

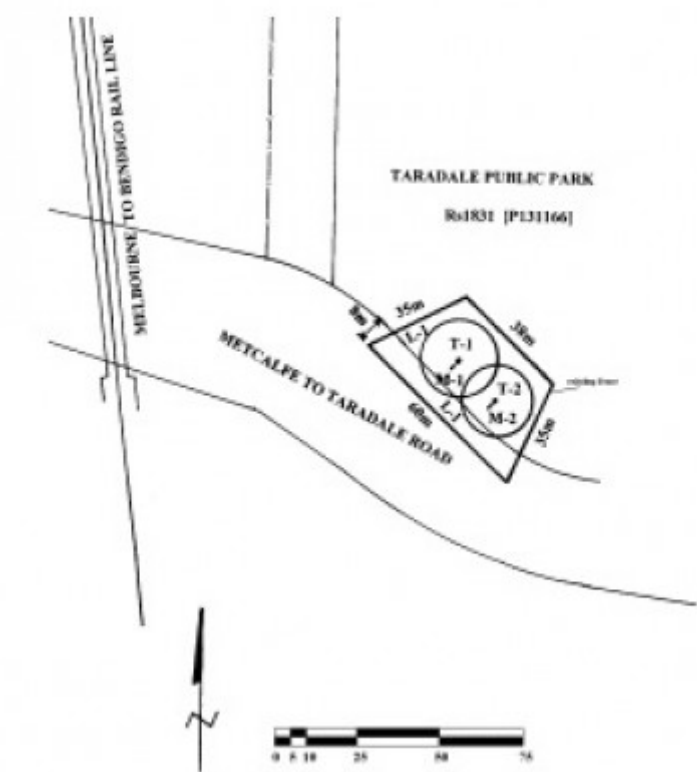
# ROYAL OAKS



ROYAL OAKS SOHE 2008



1 royal oaks taradale public  
park taradlae park view



royal oaks taradale plan

## Location

TARADALE PUBLIC PARK, METCALFE-TARADALE ROAD TARADALE, MOUNT ALEXANDER SHIRE

## Municipality

MOUNT ALEXANDER SHIRE

## Level of significance

Registered

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1389

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO859

## VHR Registration

December 11, 1997

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - May 14, 1999

On 19th May 1863 celebrations were held at Taradale to commemorate the marriage of Prince Albert Edward, Prince of Wales, eldest son of Victoria and Albert and future King Edward VII, to Princess Alexandra, which had taken place on the 10th March. Arches were erected over the High Street Bridge, lights were displayed outside private homes and the general public enjoyed a 'sumptuous repast' supplied at the expense of the Municipal Council. Hotels provided free drinks, 250 children received 'buns, tea and fruit', and in the evening there was a grand fireworks display and bonfires on surrounding hills. The focus of the day's festivities was provided by a procession of the Municipal Council, Magistrates and Oddfellows who marched with the community to the Public Park accompanied by the Vaughan Brass Band. Here they officially planted two English oaks in honour of the Royal pair.

The two Royal Oaks (*Quercus robur*) at Taradale are of historic and aesthetic significance to the State of Victoria.

The two Royal Oaks are historically significant as commemorative trees planted to celebrate the wedding of the Prince of Wales to Princess Alexandra in 1863. Along with other plantings in Castlemaine, Maldon and Daylesford which celebrated the same event, they are important as being among the oldest commemorative oak plantings in Victoria. They are also important as being among the earliest tree specimens which remain to mark the existence of the former Taradale Botanical Gardens, established in the same year. Both the oak trees and the public gardens reflect Taradale's gold rush prosperity and the local community's desire to draw attention, not only to their success and accomplishments, but also to their loyalty.

The two trees are of aesthetic significance as outstanding specimens of mature English oaks which contribute significantly to the landscape. The two trefoil-headed commemorative plaques which stand beside the trunks of the trees are important elements in the significance of the place.

## Permit Exemptions

EXEMPTIONS FROM PERMITS:

(Classes of works or activities which may be undertaken without a permit under Part 4 of the Heritage Act 1995)

#### General Conditions:

All exempted alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the fabric of the registered place or object.

Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of alterations that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place or object are revealed which relate to the significance of the place or object, then the exemption covering such alteration shall cease and the Executive Director shall be notified as soon as possible.

If there is a conservation policy and plan approved by the Executive Director, all works shall be in accordance with it.

Nothing in this declaration prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions.

Nothing in this declaration exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the responsible authority where applicable.

