



HUNTER'S HILL COUNCIL

SIGNIFICANT TREE REGISTER

TREE PROFILE SHEET

1. LOCATION OF PROPERTY

Street: Reiby Road
Suburb: Hunters Hill
Post Code: 2110
GPS: Co ordinates : Longitude 151.1477153 Latitude -33.83205808
Other: Located on boundary of oval within Hunters Hill High School



2. DETAILS

Listed Significant Trees:

Botanical Name	Common Name
<i>Eucalyptus saligna</i>	Sydney Blue Gum

Public or Private Type: Public
Group or Individual: Individual
Date of Assessment/Inspection: 24.03.2016

3. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The *Eucalyptus saligna* (Sydney Blue Gum) is regarded as significant in terms of its size, and the tree makes an important visual contribution to the scenic quality of the streetscape and foreshore environs (*aesthetic value*).

The Sydney Blue Gum is associated with a specific period of landscape design and is indicative of the Australian native trend that started during the 1950s. The specimen tree is associated with the formation of Hunters Hill High School (*historic value*).

The Eucalyptus saligna (Sydney Blue Gum) is considered to have local significance in terms of aesthetic and historic value.

4. IMAGES





5. SIGNIFICANT ATTRIBUTES

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

6. SIGNIFICANT LEVELS

Local State National

7. BACKGROUND

The *Eucalyptus saligna* (Sydney Blue Gum) is located within the grounds of Hunters Hill High School on the western side of the oval adjacent to Lane Cove River.

In 1958, a co-educational high school, to be known as Hunters Hill High School, was opened on a site previously known as the Avenue Pleasure Grounds.

During the late 1800s recreational grounds began to appear throughout Hunters Hill to provide outdoor entertainment opportunities for the areas growing population. In addition to the Avenue Pleasure Grounds, Cuneo's (pre-1882) opposite the Garibaldi Inn, Seymour's (pre-1884) on the site of All Saints Church, Fern Bay (pre-1886) appeared. ¹

The recreational potential of the Lane Cove River opened up when the Joubert family started the Hunters Hill and Lane Cove River Steam Ferry Company in 1871. The Sydney Morning Herald extolled the virtues of the river's '*calm, secluded bays and cool retreats for picnic parties and pleasure seekers*'. The service operated from Figtree House where people could make use of the Avenue Picnic Grounds or hire boats and fishing tackle '*so that a cheap and novel excursion could be had*'. ²

Native trees gained popularity during the 1940s to 1950s as gardeners began to embrace a new Australian garden style being promoted by local designers including Betty Maloney and Edna Walling. The new approach became part of a wider focus on environmental issues during the 1960s to 1970s. Since this time, numerous Eucalyptus and Corymbia species have combined with other Australian natives to create a new aesthetic layer throughout Hunters Hill.

Sydney Blue Gum is a tall, fast growing species predominantly occurring in wet sclerophyll forests within 120 km of the coast in mostly warm humid climates. The species extends north from near Batemans Bay on the south coast of New South Wales to north of Brisbane in Queensland. The species is not indigenous to the Hunters Hill peninsular.

The subject Sydney Blue Gum is regarded as an outstanding individual specimen. The majestic tree is highly visible from Lane Cove River and contributes to the establishment of local character. Of note is the formation of an unusual physical feature where two first order branches have grafted together.

The grounds of the school include a number of mature Sydney Blue Gums. The trees are considered likely to date from a similar planting period and are associated with the formation of Hunters Hill High School. The current size of the Sydney Blue Gum suggests a planting date from the 1950s to 1960s.

References:

¹ Walker, Meredith, 1984, *Hunters Hill Heritage Study: Heritage & Character Report*, Hunters Hill Council, pg 47

² Russel Kate, 2009, *Some Of The Lost Wharfs Of Hunters Hill*, Hunters Hill Trust Journal, <http://huntershilltrust.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/Vol-47-No-2-Oct-2009.pdf>, accessed 25.02.2016