
Snake Valley Avenue of Honour



SVM04 - Photograph No:
2.18 - Pyrenees Shire
Heritage Precinct Study 2001

Location

Linton Carngham Road SNAKE VALLEY, PYRENEES SHIRE

Municipality

PYRENEES SHIRE

Level of significance

-

Heritage Listing

Vic. War Heritage Inventory

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - February 1, 2001

Significance Type:

Individual

Potential Significance Level:

Local

Heritage Study/Consultant	Pyrenees - Pyrenees Shire Heritage Precinct Study, Dr David Rowe & Ms Lorraine Huddle : Authentic Heritage Services P/L, 2001;
Construction dates	1919,
Hermes Number	127330
Property Number	

Physical Conditions

Fair

Integrity

Moderate-Fair

Veterans Description for Public

The Snake Valley Avenue of Honour is located on the Carngham Linton Road. In June 1918, a public meeting was held in Snake Valley to establish a Committee to oversee the development of an Avenue of Honour to commemorate the sacrifices made by the local men who fought and died in the First World War. On August 10th 1918, the *Riponshire Advocate* reported that 146 Golden Cypresses were planted "In memory of Snake Valley and District Soldiers, about 50 wattles were planted by the senior boys and girls of the local school." The life span of the wattles was intended for only 10 years, until the cypress trees matured.

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. Dating from May 1916, the Eurack Avenue of Honour is the earliest known avenue of honour to be planted in Victoria.

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/>