

# Police memorial 'out of place'

Liz Minchin

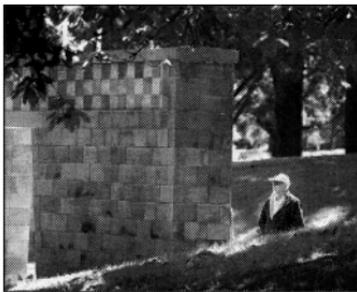
The Victoria Police memorial and several others in the central business district may not have been built under a new Melbourne City Council policy, according to the private consultant who drafted it.

Georgina Whitehead, hired by the council to draft the policy for approving memorials in public parkland, told *The Age* that many were "ghastly" and unsuitably placed.

"I think under these guidelines a number of memorials wouldn't have been allowed," she said. "I don't think, for instance, that the police memorial is in a suitable spot in Kings Domain, because those sort of memorials should be on police grounds," Ms Whitehead said.

"Similarly, some of the war memorials, like the Maltese or Hellenic ones, don't belong in public parkland, but once you say yes to one group, you have to say yes to all the others."

The police memorial, a 16-metre curved Bluestone wall



**The police and Hellenic memorials in Kings Domain.**

PICTURES: PAUL HARRIS

bearing the names of each officer killed on duty, was unveiled last year by Chief Commissioner Christine Nixon.

Victorian Police Association secretary Paul Mullett said it was appropriate to have the memorial in a public place.

"The memorial is a terrific monument for Victorians and it's an expression by the community of their support for police, particularly those who have died in the course of their duties protecting the community," he said.

On Monday, the council's environment committee approved strict criteria for new memorials in parks, which will

be overseen by an outside panel of experts from groups such as the National Trust.

Under the new policy, a proposed memorial must have a direct association with its parkland site.

Memorials of a person or event that has already been commemorated elsewhere in Melbourne will not be considered unless the circumstances are deemed exceptional.

The new policy has threatened the proposed \$1 million Parade of Champions, which the Melbourne Cricket Club is planning for Yarra Park outside the MCG.