FAWKNER MEMORIAL PARK

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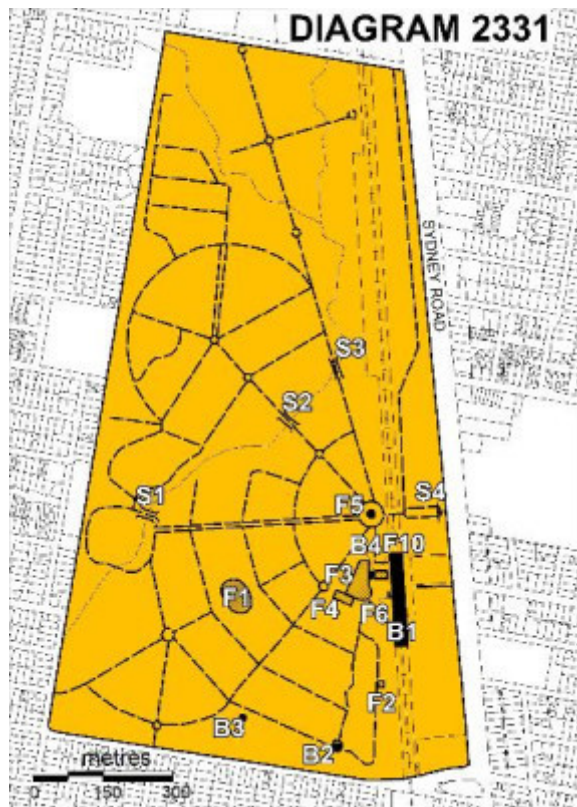
Fawkner Memorial Park

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fawkner diagram

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Location

1187 SYDNEY ROAD AND 100 BOUNDARY ROAD HADFIELD, MORELAND CITY

Municipality

MERRI-BEK CITY

Level of significance

Registered

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H2331

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO216

VHR Registration

February 13, 2014

Heritage Listing

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

What is significant?

The Fawkner Memorial Park is a cemetery and crematorium that contains a wide range of monuments (including pioneer memorials dating from the 1840s), memorials, funerary art, buildings, botanical features and a restored early 1900s mortuary train.

History Summary

The Fawkner Memorial Park was designed by Charles Heath the notable architect and surveyor. The first burial took place there in 1906. Along with the Springvale Cemetery which opened in 1904, the Fawkner site was developed in response to public concerns in the 1890s that a new cemetery was needed to support Melbourne's growth. One of Australia's largest cemeteries, it was established as a 'modern railway cemetery' along the lines of those evident in England from the 1850s. From 1906 to 1939 funeral parties accessed the cemetery on specially designed mortuary trains from Flinders Street to the Fawkner Railway Station. In 1923-24, 220 of Melbourne's oldest surviving graves, dating from the 1840s, were relocated from the Old Melbourne Cemetery to the Fawkner Cemetery (known as the New Melbourne Cemetery from 1907). These include the remains, associated graves, headstones and memorials of significant early settlers such as John Batman, George Cole, Edmund Hobson, James Jackson and Charles Dight. In 1926 a crematorium in the Greek Revival style was built (this was demolished in 1980). Many religions have separate sections in the cemetery. In the late 1950s a small grassed area was reserved for burials reflecting a trend in European and American cemetery practices towards 'lawn cemeteries'. In 1994 Fawkner became home to Australia's first public Mausoleum.

Description Summary

The Fawkner Memorial Park contains a variety of buildings, structures, memorials, and botanical features from many eras. There are pioneer memorials dating from the 1840s in an area on Third Avenue and some additional pioneer memorials in the Jewish section. The cemetery is characterised by memorial gardens, landscaped lawns and formal avenues and groves, including the Garden of Remembrance (1933 extended in the 1950s) and Rose Urn Garden (c.1939). The landscape features a large number of trees and plants including older specimens such as English and Algerian Oaks, Elms, Lombardy Poplar and Monterey Cypress. Notable buildings include the Italianate Tearooms (1934), Jewish Chapel (1918) and Muslim Chapel (1935). The entrance to the cemetery is framed by the original gates of the old Melbourne Fish Markets which stood on the corner of Spencer and Flinders Streets until 1959. The Charles Heath Fountain (c.1952) is located at the start of avenues which traverse the cemetery. Three avenues are characterised by single-span reinforced concrete bridges which have similar classical detailing, including the use of urns as decorative features (Fourth -1927, Sixth - 1920, Seventh - c.1939). There is a rare example of a restored early 1900s mortuary carriage on display adjacent to the station, and a Christian Waller Painting (1937) 'Robe of Glory' on display at the administration offices of the cemetery.

This site is part of the traditional land of the Wurundjeri people.

How is it significant?

Fawkner Memorial Park satisfies the following criterion for inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Register:

Criterion A Importance to the course, or pattern, of Victoria's cultural history

Criterion B Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Victoria's cultural history

Criterion C Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Victoria's cultural history

Criterion D Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural places and objects

Criterion E Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics

Criterion G Strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons. This includes the significance of a place to Indigenous peoples as part of their continuing and developing cultural traditions.

Criterion H Special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in Victoria's history.

Why is it significant?

