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# ARAWATA UNITING CHURCH



Arawata Uniting Church  
(2020)



Arawata Uniting Church  
(2000)

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## Location

419 FAIRBANK ROAD, ARAWATA, SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE

## Municipality

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE

## Level of significance

Recommended for Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Listing

South Gippsland Shire

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - November 22, 2022

### What is significant?

The Arawata Uniting Church (former Union Church), designed and constructed by Neil Falconer and opened on 17 April 1910, at 419 Fairbank Road, Arawata, is significant. It is a Federation Carpenter Gothic Church of typical design with a gabled roof. Contributory features include:

- False buttresses to the front wall.
- Gabled porch with side entry doors.
- Lancet (pointed arch) windows in the nave walls and porch.
- Gothic louvred vent at the gable end.
- Tie beams to the gable ends.
- Internally, the honour roll and memorial tablets dedicated to the First and Second World Wars.

- The 1947 addition to the Vestry, the 1957 Sunday School and the Memorial Garden created in 1968.

Non-original alterations including the cement sheet weatherboards are not significant.

#### **How is it significant?**

The Arawata Uniting Church (former Union Church) is of local historic, aesthetic and social significance to the South Gippsland Shire.

#### **Why is it significant?**

Historically, the church, constructed in 1910, is the oldest public building in Arawata. Prior to this church being built, services in the Arawata district were held in homes of locals and in the old Arawata Hall and the construction of the church was the result of co-operation between the Methodist and Presbyterian congregations. The addition to the church and the Sunday School demonstrate the growth of Arawata associated with closer settlement before and after World War Two. The church and the nearby public hall demonstrate community formation in the Arawata area and illustrate how isolated areas within South Gippsland Shire developed.

(Criterion A)

It is significant as an example of a Union Church, which demonstrates how Protestant congregations with limited resources co-operated during the formative years of settlement to establish places of worship in remote areas. It illustrates the strength of inter-faith support within the community at the time. The church is still used today, holding services every second Sunday. (Criterion A)

Aesthetically, the 1910 church is a fine example of a Carpenter Gothic church with typical form and detailing including the steep pitched roof, lancet windows and roof vent. Of note within the local area are the false buttresses to the front wall. The church is an historic landmark within the Arawata district. (Criterion E)

Socially, it is significant for its continuous use as a church for over 100 years. Along with the nearby public hall it has played an important role in the development of the local community and is an integral part of the identity of the Arawata district. (Criterion G)

Heritage Study/Consultant	South Gippsland - South Gippsland Heritage Study, David Helms with Trevor Westmore, 2004;
Construction dates	1910, 1910, 1910,
Architect/Designer	Falconer, Neil,
Other Names	Former Arawata Union Church, Arawata Union Church,
Hermes Number	30362
Property Number	

## **Physical Description 1**

The Arawata Uniting Church (former Union Church) is a simple Carpenters' Gothic church with a 45 degree corrugated iron gable roof, and a gable porch having doors at the sides. It is notable for the false buttresses at the front elevation. There are lancet windows in the nave walls and the porch, a Gothic louvred vent in the gable end, and an added cross gable at the rear. The interior is in original condition. The building has been reclad with cement sheet weatherboards.

At the rear of the church is the 1957 brick Sunday School and to one side is the "Garden of Remembrance" comprising a low Castlemaine slate wall with two plaques behind a bed in the form of an inverted arch inlaid with a white cross.

The church is situated adjacent to the site of the Arawata State School, and close to the Arawata Public Hall (refer to separate citation).

*This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.*

*For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>*