

KOROIT BOTANIC GARDENS



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H0118 Koroit Botanic Gardens 11



H0118 Koroit Botanic Gardens plan

Location

HIGH STREET KOROIT, MOYNE SHIRE

Municipality

MOYNE SHIRE

Level of significance

Registered

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H0118

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO43

VHR Registration

February 8, 2007

Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - June 6, 2006

What is significant?

The Koroit Botanic Gardens is an outstanding, Guilfoyle inspired provincial botanic garden which includes trees and shrubberies, pathways; significant trees and the 1880 Guilfoyle plan. In 1857 the district surveyor Thomas Watson provided a 20 acre allotment for public gardens in Koroit immediately south of the National School reserve. In 1873 the site was permanently reserved as a Public Gardens and Recreation area. The northern portion, Victoria Park, was used in the 1870s for sporting events. The south west section became a cricket ground from about 1873 and is now the Jack Keane Oval.

Little garden development occurred before 1866, but in the following years beds were laid out and the first plantings occurred. In June 1870 Ferdinand von Mueller, Director of the Melbourne Botanic Gardens, donated 190 plants to the Koroit Gardens. This is likely to have included many conifer species, especially *Pinus*, *Cedrus*, *Cupressus* and *Araucaria*. The first curator James Mathewson from Warrnambool was appointed in May 1876.

William Guilfoyle prepared a plan in 1880 for the Gardens, which covered about 12 acres of the southern part of the reserve. The plan retained many existing trees, mainly conifers, and proposed a new serpentine pathway, shrubberies and perimeter planting.

In addition to the fine specimen trees, the Gardens contained a great variety of beds and shrubs, topiary and trellised roses and tree ferns. Regular donations of plants from other botanical gardens, and donations of plants from local residents, testify to the Gardens important botanical and community role. In 1996, 55 plants were received from the Royal Botanic Gardens as part of the Flora for Victoria project. Today the Gardens have an outstanding collection of conifers, figs, and a fine *Draceana draco*.

In 1921 a memorial was proposed to honour 17 local men who lost their lives in the First World War and in 1928 an obelisk was erected. In 1990 this was raised and placed on a larger base and partially enclosed by a low wall. In 1937, new entrance gates were erected, the D.S. Coto Memorial Gates, as a gesture of appreciation to former doctor Daniel S. Coto. In response to the increasing popularity of caravan holidays, the north west corner of the Gardens was used as a caravan and camping ground in the 1950s.

The Botanic Gardens land was re-reserved in 1961 for the purposes of 'Public Park and Recreation'.

How is it significant?

The Koroit Botanic Gardens are of historical, scientific and aesthetic significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The Koroit Botanic Gardens are of historical significance as one of the earliest provincial botanic gardens in Victoria, an integral part of the 20 acre reserve within the 1857 township plan permanently reserved for the purpose of Public Gardens and Recreation in 1873. Botanic Gardens had already been established at Melbourne (1846), Geelong and Portland (1851), White Hills (1854), Williamstown (1856), Ballarat, Malmsbury and Hamilton (1857) and Warrnambool commencing in 1858 and in its current location since 1866. The Koroit Gardens are important for the survival of plants provided by von Mueller from the Melbourne Botanic Gardens in 1870, and the 1880 design by William Guilfoyle. Guilfoyle was appointed Director of the Melbourne Botanic Gardens in 1873 and redesigned the Melbourne Gardens over 36 years to be one of the finest botanic gardens in the world. He is regarded as one of Australia's greatest garden designers.

The 1880 Guilfoyle plan, drawn by Robert Whitworth, is a rare surviving 19th century landscape plan. The Koroit Botanic Gardens laid out in the 1880s closely mirror the Guilfoyle plan up to the western wind break. The Gardens is substantially intact to the 1880s plan except for the area to the North West, currently used as a caravan park. The caravan park sits within the realised planting scheme of the 1880s plan. Similar designs occur at Horsham (1880), but a smaller area remains intact, and at Hamilton (1881). The Guilfoyle plan was only partially implemented at Camperdown (1890) and Colac (1910). Unfortunately no plans survive for Warrnambool (1877) and the Royal Botanic Gardens (1873-1909) which is Guilfoyle's finest landscape.

The Koroit Botanic Gardens are of aesthetic significance for the layout and planting developed to a design prepared by William Guilfoyle in 1880. The Guilfoyle landscape combines both picturesque and gardenesque styles with serpentine gravel paths, sweeping lawns dotted with eye-catching specimen trees. It is enclosed with a windrow of Monterey cypress on the north, west and south, and with evergreen and deciduous trees and shrubs on the east. Within the Koroit landscape, the Gardens are of outstanding beauty and illustrate seasonal change, contrasting plant forms and foliage, combined in a unified landscape design. Local significance arises from the long vista to the mature treed landscape of the Gardens, in contrast with the generally flat, treeless, surrounding landscape.

