

PLAN HERITAGE
Heritage Planning Consultants



Heritage Assessment: Trees at intersection of Bunjil Creek, Kilmore Road and Melbourne Road, Gisborne.

May 2020

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Heritage Assessment Trees at intersection of Bunjil Creek, Kilmore Road and Melbourne Road, Gisborne.

21 May 2020

Introduction

This report was prepared in response to a request from Macedon Ranges Shire Council to undertake an assessment of the heritage values of four street trees (2 English Oak and 2 English Elms) located around the intersection of Melbourne Road, Kilmore Road and Hamilton Street in Gisborne. The trees are proposed for removal as part of the upgrade of this intersection by Regional Roads Victoria (RRV).

The trees are identified as Trees 29, 30, 37 & 38 in the Ryder Arboriculture and Environment 'Preliminary Tree Assessment' prepared for Regional Roads Victoria, August 2019. Council has recently applied an Interim Heritage Overlay to the nearby bluestone bridge and channel located over Bunjil Creek, on recommendation from GJM Heritage.

In the course of undertaking this assessment, it came to light that there were other trees in the immediate vicinity of the proposed works which were of potential heritage significance and that it was appropriate to expand the assessment to include these trees. The assessment therefore also includes Trees 36, 47, 48, 49 and 4.

Other nearby trees (such as the avenue of Oaks in the Howey Reserve and other surviving Elms in Kilmore Road) were also planted around the same time, but have not been considered in this assessment as they are too far removed from the brief.

Sources of information

This analysis below draws upon inspections of the subject site and its environs carried out in May 2020, long experience and expertise in working with heritage trees and landscapes and the following documentation:

- 'History of Trees at Bunjil Creek Intersection' prepared for Plan Heritage by Dr. Robyn Ballinger, 20 May 2020.
- 'Historical Archaeological Due Diligence Bunjil Creek Bridge – Melbourne Road and Kilmore Road, Gisborne' report prepared for Regional Roads Victoria by Unearthed Heritage, November 2019.
- 'Local Level Heritage Assessment: Bunjil Creek Bridge & Channel, Gisborne' prepared for Macedon Ranges by GJM Heritage, April 2020.
- 'Preliminary Tree Assessment' prepared for Regional Roads Victoria by Ryder Arboriculture and Environment, August 2019.

History

This brief history encapsulates a general overview of street tree planting in Gisborne with the few references found to the specific trees of interest. Further details about the subject trees may be contained in the former Shire of Gisborne Minute Books, copies of which are held by the Macedon Ranges Shire and the Gisborne and Mount Macedon Districts' Historical Society. Because of current restrictions due to the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, these were not able to be accessed for this report.

Gisborne is located on the lands of the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Aboriginal peoples.

Land was taken up in what was to become the Gisborne district by squatters in the late 1830s. The first public building in the district, constructed in 1840, was called the Travellers' Rest Hotel and the village that grew up around it was also known by that name, and later, The Bush Inn (G&MMDHS 2015).

In 1851 the government surveyor, Robert Hoddle, surveyed the Gisborne township on the road to Mount Macedon near The Bush Inn and the Macedon River, also named the Salt Water River, and today known as Jacksons Creek (see Figure 1).

Gold was discovered on Forest Creek (Castlemaine) at Mount Alexander and Bendigo in 1851, and in 1852 the McIvor-Heathcote goldfield opened.

Gisborne, located on the Mount Alexander Road (today's Melbourne Road), and the Carlsruhe, Lancefield, and Kilmore Road (today's Kilmore Road), the latter which joined with the Melbourne-Heathcote Road at Lancefield, became a stopping point for goldfields traffic and subsequently experienced substantial growth in the ensuing decade. Melbourne Road later became the Calder Highway and was duplicated by the Calder Freeway, which bypassed Gisborne to the northeast in 1989. When the Melbourne-Murray River railway line was constructed a few kilometres north of Gisborne in 1861, the township of New Gisborne was established (*Victorian Places* 2015).

The Gisborne United District Road Board was proclaimed in 1860 with tree planting one of the tasks undertaken by the Board. In 1868, for example, a notice warned residents that proceedings would be taken against any party allowing wandering goats and pigs to damage the ornamental trees in the Borough (*Bacchus Marsh Express* 21 November 1868:4).

