

**ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL
HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE AND
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
RECOMMENDATION TO THE
HERITAGE COUNCIL**



NAME	ST KILDA ROAD
LOCATION	MELBOURNE and SOUTHBANK and ST KILDA, MELBOURNE CITY, PORT PHILLIP CITY
VHR NUMBER:	PROV H2359
CATEGORY:	HERITAGE PLACE
HERITAGE OVERLAY	PARTLY IN CITY OF MELBOURNE, SOUTH MELBOURNE PRECINCT (HO5)
FILE NUMBER:	FOL/16/513
HERMES NUMBER:	198047



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RECOMMENDATION TO THE HERITAGE COUNCIL:

- That St Kilda Road be included as a Heritage Place in the Victorian Heritage Register under the *Heritage Act 1995* [Section 32 (1)(a)].

TIM SMITH

Executive Director

Recommendation Date: 13 May 2016

EXTENT OF NOMINATION

The whole of the road known as St Kilda Road, being the road reserve extending from Princes Bridge, Melbourne in the north, to the intersection with Henry Street, Melbourne in the south. It includes the roadway, medians, garden beds, kerbing, plane trees (*Platanus xacerifolia*) and elm trees (*Ulmus procera*), and footpaths. The Edmund Fitzgibbon Memorial, located in the south-eastern median at the intersection of St Kilda Road and Linlithgow Avenue is nominated as a feature. The nominated area abuts the Princes Bridge VHR extent (H1447), but does not include it. The nomination does not include properties abutting the road reserve.



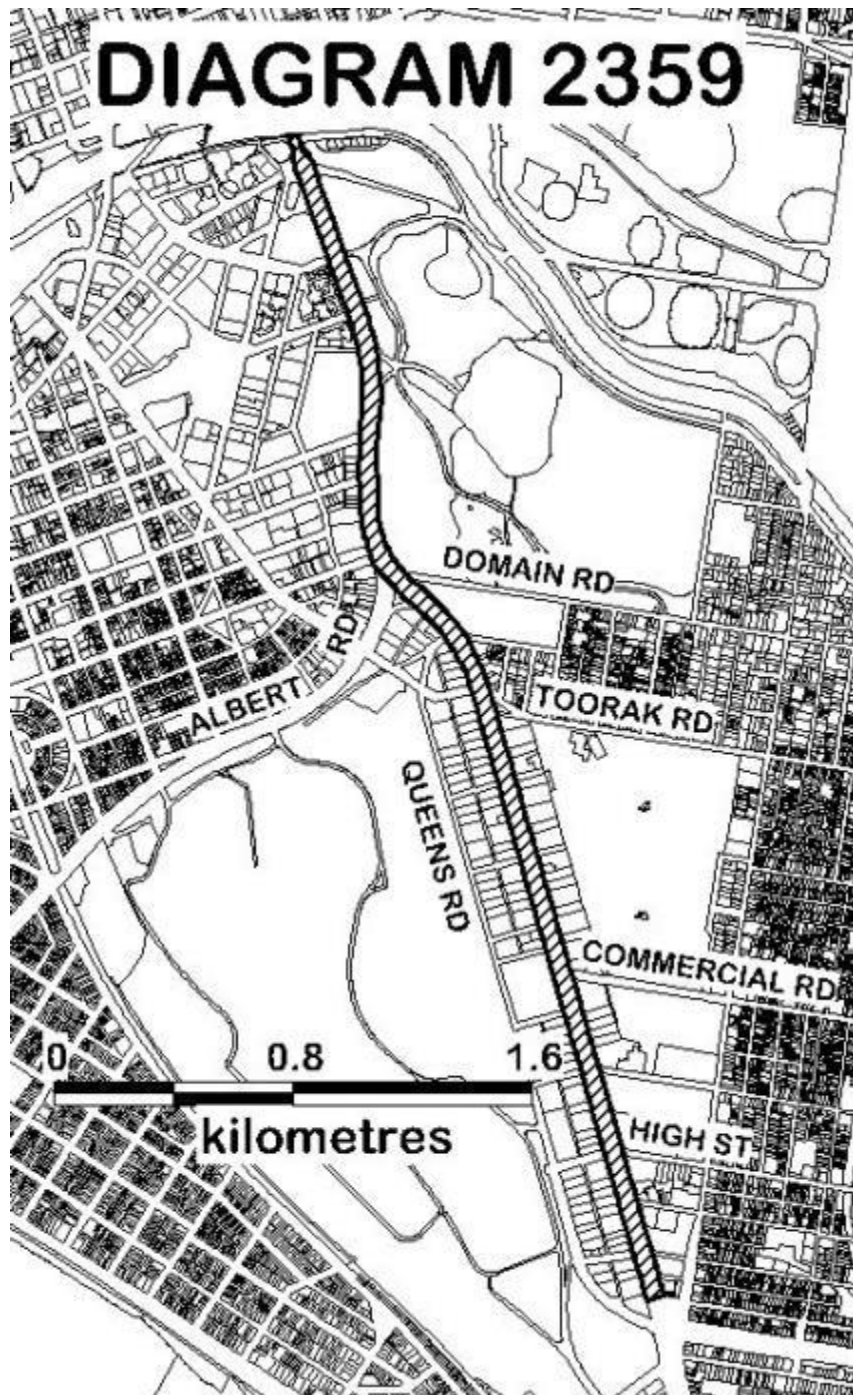
Existing registrations within the nominated area

It is noted that three existing registrations are included within the nominated area (Tram Shelter H1867, Tram Shelter H1868 and Tram Shelter H1869).

RECOMMENDED REGISTRATION

DRAFT ONLY: NOT ENDORSED BY THE HERITAGE COUNCIL

All of the place shown hatched on Diagram 2359 encompassing all of the road reserve for St Kilda Road beginning from the northern boundary of Alexandra Avenue to a line drawn from the south western corner of Lot 5 on Lodged Plan 33497 (649 St Kilda Road) perpendicular to the alignment of St Kilda Road.



The extent of registration of St Kilda Road in the Victorian Heritage Register affects the whole place shown on Diagram 2359 including the land, roadways, trees, landscape elements, historical archaeology and other features.

STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

DRAFT ONLY: NOT ENDORSED BY THE HERITAGE COUNCIL

WHAT IS SIGNIFICANT?

St Kilda Road, the boulevard leading south from the city, extending from Princes Bridge, Melbourne to Henry Street, Melbourne near the St Kilda Junction, including the roadway, medians, garden beds, kerbing, footpaths, trees, the Edmund Fitzgibbon Memorial, and a single lamp post on the east median, south of High Street.

History Summary

St Kilda Road developed from Baxter's Track which led from Melbourne to Baxter's Stockyard in St Kilda from the 1830s. As early as the 1840s, the east side of St Kilda Road was chosen as the location of public institutions, such as the first Immigrants Home, and Governor La Trobe had reserved a site for a Government House in the nearby Domain by 1840. By the early 1850s St Kilda Road was a main thoroughfare and more institutions were built along it, such as Victoria Barracks (1856-72), Melbourne Grammar School (1856), the Observatory (1861) and the School for the Blind (1866). In the mid-1870s, the first allotments along St Kilda Road, near Fawkner Park, were auctioned for residential development. Improvements were undertaken to St Kilda Road in the late 1880s, prompted by the introduction of cable tramways along the length of the road in 1888. The road was soon after referred to as a 'boulevard'. The ceremonial and symbolic importance of St Kilda Road was enhanced with the construction of the Shrine of Remembrance in 1934 which incorporated the vista along St Kilda Road and Swanston Street. With the 1950s rezoning of land along St Kilda Road to allow for non-residential development, the character of the built form along St Kilda Road began to change, with the demolition of nineteenth century residences and construction of commercial and office buildings. The road itself has remained a boulevard, and community appreciation of it continued into the late twentieth century. St Kilda Road continues to be the southern gateway to Melbourne and an important thoroughfare connecting the southern suburbs with the city, and it retains its role as a location for public ceremonies, such as the annual Anzac Day parade, and gatherings.

Description Summary

St Kilda Road, Melbourne is approximately four kilometres in length. It is a tree-lined boulevard which extends from Princes Bridge, Melbourne (opposite the Victorian Arts Centre) to Henry Street, Windsor. It includes a wide carriageway, comprising a central roadway with tram tracks, flanked by medians, outer traffic lanes, and wide footpaths. St Kilda Road has important views to the Shrine of Remembrance, and the 1908 memorial to Edmund Fitzgibbon is located on a median near the intersection of St Kilda Road and Linlithgow Avenue.

For much of its length between Linlithgow Avenue and High Street the central roadway and outer traffic lanes are separated by median plantings of Plane Trees (*Platanus x acerifolia*). There are border plantings of Elms: *Ulmus procera* (English Elms), *Ulmus x hollandica* (Dutch Elms) and *Ulmus x hollandica 'purpurascens'* (Purple-leaved Dutch Elms) along the east and west edge of the outer traffic lanes. Plantings along St Kilda Road vary in age with most trees either mature to over-mature.

This site is part of the traditional land of the Kulin Nation.

HOW IS IT SIGNIFICANT?

St Kilda Road is of historical and aesthetic significance to the State of Victoria. It satisfies the following criterion for inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Register:

Criterion A

Importance to the course, or pattern, of Victoria's cultural history.

Criterion D

Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural places and objects.

Criterion E

Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics.

WHY IS IT SIGNIFICANT?

St Kilda Road is significant at the State level for the following reasons:

St Kilda Road is historically significant as one of Melbourne's longest and grandest major thoroughfares. For over a century this European-style boulevard has had an iconic status as the southern gateway to the city. Dating from the 1850s, St Kilda Road was developed into a magnificent tree-lined boulevard during the late nineteenth century and was the location of some of Victoria's major public institutions. From the 1880s Melbourne's wealthy constructed impressive residences at this prestigious address, and from the 1950s it became a centre for commercial activity. St Kilda Road has been used for ceremonial and celebratory processions including those associated with the Duke of Edinburgh's visit to Melbourne in 1867, the opening of the International Exhibition of 1880, and the opening of the Australian Federal Parliament in 1901. It remains the site of Victoria's annual Anzac Day march, Moomba parades and political protests. [Criterion A]

St Kilda Road is significant as a fine and representative example of a boulevard. It was one of the first of Melbourne's main roads (Royal Parade, Flemington Road, Dandenong Road and Queens Parade) to be laid out as a boulevard around 1889, and is the longest metropolitan boulevard in Melbourne. Boulevards are wide and tree-lined roads which often separate traffic types with medians strips. They are an urban design form which characterised the development of European cities from the 1750s and became evident in Australia from the mid-nineteenth century. St Kilda Road demonstrates the characteristics of a boulevard at a high level, with consistent medians and trees extending almost the whole length of the road, for approximately four kilometres, although there is variation in the intactness of some of the plantings. St Kilda Road has developed over time to safely accommodate many different forms of traffic, including trams, cars, bicycles and buses. [Criterion D]

St Kilda Road is of aesthetic significance as an iconic boulevard which has been recognised as a place of beauty and a visually outstanding element in Melbourne's urban landscape. A broad and stately thoroughfare, its intact and impressive plantings of mature Elm and Plane trees beautify the southern access to the city. The overarching tree canopies are of considerable visual appeal, provide a sense of enclosure and exemplify the aesthetic use of trees as a road design device. The sweeping views between the Shrine of Remembrance, St Kilda Road and Swanston Street are significant for their emphasis on St Kilda Rd as a processional route between the Shrine and the city. There are also important visual associations with the Queen Victoria Garden and Domain parklands to the east. [Criterion E]

RECOMMENDATION REASONS

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDING INCLUSION IN THE VICTORIAN HERITAGE REGISTER [s.34A(2)]

Following is the Executive Director's assessment of the place against the tests set out in *The Victorian Heritage Register Criteria and Thresholds Guidelines (2014)*.

CRITERION A

Importance to the course, or pattern, of Victoria's cultural history.

STEP 1: A BASIC TEST FOR SATISFYING CRITERION A

The place/object has a *CLEAR ASSOCIATION* with an event, phase, period, process, function, movement, custom or way of life in Victoria's cultural history.

Plus

The association of the place/object to the event, phase, etc *IS EVIDENT* in the physical fabric of the place/object and/or in documentary resources or oral history.

Plus

The *EVENT, PHASE, etc* is of *HISTORICAL IMPORTANCE*, having made a strong or influential contribution to Victoria.

Executive Director's Response

- St Kilda Road has a clear association with the development of Melbourne from the 1850s, its history and urban design through its role as one of Melbourne's major thoroughfares.
- This association is evident in the physical fabric of St Kilda Road and in documentary resources.
- Melbourne's major thoroughfares have made an influential contribution to Victoria, particularly through the development of Melbourne as the capital of the colony from the 1850s, the capital of Australia (1901-1927) and the capital of Victoria to the present day.
- St Kilda Road has a clear association with ceremonial and celebratory processions including those associated with the Duke of Edinburgh's visit to Melbourne in 1867, the opening of the International Exhibition of 1880, and the opening of the Australian Federal Parliament in 1901. It has been the site of Victoria's annual Anzac Day march, Moomba parades and various political protests since the early to mid-twentieth century.
- This association is evident in the physical fabric of St Kilda Road and in documentary resources.
- Ceremonial and celebratory processions, parades and protests have made an influential contribution to the social, cultural and political life of Victoria and its sense of identity.

Criterion A is likely to be satisfied.

STEP 2: A BASIC TEST FOR DETERMINING STATE LEVEL SIGNIFICANCE FOR CRITERION A

The place/object allows the clear association with the event, phase etc. of historical importance to be *UNDERSTOOD BETTER THAN MOST OTHER PLACES OR OBJECTS IN VICTORIA WITH SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME ASSOCIATION.*

Executive Director's Response

St Kilda Road allows the clear association with the historical phases listed above to be better understood than most other places and objects in Victoria with substantially the same association for the following reasons:

- St Kilda Road is only one of a handful of Melbourne's main roads (Royal Parade, Flemington Road, Dandenong Road and Queens Parade) to be developed as a boulevard.
- It was one of the first of these roads to be developed as a boulevard (around 1889).
- Unlike the other boulevards, it has consistently been used as a place of public ceremonial and celebratory expression and has an iconic status in the urban landscape of Melbourne.
- St Kilda Road has a high level of intactness, integrity and aesthetic qualities which allow it to be better understood than most other places with substantially the same associations.

Criterion A is likely to be satisfied at the State level.

CRITERION D

Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural places and objects.

STEP 1: A BASIC TEST FOR SATISFYING CRITERION D

The place/object is one of a *CLASS* of places/objects that has a *clear ASSOCIATION* with an event, phase, period, process, function, movement, important person(s), custom or way of life in Victoria's history.

Plus

The *EVENT, PHASE, etc* is of *HISTORICAL IMPORTANCE*, having made a strong or influential contribution to Victoria.

Plus

The principal characteristics of the class are *EVIDENT* in the physical fabric of the place/object.

