

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: AVENUE OF HONOUR

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Glenelg Highway COLERAINE

STUDY NUMBER: 056

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

PRECINCT: Coleraine

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

PARISH: PARISH OF MUNTHAM

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 430 C VicRoads 72 C3 Extending west along the Glenelg Highway from the Intersection with the Coleraine-Edenhope Road

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local



Avenue of Honour, Glenelg Highway, Coleraine

Image Date: 06/08/2002

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the trees in the avenue, including all *Cupressus macrocarpa* and *Eucalyptus cephalocarpa* and the roadside reserve in which they are planted. Also included is the ironstone boulder and plaque located in the lay-by.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The Coleraine Avenue of Honour consists of two plantings located on either side the Glenelg Highway, starting approximately 2 kilometres to the west of the township of Coleraine. The two plantings form an avenue dedicated to the men and women of Shire of Wannon who served in World War One 1914 - 1918. The two distinct sections of the avenue are represented by different species of trees. The eastern part of the avenue planted with *Cupressus macrocarpa* 'horizontalis', representing those who died in active service in World War One. The western section of the avenue is planted with *Eucalyptus cephalocarpa*, representing those who served and returned alive.

A memorial ironstone boulder and simple bronze plaque, donated by the nearby Rigby Brothers Quarry lists the names and ranks of those who died in active service in World War One. This is situated in a lay by off the Glenelg Highway, and was erected in 1994 by the local Coleraine Apex Club.

HISTORY:

Avenues of honour were planted throughout Australia in the early 1920s to commemorate those Australians who had served, and in many cases fallen in the First World War 1914-1919. Common plantings were *Cupressus macrocarpa*, as they were a dark, somber tree, closely associated with cemeteries and symbolism of death. Although other trees were used, they were primarily European, and often had special symbolic significance. It was not common to see Australian plants included in Avenues of Honour or memorial plantings.

The Coleraine Avenue of Honour was planted by the Coleraine branch of the Returned Service League after 1919 to commemorate those who served in the First World War. It remembers those who survived by an avenue of *Eucalyptus cephalocarpa*, and those who fell in service are remembered by a more traditional planting of *Cupressus macrocarpa* 'Horizontalis', traditionally associated with memorials to those who have died. It is not known why *Eucalyptus cephalocarpa* were the chosen species to represent those who had served and returned, other than the obvious contrast and a sense of patriotism associated with planting of Australian trees to represent Australian men and women who had served.

In 1994, the Coleraine Apex Club erected a memorial plaque to those who died from the Shire of Wannon. The bronze plaque carries a list of their names and rank and is mounted on a large ironstone boulder donated by the nearby Rigby Brothers Quarry.

THEMATIC CONTEXT:

Theme 8: - Developing Australia's cultural life
8.8 Remembering the fallen

Theme 9 - Marking the phases of life
9.7 Dying
9.7.3 Remembering the dead

CONDITION:

The avenue is in fair condition. The *Cupressus macrocarpa* 'horizontalis' have been maintained in good condition, although some of the trees have large wounds from limb loss. The *Eucalyptus cephalocarpa* section of the avenue is in poor to fair condition as many of the trees have been lost or removed, and there has been little maintenance performed. The memorial boulder and plaque are in excellent condition.

INTEGRITY:

High Degree of Integrity

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

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What is significant?

The Coleraine Avenue of Honour is located 2 kilometres west of the township of Coleraine on the Glenelg Highway. There are two sections of planting, one dedicated to those who died in active service, and the other to those who served and returned. The avenue was planted after 1919 by the Coleraine branch of the Returned Services League as a living memorial to those who served in World War One between 1914 - 1918. The planting closest to the township is dedicated to those who died in the First World War, and consists of closely planted mature Cupressus macrocarpa 'Horizontalis' extending west for 1 kilometre on both sides of the Glenelg Highway. The second planting is an Avenue of Eucalyptus cephalocarpa extending west beyond the Cupressus. The avenue is dedicated to those who served and survived the war. There are no individual memorial plaques on trees, but there is a large ironstone boulder with a bronze plaque located in a lay-by in the middle of the avenue on the north side. The Cupressus macrocarpa are in good condition and retain a high degree of integrity. The Eucalyptus cephalocarpa are in poor condition and much of the integrity of this planting has been compromised through removal of trees.

How is it Significant?

The Coleraine Avenue of Honour is historically, socially and aesthetic significance to the township of Coleraine and the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it Significant?

The Coleraine Avenue of Honour is historically significant for its commemorative association with servicemen and women who died in the First World War. Planted after 1919 as a memorial to those who died and served between 1914 -1918, the avenue provides an important historical focus for the township of Coleraine. The use of Cupressus macrocarpa 'Horizontalis' as the planting is not unusual for a memorial avenue, but the use of an Eucalyptus cephalocarpa, an Australian native is uncommon. The use of native species is historically significant when contrasted to the almost always European species used for Avenues of Honour or memorial plantings. The Avenue is socially important for its relationship with the community as a living memorial. The Avenue is of aesthetic significance as it dominates and contrasts with the surrounding landscape. It provides a dark formal focus along the Glenelg Highway, an extension the main street thorough the township of Coleraine. The Avenue was planted as a living memorial and is recognised by the Returned Services League and the community for its continuing commemorative importance.

COMPARISON:

206 Avenue of Honour, Port Fairy-Hamilton Rd, Byaduk

205 Avenue of Honour, Byaduk-Penshurst Rd, Byaduk

ASSESSED BY: acn

ASSESSMENT DATE:

06-Sep-01

EXISTING LISTINGS:

Name

Southern Grampians Shire Planning Scheme

HERITAGE STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS:

Include in VHR Include in RNE Include in Local Planning Scheme

No Recommendations for Inclusions

REFERENCES:

Author	Title	Year	Page
Coleraine Historical Society	File Note - Trees		
Department of Lands & Survey	Parish of Konong Wootong County of Dundas	1922	