

HERITAGE PLACE

NAME OF PLACE: WAR MEMORIAL

ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE: Glenelg Highway Memorial Road GLENTHOMPSON

STUDY NUMBER: 096

HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:

PRECINCT: Glenthompson

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA: Southern Grampians Shire

PARISH: PARISH OF YUPPECKIAR

ACCESS DESCRIPTION:

CFA 434J J2; VicRoads 229 M10; located in the road reserve between the main carriage way of the Glenelg Highway and Memorial Drive

SIGNIFICANCE RATING: Local



War Memorial, Glenelg Hwy, Glenthompson

Image Date: 29/05/2002

EXTENT OF LISTING:

To the extent of: 1. The memorial and its immediate surrounds, including the memorial reserve.

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The Glenthompson War memorial, erected after the First World War and added to after the Second World War is constructed of finely cast concrete blocks. It has an unusual form of an octagonal base with two tiers, on which is mounted a column which terminates with a knight supporting a Celtic cross. The whole is constructed from blocks which appear to be specially fabricated. It has a height of about 4 metres. The base is inscribed on each of the eight sides with the names of those who fought in both World Wars. The lower tier is inscribed with the names of those who served 1914 - 1919, the upper tier is inscribed with the names of those who served 1939 - 1945.

The column is octagonal and tapered with a plain base and capital. The knight stands with his head bowed and holding his inverted sword (which may be read as a symbol for the cross). The cross above the knight has an annulus linking the four branches. The choice of a medieval knight and a Celtic cross is most unusual and quite unlike the white marble statues of returned Diggers.

The monument is at the centre of elaborately planned memorial reserve, in the centre of the township, bounded by the Glenelg Highway and a service road. The planning is strictly axial, with a short cross axis marked by paired Lawson's Cypress, *Cupressus lawsoniana* to the north and south entrances. A concrete scroll stands to the left of the northern entrance. The scroll has inscribed on it "Let those that come after see to it that their names be not forgotten".

The long axis terminates at the east and west in two tiered 'lava-rock' style rockeries, planted with annuals, and beyond a Canary island Palm, *Phoenix canariensis*. To the outer perimeter of the reserve, level with the termination of the east and west long axes are pairs of Canary Island Palms, *Phoenix canariensis*.

To the west of the reserve, a large sandstone slab with a simple bronze dedicated to Glenthompson and District Soldier Settlers, World War Two, listing those who settled Narrapumelap Souther Estate, Yarrak Estate and Bushy Creek Estate.

Two commemorative flagpoles are located to the south of the site, one near the southern axial entrance and the other closer to the centre of the monument.

HISTORY:

The Glenthompson War memorial was erected after 1919, as a dedication to those from Glenthompson and surrounding district who served in the First World War 1914-1919. The memorial added the names of those who local people who served in the Second World War after the end of the war in 1935.

It is not known when the symbolic garden around the memorial was planted out, or who designed it. The garden was tended for many decades by Augustus Steinke, who was born in South Australia and who migrated to Glenthompson with his parents Carl and Sophie. He died on 20th November 1952 and is buried in the Glenthompson Cemetery.

A photograph [GHS] shows a traditional timber post and diagonal rail fence, painted white, with six inch mesh wire around the gardens which has since been removed.

The Glenthompson War Memorial is deliberately sited at the centre of the township. It is the focus for ceremonies on Anzac Day and Remembrance Day and should be understood in association with the local Memorial Hall and Library as well as the surrounding garden.

THEMATIC CONTEXT:

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Theme 7: Governing
7.7 Defending Australia
7.7.3 Going to war

Theme 8: Developing Australia's cultural life
8.8 Remembering the fallen

Theme 9: Marking the phases of Life
9.7.3 Remembering the dead.

CONDITION:

The memorial reserve is in fair condition, the monument and hard landscaping is in good condition.

INTEGRITY:

The memorial reserve and plantings have been modified in recent years, leading to a loss of integrity, although the monument appears to be very intact.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

What is Significant?

The Glenthompson War memorial, erected after the First World War (1914-1919) and added to after the Second World War (1939 -1945) is constructed of finely cast concrete blocks. It has an unusual form of an octagonal base with two tiers, on which is mounted a column which terminates with a knight supporting a Celtic cross. The whole is constructed from blocks which appear to be specially fabricated. It has a height of about 4 metres. The base is inscribed on each of the eight sides with the names of those who fought in both World Wars. The lower tier is inscribed with the names of those who served 1914 - 1919, the upper tier is inscribed with the names of those who served 1939 - 1945.

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How is it significant?

The Glenthompson War Memorial is of historic, social and aesthetic significance to the township of Glenthompson and the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

The Glenthompson War Memorial is of historic significance because it commemorates at a local level some of the most important events in the national history of Australia and especially the roles of those from the community who served and died.

It is of social significance as the focus of acts of commemoration such as Anzac Day and Remembrance Day, and as a place of homage for the community.

It is of aesthetic significance for its use of traditional form, style and iconography to express deep meaning. This significance is enhanced by its setting and location.

COMPARISON:

061 War Memorial, Nareen Road, Nareen
063 War Memorials, Stirling St, Balmoral
358 War Memorial, 78 Whyte Street, Coleraine
367 War Memorial, Parker and Sterling Street, Dunkeld

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064 War Memorial, Hamilton - Port Fairy Road, Byaduk

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ASSESSED BY: tfh

ASSESSMENT DATE:

29-May-02

EXISTING LISTINGS:

HERITAGE STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS:

Include in VHR Include in RNE Include in Local Planning Scheme

No Recommendations for Inclusions

REFERENCES:

Author	Title	Year	Page
Harold Bradley	War memorials of Victoria : a pictorial record	1994	