

East Geelong War Memorial, 203 St Albans Road, Thomson Statement of Significance

May 2025

Heritage Place: East Geelong War Memorial, 203 St Albans Road, Thomson	PS ref no: HO2054
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Source: City of Greater Geelong, May 2025

What is significant?

The East Geelong War Memorial and Memorial Reserve at 203 St Albans Road, Thomson, is locally significant to the City of Greater Geelong. The significant elements onsite include:

- The granite and marble monument is of primary significance to the site.
- The coniferous plantings contribute to the broader significance of the site as a memorial reserve. Though there are multiple stretches where the plantings have been removed, historically the presence of so many memorial plantings would have been especially impressive. However, though there are breaks in the rows, the alignment is still readily visible and interpretable. As such, the arrangement of the current extant plantings is recognised as significant. Effort has been made to reinstate plantings that have been removed with like-for-like plantings, as evidenced during the site inspection. These efforts should continue in the future, matching the established alignment so as to reinstate and enhance the significance of the site.

Non-significant elements include:

- The later structures and sporting facilities, which while representing the historical use of the reserve are not considered significant fabric. These consist of all buildings, ovals and courts.
- The chainlink fence.

How is it significant?

The East Geelong War Memorial is of historical, representative and social significance to the City of Greater Geelong.

Why is it significant?

The East Geelong War Memorial is of historical significance to the City of Greater Geelong as a physical monument to the local lives lost during conflict in World War One. The Memorial represents a historical National

rise in memorialisation immediately after the cessation of World War One, and marks one of the first major war memorials in the immediate metropolitan City of Greater Geelong. (Criterion A)

The East Geelong War Memorial is of representative significance to the City of Greater Geelong as an intact and orthodox example of a World War One memorial. Features which contribute to this typology largely include the lone and solemn representation of a soldier, supported by a pediment or stone plinth. The memorial is carved from Italian marble, imported by Wilcox Bros. stonemasons of Ryrie Street and supported by a granite column. A soldier in this context is typically shown either bowed in mourning or holding a rifle. The East Geelong War Memorial differs from other examples shown in the State as the soldier is depicted playing a bugle. Furthermore, the East Geelong War Memorial is one of the only representations in the municipality of a memorial designed to depict a soldier, rather than a column or memorial gates. (Criterion D)

The East Geelong War Memorial is of social significance to the City of Greater Geelong as a memorial to local servicepeople who perished during the conflict of World War One. The Memorial and broader reserve were paid for and constructed largely with volunteer work and through charitable contributions from the local community. This act of charity and the site's yearly use for memorialisation on Remembrance Day and ANZAC Day illustrate the broader social significance and importance of the site to the local community. (Criterion G)

Primary sources

East Geelong War Memorial, author: Benjamin Petkov, May 2025, peer reviewer: Mim Butcher, The Heritage Conservancy, May 2025.

Greater Geelong Outer Areas Heritage Study. Stage 2, Volume 16, Authentic Heritage Services Pty Ltd, 1998-2000.

This document is an incorporated document in the Greater Geelong Planning Scheme pursuant to section 6(2)(j) of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*