
HO81 - Coronation Tree



Coronation Tree

Location

Hannah Watts Park High Street MELTON, Melton Shire

Municipality

MELTON CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO81

Heritage Listing

Melton City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

The Coronation Tree in Hannah Watts Park, High Street Melton, is of heritage significance as the expression of the Melton community's celebration of Queen Elizabeth II's coronation in 1953, and of local affection for the new monarch. It is also a very fine specimen of a Mexican cypress tree.

The Coronation Tree in Hannah Watts Park, High Street Melton is historically significant at a LOCAL level (AHC A4, H1). It was planted by local dignitaries with all formality, and in the presence of the entire Melton State School No.430, to celebrate and mark the occasion of the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II on 2nd June 1953. It is

expressive of the colossal popular interest in the monarchy and ties with Empire at the time, as evident in the huge crowds that turned out to greet the young new monarch when she visited Australia the following summer. It is the only known public memorial to Queen Elizabeth II, and the monarchy, in the Shire. The tree is also prominently situated beside the main road, in the main public reserve.

The Coronation Tree in Hannah Watts Park, High Street Melton is of social and aesthetic significance at a LOCAL level (AHC E1). The tree was identified as being a place valued by the local community at a heritage study forum. It is a very fine specimen of a Mexican cypress (*cupressus lusitanica*).

Overall, the Coronation Tree in Hannah Watts Park, High Street Melton is of LOCAL significance.

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|---------------------------|--|
| Heritage Study/Consultant | Melton - Shire of Melton Heritage Study phase 2, David Maloney, David Rowe, Pamela Jellie, Sera Jane Peters, 2007; |
| Construction dates | 1952, |
| Other Names | Hannah Watts Park, High Street Melton, |
| Hermes Number | 30120 |
| Property Number | |

Physical Description 1

Physical Description -

The tree is a very fine specimen of a Mexican cypress (*cupressus lusitanica*), a species that is suitable to the low rainfall of the Melton Shire.

The tree is prominently situated beside the High Street entrance to the town (Melbourne side), in Hannah Watts Park.

Integrity

Integrity - Substantially Intact.

Historical Australian Themes

Melton Historical Themes: 'Community'

Physical Conditions

Physical Condition - Excellent

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/>