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STRATEGY 2010

The Heritage Council of Victoria on behalf of the Government is overseeing the preparation of a new Heritage Strategy, which will articulate a vision for cultural heritage in Victoria for the five year period 2005-2010.

Preparatory to developing the strategy a discussion paper, Victoria's Heritage 2010: Creating the New Victorian Heritage Strategy, was released in December 2003. It outlined key issues and challenges that the Strategy will need to address. Community consultation workshops and focus groups were held in February through to May 2004, and many submissions were received.

The draft Victorian Heritage Strategy Victoria's Heritage 2010: Strengthening Our Communities, is a draft strategy proposing a framework for heritage management in Victoria over the next five years. It was approved by the Government and released for public comment. Copies were sent out in December 2004 and it is available on the Victorian Heritage web site. Community consultation workshops were held in February 2005, and many submissions were received.

The key messages which came through the consultation process were that:

- heritage is the heart of community identity;
- Victoria's heritage reflects the rich multicultural diversity of the State;
- our heritage is more than just places; it is also the objects, collections, records, stories, the traditions and the special local characteristics that build community pride, create opportunities for cultural enrichment and attract visitors and tourists;
- heritage protection systems for places, objects and collections need to be comprehensive, administered consistently and easy to use for all Victorians;
- today's creations may be tomorrow's heritage;
- government alone cannot sustain our heritage. Everyone has a responsibility;
- partnerships between governments, community and business are an important mechanism to deliver heritage services, programs and funding; and
- education and training are vital to the future of heritage.

Victoria's Heritage 2010: Strengthening Our Communities has been built around six directions:

- Recognising a rich and diverse heritage
- Using our heritage for a sustainable future
- Managing for growth
- Telling Victoria's story
- Building strong and inclusive networks and partnerships
- Resourcing the community.



Right: Interior of Rivoli, Camberwell.
Photo: Janusz Molinski.



During the second year of the \$8 million Victorian Heritage Program (VHP), 55 new projects across the State were funded. A broad range of projects was funded, with the majority of projects being initiated by community groups. The objectives of the VHP have been to:

- support communities in their efforts to retain and creatively use cultural heritage assets to promote community identity and cohesion;
- establish partnerships to share responsibility for heritage conservation and provide financial and technical support for owners and managers of heritage places;
- increase public awareness, knowledge and understanding about heritage in the community; and
- help local government identify, protect and manage heritage places.

This year part of the program funding (\$475,000) contributed to the Commonwealth Games Getting Involved grants program, administered by the Office of Commonwealth Games Administration, part of the Department of Victorian Communities. These projects had to meet all the requirements of the Victorian Heritage Program, and also had to either be a sporting structure, or be a venue where an event was going to be held during the Commonwealth Games. Thirteen worthy heritage projects were funded in this category.

During the year an independent evaluation of the program was undertaken by MacroPlan. This concluded that the VHP had been successful in meeting the objectives of the program, and also in contributing to broader government policy objectives. The evaluation also found that the funding leverage for 2004-2005 was 4.6, meaning that for every \$1 provided by VHP, a total of \$4.60 has been spent on project works. The average over the 4 years of the Public Heritage Program and two years of VHP was 3.4. Funding leverage is used as an indicator for meeting the objectives of the program - the higher the leverage figure, the greater the emphasis the community places on restoring local heritage. The evaluation described the funding leverage for the programs as "impressive".

The evaluation also found, through case study assessment, that a feature of the case study projects was the extent of community involvement in many of the projects and the relative importance of the projects to the local community.

A booklet to highlight some of the achievements of the program, "Our Heritage Dividend, Victorian Heritage Program 2003-2005" was also published during the year.

Some of the funded projects include:



Above: Berwick Primary School

The House of the Gentle Bunyip, Clifton Hill \$83,000

The House of the Gentle Bunyip, constructed in three phases by two families between 1867 and the 1920s, is included in the City of Yarra Heritage Overlay.

The property was the subject of controversy in the late 1990s when the local community successfully saved the building from demolition, after staging a picket lasting over 400 days. Prior to this project starting, the building had been vandalised and was in derelict condition.

The project was initiated by Melbourne Affordable Housing (MAH), a not-for-profit organisation which develops, owns and manages social housing for low-income and disadvantaged people in partnership with local governments, churches and inner metropolitan communities. MAH has restored the building, constructed six living units within it, and constructed a new building on the site to accommodate a further five units for low-income singles.

