
White Hills Botanic Gardens



White Hills Botanic
Gardens.jpg

Location

559 NAPIER STREET and 71 NAPOLEON CRESCENT WHITE HILLS, GREATER BENDIGO CITY

Municipality

GREATER BENDIGO CITY

Level of significance

Included in Heritage Overlay

Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number

H1915

Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO679

Heritage Listing

Greater Bendigo City

Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

White Hills Botanic Gardens, dating from 1857 and continuously maintained as a public garden is of regional significance:

- as a reserve for significant exotic species, particularly those listed on the National Trust Register of Significant Trees;
- for its role in providing passive and active recreation to citizens of Bendigo and neighbouring areas;
- for the retention of a number of plants which are evidence of its original role as a botanic garden; mature specimens of note (other than the Significant Trees) include *Ficus macrophylla*, *Cedrus deodara*, *Juniperus virginiana*, *Ulmus procera* and *U.x hollandica*, *Pinus spp.* and *Quercus spp.*
- for the retention of a number of bird and animal cages which are evidence of its earlier role in the acclimatization of birds and animals within the colony;
- historically for its early date of development, 1857, as a recreational site with close parallels to the development of the city;
- for those features which enhance the garden's qualities; these include the lake / lagoon and island, floral bedding, arch (soldiers memorial to WWI), pavilion (c1910?) and mature planting.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Greater Bendigo - Eaglehawk & Bendigo Heritage Study, Graeme Butler & Associates, 1993;
Other Names	557 NAPIER STREET,
Hermes Number	41742
Property Number	

Physical Description 1

The White Hills Botanic Gardens are entered by the Memorial Archway flanked by two mature *Cedrus deodara* on the Midland Highway. Annual bedding along the drive is a distinctive horticultural feature leading to the carpark and lawn area. A number of bird cages have been removed to extend the car park. An extensive area of the garden in the northern section adjacent to Scott Street is devoted to playground equipment and barbecues. A large lake/lagoon with central island is located in the centre of the park which effectively divides the animal section from the area of horticultural intensity and earlier plantings. The grounds contain many work sheds and staff facilities and housing all of these modern buildings. The earliest extant building is the pavilion of c1910? on the south western edge of the lagoon. A swimming pool of recent construction is in the south western corner of the gardens, west of the lagoon. A cage for kangaroos is located along the Hamelin Street southern boundary.

Plantings are varied exotic and native with mature exotics such as pines and poplars dominating the landscape. Plantings of interest include *Ficus macrophylla*, *Schinus molle* var. *areira* and *S. terebinthifolius*, *Melia azederach*, *Pinus canariensis*, *P. pinea* and *P.torreyana*.

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/>