

Educating the community

Local councils are making a major contribution to community education about the thousands of locally significant places in the State. Many councils are using heritage studies to provide a source of material that identifies to the community what has heritage significance in their municipality.

Heritage Advisory Committees have been established by local councils across the State. These committees have been set up to provide advice on heritage matters and have produced many successful education strategies, such as:

Heritage festivals – public information sessions during the Victorian Heritage Festival Week.

Heritage awards – the Indigo Shire Heritage Advisory Committee annually seeks nominations from the community to acknowledge projects of excellence such as new infill buildings in conservation areas.

Plaque program – the Campaspe Shire Heritage Advisory Committee and the local Historical Society have initiated a joint plaque program to identify significant properties.

General information bulletins – some councils provide information through the local newspaper on heritage matters. Manningham Council produces an annual newsletter entitled, *Heritage Update*, which contains news, views and information for heritage property owners.

Self-guided heritage walks – brochures have been developed to guide visitors through the streets of a municipality, enabling them to view at first hand the heritage places within it.

Interpretation strategies – when the decision was made to close and demolish the Dandenong Livestock Market, the City of Greater Dandenong ‘captured’ the market’s heritage by developing a booklet on the history of the market and by mounting photographic exhibitions.

La Trobe University recently purchased the former Mayday Hills Lunatic Asylum in Beechworth. The buildings have been adapted to meet the needs of the

university, and the preservation allows the asylum’s history to live on.

The City of Whittlesea purchased a property known as Ziebell’s Farmhouse in 1993 and has established a strategy to educate the local community about it. Today the area is known as the Thomastown Pioneer Precinct. A guidebook produced by Heritage Victoria, in partnership with the council and the Friends of Westgarthtown, gives people

the opportunity to view the buildings in the precinct, along with all remaining German houses in the old Westgarthtown area, at their leisure.

A volunteer group works towards the conservation and promotion of the history of the settlement. This includes an education program for German language students throughout Victoria who visit the precinct to learn about the early settlers.

Maroondah
CITY OF MAROONDAH

Tourism Advisory Board
Invites You To Enjoy a Pleasant
HERITAGE WALK AROUND MAIN STREET CROYDON
(3 Kilometres Of Level Walking)

Spotlight on Mornington Peninsula
with **Peter Brown, Heritage Planner**

Mornington Peninsula’s heritage advisory service has recently been revived with the appointment of heritage adviser, Helen Lardner.

Helen has been appointed to provide free independent heritage advice to owners of heritage properties on the Mornington Peninsula and to provide independent heritage advice to council in relation to the conservation and enhancement of heritage places. The service is jointly funded by the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council and Heritage Victoria.

In other heritage news from Mornington, a further 172 heritage places identified in the heritage studies carried out by the former Shires of Flinders and Mornington are now protected. This follows approval of additional heritage controls in the Mornington Peninsula Planning Scheme, boosting the number of individual properties protected to 242, adding to those already protected as part of the Sorrento Historic Precinct.

The heritage study for the former Shire of Hastings area will be completed later this year. By early next year, all significant heritage buildings in the Mornington Peninsula Shire will be recognised and protected in the planning scheme.

The former Mornington Post Office, owned by the Shire and occupied by the Mornington Historical Society, received \$30,000 from the Public Heritage Program in 1999–2000. To date, this money has been used to counteract the rising damp. A colour scheme is now being considered by the public and has given rise to some interesting debate.

Heritage Planner, Peter Brown

Dandenong Road, after Tate’s garage was built in 1856

The other end of Main Street, near railway crossing in 1914 (see stop 12 inside)

A vision for the 21st century

The Victorian Heritage Strategy

The vision to take heritage into the twenty-first century finally came to fruition this year, with the launch of the *Victorian Heritage Strategy* in May. The Strategy is a five-year program for the identification, conservation, management and use of Victoria's valuable heritage assets.

The *Victorian Heritage Strategy* is the first cultural heritage strategy for Victoria, and breaks new ground nationally.

Minister for Planning, John Thwaites, launched the Strategy to a packed media room at Parliament House on 26 May, and this session was followed by a presentation to the numerous organisations involved in developing and implementing the Strategy. A key component of the project was the cooperation with Strategy partners, the Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Parks Victoria, the National Trust, Arts Victoria, Tourism Victoria and the Department of Infrastructure.

Although the Strategy was an initiative of the Heritage Council Victoria, in conjunction with its partners, many other government departments, local government authorities, organisations and individuals with an interest in heritage provided input and assistance. The Royal Historical Society of Victoria, Museum Victoria, the Municipal Association of Victoria and industry and professional bodies were just a few of those groups involved.



The Strategy was developed over three stages. Consultants Dench McLean Associates and Ian Wight Planning and Heritage Strategies assisted with Stages 1 and 2. The development process also involved a series of workshops as well as public consultation, with the Strategy being written and produced by the key partners during Stage 3. Implementation and a review of Strategy programs will occur over the fourth and final stage.

In summary, the key goals of the Strategy are knowing by increasing knowledge of Victoria's heritage places and objects, communicating by enhancing community understanding and appreciation of heritage, protecting by providing mechanisms for the strategic and practical protection of heritage places and objects and managing by supporting proactive management and sustainable use of heritage assets.

The Strategy lists a range of programs to achieve its goals. These include:

- increased recognition for significant collections of heritage objects
- an improved emphasis on compliance and enforcement
- a commitment to continue with the Public Heritage Program and the Heritage Adviser program
- support for consistent national heritage standards
- improved access to heritage information including the various lists and registers.

Chair of the Heritage Council, Catherine Heggen, said the *Victorian Heritage Strategy* is a timely document, with its release at the beginning of the twenty-first century.

'We have brought together the leading forces in heritage conservation in the community in developing the Strategy, and that consensus is vital if we are to ensure heritage is relevant in the twenty-first century.'

'The *Victorian Heritage Strategy* provides the direction and the framework for us to confidently approach the task of heritage protection in this century,' Ms Heggen said.



The launch of the Victorian Heritage Strategy by the Minister for Planning, John Thwaites

