

# HERITAGE PLACE

**NAME OF PLACE:** MAJOR MITCHELL MONUMENT

**ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE:** Turnbull Street COLERAINE

**STUDY NUMBER:** 102

**HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:**

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**PRECINCT:** Coleraine

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:** Southern Grampians Shire

**PARISH:** PARISH OF COLERAINE

**ACCESS DESCRIPTION:**

CFA 430J G4, VicRoads 228 C9, located in the Turnbull Street reserve bounded by Bryant's Creek , Turnbull Street and Bowling Club.

**SIGNIFICANCE RATING:** Local



Major Mitchell Memorial, Turnbull Street, Coleraine.

**Image Date:** 26/03/02

**EXTENT OF LISTING:**

To the extent of: 1. All the structure and its immediate surrounds

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## **PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:**

The memorial is constructed from a local volcanic stone and takes the common form of a tapering cairn or crude obelisk which is 2.5m high and 1.1m square at the base. The stone is roughly faced and is dressed to a rock-face finish. A single pyramidal stone is set on the top to complete the cairn. It is set on a low plinth of stone and concrete. The cairn has a bronze plaque mounted on it which reads: "Major Mitchell Centenary/ Major Mitchell Passed through/This District August 1836/Erected By The Public of/ The Shire of Wannon/ 7th August 1936.

## **HISTORY:**

Major Mitchell passed nearby this place at the beginning of August 1836, following the Glenelg River downstream. He stated in his journal "The country on its banks was, as far as I could see, the finest imaginable, either for sheep and cattle or for cultivation".

The monument was erected in 1936 and recognised officially on 7th August to commemorate the centenary of the day he passed closest to Coleraine. He noted in his diary, after considerable difficulty with mud, "A country far surpassing in beauty and richness any part hitherto discovered" Mitchell, 208). The monument was erected as part of a larger rural Centenary celebration which occurred in the 1920-30s.

## **THEMATIC CONTEXT:**

Theme 2: Peopling Australia  
2.5 Promoting settlement

Theme 3: Developing local, regional and national economies  
3.3 Surveying the continent  
3.3.1 Looking for inland seas and waterways  
3.3.4 Looking for land with agricultural potential

Theme 8: Developing Australia's cultural life  
8.7 Honouring achievement  
8.9 Commemorating significant events

## **CONDITION:**

The Major Mitchell Monument in the Turnbull Street Reserve is in fair condition. The frame surrounding the bronze plaque is damaged. The peak of the coping stone is missing.

## **INTEGRITY:**

High degree of integrity

## **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:**

What is significant?

The Major Mitchell Monument is located in a small park on the north east corner of Turnbull and Henty Streets in Coleraine. The memorial takes the form of a tapering cairn constructed from local rough faced volcanic stone. The memorial stands 2.5m high and is 1.1m square at the base. The cairn is set on a low plinth of stone and concrete, and has a bronze plaque which reads "Major Mitchell Centenary/ Major Mitchell Passed through/This District August 1836/Erected by the Public of/ The Shire of Wannon/ 7th August 1936.

Major Mitchell passed nearby this place at the beginning of August 1836, following the Glenelg River downstream. He stated in his journal "The country on its banks was, as far as I could see, the finest imaginable, either for sheep and cattle or for cultivation".

Monuments and memorials to commemorate Major Mitchell's epic 1836 journey can be found in many locations throughout south western Victoria. The Major crossed Victoria's northern and western plains, found

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a European settlement already established at Portland, and returned to New South Wales to give a glowing account of the rich land of 'Australia Felix'. One hundred years later, local communities at points along his former route engaged enthusiastically in a bout of centennial monument building. After war memorials, the Mitchell monuments are the most common form of public commemoration in the region.

How is it significant?

The Major Mitchell Monument, Turnbull Street, Coleraine is of historical significance to the township of Coleraine and the Southern Grampians Shire.

Why is it significant?

The Major Mitchell Monument is of historical significance because it commemorates the very beginning of European interest in, occupation of and subsequent exploitation of the further Western District. It is example of the way in which Major Mitchell is revered as a person of extreme importance within the community. It is typical example of the stone obelisks which were erected throughout Victoria in the first half of the nineteenth century to commemorate Major Mitchell's exploration.

## COMPARISON:

101 Major Mitchell memorial and water trough, Dunkeld  
017 Adam Lindsay Gordon Memorial, Glenelg Highway, Coleraine.

**ASSESSED BY:** AEN

**ASSESSMENT DATE:**

30-Oct-01

## 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
Centenary Celebrations Committee	Coleraine Centenary Celebrations, October 7 to 14 1939	1939	
Department of Lands and Survey	Township of Coleraine (Parishes of Coleraine and Konong Wootong County of Dundas)	1873	
Department of Lands and Survey	Township of Coleraine (Parishes of Coleraine and Konong Wootong County of Dundas)	1955	
Gregory C. Eccleston	Major Mitchell's 1836 'Australia Felix' Expedition: A Re-Evaluation	1992	
Gregory C. Eccleston	The Major Mitchell Trail - Exploring Australia Felix	1990	
Major T. L. Mitchell	Three Expeditions Into The Interior of Eastern Australia - Volume Two	1839	208