

Hepburn Heritage Strategy 2020-2030



***Adopted by Hepburn Shire Council
June 2020***

Images Clockwise:

Clunes Town hall interior, Wombat Hill Botanic Gardens; Bridge over Bullarook Creek, Smeaton; Parma House, Daylesford;
Sources: Victorian heritage data base and Hepburn Shire Council

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A vast majority of the Hepburn Shire is located within the traditional lands of the Dja Dja Wurrung with a small part south of Newberry and Trentham within the Wurundjeri Registered Aboriginal Party area. The Dja Dja Wurrung and the Wurundjeri were the traditional owners and first nation people. The Hepburn Shire acknowledges and respects their customs and traditions and their special relationship to place.



Dry stone wall, Hepburn Shire
Photo: Raelene Marshall

1. Introduction

The Hepburn Heritage Strategy sets out Hepburn Shire’s plan for managing its heritage to 2030.

Hepburn Shire Council has nearly one thousand heritage places and precincts that are locally significant and protected under the Heritage Overlay of the Hepburn Planning Scheme. Council is committed to ensuring that its heritage places continue to be protected in accordance with best practice and international heritage standards.

This Strategy also recognizes that there are other potential heritage places and memories that are important to the community which should be identified, assessed and given protection.

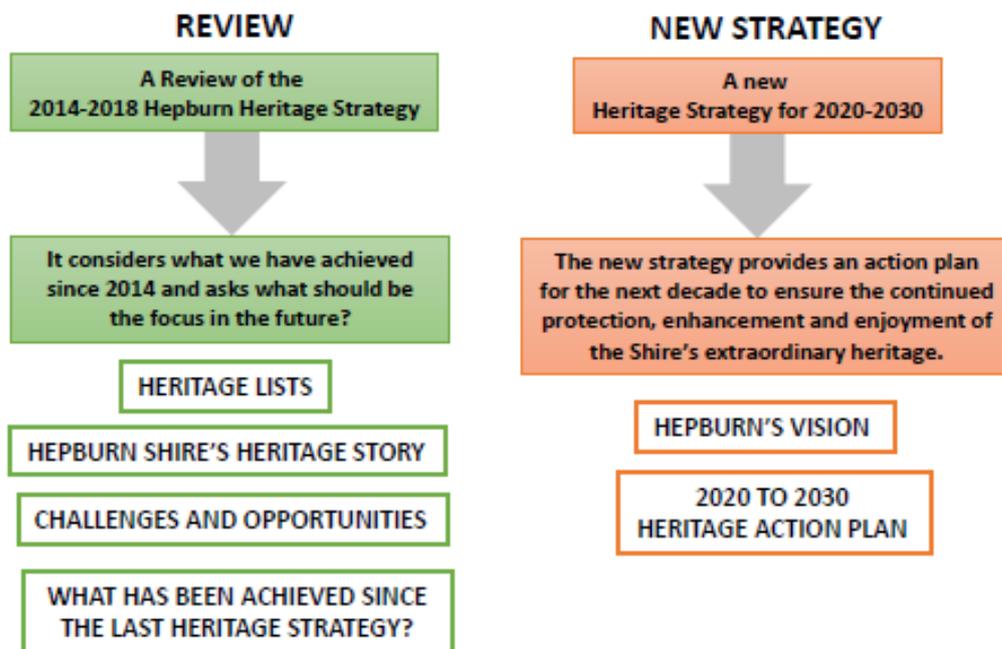
This document has been prepared in accordance with “Municipal Heritage Strategies: A Guide for Councils” Toolkit. 2012.¹ . This strategy includes:

- (i) *A review of the Hepburn’s (outgoing) Heritage Strategy 2014-2018.*

That is, did we deliver on the priorities set out in the outgoing strategy?
 What challenges did we face and did we respond to the Shire’s unique heritage themes?

