

Victorian Heritage Database Report

# FORMER HEADMASTER'S HOUSE AND ADJACENT IN-GROUND WATER TANK AT KOORNONG EXPERIMENTAL SCHOOL, END KOORNONG CRESCENT (WEST)

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**Location:**

25 KOORNONG CRESCENT (WEST) NORTH WARRANDYTE, NILLUMBIK SHIRE

**Heritage Status / Level of Significance:**

Included in Heritage Overlay

**Heritage Overlay Number:** HO110  
**Listing Authority:** Nillumbik Shire

**Statement of Significance:**

REVISED STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE, CONTEXT, 2010

What is significant?

The 1939 house and the surrounding site to the title boundaries.

How is it significant?

The house is architecturally, historically and socially significant to the Shire of Nillumbik.

Why is it significant?

The house is architecturally and historically significant because it was designed by the noted modernist architect, Best Overend, with a simple but innovative form, illustrative of early modernist design at the time (Criteria D & H). The house is historically significant because it is the only major structure connected to the innovative Koorng experimental school to survive the 1950s bushfires that devastated the area and is associated with the school's founder, the academic and educator, Clive Neild and the artist, painter and sculptor, Danila Vassilieff (Criteria A & H). The house is historically and socially significant because the Koorng school (with which it is associated) pioneered a concept of education that was concerned with the enrichment of the curriculum and the developing of a self-governing community of children and adults (Criteria A, G & H).

BUTLER STUDY, 2001

The former headmaster's house as the only major survivor of the innovative Koorng Experimental School, is significant to the Nillumbik Shire:

. for its associations with the development of education,. (an important aspect of the history of the Shire of Eltham) by its introduction of a different concept of education concerned with enrichment of the curriculum, development of a self-governing community of children and adults, and individual guidance within an Australian setting;

. for its associations with notable figures such as the founder Clive Neild who was keen to develop the educational techniques and philosophies he had seen in the United States and Europe, its designer,. the much publicised Modernist theorist, Best Over end, and the artist, painter and sculptor, Danila Vassilieff, as well as other lesser known artists; and

- for its simple but innovative form, illustrative of early Modernist designs of the time.

**BASIS OF SIGNIFICANCE:**

**ILLUSTRATION OF THE THEMES**

**HISTORY**

**ARCHITECTURE**

**DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE: LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE**

**EXTENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:**

**ENTIRE BUILDING AND SITE**

## Description

### TOWNSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Style 1930s modern.

Design unique.

Plan rectangular.

Single storeyed.

Walls timber stud construction, shiplap vertical and weatherboard clad.

Roof lean-to with exposed framed eaves.

Features are the design with its lean-to roofs, projecting living room, timber wall cladding, windows including a picture window and internally the caneite type lining and simple lining materials.

Original Use: Headmaster's house

Later Use: Private residence (after 1946)

8.10.4 Designing and building fine buildings

8.12 Living in and around Australian homes

8.14 Living in the country and rural settlements

|                             |                                                               |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Heritage Study / Consultant | Nillumbik - Shire of Eltham Heritage Study , David Bick, 1992 |
| Construction Date Range     | 1939 -                                                        |
| Architect / Designer        | Overend, Best                                                 |
| Municipality                | NILLUMBIK SHIRE                                               |
| Other names                 |                                                               |
| Hermes number               | 63474                                                         |
| Property number             |                                                               |

*This place/object may also be State heritage listed. Check the Victorian Heritage Database. For further details, contact the local Council or go to Planning Schemes Online*