

## Ceres Heritage Citations Project 2017

**PLACE NAME:** Ceres Recreation Reserve (incl. Memorial Gates & Trees) Place No. CER02

**ADDRESS:** 20 Cochranes Road, Ceres

Assessment Date: May 2017

### Historic Themes:

**Early Settlement:** Agriculture

**Community Life:** Leisure

**Community Life:** War

**Condition:** Good (Buildings & Sports Ground)  
Fair-Poor (Mature Trees)

**Integrity:** Moderate

**Photograph Date:** December 2016



### CURRENT HERITAGE STATUS ON STATUTORY REGISTERS

**Victorian Heritage Register:** No

**Victorian Heritage Inventory:** No

**Local Planning Scheme:** No

### CURRENT HERITAGE STATUS ON OTHER REGISTERS:

**National Trust (Victoria) Register:** No

### RECOMMENDED LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Local Significance

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

Recommended for inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Register: **No**

Recommended for inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Inventory: **No**

Recommended for inclusion as a Heritage Overlay in the Planning Scheme: **Yes**

### Schedule to the Heritage Overlay

External Paint Controls Should Apply? **Yes** – memorial gates only.

Internal Alteration Controls Should Apply? **No**

Tree Controls Should Apply? **Yes** – mature Cypress trees.

Fences &/or Outbuildings of Note? **No**

Prohibited Uses May be Permitted? **No**

Incorporated Document **No**

### Other Recommendations

It is recommended that an Incorporated Plan is prepared to provide permit exemptions for: construction of non-highly reflective buildings and structures (no greater than 10 square metres and no higher than 3 metres above ground level); low fencing; and works to the ground surfaces.

It is recognised that many of the Cypress trees forming the perimeter of the reserve are senescent. It is recommended that a tree management program be prepared by a qualified Arborist to assist with the future management of the trees. The plan should outline identical or similar replacement species (where trees may need to be removed), to retain its current intended character and appearance and possible commemorative associations. Interpretation of the plantings by the local school children on Arbor Day 1916 is also suggested.

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

#### What is Significant?

The Ceres Recreation Reserve, 20 Cochranes Road, Ceres has significance as the location of the local cricket and football clubs and matches, and other recreational activities since the early 1900s, and particularly from 1912. It was at this time when the site was acquired by public subscription from William Leigh and developed as an important recreational centre for the Barrabool Hills area. The beautification of the reserve in the early years included the planting of trees. In 1916, Arbor Day was celebrated by the neighbouring Ceres State School, with trees planting to commemorate Earl

## **Ceres Heritage Citations Project 2017**

**PLACE NAME:** Ceres Recreation Reserve (incl. Memorial Gates & Trees) Place No. CER02

**ADDRESS:** 20 Cochranes Road, Ceres

Assessment Date: May 2017

---

Kitchener and equally importantly, to honour and commemorate local soldiers serving and killed in action in the First World War. Rows of cypress trees were planted by the local State School children in 1922 and 1924. Several of these trees, although senescent, form the perimeter of the reserve today. The local pioneers of the area and the soldiers who served in the Great War were honoured with the construction of a memorial gateway at the north-east entrance of the reserve in 1937. The fabric of significance at the reserve includes: grassed sports oval, perimeter mature cypress trees and the memorial gates (with dressed bluestone piers, original cast iron palisade bays and reconstructed cast iron gates).

### **How is it significant?**

The Ceres Recreation Reserve (including the war memorial gates and mature perimeter cypress trees), 20 Cochranes Road, Ceres is historically, aesthetically and socially significant at a LOCAL level.

### **Why is it significant?**

The Ceres Recreation Reserve, 20 Cochranes Road, has historical significance for its associations with the evolution and progress of cricket, football and other recreational activities by the Ceres and Barrabool Hills communities from the early 1900s and particularly from 1912 (Criterion A). With a cricket pitch first laid out in the early 1900s in William Leigh's paddock (an avid cricketer), it was in 1912 when a portion of his land was acquired by public subscription as the first permanent recreation reserve in Ceres. A Trust was formed to manage and develop the reserve and by 1929 it had raised £1000 for the erection of pavilions, improving the ground and beautifying the reserve. From 1916, trees were planted on Arbor Day by students of the neighbouring Ceres State School. Forming the perimeter boundary, these trees contributed to the beautification of the reserve as well as honour and commemorate local soldiers of the Great War. Other rows of Cypress trees were planted by the school children in 1922 and 1924. The Ceres Recreation Reserve therefore has associations with the local community's involvement in the First World War. Another physical legacy of these associations is the memorial gates at the north-east entrance, erected in 1937. They also honour the pioneers of the district. The Ceres Recreation Reserve has further associations with several local figures who contributed much to the progress of the reserve, including those who served as Trustees or on the Committee of Management following the transfer of the grounds in 1931.

The perimeter Cypress trees at the Ceres Recreation Reserve are aesthetically significant as an important perimeter boarder to the setting of the reserve, and together with the memorial gates, contribute to the visual qualities of the place, a legacy of the beautification of the site in 1916, 1920s and 1937 (Criterion E). The setting of the Ceres Recreation Reserve, including the grassed sports oval, perimeter Cypress Trees and design of the memorial gates, is directly comparable to the Lara Reserve, memorial trees and gates, albeit on a smaller, more rural scale. It is a contextually rare surviving rural reserve in Greater Geelong that has maintained the setting intended in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The Ceres Recreation Reserve is socially significant as it is recognised and valued by the local community as a place for organized and informal sport and recreation (Criterion G). The site has been the location of cricket and football from 1912. The memorial gates have social significance for their commemorative associations with the pioneers of Ceres and the local soldiers who served and died in the Great War (Criterion G). Some of the surviving Cypress trees may also have commemorative value as plantings in honour of local soldiers of the First World War.

## Ceres Heritage Citations Project 2017

**PLACE NAME:** Ceres Recreation Reserve (incl. Memorial Gates & Trees) Place No. CER02

**ADDRESS:** 20 Cochranes Road, Ceres

Assessment Date: May 2017

### Heritage Overlay Map

It is recommended that the heritage overlay is applied to the Ceres Recreation Reserve site, 20 Cochranes Road, Ceres, as shown in the following aerial image:



Source of image: City of Greater Geelong 2016.

### DESCRIPTION:

The Ceres Recreation Reserve, 20 Cochranes Road, Ceres, consists of elevated, gently-sloping land near the south-east intersection of Cochranes and Barrabool Roads. The predominant feature of the site is the grassed sports ground, being largely oval in layout (apart from the east side which following the lineal alignment of Cochranes Road). The ground and site are variously bound by introduced post and rail fencing (of hollow steel construction), timber bollards, low timber and rail bays, bays of posts with signage panels and rural post and wire fences. In the south-west corner are practice cricket wickets with high wire mesh fencing. In the north-east corner are memorial gates.

At the south end of the ground are the Barrabool Cricket Clubrooms, characterised by a central bay of shallow, broadly-projecting gabled roof forms with flanking, minor steeply-pitched gabled wings. These roofs are clad in corrugated colorbond, the walls are clad in lightweight horizontal timber cladding punctuated by aluminium framed windows and doors. There are post-supported skillion verandahs projecting from the flanking wings.

