
Yarra Flats



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Yarra Flats b.JPG



Yarra Flats 1 full size.jpg

Location

340-680 The Boulevard EAGLEMONT, BANYULE CITY

Municipality

BANYULE CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO134

Heritage Listing

Banyule City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - July 20, 2009

What is significant?

Yarra Flats, comprising 85 hectares of woodland, wetland and riparian habitats, is of significance. It includes scar trees, remnants of the gardens of nearby estates, and bluestone water diversion channels which are the remnants of Chinese market gardens in the area.

How is it significant?

Yarra Flats is of historic, indigenous, aesthetic, and social value to the City of Banyule.

Why is it significant?

Yarra Flats is of local historic and aesthetic significance as part of two major 1840s estates in Eaglemont - Charterisville and Hartlands. Remnant plantings such as hawthorn hedgerows, oaks and cypresses, and bluestone water channels demonstrate the succession of land use from the earliest estates of Charterisville and Hartlands with their garden settings, through to grazing, agriculture and market gardening. This succession of land use, and the juxtaposition and diversity of landscapes which has resulted, has produced a broader landscape of considerable aesthetic appeal.

Yarra Flats is of local (potentially state) significance for its close association with the Heidelberg School of artists and the development of Impressionist art in Australia. Yarra Flats was the inspirational, immediate landscape of the longest surviving artists' camp of the Heidelberg School of artists. A number of other sites, including Yarra Glen, the Dandenongs, Box Hill and Eltham were associated with the Heidelberg School of artists. However it was at the artists' camp in Heidelberg (from which the movement took its name), conducting art classes and painting the natural beauty of the Yarra Flats landscape, that artists including Streeton, Davies, Withers, Condor and Roberts carved out the Heidelberg School's reputation which is second to none to this day. (Criterion H,A)

Yarra Flats is of local significance for its association with the Wurundjeri people. It contains a number of scar trees, and has been included in the 2004 Aboriginal Heritage Study.

Yarra Flats, as the place associated with a active community (the Riverlands Conservation Society) dedicated to its revegetation for 40 years, is of social significance. (Criterion G)

Heritage Study/Consultant Banyule - Banyule Heritage Review, Context P/L, 2009;

Hermes Number 123888

Property Number

Physical Description 1

Yarra Flats is a park of approximately 85 hectares located on the Yarra River flats in Eaglemont. It consists of a mix of grassy woodland, riparian and wetland habitats, and fenced pasture supporting a small number of grazing horses and cattle.

Yarra Flats contains extant canoe scar trees which demonstrate the earliest use of the land by the Wurundjeri people, a remnant hawthorn hedgerow which delineated the 19th century boundary between the Charterisville and Hartlands estates, remnant rows of cypress which defined and protected paddocks, mature oaks dating from the 1800s settlement, and bluestone water diversion channels built by Chinese market gardeners.

The Yarra Flats includes 3.5 km of the Main Yarra Trail. Along this trail is section known as the Heidelberg School Artists Trail, with interpretative signs and colour reproductions of the paintings of the Heidelberg School artists at various locations.

A commemorative plaque in the reserve honours Alan Ian Bunbury who lobbied intensively for the preservation of the Yarra valley environment (Toomey, 1999). Yarra Flats contains two billabongs. The larger, known as the Annulus Billabong, is now a wildlife sanctuary.

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/>