- (ii) *An updated municipal heritage strategy for the next decade, 2020-2030*

The updated strategy confirms the Heritage vision and sets out an action plan to guide Council. A key challenge will be risk preparedness and the potential impact of climate change on the Shire’s cultural and natural heritage. New approaches and methodologies for adaptation will be required to be considered and adopted.



¹ https://www.heritage.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0017/55520/Municipal-Heritage-Strategies-guide.pdf

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1.1. What is a heritage strategy?

The management of heritage assets is a Council responsibility, jointly managed with other government organisations who may either own heritage places, such as the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) and Victrack, or play a regulatory role such as Heritage Victoria.

The objective of managing a heritage asset is to identify, protect, conserve, interpret and celebrate its cultural heritage significance for current and future generations. Planning includes the development of heritage policies, strategies and guidelines.

This work is an important part of what Hepburn Shire Council does.

Working to best value² principles, the Heritage Strategy identifies and manages our heritage into the future. It sets out specific objectives, approaches and proposed future actions for the long-term management of heritage.

A heritage strategy also provides an important context for Council as it seeks to protect its heritage places. This heritage strategy should be read in context with the following statutory provisions:

- The Hepburn Planning Scheme local policy: Heritage (forthcoming amendment)
- The Heritage Overlay of the Hepburn Planning Scheme
- The Schedule to the Heritage Overlay of the Hepburn Planning Scheme.

The above provisions seek to protect the Shire's local heritage from demolition, unsympathetic additions and new works, the destruction of significant gardens and landscapes, dry stone walls and ruins and inappropriate subdivisions. The later pages of this Strategy identify what Council needs to do to protect its heritage.

1.2. Hepburn community's commitment to heritage

Hepburn Shire's heritage places are highly valued by the community. They contribute to our social capital, economic wealth and acclaimed tourist assets within the Shire.

This strategy sets out recommended approaches for how Hepburn Shire will continue to work successfully with community groups and state government services in the protection, celebration and interpretation of its heritage.

1.3. Method

This Heritage Strategy draws on:

- knowledge and experience within the Hepburn Shire Council including Council's heritage advisors and local historical societies and museums;
- community views;
- approaches taken by neighbouring councils; and
- Heritage Victoria, Aboriginal Victoria, the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) and the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP).

In preparing the review, the following have been considered:

² Section 208B of the Local Government Act 2020

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- Hepburn Planning Scheme (Clause 43.01: Heritage Overlay)
- Hepburn heritage studies (Listed in Attachment A)
- Planning Practice Note: PPN01 'Applying the Heritage Overlay, 2018'
- Heritage Act 2017
- Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006
- Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018
- Hepburn Council Plan
- Hepburn Heritage Policy 2015
- The eight heritage criterion³ applied to places to be included on the Victorian Heritage Register This criteria is also applied in the local context for adding places to the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay of the Hepburn Planning Scheme



Former Mechanics Institute hall, Ullina.
Source: Neil Newitt Photography

³ <https://heritagecouncil.vic.gov.au/heritage-protection/criteria-and-thresholds-for-inclusion/>

2. Strategic context: How does Council manage heritage?

The Hepburn Shire's strategic priorities are provided in the Hepburn Council Plan. Its Mission Statement is:

Hepburn Shire's Council Plan 2017-2021

Hepburn Shire Council will maintain, promote, protect and enhance the districts' unique social, cultural, environmental and heritage characteristics. This will be achieved through effective, caring management and responsible governance. We will strive to gain maximum advantage for our community by protecting and enhancing our natural and built environment.

As a rural area, where nature-based tourism is a key economic driver, preservation of our cultural landscape, forests, our significant tree-lined streets, avenues of honour, mineral springs, wetlands, streetscapes, public parks, heritage gardens and properties can be assisted through the implementation of well-considered planning controls. Ongoing updates to the Hepburn planning scheme are important to ensuring these key features are protected.

