
Welshpool Avenue of Honour

Location

Main Street, Woorarra Road and Port Welshpool Road WELSHPOOL, South Gippsland Shire

Municipality

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE

Level of significance

-

Heritage Listing

Vic. War Heritage Inventory

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

What is Significant?

The Welshpool Avenue of Honour, established from 1917-1920, in Main Street, Port Welshpool Road and Woorarra Road, Welshpool.

Why is it Significant?

The Welshpool Avenue of Honour is of local historic, social, and aesthetic significance to the township and district of Welshpool.

Historically, it was the first Honour Avenue established in the Shire and one of the first in the State of Victoria. of a series of similar memorial avenues that were established throughout the Shire, and expresses the significant effect that the First World War had upon small rural communities. (AHC criteria - A.4 and D.2) Socially, the Avenue is important as a memorial to local residents who served in World War 1 and contributes to the identity of Welshpool. (AHC criterion - G.1) Aesthetically, although parts of the Avenue have been removed and some remaining trees are in poor condition, contributes to the amenity and character of Welshpool and complements the setting of the War Memorial erected in 1920. (AHC criterion - E.1)

Construction dates 1917,
Hermes Number 125692
Property Number

Physical Description 1

The Welshpool Avenue of Honour was constructed along Main Street between 1917- 1920. The Avenue comprises of approximately 32 Elm trees planted on both sides of Main Street between Shady Creek and Woorarra Road. There are about three trees in Woorarra Road and a small number in Port Welshpool Road.

Physical Description 2

Style

Honour Avenue

Historical Australian Themes

Thematic Context

Government Institutions

Sub-Themes

Military Defence

Veterans Description for Public

The Welshpool Avenue of Honour, on Main Street, Port Welshpool and Woorarra Roads commemorates the First World War. The avenue planted between 1917-1920, comprises of approximately thirty-two Elm trees planted on both sides of Main Street between Shady Creek and Woorarra Road. There are about three trees in Woorarra Road and a small number in Port Welshpool Road. It was the first Avenue of Honour established in the Shire and one of the first in the State of Victoria. Although parts of the Avenue have been removed and some remaining trees are in poor condition, it still complements the War Memorial erected alongside it in 1920.

In Australia, commemorative trees have been planted in public spaces since the late nineteenth century. Arbor Days were held regularly in most Victorian State Schools during the late 1800s and early 1900s, and numerous trees were planted in parks in Melbourne and throughout Victoria to mark the visits of important and famous people.

This tradition of commemorative planting was continued in 1901 when at the end of the Boer War trees were often planted for each soldier of the district who was killed in South Africa. These plantings, however, rarely consisted of more than two or three trees in each town.

During and after the First World War avenues of honour consisting of trees lining significant streets became a popular form of commemoration. They represented a new egalitarian approach to the commemoration of soldiers where rank was not a consideration: each tree symbolises a person.

Avenues of honour are a uniquely Australian phenomenon. Australians, and in particular Victorians, embraced the idea of planting them more enthusiastically than any other country in the world. Dating from May 1916, the

Eurack Avenue of Honour is the earliest known avenue of honour to be planted in Victoria.

By the time of the Second World War avenues of honour had declined in popularity as a means of commemoration. Today it is estimated that over 300 avenues of honour have been planted in Victoria to commemorate service personnel since 1901.

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/>