
Wallan Avenue of Honour

Location

Northern Highway, between Queen and Watson Street, Wallan, MITCHELL SHIRE

Municipality

MITCHELL SHIRE

Level of significance

-

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO210

Heritage Listing

Vic. War Heritage Inventory

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - December 9, 1999

HO210 World War 1 Memorial and Avenue of Honour inc 48 Purple leaved Dutch Elms (*Ulmus x hollandica* 'Purpurascens')

Both sides of Northern Highway between Queens & Watson Streets

Significant Trees:

Ulmus x hollandica 'Purpurascens' for horticultural value, Historical value: World War 1 x 48

Construction dates 1920,

Hermes Number 126983

Property Number

Physical Description 1

53 trees planted? 48 surviving? Purple Elm *Ulmus x hollandica 'Purpurascens'*

Historical Australian Themes

Remembering the fallen

Usage/Former Usage

Commemoration

Veterans Description for Public

The Wallan Avenue of Honour, planted in the early 1920s, commemorates Wallan's soldiers who served in the First World War. The Avenue includes forty-eight purple leaved Dutch Elms (*Ulmus x hollandica 'Purpurascens'*) and extends along both sides of Northern Highway, between Queens and Watson Streets. The inscription on the sign states; "Memorial Avenue. This stand of elm trees was planted in memory of Wallan residents who served in the Australian Imperial Force in the Great War 1914 - 1918. Lest we Forget." The number of trees that were planted represented the number of Wallan residents who served.

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/>