

HERITAGE IMPACT STATEMENT

Place: Lake Wendouree, Ballarat
Date: 22 May 2020
For: Ballarat City Council

1. Introduction

This Heritage Impact Assessment addresses the possible impacts upon the heritage significance of Lake Wendouree and surrounds, of approximately 200 to 240 lights, at 25 to 30 metres apart which are proposed to be installed around Lake Wendouree Ballarat along the Steve Moneghetti Track. The Lake Wendouree Lighting Project follows the overwhelming Community support provided in the community feed back to the Master Plan consultation, 2017, for the concept of installing lighting around the Steve Moneghetti track.

The subject site falls under the Heritage Overlay HO163, the *Lake Wendouree Heritage Precinct* and under HO13 which covers the Ballarat Botanical Gardens and Lake foreshore, VHR no. H2252. The local heritage controls of the City of Ballarat Council Planning Scheme at Clause 43.01 *Heritage Overlay* and Clause 22.05 *Heritage Conservation and Heritage Precincts* apply to the sections of the SMT that are not within the area of land listed on the Victorian Heritage Register in association with the Botanical Gardens, for which a permit from Heritage Victoria is required.

This report does not make any arboreal or ecological assessment of impacts upon flora and fauna respectively.

2. Sources of Information

The analysis is informed by inspection of the lake and environs with review of the following document:

- Lake Wendouree Lighting Project: Cultural Heritage Management Plan by Benchmark Heritage Management
- Cultural Heritage Management Plan- Notice of Approval, Wathaurung Aboriginal Corporation
- Lake Wendouree Heritage Conservation Analysis, 1994, by Mark McWha Landscape Architects Pty Ltd and Matthew Berry of Positive Space
- Lake Wendouree Master Plan November 2017
- Lake Wendouree, Steve Moneghetti Track, Conceptual Design, by Martin Butcher Lighting Design

The Statement of Significance for the Lake Wendouree Heritage Precinct is found under the Ballarat Heritage Precincts Statements of Significance 2006 (revised August 2014). In preparing this Heritage Impact Assessment regard to 'Ballarat Planning Scheme Heritage Control 2004 – Incorporated Plan (revised October 2015) and the Ballarat Central Conservation Area listing on the Australian Heritage Database.



Figure 1 Aerial of Lake Wendouree (google maps)

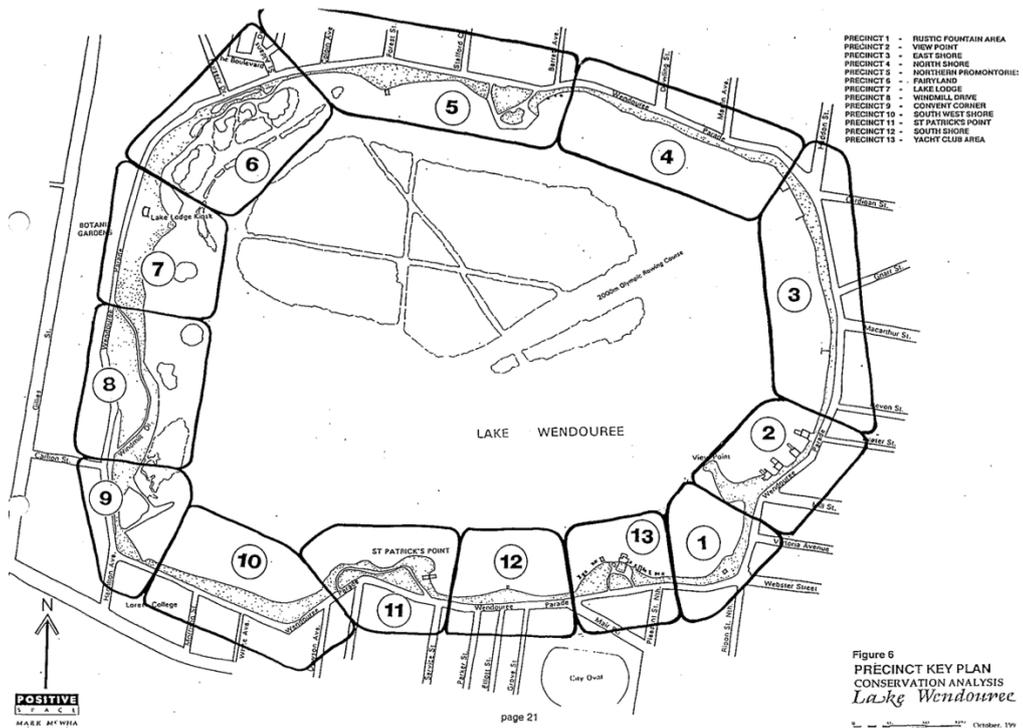


Figure 2 Precinct Plan of Lake Wendouree (Heritage Conservation Analysis, 1994)

3. Executive Summary

The addition of evidently beneficial infrastructure, at regular intervals, with consistent, dignified and contemporary presence need have no impact upon the appreciation of the heritage character, appearance and significance of the Lake and surrounds.

The progression of the lights passing around the lake is likely to provide an element of coherence for the lake perimeter, much as does the Steve Moneghetti Track itself, rather than being disruptive of the multivalent appreciation of the character, and appearance, of the heritage place. The proposed lighting will have no impact upon the historical understandings of Lake Wendouree. The adoption of a lighting that is evidently modern without making an assertive statement will add a further polite and integrating layer to the landscape.

