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Dimboola award

Dimboola celebrated its 150th anniversary over the Melbourne Cup weekend, opened the town's second museum and received the Heritage Council's 2009 Heritage Award.

The \$2000 cheque and framed certificate were presented to the Dimboola and District Historical Society by Deputy Chair Shelley Penn (below left with secretary Evelyn King) at a ceremony on October 30 which also marked the official opening of the new Dimboola Letterpress and Print Museum. Awarded for 'an exceptional contribution to Victoria's heritage', the Heritage Council award recognised the society's efforts to prevent the demolition of the 1975 Dimboola Court House. A successful campaign and fundraising saw the building moved and restored and it is now the core of the local museum.

The Society repeated this effort in 2004 to save the old Dimboola Banner office and print shop. The building was purchased for the Society by Marjie Wilson who officially opened the new print museum. At the opening, a significant supporter of the society Geoff Handbury AO, announced a further \$35,000 donation for museum. Volunteers involved with the print museum include longtime printer and former editor of the Dimboola Banner Joe Barry (below centre).

Other activities during the 150th anniversary included a street parade, open days, concerts, parties and dinners and performances of the play *Dimboola* at the local football clubrooms. See www.dimboola.com.au and <http://dimboolahistory.org.au/>



HC trip

The annual Heritage Council trip last month explored Victoria's early defence network at Port Philip heads.

The Council visited the Queenscliff, South Chanel and Port Nepean forts network which formed the colony's earliest defence establishments.

The tour also visited Queenscliff Maritime Museum and toured the township looking at heritage buildings, noting that while most heritage buildings were well protected, the key challenges were preserving settings and outlook.

The Council also visited the 1852 Quarantine station at Point Nepean (above right)..

Heritage Council met with representatives of Borough of Queenscliffe, Mornington Peninsula Council and Parks Victoria.

Launch

During the Heritage Council trip, members joined the Australian Garden History Society Annual Conference at a cocktail party in Geelong Art Gallery for the launch of *Heritage Landscapes: Selected Landscape papers 2004 – 2008*.

Edited by John Dwyer and Dr Janet Schapper, the publication combines papers from landscape forums held from 2004 to 2009. The publication can be downloaded from the Heritage website (www.heritage.vic.gov.au) or is available on CD from heritage.victoria@dpcd.vic.gov.au

Annual Report

The Heritage Council's annual report was tabled in Parliament in October, features a stunning view of the former Clyde Cameron College. Now Murray Valley Private Hospital, the Wodonga complex was one of 58 places included in the Victorian Heritage Register during the year. A complete list and summary description of these are included in the report for the first time.

Several feature stories on activities are also included. The Annual Report can be downloaded from the Heritage website (www.heritage.vic.gov.au) or is available from heritage.victoria@dpcd.vic.gov.au

Registrations

Two Archerton bush locations associated with the Kelly Gang are among recent additions to the Victorian Heritage Register. [Stringybark Creek, \(H2205\)](#) where three police officers were shot and killed by Ned Kelly in 1878, and the [Kelly gang's bush hideaway \(H2123\)](#) have been recognised for their historical value and potential archaeological significance.

Also added recently was CSIRAC (Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation Automatic Computer) (H2217) which will celebrate its inclusion in the VHR, its 60th birthday and the 60th years of computing in Australia in mid-November.

Built between 1947 and 1949, Australia's first computer is considered one of the nation's foremost technological achievements and is the only intact first generation stored-program computer still in existence.

Other additions include:

[Flemington Racecourse \(H2220\)](#) Victoria's oldest racecourse where the first meeting was held in 1840 and the famous Melbourne Cup has been run since 1861.

[Beechworth Cemetery \(H2215\)](#) A substantially intact example of a mid-19th century goldfields cemetery, in operation since 1856. The 8.5 hectares site is considered the state's best example of a garden cemetery. About 2000 Chinese are buried there and it has rare Chinese burning towers (c1860) and an 1883 altar.

[Hamilton Mechanics Institute \(H2171\)](#) A fine intact Renaissance Revival style building which began as a one room lecture hall in 1869. A library and the front façade were added in 1872, the hall behind in 1879 and the rear section and impressive arcade in 1903

[Penshurst Burger Cottage \(H2125\)](#). Built in c1853 by the Burger family as part of the German settlement of Gnadenthal, these cottages include rare examples of the old German lehmwickel or earth-winding technique, using rolled cylinders of mud and straw.

REB dig

Museum Victoria is conducting an archaeological dig on the western forecourt of the Royal Exhibition Building, the first phase of a major project which will introduce sustainability features and hopefully restore

The second phase is the installation of an extensive water harvesting and storage system, including a 900,000 litre underground water tank, which will ensure a sustainable future for this much-loved Melbourne landmark.

In the third phase, archaeological and historical research will be used to restore the 1880 garden landscape and plantings to their original splendour.

An open day for the dig will be held at the western forecourt on Saturday, 14 November from 11 am to 3 pm

Publications

The Belfast Fantasy: James Atkinson in the Antipodes is the result of several years of work by well known Port Fairy historian Marten Syme, who was awarded an Order of Australia Medal in June 'For service to the community and heritage conservation in the Port Fairy region.'

The task of identifying early occupants is complicated by the fact that the township at Port Fairy was the private township of Belfast for 13 years before there was any municipal authority to record this information for rate purposes.

The book covers Atkinson's life in Australia and the disposal of his land to lessees and subsequent freeholders, and helps overcome the misconceptions of his role in what curtailed later development.

The Belfast Fantasy, 318 pp, \$40 plus \$9 postage and packing, available from Marten Syme, P.O. Box 113, Port Fairy 3284.

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Inherit welcomes suggestions of stories and events to be included in future issues.