

# COLELLA ORCHARD

Elder Orchard

Place No. 232

**ADDRESS** 14 - 14A Gatters Road  
Wonga Park

**Last Update** 5/09/2005

**DESCRIPTION** Old pear trees (Packham Pears) remain to mark this early orchard site, the other buildings and balance of the orchard having been redeveloped over the years. The pear trees are thought to be more than 50 years old (and perhaps around 75 years old - c1918).

Corrugated iron-clad orchard buildings of c1940 remain on site.

**Condition** Good **Integrity** Intact

**Threats** None apparent **Key elements** Buildings  
Tree(s)

**Designer**

**HISTORY** Most of the current plantings (mainly apples) in the Colella orchard date from the 1970s or later, when the present orchard was established on the site of an earlier c1918 pear orchard. According to family knowledge, Pasquale Colella purchased the earlier small orchard property from Davis in c1944.[2] Sands and McDougall's Victorian Directories confirm that Pasquale Colella resided at Gatters Road, Croydon (the allotment's southern boundary) at least from 1947. The Colella family extended the orchard, diversifying from pears and plums to a wider range of fruit trees, especially apples. A group of old pear trees, ('Packham's Triumph' - an Australian variety), believed to date from the earlier orchard, is surrounded today by later plantings.[3]

About a century ago, in the 1890s, the site of the old pear orchard in Crown Allotment 14T, Parish of Warrandyte, was owned by John Buchan, a Melbourne auctioneer.[4] It was one of a large number of blocks in Crown Allotment 14, west of Yarra Road, owned by Buchan.[5]

The property has been associated with orchardists from the First World War period. David John and Thomas William Elder, Doncaster East orchardists, were rated for 80 acres in Wonga Park in 1914-15.[6] By 1919-20 Arthur Elder, orchardist, was the owner/occupier of 40 acres in 14T and the adjacent 14C. William Sydney Elder, orchardist, was owner/occupier of about 40 acres and a house in 14V and 14W, blocks further to the east.[7]

The Elder family, well-known district orchardists, are associated with the surviving orchard house and fruit shed at 24 Yarra Road, located on land between Gatters Road and St. John's Street.[8]

In the late 1930s, Arthur Elder, orchardist of Blackburn Road, Doncaster East, was rated as owner/occupier of about 40 acres in 14T (the site of the Colella orchard) and 14V [9].

A brief account of the Elder's orchard at Wonga Park is given in McGivern's history of Croydon. There were several Elder sons, three of whom enlisted in the first A.I.F. when their parents first came to Croydon (a name given to parts of Wonga Park in earlier times), Mrs Elder reputedly 'led a house cow from Doncaster along White Horse Road to the new selection'. Mr Elder was 90 when he died, at Healesville.[10]

## SOURCES

- [1] Workshop Place 11.
- [2] Pers. comm. Nina and Tony Colella.
- [3] Pers. comm. Nina and Tony Colella.
- [4] Shire of Lillydale RB 1895. SW Riding No. 935.
- [5] Parish of Warrandyte. Parish Plan.
- [6] Shire of Lillydale RB 1914-15. Nos. 2211, 2213.
- [7] Shire of Lillydale RB 1919-20. Nos. 2650, 2653.
- [8] Place No. 20.16.06.
- [9] Shire of Lillydale RB 1938-39. No. 6078.
- [10] Muriel McGivern. A History of Croydon, Vol. 2, p.135.

**Creation Date** 1918 - present **Change Dates**

**Associations** **Local Themes**

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE** What is Significant?  
 Colella Orchards at 14 and 14A Gatters Road, Wonga Park, comprising old pear trees, a re-planted orchard and related c.1940s corrugated iron buildings.

How is it Significant?  
 Colella Orchards, 14 and 14A Gatters Road, Wonga Park is of historic significance to Manningham City.

Why is it Significant?  
 Of historic significance as an important district orcharding property from the First World War period, associated with the Elders (Doncaster East and Wonga Park orchardists) and from the 1940s with the Colella family, and demonstrating the pattern of change and replanting typical of such properties. A single group of old pear trees remain from the earlier orchard of the Elder family. (RNE criteria D2, H1)

**LEVEL** Local significance

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Heritage Register Listings**

Register	Reference	Zoning	Status
National Heritage List	HO67		Listed

**Extent** The whole of properties at 14 and 14A Gatters Road as defined by the title boundaries.

**Heritage Schedule**

External Paint Controls:	On VHR:	VHR Ref No:
Internal Alteration Controls:	Prohibited Uses:	
Tree Controls:	Aboriginal Heritage Place:	
Outbuildings or Fences:	Incorporated Plan:	Incorporated Plan Details
Description:		

**Conservation Management**

In order to conserve the heritage significance of this place, it is recommended that the following conservation objectives, as appropriate, be given priority in the future maintenance, development or management of the place:

1. Conserve the fabric of the building/s or other built elements, which is identified as contributing to the significance of the place. This includes the original fabric as well as fabric that may demonstrate important successive stages in the historic development of the place and/or provide evidence of changing architectural styles or techniques.
2. Discourage the demolition of significant or contributory buildings unless the demolition is only of part of the building and it can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the responsible authority that, as appropriate:
  - The fabric to be removed is not significant, or
  - The fabric to be removed is not of primary significance and its removal will not adversely affect the significance of the place, or
  - It will assist in the long term conservation of the place, or
  - It will facilitate the historic use of the place and will not result in the loss of fabric considered to be primary significance.

Note: The poor condition or low integrity of a heritage place should not be used as justification for its demolition, particularly if it appears the condition of the heritage place has deliberately been allowed to deteriorate.

3. Where there is a complex of buildings and other elements the aim should be to conserve or reveal the historic visual relationship between the buildings and other elements in order to demonstrate the

historical use and/or layout of the place.

4. Conserve significant plantings on the property, and maintain a visual relationship between the plantings and the significant buildings on the property.
5. Encourage the removal of non-significant or intrusive elements, particularly where this would assist in understanding or interpreting the significance of the place.
6. Ensure that the siting and design of new development does not overwhelm the historic setting of the building and the site as a whole by becoming a dominant element or by interfering with key views to and from the site.
7. Encourage any new development on the property to relate and be complementary in form, scale and materials to the significant buildings and other elements, but be clearly contemporary in design.
8. Retain views of significant building(s) and plantings from the street.
9. In the case of subdivision of the property, encourage the retention of the significant buildings, trees and related elements on one lot.

**NOTE:**

While every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in this citation is accurate, it is possible that more detailed investigation may reveal further information about the significance of the place. For example, in most cases an internal inspection was not made of buildings at the time of initial assessment. In the time since the place was first assessed it is also possible that the condition of buildings or trees may have changed.

The information contained in this citation should therefore be reviewed at the time that it is proposed to make changes to the property. This would likely require a more detailed assessment of any significant or contributory element that is affected by any proposed buildings or works. Once this more detailed assessment has been made, a review of the significance of the place should be carried out by Council's Heritage Adviser or an appropriately qualified professional.

**Extra Research**

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- BIBLIOGRAPHY** Context Pty Ltd, (1997), Wonga Park Heritage Study (Report on Stages 1 and 2), Manningham City Council, Doncaster  
Context Pty Ltd, (2005), Manningham Heritage Study Review, City of Manningham, Doncaster