

CITY OF GOSNELLS**MUNICIPAL HERITAGE INVENTORY
PLACE RECORD FORM****LGA Place No: G26(a)****Moreton Bay Fig Trees****Photograph of the place**

| LOCATION | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| HCWA Reference Number | |
| Other Reference Number | |
| Name of Place | Moreton Bay Fig Trees |
| Address | Fremantle Road |
| Suburb/Town | Gosnells |
| Local Government Authority | City of Gosnells |
| Map Reference | |

| OWNERSHIP & LAND DESCRIPTION | | | | |
|---|------------------|--------------|-----------|-----|
| Owner | Address | Phone/fax | Status | No |
| | | | | |
| Reserve No. | Lot/Location No. | Plan/Diagram | Vol/Folio | No. |
| | | | | |

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| PLANTING DATE | c1907 |
| Source/Details | Local Studies Collection |
| USE(S) OF PLACE | |
| Original | Street trees |
| Present | Street trees |
| Other | |

HISTORICAL NOTES

The Moreton Bay fig trees are a living memorial to a well known Gosnells identity at the turn of the century, Mr Oscar Lauterbach. Mr Lauterbach was a horticulturalist particularly noted for his propagation of carnations. Originally from Germany, Lauterbach came to South Australia when he was 8 years old (c1885). He later moved to Western Australia and eventually settled in Gosnells where he began growing carnations in 1905. He became known as the King of Carnations and won many medals in exhibitions for his prize winning carnations, including a special Centenary Medal from the Royal Show in 1929.

In 1907 he started a personal project to beautify the road reserve on Fremantle Road from Albany Highway through to Hicks Street. His property straddled this area. He did this to commemorate the creation of the Gosnells Road Board. The six Moreton Bay fig trees (plus some gum trees) developed into very large trees. The trees were originally on the boundary of the Gosnells Hotel. Patrons would leave their horses in the shade while they went in for refreshments.

The trees were threatened in 1960 when an increasing amount of traffic along Fremantle Road necessitated the widening of the roadway. At first the trees were to be removed. However, in the 1970s every effort was made to retain the trees by first pruning the roots and also resuming land on the Gosnells Hotel side of the trees, to make a dual carriageway. The cost to the Gosnells Council of taking this step towards the preservation of the trees was considerable, but the expenditure was well planned and succeeded in retaining some of the landscape of 'old' Gosnells.

DESCRIPTION

This row of six large Moreton Bay fig trees is located on a strip of land which divides Fremantle Road into a dual carriage close to the intersection of Fremantle Road and Albany Highway. The mature trees are now ninety years old.

| | |
|------------------|------|
| CONDITION | Good |
| INTEGRITY | Good |

ASSOCIATIONS**ASSOCIATION TYPE**

| | |
|------------------|---------------------------|
| Oscar Lauterbach | Planted the trees in 1907 |
|------------------|---------------------------|

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This row of mature Moreton Bay fig trees has strong aesthetic and historic heritage significance. Shading a busy part of Fremantle Road, the trees dominate this commercial block down to the railway. Historically they are associated with a prominent figure of the Gosnells district, Mr Oscar Lauterbach. Their heritage value has already been recognised by past environmentally aware Gosnells Councils. The trees have survived a number of attempts to remove them owing to their huge root systems encroaching on the road.

HISTORIC THEME/Sub-theme**CATEGORIES OF SIGNIFICANCE**

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Demographic settlement/ <i>Environmental awareness</i> | Aesthetic |
| | Historic |

MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Management Category: B

LISTINGS

- City of Gosnells MHI

SUPPORTING INFORMATION/BIBLIOGRAPHY

DOCUMENT TYPE

| | |
|---|----------|
| Local Studies Collection | Articles |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Trees• Biographical - Lauterbach | |