The most significant challenge for Hepburn's heritage will be adapting to the impact of climate change. This will require protection of the community and natural environment from natural disasters such as bush fires, damaging winds, extreme weather events and temperatures, droughts, storms and floods, loss of biodiversity and consequential complex interactions between social, environmental and political changes.

What is a heritage place?

Heritage refers to places and objects from our past, which hold cultural significance for our people. Heritage includes both tangible elements (such as a site, area, building, group of buildings, structure, archaeological site, tree, garden, geological formation, fossil site, habitat or other place of natural or cultural significance books, works of art and artefacts) and intangible aspects (such as folklore, traditions, language and knowledge). Cultural significance encompasses aesthetic, historic, scientific/technical, social or spiritual values that may exist for past, present or future generations.



Kingston grandstand

The Kingston Grandstand was constructed in 1902 at the nearby Smeaton Showgrounds but was moved to its present location in 1922 when the district's premier show was relocated to improve railway access. The grandstand is a timber building with a corrugated iron roof partly barrel vaulted and partly skillion.

Source: Heritage Victoria

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The eight criterion used for assessing heritage places

Eight criterion, developed by Heritage Victoria⁴, are applied at both the state and local level for assessing heritage places. A place may be significant according to more than one criterion or it may be only a small portion of a property that has significance. Members of the community can use this criteria for nominating places to either the Victorian Heritage Register or the Schedule to the Heritage Overlay of the Hepburn Planning Scheme. The National Trust of Australia Victoria also provides useful guidance as to how to nominate a place for the Victorian Heritage Register.⁵

Criterion	Descriptor
A	Importance to the course, or pattern, of Victoria's/ Hepburn's cultural history.
B	Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Victoria's/ Hepburn's cultural history.
C	Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Victoria's/ Hepburn's cultural history.
D	Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural places and objects.
E	Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics
F	Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period.
G	Strong or special association with a particular present-day community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons.
H	Special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in Victoria's/ Hepburn's history

The role of The Burra Charter

The International Charter of Monuments of Significance (ICOMOS) "The Burra Charter, 2013"⁶ defines the principles and procedures for the conservation of Australian heritage. It advocates a cautious approach to change: do as much as necessary to care for the place and make it usable, but otherwise change it as little as possible so that its cultural significance is retained. These principles are embraced in the various heritage lists outlined in Section 2.1 below.

⁴ https://heritagecouncil.vic.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/VHRCriteriaandThresholdsGuidelines_2019Final.pdf

⁵ https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/2018_advocacy_toolkit_No1-1.pdf

⁶ <https://australia.icomos.org/wp-content/uploads/The-Burra-Charter-2013-Adopted-31.10.2013.pdf>

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2.1. Heritage lists and the regulatory framework

Across the jurisdictions of the heritage regulatory framework, the Hepburn Planning Scheme has the greatest impact in local heritage management through the Heritage Overlays. There are nearly one thousand locally significant heritage places listed on the schedules to the Heritage Overlay of the Hepburn Planning Scheme. In Hepburn, our regulatory frameworks are:

<p>HERITAGE CATEGORY</p>	
<p>Local Significance</p>	
<p>GOVERNANCE</p>	<p>Wombat Hill Curios. Source: Visit Victoria</p>
<p>Hepburn Shire Council</p>	
<p>REGULATORY TOOL</p>	
<p>Hepburn Shire Planning Scheme operating under the Planning and Environment Act 1987</p>	
<p>NAME OF HERITAGE LIST</p>	<p>110 year old Crab apple tree (<i>Maluss spp</i>) on Clunes-Creswick Road, Clunes. Remnant planting to an old farm house. Circa 1898-1903 Source: Neil Newitt Photography, Hepburn Significant Tree Register</p>
<p>Schedule to the Heritage Overlay, Clause 43.01 Go to: https://planning-schemes.delwp.vic.gov.au/schemes/hepburn/ordinance/43_01s_hepb.pdf</p>	
<p>A full list of local heritage studies supporting the Schedule is appended. Council also has a significant tree register that is referenced in the Hepburn Planning Scheme that the community can submit nominations for.</p>	

HERITAGE CATEGORY
State Significance
GOVERNANCE
Heritage Victoria
REGULATORY TOOL
Heritage Act 2017
NAME OF HERITAGE LIST
Heritage Register Heritage Inventory. Go to http://vhd.heritage.vic.gov.au/ .
Permits are needed from Heritage Victoria for development and works. A permit is needed from Council for subdivision and may be needed for use.



