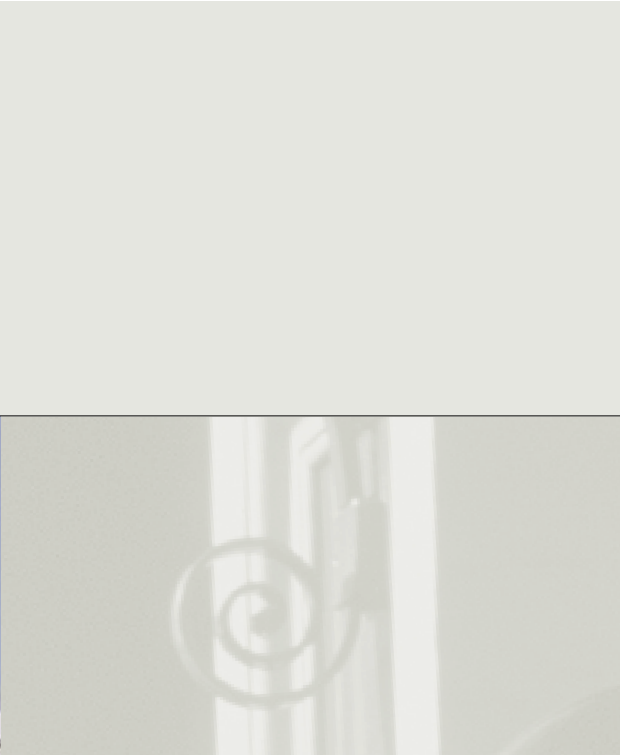
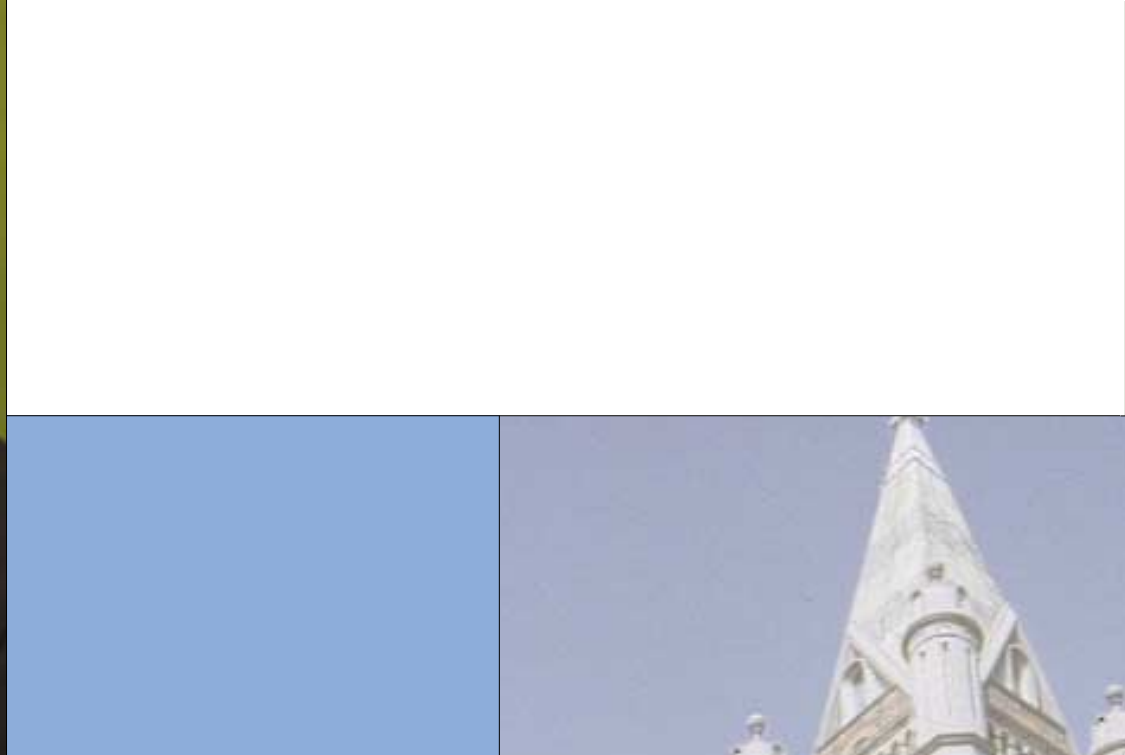


THIS ISSUE: Page 03 State of the Historic Environment Page 04 UNESCO Award for Cowangie Homestead Page 07 From Mueller to Melba: the Hermitage on the Black Spur Page 07 If you're a heritage owner, we want to hear from you! Page 08 Repair of historic dry stone walls Page 09 Lost archaeological sites uncovered by bushfire Page 10 Heritage plaques: what do they mean? Page 12 Station Pier Page 14 Archbold's Gold Treatment Works





State of the historic environment

By Amanda Bacon, Heritage Victoria

Message from the Chair

The beginning of the financial year has brought some changes to the membership of the Heritage Council. It also marks the first anniversary of my time as Chair.

