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## HO33 - Norwood



Naturalist Cabin



Norwood



Naturalist Cabin



Painting of Grey Thrush on  
Cabin Facade

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### Location

78-132 Hoggs Road TOOLERN VALE, MELTON SHIRE

### Municipality

MELTON CITY

### Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

### Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO33

### Heritage Listing

Melton City

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

'Norwood', 78 Hoggs Road, Toolern Vale, established in 1916, is significant as a bird sanctuary and bird observers centre from the early 1930s until 1965. It was well-known locally, amongst school groups from Melbourne's western suburbs, and in the amateur ornithological community. The historical values of the place are embodied in the Federation style dwelling (albeit relocated and altered) and in the Naturalists Cabin. This latter building is also significant as an intact and unusual interwar outbuilding that continues to reflect the past bird sanctuary function of the site.

'Norwood', 78 Hoggs Road is historically significant at a REGIONAL level as a rare and important expression of the amateur interest in native birds, and the incorporation of this interest into the education curriculum, particularly through the Gould League's 'Bird Day' in the inter-war decades. The 'Naturalists Cabin' is an outstanding, and rare (perhaps unique) representation of this important Australian historical theme.

'Norwood', 2088-2126 Diggers Rest - Coimadai Road, is of architectural interest. Although relocated and extended in c.1928, the alterations made at this time also contribute to an appreciation of the historical value of the place today. It demonstrates design qualities of a Federation style. These qualities include the recessive hipped roof form, together with the minor gable that projects towards the front and the return broken back verandah that projects at the front and side. Other intact qualities include the elevated single storey height, asymmetrical composition, horizontal timber weatherboard wall cladding, corrugated sheet metal roof cladding, face brick chimney, modest eaves, square timber verandah posts, timber framed double hung windows, timber framed doorway with sidelights and highlights, and the rudimentary gable infill (battening and panelling).

The 1933 Naturalists Cabin outbuilding is architecturally significant at a LOCAL level (AHC D.2). It demonstrates original design qualities for a modest interwar building. These qualities include the simple gable roof form clad in galvanised corrugated steel, wide eaves with exposed timber rafters and the large vertically boarded timber doors with small early viewing windows. It is missing a small original verandah. Other intact or appropriate qualities include the cement sheet panelling with a central timber batten in the gable end. The building is distinguished by the survival of its hand painted name plate entitled 'The Naturalists Cabin', and the hand-painted panel of a Grey Thrush above the door.

Overall, 'Norwood', 78 Hoggs Road, is of LOCAL significance.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Melton - Shire of Melton Heritage Study phase 2, David Maloney, David Rowe, Pamela Jellie, Sera Jane Peters, 2007;
Construction dates	1916, 1933,
Other Names	Melliodora Park', Vernon Davey's Former Bird Sanctuary, 78 Hoggs Road, Toolern Vale,
Hermes Number	29999
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

Physical Description -

'Norwood', 78 Hoggs Road, Toolern Vale, has a rural bushland setting on elevated and sloping ground. There is a large timber house and an early timber outbuilding on the site that are flanked by bushland. There is also an open

grassed area with smaller plantings in front of the house.

The asymmetrical, elevated single storey, horizontal timber weatherboard, relocated and altered Federation styled house is characterised by a recessive hipped roof form, together with a minor gable that projects towards the front and a return broken back verandah that projects at the front and side. These roof forms are clad in green painted corrugated galvanised steel. An early (c.1928) face brick chimney adorns the roofline. Modest overhangs are features of the eaves.

A feature of the design is the return verandah. It is supported by square timber posts and features introduced small timber brackets and timber lattice valances. There is also an open timber balustrade.

Other features of the design include the early timber framed double hung windows under the verandah and the timber framed doorway with sidelights and highlights. The timber framed multi paned double hung windows under the projecting gable may have been introduced, possibly when the house was relocated in c.1928.

Other features include the rudimentary gable infill (battening and panelling).

The nearby slightly elevated, single storey, timber, interwar Naturalists Cabin outbuilding is characterised by a simple gable roof form clad in galvanised corrugated steel. The building has wide eaves with exposed timber rafters. At one end are large vertically boarded timber doors with small early viewing windows. The gable infill comprises cement sheet panelling with a central timber batten, and the early name plate entitled 'The Naturalists Cabin' and a hand-painted panel of a Grey Thrush. It is missing an original small verandah.

The building is currently precariously situated on deteriorated stumps that are leaning to one side.

## **Integrity**

Integrity -

Moderately Intact (Overall).

Naturalists Cabin - Substantially Intact.

House - Low

## **Physical Conditions**

Physical Condition - Good-Fair

## **Historical Australian Themes**

*Melton Historical Themes: 'Farming', 'Community'*

*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/>*