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# FOSTER HIGHER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WAR MEMORIAL AVENUE



FHES War Memorial Avenue



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FHES War Memorial Avenue



FHES War Memorial Avenue



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## Location

8 PIONEER STREET, and HODDLE ROAD, FOSTER, SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE

## Municipality

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE

## Level of significance

Recommended for Heritage Overlay

## Heritage Listing

## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - November 23, 2022

### What is significant?

The four surviving trees of the Foster Higher Elementary School War Memorial Avenue, along the school boundaries on Pioneer Street and Hoddle Road, are significant. The trees include:

- Three Oaks ( *Quercus* sp.):
  - One next to the current gymnasium, Pioneer Street
  - One in front of the current gymnasium car park, on the edge of the property boundary, Pioneer Street
  - One on Hoddle Road, two-thirds of the way from the corner, identifiable by its large trunk and height
- One Canary Island Palm (*Phoenix canariensis*) on Hoddle Road, set back from the other trees along the school boundary.

Other trees within the school grounds are not significant.

### How is it significant?

The Foster Higher Elementary School War Memorial Avenue is of local historic and social significance to the South Gippsland Shire.

### Why is it significant?

Historically, the Foster Higher Elementary School War Memorial Avenue was planted on Arbor Day, 1 July 1921, as part of a community working bee and planting day. The remnant War Memorial Avenue was one of three Avenues of Honour in Foster, demonstrating the importance of remembrance to the Foster community in the wake of World War I. This remnant Memorial Avenue also demonstrates the impact that war had on all aspects of the community, including school aged children (Criterion A).

Socially, the War Memorial Avenue specifically commemorates the former students who served in the war and who had made the Supreme Sacrifice, many of whose names appeared on the school's World War I Honour Roll. The Foster Mirror reported that the planting, "as near as possible was carried out by soldiers, relatives or nearest friends". The remnant War Memorial Avenue represents the pain and healing that occurred in the aftermath of World War I in Foster, and towns across South Gippsland. It also demonstrates the community's ongoing commemoration and remembrance in the preservation of these trees for over 100 years (Criterion G).

Heritage Study/Consultant	South Gippsland - South Gippsland Heritage Study, David Helms with Trevor Westmore, 2004;
Construction dates	1921, 1921, 1921,
Other Names	Foster Secondary School Memorial Avenue, Trees, South Gippsland Secondary College, thematic,
Hermes Number	30591
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

The Foster Higher Elementary School War Memorial Avenue comprised a number of mature exotic trees, generally situated along the periphery of the school site (now known as South Gippsland Secondary College). It

appears that many of the original exotictrees have been removed or replaced by more recent plantings of native trees.

Remnant trees thought to have formed part of the Avenue include:

> Hoddle Road frontage: A Canary Island Palm (*Phoenix canariensis*) and large Oak (*Quercus sp.*). The Oak is situated close to the boundary fence, while the palm is setback at the base of a gentle slope.

> Pioneer Street frontage; A Cedar (*Cedrus sp.*) and an Oak (*Quercus sp.*) close to the fence within the semi-circular driveway, another nearby tree (Plane?) within the school grounds and two other trees at the corner of the side street (possibly a pine and oak).

Note: this is not a complete list - further research and site investigationis required to determine the location and species of all surviving trees.

The 1921 War Memorial School was extant in 2000, but has since been demolished and replaced by a new building.

*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/>*