

IVANHOE SCOUT HALL

Address	8A Wallace Street, Ivanhoe
Significance	Local
Construction Date	1939-40
Period	Late Interwar
Date Inspected	January 2021



Statement of Significance

What is Significant?

Ivanhoe Scout Hall at 8A Wallace Street, Ivanhoe is significant. It was constructed in 1939-40 for the 2nd Ivanhoe Scouts to a design from one of its members, Kingston K Sedgfield, an architect for and later partner at Stephenson & Turner. It is currently utilised by the 10th Ivanhoe Scouts.

The significant elements are its original rectangular footprint, cross-gabled roof, gabled entry porch, fenestration pattern (excluding non-original window frames) and combination of timber boards (plinth), weatherboard (lower section), and battered sheeting (upper section) to walls.

Later addition elements are not significant.

How is it Significant?

Ivanhoe Scout Hall is of historical, representative and social significance to the City of Banyule.

Why is it Significant?

Ivanhoe Scout Hall is of historical significance as a distinctive marker of scouting in the locality. It was likely the first purpose-built scout hall in the municipality and is the oldest enduring instances of a scout-related building in Banyule. Scouting in Victoria originated in a vigorous British youth movement that proliferated across Australia during the Federation years and has played an influential role in the lives – adolescent and adult – of many within the locality. The erection of the substantial hall in the area at

the outset of the Second World War, mainly by members of the 2nd Ivanhoe Scouts (est. 1925), reflects past community activism and illustrates a high point for the organisation. The decidedly 'modern' expression of the hall prepared by its volunteer architect, 'King' Sedgfield preceded the widespread wartime and postwar adoption of a similar pared-down functionalism, especially for community buildings. (Criterion A)

Ivanhoe Scout Hall is of representative significance as an early example of 'unpretentious modernism', a design approach that became near-universal in public and private efforts to meet the demand for civic and community facilities in the postwar period. The large size of the hall and its unassuming and functional form reflect this idiom, still in an emergent state at the time of the place's construction. *Ivanhoe Scout Hall* illustrates a more refined image than typically seen (or sought) with later, more standardised scout halls in the municipality through the arrangement of the wall cladding – vertically laid smooth fibre-cement battens with joints concealed by broad strappings above a lower section of weatherboard. The understated but smart visual effect achieved with such basic materials epitomises a key aim of the modern movement. While fabric replacement has recently occurred, along with the removal of the distinctive multi-unit hopper windows, the patterning of the walls to the most visible elevations has been continued, allowing for the overall original presentation of the hall to remain appreciable. (Criterion D)

Ivanhoe Scout Hall is of social significance for the sustained attachment demonstrated by local scouts, having served as a focal point for the movement for over 80 years. The legacy of the hall's 'do-it-yourself' construction exemplifies fundamental scouting principles and likely contributes to the contemporary identity of scouts in the area. (Criterion G)

Description

Ivanhoe Scout Hall is situated on a large gently east-west sloping allotment on the north side of an unnamed lane that intersects with Wallace Street. It is bound in the north and east by private residences and to the west by the landscaped recreational environs of Nellie Ibbott Park.¹ The hall runs parallel to the lane and is set close to the northern boundary of the site. There is a gravel car park to the front of the hall with a section of brick pavers to its east. Elsewhere the property is grassed. Various mature species of indigenous/native trees have been planted along the property boundary, which is demarcated by high wire mesh fencing (south and west) or timber palings (north and east). Pedestrian/vehicular entry is provided via double gates from the lane.

The hall is a sizeable structure with a loosely rectangular form comprised of a long single-storey section ('main hall') and two-storey wing (ground floor – 'stage & club lair'; lower ground – 'rover den', 'boys cloak room' and utilities), both with broad gable roofs. Timber bargeboards and a soffit sheathed in fibre-cement sheeting are evident. A small enclosed gabled porch projects from the single-storey wing's east elevation, acting as the main entrance. There is also an original hipped-roof wing attached to the north elevation of the main hall. The skillion-roofed volume to the north-east corner of the hall is a later addition. The roofs are clad in corrugated metal sheeting (likely a replacement). The small 'vent ridge' that ran the roof of the single-storey wing has been lost, although a plain brick chimney remains to the rear roof plane. Metal flues and solar panels (rear roof plane) are non-original.

