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# KOONWARRA SOLDIERS' MEMORIAL PARK



Koonwarra Memorial Park

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## Location

10-12 KOALA DRIVE, KOONWARRA, SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE

## Municipality

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE

## Level of significance

Rec for HO area contributory

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

## Heritage Listing

South Gippsland Shire

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - December 20, 2022

### What is significant?

The Koonwarra Soldiers' Memorial Park established in 1953, at 14 Koala Drive, Koonwarra is significant. The 1953 memorial comprises a pair of mild steel entry gates with the words 'Soldiers Memorial' across the top. On each gate is a plaque with the words "Lest We Forget" and the names of the two local residents (H.A. Millsom to the left plaque and R.W. Barguss to the right), who paid the Supreme Sacrifice in World War II. The gates are mounted on red brick piers and are framed by a metal arch with 'Memorial Park'. Immediately behind and flanking the gates is pair of Italian or Pencil Cypresses (*Cupressus sempervirens stricta*). Other notable plantings include the Silver Fir (*Abies alba*) and Atlas Cedar (*Cedrus atlantica*) planted in memory of the two soldiers, and the Smooth barked Apple Myrtle (*Anghophora costata*) planted to commemorate the 1993 school centenary. There is

also a memorial brick cairn commemorating 100 years of schooling in Koonwarra. There is a tubular steel and cyclone wire fence along the front and northeast side boundaries.

Non-original alterations and additions to the hall and other trees in the reserve are not significant.

**How is it significant?**

The Koonwarra Soldiers' Memorial Park is of local historic and social significance to the South Gippsland Shire.

**Why is it significant?**

Historically, the memorial park commemorates the involvement of the Koonwarra community in World War II and the impact it had upon the district. (Criterion A)

The memorial park has social significance as a place of remembrance and commemoration not only for Robert Barguss and Henry Millsom, but for all those within the Koonwarra community that have been impacted by war-time conflicts. In addition, this public space also celebrates the Koonwarra community's longevity as a settlement, and the importance of the school to the community. (Criterion G)

The memorial and the associated mature trees have aesthetic value for their picturesque character and evocative qualities. (Criterion E)

Heritage Study/Consultant	South Gippsland - South Gippsland Heritage Study, David Helms with Trevor Westmore, 2004;
Construction dates	1953, 1953, 1953,
Other Names	Koonwarra Memorial Park, Koonwarra Public Hall,
Hermes Number	73253
Property Number	

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## Physical Description 1

The Koonwarra Soldiers Memorial Park is situated adjacent to the Koonwarra Public Hall. It is partly enclosed by a low chain mesh fence that extends along the front and part of the east side boundary. At the south west corner is a pair of wrought iron entry gates with the words "Soldiers Memorial" in wrought iron lettering. On the each gate is a plaque with the words "Lest We Forget" and the name of two local residents, R Barghuist and H Milson, who paid the supreme sacrifice in World War 2. Other structures in the park include a small brick cairn that commemorates 100 years of schooling at Koonwarra from 1893 and 1993, which is situated just behind a time capsule that was buried at the time of Victoria's sesquicentenary in 1985. Notable plantings include a pair of Italian Cypresses immediately behind the gates, two Cedars and a Pin Oak.

*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/>*