An elegant contemporary design, expressive of quality and durability without making any obtrusive design statement would avoid any possible confusion that the lighting may be historical or may be a reproduction of lighting that formerly existed around the lake. A design that is timeless, whilst quietly modern would add a further integrating layer to the landscape.

Whilst avoiding making a style or design expression of function over character, the lights clearly need to be as functional as current technology allows.

The proposed lighting design has considered minimising light spill at night and is therefore not considered to be detrimental to heritage values at night time. The design would continue to allow generous areas of encompassing dark around the lake edge at night, and to allow continued appreciation of the night sky.

In the selection of the light options it is recommended that utility styled light fittings such as would be appropriate at a sports oval or might be associated with parking and the like should be avoided out of respect for the heritage place.

4. Description

A physical description of Lake Wendouree Precinct is provided on the Victorian Heritage Database as follows:

Lake Wendouree and the Botanical Gardens are located to the west of the town centre. They are both icons of Ballarat, representing a recreational and horticultural history of the Region.

The Lake has an area of 259 hectares and is completely surrounded by public reserve. Dominant visual features are the expanse of the lake itself; surrounding tree plantings; broad grassed areas; structures associated with recreational uses such as rowing; and the footpath surrounding the Lake. There are two major promontories being:

. View Point located on Eastern Shore

. Durham Point on northern shore

The Botanical Gardens Reserve consists of forty hectares being:

. Southern Gardens;

. Botanical Gardens; and

. Northern Gardens

The Southern Gardens comprise four hectares of grassed areas used for active recreational purposes bounded by Wendouree Parade, Carlton and Gillies Streets. The Botanical Gardens cover 13 hectares using a formal layout with an emphasis on horticultural displays including avenue plantings of Sequoia and Horse Chestnut trees, flower beds and a conservatory. The Northern Gardens consist of twenty-three hectares bounded by Gillies Street to the west, Gregory Street and the Boulevard to the north while Wendouree Parade defines the eastern boundary.

Lake Wendouree was originally known as Yuille's Swamp, as part of the Archibald and William Yuille pastoral run formed in 1839. The swamp was a favoured campsite for the regions indigenous inhabitants. The lake was also the water supply to urban Ballarat between 1852-1864.

Since that time the Lake has developed as a site for industrial and recreational uses. The Fry's Flourmill and the Rowlands and Lewis soda factory were established on the shores of the lake in the 1850's. The Ballarat Rowing Club (the 2nd oldest in Australia) was formed in 1861 and the Regatta rowing course was constructed in 1902. The Lake was also the site for the rowing, canoeing and kayaking events for the 1956 Olympic games and subsequent world championships. Paddle steamers commenced sailing the Lake in 1865, with the "Golden Steamer" the only survivor of 15 steamers that once serviced passengers in the Lake.

Ballarat Botanical gardens are the oldest inland botanical garden in Victoria. The land for the Gardens was set aside in 1857 and was previously used as the Ballarat Police horse paddock.

A competition was held in 1858 for the design of the gardens, won by Messrs Wright and Longley. An on site nursery was established in 1859 and used for the propagation of plant material from the Melbourne and Geelong Botanical Gardens. The principal tree plantings occurred in the 1860's.

The Botanical Gardens and Lake Wendouree are important historically. They are evidence of the changing community perceptions and values relating to recreational pursuits. The Gardens also reflect the social aspirations of early Ballarat and are also important for their 19th century layout.

The Gardens and Lake are important landmarks, reflecting the historical and cultural development of the City and contribute to the setting of the town. The gardens and the lake play an important passive recreational role for the community.

The collection of plant material in the Gardens and surrounding the Lake are important scientifically. Fifty-two trees in the gardens are of state significance. The Lake is also important for its role in the development of the early town's water supply and drainage and

as a habitat for wildlife and its role with the fish acclimatisation society. The gardens also contained a zoological section similar to other botanical gardens developed in this era.

Key landmarks include the memorials, significant trees, pavilions, the Robert Clarke Horticultural Centre, the boatsheds, fountains; and vistas to the lake and along the pathways in the gardens.

