

RED BOX TREE

Eucalyptus polyanthemus

Place No. 245

ADDRESS	4 Dudley Road Wonga Park	Last Update
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DESCRIPTION Large Red Box tree, located close to Dudley Road.

Condition	Good	Integrity	Intact
Threats	Deterioration	Key elements	
Designer	N/A		

HISTORY Estimated to be at least 300 years old[1], this tree pre-dates the ownership of its site (Crown Allotment 9K) by Thomas Gamon, President of the Eight Hours Pioneers Association.[2] Gamon's allotment was listed in the Lilydale rate records as an EHPS property, that is an Eight Hours Pioneer Settlement property. Gamon, who was born in 1820 in County Cheshire in England, was apprenticed in Liverpool and became Foreman Mason during the building of the Birkenhead Docks. He was later Inspector of Works under Joseph Cupitt, engineer-in-chief on the Great Northern Railways constructed by Thomas Brassey. Gamon arrived in Melbourne in 1852 and at first went to the diggings at Forest Creek. He joined the Masons' (Stonemasons) Society during the Eight Hours agitation in 1856. Gamon was afterwards foreman mason at the building of St Paul's Schools (site of the present cathedral) and at the construction of a lighthouse at Wilsons' Promontory. Murphy's history contains a photo of Gamon, then Association president, as well as biographical details.

Gamon owned CA 9K from 1893 to 1901. Between 1896 and 1900 substantial buildings were erected on Gamon's Wonga Park property. These included a four-roomed wood house valued at 100 pounds (a very high valuation at the time), stables, fowl house and cart shed. There were four acres of garden and 500 fruit trees had been planted. By 1901, the dwelling was a four-roomed weatherboard house with a detached room, 700 fruit trees had been planted and there was a half an acre of raspberries and the same of strawberries. By this time Gamon was working as a contractor and clerk of works and living in Bell Street, Preston. A manager was residing on the land and running the Wonga Park property. Subsequently, the property was transferred to Leila Ada Cocking, who secured the Crown Grant in 1904.[2]

Despite Lands Department requirements for clearing these allotments, this Red Box tree has survived and is said to be the largest of its type left in the Wonga Park district.[3] Large trees were grubbed out from the road alignment, but this example was left.[4] It is shown on early twentieth century photographs as a large tree.

Creation Date	1600 (or earlier) - present	Change Dates
Associations		Local Themes
Herbert Read Snr.		1.05 - Landmark trees

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE Of local significance as a local landmark and reputedly as the largest of its type left in the Wonga Park district. Of high regional botanical significance. (Criterion G1)

LEVEL

RECOMMENDATIONS

Heritage Register Listings

Register	Reference	Zoning	Status
None Specified			

Extent

Heritage Schedule

External Paint Controls:	On VHR:	VHR Ref No:
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Internal Alteration Controls:

Prohibited Uses:

Tree Controls:

Aboriginal Heritage Place:

Outbuildings or Fences:

Incorporated Plan:

Incorporated Plan Details

Description:

Conservation Management

Extra Research

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- BIBLIOGRAPHY** [1] S. Bedggood/Ecology Australia: "Preliminary findings, Sites of Biological Significance in the Wonga Park Area (in prep.)".
[2] Land File No.11352/50.
[3] Discover Wonga Park. Place No. 19.
[4] Herbert Read: Workshop Place 1.