1st Deepdene Scout Hall

Prepared by: Context

Address:

32 Whitehorse Road, Deepdene

Name: 1st Deepdene Scout Hall	**Survey Date:** October 2018
Place Type: Community	**Architect:** Harry A. Norris; Best Overend (additions)
Grading: Significant	**Builder:**
Extent of Overlay: To title boundaries	**Construction Date:** 1932, 1952 (additions)

Figure 1. View of 1st Deepdene Scout Hall at 32 Whitehorse Road, Deepdene. (Source: Context, August 2017)

Historical Context

Balwyn is a residential suburb situated 10 kilometres east of central Melbourne. To its south are Canterbury and Surrey Hills and to the north is Balwyn North, which is separated from Balwyn by Belmore Road. Deepdene, historically forming part of south-west Balwyn, became a separate suburb in 2008.

Interwar development

A number of significant infrastructure projects established from the first decades of the twentieth century provided opportunities for extensive residential development in Balwyn. A short section of the Outer Circle Railway, between East Camberwell and Deepdene, was reopened in 1900 and

was serviced by the 'Deepdene Dasher' steam train until 1927. In addition, the Prahran & Malvern Tramways Trust extended its electric tramway service from Malvern along Glenferrie Road and Cotham Road to Deepdene in 1913. Near the tram terminus the new Deepdene State School was erected in 1914. In 1916, the tram line reached Mont Albert, but was not through-routed to the city by the Melbourne & Metropolitan Tramways Board until 1929. The Burke Road tram reached Camberwell Railway Station in 1917, and in 1918 reached Cotham Road, Deepdene. In 1920 sewerage and electricity were established, with sewerage extending to Balwyn by 1927, and reaching North Balwyn in 1938 (Built Heritage 2015:10). A number of small farms and orchards in Balwyn were carved up for suburban housing in the late 1920s and 1930s. Many new home-buyers erected affordable detached timber bungalows during this period under the credit foncier scheme provided by the State Savings Bank of Victoria. Californian Bungalows, English Revival and other interwar styles, which were built to designs provided in the State Bank pattern books, predominated across large areas of Balwyn, including that bounded by Whitehorse Road, Belmore Road, Burke Road and Balwyn Road. An elevated area on the north side of Whitehorse Road was developed in the 1930s as the prestigious Reid Estate. The wealthy retailer Oliver Gilpin built the mansion home 'Idylwylde' in Balwyn in the 1930s (now Connaught Aged Care); its extensive grounds included lavish sunken gardens, an ornamental lake, a swimming pool and a private zoo.

Improvements in infrastructure coincided with several successive changes in municipal status. The former Shire of Boroondara (as it had been known since 1871) was renamed the Shire of Camberwell and Boroondara in May 1902, then upgraded to a Borough in April 1905, a Town in May 1906, and finally the City of Camberwell in April 1914 (Built Heritage 2015:10).

In 1925, Balwyn was described in *Australian Home Beautiful*:

Charming indeed is this new suburb of Balwyn, to the eastward of Melbourne, towards that spot where the morning sun rises over the top of the Dandenong Ranges to stretch its light across one of the most beautiful environs in the city. Here the land is undulating and the eye wanders for miles upon miles across farm and orchard land to the blue distance of the hills to the east, so to the northeast, where the Healesville and Warburton ranges lie – more distant still – in the faint blue of cloud-land. All this erstwhile farming land is revealing the urge of the expansion of the great city, and red-tiled roofs and new homes now dot (and in some places cover) the land of the Orchardist and the Farmer; but "the vistas" are there and there are miles upon miles yet to go before suburban settlement can reach the tall slopes of the Dandenongs. Just as the little farms and glades are varied, both in colour and form, so do the new houses show that pleasing variety which betokens individual interest in the problem of the new home. Gone are the old ideas of slate or iron roofs and party-coloured bricks and cast iron trimmings, and now, pleasing colour notes of red, brown and green nestle into the newly-formed gardens of these outer suburbs *(cited in Built Heritage 2015:11).*

