

PLAN HERITAGE
Heritage Planning Consultants

Preliminary
Landscape Heritage Assessment
Elwood Foreshore Reserve
Elwood

December 2020

Prepared for City of Port Phillip

1.0 Introduction

Port Phillip City Council engaged Plan Heritage to undertake a preliminary landscape heritage assessment of the area known as the Elwood Foreshore Reserve (including Head Reserve) in order to better understand the sites and elements of potential cultural heritage significance for the purpose of future Master Planning for the Reserve.

The study area includes the whole of the Elwood Foreshore Reserve from Ormond Point through to Head Street as shown below.



*Figure 1 Study area shown in Red
(Source: Near Map)*

1.1 Limitations

This report provides a preliminary assessment of the landscape elements of the Elwood Foreshore Reserve. The assessment is limited to the study area shown in Figure 1.

This report is preliminary in nature and does not provide a full assessment of the cultural heritage values of the site nor the individual elements identified, nor does it provide detailed comparative analysis. The report focusses on the landscape elements and does not consider any of the buildings or built elements, nor the indigenous heritage values of the place.

A report on the built aspects of the site was undertaken by Context in June 2020, and a preliminary Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment was undertaken by EcoLogical in June 2020.

1.2 Photographs

All photographs within this report have been taken by Plan Heritage, unless otherwise indicated.

2.0 Summary of Preliminary findings

The following elements of the Elwood Foreshore landscape have been identified as having potential cultural heritage significance:

- Row planting of Norfolk Island Pines (*Araucaria heterophylla*) along foreshore
- Head Street Reserve, including mature plantings and path layout.
- Boundary planting of Norfolk Island Hibiscus along Ormond Esplanade and Head Street
- Sea wall and adjacent cement promenade should be considered further for potential values

The thickets of Ti-Tree and indigenous vegetation, known in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries as the 'Ti-Tree Reserves' have very little surviving fabric and while are of historic and social interest, are unlikely to meet the threshold for cultural heritage significance.

The Elwood Tennis Club, while it has been in the same location since 1929, has very low integrity and is unlikely to meet the threshold for local significance. The mature specimens of Coastal Banksia and Mirror Bush on the southern and western boundaries should be retained in the redevelopment of the site.

It is recommended that Council undertake further work to fully assess and test the elements identified above as having potential cultural heritage significance, and consider applying the Heritage Overlay to limited areas of the reserve accordingly. In order to protect the cultural landscape of the whole of Elwood Foreshore Reserve, an alternate control such as the Significant Landscape Overlay may be considered appropriate.

3.0 Methodology

3.1 Introduction

This preliminary assessment was carried out in accordance with the brief provided by the City of Port Phillip, and further clarification of the outputs identified in the Inception meeting, held with Project Manager, Julian Hawkins and Heritage Advisor, David Helms. The study focusses on the landscape elements (both hard and soft) which make up the Elwood Foreshore Reserve.

The assessment was not aimed at conclusively assessing the landscape of the Elwood Foreshore Reserve, nor its component parts for inclusion in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay of the Port Phillip Planning Scheme.

It was however considered appropriate to undertake the assessment based on the accepted industry standard for the identification, assessment and management of places of cultural significance, *The Burra Charter: The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Heritage Significance* (2013).

It was also considered appropriate consider the preliminary assessment of each element utilising the guidance provided in the Victorian Planning Practice Note PN001 *Applying the Heritage Overlay* (2018), including assessing the individual elements of the place with regard to the HERCON criteria, and considering comparative examples throughout the municipality when determining a likelihood as to whether a place might be significant. In addition, the guidance set out in *Landscapes of Cultural Heritage Significance: Assessment Guidelines* (Heritage Victoria, 2015) has been used to supplement the assessment tools above, and recognises that the cultural heritage values of landscapes may be related to their aesthetic, archaeological, historical, scientific, social, or architectural values, any or all of which could co-exist in the one place.

For individual trees or groups of trees, consideration of the National Trust Significant Tree Criteria was used where specific cultural heritage values could not be substantiated. These were also used to consider trees for their size, age and botanical value, with regard to the National Trust Significant Tree Register.

3.2 Assessment and reporting

3.2.1 Inception meeting and review of background materials

In undertaking this preliminary assessment, an inception meeting was held with the City of Port Phillip. At that time, a number of background reports were provided to Plan Heritage, including the Context report 'Elwood Foreshore Facilities Strategy Heritage Review' (September 2020) and the EcoLogical Australia report 'Elwood Foreshore – Preliminary Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment' (June 2020) and an Arboricultural Report prepared by TreeLogic 'Elwood Foreshore - Arboricultural Assessment and Report' (May 2020). This material was reviewed prior to a site visit being undertaken on foot in late October 2020.

3.2.2 Site visit and documentation

The site visit focussed on particular trees, groups of trees, landscaping and other elements which were identified in the review of background documents but considered all landscape elements on site.

3.2.3 Additional research into primary sources

Based on the site visit and review of documentation, limited additional research was undertaken into the site. This research was limited to a desktop review of primary sources, including maps, plans, photographs and newspaper articles, generally sourced via the NLA Trove website, and included in other consultant reports mentioned in Section 3.2.1. The material dated from c.1895 through to 1960. This research was used to substantiate and confirm the estimated planting or establishment dates of the various elements which were viewed during the site visit, and to inform a brief potted history for each element identifying the creation or planting dates and how the element has changed (or deliberately been retained) over time, its integrity and intactness. At the conclusion of the draft report, additional information was provided by Council to Plan Heritage in the form of a series of aerial images from c.1940 – c.2000 of the reserve. These aerial images were used to re-consider and provide supplementary information to the findings of the draft report.

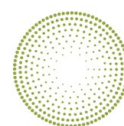
3.2.4 Comparative Analysis

Comparative analysis is an essential step to determining if a place or precinct meets an identified threshold, whether this be of cultural heritage significance at the local or state level, or whether it is considered a significant tree or group of trees utilising the National Trust Significant Tree Criteria. The Planning Practice Note 'Applying the Heritage Overlay' (2018) advises that comparative analysis is essential in understanding the relative significance of a place, particularly when considering whether it meets the threshold for local or state significance.

For the purposes of this preliminary assessment, preliminary comparative analysis was undertaken, given the preliminary nature of the assessment. Each section includes notes regarding comparative examples, matters which require further investigation and consideration in any final assessment.

For the purpose of the assessment, the City of Port Phillip was considered the appropriate scope for comparative analysis information to provide a preliminary assessment of the landscape significance of various elements within the Foreshore Reserve.

Limited comparative analysis has been undertaken where possible, utilising the National Trust Significant Tree Register to compare individual trees or tree groups. For designed landscapes, where feasible and readily available, a skim review of HERMES citations was undertaken



directed by an Internal document provided by City of Port Phillip entitled ‘Heritage Parks and Trees Consolidated List’ (June 2018), in conjunction with the information recorded in the HERMES database . Further comparative information was provided by Council at the conclusion of the draft report which was integrated into the findings of this report.

3.3 Assessment against criteria

In accordance with the Practice Note, heritage places are identified as meeting a threshold of local or state significance. Places of local significance can include places that are important to a particular locality or community within the municipality, or to the whole of the municipality. The relevant criteria used to determine whether a place meets the threshold for significance are colloquially known as the HERCON Criteria. A similar set of criteria is used specifically when considering landscape significance, as identified by the *Landscapes of Cultural Heritage Significance: Assessment Guidelines* (Heritage Victoria, 2015). For comparison, these are set out below:

CRITERION	HERCON CRITERIA	LANDSCAPE ASSESSMENT CONSIDERATIONS
Criterion A	Importance to the course or pattern of our cultural or natural history (historical significance).	Historical significance relates to the value of a place’s association with important historical events and themes, eras, patterns of use and development or individual people. It incorporates the history of aesthetics, architecture, archaeology, science, and society, so it overlaps (or underlies) the other categories of cultural heritage significance.
Criterion B	Possession of uncommon, rare, or endangered aspects of our cultural or natural history (rarity).	N/A
Criterion C	Potential to yield information that will contribute to understanding our cultural or natural history (research potential).	Archaeological significance encompasses the ability of the place or object to demonstrate aspects of historical function, design, and technology through remaining fabric (particularly where fabric is deteriorated, buried or concealed).
Criterion D	Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural or natural places or environments (representativeness).	Architectural significance encompasses the ability of a place to demonstrate artistic and technological aspects of buildings or works, or for those aspects to be reflected in the design of the buildings or works.
Criterion E	Importance in exhibiting aesthetic characteristics (aesthetic significance).	Aesthetic significance encompasses all the sensory responses generated by a place or object.
Criterion F	Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period (technical significance).	Scientific significance relates to the technical achievements associated with a place, or to its educational potential. It also encompasses places important in furthering the understanding of the natural and

		altered environment, and the embodiment of scientific information, in such disciplines as botany, zoology, geology, geomorphology, agriculture, mining, and engineering.
Criterion G	Strong or special association with a particular present-day community or cultural group for social, cultural, or spiritual reasons.	Social significance encompasses the collective sense of attachment to a place or object that is felt by a group of people.
Criterion H	Special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in our history (associative significance).	N/A

A brief indication for each of the criteria and the relevant landscape assessment considerations, including notes and recommended further considerations for each element identified as having potential cultural heritage significance is provided in the Preliminary Assessment in Section 4 of this report.

4.0 Preliminary Assessment

This section sets out the preliminary findings for the various elements identified as being of potential cultural heritage or other significance. It provides a brief description and identification of the approximate curtilage and location of each element, a potted history and indication of which criteria it is likely to meet and some justification for this. Information regarding further research or investigation required is also identified where required.

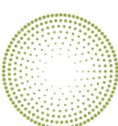
4.1 Head Street Reserve



Figure 2 Head Street Reserve, looking west

Description

The Head Street Reserve is a small designed landscape located at the eastern extremity of the Elwood Foreshore Reserve, at the intersection of Head Street and Ormond Esplanade. The Reserve has been laid out as an ornamental park with a central circular pathway with radiating straight paths through the reserve. Aerial photographs dating to c.1929 show various



paths intersecting this part of the Elwood Foreshore Reserve prior to the development of a park in this location.

The Reserve has been laid out as an ornamental park with a central circular pathway with radiating straight paths through the reserve. In addition to the path network, there are garden beds located within three of the four the quadrants, as well as within the circular section of path. Head Street Reserve retains some of the mature early tree plantings, including mature specimens of Prickly-leaf Paper Bark (*Melaleuca sypheleioides*), Port Jackson Fig (*Ficus rubiginosa*), Norfolk Island Hibiscus (*Lagunaria patersonia*) and one specimen of Chinese Elm (*Ulmus parvifolia*) and one of Golden Cypress (*Cupressus macrocarpa* 'Aurea'). An intact row of nine Norfolk Island Hibiscus (c.1940-45) survive along Head Street, immediately to the south of the reserve. In addition, a further five trees of the same species of a similar size and age extend west from Head Reserve (4 now located in the Croquet Club) and one to the west. It appears that these trees once connected through to the row of the same species which formalised the southern boundary of the Head Street Reserve. The original planting design (c.1940-45) appears to have placed pairs of the same species on either side of linear paths, with a central tree planting to the circular bed and a strong boundary planting of Norfolk Island Hibiscus defining the reserve on all sides.

