

HERMES – Heritage Management Electronic System

Heritage Victoria is a diverse organisation with a number of responsibilities – one of these is information management. Heritage Victoria collects a vast amount of information about places on the *Victorian Heritage Register* and the Heritage Inventory. In order to manage this information efficiently, appropriate systems and processes must be put in place. This has led to the development of the HERMES database system.

HERMES, the HERitage Management Electronic System, is expected to be built during the next 12 months to address Heritage Victoria's need for more effective information management. It is hoped that the database

will eventually be available to authorised external users, including local government authorities, heritage advisers and other primary users of heritage data.

The development of an integrated database system for Heritage Victoria has been a lengthy process. The search for a database system or software package solution to our heritage information needs began four years ago. A nation-wide, and later world-wide, search resulted but no suitable system or package was found. After much deliberation, Heritage Victoria, in consultation with the Department of Infrastructure's Corporate IT area,

determined that the only solution was to build a database to meet Heritage Victoria's specific needs.

Heritage Victoria specified its business requirements and developed a functional specification for HERMES in 1999–2000. The first release of the HERMES system (essential functions only) is scheduled to begin in late 2000, and to be implemented by the middle of 2001. Any questions about the development of HERMES should be directed to the Project Manager, Amanda Bacon, 9655 9724 or amanda.bacon@doi.vic.gov.au.

Victorian Heritage Register online

New and regular users of the Heritage Council web site have better access to the list of the State's important heritage resources, with the implementation in July this year of version two of the *Victorian Heritage Register* online.

The *Victorian Heritage Register* online has proved to be one of the most valuable tools on the web site since its launch in August last year. It is regularly used by professionals such as real estate agents, local government, building surveyors and academics, as well as heritage property owners and people who have a general interest in heritage.

The register online contains the full list of heritage places and objects which are of special significance to the State of Victoria and are protected under the *Heritage Act 1995*. The full list of protected shipwrecks and the Heritage inventory of archaeological sites is also available. The *Victorian Heritage Register* online can be viewed at www.heritage.vic.gov.au.

visit



Left to right: Cr Elizabeth Larking, Kingston Council, Catherine Heggen, Heritage Council Chair, Cr David Normington, Kingston Council.



Assisted projects

All places registered by the Heritage Council are eligible for financial assistance from the Heritage Fund to help finance restoration works. The amount and type of assistance varies and includes low-interest loans, interest-free loans, subsidised interest on loans, direct grants, land tax remission and deferral of council rates. Application forms are available by calling Heritage Victoria on 9655 6519

Talerddig, Castlemaine

Grant of \$3,500 for removal of pine trees in historic garden.

Neuchatel, Ceres

Grant of \$835 for roof and guttering repairs.

Additional grant of \$175 to complete roof works.

Metahar House (Jewish Chapel) Melbourne General Cemetery

Additional grant of \$7,285 to complete restoration of Metahar House.

Iron Cottages, Brunswick Road, Brunswick

Additional grant of \$15,000 to replace the roofs on three of the cottages with broad gauge corrugated iron.

Former South Yarra cabman's shelter

Grant of \$10,000 for restoration and relocation to original site.

Christ Church, Dingley

Grant of \$9,600 for refurbishment of roof and internal repairs and painting.

Former Albert Hotel, Daylesford

Loan of \$40,000 for rectification of dampness and dry rot in lower storey.

Iron Cottage, Brunswick

Grant of \$2,000 for installation of damp-proof course and repair to flooring.

St Margaret's Anglican Church, Eltham

Grant of \$12,100 for restoration of stained-glass windows.

Former Wesleyan Church and Sunday School, Ballarat

Grant of \$17,000 for restoration of two external staircases.

Former Hands Butchery, Bendigo

Loan of \$65,000 to reconstruct two-storey verandah.



Removing the shelter from South Yarra

Uncovering our heritage: cabman's shelter

A fascinating piece of Melbourne's history has been rescued from a South Yarra backyard – an original cabman's shelter.

Prominent in Melbourne suburbs around the turn of the twentieth century, these shelters were used by drivers while waiting for the next passenger for their horse-drawn cabs.

Originally constructed on the Punt Road frontage of Christ Church, South Yarra in 1901, the shelter was relocated to a nearby property in 1926, having outlived its original purpose.

It was discovered some 10 years ago during a chance visit by local historian Oscar Slater, and was in poor condition with a serious lean to the side.

An opportunity arose to save the shelter when the property was recently sold. Heritage Victoria, in association with the Melbourne Heritage Restoration Fund, arranged for the shelter's removal, and conservation works are now being undertaken by builder Alan Lugton. The church has agreed to have the quaint building returned to its grounds for future preservation, just in time for its centenary. The cabman's shelter will also be added to the *Victorian Heritage Register*.

Shelter undergoing conservation