Executive Director's Response

- St Kilda Road has a clear association with the development of the boulevard form in Victoria.
- The boulevard form demonstrates urban design responses to the changing nature of traffic from the late 1800s, separating horse-drawn traffic, trams, motor vehicles and pedestrians.
- Drawing on international examples of the form, boulevards in Victoria were designed with multiple lanes, median strips and avenue plantings.
- This association is evident in the physical fabric of St Kilda Road and in documentary resources.
- The boulevard road form is of historical importance to Victoria having made an influential contribution for the following reasons:
 - Boulevards contributed to the urban design of Melbourne and its traffic management during a period of technological change in transport modes.
 - Boulevards facilitated the creation of stately and impressive thoroughfares into Melbourne and provided median strips on which visually striking avenues of trees could be planted.
 - Boulevards provided 'gateways' into Melbourne and were wide enough to allow for ceremonial and celebratory processions and parades which contributed to the public and political life of the state.

Criterion D is likely to be satisfied.

STEP 2: A BASIC TEST FOR DETERMINING STATE LEVEL SIGNIFICANCE FOR CRITERION D

The place/object is a *NOTABLE EXAMPLE* of the class in Victoria (refer to Reference Tool D).

Executive Director's Response

St Kilda road is a notable example of the boulevard form for the following reasons.

- It is one of the earliest and longest boulevard in Melbourne, being only one of a limited number of such boulevards in Victoria.
- It demonstrates the key characteristics of the boulevard form to a high level, consisting of an impressive regular arrangement of medians and tree plantings extending almost the whole length of the road, for approximately four kilometres.
- Although there is variation in the intactness of some of the plantings, overall St Kilda Road remains a notable example of the class.

Criterion D is likely to be satisfied at the State level.

CRITERION E

Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics.

STEP 1: A BASIC TEST FOR SATISFYING CRITERION E

The *PHYSICAL FABRIC* of the place/object clearly exhibits particular aesthetic characteristics.

Executive Director's Response

St Kilda Road exhibits the following particular aesthetic characteristics.

- It is a broad and stately thoroughfare, its intact and impressive plantings of mature Elm and Plane trees beautify the southern access to the city.
- The overarching tree canopies are of considerable visual appeal, provide a sense of enclosure and exemplify the aesthetic use of trees as a road design device.
- The sweeping views between the Shrine of Remembrance, St Kilda Road and Swanston Street are significant for their emphasis on St Kilda Rd as a processional route between the Shrine and the city.
- There are also important visual associations with the Queen Victoria Garden and Domain parklands to the east.
- Although many of the large nineteenth residences along St Kilda Road have since been demolished, its boulevard form and qualities are necessarily not linked to the buildings which line it.
- It is an iconic boulevard which has been recognised as a place of beauty and a visually outstanding element in Melbourne's urban landscape.

Criterion E is likely to be satisfied.

STEP 2: A BASIC TEST FOR DETERMINING STATE LEVEL SIGNIFICANCE FOR CRITERION E

The aesthetic characteristics are *APPRECIATED OR VALUED* by the wider community or an appropriately-related discipline as evidenced, for example, by:

- *critical recognition* of the aesthetic characteristics of the place/object within a relevant art, design, architectural or related discipline as an outstanding example within Victoria; or
- wide public *acknowledgement of exceptional merit* in Victoria in medium such as songs, poetry, literature, painting, sculpture, publications, print media etc.

Executive Director's Response

The aesthetic qualities of St Kilda Road have been appreciated and valued over many years as follows:

- St Kilda Road has been the subject of wide public acknowledgement of exceptional merit in Victoria, particularly during the mid-twentieth century:
 - Newspapers have described it as ‘the spacious boulevard’, ‘the most famous of Melbourne’s broad and stately thoroughfares’, ‘Melbourne’s pride: St Kilda Road’, ‘the world-famed St Kilda Road’, and ‘our loveliest boulevard’. (*Prahran Telegraph*, 28 March 1901, p. 2 and *Argus*, 20 October 1934, p. 8, 26 March 1949, Supplement p. 1, 20 May 1953, p. 2, *Age*, 19 May 1953, p. 4.)
 - In 1914 the *Argus* stated: ‘[It] is rapidly become one of the most beautiful portions of the metropolis; the pride of its citizens, and the admiration of the thousands who travel along it.’ (*Argus* 14 January 1914)
 - In 1938, the *Age* newspaper concluded its ‘Great Streets of the World’ series with an article on St Kilda Road. The series profiled other major streets in Europe, North America and South America, including the Calle de Alcalá in Madrid; the Champs Elysees, Paris; Unter den Linden, Berlin; Broadway, New York; Avenue de Mayo, Buenos Aires and Avenida Rio Branco, Rio de Janeiro. (*Age*, supplement editions, 16 September 1937-7 May 1938.)
- The high aesthetic qualities of St Kilda Road are commonly written about in the context of the place as a tourist destination:
 - ‘Take a stroll or a tram along this majestic tree-lined boulevard...’ (visitvictoria.com)
 - ‘Feel Melbourne's beating pulse as you veer off and onto St Kilda Road, the city's tree-lined main artery and gateway to lush parks and well-known landmarks’. (visitvictoria.com)

Criterion E is likely to be satisfied at the State level.

PROPOSED PERMIT POLICY

DRAFT ONLY – NOT YET APPROVED BY THE HERITAGE COUNCIL

Preamble

The purpose of the Permit Policy is to assist when considering or making decisions regarding works to a registered place. It is recommended that any proposed works be discussed with an officer of Heritage Victoria prior to making a permit application. Discussing proposed works will assist in answering questions the owner may have and aid any decisions regarding works to the place.

The extent of registration of St Kilda Road in the Victorian Heritage Register affects the whole place shown on Diagram 2359 including the land, all buildings, roads, trees, landscape elements and other features. Under the *Heritage Act 1995* a person must not remove or demolish, damage or despoil, develop or alter or excavate, relocate or disturb the position of any part of a registered place or object without approval. It is acknowledged, however, that alterations and other works may be required to keep places and objects in good repair and adapt them for use into the future.

If a person wishes to undertake works or activities in relation to a registered place or registered object, they must apply to the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria for a permit. The purpose of a permit is to enable appropriate change to a place and to effectively manage adverse impacts on the cultural heritage significance of a place as a consequence of change. If an owner is uncertain whether a heritage permit is required, it is recommended that Heritage Victoria be contacted.

Permits are required for anything which alters the place or object, unless a **permit exemption** is granted. Permit exemptions usually cover routine maintenance and upkeep issues faced by owners as well as minor works or works to the elements of the place or object that are not significant. They may include appropriate works that are specified in a conservation management plan. Permit exemptions can be granted at the time of registration (under s.42 of the Heritage Act) or after registration (under s.66 of the Heritage Act).

It should be noted that the addition of new structures to the registered place, as well as alterations to the interior and exterior of existing buildings requires a permit, unless a specific permit exemption is granted.

Conservation management plans

It is recommended that a Conservation Management Plan is developed to manage the place in a manner which respects its cultural heritage significance.

Other approvals

Please be aware that approval from other authorities (such as local government) may be required to undertake works.

Archaeology

Ground disturbance may affect the significance of the place and, subject to the exemptions stated in this document, requires a permit.

Cultural heritage significance

Overview of significance

St Kilda Road is historically significant as one of Melbourne's longest and grandest major thoroughfares. For over a century this European-style boulevard has had an iconic status as the southern gateway to the city. Dating from the 1850s, St Kilda Road was developed into a magnificent tree-lined boulevard during the late nineteenth century. Its significance is evident across the width of the full carriage way including the grassed

medians, kerbing, bluestone kerbs and channels, footpaths and consistent tree plantings. It is of aesthetic significance as a place of beauty and a visually outstanding element in Melbourne's urban landscape. The sweeping views between the Shrine of Remembrance, St Kilda Road and Swanston Street are significant for their emphasis on St Kilda Rd as a processional route between the Shrine and the city. There are also important visual associations with the Queen Victoria Garden and Domain Parklands and Alexandra Gardens to the east.

PROPOSED PERMIT EXEMPTIONS (UNDER SECTION 42 OF THE HERITAGE ACT)

DRAFT ONLY – NOT YET APPROVED BY THE HERITAGE COUNCIL – RECOMMENDED UNDER SECTION 33 OF THE HERITAGE ACT

It should be noted that Permit Exemptions can be granted at the time of registration (under s.42(4) of the Heritage Act). Permit Exemptions can also be applied for and granted after registration (under s.66 of the Heritage Act)

General Condition 1

All exempted alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the fabric of the registered place or object.

General Condition 2

Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of works that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place or object are revealed which relate to the significance of the place or object, then the exemption covering such works shall cease and Heritage Victoria shall be notified as soon as possible.

General Condition 3

All works should be informed by Conservation Management Plans prepared for the place. The Executive Director is not bound by any Conservation Management Plan, and permits still must be obtained for works suggested in any Conservation Management Plan.

General Condition 4

Nothing in this determination prevents the Heritage Council from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions.

General Condition 5

Nothing in this determination exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the relevant responsible authority, where applicable.

Specific Permit Exemptions

Landscape Exemptions

- The process of gardening, including mowing, hedge clipping, bedding displays, removal and replanting of shrubs, disease and weed control, and maintenance to care for existing plants.
- The removal or pruning of dead, dying or dangerous trees as assessed by a qualified Arborist to maintain safety. If the tree is identified as being of primary or contributory cultural heritage significance, the Executive Director must be notified of these works within 21 days of them being undertaken.
- Management of trees in accordance with Australian Standard; Pruning of Amenity Trees AS 4373-2007.

- Management of trees in accordance with Australian Standard; Protection of Trees on Development Sites AS 4970-2009.
- Subsurface works involving the installation, removal or replacement of watering and drainage systems or services outside the canopy edge of significant trees in accordance with AS4970 and on the condition that works do not impact on archaeological features or deposits.
- Removal of plants listed as noxious weeds in the Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994
- Vegetation protection and management of possums and vermin.
- Tree planting (with same species) and replacement trees for any tree removed in accordance Australian Standard; Tree stock for landscape use AS 2303:2015.
- Nature strip works involving porous hard and soft surfaces that include rock pave, concrete or bluestone edges, grass and granitic sand, outside the tree protection zone.
- Median strip works involving porous hard and soft surfaces that include rock pave, concrete or bluestone edges, grass and granitic sand, outside the tree protection zone.

Road Reserve exemptions

- All works to maintain the existing roadway and road safety including road, shoulder and footpath maintenance, kerbs and channel repairs, road line marking (including for bicycle lanes), speed humps, pedestrian refuges and splitter islands within the existing roadway, and the installation of pedestrian crossings, traffic signs, signals, fire hydrants, drains, parking meters and post boxes. This exemption does not include the replacement of any bluestone kerbing or guttering/channels.
- All works to maintain the existing roadway and road safety including road surface, shoulder and footpath maintenance, kerb and channel repairs, road marking (including for bicycle lanes), pedestrian refuges and splitter islands or separators within the existing roadway, and the installation of pedestrian crossings, speed humps or platforms, traffic signs, signals and associated infrastructure, fire hydrants, drains, parking meters and post boxes.
- Repairs and maintenance to hard landscape elements, structures, sculptures, statues, memorials, rockwork, steps, paths, gutters, drainage and irrigation systems, edging, fences and gates and lighting.
- Repairs and maintenance of culverts, kerbs, gutters, drainage works, pavement marking and traffic signs.
- Repairs and maintenance of existing crossovers, driveways and paths that do not require the removal or lopping of trees and significant vegetation.
- Road marking.
- Repair, maintenance and replacement of traffic signals and signage.
- Repairs and Installation and maintenance of services in roadways and footpaths. However works that would impact on any part of place such as any landscaped areas, verges, median strips, nature strips, trees and tree roots may require either a specific permit exemption or permit approval.
- Maintenance, removal or installation of underground utilities if outside the tree protection zone.

Tramway and bus exemptions

- Repairs and maintenance of existing tramway infrastructure, including tram stops, barriers, signage, platforms, shelters, overhead wiring and tram poles.
- Repairs and maintenance of existing bus infrastructure, including bus stops.

Street furniture

- Installation of standard City of Melbourne and City of Port Phillip street furniture, including seats, bins, signage, bollards, lights and drinking fountains which has no negative impact on the cultural heritage significance of the place.

Events

- Preparation for and delivery of City of Melbourne and City of Port Phillip events (including the Anzac Day Parade, White Night, the Moomba Parade and other events delivered by external organisations approved by the City of Melbourne and the City of Port Phillip) for a period of up to 7 days, including the temporary erection of infrastructure that has no negative impact on the cultural heritage significance of the place.
- Events of a longer period or having the potential to impact on the road, trees, median strips, footpaths and features will require the submission of a management plan to be approved by the Executive Director. In this case the event would normally be considered under the Minor Works provisions of the permit exemptions and s66.(3) *Heritage Act 1995*.

RELEVANT INFORMATION

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY

City of Melbourne

City of Port Phillip

HERITAGE LISTING INFORMATION

Heritage Overlay:

HO5 South Melbourne Precinct, City of Melbourne
(A section of road reserve on the western side)

Heritage Overlay Controls:

External Paint: Yes
Internal Alteration: No
Tree: No

HISTORY

The following history has been drawn from Lovell Chen, 'Nomination of St Kilda Road to the Victorian Heritage Register, Supporting Documentation' (December 2015).

St Kilda Road developed from an 1830s track known as Baxter's Track, a bush track which led southwards to the St Kilda Hill and Baxter's Stockyard at the corner of Robe and Acland Streets. As early as the 1840s, the east side of St Kilda Road was chosen as the location of public institutions. The first Immigrants Home was established in the early 1840s near the Yarra River and Governor La Trobe had reserved a site for a Government House on an elevated location on the Domain by 1840. In 1842, the first sales of Crown land at St Kilda took place, and an 1843 advertisement made an early mention of a track to St Kilda from Melbourne. By 1847, residents of St Kilda and the Melbourne Corporation had agreed to donate £25 each towards improving the 'highway' from St Kilda to Melbourne, although little was done until the 1850s. St Kilda Road was also known as the Brighton Road in this period, with the growth of Brighton also influencing the road's use and development, with coach services connecting both localities to Melbourne. The first stone bridge crossing the Yarra River was opened in 1850.

In 1853, the Melbourne Central Road Board instructed an engineer to survey St Kilda Road from Princes Bridge to St Kilda Junction with a view to improvements. The Roads Act of 1853, which provided for wide roadways for a number of radial routes from Melbourne, indicates that the then Surveyor-General Robert Hoddle envisaged the growing town as a future city. St Kilda Road was a main thoroughfare by the early 1850s and the 1853 Roads Act designated its 3 chains (60m) width. The line of the road can be seen on a plan of 1858, and broadly reflects the existing alignment. Further institutions were established along St Kilda Road in the 1850s and 1860s, including the Military Barracks (1854); Melbourne Grammar School (1856); the Observatory (1861); Wesley College (1865); the Deaf and Dumb Institute and School for the Blind (both 1866). Government House was constructed off St Kilda Road in the Domain parklands in 1871-75, and the Jewish Almshouses near

St Kilda Junction were established in 1870. Likewise, the Domain parklands were developed at the northern end of the road through the nineteenth century.

In 1867, the northern end St Kilda Road was used as part of the ceremonial route from Sandridge (Port Melbourne) for the arrival of the Duke of Edinburgh to Melbourne. Historian Judith Buckrich recounts how:

... the procession had fifty carriages and as it wound into St Kilda Road it was met by a group of schoolboys, including a contingent from Wesley College who presented arms. Closer to the bridge, the women at the Immigrants Home were standing on raised benches especially erected so they could see easily the Prince and procession.

