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# FIRE BELL TREE - YELLOW BOX, IN FRONT OF 832 HEIDELBERG-KINGLAKE RD



HO71 1.jpg

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## Location

832 HEIDELBERG-KINGLAKE ROAD HURSTBRIDGE, NILLUMBIK SHIRE

## Municipality

NILLUMBIK SHIRE

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO71

## Heritage Listing

Nillumbik Shire

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - January 5, 2010

REVISED STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE, CONTEXT, 2010

### ***What is significant?***

The pre 1890 fire bell tree, Yellow Box (*Eucalyptus Melliodora*) and the surrounding road reserve to a radius of ten metres.

### ***How is it significant?***

The fire bell tree is historically and aesthetically significant to the Shire of Nillumbik.

### ***Why is it significant?***

The tree is historically significant because it was used to support the Hurstbridge fire bell and illustrates the social importance of the bell, the threat posed by fire and the ingenuity of the local community in confronting threats posed by the natural environment. The use of a tree (rather than the erection of a more expensive man-made structure) is a reminder of the relative poverty of the Hurstbridge community in the early days of its existence (Criterion A). The tree is aesthetically significant because of its large size (more than 18 metres in height with a trunk diameter of 900mm) which makes it a significant feature of the streetscape (Criterion E).

Heritage Study/Consultant Nillumbik - Shire of Eltham Heritage Study, David Bick, 1992;

Construction dates 1890,

Other Names Eucalyptus melliodora,

Hermes Number 55985

Property Number

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## **Historical Australian Themes**

EARLY SETTLEMENT

GROWTH OF TOWNS

3.16.1 Dealing with hazards and disasters

8.14 Living in the country and rural settlements

## **Physical Description 1**

Height more than 18 metres, trunk diameter circa 900mm.

## **Usage/Former Usage**

Original Use:

Fire bell fixed to a piece of timber bolted to two branches towards the top of the tree.

Present Use:

Road plantation tree - all remains of the bell have been removed.

*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/>*