The project works funded by the VHP comprised restoration of the external fabric only. This has enabled the building, which is cherished by the local community as a significant and vital element in the streetscape and precinct, to be given a new and worthy community use.

Berwick Primary School \$100,000

The Berwick Primary School, the earliest part of which dates back to 1869-70, closed in 2003 and the City of Casey acquired the building and part of the site for a Town Park. The building, which is included in the City of Casey Heritage Overlay, is being converted for various community purposes and will include a café.

The project works comprise underpinning and replacement of the termite damaged floor. The project will enable this centrally located community heritage asset to be given a new use, and has considerable community support.

Calder Woodburn Memorial Avenue of Honour \$50,000

The Calder Woodburn Memorial Avenue (VHR 1975) was planted between 1945 and 1949 by Mr JLF (Fen) Woodburn as a living memorial to his son Calder who lost his life while serving abroad with the Royal Australian Air force. He wanted it to be a memorial to all local servicemen who did not return from the Second World War. A total of 2457 trees were planted, with memorial plates fixed to 110 of the trees, the trees selected being the nearest point to the servicemen's homes.

Almost 20 kilometres long along the Goulburn Valley Highway, it is the grandest and largest of the Second World War commemorative planting in Victoria and is important for its use of only Eucalyptus species.

Lots of self-seeded and weedy species had impacted on the "readability" as an Avenue of Honour, and part of the project involved removal of these. The project is seen as a pilot for the management of Avenues of Honour.



Above: Heimat House, Doncaster.

Heimat House in Doncaster \$50,000

This project involves the restoration and redevelopment of Heimat House, a house of local heritage significance, into a multi purpose community facility to accommodate the Try Activities Centre currently located elsewhere. Try Youth and Community Services Inc. is a not-for-profit, non-denominational organisation which provides programs to assist disadvantaged young people.

Heimat House adjoins Reischecks Reserve which is used by many sporting organizations and community groups. Sporting groups will benefit from the on-site presence and caretaker role played by Try as well as by the provision of classroom meeting spaces, creche facilities and a venue for end of year functions.

The funding is covering internal and external repair works to the existing building.

St George's Presbyterian Church in Geelong \$40,000

The church is located in a prominent position on La Trobe Terrace and is on the Heritage Overlay. It is used by the wider community for music events such as concerts and recitals.

While emergency repairs to fix leaks had been undertaken over the years, the slate roof was in need of a major overhaul. This was beyond the means of the church community, which had been having monthly working bees for many years. The height of the roof and specialised skills needed to lay new slates makes roof repairs expensive. Fortunately the work recently completed should ensure the roof lasts for many years.



Above: St George's Presbyterian Church, Geelong.

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FUNDED PROJECTS, VICTORIAN HERITAGE PROGRAM

FUNDED PROJECTS	
Abbotsford, Collingwood Children's Farm	\$18,700
Alexandra, Alexandra Shire Hall	\$58,000
Arcadia, Calder Woodburn Memorial Avenue of Honour	\$50,000
Berwick, Primary School	\$100,000
Chiltern, Court House	\$81,000
Clifton Hill, House of the Gentle Bunyip	\$83,000
Coleraine, Fmr Wannon Shire Offices (Stage 2)	\$8,000
Croydon, Prefabricated Timber House	\$135,000
Dunolly, St Johns Anglican Church Hall	\$31,300
East St Kilda, Glenfern	\$23,000
Eldorado, St Judes Anglican Church	\$11,500
Flemington, Crown Street Stables	\$70,000
Frankston, Ballam Park Homestead	\$37,400
Geelong, St George's Presbyterian Church	\$40,000
Inglewood, 65 Brooke Street	\$8,000
Inglewood, 72-74 Brooke Street	\$19,500
Inglewood, 82 Brooke Street (Jennings Store)	\$9,000
Inglewood, 91 Brooke Street (Empire State Hotel)	\$9,000
Inglewood, Charlie Napier Hotel	\$6,000
Kyneton Railway Station - Goods Shed	\$20,000
Melbourne, Capitol Theatre	\$190,000
Mumbannar, Mumbannar Union Church	\$8,200
Port Fairy, St Johns Anglican Church	\$70,000
Port Phillip Bay - HMVS Cerberus	\$80,000
Richmond, Uniting Church	\$6,000
Sorrento, Mechanics Institute	\$85,000
St Kilda West, West St Kilda RSL	\$20,000
St Kilda, Hebrew Congregation	\$90,000
Sunshine, H V McKay Memorial Gardens	\$7,000
Tarrville, Christ Church	\$9,000
Terang, Post Office	\$8,700
Warracknabeal, Log Lock-up	\$2,500
Werribee, Werribee Satellite Aerodrome	\$100,000
Williamstown, Ann Street Footbridge	\$45,000
Williamstown, Williamstown Mechanics Institute	\$38,200
Wycheproof, Court House	\$27,000
<u>Sub Total</u>	<u>\$1,605,000</u>