After the Gisborne Shire was formed in 1871, councillors continued the planting of exotic trees, with a focus on the streets of Gisborne. In 1876, the *Bacchus Marsh Express* stated that 'our Shire Council has done much for the town in the shape of good drainage and beautifying the streets with rows of fine trees' (*Bacchus Marsh Express* 8 April 1876:3).

It was noted in later years that William Robertson was instrumental in the early 'planting [of] old Gisborne...with European forest trees' (*Bacchus Marsh Express* 5 May 1888:3). William Robertson, who took up land on the Barringo Creek in 1841 where he built the 'Wooling' homestead, was a prominent local identity in the Gisborne area. He served as shire councillor in the 1870s, became an elder of the Gisborne Presbyterian church, a life governor of the Gisborne Mechanics Institute, a member of the Gisborne School board and a Justice of the Peace (*Bacchus Marsh Express* 20 July 1872:3 and 5 May 1888:3).





Figure 1. Showing the survey of the Gisborne. (Source: Gisborne Township Plan, 1929)

The tree planting program of Gisborne’s streets continued through the 1880s, with a report in 1880 stating that

The praiseworthy policy of planting our streets with trees is being continued this season by the Council. Hamilton street is the favoured locality this year, and will soon show a row of elms and oaks on either side, which will add to the beauty of our pretty little town (Bacchus Marsh Express 14 August 1880:3).

By 1881, ‘some very fine oak and elm trees’ had been planted in the streets, which were predicted to provide ‘very pleasant’ shade in the summer months (*Leader* 10 December 1881:6). The Elm Trees are able to be seen in Mark Daniel’s 1899 images of Gisborne. The trees commence in Hamilton Street, west of Bunjil Creek, and continue in a single row along the Kilmore Road, identified by their high wooden tree guards. This dates the Elms located west of Bunjil Creek and those along Kilmore Road as dating from c. 1880.

In 1885, Gisborne Shire councillors made plans to undertake ‘extensive tree planting’ in instalments in Gisborne (*Bacchus Marsh Express* 1885:3). Such was the commitment of the shire to tree planting, in 1917 a small Tree Reserve was put aside at the corner of Aitken and Hamilton Streets (see Figure 1) (*Gisborne Township Plan* 1929).

A feature of the street tree program was the inclusion of local residents and community groups. In 1885, for instance, the Gardens Committee of Gisborne’s branch of the Blue Ribbon Army (a gospel temperance

mission) advertised a tender for the sinking of 80 holes for trees, and in 1888, awarded a contract for the planting of trees and erection of tree guards on the New Gisborne and Mount Alexander Roads (*Bacchus Marsh Express* 13 June 1885:3 and July 1888:3).

Included in this period of tree planting were two of the subject trees, the two English Elms (Trees 29 and 37 (planted c.1880) which are clearly evident as relatively immature trees (approximately 20 years old) in Daniel's 1899 photos (see individual photos at Figures 2 and 3, or collated photo at Figure 4). These images also show tree 47 (English Elm) on the west side of Bunjil Creek, and less clearly Trees 48 and 49 (English Oaks), all planted in the 1880 planting of Hamilton Street, which included the double row of English Oaks (including trees 48 and 49) and a single row of English Elms which extended over Bunjil Creek along the Kilmore Road.

Based on the early images (Figures 2, 3 and 4) of the area, and their size, Trees 29 (English Oak) and Tree 38 (English Elm) pre-date the later plantings by at least 20 years. This suggests that early town settlers were informally planting Gisborne's streetscapes for possibly two decades before the formal street tree planting program established by the Gisborne Shire Council in the 1870s.



Figure 2. A view of Gisborne in 1899, showing Kilmore Road on the far right hand side. (Source: Daniel 1899, SLV).





Figure 3. A view of Gisborne in 1899, showing Macedon House in the foreground and Kilmore Road in the middle ground along which trees have been planted. (Source: Daniel 1899, SLV).



Figure 4. Collated Mark Daniel photos showing Kilmore Road with Macedon House on right hand side in 1899. The subject trees are numbered 29, 30, 37 and 38. (Source: Macedon Ranges Shire Council 2020).