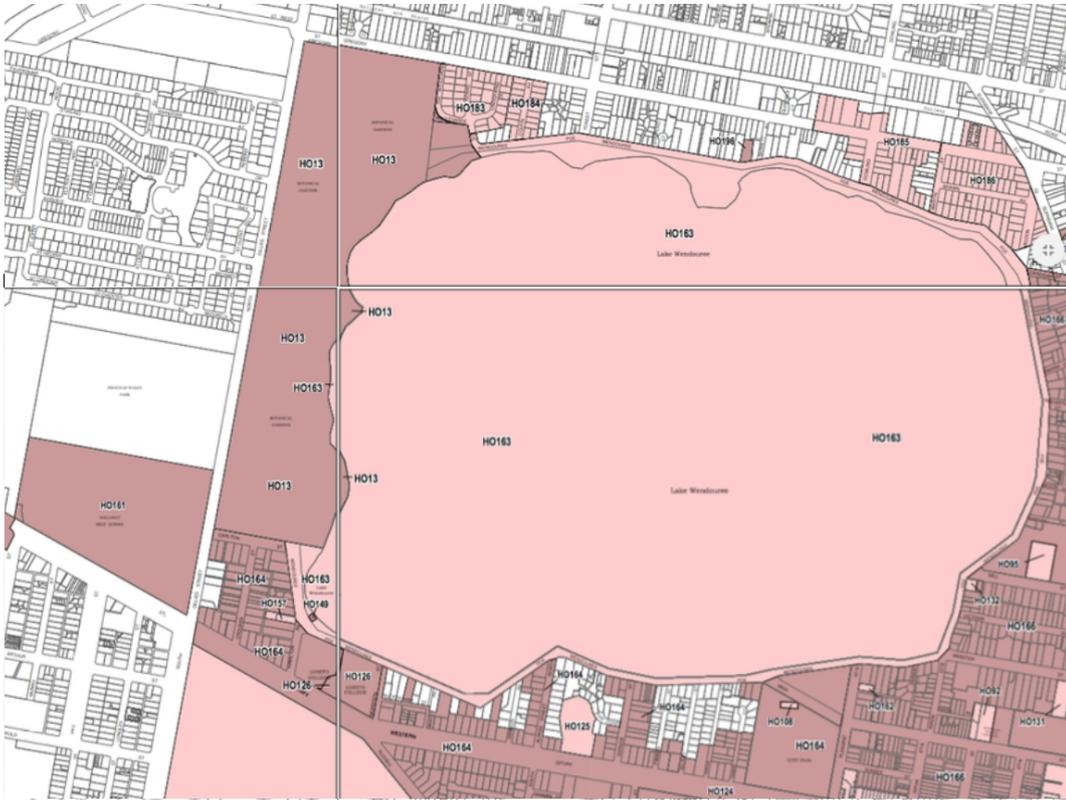


Figure 3 Extracts from the Heritage Overlay Maps no's 14HO, 5HO, 21HO & 22HO (Ballarat Planning Scheme)

5. Existing Lighting

The Steve Moneghetti Track does not follow the lake edge in all places but rather cuts across the promontories and behind the Fairylands, and other areas.

Around the lake there presently exist a variety of lights of different styles, different materials, and colours which are informative with regards to assessing the visual impact that would result from the proposed lighting.

Adjacent to the Lake Lodge in Precinct 7 lighting of the style of Option 8 type, Schreder Alura, a capped interpretation of a lantern has been installed. This lighting is centred, elegant and contained however these lights shine up from a fitting at the head of the pole and rely on reflected light to the ground plane off the disk above. This arrangement does not provide sufficient illumination, spread or control that would be suitable for use as part of the current lighting project. These light poles are located at approximately 35 metres separation as are the same lights installed at View Point, Precinct 2.



Figure 4 Path around the Swan Pool, Precinct 7, light poles at regular intervals of similar distance to proposed. This form of contemporary interpretation of the historical 'lantern' form is comfortable but ineffective as a light source



Figure 5 View Point in Precinct 2 with pole lights at regular spacing

4.1 Colour of Existing Lights and Poles

The existing lights to the path around View Point and the Swan Pool are finished with a woodland grey in what appear to be a powder coat finish, which is beginning to show signs of chalking. On

the section of path at Convent Corner, Precinct 9, from the southern intersection of Windmill Drive with Wendouree Parade running south to join the SMT towards the Silt Retarding Basin and observation isthmus of rowing course finish, are a further group of three pole lights of the same design. These lights have however been finished in the standard green used for equipment around the lake, and so provide comparison with those installed at Lake Lodge and View Point.



Figure 6 Convent Corner Precinct 9 with pole lights having green finish

6. Heritage Listings

Lake Wendouree and its foreshore fall under the Heritage Overlay, HO163, the *Lake Wendouree Heritage Precinct* other than the foreshore along the western side which is within the Heritage Overlay, HO13, that covers the Ballarat Botanical Gardens and Lake foreshore, VHR no. H2252.

The Olympic Rings at the south west corner of the lake are within the *Lake Wendouree Heritage Precinct* however the rings area covered by an individual Heritage Overlay, HO146.

Lake Wendouree is also listed by the National Trust, L0183, with a brief statement of significance, last updated 2004:

This large but shallow lake within a major rural city is important for recreation and social activities and provides habitat for many bird species. The area known as Fairy Land is of particular note as are the old trees in surrounding parklands.

The Lake is not listed on the Australian Heritage Database.

7. Significance

The Statement of Significance for the Lake Wendouree Heritage Precinct is available from the Victorian Heritage Database.