Fawkner Memorial Park is significant at the State level for the following reasons:

Fawkner Memorial Park has a rich collection of monuments dating from the 1840s to the present day, which demonstrate changing customs and attitudes associated with the commemoration of death. Fawkner was the site of Victoria's first 'modern' crematorium. Although the original crematorium has been demolished, the columbariums and memorial gardens provide evidence of the growing popularity of cremation during the 1930s. Fawkner Memorial Park is also significant as the place where the first public Mausoleums were established in Victoria. (Criterion A)

Fawkner Memorial Park is the repository of the remains relocated from the first Melbourne General Cemetery (once located on the current site of Victoria Market). Of particular significance are 220 graves of early Melbourne pioneers from the 1840s, such as Melbourne's founder John Batman. These are the only remaining extant graves from the Old Melbourne Cemetery (West Melbourne) and represent the best and largest collection of physical reminders from the first official burial ground in Melbourne. They are significant for being among the State's earliest funerary artefacts. The cemetery is also the home of the original gates of the old Melbourne Fish Markets which stood on the corner of Spencer and Flinders Streets until 1959. (Criterion B)

Fawkner Memorial Park is one of two 'modern railway' cemeteries established in Victoria in the early twentieth century, which represented a new approach to cemetery planning. Unlike the other example at Springvale, which has lost its railway connection, the strong association to the railway is still demonstrated at Fawkner by the railway station and the rare example of a mortuary carriage, now on display adjacent to the station. The 'half spider's web' plan is unique among Victorian cemeteries and the design represents an important example of a 'modern railway cemetery' in this state. The cemetery is also the site of a rare mortuary carriage which is one of the last remaining examples in Australia. (Criterion B)

Burials at the Fawkner Memorial Park have the potential to yield information relating to Melburnians' religious and cultural practices around death, burial and mourning from 1906 to the present day. The diverse range of monuments and memorials provides insight into patterns of migration to Victoria and the history of multiculturalism. (Criterion C)

Fawkner Memorial Park a fine example of a 'memorial lawn' cemetery notable for its aesthetically beautiful and serene environment for mourners and visitors to walk and contemplate. It exhibits a sophisticated layout that demonstrates late nineteenth and early twentieth-century Picturesque and Classical ideals about cemetery design, as well as the influence of the 'garden cemetery' movement. It has an unusual design created by Charles Heath, an exponent of the garden cemetery movement and innovative cemetery designer. Seven roads radiate outwards and the central one leads to the site of the original crematorium (built in 1926 and demolished in 1980). The cemetery landscape is complemented by buildings, structures and bridges, mature trees along the main axial roads and throughout the various sections, as well as the large collection of gravestones and other examples of funerary art. (Criterion E)

The Fawkner Memorial Park is home to a collection of exotic and native plants, reflecting its continuous development from the early 1900s. Notable older specimens include palms (*Trachycarpus fortunei* and *Phoenix canariensis*) in the 'Methodist A' section. The earliest tree plantings from around 1920s feature Monterey Cypress, Monterey Pines, Algerian Oaks, English Elms, Dutch Elms and Sugar Gums. A prominent landscape feature is the large Sugar Gum that stands at the west end of the Fourth Avenue around the crematorium. (Criterion E)

The Fawkner Memorial Park has a variety of funerary monuments and structures at the Fawkner Cemetery which reflect the strong diversity of social, cultural and ethnic backgrounds across Melbourne. The religious traditions evident are Church of England, Catholic, Presbyterian, Methodist, Baptist, Congregational, Jewish, Greek

Orthodox, Muslim, Church of Christ and Society of Friends (Quakers). The Jewish Chapel and Islamic Chapel are significant as evidence of the growth of non-Christian denominations during the twentieth century. (Criterion G)

Fawkner Memorial Park houses the remains of John Batman, a co-founder of Melbourne, and many significant early settlers such as George Cole, Edmund Hobson, James Jackson and Charles Dight. The cemetery is also associated with its designer Charles Heath, a notable architect and dedicated exponent of the garden cemetery movement. (Criterion H)

Fawkner Memorial Park is also significant for the following reasons, but not at the State level:

Fawkner Memorial Park is significant for its association with the history of postwar migration to the northern suburbs of Melbourne. The presence of elaborate marble graves and the construction of Australia's first public Mausoleum in 1994 reflects the cemetery's response to the high concentration of Italians in Melbourne's north, many of whom were part of the post-WW2 migration wave. The Muslim Chapel (1930s) reflects the arrival of Muslim immigrants from the early 1900s. This chapel is now an important place for late twentieth century and present day Muslim migrants who reside in significant numbers in Melbourne's north.

Permit Exemptions

General Exemptions:

General exemptions apply to all places and objects included in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR). General exemptions have been designed to allow everyday activities, maintenance and changes to your property, which don't harm its cultural heritage significance, to proceed without the need to obtain approvals under the Heritage Act 2017.

Places of worship: In some circumstances, you can alter a place of worship to accommodate religious practices without a permit, but you must notify the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria before you start the works or activities at least 20 business days before the works or activities are to commence.

