

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: AVENUE OF HONOUR

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Byaduk - Penshurst Road BYADUK

STUDY NUMBER: 189

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

PRECINCT: Byaduk

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

PARISH: PARISH OF BYADUK

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 473K C2; VicRoads 72 H9;

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local



Avenue of Honour, Byaduk-Penshurst Road, Byaduk. *Fraxinus angustifolia*

Image Date: 26/01/02

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. All the trees in the avenue (including the *Grevillia robusta*) and all of the land of the reserve.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The Avenue of honour along the Penshurst Road in Byaduk is a living memorial to those who served in World War One 1914-1918. It is located within the 'memorial precinct' of Byaduk, surrounded by the Mechanic's Institute, the JA Christie Oval, the Peter Christie Reserve, a Monument to the Byaduk Flower Mill, the World War Two and Boer war memorials and a memorial of Byaduk's 150 years. The location is an important historical focus for the township of Byaduk

The avenue has been planted out with *Fraxinus angustifolia* (Claret Ash) in a traditional avenue style, on either side of the road. The avenue is not complete, having a single row of five trees on the south side of the Penshurst Road, alongside the J.A Christie Oval. From the Peter Christie Reserve, the avenue is on both sides of the road extending east for approximately 300 metres. There are 24 trees in all, one of these is less mature than the rest and appears to have been replaced in the 1980s. There is also one young *Grevillia robusta* (silky oak) planted in place of one of the *Fraxinus angustifolia*. This tree may serve as a reminder of the original avenue of honour planted after 1918, which consisted of 40 silky oaks to represent the 40 men who had served in World War One.

For the main part, the trees are set in mown grass, although toward the southern part of the avenue, many woody weeds have self seeded amongst the specimen trees, reducing the visual impact of the avenue. The majority of the *Fraxinus angustifolia* appear to be in good condition.

A bronze plaque is set in a large piece of shaped granite on the western side of the Penshurst Road. This states "Byaduk Avenue of Honour was planted in memory of those men who served in World War 1914-1918". The plaque also lists the name and ranks of those who served.

HISTORY:

The Byaduk Avenue of Honour has had two separate plantings of living memorial. The first plantings were undertaken in 1918, immediately after the end of World War One. Forty *Grevillia robusta* (Silky oak) were planted from the intersection of the Hamilton - Port Fairy Road stretching west along the Penshurst Road to the old mill bridge. The total cost for the trees, guards and memorial plaques in 1918 was twenty six pounds.

A manuscript held by the Mechanic's Institute, attributed to the head teacher, Mr. J.V Danahar describes how all of the residents of Byaduk attended the tree planting. "All the residents of Byaduk were present for the setting of the trees. The school children, under the leadership of their teacher, Mr. A. Paul, rendered patriotic selections. Councillor D. Fraser opened the ceremony and planted the first tree, that in honour of this brother, the late Lieut. S. Fraser. A relative or a friend then planted a tree in honour of each of the remaining thirty - nine soldiers". At the time the manuscript was written (1922) he stated that " all of the trees are growing, and are now about eight feet high. On each guard, there is a white enamelled name plate bearing in black letters the name and rank of the soldier and the name of the country in which he fought. To the name plates of the heroes who fell a black cross has been added"

These trees stood as a living memorial to the forty men who served in the First World War. The use of silky oak as a memorial planting is unusual, and certainly uncommon in Victoria. It is not known why this species of tree was chosen, rather than the more traditional choices of Cypress, Plane, Oak or Elm. No other memorial plantings have used this species in the Shire of Southern Grampians.

The original planting of Silky oaks were removed in 1963. This may have been due to poor condition and senescence as this species tends to be short lived and difficult to maintain well in this area.

A tablet of grey granite on a concrete base was erected between 1957-8 to replace the cast-iron name plates at the foot of each tree as they had been badly vandalised. This tablet was designed by Holden of Holden and

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Grambau, Ballarat Road, Hamilton.

A decision was made to replant the avenue with *Fraxinus angustifolia* (Claret Ash), and the current avenue was planted on the 4th of July, 1963. It is not known why this species was chosen to as the choice for replanting the avenue, although it has been suggested it may be for the symbolic crimson autumnal foliage.

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 physical condition of the *Fraxinus angustifolia* is good to fair. The general condition of the avenue is fair to poor due to the weed infestation and removal of significant specimen trees.

INTEGRITY:

The integrity of the avenue has been reduced as weed species have overtaken parts of the avenue, there are many trees from the 1963 planting which have died and not been replaced and one side of the eastern part of the avenue has been removed.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is significant?

The Byaduk Avenue of Honour stretches west along the Penshurst Road from the intersection with the Hamilton - Port Fairy Road. The avenue consists of 24 *Fraxinus angustifolia* (Claret Ash) planted in a single row of 5 to the eastern part of the plantation, and an avenue on either side of the road to the west extending to the old Mill Bridge. The avenue was planted in 1918 with forty *Grevillia robusta* (silky oak) to form a living memorial to those who served in the First World War 1914-18. Each tree had a memorial plaque at the foot of the tree. In 1957, the memorial plaques were removed and a granite tablet with a bronze plaque was erected to list those who had served. The *Grevillia robusta* (silky oak) were replaced in 1963 with the current *Fraxinus Angustifolia* (Claret Ash).

How is it significant?

The World War One Avenue of Honour is of social and historical significance to the township of Byaduk.

Why is it significant?

The Avenue of Honour in Byaduk is of social significance to the township of Byaduk as a living memorial to all who served in World War One, including those who died and those who survived. The local school teacher wrote of the whole township attending the planting of the original avenue of honour. The planting of the second avenue was also a social activity which was undertaken by the local community in 1963. Historically it represents the attitudes of the township and surrounding district to those who served in the First World War. It is also an important historical reminder to future generations of the sacrifice that those who served made, and of the human loss sustained in this conflict.

COMPARISON:

SSG 0839 - Avenue of Honour, Glenelg Highway, Coleraine
SSG 0206 - Avenue of Honour, Hamilton - Port Fairy Road, Byaduk
SSG 0714 Avenue of Honour, Hamilton Highway, Penshurst

ASSESSED BY: aen

ASSESSMENT DATE:

30-Jan-02

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EXISTING LISTINGS:

HERITAGE STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS:

Include in VHR Include in RNE Include in Local Planning Scheme

No Recommendations for Inclusions

REFERENCES:

Author	Title	Year	Page
Gordon Rentsch	Back to Byaduk School Centenary 1872-1972	1972	
unknown, attributed to J.V Danaher, head teacher of Byaduk Primary School 1922-26	Byaduk	1922	