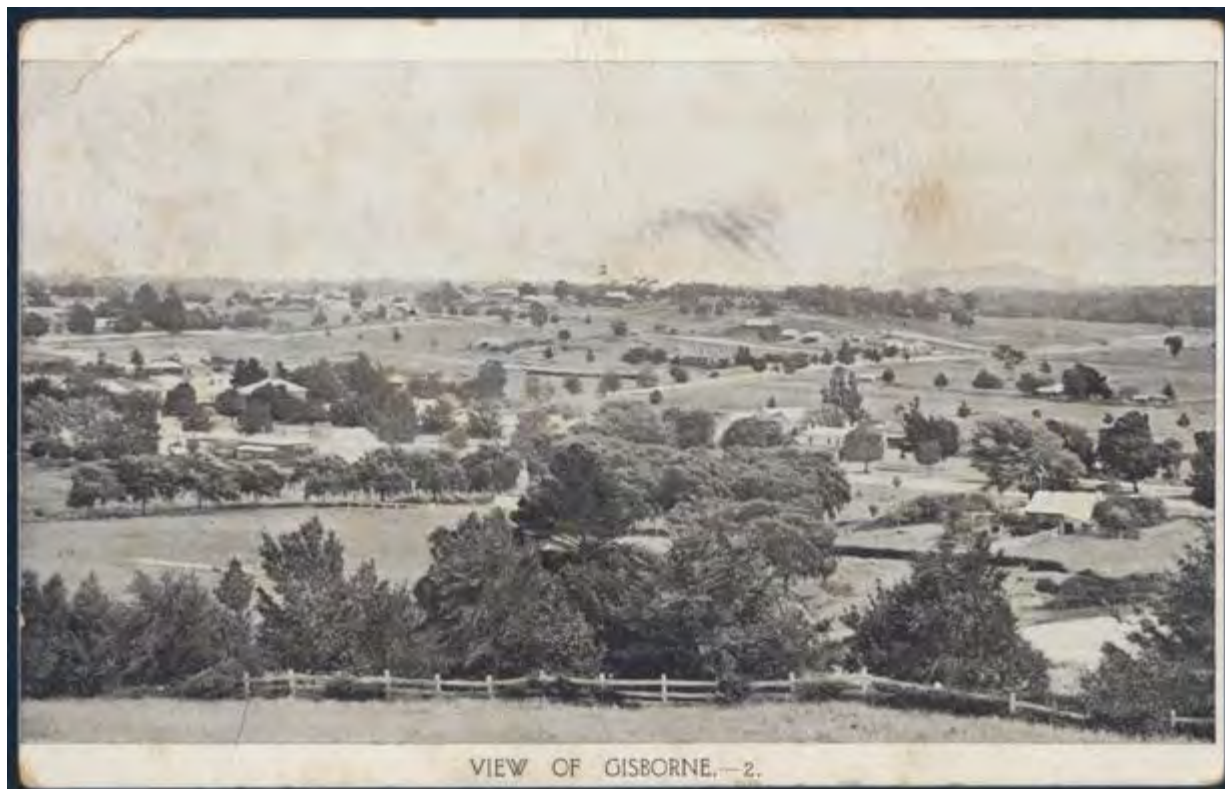


Figure 5. A view of Gisborne looking towards Mount Macedon c1907. (Source: 'View of Gisborne' c1907, SLV)

This dedicated street tree planting program, instigated from the early 1870s had a noticeable impact on the town character of Gisborne. The formal European nature of the tree planting landscape is highlighted in tourism and promotional images of the time, such as the 'View of Gisborne' taken in the early twentieth century (see Figure 5). Some of the trees, planted so early in Victoria's settlement history, were, by the early 1900s, amongst the largest introduced trees in the state (see Figure 6).

In 1926, a report in the *Age* stated that

Elm trees and Lambertianas do remarkably well in Gisborne, and on the Melbourne-road are some of the finest elms in Australia...Gisborne is noted for its pines and deciduous trees, which adorn every street and reserve in the town (Age 11 June 1926:1).

In 1929, president of the Gisborne Shire, Cr James Railton, placed a taboo on imported trees, and on Arbour Day in June of that year 120 eucalypts provided by Railton were planted on the Calder Highway by the Tree Planters' Association, the Country Road Board, the local Progress Association, politicians, local councillors, and teachers and students from the local school (*Sunshine Advocate* 5 July 1929:5; *Argus* 29 June 1929:14). Additional trees were added to the avenue in 1930 (*Age* 26 July 1930:24).