There are clear layers of later planting within the reserve, both on the boundaries and within the reserve 'proper'. A later twentieth century planting of Australian native trees is clear in the large number of small to medium native trees within the reserve which are semi-mature to maturing, Silky Oak (*Grevillia robusta*), Illawarra Flame Tree (*Brachychiton acerifolius*), Southern Mahogany (*Eucalyptus botrioides*) and additional less mature specimens of Norfolk Island Hibiscus which have replaced earlier specimens. It may be some of that these species were represented in the Head Street Reserve planting palette and have been replaced over time, as many of the 'new' trees are located in locations the same as or close to earlier known locations. A boundary planting between the Head Street Reserve and the Croquet Club (relocated to its current site in c.1970) contains some larger trees and shrubs which are uncommon to the remainder of the reserve. These include Yellow Tallow Wood (*Afrocarpus falcatus*), Karaka (*Cornynocarpus laevigatus*) and Holm Oak (*Quercus ilex*). Although not particularly large, they appear to but most have been planted in the last 20 years to create a firm boundary between the two places. Planting along this western boundary includes more common species of shrubs such as Privet and Cotoneaster. Similarly, the central planting of Crepe Myrtle underplanted with Dianella within the circular pathway bed appears to date from the late 20th century. Although early images indicate there has always been a planting in this location, the previous species is not known.

The predominant elements of the early layout and skeleton planting of the park is still evident despite the loss of many early plantings and later layers of planting. The cruciform path layout connecting the key pedestrian routes from Head Street to Ormond Esplanade, centred around circular bed surrounded by path set to the west of the intersecting paths is intact to the original design. The perimeter path on Head Street survives, as does some of the perimeter path along Ormond Esplanade. The central section of the Ormond Esplanade path has been altered by works to the intersection of Head/St Kilda Streets c.1971-80.



Figure 3 Head Street Reserve - Tree Survey produced by TreeLogic marked up to show trees which date from c.1940-5

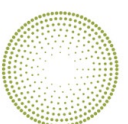


Figure 4 Approximate curtilage for Head Street Reserve (shown in red) Note – excludes boundary planting of Norfolk Island Hibiscus along Head Street and in the adjacent Croquet Club as these are listed elsewhere.

History

The area on which the Head Street Reserve now stands was part of the 11-acre reserve located at the southern end of the Public Garden Reserve established prior to 1865 between Point Ormond, Ormond Esplanade and Head Street. The Rifle Butts operated in the southern portion of what is now the Elwood Foreshore Reserve until 1907 when they were closed due to public safety concerns. The Head Street Reserve was gazetted in 1911 (Context, 2020). There does not appear to be any remaining fabric within the area relating to this early use.

Aerial photographs from the 1920s show that the area where the Head Street Reserve is now located was left largely as an undeveloped flat tract of land, the only 'improvement' being a row of trees planted on the north side of Head Street extending from Ormond Esplanade towards the foreshore. The Elwood Progress Association lobbied St Kilda City Council throughout the 1930s for greater expenditure for a beautification scheme for the Elwood foreshore and Elwood Park. An inspection of the area in 1936 by the Victorian Minister for Lands and the Mayor of St Kilda in response to continuous complaints about the state of the Elwood Foreshore and park resulted in scathing condemnation of the manner in which the St. Kilda Council was managing both the beach and the greater Foreshore Reserve. Describing the area as a 'discredit to Melbourne', the Minister later agreed to assist Council with funds to manage and beautify the reserve (The Argus, 8 July 1936:9



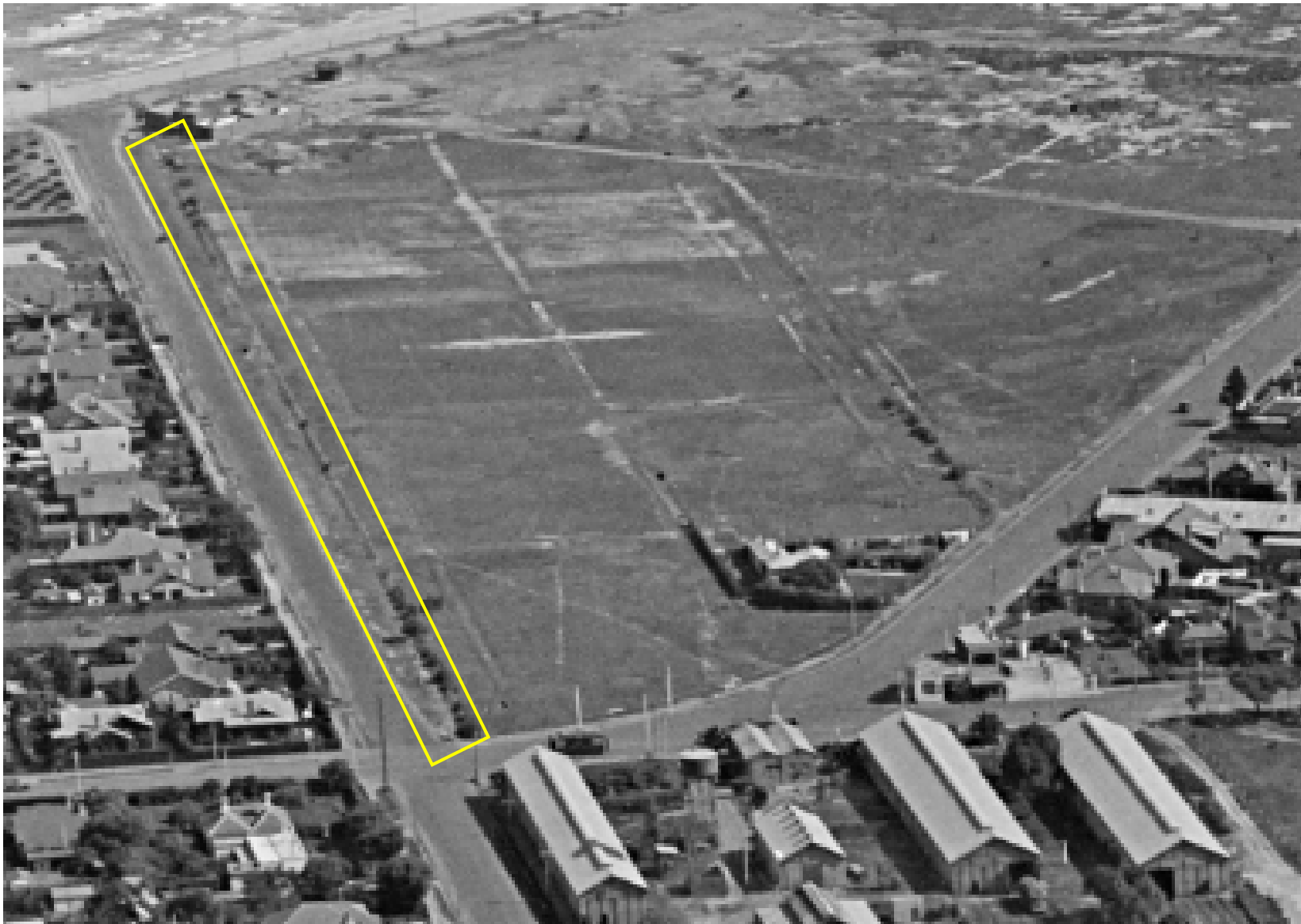


Figure 5 Aerial view of Head Street Reserve location c. 1929 by Charles Pratt. Note the planting extending from Ormond Esplanade heading toward foreshore which appears to be still juvenile.



Figure 6 Aerial view of the Head Street Reserve area c. 1930 provided by City of Port Phillip.

An aerial photograph of the land provided by Council dated c.1930 (Figure 6) is not particularly clear, but does show that at this time no layout of the reserve has taken place. It is difficult to determine whether the row trees along Head Street are still extant in this aerial image, nor in the c.1940 aerial (Figure 7).

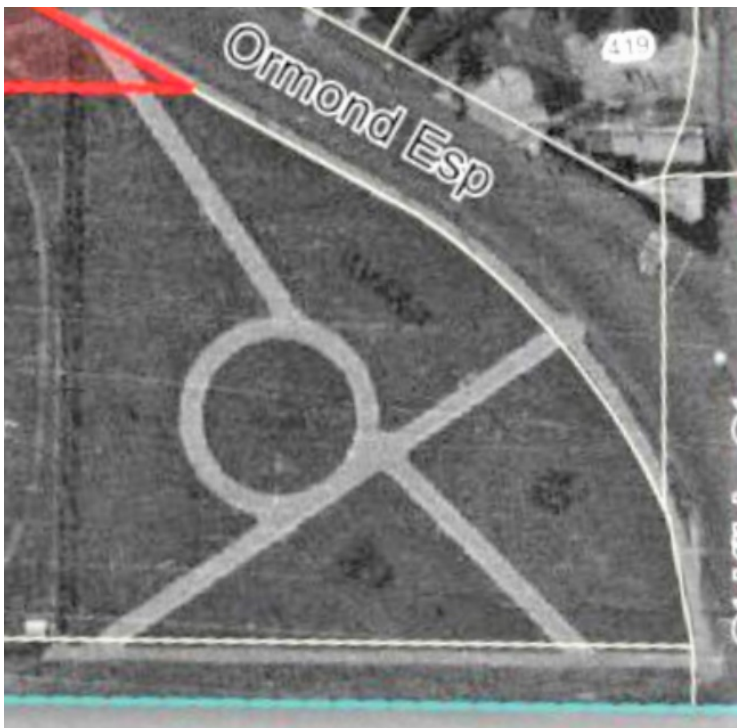


Figure 7 Aerial image of Head Street Reserve c. 1940 provided by City of Port Phillip. Note garden beds, path layout and external footpath layout present by 1940. It is difficult to see whether the trees present in the c.1929 aerial survive.

Later images dated c.1945 show a clear and well-spaced planting of trees of some maturity along the Head Street boundary (see Figure 8). No mention of the design, layout, creation or planting of the reserve has been found in local newspapers, however, based on the evidence provided in the aerial images provided both by City of Port Phillip, and available through other sources it can be estimated that it is believed that the Head Street Reserve was laid out some time between 1938 and 1940.