The Koroit Botanic Gardens are of scientific (botanical) significance for their extensive collection of contributing trees and shrubs. The outstanding collection of significant plantings include: *Araucaria columnaris*, two *A. cunninghamii*, *Cupressus torulosa*, a rare *Rapanea howittiana*, *Draceana draco* (a world endangered species), *Ficus platypoda* and *Fraxinus ornus*, all are the largest and finest in Victoria. Contributory trees and shrubs include a variety of conifers; *Araucaria heterophylla*, *A. bidwillii*, *Agathis robusta*, two *Cedrus altanica* f. *glauca*, *Cupressus macrocarpa*; two *Ficus macrophylla* and evergreen trees. Few gardens in Victoria have the same number of significant trees in a relatively small area.

Permit Exemptions

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. Note: All archaeological places have the potential to contain significant sub-surface artefacts and other remains. In most cases it will be necessary to obtain approval from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria before the undertaking any works that have a significant sub-surface component. General Conditions: 3. If there is a conservation policy and plan endorsed by the Executive Director, all works shall be in accordance with it. Note: The existence of a Conservation Management Plan or a Heritage Action Plan endorsed by the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria 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. Minor Works : Note: Any Minor Works that in the opinion of the Executive Director will not adversely affect the

heritage significance of the place may be exempt from the permit requirements of the Heritage Act. A person proposing to undertake minor works may submit a proposal to the Executive Director. If the Executive Director is satisfied that the proposed works will not adversely affect the heritage values of the site, the applicant may be exempted from the requirement to obtain a heritage permit. If an applicant is uncertain whether a heritage permit is required, it is recommended that the permits co-ordinator be contacted.

Landscape

- . The process of gardening, including mowing, hedge clipping, bedding displays, removal of dead plants, disease and weed control, erection of possum bands and maintenance to care for existing plants.
- . Repairs, conservation and maintenance to hard landscape elements, buildings, structures, monuments, ornaments, roads and paths, edges and fences and gates,
- Repairs, conservation and maintenance to drainage and irrigation systems, and installation of new irrigation and drainage systems, which are 5m beyond the feeding and structural root zones of contributory and significant trees and shrubs.
- . Replanting to a Management Plan derived from the landscape character identified in the Statement of Significance and endorsed by the Executive Director.
- . In the event of the loss of any plant noted in the Statement of Significance, replanting with the same species of tree or plant as that removed.
- . Erection of plant labels.
- . Management of trees in accordance with Australian Standard; *Pruning of amenity trees* AS 4373.
- . Repainting in the same colour of previously painted surfaces.
- . Removal of plants listed as noxious weeds in the *Catchment and Land Protection Act* 1994.

Construction dates	1869,
Architect/Designer	Whitworth, Robert,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place, Registered object integral to a registered place,
Other Names	KOROIT BOTANICAL GARDENS,
Hermes Number	1876
Property Number	

History

Associated People: Assoc.People RICHARD SKILBECK

Plaque Citation

Koroit Botanic Gardens are one of the earliest provincial botanic gardens in Victoria, shown on an 1857 township plan and permanently reserved in 1873, and designed by one of Australia's greatest landscape gardeners William Guilfoyle in 1880.

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 the Heritage Register Number H118 in the category described as a Heritage Place; Heritage Object:

Koroit Botanic Gardens, High Street, Koroit, Moyne Shire Council.

EXTENT:

1. All the structures marked as follows on Diagram 118 held by the Executive Director:

S1 Paths
S2 War Memorial
S3 D. S. Coto Memorial Gates

2. All the trees marked as follows on Diagram 118 held by the Executive Director

T1 *Araucaria columnaris*
T2 *Rapanea howitteana*
T3 *Ficus platypoda*
T4 *Araucaria cunninghamii*
T5 *Draceana draco*
T6 *Cupressus torulosa*
T7 *Fraxinus ornus*
T8 *Araucaria cunninghamii*

3. All the land known as the Koroit Botanic Gardens being part of the land gazetted as Crown Reserve Rs 1086, being CA 26A of Section 48, Yangery Parish, Parcel no. P041452 and reserved permanently for Public Gardens and Recreation Purposes, marked L1 on Diagram 118 held by the Executive Director.

4. All the object known as the 1880 Borough of Koroit Public Gardens Plan designed by W. R. Guilfoyle and drawn by Robert P. Whitworth and held by the Shire of Moyne.

Dated 2 February 2007

RAY TONKIN
Executive Director

[Victoria Government Gazette G 6 8 February 2007 197]

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/>