

MERRIWA PARK

The suggested name in 1905 for Merriwa Park was 'Hopetown Park' but it was decided to opt for an aboriginal name 'Merriwa' thought to mean 'Rich flat ground at the bend of a river'.

On the 7th of August 1905 it was named 'Merriwa Gardens', when apparently more trees were planted in the park.

Merriwa Park is one of our most used parks in Wangaratta because of its major feature of a beautiful array of *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* (River Red Gum) trees.

It was said that planting occurred in 1905 but some trees date back further, and some have since self sown.

Maintenance: Regular deadwood removal is required as usual for Eucalyptus trees but other than deadwooding, these trees are untouched compared to trees in our surrounding Parks.

Visitors can also see examples of older River Red Gums in Kaluna Park, which is a natural partner of Merriwa Park. It is at the rear of Merriwa Park with a lovely walk along the King River.



FRANK GARTH RESERVE

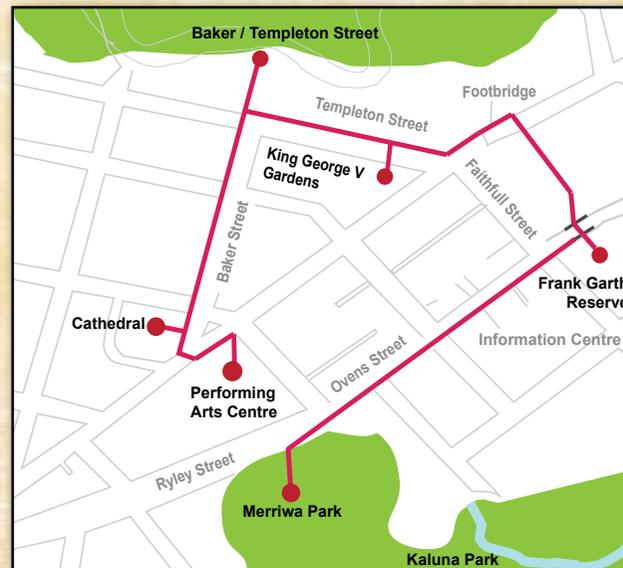


THOMAS LIVINGSTONE MITCHELL

Major Mitchell Tree: This tree is a *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* (River Red Gum) is said to be the very same tree that Major Mitchell camped under in 1836 when he surveyed the land.

The tree is located near the Ovens River Bridge and is best appreciated by following the path from Apex Park underneath the bridge.

MAP OF WANGARATTA



THE HISTORY SURROUNDING

Wangaratta's heritage trees



HOLY TRINITY *Anglican Cathedral*

The Holy Trinity Anglican Cathedral was the first Anglican Church in Wangaratta, built in 1856.

The War Memorial Gardens, which were developed in 1904, are adjacent to the Cathedral.

The landscape has been simplified over time with a large number of trees being removed, although there are still a number of significant trees in the grounds.

Araucaria bidwillii Bunya Pine Tree: This is a female variety of tree. You can determine this by the shape of the cone, female varieties being round whereas male varieties are a long spike shape. Every 3 years it drops its cones and they can weigh up to 10kg!

This tree was important to our history as it provided a rich food source for aboriginals.

Another fine historical tree on the premises is *Ulmus procera* (English Elm) this remains beside the bell tower believed to be planted in 1900. It was once a part of a row of Elm trees along the entrance of the driveway.



BAKER & TEMPLETON *Streets*



Hidden away and mainly used for a shady car parking area are magnificent untouched specimens of *Platanus sp*, more commonly known as a Plane tree.

These trees are significant as they have never had to be pruned to reduce their height under powerlines. This leaves us with a true display of an avenue of Plane trees.

One of the large Plane trees on the east side of the car park is claimed to be one of the largest Plane trees in the state!

This area was originally used as a small private park with access to a mini golf course and swimming club facilities.



Image courtesy of Bob Sloan

KING GEORGE V *Gardens*



King George V Gardens was originally used as a Police paddock in 1850's for keeping their horses.

Then in 1864 the area was used as a market sales yard, and stockyards were built. So the large trees surrounding you know as: *Platanus sp* or Plane tree, were purposely planted for shade. It was suggested in 1938 when the gardens were formed that the trees be removed to incorporate a new design! Luckily they are still here for us to enjoy today.

Maintenance: Plane trees are quite resistant trees and not a lot of maintenance is required. Regular dead wooding is most important for the tree's health, and occasionally underpruning for pedestrian access.

Constant leaf drop creates fun for kids but is a headache for the gardeners when mowing. This is one area where leaves cannot be mulched and placed on streetscape gardens, as it takes many years for just on Plane tree leaf to break down.