Much of the western and northern boundaries of the site, and the south-west corner, are lined with mature Cypress trees. There are approximately 29 mature trees on the west side of the oval, 9 trees near the north-east corner (adjacent the memorial gates), 10 trees immediately south of the memorial gates (north-east corner) and 7 trees in the south-east corner of the site. These trees are all senescent and appear to be the most mature. There are an additional 14 Cypress trees in the north-west corner of the site. These trees are not as mature as the others flanking the recreation reserve.

**Ceres Heritage Citations Project 2017**

**PLACE NAME:** Ceres Recreation Reserve (incl. Memorial Gates & Trees) Place No. CER02

**ADDRESS:** 20 Cochranes Road, Ceres

Assessment Date: May 2017

In the north-east corner of the reserve are the war memorial gates. They consist of four dressed, bluestone piers on tooled bluestone pedestals and surmounted by projecting cappings. The taller piers flank the central gateway, with lower piers completing the flanking bays. These bays have dressed and tooled plinths above which are decorative cast iron palisades. Similarly-designed and constructed gates (which also have metal scrollwork cappings) are a central feature of the memorial. They were introduced in 2015 as a reconstruction of the original gates that had been replaced in the 20<sup>th</sup> century with gates of inferior design and construction. The principal gate piers having incised goldleaf lettering. The left pier reads: "Erected in the Year 1937 as a Tribute to the Pioneers of the District", the right pier reading: "In Memory of the Soldiers who Fought in the Great War 1914-1918".

Immediately inside the reserve adjacent to the memorial gates are two recently planted trees, marking the official reopening of the gates in 2015.

Overall, the recreation reserve is in good condition (particularly the grassed oval, pavilion and memorial gates). Most of the mature cypress trees (apart from a row of what appear to be younger cypresses in the north-west corner) are senescent. The recreation reserve has moderate integrity given that the open grassed oval, perimeter cypress trees and memorial gates are largely intact. The removal of the original pavilion (before 1970) and the loss of some cypress trees (after 1970) has diminished the integrity of the reserve to some degree but the original, intended rural sports ground appearance is largely intact.



**Photo 2:** View of Reserve looking south to the pavilion, 2016. Source: David Rowe.



**Photo 3:** Reserve Pavilion with mature Cypress trees to the east (south-east corner of Reserve), 2016. Source: David Rowe.



**Photo 4:** Mature Cypress trees in north-east corner of reserve, 2016. Source: David Rowe.



**Photo 5:** Semi-mature Cypress trees in the north-east corner of reserve, 2016. Source: David Rowe.

## Ceres Heritage Citations Project 2017

**PLACE NAME:** Ceres Recreation Reserve (incl. Memorial Gates & Trees) Place No. CER02

**ADDRESS:** 20 Cochranes Road, Ceres

Assessment Date: May 2017



**Photo 6:** Mature Cypress trees on west boundary of reserve, 2016. Source: David Rowe.



**Photo 7:** Recently planted trees behind memorial gates, 2016. Source: David Rowe.

### HISTORY:

#### Early Settlement of the Barrabool Hills

For at least 5,000 years, the Barrabool Hills was occupied by sections of the Wathaurong, a nomadic Indigenous tribe.<sup>1</sup> The Wathaurong's existence at Barrabool was to be dramatically changed with the arrival of John Batman and his exploration party in 1835. Arriving from Tasmania with the explicit intention of exploring the area, the eventually developed into the Port Phillip Association.<sup>2</sup> Establishing his headquarters in the vicinity of Indented Head, Batman explored the Bellarine Peninsula and Geelong region.<sup>3</sup> One of Batman's party, John Helder Wedge, a surveyor, ventured further westward in exploring other parts of the region. He eventually followed the Barwon River from Fyansford along the foot of the 'Barrabool' Hills.<sup>4</sup> There, 'he noted that the hills afforded "fine pastorage for sheep".<sup>5</sup> From 1836, squatters arrived at Geelong to take up land for sheep grazing.<sup>6</sup>

By 1839, the Barrabool Hills had been surveyed as part of the Barrabool Parish.<sup>7</sup> Large acreages were made available at a Government land sale in late 1839.<sup>8</sup> In February 1840, much of the Barrabool Hills was acquired by Charles McLachlan, a wealthy Scottish businessman of Tasmania, and his business partner, Captain Charles Swanston, English banker and merchant of Tasmania and member of the Port Phillip Association<sup>9</sup> who purchased Sections 2-3, 13-16, and 20-23 as his vast 4,480 acre Strathlachlan sheep estate.<sup>10</sup> In 1850, Sections 22 and 23 and parts of Sections 13 and 14 of the Strathlachlan Estate (Barrabool Parish) were subdivided into 65 farms centred on a village of 45 building sites as the

1 I. Wynd, *Barrabool: Land of the Magpie*, Barrabool Shire, Torquay, 1992, p.ix.

2 *Ibid.*, p.3.

3 *Ibid.*

4 *Ibid.*, pp.4-5.

5 *Ibid.*

6 *Ibid.*, p.5.

7 Barrabool Parish Plan, VPRS 16171, Public Record Office Victoria.

8 Port Phillip Patriot and Melbourne Advertiser, 9 December 1839, p.3.

9 D.S. Macmillan & J.R. Morris, 'McLachlan, Charles (1795-1850)' *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, <http://adb.anu.edu.au/biography/mclachlanh-charles-2411/text3191>, published first in hardcopy, 1967, accessed online 20 January 2017 & C. Swanston, 'Swanston, Charles (1789-1850), *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, National Centre of Biography, Australian National University, <http://abd.anu.edu.au/biography/swanston-charles-2713/texttext3815>, published first in hardcopy 1967, accessed online 20 January 2017.

