

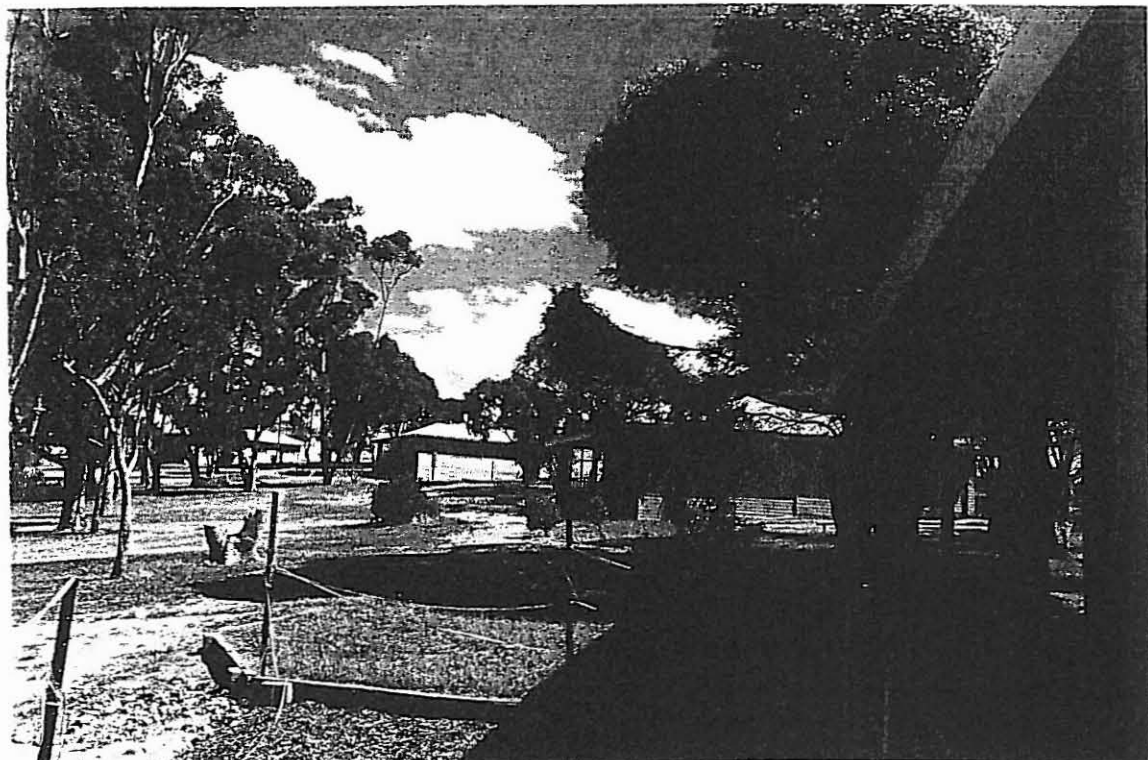
BACCHUS MARSH HERITAGE STUDY.

Ref: 38

Richard Peterson Architect & Conservation Consultant. Daniel Catrice Historian 1994.

NAME: Lady Northcote Recreation Camp.**PREVIOUS NAME:** The Lady Northcote Childrens' Farm School.**ADDRESS:** Glenmore Road, Glenmore. (Partly in Ballan Shire).**TITLE DETAILS:** Sport & Recreation Victoria.**USE:** Children's Recreation Camp.**PREVIOUS USE:** Emigrant Children's Farm School.**CONSTRUCTION DATE:** 7.1937**SOURCE:** 1**ALTERATIONS/ADDITIONS:** **DATE:** 1938-75**SOURCE:** 2**DESIGNER:** Percy Meldrum, Meldrum & Noad**SOURCE:** 2**CRITERIA:** H1, 5; Ar1.**HISTORIC THEME:** Agriculture**DESCRIPTION:** **STYLE:** Modern **STORIES:** 1 **DETACHED.****MATERIALS:** **WALLS** Timber **ROOF** Iron **STRUCTURE** Stud**CONDITION:** Good **INTACTNESS:** Very good **THREATS:** -**SIGNIFICANT INTACT ELEMENTS:**

FORM. LAYOUT. USE.

