

# HERITAGE PLACE

**NAME OF PLACE:** QUEEN'S PARK

**ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE:** Northern Extension of Winter Street COLERAINE

**STUDY NUMBER:** 016

**HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:**

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**PRECINCT:** Coleraine

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:** Southern Grampians Shire

**PARISH:** PARISH OF COLERAINE

**ACCESS DESCRIPTION:**

Northern Extension of Winter Street to Silvester Oval, through gate located to the east of the oval.

**SIGNIFICANCE RATING:** Local



Queen's Park, Coleraine, looking east from Scenic Lookout in Arboretum.

**Image Date:** 31/01/02

**EXTENT OF LISTING:**

To the extent of: 1. All the of the historical reserve, including Silvester Oval and Sports grounds Reserve.

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## PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

Queen's Park is a ninety acre reserve located on a sloping hillside to the north of the township of Coleraine. The original Queen's Park permanent reserve covers all of the land from the Township and Parish boundary to Bryans (also known as Koroitte) Creek, and from the extension of Henty Street to the east and the extension of Gage Street to the south. Although this area was laid aside as a public park and was planted out with trees and shrubs for the Queens Jubilee, at some stage, it has gone into decline. The land is almost unrecognisable as a public park, as it has had livestock grazing it heavily for upto 70 years.

The majority of the plantings were undertaken as part of Queen Victoria's Jubilee Celebrations in 1878. Large numbers of *Ulmus procera* (English Elm) and *Quercus robur* (English Oak) were planted across the site. Along the southern boundary of Bryans Creek, there are five mature specimens of *Quercus robur*, and a scattering of specimen plantings of *Ulmus procera* throughout the south eastern part of the reserve. Several *Pinus radiata* (Monterey Pine) are planted in lines stretching north-south up the hillside, although many of the trees in these rows have died, leaving small groups of parallel plantings of these pines. Near the summit of the hill there is a consciously planted Pinetum, very popular in the late Nineteenth Century. This pinetum includes specimens of *Pinus radiata* (Monterey Pine), *Pinus nigra*. Var *Maritima* (Black Maritime Pine), *Pinus Nigra* (Black Pine), *Pinus montezuma* (Montezuma pine), *Pinus cembroides* (Mexican nut pine), *Pinus halapensis* (Aleppo pine) and *Pinus canariensis* (Canary Island Pine). There is also what appears to be a changing box or toilet located in dense buckthorn underneath these pines. The buckthorn may have been a hedge planted around the structure for privacy many years ago. Throughout the Pinetum, *Ulmus procera* suckers have created a dense impenetrable understorey, leading to the demise of many of the mature *Pinus* specimens.

To the north west of the site, there are what appears to be a double row of *Quercus robur* which stretch down towards the reserve entrance from a granite peak near the summit. These trees do not form a proper avenue, but create a definite aesthetic impact on the landscape as they follow the contour of the hillside in a sinuous line. There may have been a walking or coach track located between these trees in the early part of the nineteenth century, as they are purposely planted in this avenue like formation.

There are many indigenous *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* (River Red Gum) throughout the site, the majority which have been allowed to remain while other exotic planting has been undertaken. There are also some native Australian plants which have been consciously incorporated into Queens park reserve. These include *Acacia dealbata* (Silver Wattle), *Eucalyptus globulus* (Blue Gum) and *Eucalyptus leucoxylon* (Yellow Gum).

There have been boundary plantings of *Ulmus procera* on the western boundary with Silvester Oval which have suckered to form a dense copse.

Specimens of *Fraxinus excelsior* (Common Ash), *Acacia dealbata* (Silver Wattle), and a variety of different *Prunus* and *Crataegus* species, may also have been planted in 1887 to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria. They now exist as single mature specimens or as a number of younger trees in clumps where the mature specimen has died.

The Queen's Park reserve includes a granite outcrop to the extreme north west, at the summit of the slope. This granite outcrop appears to be one of the main vantage points which early artists who made depictions of the district. The view looking north along the Kononwootong Valley is clearly evident in the works of artists who painted in the area, such as Buvelot, Clarke and von Guerard. It appears that there is also a disused carriageway which winds around the western side of the site towards the granite point lookout.

