DS BAIN RESERVE

DS BAIN RESERVE ELM
ROWS

DS Bain Reserve

DS Bain Reserve - Baby
Health Centre

Location

2 MERLYN STREET, COBURG NORTH, MORELAND CITY

Municipality

MERRI-BEK CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO399

Heritage Listing

Merri-bek City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

What is significant?
The DS Bain Reserve at 2 Merlyn Street, Coburg North. The following elements contribute to the significance of the place:

- The double row of mature Elms (*Ulmus sp.*), and two *Melaleuca lanceolata* (Moonah) and a *Brachychiton australis* (Broad-leafed bottle tree) at the south end of the reserve.

- The simple original open layout of the reserve featuring mature trees set in lawn.

The decking and other late twentieth century landscaping and gravel pathways throughout the reserve are not significant.

The Baby Health Centre is of individual significance and has a separate place record and statement of significance.

How is it significant?
The DS Bain Reserve is of local historic and aesthetic significance to Moreland City.

Why is it significant?
It is historically significant for its associations with DS Bain, who almost single-handedly created the suburb of Merlynston and is an example of the amenities that he encouraged in order to develop a 'model' suburb that would attract people to this area. (Criteria A & H)

It is aesthetically significant as a fine example of a semi-formal inter-war park, which is notable for the fine double row of Elms, one of the largest and best examples within Moreland. (Criterion E)

Heritage Study/Consultant	Moreland - City of Moreland - North of Bell Street Heritage Study, Context Pty Ltd, 2013;
Construction dates	1925,
Hermes Number	139975
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

The DS Bain Reserve is situated on the east side of Merlyn Street in Coburg North and is bounded by Orvieto Street to the south, Boundary Road to the north, and by the Upfield Railway and Lorensen Avenue along its east side.

It is a semi-formal park dating from the inter-war period, comprising exotic trees set in open lawn. The most notable feature is a double row of elms, which appear to be *Ulmus procera* (English Elm) [1]. The row extends north-south and appears to have been planted approximately parallel to the railway rather than Merlyn Street. The avenue was originally of 28 trees (Presumed 14 on each side), butthere are now three trees missing on the west side of the avenue, at the south (Orvieto Street) end. Otherwise, the avenue is intact and generally, the trees are well maintained and in good condition. The trees appear to be about 80-90 years old, and are likely to date from the inter-war period, probably about 1920s.

Theother plantingsare three mature trees planted in a single row across the southern end of DS Bain Reserve. These trees have had a raised deck installed above their root zones, extending from Orvieto Street through to the first pair of trees in the Elm Avenue. Presumably the decking has been implemented to reduce the impact of regular traffic and use beneath their canopies in the summer months.

The trees are (from east to west) *Melaleuca lanceolata* (Moonah) x 2 and a *Brachychiton australis* (Broad-leafed bottle tree). All trees are in very good condition, very well maintained, estimated age 60-80 years.

Centrally located within the reserve behing theelm rowclose to Lorensen Avenueisthe MerlynstonBaby Health Centre,which was constructed in1951 (Please refer to separate place record).

[1] It is difficult to determine their exact species due to the absence of any leaves or flowers at this time. It is recommended that a positive identification be undertaken once in full leaf.