Ashton, Elwood Angling Club

Barry McLennan, Elwood Scout Hall

Pam Herdman, Elwood Croquet Club

1.5 Study limitations

The key limitations of the study are:

- Internal inspections were carried out and external visual inspections were carried out from the ground. Roof access and high-level access was not available.
- Community and Traditional Owner consultation did not form part of the scope of works of this heritage assessment.
- The scope of the heritage assessment did not provide for assessment of impacts on Indigenous heritage values or any historical archaeology investigations. It is noted that a preliminary Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment was prepared for the site by EcoLogical in June 2020.

1.6 Photographs

Except where indicated all images have been taken by Context during fieldwork undertaken in June 2020.

2.0 Contextual History

This section provides the historical and thematic context for the Elwood foreshore site area.

2.1 Elwood locality history

2.1.1 Aboriginal Country

The area known today as the City of Port Phillip occupies the traditional country of the Kulin Nation; the two language groups of the Kulin Nation with connections to this area are the Woiwurrung and the Boon Wurrung. Elwood forms part of a low-lying coastal area on Port Phillip Bay (Nerm). This swampy landscape featured vegetation communities such as grassy woodlands, coastal dune scrub, wetlands and saltmarsh. The dune and scrub vegetation included plant species such as drooping sheoak, sea box, white correa, common boobialla and coast daisy-bush; tea tree also grew in the area (Eidelson 2014: 42). The area is low-lying and has seen considerable change in the coastline over many thousands of years.

The rocky headland of red, brown and yellow sandstone, which is now known as Point Ormond, was a major feature in the landscape and provided views across Port Phillip Bay (Figure 1). This higher ground was used as a camping place by Aboriginal people and shell middens were revealed near Barkly Street and Glen Huntly Road, Elwood, during roadworks in 1974. As well as being close to a good source of shellfish, the hill would also have had strategic importance (Eidelson 2013: 24). Before the impact of European settlement, Elster Creek and the Elwood wetlands would have been an important area for sourcing food, including water birds and birds' eggs, and swamp herbs.



Figure 1. Watercolour titled 'Red Bluff, St Kilda' by Elizabeth Parsons, c1874-1886. (Source: State Library Victoria, Accession No. H36676/20a)

2.1.2 Early settlement

In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, most of the headland, known initially as Little Red Bluff, was removed to provide material for the reclamation of Elwood Swamp (Eidelson 2014: 41). The low-lying land near Elster Creek, some eight kilometres south of Melbourne, was swampland in 1840 when the ship *Glen Huntly* was sent from Williamstown to anchor at Point Ormond (formerly known as the Little Red Bluff). Several of the barque's passengers were infected with typhoid and two quarantine camps were set up inland from the bluff; one for those afflicted with the disease and one for those who remained healthy. This first European occupation of the area that came to be known as Elwood was Victoria's first quarantine station. The first burial ground in the district was also located within the quarantine station.

The first lands sales in the suburb took place in September 1851 but the area was developed slowly. Noxious waste from the local abattoirs and the dumping of night soil in the area largely discouraged early settlement (Boyle 1991:234). However, in the latter part of the nineteenth century a number of mansions were constructed. These were built on large allotments on higher land away from the swamp. A survey of Melbourne and its surrounding suburbs, undertaken by H.L. Cox in 1864 (published in 1865), shows the sparse development of the area east of Point Ormond and north of the area now occupied by the Elwood Foreshore Reserve (Figure 2).

Works to construct the Elwood Canal and to drain the swampland between the foreshore and higher ground east of Mitford Street commenced in 1889. The reclamation of the swamp was completed in 1910 resulting in more land for housing development and making the wider Elwood area much more desirable as a residential location. Subdivision of Elwood's oldest estates had commenced as early as 1885 with the sale of 'Chiverton', but development in the area intensified only in first two decades of the twentieth century with a veritable boom in residential development occurring after the swamp had been drained and the electric tramway between St Kilda and Brighton Beach was opened in 1906 (Heritage Alliance 2005:14).

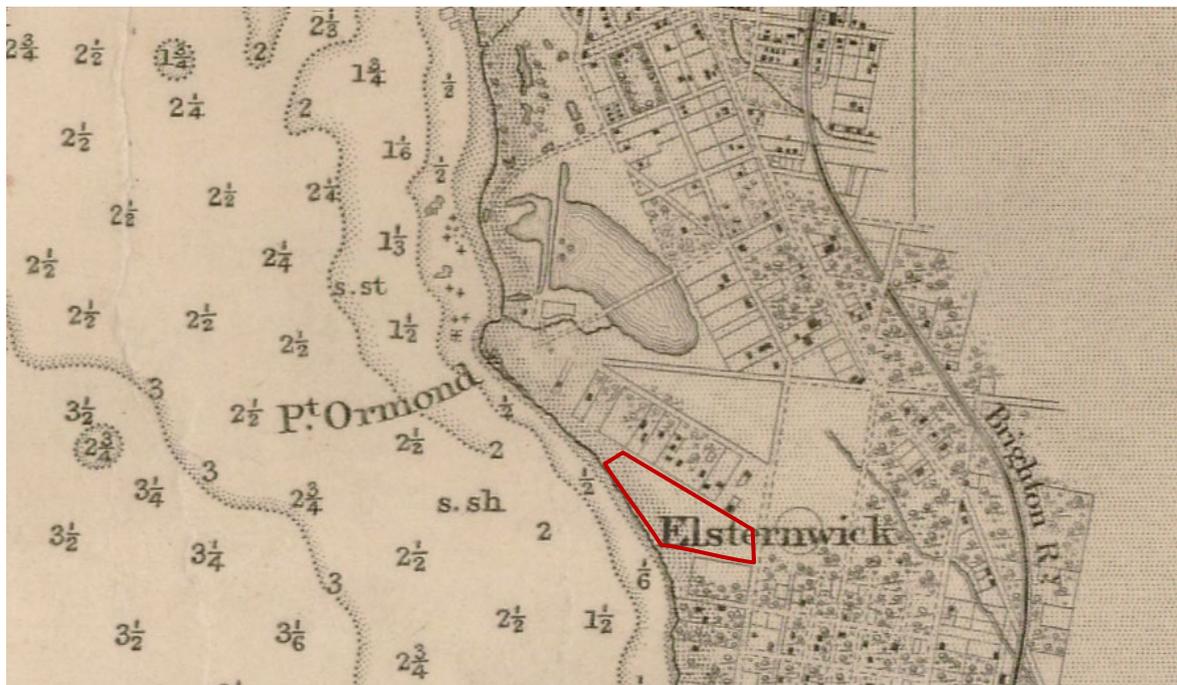


Figure 2. Detail, Nautical survey of the Melbourne area by HL Cox, 1865. The approximate location of the study area is shown outlined in red (Source: State Library of Victoria).

2.1.3 Foreshore reserves in Victoria

Unlike the case in some other Australian colonies, the Victorian Government had alienated most of the coastal land in the colony for public use to prevent it from being available for private sale. From 1860 an Order-in-Council ruled that government surveyors were required to set a margin of 100 feet along all major water frontages, including coast, permanent freshwater lakes and navigable rivers. As a result, Victoria had an almost continuous line of beach and foreshore preserved for public use, usually as a Crown land reserve. A local council would typically assert its preference for a particular kind of reservation to be made, and generally these were reserved as a site for public purposes, public recreation, public park or public gardens. Most of these reserves were established between the 1860s and the 1880s, and the local council was usually appointed as the Committee of Management. In these cases, the local council was responsible for permitting and prohibiting certain uses of the reserve and the establishment and enforcement of rules and regulations in this regard.

In the second half of the nineteenth century there was growing interest in the health benefits of sea bathing and taking the 'sea air'. This trend saw the foreshore areas of some of Melbourne's more fashionable seaside locations, namely St Kilda and Brighton, take shape as popular recreational areas. Sea bathing facilities were introduced, as well as bathing boxes or dressing pavilions. Boating facilities were also a standard feature of foreshore reserves, initially as utilitarian structures to service fishing. Piers also became popular attractions for recreational use and boat ramps were installed to service recreational vessels.

As the opportunity for leisure time grew by the late-nineteenth century, foreshore reserves developed as places of entertainment and refreshment with the introduction of tea rooms and kiosks, band rotundas, and seaside amusements. A number of foreshore reserves took on the appearance of a pleasure ground – for example in the case of St Kilda, and in fashionable seaside resorts outside Melbourne, such as Mornington, Sorrento and Queenscliff. In the early twentieth century, foreshore reserves were improved with serviced picnic facilities, and public gardens and ornamental trees. In some cases sea walls were erected. It was also common for small parcels of land on foreshore reserves to be allocated for various sporting activities, including tennis, bowls, croquet and golf. Often this was at the instigation of a local sports club, but local councils also took the initiative to provide these facilities. With the increased popularity of swimming, life-saving clubs were also established. Outside Melbourne, foreshore reserves also permitted holiday camping. By the mid-twentieth century, carparks had encroached into foreshore reserves and, outside Melbourne, camping areas had been developed as caravan parks. Many existing facilities at foreshore reserves were modernised in this period, and boating facilities were developed to accommodate the changing needs of water sports and commercial fishing.

2.2 History of the Elwood foreshore

The Elwood Foreshore covers an area of approximately 54 acres of land adjacent to Elwood Beach, from Head Street in the south to Point Ormond in the north. In a subdivision plan of land in the Parish of Prahran dated 1853, the area is marked as 'Ormond Beach' (Subdivision plan, Parish of Prahran, 1853, SLV). An 1857 map of the Village of Elsternwick (Figure 3) names the site as Ormond Beach. A track running through the site was marked on this map as 'Track from St Kilda to Brighton' ('Village of Elsternwick', 1857, SLV).

In 1865, a government proposal to sell the land for private use was retracted following submissions by residents citing the site's use as a public reserve (Heritage Alliance 2005:10). Although described as 'Public Gardens' in 1884 (Figure 4) it was not until 1869 that a large area of the foreshore, comprising 48 acres was temporarily reserved for the purpose of 'Public Gardens' (VGG, 6 August 1869:1193).

A plan of Elwood dated 26 January 1869 and signed by Assistant Commissioner of Lands and Survey, Clement Hodgkinson, showed proposed beach reserves within the locality. The area, which was to become Elwood Foreshore, was recommended to

be placed under the control of a Committee of Management to consist of four owners of land in Elwood, and the Mayor of St Kilda... subject to the condition, that this land will be enclosed by private subscription of landholders, at Elwood, with a view to being subsequently converted into an ornamental plantation, and recreation ground (Cooper 1931:187)

Records show that the Committee of Management was formed, however the early historian of St Kilda, John Butler Cooper, found no evidence of any involvement by the mayor within the committee's proceedings (Cooper 1931:187).

In 1874, a proposal was made for 54 acres to be set aside as a permanent reserve and the 48-acre temporary reservation was revoked while boundaries were negotiated (VGG, 23 January 1874: 143; VGG, 13 February 1874:310). In 1882, an area of the Elwood foreshore comprising 54 acres was permanently reserved for 'public recreation' (VGG, 6 October 1882:2424).

The site was described as 'Public Gardens' in a real estate agent's plan for the 'Sea Side Estate, Elsternwick', dated 1884 (see Figure 4).

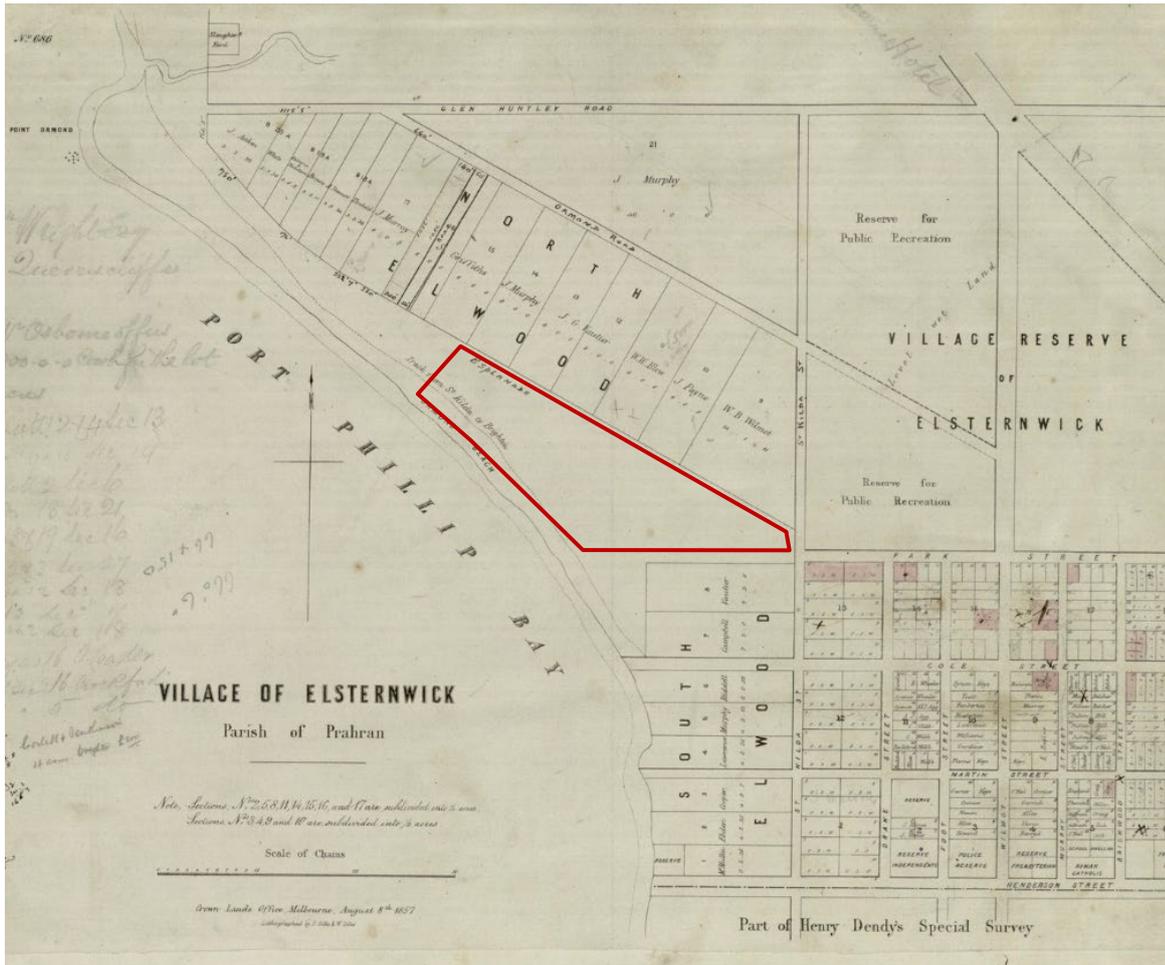


Figure 3. Map of the 'Village of Elsternwick, Parish of Prahran', dated 1857, showing a track from St Kilda to Brighton going through the site. The approximate location of the study area is shown outlined in red (Source: State Library Victoria)

The Elwood Rifle Butts occupied an 11-acre portion at the southern end of the reserve abutting Head Street. However, in the early 1900s there was growing community concern for public safety with this particular use of the area. The municipal councils of Brighton and St Kilda, as well as local yacht clubs, wrote to the Minister for Defense requesting the closure of the Rifle Butts (*Age* 17 May 1907:9). Its closure in 1907 added 11 acres of land at the southern end of the site for use as a public recreation reserve. In 1910 a motion was adopted by St Kilda City Council that management of the reserve would be undertaken by the Elsternwick Park Committee of Management (*Prahran Telegraph* 24 September 1910:5). This land was added to the existing reserve that adjoined the larger foreshore reserve on the north-west (VGG 1911).

The Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works detail plan dated 1911 shows the footprint of the former rifle butts (Figure 5), and two public bathrooms (Figure 6) within the site. A pathway is also evident along the beach.

By 1932, the whole site was used for public recreation only and was divided into two gazetted portions (Figure 7).

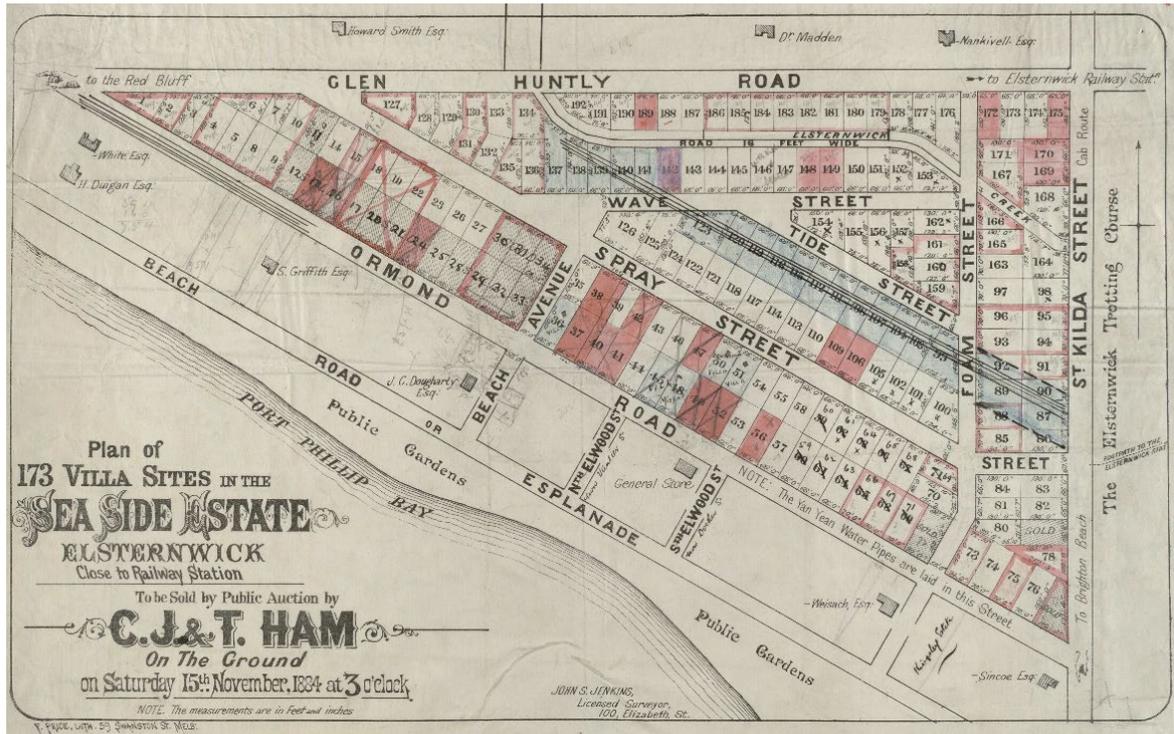


Figure 4. An 1884 plan of 173 villa sites in the 'Sea Side Estate Elsterwick', showing the site as Public Gardens. (Source: State Library Victoria)

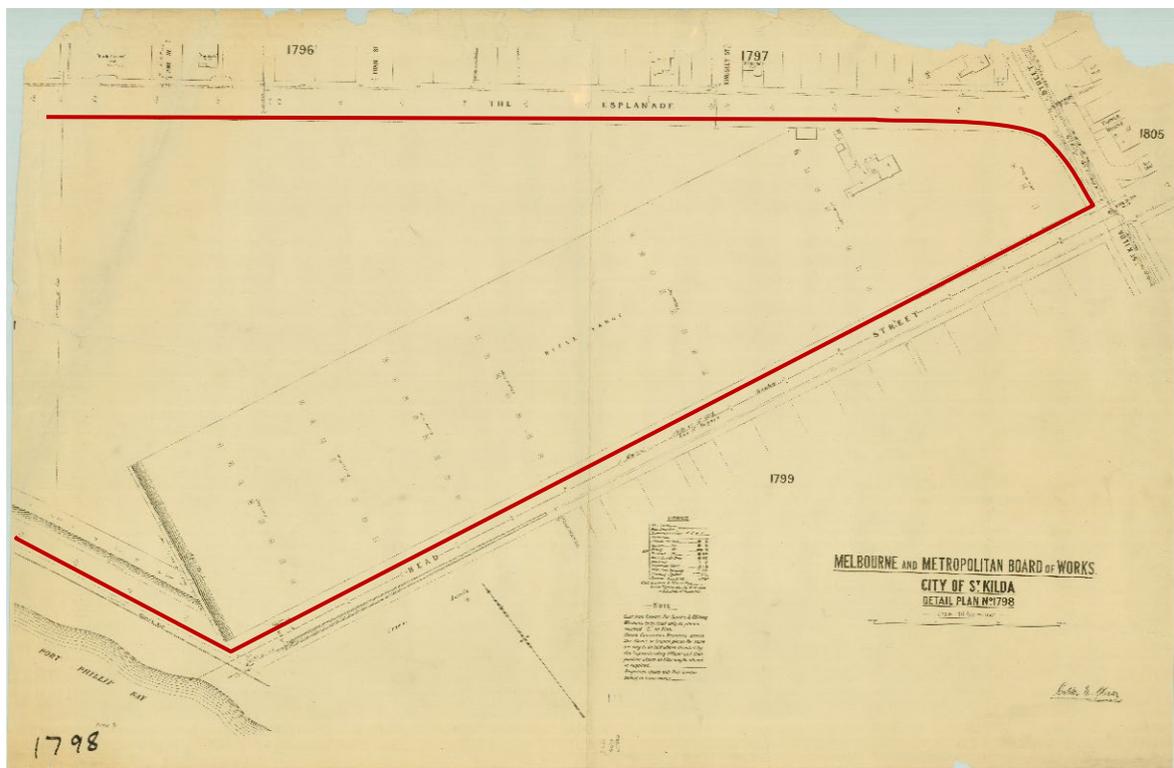


Figure 5. MMBW Detail Plan No. 1798, City of St Kilda, dated 1911, showing the rifle range north of Head Street. The approximate boundary of the portion of the study area visible in this plan is shown outlined in red (Source: State Library Victoria)

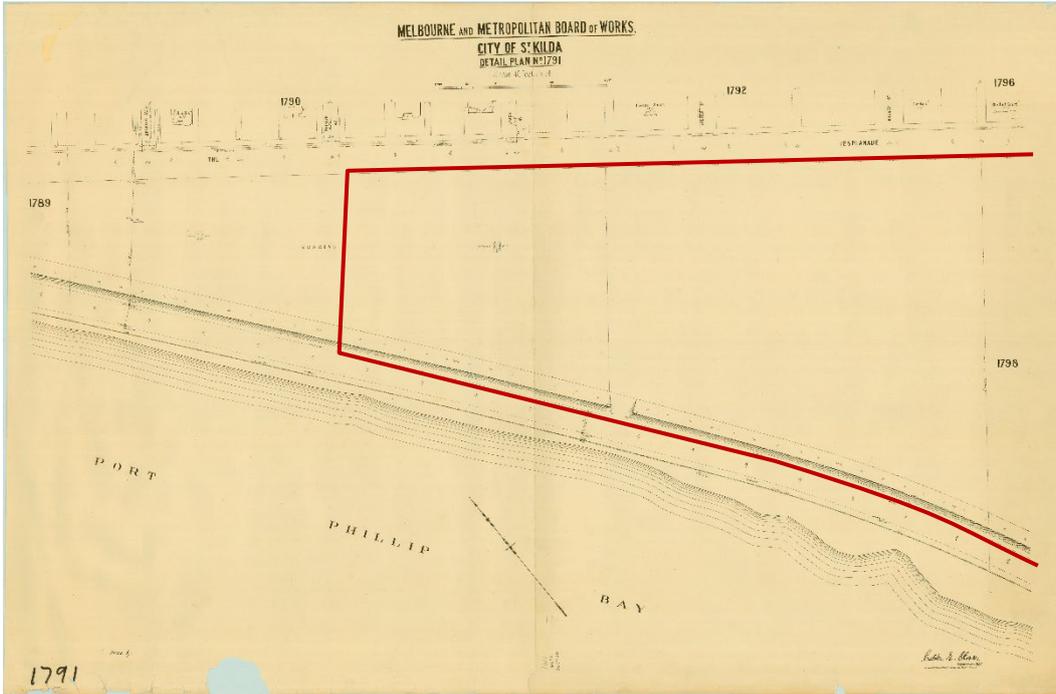


Figure 6. MMBW Detail Map No. 1791, City of St Kilda, dated 1911, showing the site as a Reserve. The approximate boundary of the portion of the study area visible in this plan is shown outlined in red (Source: State Library Victoria)

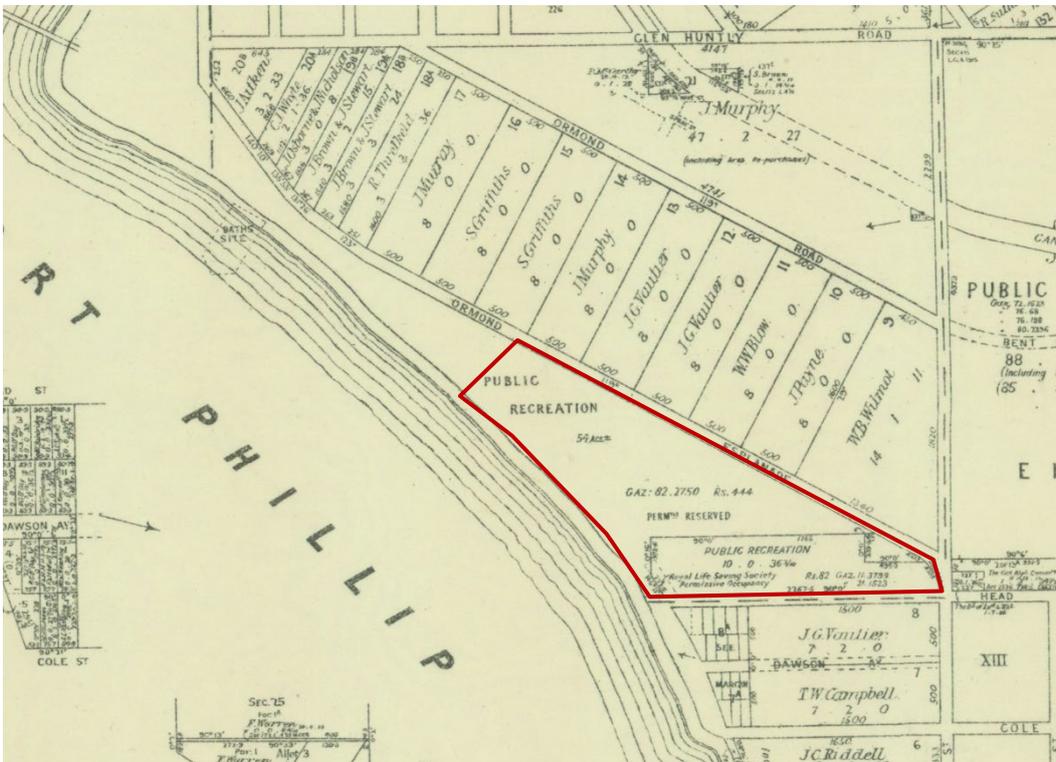


Figure 7. Detail of Prahran parish plan, dated 1932, showing the study area comprising 54 acres permanently reserved in 1882 for public recreation and an approximately 10-acre portion, formerly the rifle butts, allocated for public recreation in 1911 and permitting the occupancy of the Royal Life Saving Society. The approximate study area boundary is shown outlined in red (Source: State Library Victoria)

The Prahran parish plan, dated 2002, shows land within the reserve was granted for the Elwood Sailing Club (Club house extension granted 24 May 1938 and further extension 18 August 1947) and the Prahran & Elwood Angling Club Boat Shed site (3 January 1939). The temporary reservation of the Elwood Angling Club boat ramp was granted in 1986. This plan also shows the siting of the bowling green, tennis park, kiosk, the original croquet club, open sea bathing building and permissive occupancy for the Royal Life Saving Society (Figure 8).