In the mid-1870s, the first allotments along St Kilda Road, near Fawkner Park, were auctioned for residential development. With the construction of Government House at the Domain in the 1870s, St Kilda Road also assumed a ceremonial role, with royal and vice-regal processions from either this official residence or from St Kilda pier arriving in the city along St Kilda Road. Such events have included a seventeen-gun salute from Princes Bridge Battery in honour of the Governor and his party proceeding to the opening of the International Exhibition of 1880 and the celebratory route taken by the Duke of Cornwall and York (later King George V) from Government House to the Royal Exhibition Building to open the Australian Federal Parliament in 1901. The Federation procession proceeded the length of St Kilda Road from St Kilda Junction, where a triple archway bearing the words 'Prahran', 'St Kilda' and 'welcomes' had been constructed.

Improvements were undertaken to St Kilda Road in the late 1880s, prompted by the introduction of cable tramways along the length of the road in 1888, with works 'which will make that thoroughfare the noble entrance it ought to be to the city of Melbourne from the south.' By August 1889, these improvements had been completed, comprising separated traffic grades and planted medians. The *Leader* newspaper described the improved road:

After leaving Princes Bridge the spectator finds that the thoroughfare – which is 3 chains wide – comprises the tramway, with pathways on either side, carriage drives beyond and side walks at the extreme east and west sides of the road. In fact there are three roadways and four footpaths, the latter handsomely planted with trees. Twelve months ago a contract was let to Messrs. M Gardiner and Co for forming the roads and pathways, metalling the roads and kerbing channelling and asphaltting the footways. The contract also included tree planting and certain works in connection with underground drainage ... The triple road runs from Princes Bridge as far as the Domain Road. Beyond that there are to the west of the tramway a carriageway and two footpaths and to the east a series of little plantations fenced in. (*Leader*, 17 August 1889, quoted in Judith Buckrich, *Melbourne's grand boulevard*, p. 68)

The road was soon after referred to as a 'boulevard', in a description of the arrival of the new Governor, the Earl of Hopetoun, which again highlighted its role for ceremonial occasions: 'The cheering is but feeble until the procession debouches upon the great boulevard of the St Kilda Road. Here for the first time the new Governor is able to see a Melbourne crowd in its full strength.' (*Camperdown Chronicle*, 30 November 1889, p. 2)

Photographs from the end of the nineteenth century, show the boulevard arrangement, including rows of trees separating traffic, extended the length of St Kilda Road, to its intersection with Henry Street. This layout can be seen on the MMBW detail plans of the mid-1890s. The road was widened to 60 metres along its entire length in 1904. A memorial to Edmund Fitzgibbon, former town clerk of Melbourne and first chairman of MMBW, erected on one of the medians near Princes Bridge in 1908, with a statue to Robert Burns located opposite on a reserve on the western side of the road. In 1926, cable trams were replaced with electric trams, and the need to protect the 'grand avenue' during this process was acknowledged.

The ceremonial and symbolic importance of St Kilda Road was further enhanced with the construction of the Shrine of Remembrance in 1934. The selection of the site was important as it enabled the memorial design to incorporate the vista looking south along Swanston Street and St Kilda Road. A gap in the plantations was also opened up on the east side of the avenue plantations where the Shrine forecourt meets St Kilda Road at Anzac Avenue. This was undertaken in the post-war years apparently as a deliberate design conceit to visually link the Shrine with the northern section of St Kilda Road. The aesthetic qualities of St Kilda Road were recognised by planners and writers both locally and interstate. Improvements undertaken in 1914 prompted the *Argus* to declare: 'St Kilda road ... is rapidly become one of the most beautiful portions of the metropolis; the pride of its citizens, and the admiration of the thousands who travel along it.' (*Argus*, 14 January 1914, p. 18)

In the interwar period councillors and politicians expressed their desire to emulate the 'beautiful St Kilda Road' in local roads in Footscray, Geelong, Williamstown, Brighton, Brisbane and Adelaide. (See for example *Werribee Shire Banner*, 11 December 1924, p. 3, *Advertiser*, 4 July 1933, p. 10, *Sunday Mail*, 14 October 1945, p. 5, *Record*, 26 July 1924, p. 4, *Prahran Telegraph*, 7 December 1928, p. 2.) Newspaper descriptions included 'the spacious boulevard', 'the most famous of Melbourne's broad and stately thoroughfares', 'Melbourne's Pride: St Kilda Road', 'the world-famed St Kilda Road', and 'our loveliest boulevard'. (*Prahran Telegraph*, 28 March 1901, p. 2 and *Argus*, 20 October 1934, p. 8, 26 March 1949, Supplement p. 1, 20 May 1953, p. 2, *Age*, 19 May 1953, p. 4.) In 1938, the *Age* newspaper concluded its 'Great Streets of the World' series with an article on St Kilda Road. The series profiled other major streets in Europe, North America and South America, including the Calle de Alcala in Madrid; the Champs Elysees, Paris; Unter den Linden, Berlin; Broadway, New York; Avenue de Mayo, Buenos Aires and Avenida Rio Branco, Rio de Janeiro. (*Age*, supplement editions, 16 September 1937-7 May 1938.)

Of St Kilda Road the newspaper noted:

When General Pau paid a visit to our city he is reported to have said that 'St Kilda- road made the boulevards of Paris look silly. Unbiased judges will agree with the verdict. The layout of St Kilda-road in itself is impressive. It is not merely a road, but a series of roads and footpaths separated by ornamental plantations of palms and trees ... it is a noble stretch of road, half avenue, half street, and as it nears the city it bursts into supreme beauty of lawns, flowers, trees and pathways, and is happy to make friends with a worthy bridge and an historic river. (*Age*, 7 May 1938, supplement, p. 3)

With the 1950s rezoning of land along St Kilda Road to allow for non-residential development, the character of the built form along St Kilda Road began to change, with the demolition of nineteenth century residences and construction of commercial and office buildings. However, the road itself has retained its boulevard arrangement, and community appreciation of it continued into the late twentieth century. In the twentieth century, the National Gallery and the Victorian Arts Centre were constructed on the west side of St Kilda Road, continuing the nineteenth century preference for important public institutions to be located along it. St Kilda Road continued to be used for commemorative purposes through the twentieth century, including the annual Anzac Day marches from Swanston Street to the Shrine, protests and Moomba Parades. In both 1996 and 1999, there were campaigns to the City of Melbourne to rename the thoroughfare St Kilda Boulevard, to give St Kilda Road the 'status it deserved', although both were ultimately unsuccessful.

St Kilda Road continues to be the southern 'gateway' to Melbourne and an important thoroughfare connecting the southern suburbs with the city, and retains its role as a location for public ceremonies and gatherings. Today the aesthetic qualities of St Kilda Road are commonly written about in the context of the place as a tourist destination:

Take a stroll or a tram along this majestic tree-lined boulevard... Feel Melbourne's beating pulse as you veer off and onto St Kilda Road, the city's tree-lined main artery and gateway to lush parks and well-known landmarks'. (visitvictoria.com)

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS

Construction started date: c. 1830s (Baxter's Track), c. 1889 (Development as a boulevard)

VICTORIAN HISTORICAL THEMES

03 Connecting Victorians by transport and communications

- 3.1 Establishing pathways
- 3.4 Linking Victorians by road in the 20th century
- 3.5 Travelling by tram

06 Building towns, cities and the garden state

- 6.1 Establishing Melbourne town, Port Philip district
- 6.2 Creating Melbourne

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

St Kilda Road, Melbourne is approximately four kilometres in length. It is a tree-lined boulevard which extends from Princes Bridge, Melbourne (opposite the Victorian Arts Centre) to Henry Street, Windsor. It includes a wide carriageway, comprising a central roadway with tram tracks, flanked by medians, outer traffic lanes, and wide footpaths. St Kilda Road has important views to the Shrine of Remembrance, and the 1908 memorial to Edmund Fitzgibbon is located on a median near the intersection of St Kilda Road and Linlithgow Avenue.

For much of its length between Linlithgow Avenue and High Street the central roadway and outer traffic lanes are separated by median plantings of Plane Trees (*Platanus x acerifolia*). There are border plantings of Elms: *Ulmus procera* (English Elms), *Ulmus x hollandica* (Dutch Elms) and *Ulmus x hollandica 'purpurascens'* (Purple-leaved Dutch Elms) along the east and west edge of the outer traffic lanes. Plantings along St Kilda Road vary in age with most trees either mature to over-mature.

The boulevard commences opposite the Victorian Arts Centre and extends approximately four kilometres to the intersection with Henry Street. St Kilda Road itself extends to the St Kilda Junction, however historically the boulevard form did not extend to the intersection. Although the maturity of tree planting varies, there is a consistency in the arrangement of the boulevard with raised medians separating service lanes from the central roadway for through traffic and tram lines. There is a gap in median planting from the Grant Street intersection, which opens up views to the Shrine of Remembrance forecourt.

The kerbing varies along the length of St Kilda Road. The kerbing to the footpaths largely comprises either concrete or bluestone with bluestone channels also differing in width. The kerb is stepped south of Government House Drive. The kerbing to the medians varies, and includes concrete and bluestone kerbs and channels, with more recent kerbing around the new tram stops.

There are a small number of historic structures along St Kilda Road, including the three interwar tram shelters situated within the St Kilda Road reserve, which are included in the VHR, the Edmund Fitzgibbon memorial and a single lamp post on the east median, south of High Street. The majority of tram shelters are of recent construction.

LANDSCAPES, TREES & GARDENS

Plantings along St Kilda Road vary in age with most trees either in mature to over-mature growth phases. Continuity of the avenue plantations also varies, with the largest gaps located near Domain Road, most notably at the tram interchange at Albert Road. In some sections, including near the Arts Centre and the Domain Parklands, the mature tree canopies shade the service lanes.

The following table lists the approximate age and species planted along St Kilda Road.

Section	Location	Species	Estimated Age
A. City Road Bridge to Linlithgow Avenue.	Outer Avenue	<i>Platanus x acerifolia</i>	1890s
	Inner Avenue	<i>Platanus x acerifolia</i>	1890s
B. Linlithgow Avenue to High Street	Outer Avenue	<i>Ulmus procera</i> (English Elms) <i>Ulmus x hollandica</i> (Dutch Elms) <i>Ulmus x hollandica</i> 'purpurascens' (Purple-leaved Dutch Elms)	1890s
	Inner Avenue	<i>Platanus x acerifolia</i>	1960s
C. High St to St Kilda Junction	Outer Avenue	<i>Platanus x acerifolia</i>	1960s
	Inner Avenue	<i>Platanus x acerifolia</i>	1960s

ARCHAEOLOGY

NA.

INTEGRITY/INTACTNESS

Intactness – The form of St Kilda Road with its wide roadway divided by medians and arrangement of plantings remain generally intact as laid out in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. There is some variation in the intactness of some of the plantings and original fabric of hard elements such as the road surface and tram tracks. This is to be expected on a major metropolitan road. Overall St Kilda Road demonstrates a good level of intactness, particularly in terms of its form. (April 2016)

Integrity – St Kilda Road retains a very good level of integrity. The heritage values of the place or object are still evident and can be understood and appreciated through the original boulevard design and extant fabric. (April 2016)

CONDITION

The hard elements, landscape and plantings are in very good condition. (April 2016)

COMPARISONS

The boulevard roadway form

Boulevards are wide and tree-lined roads which often separate traffic types with medians. The form, which has varying expressions, characterised the urban design and development of European cities from the 1750s onwards, such as Paris and Berlin, and became evident in Australian cities from the mid to late nineteenth century.

St Kilda Road is one of only a few boulevards in Melbourne (including Royal Parade, Flemington Road, Dandenong Road and Queens Parade). The development of these boulevards was shaped by the 1853 Roads Act, which provided for a number of wide (3 or 4 chains, approximately 60 and 80 metres) main radial routes from Melbourne, which Surveyor-General Robert Hoddle envisaged important for the growth of Melbourne as important thoroughfares and transport routes. The roads deemed 'main' under this legislation included St Kilda Road, Royal Parade, Wellington Parade, Hoddle Street, Victoria Parade, Queens Parade, and Flemington Road, Dandenong Road east of Chapel Street, Brighton Road south of Carlisle Street and the Geelong Road.

By the late nineteenth century, a number of Hoddle's main radial roads had been improved through the planting of trees and the use of central medians, and ultimately the development into boulevards. The extent and success of these improvements varied, particularly when multiple councils held responsibility for the roads. The improvement of these roads related both to the desire to create 'picturesque' thoroughfares, and a recognition of the increasing diversity in traffic types, including the introduction of trams and motor vehicles. Bicycle lanes have been added to Melbourne's boulevards in recent years to further separate traffic types and increase commuter safety.

Royal Parade, Parkville (VHR H2198)

St Kilda Road's northern counterpart, Royal Parade, was originally the Sydney Road, and has been the traditional entrance to the city from the north since the mid-nineteenth century. It runs between Park Street and Grattan Street in Parkville. Of the boulevards in Melbourne, it is the only one included in the VHR (VHR H2198), for its historical, aesthetic and social significance to Victoria. The form of the road repeats the layout of St Kilda Road with the separation of through traffic and service lanes, central tram lines and plantings, dating from 1913. It is historically significant as 'the road to Sydney', as an illustration of developments in planning responding to different types of road transport. It is aesthetically significant as 'one of Melbourne's finest boulevards', illustrating 'city beautiful' planning movement with the multi-lane layout and introduction of elm avenues.

Royal Parade accommodates a wide, two-way road and central two-way tramway with one-way service roads on either side. The two inner plantations comprise concrete-curbed, grassed medians planted with mature elms and two outer plantations consist of lines of mature elms planted in 1913 in the grass verges between the footpaths and road. The predominant species is English Elm (*Ulmus procera*) with approximately four hundred trees contributing to the park-like setting.

Of Hoddle's planned main roads, the inclusion of Royal Parade in the VHR, reflects its historical significance and intactness. Royal Parade has not had the same ceremonial use as St Kilda Road, a result of its relative distance from the city; the northern part of the city developed later, and with fewer major institutions than the southern part near the Yarra. Further, St Kilda Road's proximity to the bay piers meant that dignitaries arriving by boat travelled to the city from the south. The development of substantial residences along St Kilda Road, meant that it, over other access points from the bay, gave visitors a more favourable first impression of the city.

Royal Parade is aesthetically significant as one of Victoria's finest boulevards. As Melbourne's main route to Sydney and northern Victoria, it was revitalised in the early twentieth century and became an example of the

'city beautiful' planning fashionable at the time. This was characterised by the multi-lane layout and the introduction of the four lines of English Elms. The profile, scale and seasonal change of the deciduous, multiple English Elm avenues provide shade in summer, autumn colour and sunlight penetration in winter.



