

## Manningham Heritage Garden & Significant Tree Study

### Significant Tree Information Sheet

**Tree Identification No.:** 33  
**Botanical Name:** *Ficus carica*  
**Common Name:** Edible Fig  
**Location:** 131 High St, Doncaster



Private land	X	Public land	
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**Melway Ref:** 33 A11  
**Setting/Position:** Surrounded by decking at the rear of the house in a raised bluestone garden bed.

**No. of trees:** 1  
**Height:** c. 3m

**Canopy Spread (m) E-W:** 4m  
**N-S:** 9m

**DBH:** 414mm- before branching

**Approx. Age of Tree:** 100Years+

**TPZ:** 4.9m      **CRZ:** 2.4m



**Category of Significance:**

Horticultural Value	X	Location or context	X	Rare or localised		Particularly old	X	Outstanding size	X
Aesthetic value		Curious growth form	X	Historic value	X	Aboriginal culture		Outstanding eg. of species	X

**Level of Significance:** State

**History:** Original House was built in 1896 with the parterre garden thought to have been designed by Baron von Mueller. The Fig tree would probably date from soon after the construction of the house and would be of a similar vintage to the garden. Extensions to the house in the 1960s/70s have come within one metre of the tree but do not appear to have had an adverse effect on its health.

**Health:**

Pests/Diseases		Dead wood		Dieback	
Stunted growth		Stress		Rot	
Leaf necrosis	X	Low foliage density		Possum damage	

**Other/Notes:** Slight leaf necrosis otherwise appears healthy and is fruiting well.

**Health Rating:** 2

**Threats/Risks to Tree:** House is in close proximity however trees roots can spread through garden bed, and decking reduces compaction. Vigorous fibrous root system and health of tree suggest the extension has not had a significant impact on the health of the tree.

**Hazards/Risks:**

Co-dominant branches		V-crotched	
Irregular branch structure	X	Low-hanging branches (unsafe)	X
Diseased limbs		Other	X

**Other/Notes:** Tree has many low branches and an irregular branching structure comprised of three, large spreading limbs.

**Works Required & Priority:** None

**Management Prescriptions:** Tree should be assessed by a qualified arborist every 2-3 years, identifying and carrying out works as required. Branch dieback should also be monitored and the decking regularly cut away from around the trunk to allow the tree room to grow. Low hanging branches should not be removed unless in the opinion of a qualified arborist they are likely to fail. The low spreading nature of the tree, and the way it is mostly confined to the garden bed in which it grows, suggests that despite the low nature of the limbs, they should not affect traffic round the tree. The removal of these limbs would dramatically damage the significance, aesthetic value and form of the tree and should occur only as last resort. These limbs may require propping to prevent the tree breaking apart. This tree should be propagated to allow a replacement specimen to be established. The propagation of this tree also ensures that as an old fruit tree it is not lost and is still available to use in future breeding programs.

**Existing Overlay Controls:** Heritage Overlay (HO82), Vegetation Protection Overlay (VPO3)

**Statement of Significance:** The Fig tree at 131 High Street is of state significance for its age, outstanding size for the species, curious spreading limbs, horticultural value, and connection with the historically significant house and garden. The tree is also significant as an outstanding example of the species.

**Overall Tree Rating:** 2

**Recorded by:** Andrea Proctor

**Date:** 11-03-05

**ID Confirmed:** Andrea Proctor