

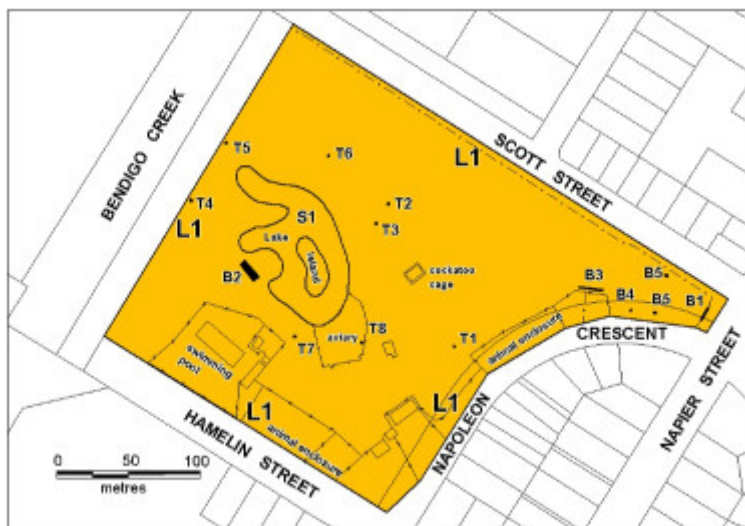
# WHITE HILLS BOTANIC GARDENS



WHITE HILLS BOTANIC GARDENS SOHE 2008



1 white hills botanic gardens arch



white hills botanic gardens plan

## Location

559 NAPIER STREET WHITE HILLS, GREATER BENDIGO CITY

## Municipality

GREATER BENDIGO CITY

## Level of significance

Registered

## Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1915

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO679

## VHR Registration

March 15, 2001

## Heritage Listing

Victorian Heritage Register

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - November 14, 1996

What is significant?

A Reserve for a Botanic Garden is shown on an 1854 plan of the township of White Hills. The garden was formed around the Bendigo Creek which was later straightened to form an ornamental lake. By 1869, 266 trees had been planted, including 180 Blue Gums. In May 1870 a total of 1857 plants were recorded and another 1117 plants were ready for planting. The planting included 600 Blue Gums, 292 *Pinus halepensis* and 40 *P. radiata*. Plants had been received from Ferdinand von Mueller of the Melbourne Botanic Gardens including 20 sultana cuttings in 1871. By 1872 the gardens included a hothouse, rotunda, 200 roses, and a zoo with monkeys, koalas and birds. In 1882 there was a good collection of trees and shrubs representing the flora of every country and it was a popular place for picnics. A pavilion was built in c1910 and in 1925 an Arch of Triumph was erected at the main entrance as a memorial to those who served in the First World War. Today there is a fine collection of trees and shrubs, flower beds, animal enclosures and aviaries.

How is it significant?

The White Hills Botanic Gardens are of historical, architectural, scientific (botanical), aesthetic and social significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The gardens are of historical significance as one of Victoria's earliest regional botanic garden reserves. First shown on a plan of 1854, a date that coincides with legislation that allowed for municipal Councils to make bylaws for the establishment of botanic gardens. The reserve was gazetted in 1857, along with other botanic gardens at Ballarat, Malmsbury and Hamilton. Earlier Gardens had been established at Melbourne (1846), Geelong and Portland (1851) and Williamstown 1856. The Gardens are of historical significance as one of only two in Victoria (the other being the Hamilton Botanic Gardens) that still retain animal exhibits related to the acclimatization movement established in the nineteenth century.

The 1925 Arch of Triumph is of historical and architectural significance as a rare example of this building type in Victoria. The only other arches, all First World War memorials and of different designs, occur at Ballarat (1920), Murtoa (1921) and Mansfield (c1923). The Arch of Triumph is a Mannerist design with massive rusticated voussoirs and decorated with wreaths. The Arch incorporates a list of servicemen on two metal plates.

The gardens are of aesthetic significance, forming a picturesque landscape around a central lake planted with remnant River Red Gums and exotic trees. The mature conifer planting along the western boundary comprising of *Pinus pinea*, *P. radiata*, *P. halepensis* and individually significant *P. torreyana* and *P. roxburghii*, both rare in cultivation, is an important and prominent landscape planting. The landscape is further enhanced by an avenue of *Ulmus x hollandica* along the southern boundary, stands of Eucalyptus, including remnant *E. camaldulensis*, *E. melliodora*, and a cultivated *E. globulus* subsp. *globulus*. Near the main entrance are two large *Ficus macrophylla* and a *Cedrus deodara*.

