

Beech Forest WWII Memorial



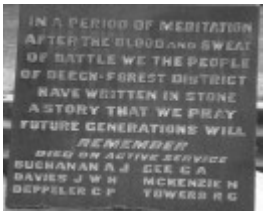
45014 WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL



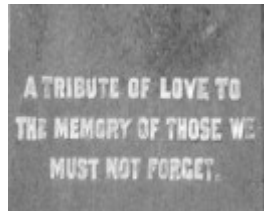
Beechf 1.jpg



Beechf 2.jpg



Beechf 3.jpg



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Location

Old Main Road BEECH FOREST, Colac Otway Shire

Municipality

COLAC OTWAY SHIRE

Level of significance

-

Heritage Overlay Numbers

Heritage Listing

Vic. War Heritage Inventory

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - January 1, 2003

The Beech Forest World War Two Memorial was erected in 1949 adjacent to Old Main Road. The War Memorial is of historic and aesthetic importance to the Shire of Colac Otway. The War Memorial is historically important as a memorial to the Otway community, and illustrates the efforts made to commemorate the sacrifices of the people of the district who died in the Second World War. A granite obelisk, The War Memorial is aesthetically important in demonstrating traditional funerary monument composition techniques and materials. The War Memorial is of aesthetic importance, this being demonstrated in the structure's composition, scale and location amidst civic buildings, and is typical of war memorials in smaller regional towns. The War Memorial is historically important as the only known memorial erected by the Shire of Otway to commemorate the sacrifices of the district's residents in war.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Colac Otway - Colac Otway Heritage Study, Mary Sheehan & Associates, 2003;
Hermes Number	125795
Property Number	

Historical Australian Themes

Memorials & Monuments (9.3)

Physical Description 1

The memorial is located adjacent to the former town hall, in the centre of Beech Forest, in the main civic area. The memorial lies on a concrete paved landing elevated with steps leading up from the adjacent road. The memorial is composed of a tooled granite obelisk on a polished granite base which includes the honour roll. The ensemble rests on a square plinth of three granite steps with rock-faced risers and polished treads.

Physical Conditions

Good

Integrity

Substantially intact

Veterans Description for Public

The Beech Forest World War Two Memorial was erected in 1949 adjacent to Old Main Road. As the Shire of Otway was not created until after the First World War in 1919, those who served from the Beech Forest area were recorded as residents of the Shire of Colac. Nevertheless, an Honour Board was erected in the hall to commemorate those from the district who volunteered for armed service in the First World War and those who

lost their lives, but the hall burnt down in 1919. During the Second World War, seventy men and women enlisted from the Beech Forest district. A memorial to their service was funded by public subscription and the monument was erected in front of the Otway Shire Hall.

The memorial lies on a concrete paved landing elevated with steps leading up from the road. It is composed of a tooled granite obelisk on a polished granite base which includes the honour roll. The ensemble rests on a square plinth of three granite steps with rock-faced risers and polished treads. The engraved inscription includes the following text:

"In a period of meditation after the blood and sweat of battle we the people of Beech-Forest District have written in stone a story that we pray future generations will remember."

The memorial also records six names of the dead and sixty-four who returned. It was important that the involvement in the Second World War was commemorated, particularly as all evidence of participation in the 'Great War' had been destroyed. An official unveiling by the local member of the Victorian parliament, Allan McDonald MHR, was held on 23rd January 1949. The memorial is a reminder of the losses which occurred in many communities throughout the Shire, as well as Victoria. It is also a memorial to the community itself and the efforts it made to commemorate the sacrifices of the people of the district during war.

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/>