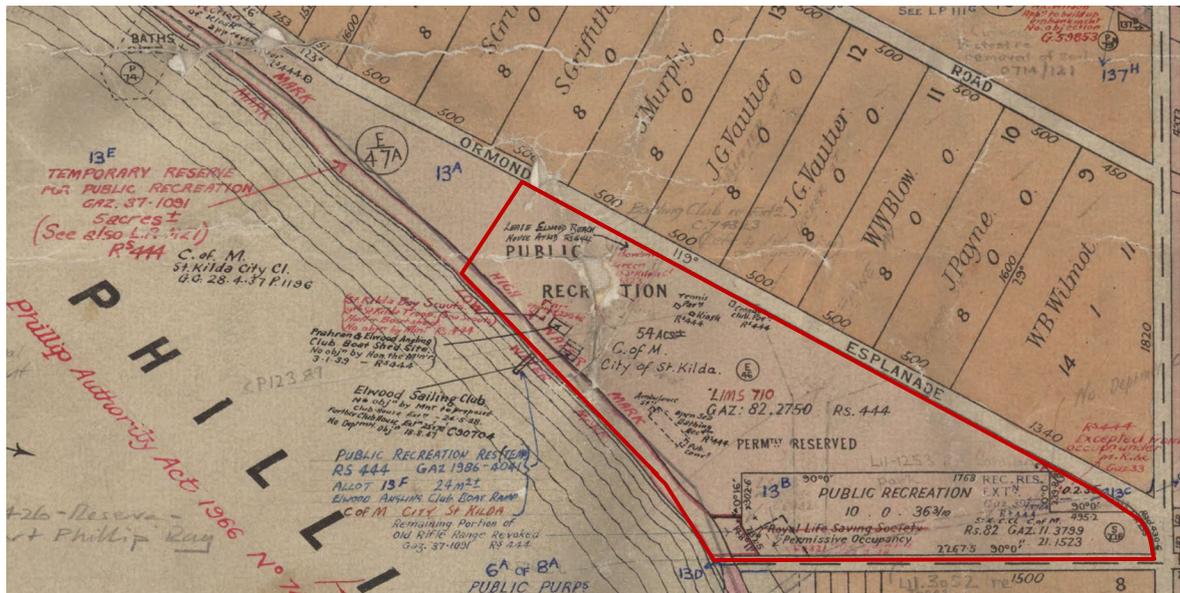


Figure 8. Detail of Prahran parish plan, dated 2002, showing the history of land grants and reservations on the site until 2002. The approximate study area boundary is shown outlined in red (Source: PROV)

Recreational area

Elwood beach developed as a popular recreational area for families in the early twentieth century with the extension of the tramways, swamp reclamation and closure of the rifle butts adjacent to Head Street. The first recreational club, the Elwood Surf Lifesaving Club, was founded in 1913 and its premises at Head Street was built in 1921. The club moved to its current premises designed by architect Don Fulton in 1971. A tea kiosk serving refreshments was built at Point Ormond (outside the study area) in 1916, followed by a second kiosk located towards Beach Avenue in 1921 (Heritage Alliance 2005:10). Point Ormond was noted as one of the more popular resorts for picnic parties outside Melbourne as early as 1893 (Victorian Places 2014). The Point Ormond hill provided views to Melbourne, and the Point Ormond pier was popular for fishing, boating and promenading.

Access to the foreshore improved greatly with the expansion of the tramways. The electric tramway from St Kilda Station to Park Brighton Beach via Broadway and Ormond Road was opened in 1906. In 1915 an electric tramway from Elsternwick to Point Ormond, just north of the Elwood foreshore, via Glemhantly Road was opened. In 1916 St Kilda Council opened tea rooms at the terminus which encouraged more day trippers. The tram service along this extension ceased operation in 1956 (Eidelson 2006).

In 1919, St Kilda City Council adopted the recommendation to rename the reserve between Normanby Road and Head Street as Elwood Park (*Malvern Standard* 30 August 1919:6).

Tree planting in the foreshore area commenced around the time of World War I (*Prahran Chronicle*, 30 January 1915: 3). This included the row of Norfolk Island Pines that fronted the foreshore (Figure 9) and ti-tree groves that were an apparent combination of remnant vegetation and trees planted by the local community in the early twentieth century (*Malvern Standard*, 6 April 1918:5; *Herald* 12 August 1927:6).

By the 1920s, the Elwood foreshore had become a popular summer picnic destination and sea-bathing was becoming prolific (*Prahran Telegraph* 3 January 1920:5). By 1927, it was reported that thousands of swimmers were flocking to the bathing resort of Elwood Beach during the summer months and St Kilda City Council proposed further improvement works. This included the proposal to remove loose boulders along the beach from Point Ormond to Head Street, and the levelling of an area at Elwood Park for a proposed croquet lawn. The proliferation of cars parked across the reserve at popular times prompted the suggestion to introduce car parking fees (*Age* 3 August 1927:15).

During the interwar period, a cluster of sporting club premises developed along the foreshore. The establishment of the lifesaving club was followed by that of the sailing club (1924), the bowling club (1925), the croquet club (1934) and the angling club (c.1939). Public tennis courts were built in about 1931 (Heritage Alliance 2005:11).



Figure 9. Aerial image c.1925 taken by Charles Daniel Pratt of the northern end of Elwood foreshore reserve, facing east. Clumps of tea tree are evident at the northern end of the site and a formal planting of Norfolk Island Pines lines the beachfront. The approximate boundary of the study area visible in this image is shown outlined in red (Source: State Library Victoria, Accession No. H91.160/1665)



Figure 10. Aerial photograph taken by Charles Daniel Pratt in 1929, showing the southern end of the reserve, the original Sea Canoe Building is visible near the top right of the image as are tennis courts and the original croquet greens opposite Docker Street. The former rifle range remains legible at the southern end of the foreshore reserve. The approximate boundary of the study area is shown outlined in red (Source: State Library Victoria, Accession No. H91.160/1637)

In the 1930s, the Elwood Progress Association called on the St Kilda City Council to allocate greater expenditure for a beautification scheme for Elwood Park and the Elwood foreshore. They protested the lack of funding provided for this stretch of foreshore when compared to the St Kilda Esplanade (*Age* 5 December 1933:11). Concern had been frequently raised throughout the 1910s and 1920s about the relative neglect to the portion of foreshore between Point Ormond and Head Street, Elwood (*Prahran Chronicle* 30 March 1918:5). The St Kilda City Council undertook improvement plans for Elwood Park in c.1933. In 1934, as part of a general beautification scheme for the foreshore, the St Kilda City Council decided to plant two extra rows of tea tree on the Elwood Park front of Elwood Esplanade, south of the croquet lawns. They proposed to use sustenance labor to complete the works (*Herald* 15 May 1934:4). Regulations for the 'Care, Protection and Management of the 'Elwood Reserves' were gazetted in 1937 (VGG, 15 September 1937:2859).

The Head Reserve at the corner of Head Street and St Kilda Road, which was reserved in 1911, was developed with a geometric path layout and plantings by 1940, as visible in an aerial photo of that date (Aerial photo, 1940, SLV).

The postwar period saw the loss of several foreshore structures. This included the original Point Ormond kiosk and jetty (demolished in the 1950s), the original angling club (destroyed by fire c.1958) and the sea bathing pavilion (demolished in 1971). A program of replacement and rebuilding of premises included the reconstruction of the angling club and the construction of the scout hall in 1958 followed by a new and relocated lifesaving club in 1971 (Heritage Alliance 2005:11). The croquet club was re-located from its original position, opposite Docker Street, and a new croquet clubhouse was built adjacent new greens in Head Street in the 1970s (Heritage Alliance 2005:11).

Other recreational facilities that were established along the foreshore at this time included a cricket ground in the 1950s and a soccer clubroom built in 1980 (Heritage Alliance 2005:11).

In the 1990s the Elwood Bowling Club (opposite Beach Avenue), which was the only original clubhouse remaining on the foreshore, changed use and underwent alterations to convert become the Beach House Community Centre and Cafe (Heritage Alliance 2005:52 and Eidelson 2006).



Figure 11. Aerial photograph of the Elwood foreshore taken by Adastra Airways in 1945 showing the former Elwood Sailing Club and Elwood Angling Club buildings, tennis courts, original croquet lawns, cricket pitch and the plantings and paths laid out at Head Reserve. The area to the north of the reserve retains indigenous tea tree. The approximate boundary of the study area is shown outlined in red (Source: University of Melbourne, Photomap 848 D2B)

2.2.1 Timeline for the development of Elwood Foreshore

| | |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1857 | 1857 plan of the 'Village of Elsternwick, Parish of Prahran' names the site as Ormond Beach and shows a 'track from St Kilda to Brighton' through the site. |
| 1864 | The foreshore is described as 'Public Gardens' (Figure 4) |
| 1869 | A large area of the foreshore (48 acres) was temporarily reserved for the purpose of 'Public Gardens' |
| 1874 | A 54 acre site for a Public Garden bounded by the rifle ranges reserve, Ormond Beach, the prolongation of Barkly Street and the creek forming the southern boundary of the abattoir site was proposed to be permanently reserved in January (VGG, 23 January 1874: 143). The temporary reservation of 48 acres was revoked in February as the boundaries were being altered (VGG, 13 February 1874:310) |
| 1882 | 54 acres at Elwood foreshore were permanently reserved for 'public recreation' |
| 1906 | Opening of electric tramway from St Kilda to Brighton via Ormond Road and St Kilda Street improves access to the area. |
| 1907 | Closure of the rifle butts abutting Head Street |
| 1915 | Opening of electric tramway from Elsternwick to Point Ormond via Glen Huntly Road improves access to the foreshore. Tramway extends along Ormond Road to Point Ormond, just north of the Elwood foreshore, improving access to the area |
| 1916 | Point Ormond Kiosk opened |
| 1919 | St Kilda Council adopts the recommendation to rename the reserve as Elwood Park. |
| 1921 | Elwood Park Kiosk constructed |
| 1921 | Elwood Life Saving Club constructed |
| c.1924 | Elwood Sea Canoe Club constructed |
| c.1925 | Lawn Bowling Club constructed |
| 1927 | Men's and women's conveniences erected at Elwood Park |
| c.1927 | Elwood Croquet Club established on the reserve |
| c.1928 | Sea Bathing Pavilion constructed |
| c.1931 | Tennis Courts constructed |
| c.1933 | Landscaping of Elwood Park and reservation of the area for public recreation |
| c.1934 | Elwood Croquet Club constructed Beautification scheme sees extra rows of tea tree planted along the foreshore |
| 1937 | Regulations for the 'Care, Protection and Management of the 'Elwood Reserves' gazetted |
| c.1939 | Elwood Angling Club constructed |
| 1956 | Elwood Sailing Club involved in the Melbourne Olympic Games |
| 1957 | Fire destroys Elwood Angling Club |

| | |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| c.1958 | Elwood Angling Club re constructed Elwood Sea Scout Hall (now BAYWAC Scout Centre) constructed |
| 1970s | Elwood Croquet Club relocated to Head Street and a new building constructed |
| 1971 | New Lifesaving Club constructed |
| 1990s | Elwood Bowling Club closes, becoming Elwood Beach House Café |

3.0 Approach and methodology

3.1 Introduction

This study was carried out in accordance with the set of tasks defined in Council's project brief and has focused on the assessment of four buildings without existing heritage controls, that is, the Elwood Scouts Hall (Bay WAC), the Elwood Angling Club, the Elwood Sailing Club and the Elwood Croquet Club.

The study was prepared in accordance with *The Burra Charter: The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Heritage Significance* (rev. 2013). While not aimed at conclusively assessing the subject places for inclusion within the City of Port Phillip Heritage Overlay, the study has been prepared generally in accordance with the Victoria Planning Provisions Practice Note No. 1 'Applying the Heritage Overlay' (2018) (the 'Practice Note').

The Burra Charter was written by Australia ICOMOS, a branch of the UNESCO cultural heritage advisory body in 1977, and has been revised several times since, most recently in 2013. This document established so-called 'values-based' assessment of heritage places, looking at their social, aesthetic, historic and scientific values. Since that time, standard heritage criteria have been based on these values. In the late twentieth century, the most commonly used standard criteria were the Australian Heritage Commission (AHC) criteria for the Register of the National Estate.

The AHC criteria have since been superseded by the Heritage Council Criteria for the Assessment of Cultural Heritage Significance (HERCON). These assessment criteria were adopted at the 1998 Conference on Heritage, and by the Heritage Council of Victoria in 2008, and are substantially based on the AHC criteria. The Practice Note recommends the use of the HERCON criteria for carrying out heritage assessments. They are set out in Section 3.2.5.

3.2 Assessment and reporting

3.2.1 Locality and thematic history

A locality history for the Elwood foreshore area was prepared and is included as Section 2 of this report. This history of the area provides an overview of the historical use and development of the foreshore reserve.

Thematic histories for each place were also prepared and are included in the individual place assessments (Appendix A) to provide a historical context for each place. For example, the assessment of the Elwood Sailing Club provides a brief thematic history of sailing as a form of recreation in the local area.

3.2.2 Place histories

Individual histories were prepared for each place and are included in the individual place assessments (Appendix A). These provide answers to fundamental questions such as when each place was created/built, for whom, by whom (builder and designer), for what purpose, and how it changed over time (both physically and in use).

3.2.3 Site visit and documentation

Site visits to each place involved an external and internal inspection. These visits informed the subsequent preparation of the description.

A description of each place was prepared and is provided in Appendix A. This set out the context (wider setting), the elements of the site (for example, relationship of multiple buildings on site, fence, landscaping), the size and massing of the building(s), materials, stylistic influence(s), features of note, any alterations and poor condition if noted.

3.2.4 Comparative analysis

Comparative analysis is an essential step to determining if a place or precinct meets the local (or State) threshold for heritage significance. The 'Applying the Heritage Overlay' Practice Note (2015) advises that:

... some comparative analysis will be required to substantiate the significance of each place. The comparative analysis should draw on other similar places within the study area, including those that have previously been included in a heritage register or overlay.

Comparative analysis is considered particularly important in deciding if a place is of architectural significance or of rarity value in a given area but can be applied to most place types to determine their relative importance in a locality or wider area.

For the purposes of this study, the City of Port Phillip was considered the minimal scope for comparative analysis to establish local significance. Comparative examples were provided by the City of Port Phillip heritage adviser and additional examples from outside the municipality were included where relevant.

In the comparative analysis process, similar places (in terms of built-date, type, and/or architectural style) already included in the Port Phillip Heritage Overlay were used as 'benchmarks' to provide a basis for comparison. The assessed heritage places were compared according to a range of criteria, including how well they represented a historical theme, their architectural design quality, and their intactness and rarity.

3.2.5 Assessment against criteria

In accordance with the 'Applying the Heritage Overlay' Practice Note (2018), heritage places in Victoria are no longer assigned a letter grade but are identified as meeting either the threshold of 'State Significance' or 'Local Significance'. Places of Local Significance can include places that are important to a particular community or locality. Some of the places of local significance may also be important to the entire City of Port Phillip, but this is not essential to meet the Local Significance threshold.

The Practice Note advises that assessment of whether a place meets the local or state threshold should be determined in relation to model heritage criteria (also known as the HERCON Criteria) which are as follows:

Criterion A: Importance to the course or pattern of our cultural or natural history (historical significance).

Criterion B: Possession of uncommon rare or endangered aspects of our cultural or natural history (rarity).

Criterion C: Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of our cultural or natural history (research potential).

Criterion D: Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural or natural places or environments (representativeness).

Criterion E: Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics (aesthetic significance).

Criterion F: Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period (technical significance).

Criterion G: Strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons. This includes the significance of a place to Indigenous peoples as part of their continuing and developing cultural traditions (social significance).

Criterion H: Special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in our history (associative significance).

In the context of these assessments, where the criteria say, 'our cultural or natural history', it should be understood as 'Elwood's' or 'Port Phillip's cultural or natural history'.

For each place, a discussion was prepared for each of the criteria where that place was considered to have the potential of meeting the threshold of local significance. These discussions are included in the detailed assessments provided in Appendix A.

3.3 Findings

As noted above, Council requested heritage assessment of four places within the Elwood foreshore area: the Elwood Scouts Hall (Bay WAC), the Elwood Angling Club, the Elwood Sailing Club and the Elwood Croquet Club. The detailed assessments can be found in Appendix A. Table 1 below provides a summary of the preliminary findings

Table 1. Preliminary findings.

| | Name | History and description summary | Recommendation |
|----|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. | Elwood Sailing Club | Initially established as a Sea Canoe Club in 1924 (the first in Australia) the Elwood Sailing Club played an important role in the development and design of new yachting craft unique to Elwood Beach, notably, the Seahorse class. The building has been incrementally altered but the Club has strong social connections linked with its long and continuing association with sea canoeing and sailing. | Potential significance against HERCON Criteria A and G. The Elwood Sailing Club should be considered as part of a group of the three buildings (the Sailing Club, Anglers Club and Scouts Hall) that survive as evidence of the early and enduring recreational use of the area. |

| | | | |
|----|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2. | Elwood Anglers Club | Elwood Angling Club was one of the earliest angling clubs established in Melbourne, established in 1901 as the Prahran Angling Club and Fish Protection Society. The club relocated to the Elwood foreshore in 1939. The first weatherboard clubhouse was destroyed by fire in 1957 and was replaced by the current building later that year. Architecturally, the Elwood Anglers Club building is a fine representative of a sporting clubhouse built in 1957-58 by club members in the Modernist style. | Potential significance against HERCON Criteria A, D and G. The Elwood Anglers Club should be considered as part of a group of the three buildings (the Sailing Club, Anglers Club and Scouts Hall) that survive as evidence of the early and enduring recreational use of the area. |
| 3. | Elwood Scouts Hall (Bay WAC) | The Elwood Scouts Hall was constructed c.1958 and was used by the 9th St Kilda-Elwood Sea Scouts. Following the closure of the 9th St Kilda-Elwood Sea Scouts group, the hall was used by all Scout groups in the area. The building is modest and internally altered but has social significance for its long and continuing association with the scouting movement and the sea scouts in particular. | Potential significance against HERCON Criteria A and G. The Elwood Scouts Hall should be considered as part of a group of the three buildings (the Sailing Club, Anglers Club and Scouts Hall) that survive as evidence of the early and enduring recreational use of the area. |
| 4. | Elwood Croquet Club | The Elwood Croquet Club was formed in 1927; the first clubhouse building was located on the Elwood foreshore reserve opposite Docker Street from 1934. The current Elwood Croquet Club was erected on its current site in the 1970s. It evidences the popularity of croquet in Victoria, particularly between 1914 and the 1960s. Architecturally, the Elwood Croquet Club building is a fine representative example of a modest sporting pavilion built in the 1970s. | Potential significance against HERCON Criteria A, D and G. |

Cultural heritage landscape potential

While an assessment of the Elwood foreshore landscape more broadly was outside the commissioned scope of this study, we note that the Elwood foreshore area was reserved as 'public gardens' in 1869. The area has a number of potentially significant trees and other landscape elements that would likely be found to contribute to the cultural heritage of the broader precinct. We recommend that a heritage assessment of the landscape values be undertaken as part of the master planning process if this has not already been undertaken.

4.0 Recommendations

4.1 Introduction

This section provides high-level recommendations resulting from the Elwood Foreshore Facilities Strategy Heritage Review and its assessment of the Elwood Scouts Hall (Bay WAC), the Elwood Angling Club, the Elwood Sailing Club and the Elwood Croquet Club.

4.1.1 Further assessment and community consultation

On the grounds of the preliminary heritage assessments carried out as part of this report, which identify the potential heritage significance of four buildings at the Elwood Foreshore Reserve, it is recommended that Port Phillip City Council consider undertaking further detailed assessments of these sites—namely, Elwood Scouts Hall (Bay WAC), the Elwood Angling Club, the Elwood Sailing Club and the Elwood Croquet Club—with a view to considering their inclusion within the Port Phillip Heritage Overlay.

All four buildings subject to preliminary assessments were found to possess potential historical and social significance. In this sense they compare well with the two other buildings within the Elwood foreshore reserve that already have individual Heritage Overlays (HO427 – Former Elwood Bowling Club and HO428 – Elwood Lifesaving Club).

The potential historical and social values of the long terms occupation of the foreshore area by the Elwood Scouts, the Elwood Angling Club, the Elwood Sailing Club and the Elwood Croquet Club are primarily associative, insofar as they relate to the historical use of the area for sporting and recreational purposes within the foreshore context. However, the Elwood Angling Club and the Elwood Croquet Club were found to have merit as good representative examples of their respective building types (see below).

It is recommended that the potential social heritage and associative values could be further tested through a process of community consultation, and that this could be used to inform the detailed heritage assessment of these four places.

4.1.2 Location, setting and views

The beachside location, setting and foreshore views of each beachside Club/Association should be respected in any masterplan options developed for the Elwood foreshore area.

