

BELLARINE HERITAGE STUDY RECORD SHEET

Site No.	Street/Site Name	Town / Suburb	Postcode	Record No.
Address	Bluff Rd	St. Leonards	3223	245
Site Name	Miller boys memorial			Page No. 1 of 4

Key Dates: Original 1942 Major Changes

Existing Use/Type
memorial

Precinct Name

Survey Date
8/11/1995

Neg. No.
5/9

Video Track No.

Recorded By
RL/KF



Heritage Status:

CATEGORY REGISTRATION NUMBER

National Estate:

Nominated

Registered

Historic Buildings Register

Nominated

Registered

National Trust Register:

Planning Scheme:

Historical Archaeological Register :

Other:

BHS Degree of Significance

A B C D

Condition of the fabric:

Excellent Good

Fair Poor

Ruinous Unexposed

Integrity of the site:

Excellent Good

Fair Poor

Partially excavated

Fully excavated

Present Threats:

Human; mining

Human; visitor erosion

Human; vandalism

Human; development

Human; conservation/maintenance

Human; stock

Natural Forces; erosion

Natural Forces; vegetation

Not threatened

Significant Architectural Features:

Original Materials

Original Chimneys

Wall Decoration

Verandah Structure

Verandah Decoration

Original Parapet

other prominent elevations

Original Roof

Original Openings

Original Decoration

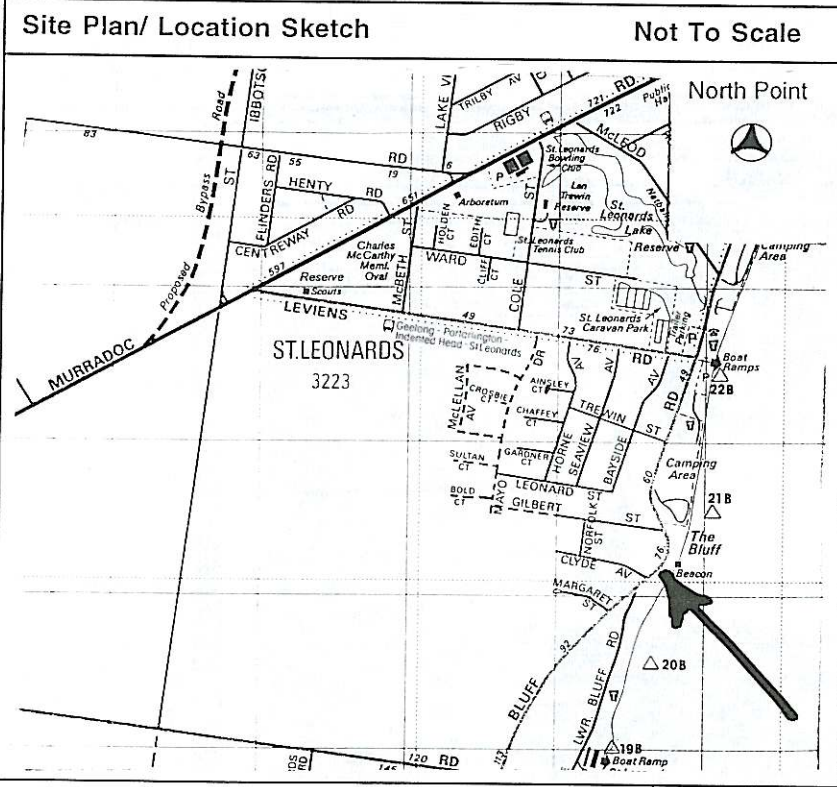
Original Finish

Early Garden

Early Fence

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Australian Map Grid Co-ordinates

E 29960 N 5771100

Map Melways map 241

Scale 1: 20,000

Access

open

Informants

Ownership:

Crown Private

Resident owner Occupier only

Local Govt Area City of Greater Geelong

Cadastral Location:

County Grant

Parish Paywit

Allotment

Block

Physical Description of Site:

The rock cairn memorial is approximately one metre square at the base, and a metre and a half high. The volcanic rocks were collected from the nearby beach and are cemented together with a marble tablet on the east side facing out to sea. The monument commemorates the loss at sea of two young St. Leonards boys, during World War II. The inscription reads:

Erected to the memory of James A. M. Miller born Geelong 4 Aug 1931 aged 11 years also John G. F. Miller born Geelong 5th Nov 1933 aged 8 years 10 months (drowned at St. Leonards) on 1st Sept 1942. Sons of Gladys & Marshall Miller brothers of Kath & Pat

Relevant Special Interest Groups:

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Types of Sites:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> monument	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> maritime	<input type="checkbox"/> tree(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> machinery
<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> relic/ruin	<input type="checkbox"/> garden	<input type="checkbox"/> building
<input type="checkbox"/> agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> residential	<input type="checkbox"/> fence	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> miscellaneous
<input type="checkbox"/> recreational	<input type="checkbox"/> infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/> gate	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	

Historical Themes:

Early Settlement	<input type="text"/>	Communities	<input type="text" value="cmMonuments"/>
Maritime	<input type="text"/>	Landscapes	<input type="text"/>
Tourism	<input type="text"/>	The Wider World	<input type="text"/>
Workforce	<input type="text"/>	Cultural Activity	<input type="text"/>
Townships	<input type="text"/>	Miscellaneous	<input type="text"/>

History of Site/Object/Place:

The two young brothers, from a local family, are believed to have used a canoe from a nearby army camp and taken it out on the bay on September 1, 1942.(1) (See additional information) The boys were never found even after an extensive search and this cairn was erected by the St. Leonards community in their memory. The boys mother is said to have collected the rocks for the cairn from the nearby beach where the boys spent much of their leisure time.(2)

References:

1. *Geelong Advertiser* 2.9.1942 p.1.
2. Mrs Pat Rigby (nee Miller)

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Statement of Cultural Significance:

The Miller Boys' memorial is a rock cairn located on Bluff Road St Leonards commemorating the drowning of two brothers in 1942.

It is of social significance to the local St Leonard's community.

The cairn is said to have been erected from volcanic rocks collected on the beach by the boys' mother. The Millers were a local family and the community arranged for the erection of the cairn after a search failed to find the boys' bodies.

This cairn has special significance for the permanent local community in general and the families of these boys in particular, as a memorial to the tragic event of September 1, 1942. This memorial has the added importance of being the only tangible remaining evidence as there are no graves.

It is of **LOCAL** cultural significance.

Additional Information

Geelong Advertiser 2 September, 1942 p.1.

TWO YOUNG BOYS MISSING

Canoe Disappears from Beach

Fruitless Search Off St. Leonards

The Queenscliff lifeboat and fishing craft cruised off St. Leonards yesterday afternoon in a fruitless search for two brothers, Allan Miller, aged 10 years, and John Miller, aged eight years, both of St. Leonards.

The two boys, sons of Mr and Mrs Marshall Miller, of St. Leonards, left home in the morning, explaining that they were going bird-nesting. When they did not return for dinner their parents became anxious, and a search was made for them.

Eventually footprints believed to be those of the two boys, were followed down to the beach to a place at which an old canoe had been left. The canoe had disappeared.

The father of the boys, who had been fishing from the pier in the morning, when questioning fishermen who had come ashore about 11 a.m. regarding an object which they had seen floating in the bay, and which they had assumed to be driftwood, recalled that he also had noticed a similar object, which he had taken for debris.

The Queenscliff lifeboat, which was called out about 5.15 o'clock, assisted fishermen in a search, but darkness set in without any trace of the canoe or the boys having been found.

GEELONG ADVERTISER 2.9.1942
 P.1.