I would like to thank our retiring members and alternates for the passion and commitment they showed for heritage protection and conservation in Victoria. The knowledge, skills and talents of all of these individuals were most valuable to the functions of Council.

Our retiring members and alternates, whom we farewell, are:

- Andrew Lemon (historian member) and Dr Walter Phillips (alternate to Andrew)
 - Brian Bubbers (alternate to Peter Beaumont, property manager member)
 - Leonie Kelleher (lawyer member) and John Dwyer (alternate to Leonie).
- At the same time, I would like to warmly welcome our new members and alternates:
- Dr Renata Howe (historian member) and Damien Cash (alternate to Renata)
 - Judy Nicholson (alternate to Peter Beaumont, property manager member)
 - Susan Brennan (lawyer member) and Amanda Johns (alternate to Susan).

To all new members and alternates, I am sure that your time on Council will be equally as interesting and rewarding as that of your predecessors.

In this month's *Inherit* we review some of the information sources used to both acquire and provide important details on Victoria's cultural heritage. Part of this includes important feedback from owners of heritage places, which was gathered as part of a recent survey. You can read about some of the key findings on page 03.

I also encourage you to read about the \$4 million Victorian Heritage Program for 2003/2004. A new guidelines kit has been prepared to assist with applications for funding and is available from Heritage Victoria – more details are on page 05.

Chris Gallagher
Chair, Heritage Council Victoria

In January we wrote to all owners, asking them to complete a survey on the condition of their heritage place. We asked them to rate the condition of things such as the roof, the walls, the windows and the garden. In undertaking the survey, our aims were to understand the condition of places on the Victorian Heritage Register, and to find out how much money needs to be spent on places to maintain or return them to a good state of repair. We also hoped that the information would enable us to target classes of places for financial assistance programs.

The response to the survey has been tremendous, with more than 40% of owners completing the condition assessment form and returning it to Heritage Victoria. Most people also agreed to photograph their heritage place to ensure that Heritage Victoria and the Heritage Council have up-to date information on all registered places.

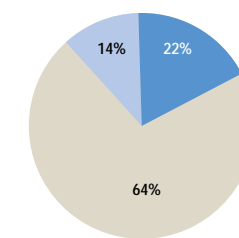
You might be wondering what happens next, and what we will do with all this information.

With more than 400 responses, it has taken some time to work through all the forms and record the information that has been provided. It has been an interesting exercise with some startling results. For example, owners said 64% of registered heritage places require some type of works to return them to a 'good state of repair'. Of these places, owners reported that 52% require works that they believe are urgent.

Owners also told us that 28% per cent of registered heritage place items can be considered in an overall good condition and 44% are in a fair condition. From the data provided, owners estimate that 26% of places are in a poor or very poor condition. The condition of 2% of place items was unknown because of insufficient information.

Of the works projects that identified a funding source:

- 22% had received funding from the Heritage Council
- 64% were funded privately
- 14% had received 'other' sources of funding, (e.g. other government funds, public donation, and fund raising etc).



PAST WORKS FUNDING SOURCES

- HERITAGE COUNCIL
- PRIVATE FUNDING
- OTHER

Our next step is to ensure that all the information is recorded in Heritage Victoria's database so that the new Victorian Heritage Program can determine which registered places might best benefit from assistance initiatives. Heritage Victoria will also use the information to put together submissions for increased funding for heritage programs in the future.

As for the slide films submitted by owners, Heritage Victoria is aiming to have these developed, digitised and catalogued in the coming months. Where appropriate, the images will be used for the online Victorian Heritage Register.

We're also planning a second-stage mail-out to new owners of heritage places. Because there is no formal mechanism to advise us when a heritage place is sold, we often rely on the previous owner to inform us of a change in ownership. Many people wrote to advise us that they were no longer the owner of a heritage place and this has enabled us to update our contact records. Because there is no formal mechanism to advise us when a heritage place is sold, we often rely on the previous owner to inform us of a change in ownership.