The original reserve also included the land which is now known as Silvester Oval. This is an important sporting facility for the township of Coleraine, with a large oval, netball courts, change rooms, toilets, outdoor seating, clubrooms and kitchens. There have been a number of plantings in the reserve in the past fifty years, especially

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to the north east of the site. The plantings include a western boundary of *Cupressus macrocarpa* 'Horizontalis' (Monterey Cypress), and to the north of the site, specimens of *Eucalyptus globulus* (Blue Gum) and *Eucalyptus maculata* (Spotted Gum), as well as *Phoenix canariensis* (Canary Island Palm), *Cupressus arizonica* (Arizona Cypress), *Corymbia ficifolia* (Red Flowering Gum), *Acacia dealbata* (Silver wattle), *Pinus radiata* (Monterey Pine) and *Crataegus laevigata* (May Hawthorn).

Queens Park is in very poor condition, and if total loss of the fabric is to be avoided, urgent intervention is required. The integrity of this site continues to be compromised by grazing pressures and lack of maintenance. The Silvester Oval is in good condition, and retains a high degree of integrity to the 1940s additions.

## **HISTORY:**

Queens Park was originally part of the Whyte Brother's Konongwootong Pre-emptive right, which included the township of Coleraine. The first subdivision of Konongwootong in 1848 left the land as part of Mount Koroite Station. When Coleraine was surveyed in 1852, the land was still classified as agricultural lands. In 1875 twenty acres were reserved for a 'Public Park' to the extreme north of the original township boundary. The reserve was extended to ninety acres when Queen's Park was proclaimed and planted out with a mixture of exotic and native trees in 1887 to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of Queen Victoria.

Queens Park has been only used as a park until 1903, when it was superseded by the development of Silvester Oval. A portion of Queens Park nearest to Bryans Creek was fenced off for a Sports Reserve in 1903, due to the efforts of Messrs E. Silvester, J.W. Trangmar and L. M. Lesser. The Sports Reserve was named Silvester Oval after the founder, Eugene Silvester. A Queens Carnival was held to raise money to develop the Sports Reserve. Further developments were made to Silvester Oval after World War Two.

Queens Park has gradually demised, and few people in the township of Coleraine are aware that it is an officially gazetted Park. Queens Park has been leased to graze stock for at least the past 50 years.

## **THEMATIC CONTEXT:**

- 8. Developing Australia's Cultural life
- 8.1.3 Developing public parks and gardens

## **CONDITION:**

The mature exotic specimens are in poor to fair condition, the mature indigenous trees are in fair to good condition. There is some potential for archaeological excavation to discover the original layout of the park.

## **INTEGRITY:**

The integrity of the Queens Park has been reduced by the loss of many trees and shrubs due to past grazing practices and lack of maintenance. Silvester Oval has retained its integrity to the 1940s additions and plantings.

## **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:**

What is significant?

Queen's Park is located on the northern side of Bryans Creek, bounded to the south by Bryans Creek, the north by the Parish and township of Coleraine boundary, and to the east and west respectively by Gage and Henty Street extensions. The area of the whole reserve is ninety acres, including the now Gazetted Silvester Oval. Queen's Park was proclaimed and planted out to honour and commemorate the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria. Queen's Park contains a mixture of indigenous remnant *Eucalyptus*, many mature specimens of *Ulmus procera* (English Elm), *Quercus robur* (English Oak) and different types of Pines. There are also small basaltic outcrops (apparently used by important artists working in the area in the nineteenth century) and the remains of clay pits used in the early brick making industry.

How is it significant?

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Queen's Park is of aesthetic and historical significance to the township of Coleraine and the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

Queen's Park is of aesthetic significance for the many plantings of mature native and exotic trees which form an aesthetic backdrop to the township of Coleraine. It is the largest open recreational space in Coleraine, forming part of a series of recreational spaces along Bryans Creek.

Queens Park is of historical significance to the township of Coleraine as it is representative of the importance placed on monarchical achievements in the nineteenth century. It is important historically as a commemorative memorial to Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee.

## COMPARISON:

There are no comparative examples within the Southern Grampians Shire.

**ASSESSED BY:** aen

**ASSESSMENT DATE:** 31-Jul-01

## EXISTING LISTINGS:

## HERITAGE STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS:

Include in VHR  Include in RNE  Include in Local Planning Scheme

No Recommendations for Inclusions

## REFERENCES:

Author	Title	Year	Page
Centenary Celebrations Committee	Coleraine Centenary Celebrations, October 7 to 14 1939	1939	6
Department of Lands and Survey	Township of Coleraine (Parishes of Coleraine and Konong Wootong County of Dundas)	1873	
Department of Lands and Survey	Township of Coleraine (Parishes of Coleraine and Konong Wootong County of Dundas)	1955	
McGaffin, G	The Wannon Shire Centenary, 1872-1972: a brief history of the Shire of Wannon	1972	
Troeth, Malcolm J	The Cultural Landscape of Coleraine	1988	I-vi; 160