The interwar period saw significant expansion of Balwyn and Deepdene. A weatherboard Church of Christ was built at the corner of Cherry Road (1922) and two brick Catholic church-schools were built in Whitehorse Road, Deepdene (1923), and in Brenbeal Street, Balwyn (1930). Around the same time, St Barnabas Anglican Church on Balwyn Road was also extended. There was extensive commercial development, including shops and banks, along both sides of Whitehorse Road in Balwyn. A shopping strip developed along Whitehorse Road, Deepdene, while smaller strips appeared along Burke Road (at Belmore Road, and later at Doncaster Road), and near the junction of Bulleen and Doncaster roads. Other new churches appeared during this period, while some of the older existing church buildings were entirely rebuilt to cater for enlarged congregations, notably the Balwyn Baptist Church on Whitehorse Road (1937), and the Frank Paton Memorial Presbyterian Church on Burke Road in Deepdene (1941) (Built Heritage 2015:11). Fintona Girls' School, which had opened in Hawthorn in 1896, relocated to David Syme's former mansion 'Tourmont' in Balwyn Road in 1936. The Anglican Mission of St James and St John opened a large babies' home on Whitehorse Road, Balwyn, in 1934. Hotels were prohibited in Balwyn and Deepdene following the Local Option vote of 1920, a reflection of the strong temperance views of the local population, but other opportunities for leisure included three picture theatres that operated in Whitehorse Road in the 1930s and 1940s, one of which (the Balwyn Theatre) survives. Beckett

Park was well patronised as were the adjacent Maranoa Gardens. There was limited industrial development in Balwyn; an exception was the Oslo Bakery in Deepdene. The textile company Holeproof Ltd established a large factory in Whitehorse Road, Deepdene, in the early 1940s.

Postwar development
In the late 1940s, the Housing Commission of Victoria acquired land at the south-west corner of Balwyn and Belmore roads, which was developed into an estate of 200 detached and semi-detached red brick dwellings. Many of these houses were dedicated as public housing for war widows. A small group of shops at the corner of Hilda Street and Tivey Parade was also built to serve this new neighbourhood.

From 1947, Balwyn (and the new suburb of Balwyn North) were acknowledged not only as epicentres for the Small Homes Service but also for modern-architect designed homes in general. A number of notable architects, including Robin Boyd, designed Modernist homes in Balwyn in the 1950s and 1960s, particularly in the streets east of Balwyn Road, including the elevated area around Beckett Park. Several new churches were also constructed, extended or rebuilt in the postwar period to provide for burgeoning congregations (Built Heritage 2015:12). This included new Catholic churches at Deepdene and Balwyn.

Since the 1990s, a significant influx of new immigrants into the area has seen the extensive replacement of modest interwar homes with new residential development. The suburb of Balwyn today is favoured by many new home-owners, especially Chinese buyers, for access to Balwyn High School – a co-educational government secondary school with nearly 2000 students.

Boy Scouts and Girl Guides
The suburbs of Boroondara were amongst the first in Melbourne to embrace the scouting movement in the early twentieth century. The first local scout troop – and one of the first in Victoria – was the First Camberwell troop (aka 'Melba's Own'), which dates to 1908. It is said to have been formed by boys from Camberwell Grammar School, without any prompting or assistance from adults, although this claim has been disputed by others (McConville 1991, 'Camberwell Conservation Study', vol 2:106). The following year, a counterpart emerged in Kew. As was poetically recorded in an article published to mark its Silver Jubilee in 1959:

> When a horse-drawn tram plied between the Cemetery gates and Victoria Bridge and the built-up area ended before you travelled as far as Deepdene, a group of Kew boys attended a Christmas camp on Colonel J. Broderick's property at Cockatoo. It was the summer of 1908, and even then some idea of what Baden-Powell meant by Scouting for Boys must have reached Kew, for in 1909 the first Scout Troop was formed by a Mr. Le Grew. (*Kew Advertiser*, 1959, quoted in Brad Miles 1995, 'A Brief History of Scouting in Kew', typescript, May 1995:1).

By that time, local scouting groups had also been formed in Hawthorn and Surrey Hills, as well as a Hawthorn branch of the Boys Naval Brigade, which met at the Augustine Church (Peel, Zion and Yule 1993, *A History of Hawthorn*: 82).Towards the end of 1909, when the newly-formed Victorian Section of the Australian Imperial Boy Scouts established a framework of twenty metropolitan districts, the troops at Hawthorn, Kew and Camberwell were united under the banner of Metropolitan District No 12 (Miles 1995:1). Girl Guides, meanwhile, were not far behind; in February 1911, a meeting was held at 306 Burwood Road to enrol local girls in the 1st Hawthorn Troop of the Australian Girl Guides – the first registered Girl Guide troop in Australia. The First Canterbury Troop of Boys Scouts had been formed by 1916; five years later, it was re-badged as 'Lady Best's Own', after the wife of Sir Robert Best, MHR, who served as their patron. Other early local troops included Second Hawthorn and Third Hawthorn – the latter formed by students of Scotch College, which had relocated to the area in 1916.

