

Place Citation HOXX Memorial Avenue Barkly Street between Mackellar Street and Grey Street Benalla

Address	Memorial Avenue Barkly Street between Mackellar Street and Gray Street, Benalla		
Heritage Overlay	Proposed for Inclusion in the Benalla Schedule to the Heritage Overlay		
Heritage Overlay Map (proposed)			
Designer/s		Dates	c1930s
Significance	Local	Builder/s	Benalla Progress Association
Heritage Overlay	The Heritage Overlay to apply to both sides of Barkly Street to the extent of Gray Street – Mackellar Street Benalla	Survey Date	March 2024

The following Statement of Significance has been prepared according to the provisions of the Planning Practice Note 01: Applying the Heritage Overlay, (2018)

Assessment against criteria

The following analysis is based on Victorian Government Planning Practice Note 1: Applying the Heritage Overlay (August 2018).

Criterion A: Importance to the course or pattern of our cultural or natural history (historical significance).

Criterion B: Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of our cultural or natural history (rarity).

Criterion C: Potential to yield information that will contribute to understanding our cultural or natural history (research potential).

Criterion D: Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural or natural places or environments (representativeness).

Criterion E: Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics (aesthetic significance).

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Criterion F: Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period (technical significance).

Criterion G: Strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons. This includes the significance of a place to Indigenous peoples as part of their continuing and developing cultural traditions (social significance).

Criterion H: Special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in our history (associative significance).

Statement of Significance

What is Significant?

The Memorial Avenue which consists of fifty-one Grevillea robusta trees planted on both sides of Barkly Street between Mackellar Street and Gray Street, Benalla is significant.

Other species of trees that have been planted in the extent of the memorial are not significant.

How is it Significant?

The Memorial Avenue on Barkly Street between Mackellar Street and Gray Street, Benalla is of historical, rarity, representative, aesthetic and social significance to the Benalla Rural City.

Why is it Significant?

The Memorial Avenue on Barkly Street between Mackellar Street and Gray Street, Benalla is of historical significance as it provides evidence of the community's reaction to the loss of family and friends who served and died during World War I. (Criterion A)

The Memorial Avenue on Barkly Street between Mackellar Street and Gray Street, Benalla is of rarity value as one of only a few memorial avenues that were planted with Australian indigenous trees after World War I. (Criterion B)

The Memorial Avenue on Barkly Street between Mackellar Street and Gray Street, Benalla is of representative significance as one of the many examples of plantings that first appeared in Australia after World War I commemorating all those who enlisted for service and where all were equally recognised for their service. (Criterion D)

The Memorial Avenue on Barkly Street between Mackellar Street and Gray Street, Benalla is of aesthetic significance for its extensive plantings and landmark presence in Barkly Street Benalla. (Criterion E)

The Memorial Avenue on Barkly Street between Mackellar Street and Gray Street, Benalla is of social significance for its relationship with the community as a memorial to those who served in World War I and for its continuing commemorative importance. The memorial avenue remains as an indication of Benalla's commemoration of the sacrifices of their volunteers along with loss and sorrow experienced in Benalla. (Criterion G)

Additional Controls

External paint controls apply	No
Internal alteration controls apply	No
Tree controls apply	Yes

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The fifty-one Grevillea robusta trees found on both sides of Barkly Street between Gray and Mackellar Streets.	
Outbuildings or fences not exempt under Clause 43.01-4	No
Included on the Victorian Heritage Register under the Heritage Act 2017	No
Prohibited uses permitted	No
Aboriginal heritage place	No
Solar energy system controls apply	No

Physical Description

The original planting consisted of 106 Grevillea robusta trees on both sides of Barkly Street between Gray and Mackellar Streets Benalla. Today this planting is still largely appreciable with the exception of the area that was redeveloped by the Education Department between Bridge Street East and Church Street during the twenty-first century. However, the memorial avenue is appreciable within the remaining areas. There has been some plantings of trees that are not sympathetic but overall it is a legible memorial.

Comparative Analysis

The majority of memorial avenues from this period consist of plantings of European trees.

Examples include the avenues at:

- Woodend Avenue of Honour, VHR H2066 which consists of 221 oak trees
- Bacchus Marsh Avenue of Honour VHR H2238 which consists of 281 elm trees

There are limited examples of Australian indigenous trees being used as memorial trees.

Examples include:

- Browns Plains memorial avenue which includes Eucalypts sp. The extent of the memorial is approximately 100m. This avenue is in very poor condition. This avenue was planted after World War I.
- The Calder Woodburn Memorial Avenue which includes tree plantings on both side of the Goulburn Valley Highway. It is 20 km long and includes over 2,400 trees Australian indigenous trees. This avenue was planted after World War II.
- Geelong Vietnam Veterans Avenue of Honour includes Australian indigenous trees and was established in 1995.

The Barkly Street memorial avenue which consists of Australian indigenous trees and was originally planted with 106 Grevillea robustas after World War I is unusual and is of note.

Place History

By 1934, it had been sixteen years since the end of The Great War, and as Benalla was emerging from the Great Depression, its citizens looked to the unfinished business of honouring the fallen. In 1918, an avenue of honour had been started in Barkly street.¹ In 1928, on the eve of the Great Depression, Benalla Progress

¹ 'Benalla. Honor Avenue Planted.' *The Ballarat Courier*, Monday 5 August 1918 - Page 6.

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Association reported that an inspection had been made of Barkly street; with a view to its beautification and renaming it Anzac Avenue.² Finally, in 1934, the commemorative avenue of 106 Silky Oaks (*Grevillea robusta*) was completed, planted along both sides of Barkly Street from Grey Street to McKellar Street, forming an unbroken avenue.

Relevant Historic Themes as identified in the *Benalla Rural City Gaps Heritage Study: Thematic History*
Prepared by Dr Robyn Ballinger

8. Building community life

8.6 Preserving traditions and commemorating

² 'Benalla Progress Association.' *Benalla Standard*, Friday 1 June 1928 - Page 2; 'Avenue Of Honour Official Ceremony On Saturday.' *The North Eastern Ensign*, Friday 28 September 1934 - Page 1.