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FUNDED PROJECTS, VICTORIAN HERITAGE PROGRAM

URGENT RESPONSE	
Ballan, Court House	\$13,000
California Gully, Primary School	\$20,000
Geelong, Austin Hall and Terrace Complex	\$20,000
Heathcote, Lock up	\$4,500
Murtoa, Water Tower	\$20,000
Parkville, North West Hospital	\$20,000
<u>Sub Total</u>	<u>\$97,500</u>
COMMONWEALTH GAMES GETTING INVOLVED (HERITAGE INFRASTRUCTURE CATEGORY)	
Camperdown, Racecourse Reserve	\$70,000
Dean, Hall and Mechanics Institute Inc	\$17,400
Maryborough, Municipal Olympic Swimming Complex	\$51,100
Mildura, Rio Vista	\$18,500
Queenscliff, Town Hall	\$40,000
Shepparton, Showgrounds Grandstand	\$70,000
Wangaratta, St Paul's Presbyterian Church	\$20,000
Warneet, Pavilion	\$20,000
Winchelsea, Memorial Grandstand and Gates	\$70,000
Charlton, Golden Grains Museum	\$24,000
Charlton, Rotunda	\$6,000
Kaniva, Shire Hall	\$18,000
Doncaster, Heimat House	\$50,000
<u>Sub Total</u>	<u>\$475,000</u>
<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>\$2,177,500</u>

COMMUNICATIONS

Website:

As forecast in last year's Annual Report, the redevelopment of the Heritage Council's website was completed and the new website – for both Heritage Council and Heritage Victoria – was installed in late September, 2004. Response to it has been very positive, especially to the new search facility which allow searches to be made simultaneously across the complete website, the Online Register and Inventory. The website is now the primary place of publication and information, for both the Heritage Council and Heritage Victoria.

Publications:

- A number of publications was produced throughout the year. They included:
 - Heritage Council Calendar 2005 a joint project with VicTrack Access (which provided \$22,000 in sponsorship), the Department of Infrastructure.
 - Inherit – 3 issues.
 - Annual Report 2004 – another award-winning report for the Council
 - Recognising Victoria's Heritage Objects & Collections – information brochure
 - Our Heritage Dividend – Victorian Heritage Program 2003-2005 - booklet
 - What House is That? A guide to Victorian's housing styles – a popular colour booklet produced jointly by the Building Commission of Victoria and Heritage Victoria. 40,000 copies were printed and distributed.
 - A heritage map of Melbourne produced in partnership with Information Victoria and produced mainly for distribution at the Royal Melbourne Show. This publication also celebrated the Year of the Built Environment – 150 Years of Melbourne's Buildings 1854-2004
 - A widely distributed postcard publicising the new-look Heritage Council Website. It features the colourful array of heritage places shown on the Flash display when the website opens.

- A booklet titled "Grave Concerns: Lone Graves in Gippsland" produced to accompany the Lone Graves exhibition. It has been so popular that reprinting has been necessary.
- Finally, Context, the highly-respected journal of the Institute of Historic Building Conservation, UK. Issue no. 87, November 2004, was devoted to "Heritage conservation in Australia", and 10 of the 13 articles were written by 11 Heritage Victoria Staff and one Heritage Council member.

Media Highlights

The announcement of the World Heritage Listing of the Royal Exhibition Building and Carlton Gardens, was the biggest and most widely reported heritage story across Victoria early in the year. 3AW broke the story on 1 July, followed by reports on ABC 774 Melbourne, and The Age which ran it on the front page, the Herald Sun and The Australian. It was also picked up by five commercial FM radio stations.