The popularity of scouting in Victoria burgeoned from the early 1920s, and the study area was no exception. In 1922, Kilby's Farm, on the banks of the Yarra at East Kew, was chosen as the venture for the second annual Colonel Cohen Shield, a statewide scouting competition. Fittingly,

the event was won that year by the First Kew troop. Two years later, the same event was held on land along Gardiner's Creek in Kooyong, where one of the events was to build a trestle bridge across the creek (*Argus*, 4 November 1924:9). The First Kew troop won the competition for a second time in 1925, when it was staged in Ballarat.

The mid-1920s was otherwise notable for a boom in the construction of purpose-built scout halls in the study area. The First Canterbury Troop (aka Lady Best's Own) was the first to obtain their own building, for which a foundation stone was laid by their eponymous patron in March 1924. As noted by Chris McConville, this was only the fifteenth scout hall to be erected in all of Victoria, and its opening reportedly marked 'another epoch in the scouting movement in Victoria' (McConville 1991:106). This milestone was duly followed by the opening of counterparts for other pioneer troops in the area: the First Camberwell troop in Palmerston Street, Camberwell (1925), the First Surrey Hills troop in Robinsons Road, Surrey Hills (1927; demolished) and the First Kew troop at 129 Disraeli Street (1927; demolished) (*Argus*, 25 July 1927:13).

The interwar period otherwise saw a proliferation of new scouting troops across the study area. In the Kew area alone, the First Kew troop was complemented by Second Kew (1924), Third Kew (1925), Fourth Kew (1925), Fifth Kew (c.1927), Sixth Kew (1932), Seventh Kew (1932) and Eighth Kew (c.1933). Not all of these, however, met with lasting success. Most occupied existing premises, such as church or school halls. A purpose-built scout hall was erected in Whitehorse Road in 1932 for the First Deepdene troop and the Fourth Kew troop erected a building of its own in Glass Street in 1935. There were no fewer than twenty scout troops in the City of Camberwell by the early 1950s, and twelve in Kew by 1960 (*The City of Camberwell, Melbourne, Victoria*, unpaginated pamphlet, 1953; W.D. Vaughan 1960, *Kew's Civic Century*: 161-62). In more recent years, a number of local scout troops have discontinued or merged. Today, less than twenty scout troops remain in operation in the Boroondara District of Victoria's scouting organisation, which corresponds, more or less, to the study area. These include several foundation troops, such as the First Kew, First Hawthorn, First Canterbury, First Balwyn, First Balwyn North, First Hartwell and First Camberwell South. Of these, the First Canterbury troop still occupies its original pre-war scout hall – the oldest in the study area.

Other early scout halls in the City of Boroondara include: HO691 First Canterbury Scout Hall, 25 Shierlaw Avenue, Canterbury (1924); former First Camberwell Scout Hall, 12 Palmerston Street, Camberwell (1925) – part HO159; and Fourth Kew Scout Hall, 13 Glass Street, Kew (1935).

Place History
A parcel of land fronting Whitehorse Road, Deepdene, and measuring 67ft x 140 ft, was purchased at a cost of £600 for the purpose of a establishing a new scout hall in c.1927 (*Age*, 31 October 1932:6; *Argus*, 31 October 1932:11). The Boy Scouts were well established in the Camberwell district by then, with seven patrols already established by the late 1920s. A paling fence was erected at the new site in 1927, but little else appears to have been done towards construction (*Argus*, 11 August 1927:7). As part of fund-raising for the new hall, a dance was held at the Camberwell Masonic Hall in 1928 (*Herald,* 19 April 1928:35). Subsequent delays with commencing construction were possibly due to the Depression.