4.1.3 Grouping and identity of the beachside buildings

The three buildings that directly front Elwood Beach (the Elwood Scouts Hall (Bay WAC), the Elwood Angling Club, the Elwood Sailing Club) were found to create a cohesive precinct with their immediate foreshore location reflecting their association with activities linked to the sporting and recreational use of this area. The three buildings are also associated by their typological similarities and similar use. In broad terms the built form of each comprises a ground floor area for the storage of craft and equipment associated with their respective water activities while the upper floor provides areas associated with the surveillance of the foreshore area and social activities.

The independent and non-homogeneous expression of the function and identity of each club/association is considered an important part of this grouping and its contribution to the historical interpretation of the Elwood foreshore area.

4.1.4 Preserve Elwood Angling Club

While the Elwood Sailing Club building has been extensively altered and the Elwood Scouts Hall is somewhat altered and unprepossessing in terms of its architectural expression, the Elwood Anglers Club was found to possess potential significance as a representative and highly intact example of a mid-nineteenth century sporting clubhouse built by club members in the modernist style. It is considered that the Anglers Club embodies heritage values in its built fabric and is a good candidate for preservation.

4.1.5 Preserve Elwood Croquet Club

The Elwood Croquet Club building was found to be a fine representative example of a modest sporting pavilion built in the 1970s. Similar to the Angling Club, the Elwood Croquet Club embodies heritage values in its built fabric and is a good candidate for preservation.

4.1.6 Assess landscape values of the Elwood Foreshore Reserve

As noted above, it is recommended that a heritage assessment of the landscape values of the Elwood Foreshore Reserve be undertaken as part of the master planning process in order to assess the cultural landscape potential of the place.

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5.0 Appendix A—Place assessments

5 ELWOOD FORESHORE, ELWOOD

Elwood Sailing Club

Prepared by: Context

Survey Date: July 2020

Place Type: Community

Architect: Peter Elliot (1992)

Significance level: Significant

Builder: --

Extent of overlay: --

Construction Date: 1975-1992



Figure 1. Elwood Sailing Club in 2020. (Source: Context)



Figure 2. View towards beach from Elwood Sailing Club in 2020. (Source: Context)

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Foreshore reserves in Victoria

Unlike the case in some other Australian colonies, the Victorian Government had alienated most of the coastal land in the colony for public use to prevent it from being available for private sale. From 1860 an Order-in-Council ruled that government surveyors were required to set a margin of 100 feet along all major water frontages, including coast, permanent freshwater lakes and navigable rivers. As a result, Victoria had an almost continuous line of beach and foreshore preserved for public use, usually as a Crown land reserve. A local council would typically assert its preference for a particular kind of reservation to be made, and generally these were reserved as a site for public purposes, public recreation, public park or public gardens. Most of these reserves were established between the 1860s and the 1880s, and the local council was usually appointed as the Committee of Management; the local council was responsible for permitting and prohibiting certain uses of the reserve, through the establishment and enforcement of rules and regulations.

In the second half of the nineteenth century there was growing interest in the health benefits of sea bathing and taking the 'sea air', which saw the foreshore areas of some of Melbourne's more fashionable seaside locations, namely St Kilda and Brighton, take shape as popular recreational areas. Sea bathing facilities were introduced, as well as bathing boxes or dressing pavilions. Boating facilities were also a standard feature of foreshore reserves, initially as utilitarian structures to service fishing, but piers also became popular attractions for recreational use and boat ramps were installed to service recreational vessels.

As the opportunity for leisure time grew by the late-nineteenth century, foreshore reserves developed as places of entertainment and refreshment with the introduction of tea rooms and kiosks, band rotundas, and seaside amusements. A number of foreshore reserves took on the appearance of a pleasure ground – for example in the case of St Kilda, and in fashionable seaside resorts outside Melbourne, such as Mornington, Sorrento and Queenscliff. In the early twentieth century, foreshore reserves were improved with serviced picnic facilities, and public gardens and ornamental trees; in some cases sea walls were erected. It was also common for small parcels of land on foreshore reserves to be allocated for various sporting activities, including tennis, bowls and croquet. Often this was at the instigation of a local sports club but local councils also took the initiative to provide these facilities. With the increased popularity of swimming, life-saving clubs were also established. Outside Melbourne, foreshore reserves also permitted holiday camping. By the mid-twentieth century, carparks had encroached into foreshore reserves and outside Melbourne, camping areas had been developed as caravan parks. Many existing facilities at foreshore reserves were modernised in this period, and boating facilities were developed to accommodate the changing needs of water sports and commercial fishing.

Elwood Foreshore Timeline

| | |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1857 | 1857 plan of the 'Village of Elsternwick, Parish of Prahran' names the site as Ormond Beach and shows a 'track from St Kilda to Brighton' through the site. |
| 1864 | The foreshore is described as 'Public Gardens' (Figure 4) |
| 1869 | A large area of the foreshore (48 acres) was temporarily reserved for the purpose of 'Public Gardens' |
| 1874 | A 54 acre site for a Public Garden bounded by the rifle ranges reserve, Ormond Beach, the prolongation of Barkly Street and the creek forming the southern boundary of the abattoir site was proposed to be permanently reserved in January (VGG, 23 January 1874: 143). The temporary reservation of 48 acres was revoked in February as the boundaries were being altered (VGG, 13 February 1874:310) |
| 1882 | 54 acres at Elwood foreshore were permanently reserved for 'public recreation' |
| 1906 | Opening of electric tramway from St Kilda to Brighton via Ormond Road and St Kilda Street improves access to the area. |
| 1907 | Closure of the rifle butts abutting Head Street |
| 1915 | Opening of electric tramway from Elsternwick to Point Ormond via Glen Huntly Road improves access to the foreshore. Tramway extends along Ormond Road to Point Ormond, just north of the Elwood foreshore, improving access to the area |
| 1916 | Point Ormond Kiosk opened |
| 1919 | St Kilda Council adopts the recommendation to rename the reserve as Elwood Park. |
| 1921 | Elwood Park Kiosk constructed |
| 1921 | Elwood Life Saving Club constructed |
| c.1924 | Elwood Sea Canoe Club constructed |
| c.1925 | Lawn Bowling Club constructed |
| 1927 | Men's and women's conveniences erected at Elwood Park |
| c.1927 | Elwood Croquet Club established on the reserve |
| c.1928 | Sea Bathing Pavilion constructed |
| c.1931 | Tennis Courts constructed |
| c.1933 | Landscaping of Elwood Park and reservation of the area for public recreation |
| c.1934 | Elwood Croquet Club constructed Beautification scheme sees extra rows of tea tree planted along the foreshore |
| 1937 | Regulations for the 'Care, Protection and Management of the 'Elwood Reserves' gazetted |
| c.1939 | Elwood Angling Club constructed |
| 1956 | Elwood Sailing Club involved in the Melbourne Olympic Games |
| 1957 | Fire destroys Elwood Angling Club |
| c.1958 | Elwood Angling Club re constructed Elwood Sea Scout Hall (now BAYWAC Scout Centre) constructed |
| 1970s | Elwood Croquet Club relocated to Head Street and a new building constructed |
| 1971 | New Lifesaving Club constructed |
| 1990s | Elwood Bowling Club closes, becoming Elwood Beach House Café |

Recreational area

Elwood beach developed as a recreational centre in the early twentieth century. The closure of the rifle butts near Head Street in 1907 opened up 11 acres of land at the southern end of the site (Heritage Alliance 2005:10). This was added to the much larger area of coastal land at Elwood that had been permanently reserved for public recreation in 1882.

In 1919, St Kilda Council adopted the recommendation to rename the reserve between Normanby Road and Head Street as Elwood Park (*Malvern Standard* 30 August 1919:6).

During the interwar period, a cluster of sporting club premises developed along the foreshore: the lifesaving club (1921), the sailing club (1924), the bowling club (c. 1925), the croquet club (c.1937) and the angling club (c.1939). Apart from the former bowling club, all other original buildings were replaced in the post-war period (Heritage Alliance 2005:52).

Sailing

The popularity of sailing as a form of recreation is reflected in its early introduction to the state of Victoria, with the first racing regatta held in Port Phillip Bay in 1838 (*eMelbourne: Yachting*). Sailing in smaller boats became popular in the early 20th century. Following a decline during the war periods, its resurgence in popularity following World War II coincided with the increase in car ownership thus enabling transportation on trailers which in turn influenced dinghy design. These smaller, lighter classes of boat were typically designed to be constructed of waterproof plywood, often offered in kits and easily built by home handymen. The ease of manoeuvring dinghy sailing boats increased access and participation of this leisure-time activity to women and children. Eighteen sailing clubs built clubhouses on Port Phillip Bay between 1945 and 1972 (*eMelbourne: Yachting*). Today there are over a dozen active sailing and yacht clubs in Victoria.

PLACE HISTORY

Established in May 1924, the Elwood Sea Canoe Club was the first sea canoe club in Australia, with the original club house erected in November primarily to house the canoes. Beach storage for the canoes, typically 16 to 18 feet long, was required as car ownership among the membership was uncommon limiting transportation options (Burnham nd). Club members competed in regattas across Port Phillip Bay throughout the 1920s and began experimenting with fitting sails to the canoes towards the end of the decade (Elwood Sailing Club).



Figure 3. Sea Canoes at Elwood Beach. (Source: *Argus*, 13 April 1925:7)

In 1927 the Elwood Sea Canoe Club applied to the local council for an additional grant of land to extend the full length of the building by a depth of 20 feet to enable the housing of canoes (*Prahran Telegraph* 1 April 1927:5). Canoes were carried to the water via a short ramp leading from the promenade wall to the beach. In September 1929 Mr C Shepard, Hon Secretary. of the Elwood Sea Canoe Club, wrote to the St Kilda City Council, suggesting the ramp was too steep and requested an extension to reduce the angle (*Prahran Telegraph* 13 September 1929:1). In October that year, the council decided to construct a ramp from the sea wall to the beach in the vicinity of the Elwood Sea Canoe Club, permitting the club to extend the timber ramp seaward, subject to the approval of the city surveyor (*Prahran Telegraph* 11 October 1929: 2).

The club was involved in the development and design of new yachting craft unique to Elwood Beach, notably, the Seahorse class. The precursor to the Seahorse, and the first effort at creating a sailing sea canoe, was the *Chance*, a 16 foot long by 4 foot wide craft with large watertight bulkheads fore and aft, a bowsprit and a gunter mainsail (Elwood Sailing Club). In 1934, the first Seahorse was built and by 1939, 22 had been constructed, 21 by amateur builders. It is suggested that the design developed as an evolution of hybrid canoes which had been used at the beach. The Seahorse then evolved into the Seahorse One Design Class (Burnham nd).



Figure 4. Photograph c.1925 showing sea canoes fitted with sails in front of the clubhouse which did not have the central observation deck or clock added yet. Source: (Elwood Sailing Club)

By the 1930s the emphasis had changed from canoeing to sailing, and in 1939 the Sea Canoe Club became the Elwood Sailing Club. The club continued to participate in sailing competitions, as well as more social events like the 'Aquatic Revue' of 1931, held jointly with local community, swimming and lifesaving clubs (Figure 5). In 1972 the club reintroduced a seahorse sail insignia on the Elwood Junior catamaran, a yacht designed specifically for the club (Elwood Sailing Club: History). Today the club participates in sailing competitions and offers boat storage, sailing classes and venue hire. The Prahran parish plan (2002) shows the clubhouse extensions were granted in 1939 and 1947.



Figure 5. 1931 Advertisement poster for the 'Aquatic Revue'. (Source: *Herald*, 30 October 1931:11)



Figure 6. Seahorse insignia visible on the sail of the Elwood Seahorse sailing canoe. (Source: *Age*, 28 July 1972:12)

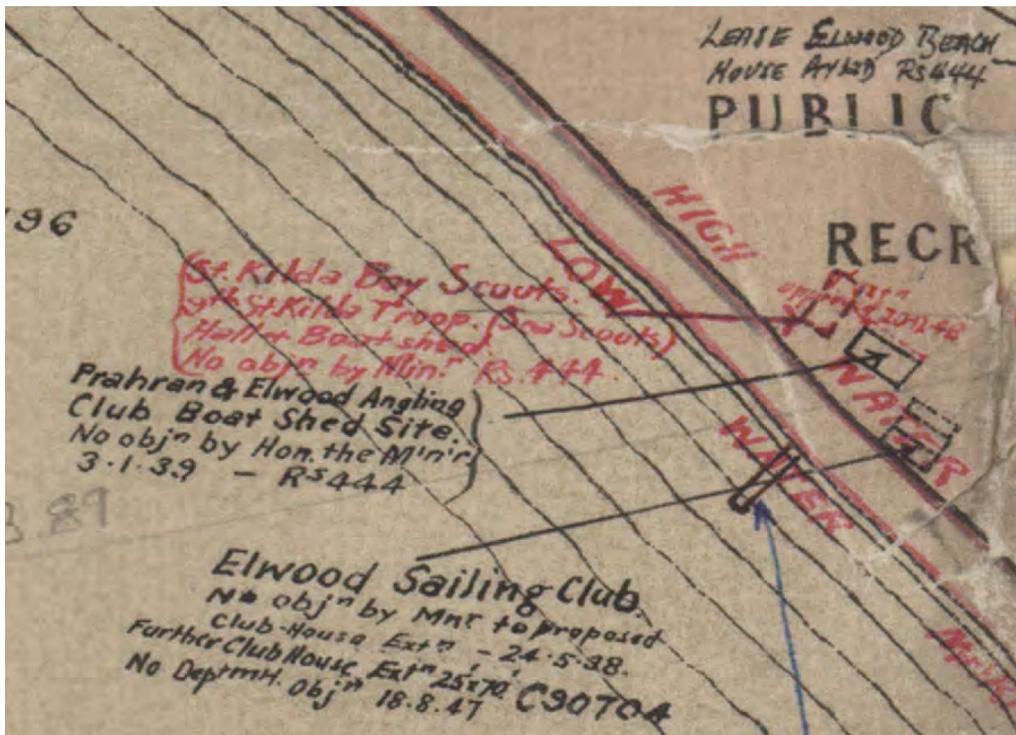


Figure 7. Detail of Prahran-3 Parish Plan, Imperial measure P3416-4 showing club house extensions granted to the Elwood Sailing Club on 24 May 1938 and further extensions on 18 August 1947 (Source: PROV)



Figure 8. Photograph taken in 1944 noting the tree on the left side of the building (Source: Elwood Sailing Club)



Figure 9. The Elwood Foreshore c.1944-1954, showing the club building with added observation deck and clock on the right (red highlight). Photograph by Rose Stereograph Co. (Source: State Library of Victoria)

Between c.1925 (Figure 4) and 1944 (Figure 8) an observation deck and clock were added to the M-roofed built form that is visible in these early photographs of the building. Between the mid-1940s and 1975 the building was altered considerably. The main change was the raising of the height of the lower section of the south facing wall to match that of the central section. A horizontal band of windows was created in this area and changes were made to ground floor openings, with the number of doorways

reduced but increased in width. An unusual roof profile emerged as a result of these changes (Figure 10).

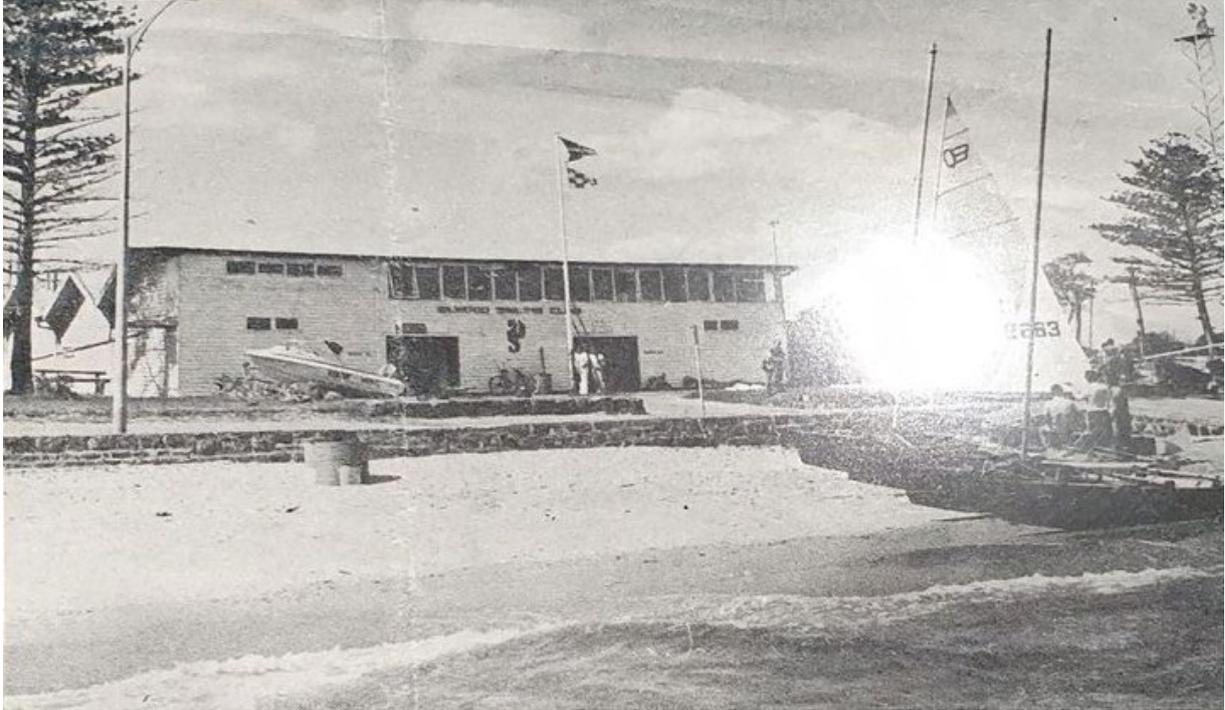


Figure 10. Photograph taken in 1975 before alterations were made to create two storeys at the southern end. The interesting roof form of the building is visible in profile on the left side. (Source: Elwood Sailing Club)

A second storey at the southern end of the building was proposed in drawings, dated 1975 (Figures 11-13) and is evident in a photograph taken c.1990 (Figure 14). A building permit for works costing \$35,000 was granted in August 1975.

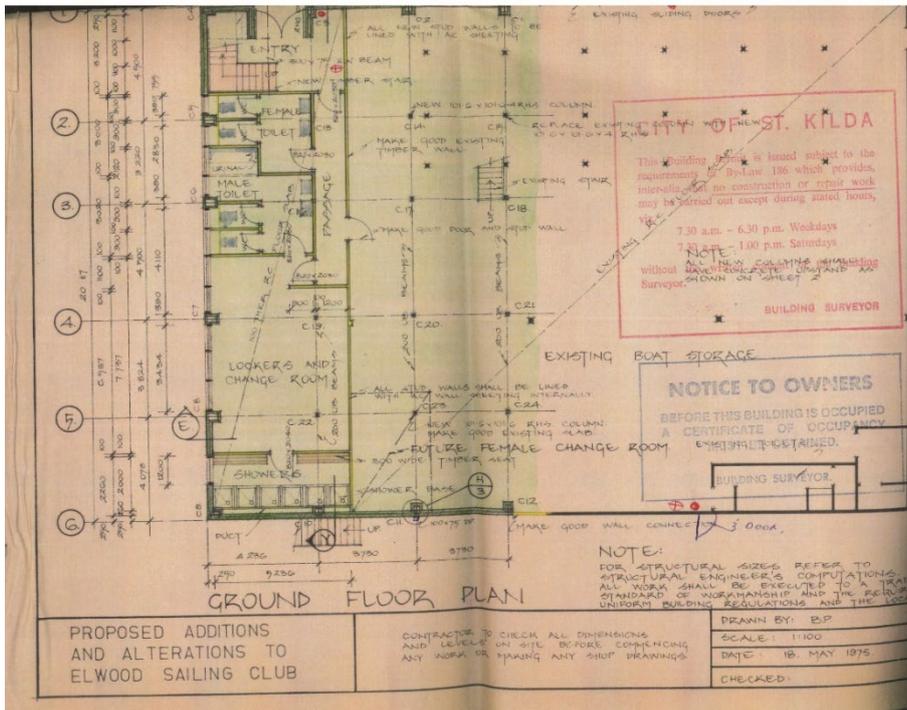


Figure 11. Detail of the Ground Floor Plan, dated 1975. (Source: City of St Kilda)

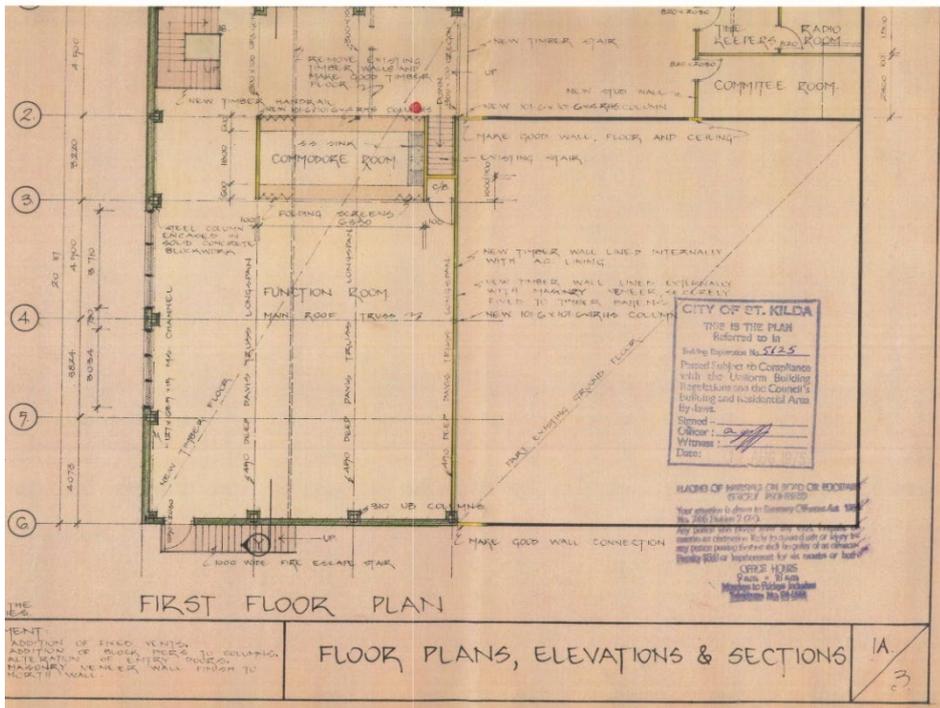


Figure 12. Detail of the First Floor Plan, dated 1975. (Source: City of St Kilda)

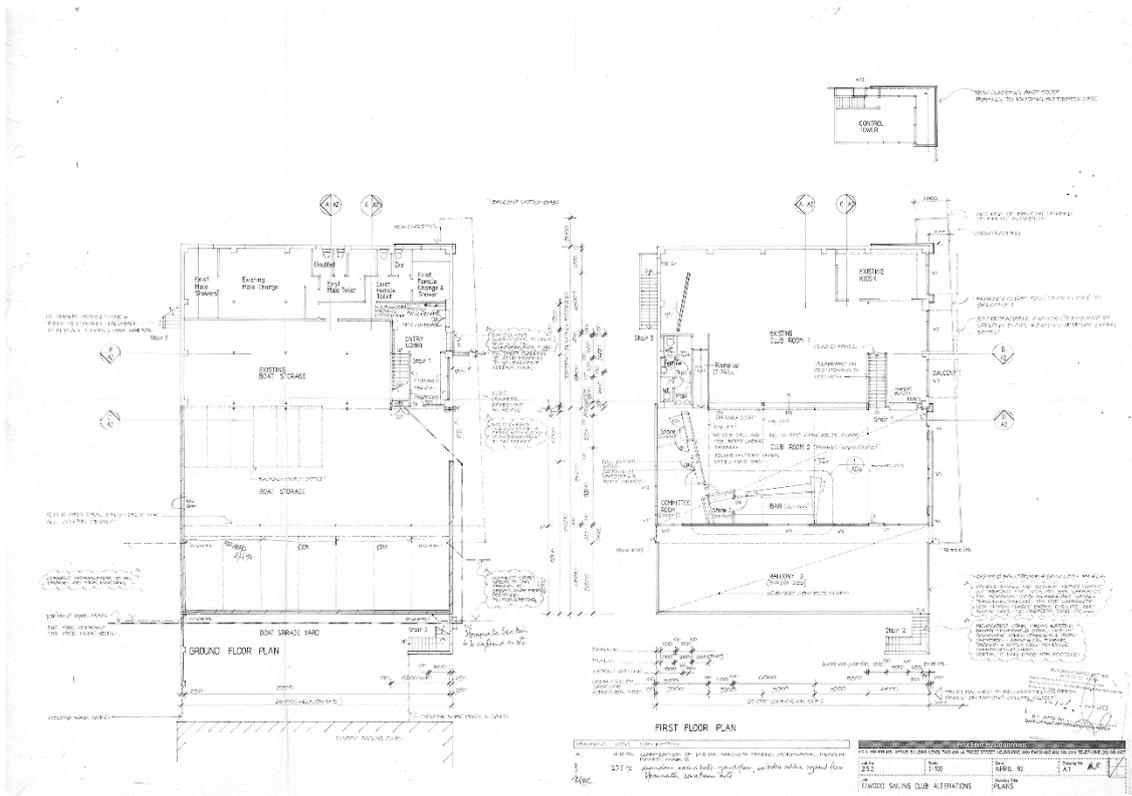


Figure 15. Floor plans by Peter Elliott Architects, dated 1992 (Source: City of St Kilda)

