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# MAJOR MITCHELL MONUMENT



23180 Major Mitchell memorial Queens Park Coleraine 2043



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## Location

Turnbull Street COLERAINE, 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 - June 18, 2003

What is significant?

The Major Mitchell Monument is located in a small park on the north east corner of Turnbull and Henty Streets in Coleraine. The memorial takes the form of a tapering cairn constructed from local rough faced volcanic stone. The memorial stands 2.5m high and is 1.1m square at the base. The cairn is set on a low plinth of stone and concrete, and has a bronze plaque which reads "Major Mitchell Centenary/ Major Mitchell Passed through/This District August 1836/Erected by the Public of/ The Shire of Wannon/ 7th August 1936.

Major Mitchell passed nearby this place 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, Turnbull Street, Coleraine is of historical significance to the township of Coleraine 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. It is typical example of the stone obelisks which were erected throughout Victoria in the first half of the nineteenth century to commemorate Major Mitchell's exploration.

Heritage Study/Consultant	Southern Grampians - Southern Grampians Shire Heritage Study, Timothy Hubbard P/L, Annabel Neylon, 2002;
Construction dates	1936,
Heritage Act Categories	Registered place,
Hermes Number	23180
Property Number	

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## Physical Conditions

The Major Mitchell Monument in the Turnbull Street Reserve is in fair condition. The frame surrounding the bronze plaque is damaged. The peak of the coping stone is missing.

## Physical Description 1

The memorial is constructed from a local volcanic stone and takes the common form of a tapering cairn or crude obelisk which is 2.5m high and 1.1m square at the base. The stone is roughly faced and is dressed to a rock-face finish. A single pyramidal stone is set on the top to complete the cairn. It is set on a low plinth of stone and concrete. The cairn has a bronze plaque mounted on it which reads: "Major Mitchell Centenary/ Major Mitchell Passed through/This District August 1836/Erected By The Public of/ The Shire of Wannon/ 7th August 1936.

## 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

## **Physical Description 3**

Former Police Reserve

*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/>*