

FIRE BELL TREE - YELLOW BOX  
(*EUCALYPTUS MELLIODORA*),  
IN FRONT OF NO.832 HEIDELBERG-KINGLAKE ROAD,  
HURSTBRIDGE.

AGE:	PRE 1890
THEMES ILLUSTRATED BY THIS PLACE:	EARLY SETTLEMENT GROWTH OF TOWNS
BASIS OF SIGNIFICANCE:	HISTORY SOCIAL ILLUSTRATION OF THE THEMES
DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE:	LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE
EXTENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:	TREE AND ROAD RESERVE TO A RADIUS OF 10 METRES
RECOMMENDATIONS:	LOCAL PLANNING PROTECTION CONSERVATION AREA - HURSTBRIDGE



Fire Bell Tree, in Front of 832 Heidelberg-Kinglake Road  
Cont.

CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE:

Used to support the Hurstbridge fire bell, this tree illustrates the social importance of the bell in the past, the ingenuity of the local residents in small country settlements and the local community basis of fire fighting during the 19th and early 20th centuries, prior to the common availability of moter vehicles and mechanical plant which allowed a more regional approach.

HISTORY:

Original Use:

Fire bell fixed to a piece of timber bolted to two branches towards the top of the tree.

Present Use:

Road plantation tree - all remains of the bell have been removed.

Fire was an ever present threat to all country communities in the days when the local fire brigade with its buckets and horse drawn fire engine was all there was to control and extinguish fires (with local community support as well of course). The tolling of the fire bell called the volunteer brigade members to assemble to go and fight the fire and also warned the community in general. The small Hurstbridge community could not afford a man-made structure to hold their bell, so a gum tree growing in the road reserve of the main street was used instead. This tree illustrates both the social significance of the fire bell and country ingenuity in locating it where all could access and hear it.

DESCRIPTION:

Height more than 18 Metres, trunk diametre circa 900MM.

CONSERVATION GUIDELINES:

This tree is in fair condition, but has some dieback in the canopy and is possibly suffering some detrimental effects from road works in its root zone. Ensure that no works, such as road works or excavation to install services, takes place unless this tree's roots are protected from damage. Avoid compaction of the roots.