
CANARY ISLAND DATE PALM AVENUE



Mt Alexander Road Canary
Island Date Palms.JPG

Location

MT ALEXANDER ROAD, ESSENDON, MOONEE VALLEY CITY

Municipality

MOONEE VALLEY CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1200

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO80

Heritage Listing

Moonee Valley City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

The Canary Island Date Palm Avenue is included on the Victorian Heritage Register (H1200) with the following statement of significance:

What is significant?

The avenue of 143 Canary Island Date Palms (*Phoenix canariensis*) along the median strip of Mt Alexander Road was planted in about 1929 following relocation and duplication of the tram tracks. The planting is the largest and longest single planting of Canary Island Date Palms in Victoria.

How is it significant?

The Canary Island Date Palm Avenue in Mount Alexander Road Essendon between Shamrock Street and Leake Street is of aesthetic and historical significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The avenue of 143 Canary Island Date Palms is of outstanding aesthetic significance and landscape value. The planting provides an important landmark and avenue planting along a major arterial road to central Melbourne and on each side of a central tram line. The good condition of the palms, and their uniform size, regular spacing and formal planting arrangement contribute to the importance of the avenue.

The avenue is historically important as the most substantial avenue planting of Canary Island Date Palms in Victoria. As such it is reflective of a particular period of popularity of palms in the 1920s, especially *Phoenix canariensis*.

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| Heritage Study/Consultant | Moonee Valley - Moonee Valley Heritage Overlay Places Review, David Helms Heritage Planning, 2012; |
| Construction dates | 1929, |
| Other Names | Review, <i>Phoenix canariensis</i> , |
| Hermes Number | 162190 |
| Property Number | |

Physical Description 1

This avenue comprises 143 mature Canary Island Date Palms (*Phoenix canariensis*) along the median strip of Mount Alexander Road in Essendon between Shamrock Street and Leake Street. The palms are planted in a line on either side of the central tram reservation. The planting is the largest and longest single planting of Canary Island Date Palms in Victoria.

The avenue extends for 820 metres in the Mt Alexander road reserve. The palms are planted opposite one another. Shamrock Street to Thistle Street; West - 27 palms, East - 27 palms; Thistle Street to Thorn Street; West - 24 palms, East - 22 palms; Thorn Street to Marco Polo Street; West - 11 palms, East - 11 palms; Marco Polo Street to Leake Street; West - 10 palms, East - 11 palms

The measurement of an average palm is; Circumference: 3.0m; Height: 7.5m; Canopy Spread: 7.2m (1985). The two rows are 13.4m apart and the palms are at spacings of 8.3m.

The palms are planted in a grassed median in three of the islands, while the northern island has been asphalted and is used for car parking. Fortunately the palms show no ill effects. The two rows of palms are planted to either side of two sets of central tram tracks laid in bluestone gravel edged with bluestone blocks. Down the centre is a row of tram poles erected in 1929, but with new side arms.

The palm avenue is in good condition. Annual maintenance includes the under pruning of dead fronds and the removal of seedlings from the crown. The major weed is *Coprosma repens*.

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/>