James Railton, who lived at 'Annandale' in Howey Street, Gisborne, also ran Railton Bros Nursery, established in 1866 and later called James Railton Nursery, at Preston until the early 1950s. In 1935 Railton was elected president of the Tree Planters Association and was often called upon to give advice on horticultural issues (Darebin Heritage).



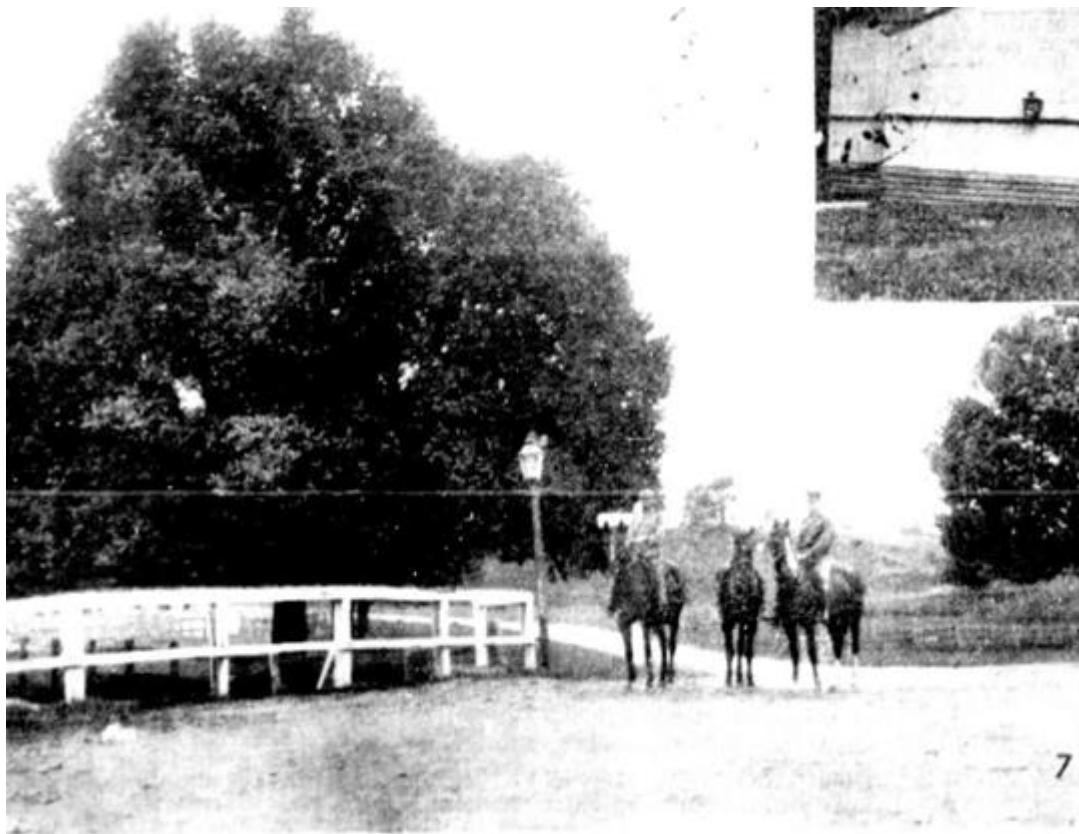


Figure 6. Showing a view of Gisborne in 1913. The caption for the photo, published in the Australasian, reads 'These elms are claimed to be the largest in Victoria and are at the corner of the Woodend Road'. This is likely Melbourne Road at the bluestone bridge over today's Bunjil Creek. (A section of another, unrelated photo can be seen in the top RHS corner.) (Source Australasian 20 December 1913:68.)

Another article in the *Age* in September 1930 stated that over 3,000 trees had been planted by the Gisborne Shire council and private people in the previous three months of that year (*Age* 8 September 1930:12). Under Railton's stewardship, trees were planted in Gisborne's streets through until at least 1941 (*Argus* 3 April 1941:9).

Gisborne's tree planting also included memorial trees such as the North American red oak planted in 1930 outside the Gisborne Shire hall to commemorate Gisborne Old Boy, James Hall (*Argus* 3 September 1930:16).