This important data could not have been collected without the effort of heritage place owners and managers. The Heritage Council and Heritage Victoria wish to thank all who have participated. The information has transformed our understanding of the condition of heritage places, and it will enable us to put together a strong case for future funding initiatives.

It's not too late to play a part. If you would like more information on the project, or wish to participate, please do not hesitate to contact Amanda Bacon on (03) 9655 9724 or email amanda.bacon@dse.vic.gov.au

RIGHT: RECENTLY REGISTERED AUBURN UNITING CHURCH (H2039) OXELY ROAD, HAWTHORN.



UNESCO Award for Cowangie Homestead

By Megan McDougall, Heritage Victoria

TOP (LEFT, CENTRE & ABOVE): KOW PLAINS HOMESTEAD BEFORE RESTORATION.

RIGHT: PRE-FABRICATED TIMBER HOUSE, 343 MAROONDAH HIGHWAY, CROYDON (H2024)

FAR RIGHT: TRARALGON ENGINE SHED AND TURNTABLE, QUEEN PARADE, TRARALGON (H1979)



“It’s definitely been a community project. People from a 40 kilometre radius helped and several new faces appeared at each working bee. It’s ours, it’s Cowangie and we’re proud of it.”

Jocelyn Linder
President
Committee of Management
Kow Plains

The Kow Plains Homestead in Cowangie has received an international award for heritage conservation. The homestead is listed on the Victorian Heritage Register and is located in the township of Cowangie, 65 kilometres west of Ouyen on the Mallee Highway.

The homestead is a reminder of the early years of settlement in a remote Mallee town, where grain growing was the main source of income.

Added to the register in June 1988, the homestead has been dated as an 1879 building, constructed of local pine using a drop log method of construction.

Kow Plains is unique for its associations with the earliest pre-agricultural history of the Mallee, when large pastoral runs were the most characteristic form of settlement in this harsh region of the State.

Through the Public Heritage Program, the homestead received a total of \$88,850.00.

This money assisted with the structural stabilisation of the main homestead building, roof replacement, and both interior and exterior repairs. Another building on the property, the cookhouse, was also reconstructed and the kitchen restored.

Former Heritage Victoria staff member Tomas Nohel nominated Kow Plains for an Asia-Pacific Heritage Conservation Award through the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

“I was quite impressed with the determination of the locals and the fact that the project was managed from a distance. The builders learnt on the job, yet they did a great job,” Mr Nohel said.

“The community involvement was one of the reasons why I decided to nominate it, together with the outcome and the educational value, that is, that the whole community learnt about conservation principles. Another reason was its Australian-ness. It is something unique to this part of the world,” he said.

When winners of the Conservation Award were announced the homestead received an Honourable Mention. Other winners in this category included

the Broken Hill Heritage & Cultural Tourism Programme and the Centre for Khmer Studies in Cambodia.

According to a spokesperson from UNESCO, the restored Kow Plains Homestead is a testament to the resilience of a small Mallee community and serves as a physical reminder of Australia’s pioneering settlements.

“It shows a rigorous approach of reinstating both the form and fabric of the building as faithfully as possible according to the existing physical and documentary evidence.”

“Through revitalising abandoned building techniques and careful attention to material authenticity, the project clearly demonstrated a solid understanding of conservation guidelines set forth by the ICOMOS (International Council of Monuments and Sites) Burra Charter.”

“The community’s initiation and ownership of the project deserves praise for the collective efforts at conservation. This project clearly exemplifies how the co-operation between individuals, the community and all tiers of government can contribute towards a common goal – the protection of local heritage.”

In April 2003, the official presentation of the award took place at the homestead. Around 250 guests gathered for the function and speakers included Jocelyn Linder, President of the Committee of Management of Kow Plains and Heritage Victoria’s Ray Osborne, who presented a certificate and unveiled a plaque.

Speaking of the project in the recently published Public Heritage Program Review, Ms Linder said, “It’s definitely been a community project. People from a 40 kilometre radius helped and several new faces appeared at each working bee. It’s ours, it’s Cowangie and we’re proud of it.”

For more information about the awards, visit www.unesco.org



RIGHT & FAR RIGHT: CRAIG & SEELEY OFFICES AND SHOWROOM, HOPE STREET, BRUNSWICK (H2026)

National Archaeology Week wrap-up

National Archaeology Week ran from 11 to 18 May and its website had some 88,000 hits, with 11,000 of those occurring on Monday 12 May.