10 Barrabool Parish Plan, op.cit. & Wynd, op.cit., p.43.

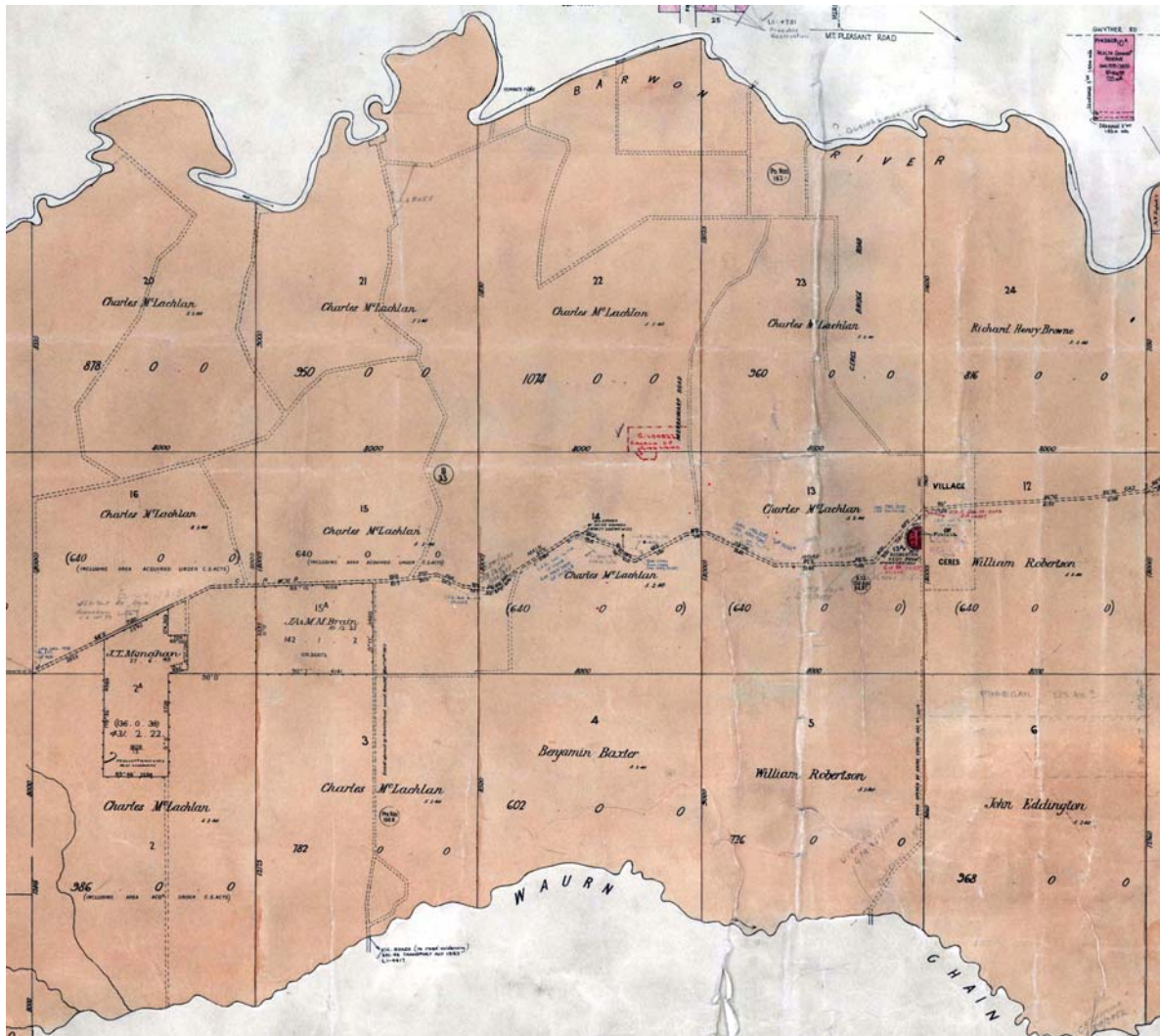
## Ceres Heritage Citations Project 2017

**PLACE NAME:** Ceres Recreation Reserve (incl. Memorial Gates & Trees) Place No. CER02

**ADDRESS:** 20 Cochranes Road, Ceres

Assessment Date: May 2017

Merrawarp Estate.<sup>11</sup> By 1861, there were only 10 owner residents in the Estate, with four fifths still being tenant farmers.<sup>12</sup> At this time, the Barrabool Hills were considered to be the 'granary of the colony,'<sup>13</sup> the location of sheep grazing and crop farms, and vineyards.



**Figure 1:** Part Barrabool Parish Plan, Dept of Lands & Survey, Melbourne, March 1946, showing land sections in the Barrabool Hills, including Ceres. Source: VPRS 16171, Public Record Office Victoria

Another successful purchaser in February 1840 was William Robertson, Port Phillip Association member. He acquired Sections 5, 11 and 12.<sup>14</sup> Two days after his purchase, Robertson sold Sections 11 and 12 to David Fisher, manager of the Derwent Company (successor to the Port Phillip Association). He named his estate 'Roslin' which he subdivided into farms that were leased to various tenants.<sup>15</sup> In 1850, Fisher created the village of Ceres as a private subdivision of 58 allotments in part of Section 12.<sup>16</sup> The small settlement was soon to become the centre of the agricultural district where the neighbouring properties farmed crops, grazed sheep and established noteworthy vineyards.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*, p.22.

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>13</sup> *Geelong Advertiser*, 14 September 1874, p.2.

<sup>14</sup> Barrabool Parish Plan, op.cit.

<sup>15</sup> Wynd, *op.cit.*, p.208.

<sup>16</sup> Fisher's Ceres Village Subdivision Plan, 1850, Maps & Plans collection 17/60, Geelong Library & Heritage Centre.

## Ceres Heritage Citations Project 2017

PLACE NAME: Ceres Recreation Reserve (incl. Memorial Gates & Trees) Place No. CER02

ADDRESS: 20 Cochranes Road, Ceres

Assessment Date: May 2017

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### History of Ceres Recreation Reserve

#### The Early Years

Popular during the fledgling years of European occupation of the Barrabool Hills in the 1850s were ploughing matches. It seems the first match was held on Mr Young's farm, Aitkenside, Waurn Ponds, in May 1855, following the formation of the Barrabool Hills Ploughing Match Committee that met at the Wheatsheaf Inn, Ceres.<sup>17</sup> The first cricket match at Ceres appears to have been played in January 1861 when the Ceres Total Abstinence Society met their counterparts from the region of the nearby Devon Church.<sup>18</sup> It was not until 1863 when the Geelong Advertiser first recorded a match that included the Barrabool Hills Club, suggested that the Club had formed at this time.<sup>19</sup> A football club seems to have formed much later, with the Barrabool Rovers reported as playing a team from Gheringhap for the first time in August 1891.<sup>20</sup> The location of the Barrabool Rovers' home ground is not known, but by March 1892 the Barrabool Cricket Club hosted a match between the Christ Church Union 'in Mr. H. Leigh's paddock.'<sup>21</sup> By 1900, cricket (and presumably football) matches were played at the rear of the Temperance Hall.<sup>22</sup>

In 1907, a public meeting was held in the Ceres Temperance Hall following a request by the Geelong Progress Association to secure a portion of Heard's Estate to the east of the Ceres Village (now Wandana Heights) as a site for a look out station.<sup>23</sup> It was earlier part of the farmland of John Heard, part of which was taken over by the Government for Closer Settlement in 1907.<sup>24</sup> A six acre block was sought in order to establish a recreation reserve.<sup>25</sup> With only one quarter of an acre ultimately set aside for a look out,<sup>26</sup> there was not sufficient land for a local sports ground at this location.

#### Establishment of a Permanent Recreation Ground at Ceres

Between 1900 and 1912, cricket matches were played on a pitch laid out on William Leigh's paddock at the south-west corner of Cochranes and Barrabool Roads (the location of the existing Ceres Recreation Reserve).<sup>27</sup> In mid 1912, the local farmer, William Leigh – an avid cricketer - offered to sell a portion of his land as the permanent site of a recreation ground at Ceres. The site was the then location of the cricket ground. A meeting was held to discuss the proposal:

A large and representative meeting was held in the ante room of the hall to consider the advisability of purchasing a recreation ground for the district. Mr. W. Leigh offered to sell a portion of his land, where the present cricket pitch is situated. A sub-committee was appointed to confer: Mr. Leigh very kindly fell in with a suggestion, and granted more land than was at first mentioned. Collectors

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17 *Geelong Advertiser*, 5 June 1855, p.6 & 4 June 1859, p.2.

18 Wynd, *op.cit.*, p.73.

19 *Geelong Advertiser*, 24 March 1863, p.3 & N.S. McAdam, 'Barrabool Cricket Club 1863-1955', chronological manuscript, Barrabool Cricket Club online, January 2017, at <http://barraboolcc.vic.cricket.com.au/files/2256/files/2015-6/Barrabool%20Players%20and%20History%201863-1955.pdf>

20 *Geelong Advertiser*, 26 August 1891, p.2.

21 *Ibid.*, 25 March 1892, p.3.

22 *Ibid.*, 16 March 1900, p.4. The *Geelong Advertiser* referred to the cricket ground as a "Sports Ground" in 1902, suggesting that this was the allocation of the Barrabool Rovers Football Club. See *Geelong Advertiser*, 23 June 1902, p.3.