Plans for a new scout hall were drawn up by the office of notable Melbourne architect Harry A. Norris. A foundation stone for the new brick building was laid in place, and the building was officially opened by the Chief Commissioner of Scouts on 29 October 1932. The building included a main assembly hall, with a group of smaller rooms attached to the south, including a kitchen with a servery hatch, a scout master's office, a storeroom, and male and female toilets (Public Building file, PROV). The hall was set well back from the front boundary, leaving room for a parade ground (flood-lit from the main building) and a flagpole was erected in front of the building. The wording 'FIRST DEEPDENE' above a fleur-de-lis, the symbol of Scouting, decorated the front of the building. The cost of the construction and furnishing of the building was £1450 (*Age*, 31 October 1932:6).
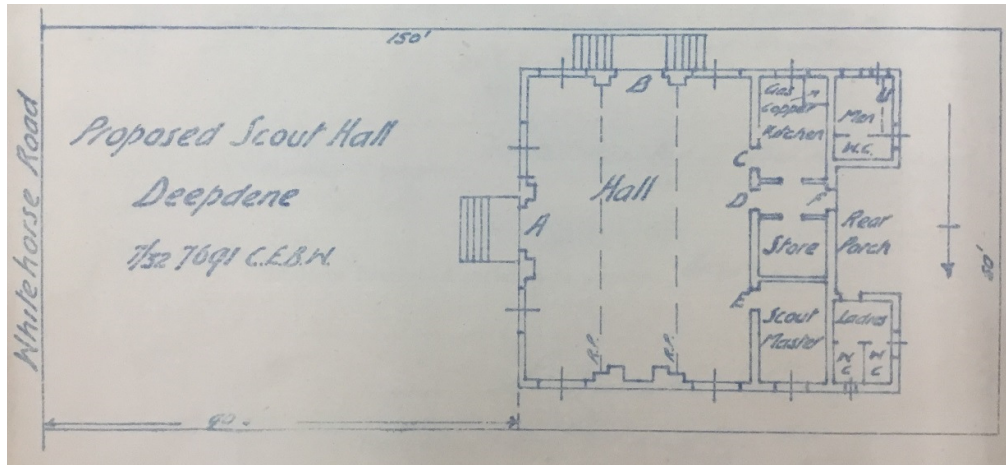
Figure 2. Original layout of Deepdene Scout Hall, c.1932. (Source: Public Building file, PROV)

Dances were held in the hall in the 1930s to raise money for the scout troop. A day kindergarten was also operating in the building in 1938 under the direction of Miss Kilgour (Public Building file, PROV).

The post-war period saw major suburban growth in Deepdene and Balwyn, and as scouting grew in popularity in the 1950s it is likely that the hall needed to be enlarged to meet the growing demands of the local group, which now incorporated not only Boy Scouts, but also Cubs and Rovers. The Deepdene Scout Hall was extended in 1952 to a design by Melbourne architect Best Overend. This addition comprised a new bay extending to the east and comprising two levels and a staircase. Existing windows on the east elevation were filled in as part of this alteration and new steel windows were installed on the north elevation. The upper level of the new extension provided four offices – one each for the 'Scouts', 'Cubs', 'Seniors' and 'Rovers' – while the lower level was designated as a store (Public Building file, PROV). In 1962 a low cyclone fence at the property's front boundary was erected (BP).
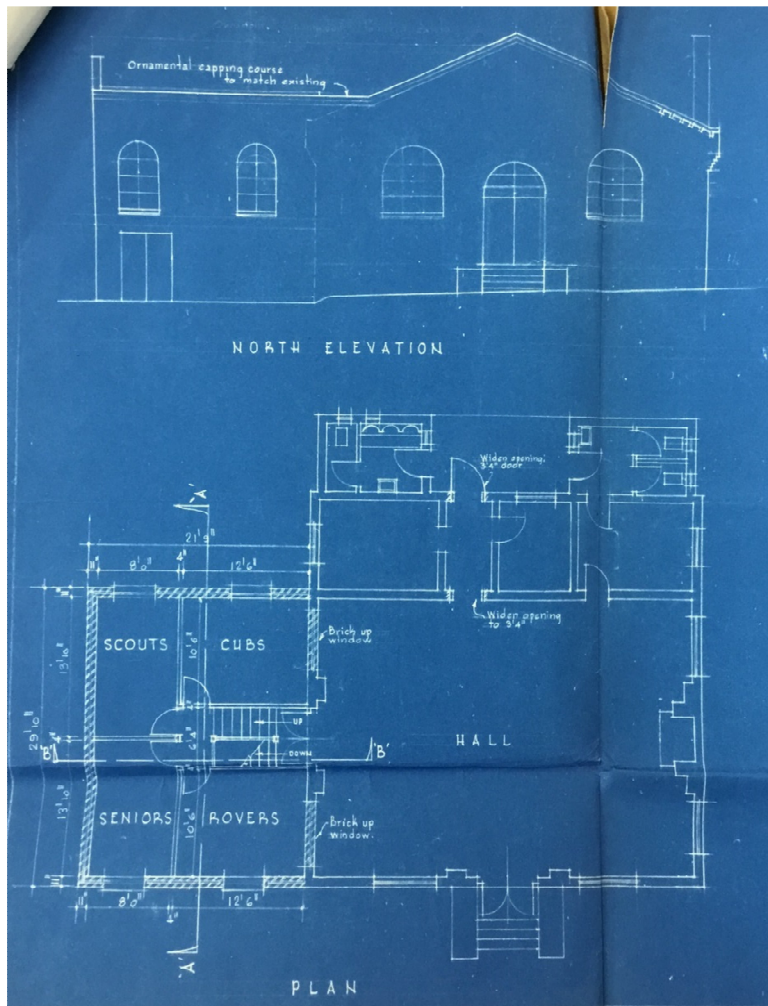
Figure 3. Best Overend Architect, Plan of Deepdene Scout Hall, c.1952, showing proposed alterations to the building. (Source: Public Building file, PROV)