Daylesford post office
Source: Culture Victoria

HERITAGE CATEGORY
Archaeology
GOVERNANCE
Heritage Victoria
REGULATORY TOOL
Heritage Act 2017
NAME OF HERITAGE LIST
Heritage Register Heritage Inventory. Go to http://vhd.heritage.vic.gov.au/ .



Berry no 1 Deep Lead gold mine
Source: Victorian Heritage Data base

HERITAGE CATEGORY	
National Heritage	
GOVERNANCE	
Department of Environment	
REGULATORY TOOL	
Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999	
NAME OF HERITAGE LIST	
Australian heritage data base Go to www.environment.gov.au/heritage/places/national-heritage-list	
	<p>Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park (Hepburn SC) Source: Australian Department of Environment</p>

HERITAGE CATEGORY	
Aboriginal heritage	
GOVERNANCE	
Aboriginal Victoria	
REGULATORY TOOL	
Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2018	
NAME OF HERITAGE LIST	
Sites of cultural heritage sensitivity are mapped. Go to https://www.aboriginalvictoria.vic.gov.au/cultural-heritage-sensitivity The Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006 <i>Aboriginal Heritage Regulations 2007</i> provides protection for all Aboriginal places, objects and human remains in Victoria, regardless of their inclusion on the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register or land tenure.	
	<p>Mount Franklin (Lalgambook) Source: Visit Victoria</p>

The highest recognition of heritage significance is the **UNESCO World Heritage list**.

Hepburn Shire Council is continuing to contribute funding and for Council's executive team to work with neighbouring Councils and the State government in the 'Central Victorian Goldfields' bid to include key parts of the shire on the World Heritage list. The basis of the bid is that the Central Victorian goldfields were part of a world movement that generated global migration, introduced new technologies and innovations generating great wealth in Australia. If successful, the listing will draw significant investment and visitation in tourism directly into the Hepburn Shire.

2.2. Hepburn Shire’s heritage story

Hepburn Shire’s environmental history is encapsulated in the following key themes. These themes are aligned to Victoria’s “Framework of Historic Themes”⁷ produced by Heritage Victoria .

Hepburn Shire lies within one of the richest 19th century goldfields of the world. The discovery of gold brought tens of thousands of overseas migrants to the shire. This intense activity has actively shaped the landscape over the last century through the following:

- the building technologies of the Swiss Italians;
- the distinctive mining infrastructure developed by the Cornish miners;
- other structures such as dry stone walls, large scale c19th gold mining technologies, nineteenth century water hydraulics and terracing for irrigation, farm structures such as the extraordinary collection of potato huts in the south of the Shire;
- nineteenth century streetscapes and individual buildings seen throughout the shire,
- nineteenth century landscapes and gardens; and
- distinctive landscaping (Avenues of Honour) and infrastructure developed as a result of the world wars.

The First nations people: Aboriginal landscape

The Indigenous traditional owners of Hepburn Shire are the Dja Dja Wurrung people, whose traditional land comprises the Loddon and Avoca rivers catchment area extending east from the Macedon mountain ranges to St Arnaud and the Pyrenees Ranges in the west, Boort and Bendigo in the north and south along the Great Dividing. Hepburn Shire lies in the southern area of Dja Dja Wurrung country.