23 *Ibid.*, 24 September 1907, p.2.

24 *Ibid.*

25 *Ibid.*, 1 October 1907, p.2.

26 Wynd, *op.cit.*, pp.201-211.

27 The *Geelong Advertiser*, 16 March 1900, p.4, referred to a cricket match being played at the rear of the Temperance Hall, Ceres. But on 1 July 1912, p.6, the *Geelong Advertiser* referred to the 'present cricket pitch' being on William' Leigh's land.

## Ceres Heritage Citations Project 2017

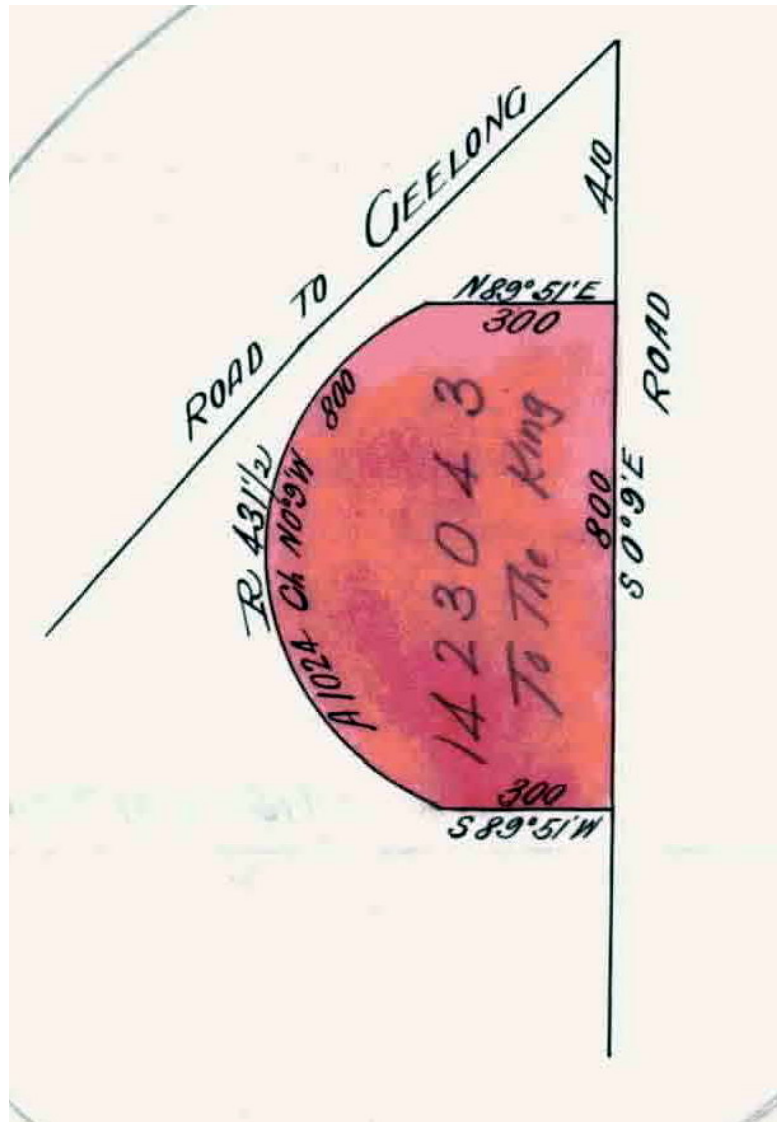
**PLACE NAME:** Ceres Recreation Reserve (incl. Memorial Gates & Trees) Place No. CER02

**ADDRESS:** 20 Cochranes Road, Ceres

Assessment Date: May 2017

were appointed to canvass the district, and it is to be hoped that sufficient funds will be available to accept the offer, and go right on with the long-needed required. The sub-committee will place a report of the conference before a full meeting to-night (Monday), when it is to be hoped a large gathering will be present.<sup>28</sup>

A Recreation Reserve Trust was subsequently formed to acquire the site, the members being Charles Anderson, Sidney Herbert McCann, John James Lamb, John Coombs and Herbert Cecil Heal.<sup>29</sup> A fundraising drive was held to raise the necessary finances to formalise the purchase which occurred on 5 July 1912.<sup>30</sup> The site comprised 3 acres 3 roods and 34 perches with a frontage to Cochranes Road, near the south-west corner of Barrabool and Cochranes Roads (Figure 2). The western boundary was curved.



**Figure 2:** Plan of the Ceres Recreation Reserve, 1912. Source: Certificate of Title vol. 3706 fol. 024.

By late July 1912, there was still a need for additional donors:

<sup>28</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>29</sup> Certificate of Title vol. 1817 fol. 340.

<sup>30</sup> *Ibid.* & Cr. S.H. McCann, Chair of the Trust, to the Department of Lands & Survey, 16 April 1929, Crown Land Reserve file Rs 4144, Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Geelong office.

## Ceres Heritage Citations Project 2017

**PLACE NAME:** Ceres Recreation Reserve (incl. Memorial Gates & Trees) Place No. CER02

**ADDRESS:** 20 Cochranes Road, Ceres

Assessment Date: May 2017

---

The purchase of the new recreation ground has been completed and all that is required now is a few more donors to hand in the balance of funds to wipe off the purchase money, and then the trust can get to work and get the ground in order, which at the present is in a very raw state.<sup>31</sup>

The Trustees acted as guarantors until the balance of the funds for the reserve could be raised.<sup>32</sup> With the completion of the purchase of the site, a working bee was held by the trustees and 'young people' of the community to level the ground, replace the old cricket pitch with a new pitch, with 'good progress' being made.<sup>33</sup> Much of the improvements to the ground were completed in the following weeks, in readiness for the official opening on 5 October 1912:

Saturday last was quite a gala day at Ceres, the occasion being the opening of the new recreation ground. Through the instrumentality of an influential committee the district is provided now with a very suitable ground for all recreation purposes. A new concrete cricket pitch has been laid down, and the ground is now being fenced in. The opening ceremony was performed by Cr. R.P. Piper, J.P. Mr. H. Heal (the president of the cricket club) called up Mr. Piper to bowl the first ball, and declare the pitch open. Mr. Piper, who was received with applause, said their forefathers had not provided play-grounds, and this had been rather a detriment to the district, but to-day this drawback had been removed. He believe the young men should have a place for amusements, and not have to go into the town to find it. He recommended the young men to take a keen interest in the district, and to follow in the footsteps of their predecessors, who had done so much in times past. They had experience of what could be done with united action in the Temperance Hall. As an old cricketer he gave some very practical advice to the young team that was about to start. Amidst much applause Mr. Piper bowled the new ball handed to him by the president, and declared the pitch duly opened. C.R.S. McCann, as one of the old players, and one who had piloted the teams through much adversity in the past, said the pioneers had no time for cricket and other sports. Things now had very much changed. The old proverb all work and no play had very much altered. Cricket, if properly conducted, brought out the manliness in a man, and he hoped that the young men stepping into the places of some of the older ones would acquit themselves well both on the field and off the field, and be a credit to the district. Mr. W. Leigh, who has always been a keen cricketer in the district, desired to say to the young men, if they wished to become good cricketers, it was necessary that they should engage in plenty of practice, and also when at practice to play by system. During the afternoon an excellent repast was provided by the ladies of the district. At the conclusion a hearty vote of thanks was accorded the ladies on the motion of Mr. H. Coombs, seconded by Cr. Piper. The remaining part of the afternoon was spent in a cricket match. Married versus Single. Cr. S. McCann captained the married and Mr. J.H. Coombs the single. The single having won the toss elected to bat. The opening batsmen of the match were G. Coombs and W. Hill: while the first bowler was A. McAdam. G. Coombs was the first batsman to secure the first run; the first boundary hit was secured by H. Smith and A. McAdam the first wicket. The highest scores for the single were – C. Dyers 11, Larry Anderson 11, D. Anderson 11; for the married, Cr. Piper 12, Cr. McCann 11, A. McAdam 10. The match ended in the single securing 82 runs to the married 60 runs.<sup>34</sup>

