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# Anglesea Paddle Boats



B7140 Anglesea Paddle Boats

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## Location

4 Weir Street,, ANGLESEA VIC 3230 - Property No B7140

## Municipality

SURF COAST SHIRE

## Level of significance

State

## Heritage Listing

National Trust

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - May 31, 2004

The Anglesea Paddle Boats, most of which were constructed by brothers Frank and Raymond Hall c.1962, are of historical, aesthetic, technical and social significance at the State level.

Historically, the Anglesea paddle boats are important as the only intact fleet of timber paddle boats in the original style known to remain in Victoria. Nine of the fourteen boats were built by the Hall brothers, who are thought to have introduced paddle boats to Victoria. Frank Hall built the first boats of this type in Victoria in 1954, the concept and design having been modelled on images in overseas magazines, and operated them at Portarlington. The original nine boats were built in the garage of Frank Hall's Geelong home. The other five boats in the fleet were built by Mr Ian Isbister, the owner of the Anglesea fleet 1963 - 1974, copying the Halls' original design.

Apart from Portarlington and Anglesea, Frank Hall built boats for resorts and recreation places including Lorne, Lakes Entrance, Coburg Lake, Ballarat's Lake Wendouree, and Portland, as well as resorts in South Australia and New South Wales. These and timber paddle boats subsequently built by others, played an important part in

the social and leisure time activities of families during the period 1954 to the early 1970s, when they began to be replaced with new designs built in modern materials.

The fleet is demonstrative of post World War Two developments in holiday activities in Victoria. The fleet is also expressive of Anglesea's rise as a holiday resort in the post-war motor-car era. They remain in good repair, but in recent years have had only limited operation over the summer season.

Aesthetically, the boats have a streamline style that is strongly expressive of the 1950s era. Other features, such as the heavy construction and timber slat seats, are also readily identifiable characteristics of the building technology and materials of the period.

Technically, the paddle boats demonstrate successful post-war improvisation in design, and successful construction by small-scale operators. The fleet's timber and metal components represent a construction type now superseded by the fibreglass, aluminium and plastics used for equivalent paddle boats of later periods.

Socially, the fleet remains a feature attraction of Anglesea, having been enjoyed by thousands of holiday-makers and tourists. The paddle boats have featured in Anglesea postcards, and many family photographs, over the years.

Classified: 06/08/2001

Hermes Number 69803

Property Number

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*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/>*