

**Locality:** HEYFIELD  
**Place address:** GEORGE STREET  
**Citation date** 2016  
**Place type (when built):** Soldiers' Memorial  
**Recommended heritage protection:** Local government level  
Local Planning Scheme: Yes  
Vic Heritage Register: No  
Heritage Inventory (Archaeological): Yes

**Place name:** Heyfield Soldiers' Memorial and Pencil Pines



**Architectural Style:** Inter War Classical Cenotaph with Pillar  
**Designer / Architect:** Not Known

## Statement of Significance

This statement of significance is based on the history, description and comparative analysis in this citation. The Criteria A-H is the Heritage Council Criteria for assessing cultural heritage significance (HERCON). Level of Significance, Local, State, National, is in accordance with level of Government legislation.

### *What is significant?*

The Soldiers' Memorial and Pencil Pines at Heyfield, including the land to the extent shown on the map, the 7 Pencil Pines (*Cupressus sempervirens stricta*) and the landscape setting are significant.

### *How is it significant?*

The Heyfield Soldiers' Memorial and Pencil Pines are historically, socially, aesthetically and scientifically significant at a local level to Wellington Shire. It is also locally significant for its potential to yield information.

### *Why is it significant?*

The Soldiers' Memorial is **historically significant at a local level**. It was unveiled on this site in 1923 in commemoration of local soldiers who served in WW1. It is also significant for the memorial plaques attached, in recognition of the soldiers from the district who served in WW2 and later conflicts. (Criterion A & D)

The Heyfield Soldiers' Memorial is **socially significant at a local level** for the volunteers who raised funds for the monument, and Heyfield Soldiers Welfare League who organised the monument, funding and unveiling ceremony. It is significant for the Anzac Day and other remembrance services held there over the past 92 years, until present day. (Criteria A & G)

Heyfield Soldiers' Memorial is **aesthetically significant at a local level** for the WW1 cenotaph-pillar monument, constructed of Orbost granite, Harcourt granite and bluestone, with white marble plaques, surmounted by a cast iron column and electrically lit orb (recently replaced with a metal cross which is not significant). The row of seven Pencil Pines (*Cupressus sempervirens stricta*) is significant. (Criterion E)

Heyfield Soldiers' Memorial is **scientifically significant at a local level** for the craftsmanship of the artisans with stonemasonry skills, which are now rarely used for new monuments. It also has potential to yield archaeological evidence in the land around the monument. (Criteria B, C & F)

## Statutory Recommendations

This place is recommended for inclusion in the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay of the Wellington Shire Planning Scheme with the boundaries as shown on the map.

<b>External Paint Controls</b>	Yes, including cleaning
<b>Internal Alteration Controls</b>	No
<b>Tree Controls</b>	Yes
<b>Fences &amp; Outbuildings</b>	No
<b>Prohibited Uses May Be Permitted</b>	No
<b>Incorporated Plan</b>	No
<b>Aboriginal Heritage Place</b>	Not assessed

## Map of recommended boundary for Heritage Overlay



### KEY

- Recommended for Heritage Overlay
- Title boundary

### Heyfield Soldiers' Memorial and Pencil Pines George St, Heyfield

Project: Wellington Shire Stage 2 Heritage Study  
Client: Wellington Shire Council  
Author: Heritage Intelligence Pty Ltd  
Date: 12/2/16

## History

### Thematic context

This place is associated with the following themes from the *Wellington Shire Thematic History* (2005):

8. Governing and administering:

- 8.7 War and Defence

9. Developing cultural institutions and way of life:

- 9.2. Memorials

The following is based on information taken from the *Wellington Shire Thematic Environmental History* (Context 2005:45-6):

Memorials are erected throughout the Shire in honour of pioneers and district explorers, significant events and people, and those who served in world wars and other conflicts.

The soldiers' memorials that are spread throughout the Shire show the impact that the two world wars, and subsequent conflicts, had on so many communities and families within the Shire. It must be remembered that while commonly referred to today as 'war memorials', these memorials were originally erected in honour of, and to commemorate, the soldiers and those who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. The memorials were often funded by the community and erected with great community pride, in honour of the locals who died or served and returned.