Excavation activity carried out during construction in the west part of the site enabled the first level of the two-storey wing to match the main hall's ground level. The latter encompasses a raised timber stage at its first storey with additional rooms and facilities to the lower ground floor. Timber stairs to the main hall on the south elevation were later removed and part of the space under the main hall was adapted into a storeroom accessed via a ramp (note timber retaining wall). At the centre of the west elevation is a red brick chimney with soldier course cap. Its external breast is overpainted and has a stepped configuration. There is also another chimney to the northern roof plane that is not visible from the public realm.

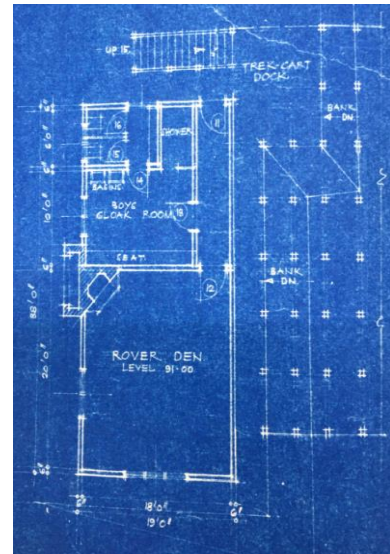
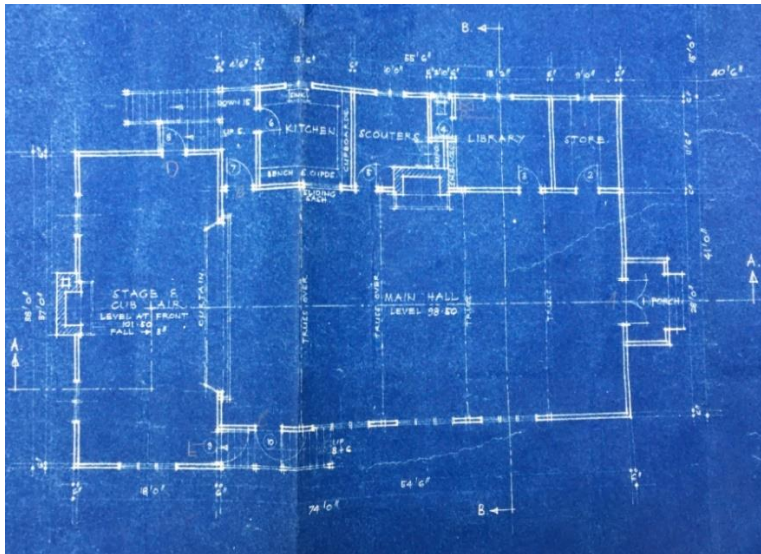
In 2021, an array of fabric renewal and external/internal modifications for *Ivanhoe Scout Hall* were undertaken.²

The hall is of battered-framed construction and originally was clad in a combination of painted timber weatherboards (lower part) and fibre-cement battens (remainder) with a plinth of timber boards to the south and north elevations. The sheeting was laid vertically with the overlapping joints covered with wide strapping, creating a flushed appearance. This timber has been replaced by Scyon® Linea weatherboard, while Scyon® Matrix – a lightweight cement composite – has been utilised in place of the cement sheeting. The latter, however, has been laid in a geometric/horizontal pattern comparable to the original. This action,