Subdivision/consolidation: Permit exemptions exist for some subdivisions and consolidations. If the subdivision or consolidation is in accordance with a planning permit granted under Part 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the application for the planning permit was referred to the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria as a determining referral authority, a permit is not required.

Specific exemptions may also apply to your registered place or object. If applicable, these are listed below. Specific exemptions are tailored to the conservation and management needs of an individual registered place or object and set out works and activities that are exempt from the requirements of a permit. Specific exemptions prevail if they conflict with general exemptions.

Find out more about heritage permit exemptions here.

Specific Exemptions:

General conditions

General Conditions: 1.
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.

General Conditions: 2.
Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of works 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 works shall cease and Heritage Victoria shall be notified as soon as possible.

General Conditions: 3.
If there is a conservation policy and plan all works shall be in accordance with it. Note: A Conservation Management Plan or a Heritage Action Plan provides guidance for the management of the heritage values associated with the site. It may not be necessary to obtain a heritage permit for certain works specified in the management plan.

General Conditions: 4.
Nothing in this determination prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions.

General Conditions: 5.
Nothing in this determination exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the responsible authorities where applicable.

The following specific activities are permit exempt.

Hard landscape elements

. Works to roads and pathways that are not part of the original Charles Heath design, and do not affect the cultural heritage significance of the Charles Heath design.

. Minor repairs, conservation by a qualified conservator, and maintenance to hard landscape elements, roads, structures, fountains and monuments, steps, paths, and gutters, drainage and irrigation systems, edging, fences and gates.

Vegetation

. The process of gardening; mowing, hedge clipping, bedding displays, removal of dead plants, disease and weed control, emergency and safety garden works.

. Removal of dead or dangerous trees and emergency works to maintain public safety and to protect buildings and structures, provided notification is provided to the Executive Director within 21 days of the works being undertaken.

. New or replacement planting which conserves the historic landscape character including specimen trees, avenues, rows, shrubberies, beds, and lawns.

. Management of trees in accordance with Australian Standard; Pruning of Amenity Trees AS 4373.

. Installation, removal or replacement of garden watering and drainage systems outside the canopy edge of significant trees.

. Vegetation protection and management of the possum and rabbit population.

. Removal of plants listed as noxious weeds in the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*.

. Tree removal is permit exempt *except for the following:*

1. *Fourth Avenue.* 18 pairs of mature English Elms (*Ulmus procera*) between First and Fourth Crescent. Specimens of the same tree in the section between the roundabout and First Crescent, which may have replaced older trees.

2. *Second Avenue.* Oaks (*Quercus robur*), Conifers (*Cupressus sp.*). Three large Oaks near the intersection with First Crescent. Oaks and Conifers on the south-east side between First Crescent and Second Crescent. Oaks were specified on the 1906 plan.

3. *Fifth Avenue.* Mature English Elms. Elms were specified on the 1906 plan. A number of remnant Elms within the lawn area to east of First Avenue.

4. *Second Crescent.* Monterey Cypress (*Cupressus macrocarpa*) between Fourth and Fifth Avenues.

5. *Fourth Avenue extension.* Monterey Cypress lining the extension of Fourth Avenue east of the Jewish Chapel.

6. *Garden of Remembrance 1*. Lemon Scented Gum (*Eucalyptus citriodora*), a Pin Oak (*Quercus palustris*) planted c.1937 in honour of the Palmer Family and a Cedar (*Cedrus sp.*), planted c.1938 for the Gray family.

7. *Tearooms formal gardens*. Two Canary Island Palms (*Phoenix canariensis*), four English Elms (*Ulmus procera*) planted adjacent to the lower terrace, as well as conifers along the upper terrace. Two Liquidambars (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) at either end of the tearooms.

8. *Rose Urn Garden*. The mature Monterey Cypress row that defines the south boundary of the garden.

9. The mature Monterey Cypress row along the southern boundary of the cemetery, planted c.1930s/40s.

10. Various specimens of Conifers (particularly *Cupressus sempervirens* and *Cupressus torulosa*) throughout the older denominational sections. Palms in the 'Methodist A' section in the north-east.

11. Mature Canary Island Palms (*Phoenix canariensis*) that surround the roundabout.

12. The grove of Eucalypts adjacent to Merlynston Creek near the Crick and Joyce Chapels.

Garden of Eternal Memories Mosaic

Redevelopment of the landscape within a 10 metre radius of the Garden of Eternal Memories Mosaic is permit exempt. Relocation of the Garden of Eternal Memories Mosaic within the Fawkner Memorial Park is permit exempt. Demolition or removal of the Garden of Eternal Memories Mosaic requires a permit.

Cemetery-related works (except Pioneer Memorials)

. Interments, burials and erection of monuments, re-use of graves, burial of cremated remains, and exhumation of remains (including within mausoleums) in accordance with the *Cemeteries and Crematoria Act 2003*.

. Stabilisation, restoration and repair of monuments.

. Monument works undertaken in accordance with Australian Standard AS4204 Headstones and Cemetery Monuments.

. Painting of previously painted structures provided that preparation or painting does not remove evidence of the original paint or other decorative scheme.

. Erecting, repairing and maintaining signage (directional signage, road signs, speed signs).