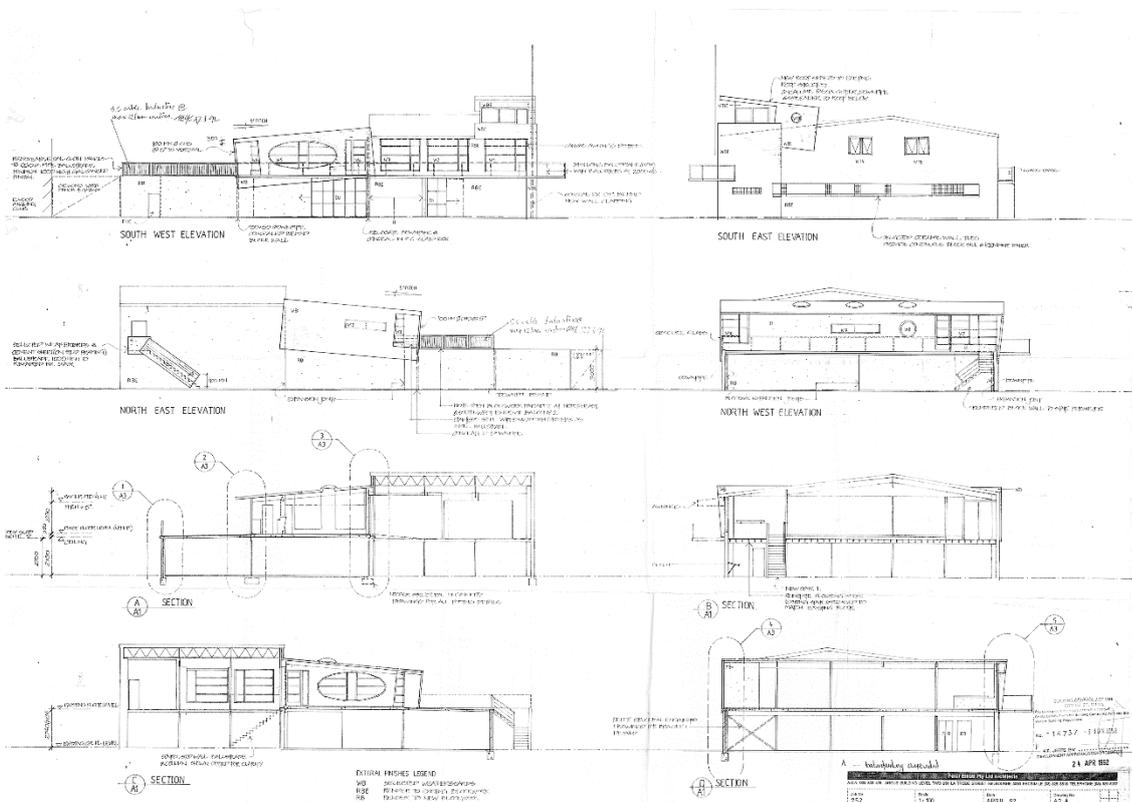


Figure 16. Elevations and sections from plans by Peter Elliott Architects, dated 1992. (Source: City of St Kilda)

A building permit was granted in 1998 for alterations & additions to the value of \$60,000. Proposed works included new male toilet facilities at the rear of the building at first floor level and the external stair, which may not have been built (Figures 17 and 18). There is no architect given for these works.

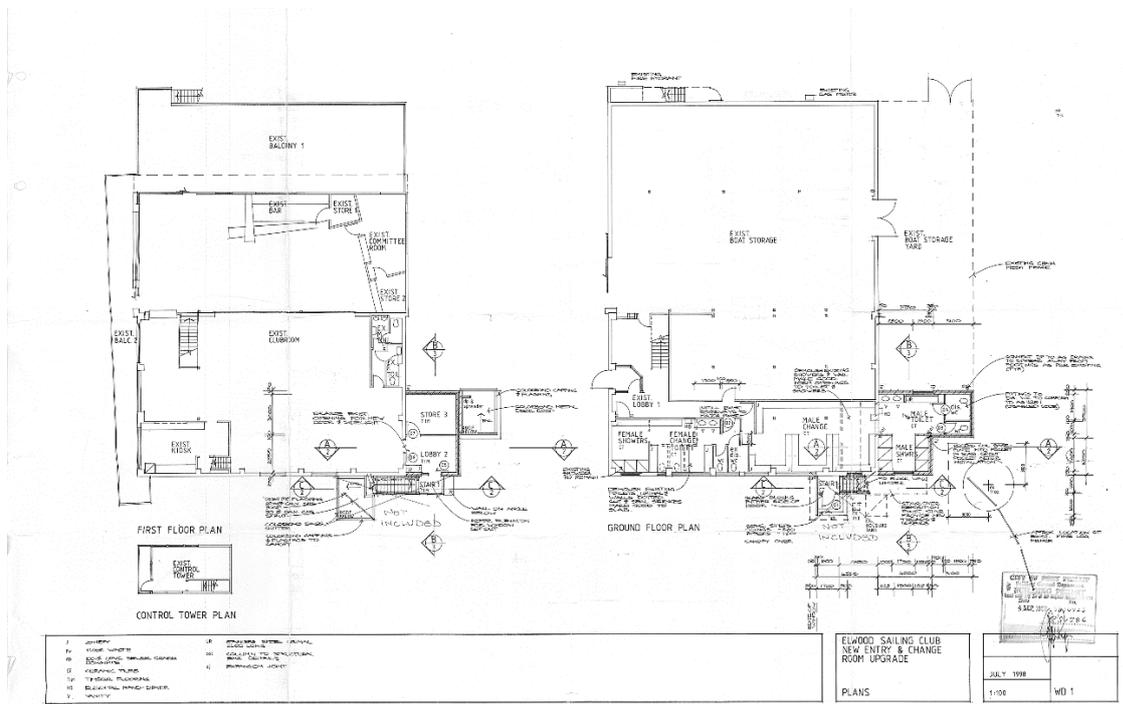


Figure 17. Floor plans for the new entry and change room upgrade, dated 1998 (Source: City of St Kilda)

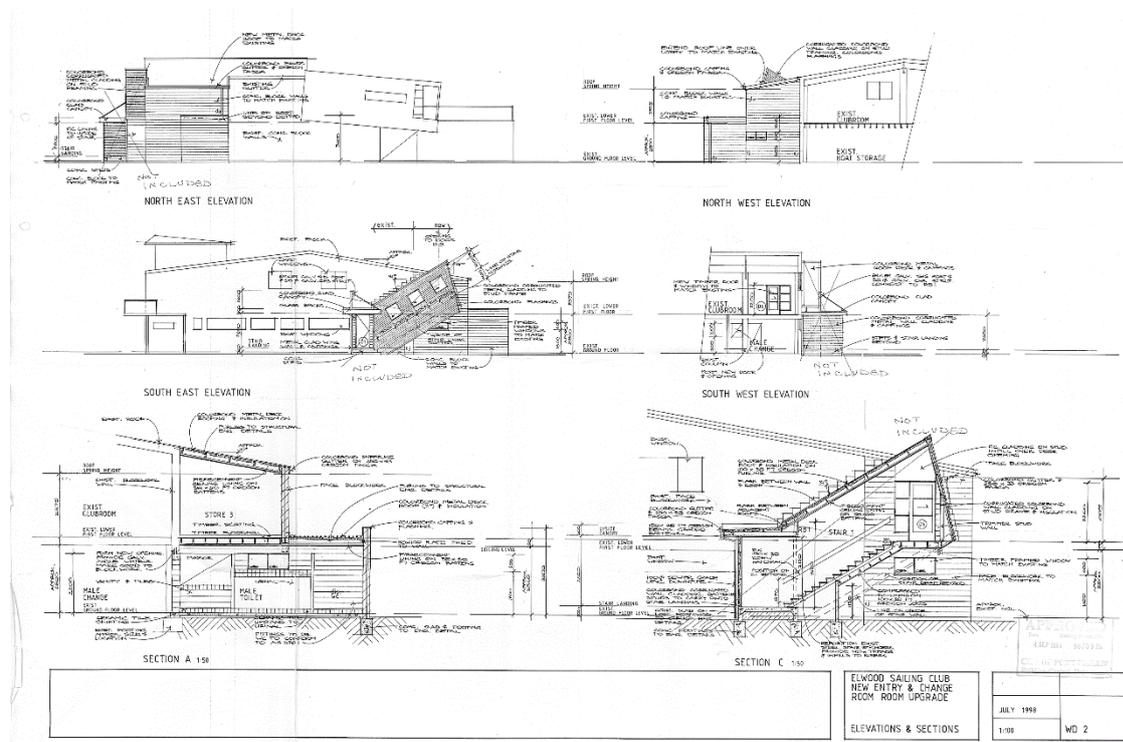


Figure 18. Elevations and sections for the new entry and change room upgrade, dated 1998 (Source: City of St Kilda)

Later additions for a proposed enclosure at the rear of the building clad in colourbond and chain mesh were designed by John Kotowskyj & Associates Building Designers in 2008 (Figure 19 and Figure 20).

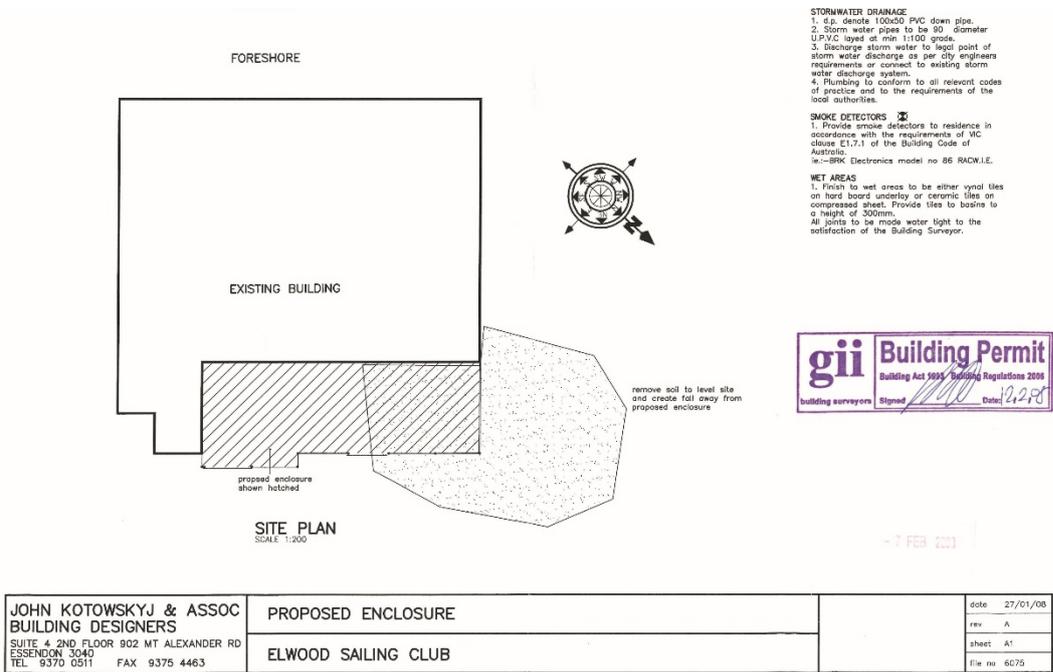


Figure 19. Site plan of the proposed enclosure, dated 2008 (Source: City of St Kilda)

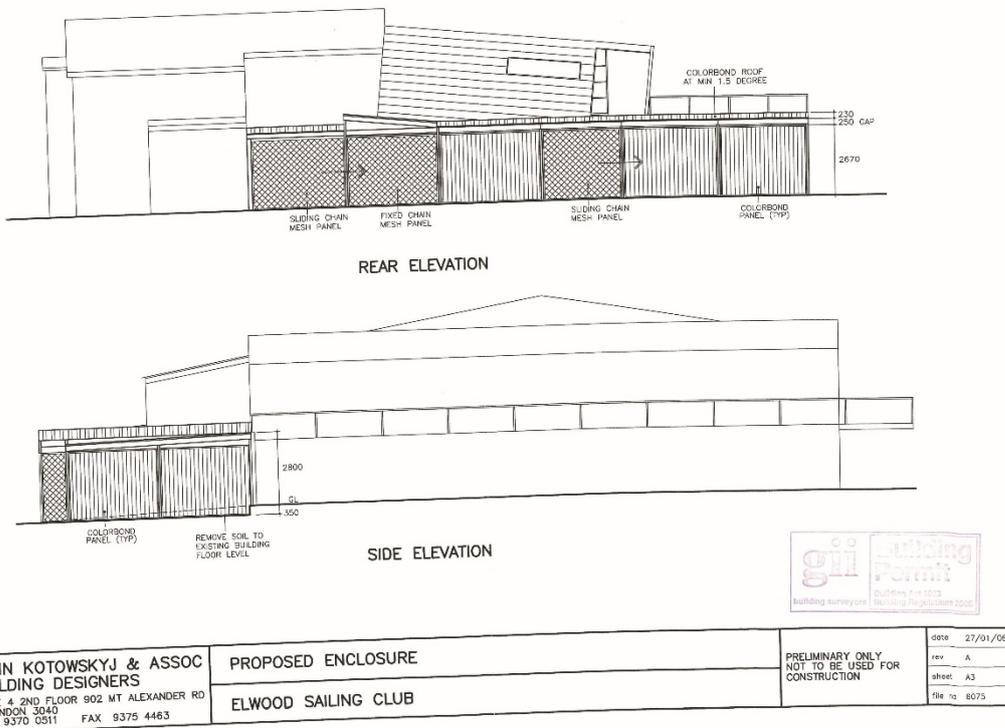


Figure 20. Elevations of the proposed enclosure, dated 2008 (Source: City of St Kilda)

DESCRIPTION

The Elwood Sailing Club is located at 5 Elwood Foreshore, Elwood. The club is accessed off Ormond Esplanade via Elwood Foreshore Road and is west of the Elwood Foreshore Carpark. The building sits within a group of three buildings (Elwood Scout Hall, Elwood Angling Club and Elwood Sailing Club) that are ringed by an asphalt service road. Located at the southeast end of this group (next to the Elwood Angling Club) the Elwood Sailing Club is orientated toward Port Phillip Bay with the principal façade of the building facing southwest, fronting Elwood Beach.

Designed to provide direct water access and boat storage at ground level and club house facilities above, the lower level of the building is constructed of concrete blockwork (overpainted). This provides a unifying base to the building. At its south eastern end, the blockwork wall continues through to the first floor reflecting the changes made to the building in 1975. This section of the building has a low-pitched transverse gable roof and an observation tower (built after the 1975 works) rises above the roof line to the southern corner of the building. Constructed with a timber frame and clad with wide boards, this rectangular tower has a hip roof clad in metal roof decking. A small balcony with a glass and aluminium-framed balustrade faces the water. This end of the building was re-modelled in 1992



Figure 21. Photograph of the Elwood Sailing Club in 2020, facing south west toward Port Phillip Bay (Source: Context)

At the first-floor level and to the north of the 1975 section of the building, the 1992 addition is defined by a skillion metal deck roof and a façade clad in wide cement weatherboards.

Access to a large northwest facing deck is provided adjacent to this area. The deck is fitted with a glass and aluminium-framed balustrade and an external stair that provides access to ground level. The two sections are connected by the narrow balcony with glass and aluminium framed balustrade facing the bay that runs across the front of the building and the ground floor wall plane.

At ground level the principal façade facing Port Phillip Bay has a wide central opening fitted with a large metal sliding door that is divided into 15 square panels painted blue and white to give a checkerboard effect. This door provides access to a large single space for the storage of boats. To the south of this opening a single door provides access to a small entry space and office with an internal stair to the upper level. Raised planter beds run across the front of the building and a flagpole sits in the lawn area that runs down to the sand.

At first floor level the south eastern end of the building (constructed of concrete blockwork in 1975) has three large window openings that are fitted with timber framed windows divided into six panes. To the

northwest of this the 1992 timber-clad section the building is fitted with aluminium framed window and doors. It is distinguished by a large picture window with curved ends facing south west, a butt-glazed corner window, and a porthole window to the north west which features an etched image of sailing boats and the words 'Elwood Sea Canoe Club was founded on this site 11th May 1924'.



Figure 22. Photograph of the picture window with curved ends (Source: Context)



Figure 23. Photograph of the porthole window (Source: Context)

The southeast elevation of the building built in 1975 (facing the carpark) is utilitarian in design. At ground level a band of high windows provide daylight and ventilation into service areas behind. At first floor level a pair of window openings sit either side of the apex of the gabled roof and are fitted with timber framed windows. At the northeast end of the building remodelled in 1992 a timber staircase provides access to an upper level exit door.



Figure 24. Photograph showing the south east elevation of the building in 2020 (Source: Context)

INTEGRITY

The Elwood Sailing Club, 5 Elwood Foreshore, Elwood, has evolved over time with its principal façade facing Port Phillip Bay altered to accommodate the growing needs of the club. The footprint of the building has remained relatively unaltered since the building was extended in 1927, however, the building has been successively altered and added on to, transforming the building from a single storey timber structure in 1925 to the two-storey masonry building we see today. Major building programs have been undertaken in the 1950s-60s, 1975 and 1992. Overall, the building has very low integrity to its original 1925 built form.

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Yachting has remained a popular recreational activity with over a dozen yachting and sailing clubs around Victoria currently operating. Sailing in smaller boats became popular in the early 20th century and achieved its peak of popularity following World War II, with eighteen sailing clubs building clubhouses around Port Phillip Bay between 1945 and 1972.

There are only two yacht clubs currently on the Heritage Overlay, both of which are in the City of Port Phillip. These are the Port Melbourne Yacht Club and the Royal Melbourne Yacht Club.

The Port Melbourne Yacht Club was established in 1889 with the club adopting its present name in 1892. The Port Melbourne club house has had numerous locations including the Esplanade in 1910, the old morgue building on the bend of Beaconsfield Parade from the late 1930s, a Navy shed in the 1960s and a shed on the site of the present club room. This shed was destroyed by fire in 1990 and the present clubhouse was designed by Keswick Howden. The new Port Melbourne Yacht Club was officially opened on 18 February 1998.



Figure 25. The Port Melbourne Yacht Club (Source: Peter Rowland)

The significance of the Port Melbourne Yacht Club is articulated as:

The premises of the Port Melbourne Yacht Club are located at the end of Bay Street, Port Melbourne, and were designed by Keswick Howden and opened on 28th. February, 1998. They have historical, aesthetic and social importance. Their historical importance (Criterion A) rests on the capacity of the complex to demonstrate the existence of the Port Melbourne Yacht Club since 1889. Their aesthetic value (Criterion E) rests on the striking design for the building which uses contemporary architectural forms to interpret the nautical aspect of the Club's reason for existence. As such it constitutes a unique (Criterion B) architectural statement in the Municipality. It has social importance (Criterion G) for the value placed on the complex by the members of the Club and community of Port Melbourne. The site may also have importance for any remnants it might contain of earlier pier structures expressive of the existence of the old town pier.

The Royal Melbourne Yacht Club at 2 Jacka Boulevard, St Kilda was established in 1876. From 1876 to 1898 the club occupied a site on the old west beach at St Kilda. From 1898 to 1903 the club was given the use of a site near the pier. In 1903 the present site was granted by the government and the first clubhouse, a timber building, was erected here in 1904. The present clubhouse was built in 1926 to celebrate the clubs 50th anniversary.



Figure 26. The Royal Melbourne Yacht Club (Source: HERMES 'Royal Melbourne Yacht Club')

The significance of the Royal Melbourne Yacht Club is articulated as:

This building is significant for its association with the Royal St Kilda Yacht Squadron, a 114-year-old institution in St Kilda. It is an important part of a small collection of structures and monuments that survive as a residue of earlier uses of this part of the foreshore, and its existence is important to the historical interpretation of this historically important area of St Kilda. The building itself is of interest as a pragmatically designed box where internal functions appear to have dictated external appearance, with an eclectic overlay of Arts and Crafts, Mediterranean and nautically inspired elements.

Historically, Elwood Sailing Club is comparable to both of these clubs as a sporting association. The social endurance of all three clubs provide important tangible evidence of the popularity of sailing during the nineteenth and early twentieth century. This is associated with the historic theme of water-based recreation, which is important in Elwood and Port Phillip more broadly due to their bayside location. Elwood Sailing club is unique amongst the three for starting life as a Sea Canoe Club (the first in Australia), and in the development and design of new yachting craft unique to Elwood Beach, notably, the Seahorse class.

All three clubs have long associations with their sites and have undergone successive building programs to establish facilities that service the requirements of their members. Both Port Melbourne Yacht Club and Royal Melbourne Yacht Club have buildings that are architecturally significant. The Port Melbourne Yacht Club is a postmodern building built in one stage with few alterations. The Royal Melbourne Yacht Club is an interwar building built in two stages, with the second stage closely matched to the first in terms of detailing and massing. Although from different eras and stylistically very distinct, they both were new builds at the time. They were also the work of talented architects and represent coherent architectural examples of sailing clubs constructed in different eras.

In contrast, the Elwood Sailing Club building is the result of the successive layering of alterations and additions to an earlier late 1920s building that is now no longer visibly apparent. Its present incarnation somewhat awkwardly blends the 1975 part of the building to the southeast and the 1992 alterations, designed by Peter Elliot architect, to the southwest. The 1992 part of the building designed by Elliot attempts to interpret the nautical themes of the building in a postmodern way but does not compare well

with the more coherent scheme of the Port Melbourne Yacht Club in architectural terms. All three clubhouses are interesting as purpose-built facilities that cater for the unique functional requirements of the activity but also provide social function spaces.

Elwood Sailing Club is distinguished by its location and the contribution it makes to the unique aesthetic quality of this section of the foreshore as part of a group of three buildings that survive as evidence of the early and enduring recreational use of the area. While displaying different architectural styles and build dates these buildings together form a cohesive precinct and are important to the historical interpretation of this area of Elwood and the City of Port Phillip.

Like the other clubs, Elwood Sailing Club also has significant social importance for the value placed on the complex by the members of the Club

ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

In accordance with Planning Practice Note 1 Applying the Heritage Overlay (August 2018), the HERCON heritage criteria are used for the assessment of the heritage value of a place. The model criteria have been broadly adapted by heritage jurisdictions across Victoria and should be used for all new heritage assessment work. The following assessment is preliminary only. Further research and analysis would need to be undertaken to definitively assess significance for the purpose of any potential inclusion of the place on the Heritage Overlay.

Criterion A: Importance in the course, or pattern, of the City of Port Phillip and Victoria's cultural or natural history

Elwood Sailing Club is historically significant for the important tangible evidence it provides of the popularity of sailing during the nineteenth and early twentieth century and the key role Port Phillip Bay and the Elwood foreshore has played in providing opportunity to undertake this recreational activity.

Elwood Sailing Club was initially established as a Sea Canoe Club in 1924 (the first in Australia) and played an important role in the development and design of new yachting craft unique to Elwood Beach, notably, the Seahorse class.