The gardens are of scientific (botanical) significance for a number of rare plants and fine specimens. The Acacia karroo is rare in Victoria, only two other plants are known, at Williamstown (Holy Trinity Vicarage) and the Royal Botanic Gardens, while the only other example of *Dovyalis caffra* is at Werribee Park and a small plant in the Royal Botanic Gardens. The White Hills tree is the finest and largest of the species in Victoria. The *Callistemon brachyandrus* is an exceptionally large specimen and the *Livistona australis*, *Juniperus virginiana*, and *Schinus terebinthifolius* are fine specimens and uncommon in cultivation.

The gardens are of social significance for their on going use by the community for recreation and education. The Arch of Triumph is an important place of remembrance to those who served in the First World War.

## Permit Exemptions

### General Exemptions:

General exemptions apply to all places and objects included in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR). General exemptions have been designed to allow everyday activities, maintenance and changes to your property, which don't harm its cultural heritage significance, to proceed without the need to obtain approvals under the Heritage Act 2017.

Places of worship: In some circumstances, you can alter a place of worship to accommodate religious practices without a permit, but you must **notify** the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria before you start the works or activities at least 20 business days before the works or activities are to commence.

Subdivision/consolidation: Permit exemptions exist for some subdivisions and consolidations. If the subdivision or consolidation is in accordance with a planning permit granted under Part 4 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the application for the planning permit was referred to the Executive Director of Heritage Victoria as a determining referral authority, a permit is not required.

Specific exemptions may also apply to your registered place or object. If applicable, these are listed below. Specific exemptions are tailored to the conservation and management needs of an individual registered place or object and set out works and activities that are exempt from the requirements of a permit. Specific exemptions prevail if they conflict with general exemptions.

Find out more about heritage permit exemptions [here](#).

### Specific Exemptions:

#### General Conditions:

1. All exempted alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the fabric of the registered place or object.
2. Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of alterations that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place or object are revealed which relate to the significance of the place or object, then the exemption covering such alteration shall cease and the Executive Director shall be notified as soon as possible.
3. If there is a conservation policy and plan approved by the Executive Director, all works shall be in accordance with it.
4. Nothing in this declaration prevents the Executive Director from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions.
5. Nothing in this declaration exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the responsible authority where applicable.

#### Building Exterior:

- \* Minor repairs and maintenance which replace like with like.
- \* Painting of previously painted surfaces in the same colour.
- \* Treatments to stabilise and protect timber, masonry and metal structures.

#### Building Interior:

- \* Painting of previously painted walls and ceilings provided that preparation or painting does not remove evidence of the original paint or other decorative scheme.
- \* Removal of paint from originally unpainted masonry.
- \* Refurbishment of toilets including removal, installation or replacement of fixtures and piping

#### Landscape:

- \* The process of gardening, mowing, hedge clipping, bedding displays, removal of dead plants, disease and weed control, emergency and safety works.
- \* The planting of plant species to conserve the landscape character of conifers, elms and figs, indigenous riverine flora, and development of botanical collections and flora displays.
- \* Management of trees in accordance with Australian Standard; Pruning of amenity trees AS 4373.
- \* Removal of plants listed as noxious weeds in the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994.
- \* Repairs, conservation and maintenance to hard landscape elements, memorial plaques, asphalt and gravel paths and roadways, stone and concrete edging, fences and gates.
- \* Installation, removal or replacement of garden watering and drainage systems beyond the canopy edge of listed trees.

#### Animal enclosures:

- \* All works and management requirements to comply with relevant legislation and animal safety requirements.

#### Swimming Pool:

- \* All works required to operate the pool complex and comply with safety requirements.
- \* Removal of the pool complex.

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|-------------------------|---|
| Construction dates      | 1854,                                   |
| Heritage Act Categories | Registered place,                       |
| Other Names             | WHITE HILLS BOTANICAL GARDENS, BENDIGO, |
| Hermes Number           | 1978                                    |
| Property Number         |   |

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## History

Full History provided in White Hillls Botanic Gardens, Bendigo

Heritage Significance Assessment and Strategy

Lee Andrews & Associates Heritgae Consulting, March 2007

Contextual History:History of Place:

The Botanic Gardens reserve was first shown on a township plan of White Hills prepared by the surveyors general office in October 1854, only 3 years after the discovery of gold in the the district. The 35ac site was reserved for a Botanic Gardens in 1857. This follows shortly after other botanic reserves at Ballarat , requested in 1856 and reserved in 1857, Malmsbury 1857, Hamilton township plan 1850, reserved 1853, Geelong and Portland 1851, and Melbourne 1846.

A plan of the site in the 1850s shows the Bendigo Creek flowing through the reserve. The creek was later straightened and the existing Lake is formed from the original creek alignment. This lake formation also occurred at Melbourne Botanic Gardens with the straightening of the Yarra River, while at Malmsbury a billabong of the Coliban River was transformed into the existing ornamental lake.