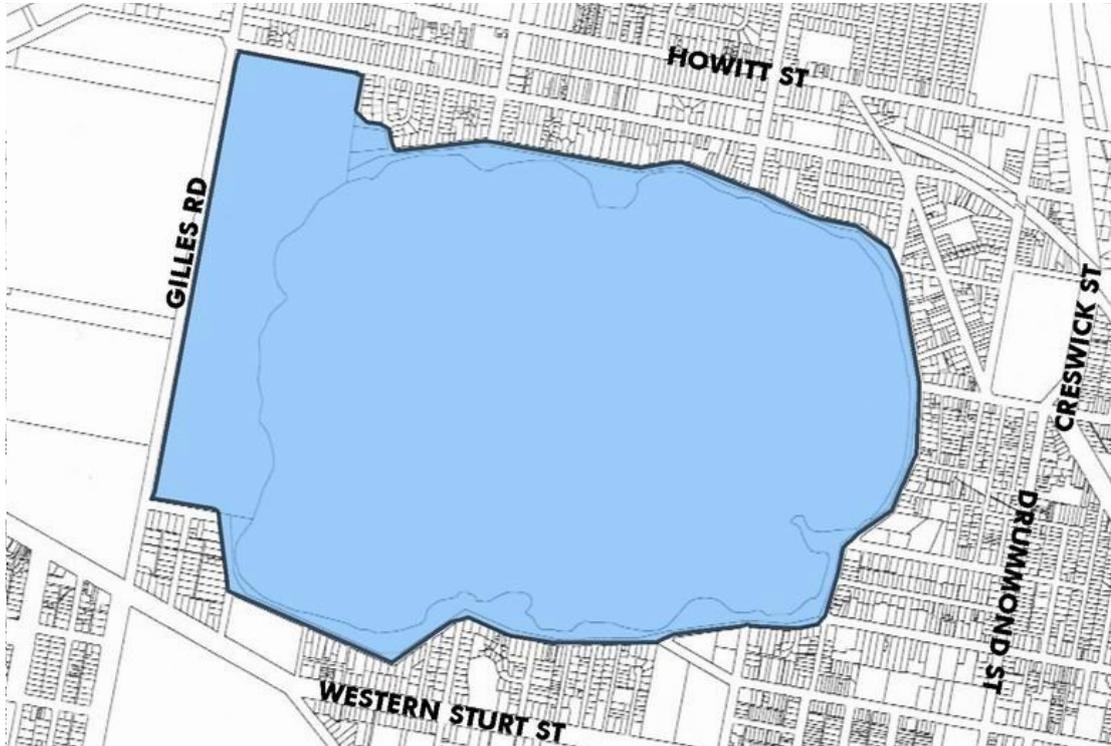


Figure 7 Heritage Place of Lake Wendouree (Victorian Heritage Data Base Citation)

Statement of Significance

*The Lake Wendouree Precinct is **historically** significant at a **STATE** Level. (AHC criteria A.4, H.1 and C.2).*

(a) the place's importance in the course, or pattern, of Australia's natural or cultural history;

(a.4) the importance for association with events, developments or cultural phases which have had a significant role in the human occupation and evolution of the nation, State, region or community;

(c) the place's potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Australia's natural or cultural history;

(h) the place's special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in Australia's natural or cultural history.

The former Yuille swamp and environs, Lake Wendouree, is historically significant as an important campsite of the Wathawarrung, the Indigenous people of the region. Originally known as Yuille's swamp, the Lake was included in the run taken up by pastoralists

Archibald and William Yuille in 1839, but renamed "Wendouree" by W.S. Urquhart, the first surveyor of Ballarat, who camped at Yuille's swamp in 1851. Since that time the Lake has developed as a site for industrial and recreational uses.

The evolution of the Lake as a pleasure garden and its associated manmade features are important for their ability to demonstrate changing community's perception and values in relation to the natural environment and recreational pursuits over 160 years.

Lake Wendouree was the source of the water supply to urban Ballarat between 1852 and 1864 prior to the formation of the West and East Ballarat Water Commissions. The Fry's Flour Mill and the Rowlands and Lewis soda water factory were established on the shores of the lake in 1850s. The Ballarat rowing club (the second oldest rowing club in Australia) was established in 1861, and in 1902 a Regatta Rowing Course was established between Viewpoint and Gills Island. Paddle steamers commenced sailing the Lake in 1865, with the "Golden City" the only survivor of 15 steamers that once serviced passengers on the Lake. The Lake is of historical significance as the site for the rowing, canoeing and kayaking events for the regatta rowing course in the 1956 Olympics, and subsequent world championships.

The Botanic Gardens developed from 1856-1858 on an extensive site overlooking Lake Wendouree are the oldest inland botanic gardens in Victoria, and one of the best known botanic gardens outside Australia's capital cities. The land set aside for the gardens in 1857, was previously used as the Ballarat Police horse paddock.

*The Ballarat Botanical Gardens and Lake Wendouree are also historically significant as they reflect the social aspirations of early Ballarat and provide an excellent example of a gardenesque 19th century layout. A competition was held for the design of the Gardens in 1858, won by Messrs Wright and Armstrong. The first curator of the gardens was George Longley, a horticulturalist trained at Lowther Castle, England, who laid out the original design. A nursery was established in 1859, and used for propagation of plant material received from the Melbourne and Geelong Botanical Gardens. The garden is important as confirmation of civic pride of Ballarat, whose gold riches were transformed into civic and cultural enhancement funded by both public and private benefactors. The chief glory was the "Wellington Walk", a superb avenue of *Sequoiadendron giganteum* (Giant Redwood) other conifers and deciduous exotic trees were freely planted during the early stages. In 1877 the first stages of the fernery was begun and from 1889 tuberous begonias were introduced into display beginning a glasshouse tradition highlighted by the annual Ballarat Begonia festival (1953). The collections of sculptures, in particular the 12 Italian sculptures donated by local stockbroker, Thomas Stoddart in 1887, housed in a statuary pavilion are outstanding.*

*The Lake Wendouree Precinct is **architecturally** significant at a **STATE** level (AHC Criteria D2, E1).*

(d) the place's importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of:

(i) a class of Australia's natural or cultural places; or

(ii) a class of Australia's natural or cultural environments;

(e) the place's importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group.

The Precinct demonstrates a variety of built forms associated with the recreational and cultural role of the Lake and environs. Of particular architectural significance is the collection of relatively low scale development typically simple vernacular timber structures of the mid to late 19th century and early 20th century boatsheds, picnic shelters, as well as the kiosks such as the Lake Lodge (1891), bandstands and tram shelter that abut the edge of the Lake.