Two recommendations from the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria, ignited media interest with newspaper reports referring to proposed development plans for the Camberwell Railway Station and Kew Cottages, and the potential impact of Heritage Council decisions upon these plans. Kew Cottages has had consistent media coverage and numbers of media enquiries. The State Heritage Registration of the Bangerang Cultural Centre was prominent in the local media.

Early in the year there was broad coverage of the HMVS Cerberus, with the completion of the removal of its four guns and the placement of those guns on the seabed. It included stories on Channel 9, ABC TV and Channel 10. News stories also appeared in the Herald Sun and The Age the following day.

Heritage Council Regional Visit and Inaugural Award

In March 2005 the Heritage Council visited various sites in the Castlemaine area over a weekend. Part of the trip was to announce the inaugural award for an outstanding contribution to the identification, interpretation, communication and conservation of Victoria's heritage. This announcement was made at Castlemaine's Art Gallery & Historical Museum. Recipients of this award were the Friends of the Mount Alexander Diggings. FOMAD was praised for its public spiritedness and hard work in completing a number of projects that had enabled a highly significant piece of Victoria's gold rush heritage to become increasingly visible not only in the community, but right across the region.

Sites visited on day one of this tour included the Chewton Town Hall, Tute's Cottage at Castlemaine, Eureka Reef Gold Mining Precinct and the Garfield Waterwheel. Day two sites included Heron's Reef at Fryerstown, Bendigo Hotel at Dunolly, Maldon Museum, Mt. Tarrengower, and a stroll up and down the main street of Maldon.

Exhibitions

- "Marching In Time: The Archaeology of Camp Street, Ballarat", was an exhibition by Heritage Victoria at the Ballarat Fine Art Gallery, Lydiard St., Ballarat. This exhibition was mounted in collaboration with archaeological consulting firm Godden Mackay Logan and La Trobe University. The opening of the exhibition in Ballarat was attended by two hundred people.
- The Lone Graves exhibition "Grave Concerns" was based on the report "Lone Graves of Gippsland: Pilot Heritage Study", by Rob Kaufman & Lorraine Thompson, described in last year's Annual Report. The project to find and record lone graves in Gippsland was undertaken in partnership with the Gippsland DSE Office. The exhibition was launched in Orbost and has travelled around East Gippsland, showing so far at Bairnsdale, Lakes Entrance, Paynesville, Traralgon, Omeo and Sale.
- The Gold Exhibition "A Golden Heritage" has come to the end of its natural life. Designed originally to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the discovery of gold in 1851, it has been on display at 19 different centres in Victoria and one in NSW (the Eden Killer Whale Museum). This exceeded all expectations.

Breakfast Conversations

A program of Breakfast Conversations with prominent people in the community was begun this year, and turned out to be very successful, both in raising awareness of heritage and in hearing "outside" ideas about heritage conservation and its promotion. It is hoped that these events will be continued next year.

Other

Heritage Victoria's valuable large format transparencies have been scanned and archivally stored. The scanned versions will now be used, protecting the originals from damage through over-use.



Above: Scuttle, SS City of Launceston

Left: Plate piece from Camp Street dig, Ballarat.

In April 2005, the Federal Treasurer referred Terms of Reference to the Productivity Commission to undertake an Inquiry into the Policy Framework and Incentives for the Conservation of Australia's Built Heritage Places. The Terms of reference are:

1. the main pressures on the conservation of historic heritage places
2. the economic, social and environmental benefits and costs of the conservation of historic heritage places in Australia
3. the current relative roles and contributions to the conservation of historic heritage places of the Commonwealth and the state and territory governments, heritage owners (private, corporate and government), community groups and any other relevant stakeholders

4. the positive and/or negative impacts of regulatory, taxation and institutional arrangements on the conservation of historic heritage places, and other impediments and incentives that affect outcomes

5. emerging technological, economic, demographic, environmental and social trends that offer potential new approaches to the conservation of historic heritage places, and

6. possible policy and programme approaches for managing the conservation of Australia's historic heritage places and competing objectives and interests.

