
Healesville Memorial Buildings



Heal 1.jpg



Heal 2.jpg



Heal 3.jpg

Location

233 Nicholson Street (Maroondah Highway), Healesville VIC 3777 - Property No 70364/3

Municipality

YARRA RANGES SHIRE

Level of significance

-

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO158

Heritage Listing

Vic. War Heritage Inventory

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - July 5, 2000

Healesville's Memorial Buildings have high local significance as a memorial to the Healesville men who served in the First World War. This important community memorial, funded by public subscription, is one of many memorial buildings constructed throughout Victoria after the First World War. The Hall has social significance for the Healesville community, as a memorial to those who served in the First World War, created through community fund raising efforts, and as a centre for community services in the local area for many years.

Heritage Study/Consultant Yarra Ranges - Shire of Yarra Ranges Heritage Study, Context Pty Ltd, 2000;
Other Names Soldiers Memorial Hall,
Hermes Number 127325
Property Number

Physical Description 1

The Healesville Memorial buildings are based around the Soldiers Memorial Hall, a handsome double storey brick building set close to the main road in the heart of Healesville. The Hall has a new iron roof and cream painted rendered architraves. The tops of its walls are rendered and painted burgundy. Four twelve-pane sash windows are set into both the upper and lower storeys at the front of the building. Two Australian flags, respectively representing the Australian people as a whole, and the Aboriginal people, are mounted in the facade above the building's entrance. Also above the doorway are the words "To those who served 1914-1918" and above them is the date "1923". The main entrance of the building consists of a double column entry with its door set into the building. The door has new glass panels and a recessed fanlight above it. Another, less formal entrance exists on the Nicholson Street elevation, providing access to Council offices and services.

A small unsympathetic cream brick extension with a flat roof has been made to the Hall at 231 Nicholson Street (the west side of the building). A grey granite memorial is located outside the front of the Hall on the footpath. The words "Lest we forget", and "Our glorious dead" are inscribed into the stone.

The windows along the Hall's eastern elevation have been modified and a new fire escape added to the upper storey. A brick and timber extension, housing the Healesville library, has been made to the rear of the building. The main hall is currently used as a cinema.

Physical Conditions

Excellent

Integrity

Minor Modifications

Veterans Description for Public

The Healesville Memorial Hall, at 233 Nicholson Street, was built as a memorial to the Healesville men who served in the First World War. On 2nd April 1924, the residents of Healesville and district visitors assembled in great numbers for the official opening by the Governor General, Lord Forster, of the Soldiers Memorial Hall, known now as the Healesville Memorial Buildings. The hall was funded by public subscription as Healesville people's tribute to local men who served in the First World War. A Blackwood honour board in the foyer holds the names of 185 Healesville soldiers, 37 of whom lost their lives. A 1943 Anzac Day photograph shows a large crowd at the opening, including rows of soldiers, Scouts and Girl Guides, school children and the general public.

The Memorial Hall has been used for many important community events. During the 1930s depression, Dame Nellie Melba gave a concert there to a packed house, donating the proceeds to the Hall fund. In September 1940, 95 local men who had volunteered to join the Army during the Second World War were farewelled at the Memorial Hall.

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In the mid-1950s, the RSL who, until then, had used rooms in the Memorial Hall, built a new RSL hall. The Memorial Hall is now owned by the Yarra Ranges Shire Council.

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/>