In conclusion, for at least seven decades, from 1871, when the the Gisborne Shire established a tree planting program, to at least 1941, Gisborne was the focus of a strong and dedicated street tree planting program. This period of formal tree planting consolidated earlier plantings undertaken in Gisborne from the early 1850s by local residents and perhaps the Gisborne District Road Board. The planting of trees, continued through commemorative planting activities in the twentieth century, resulted in the development of a distinctive European town and landscape in Gisborne, which was promoted and celebrated. The treed landscape today forms an important part of Gisborne's unique character.

References

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Macedon Ranges Shire Council 2020, 'Council submission Proposed Intersection Upgrade at Kilmore Road and Melbourne Road, Gisborne', Prepared for Regional Roads Victoria.

Sunshine Advocate, as cited.

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'View of Gisborne' c1907, State Library of Victoria (SLV) Pictures collection, <http://search.slv.vic.gov.au>, accessed 11 May 2020.



Description

The group of trees clustered around the intersection of Kilmore Road, Melbourne Road and Hamilton Road, at the crossing of Bunjil Creek are mature specimens of *Ulmus procera* English Elm and *Quercus robur* English Oak dating from two distinct periods c.1860 and c.1880. Each tree is referred to in this description using the Tree Identification number provided in the report 'Preliminary Tree Assessment' prepared for Regional Roads Victoria by Ryder Arboriculture and Environment Preliminary Tree Assessment, August 2019. The tree numbers are also shown in the aerial image below which demonstrates the location and approximate canopy spread of each tree.

Trees 4, 47 and 37 are fine and mature specimens of *Ulmus procera* English Elm, which are generally similar in size. Other than Tree 4, these trees are all located on the north side of Hamilton Street and its extension along Kilmore Road. Tree 4 is located on the southern side of the road on the edge of Bunjil Creek.



Figure 7 Subject Trees requested to assess identified in orange, trees from similar date but outside the original brief shown in blue. Source: Ryder Arboriculture and Environment 'Preliminary Tree Assessment' August 2019

Trees 48, 49 and 30 are fine and substantial specimens of *Quercus robur* English Oak. Trees 48 and 49 were originally part of the avenue planting of Oaks which extends from Aitken Street to Bunjil Creek. Tree 30 is a single mature specimen of English Oak located on the intersection of Melbourne Road and Gisborne Road. All of these trees were planted as part of a municipal street tree planting program undertaken in 1880 to beautify Gisborne.

Trees 38 and 29, both *Ulmus procera* English Elm pre-date the other trees in the group by at least 20 years, and while located some distance apart, appear to be the last surviving trees of a very early (c.1855-1865) street tree planting along Melbourne Road into Gisborne. Tree 38 has been pollarded heavily in the past, reducing its height and canopy spread. Tree 29 is similar in height and canopy spread to the other [later] trees, but has (as does tree 38) a substantially larger diameter at breast height (DBH).



Figure 8 Approach to the intersection from Melbourne Road (south) showing Trees 29 (English Elm), Tree 30 (English Oak) and in the background Tree 4 (English Elm)



Figure 9 Approach to Bunjil Creek Bridge along Hamilton Street - note trees 48 & 49 (English Oaks - continuation of adjacent avenue) and Tree 47 English Elm

Detailed description

Tree 37 is located on the north side of Kilmore Road and was planted c.1880 as part of a row of English Elms on the north side of Hamilton Street, extending over Bunjil Creek along Kilmore Road. Although most of the row of English Elms in this portion of Kilmore Road dating from c.1880 have been lost, this specimen survives in the road reserve to the front of the Gisborne Bowling Club. The tree is



surrounded by gravelled carparking facilities and a recently established concrete footpath intersects the root zone to the south. The tree is in fair to good condition and although the spreading canopy is substantial at 16m, the structure is poor. The overall size is smaller than other specimens which survive from this row planting (such as Tree 36 further south on Kilmore Road, or Tree 47 on the western side of Bunjil Creek), with a measured height of 18m and DBH of 102cm, likely resulting from the carparking and compaction on the site over time.



Figure 10 Tree 37 (English Elm)

(Source: Ryder Arboriculture and Environment, August 2019)

Tree 30, a mature English Oak is located on the south east corner of Kilmore and Melbourne Roads, and dates from approximately c1880. It appears to have been part of a Melbourne Road planting of English Oaks. Its prominent position however at the intersection gives the tree an appearance of greater proportion. The tree has a typical form of the species, although the spreading canopy (of 14m) has been slightly impacted by powerline clearance. The DBH, at 98cm is small for its age.