Royal Parade, Parkville (VHR H2198)

Finlay Avenue of Elms, Manifold Clock Tower and Public Monument Precinct, Camperdown (VHR H0647)

The Finlay Avenue of Elms, Manifold Clock Tower and Public Monument Precinct, Camperdown, forms a dramatic central landscape feature in the town. Finlay Avenue of English elms (*Ulmus procera*, approximately 290 trees) which was originally planted in 1876 with the support of the Finlay pastoral family of Glenormiston. It was the first such public avenue of trees planted in Victoria, and is regarded as one of the most outstanding elm avenues in Australia. It extends along the main thoroughfare of the town, and is complemented by many significant public and commercial buildings. The avenue incorporates a fine collection of monuments and commemorative statues, including the Empire/Boer War Memorial (1902), Soldiers' Memorial (1929), JC Manifold Monument (1922), and Daniel Curdie Memorial (1934) which commemorates another local pioneering family. historically, aesthetically and socially important as a celebrated and instantly recognisable landmark feature in Western Victoria. It also represents outstanding town planning practice. The Finlay Avenue of Elms is important as a rare and notable Australian landscape feature, and the earliest public avenue of trees in Victoria.



Finlay Avenue of Elms, Manifold Clock Tower and Public Monument Precinct (VHR H0647)

Sturt Street, Ballarat (The boulevard is included in the Sturt Street Heritage Precinct HO 167)

The Sturt Street Heritage Precinct includes a grand elegant boulevard in the European tradition, within a rectilinear street layout pattern based on hierarchy and axial ordering and a neoclassical planning overlay. The Sturt Street boulevard is the focus of city design in this area as the formal western gateway to the centre of the city, and to the east, it links with the commemorative Ballarat Avenue of Honour, where between 1917-1921, over 3,000 trees were planted along the Western Highway for 22km. The grandeur and scale of Sturt Street moderates the form and structure of the precinct and provides the setting for many prestigious churches and institutions in the city. The gracious Sturt Street boulevard layout and landscaped central median strip with memorial, fountain and statues the landscape setting contributes to the overall architectural qualities of the streetscape, and demonstrates important aesthetic visual qualities that reflect the historical, cultural and architectural development of the Precinct, and contribute to the historic context of Ballarat.



Sturt Street, Ballarat

This boulevard is included in the Sturt Street Heritage Precinct (HO 167)

Flemington Road (Not in the VHR)

Flemington Road is a boulevard which is a good example of the form but shorter and less visually impressive than St Kilda Road and Royal Parade. The western end of Elizabeth Street was developed with avenue plantings between the 1890s and 1910s. By the early twentieth century the median plantings had been established with young trees surrounded by low level plants. By the interwar period most of the shrubbery had been removed, and replaced with trees and separated traffic grades.

Other boulevards in Victoria include

- Raglan Parade, Warrnambool (partly included in Street Precinct, Raglan Parade HO226)
- Deakin Avenue, Mildura (included in Deakin Avenue Heritage Precinct HO308)
- Victoria Parade, Melbourne (parts are in a boulevard form)

Conclusion

With its northern counterpart Royal Parade included on the VHR, St Kilda Road is of a high level of historical significance as an early main road in Melbourne; as an early boulevard; as the preferred location of many important public institutions; and as a demonstration of nineteenth century urban design and traffic planning. St Kilda Road is the longest of Melbourne's boulevards and was one of the earliest to have been laid out as a boulevard separating different traffic types through the use of medians and plantings. Along with Royal Parade, St Kilda Road has long been a major entry point to the city and a main thoroughfare to the suburbs. More than the other major boulevards, St Kilda Road has been used as a ceremonial access point to the city from as early as the late 1860s for official, royal and military purposes.

KEY REFERENCES USED TO PREPARE ASSESSMENT

Judith Buckrich, *Melbourne's grand boulevard: the story of St Kilda Road*, State Library of Victoria, Melbourne, 1996.

Lovell Chen, Nomination Of St Kilda Road to The Victorian Heritage Register, Supporting Documentation, Prepared for Melbourne Metro Rail Authority December 2015.

IMAGES



North end looking south to the Shrine of Remembrance



North End incorporating view toward Domain Parklands



Edmund Fitzgibbon Memorial



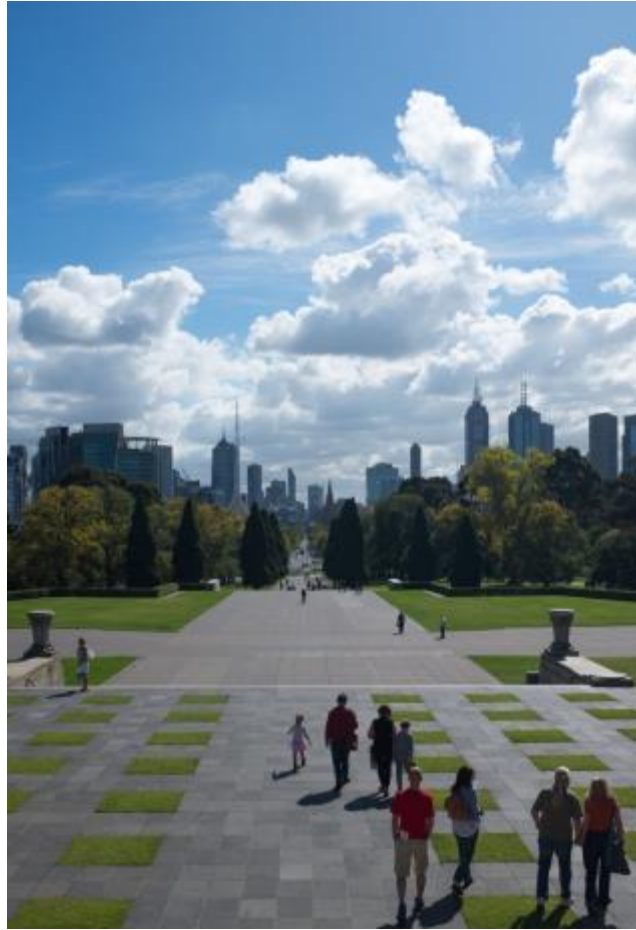
East Side near ANZAC Avenue



Looking north from near Grant Street intersection



Domain Interchange



Looking north from the Shrine of Remembrance.



Looking south from near Domain Road intersection.



Looking south from near Mowbray Street intersection.



Looking north to Henry Street from Union Street intersection

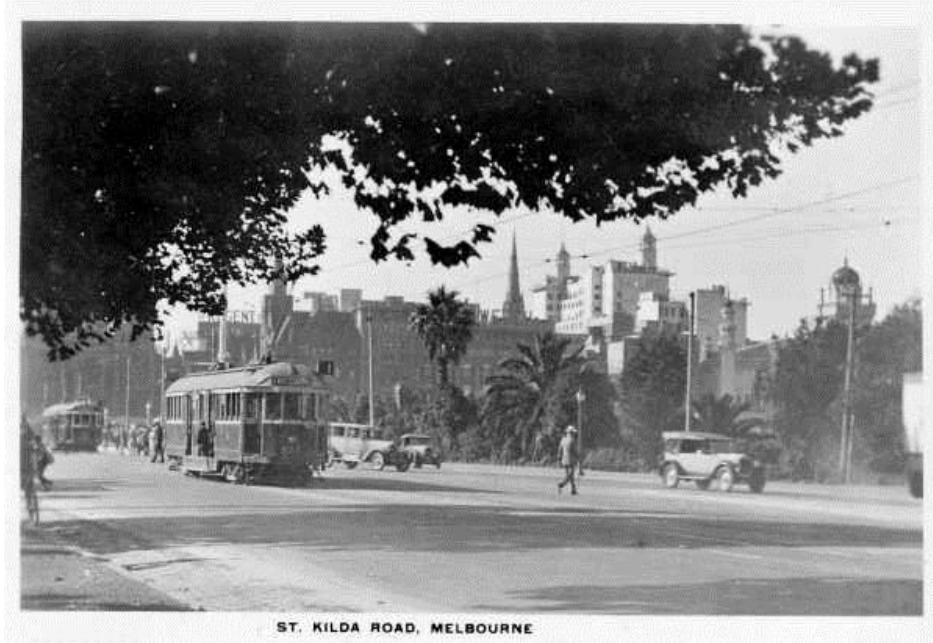


Historic lamp post on east median, south of High Street



A view along St Kilda Road toward Melbourne c.1903

Source: State Library of Victoria



St Kilda Road c.1935
Source: State Library of Victoria



St Kilda Road (c. 1955-65) Source: State Library of Victoria



Veterans marching in Anzac Day Parade, St Kilda Road, 1987
Source: State Library of Victoria

**ASSESSMENT OF CULTURAL
HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE AND
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
RECOMMENDATION TO THE
HERITAGE COUNCIL**



NAME	FAWKNER PARK
LOCATION	23-169 TOORAK ROAD WEST AND 24-88 COMMERCIAL ROAD SOUTH YARRA, CITY OF MELBOURNE
VHR NUMBER:	PROV H 2361
CATEGORY:	HERITAGE PLACE, ARCHAEOLOGICAL PLACE
HERITAGE OVERLAY	CITY OF MELBOURNE (HO6 SOUTH YARRA PRECINCT)
FILE NUMBER:	FOL/16/204
HERMES NUMBER:	1953



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RECOMMENDATION TO THE HERITAGE COUNCIL:

- That Fawkner Park be included as a Heritage Place and Archaeological Place in the Victorian Heritage Register under the *Heritage Act 1995* [Section 32 (1)(a)].

TIM SMITH

Executive Director

Recommendation Date: 20 May 2016

EXTENT OF NOMINATION

The whole of the place known as Fawkner Park, being Crown Allotment 16B and Crown Allotment 2B at South Yarra, Parish of Melbourne South (Crown Land).

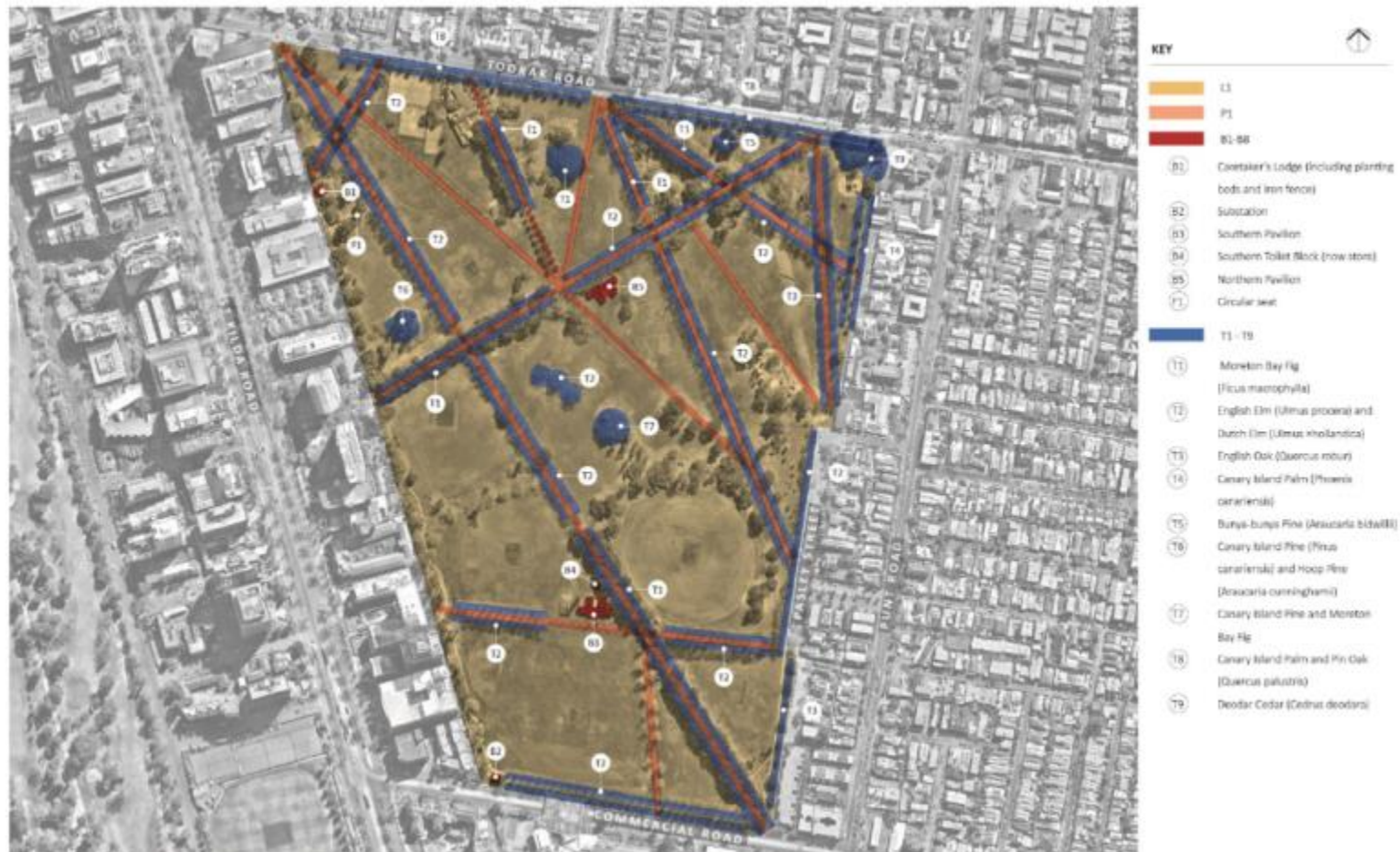


Figure 1 Plan of extent of nomination, Fawkner Park

RECOMMENDED REGISTRATION

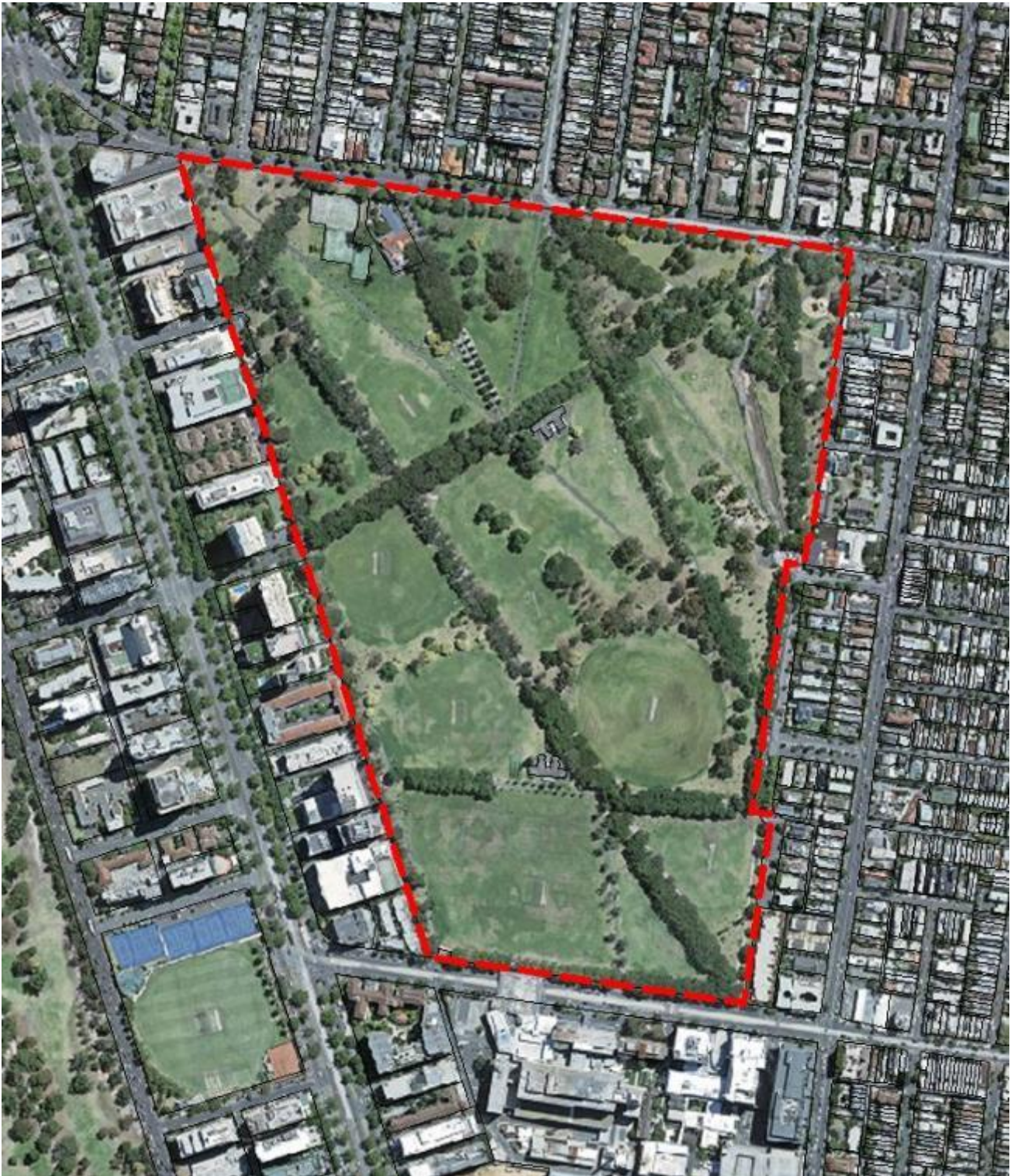
DRAFT ONLY: NOT ENDORSED BY THE HERITAGE COUNCIL

All of the place shown hatched on Diagram 2361 encompassing all of Crown Allotments 16B and 2B Parish of Melbourne South at South Yarra.



