

<b>Site:</b>	Fairfield Park	<b>Significance:</b>	B
<b>Address:</b>	Fairfield Park Drive, Fairfield	<b>Map Ref:</b>	30 112
<b>Access:</b>	Unrestricted	<b>Survey Date:</b>	8/5/98



<b>Intactness:</b>		<b>Condition:</b>	
E <input type="checkbox"/>	G <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	F <input type="checkbox"/>	P <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Existing Heritage Listings:</b>		<b>Recommended Heritage Listings:</b>	
Victorian Heritage Register	<input type="checkbox"/>	Victorian Heritage Register	<input type="checkbox"/>
Register of the National Estate	<input type="checkbox"/>	Register of the National Estate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Planning Scheme	<input type="checkbox"/>	HO Controls	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
National Trust	<input type="checkbox"/>		

### Description

An MMBW water main has existed on the Fairfield Park site since 1878, crossing the river to the south of the site. The bridge was damaged in the 1934 floods, and rebuilt in 1937. Swimming carnivals began on the site in March 1908 and continued for many years. At this time the park was a grassed embankment with a timber landing for boating on the river.

Fairfield Park was leveled and fenced in 1912. Mr. Brown of the Heidelberg Shire Parks and Gardens Committee laid out the paths and planting. The Chief Engineer of the Public Works Department designed the rockeries on the hillside facing the river, completed by 1914. 400 trees from the Mt Macedon Nursery were planted, a picket fence built and an iron portal placed at the entry. The park, covering 15 acres, was officially reserved for public purposes at this time.

In December 1932 the Fairfield Swimming and Life Saving Clubhouse was opened on the bend of the river. A rotunda was also featured in the park, but has been removed. Its siting is marked by a group of palms. A football oval is located in the western section of the site.

### Remnant Fabric (Man Made)

The water main and associated bridge is prominent within the park. The terracing established by 1914 appears to be largely intact, and has been augmented by a recent amphitheatre complex immediately to the east of the Swimming Clubhouse.

### Remnant Fabric (Vegetation)

The site features a wide variety of trees, with conifers forming much of the structure to the park. They include Monterey Pine (*Pinus radiata*), Blue Atlantic Cedar (*Cedrus atlantica* var *glauca*) and Italian and Monterey Cypress (*Cupressus sempervirens* and *C. macrocarpa*). Other trees of note include Elm (*Ulmus x hollandica*), Common Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Fan Palm (*Washingtonia robusta*).

### Potential Threats

Butler (1982) has noted that there has been a noticeable loss of certain trees, principally the Cypress border on Heidelberg Road, but the character of the place has generally been maintained. Further removal of mature trees and failure to replace them with the same species will adversely effect the heritage character of the place. Introduction of new species to the site, particularly inappropriate native species will further erode the heritage character of the site.

### Management Steps

The site requires the preparation of an overall Master Plan and Management Plan that would seek to reinforce the strong heritage character of the area. It should outline appropriate strategies for the replacement of senescent plant material and the introduction of new species, particularly in relation to restoration projects, such as the old rockeries. Guidelines for appropriate hard landscaping and detailing should also be included.

### Statement of Significance

Fairfield Park is locally significant as a major recreational facility representing early and diverse recreational uses along the Yarra, as well as extensive plantings and landscaping typical of the Edwardian period.

### Reference

Butler, G. *Northcote Urban Conservation Study*. Unpublished report prepared for the City of Northcote, 1982.