#### Landscape

Management of plants in accordance with Australian Standard, Pruning of amenity trees AS 4373

Removal of plants listed as State Prohibited and Regionally Controlled Weeds in the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994

Emergency and safety works

Conservation works in accordance with The Burra Charter (ICOMOS Charter for the conservation of cultural significance, revised 1988)

Repairs, conservation and maintenance to hard landscape elements, memorials, roads and paths, fences and gates, drainage

The process of gardening and maintenance to care for the trees and park landscape

Removal of carparking, compacted gravel and bollards within the registered land, 5 metres from the canopy edge

Construction dates            1863,

Heritage Act Categories    Registered place,

Hermes Number                5378

Property Number

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## History

Contextual History:History of Place:

History of Place:

On 19 May 1863 celebrations were held at Taradale to commemorate the marriage of the country's future King, Prince Albert Edward the Prince of Wales and eldest son of Victoria and Albert, to Princess Alexandra, which had taken place on the 10 March. Arches were erected over the High Street bridge, lights were displayed outside private homes and the general public enjoyed a 'sumptuous repast' supplied at the expense of the Municipal Council. Hotels provided free drinks all day and, at the Taradale hall, 250 children were regaled with 'buns, tea and fruit'. In the evening there was a grand fireworks display, huge bonfires were lit in the surrounding hills, and the Taradale Amateurs gave two dramatic performances. The focus of the day's festivities was provided by a procession of the Municipal Council, Magistrates and Oddfellows who marched to the Public Park accompanied by the Vaughan Brass Band. Here they officially planted two English oaks, in honour of the royal pair. The couple were married at St Georges Chapel, Windsor on 10 March 1863 after becoming engaged 9 September 1862.

The Taradale Public Park, officially called Barkly Park but more commonly known as the 'People's Park', had originally been part of the Taradale Survey paddock and was occupied by District Surveyor, W. S. Urquhart. In

1858 Urquhart proposed that the paddock be developed as a model farm in connection with the public school. This never eventuated but a year later the area was set aside for public purposes. Urquhart expected residents would use it for 'promenading' and recreation but instead it was widely used as free commonage and for mining. In 1861 the land was placed under the control of the Municipal Council for the purposes of a park and garden and public recreation although it was not formally reserved. In July 1863 a departmental surveyor at Taradale wrote that the only improvements that had been effected on the Public Park were the occasional repair of the existing fence and the planting of two small oak trees. A month later a Taradale deputation waited on the Commissioner of Lands and Survey to urge that deeds be prepared to make part of the reserve a Botanical Gardens. The Taradale deputation was told they would have to wait for possession but that they were free to make it into a garden.

In 1872 land at the north of the Public park was opened for leasehold under Section 42 of the Land Act and the original Park was sliced in two by a road through to Holywell's Bridge. The area closest to the township was preserved as a garden. In 1875 trees and shrubs were voted for town reserves including the 'Public Garden', and a caretaker and one labourer were appointed to care for the gardens. Trees were ordered (at a cost of £3 - £4) and the present elms and oaks may date from this period. Garden beds appear to have been maintained for a number of years, for in 1879 tenders were called for turning soil in Taradale Gardens and Cricket Ground 'where the engineer may direct'.

Enthusiasm for the Botanical Gardens and public parklands was fuelled by the creation of Botanical Gardens at Kyneton and Castlemaine and other country towns during the 1860s period, and the possession of parklands seemed linked in the minds of Taradale residents with visions of the town's future greatness. When parts of the Gardens and Park land were threatened with alienation in the 1880s the local newspaper protested:

If our town had no prospect of growing to be of more importance than it is at present then perhaps the matter would be of little moment but we hold the opinion that Taradale will soon be the scene of bustle and mining enterprise and we will then require our parks which we regard as essential to the town as lungs are to the human body and should be retained by the inhabitants against all opposition.

Nevertheless, after a great deal of dispute engendered by longstanding leaseholds, a large part of the parkland was alienated, leaving 38 acres to be gazetted as a permanent park  
COMPARISON:

Other commemorative oaks planted in Victoria include:

Two examples of *Quercus robur* planted on 19 May 1863 at Maldon Shire Offices. These also commemorate the marriage of Prince Edward to Princess Alexandra on 10 March 1863

*Quercus robur* 'Druids Oak', 1870, Ballarat

*Quercus canariensis*, 19 May, 1863, Kyneton. Commemorates the marriage of Prince Edward to Princess Alexandra on 10 March 1863

*Quercus canariensis*, 17 August 1873, Royal Botanic Gardens

*Quercus canariensis*, 15 November 1889, Royal Botanic Gardens

*Quercus robur*, December 1867, Prince Alfred Duke of Edinburgh planted this oak at the Castlemaine Botanical Gardens

*Quercus robur* 'Royal oak', 1913, Fernshaw Reserve

*Quercus robur*, 13 June 1900, Lilydale

in 1888.

## **Extent of Registration**

### **NOTICE OF REGISTRATION**

As Executive Director for the purpose of the Heritage Act, I give notice under Section 46 that the Victorian Heritage Register is amended by including the Heritage Register Number 1389 in the category described as a Heritage Place:

Royal Oaks, Taradale Public Park, Metcalfe-Taradale Road, Taradale, Mt Alexander Shire Council.

EXTENT:

1. All of the land marked L-1 on Diagram 607970 held by the Executive Director being part of the Taradale Public Park, Crown Reserve Rs 1831 [P131166] and part of the Road Reserve.
2. The two English Oaks (*Quercus robur*) known as the Royal Oaks marked T-1 and T-2 and the two commemorative plaques marked M-1 and M-2 on Diagram 607970 held by the Executive Director.

Dated 4 December 1997

RAY TONKIN

Executive Director

[Victoria Government Gazette No. G49 11 December 1997 p.3434]

*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/>*