The extent of registration of Fawkner Park in the Victorian Heritage Register affects the whole place shown on Diagram 2361 including the land, all buildings (excluding the interiors), paths, trees, landscape elements and historical archaeology.

AERIAL PHOTO OF THE PLACE SHOWING PROPOSED REGISTRATION



STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

DRAFT ONLY: NOT ENDORSED BY THE HERITAGE COUNCIL

WHAT IS SIGNIFICANT?

Fawkner Park is a trapezoidal shaped public park of 41 hectares (101 acres) established in the southern part of the City of Melbourne. It contains a wide range of landscape design elements and features including lawns, tree plantings, pathways, playing fields, structures, such as a circular seat, as well as a number of buildings such as the Caretaker's Cottage and Fence (1885), Substation (1925), Southern Pavilion (1936), Southern Toilet Block now store (1937), Northern Pavilion (1937), Tennis Club and Community Centre (interwar), shelter and playgrounds.

History Summary

In 1862 Fawkner Park was temporarily reserved and named after the co-founder of Melbourne, John Pascoe Fawkner, although it was not developed until 1875 when formal pathways, avenues (many based on the 'desire line' pathways of original pedestrians) and lawns were established. Fawkner Park is one of Melbourne's 'outer ring' parks and was integral to the vision of Charles La Trobe (Superintendent of the Port Phillip District and later Lieutenant-Governor of Victoria) from the mid-1840s, to develop Melbourne as a city surrounded by extensive public parklands. It demonstrates the Government's desire to provide outdoor recreational spaces for passive and active recreation and to beautify the city. Fawkner Park has a long history as the location of sporting activities, such as cricket, football and tennis, back to the late 1850s. During World War II an area of Fawkner Park was compulsorily acquired by the Defence Department. The 33 Australian Womens Army Service (AWAS) Barracks and the Land Headquarters (LHQ) of the Australian Corps of Signals were constructed on the area which is now the Cordner Oval and its immediate surrounds. Between 1947 and 1955, the huts at the camp were converted to a transit camp for British migrants and also used for emergency accommodation for families. In 1955 Fawkner Park was restored to parkland and since then has been used for passive recreational and sporting activities. A childcare centre opened on the eastern side in 1989. Today Fawkner Park remains relatively unchanged from its original design and is a popular place for sport, leisure, picnics and fitness activities.

Description Summary

Fawkner Park is characterised by straight, tree-lined pathways many of which link pedestrian entry points. The pathway system divides the park into a number of larger lawn areas that contain playing fields for a variety of sports, and smaller lawn areas that feature plantings of specimen trees. There are a number of buildings and structures ranging from sporting pavilions, shelters, tennis courts and playgrounds. The earliest structure remaining on site is the nineteenth century Caretaker's Cottage, located to the western boundary of Fawkner Park on Slater Street. The dominant vegetative element of Fawkner Park are the established treed avenues that criss-cross the site along the primary path system, most notable amongst these being mature avenues of Elm and Moreton Bay Fig. Formal boundary plantations are also located on the northern (Canary Island Palm and Pin Oak), eastern (Canary Island Palm, English Oak, Himalayan Cedar) and southern boundaries (Elm avenue), with a mixed plantation of exotic and Australian native trees to the western boundary. Specimen trees, often grouped into stands or circle plantings, are located in lawn areas between the avenues. A number of the main avenues have been replanted with new species since 2010, including Willow-leaved Oak and Gingko, replacing Golden Poplar avenues, and rejuvenation of the Pin Oak avenue, all located in the north of the park. Due to the lack of ground disturbance since 1955, Fawkner Park has the potential to contain subsurface archaeological material related to the occupation and use as an AWAS and LHQ Signals camp, specifically within the area of Cordner Oval.

This site is part of the traditional land of the Kulin nation.

HOW IS IT SIGNIFICANT?

Fawkner Park is of historical, archaeological aesthetic significance to the State of Victoria. It satisfies the following criterion for inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Register:

Criterion A

Importance to the course, or pattern, of Victoria's cultural history.

Criterion C

Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Victoria's cultural history.

Criterion E

Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics.

WHY IS IT SIGNIFICANT?

Fawkner Park is significant at the State level for the following reasons:

Fawkner Park is historically significant as part of the vision of Charles La Trobe (Superintendent of the Port Phillip District and later Lieutenant-Governor of Victoria) from the mid-1840s, to develop Melbourne as a city surrounded by extensive public parklands. Fawkner Park was permanently reserved in 1862 and became one of Melbourne's 'outer ring' parks, along with Yarra Park (VHR H2251) and Royal Park (VHR H2337). Formally developed from 1875 by curator Nicholas Bickford, Fawkner Park is a fine example of an 'outer ring' park. While the 'inner ring' of parks reflect more formal planting and symmetrical pathway arrangements, the 'outer ring' of parks and reserves were typically developed for recreation and organised sporting activity. Fawkner Park largely retains its early form, diagonal pathway plantings (established on the 'desire lines' of early pedestrians), impressive avenues, plantings, lawns and playing fields in conjunction with pavilion, caretakers and amenities buildings. Fawkner Park is also of historical significance for its use as an accommodation base for the Australian Women's Army Service (AWAS) and as a camp for British migrants between 1947 and 1955. [Criterion A]

Fawkner Park is archaeologically significant at the State level for its high likelihood to contain subsurface artefacts and deposits related to the Australian Women's Army Service (AWAS) and the Australian Corps of Signals Land Headquarters, located in the southern portion of the park from 1941 to 1947. There is a high potential for Fawkner Park to contain physical evidence relating to the mobilisation of women in the Australian Women's Army Service (AWAS) during WWII and the experiences of post-WWII British migrants in Victoria's transit camps, that is not currently visible or understood. The knowledge that might be obtained through archaeological investigation of Fawkner Park is likely to meaningfully contribute to an understanding of Victoria's cultural history. The particular information likely to be yielded from the archaeology of the place is not already well documented nor readily available from other sources. [Criterion C].

Fawkner Park is aesthetically significant as an outstanding example of a metropolitan park in Victoria. It is particularly notable for fine, mature avenues of English and Dutch Elm, White Poplar, English Oak and Moreton Bay Fig that criss-cross the site, forming over-arching canopies above the pathway system, that afford enclosed, focused views of considerable visual appeal. Other aesthetically impressive plantings include individual specimen trees and stands of Canary Island Pine, Pin Oaks, Hoop Pine, Bunya Bunya Pine, Lemon-scented Gum, Sugar Gum, Lilly Pilly, Monterey Pine and Stone Pine. The number of avenues within the park and individual scale of many of the original row plantings is incomparable to any of Melbourne's 'inner ring' or 'outer ring' parks established in the nineteenth century. The treed avenues have matured to form the dominant landscape component of the site, providing over-arching, umbrageous walks counterpointed with expanses of lawn between the avenue alignments. [Criterion E]

Fawkner Park is also significant for the following reasons, but not at the State level:

Fawkner Park is of historical significance because it was named after John Pascoe Fawkner, one of Victoria's earliest settlers and a co-founder of Melbourne.

RECOMMENDATION REASONS

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDING INCLUSION IN THE VICTORIAN HERITAGE REGISTER [s.34A(2)]

Following is the Executive Director's assessment of the place against the tests set out in *The Victorian Heritage Register Criteria and Thresholds Guidelines (2014)*.

CRITERION A

Importance to the course, or pattern, of Victoria's cultural history.

STEP 1: A BASIC TEST FOR SATISFYING CRITERION A

The place/object has a *CLEAR ASSOCIATION* with an event, phase, period, process, function, movement, custom or way of life in Victoria's cultural history.

Plus

The association of the place/object to the event, phase, etc *IS EVIDENT* in the physical fabric of the place/object and/or in documentary resources or oral history.

Plus

The *EVENT, PHASE, etc* is of *HISTORICAL IMPORTANCE*, having made a strong or influential contribution to Victoria.

Executive Director's Response

Fawkner Park has a clear association with:

1. The vision of Charles La Trobe (Superintendent of the Port Phillip District and later Lieutenant-Governor of Victoria) from the mid-1840s, to develop Melbourne as a city surrounded by extensive public parklands.
 - 1.1. This association is evident in the physical fabric of the place and documentary sources recording the permanent reservation of Fawkner Park in 1862 as one of Melbourne's 'outer ring' parks.
 - 1.1.1. Charles La Trobe's vision to develop Melbourne as a city surrounded by extensive public parklands made a strong contribution to Victoria through shaping the design of Melbourne.
2. The mobilisation of the women of Victoria during World War II.
 - 2.1. This association is no longer visibly demonstrated in the fabric of the place, but the use of Fawkner Park as an accommodation base for the Australian Women's Army Service (AWAS) is well recorded in documentary sources. There is also a high likelihood that the place contains archaeological evidence of this association (see Criterion C).
 - 2.1.1. The mobilisation of women in Victoria during World War II made a strong and influential contribution to Victoria.
3. The arrival and accommodation of British migrants between 1947 and 1955.
 - 3.1. This association is no longer demonstrated in the fabric of the place, but the use of Fawkner Park as migrant accommodation for British migrants is well recorded in documentary sources. There is also a high likelihood that the place contains archaeological evidence of this association (see Criterion C).
 - 3.1.1. The influx of British migrants between 1947 and 1955 made a strong and influential contribution to Victoria.

Criterion A is likely to be satisfied.

STEP 2: A BASIC TEST FOR DETERMINING STATE LEVEL SIGNIFICANCE FOR CRITERION A

The place/object allows the clear association with the event, phase etc. of historical importance to be *UNDERSTOOD BETTER THAN MOST OTHER PLACES OR OBJECTS IN VICTORIA WITH SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME ASSOCIATION.*

Executive Director's Response

Fawkner Park allows the clear association with Charles La Trobe's vision, from the mid-1840s, to develop Melbourne as a city surrounded by extensive public parklands, to be better understood than most other places or objects in Victoria with substantially the same association.

Criterion A is likely to be satisfied at the State level.

CRITERION C

Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Victoria's cultural history.

STEP 1: A BASIC TEST FOR SATISFYING CRITERION C

The 1) visible physical fabric; &/or 2) documentary evidence; &/or 3) oral history, relating to the place/object indicates a likelihood that the place/object contains *PHYSICAL EVIDENCE* of *historical interest* that is *NOT CURRENTLY VISIBLE OR UNDERSTOOD.*

Plus

From what we know of the place/object, the physical evidence is likely to be of an *INTEGRITY* and/or *CONDITION* that it *COULD YIELD INFORMATION* through detailed investigation.

Executive Director's Response

The documentary evidence relating to Fawkner Park indicates a likelihood that the place contains physical evidence of historical interest that is not currently visible or understood.

Australian Women's Army Service (AWAS)

- The likely physical evidence relates to the mobilisation of Victorian women by the Defence Department in the Australian Women's Army Service (AWAS) during WWII, specifically within the area of Cordner Oval.
- Due to the lack of ground disturbance since 1955, the physical archaeological evidence at Fawkner Park, of Cordner Oval, is likely to be of sufficiently high integrity and/or condition that it could yield information through detailed investigation.

British migration

- The likely physical evidence relates to the experiences of post-WWII British migrants in Victoria, particularly in transit camps, such as the one that was once located in the area now known as the Cordner Oval.
- Due to the lack of ground disturbance since 1955, the physical archaeological evidence at Fawkner Park, of Cordner Oval, is likely to be of sufficiently high integrity and/or condition that it could yield information through detailed investigation.

Criterion C is likely to be satisfied.

STEP 2: A BASIC TEST FOR DETERMINING STATE LEVEL SIGNIFICANCE FOR CRITERION C

The knowledge that might be obtained through investigation is likely to *MEANINGFULLY CONTRIBUTE* to an understanding of Victoria's cultural history.

Plus

The information likely to be yielded from the place/object is *not* already *well documented* or *readily available* from other sources.

Executive Director's Response

- The knowledge that might be obtained through archaeological investigation of Fawkner Park, particularly the Cordner Oval area, is likely to meaningfully contribute to an understanding of Victoria's cultural history.
- This knowledge will enhance our understanding of:
 - the mobilisation of Victorian women by the Defence Department in the Australian Women's Army Service (AWAS) during WWII.
 - the experiences of post-WWII British migrants in Victoria, particularly in transit camps.
- Archaeological deposits and artefacts have the potential to reveal knowledge about the life of AWAS women who lived and worked at the camp and meaningfully contribute to our understanding of the lives of servicewomen on the Australian homefront during WWII.
- Archaeological deposits and artefacts have the potential to reveal knowledge about the life of post WWII British migrants meaningfully contribute to our understanding of their new lives in Victoria.
- The particular information likely to be yielded from the archaeology of the place is not already well documented nor readily available from other sources.

Criterion C is likely to be satisfied at the State level.

CRITERION E

Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics.

STEP 1: A BASIC TEST FOR SATISFYING CRITERION E

The *PHYSICAL FABRIC* of the place/object clearly exhibits particular aesthetic characteristics.

Executive Director's Response

The physical fabric of Fawkner Park clearly exhibits particular aesthetic characteristics.