Elwood Sailing Club is also historically significant as part of a group of the four club buildings (including the surf lifesaving club) that remain on the foreshore. The three buildings grouped together in the northwest corner of the site—the sailing club, angling club, and former sea scout hall—form a cohesive precinct with their immediate foreshore location reflecting their association with activities linked to the sporting and recreational use of this area. The three buildings are also associated by their typological similarities and similar use. In broad terms the built form of each comprises a ground floor area for the storage of craft and equipment associated with their respective water activities while the upper floor provides areas associated with the surveillance of the foreshore area and social activities. This group of three buildings is important to the historical interpretation of this area of Elwood and the City of Port Phillip.

Criterion B: Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of our cultural or natural history (rarity).

N/A

Criterion C: Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of our cultural or natural history (research potential).

N/A

Criterion D: Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural or natural places or environments (representativeness).

N/A

Criterion E: Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics (aesthetic significance).

N/A

Criterion F: Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period (technical significance)

N/A

Criterion G: Strong or special association with a particular present-day community of cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons. This includes the significance of a place to Indigenous peoples as part of their continuing and developing cultural traditions (social significance).

The site of the Elwood Sailing Club is of social significant for its long and continuing association with sea canoeing and sailing. Successive buildings on the site have played an ongoing role in both the recreational and social life of the club since 1924 and has social importance for the value placed on the site by the members of the Club and the broader community of Port Phillip.

Criterion H: Special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in our history (associative significance).

Possible, not assessed as part of this study.

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Google

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3 ELWOOD FORESHORE, ELWOOD

Elwood Angling Club

Prepared by: Context

Survey Date: July 2020

Place Type: Community

Architect: --

Significance level: Significant

Builder: --

Extent of overlay: --

Construction Date: 1957-58



Figure 1. The Elwood Angling Club from the south west in 2020. (Source: Context)



Figure 2. The Elwood Angling Club from the north west in 2020. (Source: Context)

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Foreshore reserves in Victoria

Unlike the case in some other Australian colonies, the Victorian Government had alienated most of the coastal land in the colony for public use to prevent it from being available for private sale. From 1860 an Order-in-Council ruled that government surveyors were required to set a margin of 100 feet along all major water frontages, including coast, permanent freshwater lakes and navigable rivers. As a result, Victoria had an almost continuous line of beach and foreshore preserved for public use, usually as a Crown land reserve. A local council would typically assert its preference for a particular kind of reservation to be made, and generally these were reserved as a site for public purposes, public recreation, public park or public gardens. Most of these reserves were established between the 1860s and the 1880s, and the local council was usually appointed as the Committee of Management; the local council was responsible for permitting and prohibiting certain uses of the reserve, through the establishment and enforcement of rules and regulations.

In the second half of the nineteenth century there was growing interest in the health benefits of sea bathing and taking the 'sea air', which saw the foreshore areas of some of Melbourne's more fashionable seaside locations, namely St Kilda and Brighton, take shape as popular recreational areas. Sea bathing facilities were introduced, as well as bathing boxes or dressing pavilions. Boating facilities were also a standard feature of foreshore reserves, initially as utilitarian structures to service fishing, but piers also became popular attractions for recreational use and boat ramps were installed to service recreational vessels.

As the opportunity for leisure time grew by the late-nineteenth century, foreshore reserves developed as places of entertainment and refreshment with the introduction of tea rooms and kiosks, band rotundas, and seaside amusements. A number of foreshore reserves took on the appearance of a pleasure ground – for example in the case of St Kilda, and in fashionable seaside resorts outside Melbourne, such as Mornington, Sorrento and Queenscliff. In the early twentieth century, foreshore reserves were improved with serviced picnic facilities, and public gardens and ornamental trees; in some cases sea walls were erected. It was also common for small parcels of land on foreshore reserves to be allocated for various sporting activities, including tennis, bowls, croquet and golf. Often this was at the instigation of a local sports club but local councils also took the initiative to provide these facilities. With the increased popularity of swimming, life-saving clubs were also established. Outside Melbourne, foreshore reserves also permitted holiday camping. By the mid-twentieth century, carparks had encroached into foreshore reserves and outside Melbourne, camping areas had been developed as caravan parks. Many existing facilities at foreshore reserves were modernised in this period, and boating facilities were developed to accommodate the changing needs of water sports and commercial fishing.

Elwood foreshore timeline

| | |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1857 | 1857 plan of the 'Village of Elsternwick, Parish of Prahran' names the site as Ormond Beach and shows a 'track from St Kilda to Brighton' through the site. |
| 1864 | The foreshore is described as 'Public Gardens' (Figure 4) |
| 1869 | A large area of the foreshore (48 acres) was temporarily reserved for the purpose of 'Public Gardens' |
| 1874 | A 54 acre site for a Public Garden bounded by the rifle ranges reserve, Ormond Beach, the prolongation of Barkly Street and the creek forming the southern boundary of the abattoir site was proposed to be permanently reserved in January (VGG, 23 January 1874: 143). The temporary reservation of 48 acres was revoked in February as the boundaries were being altered (VGG, 13 February 1874:310) |
| 1882 | 54 acres at Elwood foreshore were permanently reserved for 'public recreation' |
| 1906 | Opening of electric tramway from St Kilda to Brighton via Ormond Road and St Kilda Street improves access to the area. |
| 1907 | Closure of the rifle butts abutting Head Street |
| 1915 | Opening of electric tramway from Elsternwick to Point Ormond via Glen Huntly Road improves access to the foreshore. Tramway extends along Ormond Road to Point Ormond, just north of the Elwood foreshore, improving access to the area |
| 1916 | Point Ormond Kiosk opened |
| 1919 | St Kilda Council adopts the recommendation to rename the reserve as Elwood Park. |
| 1921 | Elwood Park Kiosk constructed |
| 1921 | Elwood Life Saving Club constructed |
| c.1924 | Elwood Sea Canoe Club constructed |
| c.1925 | Lawn Bowling Club constructed |
| 1927 | Men's and women's conveniences erected at Elwood Park |
| c.1927 | Elwood Croquet Club established on the reserve |
| c.1928 | Sea Bathing Pavilion constructed |
| c.1931 | Tennis Courts constructed |
| c.1933 | Landscaping of Elwood Park and reservation of the area for public recreation |
| c.1934 | Elwood Croquet Club constructed Beautification scheme sees extra rows of tea tree planted along the foreshore |
| 1937 | Regulations for the 'Care, Protection and Management of the 'Elwood Reserves' gazetted |
| c.1939 | Elwood Angling Club constructed |
| 1956 | Elwood Sailing Club involved in the Melbourne Olympic Games |
| 1957 | Fire destroys Elwood Angling Club |
| c.1958 | Elwood Angling Club re constructed Elwood Sea Scout Hall (now BAYWAC Scout Centre) constructed |
| 1970s | Elwood Croquet Club relocated to Head Street and a new building constructed |
| 1971 | New Lifesaving Club constructed |
| 1990s | Elwood Bowling Club closes, becoming Elwood Beach House Café |

Recreational area

Elwood beach began to properly develop as a recreational centre in the early twentieth century. The closure of the rifle butts in Head Street in 1907 opened up 11 acres of land at the southern end of the site (Heritage Alliance 2005:10). This was added to the much larger area of coastal land at Elwood that had been permanently reserved for public recreation in 1882.

In 1919, St Kilda Council adopted the recommendation to rename the reserve between Normanby Road and Head Street as Elwood Park (*Malvern Standard* 30 August 1919:6).

During the interwar period, a cluster of sporting club premises developed along the foreshore: the lifesaving club (1921), the sailing club (1924), the bowling club (c. 1925), the croquet club (c.1937) and the angling club (c.1939). Apart from the former bowling club, all other original buildings were replaced in the post-war period (Heritage Alliance 2005:52).

Angling Clubs in Melbourne

Since the mid-nineteenth century angling has been one of the most popular outdoor leisure activities for men in Australia. The proximity of Port Phillip Bay to the city and the existence of numerous surrounding estuaries and rivers have contributed to the sport's popularity in Melbourne, where there has been an above-average ownership rate of fishing tackles. In 1862 the Melbourne Anglers' Protective Society formed, dedicating itself to preserving fish in the state's rivers. The club, self-described as 'the oldest angling club in Australasia' became the Victorian Anglers' club in the early twentieth century (Hess 2008).

PLACE HISTORY

The Elwood Angling Club, founded in 1901 as the 'Prahran Angling Club and Fish Protection Society', was originally based in rented rooms in Prahran and relocated to Elwood in 1939 (Scambary 2006:2). The land was granted to the club on 3 January 1939 for a boat shed site as shown on the Prahran parish plan 2002 (Figure 3).

Within the club, a building committee was formed in 1936 purposed with raising funds for a building. St Kilda City Council together with the State Lands Department granted the Elwood site to the club for a boathouse in 1938 (Scambary 2006:3).

The weatherboard Elwood Anglers' Boathouse (Figures 4 and 5) was opened in March 1939 and constructed using voluntary labour by tradesmen within the club membership. Features of the boathouse included 'accommodation for 50 fishing craft on the ground floor and a recreation room, and ample locker space upstairs' (*Sporting Globe*, 28 March 1939:5).

Improvement and expansion to the building followed, assisted by an extra grant of land 20 feet by 70 feet to the rear of the building in 1941 which was fenced and used to accommodate boats. A further strip of land of seven feet was granted in 1948 bringing the total site dimensions to a frontage of 70 feet and a depth of 65 feet (Scambary 2006:3).

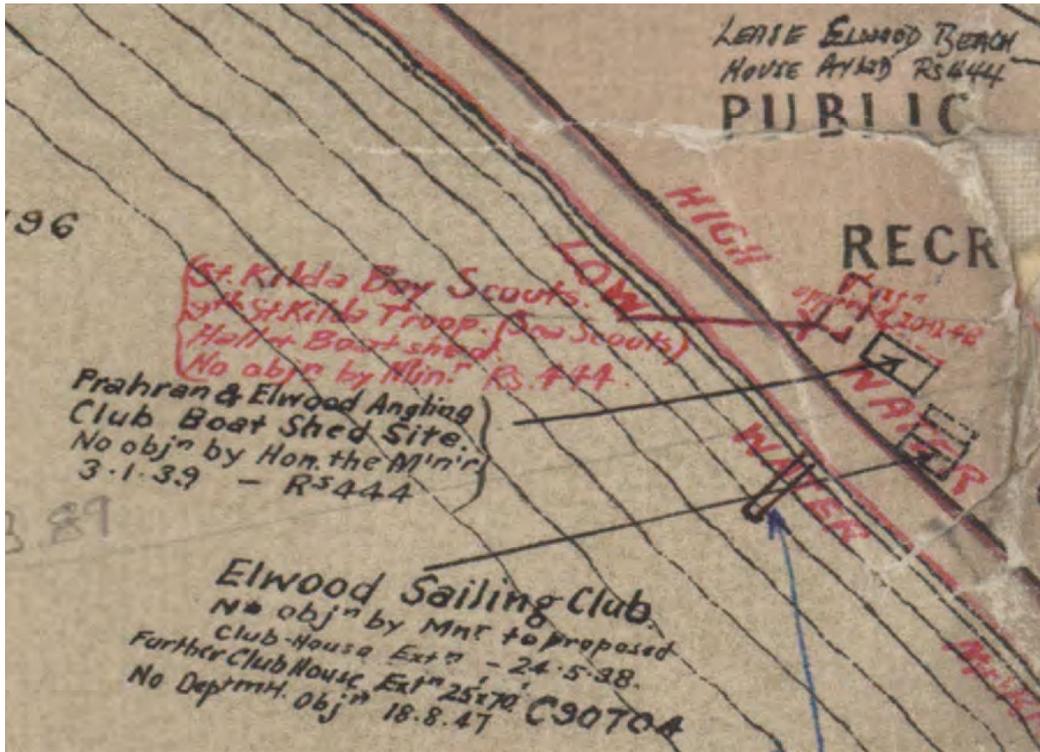


Figure 3. Detail of Prahran-3 Parish Plan, Imperial measure P3416-4 showing land granted to the Prahran & Elwood Angling Club for a Boat Shed site on 3 January 1939. (Source: Department of Sustainability and Environment 2002, PROV)



Club Members outside of the former clubhouse c1952 with a fine Hospital Sunday Catch

Figure 4. Photograph of the original Elwood Angling Club clubhouse c.1952. (Source: Elwood Angling Club 2010)



Figure 5. Photograph of the former clubhouse and ramp from Elwood beach. (Source: Elwood Angling Club 2010)



Figure 6. The Elwood Foreshore in 1945 showing the former Elwood Sailing Club and Elwood Angling Club buildings highlighted in red. (Source: Adastra Airways, 1945)

The original weatherboard clubhouse, including early club records, was destroyed by fire in 1957. A replacement brick structure (Figure 7) was erected within a year but the fit-out continued well after. Fitting out the building was again completed with voluntary labour and included installing staircases, lockers, and a kitchen (Heritage Alliance 2005:11 and Scambary 2006:4-5).

Subsequent building works included internal modifications which created an upper floor providing space for the billiard room and toilets (Scambray 2006:5).

Major improvements were undertaken between 2000 and 2004 with most of the work completed by members. Main works included:

- A steel fire escape on the northern wall and upgraded smoke detection system.
- Improvements to the upstairs toilet.
- Kitchen improvements, tiling, painting, installation of a new exhaust hood and fan, handbasin.
- Removal of the partition between the upstairs meeting room and the locker room. This included insulation and covering of the ceilings, improved lighting, new paintwork and polishing of the floorboards. Lockers relocated to mezzanine floor.
- Improvements to the ground floor entrance and porch increasing security for boat storage area.
- Ancillary jobs including painting, electrical wiring, plumbing and air conditioning (Scambray 2006:119).

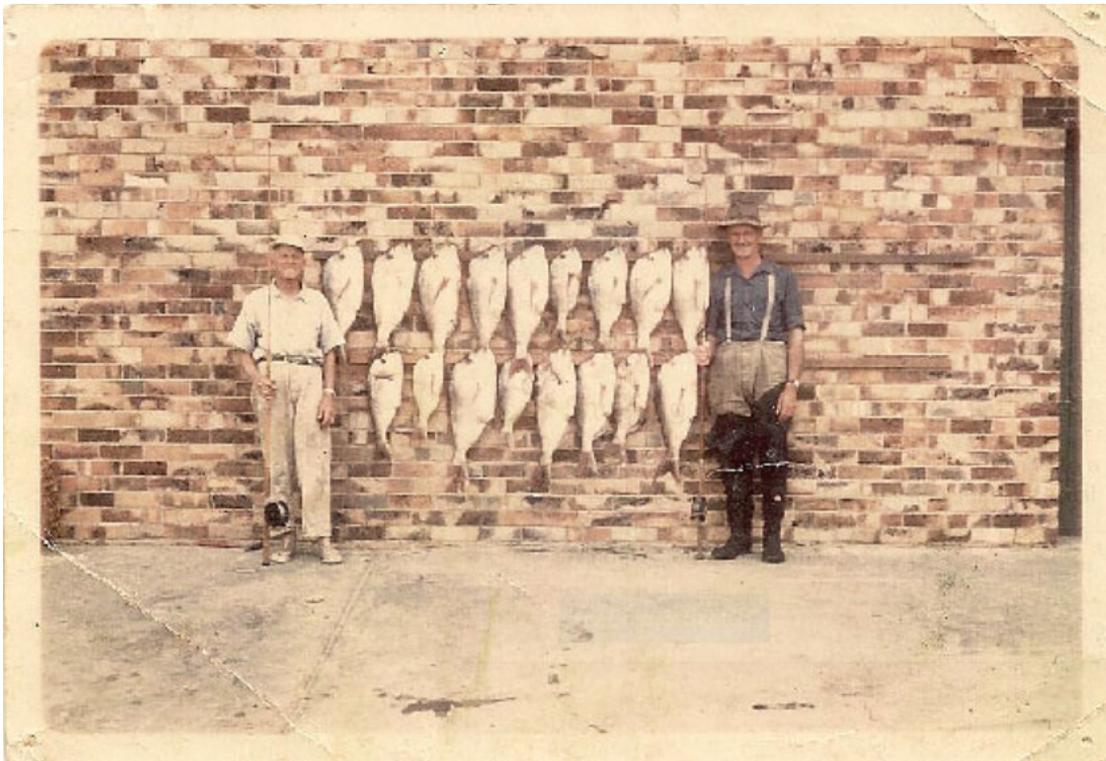


Figure 7. Anglers outside the new brick clubhouse. (Source: Elwood Angling Club 2010)

Fishing

Until the 1970s, members recall some of the best snapper fishing in Port Phillip Bay located near the clubhouse. Since then, snapper numbers have reduced, however whiting, flathead, garfish and other species continue to be caught in the Bay. The club has organised competitions and social fishing trips both within the Bay and in Victoria's lakes, rivers and estuaries, as well as surf beaches (Scambray 2006:1)

Boats at the club were typically small to ensure they were easily maneuverable on the ramp. Wooden clinker boats designed to be rowed were popular from the 1950s, followed by Mouldcraft boats made in

Frankston in the 1960s and, more recently, aluminum 'tinnies' have become prevalent (Scamبارy 2006:6-7).

Bluey and Curley cartoon strip

The cartoon strip, 'Bluey and Curley' (Figure 7) was created by long-time Elwood Angling club member Alex Gurney. It was based on himself, depicted as the character 'Curley', and fellow Elwood resident and council linesman Len Anderson, who was depicted as 'Bluey'. Gurney and Anderson shared a boat called 'Bluey and Curley' taking many fishing trips out from Elwood beach (Eidelson 2006). The characters were styled as two larrikin soldiers. In fishing scenes they appeared in wooden fishing boats, known as clinker boats, which were popular at the club in the 1950s (Scamبارy 2006:6).

The comic strip was first published as six installments in the *Picture News* in November 1939, moving to the *Sun News-Pictorial* in February 1940. The strip was syndicated to other newspapers across Australia, New Zealand and Canada. The refusal of Gurney to reduce the use of Australian slang and idioms stifled its potential sale to the US markets. Sydney radio station 2SM produced an adaptation of the cartoon as a serial from 1948-49. Gurney continued to create 'Bluey & Curley' strips until his death in 1955. Norman Rice, followed by Leslie Dixon, continued the strip until 1975 (Panozzo 1996).

Throughout his career Gurney created other popular comic strip characters including 'Stiffy & Mo' (created in 1927), 'The Daggs' (1929), 'Ben Bowyang' (1933) and illustrated two humorous books *Sickness Without Sorrow* (1947) and *Life With Laughter* (1950).

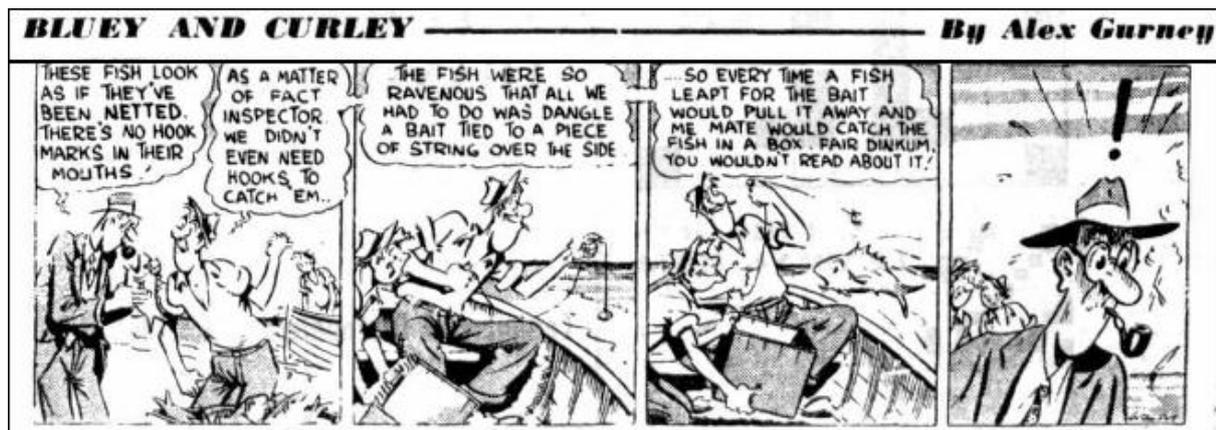


Figure 8. Example of the Bluey and Curley cartoon strip (Source: *News*, 2 February 1949)

DESCRIPTION

The Elwood Angling Club is located at 3 Elwood Foreshore, Elwood fronting directly onto Elwood Beach. The club is accessed off Ormond Esplanade via Elwood Foreshore Road and is west of the Elwood Foreshore Carpark. The building sits within a group of three buildings (Elwood Scout Hall, Elwood Angling Club and Elwood Sailing Club) that are ringed by an asphalt service road. Located between the Elwood Scout Hall and the Elwood Sailing Club, the Elwood Angling Club is orientated toward Port Phillip Bay with the principal façade of the building facing southwest.

The current Angling Club building was constructed in 1957-58 and replaced an earlier 1938 building that was destroyed by fire in 1957. With a simple rectangular footprint, sheer unadorned face brick walls (now overpainted on the minor elevations), and a low-pitched transverse gable roof, the building shows the influence of the post-war Melbourne Regional Style.

The principal façade facing Port Phillip Bay is symmetrically arranged and is distinguished by its use of cream clinker bricks laid in stretcher bond. These bricks give the building a textural quality that is in contrast to the overall simplicity of its design.

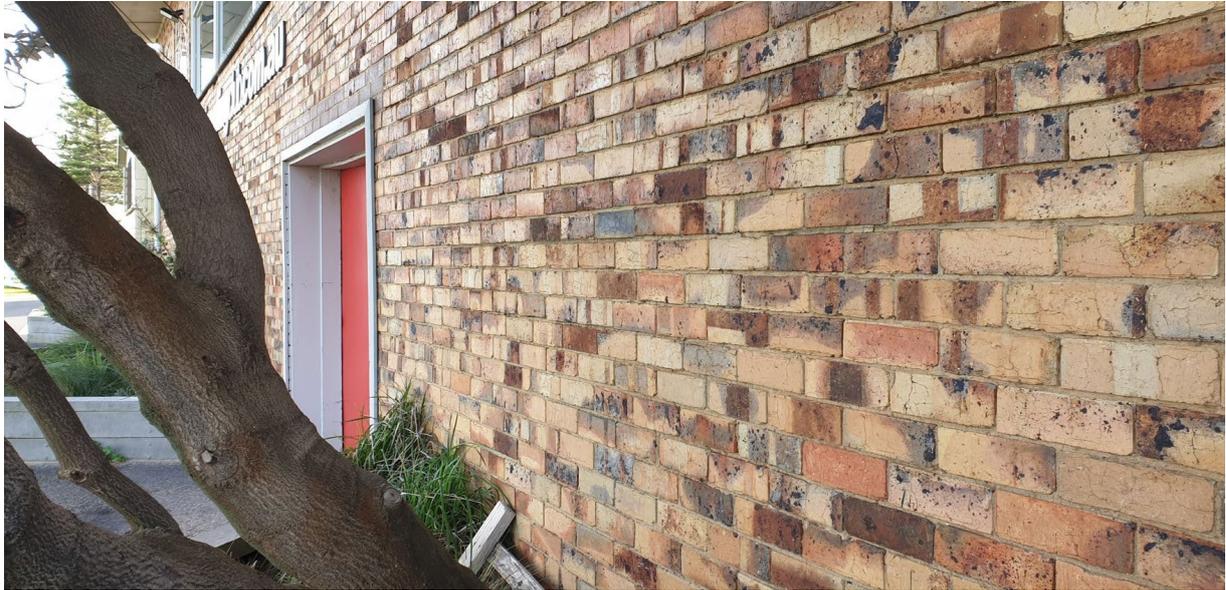


Figure 9. Photograph showing cream clinker bricks laid in stretcher bond taken from the south west corner facing Port Phillip Bay in 2020 (Source: Context)

At ground level, two wide openings are equally spaced along the façade. Fitted with timber framed sliding doors that are clad in vertical boarding, the doors are externally painted in a striking signal red.