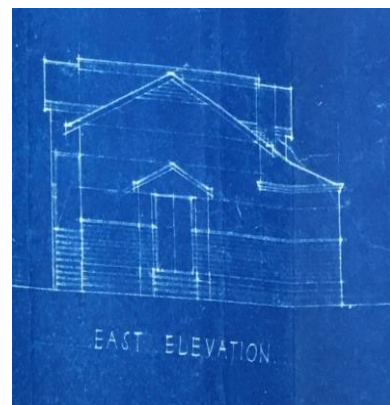
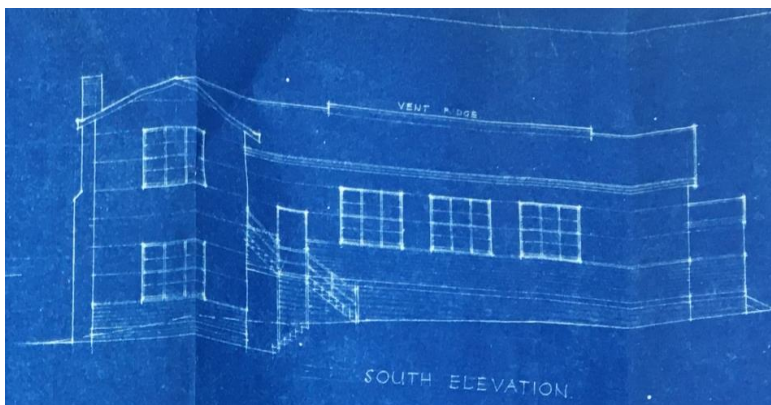
¹ Nellie Grace Ibbott was a long-term councillor for the City of Heidelberg and held the mayoral office (1943-44), the first women in Victoria to do so. (Jean Baker, 'Ibbott, Nellie Grace (1889-1970)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, 1996, available online)

² City of Banyule, 8A Wallace Street, *Ivanhoe East – Condition 1 plans*, 08/2/21

along with the continued employment of the weatherboard, retains the hall's overall aesthetic. This new cladding is painted a neutral white, with a dark green utilised for the plinth. The north elevation (the least visible) is clad in Colorbond sheeting. An original small horizontally proportioned hand-painted sign on the south elevation ('2nd Ivanhoe Scout Hall') with scouts insignia has been replaced by a larger sign.



Original ground floor plan (left) and lower ground floor (right), dated August 1939
(Source: Public Building Files, PROV, VPRS 7882, consignment P0001, unit 1042)



Drawings of original south elevation (left) and east elevation (right)
(Source: Public Building Files, PROV, VPRS 7882, consignment P0001, unit 1042)

Original windows at *Ivanhoe Scout Hall* are predominantly timber-framed banks comprised of varying units of hoppers with dividing glazing bars (six units to the south elevation, one or two units to the north elevation, and four units to the west elevation). There was also a pair of casements to the lower ground floor (west elevation). These have been replaced with black aluminium-framed slider and fixed windows, albeit of similar proportions with glazing bars that convey something of the previous division. Windows to the upper level of the two-storey wing (x3) and north elevation (x3) have been infilled.

A contemporary metal stair and timber deck with railing have replaced the original timber stair and landing attached to the north elevation, which initially allowed access between the stage and west basement level. The porch entrance has also been widened to allow for the provision of an L-shaped concrete access ramp.

The design of scout halls in Victoria varied widely, from adaptively reused structures to purpose-built, from simple halls to architect-renditions. Nonetheless, most early interwar period scout halls were relatively plain gable-roofed buildings, typically with sparse detailing and clad in timber weatherboards (similar in type to community halls). Over the 1930s, more elaborate halls also appeared; for instance, the crenellated Tudor revival-style premise for *1st Dandenong* (61A Princes Highway, Dandenong, HO49) and some examples of rustic 'log cabin' (*Pakenham Scout Hall*, HO49).

At *Ivanhoe Scout Hall*, the responsible architect, 'King' Sedgfield, adopted a 'modern' design mode for the traditional hall form, emphasised in the clarity of the building's shape and plan, the shedding of applied ornamentation and an unvarnished but elegant use of readily available, low-maintenance materials. This built expression, 'an architectural language of economically lean, functionalist and often aesthetically unpretentious modernism', was utilised extensively during the Second World War by the architects and engineers of the Allied Works Council. Postwar, it evolved into the chief design approach for community buildings, embodying popular and expert associations with social improvement, recreation, and health and hygiene.³



View to the west elevation from Nellie Ibbot Park



Facing east from Nellie Ibbot Park

³ Hannah Lewi, David Nichols, Philip Goad, Julie Willis and Kate Darian-Smith, 'Making the Modern Community', in Lewi and Nichols, eds, *Community: building modern Australia*, UNSW Press, 2010, p3