Railway buildings, track and reserve

. Works and development to existing railway station buildings.

. Removal of, modifications and repairs to and replacement of overhead power lines.

. Repairs to and replacement of railway tracks and sleepers including ballast.

. Modifications and repairs to and replacement of any electric or electronic signalling equipment.

. Removal of, repairs to, installation or replacement of ticket machines, passenger control gates, safety barriers, rubbish bins, seating, bicycle racks and other small items of platform furniture.

. Removal, installation, repair or replacement of non-commercial signage, security lighting, fire safety equipment provided it does not involve the removal or erection of a building or other structure.

. Resurfacing of existing paths and driveways.

. Removal, installation or replacement of garden watering or drainage systems.

. Management of trees in accordance with Australian Standard 4373: Pruning of Amenity Trees Plant labelling and interpretative signage

General

. Emergency and safety works to secure the site and prevent damage and injury to property and the public.

Buildings

The following permit exemptions apply to all buildings except B2 Jewish Chapel, B3 Muslim Chapel, B4 Tearooms.

. Replacement of external fabric replacing 'like with like'.

. Construction of new external openings.

. All internal alterations.

. The installation or replacement of services such as drainage, plumbing, electricity, computer cables, air-conditioning and fire safety.

The demolition of identified buildings (B1-4) and structures (s1-4), and the construction of new buildings and structures is not permit exempt and requires a permit.

Theme

2. Peopling Victoria's places and landscapes 3. Connecting Victorians by transport and communications 6. Building towns cities and the garden state 8. Building community life

Construction dates	1906,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Other Names	FAWKNER CREMATORIUM & MEMORIAL PARK, FAWKNER CEMETERY,
Hermes Number	13043
Property Number	

History

HISTORY

Contextual history

Prior to the nineteenth century, churchyard cemeteries were the most common place for burial in Europe and the western world. In the early 1800s, however, public concerns about overcrowded churchyards, disease and sanitation prompted the development of new cemeteries on the outskirts of cities and towns. In Paris the Père Lachaise garden cemetery was established in 1804, and was followed by the establishment of other great metropolitan cemeteries in Europe including Highgate (1839) in London and the Glasgow Necropolis (1831). These new 'garden cemeteries' were vast, divided into sectors and plots and characterised by a wide variety of monuments. They featured curved pathways, chapels, gate lodges, rest pavilions and imposing evergreen plantings, such as cypress and pine trees, which had symbolic meaning.

The rise of the 'garden cemetery' movement was influenced by the work of Scottish botanist John Loudon, whose 1843 treatise promoted principles such as the subdivision of cemeteries into sectors and plots, the construction of chapels, and the centrality of botanical elements. The movement also coincided with a broader philosophical trend towards valuing the individual and the provision of welfare services to all members of society. During the nineteenth century, Australian cemeteries were developed along garden cemetery principles.

The first cemetery in Port Philip was at the site of the current Flagstaff Gardens in Melbourne's CBD. In 1837-38 these graves were transferred to Melbourne's second cemetery site south of the Queen Victoria Market now known as the 'Old Melbourne Cemetery'. This was Melbourne's first official burial ground. In June 1853, the new

'Melbourne General Cemetery' opened in Carlton when Melbourne was experiencing rapid population growth due to the gold rush. This is what could be called the first true 'garden cemetery' in Victoria. This was followed by the Brighton Cemetery in 1854 and the Boroondara Cemetery in Kew in 1858.

In Victoria during the early to mid-1800s, cemeteries often had a formal layout of paths, plantings of trees and shrubs, and the arrangement of graves into denominations. They were designed to be attractive places for mourners and visitors to walk and contemplate. Typically they were arranged to keep religions separated and this tended to maintain links to places of origin, reflecting a migrant society. Such principles continued throughout the nineteenth century as the colony grew in population.

During the twentieth century, the influence of the garden cemetery endured both in Australia and overseas, but there was a shift away from the elaborate burial and mourning rituals of the Victorian era. The trend was to be as discreet as possible, with a preference for lawn cemeteries and memorial parks. Australia's twentieth-century cemeteries were inspired by developments overseas, especially in the United States, where greater emphasis was placed on the landscape, devoid of elaborate headstones and individually enclosed plots, instead featuring standard plaques on grass.

During the later twentieth century, this preference for discreet memorialisation has co-existed in Australian cemeteries with the extravagant religious symbolism favoured by many European ethnic groups. Such aesthetic tensions are displayed in the Fawkner Memorial Park as well as the Springvale Cemetery. The migration of people from diverse cultural groups has profoundly shaped cemetery development in Australia, with a myriad of burial rituals and traditions evident, including photographs on graves and inscriptions in other languages.

Place history and description (chronological)

The first burial at the Municipal Cemetery, Fawkner took place on 10 December 1906 and was for Dorothy Gladys Knapp, aged four years. Along with the Springvale Cemetery which opened in 1904, the Fawkner site was developed in response to public concerns in the 1890s that a new cemetery was needed to support Melbourne's growth. In 1902 the Northern Suburbs Cemetery Conference recommended a 284 acre site which included Fawkner Railway Station. The site was ratified by an Act of Parliament in 1905, and was established under the trusteeship of local mayors and councillors.