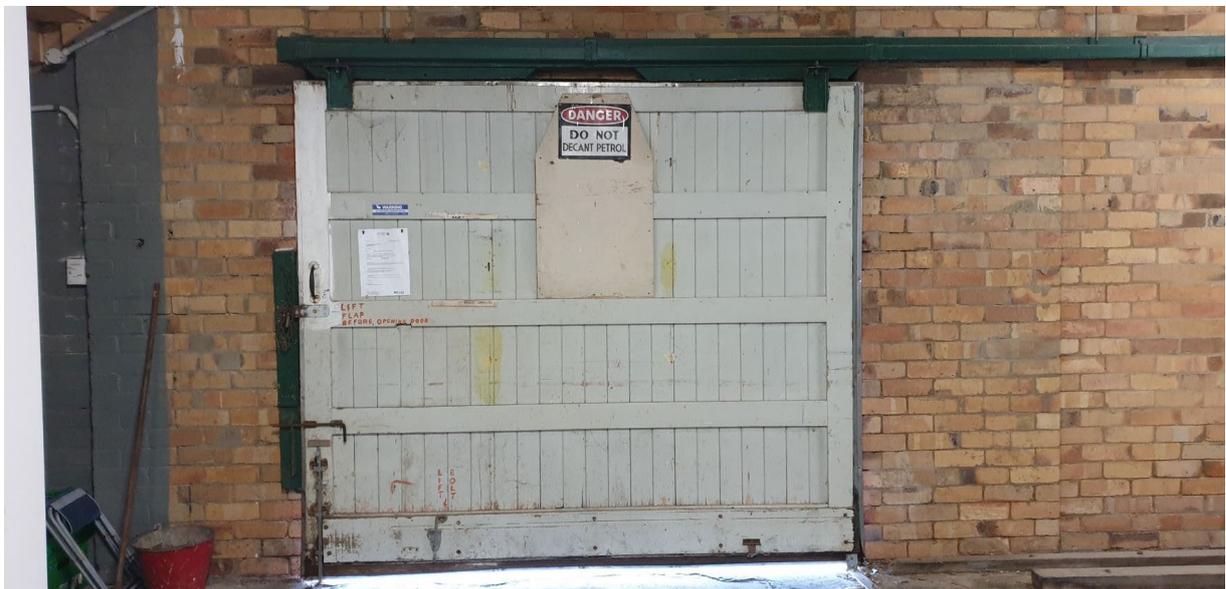


Figure 10. Photograph of one of the wide openings from inside the building in 2020. (Source: Context)

A wide central opening, fitted with aluminium framed windows, is located at first floor level. Divided into three equal modules, each module features a large picture window with three small windows above, some of which are fitted with awning sashes. Above these windows, a panel of cement sheet fills the wall space between the window head and the shallow eave. Under the windows is a large contemporary metal sign of individual letters that reads 'elwoodanglingclub.com.au'. To the north west of these

windows are two vertically proportioned openings, each fitted with an aluminium framed window with a large fixed lower pane and small awning sash above. There is a large circular sign attached to the wall to the east of these openings that features a fish and the words 'Elwood Angling Club' (Figure 1 & Figure 2).

Across the front of the building are raised garden beds and a mature pine at the southern end

The main entry to the building is along its south east elevation. Utilitarian in design, the single metal entry door is protected by a simple flat roofed awning supported by metal wall brackets. Above the door are three metal signs that individually spell out 'Elwood', 'Angling', 'Club'. It is likely that these signs are the ones seen in a c. 1952 image (Figure 4) and were attached to the front of the original building. At the first-floor level at the western end of this elevation there is a single, vertically proportioned, opening fitted with an aluminium frame that matches the pair of windows along the principal façade. Above the entry is a single horizontal window opening fitted with an aluminium-framed window and to the east of this window is a larger horizontal opening also fitted with an aluminium-framed window. These windows provided light and ventilation to service areas behind.



Figure 11. Photograph of the main entry to the building including the metal door and flat roofed awning in 2020. (Source: Context)

The northwest elevation is a sheer wall of face brick work (now overpainted) with a single centrally placed door at the upper level that is accessed by a contemporary metal stair.

Internally the spaces are largely intact and retain their simple architectural detailing including fine steel trusses that are typical of the era. These allow for large open spaces with minimal structural intervention. Much of the original hand-crafted joinery remains including original lockers in the boat storage area.



Figure 12. Photograph of the original lockers inside the building in 2020. (Source: Context)

INTEGRITY

The Elwood Angling Club, 3 Elwood Foreshore, Elwood, is largely intact with very few changes visible to original or early fabric of the 1957 building. The building retains its original built form, low gable roof form, materiality and pattern of fenestrations. Original details include the principal façade of cream clinker bricks laid in stretcher bond, original window openings, timber framed sliding doors clad in vertical boarding at the ground level (principal façade) and three early mild steel signs that read 'Elwood' 'Angling' 'Club' above the main entry door along the south east elevation (these signs appear to have been relocated from the principal façade of the original 1939 building). Changes include the replacement of window frames with aluminium units, over-painting of the brickwork to the southeast, northeast and northwest elevations, addition of a flat-roofed awning over the entry door along the southeast elevation, and the addition of a metal fire escape stair along the northwest elevation. Overall, the Elwood Angling Club building has high integrity.

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Since the mid-nineteenth century angling has been one of the most popular outdoor leisure activities for men in Australia. The proximity of Port Phillip Bay to the city and the existence of numerous surrounding estuaries and rivers have contributed to the sport's popularity in Melbourne.

There are currently no Anglers Clubs listed as individually significant on the Heritage Overlay. There is one other club within the City of Port Phillip, the Albert Park Yachting and Anglers Club at Kerferd Road Pier (adjacent to VHR H1534, HO1). Comparisons are discussed in this section with reference to this club and other Anglers Clubs in broader metropolitan Melbourne.

The Albert Park Yachting and Anglers Club at Kerferd Road Pier, 129B Beaconsfield Parade, Albert Park was established in 1909 and was the only angling club between St Kilda and Williamstown. The clubhouse was built on stumps rammed into the sand and backfilled with broken bricks. Angling competitions were arranged with trips to the Maribyrnong and Werribee Rivers. In 1954 it was decided to extend the club with a west wing. The building appears to have undergone successive additions in more recent times.



Figure 13 The Albert Park Yachting and Anglers Club. (Source: Albert Park Yachting and Angling Club)

The Essendon Fish Protection Society and Anglers' Club located within Maribyrnong Park at 44 The Boulevard, Moonee Ponds (included in HO4) was formed in 1903. In the early years, the core activity was fish protection and improving the status of the Maribyrnong River. Fishing was orientated around local streams. The club secured land from the council and members built their own clubhouse in 1932-33. They still meet in the same building today.



Figure 14. The Essendon Anglers Club in 2017. (Source: Google)

Significance of Maribyrnong Park is articulated as:

Maribyrnong Park is of high local historical, social and architectural significance.

The park is historically and socially important for its strong association with the Essendon River League, one of Melbourne's earliest, community conservation groups.

Developed largely through the voluntary funds of the League, the park is historically and architecturally important as the 'home base' for the League's Improvement and beautification projects. The park was central to the activities of the organisation and many of the parks structures built through voluntary funds and labour continue to stand and the park remains a focus for local community events.

Other Angling clubs were established around Port Phillip and Hobsons Bay. These include but are not limited to the Sandringham Anglers Club, Jetty Road, Sandringham established in 1936 with the current clubrooms dating from the 1960s; the Williamstown and Newport Anglers' Club 29 Esplanade, Williamstown established in 1941; and the Altona Boating and Angling Club at 16 Altona Road, Seaholm.

Historically, Elwood Angling Club is comparable to these clubs for the important tangible evidence it provides of the popularity of angling particularly during the early and mid-twentieth century, and the key role that Port Phillip Bay has played in providing opportunity to undertake this recreational activity.

Starting as the Prahran Angling Club and Fish Protection Society in 1901, the Elwood Angling Club is important as one of the earliest angling clubs established in Melbourne. Relocating to Elwood in 1939, the original weatherboard boathouse at this location was constructed using voluntary labour by tradesmen within the club membership. The original weatherboard clubhouse was destroyed by fire in 1957 with a replacement building erected within a year. Fitting out the building was completed again using voluntary labour and included installing staircases, lockers, and a kitchen.

Elwood Angling Club is distinguished by its location and the contribution it makes to the unique aesthetic quality of this section of the foreshore as part of a group of three buildings that survive as evidence of the early and enduring recreational use of the area. While displaying different architectural styles and build dates these buildings together form a cohesive precinct and are important to the historical interpretation of this area of Elwood and the City of Port Phillip.

The Elwood Angling Club is comparable to the Essendon Fish Protection Society and Anglers' Club located within Maribyrnong Park at 44 The Boulevard, Moonee Ponds (included in HO4) formed in 1903 and the Albert Park Yachting and Anglers Club at Kerferd Road Pier, 129B Beaconsfield Parade, Albert Park (adjacent to VHR H1534, HO1) established in 1909. These clubs all represent the earliest angling clubs established in Melbourne and continue to operate out of clubhouses built largely by the voluntary labour of club members. Because of this, these structures are characterised by pragmatic building forms that responded to the financial constraints of clubs and the available labour source within their membership. Despite material and financial shortages in the postwar period and the relative frugality of community facilities constructed during the mid-century in suburban Melbourne the Elwood Angling club stands out amongst these examples as a good representative example of the Melbourne regional style of Modernism.

ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

In accordance with Planning Practice Note 1 Applying the Heritage Overlay (August 2018), the HERCON heritage criteria are used for the assessment of the heritage value of a place. The model criteria have been broadly adapted by heritage jurisdictions across Victoria and should be used for all new heritage assessment work. The following assessment is preliminary only. Further research and analysis would

need to be undertaken to definitively assess significance for the purpose of any potential inclusion of the place on the Heritage Overlay.

Criterion A: Importance in the course, or pattern, of the City of Port Phillip and Victoria's cultural or natural history

Elwood Angling Club is historically significant for the important tangible evidence it provides of the popularity of angling during the early-mid twentieth century and the key role that Port Phillip Bay and the Elwood foreshore has played in providing opportunity to undertake this recreational activity.

Elwood Angling Club is historically significant as one of the earliest angling clubs established in Melbourne starting as the Prahran Angling Club and Fish Protection Society in 1901. Relocating to Elwood in 1939 its weatherboard boathouse was constructed using voluntary labour by tradesmen within the club membership. The original weatherboard clubhouse was destroyed by fire in 1957 with a replacement building erected within a year. Fitting out the building was completed with voluntary labour and included installing staircases, lockers, and a kitchen.

Elwood Angling Club is also historically significant as part of a group of the four club buildings (including the surf lifesaving club) that remain on the foreshore. The three buildings grouped together in the northwest corner of the site—the sailing club, angling club, and former sea scout hall—form a cohesive precinct with their immediate foreshore location reflecting their association with activities linked to the sporting and recreational use of this area. The three buildings are also associated by their typological similarities and similar use. In broad terms the built form of each comprises a ground floor area for the storage of craft and equipment associated with their respective water activities while the upper floor provides areas associated with the surveillance of the foreshore area and social activities. This group of three buildings is important to the historical interpretation of this area of Elwood and the City of Port Phillip.

Criterion B: Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of our cultural or natural history (rarity).

N/A

Criterion C: Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of our cultural or natural history (research potential).

N/A

Criterion D: Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural or natural places or environments (representativeness).

Architecturally the Elwood Anglers club building is a good representative example of a sporting clubhouse built in 1957-58 in the modernist style. The building retains its original built form, low gable roof form and architectural design features. Original details include the principal façade of cream clinker bricks laid in stretcher bond, original window openings, timber framed sliding doors clad in vertical boarding at the ground level (principal façade) and three early mild steel signs that read 'Elwood', 'Angling', 'Club' above the main entry door along the south east elevation (these signs appear to have been relocated from the principal façade of the original 1939 building). Internally the spaces are largely intact and retain their simple architectural detailing including fine steel trusses that are typical of the era. These allow for large open spaces with minimal structural intervention. Much of the original hand-crafted joinery remains including original lockers in the boat storage area. The building is distinguished by its high level of intactness and integrity both externally and internally.

Criterion E: Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics (aesthetic significance).

N/A

Criterion F: Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period (technical significance)

N/A

Criterion G: Strong or special association with a particular present-day community of cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons. This includes the significance of a place to Indigenous peoples as part of their continuing and developing cultural traditions (social significance).

The Elwood Angling Club building is of social significance for its long and continuing association with fishing. Buildings on the site have played an ongoing role in the provision of angling activities in the area since 1939. The Elwood Angling Club has social importance for the value placed on the site by the members of the Elwood Angling Club and, potentially, the broader community of Port Phillip.

Criterion H: Special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in our history (associative significance).

The Elwood Angling Club has associative significance for its association with well-known comic strip writer Alex Gurney and his widely popular cartoon strip, 'Bluey and Curley'. Gurney was a long time Elwood Anglers Club member and the cartoon centered around the club and the exploits of 'Curley', based on himself, and fellow Elwood resident, council linesman Len Anderson, who was depicted as 'Bluey'. Gurney and Anderson shared a boat called 'Bluey and Curley' taking many fishing trips out from Elwood beach and the club. In fishing scenes, they appeared in wooden fishing boats, known as clinker boats, which were commonly used at the club in the 1950s. Several clinker boats have been retained by the club and are still in regular use today.

The comic strip was in demand outside Melbourne, and was syndicated to newspapers across Australia, New Zealand and Canada. Gurney continued to create 'Bluey & Curley' strips until his death in 1955. Norman Rice, followed by Leslie Dixon, continued the strip until 1975 (Panozzo 1996). Club members remain proud of the club's association with Gurney and the cartoon with the club retaining and displaying a large collection of memorabilia associated with the cartoon.

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1 ELWOOD FORESHORE, ELWOOD

Former Elwood Sea Scouts Hall (BAYWAC Scout Centre)

Prepared by: Context

Survey Date: October 2019

Place Type: Community

Architect: --

Significance level: Significant

Builder: --

Extent of overlay: --

Construction Date: c.1958



Figure 1. Photograph of the former Elwood Sea Scouts Hall from Elwood Beach in 2020 (Source: Context)



Figure 2. Photograph of the northern side of the former Elwood Sea Scouts Hall in 2020 (Source: Context)

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Foreshore reserves in Victoria

Unlike the case in some other Australian colonies, the Victorian Government had alienated most of the coastal land in the colony for public use to prevent it from being available for private sale. From 1860 an Order-in-Council ruled that government surveyors were required to set a margin of 100 feet along all major water frontages, including coast, permanent freshwater lakes and navigable rivers. As a result, Victoria had an almost continuous line of beach and foreshore preserved for public use, usually as a Crown land reserve. A local council would typically assert its preference for a particular kind of reservation to be made, and generally these were reserved as a site for public purposes, public recreation, public park or public gardens. Most of these reserves were established between the 1860s and the 1880s, and the local council was usually appointed as the Committee of Management; the local council was responsible for permitting and prohibiting certain uses of the reserve, through the establishment and enforcement of rules and regulations.

In the second half of the nineteenth century there was growing interest in the health benefits of sea bathing and taking the 'sea air', which saw the foreshore areas of some of Melbourne's more fashionable seaside locations, namely St Kilda and Brighton, take shape as popular recreational areas. Sea bathing facilities were introduced, as well as bathing boxes or dressing pavilions. Boating facilities were also a standard feature of foreshore reserves, initially as utilitarian structures to service fishing, but piers also became popular attractions for recreational use and boat ramps were installed to service recreational vessels.

As the opportunity for leisure time grew by the late-nineteenth century, foreshore reserves developed as places of entertainment and refreshment with the introduction of tea rooms and kiosks, band rotundas, and seaside amusements. A number of foreshore reserves took on the appearance of a pleasure ground – for example in the case of St Kilda, and in fashionable seaside resorts outside Melbourne, such as Mornington, Sorrento and Queenscliff. In the early twentieth century, foreshore reserves were improved with serviced picnic facilities, and public gardens and ornamental trees; in some cases, sea walls were erected. It was also common for small parcels of land on foreshore reserves to be allocated for various sporting activities, including tennis, bowls, and croquet. Often this was at the instigation of a local sports club, but local councils also took the initiative to provide these facilities. With the increased popularity of swimming, life-saving clubs were also established. Outside Melbourne, foreshore reserves also permitted holiday camping. By the mid-twentieth century, carparks had encroached into foreshore reserves and outside Melbourne, camping areas had been developed as caravan parks. Many existing facilities at foreshore reserves were modernised in this period, and boating facilities were developed to accommodate the changing needs of water sports and commercial fishing.

Elwood foreshore timeline

| | |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1857 | 1857 plan of the 'Village of Elsternwick, Parish of Prahran' names the site as Ormond Beach and shows a 'track from St Kilda to Brighton' through the site. |
| 1864 | The foreshore is described as 'Public Gardens' (Figure 4) |
| 1869 | A large area of the foreshore (48 acres) was temporarily reserved for the purpose of 'Public Gardens' |
| 1874 | A 54 acre site for a Public Garden bounded by the rifle ranges reserve, Ormond Beach, the prolongation of Barkly Street and the creek forming the southern boundary of the abattoir site was proposed to be permanently reserved in January (VGG, 23 January 1874: 143). The temporary reservation of 48 acres was revoked in February as the boundaries were being altered (VGG, 13 February 1874:310) |
| 1882 | 54 acres at Elwood foreshore were permanently reserved for 'public recreation' |
| 1906 | Opening of electric tramway from St Kilda to Brighton via Ormond Road and St Kilda Street improves access to the area. |
| 1907 | Closure of the rifle butts abutting Head Street |
| 1915 | Opening of electric tramway from Elsternwick to Point Ormond via Glen Huntly Road improves access to the foreshore. Tramway extends along Ormond Road to Point Ormond, just north of the Elwood foreshore, improving access to the area |
| 1916 | Point Ormond Kiosk opened |
| 1919 | St Kilda Council adopts the recommendation to rename the reserve as Elwood Park. |
| 1921 | Elwood Park Kiosk constructed |
| 1921 | Elwood Life Saving Club constructed |
| c.1924 | Elwood Sea Canoe Club constructed |
| c.1925 | Lawn Bowling Club constructed |
| 1927 | Men's and women's conveniences erected at Elwood Park |
| c.1927 | Elwood Croquet Club established on the reserve |
| c.1928 | Sea Bathing Pavilion constructed |
| c.1931 | Tennis Courts constructed |
| c.1933 | Landscaping of Elwood Park and reservation of the area for public recreation |
| c.1934 | Elwood Croquet Club constructed Beautification scheme sees extra rows of tea tree planted along the foreshore |
| 1937 | Regulations for the 'Care, Protection and Management of the 'Elwood Reserves' gazetted |
| c.1939 | Elwood Angling Club constructed |
| 1956 | Elwood Sailing Club involved in the Melbourne Olympic Games |
| 1957 | Fire destroys Elwood Angling Club |
| c.1958 | Elwood Angling Club re constructed Elwood Sea Scout Hall (now BAYWAC Scout Centre) constructed |
| 1970s | Elwood Croquet Club relocated to Head Street and a new building constructed |
| 1971 | New Lifesaving Club constructed |
| 1990s | Elwood Bowling Club closes, becoming Elwood Beach House Café |

Recreational area

Elwood foreshore reserve began to properly develop as a recreational area in the early twentieth century. The closure of the rifle butts near Head Street in 1907 opened up 11 acres of land at the southern end of the site (Heritage Alliance 2005:10). This was added to the much larger area of coastal land at Elwood that had been permanently reserved for public recreation in 1882.

In 1919, St Kilda Council adopted the recommendation to rename the reserve between Normanby Road and Head Street as Elwood Park (*Malvern Standard* 30 August 1919:6).

During the interwar period, a cluster of sporting club premises developed along the foreshore: the lifesaving club (1921), the sailing club (1924), the bowling club (c. 1925), the croquet club (c.1937) and the angling club (c.1939). Apart from the former bowling club, all other original buildings were replaced in the post-war period (Heritage Alliance 2005:52).

Boy Scout movement

The Boy Scout movement was founded in Britain by Robert S.S. Baden-Powell. As a member of the British Army, he had been responsible for training troops in skills such as woodcraft and released a book *Aids to Scouting* (1899) which was to become popular in teaching boys woodcraft. This led to the first trial camp for boys in 1907, after which Baden-Powell wrote a manifesto proposing the Boy Scout movement, titled *Scouting for Boys*. Following his retirement from the British Army in 1910, Baden-Powell dedicated himself to developing the movement. The vision was for boys to be trained in skills associated with the outdoors and survival. The troops of scouts were to be divided into smaller groups of 6 or 7, each with a patrol leader. Girl Guides was founded in 1910 with Baden-Powell's sister, Agnes, assisting in its set up. It followed a similar structure and ambition for girl guides as for the boy scouts, (Hermes '15th Essendon Sea Scouts Complex HO405').

The Boy Scout movement was brought to Australia through a connection between the editor of Sydney's *Sunday Times*, Mr T.H. Roydhouse, and Baden-Powell, with the first scout meeting held at Waverley, Sydney, in 1908 (Hermes '15th Essendon Sea Scouts Complex HO405').

In Victoria, the movement was instigated by a pupil at Toroonga Road State School in East Malvern, Roy McIndoe. McIndoe had received information about the scouts through correspondence with an attendee of the 1907 trial camp in the United Kingdom. This exchange inspired the creation of the 1st Caulfield Scout Troop and was followed by Malvern, Hawksburn, Brighton, Carlton, YMCA, Melbourne, Ivanhoe, Toorak and others. Typically, groups of boys would form and then source an adult to act as the Scout Master (Hermes '15th Essendon Sea Scouts Complex HO405').

Scouts in Port Phillip

Some of the first scout troops in Victoria were formed in Port Phillip. 1st Albert Park was established in 1907 and its first public appearance was on the Kings Birthday, 9 November in that year. In 1911 it formed an association with St Silas' Anglican Church, Albert Park and thereafter met in the church hall (*Record*, 12 November 1938, p.7 'Albert Park Scouts Reassemble'). By late 1909 two troops had been formed at Balaclava, and another at St Kilda.

In 1912, the 1st Victorian Sea Scouts were formed in Albert Park. In 1914 the Sea Scouts Association was formed and in 1916 a clubhouse was erected on Albert Park Lake (Sea Scouts website).

The 3rd St Kilda, established in 1924 with the support of St Kilda synagogue's Rabbi Jacob Dangelow, was Victoria's (and Australia's) first Jewish scout group, and became known as 'Dangelow's own'. The

troop held its first meetings in the St Kilda Synagogue. It then moved to three old train carriages in the Montefiore Homes' grounds before settling in Avoca Avenue, Elwood.

In Elwood the scout hall in Ormond Road was erected in 1939 for the 8th St Kilda-1st Elwood group of boy scouts. The hall was described as a 'commodious structure in brick', which comprised a main hall to be used for scouting and 'district social purposes', to which was attached a 'well-equipped' kitchen (*The Age*, 18 December 1939, p.11 'New Elwood Scout Hall').

In 2020 according to the Scouts Victoria website there are four active Scout troops in Port Phillip: 1st Victorian Sea Scouts (Albert Park), 3rd St Kilda (26 Avoca Avenue, Elwood), 1st Elwood (85 Ormond Road, Elwood) and Port Melbourne (Fishermans Bend Community Centre, 10 Centre Avenue, Port Melbourne).

Sea Scouts in Victoria

The Sea Scouts were an extension of the Boy Scout movement the difference being in the focus on water-based activities for the Sea Scouts. In Melbourne, yachting clubs commonly acted as patrons to local troops (*Record* 18 February 1928:6). Sea Scouting had begun in Britain with the first camp for 100 boys on the ship *T.S. Mercury* in 1909. It was officially recognised as a separate branch of scouting in 1910. Henry Warrington Smyth Baden Powell, brother of Boy Scouts movement leader Robert Baden-Powell, is acknowledged as the founder of Sea Scouting. In 1911, Robert Baden-Powell published a booklet called 'Sea Scouting for Boys' which formalised details for training schemes (The Scout Association 2010).

The 1st Victorian Sea Scouts were established in Albert Park in 1912, the year the Chief Scout and scouting movement founder, Lord Baden-Powell, visited Melbourne and approved the Australian cadet system. Whilst more common along the eastern shoreline of Port Phillip Bay, troops were established throughout Victoria based around inland lakes, rivers and in coastal towns (Heritage Alliance 2005a:90).

Victoria's first Sea Scouts Association was formed in 1914 and, in 1915 the first boat was donated to the Albert Park sea scouts by the Ancient Mariners Society. A clubhouse on Albert Park Lake was constructed in 1916 (1st Victorian Sea Scouts).