Aerial images dated c.1940 show the path and external footpaths laid out with a boundary planting to the western edge, and garden beds located in the north east, south east and south west quadrants as well as the central circular bed. Based on this evidence, it is believed that the Head Street planting evident in c.1929 was removed either before or during the construction of the Head Street Reserve, possibly as a result of a grass fire in c.1934 (mentioned in *The Age*, 24/01/1934:10). The current planting of Norfolk Island Hibiscus is likely to have been planted at the same time as the reserve was created and can be seen as small dots in the c.1940 aerial at Figure 7. A row of juvenile plantings is clear by c.1945 (Figure 8).

The first planting to take place within the reserve occurred prior to 1940 and consisted a boundary planting on the western border and construction of three garden beds located in three of the four quadrants, and one planting in the circular path. This boundary planting appears to have been largely removed.



Figure 8 Head Reserve c. 1945 - noted central planting in circular bed, boundary plantings and plantings along pathways. Source: Aastra Airways collection, University of Melbourne (Photomap Melbourne D2B or 848 D2B)

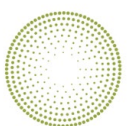




Figure 9 Aerial image c.1940 provided by Council. Yellow arrows show early garden beds. Green arrow indicates original west boundary planting.

A linear shrub planting of a dark foliage was located in the north east quadrant. The dense planting of shrubs in this location is likely to be a replacement planting of a similar species, albeit much larger in size than the original. In the south east quadrant, a roughly triangular shrubbery was located in the centre, planted with unknown species, and in the south west quadrant, a larger roughly triangular shrubbery was planted out. The circular area was also planted out, with what appears to be shrubs or small trees, but the species is not known. All of these garden beds survive today and represent original design features. which appears to survive (albeit much larger size)majority of planting within the Head Street Reserve took place between c.1940-1945, and the design appears to be a simple planting of predominately Australian native evergreen trees lining the path network, with each quadrant having a garden bed and specimen trees set in lawn.

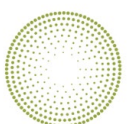
Careful review of aerial images from c.1940 through to present day compared with site inspection and arboricultural survey indicate that the Head Street and Ormond Esplanade boundaries were planted with a single row of regularly spaced Norfolk Island Hibiscus with an external path between c.1940-1945 (Figure 10). Each of the internal axial paths was planted with pairs of Norfolk Island Hibiscus and Prickly Leafed Paper Bark on either side of the paths, and possibly other species which have since been lost. The paired plantings which survive on the internal axial paths and alternating size of canopies evident in the aerial photos indicate that there may have been an alternating rhythm to the planting. The exterior of the circular path was planted with different species of trees, although none of these survive.



Figure 10 Aerial image of Head Street Reserve c.1950 provided by Port Phillip City Council. Yellow circle indicates three light foliated trees, likely to be Golden Cypress (one survives today). Note that the shape of garden beds and planting is clearer in this image.



Figure 11 Aerial image of Head Street Reserve c.1960 provided by Port Phillip City Council. Note earlier boundary planting to west partially removed.



At the intersection of two paths in the eastern part of the Reserve, 3 trees with lighter foliage were planted, possibly as a focal point (see Figure 10). Specimen trees were planted apparently in random locations. Those which survive include specimens of Port Jackson Fig and Chinese Elm (although this may postdate c.1950). The remainder of the park was lawn. Although outside of the Head Street Reserve, it is interesting to note the juvenile planting of Norfolk Island Hibiscus which extend west towards the foreshore (now located within the Bowls Club). These appear to be contemporary with the specimens planted in Head Street Reserve.

By 1960, changes were already evident in the planting element of the Reserve. The northern portion of the western boundary planting had been removed, many of the large specimen trees (such as the be Port Jackson Figs) had grown quickly and were outcompeting other trees. In addition, there was some attrition of trees around the circular pathway and in the northern portion of the reserve (Figure 11).

The relocation of the Croquet Club to its current position west of the Head Street Reserve c. 1970 created the need for removal of part of the original boundary planting (c.1936-40) on the western side of the reserve, although some trees did survive in this location up to c.2000, when overcrowding appears to have forced their removal and a new shrubbery edge was created in this location. Images from c.2009 (Near Map) show that the plantings in this area are substantially smaller than shown in aerials from c1970, c.1980 and c.2000 which supports this.



Figure 12 Aerial image c.2000 provided by City of Port Phillip.

Between c.1970 and 1990, a range of replacement plantings of Norfolk Island Hibiscus took place, and many new Australian native shrubs and trees were introduced into the reserve. The majority of the boundary plantings along Ormond Esplanade of Norfolk Island Hibiscus had been lost, and the areas of lawn were being lost to large, canopied specimen trees.

Between 2000 and 2010, a program of tree removal was undertaken within the park, which appears to have been largely non-original plantings, although some early plantings around the central circular path and internal paths were removed at this time. It appears that some replanting of shrubbery beds may also have occurred in this time, and possibly the planting of Crepe Myrtle in the central garden bed.



Figure 13 Aerial image c.2009. Source: Near Map accessed 01/12/2020

Comparative analysis notes

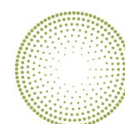
There is a large number of small parks and reserves within the municipality, including 'pocket hankerchief reserves. These are largely designed (as opposed to organic or evolved) landscapes with largely exotic planted species. A predominance of Australian native species (such as Head Street Reserve has) is less common.

The early or original path layout has been lost in many of Port Phillip's Reserves, including Robinson Reserve, Renfrey Gardens and others. Head Reserve retains an internal path layout and the majority of the external path layout with a high degree of intactness and high degree of integrity to the original design.

Further Comparative Analysis needs to be undertaken to determine how Head Street Reserve compares with regard to other municipal Reserve and Parks in retaining highly intact path network and garden bed locations.

Further Comparative Analysis needs to be undertaken to identify and examine the composition, planting and intactness of other small designed landscapes (such as the Head Street Reserve) which are located within larger evolved and/or designed landscapes.

The Head Street Reserve as a designed landscape is on a much smaller scale with a less sophisticated composition, layout and design than those formal designed landscapes such as Catani Gardens (Carlo Cantani c.1906-1920), St Kilda Botanic Gardens, Alma Park (Clement Hodgkinson c. 1967-1900) or Albert Park. The design intent and sophistication of the aesthetics in the geometry, scale and design of some interwar parks and reserves, such as O'Donnell Gardens demonstrate an appreciation of plant species and attributes and an aesthetic intent which is not as evident in the Head Street Reserve planting palette or layout. Head Street Reserve is however more intact to its original design and composition than some of the other smaller designed landscapes, such as Robinson Reserve (c 1920-1945) which has lost integrity by being cut into two parts and has



lost some of the original elements, or Eastern Reserve, which retains plantings of mature Elms but has otherwise lost its original path layout, garden beds and other features, which have been replaced with modern play equipment. Similarly, Howe Crescent Reserve retains mature plantings of Canary Island Palm and Elms and Oaks as perimeter plantings century but very limited design intent, planting variety and no path layout or garden features defining the internal grassed spaces. Cleve Reserve and the other small reserves set out in St Kilda are also similarly devoid of internal design elements, path layouts or garden features.

Most parks are identified as contributory elements within larger heritage precincts rather than identified as having individual significance in their own right. The exceptions are Catani Gardens, O'Donnell Gardens, St. Kilda Botanic Gardens, O'Donnell Gardens and Alma Park, which are all highly intact examples of excellent public garden design from the late nineteenth, early twentieth and early interwar periods.

The majority of parks and reserves within the Heritage Overlay of the City of Port Phillip post-date c1920. While the large reserves were set aside prior to this in the 19th Century (Albert Park, Alma Park, St Kilda Botanic Gardens, Alma Park and others), many of the smaller reserves, particularly within Elwood date from the 20th Century, and in Elwood, often were not developed until the Interwar period, when intense urban growth transformed the suburb from a semi-developed area into a modern suburb, with many apartment buildings. The high numbers of flats and apartments may have been the impetus for the need to develop more public open space where ever possible, hence the development of pocket parks, parks at intersections, within larger reserves etc.

Several parks and reserves within the municipality planted out in the interwar period c.1920-1940

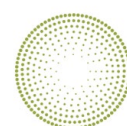
Assessment against HERCON criteria

Criterion A	<p><i>Importance to the course or pattern of our cultural or natural history (historical significance).</i></p> <p>Contributes to the development of the Elwood Foreshore Reserve as a place of recreation, changing function associated with intensive residential development on Head Street and Ormond Esplanade (check with Thematic Environmental History)</p> <p>The early twentieth century through to the interwar period was a time of intense growth in Elwood, when it was transformed from a semi-developed area between swampland and the bay to a modern suburb. It was a popular location for flats and this may have contributed to the need for more public open space for flat residents who had limited private open space. This also ties into the push from St Kilda City Council to undertake tree planting in the streets, and commencement of major tree planting programs in parks, reserves, streets and in public spaces.</p> <p>Response to decades of residents demanding that St Kilda City Council provide the same level of funding and development to the Elwood Foreshore as had been allocated to St Kilda Foreshore; public opinion, increasing popularity of social activities associated with going to the beach/going on holiday, civic pride etc.</p>
--------------------	---

	<p>Potential involvement from ‘susso’ workers beautification scheme known to have been undertaken in late 1930s in other parts of the reserve?</p> <p>Response to ‘beautify’ Elwood Foreshore Reserve by designed landscape response – desire for place of passive recreation rather than the strong sporting focus which had been traditionally associated with the non-beach side of the Foreshore Reserve.</p>
Criterion B	<p><i>Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of our cultural or natural history (rarity).</i></p> <p>N/A</p>
Criterion C	<p><i>Potential to yield information that will contribute to understanding our cultural or natural history (research potential).</i></p> <p>N/A</p>
Criterion D	<p><i>Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural or natural places or environments (representativeness).</i></p> <p>N/A</p>
Criterion E	<p><i>Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics (aesthetic significance).</i></p> <p>Sense of enclosure created by intensively planted and designed landscape of primarily evergreen Australian native species, boundary planting contributes to this sense of place.</p> <p>Intact original pathway with strong axial focus between thoroughfares</p> <p>Modestly scaled and intensively designed landscape set within the broader more organically evolved Foreshore Reserve. The contrast between Head Street Reserve and the remainder of the Elwood Foreshore Reserve with its wide open playing fields, promenade spaces and evolved Ti-tree scrub areas is aesthetically distinctive.</p>
Criterion F	<p><i>Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period (technical significance).</i></p> <p>N/A</p>
Criterion G	<p><i>Strong or special association with a particular present-day community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.</i></p> <p>N/A</p>
Criterion H	<p><i>Special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in our history (associative significance).</i></p> <p>N/A</p>

Assessment against National Trust Significant Tree Criteria

Aesthetic – The Port Jackson Figs located within the Head Street Reserve are of aesthetic significance as better than average examples of the species within the municipality and make a strong contribution to the aesthetic values of the Head Street Reserve.



Preliminary Assessment:

Assess further as likely to meet the threshold for local significance.