History

Context

The City of Banyule covers the unceded Country of the Wurundjeri-willam people, who have inhabited and managed its landscape for thousands of generations and maintain an ongoing cultural connection.⁴ The lightly wooded grasslands of what became known as 'Ivanhoe' were quickly targeted for sheep runs and by timber-cutters from the 'illegal squatter camp' downstream of the *Birrarung*/Yarra at Melbourne (est. 1835).⁵ However, as part of the 'Heidelberg' district in the Parish of Keelbundora, this area passed rapidly into private hands via an auction in Sydney Town in 1838.⁶

Over the following decade, a patchwork of 'prestige' estates emerged, along with a surveyed township – *Warringal* (possibly 'eagle's nest'), later 'Heidelberg' – on the river's west bank.⁷ Productive river flats, and the demands of the gold diggings further afield, encouraged market gardening, orchards and (gradually, due to soil exhaustion and flooding) dairying; activities mostly undertaken by tenant farmers.⁸ This perceived rural idyll enticed *plein air* artists to the district during the 1880s, fixing the 'Heidelberg School' within Australia's artistic consciousness.⁹

Ivanhoe – its name stemming from Archibald Thom's 'Ivanhoe Estate' – remained a sparsely populated agricultural area until Melbourne's 'Land Boom' in the late 1880s.¹⁰ 'Picturesque' terrain, varied outlooks and the high repute of the broader district drew often well-off newcomers. By the turn of the century, 'Beautiful Ivanhoe' was routinely portrayed as a 'fashionable', 'exclusive locality' of 'model homes'.¹¹ An improved railway connection to Melbourne in 1901 supported further middle-class growth, instigating 'four decades of slow and relatively affluent suburban sprawl' in the vicinity of Ivanhoe, Eaglemont, and Heidelberg train stations.¹²

During the interwar years, suburban Ivanhoe solidified, although its southern and eastern reaches remained primarily locked up by the expansive 'Hartlands', 'Charterisville', and 'Chelsworth' estates.¹³ To navigate the complexities that accompanied the subdivision of these areas (sloping land, curving streets, views) in the postwar period and galvanised by the swelling influence of modernism, many of the new and generally moneyed proprietors sought the services of an architect.¹⁴ By the early 1960s, distinct enclaves of upmarket, modernist design culture were apparent in the southern reaches of Ivanhoe and Ivanhoe East, with the aesthetic and lifestyle reverberations of the modern movement also shaping infill development in the more established environs of the locale.



View near Heidelberg in Victoria, pen and ink drawing, circa 1858
(Source: Eugene von Guérard, National Gallery of Victoria)

⁴ Context, *Banyule Thematic Environmental History*, October 2018, pp15-20, available online

⁵ James Boyce, 1835: *The Founding of Melbourne & The Conquest of Australia*, Black Inc., 2011, pxi

⁶ Keelbundora stems from a European rendering of Kulbundora – the name of the eldest son of the important Wurundjeri *ngurungaeta* (essentially 'head man') Billibellary. ('Suburban Native Names', *Argus* 28 April 1906, p5). One of the earliest manifestations of local governance in the Port Phillip District (1840), the fluctuating borders of municipal Heidelberg mirrored its growth, as it was reformatting into a Road District (1860), Shire (1871) and then City (1934). It was amalgamated as the City of Banyule in 1994.

⁷ Donald S Garden, *Heidelberg: The Land and Its People 1838-1900*, Melbourne University Press, 1972, p13

⁸ Robert P Whitworth, *Bailliere's Victorian Gazetteer*, F F Bailliere, 1879, pp237

⁹ Context, *Banyule Thematic Environmental History*, sections 2.3.1, 2.3.2, 2.3.5, and 2.3.10

¹⁰ Thom's estate designation was inspired by a novel of the same name by Sir Walter Scott (1819).

¹¹ Ivanhoe & Alphington Progress Society, *Beautiful Ivanhoe: the suburb of model homes and scenic charm*, Model Studio, 1900, SLV

¹² Ivanhoe Station opened in 1888; however, inefficiencies in the Heidelberg-Melbourne railway line initially bedevilled growth.