*The Lake Wendouree Precinct is **aesthetically** significant at a **STATE** Level. (AHC criteria D.2, E.1 and F.1).*

(d) the place's importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of:

(i) a class of Australia's natural or cultural places; or

(ii) a class of Australia's natural or cultural environments;

(e) the place's importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics valued by a community or cultural group;

(f) the place's importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period.

The Botanic Gardens and Lake Wendouree are important landmarks, forming a major urban foci of high aesthetic visual appeal that contributes to the historical and cultural setting of the City of Ballarat.

Lake Wendouree with an area of 259 hectares is surrounded by public reserve and is significant as a large shallow picturesque lake in the volcanic basalt plateau, located in the centre of the provincial city of Ballarat. The aesthetic significance derives from the panoramic skyline views across the lake and uncluttered landscape setting; the close visual relationship between the Lake and the Botanic Gardens; and the dominant groupings of mature exotic trees and floral bedding displays, as well as soft landscape treatment of the unsealed footpaths and blue stone kerbs and gutters that surround the Lake.

*The Lake Wendouree Precinct is **scientifically** significant at a **STATE** Level. (AHC criteria F.1).*

(f) the place's importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period.

The collection of plant material in the Gardens and the plantings around the Lake are of botanical, horticultural as well as scientific significance. Fifty two trees within the garden are of state significance. The Lake is also important for its role in the development of the early town's water supply and drainage.

The Lake is of scientific importance as a habitat for wildlife and for the traditional management of reed beds within the Lake. The Lake and the Botanical Gardens are of scientific significance associated with the acclimatization and zoological gardens movement, and the presence of the Fish Hatchery, which is Victoria's oldest fish acclimatization organization.

*The Lake Wendouree Precinct is **socially** significant at a **STATE** Level. (AHC criteria G.1).*

(g) the place's strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.

The Botanic Gardens and Lake Wendouree Precinct has social and cultural significance as an iconic landmark of Ballarat, well regarded for its visually aesthetic features and its recreational and horticultural history. It is a cultural landscape of great beauty, and has a long history as an important destination for tourism, recreation and leisure as well as for sporting events.

This area of Ballarat is highly valued by the community for cultural, aesthetic, natural and man-made landscape. It is also a significant destination for visitors from outside the local community, being the setting for one of the most visited provincial Botanic Gardens in Victoria.

8. Development Proposal

The Wendouree Lighting Project is for installation of lighting on poles to illuminate the Steve Moneghetti track that circuits the lake. The concept design for the lighting project proposes light poles with spacing in the order of 25-30 metres apart. At this average there are to be in the order of 200-240 light poles to be located with appropriate regard for heritage significance, which is historical, representative, aesthetic, scientific and social.

The plans for the lighting have been appraised on site to confirm that the appropriate lighting levels on the track can be achieved with the positions shown, having regard to tree canopies in the existing density. The final locations are to be confirmed subject to final design. It is proposed that the lighted area from each pole would be rectangular, with the lighting directed downwards to limit light spill and with the lit areas overlapping from pole to pole. The lighting styles proposed are pole mounted at a height of approximately 6 metres with LED luminaires that are projected downward to minimise the visual impact of the light and spillage.



Figure 8 The Steve Moneghetti Track, Precinct 11, St Patrick's Point

9. Discussion

9.1 New Element

It is the case the proposed light will present a new introduced element into the surrounds and setting of Lake Wendouree. There has over time been some progressive, disparate, development around the lake edge. This may have diminished a coherent landscape that it has been suggested once existed, perhaps after 1867 with construction of a pathway, picket fence, and Cypress hedge around the lake. Presently the character of the lake edge is disparate, having an inevitable level of modern and contemporary presence in buildings, vehicles roadways, infrastructure, and with the variety in landscaping. The addition of evidently beneficial infrastructure, at regular intervals, with consistent, dignified and contemporary presence need have no impact upon the appreciation of the heritage character, appearance and significance of the Lake and surrounds.

9.2 Impact of Proposed Lighting as Represented by the Concept Plan

From inspection of the Steve Moneghetti Track with review of the concept plan, and by comparison with the existing repeated light poles already existing, it appears that the proposed lighting can be installed with respect for: tree roots, tree canopies, heritage buildings and structures, panoramic and picturesque views, and the visually aesthetic features of the lake and surrounds.

A spacing that is varied to provide a performance based spacing, responding to trees and other constraints, will be appreciable as a new element or lake circuit theme, but is not expected to be experienced as regimented imposition. It can be expected that the lighting, as does the track, in circumscribing the lake will add to the sense of coherence of the lake landscape.

The lake is essentially a produced environment that expresses transformation over time. Having regard to its character, appearance and features, the additional presence of the lights, a layer that will be comparatively faint and rhythmic, will add a further polite and integrating layer to the landscape.

With appropriate lighting design this additional layer is unlikely to be seen to be disruptive of the already multivalent appreciation and enjoyment of the character and appearance of the heritage place.

The proposed lighting will have no impact upon the historical understandings of Lake Wendouree with adoption of a lighting that is evidently modern. This approach would avoid any possible confusion that the lighting may be historical or may be an interpretation of former lighting.

