

KINGLAKE WEST BUSHFIRE MEMORIAL



Bushfire memorials provide an opportunity to pay tribute to loved ones lost in the 2009 bushfires, as well as all those who lost homes, animals and property. This memorial also provides a space to reflect upon all the ways the community and landscape was affected by the events which began on 7 February 2009 and forever changed our lives.

Forty percent of Murrindindi Shire was burned during the 2009 bushfires. More than 100 people lost their lives and 1,397 homes, 75 businesses, 16 community or government buildings and 234 sheds were destroyed.

The development of the Kinglake West Bushfire Memorial was a collaborative effort between the community and Murrindindi Shire Council. This memorial honours the memory of the 16 people who lost their lives in Kinglake West during the fires.

Location: western side of the Whittlesea-Yea Road and Whittlesea-Kinglake Road intersection, Kinglake West VIC 3757



The memorial features:

- A gently sweeping path, featuring some sandblast relief motifs of gum leaves, leading to the reflective space.
- A gum leaves sculpture, chosen to signify renewal, at the centre of the reflective space.
- A circular seating area surrounds the central gum leaves sculpture.
- A raised embankment with native shrubs and groundcovers.
- Curved timber seating to allow people a place to sit, ponder, reflect and remember loved ones.
- 16 trees planted around the memorial to represent the 16 lives lost in Kinglake West during the 2009 Bushfires.

Symbolism

While the losses suffered will never be forgotten, this memorial symbolises that community renewal is possible. Likewise, nature can regenerate, as seen by the re-growth of the stunning flora and fauna. The central gum leaves sculpture in this memorial was chosen to symbolise this renewal and regeneration.