The boundaries of the Shire are located within the northern most part of the Newer Volcanic region of the Western Volcanic Plains of Victoria, the third largest volcanic plains in world. Knowledge about the role of the geomorphologic volcanic structure of the landscape, its gold bearing auriferous reefs and quartz and slate ridges, its topography was essential to the success of the British and European enterprises on the goldfields.

The Dja Dja Wurrung people hold traditional ecological knowledge about the biodiversity of the area, ecological systems and changing climatic patterns acquired over many thousands of years of direct human contact with the environment. Documentation and recording of Indigenous heritage sites are a



Aboriginal farmers at Parker’s Protectorate, Mt. Franklin ca. 1858
Source: Culture Victoria

⁷ https://www.heritage.vic.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0022/61465/Victoria_Framework_Historical_Themes_themes.pdf

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recent event within the context of the Planning Scheme. Historic and archaeological research confirms that the Dja Dja Wurrung were heavily involved in quarrying operations for many types of rocks, particularly tachylyte (volcanic glass) quartz, crystals, and the extensive volcanic green stone quarrying for which southern Victoria is famous. These latter mines are some of the oldest in the world.



Trentham Falls
Source: Visit Victoria

Inhabiting the land: cultural landscapes

Hepburn Shire is dominated by two different patterns of lava flow that resulted in different types of gold deposits; hard rock, quartz reefs and alluvial deep lead systems. These two different volcanic lava flow patterns have shaped the history of Hepburn Shire and define its visual and historic character.

The human responses to these geological features have created cultural landscapes of great beauty that are recognized at state, national and international level. Here ‘the underground caverns and fissures’ and the ‘above ground valleys and gorges’ are entwined in an intimate flow of interactions mixing geological, biological, economic and socio-political life.

Geology, mining, agricultural and architecture are deeply interconnected in shaping this cultural landscape. The cultural landscape remains the mainstay of the economy and contemporary social life.

To the west of Hepburn Shire are the giant boulders and granite tors of Mt Beckworth near the historic gold mining townships of Clunes and Creswick. Here, the volcanic basalt plains are formed from thick lobes of lava arising from many eruption points. Multiple rounded scoria volcanic cones form clusters across the undulating basalt plain of the western part of the Shire, burying former ancestral rivers and valleys. Gold was extensively mined by large company mines from these deep alluvial riverbeds and leads. The majority of these former mining communities are now ghost towns long abandoned.



Deserted diggings. Spring Creek ca. 1858
Source: Culture Victoria

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Water: harnessing water for mining, farming and the environment

This area is generally poorly drained on the surface and forms part of the Tullaroop water catchment area. Fed both by surface run off from volcanic cones and aquifers trapped by overlaying lava flows, the flow system is partially underground and drains northward to the Murray River via a string of lagoons and periodic wet forest swamps that form important wetlands in the open grassy plain.

The miners became adept at hydrological engineering creating complex water races and dams that extended some considerable distance. The way in which land was surveyed in the area meant there was extensive Crown Land on either side of the creeks permitted alluvial mining and later scouring and dredging of the creek beds. The existing water courses in consequence became extensively degraded and damaged through dredging practices causing significant loss of flora and fauna.

Traditionally, these wetlands formed habitat for huge migratory flocks of brolgas, black swans and other wetland birds. The portraits of the wildlife were shaped into giant rock sculptural formations laid across the volcanic cones by the Dja Dja Wurrung people. The massive rock arrangements depicted complex night and day creation stories for ceremonial activities.

The volcanic plains are where the prized black volcanic soils sustain successful agricultural farming, cropping and animal husbandry. The deep aquifers and volcanic lagoons provide water for irrigation for the crops.