¹³ Ivanhoe grew from roughly 2,000 residents in 1913 to nearly 8,000 by 1933 (*Victorian Year Books*, Australian Bureau of Statistics).

¹⁴ Don Garden, 'Ivanhoe', *eMelbourne*, School of Historical & Philosophical Studies, The University of Melbourne, July 2008

Site-specific

The subject land derives from Portion 1 (510 hectares) of the Parish of Keelbundora, purchased (along with portions 2 and 3) by Thomas Walker in 1838. A Sydney-based Scottish banker and philanthrope with an eye for marketable land across the colony, Walker's intention in the Port Phillip District was speculative from the start. He commenced subdividing his acquisitions as early as mid-1839 to enormous profit.¹⁵

The western half of Portion 1, which incorporates the subject land (Lot 5), was subdivided into multiple parcels and advertised as the 'Glanville Estate' from October 1839: 'Suburban Farms and Villa Sites ... the fertility and beauty of which are not to be surpassed in that region of Fertile Soil and Beautiful Landscape Scenery'.¹⁶ In 1902, most of Lot 5 was subdivided and placed on sale as the 'Ivanhoe Town Estate'.¹⁷ It developed gradually over the Federation and interwar years, chiefly as a residential area, although as depicted in the 1915 MMBW plan,¹⁸ the area also featured three small quarries (possibly municipal), including one adjacent to the subject land (since adapted into the Nellie Ibbott Park).

The existing subject allotment was acquired by the 2nd Ivanhoe Scouts in 1939 as the site for a new hall.¹⁹ The Boy Scout movement had been founded in Britain as a youth organisation by Sir Robert Baden-Powell, a British military officer who had achieved international fame for his defence of the town of Mafeking during the Second Boer War. His numerous publications on youth education, particularly *Scouting for Boys* (1908), laid the groundwork for establishing 'The Boys Scout Association' in 1910. Centred around the promotion of practical self-reliance for adolescent males and the cultivation of empire loyalism, the Scouts 'exploded into a world-wide movement' within several years. By late 1908, scout troops were active across Melbourne, including the City of Heidelberg (1st Ivanhoe). The 2nd Ivanhoe Scouts had been next established in the area in 1925.

A key member of 2nd Ivanhoe Scouts at the time was the architect 'King' Sedgfield. He prepared the design of the scout hall, which spanned six months between 1939 and 1940. The timing was fortunate, as civil building essentially ceased in December 1941 as the strain of war intensified and rationing of materials was introduced. Sedgfield appears to have completed this work independent of his long-term employer, the architectural practice Stephenson & Turner.²⁰ Contractors Bill and Norman Fox, whose sons were part of the 2nd Ivanhoe Scouts, undertook the construction with the assistance of a volunteer labour force: '

There were many working bees when boys, old scouts and fathers provided labour which was predominantly unskilled and, with more skill, mothers and daughters provided refreshment for the workers.²¹

In the lead up to the hall's official opening in April 1940, *The Age* promoted the event, framing it as a local triumph:

COMMUNITY EFFORT AT IVANHOE

One of the finest scout halls in the metropolitan area will be opened at Wallace-street, Ivanhoe, next Saturday by Mr. H. E. Cohen [popular military officer and politician]. The new hall, which will cost £1200, is the result of eleven years work on the part of the group committee of the 2nd Ivanhoe troop. In recent months, during the erection of the building, scores of scouts and their fathers have taken part in excavating and laying the foundations, and more recently in lining, painting and fitting up the building and making paths in the ground... The building has a main hall measuring 55 feet by 28 feet, a store, a court of honour room, to be dedicated to the memory of a past member of the troop, the late Reginald Crawford, a scouters' office, kitchen, meeting place for wolf clubs on the stage, and a rover den under the stage.²²

The opening ceremony for the hall (20 April 1940) was well-attended:

War or no war, the opening was something to celebrate – sister troops marching to drums behind troop flags, visiting packs, CEBS in their distinctive forage caps, scouting "brass", church and civic dignitaries and parents and friends in their best clothes, which mean the obligatory hat for everyone.²³

Besides scout troop meetings and events, the new hall is known to have hosted a range of uses over the postwar period, from monthly dances and district socials to exhibitions, working bees and meetings.²⁴ Such diversity of uses appears to remain, with the hall now accommodating the 10th Ivanhoe Scout Group.

