



Beaumaris Conservation Society Inc.

(Formerly Beaumaris Tree Preservation Society 1953-70)

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Mr Stewart Reid
Manager Properties
Bayside City Council
PO Box 27
SANDRINGHAM VIC 3191

Dear Mr Reid,

Suggested Commemorative Plaque at Curved Northern Corner of Reserve Rd and Holding St, Beaumaris

PLAQUE: Thank you for your welcome and very positive letter of 10th January 2007 about the proposed plaque at [the above corner](#). The Committee of Management of Beaumaris Conservation Society Inc. has considered possible wording on a plaque to be placed there by Bayside City Council and suggests the following, which we consider has the minimum necessary explanation to make the matter clear:

“Bush Tramway” Corner

The curved north-eastern boundary of this public land is the only tangible reminder of the “Bush Tramway” that the Victorian Railways ran from Black Rock to Beaumaris inland through lightly-settled bushland from 1st September 1926 to 31st August 1931 until the 1930s economic depression ended it.

The other three curved track alignment reserves in Beaumaris, at the east end of Fourth Street, and each end of Pacific Boulevard - visible on a 1951 Lands Department aerial photograph - were sold, but this reserve was not. The land is now a small public green space serving a new and valuable purpose as such.

Gaps where the steel tracks lay could be seen in the [Holding Street bitumen](#) until that street was remade in the early 1970s. The horse tram that ceased in 1912 had a different route, along Tramway Parade and Beach Road. An internet search for “[Beaumaris Bush Tramway](#)” gives more details.

STRUCTURE: Your letter also mentioned a possible structure on which the plaque could be fixed. A park type seat, or simple bench, for use by the public, seating two people, would be a pleasant and desirable structure. Failing that, we would suggest that any structure should be primarily functional and be as unobtrusive and as weather and vandal-resistant as possible.

TREE PLANTING: In earlier correspondence we had with Bayside City Council, it appeared that the Council had agreed to plant a suitable indigenous Beaumaris tree on the land, but it appears that such planting has not taken place. We suggest that, in the next planting season, one or a pair of trees that relate to the “bush” component of the “Bush Tramway” theme be planted. We would suggest a pair of Drooping She-oke (*Allocasuarina verticillata*) as being most appropriate, as they would fit in with the pattern of Drooping She-oke growth on the Reserve Road nature strips, and would add an extra element by being an unexpected variant on the purely rectilinear nature of that existing street planting.

Yours sincerely,

Adrian Cerbasi
President, Beaumaris Conservation Society Inc.