Figure 11 Tree 30 (English Oak)

(Source: Ryder Arboriculture and Environment, August 2019)

Tree 36, and English Elm located on the north side of Kilmore Road was planted c.1880 as part of the same row which Tree 37 belongs to. As a specimen, it is substantial, having a greater canopy spread and height than Tree 37. It is in good condition, but is considered too far from the other trees to be considered as part of the associated 'group' associated with the intersection of Bunjil Creek, Melbourne and Kilmore Roads. .



*Figure 12 Tree 36 (English Elm)
(Source: Ryder Arboriculture and Environment, August 2019)*

Tree 47, a mature English Elm is located on the west side of Bunjil Creek. The tree is part of the same c.1880 row plantings to which trees 36 and 37 belong, and was originally planted on the north side of Hamilton Street, where the street veered slightly north. It is now located in a small reserve to the immediate west of Bunjil Creek, and is larger in size (with a substantial DBH of 118cm and height of 23m) than others in the row planting, likely due to access to water and nutrient from nearby Bunjil Creek. The canopy spread, at 16m is average for the age and species.



*Figure 13 Tree 47 (English Elm)
(Source: Ryder Arboriculture and Environment, August 2019)*



Trees 48 and 49, two specimens of mature English Oak are located to the west of Bunjil Creek, in a small reserve. The trees are planted directly in line with the northern row of the avenue planting of English Oaks which are planted in Howey Reserve between Aitken Street and Bunjil Creek, and were originally part of this planting. Tree 49 is larger than Tree 48 being substantial for its age with a height of 23m, and DBH of 110cm, although the canopy spread is average. Tree 48 has a more typical size for its age, with a height of 19m, DBH of 98cm and canopy spread of 14m. Both trees are in good condition.



*Figure 14 Trees 49 – (English Oak) and 48 (English Elm)
(Source: Ryder Arboriculture and Environment, August 2019)*

Tree 4, a mature English Elm with a bifurcated trunk (in two stems) is located on the south side of the intersection of Bunjil Creek, Kilmore Road and Melbourne Road. Although similar in size to the other specimens planted on the north side of Kilmore Road in 1880, its singular form and placement on the southern side of the intersection, immediately adjacent to the bluestone bridge make it something of an anomaly within the group.



*Figure 15 Tree 4 - English Elm
(Source: Ryder Arboriculture and Environment, August 2019)*

Tree 38 is located on the eastern bank of Bunjil Creek immediately adjacent to Kilmore Road. The tree is surrounded to the west by woody weeds (Elm suckers) and the gravelled carpark of the Gisborne Bowls Club to the east. The tree has been severely pollarded in the recent past, significantly reducing its canopy spread and height, which is now reduced to 10m height and 8m canopy spread. The Diameter at Breast Height (DBH) is substantial, at 145cm, reflecting its early date. The tree is considered to be fair condition, although the canopy structure is poor (due to lopping).



Figure 16 Tree 38 (English Elm) note exceptionally large trunk diameter and heavy pollarding (c.2014) evidence. (Source: Ryder Arboriculture and Environment, August 2019)



Tree 29 is located on the east side of the Melbourne Road, immediately south of the driveway of Macedon House (originally Mount Macedon Hotel from c.1851). The substantial English Elm appears to date from c.1860 based on its size and early photographic evidence, although the provenance and reason for planting is unproven, it may be associated with the early crossing of Bunjil Creek at Hamilton Street. The tree is in very good condition and has a substantial canopy spread (of 16m) and height of 23m. While the height and canopy spread are comparable to the largest trees of this species in the vicinity, its DBH, at 155cm makes it an outstanding specimen within the locality.



*Figure 17 Tree 29 (English Elm)
(Source: Ryder Arboriculture and Environment, August 2019)*



Figure 18 Tree 29 (English Elm) in leaf 2020

Discussion

The group of trees located at the intersection of Bunjil Creek, Melbourne Road and Kilmore Road date from at least two distinct periods and are believed to represent different periods in the history and development of the township of Gisborne.

