

Ceres Recreation Reserve (incl. Memorial Gates & Trees)



Barrabool Recreation Reserve



Photo 2: View of Reserve looking south to the pavilion, 2016



Photo 3: Reserve Pavilion with mature Cypress trees to the east (south-east corner of Reserve), 2016.



Photo 4: Mature Cypress trees in north-east corner of reserve, 2016



Photo 5: Semi-mature Cypress trees in the north-east corner of reserve, 2016.



Photo 6: Mature Cypress trees on west boundary of reserve, 2016.



Photo 7: Recently planted trees behind memorial gates, 2016.



Figure 3: I.G. Anderson, Proposed Monument for the Recreation Reserve, Ceres, 1919. Source: News of the Week, 19 June 1919, Geelong Library & Heritage Centre collection.



Figure 4: Acting Premier Old officially opening the Ceres Memorial Gates, 1937. Source: Geelong Advertiser, 12 June 1937.



Figure 5: Ceres Memorial Gates, 1937, with Alfred Beaumont "Mont" McDowall standing. Also note the early pavilion in the background built in 1913 (left of central gate bay), gum and cypress trees forming the perimeter of the reserve & the timber picke



Figure 6: Ceres Memorial Gates, 1996. Source: Crown Reserve file Rs 4144 DELWP.



Figure 7: Barrabool Recreation Reserve aerial view, 1970. Source: Landata, December 1970, film 2457.



Figure 8: Barrabool Recreation Reserve looking south to the pavilion prior to alterations & additions, 14 August 1996. Source: Crown Reserve file Rs 4144 DELWP



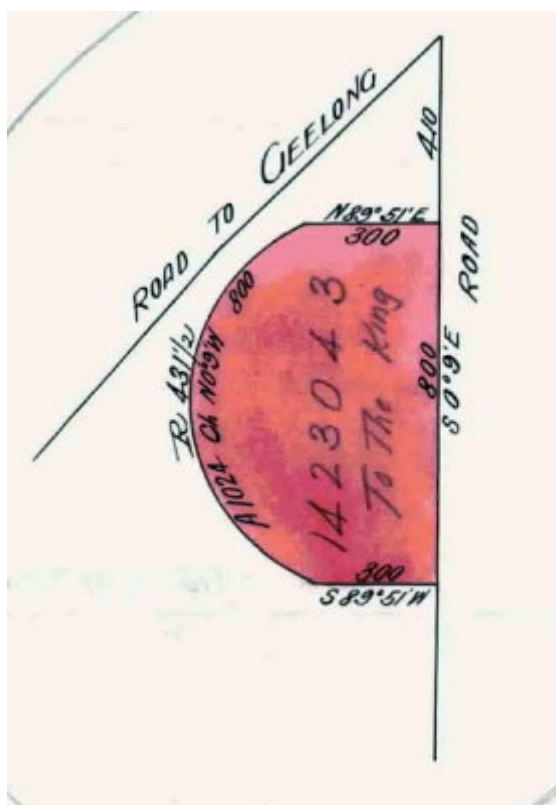
Figure 9: Barrabool Recreation Reserve looking south to the pavilion following alterations, n.d. [c.2014]. Source: Crown Reserve file Rs 4144 DELWP.



Figure 10: Opening day of the altered and extended Barrabool Cricket Club pavilion, 2016. Source: Barrabool Cricket Club online, 2017.



Figure 11: War Memorial Gates at the south-east entrance to the Lara Recreation Reserve, 1928. Source: Bruce Challoner, Lara RSL Sub-Branch.



Location

20 Cochranes Road CERES, GREATER GEELONG CITY

Municipality

GREATER GEELONG CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO2009

Heritage Listing

Greater Geelong City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

What is Significant?

The Ceres Recreation Reserve, 20 Cochranes Road, Ceres has significance as the location of the local cricket and football clubs and matches, and other recreational activities since the early 1900s, and particularly from 1912. It was at this time when the site was acquired by public subscription from William Leigh and developed as an important recreational centre for the Barrabool Hills area. The beautification of the reserve in the early years included the planting of trees. In 1916, Arbor Day was celebrated by the neighbouring Ceres State School, with trees planting to commemorate Earl Kitchener and equally importantly, to honour and commemorate local soldiers serving and killed in action in the First World War. Rows of cypress trees were planted by the local State School children in 1922 and 1924. Several of these trees, although senescent, form the perimeter of the reserve today. The local pioneers of the area and the soldiers who served in the Great War were honoured with the construction of a memorial gateway at the north-east entrance of the reserve in 1937. The fabric of significance at the reserve includes: grassed sports oval, perimeter mature cypress trees and the memorial gates (with dressed bluestone piers, original cast iron palisade bays and reconstructed cast iron gates).

How is it significant?

The Ceres Recreation Reserve (including the war memorial gates and mature perimeter cypress trees), 20 Cochranes Road, Ceres is historically, aesthetically and socially significant at a LOCAL level.

Why is it significant?