The Sea Scout troops around Melbourne came together to participate in parades. In 1928, about 200 Sea Scouts from Albert Park, Ivanhoe, Williamstown and St Kilda troops were on parade for inspection by members of the Naval Board (*Emerald* 29 September 1928:2).

Several Sea Scout halls were erected around Port Phillip Bay in Brighton (c.1950s), Sandringham, Beaumaris (1950s), Chelsea (demolished 1978), Mordialloc (1955; destroyed by fire 1985), Frankston, Mount Eliza and Rosebud, Mornington and Sorrento (Heritage Alliance 2005a:90).

PLACE HISTORY

The Building

While scout troops had been established in Port Phillip since 1907, the Elwood Sea Scouts did not form until c.1950s. A scout hall was constructed on the Elwood foreshore reserve c.1958 and was used by the 9th St Kilda-Elwood Sea Scouts who participated in events such as camps and regattas. In 1960, the club held a regatta raising funds for re-building and equipment (Figure 7) (*Age* 22 February 1960: 7).

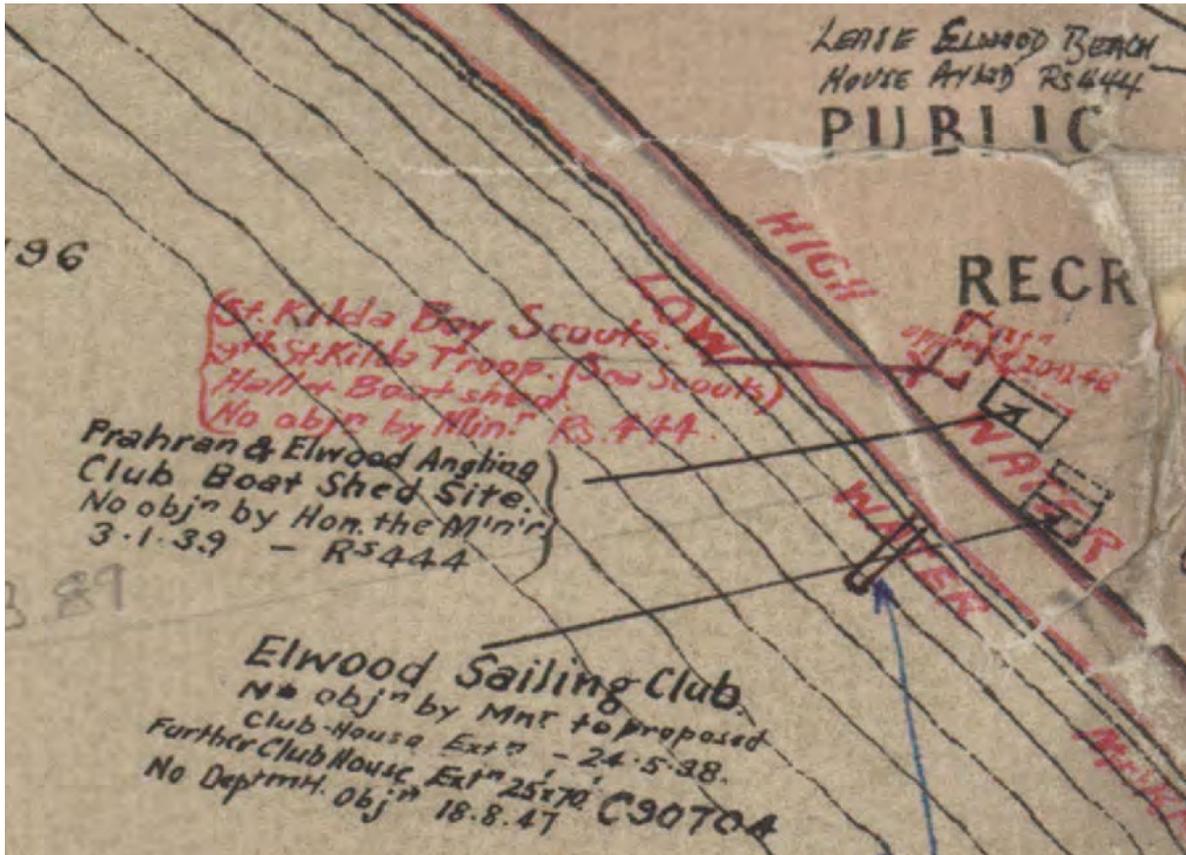


Figure 3. Detail of Prahran-3 Parish Plan, Imperial measure P3416-4 showing land was granted to the St Kilda Boy Scouts, 9th St Kilda Troop (Sea Scouts) for a hall or boatshed, however, no date is provided (Source: Department of Sustainability and Environment 2002, PROV)



Figure 4. The Elwood foreshore c1939-1954, showing the Scout Hall on the left with double doors. There is some discrepancy with dating as the Scout Hall construction is dated as c.1958 elsewhere (Source: State Library of Victoria)

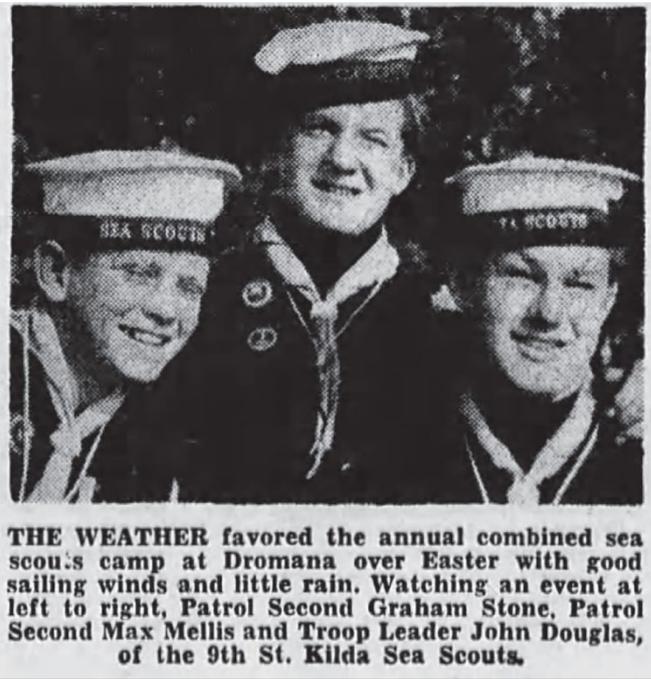


Figure 5. A newspaper clipping showing Troop Leader and Patrol Seconds of the 9th St Kilda Sea Scouts at the annual combined sea scouts camp at Dromana at Easter in 1953. (Source: Age 7 April 1953:3)



Figure 6. Members of the 9th St Kilda-Elwood Sea Scouts chair the Australian pair Rolly Tasker and Malcolm Scott after their win on the first day of the 12 sq. m. Sharpie Class, in the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games, held on Port Phillip Bay,. (Source: Howard 1956, National Library of Australia in copyright)



Figure 7. A newspaper clipping showing a 12-year-old sea scout eating watermelon during a regatta held by the 9th St Kilda Sea Scouts at Elwood in 1960 to raise funds for re-building and equipment (Source: *Age* 22 February 1960: 7)

The Sea Scouts also showcased their skills at community events. In 1979, for example, the troop organised a boating display following a fun run in Elwood Park (*Age* 16 March 1979:12).

Following the closure of the 9th St Kilda-Elwood Sea Scouts group, the hall was used by all Scout groups in the area. In 1993, plans were approved for the refurbishment of the scout hall for use as a water activities and training centre. These works were revised and approved by the City of St Kilda in August 1993, and mostly included internal material improvements, safety features, skylights, repairs to doors and windows, and the relocation of two stairways. Externally, the character was to remain with one external side door removed and another relocated. The existing timber weatherboards were to be replaced with 'Hardieplank' to improve maintenance requirements and reduce fire risk. An acrylic gloss paint in a light sand colour with brown trim was proposed for the external walls and the roof was to remain as it was (City of St Kilda).

The former Elwood Sea Scout Hall is today known as the BAYWAC, the water activity centre of the 1st Elwood Scouts.

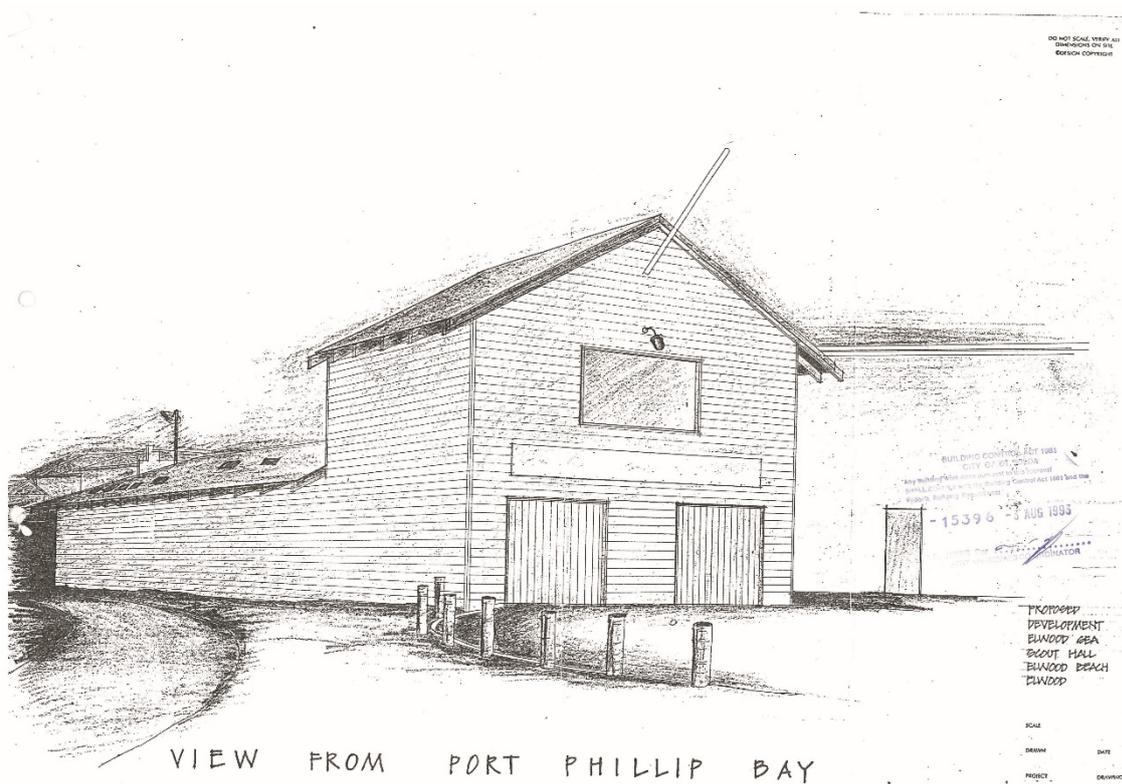


Figure 8. Perspective drawing of the proposed development plans for the Elwood Sea Scout Hall approved in 1993, showing additional sky lights (Source: City of St Kilda)

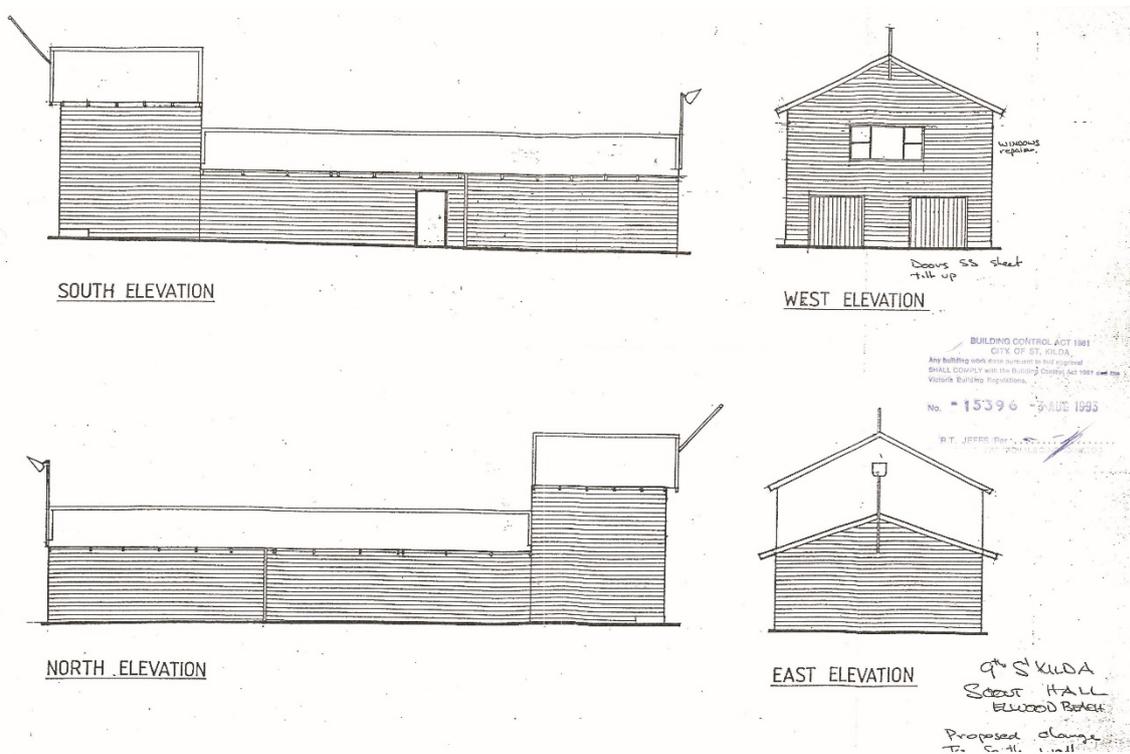


Figure 9. Elevation drawings from the proposed development plans for the Elwood Sea Scout Hall approved in 1993 (Source: City of St Kilda)

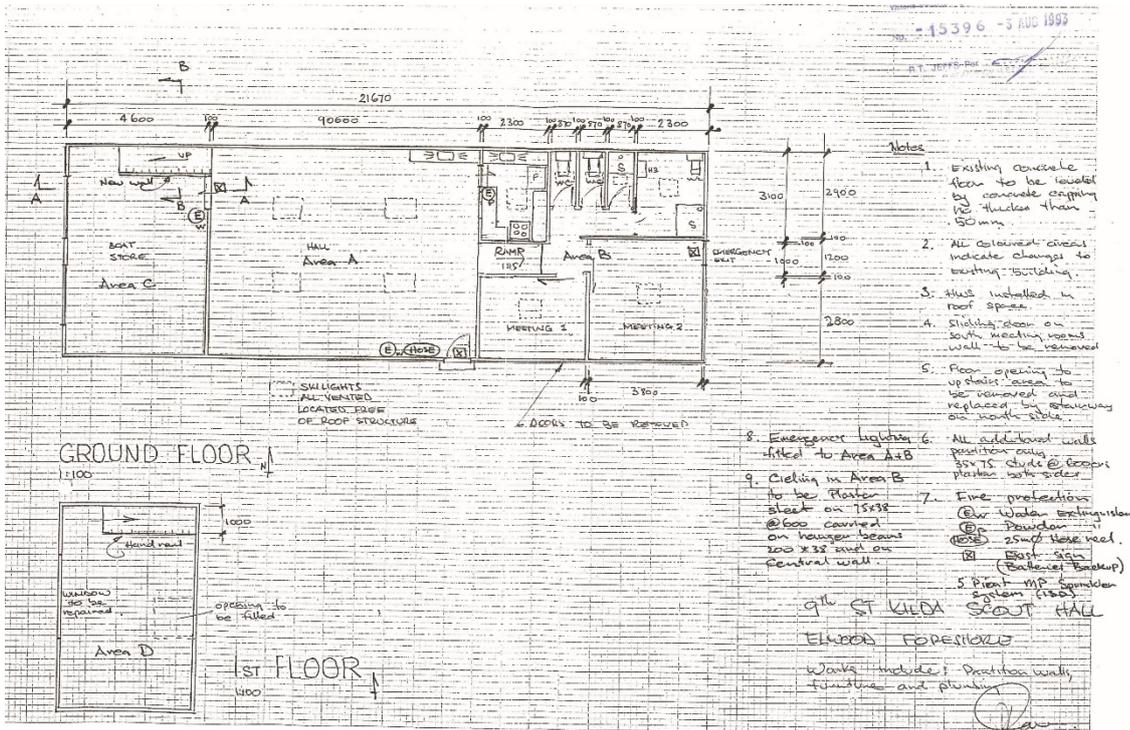


Figure 10. Plan drawing of the proposed development plans for the Elwood Sea Scout Hall approved in 1993 noting the proposed changes to each area with stairways in Area C and Area D to be relocated. (Source: City of St Kilda)

DESCRIPTION

The former Elwood Sea Scouts Hall, now BAYWAC Scout Centre (BAYWAC), is located at 1 Elwood Foreshore, Elwood. The hall is accessed off Ormond Esplanade via Elwood Foreshore Road and is west of the Elwood Foreshore Carpark. The building sits within a group of three buildings (the former Elwood Sea Scouts Hall, Elwood Angling Club and Elwood Sailing Club) that are ringed by an asphalt service road. Located at the northwest end of this group (next to the Elwood Angling Club) the former Elwood Sea Scouts Hall is orientated toward Port Phillip Bay with the principal façade of the building facing southwest fronting Elwood Beach.

It is a simple timber-framed building that is clad in wide horizontal fibre cement weatherboards. Comprising two distinct sections, the front section of the building, facing Port Phillip Bay, is two-storey with a gable roof clad in corrugated iron sheet and exposed rafter ends. At ground level the principal façade (facing the water) features a wide opening fitted with a solid door at its southeast end that provides access to the building for boat storage. There is evidence of a second door for boat access that has been covered over. At the first-floor level a single centrally placed opening is fitted with an aluminium framed tripartite window that has a metal wire grill attached. Above the window a banner sign is attached to the gable end and reads 'BAYWAC Scout Centre'. Above this sign is a banner pole protruding at an acute angle from the building. At the front of the building a pvc downpipe runs vertically across the building just below sill level.

At the rear of the two-storey front section, a single-storey wing runs north east towards Ormond Esplanade. Clad in the same fibre cement weatherboards and sitting under a lower pitched gable roof

clad in corrugated iron with no gutters and exposed rafter ends, this section of the building has no windows and only a single timber entry door along its southeast elevation that is accessed by a small timber-framed ramp. Several skylights penetrate the roof and appear to be recent additions, and a vertical pole rises above the apex of the roof line at the rear of the building.



Figure 11. Photograph showing the single storey wing at the rear of the building in 2020 (Source: Context)

The building sits within landscaping using coastal species along its north west and north east elevations

INTEGRITY

The former Elwood Sea Scouts Hall (BAYWAC), 1 Elwood Foreshore, Elwood, is somewhat intact.. The building retains its original built form and scale, materiality and use. Sketches from 1993 show a second opening at ground level on the principal façade facing Port Phillip Bay which has been covered over. Skylights have been installed and the timber weatherboards have also been replaced with fibre cement boards. Windows have been replaced and a series of internal alterations have also taken place. Overall, the building has moderate integrity.

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

As there are no other Sea Scouts halls within the City of Port Phillip, the former Elwood Sea Scouts Hall is discussed with reference to other Sea Scout buildings in Melbourne more generally. While there are many Scouting Troop sites represented on the Heritage Overlay these building tend to be of a different typology in that they are generally meeting halls and more akin to community halls built across the Melbourne. Sea Scout Halls (particularly those built near water) have a typology more closely aligned to a boat shed than a typical scout hall. They frequently interface directly with the water or close to it and include storage for equipment associated water activities such as boating and kayaking. This results in buildings that incorporate a significant area of boat storage. This differentiates purpose-built sea scout buildings from typical scout halls. The building typology is generally arranged in one of three ways:

- as single storey buildings with boat storage facing the water and club facilities to the rear;
- water-facing boat storage with club facilities all or partly contained in a second storey element that overlooks the water; or

- with a boat shed that is separate from other club facilities.

There are only two Sea Scouts groups on the Heritage Overlay across metropolitan Melbourne. The first is the 15th Essendon Sea Scouts (HO405) at 22 & 26 Woods Street, Ascot Vale, which was originally formed by the 5th Essendon Scout Group and members of the 1st Victorian Sea Scout Group located at Albert Park. The second is the 5th Essendon Scout Group who built their own hall in Fairbairn Park on land granted by the Essendon City Council in 1950. As interest in Sea Scouts grew the 15th Essendon Sea Scouts was formed in 1952 and a 'Nissen Hut' (a prefabricated steel structure for military use made from a half cylindrical skin of corrugated iron) was obtained from a Mordialloc Sea Scout group and erected during 1954. As numbers grew a steel-framed building was purchased from the Fisherman's Bend Migrant Hostel in 1973 and used as a recreational hall for the group.



Figure 12. Photograph of the 15th Essendon Sea Scouts Complex (Source: Moonee Valley City Council)

The significance of the 15th Essendon Sea Scouts Complex is articulated as:

The 15th Essendon Sea Scouts complex is of local historic and social significance to the City of Moonee Valley.

It is significant for its long and continuing associations with the Boy Scout movement in the City of Moonee Valley. The scouting movement played an important role in the lives of adolescent boys in the twentieth century and was at the height of its popularity when 15th Essendon Sea Scouts was established. The 'Boat Deck' is representative of the re-use of former Army buildings by the scouting movement after World War Two and is the oldest surviving example in the City of Moonee Valley. The wrought iron signage now mounted on the Shackleton Hall, but originally affixed to the 'Boat Deck' hall is significant as the original signage created in 1954 when the club was established. (Criteria A, D & G)

There are also a number of Sea Scout Halls that were erected around Port Phillip Bay. The 1st Sea Scouts, Albert Park, are housed in contemporary facilities on Albert Park Lake but sea scout groups continue operating from earlier facilities in Beaumaris (est.1948, Hall 1955) and Brighton (c.1950s). Other purpose-built sea scout buildings in Chelsea and Mordialloc have since been demolished. The 1st Beaumaris Sea Scouts hall has been recommended for inclusion on the Heritage Overlay

The 1st and 14th Brighton Sea Scouts were established in 1908 and is the oldest and largest in the Bayside area. The group currently meet out of a modest hall located at 34 Wilson Street, Brighton, a pale clinker brick single-storey building built for the group in the 1950s.



Figure 14. Photograph of the Brighton Sea Scout Hall in 2018 (Source: Google)

Sea scouts and girl guides were established in Beaumaris in the postwar period, spurred by the substantial growth in residential development of the suburb. The 1st Beaumaris Sea Scouts were established in 1948 with its Scout Hall at 4 Bodley Street, Beaumaris, being built in 1955. This brick building is freestanding and single-storey and consists of the hall, which is a tall gabled roof form and secondary flat roofed wings to the north and south that are concealed behind a parapet. All roofs are clad in corrugated metal sheeting and an original, utilitarian brick chimney rises from the southern roof plane of the gable roof. The group also has a boat shed on the beach front at Beaumaris from which they conduct a wide range of water activities.



Figure 15. Photograph of the 1st Beaumaris Sea Scout Hall in 2019 (Source: Context)



Figure 16. Photograph of the Beaumaris Sea Scout boat shed (Source: 1st Beaumaris Sea Scouts)

Historically, the former Elwood Sea Scouts Hall is comparable to the above examples as they all provide important tangible evidence of the development and continuing role of the sea scouting movement across Melbourne. The sites have all had long associations with the Sea Scouts movement with all of the surviving buildings dating from the 1950s. Unfortunately, the 1917 building of the Sea Scout Hall (HO189) at 2 Norman Street, Ivanhoe, was destroyed by fire in 2015.

The former Elwood Sea Scout Hall differs from the 15th Essendon Sea Scouts Hall (HO405) at 22 & 26 Woods Street, Ascot Vale, as the subject building was purpose-built rather than being adapted from relocated buildings brought to the site. In this way it is more closely comparable to the 1st and 14th Brighton Sea Scouts at 34 Wilson Street, Brighton, and the 1st Beaumaris Sea Scouts at 4 Bodley Street, Beaumaris, both of which built their halls in the 1950s spurred on by rapid residential growth in the postwar period. These scout halls are characterised by pragmatic building forms that responded to the material and financial shortages of the era in which they were built, and the relative frugality of community facilities constructed during the mid-twentieth century in suburban Melbourne. The subject building is most similar to the boat shed on the beach front at Beaumaris which was purpose-built for use by the 1st Beaumaris Sea Scouts.