Events were held across the country, including numerous public lectures, film screenings, museum tours and special events, site tours and radio interviews.

The NAW calendar promoted 18 events and activities around Victoria including a series of seminars which were hosted in the Age Theatre at the Melbourne Museum.

The seminars attracted good crowds, particularly on the opening day, (with approximately 120 people in the audience) for Dr Colin Hope’s presentation. Chief Executive Officer, Museum Victoria, Dr Patrick Greene, was also a magnet, attracting a crowd of 110 on the last day, Sunday 18 May.

Other seminar presenters were Emeritus Professor Richard Wright (who travelled from his home in Sydney to present two fascinating talks), Professor

Jim Bowler (who made yet another trek to Mildura), Professor Tim Murray and Dr Li Liu from La Trobe University, Associate Professor Tony Sagona from Melbourne University plus Cassandra Philippou and Lucia Lancellotti from Heritage Victoria’s Maritime Archaeology Unit.

Fellow Heritage Victoria maritime archaeologist Brad Duncan presented a public lecture at the Queenscliff Maritime Centre. The event drew a crowd of more than 50 locals, with much positive feedback on Brad’s PhD research and the work currently being undertaken by Heritage Victoria on the “Piers & Jetties” program.

Over 50 people took part in an archaeological field trip to the 1870s Chinese mining camp at Butchers Gully. Archaeologist Zvonka Stanin explained the site and the types of artefacts that had been recovered. Most of the people on the field trip were local residents, including many not normally exposed to archaeology. The display of Chinese history and artefacts excavated from Butchers Gully also helped spread the word on the value of archaeology.

From Mueller to Melba: the Hermitage on the Black Spur

By John Brock, current owner



The Hermitage, an intriguing nineteenth century property, was built in 1894 by the fashionable photographer J.W. Lindt as a European-style 'pleasure resort' for the rich and famous, and is listed on the Victorian Heritage Register.

Lindt built it on the spectacular Black Spur, which he loved. The first building on the site was originally a church built in England, and acquired by Lindt for use as his photographic studio in Hawthorn, before he transported it over the Spur to Narbethong.

He then lived in it while he built the rest of the Hermitage complex on 80 acres of rainforest. Later, he used this same building to entertain many high profile guests, and Dame Nellie Melba (a frequent guest herself) sang there on more than one occasion.

These days, the property has been reduced to 32 acres, but most of the original buildings remain, (mostly in good shape), and the place has again been operating as a uniquely ambient guest house (accommodating up to 20 people) since full restoration in the late 1980s.

Other buildings include the labyrinthine guest wing, the cosy and romantic cottage, the main building with its kitchen, lounge, dining room and verandah, and living quarters (including Juliet balcony) upstairs. The original 'lych-gate' entrance (restored in part with funding from the Public Heritage Program) is on the drive, which was part of the Maroondah Highway, until the highway was straightened some 15 years ago.

The gardens were designed by Baron von Mueller, and feature a number of imposing European and American trees, which now coexist remarkably well with eucalypts and tall tree-ferns. One ancient Mountain Grey Gum is listed by the National Trust as of great significance. A natural spring on the property is an abundant source of water, and where it once trickled away as a creek, there is now a most attractive tree-shrouded lake, popular with

couples as a site for marriage celebrations, as is the plateau with its backdrop of the spectacular Cathedral Ranges.

In 2001, a group of Hands On Heritage volunteers spent a week working on a number of outdoor projects which made a noticeable improvement to the grounds.

Present owners, Barbara and John Brock, have recently decided to sell the property.

For more information, please contact John Brock at hermtage@foxall.com.au or tel (03) 5963 7120.

Calling all heritage owners and managers

If you are an owner or manager of a heritage listed place, we would like to hear from you. We are looking for articles, photos, stories and other interesting items for Inherit. We want to provide an opportunity for you to inform others about your place, as well as the chance for you to read about other owners and managers.

For our next few issues, we are especially interested to hear from those owners and managers of heritage places in which commercial businesses are operating. Please tell us about the business, how it started, how it fits into its cultural environment and how we can find out more information.

Please send details to Lisa Hurley at lisa.hurley@dse.vic.gov.au or fax (03) 9655 9720. If you have any questions, please ring (03) 9655 9758.

Heritage Council funds volunteer project to repair historic dry stone walls

The Heritage Council's conservation initiative, Hands on Heritage, aims to transform heritage spaces through the voluntary involvement of conservation-minded Victorians. It is a strategic partnership between Council, Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA) and the Green Reserve employment initiative.

