

An extract from the Ministerial Statement by the Minister for Planning, John Thwaites, at the launch of the Victorian Heritage Strategy.

I have just released the *Victorian Heritage Strategy*, a document designed to guide government heritage protection activity over the next five years.

Heritage explains who we are as a society, giving us insight into our cultural, social and economic situation. It is a broad concept that includes houses, buildings, precincts, archaeology, shipwrecks, machinery, equipment and gardens.

In many people's minds, however, heritage is grand buildings in Melbourne or towns like Ballarat and Bendigo. Furthermore, heritage is strongly associated with the National Trust. This has certainly been a traditional view associated with the saving of grand buildings that underpinned the establishment of the National Trust and ultimately led to governments around the country passing heritage legislation.

However, over the past 20 years, a perceptible shift in the understanding of heritage has occurred. As a councillor in the former City of South Melbourne, I saw that municipality embrace not just the buildings but the stories which had made South Melbourne what it is.

In recent years, Australians have started to acknowledge the 'heritage' of their suburbs and towns. We now use the phrases such as 'urban character' and 'cultural landscape' to describe not only the physical elements around us, but also the feeling that we attach to a place.



Heritage is about what we inherit: it can be the buildings and structures we live and work in, it can be about the people of the area, or even the photographs, clothing or old letters that most of us would have in our own homes.

Heritage is not just about icons, but everyday life. The *Victorian Heritage Strategy* is the embodiment of this concept. Victoria cements its place as a heritage leader with the *Victorian Heritage Strategy*, which is the first of its type in Australia.



Initiated by the Heritage Council Victoria, the Strategy is concerned with Victoria's non-indigenous cultural heritage, and involves a number of important Strategy partners. The partnership with the Department of Natural Resources, Parks Victoria, National Trust, Arts Victoria, Tourism Victoria and the Department of Infrastructure is one of the great achievements of the Strategy.

What does the Strategy say about heritage in Victoria? It recognises the critical role played by the community above and beyond the role of the Government, or even the Heritage Council Victoria and the National Trust. Further to that, it recognises the importance of heritage owners and managers, and the need to support their activities in protecting heritage.

It acknowledges that Victoria's heritage is diverse and multicultural.

The community's support of its heritage is growing fast, and it is important that we, as a community, stand up and fight to protect what is ours under the pressure of rapid development.



We need to embrace the idea of conservation by use. In many cases, it is better to maintain our heritage, albeit with a different use, than to lose it all together.

Developing strategic links is vital to the survival of our heritage. For example, Victoria's economy is increasingly dependent on tourism and heritage has an important role to play in the industry.

The Bracks Labor Government recognises the vitally important role heritage plays in our society. We recognise that metropolitan Melbourne has a rich cultural heritage, but we also recognise the valuable contribution that rural Victoria has made to our State's heritage.

I congratulate the Heritage Council and Heritage Victoria on having the courage and focus to see this Strategy through, and I commend the Strategy partners for their valuable role in its development.

The Hon. John Thwaites MP
Minister for Planning



Victorian Heritage Register – additions and

Places added to the Register

27 January 2000

St Stephens Church School
Percy Street, Portland

29 January 2000

Former St Pauls Church of England
Templeton Street, Clunes

10 February 2000

Former Carlton Creche
111 Neill Street, Carlton

24 February 2000

Experimental Concrete House
324-326 Howe Parade, Port Melbourne

9 March 2000

Swimming Pool
Spring Street, The Poolway
Hepburn Springs (crown land)

The Delbridge House
55 Carlesberg Road, Eaglemont

Tram shelter
corner St Kilda Road and Dorcas
Street, South Melbourne

Tram shelter
corner of St Kilda Road and Lorne
Street, Melbourne

Tram shelter
corner of St Kilda Road and High
Street, Melbourne

Tram shelter
corner Macarthur Street and
St Andrews Place, East Melbourne

11 May 2000

Stanhill
34 Queens Road, Melbourne

20 July 2000

Blunts Boatyard and Slipway
150 Nelson Place, Williamstown

Eureka Historic Precinct
site bounded by Eureka, Belford Stawell
Charlesworth and George Streets
Ballarat

Kirwans Bridge over Goulburn River
Lobbs Road, Bailieston

Red Robin Mine
Bogong Unit, Alpine National Park
(Mining Lease No. 960 and Mining Area
Licence No. 6)

Road Bridge
Riddell Road, Sunbury

Amendments

27 January 2000

Bendigo Pottery
Midland Highway, Epsom

10 February 2000

ANZ Bank
376-392 Collins Street, Melbourne

ANZ Bank
394-398 Collins Street and
73-83 Queen Street, Melbourne

Block Arcade
280-286 Collins Street and
96-102 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne

Building
313-315 Drummond Street, Carlton

Former Commercial Bank of Australia
banking chamber and entrance
327-343 Collins Street, Melbourne

Former National Mutual Life
Association Building
389-399 Collins Street and
59-69 Queen Street, Melbourne

