

Heritage Citation



Church Street Memorial Trees

Key details

Addresses

Outside 14B Church Street, Fortitude Valley, Queensland 4006

Type of place	Monument / memorial, Tree/s
Period	21st Century 2000 onwards
Geolocation	-27.454424 153.037864
Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 30 November 2012 Date of Citation — January 2009
People/associations	Brisbane Youth Service (Association); Brisbane's homeless (Association)
Criterion for listing	(B) Rarity; (G) Social

The Church Street Memorial plantings were planted in 2004 to commemorate six young people who lost their lives on the streets of Brisbane. Each of the youths who lost their lives had close associations to the Brisbane Youth Service, a community based support organisation for homeless and troubled young people in Brisbane. The five Quandong trees were planted by close friends of those who died.

History

In 2004 the friends of six young homeless people who had died on the streets of Brisbane planted a row of trees outside the Brisbane Youth Service building in Fortitude Valley.

Brisbane Youth Service has played a major role in the assistance of disadvantaged young people throughout Brisbane since the late 1970s. The organisation is a community based support facility that provides services such as free health care, meals and other forms of support for people aged twelve to twenty-five. Each of the six young people who died on the streets had associations with Brisbane Youth Service.

The six people were all aged between 20 and 25 and died between 2003 and 2004. They were Paul Tessmann, James Kay, Chad Cook, Dionne Gatton, Andrew Hovelle and Andrew Davis. The loss of the six young people was felt deeply by their close friends and the workers at Brisbane Youth Service. A reflection of the grief experienced by those who knew the deceased was the planting of the memorial trees on the small traffic island directly outside the Brisbane Services Building in Fortitude Valley.

Originally six Blue Quandongs (*Elaeocarpus Grandis*) were planted, each representing the life of one of the youths who died. For the first year the trees were regularly tended to while they became established. Unfortunately one of trees was damaged by a truck and so had to be removed, hence the number of the existing memorial trees is five.

The memorial plantings are an important reminder to all those living in Brisbane that there are many homeless and disadvantaged young people in need of assistance. The memorial reminds us that there are many dangers for those who do not have stable homes and sadly this can have tragic consequences.

Description

The small traffic island directly outside 14 Church Street, Fortitude Valley, has five Blue Quandong (*Elaeocarpus Grandis*) trees planted in a row from East to West.

Statement of significance

Relevant assessment criteria

This is a place of local heritage significance and meets one or more of the local heritage criteria under the Heritage planning scheme policy of the *Brisbane City Plan 2014*. It is significant because:

Rarity

CRITERION B

The place demonstrates rare, uncommon or endangered aspects of the city's or local area's cultural heritage as a row of five memorial trees planted on a small traffic island in Fortitude Valley and commemorating the lives of six youths who died on Brisbane streets in the early twenty-first century

Social

CRITERION G

The place has a strong or special association with the life or work of a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons

the row of five Quandong trees in Church Street have a strong association to Brisbane's homeless and those who support them, especially Brisbane Youth Service and are reflective of the grief experienced when young people lose their lives on the street and therefore

References

1. Gunn, Harrison, Schrader, "Homeless Young People: Facilitating Their Access to Primary Health Care", *New Doctor*, Summer, 1998, p.9

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Note: This citation has been prepared on the basis of evidence available at the time including an external examination of the building. The statement of significance is a summary of the most culturally important aspects of the property based on the available evidence, and may be re-assessed if further information becomes available. The purpose of this citation is to provide an informed evaluation for heritage registration and information. This does not negate the necessity for a thorough conservation study by a qualified practitioner, before any action is taken which may affect its heritage significance.

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