
Avenues of Honour, Cypresses, Memorial Gates & Fencing



Avenue of Honour,
Cypresses, Memorial Gates
and Fencing

Location

Walkers Road LARA, GREATER GEELONG CITY

Municipality

GREATER GEELONG CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO1984

Heritage Listing

Greater Geelong City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE

What is Significant?

The remnant Soldiers' Avenue of Sugar Gum Trees and six Golden Lambertianas in the Lara Recreation Reserve, the Avenue of Honour of Pinus Lambertianas along Walkers Road (between 11 and 39 Walkers Road) and the War Memorial Gates and associated fencing in the south-east corner of the Lara Recreation Reserve have significance for their commemorative associations with locals who fought and died in World Wars One and Two. Both Sugar Gums and Pine trees were planted in the reserve in 1918. The Pinus Lambertiana trees forming the boundaries to the recreation reserve (Walkers Road and southern portion along Mills Road) were planted well before 1947 and they may be associated with World War One commemorative plantings. It was in 1948 when the Avenue of Honour of 84 Pinus Lambertianas were planted in Walkers Road, with an additional six Golden Lambertianas grown to commemorate the six local soldiers who made the supreme sacrifice. These soldiers (and respective trees) are: Jim Austin (tree 1), John Austin (tree 2), Alex Bowler (tree 3), Keith Jenkins (tree 4), Gordon McIntyre tree (5), and Jim Payne (tree 6). In the south-east corner of the Lara Recreation Reserve are the Memorial Gates consisting of four rough-faced square granite piers with shallow obelisk cappings and slightly projecting plinths, and wide double metal gates in the centre, and small single metal gates to both sides. Metal fencing flanks the gates. The memorial trees and Avenue of Honour are showing signs of senescence. The Memorial Gates are in good condition.

How is it Significant?

The remnant Soldiers' Avenue of Sugar Gum trees, Pinus Lambertianas forming the boundaries to the Lara Recreation Reserve (Walkers Road boundary and southern portion of the Mills Road boundary), Avenue of Honour in Walkers Road and the Memorial Gates and associated fencing in the south-east corner of the Recreation Reserve are historically, socially, aesthetically and scientifically (botanically) significant at a LOCAL level. The row of less mature pines along the northern portion of the Mill Road boundary also contribute to the aesthetic significance of the place.

Why is it Significant?

The remnant Soldiers' Avenue of Sugar Gum trees, Avenue of Honour, six Golden Lambertianas adjacent to the Memorial Gates, and the Memorial Gates and fencing are historically and socially significant (Criteria A, H & G) for their associations with local residents who served and died in World Wars One and Two. They are valued by the Lara community as an important reminder of the contribution and sacrifice made by local men and women in these wars.

The rows of Pinus Lambertiana trees forming the boundaries to the Lara Recreation Reserve (along the southern boundary fronting Walkers Road and the southern portion of the Mills Road boundary) are historically significant (Criterion C) for their potential to yield further information about the historical evolution of the Recreation Reserve. Further research might reveal commemorative associations with local soldiers of the Great War.

The remnant Soldiers' Avenue of Sugar Gums, Avenue of Honour, Golden Lambertianas adjacent to the Memorial Gates and the Pinus Lambertiana trees forming the boundaries to the recreation reserve (Walkers Road and southern portion along Mills Road) are aesthetically and scientifically significant (Criteria E & F) as they are valued by the community for their visual qualities, forming an important cultural landscape in Walkers Road and within the Lara Recreation Reserve. The Memorial Gates and fencing are also aesthetically significant for their design and craftsmanship. The row of less mature Cypresses along the northern portion of the Mill Road boundary of the Recreation Reserve also make an aesthetic contribution to this part of the reserve, as an extension of the Pinus Lambertiana plantation, having replaced an earlier row of trees in this location.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Greater Geelong - Lara Heritage Review Phase 2, D. Rowe & W. Jacobs, 2013;
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Hermes Number	195349

Physical Description 1

DESCRIPTION

Remnant Soldiers' Avenue of Sugar Gums

To the south-west of the northern oval in the Recreation Reserve are stands of five Sugar Gum trees that are likely to represent the remnant Soldiers' Avenue first planted in 1918.¹

1. Alan Dawson, Maintenance Officer, Trees, City of Greater Geelong, believes that the existing remnant Avenue of Sugar Gums may date from 1918, as the sizes of the trees are comparable to similar Sugar Gums of this age in the Geelong Botanic Gardens. However, further analysis may be required to confirm this.