Harry A Norris

Harry Albert Norris (1888-1967) was born in Hawthorn, a son of a bootmaker. He was articled to architects Ward & Carleton between 1906 and 1911, a Melbourne firm that undertook modest domestic, commercial and industrial commissions. In 1910, he won second prize in the Royal Victorian Institute of Architecture student competition (Gurr and Willis 2012:502-3).

Norris commenced his sole practice from c1915, and by 1920, he was established in an office in Collins Street. His early works included domestic and commercial projects, with a significant number of motor garages, factories and bakeries. His younger brother Frank Leonard Norris (1903-1976), who gained a Diploma in Architecture from the University of Melbourne, also joined the practice (Gurr and Willis 2012:502-3).

Harry Norris also participated in a number of business ventures with Alfred M Nicholas. A M Nicholas played a key role in Victoria's motoring industry and, with his pharmacist brother George, he ran the highly successful Nicholas Pty Ltd, which was associated with the development and marketing of 'Aspro' in Australia. The close relationship between Norris and Nicholas resulted in a number of substantial architectural commissions, including the Nicholas Building, Swanston Street (1925-26), and two Nicholas residences: 'Carn Brea', Hawthorn (rebuilt in 1928) and 'Burnham Beeches', Sherbrooke (1930-33). In addition, Norris was appointed as the architect of the St Kilda

Road campus of Wesley College, substantially rebuilt in 1933-39, following a bequest from Alfred and George Nicholas (Gurr and Willis 2012:502-3).

Norris also had a long relationship with the retailer G J Coles, who sent him to the United States in 1929 to investigate chain store architecture. Norris was responsible for designing and altering many Coles stores across Victoria from c1927, and in Sydney from c1938 (Gurr and Willis 2012:502-3).

Norris regularly travelled overseas, particularly in the United States, in 1934, 1936 and 1937 to observe overseas architectural trends (Gurr and Willis 2012:502-3).

Completing a number of influential examples of the key styles of the era, Norris became one of Victoria's most prolific commercial architects in the 1920s and 1930s. Victoria Gurr and Julie Willis's entry for Norris in *The Encyclopedia of Australian Architecture* sums up his architectural achievements as follows:

> *From the mid-1920s onwards, Norris was enthralled by the possibilities of faience and showed himself to be remarkably adept at employing a wide range of stylistic approaches. From the cobalt-blue Spanish Baroque of Majorca House, Flinders Lane, Melbourne (1931) to the blush pink of the remodelled façade of the G.J. Coles Store, Bourke Street, Melbourne (1929) with its Jazz-Hispanic detailing, he demonstrated the possibilities of colour and modelling with faience to great effect. He was an early exponent of the Moderne, such as at Block Court, Collins Street, Melbourne (1929) and with the streamlined façade of Melford Motors showroom, Elizabeth Street, Melbourne (1937), which reached a high point with Mitchell House, Elizabeth Street, Melbourne (1938). The design for the Vice-Chancellor's House at the University of Melbourne (1937) showed a similar concern for materials and style, being a gentle Georgian Revival house given a modish twist by the use of Roman bricks that emphasised horizontality. His Mission to Seamen, Port Melbourne (1937, [since] demolished) was a confident essay in Dudokian modernism (Gurr and Willis 2012:502-3).*

Norris retired on his 75th birthday, dying six months later.

(Acheson) Best Overend
Born in 1909 in Launceston, Tasmania, as the son of a Methodist minister, Best Overend was educated in Melbourne at Wesley College. By 1926, Overend was articled to the firm of H. Vivian Taylor, who had gained renown for his specialisation in acoustic design, particularly in cinemas and radio stations. Studying at Swinburne Technical College and later at the University of Melbourne Architectural Atelier, Overend completed his training in 1931 and left Australia for London.

