
MEENIYAN HONOUR AVENUE



Meeniyán Avenue of Honour and World War I memorial



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Meeniyán Avenue of Honour (Whitelaw Street, east section)



Meeniyán Avenue of Honour - Geale Street

Location

WHITELAW STREET, and GEALE STREET, MEENIYAN, SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE

Municipality

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE

Level of significance

Recommended for Heritage Overlay

Heritage Listing

South Gippsland Shire

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - December 19, 2022

What is significant?

The Meeniyan Avenue of Honour, on Whitelaw Street and Geale Street, built in 1918, is significant. The Avenue of Honour has, over time, been split into three parts. This Avenue of Honour, made predominantly of Western Australian Flower Gums, is located at:

- The middle plantings of the main commercial strip on Whitelaw Street (some newer plantings included in this area).
- Side embankment plantings on Whitelaw Street between McDonald and Royston Streets
- Nature strip plantings on Geale Street from Whitelaw Street until the Primary School

The gap in the Avenue of Honour on Whitelaw Street suggests that some trees were removed to cater for the growth of the town. Newer plantings in the median strip (part 1) are not original but add to the significance of the Avenue in terms of aesthetics and a similar type of tree

How is it significant?

The Meeniyan Avenue of Honour is of local historic, aesthetic and social significance to the South Gippsland Shire.

Why is it significant?

The Meeniyan Avenue of Honour is a rare example of a World War I memorial avenue that uses native Australian trees, which began to be popular after World War II. The Meeniyan Avenue of Honour demonstrates the impact of World War I on the Meeniyan community and surrounds. It also demonstrates the organisation of the community at this time to plan and execute such a large Avenue of Honour. (Criterion A)

Aesthetically, the mature Avenue of Honour significantly contributes to the aesthetic and historic character of the commercial centre of Meeniyan. It also complements the World War I Soldiers Memorial (see ME-WH-WW1), which was constructed later as part of the Meeniyan median strip on Whitelaw Street. (Criterion E)

Socially, this Avenue of Honour demonstrates how these rural communities attempted to memorialise those who went to war and support each other on the home front. Avenues of Honour were the only way communities, especially more isolated communities, could collectively process and grieve the significant impact that World War I had to their community, families and livelihoods. (Criterion G)

Heritage Study/Consultant	South Gippsland - South Gippsland Heritage Study, David Helms with Trevor Westmore, 2004;
Construction dates	1918, 1918,
Architect/Designer	Flowering Gums Not Applicable,
Other Names	-, thematic,
Hermes Number	30900
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

The Meeniyan Avenue of Honour predominantly comprises West Australian Flowering Gums (*Corymbia ficifolia*) with a smaller number of elms (*Ulmus sp.*), which are situated in Whitelaw Street (in the median strip in the commercial area, and also the nature strip on either side between McDonald and Royston Streets), and along the nature strip on either side of Geale Street to the north and south of Whitelaw Street.

There is a gap in the Avenue in Whitelaw Street between the two groups of trees, which suggests that some intervening trees have been removed.

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/>