

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: WONTHAGGI WORKMAN'S CLUB

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: 75 Graham Street WONTHAGGI

STUDY NUMBER:

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER: HO155

**OTHER NAME/S
OF PLACE:** W. C. C.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Bass Coast Shire

PARISH: PARISH OF WONTHAGGI

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local



Wonthaggi Workman's Club, 75 Graham Street, Wonthaggi

Image Date: July 2004

EXTENT OF LISTING:
Whole allotment.

WONTHAGGI WORKMAN'S CLUB

Heritage Overlay No HO155

PropertyNo

File Number

Heritage Study No

Heritage Grading

HPD Number 218

HI Number

VHR Number

Other Names/s W. C. C.

Precinct

Group Number

Extra Files

Location 75 Graham Street WONTHAGGI

PARISH OF WONTHAGGI

COUNTY OF MORNINGTON

WONTHAGGI (T)

Planning Authority

Ward Hovell

Access Description

Map Number

0

Map Scale 1:100000

Latitude

Longitude

UMG Zone

Easting

Northing

Location Validity

Spatial Accuracy

Percent of Listing

Whole allotment.

Published Extent of Listing

Significance Local

Statement of Significance

The Wonthaggi Workman's Club is of local historic and social significance. The Club is of local historic significance as one of a series of social amenities established by mineworker organisations in the early years of the town's history. The Wonthaggi Workingman's Club is of local social significance as a social and recreational venue which has functioned as a focal point for community social activities for many decades.

Gazettal Details

Permit Exemptions

Exemptions Policy

Assessment Against Criteria

Date Assessed 13/08/2004 Assessed By F Woodhouse

Comparisons

Rare Assessment

Intact Assessment

Include in VHR Include in RNE Include in Local Planning Scheme No Recommendations for Inclusions

Recommended Management

Reinstate original facade finishes and detailing to windows and doors on original section of facade.

Heritage Act Categories

Heritage Item Groups

Heritage Item Categories

Heritage place

Community Facilities

Community Club/ Clubhouse

Heritage place

Recreation and Entertainment

Entertainment Centre

Title Details

Physical Description

The Wonthaggi Workman's Club is a single storey red brick building. The principal elevation faces north onto Graham Street, and is articulated into a series of bays by brick pilasters, which extends to parapet height. The original building is believed to have comprised the eastern eight bays, with a large brick extension being added to the eastern side, including a covered vehicle entryway. A doorway has been filled in on right side of the original elevation, and suspended porches added at each end. The original window joinery has been replaced. The roof is gently pitched and clad with steel sheeting. Modern skylight and air-conditioning elements have been added.

Physical Condition and/or Archaeological Potential

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Usage Workingman's Club.

Associated People

Historical Notes

Wonthaggi was established as a mining town in 1909 to supply the Victorian Railways with black coal, and thus make Victoria independent of the privately owned New South Wales coalfields, the previous source of coal for the railways. The decision to proceed with mining coal from the Powlett Coalfield was prompted by the coal miners in New South Wales strike in 1909. When established, the coal was worked by the State Coal Mine from the Dudley and Kirrak Basins. The township of Wonthaggi is located on a ridge between the two basins. Initially the miners lived in a tent city; by 1910 the Government had laid out a model township. By 1921 Wonthaggi had a population of 5,000, making it one of the largest towns in Gippsland at the time. Wonthaggi's population peaked at around 12,000 in the mid-1920s when the mine was at its operational peak. The township was divided into commercial and residential areas. Its infrastructure provided for housing, water, churches, schools, and other social facilities.

The Wonthaggi Workman's Club was established as a social club in 1911, and was granted the town's first licence to retail liquor. The club was run by a committee of management, with a president, vice-president, secretary and manager. The founding President was Tom O'Brian. The club initially rented premises before constructing its own facilities. When the first club building was destroyed by fire in 1922, it was replaced with this structure, erected at a cost of 6000 pounds, with 1000 pounds spent on furnishings. The new building occupies land originally comprising Allotments 29-34 in Section 6 of the Township of Wonthaggi, which had originally been sold in stages in 1915, 1923 and 1932. It contained included billiard and card rooms, and a library. David Walsh was club manager in 1933. By this time the club had accumulated a library of 500 books to replace those lost in the fire. It had an equal number of members.

The original building had been substantially extended by the c.1980s, reflecting the Club's ongoing use and popularity as a social venue.

Historic Themes

were taken

Listings

References

Author	Title	Year	ShelfLocation
Department of Land and Survey	Parish Plan of Township of Wonthaggi, Parish of Wonthaggi, County of Mornington		
John M Coghlan	The State Coal Mine and Wonthaggi 1909-1968	1979	
T J Gannon (ed.)	Wonthaggi District, Past & Present	1934	

Reservation Plans

Owner Type

Section 32 Recommendation

Owners/Occupants/Managers

Other Notes

Application Detail

Adviser Comments

Planning Scheme Amendments

Overlay Controls

Planning Scheme Schedule

External Paint Controls?	Yes	Included in Vic Heritage Register?	No
Internal Alteration Controls?	No	Prohibited uses may be permitted?	Yes
Tree Controls?	No	Name of incorporated plan	No
Outbuildings/fences not exempt?	No	Aboriginal Heritage Place?	No