In keeping with this important mission, the Heritage Council recently funded a project for the repair of historic dry stone walls at Mt Noorat in the Western District in May. The project brought together volunteers from South Korea, England and Victoria.

Lost archaeological sites uncovered by bushfires

Departmental officers assessing damage caused by this year's devastating bushfires have discovered unique archaeological sites.

According to the Minister for Environment, John Thwaites, "the bushfires in Victoria's north-east and Gippsland were the worst for 100 years and burnt out more than one million hectares.

"They also destroyed many important cultural assets, with the damage being assessed by teams from the Department of Sustainability and Environment (DSE)."

"However, along the way, the teams have also discovered several significant sites that had been covered by dense vegetation for decades until the fires occurred."

The bushfires exposed a number of sites in remote alpine areas where gold miners flocked in the 1860s. Mining activities continued until the First World War, with some mines also reworked during the Depression.

The fires also exposed old packhorse trails between goldfields, as well as water races (shallow stone water channels) built by miners. The new information will help add to the Statewide survey of mining sites which was carried out during the 1990s.

"We now have an opportunity to record these sites and discuss their future management before the vegetation begins to grow back in the spring," Mr Thwaites said.

DSE assessment teams, made up of staff from Heritage Victoria and Parks Victoria, are surveying the extent of damage to known sites and documenting the new sites, where discoveries include huts, stone crushers and other abandoned mining equipment.

DSE officers have already started talking with tour operators to determine the opportunities for heritage tourism. Some of the old pack tracks and water races, which follow hill contours, may have potential as walking tracks.

Mr Thwaites urged souvenir hunters to respect the sites, which belong to the State.

"All archaeological sites in Victoria are protected by law. Anybody removing artefacts is liable to be prosecuted."

"Sadly, theft and vandalism have already marred some of the recent discoveries. One historic piece of equipment at Mulhauser's Mine near Mitta Mitta in the State's north-east has had to be removed for safekeeping following the theft of the manufacturer's plate," Mr Thwaites said.

The equipment, a stamp battery used to crush stone, will be put on public display in a DSE reserve at Mitta Mitta.

DSE's Daniel Catrice, said gold had a profound and enduring effect on the economic, social and political development of Victoria.

"Gold brought hundreds of thousands of new settlers and injected vast amounts of money into the economy. Victoria would be a very different place today if it hadn't been for mining."

"We have fairly comprehensive information about gold mining activities in Central Victoria, but recording in the Alps has been much more difficult due to limited access and dense tree cover. A lot of mining machinery was left behind in these areas because it was impractical or unprofitable to remove it," he said.

The greatest concentration of mining sites in the area affected by this year's bushfires is around the Upper Ovens goldfield in the state's north-east and in the Mount Wills and Omeo goldfields of Gippsland.

TOP AND RIGHT: THE DAMAGED WALL.



CENTRE LEFT: STONE WALL REPAIRS IN ACTION AT MT NOORAT, WITH THE TEAM OF VOLUNTEERS FROM SOUTH KOREA, ENGLAND AND VICTORIA.

CENTRE RIGHT: EXPERT STONE WALLER, ALISTAIR TUNE (FAR LEFT) WHO TRAINED IN ENGLAND, LEADING THE TEAM. ALISTAIR'S INVOLVEMENT WAS FUNDED BY CORANGAMITE ARTS COUNCIL.



RIGHT: THE REPAIRED WALL.



RIGHT: MINING RELICS UNCOVERED BY THE BUSHFIRES IN THE NORTH EAST. PICTURES BY JOHN MORRISON, PARKS VICTORIA



A date, two blokes and a style

Heritage plaques_what do they mean? By Liz Kilpatrick, Heritage Victoria

Communication, communication, communication – that is what plaques are about. But what do they really say? Ideally a plaque should reflect what is important about the place – indeed why it has ‘earned’ a plaque.

How do you find out about heritage in other places? Where can you start to discover heritage the world over?

Heritage in Context

Local/State/National/International by Anne Sedgley, Heritage Victoria

In reality, plaques tend to highlight the people involved in construction and ownership. They also dedicate much space to the agency responsible for the plaque and, in some cases, the person who unveiled the plaque. Yet there is still an undeniable place for plaques.

Plaque text, to be easily digested by the viewer, is usually very brief. The text is the essence of the heritage value of that place. This essence is often honed down to a date, two people in its history and a style. This does not allow space for social context and relevance.

