

AD HOCKERY

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An occasional one-pager from The Public Land Consultancy

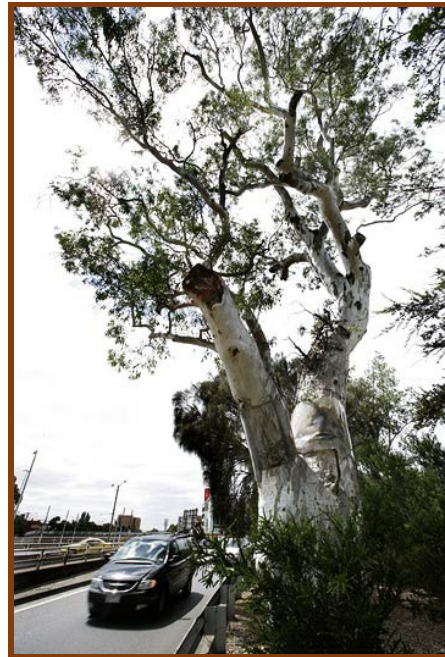
The Corroboree Tree St Kilda Junction

In the course of moving shop from Fitzroy Street to St. Kilda Road, your correspondent Lex Loci and the rest of The Public Land Consultancy team find themselves skirting past this relic of a landscape which Melbourne has virtually forgotten.

The Corroboree Tree sits on land permanently reserved under the *Crown Land (Reserves) Act*, zoned PPRZ with ESO and HO overlays, listed on the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register and the National Trust's Register of Significant Trees - but what protection does all this apparatus actually deliver?

Sometimes place-law just isn't enough. Trees become senescent, despite the best endeavours of law-makers, historians and civic administrators. (As for engineers - the decline of the tree was accelerated by those of that profession who sliced off half its root system to reconstruct St Kilda Junction in the 1960s.)

Since then, we've all (including engineers) become more conscious of Aboriginal heritage. 2016 sees the introduction of amendments strengthening the *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006*. Perhaps we should tell that to the cockatoos, magpies and occasional galah that still flap around, high above all the traffic. They remember.



*It's 180 years since John
Batman's party plied its way
up the Yarra River. Not much
remains of the country they
saw - the country as the
Wurundjeri and Boon
Wurrung peoples knew it.*

*What there is, like this tree, is
slowly disappearing...*

See you there!
Lex Loci