

# HERITAGE PLACE

**NAME OF PLACE:** MAJOR MITCHELL MONUMENT

**ADDRESS/LOCATION OF PLACE:** Bundoran Lane GLENTHOMPSON

**STUDY NUMBER:** 298

**HERITAGE OVERLAY NUMBER:**

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**PRECINCT:** outside

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA:** Southern Grampians Shire

**ALLOTMENT:** 33B **SECTION:** J1 **PARISH:** PARISH OF YUPPECKIAR

**ACCESS DESCRIPTION:**

CFA 434 E1B; VicRoads 73 J4; located at the north-east corner of the junction of Bundoran and Monument Lanes, about 5.5kms south of the intersection of Lovatdale lane with the Glenelg Highway.

**SIGNIFICANCE RATING:** Local



Major Mitchell Monument, Bundoran Lane, Glenthompson (Strathmore)

**Image Date:** 29/05/2002

**EXTENT OF LISTING:**

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

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## **PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:**

The monument takes the form of a squat obelisk and is about 2.5m high and 2.0m square at the base. It is made of bluestone blocks laid in 12inch courses. There is a marble plaque which states "Major Thomas L. Mitchell Explorer camped here 18th Sept. 1836, whence, leaving a party in Mr. C. C. Stapylton's charge, he proceeded onwards to Sydney". The monument is located in a grove of Monterey Pine (*Pinus radiata*).

## **HISTORY:**

Major Mitchell passed nearby this place in the middle of September 1836, following his period of recuperation at nearby Lake Repose. He stated in his journal that it was "as favourable a place for refreshing the cattle as could be found". The bullocks were exhausted after pulling the wagons through very boggy ground for over 18kms and an axle had broken.

There is a marble plaque which states "Major Thomas L. Mitchell Explorer camped here 18th Sept. 1836, whence, leaving a party in Mr. C. C. Stapylton's charge, he proceeded onwards to Sydney". It is not known when the monument was erected but it appears to have been erected to mark the centenary of the expedition.

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 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.

## **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

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

## **CONDITION:**

The cairn is in excellent condition.

## **INTEGRITY:**

highly intact

## **STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:**

What is significant?

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**How is it Significant?**

The Major Mitchell Monument, Bundoran Lane, Glenthompson (Strathmore) is of historical significance to 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, Glenelg Highway, Dunkeld

102 Major Mitchell Monument, Turnbull St, Coleraine

109 Henty Memorial, Glenelg Highway, Carapook

**ASSESSED BY:** tfh & mgt

**ASSESSMENT DATE:**

26-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
Claburn, Elise, et al.	Dunkeld and District: A Short History	1989	ch.3
D W A Baker, in Douglas Pike, ed.	Australian Dictionary of Biography, Vol 2	1967	238-42
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	87-8
Major T. L Mitchell	Three Expeditions Into The Interior of Eastern Australia - Volume Two	1839	258-9