

# Register of Significant Twentieth Century Architecture

**RSTCA No:** R020

**Name of Place:** HMAS Creswell Precinct, Jervis Bay – Naval College and Residential Quarters

**Other/Former Names:**

**Address/Location:** College Road JERVIS BAY 2504

Block Section of

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Listing Status:	Registered	Other Heritage Listings:	
Date of Listing:	1985	Level of Significance:	National
Citation Revision No:	1	Category:	Military
Citation Revision Date:	July 1989	Style:	Georgian Revival

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Date of Design:	1913	Designer:	JS Murdoch (planning)
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Construction Period:	1913-15	Client/Owner/Lessee:	
Date of Additions:		Builder:	

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## Statement of Significance

J S Murdoch prominent Federal Capital Architect was responsible for the planning of HMAS Creswell. The College core area, including its relation to the sea, and its buildings are of considerable historical and cultural significance as good examples, especially surrounding the Quarter Deck, of architecture at the time. They consist of discrete uses of design elements integrated into a total sensitive whole. The landscape of the precinct complements the architecture and is an essential ingredient of the area. HMAS Creswell as a group of well sited buildings make an outstanding contribution to their environment in Jervis Bay. The buildings are significant examples of Federal Capital architecture.

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## Description

The Naval College was built from 1913-1915 after Jervis Bay was selected as the port for the Federal Capital. The Quarter Deck is the formal parade ground on the clock tower - Morrison Avenue axis, the formal axis of the College. The original barrack, mess and lecture buildings were arranged symmetrically around the axis, they created a unified design in scale, materials, texture and colour, impaired only by the recent demolition of the Geelong Barrack building and the intrusion of a new building.

Morrison Avenue is a significant element in the overall plan, flanked by an avenue of trees it has a view of the clock tower at one end and the facade of the sailor's mess. The formal geometry of the College plan is emphasised by the classical architectural elements of Doric columns and entablatures, in the clock tower, numerous porches and porticos. These design elements were constructed in masonry and rendered with roughcast finishes, to give more formality. The original buildings are of weatherboard cladding rising to an upper band of fibre cement sheeting, with mostly red tiled roofs. The colours are harmonious and match surroundings. The walls are white and trimmed with buff and blue to doors and windows. The Morgan Avenue Square area is a triangular shaped plot planted with fine trees, and surrounded by several timber houses which are good examples of Federal-style architecture. In 1930 the Jervis Bay buildings were leased to the public as holiday cottages until 1958 when the College returned.

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## Condition and Integrity

Good. Some buildings fungi infested. There is also concern that buildings such as administrative buildings surrounding the clock tower considered for removal.

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## Background/History

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### Analysis against the Criteria specified in Schedule 2 of the Land (Planning and Environment) Act 1991

*(i) a place which demonstrates a high degree of technical and/or creative achievement, by showing qualities of innovation or departure or representing a new achievement of its time*

*(ii) a place which exhibits outstanding design or aesthetic qualities valued by the community or a cultural group*

*(iii) a place which demonstrates a distinctive way of life, taste, tradition, religion, land use, custom, process, design or function which is no longer practised, is in danger or being lost, or is of exceptional interest*

*(iv) a place which is highly valued by the community or a cultural group for reasons of strong or special religious, spiritual, cultural, educational or social associations*

*(v) a place which is the only known or only comparatively intact example of its type*

*(vi) a place which is a notable example of a class of natural or cultural places or landscapes and which demonstrates the principal characteristics of that class*

*(vii) a place which has strong or special associations with person, group, event, development or cultural phase which played a significant part in local or national history*

*(xi) a place which demonstrates a likelihood of providing information which will contribute significantly to a wider understanding of natural or cultural history, by virtue of its use as a research site, teaching site, type locality or benchmark site*

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## References

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## Other Information Sources