

## Scarsdale State School No. 980 and Memorial Gates



Scarsdale State School, 149  
Scarsdale Pitfield Road  
Newtown



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## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO155

## Heritage Listing

Golden Plains Shire

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

What is Significant?

In August 1869, a site was proclaimed for a Common School to be established between the settlements of the Scarsdale and Newtown, addressing the Pitfield Road. This school was to replace several private and denomination schools, operating on Browne's Diggings (now Scarsdale) in the 1850s. Although it was the initial gold rush to Browne's Diggings which established the town of Scarsdale in 1855, the consolidation of later finds towards the south triggered the extension of the town towards Pitfield and development of the settlement of Newtown. After much fund raising and public rallying, the Scarsdale Common School No. 980 opened on 30 January 1871 with Mr. John Lamont as head teacher and a recorded attendance of 542 pupils. The timber building was of standard design for a large rural school, featuring a central classroom with two projecting wings. The school remained the focus of community life into the turn of the century, with the inaugural 'Scarsdale Old Boys Reunion' taking place on 6 September 1906. The success of this event inspired further reunions and the Old Boys and Girls association continued to meet annually into the mid twentieth century. In 1919, the timber common school building was demolished and replaced by a new state school complex in 1920. Following World War One the school became an important site for community reflection and in 1918 an avenue of honour was established along the Scarsdale-Pitfield Road. A memorial plaque was erected outside the school to honour those who had fought and died in World War One. Later, in October 1922, the Old Boys and Girls association unveiled a set of elaborate memorial gates at the front of the school, commemorating the supreme sacrifice made by past student of the Scarsdale State School in World War One. A small memorial drinking fountain is also located in the school grounds. Today, a complex of modern classrooms, which are not considered to be of cultural significance, occupies the site of the former 1869 common school and later the 1920s state school. A large rectangular weatherboard schoolroom, located at the rear of the complex, survives from the late nineteenth century. The school grounds include many mature trees, both native and exotic, but of significance are the stand of *Ulmus procera* (English Elm), *Cedrus deodara* (Deodar Cedar) and *Cedrus atlantica* forma *Glauca* (Blue Atlantic Cedar) at the front of the school. The school is now a campus of the larger Woody Yaloak Primary School group, which includes the Snake Valley, Smythesdale and Ross Creek schools.

How is it significant?

The site of the Scarsdale State School, including the Scarsdale Old Boys memorial gates, the 1918 avenue of honor memorial plaque is of historical and social significance to the twin townships of Scarsdale-Newtown and the Golden Plains Shire.

Why is it significant?

The former Scarsdale State School is of historical significance as a surviving example of a large rural school, established under the Common School system in 1870. Although only one buildings and a stand of exotic trees survive from this period, the site is an enduring example of a school established to provide education to the children of the Woody Yaloak diggings.

The Old Boys and Girls memorial gates and 1918 memorial plaque and the memorial drinking fountain have historical significance for demonstrating the commitment of the Scarsdale and Newtown communities in commemorating, at a local level, some of the most important events in the national history of Australia. The memorials are especially significant as a tribute to the roles of those from the local community who served and died in the great wars.

The Scarsdale School site is of social significance as the permanent site for the provision of free and secular education under the innovative Victorian *Education Act 1872*. The surviving timber building and stand of mature exotic trees provide a tangible link that illustrates the collective aspirations of local residence to lobby for its establishment.

The memorial gates and 1918 memorial plaque and memorial fountain have social significance as the focus of community commemoration and reflection, as well as illustrating the commitment of the Scarsdale Old Boy and Girls association in honoring the achievements of past students.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Golden Plains - Golden Plains Shire Heritage Study Phase 2, Heritage Matters P/L, 2009;
Hermes Number	104363
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

Scarsdale State School No. 980 is situated on allotment Lot 2 LP88245, on the site of the former 1869 common school and later the 1920s state school. The present complex of modern classrooms are not considered to be of architectural significance. A large rectangular timber schoolroom, located at the rear of the complex, survives from the late nineteenth century. It has a steep pitched gabled corrugated iron roof and is clad in beaded weatherboards. The fenestration on the facade reveals four tall windows, which are presently boarded up above the line of an introduced aluminum verandah. The lower half of the windows feature introduced aluminum and glass windows. The western end of the building has been appears to be used as a shelter shed and has a cement floor. The interior of the shelter shed has surviving lining boards and a cove ceiling. The eastern end of the building is enclosed, with access gained through a four paneled timber door. The rear of the building features a single aluminum casement window and timber door. A memorial drinking fountain on a fieldstone plinth is situated at the rear of the building. It features a plaque which pays tribute to past students who have fought in each of the twentieth century conflicts. The school grounds include many mature trees, both native and exotic, but of significance are the stand of *Ulmus procera* (English Elm), *Cedrus deodara* (Deodar Cedar) and *Cedrus atlantica* forma *Glauca* (Blue Atlantic Cedar) at the front of the school, addressing the Scarsdale-Pittsfield Road. The pedestrian entrance from the Pitfield Road is a memorial gateway, constructed of rendered masonry pillars and wrought iron gates. Two bronze plaques on each of the pillars pay tribute to past student who died in World War One. A single brick pillar located in the road reserve approximately 15 metres from the memorial gates features a bronze plaque honoring soldiers from Scarsdale and district who served in World War One. This pillar is associated with an avenue of mixed exotic trees planted in 1918 along the Pitfield Road. The avenue is in poor condition with severe pruning, trees missing and varied ages.

## Integrity

The Old Boys memorial gate and the avenue of honour plaque are in good condition and retain a high degree of integrity. The stand of *Ulmus procera* (English Elm), *Cedrus deodara* (Cedar) and *Cedrus atlantica Glauca* (Blue Atlantic Cedar) are in fair condition and require expert arboricultural attention.

## Physical Description 2

Extent of Registration: the whole of allotment Lot 1 LP88245 & Lot 2 LP88245, including the weatherboard schoolroom and shelter shed, excluding the interiors. Including all mature exotic trees in the schoolyard (including all of the above and below ground fabric of the trees), the Old Boys and Girls Memorial Gates and 1918 Memorial Plaque located on the road reserve. The extent does not include the modern complex of school buildings and their interiors, the recent plantings of native shrubs and trees and the shed located on the adjoining allotment, being Lot 1 LP88245.

## **Historical Australian Themes**

The Australian Heritage Commission devised the Australian Historic Themes in 2001. The following themes have influenced the historical development of the Scarsdale State School.

### 6 Educating

6.1 Forming associations, libraries and institutes for self-education

6.2 Establishing schools

6.5 Educating people in remote places

### 8 Developing Australia's Cultural Life

8.7 Honouring achievement

8.8 Remembering the fallen

8.14 Living in the country and rural settlements

*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/>*