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# MAJOR MITCHELL MEMORIAL AND WATER TROUGH



23179 Major Mitchell memorial Queens Park Coleraine 2043



23179 Major Mitchell memorial Queens Park Coleraine 2044



23179 Major Mitchell Monument Dunkeld 2286



23179 Major Mitchell Monument Dunkeld 2287



23179 Major Mitchell track Dunkeld 0039

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## Location

Gleneleg Highway DUNKELD, Southern Grampians Shire

## Municipality

SOUTHERN GRAMPIANS SHIRE

## Level of significance

Stage 2 study complete

## Heritage Listing

Southern Grampians Shire

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## Statement of Significance

Last updated on -

What is significant?

The Major Mitchell Memorial in Dunkeld is located in the south west corner of a public reserve on the Glenelg Highway. It takes the form of an obelisk set on three stone blocks. The shaft is dressed sandstone and plain. The bluestone blocks are dressed to a rock-face finish. A gilded incision has been written on the top bluestone block honouring Major Mitchell's discovery and ascent of nearby Mount Abrupt on September 14th, 1836. The memorial was erected by residents of Dunkeld and district in 1914 to commemorate Major Mitchell's 1836 exploration.

Mitchell passed nearby Dunkeld at the beginning of August 1836, following the Glenelg River downstream. He stated in his journal "The country on its banks was, as far as I could see, the finest imaginable, either for sheep and cattle or for cultivation".

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.

How is it Significant?

The Major Mitchell Monument, Glenelg Highway, Dunkeld is of historical significance to the community of Dunkeld and 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.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Southern Grampians - Southern Grampians Shire Heritage Study, Timothy Hubbard P/L, Annabel Neylon, 2002;
Construction dates	1914,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Hermes Number	23179
Property Number	

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## Physical Conditions

The memorial is in good condition.

## Physical Description 1

The memorial is constructed from a local stone and takes the common form of a tapering obelisk set on three stone blocks. It is about 2.0m high and .8m square at the base. The obelisk shaft is dressed sandstone and plain. The bluestone blocks are dressed to a rock-face finish.

The top bluestone block is incised on its smooth face with gilded lettering and states 'In honour of Major Mitchell who having discovered Mt Abrupt ascended it 14th September 1836. This monument was erected by residents of Dunkeld and district 14th Sept 1914.'

The structure is located in the south-west corner of a large public reserve on the Glenelg Highway in Dunkeld.

## **Historical Australian Themes**

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

Theme 8: Developing Australia's cultural life

8.7 Honouring achievement

8.9 Commemorating significant events

## **Usage/Former Usage**

Monument

## **Integrity**

High degree of integrity

## **Physical Description 2**

Major Thomas Livingston Mitchell, F.G.S & N. R. G. S, Surveyor-General of NSW

Manning Clarke, historian

## **Physical Description 3**

Public Reserve used as a caravan park

*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/>*