It is particularly notable for fine, mature avenues of English and Dutch Elm, English Oak, White Poplar and Moreton Bay Fig that criss-cross the site, forming over-arching canopies above the pathway system, that afford enclosed, focused views of considerable visual appeal.

It contains aesthetically impressive plantings including individual specimen trees and stands of Moreton Bay Fig, Canary Island Pine, Pin Oaks, Hoop Pine, Bunya Bunya Pine, Lemon-scented Gum, Sugar Gum, Lilly Pilly, Monterey Pine, Elms, English Oak, Algerian Oak and Stone Pine.

The number of avenues within the park and individual scale of many of the original row plantings is incomparable to any of Melbourne's 'inner ring' or 'outer ring' parks established in the nineteenth century. The treed avenues have matured to form the dominant landscape component of the site, providing over-arching, umbrageous walks counterpointed with expanses of lawn between the avenue alignments.

Criterion E is likely to be satisfied.

STEP 2: A BASIC TEST FOR DETERMINING STATE LEVEL SIGNIFICANCE FOR CRITERION E

The aesthetic characteristics are *APPRECIATED OR VALUED* by the wider community or an appropriately-related discipline as evidenced, for example, by:

- *critical recognition* of the aesthetic characteristics of the place/object within a relevant art, design, architectural or related discipline as an outstanding example within Victoria; or
- wide public *acknowledgement of exceptional merit* in Victoria in medium such as songs, poetry, literature, painting, sculpture, publications, print media etc.

Executive Director's Response

- The Executive Director submits that Fawkner Park meets the state threshold for aesthetic significance to the same or greater extent than the following places already included in the VHR:
 - Flagstaff Gardens (VHR H2041)
 - Treasury Gardens (VHR H1887)
 - Royal Park (VHR H2337).
- It is noted that the City of Melbourne *Fawkner Park Master Plan* (2006) found that Fawkner Park is of aesthetic significance to the State of Victoria.

Criterion E is likely to be satisfied at the State level.

PROPOSED PERMIT POLICY

DRAFT ONLY – NOT YET APPROVED BY THE HERITAGE COUNCIL

Preamble

The purpose of the Permit Policy is to assist when considering or making decisions regarding works to a registered place. It is recommended that any proposed works be discussed with an officer of Heritage Victoria prior to making a permit application. Discussing proposed works will assist in answering questions the owner may have and aid any decisions regarding works to the place.

The extent of registration of Fawkner Park in the Victorian Heritage Register affects the whole place shown on Diagram 2361 including the land, all buildings, archaeological remains, roads, trees, landscape elements and other features. Under the *Heritage Act 1995* a person must not remove or demolish, damage or despoil, develop or alter or excavate, relocate or disturb the position of any part of a registered place or object without approval. It is acknowledged, however, that alterations and other works may be required to keep places and objects in good repair and adapt them for use into the future.

If a person wishes to undertake works or activities in relation to a registered place or registered object, they must apply to the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria for a permit. The purpose of a permit is to enable appropriate change to a place and to effectively manage adverse impacts on the cultural heritage significance of a place as a consequence of change. If an owner is uncertain whether a heritage permit is required, it is recommended that Heritage Victoria be contacted.

Permits are required for anything which alters the place or object, unless a **permit exemption** is granted. Permit exemptions usually cover routine maintenance and upkeep issues faced by owners as well as minor works or works to the elements of the place or object that are not significant. They may include appropriate works that are specified in a conservation management plan. Permit exemptions can be granted at the time of registration (under s.42 of the Heritage Act) or after registration (under s.66 of the Heritage Act).

It should be noted that the addition of new buildings to the registered place, as well as alterations to the interior and exterior of existing buildings requires a permit, unless a specific permit exemption is granted.

Conservation management plans

It is recommended that the management of this place be guided by the following documents:

- City of Melbourne, *Fawkner Park Master Plan* (2006)
- Fawkner Park Conservation Analysis, Hassell Pty Ltd (2002).

Aboriginal cultural heritage

- If any Aboriginal cultural heritage is discovered or exposed at any time it is necessary to immediately contact the Aboriginal Victoria to ascertain requirements under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*.
- If works are proposed which have the potential to disturb or have an impact on Aboriginal cultural heritage it is necessary to contact the Aboriginal Victoria to ascertain any requirements under the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*.
- Under the *Heritage Act 1995* permits are required for any works or activities which alter the place or object, unless a permit exemption is granted. This applies to all parts of the registered place including fabric associated with Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal cultural heritage values.

Human remains

If any suspected human remains are found during any works or activities, the works or activities must cease. The remains must be left in place, and protected from harm or damage. Victoria Police and the State Coroner's Office must be notified immediately. If there are reasonable grounds to believe that the remains are Aboriginal, the Coronial Admissions and Enquiries hotline must be contacted immediately on 1300 888 544. As required under s.17(3)(b) of the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* all details about the location and nature of the human remains must be provided to the Secretary (as defined in the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*).

Other approvals

Please be aware that approval from other authorities (such as local government) may be required to undertake works.

Archaeology

Ground disturbance may affect the archaeological significance of the place and, subject to the exemptions stated in this document, requires a permit. A permit is likely to be required for all sub-surface works in the vicinity of the Cordner Oval, and for any substantial works throughout the park that will affect the below-ground component of the place.

Cultural heritage significance

Overview of significance

The cultural heritage significance of Fawkner Park lies in its historical significance as an integral element of Charles La Trobe's vision, from the mid-1840s, to develop Melbourne as a city surrounded by extensive public parklands. It is a fine example of an 'outer ring' park which were typically developed to facilitate recreation and organised sporting activity. It is also of historical significance for its use as an accommodation base for the Australian Women's Army Service (AWAS) during World War II, and for British migrants between 1947 and 1955. It is aesthetically significant as an outstanding example of a metropolitan park in Victoria, and is particularly notable for fine, mature avenues of English and Dutch Elm, English Oak and Moreton Bay Fig that criss-cross the site, forming over-arching canopies above the pathway system, that afford enclosed, focused views of considerable visual appeal. It is archaeologically significant for its potential to contain subsurface archaeological material related to the use of the place as an Land Headquarters Signals by the AWAS from 1941 to 1947 and as a transit camp for British migrants from 1947 to 1955.

Elements of primary cultural heritage significance

All of the buildings and features listed here are of primary cultural heritage significance in the context of the place. A permit is required for most works or alterations. **This list is not exhaustive.**

Avenues and group plantings

Moreton Bay Fig (*Ficus macrophylla*) and *Ficus sp.*

English Elm (*Ulmus procera*), Dutch Elm (*Ulmus ×hollandica*), Purple-leaved Elm (*Ulmus × hollandica 'Purpurascens'*)

English Oak (*Quercus robur*) and Algerian Oak (*Quercus canariensis*)

Canary Island Palm (*Phoenix canariensis*)

Bunya Bunya Pine (*Araucaria bidwillii*)

Canary Island Pine (*Pinus canariensis*) and Hoop Pine (*Araucaria cunninghamii*)

Canary Island Pine and Moreton Bay Fig

Canary Island Palm and Pin Oak (*Quercus palustris*)

Deodar Cedar (*Cedrus deodara*)

Lemon-scented Gum (*Corymbia citriodora*)

White Poplar (*Populus Alba*)

Paths

All of the paths

Buildings and features

Caretaker's Lodge and fence (1885)

Substation (1925)

Southern Pavilion (1936)

Southern Toilet Block, now store (1937)

Northern Pavilion (1937)

Circular seat (date unknown but likely to be interwar)

Archaeology

Cordner Oval



PROPOSED PERMIT EXEMPTIONS (UNDER SECTION 42 OF THE HERITAGE ACT)

DRAFT ONLY – NOT YET APPROVED BY THE HERITAGE COUNCIL – RECOMMENDED UNDER SECTION 33 OF THE HERITAGE ACT

It should be noted that Permit Exemptions can be granted at the time of registration (under s.42(4) of the Heritage Act). Permit Exemptions can also be applied for and granted after registration (under s.66 of the Heritage Act)

General Condition 1

All exempted alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the fabric of the registered place or object.

General Condition 2

Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of works that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place or object are revealed which relate to the significance of the place or object, then the exemption covering such works shall cease and Heritage Victoria shall be notified as soon as possible.

General Condition 3

All works should be informed by Conservation Management Plans prepared for the place. The Executive Director is not bound by any Conservation Management Plan, and permits still must be obtained for works suggested in any Conservation Management Plan.

General Condition 4

Nothing in this determination prevents the Heritage Council from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions.

General Condition 5

Nothing in this determination exempts owners or their agents from the responsibility to seek relevant planning or building permits from the relevant responsible authority, where applicable.

Specific Permit Exemptions

Landscape

- The process of gardening, including mowing, hedge clipping, bedding displays, removal and replacement of dead shrubs, disease and weed control, and maintenance to care for existing plants.
- The removal or pruning of dead, dying or dangerous trees as assessed by a qualified Arborist to maintain safety. If the tree is identified as being of primary cultural heritage significance, the Executive Director must be notified of these works within 21 days of them being undertaken.
- Management of trees in accordance with Australian Standard; Pruning of Amenity Trees AS 4373-2007.
- Management of trees in accordance with Australian Standard; Protection of Trees on Development Sites AS 4970-2009.
- Subsurface works involving the installation, removal or replacement of watering and drainage systems or services outside the canopy edge of significant trees in accordance with AS4970 and on the condition that works do not impact on archaeological features or deposits. These subsurface works are not permit exempt in the area of the Cordner Oval. This area is clearly shown in the diagram of archaeological sensitivity.
- Removal of plants listed as noxious weeds in the *Catchment and Land Protection Act 1994*.
- Vegetation protection and management of possums and vermin.

Hard Elements

- Repairs and maintenance to all existing hard landscape elements including roads, carparks and pathways, fences, gates and lighting, which replace like with like.
- The installation of standard City of Melbourne furniture, including rubbish and recycling bins, park seats, picnic tables, park and interpretative signage, drinking fountains, pathway park lights, park fencing and safety barriers outside tree protection zones.

Sporting Facilities

- All works associated with the repair and maintenance of all sporting courts, fields and pitches, including line marking and returfing and resurfacing with like materials.
- The addition of minor structures related to sports activity or safety, for example resurfacing playing surfaces, the installation of tennis nets and cricket nets, and fencing and on the condition that works do not impact on archaeological features or deposits.

Playgrounds

- Repair and maintenance of playground equipment and playground area surfaces.
- The construction of new playground equipment and playground area surfaces in existing playground areas.

Buildings - Exteriors

- Minor maintenance and repair works to buildings and features that replaces like with like.
- Painting previously painted walls provided that preparation or painting does not remove evidence of the original paint or other decorative scheme.
- Treatments to stabilise and protect timber structures.

Buildings – Interiors

- All interior works to all buildings except the Caretaker's Lodge.

Caretaker's Lodge

- Installation, removal or replacement of carpets and /or flexible floor coverings.
- Installation, removal or replacement of curtain tracks, rods, blinds and other window dressings.
- Installation, removal or replacement of hoods, nails and other devices for the hanging of mirrors, paintings and other wall mounted artworks.
- Refurbishment of existing bathrooms, toilets or ensuites including the removal or replacement of sanitary fixtures and associated piping to the Caretaker's Cottage.
- Installation, removal or replacement of existing kitchen benches and kitchen fixtures including associated plumbing and wiring.
- Installation, removal or replacement of electrical wiring provided that new wiring is fully concealed and any original light switches, pull cord, push buttons or power outlets are retained in-situ.
- Installation, removal or replacement of bulk insulation in the roof space.
- Installation, removal or replacement of smoke detectors.

Events

- All events and associated infrastructure that have no impact on buildings, archaeological deposits, structures and features, trees and beds, and are outside the tree protection zone are permitted for a period of up to 4 days. All works associated with the staging of events must comply with the Melbourne Event Planning Guide, December 2011, available at: www.melbourne.vic.gov.au.
- Events of a longer period or having the potential to impact on trees, beds, lawns, buildings and features will require the submission of a management plan to be approved by the Executive Director. In this case the event would normally be considered under the Minor Works provisions of the permit exemptions and s66(3) *Heritage Act 1995*.

RELEVANT INFORMATION

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY

City of Melbourne

HERITAGE LISTING INFORMATION

- **Heritage Overlay:** HO6 (as part of the South Yarra Precinct, City of Melbourne Planning Scheme)
- **Heritage Overlay Controls:** External Paint: Yes
Internal Alteration: No
Tree: No (not within Fawkner Park, only on St Kilda Road)
- **Victorian Heritage Inventory** H7822-2342
- **Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register:** No
- **Other listing:** NA

Comments: This place has been known as 'South Park Reserve' and 'Fawkner Park'.

HISTORY

[The following historical analysis has been based on the Fawkner Park Conservation Analysis, Hassell Pty Ltd, 2002.]

The planning and reservation of Fawkner Park

In the early years of the Port Phillip District (1836-51) there is recorded evidence of Aboriginal people camping in the South Yarra and Prahran bush. One camp was situated in the north-west corner of what is now known as Fawkner Park, where Toorak and St Kilda Roads intersect. Another Aboriginal camp was located in the park area opposite the Alfred Hospital. In 1851, the Colony of Victoria separated from New South Wales, and the control of the city's parkland came under the authority of the City of Melbourne. In 1855, a plan showing the position of the sites under their jurisdiction was drawn up for 'park or ornamental purposes', and a board of management established to oversee their management and improvement. The necessary funds were provided by the Parliament of Victoria.

Since settlement, Melbourne's founders were keen to ensure that the young city was well surrounded by parkland, thus providing future generations with 'breathing spaces'; areas of green where Melburnians could relax and recuperate and find respite. From the 1840s was the vision of Charles La Trobe (Superintendent of the Port Phillip District and later Lieutenant-Governor of Victoria) to surround Melbourne with a ring of parks and gardens, including land set aside for public purposes. La Trobe recognised the value of parks and recreation spaces for the health and wellbeing of the city's occupants. The result was an 'inner ring' and an 'outer ring' of parks. The inner ring parks were generally more formally designed spaces, intended for passive recreation. The outer ring parks were developed in a less sophisticated manner for both active and passive recreation. Examples of these parks include:

Inner Ring Parks

- Carlton Gardens (included in the registration of the Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens (VHR H1501) which is also a World Heritage Place.
- Fitzroy Gardens (VHR H1834)
- Flagstaff Gardens (VHR H2041)
- Treasury Gardens (VHR H1887)
- Parliament Gardens (included in the registration of Parliament House VHR H1722)
- Royal Botanic Gardens (VHR H1459)
- The Domain including the Alexandra Gardens (VHR H2304).

Outer Ring Parks

- Royal Park (VHR H2337)
- Yarra Park (VHR H2251)
- Fawkner Park
- Studley Park
- Richmond Park, Burnley
- Princes Park
- Albert Park

The first of Melbourne's parks to be developed were the inner ring parks. It was not until 1857 that the Melbourne City Council began to take an interest in the 'South Park Reserve', or 'Fawkner Park' as it was later named. The park occupied a 100-acre site, bounded by Commercial Road to the south, St Kilda Road to the west, Toorak Road to the north and Punt Road to the east, with the site on the corner of Punt and Toorak Roads being set aside for the Church of England. Located on the south-west boundary of the City, at the intersection with the cities of Prahran and St Kilda, Fawkner Park became a dumping ground for the nightsoil (sewage) of Melbourne, which killed many of the trees, making it a 'dreary, desolate waste'. However, with persistent lobbying from the adjacent councils, the City of Melbourne finally consented to fence the park and implement some minor improvements.

