

<b>Street Address</b>	424 Redland Bay Road(Cnr Colburn Ave), Victoria Point
<b>GPS/RPD</b>	Lot 28 and part Lot 145 SL4362 and Part Lot 2 RP 123972
<b>Place Type</b>	Landscape, Built, Archaeological



Google Pro (2017)



Eprapah entrance gate, c.1930s (Scouts Australia, 2014).

<b>Condition</b>	Fair	<b>Integrity</b>	Good
<b>Statutory Listings</b>	Local Heritage Place		
<b>Non-Statutory Listings</b>	No current listing		
<b>Inspection Date</b>	11/01/2017		

### Historical Context

Eprapah, situated on the corner of Cleveland-Redland Bay Road and Colburn Avenue in Victoria Point, was first purchased in 1927 for £200 by the then Chief Commissioner of Scouts Queensland, Charles S. Snow, who intended for it to be used as a training centre for scouters in Queensland. The land was 99 acres and the first building constructed on site, a small hut (the 'Providore'), was erected in 1928. The first use of Eprapah as a training centre for scouters was on June 4th, 1928, when a Part II Wood Badge Course was conducted. Lord Baden-Powell, founder and first Chief Scout of the Boy Scouts Association, visited the Eprapah site on March 26th, 1931, to share dinner with the scouters. Baden-Powell commemorated the occasion by leaving his shoeprint in cement at the Owl Totem Pole. In total, 55 Part II Wood Badge Courses were undertaken at the site, with the final course held in 1953. After scouting was transferred to Baden-Powell Park in Samford in 1955, Eprapah as a site for scouting events was relatively inactive. Instead the site was used irregularly for camping and a wilderness area. In 1960, the Scouts Branch Executive decided to retain the site and to keep it intact for future scouting endeavours.[1]

In 1973, it was decided that Eprapah would be used as an environmental activity training centre for the use of the scouting movement. It was renamed the Charles S. Snow Environment Education Centre. The place remains today as an environmental centre and scouting camp ground, regularly used field days and weekend programmes for members of both the Scout and Guide movements. The curriculum is based around the World Scout Environment Programme (formerly the World Conservation Badge) and other scout merit badgework. The activities include examining various aspects of the site's many ecosystems, pond dipping, removal of stands of weeds and area regeneration through tree planting, and night-time spotlighting.[2]

Eprapah is also home to the Victoria Point Scout Group. The group was formed in 1969 and operates from a former World War Two military hut, which originally served as a hospital at Greenslopes. [3]

### Physical Description

The reserve covers 39 hectares of environmentally protected habitat that is home to many species of fauna and flora. Eprapah contains predominantly dense bushland, and also includes rainforest, wetlands and marine habitats, with a freshwater creek and ponds, and a dry Sclerophyl forest, all accessed by trails and boardwalks. Eprapah holds extremely diverse and varied habitats that support a wide range of vegetation, birdlife, koalas and other wildlife.

Eprapah retains elements from its use as a Scouting venue, including a series of 21 buildings and remnants which illustrate the place's use as a Scout training venue (1928-55). These elements include the original caretaker's cottage, 'Mungara', which was constructed of bricks and is still in-situ. Bushfires have raged through Eprapah over time, destroying the early timber buildings. The other features (including the 'Providore' site, the ration hut site, the men scout's hut, and the rover hut site) are not intact, and only remnants remain. Two wells also exist at Eprapah, one used for bathing with some fabric remaining in-situ and Rover Well that is a reconstruction of the well that was originally built in 1929. The parade ground (although overgrown) also survives, originally planted with 12 Kauri trees in a semi-circle (to represent the 12 apostles).

Only 8 remain but the semi-circle is still evident. A heritage walk has been developed to identify features and remnants of the site including a replica of the original entrance gate in-situ, Baden-Powell's concrete footprint, the original owl and eagle totems (now badly weathered), the parade ground and Kauri circle, the chief's campsite, a chapel, the cook's table and cookhouse, dining tables, the campfire circle and the remains of the suspension bridge.[4]

**Statement of Significance**

Erapah is of local significance for its historic values, its aesthetic importance and for its social and associative values. As the first site for the training of Scouts in Queensland (c.1928) and containing buildings and remnants from early use, the place illustrates important aspects of the history of the Scouting movement in Queensland. The place also holds significant natural heritage values of aesthetic and environmental importance to Redlands and used by the Scouts Queensland, as the Charles S. Snow Environmental Centre the place highlights the importance of the area as an environmental centre and scouting camp ground. Erapah is significant for its association with the Queensland Scouting movement, as the site where its leaders were trained from 1928 to 1953 and for its special association with Charles S. Snow (former Chief Commissioner Qld) and Lord Baden-Powell, (former World Chief Scout) who visited the site in 1931.

<b>Criteria A</b>	The place is important in demonstrating the evolution or pattern of the region's history.
Erapah (now Charles S. Snow Environment Education Centre) demonstrates historical significance to Redlands, as it was the first site used for training Scouts in Queensland.	

<b>Criteria E</b>	The place is important to the region because of its aesthetic significance.
Erapah is located with a 'natural habitat oasis in the midst of the rapidly developing urban area of Victoria Point' and is therefore significant for its aesthetic qualities.	

<b>Criteria G</b>	The place has a strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons important to the region.
Erapah has a strong association with Scouts Queensland as it was the site of leader training from 1928 to 1953, before the training site was relocated. Its continuous use by the Queensland Scouting community suggests a special association with the history of this site and its built structures.	

<b>Criteria H</b>	The place has a special association with the life or work of a particular person, group or organisation of importance in the region's history.
As an institution for Queensland Scouting, Erapah maintains a special association with Charles S. Snow (former Chief Commissioner), Lord Baden-Powell, (former World Chief Scout) and the Scouting movement in Queensland from 1928 until the 1950s, as the first training facility. The site is significant as Baden-Powell visited it in 1931 and left his shoeprint in cement at the base of the Owl Totem Pole to commemorate the occasion.	

**Primary Themes**

2.0 Exploiting, Utilising and Transforming the Land	2.09 Valuing and appreciating the environment and landscapes
8.0 Creating Social and Cultural Institutions	8.03 Organisations and societies

**References**

- [1] Scouts Australia & Redland City Council, 'Erapah Heritage Walk: A Guide to the History of Queensland's First Leader Training Centre (1928 to 1953)' 2014.
- [2] Ibid.
- [3] Victoria Point Scout Group. <http://victoriapoint.scoutsqld.com.au/About/History.html>, accessed 13 January 2017.
- [4] Scouts Australia and Redland City Council, 2014.



Erapah entrance gate, c.1930s (RCC, 2014).



Erapah, Victoria Point (RCC, 2014)