The earliest tree plantings in Gisborne are likely to have been undertaken by those who settled or established commercial premises in the area, from the 1850s onwards. Anecdotal evidence exists of exotic trees (particularly Oaks and Elms) being established as early as the 1840s on early pastoral pre-emptive rights and in public gardens across Victoria. There are other examples within the municipality of exotic trees being planted to indicate the location of early bridges, fords and creek crossings (such as in Piper Street, Kyneton).

The Melbourne Road was established in the 1840s, and the track was formalised as the Melbourne Road in Hoddle's 1851 survey of the township of Gisborne. As the main thoroughfare between Melbourne and the Bendigo and Castlemaine goldfields, the road was important in the development of Gisborne as a settlement particularly from 1851 onwards. It is known that in the early 1850s, the creek line running across the eastern extent of Hamilton Street (now Bunjil Creek) was relatively shallow and vehicles passed over via a makeshift crossing formed of large stones placed in the creek bed. By 1861, a timber beam bridge was established over the creek. The Mount Macedon Hotel (now known as Macedon House) located nearby was established in 1847 first to serve the small settlement on the creek crossing at Gisborne, as well as passing trade, which likely increased dramatically with the discovery of gold in 1851.

There is photographic evidence (dated 1899) showing that there were substantial and comprehensive plantings of mature trees throughout Gisborne by this date, including conifers (mainly Pines), Elms, Oaks and other species. Also evident is a protracted and continuous attempt to replant 'gaps' in street tree plantings, evidenced by varying sizes of trees along the same road reserve. Although most of the tree plantings were undertaken from the 1880s onward, it is possible that further research will find a much earlier program of planting was established.

Trees 29 and 38

The very mature English Elm (Tree 38) planted on the eastern bank of the Bunjil Creek appears to date from c.1855-1865 and may indicate the location of the early ford across the road. This has not been definitively proven, and this tree and Tree 29 may also be associated with the Mount Macedon Hotel nearby, informal street tree plantings by early settlers, or an early attempt by the then Gisborne United District Road Board to improve the appearance of the main entrance into the township from Melbourne. Further research into the individual tree history is required, but not possible at present due to COVID-19 restrictions.

The age of the trees is relatively clear, based on their current dimensions and the photographic evidence in Mark Daniel's two photographs of Gisborne, dated 1899 (See Figures 2, 3 and collated at Figure 4). These photographs show that in 1899, Trees 29 and 38 were almost mature, with a substantial height, canopy spread and trunk girth. Based on the size of the trees, and the comparative size of the Elms in the image known to be planted c.1880 (along Kilmore Road and Hamilton Street – identified by their distinctive timber surrounds) it is estimated that Trees 29 and 38 were planted between c.1855-1865, making these trees between 155-165 years old, some of the earliest street trees in the municipality.

Based on their early date, size and historical connections (still requiring further investigation) both trees are likely to meet the threshold for local individual significance. The same HO will apply to both trees (similar to a serial listing).

Trees 47, 48 and 49



Trees 48 and 49 (both English Oaks) are clearly part of the avenue planting of English Oaks which are included in HO289 (Memorial Precinct [Howey Reserve]). The size, age and alignment of the trees clearly places them as contemporary with the northern row of the Avenue between Aitken Street and Bunjil Creek. Tree 47 (an English Elm) is something of an anomaly, as it is planted in line with the southern row of Oaks (see figure 19 below).



Figure 19 Hamilton Street, Kilmore Road, and Melbourne Road plantings. Note blue dots show Elm Trees c.1890 (including those lost) Red dots show English Oaks c.1890 (including those lost). Blue circled canopies indicate the c.1860 Elms. Based on photographic and documentary evidence.

The citation for HO289 notes that the Memorial Precinct is

- ‘most readily identified by its two avenues [sic] of Oaks’; and
- that the ‘... double avenue [sic] of trees in the Reserve reflect the notable endeavour of the Shire to enhance the character and entry to Gisborne with introduced vegetation’.

The Statement of Significance for the place notes (in the Why is it Significant?) that ‘...its formal rows of trees, visually open character ... are distinctly different from their environs. The Precinct creates a ‘green’ feature which establishes a creative, not commercial character at the entry to Gisborne’.

As the three trees (47, 48, 49) are part of the avenue planting (although one is not an Oak), and can be considered to further contribute and enhance the identified significance of the place (aesthetic and historic values), it is recommended that the curtilage of HO289 is extended to include the full extent of the canopy of the three trees as shown below in figure 20.