Port Phillip and Colonial Gold Mining Co., Clunes [ca. 1861]

Clunes in the Central Highlands was the location of the first official gold rush in Victoria in 1851. This photo was taken approximately 10 years later
Source: Culture Victoria

Water: mineral springs

In the eastern section of Hepburn Shire from Blampied to Trentham, the basalt rocks of the volcanic plains form a thin discontinuous veneer covering intermittent elevated rocky terrain. This stony country is composed of a series of north-south outcrops of hard sandstone ridges which form anticline and syncline folds that run in parallel formation, south of Daylesford to Bendigo. In the north about 80 kilometres.

The rocky ridges are made up of Ordovician bedrock (over 500 million years old) consisting of sandstones, slates and mudstones, that were formerly part of the sea bed that has since been uplifted and tilted. The ridges are deeply fissured, fractured, discontinuous with major faults and are highly porous. It is an area of extremely high biodiversity associated with the local regrowth box ironbark forests. And unusually, it forms a dual deep flowing drainage system that has created Australia's greatest concentration of mineral springs.



Hepburn Mineral Springs, Daylesford,
Victorian Railways collection, scenic negatives, circa 1945 to 1954 Source: Culture Victoria

Living with the environments: Farmers commons and mining forest commons

The deeply fissured rocky terrain is generally unsuitable for agriculture but was heavily mined for gold. It was also extensively logged for timber to supply the mines. Large areas of the north south ridge country were reserved as Crown Land for gold mining and forest commons gazetted by the colonial government and leased back to operators. It now provides Hepburn with extensive areas of Crown Land that now form widespread regional, state and national forests co-managed by the Dja Dja Wurrung people.

Associated with the designated mining, farmers' and forest reserves are the small former timber towns of Trentham, Lyonville, Glenlyon, Little Hampton, Bullarto, Musk and Barkstead. Logging continued in the old growth forests until the late 20th century when felling of old growth forests was discontinued.

With the pastoral expansion following the exploratory expedition of Major Thomas Mitchell in 1836. There was frontier violence, which resulted in local massacres and dispossession of Dja Dja Wurrung people from their traditional lands. At first local Indigenous people were encouraged to either seek employment on the pastoral stations or congregate in the Loddon Aboriginal Protectorate established at Franklindford in the 1840s. With the discovery of gold in 1852, environmental changes in the area occurred on an unimaginable scale and together with uncontrolled mining on private land, including the Aboriginal Protectorate. Local Aboriginal people were encouraged to move to Coranderrk Station in the Yarra Valley. This included the children from the aboriginal school at Franklindford which closed. Activism, land rights claims and recognition of traditional ownership of the Hepburn Shire area led to the recent Traditional Ownership Act 2012.



Franklindford

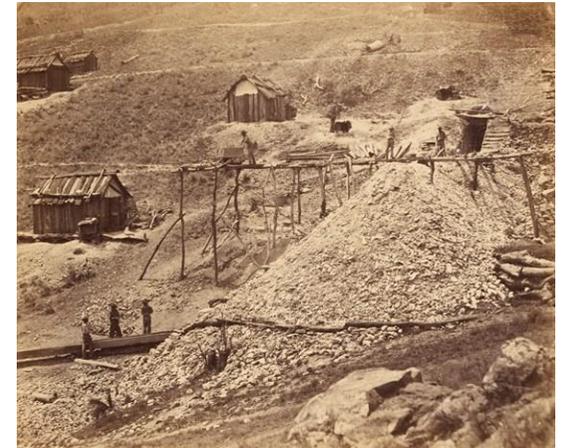
Source: Victorian heritage data base

Utilising natural resources: Mining and building settlements

The first gold seekers focused on the easy to obtain gold from shallow alluvial deposits along streams and creek beds. Rushes, often made up of thousands of miners were temporary, constantly shifting as new fields were discovered. The underground configuration of gold bearing reefs, gold rich alluvial creeks and buried alluvial rivers have had profound consequences for the small settlements and towns that sprung up above the mines. Above ground, the former gold mining towns were shaped by the administrative model set up in New South Wales and established in Victoria by the Goldfields Commission in the 1850s.

