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# WOODHOUSE-NAREEB SOLDIERS MEMORIAL HALL COMPLEX



23428 Nurses Memorial  
Woodhouse Nareeb 1664



23428 Nurses Memorial  
Woodhouse Nareeb 1665



23428 Nurses Memorial  
Woodhouse Nareeb 1666



23428 Nurses Memorial  
Woodhouse Nareeb 1667

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## Location

Bundoran Lane WOODHOUSE, Southern Grampians Shire

## Municipality

SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

## Level of significance

Stage 2 study complete

## Heritage Listing

Southern Grampians Shire

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - August 10, 2003

#### What is significant?

The Woodhouse-Nareeb Memorial Complex is located on Bundoran Lane, Woodhouse. It comprises buildings and sporting facilities, sited together, which developed in response to the surge in population caused by Soldier Settlement after World War Two. Probably built by volunteer labour at a time of serious material shortages, the complex represents a strong sense of determination amongst the soldier settler families. It was opened by Sister Vivian Bullwinkle in 1955. Many of the descendents continue to live in the area. The site comprises a large timber hall, simply designed in the Modernist style, with a distinctive structural form and clad in corrugated iron, a cream brick toilet block, tennis courts, sports oval, Memorial Plantation and Nostalgia Plantation and a small cement sheeting building which was briefly a school sponsored by the Begg family of nearby Nareeb Nareeb. The complex is relatively intact and retains a good degree of integrity.

#### How is it significant?

The Woodhouse-Nareeb Memorial Complex is of historical, social and architectural significance to the community of Woodhouse-Nareeb, to the Southern Grampians Shire and to the State of Victoria.

#### Why is it significant?

The Woodhouse-Nareeb Memorial Complex is of historical significance for marking a major chapter in post World War 2 repatriation, commemoration and early posterity. It is of social significance as an example of cooperation for community self-improvement and as a continuing focus for that community. It is of architectural significance as an example of Modernism used to express a faith in the future, especially after a world war.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Southern Grampians - Southern Grampians Shire Heritage Study, Timothy Hubbard P/L, Annabel Neylon, 2002;
Construction dates	1955,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Hermes Number	23428
Property Number	

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## Physical Conditions

The main buildings are in good condition. They retains an excellent degree of integrity.

## Physical Description 1

The complex comprises a substantial timber hall with a timber facade but otherwise clad in corrugated iron, an adjacent cream brick toilet block, tennis courts and a sports oval. The hall is distinctive not only for its austere but dramatic use of the Modern style but also for its gabled portico supported on five poles, its fenestration and its use of materials at a time of shortage. The front door is off-set rather than central and beside it there is a bronze plaque to commemorate the opening of the building. The hopper windows of the front and side elevations are set in high level rows. The interior includes a simple stage with access to the rear from two doors, a short flights of steps and two dressing rooms. A memorial board remembering the Soldier Settlers of the Nareeb-Woodhouse area is also located within the hall. The south elevation is extended to form a kitchen wing and includes a cream brick chimney. There are traditional rainwater tanks at the south-east corner. The toilet block on the south side is separate from the hall. Some distance away towards the south-east there is a sports oval delineated by a simple rail fence. On the north side of the hall and apparently separate from the complex there is a small cement sheeting building which was built as a school. It is in poor condition but it is relatively intact.

## Historical Australian Themes

- 8. Developing Australia's cultural life
- 8.5 Forming associations
- 8.5.3 Associating for mutual aid
- 8.5.4 Pursuing common leisure interests
- 8.8 Remembering the fallen
- 8.14 Living in the country and rural settlements

## **Usage/Former Usage**

public hall and recreation facilities

## **Integrity**

Excellent degree of integrity

## **Physical Description 2**

Sister Vivian Bullwinkle AARC, who dedicated the hall

## **Physical Description 3**

Recreational Reserve and Allotment 2 of Section A The small State School originally located at the Woodhouse-Nareeb Soldiers Memorial Hall Complex was demolished in 2005-6 as there were safety concerns relating to the asbestos construction and its general deterioration (advice from Ms. Sue Frost, Secretary of the Woodhouse-Nareeb Recreation Reserve, dated 12/2/2008)

*This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.*

*For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>*