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# MAJOR MITCHELL MONUMENT



23384 Bundoran Lane  
Glenthompson Major Mitchell  
Monument 666



River Red Gum planted to  
commemorate Major  
Mitchell's travel on the 150th  
anniversary

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## Location

Bundoran Lane GLENTHOMPSON, 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 - August 10, 2003

What is significant?

Major Mitchell passed nearby this place in the middle of September 1836, following his period of recuperation at nearby Lake Repose. He stated in his journal that it was "as favourable a place for refreshing the cattle as could be found". The bullocks were exhausted after pulling the wagons through very boggy ground for over 18kms and an axle had broken.

The monument takes the form of a squat obelisk and is about 2.5m high and 2.0m square at the base. It is made of bluestone blocks laid in 12inch courses. There is a marble plaque which states "Major Thomas L. Mitchell Explorer camped here 18th Sept. 1836, whence, leaving a party in Mr. C. C. Stapylton's charge, he proceeded onwards to Sydney". The monument is located in a grove of *Pinus radiata* which extend down Bundoran Lane

and Monument Lane. There is also a River Red Gum, planted some distance away in a paddock 230m north of Bundoran Lane, east of Monument Lane. This tree was planted by the great grandson of Major Mitchell on the 150th anniversary of Major Mitchell's movement through the area. There is also a bottle buried nearby.

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, Bundoran Lane, Glenthompson (Strathmore) is of historical significance to 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 an example of the way in which Major Mitchell is revered as a person of extreme importance within the community. It is a 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.

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|---------------------------|--|
| 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             | 23384  |
| Property Number           |  |

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## Physical Conditions

The cairn is in excellent condition.

## Physical Description 1

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## 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**

highly intact

## **Physical Description 2**

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

*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/>*