
Cranbourne Avenue of Honour



Cranbourne copy.jpg

Location

South Gippsland Highway, Cranbourne, CASEY CITY

Municipality

CASEY CITY

Level of significance

-

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO142

Heritage Listing

Vic. War Heritage Inventory

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - January 25, 2001

HO142 Avenue of Honour, Oaks South Gippsland Highway, Cranbourne

Construction dates 1919,

Hermes Number 126864

Property Number

Physical Description 1

Oak avenue: English Oak (*Quercus robur*): now 172 trees. Includes mature trees in good condition as well as some younger trees planted in past 10 years.

Historical Australian Themes

Remembering the fallen

Usage/Former Usage

Commemoration

Veterans Description for Public

The Cranbourne Avenue of Honour, along the South Gippsland Highway, consists of approximately 172 English Oak (*Quercus robur*) trees planted to commemorate the First World War. The avenue was opened on August 9th 1919 by the Shire President, Cr. D. McGregor and planted by the Cranbourne Patriotic Association. The Avenue in its original condition represented 59 men and two Sisters, E and N Lehman. Currently it comprises of mature trees in good condition as well as some younger ones planted in the last decade.

In Australia, commemorative trees have been planted in public spaces since the late nineteenth century. Arbor Days were held regularly in most Victorian State Schools during the late 1800s and early 1900s, and numerous trees were planted in parks in Melbourne and throughout Victoria to mark the visits of important and famous people.

This tradition of commemorative planting was continued in 1901 when at the end of the Boer War trees were often planted for each soldier of the district who was killed in South Africa. These plantings, however, rarely consisted of more than two or three trees in each town.

During and after the First World War avenues of honour consisting of trees lining significant streets became a popular form of commemoration. They represented a new egalitarian approach to the commemoration of soldiers where rank was not a consideration: each tree symbolises a person.

Avenues of honour are a uniquely Australian phenomenon. Australians, and in particular Victorians, embraced the idea of planting them more enthusiastically than any other country in the world. The Eurack Avenue of Honour is the earliest known avenue of honour to be planted in Victoria and dates from May 1916.

By the time of the Second World War avenues of honour had declined in popularity as a means of commemoration. Today it is estimated that over 300 avenues of honour have been planted in Victoria to commemorate service personnel since 1901.

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/>