

Woodend Avenue of Honour



AVENUE OF HONOUR
SOHE 2008



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honour janeth plaques



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honour 2004 mz



H2066 woodend avenue of honour plan

Location

MACEDON - WOODEND ROAD WOODEND, Macedon Ranges Shire

Municipality

MACEDON RANGES SHIRE

Level of significance

-

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H2066

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO34

Heritage Listing

Vic. War Heritage Inventory

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - June 14, 2006

What is significant?

The Avenue of Honour, Woodend is an extensive oak avenue of 224 trees comprising English oaks (*Quercus robur*), Algerian oaks (*Quercus canariensis*) and oak hybrids *Quercus canariensis* x *Q. robur* planted on both sides of the road along a stretch of High Street, 2.5 kilometres in length starting near Clarkes Lane and extending south to Woodend. All trees once had memorial plaques to those who served in World War I but they are now in storage in Woodend. The trees were planted by the local community with each tree planted representing an enlisted soldier from the Woodend area. The opening ceremony for the Avenue was held on 14 September 1918.

How is it significant?

The Avenue of Honour, Woodend is of historical, social and aesthetic significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The Avenue of Honour, Woodend is of historical significance for exemplifying rural Victoria's reaction to World War I. It is representative of plantings that first appeared in Australia during World War I commemorating all those who enlisted for service in an egalitarian form where each individual, regardless of rank, was equally recognised for their service. It is one of only a small number of avenues in Victoria to use English Oaks.

The Avenue of Honour, Woodend is of aesthetic significance as a distinctive commemorative planting and a living memorial in the town of Woodend. It is an impressive visual and cultural landmark at the northern entrance to the town and a key landscape feature of the district.

The Avenue of Honour, Woodend is of social significance for its relationship with the community as a memorial to those who served in World War I and for its continuing commemorative importance. The Avenue of Honour, Woodend remains as an indication of the involvement of Victoria's small communities in commemorating the sacrifices of their volunteers, along with the loss and sorrow experienced in small rural areas like Woodend.

Heritage Act Categories Registered place, Registered object,

Hermes Number 125413

Property Number

Physical Conditions

State of the Historic Environment survey report - Condition: Good. See Events.

Veterans Description for Public

The Woodend Avenue of Honour, along the Macedon-Woodend Road, was opened on 14th September 1918 to commemorate those who served in the First World War. In all, 224 English Oaks (*Quercus robur*), Algerian Oaks (*Quercus canariensis*) and Oak hybrids (*Quercus canariensis* x *Q. robur*) were planted. It is one of only a small number of avenues in Victoria to use English Oaks. All trees once had memorial plaques to those who enlisted but they are now in storage in the Woodend RSL.

The Avenue is planted on both sides of the road along a stretch of 2.5 kilometres in length, starting near Clarkes Lane and extending south to Woodend. A full list of allotted trees is given in the 1919 Woodend Star. The order in which the names were allotted is as follows:

Trees 1 -72, east side of avenue: G. Anderson, F.H.Giles, J.E.Giles, H.Giles, AAnderson, J.H.Anderson, to G. Dunn.

Trees 1-90, west side of avenue: E. d'A Bruun, E.J.Christie, etc. to P.Tyrrell, J. Falloon, AW.Keating, W.W.Jones, W.McDonald, R.Simpson, Bowe, C.Blackburn, Brae Watson, A Armitage, E.F.Walsh, P.O'Neill, B. O'Neill, Thos. Forge, George Purchase Jr., Claude Huffer.

The difference in tree numbers from the east to west side is explained by the position of the road at one point which prevented the planting of a continuous double row. It is not known who supplied the trees but Smith & Sons at Riddells Creek is a possible local supplier.

The avenue is an impressive visual and cultural landmark in the township of Woodend and provides an important definition of entrance and exit to the town as well as one of the most extensive memorials to those who served in the devastating First World War campaign.

A second avenue was planted, on the Tylden Road by the Woodend RSL, to commemorate those who fought in the Second World War, Korea and Vietnam.

In Australia, commemorative trees have been planted in public spaces since the late nineteenth century. Arbor Days were held regularly in most Victorian State Schools during the late 1800s and early 1900s, and numerous trees were planted in parks in Melbourne and throughout Victoria to mark the visits of important and famous people.

This tradition of commemorative planting was continued in 1901 when at the end of the Boer War trees were often planted for each soldier of the district who was killed in South Africa. These plantings, however, rarely consisted of more than two or three trees in each town.

During and after the First World War avenues of honour consisting of trees lining significant streets became a popular form of commemoration. They represented a new egalitarian approach to the commemoration of soldiers where rank was not a consideration: each tree symbolises a person.

Avenues of honour are a uniquely Australian phenomenon. Australians, and in particular Victorians, embraced the idea of planting them more enthusiastically than any other country in the world. Dating from May 1916, the Eurack Avenue of Honour is the earliest known avenue of honour to be planted in Victoria.

By the time of the Second World War avenues of honour had declined in popularity as a means of commemoration. Today it is estimated that over 300 avenues of honour have been planted in Victoria to commemorate service personnel since 1901.

Extent of Registration

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1. All the oak trees planted in the Avenue of Honour, Woodend within the land marked L1 on Diagram 2066 held by the Executive Director.

/n/n

2. All the land marked L1 on Diagram 2066 being part of the Macedon - Woodend Road road reserve (that section known as Avenue of Honour) extending approximately 2.5km between Clarkes Lane and North Street.

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3. All the following objects:

75 name plaques held by the Woodend RSL.

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/>