The Heritage Council Victoria plaque program, which to date has generated 146 plaques, is specific to places on the Victorian Heritage Register. The citations are necessarily based on the wording provided in that register.

The register includes places listed in the early 1980s. Historically, building registrations had a focus on the grand, elite and singular. The plaques therefore reflect this. A plaque not only includes bare statements of historical fact, but also the attitudes at the time when the plaque was produced. Plaques have limited space and yet it is rare that ample room is not found to promote the agency responsible for putting it there. The Heritage Council Victoria plaques are no exception.

Some of the detail included on a plaque may be dull for the average reader. Most people do like to associate a date with a place to give them a feel for its historic context. But the names of the architect and builder or the architectural style hold little significance for some. It would seem the plaques have been written for a reason other than to engage the average onlooker. They are written for and by people who are interested in very particular and perhaps arcane information about that place.

Our notion of heritage significance is evolving. This is reflected in the diversity of places listed in the Victorian Heritage Register and the reasons they were listed there. So too must the words on the plaque evolve to reflect this diversity.

Other Heritage agencies around Australia and in the United Kingdom were asked to comment on the ‘plaquing’ of cultural heritage places. There was a consistency in the responses, related to the concern that plaques were reaching plague proportions. Secondly, there was the issue of agency promotion taking precedence over heritage promotion.

So who and what is that plaque for? The plaque is an excellent example of owner and community pride in their heritage. This alone is worth supporting and encouraging. It is also a method of communication for better or for worse. It will inevitably communicate as much about heritage agencies and the social or historical context of the plaque as it does about the place to which it refers.

Plaques do have a place. People want them. They radiate pride and are relatively cheap as a method of interpretation. They set places apart on the basis of their heritage. They have become synonymous with heritage and history. They can also provide a point of contact whereby the interested reader can follow up the heritage agency listed to get more information.

What must be avoided is believing the heritage place has “earned” the plaque. Perhaps more realistically, the plaque is a ‘bit of “fluff”’ in comparison to the history of a place. It is of considerable importance that the plaque in no way damages the original fabric of the place.

It is worth keeping in mind that the information on a plaque can be wrong, thus giving gospel status to misleading data. Council plaques have not been faultless in this regard, with the Castlemaine Market plaque having to be replaced after two years due to incorrect spelling of a name. Despite the status (and longevity) accorded the wording, you will never see the source references listed at the bottom of a plaque.

In conclusion, the plaque should be accepted and seen for what it is – limited and self-centred; but desirable. The date will remain important but the two blokes might fade away with style. The emphasis on the elite may become more balanced with heritage significance interpreted within a broader social and historical context.

Blessed are those who keep questioning the value of plaques. It will be a fine day when we can move on to some better form of cultural heritage place interpretation which retains the immediacy and pride of a plaque. Until then, we have plaques.

Plaques for places listed on the Victorian Heritage Register are available by contacting Heritage Victoria on (03) 9655 6519.



Well, to begin at the beginning: Do you know that there are four levels of cultural heritage protection active in Australia? Local, State and National heritage is enshrined in and protected under legislation. World heritage is protected by a UNESCO convention.

LEVEL	WHERE IS IT LISTED?	PROTECTED UNDER:	WHO ADMINISTERS IT?	WEBSITE ADDRESSES
LOCAL HERITAGE	IN THE LOCAL PLANNING SCHEME'S HERITAGE OVERLAY	PLANNING & ENVIRONMENT ACT, 1984	LOCAL COUNCIL OR SHIRE	www.localcouncilname.vic.gov.au
STATE HERITAGE	IN THE VICTORIAN HERITAGE REGISTER	HERITAGE ACT 1995	HERITAGE COUNCIL VICTORIA	www.heritage.vic.gov.au OR www.dse.vic.gov.au
NATIONAL HERITAGE	IN THE REGISTER OF THE NATIONAL ESTATE. IN THE NEW NATIONAL HERITAGE LIST.	EBPC ACT, 2002 (ENVIRONMENT & BIO-DIVERSITY PROTECTION ACT)	ENVIRONMENT AUSTRALIA & THE AUSTRALIAN HERITAGE COMMISSION	www.ahc.gov.au OR www.ea.gov.au/ahpi
WORLD HERITAGE	IN THE WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE'S WORLD HERITAGE LIST	THE CONVENTION CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF THE WORLD'S CULTURAL & NATURAL HERITAGE (NOVEMBER 1972) AT THE 17TH GENERAL CONFERENCE OF UNESCO.	UNESCO	www.whc.unesco.org/heritage.htm

How can you find out about places in each level?