Masterplan considerations

- retain Head Street Reserve and seek to undertake further research into its original or likely planting scheme. Consideration should be given to the following actions at minimum:
- Replacing the missing parts of boundary planting of Norfolk Island Hibiscus
- Replanting a strong western boundary planting (extend existing) using a mix of Australian native evergreen species – continue the existing planting style along the Western boundary
- Replant the paired axial plantings
- Remove ‘filler’ trees which have been planted in non-original locations over the past 30 years.

4.2 Tennis Club Reserve and boundary planting



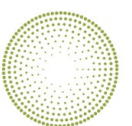
Figure 14 Mature Coastal Banksia located on the south west corner of Tennis Courts.

Description

The Elwood Tennis Club Reserve is located on the north side of the Elwood Foreshore Reserve, fronting Ormond Esplanade. The complex includes four modern (resurfaced) courts, with modern introduced lights, a cream brick modern club house and high mesh wire fencing surrounding the courts. The boundaries are planted with Coastal Banksia of varying ages, with some exceptionally large specimens amongst much later plantings. On the southern boundary there are a variety of plantings, including one mature Mirror Bush (Figure 17). Other less mature trees have been interplanted between the mature Banksia including a mix of indigenous coastal shrubs, new specimens of Coastal Banksia and others.

History

A number of sporting premises were established in the Foreshore Reserve from the mid 1920s, including the Bowling Club (c.1925), the Tennis Club (c.1929) and the Croquet Club (c.1929) along the Ormond Esplanade boundary. These are clearly evident in an aerial image of the Reserve dated c.1929 (Figure 15).



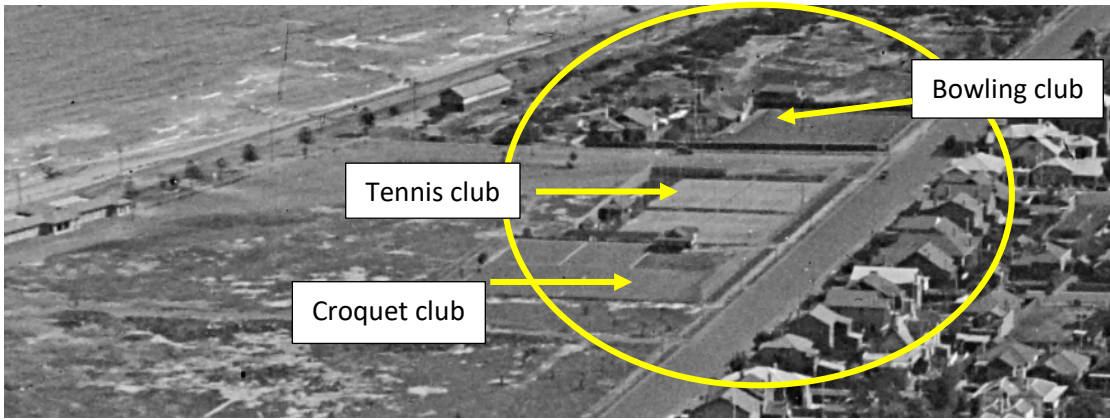


Figure 15 Aerial image c.1929 showing the well-established Bowling, Tennis and Croquet Clubs. Limited plantings at this date are evident. Source: State Library Victoria, Accession No. H91.160/1637. Charles Daniel Pratt 1929.

The Tennis Courts have been consistently located in this position since 1929. Early plantings on the eastern, western and southern boundaries (between the Croquet Club and Tennis Club) are evident, although the species has not been able to be confirmed, it is possible that the vegetation in these images is Coastal Banksia along the west and a Mirror Bush hedge between the two club grounds. There is a substantial specimen of Mirror Bush located on the southern boundary which appears to be consistent with other examples of the species from this period, and some of the Coastal Banksia on the western boundary are also of a size to suggest they date from the Interwar period.



Figure 16 Aerial image of Tennis and Croquet Clubs c.1930 provided by City of Port Phillip. Yellow arrows indicating vegetation clearly defining the west and south boundaries by 1930.

By the 1940s, both the Tennis and Croquet clubs had well defined boundary plantings on all sides. Images from the 1950s of the Lawn Bowls Club (located to the north of the Tennis Club) had a clipped evergreen hedge along the Ormond Esplanade frontage (east). This may have been Privet,

Mirror Bush or another species, which may also have been utilised by the Tennis and Croquet clubs. The planting to the north boundary of the Tennis Club at this time is of particularly dense evergreen foliage, which indicates a species other than Coastal Banksia (Figure 18)

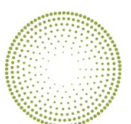


Figure 17 Early planting of Mirror Bush on the south side of tennis court (c.1930s)



Figure 18 Aerial image of Tennis and Croquet Clubs c.1940 provided by City of Port Phillip.

Images from the 1950s and 1960s (Figure 19) show a foliage cover similar to the sparse habit and canopy of the Coastal Banksia, possibly underplanted with another species on the western boundary (particularly the southern end) while the southern boundary of the tennis club



appears to be a clipped hedge. The more substantial planting of Banksia (possibly supplemented by underplanting) may have been in response to managing coastal winds.



Figure 19 Aerial image c.1950 provided by City of Port Phillip.

It appears that major resurfacing works to the courts occurred in the late 1970s, resulting in the removal of much of the vegetation along the western boundary, leaving only a small number of mature trees (Figure 20). The large trees which survive on this boundary are likely to be the only remaining trees of the early boundary planting. The planting on the south however was largely unchanged. Over time, the courts, fences and clubhouse have been rebuilt, resurfaced and replaced. New plantings have been established along Ormond Esplanade and the northern boundary.



Figure 20 Aerial image c.1980 provided by City of Phillip

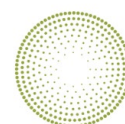
The construction of a new play space to the south (located on the old Croquet Club grounds) led to the construction of a path, playground and some new planting on the southern boundary. However, one specimen of mature Coastal Banksia and one of Mirror Bush still survive on this boundary.

Comparative notes

Peanut Farm Reserve Tennis Courts in St Kilda, established c.1924 and demolished c.1900 and Elwood Tennis Club are the public tennis courts within St. Kilda.

Low integrity to courts and fencing fabric, limited evidence of original plantings survives.

<p>Criterion A</p>	<p><i>Importance to the course or pattern of our cultural or natural history (historical significance).</i></p> <p>Demonstrates importance of organized sport and sense of social identity with clubs in the Interwar Period. Its survival demonstrates a continued use and social value</p> <p>Early date for public tennis courts within the municipality, retained use and original purpose over time.</p> <p>Some plantings are potentially early (c.1929-1940) and demonstrate an early interest and use of indigenous vegetation in designed landscape treatment.</p>
<p>Criterion B</p>	<p><i>Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of our cultural or natural history (rarity).</i></p> <p>N/A</p>
<p>Criterion C</p>	<p><i>Potential to yield information that will contribute to understanding our cultural or natural history (research potential).</i></p> <p>N/A</p>
<p>Criterion D</p>	<p><i>Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural or natural places or environments (representativeness).</i></p> <p>N/A</p>
<p>Criterion E</p>	<p><i>Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics (aesthetic significance).</i></p> <p>N/A</p>
<p>Criterion F</p>	<p><i>Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period (technical significance).</i></p> <p>N/A</p>
<p>Criterion G</p>	<p><i>Strong or special association with a particular present-day community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.</i></p> <p>Strong and special association with Elwood Tennis Club, who have used and developed the tennis courts for almost 100 years.</p>
<p>Criterion H</p>	<p><i>Special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in our history (associative significance).</i></p>



N/A

National Trust Significant Tree Criteria

The planting around the Tennis Courts of Coastal Banksia and Mirror Bush meet the following National Trust Significant Tree Criteria:

Aesthetic – Mirror Bush on southern edge exhibits curious growth form associated with early hedging.



Figure 21 Tennis court and surrounding planting. Red line shows approximate curtilage

Preliminary Assessment:

Do not proceed to further assessment for cultural heritage significance or National Trust Significant Tree Register. The integrity of the Tennis Club fabric (courts, fences, clubrooms etc.) is very low, and research demonstrates that most of the boundary has been replanted.

Master plan considerations

Some very mature specimens of Coastal Banksia remain on the western and southern boundaries, and at least one very mature specimen of Mirror Bush remains on the southern boundary. These specimens should be retained during the proposed Master Planning as they are of interest as early plantings, but do not meet the threshold for any statutory or non-statutory listing.

4.3 Row of Norfolk Island Pines on Foreshore



Figure 22 Norfolk Island Pines along Foreshore (looking North from Head Street)



Figure 23 Norfolk Island Pines on foreshore (between buildings) looking south

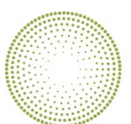




Figure 24 Norfolk Island Pines in northern part of Foreshore, looking south

Description

A single row planting of Norfolk Island Pines (*Araucaria heterophylla*) is located along the Elwood Foreshore between Head Street and Byrne Avenue. The age of the trees in the row vary, those at the southern end being much earlier than those at the northern end (between Byrne Avenue and the Scout Hall). The trees within the row are generally located approximately 26-27m from the interface between the beach and the elevated promenade and follow the original track along the Foreshore. The course of this track originally ran straight as indicated by the surviving mature trees and is evident on aerial photographs up to around 1990.

The route was altered to its current alignment at some point after 1987. There are a very small number of trees which have recently been planted which are out of line with the majority of the row (planted on the west side of Bay Trail) which are located approximately 21-22m from the beach interface¹.

A new planting of Norfolk Island Pines has recently been introduced. These immature specimens are planted approximately 11.5m from the beach interface, with a spacing of 16-17m.

Planted c.1895-1915

The trees between Head Street and the Angling Club are likely to be original late nineteenth or early twentieth century plantings.² There are 15 mature trees within this group, all located approximately 26m from the interface between beach and promenade. The trees to the far south of the row are located in raised beds, with an introduced retaining bluestone wall to the east side. Early MMBW plans show that the trees were originally planted on a raised bed.

¹ Note that the 2020 TreeLogic Assessment did not include any trees north of the Scout Hall within the Foreshore Reserve, so these have not been accurately plotted or measured for canopy, dbh etc.

² Trees 321-335 in the 2020 TreeLogic Assessment

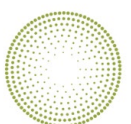


Figure 25 Raised beds with retaining bluestone wall - remnant of the early elevated row of trees

Although there are definite ‘gaps’ within the row in this section, where a number of trees within the row remain in contiguous arrangement, there is a regular pattern and rhythm to the planting of between 11-12m. In some places, the regularity of planting is 24m, indicating the removal of every second tree (evident in the southern most trees in the row). The trees vary in their condition, diameter (dB) and canopy size which is likely the result of the hard landscaping, parking and buildings works which have impacted on the tree root systems at various times. Four of the trees in this group (Tree 322, 324, 331 and 333) are notably smaller, and in poorer condition than the others. This may be due to poor health over a significant period or may demonstrate these trees were later ‘replacement’ plantings.