In 1869, 266 trees had been planted of which 180 were Blue Gums. In May 1870 a list of 1587 were listed as being planted in the Gardens. This included 600 Blue Gums, 292 Aleppo Pines and 40 Monterey Pines.

In 1871, Ferdinand von Mueller, Director of the Melbourne Botanic Gardens sent 20 sultana grape cuttings to the Bendigo Gardens and in 1872 he wrote to the Council in support of an applicant for the position of curator at the Botanic Gardens.

By 1882, 28 ac of the 35 acres was under cultivation and there is a good collection of trees and shrubs and trees representing the flora of every country. A collection of small birds give an additional interest to the visitors, and the monkey's are a graet attraction

In 1902 the gardens were reported to be "a poplar resort for picnics and such outings". Thereis a magnificent collection of all thatis beautiful of the world's flora, artisically arranged. The gardens will amply repay a visit to the sightseer, and also to the student of botany.

The Arch of Triumph (and Victory) was not a message communities wanted to present, they were often placed at entrances to parks; suggesting not about winning, but crossing a threshold from peace to war. Memorial Arches are rare in Australia. (Inglis)

## **Assessment Against Criteria**

### Criterion A

The historical importance, association with or relationship to Victoria's history of the place or object.

The White Hills Botanic Gardens (1857) are of historical significance as one of the earliest in Victoria, only proceeded by the Melbourne (1846), Geelong (1851), Portland (1851) and Williamstown (1856) Botanic Gardens, and the same age as the Gardens at Ballarat, Malmsbury and Hamilton.

The Gardens retain animal exhibits that were first established in the nineteenth century.

### Criterion B

The importance of a place or object in demonstrating rarity or uniqueness.

Rare plantings in the Garden include *Acacia karroo*, one of only three mature trees in Victoria, others occuring at the Holy Trinity Church, Williamstown an Royal Botanic Gardens. The *Dovaylis caffra* is one of three trees, others occuring at the Royal Botanic Gardens and Werribee Park.

The *Pinus torreyana*, *Pinus roxburghii*, *Callistemon brachyandrus*, *Schinus terebinthifolius* and *Livistona australis* are all of botanical importance.

The Arch of Triumph (1925) is one of only four similar First World War memorial arches in Victoria. Others occur at Ballarat (1920), Murtoa (1921) and Mainsfield (c1923). All have a different architectural design and the White Hills arch is unique as the only example of a Mannerist design in Victoria.

### Criterion C

The place or object's potential to educate, illustrate or provide further scientific investigation in relation to Victoria's cultural heritage.

### Criterion D

The importance of a place or object in exhibiting the principal characteristics or the representative nature of a place or object as part of a class or type of places or objects.

### Criterion E

The importance of the place or object in exhibiting good design or aesthetic characteristics and/or in exhibiting a richness, diversity or unusual integration of features.

The Gardens are aesthetically important for a picturesque landscape the was developed around a lake that was

formerly the Bendigo Creek. Indigenous plants were retained and a wide variety of new plants, both native and exotic, evergreen and deciduous, were introduced into the landscape. A planting of mixed conifers are planted along the western boundary and an avenue of Dutch elms along the southern boundary.

The Arch of Triumph which is located at the main entrance and adjacent to a major highway is of high aesthetic value. The timber pavilion near the lake also forms an attractive landscape feature.

#### Criterion F

The importance of the place or object in demonstrating or being associated with scientific or technical innovations or achievements.

#### Criterion G

The importance of the place or object in demonstrating social or cultural associations.

The Gardens are important for their use by the community for recreation and education. The Arch of Triumph is an important place of remembrance to those who served in the first world war.

#### Criterion H

Any other matter which the Council considers relevant to the determination of cultural heritage significance.

### **Extent of Registration**

1. All the buildings and structures marked as follows on Diagram 1915 held by the Executive Director:

B1 Arch of Triumph and gates

B2 Pavilion

B3 Brick gutter remnant

B4 Deer

B5 Stone flower baskets x2

2. All of the landscape features marked as follows on Diagram 1815 held by the Executive Director:

S1 Lake and island

3. All of the trees marked as follows on Diagram 1915 held by the Executive Director:

T1 Acacia karroo

T2 Doryalis caffra

T3 Callistemon brachyandrus

T4 Pinus torreyana

T5 Pinus roxburghii

T6 Livistona australis

T7 Schinus terebinthifolius

T8 Juniperus virginiana

4. All of the land known as the White Hills Botanic Gardens and gazetted as Crown Reserve Rs 4855 [P126799] and permanently reserved for Public Gardens and part of the Napoleon Crescent road reserve marked L1 on Diagram 1915 held by the Executive Director.

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*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/>*