In March 1862, Fawkner Park was named in honour of John Pascoe Fawkner, one of Victoria's earliest settlers, and the following July, the area was temporarily reserved from sale; the park's boundary's having been redefined as 'Bounded on the north by Macarthur street; on the east by Pasley; on the south by the Commercial road; and on the west by the east side of St Kilda road'. This effectively annexed parkland along the Toorak Road frontage of the site; to be sold off for private housing. The Melbourne, Prahran and St Kilda Councils were outraged at this plan and campaigned for the decision to be revoked, arguing that the parkland belonged to the people and that the whole of the site, with three vacant boundaries, should be reserved from development. The plan was dropped, but an alternative was tabled, showing instead the annexation of land along St Kilda Road. Despite further protestations from the councils, this plan was accepted, the Victorian Government's only concession being that special conditions be placed on the types of dwellings constructed: '[to be used] only as and for a site for one Villa Residence and its offices to be built of stone or brick... Or as and for a site for a Terrace of Houses of not less than two stories in height and the requisite offices'. This reduced the size of Fawkner Park to its present 41 hectares and disconnected it from Albert Park.

On 12 February 1864, the permanent reservation and control of Fawkner Park was vested in the Council of the City of Melbourne. At this time there is evidence that a section of Fawkner Park was used to agist cattle with the revenue paid to the City of Melbourne. In 1870, conservancy of public parklands was again on the agenda, when the Government constructed a road through Carlton Gardens. The subsequent outcry caused the Government to try and reach a solution once and for all. Thus, on 9 June 1873, Fawkner Park and other city parklands were permanently reserved from sale; with the City and the Board of Land and Works as joint

trustees. Full management of the park was ceded to the Government for a period of ten years, with the understanding that at the end of this time, it would become the Council's responsibility.

Improvements to Fawkner Park

In 1875, the first major step towards the improvement of Fawkner Park was made when Nicholas Bickford, the curator of Parks and Gardens, implemented a schedule of works for the park, including the layout of avenues and paths and the planting of avenue and specimen trees. As part of the arrangement between the City of Melbourne and the Government, monies for the ongoing maintenance of parklands were to be shared equally. In reality this was not the case, with the Government's contribution reducing during the course of the decade. With the onset of the depression during the 1890s, money available for the city parklands covered by the agreement had been reduced from £6,000 annually in the 1870s to £4,000 in the 1890s. In 1882, the Government announced that it would extend its tenure as joint trustee of the city parklands, continuing to provide a financial contribution. This arrangement lasted for the next thirty-five years, ending with the commencement of World War I, when the City of Melbourne was constituted as a 'Committee of Management'.

In 1883 Fawkner Park was described thus:

[It] is situated south of the Yarra, and contains an area of 102.5 acres. The improvements were commenced in May 1875, by the enclosing of and planting a large circular area at the intersection of several leading beaten paths made by pedestrians passing through to South Yarra, Prahran, the Alfred Hospital, and other places. At that time the park was entirely bare of foliage, the depositing in it of night-soil by the City Corporation having destroyed all the trees. Where necessary for the public convenience, the beaten tracks have been formed into good pathways and planted into avenues, of which one is *Araucaria excelsa* (Norfolk Island Pines), one of *Araucaria bidwillii* (Bunya Bunya Pine), one of English Elms, one of Cedars, *Cupressus lambertiana*, *Pinus insignis*, and Horse Chestnut, one of *Eucalyptus cornuta*, two of Morton [sic.] Bay Fig (*Ficus macrophylla*) and one of mixed trees. Over the park suitable sites have been selected, and trees and shrubs planted in groups. Included in the former are *Eucalypti* from Western, North-western, and North Australia; the Red Gum of New South Wales; the white, scarlet and pink flowering and the lemon scented gum (*Eucalyptus citriodora*) from Queensland, the latter especially making good and rapid growth. Besides the groups a number of single specimen trees are distributed over the park, and planted with the object of creating the greatest beauty from every point of observation. Constantly employed in the park are one foreman and one labourer, at a cost of £234 15s. per annum. The design, as well as the execution of the work, was by the present writer." (This report by NM Bickford, curator, is published in the *Victorian Year-Book*, 1883-1884)

In 1885 there were further improvements to Fawkner Park including the construction of new avenues, plantings, and fencing. In 1887 a brick caretaker's lodge and associated fence were constructed at end of Slater Street. In 1889 sites for trees in large open spaces were marked out and ground prepared for planting of young trees. Cattle were still being agisted in a section of the park during the 1880s.

Sporting activities

As a site for sport, Fawkner Park has a long history going back to the late 1850s when the South Yarra Cricket Club was given 'passive occupation' of the land. Around 1865 the South Yarra Football Club and Fawkner Park Cricket Club were officially founded, both resident in Fawkner Park. At that time there is also evidence of quoits and other outdoor pastimes being played. In 1867 permission was denied for the development of a portion of Fawkner Park to be used as a racecourse. In 1869 an application was approved for the practice of archery in part of the park. In 1885 the Southern Cross Football Club applied for permission to erect four goal posts to be removed at end of season. During the 1890s sections of Fawkner Park were set aside for up to ten different sporting activities, ranging from golf to football. Illegal gambling in the park was a frequent occurrence and police mounted weekend patrols to catch offenders. In 1915 tennis courts were opened from 6am until sunset. During the 1930s and 40s the City of Melbourne received complaints that people were using Fawkner Park as a training ground for greyhounds. Fawkner Park was used regularly for sport and recreation. Situated on the periphery of Melbourne, however, it was more vulnerable to periodic budget cuts than the inner city parks.

By the 1920s it had deteriorated, and letters to the newspapers show the concern of locals who were appalled at the state of the fences and trees.

World War II

During World War II a large area of Fawkner Park was compulsorily acquired by the Defence Department and timber barracks buildings were constructed on the site of the south oval in 1943. Between 1943 and 1946 the Army occupied a 3 acre area of the Park where over 600 members of the AWAS housed in huts built by the United States military personnel. Some huts were also used as a camp for Royal Netherlands East Indies Army servicemen who escaped to Australia in 1942. The AWAS personnel stationed at Fawkner Park worked primarily at the Australian Signals Corps whose Land Headquarters (LHQ) was located there.

The AWAS was established in August 1941 to relieve men from non-combat military duties so that they could be sent to fighting units. Until this time, women could only enlist in the Army for medical services. The AWAS was the largest of Australia's military service organisations for women during WWII. It grew to over 20,000 members providing personnel to fill various roles including administration, driving, catering, signals and intelligence. A total of 3,600 AWAS personnel served in the Australian Corps of Signals and made up the majority of its 4,000 members. The work of AWAS personnel at Fawkner Park was vital to the work of the Signal Corps. One commentator described the Corps as the 'nerve centre of the whole AMF... which starts here and ends in the front line'. (*Western Mail*, Perth 25/5/44).

The *Age* newspaper described the camp at Fawkner Park in 1945 as follows:

The camp is like a small self-contained town working 24 hours a day with its inhabitants coming and going at different hours. Six hundred girls live there under the control of the commanding officer of the unit, and whilst in the barracks are administered by an AWAS camp commandant and staff. Every facility is provided – two chapels, hair-dressing salon, recreational rooms, telephones, and a large room where friends may be entertained. As the camp grows it is planned to have the post office, messes and other community facilities concentrated in the middle of the camp to form a civic centre with the barracks radiating from it. Beds in all the barracks are covered with attractive chintz covers made by the girls themselves. Bright curtains hang at the open windows and on the floor are colored mats. Because of the necessity of providing meals at all hours there is always someone working in the kitchens... Gardens have been laid out round the camp, and regimental funds used in the purchase of shrubs, trees and seedlings. (*Age*, 20/6/1945)

Post World War II

By July 1947 all members of the AWAS had been demobilised. In 1952, a Memorial Drinking Fountain dedicated to the women of AWAS was unveiled at Fawkner Park by Lady Murray (this is no longer extant). The former army huts were used as a transit camp for British migrants on their way to the country or interstate between 1947 and 1955. The huts accommodated 150 families or 580 people at any one time. By 1951 most of the huts were removed from the Park and some parkland was restored. Some huts remained in use as emergency housing during the postwar housing shortage (*Argus* 22/1/1952). Fawkner Park was returned to the 'public' following an official hand-back ceremony on 30 November 1955. In that year, as preparations were being made for the 1956 Olympic Games, consideration was given to building an Olympic pool at the north-west corner of the park.

Late twentieth century to present

During the latter half of the twentieth century to the present day the park has been used for recreational and sporting activities. The Fawkner Park Children's Centre opened in its current form in 1989. The largest current use of Fawkner Park is for informal recreation activities including walking, picnicking, dog walking and cycling. The park is part of City of Melbourne's network of nearly 480 hectares of parks and gardens. The historical preservation of large areas of open parkland close to the city centre underpinned the Government's

promotion of Victoria as the 'Garden State' during the 1970s, and has contributed to the consistently high ranking of Melbourne as a 'liveable' city in a number of global studies.

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS

1862 Temporarily reserved and named.

1875 Formal development as a park commenced.

VICTORIAN HISTORICAL THEMES

06 Building towns, cities and the garden state

6.1 Establishing Melbourne town, Port Philip district

07 Governing Victoria

7.5 Defending Victoria and Australia

09 Shaping cultural and creative life

9.1 Participating in sport and recreation

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

[This description is drawn from *Fawkner Park Conservation Analysis*, Hassell Pty Ltd, 2002]

Fawkner Park is trapezoidal in shape, and slopes gently to the south in the northern third of the park, and is then fairly flat throughout the remaining area. These internal undulations, combined with tree plantings, mean that significant portions of the park's interior are not visible from its edges. While it can be seen from the busy thoroughfares of Toorak Road West and Commercial Road to the north and south respectively, the park is concealed from view elsewhere by what is mostly multi-storey development, on St Kilda Road to the west and Punt Road to the east.

This area of Melbourne is characterised by dark grey sand over clay, and would most likely originally have supported Open Woodland or Grassy Low Open Forest communities. These communities may have consisted of an overstorey of Eucalypt species, such as *Eucalyptus radiata*, *Eucalyptus ovata* and *Eucalyptus pryoriana*, with an understorey of small trees or large shrubs such as Acacias, Allocasuarina and Leptospermum. The lowest storey was usually species-rich, with a range of small shrubs, herbs, orchids, lillies and grasses. Aboriginal camps were recorded in Fawkner Park as late as 1849, and the open character of these types of plant communities was useful to Europeans also, as it provided plenty of food for grazing animals, and was easily cleared. Early records clearly represent large open areas punctuated by scattered trees.

There is a mix of uses surrounding the park, with mainly residential properties along this section of Toorak Road and the Alfred Hospital opposite the park on Commercial Road. Properties addressing St Kilda Road are mostly commercial and office use, while those addressing Punt Road include residential use as well as the Christ Church and Grammar School and South Yarra Primary School. Pasley Street, to the park's east, is predominantly residential in use. Pedestrians access the site from Toorak and Commercial Roads; Pasley Street, which connects to Punt Road to the park's east; and Slater and Armadale Streets, which run between the site and St Kilda Road to the west.

The overall plan is characterised by generally straight, tree-lined pathways which often link pedestrian entry points where roadways terminate at the park's boundaries. The majority of the paths are located in the northern third of the site and their layout features an important junction where six tree-lined pathways meet

near the Northern Pavilion. This junction corresponds to the termination of Park Street at the site's northern boundary – an important pedestrian entry to Fawkner Park and a link to the Royal Botanical Gardens to the north. The pathway system divides the Park into a number of lawn areas that contain playing fields for a variety of sports. Smaller lawn areas not suitable as sports grounds, feature plantings of specimen trees. A number of single-storey buildings and structures exist throughout the park, but do not act as major landmarks.

Fawkner Park has a long history of boundary changes. In the early 1860s, land fronting St Kilda Road was annexed for private development and land fronting Toorak Road was added to the park. In the early 1970s part of Pasley Street was added to the park. During the 1940s a pocket of land was excised from the park for a preschool centre (now a community centre).

Buildings, structures and features

Within the grounds of Fawkner Park are a small number of structures ranging in function from sporting pavilions, the Caretaker's Cottage, shelters and playgrounds. The earliest structure remaining on site is the nineteenth century Caretaker's Cottage, located to the western boundary of Fawkner Park on Slater Street. This Hawthorn brick and render detailed cottage is simply designed and features a low pitched gable roof, now clad in corrugated Colorbond. The cottage is set within a small cottage garden contained within a low-level iron fence. A small timber outbuilding is located within the rear yard. To the south of the cottage is a works depot, containing four sheds and lunchroom structures, variously constructed of face brick, timber and corrugated sheet cladding.

The interwar period saw the greatest number of new buildings constructed in Fawkner Park – mainly relating to sport and recreation. The first of these was the Tennis Club and Community Centre, located to the northern end of the park adjacent to Toorak Road West and the tennis courts. It has been extensively modified both externally and internally, but the central Bungalow-styled component remains legible to the east and west elevations. Constructed of red face brick with roughcast render to the upper gables and terracotta roof tiling and vents, the building was originally designed with an L shaped plan. The windows are timber-framed. A low verandah on the tennis court (western) side of the building appears to date from the original construction and early scalloped balconies are intact. A substantial addition in a sympathetic design is located to the south of the building over ground and first floor levels. A modern metal-clad addition is located to the north and this is architecturally unrelated to the original building. The modern tennis courts are to the immediate west of the building and are enclosed by a cyclone mesh fence.

A pair of brick toilets are located adjacent to the north sports pavilion date and to c. 1933. These simple red brick structures are located to the west of the northern changing pavilion. They are unroofed and walls are capped with a simple corbelled cement trim. Access to the toilets is via one of two simple doorway openings, which have rubbed bricks to the reveal.

Moderne style sports pavilions (north and south) and toilets (south) were constructed in the park in 1937. The buildings feature a smooth rendered parapet with incised horizontal streamlining and a gently curving corner treatment to a low-pitched steel deck roof. All are trimmed with shallow tiles around the doorways and in horizontal bands across the walls, which further emphasise the streamlining of the building. Other notable features to the two pavilions include ceramic panels set into walls and decorative florets above the doorways. Some original down pipes are extant although others have been replaced in modern materials and the windows are all covered in modern grilles. Both sports pavilions have been modified; the north with a modern butterfly roofed and glazed addition to the courtyard and other internal modifications; the south has been modified internally to update amenities and storage facilities. The southern toilet block is now used for storage purposes with all internal fittings removed.

The substation is located in the south west corner of the park. It is a low massive composition in render glazed tiles and clinker brick. It is distinguished by its low pitched helm roof with broad bracketed eaves. The building reinterprets the contemporary domestic work of Prairie school architects, most notably Frank Lloyd Wright as a utilitarian pavilion. Architectural detail is drawn from a domestic palette with roof lights suggesting an attic storey and ventilators in the walls. The building performs the dual function of a substation and shelter for nearby playing fields. Some timber seats are located around the sides of the building for this purpose.

