

Heritage Citation

A stone and concrete memorial, bordered by brick and concrete, with vegetation in the background.

Kitchener Memorial

Key details

Addresses	Road Reserve Tingal Road, Wynnum, Queensland 4178
Type of place	Monument / memorial
Period	Interwar 1919-1939
Style	Free Classical
Geolocation	-27.443207 153.168874
Key dates	Local Heritage Place Since — 1 January 2004 Date of Citation — March 2011
Construction	Memorial: Stone
People/associations	Horatio Herbert Kitchener (Lord Kitchener) (Association)
Criterion for listing	(G) Social

This granite tablet commemorates the review of Australian troops in Queensland by Lord Kitchener during his tour of Australia in 1910. It was unveiled by the Governor, Sir John Goodwin, on 7 December 1929. Kitchener was held in high esteem by the Australian public and the construction of a memorial to his visit illustrates early 20th Century Australians' deeply held affection for the British Empire and their pride in Australia's place within it. Following the development of the site in 1963, the memorial's cairn was demolished, but the memorial stone was recovered in 1992 and re-erected in a new position 60 metres northwest of the original.

History

The Kitchener Memorial was erected in 1929 to commemorate the visit of Lord Kitchener to Wynnum in 1910. First Earl Kitchener of Khartoum was a renowned British Field Marshal and statesman who held numerous senior positions. Commissioned into the British Army in 1871 including Commander-in-Chief of the Egyptian Army,

Governor of Sudan, and Commander-in-Chief in South Africa. He secured the latter role at the end of the South African War in 1902, though was much criticised for his use of concentration camps for civilians and his systematic denudation of the farmlands.

In late 1909, Kitchener was invited by the Commonwealth government to conduct a visit to 'inspect the existing military forces and system in Australia.' He presented a report on Australia's defences to the Commonwealth Government in 1910. Among his key recommendations was the introduction of universal military training for all men, which was implemented through the Defence Act in 1911. During his visit, Kitchener visited all the states of the Commonwealth.

While in Queensland in January 1910, Kitchener inspected the forces based around Fort Lytton. On 3 January, he inspected a march past of troops 'on the road between Wynnum and Manly.' Troops involved in the inspection included both infantry and light horse. A report in *The Telegraph* recorded that '[w]hatever K. of K. can do he certainly cannot ride, as we understand the term in Queensland.'

At the outbreak of the First World War, Kitchener was recalled to England as Secretary of State for War. He became the symbol of the British war effort when he appeared on a recruiting poster, featuring his distinctive walrus moustache and steely gaze, and pointing towards the viewer and urging them to join the army. In 1916, he drowned when his ship, HMS Hampshire, struck a German mine and sank off the Orkney Islands.

Soon after Kitchener's death, plans emerged to commemorate his inspection of forces in Queensland. In 1917, a wooden memorial pillar was erected here, where Kitchener had reviewed the troops in 1910. In the mid-1920s, the Wynnum and Manly sub-branch of the Returned Sailors and Soldiers Imperial League of Australia drew up plans to erect a permanent memorial. Originally envisaged as a set of gates, the memorial eventually became a cairn with a commemorative tablet. At the same time, the Wynnum and Manly sub-branch also intended to erect a War Memorial Hall on land donated to them by the Railway Commissioner.

The granite memorial cairn was unveiled on 7 December 1929 on the site of the War Memorial Hall by the Governor of Queensland, Sir John Goodwin. Lady Goodwin opened the War Memorial Hall the same day. Goodwin noted that it was an 'honour' to unveil a memorial to 'a man he had known for many years [and] one of the finest men and one of the greatest soldiers he had ever seen.'

Over the years, the memorial cairn became a focal point for remembrance in Wynnum. However, in 1963, it was demolished during the extension of the 1950s RSL building. The cairn bricks were later used in a war memorial constructed in Dulwich on Stradbroke Island.

In 1992, the lost marble face of the memorial was rediscovered and re-sited approximately 60 metres from its original location. While no longer in its original position, its current placement mirrors the 'review point' of the original 1910 event and the memorial's original location. It now features the Brisbane City Council logo and provides the site's provenance, detailing the memorial's 1929 unveiling, its 1963 demolition, and its subsequent recovery and relocation.

Description

The Kitchener Memorial is a monument in a road reserve along Tingal Road, north of the intersection with Berrima Street. Its material, form, openings and scale reflect its design as a monument.

The monument's key features are its form and setting. It comprises a substantial grey granite tablet with an irregular top edge. The front face of the tablet has been polished and is inscribed with white lettering. The tablet is

mounted on a truncated pyramidal concrete plinth with a coarse, exposed-aggregate finish. This plinth provides a stable, elevated transition between the historic stone and the ground. A rectangular bronze interpretive plaque is affixed to the front face of the plinth. Added in 1992, the plaque details the monument's history.

The monument is set within a specially designated area that combines traditional and contemporary materials to define the space. The tablet and plinth are centred within a low concrete octagonal kerb, forming a small courtyard around the monument. An opening in the front of the kerb provides access. The perimeter of the concrete kerb is bordered by two rows of single red clay bricks with exposed aggregate concrete paths in between, providing a colour contrast to the grey stone and concrete. A formal concrete-and-brick path leads directly to the memorial, composed of exposed aggregate concrete edged with matching red-brick headers, blending the monument into the surrounding parkland. The monument is set in an open parkland area, framed by mature trees and native grasses, with timber posts lining the perimeter.

Significant features

Features of cultural heritage significance include:

- Form: Monument featuring a substantial grey tablet set on a truncated pyramidal concrete plinth, in a dedicated setting with a low octagonal kerb forming a courtyard. Materials include granite, exposed aggregate concrete, concrete and red clay bricks.
- Ancillary features/elements: Path leading to the monument, consisting of exposed aggregate concrete edged with red bricks.
- Landscape and vegetation: Open parkland framed by mature trees and native grasses, edged with timber posts.
- Setting: Views to and from the monument from Tingal Road.

Statement of significance

Relevant assessment criteria

This is a place of local heritage significance and meets one or more of the local heritage criteria under the Heritage planning scheme policy of the *Brisbane City Plan 2014*. It is significant because:

Social

CRITERION G

The place has a strong or special association with the life or work of a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons

as it is a memorial structure recording the participation of Brisbane in a historical event and memorializing a popular figure in British imperial society, thereby reflecting attitudes of imperial sentiment broadly held by Australians of the period.

Copyright Brisbane City Council

Note: This citation has been prepared on the basis of evidence available at the time including an external examination of the building. The statement of significance is a summary of the most culturally important aspects of the property based on the available evidence, and may be re-assessed if further information becomes available. The purpose of this citation is to provide an informed evaluation for heritage registration and information. This does not negate the necessity for a thorough conservation study by a qualified practitioner, before any action is taken which may affect its heritage significance.

Citation prepared by — Brisbane City Council (page revised June 2026)



Dedicated to a better Brisbane