Rows of Pinus Lambertianas

The rows of Pinus Lambertianas are situated along the southern boundary of the Lara Recreation Reserve, fronting Walkers Road, and along the southern portion of the Mills Road boundary. They appear to date from the interwar period. A row of Cypress trees (representing later plantings) is situated along the northern portion of the Mills Road boundary.

World War Two Cypress Avenues

The World War Two Avenue of Honour consists of 84 Pinus Lambertianas comprising an avenue between 11 and 39 Walkers Road, and then extending along the southern boundary of the Lara Recreation Reserve. Immediately adjoining the War Memorial Gates in the south-east corner of the Reserve are six Golden Lambertianas. They commemorate the six soldiers of Lara who fell in the war. These soldiers were: Jim Austin (tree 1), Alec Bowler (tree 3), Gordon McIntyre tree (5), John Austin (tree 2), Keith Jenkins (tree 4), and Jim Payne (tree 6).

The trees comprising the Avenue of Honour in Walkers Road commemorate the following locals who contributed to the war (although there do not appear to be any plaques on or near the trees):

1. Austin, Frank; 2. Anderson, Robert (DFC); 3. Anderson, Colin; 4. Awty, Tom; 5. Branch, John, 6. Bates; Bern; 7. Bonney; Ralph; 8. Bonney, Allan; 9. Bond, Alf; 10. Bates, Essie; 11. Bates, Herb; 12. Beardsell, Keith; 13. Bond, Allen; 14. Bond, Perc; 15. Beardsell, Harold; 16. Coombs, Norm; 17. Coombs, Eddie; 18. Coombs, Max; 19. Constable, Elma; 20. Chesterfield, Len; 21. Calvert, Claude; 22. Dyer, Frank; 23. Davis, Harold; 24. Dexter, Bill; 25. Founds, Albert; 26. Foot, Eric; 27. Grills, Roy; 28. Grills, Edgar; 29. Grills, Tom; 30. Grills, Jack; 31. Grills, Robert; 32. Gillett, Richard; 33. Gillett, Val; 34. Gillespie, Dudley; 35. Heal, Ron; 36. Howard, Eric; 37. Jones, Bruce; 38. Jones, Allan; 39. Jones, Ron; 40. Jenkins, Len; 41. Jenkins, Wally; 42. Jenkins, Alec; 43. Judd, E; 44. Kee, George; 45. Kee, Jack; 46. Killham, Chas; 47. Lyons, Les; 48. Lowe, Ray; 49. McNay, Ron; 50. May, R; 51. Milledge, Vern; 52. Mathews, Neil; 53. Nicholson, R; 54. Olive, Cyril; 55. Plain, Sis; 56. Plain, Ron; 57. Plain, Gordon; 58. Plain, Norman; 59. Plain, Jean; 60. Plain, Flora; 61. Plain, Nancy; 62. Perkins, Clarry; 63. Perkins, Laurie; 64. Perkins, Noel; 65. Perkins, Wal; 66. Reed, Wal; 67. Reed, George; 68. Stoddart, Gordon; 69. Smith, Oscar; 70. Sloan, Gordon; 71. Spalding, Norm; 72. Spalding, Reg; 73. Spalding, Jack; 74. Spalding, Trevor; 75. Taylor, Chas; 76. Teesdale, Les; 77. Teesdale, Merv; 78. Teesdale, Vic; 79. Wettenhall, R; 80. Wilks, Allen; 81. Wilks, Gilbert; 82. Walker, Les; 83. Walker, Neil and 84. Whitehand, Ken.

War Memorial Gates & Fencing

The War Memorial gates and fencing at the south-east corner of the Lara Recreation Reserve consist of four rough-faced square granite piers with shallow obelisk cappings and slightly projecting plinths, and wide double metal gates in the centre, and small single metal gates to both sides. These gates have decorative scrollwork and other patterns within. The far left pier read "1914", while the inner left pier reads "Lara & District" and names of fallen soldiers, while the inner right pier reads "War Memorial" and names of fallen soldiers, while the far right pier reads "1918" and names of fallen soldiers. Flanking the memorial gates are decorative metal fences, with scrollwork and patterning identical to the gates.

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/>