After gaining experience with Modernist architects in London, Overend returned to Australia in 1933 to re-join H. Vivian Taylor in partnership, along with G.A. Soilleux, under the name of H. Vivian Taylor, Soilleux and Overend. During this time, Overend designed a series of Modernist buildings, including the notable 'Cairo' flats in Fitzroy, a complex known for its functionalism.

An avid proponent of Modernism in Australia, Overend wrote on the topics of architecture in various publications, including a regular column in *The Argus*.

Overend grew restless in his career, and by 1937 he left the partnership to become third officer on a ship which had been sold to Chinese owners (*Examiner* 14 May 1937: 11). During his travels, Overend saw China, Japan and travelled across Siberia before seeing the Paris Exposition in 1937 and working intermittently as an architect. Returning to Australia in May 1938, Overend returned to architectural practice under his own name. He went on to work with émigré architects on several buildings, while advocating strongly for prefabrication in architectural design. Overend died in 1977.

Description and Integrity
'1st Deepdene Scout Hall', 32 Whitehorse Road, Deepdene, is a modest brick hall constructed in the interwar period, in a restrained Romanesque Revival style. Located on the south side of

Whitehorse Road, it is situated just to the east of the Outer Circle Trail, along the former Outer Circle railway line that once serviced much of the modern City of Boroondara. The Scout Hall is sited on a large parcel sloping gently to the east, with a generous setback comprising almost two-thirds the depth of the entire allotment. A low cyclone fence, erected in the post-war period, delineates the property's front (northern) boundary.

Figure 4. Large front setback and principal frontage of the scout hall. (Source: Context 2018)

L-shaped in plan, the main roof form of the scout hall comprises two gables covering the main body of the building, and a skillion roof that shelters an extended wing to the rear, housing the kitchen, scout master's office, storeroom and toilet facilities. The gabled roof to the western part of the building houses the original single-storey scout hall structure, constructed in 1932, while the transverse gabled roof to the east, hidden behind a straight parapet, covers the two-storeyed extension erected in 1952. An original tall, utilitarian red brick chimney rises from the westernmost eave.

Figure 5. Evidence of the original corbelled eave that was infilled by the 1952 extension at the eastern end of the original scout hall building. (Source: Context 2018)

Figure 6. Red-blue clinker brick detailing provides subtle visual interest to the principal façade. (Source: Context 2018)

The arrangement of the principal façade has been rendered asymmetrical by the 1952 extension, consisting of a single-storey gabled bay to the west and a rectangular bay to the east. The gable end is supported on a corbelled eave at the west end of this elevation, and the irregular stretcher bond evidences where the brickwork has been infilled by the later extension on the east side. Subtle visual interest is provided to this facade with the use of red-blue brick panelling, brick header detailing to the arched window and door openings, and ornamental dentil course brickwork to the eaves suggesting a Romanesque corbel table; these details were also carried to the 1952 extension. Five terracotta vents are arranged in a cross-shaped configuration near the apex of the gable end. Beneath this sits a painted cement-rendered panel with the words 'First Deepdene' inscribed, and a plaque with the fleur-de-lis motif, the symbol of Scouting.

Fenestration is intact and consists of paned steel-framed windows. Entry to the Scout Hall is provided through a pair of central, utilitarian timber doors with a nine-paned, semi-circular arched fanlight at the gabled bay, serviced by four clinker brick steps flanked with brick planter boxes. A twelve-paned, semi-circular arched window with brick sill sits either side of the doors.

The rectangular bay to the east constructed in 1952 provides vehicular access to the building through a later roller garage door. Above, at the first floor, is a pair of nine-paned, rectangular windows with brick sills.

The visible side (west) elevation is of red-blue clinker brick. Fenestration is intact and arranged irregularly, with cement rendered lintels unifying the penetrations. There is a pair of square, steel-framed windows with nine panes at the north, and a smaller rectangular window with four panes further south, possibly installed during the 1952 alterations. The rear (south) elevation is of red-blue clinker brick and comprises the rear toilet wings and a porch that has been infilled, presumably since the 1952 extension.

Fencing to the property boundaries differ in style and materials, and includes a low cyclone fence erected in the post-war era to the front property edge, timber fencing at the sides a high, later cyclone fence topped with barbed wire to the rear.