The original cemetery was planned by noted surveyor and architect Charles R. Heath who also supervised it for the subsequent four decades. His innovative cemetery layout - a half spider-web plan with radiating avenues, spreading green lawns and ornamental trees - was impressive. Heath was influenced by the garden cemetery movement, and was pleased with his design, writing of its 'park-like effect, avoiding the cramped appearance of the older and smaller cemeteries'. Heath's design involved the concept of what was later known as a monumental lawn.

Modern railway cemetery

Fawkner Cemetery was established along the lines of a 'modern railway cemetery' model that was evident in England from the 1850s. In Australia there were three railway cemeteries: Rookwood Cemetery (Sydney, 1865), Springvale Cemetery (1904), Fawkner Cemetery (1906). Railway lines provided an innovative and practical means of economically transporting the dead from large metropolitan centres to distant cemeteries. The selection of vacant land at Fawkner was influenced by the existence of a disused railway branch line. Fawkner railway station opened on 8 October 1889 but due to low population the line beyond Coburg closed in 1903. It was partially re-opened in 1906 and the terminus was a new station called 'Fawkner Cemetery'. This brought the cemetery within 20 minutes of the Melbourne GPO. At this time Fawkner was sparsely populated: in 1910 there were only 35 houses within walking distance of Fawkner Station.

From 1906 to 1939 funeral parties accessed the cemetery on one of six specially designed mortuary trains from Flinders Street to Fawkner. Original plans for the Fawkner Cemetery featured extensive internal circular railway with multiple stations to serve the various sectors, but these were never built. Each train consisted of one 1st Class carriage, two 2nd Class carriages, and a guards' van to convey mourners. Bringing up the rear was the 'hearse car' or 'mortuary carriage' bearing the coffins.

The mortuary carriage which now stands near the tearooms at the cemetery is one of six of carriages built at the Newport railway workshops in 1902-03. It was believed that by 1952 all carriages had been sold for scrap, but in 1990 three were located on properties at Kerrie and Meredith. A restored carriage went on display at Fawkner in 1993.

Municipal cemetery

The Fawkner cemetery is unique among public cemeteries in that it was entirely paid for by municipalities, and originally held under freehold title rather than as Crown Land. It was set up and run by a group of municipalities situated north of the Yarra River, including Brunswick, Coburg, Broadmeadows and Essendon. The chief player was the City of Melbourne (which soon included North Melbourne and the Flemington-Kensington municipalities), and City representatives controlled the cemetery until management was passed to an independent trust in 1971. The residents and councillors of Brunswick, Coburg and Essendon saw the cemetery as a means of improving rail service for ratepayers, and thereby lifting property values.

In 1904 the Melbourne General Cemetery had closed, and in 1907 the Fawkner Cemetery became known as the 'New Melbourne General Cemetery'. This name was chosen to firmly place the new municipal cemetery into the mainstream succession of City of Melbourne cemeteries. The trustees of Fawkner hoped to attract more clients and revenue to offset debts which had accumulated in the early years of the cemetery's operation. By 1909 the debt was so great that the State Government came to the rescue with a large interest free loan. But the cemetery continued to meet a need. By 1914 there had been 5000 burials at Fawkner and the 'Fawkner Cemetery' station was renamed 'Fawkner'. From October 1914 a service of seven trains daily ran to Fawkner as well as a daily mortuary train to the cemetery. In the early 1920s the first financial surplus in Fawkner's accounts occurred after electrified train service began.

Jewish Chapel (1918)

This is situated in a small reservation at the intersection of First Avenue and Fourth Crescent near the southern boundary of the Park. This is a small symmetrically planned rendered building with a gabled roof and four overscaled square pillars on each corner. The main, eastern, entrance is recessed and has double doors with circular-patterned screen to the top section. Identical double doors are in the western elevation. A Star of David is set onto the wall above both entrances. There are two high set oculus windows in the side elevations - three of these have the Star of David in leadlight. The interior is plain and contains some furniture including low timber benches and memorial plaques set on the walls.

Pioneer graves (1923-24)

In 1923-24, the cemetery became the location of 220 of Melbourne's oldest surviving graves from the 1840s including those of significant early settlers such as John Batman, George Cole, Edmund Hobson, James Jackson and Charles Dight. These are among the earliest and most significant memorials in Victoria. They were transferred from the Old Melbourne Cemetery site (at Victoria Market) and include examples of native redgum monuments as well as sandstone, granite, limestone and cast iron headstones (imported and local). John Batman is best known for his role in the founding of a settlement which became Melbourne. There is now a large granite obelisk in the central lawn area of the Old Pioneers section marking his grave. There are also pioneer graves in the Jewish section at the southeast of the cemetery.

Bridges over Fourth, Sixth and Seventh Avenues (1920s and 30s)

These bridges are all single-span reinforced concrete constructed and have similar classical detailing including the use of urns as decorative features. The two earlier bridges, at Fourth (constructed by 1927) and Sixth Avenue (constructed by 1920), are most similar in design and layout comprising balustrades with three panels each with decorative insets containing two larger circles connected by a smaller central circle. The balustrades are flanked by angled wing walls either side of the entrances, while Classical urns are placed on hexagonal pillars at the intersection of the balustrade and the wing walls and the ends of the wing walls. At the Sixth Avenue bridge, a low bench is set into one wing wall. The Seventh Avenue bridge, constructed c.1939, is of a different design comprising a high balustrade with an integral and recessed seating area, accessed by steps. Other detailing includes consoles and recessed panels above the seating and in the square columns.

