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## Chusan or Chinese Fan Palm Trees



Chusan or Chinese Fan Palm Trees, Hobsons Bay Heritage Study 2006



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### Location

33 Melbourne Road WILLIAMSTOWN, Hobsons Bay City

### Municipality

HOBSONS BAY CITY

### Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

### Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO187

### Heritage Listing

Hobsons Bay City

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### Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

What is Significant?

The two Chusan or Chinese Fan Palms, planted c.1920, situated adjacent to the house at 33 Melbourne Road, Williamstown.

How is it Significant?

The Chusan or Chinese Fan Palms are of local historic, aesthetic and scientific (horticultural) significance to the City of Hobson's Bay.

Why is it Significant?

Historically, the Palms are important for their ability to illustrate Edwardian gardening fashions for exotic specimen trees. (AHC criteria A4 and D2)

Aesthetically, the Palms provide an appropriate setting for the dwelling and contribute to the historic cultural landscape character of this neighbourhood. (AHC criteria E1 and F1)

Scientifically, the Palms are of horticultural interest as locally rare mature examples of this species in a private domestic setting. (AHC criterion B2)

Heritage Study/Consultant Hobsons Bay - Hobsons Bay Heritage Study, Hobsons Bay City Council, 2006;

Hermes Number 15120

Property Number

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## Physical Description 1

These two mature palms are to one side of a weatherboard Federation Bungalow style house constructed c.1915. The palms are typical of Edwardian-era and earlier garden plantings and often survive where other plantings are removed over time. Tall compact trees such as these could be planted to one side of a house where sun access and space were restricted.

Botanica (1997) provides the following description:

*Trachycarpus fortunei* (Chusan or Chinese fan palm)

*Moderately frost hardy, this remarkable palm has been cultivated in Europe for 160 years, where it is prized for its exotic appearance and tolerance of cold. It reaches 30 ft (9 m) tall and the trunk is swathed in brownish fiber. The leaves are held on long stalks and are dark green above, blue-green below; dead leaves tend to persist as a 'skirt' on the tree. Dense, showy clusters of small yellow flowers precede the marblesized, dark blue berries, which have a coating of whitish wax.*

## Historical Australian Themes

Developing cultural institutions and ways of life, Making suburbs, Creating private landscapes

*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/>*