The group of Rosedale memorials comprises two soldiers memorials and an Angus McMillan memorial. Among the names listed on the soldiers memorials are those of James Wilfred Harrap and Ernest Merton Harrap, brothers from Willung who were killed on the same day at the battle for Polygon Wood near Ypres in 1917. Listed on the Briagolong soldiers' memorial are the names of six Whitelaw brothers, three of whom were killed on active service and one who died later from wounds received. A memorial to their mother, Annie Whitelaw, was erected at her grave in honour of her sacrifice, and to all mothers of sons who served at the front. Soldiers' memorials also remain at Maffra, Stratford and Yarram, to name a few. While St James Anglican Church in Heyfield stands as a Soldiers' Memorial Church. There are also remnants of avenues of honour. The pine trees at Stratford lining the route of the former highway were planted as a memorial to soldiers who served in the First World War. Many of the memorials also have plantings, such as a lone pine, planted in connection with the memorial.

Among the many other memorials in the Shire are those to district pioneers. The cairns erected to Angus McMillan and Paul Strzelecki in 1927 follow their routes through the Shire and were part of an orchestrated campaign of the Victorian Historical Memorials Committee to infuse a sense of history into a landscape that had no ancient monuments.

The struggle for road access in isolated areas is remembered by a cairn dedicated to the Country Roads Board, erected in 1935 at the intersection of the Binginwarri and Hiawatha roads. Transforming a landscape from dryland grazing to irrigated pasture is symbolised by a dethridge wheel mounted on a cairn on the Nambrok Denison estate. A memorial is planned at site of the West Sale Holding Centre to commemorate the migrants who came to settle in postwar Australia. Bronze plaques, designed by Sale artist Annemieke Mein and on display in Sale, document the contributions of several famous Gippslanders, including singer Ada Crossley and writer Mary Grant Bruce.

### Place history

Public meetings were held in October 1916 to discuss, and subsequently form, the Heyfield Soldiers Welfare League, established in the interest of the welfare of returning soldiers. The meetings also addressed the best way 'to recognise the sacrifice made by those of our boys who had fallen in the

field' during World War I. It was decided that a memorial would be erected at Heyfield, and not join with Maffra in erecting a large memorial in that location. It was also confirmed that an Honour Roll would be compiled (*Gippsland Times*, 12 Oct 1916:2).

The World War I memorial was erected on the north side of George Street at the end of Temple Street, and unveiled on 7 October 1923, by the Honourable G. H. Wise in front of a large crowd (*Gippsland Times*, 11 Oct 1923:7).

Addresses were given by the Chairman and Honourable G. M. Davis, Mr W. West, Mr J. W. McLachlan, Miss L. A. And the Methodist Minister Reverend G. B. Campbell. The 'Last Post' was sounded and the proceedings concluded with the National Anthem (*Gippsland Times*, 11 Oct 1923:7).

Reporting on the opening, a local article described the memorial as a 'granite column, electrically lighted, with a fine pedestal. The panels are of Orbost granite and the piers of Harcourt granite. An iron railing surrounds it. The cost of the memorial which is erected in honour of Heyfield, Seaton, Glenmaggie and Denison fallen soldiers was £277, the money being raised by public subscription' (*Gippsland Times* 11 Oct 1923:7). Photos of the unveiling of the memorial (Figures H1-H4) showed the memorial with its orb at the top, panels bearing names around the bottom half of the memorial and a pebbled area immediately surrounding the memorial, enclosed by timber posts with an iron railing (since removed) (HDHS).

A memorial panel was added between the piers to commemorate those fallen during World War II. Plaques were later added near the base of the memorial, in commemoration of the Korean and Vietnam War.

The electric orb from the top of the memorial is known to have been in place until at least 2009 (Figure H4). Photos dating to 2013 show that the orb was missing from the top of the memorial by this date, and that one flagpole was erected (Flickr 2015). In 2015, the missing orb atop the column of the cenotaph was replaced with a cross (HDHS). The area surrounding the monument has been recently (post-2002) landscaped, with the addition of rose beds and a row of 7 Italian Cypress (*Cupressus sempervirens stricta*) behind a picket fence at the rear. Two flagpoles are located to the east of the memorial.



**Figure H1. Photo of the unveiling of the memorial on 7 October 1923 (HDHS).**



Figure H2. Photo at the unveiling of the memorial on 7 October 1923 (HDHS).



Figure H3. Photo at the unveiling of the memorial on 7 October 1923 (HDHS).



**Figure H4a. A detail of the hollow cast iron column surmounted by an electrically lit orb. Figure H4b. Heyfield Cenotaph, 1952, Victorian Railways photo, (MDHS No. 00783VMFF. )**

### Sources

Context Pty Ltd (2005), 'Wellington Shire Heritage Study Thematic Environmental History'.