Smaller timber structures include the elevated scoreboard and softball pavilion. The former is a small weatherboard structure located in the centre of the park near the football oval. It comprises a single room used to store and display scoring material. The early form of the building appears to remain broadly intact although the tiled roof may be part of a later refurbishment of the place. The building has a door at the western end, which provides access to the scoreboard. Tiered timber benches along the front of the building provide spectator seating for the sports field. Central to the park is the Softball shelter, constructed of substantial square section timber column and beam members. The steeply-pitched gable roof is clad in slate tiles with wide eaves, which cantilever over simple timber seats with views across the sports fields.

Fawkner Park includes two playgrounds to the eastern and northern sections. These are largely modern and feature contemporary play equipment and ground treatments. A smaller landscaped area with curved retaining wall, sculptural elements and seating is located to the south-east of the Tennis Club and Community Centre. Other features include a single circular seat near the Caretaker's Cottage; modern seating and park furniture including bins, light fittings and signage.

Lawns and Sporting Facilities

Large expanses of lawns exist in the park, defined simply by the boundaries of the park and the treed avenues passing through it. The lawns follow the existing contours of the land, being essentially flat to the majority of the park, while those in the northern third of the park slope gently to the south. Scattered trees exist in most lawns and there are some groups of specimen trees.

Many of these lawns have been dedicated to playing fields, and have goal posts or nets throughout. The largest oval is Cordner Oval, which has existed since the removal of army barracks following WWII. The lawns throughout the park provide facilities seasonally for Australian Rules football, rugby, hockey, softball, soccer and cricket. Six tennis courts are located near the north-west corner of the park. A basketball court is located on the eastern boundary near Pasley Street North. One major change since the Conservation Analysis was prepared in 2002 is that the northern area of the park has been dedicated to passive recreation, rather than active sporting facilities (with the exception of the tennis courts).

Paths

Paths throughout the site are predominantly asphalt. These are generally straight lines joining key points at park corners, adjoining and perpendicular streets, and the Alfred Hospital. Widths of the paths vary from 1.5 to 3.5m, all are intended for pedestrian use, and exclude other vehicles with the exception of maintenance vehicles. The paths are usually flush with the surrounding grassed areas and follow the grades throughout the park.

The path layout is not a formal geometric design as was common in many of the inner city nineteenth century parks. A significant exception to the typical character is the kinked southern end to path G. Melbourne Metropolitan Board of Works plans dating from 1895 show the path terminating a short distance from the park edge, within a fenced planting bed. It appears that the remaining length of path was installed at a later date, though why it was decided to alter the alignment of the path remains unclear.

Path locations are almost always demarcated by established tree avenues. Paths are less obvious where trees are planted to one side only, such as path Q and along the northern and eastern boundaries of the park, where trees are irregular in spacing, species or age, and along the western boundary, where planting is scattered and informal in character. Path S, running the length of the southern boundary of the Park, duplicates the asphalt footpath along Commercial Road, although it takes a slightly more meandering route and is surfaced in granitic sand.

LANDSCAPES, TREES & GARDENS

The dominant vegetative element of Fawkner Park are the established treed avenues that criss-cross the site along the primary path system, most notable amongst these being mature avenues of Elm and Moreton Bay Fig. Formal boundary plantations are also located on the northern (Canary Island Palm and Pin Oak), eastern (Canary Island Palm, English Oak) and southern boundaries (Elm avenue), with a mixed plantation of exotic and Australian native trees to the western boundary. Specimen trees, often grouped into discrete clusters, are located in lawn areas between the avenues. A number of the main avenues have been recently replanted with new species, including Willow-leaved Oak and Gingko, replacing former Golden Poplar Avenues, and rejuvenation of the Pin Oak avenue, all located in the north of the park.

ARCHAEOLOGY

Fawkner Park may contain the remains of Aboriginal camps that were established in the north-west corner of the park, and at the southern end. The camps may contain evidence of cultural and material exchange between the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal groups from the early to mid-nineteenth century. The park has a high likelihood to contain artefacts associated with the disposal of rubbish and night-soil, which was frequently removed from city properties and buried in trenches in gardens around the city.

Archaeological remains may have survived from a number of military purposes and activities that took place at Fawkner Park following the outbreak of WWII. In 1942, air-raid shelter trenches were constructed along the Toorak Road frontage, and it is likely that archaeological remains may have survived in Fawkner Park.

Between 1943 and 1946 over 600 members of the Australian Women's Army Service were housed in huts in the area of Cordner Oval, in the south-eastern side of the park. These huts were built by the United States Army. Some of the huts also accommodated Royal Netherlands East Indies Army (Dutch colonial) soldiers. Between 1945 and 1955 the huts were used as a transit depot for British migrants on their way to the country or interstate. The huts accommodated 150 families or 580 people at any one time. The place was also used for emergency housing for Melbourne families during the post-WWII housing shortage while they waited for public housing to be provided by the Victorian Housing Commission

There has been a low level of sub-surface disturbance across Fawkner Park since the Second World War. The park, particularly the Cordner Oval, has the potential to contain historical archaeological features, deposits and artefacts that relate to the phases of its uses from the early to mid-nineteenth century through to WWII and post-1945.

INTEGRITY/INTACTNESS

Intactness – The overall intactness of Fawkner Park is very good. While some elements have been changed or replaced, much of the original design and much of the nineteenth and early to mid-twentieth century fabric, including trees, has been retained. (May 2016)

Integrity – The integrity of the place is very good. Its cultural heritage values can be clearly read. (May 2016)

Archaeology intactness and integrity

Due to the lack of disturbance to most of the park, the overall intactness and integrity of the archaeological deposit is likely to be very good.

CONDITION

Fawkner Park is in very good condition. (May 2016)

COMPARISONS

Fawkner Park is one of the parks and reserves set aside in 1845 at the request of Superintendent Charles La Trobe, who envisioned Melbourne as a city set within encircling public reserves. Largely as a result of La Trobe's vision, Melbourne now has a group of spectacular parks referred to as the 'inner ring' and the 'outer ring'. These include:

Melbourne's Inner Ring Parks

All of the inner ring of parks have been included in the VHR:

- Carlton Gardens (included in the registration of the Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens (VHR H1501) which is also a World Heritage Place.
- Fitzroy Gardens (VHR H1834)
- Flagstaff Gardens (VHR H2041)
- Treasury Gardens (VHR H1887)
- Parliament Gardens (included in the registration of Parliament House VHR H1722)
- Royal Botanic Gardens (VHR H1459)
- The Domain (VHR H2304) which includes the Alexandra Gardens

The inner ring parks were designed spaces of an ornamental nature, with formalised path networks, avenue plantings, horticultural displays and water elements, often intended for picturesque effect, and were intended for passive recreation. The VHR registrations of all the inner ring parks reflect the historical and social complexity of these sites, with their more formal garden and landscape design, picturesque structures and closer proximity to Melbourne. The outer ring parks include:

Melbourne's Outer Ring Parks

Two of the outer ring parks have been included in the Victorian Heritage Register:

- Royal Park (VHR H2337)
- Yarra Park (VHR H2251)
- Fawkner Park
- Studley Park
- Richmond Park, Burnley
- Princes Park
- Albert Park

These outer ring parks were large areas of land set aside with the intention of providing public open space: to be places of activity, for civic gatherings, playing, demonstrating and active recreation. These parks are less formally arranged than those of the inner ring, have limited horticultural displays, more organically evolved path networks (following early 'desire lines', which are paths formed naturally by foot traffic), a low density of planting and deliberate areas of large open space. These parks are all dominated by active recreation uses such as the Carlton Football Ground (Princes Park), the Melbourne Cricket Ground and the Punt Road Oval (Yarra Park), the Junction Oval (Albert Park) and the old South Melbourne Oval (Albert Park), in addition to ovals and facilities for lower levels of organised sport. The outer ring of parks is on the fringe of the City of

Melbourne and generally contain pathway networks that have developed in response to pedestrian desire lines rather than being laid out to formal designs.

It is most relevant to compare Fawkner Park with other outer ring parks and parks reserved for sport and passive recreation.

Royal Park (VHR H2337)

Royal Park is the most outstanding example of all the public parks set aside in Melbourne by Charles La Trobe in the 1850s. An 'outer ring park', it has had a multi-layered history, having accommodated a range of recreational, health and welfare, scientific and military uses since it was established in the 1850s. It is one of the largest of the parks, and continues to occupy much of the land identified by La Trobe in 1854. It is rare as a relatively intact example of a major metropolitan park, set aside in the 1840s, which retains its basic form, its early use, remnant indigenous vegetation and important views to the city. In addition it is the only example of an inner city park which retains stands, as opposed to specimens, of remnant indigenous vegetation and clearly demonstrates an ongoing dedication to planting native and indigenous plants over a period of more than 150 years. In comparison with Melbourne's other early parks it is notable for its intactness, its multi-layered history and its open and natural character, which is associated with the retention and plantings of indigenous vegetation.

Yarra Park (VHR H2251)

Yarra Park is historically significant as an 'outer ring park' within the system of parks that Charles La Trobe, Superintendent of the Port Phillip District and later Lieutenant-Governor of Victoria, envisaged surrounding Melbourne. The park has further significance as it is the result of the first application in Victoria of the reservation of a large open area for public/government use. Yarra Park is historically significant as the 'village green' for Melbourne and for its role in the development of Australian Rules Football, being the place where the earliest games were played in 1858. The park is an important Aboriginal ceremonial, camping ground and contact site that retains evidence of Aboriginal use, such as the scarred river red gums. Yarra Park has significant historical associations not only with Governor La Trobe but also with early Police Magistrate William Lonsdale, the mounted police force and Clement Hodgkinson, whose design allowed for active and passive recreation.

Other comparative examples include:

Prince's Park, Maryborough (VHR H1880)

Prince's Park is historically and socially significant as one of the oldest recreation reserves in Victoria. It has long served as a public meeting place for sporting contests, community events and for passive recreation. It has been the site of sporting events since it was first used as a cricket ground in 1857, only a few years after Yarra Park (1853) and Albert Park (1855) in Melbourne. The Park includes a collection of buildings and structures now rare in Victorian reserves: a fence (1885), gates which were later modified to include four memorial pillars to World War I servicemen, and a grandstand (1895) – one of the earliest in Victoria and one of only a few nineteenth century surviving grandstands. The well positioned designed buildings and structures to the west side of the oval and the lake in a landscaped reserve are of importance and rare for recreation reserves in Victoria, with no other reserve having as good a collection of 1880-1910 structures. Prince's Park is of scientific (botanical) significance for the occurrence of Victoria's only recorded *Phoenician Juniper*, *Juniperus phoenicea*.

War-related camps in Victoria

Number One Internment Camp, Dhurringile (VHR H2048)

Number One Internment Camp is the only war-related camp included in the VHR as a Heritage Place and an Archaeological Place. It is historically and archaeologically significant for its capacity to demonstrate the

Australian internment policy of interning enemy 'aliens' during WWII. The ruins and the landscape illustrate clearly the physical environment faced by internees and the organisational arrangements of a World War II internment camp. It contains an abundance of archaeological evidence about the layout and operation of the camp, and life within the camp. Local historians have recorded the memories of former German and Italian Internees who have returned to revisit a period of their lives which had a profound effect on them. The compactness of the camp, and the quality and depth of surviving sources of information (archaeological, historical and oral history) bestows the ruins with tremendous social significance as touchstones to the experience of wartime internment.

Summary

Fawkner Park was one of the last of Melbourne's metropolitan parks to be developed in 1875. It demonstrates well the purpose of 'outer ring' parks as public open spaces for sport, recreation, civic gatherings, and the enjoyment of nature in an urban environment. It has similar topography to Yarra Park, sloping down from the northern boundary to a flat southern area dominated by sporting fields. Unlike Yarra Park and Princes Park, Fawkner Park is not divided by railways or tram routes, and encroachments by infrastructure have been relatively minor. It does not contain a major sporting facility (such as the MCG or Carlton Football Ground) or large carparks. The vast majority of Fawkner Park remains largely available to the public for passive recreation and community sporting pursuits. Like other outer ring parks, Royal Park, Princes Park and Albert Park, Fawkner Park shares a historical use as the location of army camps during World War II and postwar migrant accommodation. The place demonstrates similar levels of archaeological significance when compared with the other WWII accommodation camp in Victoria already included in the VHR.

In some respects, Fawkner Park shares characteristics with Melbourne's inner ring parks, including Fitzroy (VHR H1834) and Treasury Gardens (VHR H1887), because of the formal avenues of trees. Indeed the scale and number of the avenues at Fawkner Park is incomparable to any of the other parks and gardens established in the nineteenth century, in the inner Melbourne area. Particularly notable plantings in the Fawkner Park include the stands of Bunya Bunya Pines, Moreton Bay Figs and Himalayan Cedars. Fawkner Park's avenues of Moreton Bay Figs, Elms, Poplars and Oaks are impressive landscape features.

Fawkner Park demonstrates comparable cultural heritage values to parks of a similar type already included in the Victorian Heritage Register. It is of historical, archaeological and aesthetic significance at a state level and has a high level of intactness and integrity which allows its cultural heritage and archaeological values to be clearly read.

KEY REFERENCES USED TO PREPARE ASSESSMENT

Fawkner Park Conservation Analysis, Hassell Pty Ltd, 2002.

City of Melbourne, *Fawkner Park Master Plan* (2006)

Nomination of Fawkner Park to the Victorian Heritage Register Supporting Documentation, Lovell Chen prepared for Melbourne Metro Rail Authority (December 2015).

ADDITIONAL IMAGES



Aerial view of Fawcner Park (Fawcner Park Management Plan, 2006)



Caretaker's Cottage on the western edge of Fawcner Park as viewed from the north; note the low iron fence and cottage-style garden



Sheds and lunchroom structure in the works depot to the south of the Caretaker's Cottage



Community Centre and Tennis Club viewed from the south-west



Northern toilet blocks (interwar), viewed from the lawns to the west



Southern pavilion viewed from the north



Southern Pavilion



Northern Pavilion



Northern pavilion, showing recent butterfly roofed addition, as viewed from the south-west



Southern toilet block (now store) viewed from the west



Substation at the southern edge of Fawkner Park, as viewed from the north-west



Timber scoreboard building located to the south-west edge of Cordner oval



Softball shelter on path looking to the south-east



Circular seat located nearby the Caretaker's Cottage



Fawkner Park from Commercial Road



Commercial Road Avenue



Avenue of Moreton Bay Fig Trees



Avenue of Morton Bay Figs



An Avenue of Elm Trees



Copse of Elms



Substation



Softball Shelter



Elevated Scorebox



'Moonlight Parade of Volunteers', from the *Australian News for Home Readers*, 25 September 1865



View of Fawkner Park from Toorak Road, South Yarra, 1890



Avenue in Fawkner Park, 1906



Air raid trench digging Fawkner Park South Yarra, c. 1942



V-E day parade of units of Australian Corps of Signals, Fawkner Park



V-E day parade of units of Australian Corps of Signals, Fawkner Park



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

139054

Troops of the Netherlands East Indies Army march along Swanston Street (Melbourne, 1943)



Aerial view from over Fawkner Park, South Yarra, looking north to the city, May 1966



Fawkner Park 1945
Note the army camp in the south eastern section.

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