Shallow setbacks exist to the rear and side (west) of the scout hall, allowing for simple grassed spaces with wooden planter boxes and several plane trees. There is a substantial setback to the front (north) of the property, with a long concrete path extending from the footpath to the front steps of the scout hall. To the east of the path is a sizeable gravelled area intended as a parade ground, and the space to the west is grassed with several timber planter boxes. Several eucalypts and low-profile plantings are located immediately behind the front fence.

The Scout Hall is of high integrity with few changes visible to early or original elements of the place. The 1932 building retains its original building and roof form, brick chimney, unpainted brickwork and patterns of fenestration. The 1952 extension has been designed sympathetically, and constructed in response to the growing demands of the local group, therefore contributing to the significance of the place. The integrity of the place is greatly enhanced by the retention of the generous front setback, originally intended as a parade ground.

Comparative Analysis

The design of scout halls prior to World War II ranged from simple halls to more elaborate architect-designed buildings. The earliest known surviving scout hall in Victoria is thought to be the 1st Mordialloc Scout Hall, which was built in 1914. It is a simple gabled timber building with multi-paned windows. The Ivanhoe Sea Scouts Hall dates from 1917, but it was originally built for a local gun club and has been altered, extended and partially rebuilt following a fire.

The growing popularity of scouting in the 1920s and 30s meant that some troops were able to construct more elaborate architect-designed buildings. Known examples included two built in 1931: 1st Alphington, an Old English timber building clad in cement sheet and weatherboards designed by Plaisted & Warner, and 1st Carlton, a brick building designed by Harry James, which has been described as 'Neo-Baroque'. Perhaps the finest scout hall of this (or any period) is the Old English 1st Dandenong, erected to a design by architect, Ivan Diment, in 1933 at a cost of 3,000 pounds, which was donated by Ada Armytage who was a great supporter of the scouting movement and benefactress for the Dandenong Troop.

HO362 1st Alphington Boy Scout Hall no. 20 of 1931, Individually Significant place within Alphington East Precinct, City of Yarra (Source: VHD)

HO326 1st Carlton Troop Boy Scouts Association Hall of 1931 City of Yarra (Source: VHD)

The 1st Deepdene Scout Hall, built in 1932, is among the earliest surviving purpose-built scout halls within the City of Boroondara. The three earliest scout halls to survive in the municipality are the 1st Canterbury of 1924 (25 Shierlaw Avenue, Canterbury, HO691) the 1st Camberwell of 1925 (12 Palmerston Street, Contributory in HO159), and the 4th Kew of 1935 (13 Glass Street, Kew East). All three are still occupied by the scouts. The design of each of these three examples, using timber construction, is characteristic of scout halls built prior to 1930.

HO691 1st Canterbury Troop Boy Scouts Association Hall of 1924 City of Boroondara (Source: Context)

HO159 1st Camberwell Troop Boy Scouts Association Hall of 1925 City of Boroondara (Source: Melbasown.com)

HO326 4th Kew Troop Boy Scouts Association Hall of 1935 City of Boroondara (Source: 4thkewscouts.org.au)

The 1st Deepdene Scout Hall is one of four pre-World War II scout halls to survive in the City of Boroondara. Design and construction of the 1st Canterbury, 1st Camberwell and 4th Kew scout halls are all characteristic of scout halls built prior to 1930, using simple timber construction and showing the influence of the bungalow styles popular in the interwar period. As the only pre-war scout hall of brick construction in the municipality, the 1st Deepdene is a good example of the growing popularity of scouting in the interwar period, which meant that some troops had the financial means to construct more elaborate buildings, sometimes to the design of an architect.

As scouting grew in popularity, so did the need to extend the current headquarters of many troops, usually in an ad hoc fashion and rarely in sympathy to the extant building. What sets the 1st Deepdene Scout Hall apart is the way that the 1952 addition integrates with the original design intent. This includes a similar use of materials and detailing as evident in the use of red-blue clinker-brick panelling and the extension of the ornamental dentil brick leader detailing to the eaves

maintaining a Romanesque corbel table. The 1st Deepdene Scout Hall is of comparable integrity and intactness to the 1st Alphington Scout Halls, as it too had later additions designed in sympathy to the style of the original building: major additions were erected in 1936, 1937 and 1957, in a matching Old English style, with weatherboard to dado height and half-timbering above. The 1st Canterbury Scout Hall was also added to extensively in 1961, 1984-86 and 1991, and is far less intact than the 1st Deepdene.

Assessment Against Criteria

Criteria referred to in *Practice Note 1: Applying the Heritage Overlay,* Department of Planning and Community Development*,* revised August 2018, modified for the local context.

CRITERION A: Importance to the course or pattern of the City of Boroondara's cultural or natural history (historical significance).