Look up their website!

Do the other Australian states have the same sort of heritage laws and heritage protection?

Yes, generally speaking, but in practice, each state cuts the heritage pie up in different ways. In Victoria, natural heritage is managed by Parks Victoria and Aboriginal cultural heritage is managed by Aboriginal Affairs Victoria. In NSW, the Heritage Office looks after all four aspects of heritage expressed in their four-part logo: cultural heritage, natural heritage, moveable heritage and indigenous heritage.

The state and commonwealth heritage officers are working towards making it easier to search across the different jurisdictions.

Where can I find more information?

If you would like to find out what is listed on the Victorian Heritage Register, search online at www.heritage.vic.gov.au

If you want to do an Australia-wide search on a general topic, say, iron bridges, the best place to start is the Australian Heritage Places Inventory, at www.ea.gov.au/ahpi.

You may find it helpful to visit your local and/or State libraries.

Community organisations are another valuable source of information and historical records on places of local significance.

For more information, visit:

The National Trust of Australia (Victoria)
www.natstrust.com.au

The Royal Historical Society of Victoria
www.historyvictoria.org.au

Destination Australia: Station Pier celebrates 150 years

Listed on the Victorian Heritage Register in 1995, Station Pier is significant for a number of reasons, including its association with WWII, Australia's post-war migration program, tourism and overseas shipping. Below is the story of one war-time immigrant.

In 1940, Gretli made the decision to leave Switzerland in search of a safer home and arrived at Station Pier, Melbourne. It was during the Second World War and, like many other German-speaking migrants, Gretli was greeted with great suspicion and was required to hand in her passport at the Russell Street Police Station (H913). A detective working at the police station fell in love with Gretli's passport photo and was anxious to meet her. Gretli was continually called into the police station for questioning and began wondering why her passport had not yet been returned.

When Gretli's passport was finally returned to her, she was pleased to leave the station, but had only walked a little way down Russell Street when she heard quick footsteps behind her. She turned to see the detective, Bill, who shyly asked her if she would like to see the Russian Ballet with him. Gretli accepted his invitation, and three months later they were married.

Gretli's story is just one of many which have been uncovered as the Immigration Museum begins its research for the exhibition Destination Australia. This exhibition explores the evocative experiences of immigrants who arrived at Station Pier and is timely as it coincides with the 150th anniversary of Station Pier.

The Station Pier exhibition is being developed through extensive community consultation which has included a call for contributions from immigrants who arrived at Station Pier. From the 1930s, Station Pier was the destination of thousands of immigrants as they ventured upon a new life in Australia. Some were sponsored, some were refugees and others paid their own way.

Destination Australia will open at the Immigration Museum, 400 Flinders Street, in May 2004.

RIGHT: INTRODUCED IN 1947, THE LOCKHEAD CONSTELLATION AIRLINER REVOLUTIONISED TRAVEL TO AUSTRALIA AND WAS USED BY THOUSANDS OF POST-WAR IMMIGRANTS. ILLUSTRATION BY BILL WOOD, 1998. SUPPLIED BY MUSEUM VICTORIA.

FAR RIGHT: STATION PIER. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE IMMIGRATION MUSEUM.



Archbold's Gold Treatment Works, Chewton

Open Day By Jennifer Climas, Heritage Victoria.



On Saturday 17 May, over 100 people gathered for the official public opening of the recently conserved gold treatment works, Archbold's, in Chewton. The opening was part of the Mount Alexander Shire's Heritage Festival (held during May) and National Archaeology Week (11-18 May).

To coincide with the opening, a reunion of the Archbold family was organised in Chewton, with all family members attending the opening, and many taking part in the guided tours of the site. Tour guides included Heritage Victoria's own David Bannear, as well as Robert Kaufman and Andrew Swift (who have produced guide notes for the site).

Archbold's gold treatment works is a mysterious place and, as many of those who attended the opening discovered, it offers wonderful glimpses into the world of a metallurgist. A metallurgist is a virtual alchemist, who turns rock into gold. After the early years of gold mining in Victoria, the crude processing plants struggled to cope with the complexity of deeper ores, and shareholders of the company-run mines were demanding higher gold recoveries. A strong market was created for skilled assayers and metallurgists. Archbold's developed from this demand and is considered to be the last of its kind in Victoria.