Flickr, photo by LJ Gervasoni of 'Heyfield War Memorial', <<https://www.flickr.com/>> accessed 8 Dec 2015.

*Gippsland Times*, articles provided by the Heyfield & Districts Historical Society.

Heyfield & Districts Historical Society (HDHS) collection: historical information and photos generously provided by Louise Hill-Coleman and Merryn Stevenson, provided Nov 2015.

### Description

This section describes the place in 2016. Refer to the Place History for additional important details describing historical changes in the physical fabric.

The remaining parts of the original design, materials and finishes of the monument are particularly impressive. Four different types of stone have been expertly crafted to enhance the complex design. Bluestone is a strong and durable stone and its sombre grey colour is used to unify the design of this memorial. At the base it is used for the solid quarry-faced stepped plinth, the finely tooled pedestal, the base and capitals of the cenotaph piers, as well as the top of the cenotaph with finely carved ornaments on each corner. The base of the column is also bluestone.

When comparing the two photos in Figures D5a and D5b, as well as the contemporary description of the monument, the changes that have occurred appear to have primarily altered the top. The column,

its capital and top, appear to have been altered from a dark coloured (Orbost granite?) column with an electrically lighted orb on top; to a bright white painted cast iron column with a Corinthian capital, and a very recent simple square unpainted metal cross. When comparing the 1923 photo and the 2015 photo it is clear, in the 1923 photo, that the light grey Harcourt granite piers are a lot lighter in colour than the column and capital, which indicates that the column was not painted white, and it may have been originally the same Orbost granite which is still intact as the cenotaph panels.

The original fence of timber piers and an iron railing may have been temporary, as the simplistic design and low quality materials is at odds with the monument itself. This fence has since been removed.

The area surrounding the monument has been recently (post-2002) landscaped, with the addition of rose beds and a row of 7 Italian Cypress (*Cupressus sempervirens stricta*) behind a picket fence at the rear. Two flagpoles are located to the east of the memorial.



Figure D1. The bluestone quarry-faced stepped plinth, finely tooled pedestal, and the base and capitals of the cenotaph piers. Hand crafted marble plaques for WW1 and a new machine made bronze and paint plaque for the Korean War.



Figure D2. Detail of damaging repairs using a 'plastic type' substance in the joints instead of

lime mortar, and a hole in the bluestone.



Figure D3. Detail of the top of the cenotaph showing finely tooled bluestone, polished Harcourt granite piers and Orbest granite panels, with some water damage occurring at the top of the panels.



Figure D4. Detail of white painted rusting cast iron column with recent metal cross above.



Figure D5a. The original form of the monument in 1923.



Figure D5b. The monument in 2015.

### Sources

All photos taken in 2015 by Heritage Intelligence Pty Ltd as part of Wellington Shire Stage 2 Heritage Study.

## Comparative analysis

In Victoria, 1,366 monuments that were erected to commemorate various conflicts were recorded in the study by Rowe (2008), however, less than 9% of these have protection with a Heritage Overlay.

Obelisks, pillars, cenotaphs, cairns, statuary and ornamental structures are the most common forms for war memorials in Victoria. Initially, these memorials were more commonly known as 'Soldiers' Memorials' or 'Fallen Soldiers' Memorials after the Boer War and during the First World War (Rowe 2008:1:36). In Victoria, 95 monuments are in the form of a Pillar. The most famous cenotaph in Victoria is the Shrine of Remembrance.

In Wellington Shire there are numerous memorials, but only 9 are monuments to commemorate conflicts, of which 2 are obelisks, 2 are flag staffs on low cairns, 1 drinking fountain, 2 statues on pedestals, 1 pillar-cenotaph, and 1 obelisk-cenotaph. The two obelisks are very similar in design with some variation in the wording and decorative features, which is unusual, however, the Briagolong memorial is particularly distinguished from the Stratford one by being flanked by 2 smaller WW2 obelisks, similar in design and colour to the WW1 monument.

According to Rowe (2008:1:17), one of the most common forms of commemorating the contribution and sacrifice of those who served in the Second World War was to add to an existing First World War memorial, largely in the form of an additional plaque or inscription, or possibly additional features, such as a memorial wall or war trophies. This can be seen on the Maffra monument.