Crematorium (1926) - Demolished in 1980

In 1926 a crematorium in the Greek Revival style was built for ?7,000 and was the first modern complex in Victoria to include a chapel for services as well as cremation facilities in the same venue. While a crematorium was operating at Springvale between 1905 and 1926, only 176 cremations were conducted there in that period. The opening of the Fawkner facilities in 1926 coincided with a growing respectability for cremation, a practice which has grown in popularity since the 1920s. Moreover the modern facilities at Fawkner put the primitive brick 'furnace' at Springvale out of business, until it opened its new superior facilities in 1936. The 1926 Fawkner

crematorium was demolished in 1980 and replaced with a new Chapel and Crematorium Complex.

Sections for religious/community groups

As the cemetery grew further sections were set aside for specific community groups. In May 1928 Melbourne's Muslim community (which had then been buried in the 'Other denominations' section) sought its own burial area. A section was set aside for the burial of deceased babies from the Carlton Refuge (in unmarked graves in the Undenominational Area A), while 1941 saw a section set aside for Aboriginal burials in the Protestant Area E. Subsequently this area was not solely used for the burial of Aboriginal people.

Garden of Remembrance (1933)

The Garden of Remembrance is adjacent to the tearooms and was designed by Charles Heath. The walled garden includes pale brick walls with memorial plaques along its internal lengths on the north, west and east sides, and some niches and statuary. The entrance gates (on the east side) are wrought iron, as is the eastern boundary fence, and the entrance is bounded by concrete entrance pillars with further statuary and inlaid commemorative plaques. An extensive rose garden within the walls dates from the 1950s.

Italianate tearooms (1934)

The tearooms were built in 1934 and are housed in a small pavilion in the style of a miniature Italian provincial villa, an unusual style in Victoria. The building is approximately square in plan, with full-height arched openings symmetrically placed on four sides. The walls are pale tapestry brickwork, with the plinth and mouldings of an unusual speckled terracotta faience, and the hipped roof is clad with terracotta tiles. Some of the openings have been filled in with non-matching split-face concrete masonry.

Muslim Chapel (1930s)

The 1930s saw significant structures erected at Fawkner including a Mohamedan (Muslim) Chapel and a cemetery office (1935). The Muslim Chapel is situated just to the south-east of the intersection of Second Avenue and Fourth Crescent. It is a small gabled building constructed in red brick with a tiled roof. There is a round head timber door set within an arched rendered opening in the eastern elevation and two small square windows in each side elevation. It has a decorative stringcourse under the eaves and gable ends, which is supported by corbelling along the side elevations.

Christian Waller Painting (1937)

In 1937 the notable artist Christian Waller was commissioned to paint a mural (oil on canvas) titled 'The Robe of Glory' for the Southern Chapel (now demolished). It is considered a masterpiece of Australian Art Deco. This mural is now on display at the administration offices of the cemetery.

Lawn cemetery (1950s-60s)

In the late 1950s a small section of lawn was set aside for burials. This reflected a trend in European and American cemetery practice towards 'lawn cemeteries'. This involved placing memorial tablets flat on the ground above the burial place, to permit easy mowing and an uncluttered appearance. Fawkner's first lawn cemetery featured upright headstones, but in late 1960 a non-denominational lawn section was opened with horizontal bronze tablets replacing headstones. A growing number of people were attracted to this lower cost form of burial in a tranquil lawn setting.

The Garden of Remembrance # 2 (1950)

This is situated to the south of the tearooms adjacent to the railway line. It comprises an irregular-shaped *Columbarium* of similar design using pale bricks. The earliest memorials date from the mid to late 1940s.

Charles Heath Fountain (c.1952)

This is situated in the roundabout at the main entrance to the cemetery this comprises the original structure, constructed c.1952, which is the large concrete parabolic dish forming the base - the two metal inverted disks above this were added c.1994. Early shots show the fountain surrounded by a gravel garden planted with succulents.

Fish Market Gates (1959)

The Melbourne Fish Market (also known as the Melbourne Corporation Market) opened in 1891 and stood on the southeast corner of Spencer and Flinders Streets. It was demolished in 1959 and the entry gates were relocated to the Fawkner Cemetery.

New Crematorium Complex (1980)

In 1980 the original 1926 crematorium was demolished and replaced with a new Chapel and Crematorium Complex, consisting of three non denominational chapels and computerised cremators. In 1989-90 a new front entrance area was built in the style of a traditional British lych-gate. This was in striking contrast to Charles Heath's earlier original design for an ornate neo-classical entry.

Australia's First Public Mausoleum (1994)

Over the last decades, Fawkner has responded to the funerary and burial needs of migrant communities in the area. The 1996 census showed that 46.7% of Fawkner's population was born overseas. It also had the highest population of Italian-born residents of any Melbourne suburb (20%).

