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# Koroit Avenue of Honour

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## Location

Anzac Avenue,Koroit, MOYNE SHIRE

## Municipality

MOYNE SHIRE

## Level of significance

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## Heritage Listing

Vic. War Heritage Inventory

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Hermes Number 127029

Property Number

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## Physical Description 1

Avenue.

## Historical Australian Themes

Remembering the fallen

## Veterans Description for Public

The Koroit Avenue of Honour, along Anzac Avenue, was planted in 1918 to commemorate the First World War. The borough council declared at the end of the war that Albert Avenue would be planted as an avenue of honour to the fallen and renamed Anzac Avenue. In 1921, a war memorial was also proposed to honour theseventeen local men who lost their lives. It took some time before sufficient funds were collected but eventually a simple

stone obelisk was erected in the local gardens in 1928.

In 1959, twenty-tree Poplar trees were pulled out amidst much controversy amongst locals, including ex-servicemen, and replaced with London Plane trees (*Platanus x acerifolia*). This planting consists of twenty specimens that line both sides of Anzac Avenue. The trees vary in size and thus in age, with the majority appearing to date from the 1940s or 1950s. More trees have been planted recently and are only 5-10 years old.

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/>*