

# Irwin Shire Council

## Municipal Inventory Place Record

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|                       |  |                                    |                                       |
|-----------------------|--|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Place Details</b>  | <b>Place Number:</b> 030               | <b>Category:</b> 1A                | <b>HCWA No:</b> 1227                  |
|                       | <b>TPS No:</b> 38                      | <b>Assessment Date:</b> 16/10/1996 | <b>Last Revision Date:</b> 10/04/2004 |
| <b>Name:</b>          | RSL Hall, Well & Moreton Bay Fig Trees |                                    |                                       |
| <b>Former Name:</b>   | Irwin Roads Board Office               |                                    |                                       |
| <b>Type of Place:</b> | Hall                                   |                                    |                                       |
| <b>Address:</b>       | Point Leander Drive                    |                                    |                                       |
| <b>Map Reference</b>  | HUNT1:2000 BE42/35.03                  |                                    |                                       |
| <b>Locality Name:</b> | Dongara                                | <b>Area of Site:</b>               |                                       |
| <b>GPS Northing:</b>  |  | <b>GPS Easting:</b>                |                                       |

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### Photograph

**Date of Photograph** 12/07/2004

**Source:** G. W. Grundy



View from Point Leander Drive, well to the left

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### Ownership

|                 |                           |                         |  |
|-----------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|--|
| <b>Owner:</b>   | Dongara Sub Branch, RSL   | <b>Owner Phone/Fax:</b> |  |
| <b>Address:</b> | PO Box 212, Dongara, 6525 |                         |  |

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### Site Details

|                   |            |                      |                         |                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| <b>Lot/Locn:</b>  | Lot 13     | <b>Diagram/Plan:</b> | D70398                  | <b>Vol/Folio:</b> | 1841/282, 1318/6 |
| <b>Reserve:</b>   | 27587      | <b>Purpose:</b>      | Public Administration   |                   |                  |
| <b>Assess No:</b> |            | <b>Vesting:</b>      |                         |                   |                  |
| <b>Occupied:</b>  | Yes        | <b>Occupier:</b>     | Dongara Sub Branch, RSL |                   |                  |
| <b>PubAccess:</b> | Restricted | <b>Lease:</b>        |                         |                   |                  |

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### Uses of the Place

**Original Use:** Roads Board Office                      **Current Use:** Music Studio

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### Description

**Walls:** Limestone/Brick                      **Roof:** Corrugated Iron  
**Condition:** Good                      **Integrity:** High  
**Orig'l Fabric:**                      **Modifications:** Verndah iron replaced and stripe painted about 1995.

#### HALL:

This is a small rectangular stone building, built in Federation Free style. The corrugated iron gable roof is steeply pitched. The gable ends are clad with weatherboard. The stone work is coursed and pointed with brick quoining to openings and corners. There is a verandah to the front with an "S" curved corrugated iron roof painted in stripes, supported on timber posts. Front entry is via a timber double entry door, to the sides there are three eight paned timber framed arched windows.

#### WELL:

Situated immediately to the north of the hall, the well is of stone construction with a windlass above.

#### MORETON BAY FIG TREES:

The two large trees immediately to the south are included in this assessment.

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### History

**Const'n Date:** 1910                      **Source:**  
**Architect:** Unknown                      **Builder:** George Carter

Built of local stone, this small single room building was constructed in 1910 to house the Irwin District Roads Board Office and was used for this purpose until 1958 when minor additions were made to the Dongara Hall. To the north of the building, there is a well with a windless which was the first public water supply to the town. The two Moreton Bay Fig Trees are believed to have been planted in 1906. [See also Place No.35]. The first Irwin District Roads Board was elected in 1871 and on 21 February 1871 Samuel Fortesque Moore was elected Chairman and Francis Pearse, Honorary Secretary. The building was used for many years as the headquarters of the Dongara Returned Services League, then leased to the Dongara Red Cross Society for use as a shop. It is presently leased for use as a music studio.

(Sources: "Geraldton Guardian", 17 April 1958; IDHS Records)

2004

The building was entered into the State Register of Heritage Places in 2002, it is still used as a music studio and has been maintained by the owners.

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### Chronology Entries

1906                      The first public water supply was established in Dongara. A well and windless was constructed between the present Memorial Park and RSL Hall.

Bunney, R & Ellery, K, Dongara 1839 - 198-, Geraldton Newspapers Print, 1975

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1910                      The Irwin Roads Board Offices were built, (now RSL Hall).

Bunney, R & Ellery, K, Dongara 1839 - 198-, Geraldton Newspapers Print, 1975

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### Historic Theme(s)

|                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| HCWA                                 | AHC   |
| 401 Government and politics          | 3.11.5 Establishing water supplies            |
| 404 Community services and utilities | 7.6.1 Developing local government authorities |
| 400 Social and civic activities      | 8.5.3 Associating for mutual aid              |

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### Statement of Significance

Irwin Roads Board Office (fmr), has cultural heritage significance for the following reasons:  
the place is valued for the pleasing use of materials, scale and proportion of the building, and for the setting with the well and Moreton Bay fig trees. Together these elements form a significant element in the historic streetscape and townscape character of Dongara;  
the place forms a significant cultural environment associated with the early civic development of the Irwin

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Roads Board between 1910 and 1958, and with the town of Dongara, and contributes to the local community's sense of place;  
the place was constructed in 1910, to house the Roads Board of the developing Irwin River district, and was used as such up to 1958;  
the well was part of Dongara's first public water supply, established in 1906;  
the Moreton Bay fig trees, which dominate the site, are part of the larger street planting undertaken by the Roads Board in 1906, and are an early significant example of rural town beautification. The choice of species is typical of Paradise style public gardens of the period;  
the place is highly valued by the local community as a place of early local government. This is demonstrated by the integrity of the front verandah restoration and the ongoing use made of the place as a commercial premise;  
the place is valued for the variety of community uses it has housed since 1966, including an RSL meeting place, gift shop, Red Cross shop and music studio; and,  
the place is a representative example of a Federation vernacular regional roads board office, established in 1910, and its subsequent development.

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### Management Category: 1A

PERMANENT ENTRY ON THE STATE REGISTER OF HERITAGE PLACES.  
Highest level of protection appropriate. Provide maximum incentives under the Town Planning Scheme with encouragement to the owner to conserve the significance of the place. Prepare a floor plan and photographically record the place prior to any redevelopment.

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### Other Listings

NTWA - Classified; 05/09/1983  
Shire of Irwin - Town Planning Scheme (38); 10/03/1998  
HCWA - State Heritage Register (Interim); 23/11/2001  
HCWA - State Heritage Register (Permanent); 12/07/2002

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### Supporting Information

IDHS Records  
AHC Reference 009650 01-02  
HCWA Database No.1227  
Bunney, R. and Ellery, K., "Dongara 1839-197-"  
"Geraldton Guardian"

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### Additional Photographs

**Date of Photograph** 16/10/1996 IR030-1

**Source:** *Suba & Grundy*



Roads Board Building with well on left and Moreton Bay Figs on the right.

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