

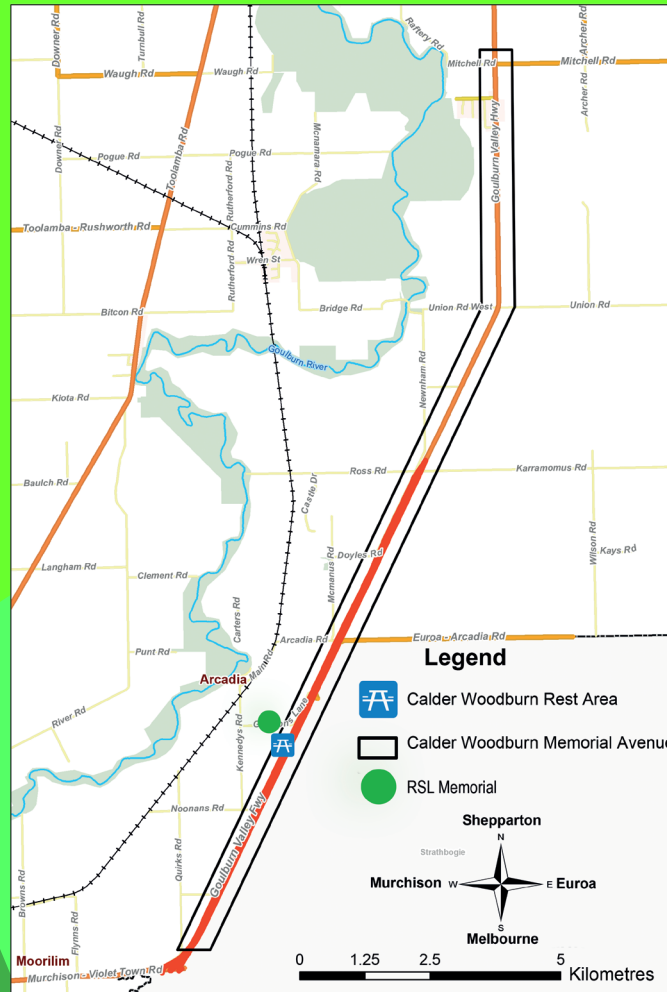
Condition

The integrity of the Calder Woodburn Memorial Avenue has suffered in recent years for a variety of reasons: the drought in the early 2000s, a lack of awareness of its significance, inappropriate garden plantings in the road reserve to the front of houses, significant regrowth of vegetation, the removal of some trees and ad hoc maintenance.

To conserve and enhance the Memorial Avenue, Greater Shepparton City Council formed the Calder Woodburn Memorial Avenue Advisory Committee in 2017 to:

- investigate possible means of funding the restoration of the Memorial Avenue;
- disseminate information about its significance to land owners along the Memorial Avenue and the wider community; and
- enhance and conserve the heritage and environmental significance of the Memorial Avenue.

The Calder Woodburn Memorial Advisory Committee comprises key stakeholders including Greater Shepparton City Council, Heritage Victoria, Shepparton RSL, Strathbogie Shire Council, VicRoads and community representatives.



The Calder Woodburn Memorial Avenue



For further information contact the Building and Planning Department at Greater Shepparton City Council

☎ (03) 5832 9700

✉ council@shepparton.vic.gov.au

f [facebook.com/greatershepparton](https://www.facebook.com/greatershepparton)

History

After training with the Empire Air Scheme in 1941, local farmer Calder Woodburn served with the RAF. In 1942 his Hampden bomber aircraft and crew were lost when returning from a night mission over the coast of France.

His father, Mr James Louis Fenton (Fen) Woodburn, wanted to develop an avenue in honour of the fallen. Planting by Mr Woodburn began in 1946 in consultation with the Country Roads Board, the local RSL branch and two local shires. Planting continued until 1949.

Mr Woodburn consulted with families of deceased servicemen to arrange for trees in their honour to be sited nearest the home of each one. Name plates were commissioned and installed, marking the tree of each fallen man.



Significance of the Avenue

The Calder Woodburn Memorial Avenue is significant:

- for commemorating all those who served in World War II from Shepparton and surrounding areas;
- as Australia's longest eucalypt memorial avenue, spanning almost 20 kilometres and including over 2,400 native trees;
- the use of a double-row of equally spaced trees on each side of the Goulburn Valley Highway from Seven Creeks to the Murchison-Violet Town Road; and
- for being planted by one man, Fen Woodburn.

The Memorial Avenue forms a dominant feature in the flat surrounding landscape leaving a strong, distinctive experience for the road user.

It is included on the Victorian Heritage Register for its historic, aesthetic and social significance to the state of Victoria. The Memorial Avenue is included in the Heritage Overlay and the Vegetation Protection Overlay to conserve this significance. A heritage permit from Heritage Victoria is required to alter, develop and excavate a registered place.



Rest Area and RSL Monument

The Calder Woodburn Rest Area is located adjacent to the Calder Woodburn Memorial Avenue and can be accessed from the northbound carriageway of the Goulburn Valley Highway. It is approximately 20 kilometres south of Shepparton.

The RSL monument is a feature of the rest area. The monument explains the Calder Woodburn Memorial Avenue and bears the names of all local servicemen who lost their lives in World War II.