Figure 26 Mature Norfolk Island Pines with consistent planting distance from beach interface between Head Street and the Scout Hall.



Planted c. 1915-1940

Although it is likely that many trees were replanted in the first half of the Twentieth Century, only two trees appear to date from this period based on their overall diameter and canopy size relative to other specimens in the row. These two specimens are located opposite Bendigo Avenue and the un-named laneway north of Selwyn Avenue are inconsistent with their alignment too the earlier row plantings, being approximately 24-25m from the beach interface (Figure 27).

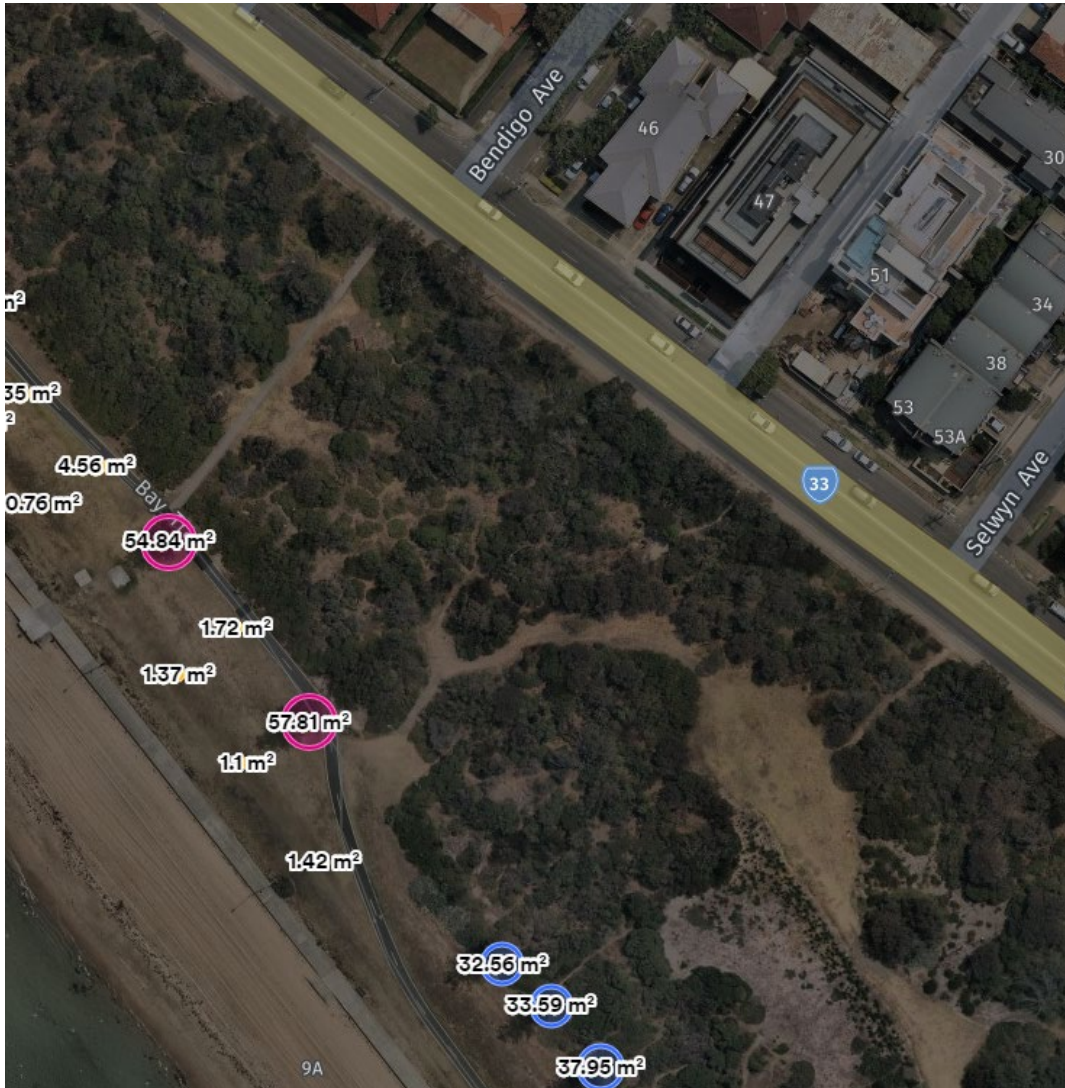


Figure 27 Two trees dating from c1915-1940 shown in pink. Radius measurement included in metres squared

Post War Plantings

There are a group of 4 semi- mature Norfolk Island Pines planted immediately north of the Scout Hall, generally in line with the earlier plantings (26-27m from beach interface) which appear to date from the late mid-to late Twentieth century (c.1960-1980). The trees located opposite Byrne Avenue and Tiuna Grove also appear to date from this period and are of a similar size (Figure 28).

Post 2000 plantings

A small number of trees have been planted on both the east and west sides of the Bay Trail between Tiuna Avenue and Beach Avenue. Those on the east side have a consistent alignment with the original row planting, while those on the west side align with the remnant plantings dating from the interwar period shown in figure 6 above (24m from beach interface).

A new row of Norfolk Island Pines has been established recently. This row is located approximately 11.5m from the beach interface, and has a spacing between trees of approximately 16.5m. Each of the new trees has a curved metal tree guard.



Figure 28 Norfolk Island Pines dating from c. 1960-1980 shown in blue with radius measurement in metres squared.

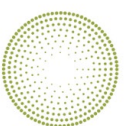




Figure 29 New plantings with guards in foreground

History

An 1857 map of the Village of Elsternwick shows a track running parallel with what is now known as Elwood Beach (then described as ‘Ormond Beach’) labelled ‘track from St. Kilda to Brighton’ (Figure 30). Permanently reserved in 1882 as a reserve for the purposes of Public Recreation, the area known as the Elwood Foreshore Reserve had established a Committee of Management as early as 1869, when part of the area was temporarily reserved for the purpose of ‘Public Garden’. (Context, 2020:7).



Figure 30 Track from St Kilda to Brighton along Elwood Foreshore (then known as Ormond Beach)

Source: ‘Village of Elsternwick, Parish of Prahran’ Parish Plan, 1857. Accessed from State Library of Victoria Picture Collection 16/11/2020.

The date of the first plantings of Norfolk Island Pines along the Elwood Foreshore has not been confirmed, but is likely to pre-date 1900. The MMBW Plan for the area dated 1911 shows a raised

bed set back from a retaining wall and wide promenade above the beach with a single opening located opposite what is now Broadbent Lane. The raised bed is fenced to the east on both sides of the entryway and a single line of regularly spaced trees is denoted as extending from Head Street along the foreshore to opposite Tiuna Grove (MMBW Detail Plan, 1911: Plans 1791 & 1792). The plans also show that at this time the northern portion of the reserve was fenced off from the southern portion at Broadbent Lane. It appears that this fencing extended to the whole of the northern part of the reserve. The Rifle Butts, located in the southern portion of the Reserve, abutting Head Street were also fenced, and significant earth works for the purpose had been carried out toward the east of the site.

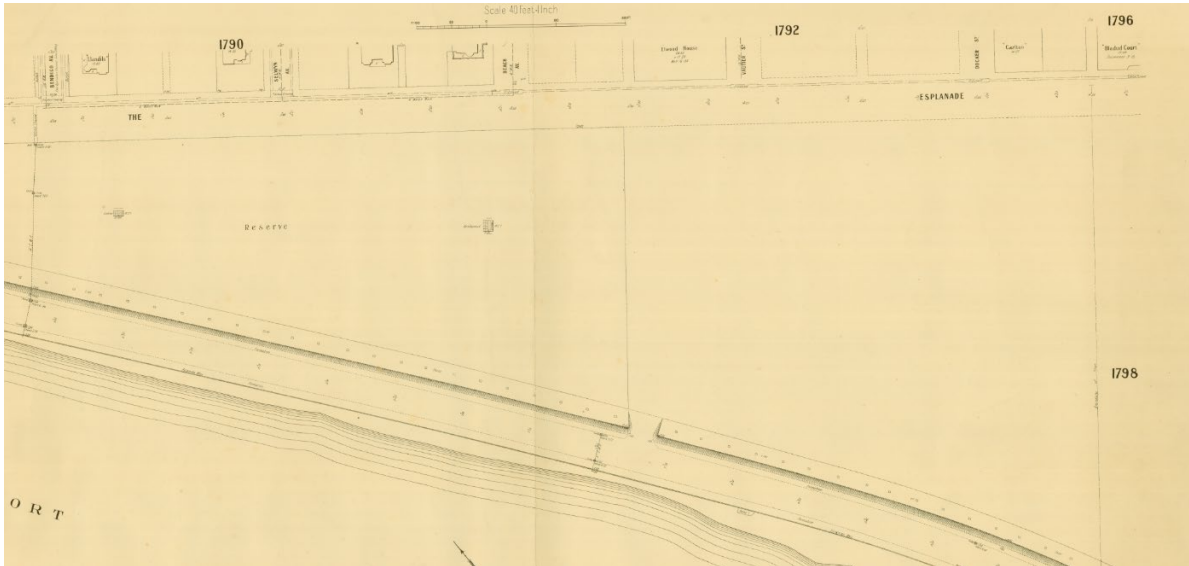
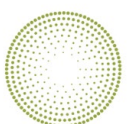


Figure 31 MMBW Detail Plan 1797 (c.1911) showing raised bed with single row of trees and opening to promenade opposite Broadbent Street.

An aerial photograph of the area dated c.1925 shows a single row planting of trees of some maturity in the southern portion of the reserve, with what appears to be a later planting located north of the Sailing Club. The spacing of the trees in both sections is consistent, although it appears that the southern part of the row does not extend to Head Street, indicating that some trees had been lost between c.1911 and 1925.

The image is also useful as it demonstrates the similar alignment of the early 1850s 'St Kilda to Brighton track' and the Elwood Foreshore track (which has now been re-aligned).

The alignment of the trees is interesting, in that the earlier (southern) row of trees are planted to the east of the track between St Kilda and Brighton, and the newer part (northern) of the row is located to the east of the track.



