

Waurm Ponds Memorial Reserve, 270 Waurm Ponds Drive, Waurm Ponds

Statement of Significance

August 2024

Heritage Place: Waurm Ponds Memorial Reserve, 270 Waurm Ponds Drive, Waurm Ponds	PS ref no: HO2038
---	--------------------------



What is significant?

The Waurm Ponds Memorial Reserve is a landscape and place of public commemoration opened in 1919 and enhanced with commemorative plantings, objects, plaques, and interpretative elements that have been progressively added to the Reserve by the local community over the last 100 years.

The Avenue of Honour and War Memorial Plaques within the Reserve are listed as Victorian War Heritage Inventory sites.

The following features contribute to the significance of the place:

- Significant tree plantings dating from 1919 including those identified in the Outer Areas Heritage Study: Moreton Bay Figs (3), Pines (4), and Eucalypts (9 -8 living and 1 dead). The remaining trees require detailed assessment.
- Lone Aleppo Pine planted in 1999.
- The primary memorial incorporating a rough rough-hewn sandstone boulder with three brass plaques honouring World War I and World War II veterans, positioned at the entrance to the Reserve between a flagpole and two Corten steel silhouette figures in the 'Reversed Arms' position.
- Steel Freedom Bridge located across a minor gully and leading to another Corten steel silhouette figure of a bugler playing the Last Post, which commemorates Korean War veterans.
- Conflict and organisation brass commemorative plaques set upon stones or ground, commemorating the Korean War, the Vietnam War, those in National Service 1951-72, Nurses, and Service Women.
- An individual line of brass memorial plaques commemorating individual service personnel who have died, set in a ~50m long gravel bed.
- Objects symbolising the three main branches of the armed services - an anchor for the Royal Australian Navy, an aeroplane propellor for the Royal Australian Air Force, and a 3.7" antiaircraft gun (previously another artillery piece) for the Australian Army that are significant as a group

Features that do not contribute to the significance of this place includes the replica anchor representing the Royal Australian Navy and replica aeroplane propeller representing the Royal Australian Air Force.

How is it significant?

The Waurm Ponds Memorial Reserve, at 270 Waurm Ponds Drive is of historical, aesthetic, and social significance to the City of Greater Geelong

Why is it significant?

The Waurm Ponds Memorial Reserve is historically significant in demonstrating the nation-wide phase of establishing war memorials to commemorate the service and sacrifice of loved ones that has occurred since Federation, having an interesting composition of landscape features, commemorative objects, and plaques, which has built up over 100 years of commemorative use. (Criterion A).

The Waurm Ponds Memorial Reserve is aesthetically significant for the cultural landscape qualities of the reserve as a piece of semi-natural woodland with waterholes and courses, filled with mixed memorial plantings, commemorative objects, and plaques within a place of peaceful reflection. (Criterion E).

The Waurm Ponds Memorial Reserve is socially significant to the community as a place of commemoration for 100 years, where the plantings, commemorative objects and plaques commemorate branches of the armed services and various military campaigns, ex-service organisations and individual community members who served, and some of whom died in active service, and is significant as the local community venue where memorial services to service and sacrifice are held. (Criterion G).

Primary sources

Waurm Ponds Memorial Reserve, Janine Barrand 20 March 2024, peer reviewed by David Scott, 24 July 2024. Greater Geelong Outer Areas Heritage Study. Stage 2, Volume 16, Authentic Heritage Services Pty Ltd., 2018-2000.

This document is an incorporated document in the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme pursuant to section 6(2)(j) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*