¹⁵ W Joy, 'Walker, Thomas (1804-1886)', *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, 1967, available online

¹⁶ 'Sale by Auction: Land at Port Phillip', *Commercial Journal and Advertiser*, 5 October 1839, p4

¹⁷ 'Ivanhoe Town Estate', *Herald*, 2 October 1901, p4; and *Ivanhoe town estate*, Bruford & Roxburg, 1902, SLV

¹⁸ Refer to MMBW detail plan, Heidelberg, no 2463, dated 1915, SLV, available online

¹⁹ Richard Brooks (compiled), *2nd Ivanhoe: some impressions of the first 63 years*, 1989, p1

²⁰ The title block of the original drawings state: 'Kingston K Sedgfield, Architect, 150 Marshall Street, Ivanhoe' (Public Building Files, PROV, VPRS 7882, consignment P0001, unit 1042)

²¹ Brooks, *2nd Ivanhoe: some impressions of the first 63 years*, p26

²² 'Boy Scouts', *Age*, 16 April 1940, p4

²³ Brooks, *2nd Ivanhoe: some impressions of the first 63 years*, p26

²⁴ Sedgfield, 'A Brief History of 2nd Ivanhoe Group', Appendix 1 in Brooks, *2nd Ivanhoe: some impressions of the first 63 years*, p100



Hall under construction, 1939
Note youthful age of the 'labourers'
(Source: Brooks, 2nd *Ivanhoe*, p35)



Timber frame, awaiting cladding, 1939
(Source: Brooks, 2nd *Ivanhoe*, p35)



Partly clad scout hall, 1939
(Source: Brooks, 2nd *Ivanhoe*, p35)



Scout hall, south elevation, circa 1988
(Source: Brooks, 2nd *Ivanhoe*, p88)



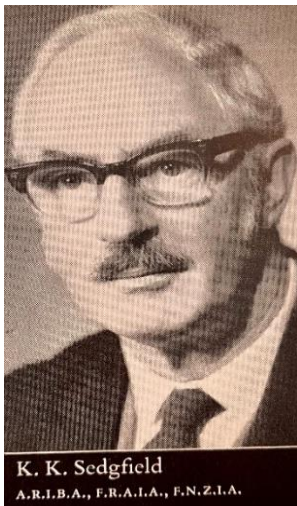
Scout hall, south and west elevations, circa 1988
(Source: Brooks, 2nd *Ivanhoe*, p88)



1945 aerial photograph, 2nd Scout Hall identified by the red arrow
(Source: Ringwood AIC, Photo-Map 849-AIA, Zone 7, The University of Melbourne)

Kingston Knight Sedgfield (1910-96)

Born in Ivanhoe, Kingston Knight Sedgfield (1910-96) was an early teenage participant with the 2nd Ivanhoe Scouts and played ongoing leadership roles, including preparing a brief history of the group in 1950.²⁵ Known as 'King' Sedgfield locally, he was an employee of Stephenson & Meldrum (Stephenson & Turner in Victoria from 1937) – a prolific and progressive architectural office ("the colossus" of Australian architecture²⁶). Where he rose from a draftsman to partner by at least 1950.²⁷ Sedgfield was highlighted within one of the office's celebratory publications as one of several men ('and one woman') who 'began and ended their careers as partners in the loyal service of the firm'.²⁸ The nature of Sedgfield role within Stephenson & Turner's 'complex team of designers, project managers and business people' is not known, nor is the extent of his private design work. It has been noted that he may have designed other scout facilities in New South Wales.²⁹



Partner portrait of Sedgfield, circa 1970
(Source: Stephenson & Turner 1920-1970, Melbourne, 1970, np)

²⁵ Ancestry.com.au; and Brooks, 2nd Ivanhoe: some impressions of the first 63 years, p1