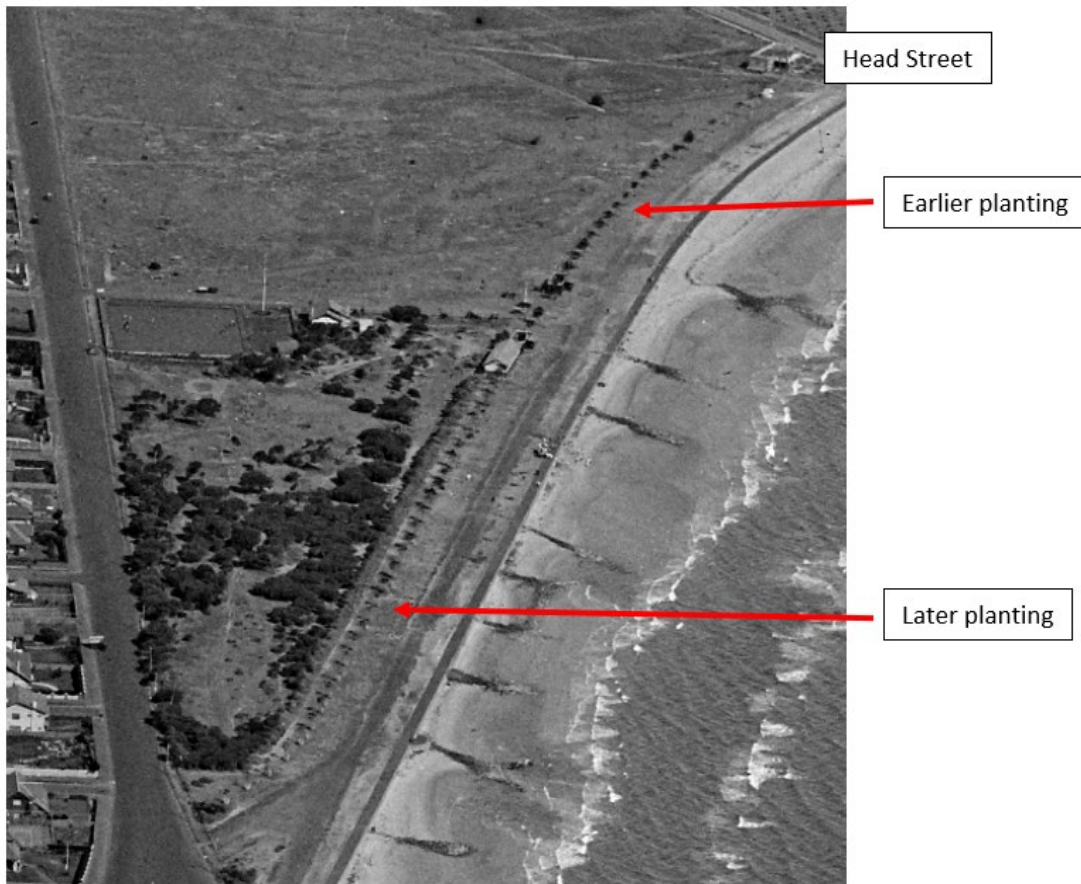


Figure 32 Aerial image of Elwood Foreshore Reserve c.1925 showing plantings of Norfolk Island Pine along foreshore
 Source: State Library of Victoria Picture Collection, Accession No. H91.160/1665. Charles Daniel Pratt, c.1925

Comparison of the c1925 aerial image with an oblique aerial of the same site taken from the south in 1929 is useful in confirming that all of the trees which survive south of the Lifesaving Club (despite the variation in their size) date from the same period. The c1929 image show that the trees in the southern portion vary considerably in size, while those located further north are more consistent in size. It is also clear that the construction of new facilities in the southern section of the Foreshore has removed a number of the original trees.



Figure 33 Oblique aerial image of Elwood Foreshore taken by Charles Daniel Pratt c.1929 showing Norfolk Island Pines on foreshore

By 1945, the Norfolk Island Pines in the southern portion of the row (earlier plantings) were well established and mature, with some gaps in the planting present. A double row of ti-tree was planted to the east of the northern row forming a wind break or hedge to the Ti-Tree Reserve.

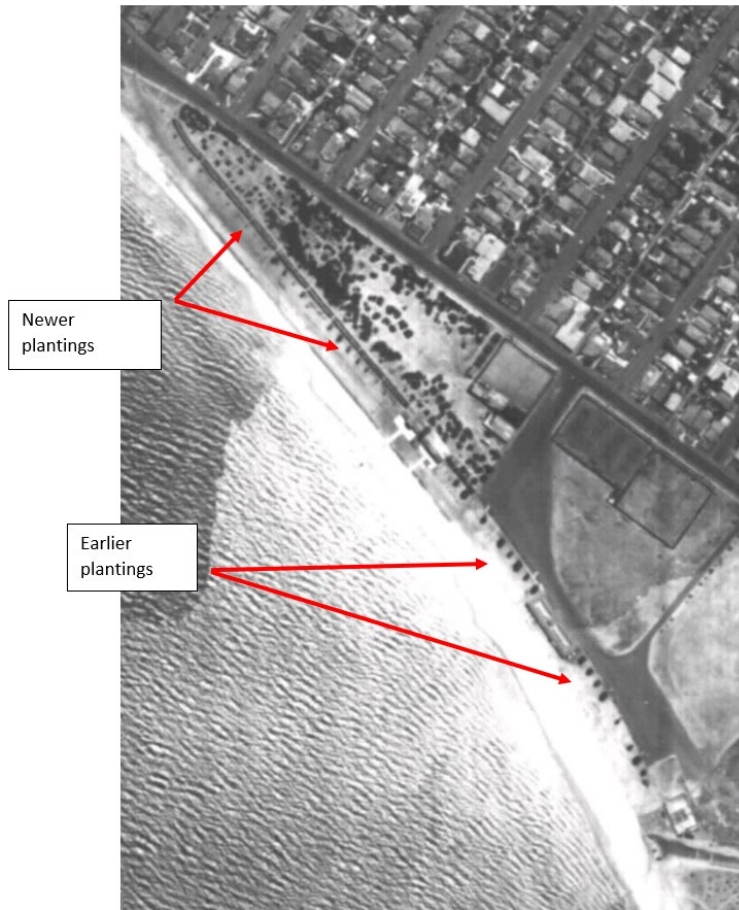
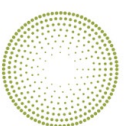


Figure 34 Aerial image c.1945 showing Elwood Foreshore and plantings. Note the double row of ti-tree planted to the east of the Norfolk Island Pines in the north section

Aerial photographs dating from the late 1960s and early 1970s show little change in the foreshore planting other than the natural maturation of the trees in both areas. It is likely that there has been some loss of trees in the immediate vicinity of the structures built from c.1970 onward. Similarly, the increase in carparking and changes to infrastructure such as the formalisation, re-alignment and surfacing of the track which followed the original row of trees appears to have resulted in the loss of a number of trees from the northern part of the row. By the 1980s there had been a significant decline in the integrity of this part of the row (Figure 35).



Figure 35 Aerial image of Norfolk Island Pines along foreshore c. 1980 provided by City of Port Phillip. Note loss of row specimens north of the Scout Hall.



Comparative notes

Early beautification plan, trees and elevated beds, promenade etc., how does this compare to other single species rows and plantings – Moran Reserve row along Marine Parade, plantings of Canary Island Pine rows and avenues?

Southern portion of the row still relatively intact – missing several specimens but still able to provide the original design intent. Raised bed also retained

Aesthetic values? Compare to other foreshore reserves within area?

Low integrity to southern section

New plantings are reducing integrity, as has the re-alignment of the track to the current ‘bay trail’ configuration

Very few comparative examples of NIPs in an intensively developed coastal cultural landscape such as this to draw from locally.

Criterion A	<p><i>Importance to the course or pattern of our cultural or natural history (historical significance).</i></p> <p>Important in demonstrating the value of public parks and recreation reserves to the late nineteenth and early twentieth century residents of Elwood</p> <p>Reflecting the status of ‘North Elwood’ as a high status area of grand seaside villas and mansions built from c.1850-1890. Planting of the trees in the early twentieth century reflected the status of the area as a desirable neighbourhood.</p> <p>Increasing importance attached with recreation, outdoor activity, promenading etc.</p>
Criterion B	<p><i>Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of our cultural or natural history (rarity).</i></p> <p>Possibly rare surviving example – needs further comparative analysis</p>
Criterion C	<p><i>Potential to yield information that will contribute to understanding our cultural or natural history (research potential).</i></p> <p>N/A</p>
Criterion D	<p><i>Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural or natural places or environments (representativeness).</i></p> <p>N/A</p>
Criterion E	<p><i>Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics (aesthetic significance).</i></p> <p>Visibility from sea and land – local landmark, identifiable as Elwood Beach.</p>
Criterion F	<p><i>Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period (technical significance).</i></p> <p>N/A</p>
Criterion G	<p><i>Strong or special association with a particular present-day community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.</i></p>

	N/A
Criterion H	<i>Special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in our history (associative significance).</i> N/A

National Trust Significant Tree Criteria

Social – The row of trees makes a substantial contribution to the landscape of the Elwood Foreshore, and have long been associated with recreational pursuits.

Aesthetic – The row of trees forms a landmark on the Port Phillip Bay, visible from both the ocean and the land.

Preliminary Assessment

Undertake further assessment, with a focus on historical research and comparative analysis to determine whether meets the threshold for local significance. The low integrity of the row, particularly to the north may preclude it from meeting the threshold.

Norfolk Island Pine Row (correct alignment), raised bed remnants, sea wall and promenade may form a small ‘precinct’ Heritage Overlay as the group of elements strengthens the cultural significance of the place and provides fabric and connections which are integrated at social, aesthetic and historic levels.

Master Plan considerations

- Retain and undertake remedial work to improve health and longevity of Norfolk Island Pines which pre-date 1980 (in original alignment).
- Replant Norfolk Island Pines into missing gaps of original alignment.
- Consider preparation of a tree replacement plan for the row to plan for future events.
- Avoid further plantings of Norfolk Island Pines which confuse the understanding and aesthetic value of the row planting.

4.4 Ti-tree thickets (including other indigenous vegetation)

Description

Located to the northern portion of the reserve are areas of revegetation and regenerated indigenous foreshore plants, including Boobialla, Banksia, Myoporum, Ti-tree, Casurina, Goodinia and a range of grasses and sedges and other trees, shrubs and groundcovers.

The age and condition of the plantings within this area vary, although there are very few if any ‘vetran’ specimens which were either planted or survived from before c.1950s. This is partly due to the relative short lived nature of much of this coastal vegetation, and the pressures which visitors have placed on the remnant bushland areas of the Elwood foreshore since the 1900s. There are numerous dead or senescent specimens of She-Oak and Boobialla within the reserve, and unusually, Ti-tree is not the dominant vegetation within these areas, despite being known as the ‘Ti-Tree Reserve’ area since the early 20th Century.

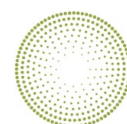




Figure 36 Northern section of the foreshore reserve where Ti-tree and other remnant and revegetation plantings are located

The area is intersected by a series of paths which connect the surrounding east-west streets with the foreshore, as well as the bitumenised Bay Trail which runs along the western edge of the thicket area. There are limited areas of lawn within the area, and recent earthworks and revegetation efforts are evident in the south west part of the site. Narrow informal paths run through the dense scrubby foliage in a variety of areas.