Further improvements were made to the recreation ground in the following months. They included the construction of a timber viewing pavilion (considered to have 'greatly enhanced the value of the ground') (Figure 5) and installation of goal posts for the first football match on the site in June 1913.<sup>35</sup> On 14 March 1927, the Barrabool Football Club entered in the Athletic Football League. By 1931, the Club struggled financially and it disbanded in 1932. It reformed the following year in 1933.<sup>36</sup> Dressing rooms may also have been built next to the pavilion at this time.

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31 *Geelong Advertiser*, 25 July 1912, p.5.

32 McCann, op.cit.

33 *Geelong Advertiser*, 13 August 1912, p.5.

34 *Ibid.*, 8 October 1912, p.5.

35 *Ibid.*, 13 June 1913, p.5.

36 See Barrabool Football Club Minutes 1927-34, GRS 1446, Geelong Library & Heritage Centre collection.

## Ceres Heritage Citations Project 2017

PLACE NAME: Ceres Recreation Reserve (incl. Memorial Gates & Trees) Place No. CER02

ADDRESS: 20 Cochranes Road, Ceres

Assessment Date: May 2017

---

### Tree Planting Programs

In May 1916, it was announced that through J.F. Farrar, M.L.A., a Government grant of £15 had been awarded to the Trustees of the Recreation Reserve on a £1 for £1 basis.<sup>37</sup> A fundraising campaign was to be instigated 'as fencing, tree planting, etc., will help to make the reserve one of the beauty spots of these picturesque hills.'<sup>38</sup> A few months later, Arbor Day was celebrated by the neighbouring Ceres State School in the planting of trees at the recreation reserve given 'there was no room in the school ground.'<sup>39</sup> The event assisted in improving the reserve grounds as well as commemorating locals serving in the First World War. It was outlined in the *Geelong Advertiser*:

... Mr. McDowall, chairman of the school committee, said of all Arbor Days this was the most important for they had not only met to plant trees, but to honor the brave boys who had fallen and those still at the front fighting for King and country, by planting a tree for each one. The first tree would be to the memory of the great warrior who had done so much for the British Empire, the late Earl Kitchener. After all the trees had been planted, the children indulged in games, etc. An excellent afternoon tea was served by the parents. The National Anthem concluded the programme.<sup>40</sup>

It is unclear whether the commemorative trees planted on Arbor Day 1916 were gums or cypresses. Both species were known to have been planted at the reserve in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

The Chairman of the Ceres State School Committee was Alfred Beaumont McDowall (1871-1942).<sup>41</sup> He was the son of the local pioneer storekeeper, postmaster and Wesleyan lay preacher, Robert McDowall.<sup>42</sup> A.B. McDowall took an interest in improvements to the Ceres Recreation Reserve. He was a member of the Barrabool Cricket Club (and its President in 1920),<sup>43</sup> proprietor of the Barrabool Butter Factory in South Geelong but resident at Ceres, and he took an active interest in local community.<sup>44</sup> In addition to his involvement with the Ceres State School Advisory Board (a role he held for 18 years),<sup>45</sup> he followed his father as Electoral Registrar for Ceres in 1893 and Registrar of Births, Deaths and Marriages from 1900.<sup>46</sup> He was also heavily involved in the local Wesleyan Church until 1927 when he relocated to Belmont with his family.<sup>47</sup>

On Arbor Day 1922, a number of trees were planted around the reserve by the Ceres State School children.<sup>48</sup> Two years later in 1924, a working bee was held to remove 'all the gum trees on the west side of the ground', and 'a number of cypress trees were planted.'<sup>49</sup>

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37 *Geelong Advertiser*, 9 May 1916, p.5.

38 *Ibid.*

39 *Ibid.*, 7 July 1916, p.5.

40 *Ibid.*

41 Victorian Births, Deaths & Marriages Indexes online, Department of Justice, Melbourne.

42 See *Geelong Advertiser*, 1 May 1911, p.5 & *Victoria Government Gazette*, 14 April 1871, p.559.

43 *Geelong Advertiser*, 17 April 1920, p.4.

44 *Ibid.*, 1 May 1911, p.5.

45 *Ibid.*, 8 April 1922, p.2.

46 *Victoria Government Gazettes*, 21 July 1893, p.3222 & 7 December 1900, p.4478.

47 *Geelong Advertiser*, 15 November 1927, p.7.

48 *Ibid.*, 13 July 1922, p.8.

49 *Ibid.*, 19 August 1924, p.7.

## Ceres Heritage Citations Project 2017

**PLACE NAME:** Ceres Recreation Reserve (incl. Memorial Gates & Trees) Place No. CER02

**ADDRESS:** 20 Cochranes Road, Ceres

Assessment Date: May 2017

---

### Transfer of Ownership of the Recreation Reserve

In 1929, the Trustees of the recreation reserve sought to surrender the Title of the site to His Majesty the King.<sup>50</sup> This was to ensure that the reserve was available as a public recreation space in perpetuity. Since its opening in 1912, the Trustees had committed £1000 on improvements.<sup>51</sup> On 13 October 1931, the Ceres ground was reserved as a site for public recreation. The first Committee of Management were Sidney Herbert McCann, John Percy Leigh, Victor James William Irving, John William Frank Mann and Laurence Alexander Anderson.<sup>52</sup>

A list of 14 regulations was gazetted on the management and use of the reserve at this time. There were as follows:

