

# Kangaroo Ground War Memorial Tower



Kanga G 1.jpg



Kanga G 2.jpg



Kanga G 3.jpg



Kanga G 4.jpg



Kanga G 5.jpg



Kanga G 6.jpg



Kanga G 7.jpg



Kanga G 8.jpg



Kanga G 9.jpg



Kanga G 10.jpg



68 - War Memorial and Components Eltham Yarra GI Rd\_04 - Dedication of the 1939-1945 War Memorial on 16 November 1951 by the Governor of Victoria Sir Dallas Brooks ELHPC No. 410 - Shire of Eltham Heritage Study 1992



68 - War Memorial and Components Eltham Yarra GI Rd\_05 - Refreshments at the dedication in 1951 ELHPC No. 414 - Shire of Eltham Heritage Study 1992



68 - War Memorial and Components Eltham Yarra GI Rd\_06 - View from the tower showing the tops of the trees planted around the site (not dated) ELHPC No.415 - Shire of Eltham Heritage Study 1992



68 - War Memorial and Components Eltham Yarra GI Rd\_07 - Shire of Eltham Heritage Study 1992



68 - War Memorial and Components Eltham Yarra GI Rd\_08 - Monterey cypress trees are planted around the site on the boundaries - Shire of Eltham Heritage Study 1992



68 - War Memorial and Components Eltham Yarra GI Rd\_09 - Shire of Eltham Heritage Study 1992

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## Location

385 ELTHAM-YARRA GLEN RD KANGAROO GROUND, NILLUMBIK SHIRE

## Municipality

NILLUMBIK SHIRE

## Level of significance

-

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

HO49

## Heritage Listing

Vic. War Heritage Inventory

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - January 5, 2010

**What is significant?**

The fabric of the site including: the c1925-26 war memorial, the mature Monterey Cypress trees (which form a windbreak around the perimeter of park) and other planted species (Bangalay- *Eucalyptus botryooides*, Victorian Box- *Pittosporum undulatum*, English Oak- *Quercus robur* and Australian Fan palm- *Livistona australis*) and the surrounding site to a radius of 150 metres . The c1951 sandstone caretaker's cottage is contributory to the site. The c1974 firespotter's cabin (on the tower) is an intrusive element.

**How is it significant?**

The war memorial tower is architecturally, socially, aesthetically and historically significant to the Shire of Nillumbik

The caretaker's cottage and the Monterey Cypress trees are historically and aesthetically significant to the Shire of Nillumbik.

**Why is it significant?**

The war memorial is historically and architecturally significant because it was designed by prominent architects, Stephenson and Meldrum, based upon a sketch by artist Harold Herbert, and because it has ties to prominent community members including Professor William Osborne, who donated stone for the construction, and Governor-General, Lord Stonehaven, who opened the building on 11 November 1926 (Criterion H). It is aesthetically significant for its skilled use of local sandstone (Criteria E). The war memorial is historically and socially significant as a representative example of a local war memorial and as a physical representation of the impact that war had on the community (Criteria D & G).

**BICK STUDY, 1992**

The Kangaroo Ground War Memorial Tower is of metropolitan significance:

- as one of Victoria's most unusual war memorials;
- for its commemoration of those Shire residents who died in the First and Second World Wars.
- For its associations with the designers, artist Harold Herbert and prominent architects Stephenson and Meldrum; .
- for its illustration of the skilled use of local sandstone;.'
- For the landmark quality or prominence of the tower and Monterey cypress, situated on the highest point in the area;.
- For a significant role as a fire spotter tower from the late 1940s, making it one of the older towers used for this purpose in the State.

The sandstone caretaker's building is locally significant as an early part of this reserve and a visually complementary element to the tower.

-----Kangaroo Ground War Memorial Tower is one of Victoria's most unusual war memorials and commemorates those Shire residents who died in the First and Second World Wars. The initial idea came from a sketch by artist Harold Herbert and prominent Architects Stephenson and Meldrum designed the local sandstone structure. Situated on the highest point in the area, the tower has a panoramic 3600 view. The Monterey Cypress windbreak which surrounds the park is visible from many parts of Kangaroo Ground and environs. From the late 1940s the tower has also played a significant role as a fire spotter tower. The other sandstone building is an early or original part of this reserve.

