

St. Oswald's Anglican Church Complex, 100 - 108 High Street, Glen Iris Statement of Significance, January 2020

Heritage Place: St. Oswald's Anglican Church Complex, 100 - 108 High Street, Glen Iris	PS ref no: HO904
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What is significant?

St Oswald's Anglican Church complex, comprising the 1955 church and 1964 Parish Hall, is significant to the City of Boroondara. The Reconciliation Garden is not significant.



Pipe organ designed by Knud Smenge (Source: Trethowan Architecture, 2018)



1967 Font by Clifford Last (Source: Trethowan Architecture, 2018)



A David Wright stained glass window (Source: Trethowan Architecture, 2018)



How is it significant?

St Oswald's Anglican Church is of local historical, representative, aesthetic and social significance to the City of Boroondara.

Why is it significant?

St Oswald's Anglican Church is historically significant for its association with the continuing history of the Anglican Church in the municipality and for its association with the period of post-war residential growth in Glen Iris which increased the demand for religious community facilities. (Criterion A)

St Oswald's Anglican Church is of representative significance as a particularly fine example of a post-war church complex. The complex has been constructed in phases using combinations of styles and artists upon an earlier site, illustrating the continuous evolution of the religious community over time. (Criterion D)

St Oswald's Anglican Church (1957), designed by prolific church architect Louis Williams, in partnership with Wystan Widdows, is of aesthetic significance for its exhibition of a post-war Romanesque Revival style. The transitional nature of its design combines Romanesque Revival on the exterior with a simpler post-war ecclesiastical interior. The church brings together works of recognised Australian and émigré artists of the post-war period, including glass windows by prominent glass artists Bela Kozak and David Wright OAM, font by sculptor Clifford Last, pipe organ by Knud Smenge. The church hall (1964) is significant as an example of the work of Wystan Widdows and David Caldwell, demonstrating the evolution to more Modern ecclesiastical styles. It is notable for its off-axis hexagonal plan combined with a striking roof shape and unusual diamond paned windows. Together, the church and hall exhibit the use of contrasting revival and Modern styles unusually well-integrated in the one complex. (Criterion E)

St Oswald's Anglican Church complex has social significance for its strong association with the Anglican community in Glen Iris. The use of the land demonstrates the provision and continuing evolution of social functions related to the church community. (Criterion G)

Primary source

City of Boroondara Municipal-Wide Heritage Gap Study Volume 7: Glen Iris (Context Pty Ltd, January 2020)

This document is an incorporated document in the Boroondara Planning Scheme pursuant to section 6(2)(j) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*