

Manningham Heritage Garden & Significant Tree Study

Significant Tree Information Sheet

Tree Identification No.: 36
Botanical Name: *Phoenix canariensis*
Common Name: Canary Island Palm
Location: 51-53 Victoria St, Doncaster

Private land	X	Public land	
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Melway Ref: 33 J11

Setting/Position: Two Canary Island palms in the front garden of Trinity Lutheran Church. The trees form a symmetrical planting either side of the main path into the church.

No. of trees: 2

Height: 12m (average)

Canopy Spread (m) E-W: 6m
N-S: 6m

DBH: c.650mm

Approx. Age of Tree: 90 years

TPZ: 3.9m **CRZ:** 3.0m

Category of Significance:

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

Level of Significance: Regional

History: The existing palms replace two previous trees (species unknown) that were supplied to the church by Baron von Mueller but failed thrive. The National Trust listed church was built in 1892, the two palms were planted c. 1916. At the time of the original inspection (March 2003) there was English Box hedging (*Buxus sempervirens*) surrounding both palms which appeared to be contemporary with their planting, and was comparable with the Parterre garden in 131 High St, Doncaster. However, when the site was revisited in July 2005 these hedges had been removed.

Source: Context Pty Ltd, Manningham City Council Heritage Study, 1991

Health:

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

Other/Notes: The palms are both in good overall health at the time of the inspection

Health Rating: 1

Threats/Risks to Tree: The risk of Fusarium wilt is a serious threat which should be appropriately managed. Access to water, air and nutrients is also reduced due to the restricted amount of soil-surface area around their base.



Hazards/Risks:

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

Other/Notes: No hazards or risks evident at the time of inspection.

Works Required & Priority: No immediate works required at the time of inspection.

Management Prescriptions: Remove dead palm fronds as required. Monitor for Mirror bush (*Coprosma repens*) infestation in the canopies of the palms, and remove as required. Correct hygiene must be practiced when carrying out any maintenance work to prevent the spread of Fusarium wilt fungus. This would include the disinfection of pruning equipment between trees.
Removed Box hedges should be reinstated in the form of as advanced a specimens as is practicable. These hedges should be in the same form as those removed and would increase the level of significance of the trees by re-instating the previous planting design.

Existing Overlay Controls: Heritage Overlay (HO171)

Statement of Significance: The two Canary Island Palms within the front garden of the Trinity Lutheran Church, 51 Victoria Street, Doncaster are considered to be of regional significance for their connection with the National Trust listed church (c.1892), adding to the significance of the setting. They are also significant as replacements for two trees originally supplied by Baron Ferdinand von Mueller.

The English Box hedges surrounding the palms were also likely to have been of high significance, being comparable to those reputedly designed by von Mueller at 131 High Street, Doncaster. The box hedges may also have been designed by von Mueller due to the connection with the palms and the similarity to the hedges at 131 High Street.

Overall Tree Rating: 1

Recorded by: Susan Tallon

Date: 11-03-03

ID Confirmed: Susan Tallon