1. The Reserve shall be open to the Public from sunrise to sunset free of charge, except on such days, not exceeding 20 in any one year, as the Reserve may be set apart for cricket or football matches, fetes, sports, or holiday amusements, on any of which occasions a sum not exceeding two shillings and six pence (2s. 6d.) may be charged and taken for the admission of every adult to the Reserve.
2. No person shall enter or remain in the Reserve who may offend against decency as regards dress, language, or conduct.
3. No person shall damage in any way the trees, shrubs, or flowers in the Reserve, nor shall fires be lighted therein.
4. No person shall climb or jump over the gates or fences in or around the Reserve, stick bills thereon, or cut names on, or in any way damage or injure any of the buildings, gates, fences, seats, or trees in the Reserve; nor leave or deposit any glass, paper, or rubbish; nor roll or throw stones or any missiles of any kind therein.
5. No person shall put in the Reserve any cattle, horses, sheep, goats, pigs, or other animals without the permission, in writing of the Committee of Management first obtained. Provided always that the moneys received for agistment shall be expended in the maintenance and improvement of the Reserve, and that an account thereof shall be furnished annually to the Board of Land and Works.
6. The Committee of Management shall have full power and authority to impound any cattle found trespassing on the Reserve, and shall be taken to be the occupier of the Reserve (with all power incidental to that status) within the meaning of any law for the time being in force relating to the impounding of cattle.
7. No person shall bring into the Reserve any dog, unless controlled by a chain or cord, without the permission, in writing, of the Committee of Management first obtained.
8. No person shall camp in the Reserve nor erect therein any dwelling, nor any booth or other structure for the purpose of offering for sale any article, without the permission, in writing, of the Committee of Management first obtained.
9. No person shall take part in any public entertainment of any sort in the Reserve without the permission, in writing, of the Committee of Management first obtained.
10. No person shall spit or expectorate on the paths or on any structure or erection in the Reserve.
11. No person shall bet publicly in any part of the Reserve, and every person infringing this Regulation shall be liable to expulsion from the enclosures and Reserve.
12. No person shall play, practices, or engage in any game or sport within the Reserve on Sundays.
13. Persons renting or hiring any stand, building, erection, or enclosure on the occasions of any fetes, sports, or holiday amusements may be required to deposit any sum which the Committee of Management may at any time determine, not exceeding Ten pounds, by way of guarantee that due care shall be taken of such stand, building, erection, or enclosure, and such Committee in its absolute discretion may make good any damage or injury sustained by such stand, building, erection, or enclosure or anything contained therein, during such occupancy or hiring, and deducted the cost of making good such loss or damage from the sum of money deposited by way of guarantee, and all persons so renting or hiring shall abide by these Regulations and by any order given by the Committee of Management.

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50 McCann, op.cit.

51 Ibid.

52 Ceres Recreation Reserve correspondence, 17 December 1931, Crown Reserve file, op.cit.

## Ceres Heritage Citations Project 2017

**PLACE NAME:** Ceres Recreation Reserve (incl. Memorial Gates & Trees) Place No. CER02

**ADDRESS:** 20 Cochranes Road, Ceres

Assessment Date: May 2017

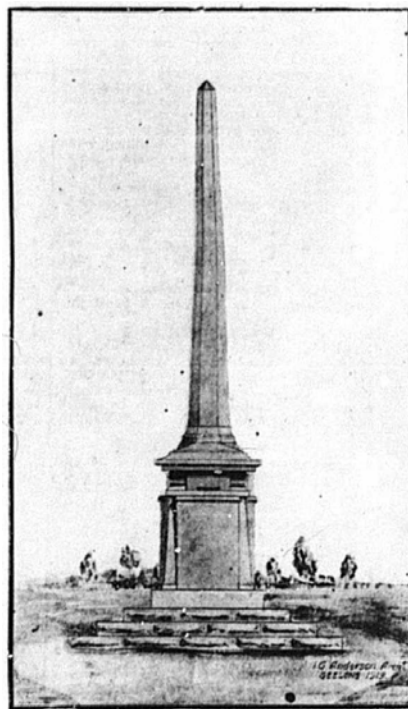
14. No person except labourers and workmen employed in the Reserve, shall enter any plots therein which may be enclosed for plantations of young trees or shrubs.

The Reserve has been placed under the control of a Committee of Management with the power and authority to enforce the foregoing Regulations.<sup>53</sup>

In 1980, the Ceres Recreational Reserve Trust resolved to request the Lands Department pass over the management of the reserve to the Barrabool Shire Council.<sup>54</sup> The Trust considered the transfer would 'be in the best interests of local users of the Reserve as Council presently owned an adjacent Reserve and would be in a better financial position to allocate the necessary maintenance funds for the future upkeep of the Reserve.'<sup>55</sup>

### Establishment of the Memorial Gates

In May 1919, the residents of Ceres proposed to erect a war memorial obelisk in the recreation reserve in honour of the locals who fought and died in the First World War.<sup>56</sup> The monument was to be constructed of either 'Ceres green granite or Harcourt granite' at a cost of £150.<sup>57</sup> Proposed to stand 20 feet high with a face of 4 feet 6 inches (Figure 6), it was designed by the Geelong architect, I.G. Anderson.<sup>58</sup> The worthy memorial proposal was not to be realised, possibly due to the considerable cost required for its erection.



Proposed Monument to be erected by Ceres residents on the Recreation Reserve, Mr. I. G. Anderson, Architect. —N.O.W. Photo.

**Figure 3:** I.G. Anderson, Proposed Monument for the Recreation Reserve, Ceres, 1919.  
Source: *News of the Week*, 19 June 1919, Geelong Library & Heritage Centre collection.

<sup>53</sup> Ibid., Recreation Reserve, Ceres: Regulations, 22 June 1932.

<sup>54</sup> Ibid., W.S. McCann, Chairman of Committee of Management, to the Secretary, Lands Department, 2 October 1980.

<sup>55</sup> Ibid.

<sup>56</sup> *Geelong Advertiser*, 20 May 1919, p.4.

<sup>57</sup> Ibid.

<sup>58</sup> Ibid.

## Ceres Heritage Citations Project 2017

**PLACE NAME:** Ceres Recreation Reserve (incl. Memorial Gates & Trees) Place No. CER02

**ADDRESS:** 20 Cochranes Road, Ceres

Assessment Date: May 2017

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Another 28 years were to elapse before a permanent war memorial was erected at the Recreation Reserve, the need for a monument not forgotten by local residents. In 1937, new gates were proposed to be constructed at the entrance to the reserve. They were to be a joint memorial to the pioneers of the district and the local soldiers who fought in the Great War. There had been a 15 year fundraising campaign to erect the gates. On 9 June 1937, the gates were officially unveiled by the Acting Premier of Victoria, the Hon. Francis Old (Figure 4).<sup>59</sup> The occasion was reported in the *Geelong Advertiser*:

The memorial is a handsome one. The two gates are of iron with stone pillars on either side. One pillar has the inscription: 'Erected 1937 as a tribute to the pioneers of the district,' and the other: "In memory of the soldiers who fought in the Great War, 1914-1918."

Following a reading from the Scripture by the Rev. Stanley Humphrey and a prayer by the Rev. H.G. Matthews, the president of the shire (Cr. J.W. White) welcomed the Acting Premier.

Cr. White said the township was appropriately named Ceres, after the Grecian goddess of agriculture. For miles, said the speaker, one saw agricultural land on which they might be proud. It was a unique occasion for Ceres to have the Acting Premier in the district for the sole purpose of attending a function there. They welcomed Mr. Old, and felt honoured by his attendance.

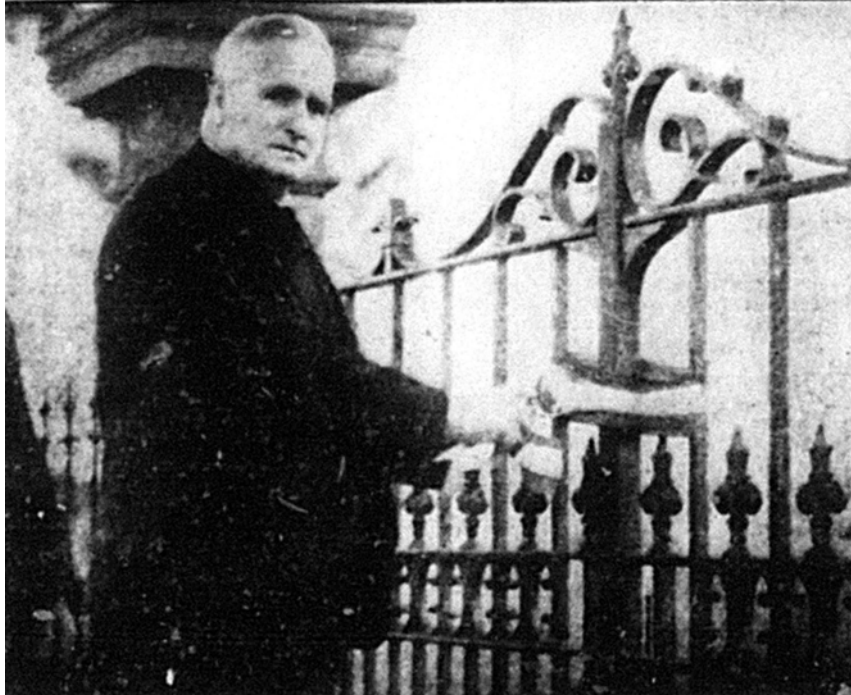
... Mr. Old said that the gathering was honouring the pioneers and the soldiers. The pioneers had made something of the land and the soldiers had fought to maintain it, and it was fitting that the two memorials should be associated. He had pleasure in unveiling the memorial gates and handing them to the trustees as a lasting tribute to the memory of the pioneers and returned soldiers.