²⁶ Rowan Wilken in Philip Goad, Wilen & Julie Willis, eds, *Australian modern: the architecture of Stephenson & Turner*, Melbourne University Publications, 2004, p3

²⁷ Australian Military Forces, *Attestation Form for Persons Voluntarily Enlisted in the Militia Forces*, National Archives of Australia, B4747 (states Sedgfield's employment status in 1929); and John Shaw, *Sir Arthur Stephenson, Australian Architect*, 1987 (photograph of partners in 1950 and the early 1960s, both including Sedgfield)

²⁸ Shaw, *Sir Arthur Stephenson, Australian Architect*, p133

²⁹ Wilken, *Australian modern: the architecture of Stephenson & Turner*, p6; and community supplied information via the *Banyule Heritage Place Nomination Form*, 2020

Thematic Context

Context, *Banyule Thematic Environmental History*, October 2018:

- Theme 6: Community and cultural life
- Theme 7: Recreation and sport

Comparative Analysis

Two other halls in the municipality that were utilised by the scouts are subject are included in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay for Banyule, although one is no longer extant:

- *1st Eaglemont Scout Hall*, 20 Irvine Road, Ivanhoe (part of HO168, albeit unspecified) – a smaller gable-roofed and timber-framed hall clad in painted corrugated metal sheeting, situated on the edge of Chelsworth Park. Originally, constructed around 1940 at the Simpson Army Barracks (Watsonia) as a prefabricated ‘P’ Series army hut. It was relocated to the current location in 1958 and fitted out/repurposed as a scout hall two years later.
- *Sea Scout Hall*, 2 Norman Street, Ivanhoe (HO189) – an elongated weatherboard hall with a gabled roof constructed in circa 1917, initially for a local rifle club. Modified in 1930 and partially rebuilt (1951) subsequently. In 2015, the building was demolished due to fire damage.

There are several scout halls in the municipality that are not subject to a heritage overlay.³⁰ The majority of these were purpose-built over the late 20th century, remain relatively intact, and present as rationalised, utilitarian halls – some sizeable – with standardised elements, including low-pitched gabled roofs, concrete or red brick walls (many overpainted/graffitied) and clerestory windows. All are situated within park or reserve settings, some belonging to small clusters of community buildings. Broadly, while these buildings reflect the growth and continued vigour of the scout movement across the district, they are not distinctive designs like the *Ivanhoe Scout Hall*, particularly within their period of origin. Furthermore, the construction of the late 20th-century halls does not appear to reflect the same extent of direct participation by the local scout troop as the *Ivanhoe Scout Hall*.

Intactness

Despite fabric replacement and the removal of the hopper windows, *Ivanhoe Scout Hall* remains reasonably intact and interpretable as to its original aesthetic.

Previous Assessment

- RBA Architects + Conservation Consultants, *Banyule Heritage Study 2020: Stage 1 report*, Banyule City Council, August 2020 – High priority, recommended for Stage 2

Heritage Overlay Schedule Controls

External Paint Controls	No
Internal Alteration Controls	No
Tree Controls	No
Outbuildings and/or fences	No

³⁰ For instance: *Bundoora Scouts*, 20 Noorong Avenue, Bundoora; *Banyule District Scouts*, Turnham Avenue, Rosanna; *Heidelberg Scout Group*, 31 Outhwaite Road, Heidelberg Heights; *1st Ivanhoe Sea Scouts*, 49 Hawker Street, Ivanhoe; *Viewbank Scout Group*, 96 Rutherford Road, Viewbank; *Rosanna Scout Group*, north-east of St James Road and Manton Street, Heidelberg; 30 McNamara Street, Macleod; *Watsonia Scout Group*, AK Line Reserve, Watsonia; *1st Lower Plenty Scout Group*, corner of Maskell Crescent and Para Road (Alma Play Park playground), Lower Plenty; and *Montmorency*, Petrie Park; and *Greenhills Scout Centre*, 37 St Helena Road, Greensborough.

Extent of Heritage Overlay

The proposed extent of the heritage overlay is outlined approximately below.



Recommended extent of heritage overlay
(Source: Nearmap, November 2020)