
Lakes Entrance Avenue of Honour



Lakes Entrance 14.jpg



Lakes Entrance 15.jpg



Lakes Entrance 16.jpg

Location

Lakes Entrance, EAST GIPPSLAND SHIRE

Municipality

EAST GIPPSLAND SHIRE

Level of significance

-

Heritage Listing

Vic. War Heritage Inventory

Hermes Number 126639

Property Number

Physical Description 1

Originally an avenue of cypress. Now turned into commemorative wood carvings, depicting servicemen, Red Cross workers and local families affected by the war.

Historical Australian Themes

Remembering the fallen

Usage/Former Usage

Commemoration

Veterans Description for Public

The Lakes Entrance Avenue of Honour was planted in 1924 to commemorate the lives of twenty-six residents killed in the First World War. The avenue originally resembled an avenue of Cypresses, however during the 1990s the trees were beginning to show signs of over maturity and were thought to pose a safety risk. To preserve the history of the avenue, the Council decided to crop the trees, rather than completely remove them and invited a local "chain saw artist" to develop wood carvings on the remaining stumps. The carvings depict servicemen, nurses, Red Cross workers and local families affected by the First World War. The avenue was rededicated in 1998 after a community project costing \$15,000.

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/>