The chairman of the trustees of the recreation reserve (Mr. S.H. McCann) acknowledged the handing over of the gates, and said that the great heritage of which they were all so proud had not come by accident. It had been only through greater service and sacrifice. Any great service could not be given without sacrifice. The pioneers had built on firm foundations, and the third generation of Australian born was living on the farms the pioneers started. The recreation ground had been started 25 years ago, and the trustees had never had a "cent" from the Government.<sup>60</sup>

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59 *Ibid.*, 10 June 1937.

60 *Ibid.*



**Figure 4:** Acting Premier Old officially opening the Ceres Memorial Gates, 1937.

Source: *Geelong Advertiser*, 12 June 1937.

The memorial gates consisted of dressed bluestone piers with elaborate cast iron gates in the centre, flanked by cast iron palisade bays (Figure 5). The design and construction of the gates was conservative for the 1930s, possibly a consequence of the gates concept having been prepared 15 years earlier. Timber picket fencing extended beyond the entrance gates.



**Figure 5:** Ceres Memorial Gates, 1937, with Alfred Beaumont "Mont" McDowall standing. Also note the early pavilion in the background built in 1913 (left of central gate bay), gum and cypress trees forming the perimeter of the reserve & the timber picket fencing. Source: David Jirik, Ceres Community Association.

## Ceres Heritage Citations Project 2017

**PLACE NAME:** Ceres Recreation Reserve (incl. Memorial Gates & Trees) Place No. CER02

**ADDRESS:** 20 Cochranes Road, Ceres

Assessment Date: May 2017

---

During the mid 1970s, the original gates to the memorial had disappeared and replaced with other palisade gates (Figure 6). In 2015, to mark the Centenary of Anzac, the Ceres Community Association raised funds through the Federal and State Governments to have the original gates reconstructed and other necessary repairs carried out.<sup>61</sup> The gates were officially reopened on 19 April 2015.<sup>62</sup>



**Figure 6:** Ceres Memorial Gates, 1996. Source: Crown Reserve file Rs 4144 DELWP.

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### The Recreation Reserve: A Period of Decline

By the 1950s, membership of the Barrabool Cricket Club was in decline. The Committee of Management sought other ways of making the reserve useful. For a brief period at this time, it was the location of the newly-established Barwon Valley Pony Club.<sup>63</sup> In 1958, J.W. F. Mann, Secretary and Treasurer of the recreation reserve, reported to the Lands Department that the Barrabool Cricket Club had 'no cricket team and not likely to have one for perhaps 5 years owing to no young boys of cricket age.'<sup>64</sup> The Committee of Management sought permission to let the reserve to seasonal workers (pea pickers) to camp there for up to 8-10 weeks. It also asked whether a Barley crop could be grown in the reserve for a year or two in an effort to ensure the reserve remain sustainable.<sup>65</sup>

### Building the Existing Clubrooms

By 1970, the old pavilion, dressing shed and other structures built in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century had been removed and the reserve appears to have been devoid of a dressing shed (Figure 7). A new clubroom

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61 Invitation to the Official Reopening of the Ceres Memorial Gates, Ceres Community Association, 2015.

62 Ibid.

63 'Barwon Valley Pony Club 1956-2006: 50 Years of Memories', unpublished history booklet online, January 2017 at [http://www.barwonvalley.ponyclubvic.org.au/site/ponyclub/barwonvalley/downloads/BVPC\\_History.pdf](http://www.barwonvalley.ponyclubvic.org.au/site/ponyclub/barwonvalley/downloads/BVPC_History.pdf)

64 J.W. F. Mann, Secretary & Treasurer, to the Secretary for Lands, 8 March 1958, Crown Reserve file, op.cit.

65 Ibid.

## Ceres Heritage Citations Project 2017

**PLACE NAME:** Ceres Recreation Reserve (incl. Memorial Gates & Trees) Place No. CER02

**ADDRESS:** 20 Cochranes Road, Ceres

Assessment Date: May 2017

had been erected at the south end of the ground after 1970. Other smaller shelter sheds, structures and fencing followed.



**Figure 7:** Ceres Recreation Reserve aerial view, 1970.

Source: Part aerial of Ceres, film 2457, Landata, with Creative Commons Copyright  
<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>

In 1996, extensions to the pavilion (Figure 8) were proposed and following their completion, it was officially opened on 8 February 1997 as the I.K. Grigg and P.R. Pickering Pavilion (Figure 9).<sup>66</sup> In 2014, Cactus Designs were engaged to prepare a design for major alterations and additions to the pavilion.<sup>67</sup> Construction soon ensued and by October 2015 it was nearing completion.<sup>68</sup> Following numerous volunteer hours in fundraising and the building of the pavilion, it was completed in December 2015 and officially opened in January 2016 (Figure 10).<sup>69</sup>

<sup>66</sup> L. Beardall, Asset Manager, January 1997 & City of Greater Geelong Council Report, 'Opening of New Pavilion at Ceres Reserve', n.d. [1997], Crown Reserve file, op.cit.

<sup>67</sup> Ibid., includes the drawings by Cactus Designs.

<sup>68</sup> Barrabool Cricket Club online, January 2017 at <http://barraboolcc.vic.cricket.com.au/pageitem.aspx?id=116241>

<sup>69</sup> Ibid.

**Ceres Heritage Citations Project 2017**

**PLACE NAME:** Ceres Recreation Reserve (incl. Memorial Gates & Trees) Place No. CER02

**ADDRESS:** 20 Cochranes Road, Ceres

Assessment Date: May 2017



**Figure 8:** Ceres Recreation Reserve looking south to the pavilion prior to alterations & additions, 14 August 1996.  
Source: Crown Reserve file Rs 4144 DELWP.



**Figure 9:** Ceres Recreation Reserve looking south to the pavilion following alterations, n.d. [c.2014].  
Source: Crown Reserve file Rs 4144 DELWP.

## Ceres Heritage Citations Project 2017

PLACE NAME: Ceres Recreation Reserve (incl. Memorial Gates & Trees) Place No. CER02

ADDRESS: 20 Cochranes Road, Ceres

Assessment Date: May 2017



Figure 10: Opening day of the altered and extended Barrabool Cricket Club pavilion, 2016.

Source: Barrabool Cricket Club online, 2017.