The Ceres Recreation Reserve, 20 Cochranes Road, has historical significance for its associations with the evolution and progress of cricket, football and other recreational activities by the Ceres and Barrabool Hills communities from the early 1900s and particularly from 1912 (Criterion A). With a cricket pitch first laid out in the early 1900s in William Leigh's paddock (an avid cricketer), it was in 1912 when a portion of his land was acquired by public subscription as the first permanent recreation reserve in Ceres. A Trust was formed to manage and develop the reserve and by 1929 it had raised £1000 for the erection of pavilions, improving the ground and beautifying the reserve. From 1916, trees were planted on Arbor Day by students of the neighbouring Ceres State School. Forming the perimeter boundary, these trees contributed to the beautification of the reserve as well as honour and commemorate local soldiers of the Great War. Other rows of Cypress trees were planted by the school children in 1922 and 1924. The Ceres Recreation Reserve therefore has associations with the local community's involvement in the First World War. Another physical legacy of these associations is the memorial gates at the north-east entrance, erected in 1937. They also have honour the pioneers of the district. The Ceres Recreation Reserve has further associations with several local figures who contributed much to the progress of the reserve, including those who served as Trustees or on the Committee of Management following the transfer

of the grounds in 1931.

The perimeter Cypress trees at the Ceres Recreation Reserve are aesthetically significant as an important perimeter boarder to the setting of the reserve, and together with the memorial gates, contribute to the visual qualities of the place, a legacy of the beautification of the site in 1916, 1920s and 1937 (Criterion E). The setting of the Ceres Recreation Reserve, including the grassed sports oval, perimeter Cypress Trees and design of the memorial gates, is directly comparable to the Lara Reserve, memorial trees and gates, albeit on a smaller, more rural scale. It is a contextually rare surviving rural reserve in Greater Geelong that has maintained the setting intended in the early 20th century.

The Ceres Recreation Reserve is socially significant as it is recognised and valued by the local community as a place for organized and informal sport and recreation (Criterion G). The site has been the location of cricket and football from 1912. The memorial gates have social significance for their commemorative associations with the pioneers of Ceres and the local soldiers who served and died in the Great War (Criterion G). Some of the surviving Cypress trees may also have commemorative value as plantings in honour of local soldiers of the First World War.

Heritage Study/Consultant City of Greater Geelong - Ceres Heritage Citations Project, Dr David Rowe, 2018;

Hermes Number 200344

Property Number

Physical Conditions

The Ceres Recreation Reserve, 20 Cochranes Road, Ceres, consists of elevated, gently-sloping land near the south-east intersection of Cochranes and Barrabool Roads. The predominant feature of the site is the grassed sports ground, being largely oval in layout (apart from the east side which following the lineal alignment of Cochranes Road). The ground and site are variously bound by introduced post and rail fencing (of hollow steel construction), timber bollards, low timber and rail bays, bays of posts with signage panels and rural post and wire fences. In the south-west corner are practice cricket wickets with high wire mesh fencing. In the north-east corner are memorial gates.

At the south end of the ground are the Barrabool Cricket Clubrooms, characterised by a central bay of shallow, broadly-projecting gabled roof forms with flanking, minor steeply-pitched gabled wings. These roofs are clad in corrugated colorbond, the walls are clad in lightweight horizontal timber cladding punctuated by aluminium framed windows and doors. There are post-supported skillion verandahs projecting from the flanking wings.

Much of the western and northern boundaries of the site, and the south-west corner, are lined with mature Cypress trees. There are approximately 29 mature trees on the west side of the oval, 9 trees near the north-east corner (adjacent the memorial gates), 10 trees immediately south of the memorial gates (north-east corner) and 7 trees in the south-east corner of the site. These trees are all senescent and appear to be the most mature. There are an additional 14 Cypress trees in the north-west corner of the site. These trees are not as mature as the others flanking the recreation reserve.

In the north-east corner of the reserve are the war memorial gates. They consist of four dressed, bluestone piers on tooled bluestone pedestals and surmounted by projecting cappings. The taller piers flank the central gateway, with lower piers completing the flanking bays. These bays have dressed and tooled plinths above which are decorative cast iron palisades. Similarly-designed and constructed gates (which also have metal scrollwork cappings) are a central feature of the memorial. They were introduced in 2015 as a reconstruction of the original gates that had been replaced in the 20th century with gates of inferior design and construction. The principal gate piers having incised goldleaf lettering. The left pier reads: "Erected in the Year 1937 as a Tribute to the Pioneers of the District", the right pier reading: "In Memory of the Soldiers who Fought in the Great War 1914-1918".

Immediately inside the reserve adjacent to the memorial gates are two recently planted trees, marking the official reopening of the gates in 2015.

Overall, the recreation reserve is in good condition (particularly the grassed oval, pavilion and memorial gates). Most of the mature cypress trees (apart from a row of what appear to be younger cypresses in the north-west corner) are senescent. The recreation reserve has moderate integrity given that the open grassed oval, perimeter cypress trees and memorial gates are largely intact. The removal of the original pavilion (before 1970) and the loss of some cypress trees (after 1970) has diminished the integrity of the reserve to some degree but the original, intended rural sports ground appearance is largely intact.

Photo 2: View of Reserve looking south to the pavilion, 2016. Source: David Rowe. Photo 3: Reserve Pavilion with mature Cypress trees to the east (south-east corner of Reserve), 2016. Source: David Rowe. Photo 4: Mature Cypress trees in north-east corner of reserve, 2016. Source: David Rowe. Photo 5: Semi-mature Cypress trees in the north-east corner of reserve, 2016. Source: David Rowe. Photo 6: Mature Cypress trees on west boundary of reserve, 2016. Source: David Rowe. Photo 7: Recently planted trees behind memorial gates, 2016. Source: David Rowe.

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/>