Very few monuments are known to have been 'electrically lighted' at the time of unveiling and so this was a rare and significant part of the original design, concept and feature of the memorial.

Two other memorials known to have been electrically lit with an orb on top, after the monument was built, are Somerville (the electrically lit orb replaced the original 1922 oil lamp in 1930, but the latter has now been replaced with the reconstructed oil lamp lit with discreetly placed solar cells), and Toora which has an electrical wire strung to it from a power pole.)

## Management Guidelines

Whilst landowners are not obliged to undertake restoration works, these guidelines provide recommendations to facilitate the retention and enhancement of the culturally significant place, its fabric and its setting, when restoration works or alterations to the building are proposed. They also identify issues particular to the place and provide further detailed advice where relevant. The guidelines are not intended to be prescriptive and a pragmatic approach will be taken when considering development proposals. Alternative approaches to those specified in the guidelines will be considered where it can be demonstrated that a desirable development outcome can be achieved that does not impact on a place's heritage integrity.

### 1. Location and Setting

- 1.1. Ensure all future roadworks, services and landscaping works respect the original location of this monument. Manage design developments which make it practical to leave the monument there.
- 1.2. Retain the formal tall Pencil Pines and (although recent, it is appropriate) backdrop of a low picket fence behind the monument and the informal landscaping of tall trees beyond. The existing concrete apron and path up to the front of the monument could be retained, but long term, a compacted granitic sand path would be more appropriate or a fine sandy exposed aggregate concrete surface would be a more durable option to actual granitic sand.
- 1.3. Retain a passive, contemplate style of park e.g. no active recreational facilities, advertising signs, or facilities such as a toilet block, on the site, etc.
- 1.4. Retain clear views to the monument from the street.
- 1.5. Do not put signage in the view lines to the monument.
- 1.6. New memorials should be placed to the side of the WW1 monument, outside the existing concrete apron, not behind or in front of it.

### 2. Care and Maintenance

- 2.1. Refer to the Resources list below. These were written by Jenny Dickens, Senior Conservator, Heritage Victoria. They are in plain English, well illustrated and have very important instructions. Further assistance is available from the Shire's heritage advisor.
- 2.2. The biggest risk to memorials is permanent damage by the use of cleaning materials, agents and methods. E.g. acid washing dissolves marble, which cannot be undone, sand and water blasting remove the stonemasons skilled decorative works, the polished surfaces, lettering and details.
- 2.3. Memorials are meant to develop a patina of age to imbue them with a sense of timelessness, and gravity of the memories. They are not meant to look bright, white and super clean, (apart from when they were built).
- 2.4. This memorial is in good condition, but requires some maintenance and repairs.
- 2.5. **Water damage**
  - 2.5.1. Remove all the 'plastic' substance that has been squeezed into the joints (Fig D2). Never use modern products on these historic stone monuments as they will cause expensive

damage. Replace the plastic with lime mortar. Traditional mortar mixes were commonly 1:3, lime:sand. This work must be done by a skilled mason or bricklayer who is very experienced with historic masonry and knows how to make and apply the correct mortar, without cement.

- 2.5.2. The fact that mortar has fallen out is the “canary in the mine”. It is a warning that water is getting into the monument. The plastic will seal the water in, causing much more, long term damage. Never seal historic stone or bricks.
- 2.5.3. There is also water damage occurring at the intersection of the top of the cenotaph Orbost granite panels (Fig D3).
- 2.5.4. Cast iron column. This is rusting and the rust will run down the expensive and historic stone monument and lettering and cause very expensive damage. Repair the column (Fig D4).
- 2.5.5. Never sand, water or soda blast the stone as it will permanently pit the surface, remove the lettering and make the stone quickly become porous and dirty.

### 3. Restoration

- 3.1. Research the original materials, design and colours of the column.
  - 3.1.1. The orb may have been the same as the one on the Toora monument which is still working.
- 3.2. Apply for a government grant to restore the column and electric orb.

### Resources

The following fact sheets contain practical and easy-to-understand information about the care and preservation of war heritage and memorabilia commonly found in local communities across Victoria. They can be downloaded at <<http://www.dpc.vic.gov.au/index.php/veterans/victorian-veterans-virtual-museum/preserving-veterans-heritage/preserving-war-heritage-and-memorabilia>>:

- Avenues-of-honour-and-other-commemorative-plantings
- Finding-the-right-conservator-tradespeople-and-materials
- General-Principles
- Useful-resources-and-contact
- War-Memorials.