### COMPARATIVE

#### State School Arbor Day Plantings in Greater Geelong

Arbor Day was first celebrated in Australia on 20 June 1889.<sup>70</sup> Originating in the United States of America, it was first established in Adelaide where a 'proportion of the pupils in our State schools go out to plant trees, and those of them who are not selected to do the planting have a place reserved for them.'<sup>71</sup> State Schools in Victoria soon followed, with tree planting being carried out on annual Arbor Days from 1890.<sup>72</sup> In 1916, Arbor Day took on additional meaning whereby those soldiers serving and who had been killed in action were honoured and commemorated in the planting of trees in school grounds and public reserves. Like the Ceres State School's Arbor Day planting at the Recreation Reserve, commemorative trees were planted by other State Schools in the Geelong region. While the South Geelong, Jan Juc, Moolap, Torquay, Lara (Flinders), and Marshalltown State Schools planted trees, it appears that it was only the trees planted by the Torquay State School were to honour and commemorate local soldiers.<sup>73</sup> None of these Arbor Day plantings, including those of commemorative trees planted at the Torquay State School, are known to survive.<sup>74</sup>

#### Other Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Rural Recreation Reserves in Greater Geelong

Several reserves were established for public recreation and sport in the Geelong district in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. They included those at Osborne Park, North Geelong (first used privately for polo matches in 1896 and laid out for public purposes in 1919); Highton (first used for cricket matches in 1894 and acquired by the Highton Progress Association in 1926); Ocean Grove (Ingamell's Park, laid out as part of the private subdivision of the town in the 1880s); Barwon Heads (established in the Barwon Heads Caravan Park in 1924) and Lara (proclaimed for recreational purposes in 1880).<sup>75</sup>

Of these select reserves, it is the Lara Recreation Reserve that is most comparable historically, aesthetically and socially to the Ceres Reserve. While considerably more substantial in scale with two

<sup>70</sup> Monuments Australia online, January 2017 at <http://monumentaustalia.org.au/themes/culture/social/display/93053-arbor-day-trees>

<sup>71</sup> *South Australian Register* (Adelaide), 20 June 1889, p.4.

<sup>72</sup> *Geelong Advertiser*, 12 July 1890, p.4.

<sup>73</sup> The Arbor Day plantings were reported in the *Geelong Advertiser*, 31 July 1916, p.5, 1 July 1916, p.7, 4 July 1916, p.4.

<sup>74</sup> The original Torquay State School, corner of Barnstaple and Honilton Streets, closed and a new school was built at the corner of Tavistock Street and Torquay Terrace in 1937. See Torquay State School History online, January 2017, at <https://torquayss.eq.edu.au/Ourschool/History/Pages/History.aspx>

<sup>75</sup> See Huddle, Howe, Lewis & Francis, 'Bellarine Heritage Study', prepared for the City of Greater Geelong, 1996, D. Rowe & L. Huddle, 'Greater Geelong Outer Areas Heritage Study Stage 2', 2000, prepared for the City of Greater Geelong & D. Rowe, 'Lara Heritage Review: Thematic History', vol.2 of D. Rowe & W. Jacobs, 'Lara Heritage Review', prepared for the City of Greater Geelong, August 2013 (revised May 2016).

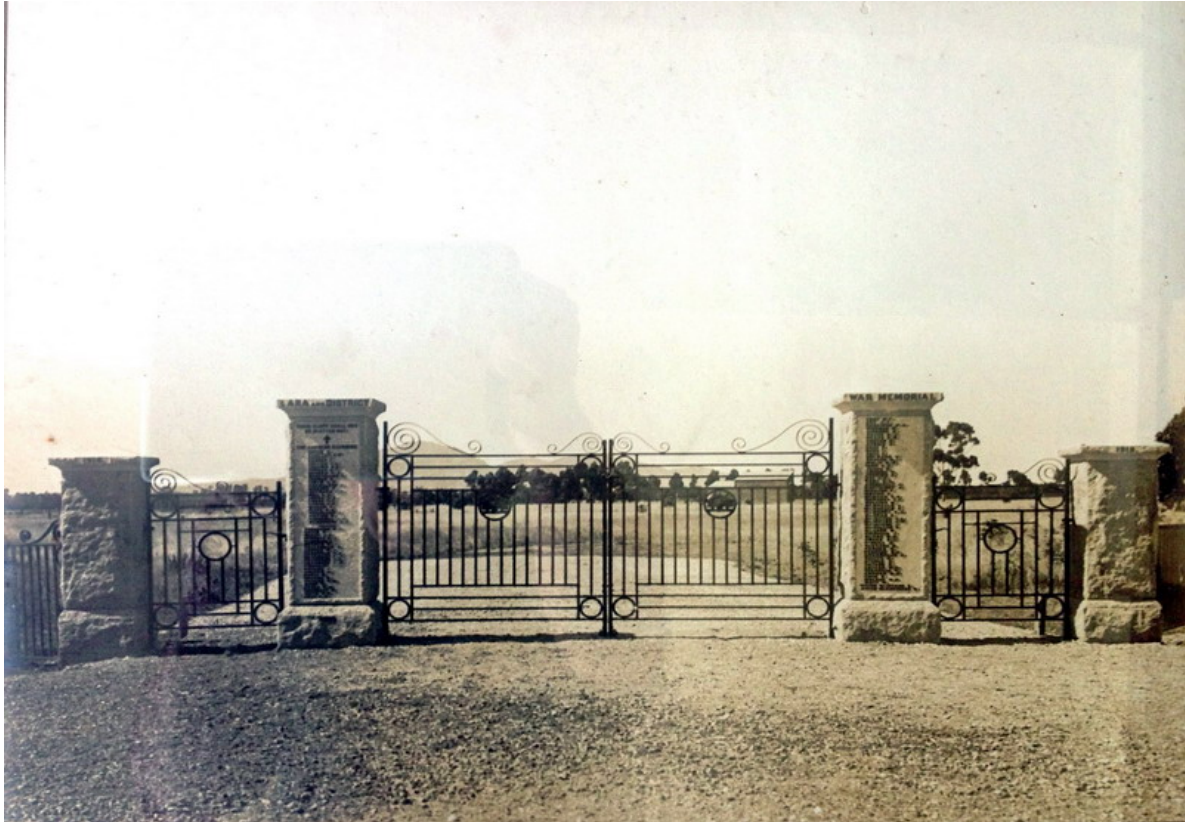
## Ceres Heritage Citations Project 2017

**PLACE NAME:** Ceres Recreation Reserve (incl. Memorial Gates & Trees) Place No. CER02

**ADDRESS:** 20 Cochranes Road, Ceres

Assessment Date: May 2017

grassed ovals, eight tennis courts, cricket practice wickets, pavilions and sports clubrooms, its development has been the result of local community involvement. In the south-east corner are war memorial gates erected in 1929 (Figure 21).<sup>76</sup> They are of similar design and construction to those at Ceres. A pine plantation reserve had also been established on the Lara reserve in earlier years (1918).<sup>77</sup> It was also at this time when an avenue of Sugar Gums was planted as a Soldiers' Avenue. In 1946, an Avenue of Honour was planted along the Walkers Road boundary of the Lara reserve which extended further west along Walkers Road.<sup>78</sup>



**Figure 11:** War Memorial Gates at the south-east entrance to the Lara Recreation Reserve, 1928.

Source: Bruce Challoner, Lara RSL Sub-Branch.

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76      *Ibid.*

77      *Ibid.*

78      *Ibid.*