The former Elwood Sea Scouts Hall is distinguished by its location and the contribution it makes to the unique aesthetic quality of this section of the foreshore as part of a group of three buildings that survive as evidence of the early and enduring recreational use of the area. While displaying different architectural styles and build dates these buildings together to form a cohesive precinct and are important to the historical interpretation of this area of Elwood and the City of Port Phillip.

ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

In accordance with Planning Practice Note 1 Applying the Heritage Overlay (August 2018), the HERCON heritage criteria are used for the assessment of the heritage value of a place. The model criteria have been broadly adapted by heritage jurisdictions across Victoria and should be used for all new heritage assessment work. The following assessment is preliminary only. Further research and analysis would

need to be undertaken to definitively assess significance for the purpose of any potential inclusion of the place on the Heritage Overlay.

Criterion A: Importance in the course, or pattern, of City of Port Phillip and Victoria's cultural or natural history

The former Elwood Sea Scouts Hall is historically significant for the important tangible evidence it provides of the development and continuing role of the sea scouting movement across Melbourne and the key role Port Phillip Bay has played in providing opportunity to undertake the water activities associated with the group.

The former Elwood Sea Scouts formed in the c.1950s. A scout hall was constructed on the Elwood foreshore reserve c.1958 and was used by the 9th St Kilda-Elwood Sea Scouts who participated in events such as camps and regattas. Following the closure of the 9th St Kilda-Elwood Sea Scouts group, the hall was used by all Scout groups in the area

The former Elwood Sea Scouts Hall is also historically significant as part of a group of the four club buildings (including the surf lifesaving club) that remain on the foreshore. The three buildings grouped together in the northwest corner of the site—the sailing club, angling club, and former sea scout hall—form a cohesive precinct with their immediate foreshore location reflecting their association with activities linked to the sporting and recreational use of this area. The three buildings are also associated by their typological similarities and similar use. In broad terms the built form of each comprises a ground floor area for the storage of craft and equipment associated with their respective water activities while the upper floor provides areas associated with the surveillance of the foreshore area and social activities. This group of three buildings is important to the historical interpretation of this area of Elwood and the City of Port Phillip.

Criterion B: Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of our cultural or natural history (rarity).

N/A

Criterion C: Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of our cultural or natural history (research potential).

N/A

Criterion D: Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural or natural places or environments (representativeness).

N/A

Criterion E: Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics (aesthetic significance).

N/A

Criterion F: Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period (technical significance)

N/A

Criterion G: Strong or special association with a particular present-day community of cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons. This includes the significance of a place to Indigenous peoples as part of their continuing and developing cultural traditions (social significance).

The former Elwood Sea Scouts Hall is of social significance for its long and continuing association with the scouting movement, in particular the sea scouts. The building has played an ongoing role in the provision of water-based activities, initially for the 9th St Kilda-Elwood Sea Scouts group, and since c. 1958 all Scout groups in the area. It has social importance for the value placed on the site by the members of the Scouts and the broader community of Port Phillip.

Criterion H: Special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in our history (associative significance).

Possible, not assessed as part of this study.

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135A Ormond Esplanade Elwood

Elwood Croquet Club

Prepared by: Context

Survey Date: July 2020

Place Type: Community

Architect: --

Significance level: Significant

Builder: --

Extent of overlay: --

Construction Date: c.1970s



Figure 1. Elwood Croquet Club in 2020. (Source: Context)



Figure 2. Elwood Croquet Club in 2020. (Source: Context)

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Foreshore reserves in Victoria

Unlike the case in some other Australian colonies, the Victorian Government had alienated most of the coastal land in the colony for public use to prevent it from being available for private sale. From 1860 an Order-in-Council ruled that government surveyors were required to set a margin of 100 feet along all major water frontages, including coast, permanent freshwater lakes and navigable rivers. As a result, Victoria had an almost continuous line of beach and foreshore preserved for public use, usually as a Crown land reserve. A local council would typically assert its preference for a particular kind of reservation to be made, and generally these were reserved as a site for public purposes, public recreation, public park or public gardens. Most of these reserves were established between the 1860s and the 1880s, and the local council was usually appointed as the Committee of Management; the local council was responsible for permitting and prohibiting certain uses of the reserve, through the establishment and enforcement of rules and regulations.

In the second half of the nineteenth century there was growing interest in the health benefits of sea bathing and taking the 'sea air', which saw the foreshore areas of some of Melbourne's more fashionable seaside locations, namely St Kilda and Brighton, take shape as popular recreational areas. Sea bathing facilities were introduced, as well as bathing boxes or dressing pavilions. Boating facilities were also a standard feature of foreshore reserves, initially as utilitarian structures to service fishing, but piers also became popular attractions for recreational use and boat ramps were installed to service recreational vessels.

As the opportunity for leisure time grew by the late-nineteenth century, foreshore reserves developed as places of entertainment and refreshment with the introduction of tea rooms and kiosks, band rotundas, and seaside amusements. A number of foreshore reserves took on the appearance of a pleasure ground – for example in the case of St Kilda, and in fashionable seaside resorts outside Melbourne, such as Mornington, Sorrento and Queenscliff. In the early twentieth century, foreshore reserves were improved with serviced picnic facilities, and public gardens and ornamental trees; in some cases sea walls were erected. It was also common for small parcels of land on foreshore reserves to be allocated for various sporting activities, including tennis, bowls and croquet. Often this was at the instigation of a local sports club but local councils also took the initiative to provide these facilities. With the increased popularity of swimming, life-saving clubs were also established. Outside Melbourne, foreshore reserves also permitted holiday camping. By the mid-twentieth century, carparks had encroached into foreshore reserves and outside Melbourne, camping areas had been developed as caravan parks. Many existing facilities at foreshore reserves were modernised in this period, and boating facilities were developed to accommodate the changing needs of water sports and commercial fishing.

Elwood Foreshore Timeline

| | |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1857 | 1857 plan of the 'Village of Elsternwick, Parish of Prahran' names the site as Ormond Beach and shows a 'track from St Kilda to Brighton' through the site. |
| 1864 | The foreshore is described as 'Public Gardens' (Figure 4) |
| 1869 | A large area of the foreshore (48 acres) was temporarily reserved for the purpose of 'Public Gardens' |
| 1874 | A 54 acre site for a Public Garden bounded by the rifle ranges reserve, Ormond Beach, the prolongation of Barkly Street and the creek forming the southern boundary of the abattoir site was proposed to be permanently reserved in January (VGG, 23 January 1874: 143). The temporary reservation of 48 acres was revoked in February as the boundaries were being altered (VGG, 13 February 1874:310) |
| 1882 | 54 acres at Elwood foreshore were permanently reserved for 'public recreation' |
| 1906 | Opening of electric tramway from St Kilda to Brighton via Ormond Road and St Kilda Street improves access to the area. |
| 1907 | Closure of the rifle butts abutting Head Street |
| 1915 | Opening of electric tramway from Elsternwick to Point Ormond via Glen Huntly Road improves access to the foreshore. Tramway extends along Ormond Road to Point Ormond, just north of the Elwood foreshore, improving access to the area |
| 1916 | Point Ormond Kiosk opened |
| 1919 | St Kilda Council adopts the recommendation to rename the reserve as Elwood Park. |
| 1921 | Elwood Park Kiosk constructed |
| 1921 | Elwood Life Saving Club constructed |
| c.1924 | Elwood Sea Canoe Club constructed |
| c.1925 | Lawn Bowling Club constructed |
| 1927 | Men's and women's conveniences erected at Elwood Park |
| c.1927 | Elwood Croquet Club established on the reserve |
| c.1928 | Sea Bathing Pavilion constructed |
| c.1931 | Tennis Courts constructed |
| c.1933 | Landscaping of Elwood Park and reservation of the area for public recreation |
| c.1934 | Elwood Croquet Club constructed Beautification scheme sees extra rows of tea tree planted along the foreshore |
| 1937 | Regulations for the 'Care, Protection and Management of the 'Elwood Reserves' gazetted |
| c.1939 | Elwood Angling Club constructed |
| 1956 | Elwood Sailing Club involved in the Melbourne Olympic Games |
| 1957 | Fire destroys Elwood Angling Club |
| c.1958 | Elwood Angling Club re constructed Elwood Sea Scout Hall (now BAYWAC Scout Centre) constructed |
| 1970s | Elwood Croquet Club relocated to Head Street and a new building constructed |
| 1971 | New Lifesaving Club constructed |
| 1990s | Elwood Bowling Club closes, becoming Elwood Beach House Café |

Recreational area

Elwood foreshore reserve developed as a recreational area in the early twentieth century. The closure of the rifle butts in Head Street in 1907 opened up 11 acres of land at the southern end of the site (Heritage Alliance 2005:10). This was added to the much larger area of coastal land that had been permanently reserved for public recreation in 1882.

In 1919, St Kilda Council adopted the recommendation to rename the reserve between Normanby Road and Head Street as Elwood Park (*Malvern Standard* 30 August 1919:6).

During the interwar period, a cluster of sporting club premises developed along the foreshore: the lifesaving club (1921), the sailing club (1924), the bowling club (c. 1925), the croquet club (c.1937) and the angling club (c.1939). Apart from the former bowling club, all other original buildings were replaced in the post-war period (Heritage Alliance 2005:52).

Croquet

The game of croquet was established in England in the mid-1800s, with the first croquet club in Victoria formed in Kyneton in 1866. Croquet was especially appealing to women as it was one of few sports they could participate in publicly before the introduction of tennis in the 1880s. A Victorian statewide croquet association was established in 1914 and, by the 1920s, it was no longer the preserve of the wealthy, having garnered something of a mass appeal. It was popular both as a sport and a social passtime, as it could be played by both sexes (*eMelbourne*: Croquet). The number of croquet clubs increased in Melbourne as they did in the country districts in the early decades of the twentieth century. Like bowling clubs they were often established on an allocated site within a public recreation reserve. The suitability of a sandy soil for laying a croquet lawn meant that they were often established at foreshore reserves—for example at Eastern Park in Geelong, Brighton, Brighton Beach, Frankston, Queenscliff, Sandringham and Portland (Doyle 1999:61-62). In 1925 the Victorian Croquet Association established a regular teams event between Australia and England known as the MacRobertson Shield, named after the confectionary manufacturer, Sir Macpherson Robertson (*eMelbourne*: Croquet). The MacRobertson Shield (also known as the MacRobertson International Croquet Shield) competition now includes Great Britain, New Zealand, Australia and the United States (Croquet Australia 2020).

A number of competitive variations of the game are currently played in Australia, including Association Croquet, Gateball, Golf Croquet and Ricochet (Croquet Australia 2020).

PLACE HISTORY

The Elwood Croquet Club was founded in 1927 by a group that included the former Mayoress of St Kilda, Elizabeth F. A. Robinson (*Age*, 4 May 1938:16).

In 1927 St Kilda City Council agreed to the establishment of municipal croquet lawns for public use, located in Elwood Park approximately opposite Docker Street (*Prahran Telegraph*, 27 March 1927:4). The public croquet lawns were shared with members of the Elwood Croquet Club in 1928 on the agreement that at least one lawn always remain available to the general public (*Prahran Telegraph*, 2 March 1928:3). In 1929 the St Kilda City Council agreed that two sheltered seats be erected at the club (*Prahran Telegraph*, 12 April 1929:2). The club hosted numerous tournaments and also welcomed regional players (Figure 4).

At least until the 1930s the croquet season was formally opened with a ceremony, and/or tournament, during September and closed during July (*Argus* 20 September 1935: 18, *Age* 29 September:1936). In 1931 the season was opened by the Mayor of St Kilda (*Sporting Globe* 26 September 1931:1) and, to mark the closure of the season in 1929, the club held a gymkhana for visiting players (*Age* 15 July 1929:5).



Figure 3. Mrs A.V. McLaughlan at the 1937 Elwood Croquet Club open tournament. (Source: *Age*, 23 April 1937:18)



Figure 4. Regional croquet players from Traralgon and Warrnambool at the Elwood Croquet Club in 1958. (Source: *Age*, 1 March 1958:14)

The original club building was opened in 1934 (*Prahran Telegraph*, 5 May 1934:21)

The club enjoyed a heyday, with high membership numbers, during the 1950s and 1970s.

The Elwood Croquet Club relocated to 135A Ormond Elplanade, Elwood where the current brick clubhouse of approximately 70 square metres was built in the 1970s. The Elwood Croquet Club is the only croquet club in the City of Port Phillip (Heritage Alliance 2005:11 and City of Port Phillip).

DESCRIPTION

The Elwood Croquet Club is located at 135A Ormond Elplanade, Elwood. It is situated in Elwood Park on the northern side of Head Street between St Kilda Street and Port Phillip Bay and to the west of Head Street Reserve. Accessed from a pathway that runs between the club's eastern boundary and Head Street Reserve, the grounds of the club are fenced by a high black cyclone wire fence and include lawn playing courts. The clubhouse building is positioned in the site's northeast corner.

The clubhouse is a single-storey square pavilion style building with a pyramidal roof clad in metal roof decking. The core of the building is designed as a simple square with L-shaped piers comprised of projecting pale brown brick wing walls laid in stretcher bond running at right angles to each other at the

building's corners. Between these masonry corner elements, the walls of the club house are timber framed and glazed. The pyramidal roof sits over the entire structure creating a deep eave overhang along each elevation. Along the western façade a deep verandah with a skillion roof supported on rectangular brick piers appears to be a later addition.



Figure 5. Photograph showing the deep eave overhang in 2020 (Source: Context)

Along the principal façade, facing south, the timber-framed wall of the clubhouse is made up of three pairs of timber doors with glazed upper panels and fixed glass panes above. When open these would provide unencumbered movement into the clubhouse (Figure 2).

Under the verandah along the building's western elevation the wall is similarly constructed with glazed timber doors and fixed glass panes above (Figure 6). The northern and eastern elevations are more prosaic in character and have an expressed timber frame with cement sheet panel infills and highlight windows that provided natural light and ventilation to the amenity areas of the building.



Figure 6. Photograph showing the western elevation in 2020 (Source: Context)

A small storage shed is located behind the clubhouse in the north east corner of the site and is designed to match the pavilion with its distinctive masonry corner elements and, in this instance, a metal flat roof with a deep eave overhang.



Figure 7. Photograph showing a small storage shed behind the clubhouse in 2020 (Source: Context)

INTEGRITY

Elwood Croquet Club, 135A Ormond Esplanade, Elwood, is largely intact with very few changes visible to original or early significant fabric. The building retains its original built form, pyramidal roof form and architectural design features. These include pale brown brick corners of intersecting wing walls separated by infill timber wall panels fitted with glazing. Alterations include the addition of a deep verandah with a skillion roof supported on rectangular brick piers along the western façade. This addition would be easily reversible. Overall, the building has very high integrity.

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

Comparisons for the Elwood Croquet Club are discussed in this section with reference to other croquet clubs in Melbourne. There are no other purpose-built croquet clubs in the City of Port Phillip, although other early bowls clubs such as St Kilda Bowls Club and Middle Park Bowling Club also included croquet lawns. The closest comparator on the Heritage Overlay of a similar recreational use, establishment date and location is the former Elwood Bowls Club.

The former Elwood Bowls Club (HO427) at Ormond Esplanade, Elwood, was founded in 1925 with the clubhouse being officially opened in October of that year. The club closed in c.1991 and the former clubhouse was converted into a council-operated community centre and café.



Figure 8. The former Elwood Bowls Club converted into a community centre and café (Source: mrarch.com.au)

The significance of the former Elwood Bowls Club is articulated as:

The former bowling club is of historical and aesthetic significance to the City of Port Phillip.

Historically, the former bowling club is one of the earliest remaining buildings along the Elwood foreshore. Erected in 1925, it provides evidence of the expansion of recreational facilities along the beach during the inter-war period, and is now the only survivor amongst the complex of early twentieth century clubhouses that included the original premises of the angling club, lifesaving club and croquet club, all of which have since been replaced by post-war buildings. More broadly, the former bowling club is also of some interest as the only one in the municipality that is located along the foreshore and, indeed, one of only four bowling clubs thus sited along the entire east coast of Port Phillip Bay.

Aesthetically, the former bowling club is significant as a distinctive element in the foreshore landscape. Although slightly altered and generally of little architectural pretension, its simple

form and detailing, including strapped fibro-cement cladding with weatherboard dado, is representative of its type and era.

As there are no other croquet clubs within the City of Port Phillip's Heritage Overlay, it is considered appropriate to look outside the municipality for comparable places included in Heritage Overlays. There are only three croquet clubs on the Heritage Overlay across metropolitan Melbourne. These are:

The Essendon Croquet Club (HO164) at 5 Brewster Street, Essendon, which was established in 1912 with the clubhouse and grounds opening in 1913.



Figure 9. The Essendon Croquet Club (Source: Moonee Valley City Council)

The significance of Essendon Croquet Club is articulated as:

The Essendon Croquet Club clubhouse and grounds in Brewster Street, Essendon were opened in 1913. They are important in the history of Essendon since the formation of the Club in 1912 as a venue for organised recreation (Criterion G) whilst the clubhouse is of interest as an example of the work of the local architect, Daniel R. Dossetor.

The Ivanhoe Park Croquet Club (HO186) at 132 Lower Heidelberg Road, Ivanhoe, was established in 1913 in the Ivanhoe recreation reserve owned by the former Heidelberg City Council (now Banyule City Council). The first clubhouse was a single-room timber building. In 1937 a larger room of pressed metal was built alongside this. A verandah and storage/bathroom facilities were added later.



Figure 10. The Ivanhoe Park Croquet Club (Source: Banyule City Council)

The significance of the Ivanhoe Park Croquet Club is articulated as:

The Ivanhoe Park Croquet club is historically and socially significant to the City of Banyule. The Ivanhoe Park Croquet Club house and associated facilities are historically, socially and aesthetically significant to the City of Banyule.

The Ivanhoe Park Croquet Club is historically and socially significant as one of the earliest croquet clubs established in Victoria, as a reminder of the popularity of the sport of croquet during the early part of the 20th century [sic] and because, for over 80 years, it has provided an important recreational space for local residents. (Criteria A, B, G & H)

The Ivanhoe Park Croquet Club house is historically significant as a reminder of the popularity of the sport of croquet during the early part of the 20th century and because, for over 80 years, it has provided an important recreational space for local residents (Criteria A, G & H).

It is aesthetically significant as the oldest section of the Croquet club, (which was one of the earliest croquet clubs established in Melbourne) and as an example of an early 20th century recreational club room. (Criteria A, B & E)

The Williamstown Croquet Club (HO313) at 104 Victoria Street, Williamstown, was established in 1926 assisted by the Williamstown Borough Council offering land in the Victoria Street Council Reserve. Two lawns were opened in 1928 and the clubhouse designed by architects Morsby and Coates was opened in 1929.



Figure 11. The Williamstown Croquet Club (Source: Hobsons Bay City Council)

The significance of Williamstown Croquet Club is articulated as:

The Williamstown Croquet Club pavilion is of local historic, social and aesthetic significance to the City of Hobsons Bay.

Historically, the Williamstown Croquet Club Pavilion illustrates the development of Victoria Street as a fashionable middle class enclave in Williamstown during the Interwar period.

Aesthetically, the Williamstown Croquet Club Pavilion is the most elegant and substantial sports clubhouse in Hobsons Bay and one of the few examples designed by an architect. It is a rare and fine example of a blend of Interwar styles, which contributes to the historic character of Victoria Street.

The Elwood Croquet Club and the former Elwood Bowls Club compare well historically as relatively intact buildings that reflect different aspects of the historical development of the Elwood foreshore area for social and recreational use. Established in the 1920s within the same foreshore precinct, both clubs were linked with the expansion of recreational facilities along the beach during the interwar period. While the Bowls Club is distinguished by being the only survivor amongst the complex of early twentieth century clubhouses that included the original premises of the angling club, lifesaving club and croquet club, the current purpose-built croquet club building and lawns still provides important evidence of the endurance of social connections sustained by the croquet club and the ongoing recreational use of the foreshore area.

The club also provides important historical evidence of the popularity of croquet as an organised sport. That the Elwood Croquet Club building was constructed in the 1970s, at a time when the popularity of the sport across the Victoria was beginning to wane, is testimony to its continuing support in the local area at that time.

A state association was formed in Victoria in 1914 and by the 1920s croquet had developed mass appeal and was no longer the preserve of the wealthy. The Elwood Croquet Club (est. 1927), along with those at Essendon (1912), Ivanhoe (1913) and Williamstown (1926), all provide important evidence of the popularity of the sport, particularly in Victoria. While the other clubs all retain their early clubhouses, the Elwood Croquet Club House is unusual in that it is a carefully detailed purpose-built pavilion from the 1970s. It is a fine representative example of a small sports pavilion building and demonstrates the strong ongoing community connection to the club and the broader foreshore location which has been home to the club since 1927

With its geometric form, pyramidal main roof form, L-shaped corner masonry wing walls and light-weight infill walls it is a representative example of a Melbourne regional Modernism pavilion applied to the clubhouse typology. It broadly reflects geometric, pavilion-style buildings with pyramidal roofs being designed during the late 1960s and 1970s. While not as architecturally distinguished as examples of this type of pavilion form building designed by architects such as Robin Boyd (Baker House, 305-307 Long Forest, 1966, VHR: H2118), John Baird (Craft Centre, North Beaumaris Primary School, Wood Street, Beaumaris, 1966), and David Godsell (Olive Phillips Free Kindergarten and Infant Welfare Centre, 26 and 28A Bodley Street, Beaumaris, 1975, recommended for Bayside HO) it shares similar formal qualities that connect it with the other regional examples of Modernist architecture.

ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

In accordance with Planning Practice Note 1 Applying the Heritage Overlay (August 2018), the HERCON heritage criteria are used for the assessment of the heritage value of a place. The model criteria have been broadly adapted by heritage jurisdictions across Victoria and should be used for all new heritage assessment work. The following assessment is preliminary only. Further research and analysis would need to be undertaken to definitively assess significance.

Criterion A: Importance in the course, or pattern, of the City of Port Phillip and Victoria's cultural or natural history.

The Elwood Croquet Club was formed in 1927 the first clubhouse building was located on the Elwood foreshore reserve opposite Docker Street from 1934. The current Elwood Croquet Club was erected on its current site in the 1970s. It is historically significant for the important tangible evidence it provides of the enduring popularity of croquet in Elwood into the 1970s, when the popularity of the sport was beginning to wane elsewhere in Victoria. A state association was formed in Victoria in 1914 and by the 1920s croquet had developed mass appeal and was no longer the preserve of the wealthy. Clubs established themselves in many towns and suburbs in local reserves in much the same way as had bowling clubs. The heyday of croquet-playing continued through to the 1950s and was strongest in Victoria in 1954 when there were 6000 playing club members. Croquet was particularly appealing to women as it was one of the few sports, before the introduction of tennis in the 1880s, in which they could participate publicly.

Criterion B: Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of our cultural or natural history (rarity).

Possibly, would require further research to establish if there were other clubs in the City of Port Phillip.

Criterion C: Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of our cultural or natural history (research potential).

N/A

Criterion D: Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural or natural places or environments (representativeness).

Architecturally the Elwood Croquet Club building is a fine representative example of a modest sporting pavilion built in the 1970s. The building retains its original geometric built form, pyramidal roof form and architectural design features that reflect its postwar Melbourne regional style architectural influences. These include pale brown brick corners of intersecting wing walls separated by infill timber wall panels fitted with glazing. The design is further enhanced by its setting adjacent to Head Street Reserve. The building is distinguished by its high level of intactness and integrity both externally and internally.

Criterion E: Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics (aesthetic significance)

Criterion F: Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period (technical significance)

N/A

Criterion G: Strong or special association with a particular present-day community of cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons. This includes the significance of a place to Indigenous peoples as part of their continuing and developing cultural traditions (social significance).

The Elwood Croquet Club at 135A Ormond Esplanade, Elwood is of social significance for its long and continuing association with the sport of croquet. Established in 1927, the club has played an ongoing role in both the recreational and social life of club members and has social importance for the value placed on the site by its members and the broader community of Port Phillip.

Criterion H: Special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in our history (associative significance).

Possible, not assessed as part of this study.

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