9.3 Light Pole and Fitting Design

Accepting the conceptual design for location and spacing can be accommodated, the design for lights themselves should be; elegant, considered and expressive of quality and durability without making any obtrusive design statement. It is to be accepted that the age, or period, of all and any equipment tends to be identifiable, due the constant change in technology. To be compatible with and a compliment to the heritage place the design of the lights should be as timeless as possible, whilst quietly modern. That is to say the light design should be of this present time – rather than ‘modernist’ which is to make a design statement and statement of its style. Whilst avoiding making a style or design expression of function over character, the lights clearly need to be as functional as current technology allows.

9.4 Distant Views

The expanse of the lake is sufficient so that the lights in the distant panoramic views will be lost in the day time, or in the medium distance may provide a faint repetitive element that could be seen to add to the coherence of the landscape. There is an important aspect of the function that may be considered to have heritage implication at night. This is the question of light spill and dark skies. It is understood that the light design will avoid upward projection and will be limited, to the extent possible to the area of the track itself. It is to be expected that there will be some reflectance back onto foliage and other elements around the track, which may in distant view, at night provide a more identifiable perimeter to the lake in the dark. As it is not clear that the full envelopment of distant lake shores at night, either presently exists or is important as an historical or aesthetic experience, it does not follow that the introduction of low level of lighting in the distant view should be considered disruptive of heritage values. The impact of night light upon other species, and their value as our heritage is to be addressed by others.

9.5 Botanical Gardens Setting

The circuit of light poles with an elegant restrained and rhythmic, rather than regimented, placement are unlikely to be experienced as disruptive of the spatial relationship of the Lake with the Botanical Gardens.

The transition from the Gardens to the lake edge and the panoramic outlook is through a series of filters of perimeter demarcation; footpath, street trees and lights, Wendouree Parade itself, the tramway, further paths, planting, displays, buildings, and waters edge. In this context the progression of the lights passing around the lake is likely to provide an element of coherence for the lake perimeter, rather than being disruptive.

9.6 Recreation and Leisure

How the lighting might be disruptive of sports, recreation and leisure opportunities the lake provides, has also not become evident in this review.

The spacing of the proposed lights and limit to the width of the illuminated area to follow the Steve Moneghetti Track can be expected to continue to allow generous areas of encompassing dark around the lake edge at night, and to allow continued appreciation of the night sky.

9.7 Existing Light Designs

The existing light poles installed in the Precincts 2 and 7, View Point and Lake Lodge respectively, demonstrate that the poles can present as a polite, dignified, presence that can be readily overlooked in the appreciation of the landscape, or of particular features of the lake and surrounds. Whilst clearly evident, these existing lights and poles along parts of the lake shore do not present as visually commanding or dominant. As discussed above the simple contemporary design is readily understood to be modern interpretation of the 'lantern' model that could not be confused as being a historical, or reproduction, light fitting. The concern associated with introduction of new reproduction or historicist style lights where non previously existed would be the potential for the public to be misled regarding the origin of the lights and for the understanding of the historical condition of the place to be distorted.

To this end it is recommended that the choice of a reproduction light pole, or one with strong historicist reference, would not be appropriate. Limited use of lights with historical character may be useful in making a statement, or supporting a particular sense of place, in association with heritage structures.

To use lights with strong historical reference for the introduction of the circuit of lighting might be understood to suggest that such an 'element' had previously existed and had been reinterpreted. The important concern in use of historicist or reproduction features is the potential for there to be confusion that the lights are early or original which would distort the historical understanding and appreciation of the place. The use of a quiet contemporary design would however convey the understanding that the lighting has been introduced as a new response to changing recreation and leisure usage of the lake and surrounds.

9.8 Attributes of Lighting Design

As discussed above it can be accepted that the circuit of light poles, located generally as indicated in the design, can be accommodated with minimal expectation of impact upon the current modes of appreciation and enjoyment of the heritage values of the Lake Wendouree. The relationship between the Botanical Gardens and the lake can also be expected to be unaffected from the heritage perspective.

With regards to the assessment of the heritage impact of proposed lights, options that are least visually commanding, or most desirable, it is useful to consider possible light types under the categories of various attributes.



Figure 9 Poles to tram lines in Wendouree Parade
The use of timber posts would not have longevity



Figure 10 ...Treated pine pole & projecting arm 'street' light
Adjacent to Edward VII Pavilions, Precinct 8, Windmill Drive

Setting aside lighting operation and effectiveness the main attributes of the lights to be considered with regard to character and appearance as these may affect appreciation of heritage significance of the place might be considered to be: form, material and colour.

9.8.1 Form and Expression

With the progressive development of light technology the size, nature and therefore the appearance of out-door lighting has changed over time. In the lake surrounds are a representative number of lights and poles as illustrated in the following images, along with one historical light post found in Melbourne .

Early exterior light options were by gas or lamp and, in essence, required a wind and weather shield to protect a flame and can be described as lanterns.



Figure 11 Botanical Gardens
Such lights are appropriate where they have previously existed but can distort understanding if introduced new



Figure 12 Reproduction Light pole
Partial reproduction can make a statement of trying to fit in which itself becomes the evident feature of the light

It may be said that lanterns present a poised, centred, and 'still' character which expresses a clearer sense of 'place' and place making. As well as this perhaps relating to the relative rarity of pre-electric outdoor lighting and the special or important nature of places deserving, or requiring, night lighting 19th Century outdoor lamps, may be characterised as creating a sense of 'still' place. This was possibly because, by their relative rarity, as well as by contrast with almost ubiquitous dark, outdoor historical lights made for a special sense of place.