In 1994 Australia's first public Mausoleum opened (Holy Angels Mausoleum), allowing the practice of above ground burial which has been popular in Europe for thousands of years. This followed a change in Victorian legislation enabling above ground entombment. Fawkner's mausoleum currently has a capacity of 1500 crypt spaces.

The mausolea have dramatically altered the architectural appearance of the original cemetery site, not only by its use of communal crypts, but also by its encouragement of private family mausoleum buildings in various styles. These have been embraced by European immigrants, and have given an otherwise 'full' cemetery a new lease of life.

Garden of Eternal Memories Mosaic

This mosaic (unglazed and glazed ceramic, marble and stone) was completed by artists Helen Bodycomb and Rene Schaefer in 2005. It measures 7m x 3m and was commissioned as a focal piece for the new Garden of Eternal Memories. The work has the family as its central theme and honours the contributions of military and non-military personnel during various 20th century conflicts with Australian involvement.

Plantings

Fawkner Cemetery is a most picturesque cultural landscape, which is the result of the continuous development of the grounds over a 100 year period. A wide range of plants and planting styles is evident on the site, reflecting both changing tastes and approaches to management, as well as the availability of resources, since the cemetery's opening.

Typical early plantings throughout the site include various species of Conifer, which are typical cemetery trees because of their dark sombre appearance, which was consistent with Victorian-era concepts of mourning. Others include exotic trees such as Elms (Ulmus sp.), Common Oaks (*Quercus robur*), Lombardy Poplars (*Populus nigra 'Italica'*) and Palms (*Phoenix canariensis* and *Trachycarpus fortunei*) that are typically used in early twentieth century landscapes. There are also some significant remnant indigenous trees, particularly at the western end of the site.

The significant tree plantings, listed here, include three main types. The first is formal avenue plantings (usually of single species) which are based on the 1906 plan, and serve to reinforce and enhance the formal layout. The second type is the mature tree rows used to define boundaries between burial areas and along the perimeter areas. The third are the informal single specimen plantings within the various denominational sections, many of which were planted in association with gravesites.

1. *Fourth Avenue.* This comprises approximately 18 pairs of mature English Elms (*Ulmus procera*) between First and Fourth Crescent - Planes were specified on the 1906 and it is not known whether these trees are a later replacement. The trees form an impressive avenue, which is complemented by the median planting of standard roses, in red only, and similar rose beds along the outside of the trees. There are young specimens of the same tree in the section between the roundabout and First Crescent, which may have replaced older trees.

2. *Second Avenue*. It appears that Second Avenue was lined with Oaks (*Quercus robur*) or Oaks alternating with Conifers (*Cupressus sp.*). Oaks were specified on the 1906 plan. Three large Oaks survive near the intersection with First Crescent, and on the south-east side between First Crescent and Second Crescent there is a relatively intact section comprising Oaks and Conifers.

3. *Fifth Avenue*. The constructed section of Fifth Avenue west of First Crescent is lined with mature English Elms, including a particularly large specimen on the north side. Elms were specified on the 1906 plan. A number of remnant Elms within the lawn area to east of First Avenue mark the alignment of the unconstructed section of Fifth Avenue leading back to the roundabout.

4. *Second Crescent*. The section between Fourth and Fifth Avenues, which contains a number of mature Monterey Cypress (*Cupressus macrocarpa*).

5. *Fourth Avenue extension*. The mature Monterey Cypress lining the extension of Fourth Avenue east of the Jewish Chapel. One of these can be seen in an early photo of the chapel (see Chambers, 2006:99) and possibly date from c.1920s.

6. *Garden of Remembrance 1*. Significant trees within the garden include a Lemon Scented Gum (*Eucalyptus citriodora*), a Pin Oak (*Quercus palustris*) planted c.1937 in honour of the Palmer Family and a Cedar (*Cedrus sp*.), planted c.1938 for the Gray family.

7. *Tearooms formal gardens*. Significant plantings, which emphasise the formal symmetrical layout, including two Canary Island Palms (*Phoenix canariensis*) and four English Elms (*Ulmus procera*) planted adjacent to the lower terrace, as well as conifers along the upper terrace. Two Liquidambars (*Liquidambar styraciflua*) are also placed at either end of the tearooms.

8. *Rose Urn Garden*. The mature Monterey Cypress row that defines the south boundary of the garden, likely planted at the time the garden was established in 1939.

9. The mature Monterey Cypress row along the southern boundary of the cemetery, planted c.1930s/40s. Don Chambers (2006:105) records that Merlynston residents lobbied for a 'suitable screen or hedge' on the southern boundary as early as 1926.

10. Various specimens of Conifers (particularly *Cupressus sempervirens* and *Cupressus torulosa*) throughout the older denominational sections. Plantings in the 'Methodist A' section in the north-east also include various palms.

11. Several mature Canary Island Palms (*Phoenix canariensis*) surround the roundabout - early photos (c.1930) in Chambers (2006:137) show semi-mature examples in the roundabout (prior to the installation of the fountain) and within the central median of the access road on eastern side of the railway. It is therefore possible that these trees were relocated to their present positions.

