



HUNTER'S HILL COUNCIL

SIGNIFICANT TREE REGISTER

TREE PROFILE SHEET

1. LOCATION OF PROPERTY

Number: 28
Street: Bonnefin Road
Suburb: Hunters Hill
Post Code: 2110
GPS: Co ordinates : Longitude 151.1421325 Latitude -33.82815264



2. DETAILS

Listed Significant Trees:

| Botanical Name | Common Name |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| <i>Eucalyptus pilularis</i> | Blackbutt |

Public or Private Type: Private
Group or Individual: Individual
Date of Assessment/Inspection: 19.11.2015

3. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Located in a prominent elevated position and possessing excellent form, the specimen *Eucalyptus pilularis* (Blackbutt) is considered to have high visual significance (*aesthetic value*).

The Blackbutt has representative and rarity value as a remaining vestige of the once extensive Coastal Sandstone Foreshore Forest community in Hunters Hill (*botanic/scientific and ecological value*).

The Eucalyptus pilularis (Blackbutt) is considered to have significance at a local level in terms of aesthetic, botanic, scientific and ecological value.

4. IMAGES





5. SIGNIFICANT ATTRIBUTES

Cultural/Social/Commemorative Historic Botanical/Scientific Ecological Visual/Aesthetic

6. SIGNIFICANT LEVELS

Local State National

7. BACKGROUND

The site is located on the south-side of Bonnefin Road, Hunters Hill. The *Eucalyptus pilularis* (Blackbutt) stands within the front garden area of the site.

The Hunters Hill Land Division Map (1831-1844)¹ shows this section of Bonnefin Road under the ownership of F.A. Hayne who purchased a 30 acre lot in 1835. From 1889-90 the 30 acres is recorded as under the ownership of mathematical instrument maker Angelo Torraghi under the title 'Italia' Estate.²

'Italia' Estate appears to be first offered for subdivision in 1886. Bonnefin Road at the time was called Milano Street. The advertisement notice boasts of charming views of Lane Cove River and the Field of Mars Common. The subdivision appears to have been unsuccessful as the land was offered again for subdivision in 1906. Portions of the estate were re-subdivided into smaller lots and sold in 1925. Bonnefin Road appears on the notice unnamed and Boronia Avenue marked out as 'new government road'.

The 1920s post-war housing boom had its greatest effect on the western end of the Municipality, including Bonnefin Road. By 1930 about half the lots had small cottages built on them.³ The subject lot was built upon c.1940. The original cottage remains with modifications and extensions.

Analysis of 1943 aerial images shows the cottage on the site and cottages on many of the neighbouring site along the southern side of the road. A tree is evident in the location of the Blackbutt. The Blackbutt is considered likely to be a remnant or regrowth specimen rather than a cultural planting. With a construction date of c.1940 for the cottage, it is possible the Blackbutt was intentionally retained as part of the development.

In 1804, Governor King set aside the Field of Mars Common for the use by the local community to run stock and for firewood collection. The 5050 acre Field of Mars Common remained as bushland until 1885 when it was subdivided. An area of sixty-two acres and two roads remained bushland, and in 1887, under the Public Parks Act was dedicated for public recreation, and to be known as Boronia Park.

Boronia Park Reserve is now regarded as the best place in Hunters Hill to gain an idea of the pre-European landscape, as it has the largest intact stretch of bushland.

The dominant vegetation community of the area would have been Coastal Sandstone Foreshore Forest. Coastal Sandstone Foreshore Forest occurs on sheltered sandstone slopes along the foreshores of Sydney's major waterways and coastal escarpments. It is an open forest with a moist shrub layer and a ground cover of ferns, rushes and grasses. The canopy can be dominated by pure stands of *Angophora costata* (Sydney Red Gum), though more regularly this is found in combination with other tree species. Localised patches of *Eucalyptus piperita* (Sydney Peppermint) and *Eucalyptus pilularis* (Blackbutt) prefer more protected locations and in the case of the latter some minor shale enrichment in the soil.⁴

Eucalyptus pilularis (Blackbutt) is a common and dominant tree of the family Myrtaceae native to southeastern Australia. It is identified by the stocking of rough bark to about halfway up the trunk, above this is smooth white bark.

The specimen tree is considered to be a surviving remnant, or regrowth specimen, from the once extensive Coastal Sandstone Foreshore Forest community. The Blackbutt has representative and rarity values as a remaining vestige of the ecological community in Hunters Hill.

The Blackbutt is located in a prominent elevated location and makes a valuable contribution to Bonnefin Road. The specimen Blackbutt is regarded as an excellent example of the taxon and is highly visible with the streetscape.

References:

- ¹ Watkin & Watkin, 1886, Italia Estate, Hunters Hill, Lane Cove River [cartographic material]: MAP Folder 76, LFSP 1110. Part 2, National Library Australia, accessed 10.02.16 <http://nla.gov.au/nla.map-1fsp1110-s2>
- ² Meredith Walker, 1984, *Hunters Hill Heritage Study: Heritage & Character Report*, Hunters Hill Council
- ³ Meredith Walker, 1984, *Hunters Hill Heritage Study: Heritage & Character Report*, Hunters Hill Council
- ⁴ NSW Government Environment and Heritage (2014), *The native vegetation of the Sydney metropolitan area*, NSW Government, pg 137