Whilst well-lit urban environments are normal in affluent countries, the particular setting of much of the Lake Wendouree perimeter, is somewhat unusual as there remains sufficient dark, or dimness, for a light pole to be experienced as 'a place' contrasted with the dark around.

With regards to design of light equipment it can be considered that the historical lights within the Botanical Gardens, figure 11, and the contemporary lighting shown in figure 6, both perhaps due to their centred design, have a different character to the light with the fitting mounted as a projecting arm or element, as in figures 12, 14 and 16 to 18.

The contemporary 'lantern style' can be seen as referencing the gas or flame lamps of the late 19th and early 20th Century, centralised on the pole and projecting a poised or still character which expresses a clear sense of 'place', presence and place making. Even where projecting arms are used as in figures 12 and 14 the use of a 'centred' fitting has period expression.



Figure 13 Galvanized light - Wendouree Parade Precinct 10, south west shore



Figure 14 Wendouree Pde streetlight-Botanical Gardens

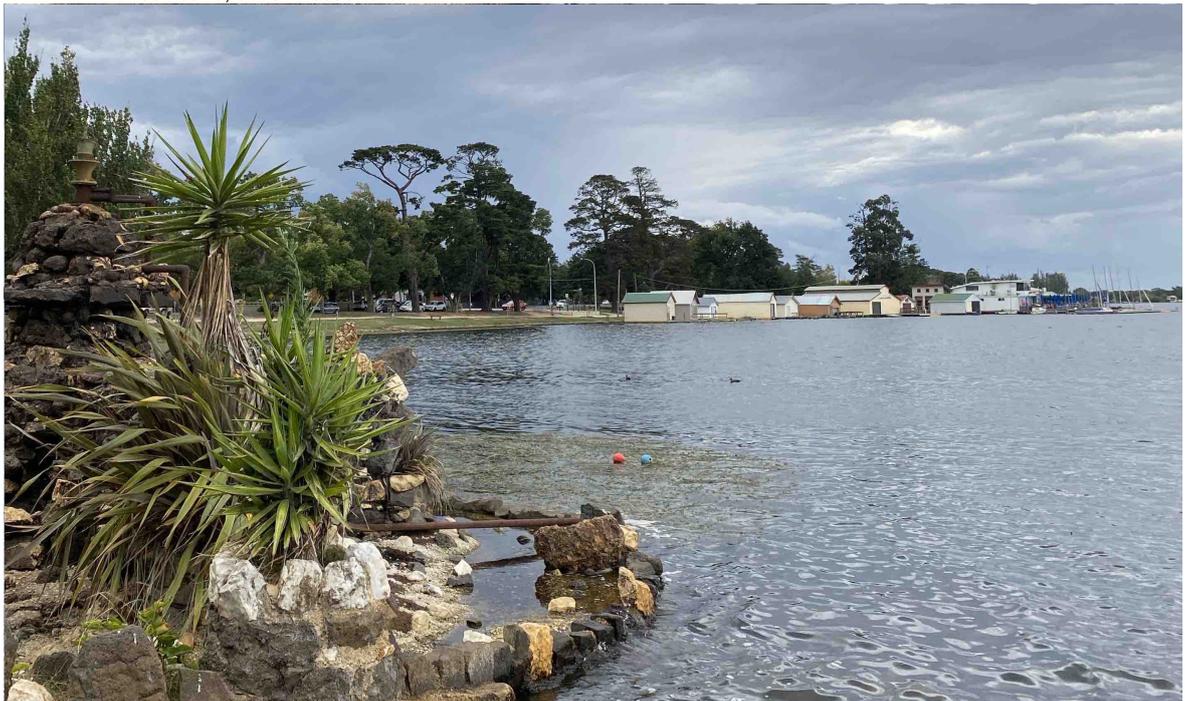


Figure 15 Street lights at the Yacht Club Area, Precinct 13, from the Rustic Fountain, Precinct 1.

From the Mid century street lighting, rather than being a centred 'lantern' style of globe, with the advent of and sodium vapour lights and Hailide lighting of freeways and road from the 1950s onwards had projecting arms with longer format globes housed under downward facing reflectors. Such lighting present as essentially utilitarian, and it is suggested lacks the poise and place making found in a contemporary interpretation of a 'lantern' style of fitting. Whilst lights such as those shown below produce a 'pool' of light on the ground that can be experienced

as a place the lights shown below and those in figures 13 and 14 present as separated from and looking down upon, rather than being of, that place.



Figure 16 Recent light at the White Flat Oval – Grey finish finish



Figure 17 Light at the Yacht Club Area - Green



Figure 18 Street lights at the Yacht Club Area, Precinct 13.

Recommendation

Based upon the above analysis of lighting existing within the Lake Wendouree Heritage Precinct it is recommended that the proposed lighting have a contemporary character perhaps with reference to an interpretation of a 'lantern' style of light, centred upon the pole, rather than the more mid 20th Century utility down lighting mounted on a projecting arm.



Figure 19 Precinct 7, the Lake Lodge – Grey finish

Figure 20 Convent Corner Light - Green finish

9.8.2 Colour, Material and Finish

Whilst black is a selection that is today very popular from everything from bathroom fitting to whole buildings it seems to be a selection of the moment, even if that moment has been an extended one. A choice of black is unlikely to be seen as timeless even with the passage of a further half decade and so is not recommended.

