

Booroopki Avenue of Honour



Booroo 1.jpg



Booroo 2.jpg



Booroo 3.jpg

Municipality

Level of significance

-

Heritage Listing

Vic. War Heritage Inventory

Hermes Number 154658

Property Number

Veterans Description for Public

The Booroopki Avenue of Honour was planted with thirty-five Eucalyptus and Pine trees in memory of those who fought in the First World War. The Avenue was opened on 29th August 1918 at a ceremony that began with the national anthem and featured an address by Mr C.D. Block. Block expressed his hope that years after the conflict had been forgotten the towering, dignified Pine trees would be a reminder to the next generation of the sacrifices made by their forebears. Three trees were given prominence as those dedicated to three deceased servicemen: Pte. J.R. Gardner, C.F. Patching and P. Brennan. After the ceremony the congregation gathered at the residence of Mrs C. Wong for afternoon tea.

On January 15th 2000, B.C. Ruxton unveiled a stone cairn memorial to mark the avenue and list the names of those who served. The names are as follows:

Pte J. Brennan
Pte C. Brennan
Pte J. Biggin (Jack)
Trpr A. S. Bull (Dick)
Pte C. H. L. Crabtree
Pte W. Cameron
Pte H. G. Crabtree
Gnr E. C. Carracher
Gnr J. D. Carracher
Pte P. Dowling (Peter)
Pte T. Dowling (Tom)
Pte J. Delaney (Jack)
Pte T. Delaney (Tom)
Trpr F. J. Forster
Pte G. A. Forster
Pte W. G. V. Gardner
Sgnr E. Hinch
Pte L. G. Hamilton
Air Mec C. J. Kerr
Lieut J. M. Leyden
Sgt. C. T. Moodey
Pte J. T. W. Major
Pte J. W. S. McDonald
Pte J. T. O'Brien
Pte Jas O'Brien
Pte H. B. Phillips
Pte O. Pritchard
Pte H. B. Schinckel
Pte J. D. Schumann
Pte A. E. Stehn
Pte J. J. Wilson
Pte P. L. Wilson

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. The Eurack Avenue of Honour is the earliest known avenue of honour in Victoria with planting commencing in May 1916.

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/>