The Heritage Chairs and Officials of Australia and New Zealand have agreed to support a significant research project to assist this inquiry. As a consequence consultants have been employed to prepare a Policy Report, analysing existing and possible policy mechanisms and their economic impact, a Valuation Report which will explore the community's willingness to pay for heritage conservation and a draft submission to be made to the Commission

The Heritage Council has reserved its right to make a submission.

Loch Ard Bell

The bell from the Loch Ard was handed in to Heritage Victoria in November 2003. It was recovered from the shipwreck in 1967 and held privately for 26 years. In July & August 2004, the Loch Ard bell made a temporary return to the western districts, with a travelling exhibition hosted for three weeks at Flagstaff Hill Maritime Museum, and then for two weeks at the Port Campbell Visitor Information Centre. The bell is presently at Heritage Victoria's conservation laboratory.

Jack Loney Award

On 8 July 2004, the Historic Shipwrecks Advisory Committee and Heritage Council of Victoria presented the fourth Jack Loney Award to abalone diver, former Heritage Council member and Historic Shipwrecks Advisory Committee Chairman Mr Peter Ronald. The event commemorated Mr Ronald's long standing contribution to the protection of Victoria's historic shipwrecks and as an advocate of maritime heritage in the state.

Shipwreck Bottle Research Project Stage 1.

The Maritime History Unit (MHU) has been creating an archaeological bottle reference catalogue using artefacts from twelve shipwreck sites around Victoria, through funding under the Commonwealth Historic Shipwrecks Program. The project is separated into two parts, with Stage 1 (undertaken in 2004-2005) being a comparison of ship manifests with the lists of artefact registered from the sites, and a listing of these bottles with descriptive information. The project is continuing into 2005-2006.

Marine National Parks

Following on from a Memorandum of Understanding created in 2003-2004, the MHU assisted Parks Victoria with interpretive material, spatial data and investigative fieldwork in various marine parks. The MHU also presented shipwreck management information to marine parks Boards of Management throughout 2005-2006. These interactions have enabled the MHU to be actively involved in the joint management of shipwreck sites in these designated zones.

City of Launceston Public Access Program

In August 2004 the MHU hosted a public forum to gauge interest in the development of a public access program for some of the Historic Shipwreck Protected Zones in Port Phillip Bay, in particular the SS City of Launceston.

Participants included representatives of dive shops, dive charter businesses, dive clubs and the Maritime Archaeology Association of Victoria. The forum enabled the MHU to develop access guidelines for the City of Launceston site, and to present these to the Historic Shipwrecks Advisory Committee and Heritage Council. The feasibility of opening the site for limited access (using the guidelines) for a trial period is presently under investigation.

New Historic Shipwrecks

Three shipwrecks fell under the 75 year rolling date in Victoria in 2004-2005, becoming protected Historic Shipwrecks. One site, the Manuwatu off Williamstown (wrecked 1929), is in Victorian State waters; the other two sites, the Auriga in the Ship's Graveyard (wrecked February 1930), and the SS Gunundaal at Cape Howe (wrecked November 1929) were in Commonwealth waters off the Victorian coast.

Thirteen shipwrecks are known to have been lost along Port Fairy's Eastern Beach, including the Sarah Louisa (lost in 1836), the Henty's Thistle lost in 1837, and the Balmoral, lost in 1868. All of these wrecks are among the earliest and most significant shipwrecks in Victoria's history. Due to a large southerly storm in February 2005, three new as yet unidentified shipwreck sites were reported to the MHU, and two known sites, the Socrates and Thistle, were exposed to a greater extent for the first time in more than 20 years.

Enforcement

The accessibility of the exposed Port Fairy sites led to enforcement action being initiated against a snorkeller who allegedly recovered bottles from the site of the Socrates. The artefacts were confiscated and handed in to the MHU and the enforcement action is ongoing.

In conjunction with Colac Police, Heritage Victoria staff seized a collection of artefacts from various shipwreck sites, including the Loch Ard, on Victoria's west coast. The subsequent enforcement action is ongoing.

Maritime Infrastructure Assessment Project

The Maritime Infrastructure Project has identified over 600 new archaeological sites in the underwater, intertidal and terrestrial zones around the Victorian Coast. The study has identified many previously unconsidered and unexplored types of maritime heritage sites, and increased our knowledge of their archaeological characteristics.

