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# Nobelius Heritage Park



Nobelius Heritage Park

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## Location

off Crichton Road EMERALD, Cardinia Shire

## Municipality

CARDINIA SHIRE

## Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO273

## Heritage Listing

Cardinia Shire

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

Nobelius Heritage Park and landscape are significant to the Cardinia Shire for their representation of the vast Gembrook Nursery which was operated from here and other parts of the Emerald district by Carl Axel Nobelius; the plantings provide an important link with other Nobelius places and the context for the adjoining Belgrave to Gembrook narrow gauge railway line and siding which served the orchards, nurseries and market gardens in this district.

This site is also contributory to a larger cultural landscape of State significant which includes all of the Nobelius

related places. The Nobelius Gembrook Nursery was the originator of an extensive range of exotic ornamental and fruiting plantings throughout the state, interstate and overseas.

### *Regional Significance*

Heritage Study/Consultant	Cardinia - Cardinia Shire Heritage Study 1998, Graeme Butler & Associates, 1998;
Construction dates	1880,
Other Names	off Crichton Road, Emerald,
Hermes Number	30310
Property Number	

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## **Physical Description 1**

This planted area contains CA Nobelius and later nursery plantings on a hillside extending north from the Gembrook railway line and the Nobelius Siding, connecting to Emerald Lake Park via a tourist walk. It is as the most recognisable remnant of the once grand Gembrook Nurseries and has ornamental exotics planted in the Nobelius period and more recently by Gus Ryberg. Another section of the nursery lies in the former Emerald Lake Park which adjoins on the east, with native bush regeneration among the surviving specimens (see Emerald Lake Park).

Planting includes cordylines, variegated tulip tree or 'Liriodendron tulipifera', classified by the National Trust of Australia for its horticultural value and rarity; the Rewarewa or 'Knightia excelsia', also classified for its rarity and size; the cut-leaf alder ('Alnus glutinosa' Lachiniata) classified by the National Trust of Australia as an outstanding example of its species and for its rarity, and a mulberry ('Morus sp.'). There are also the later Gus Ryberg plantings which have been consciously kept in rows as if still a nursery.

Other early plantings include poplars from c1905; and Chinese gooseberry plants, being two of the original consignment by CA Nobelius. Also of note is the row of Chinese windmill palms ('Trachycarpus fortuneii') and other plantings formerly part of Nobelius Heritage Park and now within boundary fence line of Emerald Lake Park.

The Nobelius Heritage Museum has been recently erected within the park while the twolevel Nobelius Packing Shed and siding adjoin on the south as part of the narrow gauge railway which once transported the market garden, orchard and nursery produce to Melbourne and other markets.

There is a plaque on the site listing the nurserymen who worked with Nobelius.

*More Descriptions can be found under National Trust of Australia Section*

## **Physical Conditions**

Although this area still resembles a nursery it appears mainly symbolic of the former Nobelius occupation which is nevertheless represented by some residual plantings from the Nobelius pre 1920 era. This is a remnant of a much larger commercial nursery with introduced visually unrelated elements such as the museum building.

## **Historical Australian Themes**

**Principal Australian Historical Theme** - Engaging in Primary Production

**Historical Subtheme** - Other primary industries (orchards, nurseries, market gardens)

## **Physical Description 2**

Associations - Gembrook Nursery; Nobelius, Carl Axel

*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/>*