HM Prison Pentridge
Sydney Road, Coburg

Williamstown Railway Station Complex
Hanmer Street, Williamstown

9 March 2000

Burlington Terrace
15-17 Lansdowne Street and
384-400 Albert Street, East Melbourne

Former Metropolitan Meat Market
1-3 Blackwood Street and 42 Courtney
Street, North Melbourne

30 March 2000

St Stephens Church and School
Cnr Julia and Percy Streets, Portland

20 April 2000

Braemar
178 George Street, East Melbourne

Former Newmarket Saleyards
and Abbatoirs
Corner Racecourse and Smithfield
Roads, Kensington

11 May 2000

Former Victoria Police Depot
234 St Kilda Road, Southbank

Macs Hotel
34-40 Franklin Street, Melbourne

Nepean Terrace
128-132 Gipps Street, East Melbourne

Strathulloch Homestead
Greigs Road, Melton South

20 July 2000

Avoca Railway Station
York Avenue, Avoca

Bannockburn Railway Station
Clyde Road, Bannockburn

Beechworth Justice Precinct
Ford Street, William Street and
High Street, Beechworth

Carlsruhe Railway Station
Carlsruhe Station Road, Carlsruhe

Creswick Railway Station Complex
Reed Street, Creswick

Dunolly Railway Station
McDermott Road, Dunolly

Elmore Railway Station and
Water Tower
61 Railway Place, Elmore

Geelong Railway Station
1 Railway Terrace, Geelong

Gordon Railway Station
Gowrie Street, Gordon

Healesville Railway Station Complex
38 Healesville-Kinglake Road
Healesville

Kaniva Railway Station
Moore Street, Kaniva

Korumburra Railway Station Complex
Station Street, Korumburra

Kyneton Railway Station Complex
Station Street, Kyneton

Little Parndon
159 Gipps Street, East Melbourne

Little River Railway Station
School and Goods Yard Road
Little River

Malmsbury Railway Station
Malmsbury-Daylesford Road Malmsbury

Manangatang Railway Station Complex
70 Wattle Street, Manangatang

Maryborough Railway Station
38 Victoria Street, Maryborough

Minyip Railway Station
Station Street, Minyip

Murrayville Railway Station
McKenzie Street, Murrayville

Patchewollock Railway Station Complex
Main Street, Patchewollock

Pirron Yallock Railway Station Complex
Penshurst-Warrnambool Road, Pirron
Yallock



Pyramid Hill Railway Station
Wandong-Bendigo line, Pyramid Hill

Queenscliff Railway Station
20 Symonds Street (and Wharf Street)
Queenscliff

Rail Bridge
Yarra Junction–Noojee Road, south
of Noojee–Powelltown Road, Noojee

Rail bridge over Creswick Creek
Creswick–Clunes line, Creswick

Rail bridge over Hanfords Creek
Wandong-Bendigo line, Pyalong

Rail bridge over Kismet Creek
near Rupertswood, Sunbury

Rail bridge over Jacksons Creek
north of Rupertswood, Sunbury

Rail bridge over Curdies River
Curdies Siding, Timboon

Rail bridge over Mollisons Creek
Wandong-Bendigo line, Pyalong

Rail bridge over Stony Creek
Orbost-Bairnsdale line, Nowa Nowa

Rail bridge and embankment
Geelong-Ballarat line, Elaine

Rosedale Railway Station Complex
31 Willung Road, Rosedale

Rupanyup Railway Station
Cromie Street, Rupanyup

Serviceton Railway Station
Elizabeth Street, Serviceton

Seymour Railway Station
Station Street, Seymour

St Arnaud Railway Station
Queens Avenue, St Arnaud

Terang Railway Station
Swanston Street, Terang

Town House
115 Grey Street, East Melbourne

Tramway bridge over Thomson River
Poverty Point, Walhalla

Wangaratta Railway Station Complex
37 Norton Street, Wangaratta

Warragul Railway Station
Princes Highway, Warragul

Water tower
Sunbury Railway Station, Sunbury

Wonthaggi Railway Station
8-12 Murray Street, Wonthaggi

Wycheproof Railway Station
Railway Avenue, Wycheproof

with Alison Carey

Waverley Park

Australian Rules football has permeated all regions and all sections of society in Victoria, and must be viewed as a substantial part of our culture. Waverley Park was the first major venue to be designed specifically for Australian Rules football and was planned expressly to be a showcase for the sport. In a modest-sized city which already accommodated a popular general sports stadium (the Melbourne Cricket Ground) that held more than 100,000 spectators, it was a remarkable ambition of the Victorian Football League (VFL) to start what they intended from the outset to be the second-largest stadium in the world (to seat some 157,000) for the benefit of a locally-developed football code which was the dominant winter sport in only four of the Australian States.

