
LOCH MEMORIAL RESERVE



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Location

LOCH-POOWONG ROAD, LOCH, SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE

Municipality

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE

Level of significance

Recommended for Heritage Overlay

Heritage Listing

South Gippsland Shire

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - December 19, 2022

What is significant?

The Loch Memorial Reserve, on Loch-Poowong Road, Loch, its gates and its memorial plantings are significant. The features of heritage significance within the Memorial Reserve to be protected include: World War 1 Memorial Gate (at entrance to reserve) This gate includes four wrought iron gates, with the two central gates larger than the outer two, mounted between rough hewn granite pillars. The gates feature the rising sun motif and bronze plaques with the names of local soldiers involved in World War I. World War 2 Memorial Oak Trees A number of memorial trees are planted around the perimeter of the oval and around the edges of the picnic and parking area. Each tree has a plaque affixed dedicated to a local fallen soldier from World War II and modern conflicts. Other memorial plantings within the park grounds A single Lone Pine tree is situated in the North East corner of the oval, planted in 1983.

Non-original alterations and additions, other than those specified above, are not significant.

How is it significant?

The Loch Memorial Reserve, at Loch-Poowong Road is of local historic, aesthetic and social significance to the South Gippsland Shire.

Why is it significant?

Historically, the Loch Memorial Reserve's significance is both as a public memorial space and as the first permanent sporting field in Loch. This Reserve demonstrates the pride and grief felt by the Loch community, and broader South Gippsland community, surrounding the two World Wars and the significant impact these events had on the region. These sentiments continue to this day with modern memorial features being built in and around the park to reinforce its significance. (Criterion A)

Aesthetically, the banks of the Alsop River, and the now-mature WWII Oak trees give a sense of enclosure and comfort to the space. The Memorial gates are simple and elegant in design, but provide a formal entrance and clear purpose to the space. The planting of the trees around the edge of the oval in a semi-formal style provide structure to the space. (Criterion E)

Socially, the Loch Memorial Reserve is an important focal point for the Loch community, and it is a space for the community to commemorate and memorialise the fallen within the community and broader region. Significantly, the site and the money to formally establish the Reserve were raised from within the Loch community, ensuring the community would have ownership over the space. (Criterion G)

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| Heritage Study/Consultant | South Gippsland - South Gippsland Heritage Study, David Helms with Trevor Westmore, 2004; |
| Construction dates | 1922, 1932, 1922, 1932, 1922, 1932, |
| Other Names | -, War Memorial Tree Avenue, |
| Hermes Number | 30869 |
| Property Number | |

Physical Description 1

Loch Memorial Reserve is situated on the banks of the Alsop Creek to the north east of the township. It comprises a grassed football and cricket oval, three concrete tennis courts and associated buildings and facilities. Most of the buildings are grouped in the south west corner adjacent to the main entrance and include a small brick single storey pavilion with a skillion roof facing the oval, an iron shed with a gable roof and tilt garage door and a small cement block public toilet. The area around these buildings includes a small car park and a picnic and playground area containing BBQs and play equipment.

Significant elements of the Reserve include: The World War 1 Memorial Gates These are located at the entrance to the Reserve and comprise four wrought iron gates supported on four rough-hewn granite pillars. The pillars are of similar design with the inner pair being slightly taller. The gates comprise a pair of large central gates between the large pillars and two smaller gates on either side. They are of similar design including a sunrise motif on the top and are painted green. There are bronze plaques on each of the two inner pillars that contain the names of local people who served in World War 1. A small plaque at the base of one of the pillars includes the name of the manufacturer, J Robinson of Carlton.

The World War 2 memorial Oaks & memorial Pine The World War 2 memorial Oaks are planted in two areas; an L shaped group around the edge of the picnic and playground area, and a second group planted in pairs around the perimeter of the oval. Each tree has a plaque commemorating the person to whom it is dedicated. A further tree has been planted in the north east corner of the site, which is taken from a seed from Lone Pine. A plaque beside this tree advises that it was planted by the local RSL in 1983.

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/>