The 1st Deepdene Scout Hall is of historical significance for its demonstration of the early popularity of the scouting movement in the suburbs of Boroondara, some of the first in Melbourne to embrace the movement in the early twentieth century. It provides tangible evidence of the formative period after World War I when scouting had become established and scout troops began to construct permanent and purpose-built places to meet. As one of four pre-World War II scout halls to survive in the City of Boroondara, and the only scout hall of brick construction in the municipality, the 1st Deepdene Scout Hall is a strong example of the growing popularity of scouting in the interwar period, which meant that some troops had the financial means to construct more elaborate buildings, sometimes to the design of an architect. Furthermore, its construction in the interwar period and enlargement in the early post-war period demonstrate the major periods of suburban growth in Deepdene and Balwyn, with the resultant population rise.

CRITERION B: Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of the City of Boroondara's cultural or natural history (rarity).

N/A

CRITERION C: Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of the City of Boroondara's cultural or natural history (research potential).

N/A

CRITERION D: Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural or natural places or environments (representativeness).

The 1st Deepdene Scout Hall represents the modest sort of halls built for Scouts during the interwar period. While a simple gable-fronted hall, interest was created by the use of multiple brick colours and the use of round arched openings and a corbel-table to the gable, suggesting a Romanesque Revival influence.

CRITERION E: Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics (aesthetic significance).

N/A

CRITERION F: Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period (technical significance).

N/A

CRITERION G: Strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons. This includes the significance of a place to Indigenous peoples as part of their continuing and developing cultural traditions (social significance).

The 1st Deepdene Scout Hall is of social significance for its long and continuing association with the Deepdene-area Scouts who have met on this site for over 85 years.

CRITERION H: Special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in the City of Boroondara's history (associative significance).

N/A

Statement of Significance

What is Significant?
The 1st Deepdene Scout Hall, at 32 Whitehorse Road, Deepdene, built in 1932 to designs by architect Harry A. Norris, is significant.

The later extensions, built in 1952 to designs by architect Best Overend, are of contributory significance, demonstrating the continuing use of the hall and growing popularity of scouting. The generous front setback, originally intended as a parade ground, is also contributory.

The front fence is not significant.

How is it significant?
The 1st Deepdene Scout Hall is of local historical, architectural (representative) and social significance to the City of Boroondara.

Why is it significant?
The 1st Deepdene Scout Hall is of historical significance for its demonstration of the early popularity of the scouting movement in Boroondara, the suburbs of which were amongst the first in Melbourne to embrace the movement in the early twentieth century. It provides tangible evidence of the formative period after World War I when scouting had become established and scout troops began to construct permanent and purpose-built places to meet. As one of four pre-World War II scout halls to survive in the City of Boroondara, and the only scout hall of brick construction, the 1st Deepdene Scout Hall is a strong example of the growing popularity of scouting in the interwar period, which meant that some troops had the financial means to construct more elaborate buildings, sometimes to the design of an architect. Furthermore, its construction in the interwar period and enlargement in the early post-war period demonstrate the major periods of suburban growth in Deepdene and Balwyn, with the resultant population rise. (Criterion A)

The 1st Deepdene Scout Hall represents the modest sort of halls in brick construction built for Scouts during the interwar period. While a simple gable-fronted hall, interest was created by the use of multiple brick colours and the use of round arched openings and a corbel-table to the gable, suggesting a Romanesque Revival influence. (Criterion D)

The 1st Deepdene Scout Hall is of social significance for its long and continuing association with the Deepdene-area Scouts who have met on this site for over 85 years. (Criterion G)

Grading and Recommendations

Recommended for inclusion in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay of the Boroondara Planning Scheme as an individually Significant place.

Recommendations for the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay (Clause 43.01) in the Boroondara Planning Scheme:

External Paint Colours *Is a permit required to paint an already painted surface?*	No
Internal Alteration Controls *Is a permit required for internal alterations?*	No
Tree Controls *Is a permit required to remove a tree?*	No
Victorian Heritage Register *Is the place included on the Victorian Heritage Register?*	No
Incorporated Plan *Does an Incorporated Plan apply to the site?*	No
Outbuildings and fences exemptions *Are there outbuildings and fences which are not exempt from notice and review?*	No
Prohibited uses may be permitted *Can a permit be granted to use the place for a use which would otherwise be prohibited?*	No
Aboriginal Heritage Place *Is the place an Aboriginal heritage place which is subject to the requirements of the Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006?*	No

Identified By

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