**BASIS OF SIGNIFICANCE:**

SOCIAL

HISTORY

ARCHITECTURE

LANDSCAPE

STREETSCAPE

DEGREE OF SIGNIFICANCE:

LOCAL SIGNIFICANCE

EXTENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

ALL OF TOWER, SANDSTONE BUILDING, MATURE EXOTIC SITE PLANTING, SITE AND ADJOINING SITES TO A RADIUS OF 150 METRES

Heritage Study/Consultant Nillumbik - Shire of Eltham Heritage Study, David Bick, 1992;

Construction dates 1925, 1974,

Architect/Designer Stephenson & Meldrum,

Hermes Number 125864

Property Number

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## Historical Australian Themes

THIS PLACE DOES NOT ILLUSTRATE ANY OF THE MAJOR THEMES OF THE SHIRE'S HISTORY. THE WAR MEMORIAL TOWER IS A ONE-OFF STRUCTURE

2.2 Adapting to diverse environments

3.16.1 Dealing with hazards and disasters

4.5 Making settlements to serve rural Australia

8.8 Remembering the fallen

8.14 Living in the country and rural settlements

## Physical Description 1

Tower /n

Style traditional ornamental structure.

Design one-off.

Plan square.

Multi-storeyed.

Walls local sandstone faced concrete.

Roof flat concrete slab.

Features are the design, memorial plaques, ground floor door, openings, the adjacent stone building and the mature site planting.

Sandstone Building

Style a-stylar.

Design utilitarian.

Plan rectangular.

Single storied.

Walls apparently solid sandstone.

Roof gabled.

Features are the utilitarian nature of this service building and its role as an original/early component of the site.

Planting /n

The War Memorial Tower is centrally positioned on the highest point of the site and surrounded on all sides by Monterey Cypress trees (*Cupressus macrocarpa*). The park itself consists of a very simple treatment with a gravel vehicle access road through a grassed area with various trees dotted around the lawn. Tree species include: Monterey Cypress (*Cupressus macrocarpa*), *Eucalyptus botryoides*, *Pittosporum undulatum*, *Quercus robur* and *Livistona australis*.

## **Usage/Former Usage**

Original Use: War memorial and lookout tower

Later use: War memorial, lookout and fire spotter tower

## **Veterans Description for Public**

The Kangaroo Ground War Memorial Tower, located at 385 Eltham Yarra Glen Road Kangaroo Ground, is one of Victoria's most unusual war memorials and commemorates those Shire residents who died in the First and Second World Wars.

In 1925, a public committee was formed and public donations were received to replace the cairn with a tower built in the style of the old English and Scottish watch towers. The Architects, Stephenson and Meldrum, designed the tower free of charge from a sketch by the artist, Harold Herbert. Professor William Osborne donated the stone from his nearby property, Kangaroo Hall. The tower was reinforced with concrete, faced with sandstone rubble, concrete quoins and dressings; the contractor was G. Rousell of Mordialloc. The tower was unveiled on November 11th 1926 by the Governor-General, Lord Stonehaven, with a plaque commemorating the First World War. The committee then entrusted the care of the tower and grounds to Eltham Shire Council.

Later, the Shire built a caretaker's cottage, which was dedicated on November 16th 1951 by the Victorian Governor, Sir Dallas Brooks; at the same time an additional plaque was dedicated honouring those who died in the Second World War.

Situated on the highest point in the area, the tower has a panoramic 360 degree view over the park which is filled with mature plantings of Monterey cypress, English oak (*Quercus robur*), *Eucalyptus* (*Eucalyptus botryoides*) and the Australian Fan palms (*Livistona australis*). By 1948, the tower had become a fire-spotter tower. This led to controversy in the late 1960s and early 1970s, over the construction of a spotter's cabin on top, which nonetheless was completed c.1974.

*This place/object may be included in the Victorian Heritage Register pursuant to the Heritage Act 2017. Check the Victorian Heritage Database, selecting 'Heritage Victoria' as the place source.*

*For further details about Heritage Overlay places, contact the relevant local council or go to Planning Schemes Online <http://planningschemes.dpcd.vic.gov.au/>*