

HUNTER'S HILL COUNCIL SIGNIFICANT TREE REGISTER TREE PROFILE SHEET

1. LOCATION OF PROPERTY

House No:		
Street:	Figtree Road	
Suburb:	Hunters Hill	
Post Code:	2110	
GPS Co ordinates :	Longitude 151.142860°E	Latitude 33.831397°S



2. DETAILS

Listed Significant Trees:

Botanical Name	Common Name	Public or Private Type: Public
Cinnamomum camphora x 3	Camphor Laurel	Group or Individual: Group
		Date of Assessment/Inspection: November 23

3. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The *Cinnamomum camphora* (Camphor Laurel) are considered to have high visual significance. They are visually prominent in the Figtree Road streetscape and contribute to the garden character of Hunters Hill (*aesthetic value*).

The trees remain as an important remnant planting associated with the Federation period (c.1890-1915) (historic value).

Note: Although these specimens are of local significance in terms of their visual, historic values, representative of many plantings of this species throughout the mid 19th century and early 20th century, the species is now generally regarded as an exotic weed.

4. IMAGES



May 2024



5. SIGNIFICANCE ATTRIBUTES

Cultural/Social/Commemorative
Historic
Botanical/Scientific
Ecological

6. SIGNIFICANCE LEVEL

Local ■ State □ National □

7. BACKGROUND

Cinnamomum camphora (Camphor Laurel) was introduced into Australia from Southeast Asia as an ornamental species in 1822. The species was established in the Sydney and Brisbane Botanic Gardens in 1854 and 1861 respectively. The value of Camphor Laurel as an ornamental tree was actively promoted in municipal parks, gardens, school grounds and large estates, and it was widely planted for shade and shelter on north coast dairy farms after widespread land clearing in the late 1800s.¹ Camphor Laurel is also recorded as being used as a hedging species in large estates and parks; however, the species' fast growth rate meant that frequent pruning was required.²

Camphor Laurel was still popular in Sydney in the 1930s. As part of the Australia's Sesquicentenary Celebration in 1938, members of the tree-planting section of the Citizens' Organising Committee approved a scheme for the planting of half a million trees in New South Wales. Authorities in Sydney limited their choice to about six species of tree, with Camphor Laurel being second favourite.³

The density of the Camphor Laurel, its attractiveness to a number of bird species and the ideal climate and soils for its growth have allowed it to naturalise and spread extensively in many parts of the New South Wales. Camphor Laurel is now a environmental weed species in a number of local government areas on the north coast and in the Sydney region.⁴

Three (3) *Cinnamomum camphora* (Camphor Laurel) are located along Figtree Road near the junction with Avenue Road, in front of St Mark's Anglican Church and 26 Avenue Road.

Aerial images from 1943 show the trees as established specimens. Based on the size of the specimens in 1943 the Camphor Laurel are believed to date from the early 20th century.



Aerial image 1943 Image Source: NSW Historical Imagery

References:

- ¹ Prime Facts, 2009, Camphor Laurel, http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0007/304594/Camphor-laurel.pdf
- ² The Northern Campion, 11/11/1931, accessed 25/10/2018 https://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/page/15618811

⁴ Prime Facts, 2009, Camphor Laurel, accessed 15.04.2024 http://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0007/304594/Camphorlaurel.pdf