Antipathy to the VFL scheme and to Waverley Park has been a constant element in its history, balanced by the enthusiasm of its numerous supporters. The ground, perceived as a symbol of change, accelerated development from the largely inner-suburban origins of the league football competition to a more commercialised and, later, national competition. It offered the first opportunity for clubs to detach themselves from traditional home grounds for financial advantage.

It reflects an advanced approach to stadium design in the early 1960s and the vision of Australian architect Reginald Padey in collaboration with the engineers John Connell and Associates. The high stand (the Sir Kenneth Luke Stand), designed in 1963 but not built until 1973–76, is an early example of a reinforced concrete structure on this scale, and makes a design and architectural feature of this material. It employed the unconventional device of repeated large concrete scissor, or X, frames supporting large-span pre-stressed and post-tensioned concrete cantilevers for seating. The full site is included in the *Victorian Heritage Register* because the historical importance of the stadium is best appreciated in the context of its setting and could be diminished by development which is out of sympathy.

Experimental Concrete House, Port Melbourne

The experimental concrete houses are of historical significance as the first pair of houses to be built by the newly



established Housing Commission of Victoria. The Housing Commission implemented a massive program of providing low-cost public housing in Victoria after the Second World War. The houses provide a tangible link with the slum abolition movement of the early twentieth century which was the catalyst for the formation of the Commission.

The experimental concrete houses are of social significance as the forerunner of the Housing Commission's post-war Concrete House Project which, culminating in the high-rise flats of the 1960s and 1970s, had wide reaching implications for Victorian society. The Commission's concern with slum clearance and high-rise development became increasingly at odds with community concerns about social dislocation, inner city redevelopment and the social problems of high-density, high-rise living. Pressure from community and interest groups ultimately led to a change of public housing policy.

The experimental concrete houses are of scientific (technical) significance as important early examples of the Fowler precast concrete system. The technique had been used since the 1920s by T.W. Fowler before it was used as a prototype at Fishermen's Bend and then adopted by the Housing Commission who refined and developed it over the next 30 years. The houses are of architectural significance as one of the few modern examples of architectural design subject to mass production line principles.

German Heritage Study

The *Victorian Heritage Strategy* gives even greater recognition to our multicultural heritage. The German Heritage Study was initiated by the Heritage Council to look at the impact of German immigration on the development of Victoria.

What is a German Heritage Place?

Germans represent one of the major groups of nationals in the early waves of immigration to Victoria.

A project to investigate our German heritage was undertaken by Henrike Franz in 1998 and 1999. The aim was to research the impact of German nationals on Victoria's built heritage. Approximately 300 places were identified and one of the best known examples of a German settlement is Westgarthtown in Thomastown, established in the 1850s.

The first wave of group migration to Port Phillip Bay started in the late 1840s. German Lutheran families, mainly from the north east of Germany, built distinct rural settlements, clustered in and around Melbourne. From the 1850s onwards, Lutheran German family groups from South Australia moved into the Western District and the Wimmera.

The gold rush attracted mainly single German males from different regional, social and cultural backgrounds. They, like other individual German immigrants, soon integrated into the Victorian mainstream society, dominated by British values and politics.

German nationals played an important role in the economic, cultural and scientific development of Victoria. Ferdinand von Mueller was the first director of the Botanical Gardens in Melbourne and architect W.C. Vahland became one of Bendigo's major architects in the nineteenth century.

The diversity of German heritage places reflects the influence German nationals had on the cultural heritage of Victoria. The study has provided a glimpse of that influence, but there is still much more to be uncovered.

Copies of the report on *German Heritage Places in Victoria* are available from Heritage Victoria, Level 22, 80 Collins Street, Melbourne, Vic. 3000 tel. 9655 6519.



Lutheran Church Westgarthtown (Victorian Heritage Register H899)



Ballerstedt Open Cut, Bendigo (Victorian Heritage Register H 1355): In 1854, Christopher Ballerstedt and his son, Prussian immigrants, bought the claim on the hill for £80 to which he eventually added other claims

Bendigo Town Hall is said to be one of the finest boom-style buildings in Victoria. It was substantially shaped by the design of the German-born architect W.C. Vahland, who was attracted to Victoria by the gold discoveries. He had no luck on the gold fields, but remained in Bendigo and became one of its major architects of the nineteenth century

ENFORCING THE HERITAGE ACT 1995

The *Heritage Act 1995* gives the Executive Director the power to issue Infringement Notices for minor breaches of that Act. This is seen as a useful tool in enabling enforcement of the Act when coupled with the ability to take serious breaches to court.

Regulations are currently being drafted for the infringement notice provision to be used. Heritage Victoria is also working to establish an inspectors' network. This will supplement the existing capacity established with the Water Police, who are the major authority for continuing to monitor Victoria's shipwrecks and protected zones.

Action must be taken within three years of the commission of an offence against the Act.

Heritage Victoria will also be reviewing its procedures for prosecutions in an attempt to rectify situations where works have been carried out without permits, or where damage has been caused to archaeological or shipwreck sites.