Figure 20 Proposed extension to HO289 to include Trees 47, 48 and 49

Trees 4, 36, 30, 37

Documentary evidence from local newspapers (see History above) confirm that in 1880, a row of English Elms was planted along Hamilton Street East. Photographic evidence from 1899 (Mark Daniel, image of Gisborne) shows that the row of English Elms continued along Kilmore Road. The trees planted at this time are defined by a high timber slat tree guard (see Figures 2 and 3, and collated at Figure 4).

Tree 30, located on the corner of Melbourne and Kilmore Roads is evident in these images, although it is impossible to identify whether it is an Elm or Oak. It is possible that the tree which is evident in this image was removed and replanted with the current English Oak at some point after 1899, which may account for its smaller than expected size. However, it may also be part of a continuous program of planting along the Melbourne Road entrance to Gisborne with Oaks, which can be seen in the remaining tree stock, which varies significantly in age and size (and also has specimens of very mature English Elm remaining – which require further investigation).

The original single row planting on the north side of Hamilton Street/Kilmore Road (presumably with some scattered specimens on the southern side) has largely been lost and retains extremely low integrity. Trees 36 and 37 remain on the northern side of Kilmore Road, and Tree 4 remains immediately adjacent to the bridge over Bunjil Creek on the southern side of Kilmore Road. However, the three remaining specimens are so visually unrelated so as to have no sense of connection or unity. Even when the four trees planted at the same period (4, 30, 36, 37) are considered as a group, there is insufficient significance to recommend a Heritage Overlay be applied.

There may however be a possibility that these trees could be part of a much broader study of all street tree plantings within Gisborne which may result in an appropriate control being applied to much of the road reserves within the early Gisborne township. This may not necessarily be the Heritage Overlay but will be dependent on the identified values of the street trees, and the required protection.

Summary of Recommendations

- Apply Individual Heritage Overlay to Trees 38 and 29 (English Elms) as shown in Figure 21 below.
- Extend HO289 to include Trees 47, 48 and 49 on the land immediately west of Bunjil Creek as shown in Figure 20
- Amend citation for HO289 to ensure trees 47, 48 and 49 are included in the Statement of Significance.
- Undertake further research into the history and historical connections associated with Tree 38 and 29 (Macedon House, early crossing location and early municipal street tree planting).



Statement of Significance

Ulmus procera (English Elms) Statement of Significance, May 2020

Heritage place: <i>Ulmus procera</i> (English Elms), Melbourne Road and Kilmore Road, Gisborne	PS ref no: HO352
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What is Significant?

The *Ulmus procera* English Elm trees, planted c.1855-1865, located in the road reserve on the south east corner of Kilmore Road and Melbourne Road and on the north side of Kilmore Road, adjacent to Bunjil Creek.

How is it Significant?

The *Ulmus procera* English Elm trees are of local historic significance to the Macedon Ranges Shire.

Why is it Significant?

The *Ulmus procera* English Elm trees are of historical significance as some of the earliest trees planted in Gisborne. Planted along the Melbourne Road into Gisborne as early as c.1855 they demonstrate the importance of the approach to Gisborne from Melbourne in the period of the Gold rushes, and early attempts to beautify the township through tree planting. Gisborne consolidated and formalised municipal street tree planting with the introduction of an ambitious and long running street tree planting in the early 1870s. This program continued until at least the 1940s, and is demonstrated in the wealth of mature street trees in Gisborne in particular. An unusual aspect of the tree planting program from its very beginning was the inclusion of local residents and community groups, who not only came together to plant the trees, but in some cases paid for tree guards and for the digging of holes. The two English Elm trees are particularly early, and are notable as very early examples of street tree planting. (Criterion A)

Primary Source:

Heritage Assessment: Trees at intersection of Bunjil Creek, Kilmore Road and Melbourne Road, Gisborne, Plan Heritage, May 2020.

Curtilage

The following curtilage is recommended to apply. This curtilage should be carefully checked to ensure it equates to the appropriate Tree Protection Zone as specified in the diagram prepared by Ryder Arboriculture and Environment, August 2019, reproduced in figure 22.



Figure 21 - proposed curtilage for Heritage Overlay (blue shading)



Figure 22 – TPZ Map – North, Ryder Arboriculture and Environment, August 2019