The gold treatment works, operated by the Archbold family for over a century, carried out a wide variety of metallurgical services to the mining industry. Members of the Archbold family, principally Jeremiah (1846-1917), Herbert (1885-1961) and Harry (1929-1988), (1846-1917), Herbert (1885-1961) and Harry (1929-1988), were able to extract gold from what seemed to be barren rock. The place also has an eclectic collection of machinery, industrial components, mining relics and artefacts collected over time by the family members. As a result of this collection, the place offers something to everyone who visits and invokes memories and stories. The extent and range of surviving artefacts are unparalleled in Victoria -Victoria, and possibly in Australia.

Considered to be of State significance, the site was added to the Victorian Heritage Register (H1351) in September 1997. Since then, the property has been purchased by the Heritage Council, and the

challenging task of conserving and interpreting the site commenced with funding from the Heritage Council and Environment Australia (Commonwealth Government Cultural Heritage Program).

People involved in the work to date include conservation architect Pip Giovanelli, with engineering drawings produced by Leigh Worn and Associates. Associates; buildings works undertaken by Gary Orchard, who has restored the main building, building; and a crew from the Department of Sustainability and Environment who constructed a track and fencing.

Archbold's forms part of the 'Mount Alexander Diggings trail' Trail and is managed by the Mount Alexander Diggings Management Committee. The site will be available for guided tours by small groups.

Bookings can be made through the Castlemaine Visitor Information Centre on (03) 5470 6200.



H2032



H1979



H2032



H2013



H2002



H2024



H2024



H1933



H2039



H1999



H2016



H2017



H2012

New registrations

6 FEBRUARY 2003

H1933 Rockbank Inn, Beattys Road, Rockbank

13 FEBRUARY 2003

H1999 Kyneton Secondary College (Former High School), 1-9 Epping Street, Kyneton
 H2008 Community of the Holy Name and Retreat House, 32-44 Cavanagh Street, Cheltenham
 H2024 Prefabricated timber house, 343 Maroondah Highway, Croydon
 H2023 Sir Thomas Bent Statue, Nepean Highway, Brighton
 H1978 Buchan Caves Reserve, Buchan
 H1992 Templer Church Hall, 3 Wadi Street, Boronia

20 MARCH 2003

H2012 Kurth Kiln, Launching Place Road, Gembrook
 H2013 Orde's/Ogden Brothers Mill, Loddon River Road, Wombat State Forest
 H2014 Graves and Frasers Mill, Wombat State Forest
 H2015 Wheeler's Tramway, Wombat State Forest
 H2016 Telegraph (Graves) Sawmill, Stony Creek, Wombat State Forest
 H2017 Cameron's Saw Mill, Reedy Lake State Forest, Nagambie
 H2018 Kozminsky's Mill and Log Chute, Mount Buangor State Park
 H2019 Sealers Cove Saw Mill, Wilsons Promontory
 H2020 The Glut Escarpment Log Chute, Mount Cole State Forest
 H2021 Peter Ah Sen Saw Mill, Splitters Ridge, Omeo
 H2022 Barbour's Tramway and Log Chute, Cameron Road, Mount Macedon
 H2011 Goodwood Sawmill Site, Mullungdung State Forest, Stradbroke

10 APRIL, 2003

H1979 Traralgon engine shed and turntable, Queens Parade, Traralgon

17 APRIL, 2003

H2026 Craig and Seeley offices and showroom, Hope Street and Percy Street, Brunswick
 H2027 Former Brunswick Gas and Coke Company, Retort House, 21-35 Hope Street, Brunswick

15 MAY, 2003

H2002 Ola Cohn House, 41-43 Gipps Street, East Melbourne

12 JUNE, 2003

H2029 Black Powder Mill Parklea Avenue and Grassy Point Road, Cairnlea 10 July 2003
 H2039 Auburn Uniting Church, Oxley Road, Hawthorn
 H2032 Bells Beach Surfing Recreation Reserve, Coastal Reserve, Jan Juc
 H2033 Bessiebelle sheepwashes and yards, Pyes Road, Bessiebelle

3 IMAGES: BELLS BEACH (H2032) SURFING RECREATION RESERVE, RECENTLY REGISTERED ON THE VICTORIAN HERITAGE REGISTER FOR ITS SOCIAL AND CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE. PHOTO BY ROSS ANDERSON, HERITAGE VICTORIA.



COVER IMAGE: BELLS BEACH (H2032)
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