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# GEMBROOK PARK, PART FORMER ZOOLOGICAL



Gembrook Park Part Former  
Zoological Reserve

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## Location

off Gembrook Road GEMBROOK, Cardinia Shire

## Municipality

CARDINIA SHIRE

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO38

## Heritage Listing

Cardinia Shire

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

Gembrook Park (former Zoological & Acclimatisation Society land) is of significance to the Cardinia Shire because it provides some indication of the extent of the 1873 reserve founded to introduce a range of exotic birds and animals to the Victorian bush. There was a number of similar schemes in Victoria at the time but the reserve remains unusual within the region.

Some of the exotic mature trees (redwoods) allude to the park's earliest years.

Although conflicting with some of the original aims surrounding the reserve's creation, the present native bushland within the park is important as indicative of the forest before disturbance through occupation as well as the local will to keep the park in this form over the long period it has been under public management. The mountain ash forest within the park contrasts with the adjoining forest areas, most of which have been logged.

The Gembrook Park is a local landmark and has some historical significance for its distant associations with Le Souef, a prominent member of the Acclimatisation Society, and more tangible links with prominent local resident Harry Knight

#### Regional Significance

Heritage Study/Consultant	Cardinia - Cardinia Shire Heritage Study 1996, Graeme Butler & Associates, 1996;
Construction dates	1873,
Other Names	off Gembrook Road, Gembrook, & Acclimatisation Society Reserve,
Hermes Number	30021
Property Number	

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### Physical Description 1

Generally mountain ash or wet sclerophyll forest, with some very mature and notable specimens, but the park also has mature exotic trees (redwoods) central to the reserve, seemingly as an indication of its 19th century acclimatisation society history but in fact planted at a much later date. Generally mountain ash or wet sclerophyll forest, with some very mature and notable specimens, but the park also has mature exotic trees (redwoods) central to the reserve, seemingly as an indication of its 19th century acclimatisation society history but in fact planted at a much later date.

### Physical Conditions

A number of recreation facilities have been added to the park at various times which are visually unrelated to each other and to the reserve's original 1873 purpose.

### Historical Australian Themes

Themes

7.4 Nurseries/Acclimatisation Society areas/park reserves

9.12 Parks and gardens, sporting grounds, street plantings

### Physical Description 2

Associations - Zoological & Acclimatisation Society; Gembrook Park Management Committee; Knight, Henry

*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/>*