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# Wye River Memorial



45714 WAR MEMORIAL  
CAIRN



WyeR 1.jpg

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## Location

Great Ocean Road WYE RIVER, Colac Otway Shire

## Municipality

COLAC OTWAY SHIRE

## Level of significance

-

## Heritage Overlay Numbers

## Heritage Listing

Vic. War Heritage Inventory

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on - January 1, 2003

A local member of the Wye River community built the Second World War Memorial Cairn, located on the south bank of Wye River on the Great Ocean Road, in the late 1940s. Local beach stones were used for the construction of the memorial. The Wye River War Memorial Cairn is of social and historic importance to the Shire of Colac Otway. The social and cultural associations of the War Memorial Cairn are demonstrated by the focus it provides for the Wye River and surrounding community in commemorating the loss of life caused by the Second World War. The War Memorial Cairn is historically important for its association with the Second World War and for demonstrating the immediate and long-term impact the conflict had on small communities like that at Wye River. The War Memorial Cairn is also historically important in demonstrating the development of a community at Wye

River, made possible by the construction of the Great Ocean Road and its opening in 1932. The Cairn is also important as a typical type of memorial cairn and is distinguished by its unusually detailed design and construction and robust and dignified use of local materials.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Colac Otway - Colac Otway Heritage Study, Mary Sheehan & Associates, 2003;
Hermes Number	125808
Property Number	

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## Historical Australian Themes

Memorials & Monuments (9.3)

### Physical Description 1

The war memorial cairn is a large pyramidal obelisk cairn constructed of coursed river rocks with a small concrete pyramid capping. The mortar joint between each stone is deeply set giving each stone a strongly modelled appearance. The front of the cairn has an inset polished granite plaque inscribed with "Lest We Forget", the front also bears a circular wreath the centre of which is inset with a contrasting arrangement of randomly coursed river pebbles. Some of the concrete has deteriorated on the face of the Cairn and is now in need of urgent repair.

### Physical Conditions

Fair

### Integrity

Substantially intact

### Veterans Description for Public

The Wye River Second World War Memorial Cairn was built in the late 1940s on the south bank of Wye River, on the Great Ocean Road. The Cairn was the initiative of a group of local returned servicemen led by Roy Arundell, and was erected by local builder Doug Dunn. The Cairn has provided the focus for annual memorial services held at Wye River on Anzac Day to commemorate those who sacrificed their lives in service. Two or three decades ago, between fifty and seventy ex-servicemen attended commemorations on the Sunday before Anzac Day. Commemoration services continued to be held on the Sunday before Anzac Day at the end of the twentieth century, but in 2001 only eight ex-servicemen from Wye River, and four from Apollo Bay, attended. However, the local community continues to turn out in force to remember and commemorate those who lost their lives in the world wars.

The Cairn is distinguished by its unusually detailed design and dignified use of local materials such as beach stones. It is a large pyramidal obelisk cairn constructed of coursed river rocks with a small concrete pyramid capping. The mortar joint between each stone is deeply set giving each stone a strongly modelled appearance. The front of the cairn has an inset polished granite plaque inscribed with "Lest We Forget", the front also bears a circular wreath the centre of which is inset with a contrasting arrangement of randomly coursed river pebbles.

*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/>