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

HERITAGE RISKS

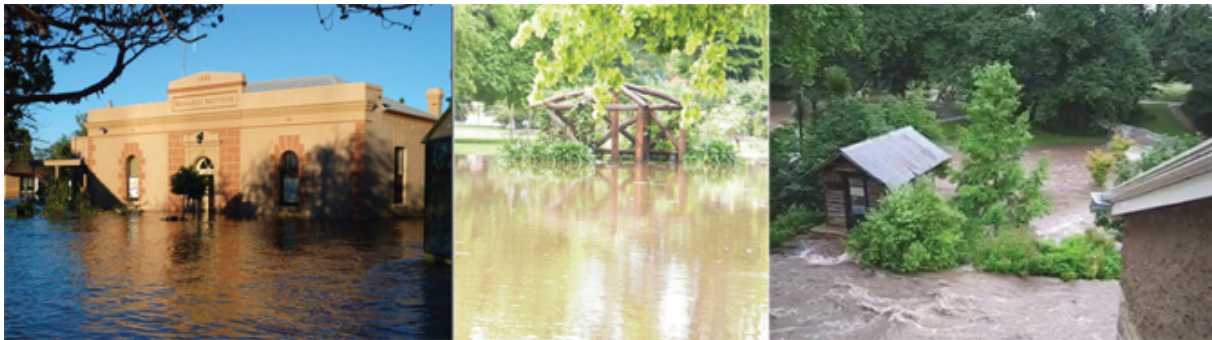
Wars and rebellions overseas, extensive and damaging floods in Queensland and Victoria and the devastating Christchurch earthquake have highlighted the fragility of our heritage buildings and collections.

In Victoria, Heritage Victoria, is active in supporting the recovery effort. As well as collaborating with affected local governments, the Department of Sustainability and Environment, Regional Development Victoria, Arts Victoria and Museums Australia (Victoria) to support the managers of heritage properties and collections, Heritage Victoria is coordinating a database of flood affected heritage properties and historic collections, providing direct advice to grant funded projects and places on the Victorian Heritage Register.

Local Government Heritage Advisors, funded in regional areas with support from Heritage Victoria, are also a useful resource for managers of flood affected heritage places.

Some initial advice is available online at www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/heritage/heritage-places-and-objects/disaster-recovery-and-heritage.

Pictured during the Victorian floods, below from left, Charlton Mechanics Institute, Castlemaine Botanic Gardens and 'Ercildoune' near Ballarat



HERITAGE ADDRESS

'Grand Designs Australia' presenter Peter Maddison will be the keynote speaker at this year's Heritage Address, which will also launch the Australian Heritage Week in Victoria.

The Heritage Address will be held on Wednesday, 13 April from 6.00 pm at Treasury Theatre.

Peter will speak on "Iconography and what makes Good Design" asking himself some difficult questions about which architectural icons have influenced his past, his practice's work and its approach to heritage projects. He will also reflect on some of his experiences with Grand Designs Australia, now filming Series 2.

He suggests some icons that resonate with him include the family Vauxhall (*pictured below left*), a giant clam shell under the front garden tap and an over-scaled classical arch on the façade of his family home.

Peter Maddison, B Arch. RMIT, Director, Maddison Architects Pty Ltd, Fellow RAlA, is a Senior Counsellor and a long standing member of the AIA's Small Practice Forum and Awards Taskforce.

Architectural historian and author Prof. Phillip Goad will chair the evening.

The Heritage Address was inaugurated in 2009 when Ray Tonkin retired and gave an address reflecting on 30 years in Heritage. Last year the keynote speaker was former Chair of English Heritage Sir Neil Cossons OBE. These addresses can be found online at

www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/heritage/about/heritage-victoria/heritage-council-of-victoria

Bookings essential on heritage.rsvp@dpcd.vic.gov.au



FEBRUARY REGISTRATIONS

One of only two remaining buildings in Reeves Special Survey, in Tarraville, Gippsland, was added to the Victorian Heritage Register in February.