12. The grove of Eucalypts adjacent to Merlynston Creek near the Crick and Joyce Chapels appears in early (c.1920s) photos (see Chambers, 2006:110) showing the original crematorium and chapel on that site.

Charles and Frank Heath

Charles Heath became an associate member of the Royal Victorian Institute of Architects in 1890. In 1895 worked for the Melbourne firm of Blackbourne and Heath before moving to Western Australia to work on the construction of Geraldton Harbour. He worked as a town surveyor in Geraldton for seven years where he gained experience in road making, drainage and water supply works. His landscaping skills were developed in laying out Queen's Park, the Recreation Ground and the town esplanade of Geraldton.

When Charles Heath was appointed to design the Fawkner Cemetery in the early 1900s, he was an architect and licensed surveyor with seven years' experience as a municipal engineer. At Fawkner he designed the innovative 'half spiders' web' layout, and his vision by 1914 included a crematorium. Heath was commissioned to design the first Brisbane crematorium and his skills were also recognised in South Australia, where his design won a competition for new Adelaide Showgrounds.

In 1912 Heath entered the competition to design the new capital city of Canberra and was shortlisted. He designed the Coburg Town Hall (1922) and other major architectural works for the Coburg Council and collaborated with Sydney H. Wilson on the later part of the Brunswick Town Hall (1926). An illustration of his garden columbarium at Fawkner was included in the *RVIA Journal* in January 1934.

Charles Heath died in 1948. His contribution to the development of the cemetery is honoured by a memorial fountain placed just inside the cemetery entry c.1952. For many years Charles had mentored his son, Frank Heath, to succeed him as surveyor/secretary at Fawkner. In the postwar years, Frank was an active architect and town planner with a special interest in public housing projects and hospitals. In 1949 he was asked to design a new Garden of Remembrance and Memorial Rose Garden at Fawkner. In 1952 he won a public competition for a design for Melbourne's proposed grand Olympic stadium which was never built. Frank was also heavily involved in preliminary planning for the modernisation of the Fawkner crematorium, additional large chapel and associated facilities.

Expansion

In 1994 the cemetery acquired a large parcel of land and expanded towards the Western Ring Road, nearly doubling its size. This part of the cemetery near Merlynston Creek is known as the Northern Memorial Park. This contains a number of remnant River Red Gum (Eucalyptus camaldulensis), some believed to have been Aboriginal Scar Trees. This area is not included in this application.

Recent reinterment

In 2002 a team of archaeologists working at the site of the former Old Melbourne Gaol hospital, in Russell Street Melbourne, unearthed an intact coffin. The coffin contained the remains of an Old Melbourne Gaol inmate, who had been executed at the gaol probably around 1918. Historical research and forensic analysis determined that these remains are likely to be those of Albert Budd. The remains were reinterred at Fawkner Memorial Park on 26 April 2002.

KEY REFERENCES

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Plaque Citation

Fawkner Memorial Park commenced operations in 1906 as Victoria's second railway cemetery. It is home to a rich collection of buildings, monuments and landscape features which demonstrate changing funerary practices and attitudes to the commemoration of death.

Assessment Against Criteria

Criterion
February 2014

Fawkner Memorial Park satisfies the following criterion for inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Register:
Criterion A Importance to the course, or pattern, of Victoria's cultural history Criterion B Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Victoria's cultural history Criterion C Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Victoria's cultural history Criterion D Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural places and objects Criterion E Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics Criterion G Strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons. This includes the significance of a place to Indigenous peoples as part of their continuing and developing cultural traditions. Criterion H Special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in Victoria's history.

Extent of Registration

NOTICE OF REGISTRATION
As Executive Director for the purpose of the **Heritage Act 1995**, I give notice under section 46 that the Victorian Heritage Register is amended by including Heritage Register Number H2331 in the category described as Heritage Place.
Fawkner Memorial Park
1187 Sydney Road and 100 Boundary Road
Hadfield
Moreland City
1. All of the place contained in Crown Allotments 3B, 3C, 3D, 3E and 2004, Parish of Will-Will-Rook, Lot 1 on Title Plan 878213 and Lot 1 on Title Plan 545192 marked on Diagram 2331 held by the Executive Director.
2. All of the buildings B1-4 and structures S1-4 and features F1-6 marked on Diagram 2331 held by the Executive Director.
B1 Fawkner Railway Station
B2 Jewish Chapel (1918)
B3 Muslim Chapel (1935)
B4 Tearooms (1934)
S1 Bridge over Fourth Avenue
S2 Bridge over Sixth Avenue
S3 Bridge Seventh Avenue
S4 Melbourne Fish Market Gates (c.1891 installed at Fawkner c.1959)
F1 Pioneer graves and memorials (1840s)
F2 Jewish pioneer graves and memorials (1840s)
F3 Garden of Remembrance (1933)
F4 Rose Urn Garden (c.1939)
F5 Charles Heath fountain (c.1952)
F6 Restored Mortuary Train.
3. The trees, avenues, gardens, groves, plantations, landscape, roads and pathways.
Dated 13 February 2014
TIM SMITH
Executive Director
[*Victoria Government Gazette* No. G 7 13 February 2014 p.254]