The expectation of new elements introduced into the heritage setting is that they be ‘in keeping’ and ‘compatible’ with, and a ‘complement’ to, the heritage character and appearance of the place, as well as supportive of its understanding.

The choice of material and colour contribute to the character and expression that the light poles and fitting will have.

By way of general heritage brief the terms ‘authenticity’ and ‘integrity’ can be linked with ‘quality’ and ‘durability’. Heritage items of today that have survived out of deeper time generally present with all four of the above terms remaining applicable.

Cast iron is a material employed in many surviving heritage light posts and other infrastructure such as drinking fountains, and original designs can be quite readily replicated. This material requires painting and historically the choices have been the deep green employed for light poles and equipment between the lake edge and the Botanical Gardens, the colours of the Oxblood range as found on the lantern lights within the Botanical gardens and Black.

These traditional colours even when applied to a contemporary element such as those shown in figures 12, 14 18 and 20 tend to make something of a statement, or explicit reference rather than just fitting in. The deep green has however been adopted as standard paint colour for park furniture and given this established presence may be considered appropriate for the new lights as well as the new electrical switch boxes required for the lights.



Figure 22 Deep Green electrical box and light beyond



Figure 23 Neutral finish electrical box

As the traditional lantern lights within the Botanical Gardens (figure 11), are the original or early design the Ox Blood heritage colour is not a statement but appears authentic and normal.

Other than consideration of the heritage green paint finish adopted as the standard park furniture colour, I recommend that a low-key contemporary finish which is neutral and inoffensive be considered rather than pursuing a more distinctive colour choice.



Figure 24 Galvanized



Fig 25 Powdercoat



Fig 26 Two-pack Epoxy



Fig 27 Micaceous Oxide

Offering some of the character of cast iron the Micaceous oxide finish developed for protection of steelwork has, along with the patinated greys of weathered Galvanized coatings, authenticity and patina that expresses durability and utility. As a matter of subjective choice the galvanized finish may be considered overly utilitarian as may the more traditional mat Micaceous oxide paints such as the Ferrodor by Dulux.

Powdercoat provides good weather protection, however over time the surface chalks as is already observable on the lights at the lake shown in figure 19 and 23. More durable two pack epoxy systems developed for marine environments provide very good durability however tend towards more glossy surface finish which can be at odds with heritage character and appearance.

The machined quality of aluminium can also present as a contrast to the heritage character of which it is expected to complement, particularly by comparison with the more crafted or rustic cast iron. The finish on the naval guns exhibits is also worth noting. The finish on the pole shown in figure 25 has been introduced as a response to the above considerations. This finish was used on light posts to the Town Hall in Port Melbourne, formerly finished with Ferrodor, but stripped and refinished with a two-pack epoxy for better longevity. The two-pack included a Micaceous oxide component that provides some texture and patination lending a sense of authenticity. The finish to the lights recently installed at White Flat oval appears to be two pack in a very comfortable grey. The patina of that finish is relatively high gloss and might better complement a heritage context with introduction of the Micaceous oxide component.

In the context of the above with the careful selection of form, colour and finish the actual material from which the lights are constructed is possibly not an important consideration from the heritage perspective.

10. Conclusion

Lake Wendouree is of historical importance as demonstrative of events, development and cultural phases in the history of Ballarat, particularly as a pleasure garden for recreation and leisure, and as representative of built and developed forms associated with recreational and aesthetic enjoyment of the Lake. This enjoyment extended to the environs having important aesthetic picturesque appeal from panoramic skyline views, to mature exotic trees and developed landscape of the lake shore and surrounds. The Lake is important as habitat and for its social significance as an iconic Ballarat landmark of great beauty, for tourism, recreation and leisure as well as for sporting events.

The introduction of a new element in the form of a rhythmic, rather than regimented circuit of light to the Steve Moneghetti Track may help to re-establish a sense of coherence to the lake perimeter, rather than being experienced as disruptive of any heritage experience of the lake and surrounds.

The understanding of the historical, social and scientific significance of the place will not be altered by the introduction of contextually responsive and evidently beneficial infrastructure.

Existing lighting installation along the lake edge path at Lake Lodge and View Point demonstrates that the appreciation of the heritage value, and in particular the aesthetic value is not disrupted by that existing lighting.

Lighting generally located as per the concept plan can be accommodated without adversely affecting the heritage significance and value of Lake Wendouree.

It is recommended that to minimize any visual intrusion the selected design be as timeless as possible, a contemporary design, without being modernist or making an overt statement of either its functionality or its style.

The aesthetic importance of the setting demands a design that has an elegant, polite and dignified presence, expressive of quality, authenticity, and durability.

Review of existing lighting and historical precedent suggests a contemporary interpretation of a 'lantern' style light that is centred on the light pole may be more compatible with the heritage character of the lake and surrounds, and of quality place making, by comparison with projecting arm fittings which are often evocative of utility lighting for sporting facilities and car parking.

With regards to colour and finish it is recommended that neutrality is most appropriate, whilst selection of a colour and finish that presents as durable and authentic is recommended.

The proposed design, the lights existing in places along the lake edge, and the range of options reviewed, suggest that a light that exhibits consideration, quality and integrity commensurate with the historical lantern lights found within the Botanical Gardens can be expected to have no adverse impact on the heritage values of Lake Wendouree.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John Briggs", enclosed in a thin blue rectangular border.

John Briggs Architects Pty Ltd