The timber residence in **Stawell Street, Tarraville** belonged to local storekeeper, Thomas H. Smith. Though its exact date of construction is unknown, it is most likely to have been constructed in the 1840s. Thomas H. Smith had arrived in Tarraville by 1850, as he was listed in the *Victoria Directory* of 1851. Smith's residence and shop were first cited in the 1856 electoral roll, the year Smith purchased the allotment from Reeve, and he was rated for this residence between 1863 and 1874.

Located on what was Loughnan Street in the township on the Special Survey estate, the residence is a weatherboard building with a pit-sawn hardwood frame and cladding and a high hipped roof. It has an asymmetrical facade, which faces what was the yard, rather than the street.



The residence (*above*) comprised one large room and two smaller rooms. Internal walls were clad in lath and plaster, some of which remains in the smaller rooms. Other early internal features include ogee moulding on internal doorways, shingles in the roof, and a cedar fanlight, recently removed for repair from above the front door. A pear tree, believed to date from the 1860s, remains near the house and the area surrounding the house has the potential for archaeological relics from its early occupation.

John Reeve was granted land on the eastern bank of the Tarra River as a Special Survey in 1841. Farm allotments of various sizes in the 'Tarra Vale Estate', were advertised for lease in September 1843, located on lightly timbered, rich alluvial flats. Within the estate, Reeve's township was named Tara Ville or Tarraville.

The township was surveyed in mid-1843 and located at the south-west corner of the estate, adjacent to the later government township (also known as Tarraville). By 1845, it contained a licensed hotel,

'good stores' and various tradesmen and was deemed 'flourishing' by a newspaper correspondent in 1847.

Tarraville was well placed to supply Tasmania (from Port Albert about five kilometres away) with cattle and sheep, and it was important in supplying the Gippsland goldfields in the 1850s. Its population grew on the basis of this trade, increasing from 99 to 339 between 1848 and 1857 - the largest town in Gippsland in the 1850s.

SEYMOUR COTTAGE



Another addition to the register was a simple gold rush era cottage built from unusual materials – prefabricated meranti doors from Singapore, which were used for the external walls of the cottage.

Seymour Cottage (*above*), formerly 'Barton', in Palmer Street, Romsey, is a four-roomed residence built in c. 1856 by Sidney Seymour, who arrived in Romsey with his wife, Elizabeth, and their six children in the mid-1850s.

Sidney and Elizabeth Seymour had arrived in Victoria in 1835 as assisted immigrants. Romsey, located on the Five Mile Creek near Lancefield, was on the route to the Central Highlands goldfields. Sidney Seymour was a farmer and resided at Romsey until his death, at age 100, in 1913.

The importation of prefabricated buildings to Victoria reached its peak in the early 1850s, due to the huge demand for accommodation and local labour shortage during the gold rush period. In the early 1850s, hundreds of prefabricated timber houses arrived in Victoria from Britain, Singapore, India and Hong Kong. It is unknown how Seymour obtained this quantity of door panels, but it is likely they arrived with a large consignment of prefabricated houses. There are variations in the height of the panels and horizontal rails within each door.

The single-storey cottage consisted of three small bedrooms and a sitting room entered from narrow central passageway, and had another bedroom and a large kitchen. The partitions between the rooms have since been removed, but beams and ceiling trusses convey this original layout.

The house features a coved ceiling, original 12-paned double-hung sash windows, and has roof shingles under one part of the verandah. The hipped roof is clad with corrugated iron, and there is a verandah on three sides of the building, with a small skillion addition on the fourth side. The kitchen retains a large brick fireplace and bread oven.

RESERVOIR

Also added to the Register in February was the **Toorourrong Reservoir** complex, constructed in 1883-85 as part of an essential stage in the 19th century development of Melbourne's water supply system, designed to improve the quality and quantity of water as the city's population increased in the post-gold rush period.

Melbourne's first large-scale public water supply system, the Yan Yean system, was designed by James Blackburn and constructed from 1853 to 1857. But the Yan Yean water was polluted, as it was collected from the settled areas around Whittlesea, and by the 1870s the supply was inadequate for Melbourne's growing population.

