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# Former Foster Higher Elementary School War Memorial Avenue

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## Location

Hoddle Road and Pioneer Street FOSTER, SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE

## Municipality

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE

## Level of significance

-

## Heritage Listing

Vic. War Heritage Inventory

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

What is Significant?

The former Foster Higher Elementary School War Memorial Avenue of trees, established in 1921, at Hoddle Road, Foster.

Why is it Significant?

The former Foster Higher Elementary School War Memorial Avenue is of local historic, social and aesthetic significance to the town and district of Foster.

Historically and socially, the War Memorial Avenue, which presumably responded to the initiative of the Victorian State Recruiting Committee, was the first memorial to World War 1 be established in Foster and specifically commemorated former students who served in the war. (AHC criteria - A.4, D.2, and G.1) Aesthetically, the War Memorial Avenue provided an appropriate and related setting for the Memorial Higher Elementary School that opened in the following year. Today, although diminished in number the now mature trees enhance the appearance and setting of South Gippsland Secondary College, and remain an evocative symbol of the impact of World War 1 upon the school. (AHC criterion - E.1)

Heritage Study/Consultant	South Gippsland - South Gippsland Heritage Study, David Helms with Trevor Westmore, 2004;
Construction dates	1921,
Other Names	Hoddle Road + Pioneer Street Foster 3960,
Hermes Number	125701
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

The Foster Higher Elementary School War Memorial Avenue comprises a number of mature exotic trees, generally situated along the periphery of the school site (now known as South Gippsland Secondary College).

(Note: further research is required to determine the location and species of the trees)

## Physical Description 2

Style

Honour Avenue

## Historical Australian Themes

Thematic Context

Government + Community Institutions

Sub-Themes

Schools, Churches, Public Halls, Cemeteries & Hospitals; Military Defence.

## Veterans Description for Public

The War Memorial Avenue at Foster Higher Elementary School was planted on Arbor Day, July 15th 1921, after a working bee to prepare the site was held in the previous week. The Avenue honoured former pupils of Foster State School whose names appeared on the School World War One Honour Roll.

The Foster Mirror reported that tree planting commenced at 1.30 pm and "as near as possible was carried out by soldiers, relatives or nearest friends". The trees placed around the site of the school buildings were for soldiers who made the Supreme Sacrifice.

Mr AG Thomas, chairman of the School board, made an address that urged the children who were present to look after the trees and: ".. see that they matured so that in days to come they would always have something to look upon as a memento of the loyalty of soldiers whom they represent."

The Former Foster Higher Elementary School War Memorial Avenue was the first of three memorials established in the town to honour those who served in the First World War and preceded the opening of the Higher Elementary School, which was carried out in the following year. The Shire of South Gippsland donated £600 to the cost of construction of the School and made a successful request to the Minister of Education, Alexander

Peacock, for it to be dedicated as a memorial to the First World War soldiers. The First World War memorial in Main Street was unveiled in 1925.

*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/>*