SIGNIFICANCE:**TYPE:** HISTORICAL. ARCHITECTURAL. SOCIAL**LEVEL:** REGIONAL**DESIGNATION EXISTING:** Nil.**RECOMMENDED CONTROL/NOMINATION:** RNE. PLANNING SCHEME.**MAP NO:** R1.05 **SURVEY:** RP **DATE:** 30.12.93 **NEGS:** 2.25-27A, 3.1&2

HISTORY: The Lady Northcote Children's Farm School received its first pupils in July 1937. Based on a scheme devised by Kingsley Fairbridge, who established in 1912 a farm school in Western Australia for the care and training of British children, the Northcote Children's Farm was endowed by Lady Alice Northcote, the wife of Sir Henry Stafford Northcote, governor-general of Australia, 1904-08. A dignified consort, Lady Alice organised an Australian Exhibition of Women's Work in 1907, and a permanent orchestra trust in the following year.¹ After her death in England in 1934 a sizeable portion of the Northcote estate was used to open a fund "for the purpose of enabling and assisting poor children of either sex and in particular orphans to emigrate from any part of Great Britain to any part of the Commonwealth of Australia and there to establish and equip themselves for life". Grants were provided by the British and Australian governments, and in June 1936, approximately 3,000 acres (1215 ha), part of the Glenmore estate [ref: 31], was donated by the pastoralist Sir William Angliss.

The first buildings at the Northcote Farm School, designed by the architect Percy Meldrum, were erected in 1937. These included a dining hall and kitchen block, four cottages, a farm manager's cottage and a cook's cottage. A water treatment scheme was designed by the Shire Secretary and Engineer, Alec Bond. In 1938, contracts were let for staff quarters and a laundry, and in the following year, the construction of a hospital was commenced under the supervision of architects, Meldrum and Noad. By November 1939, the school could provide accommodation for 216 pupils.

The role of the Northcote Children's Farm changed dramatically in the post-war era. In November 1959, a meeting of Trustees approved a scheme to accept the children of English parents migrating to Australia, and in 1960, an Act of the Victorian parliament enabled Australian children to be admitted to the school as wards of the state. Further changes took place in 1975, when the village section of the property, comprising 62 acres (25 ha) was donated to the Social Welfare Department for use as a Children's Home. The farm section was sold and the proceeds used to establish a Northcote Trust Fund "to assist children and young people to further their education whether within or outside Australia".²

VISUAL DESCRIPTION: The Camp consists of an arc of timber cottages, arranged around the entire hillside, above the main building below. There is a tennis court, golf course, farm animals and dam, and a memorial granite plinth in front of the main building. Each cottage is double-fronted and hip roofed; with the right being set forward and a

¹ *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, vol.7 1891-1939.

² Northcote Children's Home: A Brief History. Typescript, held BMDHS, 1976.

Barry M. Coldrey, *The Scheme. Church Brothers and Child Care in Western Australia*. Anglo Pacific 1993. Chapter 5. British Child Migration.

P. Bean & J. McBeth, *Lost Children of the Empire*, Allen & Unwin, London 1987.

J.V. (Lady) Angliss, *Sir William Angliss. An Intimate Biography*, pp.222, 229 & 230.

verandah in the angle. Windows, including corners are double-hung and roof gutters are concealed behind fascias.

COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS: Comparable to the YMCA Camp Buxton at Shoreham (1925)¹ as a youth camp, the Lord Mayor's Children's Camp, Portsea (c1940s)² and the Education Department's Children's Camp, Somers, School No 4647. This was preceded by the Department's Children's School Health and Recreation Camp, Crows Nest, Queenscliff (1947-52).³

SIGNIFICANCE: The Lady Northcote Children's Farm School was an idealistic philanthropic institution enabling poor and orphaned British children to come to Australia "to equip themselves for life". The early Modern buildings were designed in 1936-7 by Percy Meldrum of Meldrum and Noad.

The Northcote Farm School is of regional historic significance as an extraordinary embodiment of philanthropic social values, applied to an agricultural setting. It demonstrates adaptation to a changing pattern of occupancy as it evolved to a recreation camp.

It is also architecturally significant as early Modernist design and the work of Meldrum, an important eclectic architect of the period, not afraid to turn his hand to Modernism.

INTACTNESS: The main building has been altered over time, sympathetically. The cottages do not have apparent alterations.

CONDITIONS & THREATS: Good

¹ Context Pty Ltd & Dr Carlotta Kellaway, Helen Lardner, *History and Heritage. Shire of Flinders Heritage Study*, Shire of Flinders, 1992, p.32.

² Ibid.

³ L.J. Blake, Ed., *Vision and Realisation. A Centenary History of State Education in Victoria*, Education Department of Victoria, Melbourne 1973, vol.3, p.478.