A scheme was devised by William Thwaites, the chief engineer of the Public Works Department, and was built in 1882-86 to bring clean water from the north side of the Great Dividing Range southwards, passing by means of a series of aqueducts and weirs over a low saddle into Jack's Creek which flowed into the Plenty River. The Toorourrong Reservoir was built across the valley of the east branch of the Plenty River as a settling dam to reduce the amount of suspended particles in the water.

The Toorourrong Reservoir is formed by an embankment 300 metres long – a smaller version of the Yan Yean dam – and consists of an earth embankment with a puddle clay core and with stone facing on the inner slope. The Reservoir covers an area of 15 hectares and has a capacity of 273 megalitres. Below the dam wall is a lily pond, marking the place from where earth was removed for the construction of the dam wall. Water comes into the Reservoir via an aqueduct entering the reservoir from the east. At the north-west end of the embankment is a stone-lined spillway and a stone-lined scour channel with a gate on the reservoir side. At the south-east end is the three arched outlet to the Clearwater Channel leading to Yan Yean.

The Toorourrong Reservoir complex is of scientific (technological) significance for the quality of the stonework in the stone-lined spillway and channels associated with the Reservoir. It is a demonstration of the craftsmanship of 19th century stonemasons and is a fine example of the use of stone in a major 19th century engineering project.



HIDDEN HISTORY

The National Sports Museum wants your help in its preparation for an upcoming exhibition – ‘Hidden History of the MCG’.

The exhibition, which will open in August, hopes to unearth the unexpected, overlooked and unacknowledged stories of the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) through its long and illustrious history.

For instance, did you know that a child was born in the upper tiers of the Great Southern Stand during a VFL Grand Final?

The exhibition curators are calling for quirky and unusual stories about the MCG.

All contributions are welcomed via email to Collections@mcc.org.au

PUBLICATIONS

The many well known guest houses, seaside and other attractions and walking trails feature in *Holidaying at Surf Coast*, one of the chapters of the Surf Coast Shire’s Environmental History *Farmland, Forest & Surf*, published in December. The well presented publication is based on Stage 2B of the Surf Coast Shire Heritage Study prepared by Dr Carlotta Kellaway with Context Pty Ltd in 1998 and revised and updated by Dr David Rowe, Authentic Heritage Services Pty Ltd in July 2009.

The publication is richly illustrated with historical pictures, maps and early advertisement to tell the story of the shire’s development. Other chapters cover the natural environment, early settlement and development, transport and communications, towns, local government, community life and house.

The publication is \$15 (including postage) from Surf Coast Shire on (03) 5261 4527 or email info@surfcoast.vic.gov.au

Another excellent recent publication is *Summer Walk* by Peter and Ann Synan, which details the history of the Botanic Gardens in Sale. The book is very well presented with both historic and contemporary photographs, and provides a comprehensive history of both botanic and social milestones linked to the gardens. The foreword by Wellington Shire Council Manager of Natural Environment, Tim Rowe, notes that the book illustrates the Gardens’ triumphs, trials and tribulations over 150 years. Available from Hill of Content, Melbourne and local bookshops.

DATES

2011 Heritage Address presented by the Heritage Council of Victoria, Wednesday 13 April, Treasury Theatre. Keynote speaker Peter Maddison and chair Prof Phillip Goad.

Australian Heritage Week, a new annual national celebration of heritage, will run from Thursday 14 April until Wednesday 20 April 2011. See www.environment.gov.au/heritage/about/heritage-week/index.html

From Steam To Surf, National Trust Heritage Festival 2011, 8 April to 8 May. Events across Victoria including Geelong and Region festival (16 and 17 April), Rushworth Easter Heritage Festival (23 April) and City of Ballarat Heritage Festival (7-8 May). See www.nattrust.com.au/heritage_festival_2011

Tutankhamun and the Golden Age of the Pharaohs opens at Melbourne Museum on 8 April 2011 (see www.kingtutmelbourne.com.au/home.html)

16th Engineering Heritage Australia Conference will be held 13 – 16 November 2011 at Wrest Point Conference Centre, Hobart, Tasmania. (see www.cdesign.com.au/ehac2011)

Watermarks, Water's Heritage, 27-30 October 2011, Melbourne presented by the National Trusts of Australia and Australia ICOMOS. Further information see <http://www.aicomos.com/2011-conference/>

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