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# Hexham WWII Avenue of Honour

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## Location

Fairie Street, Hexham VIC 3273

## Municipality

MOYNE SHIRE

## Level of significance

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## Heritage Overlay Numbers

## Heritage Listing

Vic. War Heritage Inventory

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - March 1, 2002

### *What is significant?*

The Hexham Avenue of Honour #2 in Fairie Street, Hexham, comprises Monterey Cypress (*Cupressus macrocarpa*) that were planted after World War 2.

### *How is it significant?*

The Hexham Avenue of Honour #2 in Fairie Street, Hexham, is of historical, scientific (horticultural), aesthetic and social significance to Moyne Shire.

### *Why is it significant?*

The Hexham Avenue of Honour #2 in Fairie Street, Hexham, is of local historical significance for its commemoration of local service personnel who served overseas in World War II. It is representative of plantings that first appeared in Australia during World War I, commemorating all those who enlisted for service in an egalitarian form where each individual was equally recognised for their service regardless of rank. It is also of historical significance as an impressive, intact and integral part of the Victorian network of Avenues of Honour, planted to memorialise those who fought in wars overseas, and at one time totalling some 128 throughout Victoria, and now much reduced.

The Hexham Avenue of Honour #2 in Fairie Street, Hexham, is of local social significance for its relationship to the community as a memorial to those who served in World War 2, and for its continuing commemorative importance. It remains as an indication of the involvement of Victoria's small communities in commemorating the

sacrifices of their volunteers, and the loss and sorrow experienced by small rural areas across Victoria.

The Hexham Avenue of Honour #2 in Fairie Street, Hexham, is of local scientific (horticultural) significance as a record of the growth pattern of a known species planted at a particular place at a known time.

The Hexham Avenue of Honour #2 in Fairie Street, Hexham, is of local aesthetic significance as an intact landscape element.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Moyne - Moyne Shire Heritage Study Stage 2, Helen Doyle in association with Context P/L, 2006;
Construction dates	1946,
Hermes Number	127496
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

Avenue of Monterey Cypress (*Cupressus macrocarpa*) planted in Fairie Street, Hexham

### COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS

The Avenue of Honour #2 at Hexham is one of several important avenues of trees planted in Moyne Shire to honour local soldiers. Avenues to honour service personnel in the Second World War are less common than those planted after the First World War.

## Physical Conditions

Not known

## Integrity

Not able to assess

## Veterans Description for Public

The Hexham Avenue of Honour, in Fairie Street, comprises of Monterey Cypress (*Cupressus macrocarpa*) that were planted after the Second World War between 1946-47. Avenues to honour service personnel in the Second World War are less common than those planted after the First World War.

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/>*