Figure 37 The most mature trees which survive within the area are She-Oaks and Boobialla

Although the Ti-Tree Reserve originally extended from Byrne Avenue to Broadbent Lane, the area of the reserve to the south has been largely built out. The northern section of the reserve has been extended to the current extent of the foreshore reserve.

History

As early as the 1890s newspaper reports were being made declaring that the destruction of the Ti-Tree at Elwood Beach must be prevented, and the St Kilda Council were taking re-planting programs to revegetate the Elwood Beach area. The Prahran Chronicle (27/7/1895:3) reported that “The Ti-Tree Reserve on the South side of the [Elwood] Bluff was planted and fenced several years ago at considerable expense. The trees thrived well and are a most acceptable shade in the summer and a wind-break in the winter.” However, by 1900, reports damage from sea side visitors and from the vagrants and itinerants living in the Ti-tree thickets had seen the once dense scrub reduced to ‘scarcely anything’. (The Argus 09/03/1900:9).

Throughout the early years of the Twentieth Century, local residents lobbied the St Kilda City Council to undertake further tree planting within the reserve, fencing and measure to prevent further damage to the trees, and removal of litter within the reserves from campers and visitors to the beach. Toward the end of the 1910s, new concerns associated with the Ti-Tree Reserves being used at night for ‘midnight revels’, ‘evil’, ‘midnight orgies and ‘nuciense behavious’ led to the whole of the Ti-Tree reserve being fenced with Post and Rail fences with wires (Malvern Standard 06/04/1918:5).

Successive plantings of Ti-Tree took place between c.1920 and 1939, usually to re-instate the lost and damaged trees which were frequently reported. In 1938, a solid belt of Ti-Tree was planted between the Row of Norfolk Island Pines and the Ti-Tree Reserve to provide a wind-break and protection to the reserve. The efforts undertaken during this period resulted in a reasonable area of Ti-Tree and indigenous vegetation being re-established, as is evident in aerial photographs dated c.1945. In 1942, The Herald reported (as part of an article to encourage local authorities to conserve the Port Phillip Bay Ti-Tree) that the only groups of Ti-Tree remaining on the water front near the city were a cluster at Elwood and a strip at Brighton. (The Herald, 31/01/1942:4).

Further Revegetation works have been undertaken on the reserve, using a mixutre of traditional indigenous plantings from the 1970s until today.

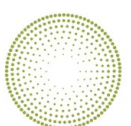




Figure 38 The Ti-Tree Reserve c.1925 (note the sporting field to the rear is the location of the Kinder and Cafe now). Yellow shows areas of recent planting. Note – due to the oblique perspective the Reserve appears shorter and wider than in more direct aerial images.



Figure 39 The Ti-Tree Reserve c.1945. Note the hedge along the foreshore, and loss of tree and vegetation along the Ormond Esplanade frontage, and limited cover in the northern part of Reserve.



Figure 40 the Ti-Tree reserve dated c.1968 showing the reduction in vegetation in the southern part of the reserve, with the majority of cover retained to the north and Ormond Esplanade boundaries.

Comparative notes

Very early concern raised regarding loss of ti-tree (c1890s)

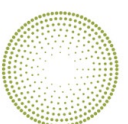
Ti-tree plantations were undertaken at Elwood, St Kilda, Brighton and other beach areas from early Twentieth century – not rare

Early conservation movement evidence, but very difficult to distinctively identify what was planted and when due to later revegetation activities, and continual loss of plantings

No more or less significant than other plantings undertaken in vicinity

Limited fabric to actually protect through mechanism of the HO

<p>Criterion A</p>	<p><i>Importance to the course or pattern of our cultural or natural history (historical significance).</i></p> <p>Importance in demonstrating the early interest in re-vegetation.</p> <p>Does the fabric demonstrate this? Successive layers of planting may be sufficient.</p>
<p>Criterion B</p>	<p><i>Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of our cultural or natural history (rarity).</i></p> <p>N/A</p>
<p>Criterion C</p>	<p><i>Potential to yield information that will contribute to understanding our cultural or natural history (research potential).</i></p>



	N/A
Criterion D	<i>Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural or natural places or environments (representativeness).</i> N/A
Criterion E	<i>Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics (aesthetic significance).</i> Possibly for the visual and sensory characteristics which have long been appreciated and protected by the residents of the area, and others.
Criterion F	<i>Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period (technical significance).</i> N/A
Criterion G	<i>Strong or special association with a particular present-day community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.</i> Possibly – beach users? Revegetation programs and groups locally. Might be an issue with meeting “current group” part of significance.
Criterion H	<i>Special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in our history (associative significance).</i> N/A

Preliminary assessment

No further assessment to be undertaken as unlikely to meet the threshold for local significance due to low intactness and integrity. Other controls may be more appropriate.

Masterplan considerations

- Good opportunity for interpretation and education
- Needs to be regularly managed to remove dead material, avoid becoming un-usable or used for unsavoury purposes.
- Planting program to identify whether Council wants to return this to the Ti-Tree Reserve or whether the objective is to continue to revegetate with indigenous coastal flora.

4.5 Boundary Plantings of Norfolk Island Hibiscus

Description

A boundary planting along Ormond Esplanade and Head Street of mature and semi-mature Norfolk Island Hibiscus (*Lagunaria pattersonia*). There are 15 mature specimens of Norfolk Island Hibiscus planted along Head Street. Seven (7) of these are inset from the road by approximately 12m, and of these seven, four sit within the Elwood Bowls Club Reserve (see Figure 41).



Figure 41 Norfolk Island Hibiscus along Head Street marked with green X (showing 7 trees inset from Road). Base plan from TreeLogic Arboricultural Survey 2020.

The remainder of the trees are located on the edge of Head Street and contribute to the strong perimeter planting of the Head Street Reserve, immediately north (Figure 42).



Figure 42 Norfolk Island Hibiscus along Head Street, south of Head Street Reserve (marked with green X). Base plan from TreeLogic Arboricultural Assessment and Survey, 2020.

A single row of mature and semi-mature Norfolk Island Hibiscus is located on the eastern boundary of the Elwood Foreshore Reserve, extending from the northern edge of Head Street Reserve to the entrance to the A.C (Wattie) Watson Oval. The row of 27 Norfolk Island Hibiscus is interplanted with semi-mature Drooping She-Oak (*Allocasurina verticillata*) although there is also one individual specimen of Pohutukawa (*Metrosideros excelsa*) within the row. The trees are underplanted with grasses and ground covers.

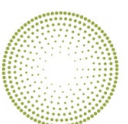




Figure 43 Row of Norfolk Island Hibiscus interplanted with Drooping She-Oak along eastern boundary of Elwood Foreshore Reserve.

History

The earliest aerial images of the Elwood Foreshore Reserve available date from 1925 and 1929. These images are high resolution, but also take in a large area of land, making it difficult to easily discern small objects such as juvenile trees. Close inspection of these oblique aerial images does indicate that there may have been a broadly spaced avenue planting located on the eastern boundary of the Reserve as early as 1925. The two rows of the avenue are located approximately 20m apart and are very small specimens. It is likely that what is visible is a tree guard rather than the tree (Figures 44 and 45).



Figure 44 Aerial oblique image of subject site c.1925 taken by Charles Pratt. Arrows pointing to what could be the tree guards of early planting in this location.

It is known that works to fence and to beautify the reserve were being lobbied for by local residents as early as c.1910. The plantings at this time may not have survived and appear to be more widely spaced than the current planting. However, it is interesting to know that plantings were put into this location as early as the mid-1920s.

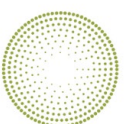




Figure 45 Aerial oblique image c.1929 taken by Charles Pratt. Yellow arrows showing location of tree guards

By 1940, there is a clear double row planting of some maturity located along the east side of the reserve, extending around the corner into what is now the access road to AC 'Wattie' Watson Oval. A further double row extends south, but these trees appear to be less mature, and may represent a later planting (Figure 46). A footpath has also been installed and the road widened, which may account for these plantings being closer to the road.



Figure 46 Aerial image c.1940 provided by City of Port Phillip.

There is also evidence that the eight trees in Head Street immediately south of Head Reserve were planted at this time. It seems likely that the planting of Ormond Esplanade and Head Street and

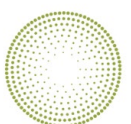
the development of the Head Street Reserve were undertaken simultaneously as part of a beautification program across the site.

By the 1950s, aerial image clearly show a double row of well-spaced semi-mature trees established along the whole of the eastern side of the reserve from the entrance to the AC 'Wattie' Watson Oval through to Head Street Reserve, and a small number of more mature (larger canopied) trees surviving along the entry road (Figure 47). This may indicate that the avenue along Ormond Esplanade and single row planting was replanted (or established) between 1940 and 1950, along both Ormond Esplanade and the Head Street portion which is set back 12m from the Road Reserve. The garden bed treatment which appears to be a wave pattern around the trees on the roadside applies to both trees on Ormond Esplanade and Head Street (although Head Street has a single row planting).



Figure 47 Aerial image c.1950 provided by City of Port Phillip. Indicating earlier plantings surviving on entrance and new plantings on Ormond Esplanade and Head Street.

By the 1970s, the avenue planting along Ormond Esplanade was reduced to a single row planting in the southern portion, and remained to decline over the 1980s and 1990s, losing generally the trees closest to Ormond Esplanade. This trend continued until by the early 2000s many of the trees appear to be in poor condition.



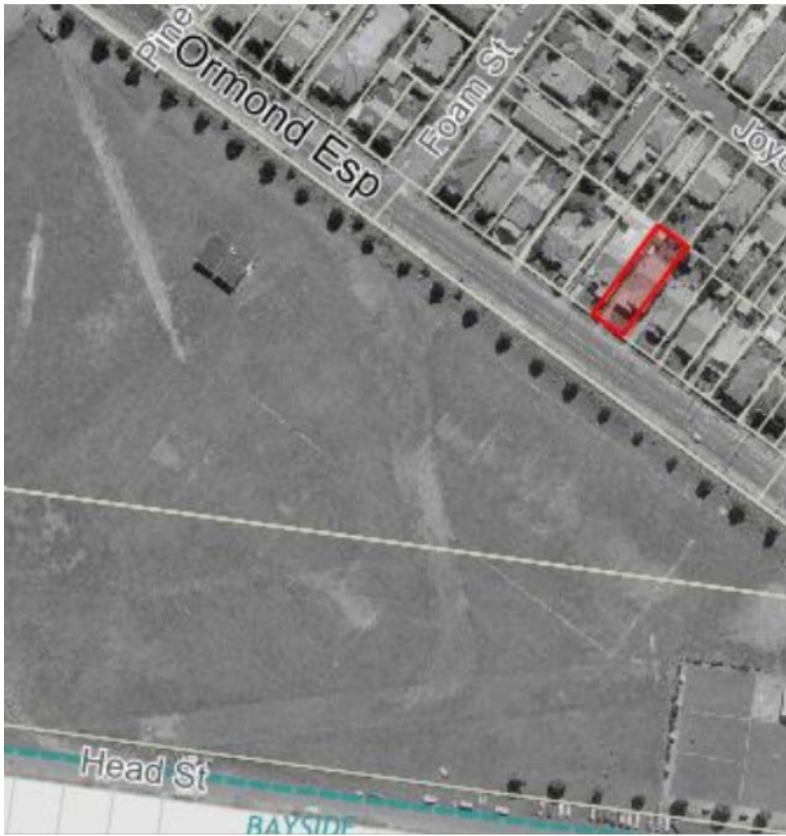


Figure 48 Aerial image c.1970 provided by City of Port Phillip.