A survey of maritime infrastructure sites was undertaken in April 2005 at Gabo Island, and documented over 40 infrastructure and shipwreck sites. The survey has produced maps of archaeological sites both on land and underwater which will be utilised by Parks Victoria in its management of the island.



Above: Ceramic Toilet Bowl,
SS City of Launceston



Above: Platter,
SS City of Launceston



Above: Bottle,
SS City of Launceston

Public access to and interest in the Laboratory collection has been very strong in the past 12 months. The laboratory has been hosting public tours 4 times a year, and has had many calls from members of the public expressing interest in visiting the facility. The laboratory hosted a seminar on ceramics by Dr Alasdair Brooks as part of National Archaeology Week. We have conducted tours for students from La Trobe University's Archaeology program, and Melbourne University's Public History program. Laboratory staff have also supplied support and advice to students from La Trobe University's archaeology program. Post-graduate students in the fields of Art History, Archaeology, Cultural Heritage and Conservation have conducted research on the collection.

A small exhibition of objects from the Eureka excavation was installed at the Eureka Centre in Ballarat. A selection of objects from un-provenanced maritime sites has been loaned to Museum Victoria for use in its Interpretation collection as part of the Education program.

Work has continued on art works from the Napier Waller house, and this has enabled a PhD student from Melbourne University to examine the works for her dissertation.

The Laboratory volunteer and work-for-the-dole program continues with six participants working on various projects every week. These participants have a wide variety of skills and experience including photography, library skills, and engineering skills that contribute enormously to the functioning of the laboratory. Conservation students from Melbourne University's Conservation program have also contributed laboratory projects.

The Conservation Bonds program continues, with artefacts from more than 20 sites delivered to the lab in 2005. Artefacts from sites including the Royal College of Surgeons and Armstrong's Hotel have completed conservation treatments and been accessioned into the ARTEFACT database.

Conservation of maritime artefacts has been enhanced with a more sophisticated electronic recording system, allowing for greater efficiency in traditionally long treatment times. These improvements have meant that many shipwreck artefacts have been stabilised and are accessible for research and display.

The Laboratory security has been upgraded, and dataloggers have been installed throughout the facility, monitoring temperature and relative humidity.



Above: Point Nepean.



Above: Ceramics from the SS City of Launceston.



Above: Bethanga Bridge



Above: Point Nepean.

Landscape Forums

During the year the Landscape Advisory Committee of the Heritage Council organised two Landscape Forums. The first was at Geelong on 2 July 2004 focused on the Bellarine Peninsula and the second on 6 April 2005 was set around the rural and coastal landscape of the Mornington Peninsula. Both Forums commenced with a bus tour of the region for 48 delegates to see first hand the landscape features and development issues. Afternoon lectures were attended by over 60 people.

The Forums were an opportunity to view examples of the threats to coastal and rural landscapes and to discuss the balance between residential development, infrastructure, natural systems, the demands of tourism, industrialisation and landscape conservation. Richard Offen from England, and formerly manager of the Neptune Campaign for the English National Trust, was able to provide an important international perspective at the Bellarine Peninsula Forum on the conservation of coastlines.

The aim of the Forums was to increase awareness, understanding and conservation of landscapes of cultural heritage significance in coastal regions of Victoria. The Forums brought together a diverse range of community groups, local and State government, peak bodies and landscape enthusiasts to discuss the balance between development and protection of cultural landscapes. The regions contain a combination of indigenous, heritage, landscape and cultural sites that provided the background for discussions and examples of some of the many issues facing landscapes in Victoria.

The feedback from participants suggests that the aim of the Forums was achieved. The appropriate role for the Heritage Council is to continue to lead the participation by stakeholders and community groups in such discussions. The Heritage Council can also develop community understanding of landscapes of cultural heritage significance so that they may be appropriately conserved and developed. The Forums were supported with funding from the National Trust of Australia (Victoria), City of Greater Geelong, Mornington Peninsula Shire and the Heritage Council.

Bridges Study

VicRoads has actively managed its heritage assets through comprehensive studies into firstly the timber bridges throughout Victoria, and then the metal bridges study. These studies have been jointly funded by VicRoads and the Heritage Council. These have both been completed, and a concrete bridge study is planned for the near future. VicRoads also has policies in place to ensure the condition of all structures is systematically monitored.