

Identification and location

Name of place: **Kurrajong street trees**

Other Name

Address

Place Identifier

Heritage Significance

Creation date(s)

Map (Melway)

Boundary description

Local Government Area

Ownership Type

Description

Site Type:

Physical Description

An incomplete row of `Brachychiton populneus' street trees, most semi mature, along the north side and part of the south side of the street, with some lily pily planting intermixed. The use of the Kurrajong as a street tree is uncommon in the City. There are 19 `Brachychiton populneus' on the north and 6 on the south, plus a total of 8 lily pily on the north and south.

The Brachychiton genus `consists of around 30 species of warm-climate, evergreen or dry-season deciduous trees and shrubs, all Australian except one or two found in New Guinea. Some brachychitons are noted for their spectacular flowers, which are bell-shaped, the apparent petals actually being coloured calyces, and in most species appearing just before the new leaves of summer. The leaves are diverse in shape but are commonly lobed, though lobing tends to disappear on adult trees. The fruits consist of 5 stalked, boat-shaped carpels, rather woody when mature and splitting to release nut-like seeds that are edible but are surrounded by irritant hairs {Botanica}'.

The Kurrajong (`Brachychiton populneus') is `widely distributed on rocky hillsides in eastern Australia, this bushy headed evergreen tree is grown chiefly for shade, or on farms for its fodder

value in times of scarcity. The glossy olive green leaves are variably lobed. During summer it produces, among the foliage, masses of greenish cream bell-shaped flowers, spotted inside with purple or yellow to attract bees. It will tolerate a limestone soil {Botanica}'.

Condition

good (partially disturbed, well preserved)

Integrity

substantially intact/some intrusions

Context

Adjoins 1920s weatherboard development in street (21, 51, 55) with later development also very evident.

Threats:

Pruning for added and existing service lines, pollution, removal with maturity, new crossovers and carparking, root compaction, adjoining development.

History

The Township of Maribyrnong was created out of Raleigh's Crown Grant of 1847. Based on the Maribyrnong estate plan, it was gazetted as an official town as late as 1909 {VGG 1909:1449}. Located just south of the town, Bloomfield Rd was part of Raleigh's 51 acre Crown Portion (CA4/XXI). A 1915 plan of the area noted this site as 'quarries' with the Highpoint Shopping centre to the south being eventually built on an old quarry site {Ford & Lewis: 35}. The street is shown on Melbourne street directories of the 1940s, south of the new tramline which had been extended in 1941 along Raleigh Rd {Morgans: 64}. These trees are not shown on the 1945 or 1951 aerial photographs and are thought to have been planted in the immediate post WW2 period. The adjacent residential area developed between the 1920s and 1950s.

Ornamental plantings of this species became fashionable early in the 20th century (particularly in the inter-war period) due to the drought hardiness and popularity of Australian trees. The popularity for this species gained wider use after WW2 when medium sized and hardy native trees such as the Kurrajong, but more frequently the paperbark, were planted.

Thematic context

Australian Principal Theme

PAHT Subtheme

Local Theme(s)

Cultural Significance

'Brachychiton populneus' street trees are significant to the City of Maribyrnong:

- as uncommon trees in a mature street tree context within the City (Criterion B2); and

- as indicative of street tree choice in the post WW2 period where hardy native species were favoured, although not typically this species (Criterion A4).

Comparative Examples:

No other Kurrajong street avenues identified in the City of Maribyrnong.

Recommendations

Heritage Victoria Register

Register of the National Estate:

National Trust Register:

Other Heritage Listings

Planning Scheme Protection

External Paint Controls Apply?:

Internal Alteration Controls Apply?:

Tree Controls Apply?:

Included on the Victorian Heritage Register under the Act:

Are there Outbuildings or Fences not Exempt?:

Prohibited Uses may be Permitted

Recommendations:

The following management objectives have been drawn from the Statement of Significance:

- to conserve and enhance the listed trees and the row planting pattern at the place where enhancement includes replacement of missing original components in the planting scheme;
- to conserve and enhance the visual relationship between trees at the place;
- to conserve and enhance the public view of these trees;
- to ensure that new plantings or elements within the place are visually recessive and related to the trees;
- to ensure that replacement trees match the existing specimens and pattern of planting; and
- to maintain the link with the street's history, via promotion and publication of the findings.

Australian Heritage Commission Criteria

A4 Importance for their association with events, developments or cultural phases which have had a significant role in the human occupation and evolution of the nation, state, region or community.

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B2 Importance in demonstrating a distinctive way of life, custom, process, land-use, function or design no longer practiced, in danger of being lost, or of exceptional interest.

as uncommon trees in a mature street tree context within the City

Historic Places - Significant Trees in the City of Maribyrnong

historical significanc architectural significan social significance scientific significanc

Documentation

References

`Botanica' CD Rom 1997 (Beaver Multimedia P/L, Random House Australia)
Butler, 1989. City of Footscray Urban Conservation Study;
Landinfo - aerial photographs 1945 Run 28A, 60199, 1951;
Footscray Council committee minutes (VPRO) VPRS 005337

Data recording

Assessed By:

Assessed Date:

Historic Places - Significant Trees in the City of Maribyrnong