Figure 49 Aerial image c. 1980 provided by City of Port Phillip. Note reduction in most of the outer row of trees (closest to Ormond Esplanade)

As part of further works across the Reserve in the early 2000s, works were undertaken to remove senescent species of Norfolk Island Hibiscus from the Ormond Esplanade Boundary, remove the last of the outer row of trees and replant with Drooping She oak and understorey of ground covers and grasses.

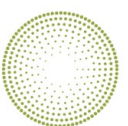


Figure 50 Aerial image c.2009 showing removal and replanting of trees in southern section of row undertaken in early 2000s. Source: Near map accessed 03/12/2020. Yellow arrows show areas of tree removal.

Comparative Notes

- original boundary planting
- unusual species selection – compare with other parks
- relatively intact on Ormond Esplanade boundary – although it appears that Head Street never extended fully to Foreshore?
- likely to date to c.1940

Criterion A	<i>Importance to the course or pattern of our cultural or natural history (historical significance).</i>
--------------------	--



	Rejuvenation and beautification of the Reserve, part of the broader parks and gardens movement and tree planting movement in the Interwar period across the locality.
Criterion B	<i>Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of our cultural or natural history (rarity).</i> N/A
Criterion C	<i>Potential to yield information that will contribute to understanding our cultural or natural history (research potential).</i> N/A
Criterion D	<i>Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural or natural places or environments (representativeness).</i> N/A
Criterion E	<i>Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics (aesthetic significance).</i> Sense of enclosure to Reserve
Criterion F	<i>Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period (technical significance).</i> N/A
Criterion G	<i>Strong or special association with a particular present-day community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.</i> N/A.
Criterion H	<i>Special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in our history (associative significance).</i> N/A

Preliminary Assessment

Undertake further assessment with a focus on comparative analysis. It may be that the Significant Landscape Overlay is sufficient to protect these values. Consider whether the early Head Street Plantings (contemporary to the Head Street Reserve should sit within the curtilage for that place).

Master Plan Considerations

- Retain boundary planting of Norfolk Island Hibiscus
- Develop a re-planting plan to account for senescence
- consider use of Norfolk Island Hibiscus as a signature planting for boundary treatments in future development, or for use within the Reserve.

5.0 Summary of findings

5.1 Elements of potential cultural heritage significance

The following elements of the Elwood Foreshore Reserve have been identified as requiring further research to test whether they meet the threshold for local significance and inclusion on the Heritage Overlay. Each place should be further assessed using the standard methodology set out in the Planning Practice Note 'Applying the Heritage Overlay' (August 2018):

- Head Street Reserve, including the layout of the path system, the three original garden beds, the mature specimens of Norfolk Island Hibiscus, Port Jackson Fig, Golden Cypress, Prickly Leaf Paperbarks and other original plantings.
- A small precinct along the Elwood Foreshore comprising the surviving row of Norfolk Island Pines, the elevated sea wall and promenade along the foreshore and the area of grass between the promenade and the row of Norfolk Pines. This should be considered as a small 'precinct' as all of the elements contribute to the whole more than as individual places.
- The mature boundary plantings of Norfolk Island Hibiscus located on the eastern boundary (Ormond Esplanade) and southern boundary (Head Street).

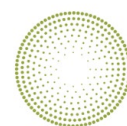
5.2 Other findings

The Ti-Tree Reserve area in the north of the Reserve is of historical, ecological (scientific) and social interest, but is unlikely to meet the threshold for local heritage significance. There is limited early fabric or evidence of the Ti-Tree which the reserves were famous for in the nineteenth and early twentieth century. Re-vegetation programs which have taken place over the past 40 years have seen a diversified collection of planting within the area, resulting in a typical coastal indigenous scrub, but not a specific planted Ti-Tree Reserve. The planting and area is however of sufficient interest however to consider interpretation which identifies the area as an important example of early conservation of indigenous Australian flora. This could be tied into a municipal wide interpretation strategy (or joint municipality with Bayside) as the conservation of the Port Phillip Bay coastal Ti-Tree along the foreshore was of broad concern to many.

The Elwood Tennis Club including the tennis courts, club house, fencing is not considered to be of sufficient cultural heritage value to warrant retention. The largest specimens of Coastal Banksia along the western and southern boundaries of the Tennis Club and the mature specimens of Shiny Leaf on the southern boundary should be retained during the master planning process.

Further investigation into the route of the early track between St. Kilda and Brighton is recommended to accurately determine if the Norfolk Island Pine row followed this line (and still does along the Bay Trail until a point between Bendigo and Selwyn Avenues where it has been realigned). Interpretation regarding the importance of this route from an historical perspective could be developed within the Foreshore Reserve. Furthermore, master planning of the site might consider re-instating this historical route if practicable, and re-in forcing through appropriate planting.

More broadly, it is considered appropriate to consider whether the Significant Landscape Overlay might be the most appropriate tool for protecting the various elements which make up the Elwood Foreshore Reserve, with smaller, more discrete buildings or elements to have a Heritage Overlay applied to control demolition of built fabric such as buildings, paths etc. where appropriate.



6.0 Recommendations

6.1 Further assessment required

Based on the preliminary findings of this report, it is recommended that Port Phillip City Council consider undertaking further detailed assessments of those elements identified as being of potential cultural heritage significance at Section 5.1 of this report.

These elements have been preliminarily assessed being likely to meet at least one of the HERCON Criteria and have undergone some preliminary comparative analysis against other similar examples within the municipality (where relevant).

The Head Street Reserve is identified as having historical and aesthetic significance in the preliminary assessment, although further research into the impetus, design and possible involvement of 'susso' labour is required to substantiate the historical significance. The strong axial focus across the reserve, with an interesting deco style path layout with off-centre circular bed and original garden beds located in three quadrants. The path layout is enhanced by the early plantings which focussed on emphasising the path layout through linear plantings with paired trees, boundary definition and specimen trees. The Reserve's intensively planted and deliberately designed landscape is in contrast to the remainder of the Reserve which is characterised by open spaces and sparse planting.

The Row of Norfolk Island Pines along the Foreshore (of varying ages) was found to be of aesthetic, historic and social significance as one of the original surviving design elements of the Elwood Park/Elwood Foreshore, although parts have been replanted, and the row varies in its integrity and intactness. The row of trees forms a landmark and is aesthetically significant as a marker of the Elwood Foreshore from both land and sea. The Norfolk Island Pines row is of social significance as it long been associated with recreational and promenading activities, which continues today in various forms. The aesthetic, social and historical connections between the Norfolk Pines, the Promenade, grassed spaces and sea wall suggest that these elements could form a small precinct.

The boundary planting of Norfolk Island Hibiscus on Head Street and Ormond Esplanade boundaries of the Elwood Foreshore Reserve are potentially of historical significance as an early design element, and part of the movement to beautify and plant out public spaces, parks and streets in the municipality in the Interwar period.

6.2 Grouping of important elements

The sea wall, promenade immediate to the beach, row of Norfolk Island Pines and the Bay Trail (former track between St. Kilda and Brighton) should be considered for assessment as a group, as these elements all have similar associated values and should be considered with regard to each other from both a significance and management perspective. Note: as this assessment focused on landscape elements, the promenade and sea wall have not formed part of this preliminary assessment and would require further research.

6.3 Interpretation Recommended

The Ti-Tree Reserve areas to the north of the Elwood Foreshore Reserve was found to be unlikely to meet the threshold for local significance due to the limited fabric which demonstrates the historical and social values of the area, and subsequent layers of re-vegetation replacing the early plantings of Ti-Tree. However, the early concern regarding the destruction of the indigenous coastal Ti-Tree vegetation and subsequent attempts by local Government to replant and re-vegetate the Elwood Foreshore (and others along Port Phillip Bay) should be commemorated through interpretation.

Similarly, the interpretation of this portion (and potentially other sections – depending on further research) of the Bay Trail exploring the origins of this route as the principal track between St. Kilda and Brighton is recommended.

6.4 Other recommendations

Consideration for how each of the assessed elements should be considered in the Master Planning process have been set out in the Preliminary Assessment section for each element.

7.0 Bibliography

Adastra Airways 1945, *Aerial Survey of Victoria, Melbourne photo-map* [aerial photograph], Victoria: Department of Crown Lands and Survey.

Argus, as cited

EcoLogical Australia, 2020 'Elwood Foreshore – Preliminary Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Assessment' prepared for City of Port Phillip, June 2020.

Context, 2020, 'Elwood Foreshore Facilities Strategy Heritage Review – Final Report' Prepared for Port Phillip City Council, September 2020.

Department of Sustainability and Environment 2002, *Prahran Parish Plan 2002* [cartographic material] Regional Land Office Parish and Township Plans Digitised Reference Set.

Gilks, E and Collis, W., 1857, *Village of Elsternwick*, Parish of Prahran [cartographic material] Melbourne: Department of Crown Lands and Survey.

Heritage Council of Victoria, 2015, *Landscapes of Cultural Significance: Assessment Guidelines* February 2015

Heritage Council of Victoria, 2019, *The Victorian Heritage Register Criteria and Threshold Guidelines: Assessing the Cultural Heritage Significance of Places and Objects for Possible State Heritage Listing*.

Payens, J., 1968. Negative – Aerial view of Brighton, Victoria 1968. Museum Victoria.

Payens, J., 1968b. Negative – Aerial view of Brighton, Victoria 1968. Museum Victoria.

Pratt, Charles Daniel & Airspy 1925, *[Elwood area on Port Phillip Bay]*

Pratt, Charles Daniel & Airspy 1929, *[Elwood, showing Elsternwick and Elwood Parks with coast in background]*

Prahran Chronicle, as cited

National Trust of Australia, 2015 'Significant Tree Protection: Understanding Significance & the Law'

Melbourne & Metropolitan Board of Works (MMBW), 1911, detail plan. 1791 & 1798 [cartographic material], City of St Kilda.

The Herald, as cited

TreeLogic, 2020, 'Arboricultural Assessment and Report: Elwood Foreshore Reserve' prepared for City of Port Phillip, 29 May 2020.

Victoria. Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, 2018, *Victorian Planning Practice Note PN001 'Applying the Heritage Overlay'*.