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Beneath the settlements, the sub terrain ground became criss-crossed by a geometry of shafts and tunnels created in order to extract gold. By the 1860s and 1870s settlements became more permanent, largely the result of deep lead mining which was operated by larger companies. Colonial government raised revenue for administration through the sale of Crown land for residential blocks and small agricultural holdings. With few exceptions gold mining in the area peaked by the 1890s. In most places, flooding of the shafts by underground water that moved through rock fissures had made gold extraction too costly to continue.



Swiss Tunnel. Jim Crow diggings.
Source: Culture Victoria

Governing: Gold Commissioner camps

A gold commissioner was appointed to each field to control the movement of men and impose taxes. The primary obligation of colony officials was to collect revenue for the Crown by supervising the collection, storage and transportation of gold, and to manage the gold licensing systems – issuing licenses, exacting fees and fines. The colonial officials administered their respective gold fields with the aid of a number of assistant commissioners, a detachment of troops, and the local police, creating in the process characteristic government camps of various sizes.

In Hepburn Shire there are four main camps at Creswick, Clunes, Daylesford and Hepburn Springs, and many outlying gold mining districts such as Trentham, Mount Franklin, Yandoit, Eganstown, Kingston, Smeaton and Allansdale among others. Typically, each government camp contained a courthouse; lock up, police station, stables and horse paddocks, telegraph station, mining register, gold offices and usually a hospital and associated churches. Houses were for a long time temporary and relocatable. Gold mining attracted a diverse range of ethnic groups to the area during the 19th century, among these groups the Cornish, Irish, Chinese and Swiss Italian miners formed small communities who later settled in the area to farm.



Daylesford Court House (Former)
Source: <https://www.workingheritage.com.au>

Cultural life: Wellbeing and tourism

The special feature of Hepburn Shire's cultural landscape is its visual similarity to the landscapes of Europe, Scotland and Eastern Europe. It inspired a sense of nostalgia and memories that drew people to the area and gave the place new names. It led to the early development of tourism from the 1860s, when the Swiss Italian fought for the preservation of the mineral springs from destruction by gold mining. Under the influence of the Swiss Italians the health-giving qualities and tradition of 'taking the waters' in the mineral springs became an important tourist attraction for nearly 200 year.

The part played by the State Government in establishing the Hepburn Mineral Springs Bath House and opening up the railway to Daylesford is important. Daylesford was promoted as a holiday destination by the Government Tourist Bureau in 1908. The latter tourist promotion campaign had its origin in the Railways Information Centre created for the 1888 International Melbourne Exhibition. Tourism has continued as a major focus for many of the former gold mining settlements and old mining forest reserves.



Former hotel (now Frangos and Frangos restaurant)
Source: Visit Victoria



Bullarto Station
Source: visithepburnshire.com.au

Development of towns and settlements

The discovery of gold shaped the morphology and distribution of scattered towns across Hepburn shire. Within these settlements, the distribution of gold reserves shaped the distribution of domestic buildings. Miners built their houses on leased Crown Land on '*Miners Residency Areas*' across mining tenements. This is a totally different system of land management to the colonial government town subdivisions, which were then available for purchase under freehold title.

The *Miners Residency Areas* became the predominant form of housing in the region. For a period between 1851 and 1900 it allowed for the construction of quick, temporary, cheap accommodation at low rent for thousands of migrant miners and their families.

The *Miners Residency Areas* no longer exist under Australian mining law. But the legacy of small timber miner's cottages within Hepburn Shire remain as iconic markers of the great 19th century gold rush. Different types of mining extraction, technology and geological characteristics resulted in different types of miner's cottages that provides for the individual characteristics of the different former gold mining towns of Clunes, Creswick, Eganstown, Daylesford, Hepburn Springs, Yandoit and Trentham.

The blend of informal mining settlements with formal colonial geometric subdivisions patterns has shaped the physical form of each of the Shire's towns. The typical cyclic periods of 'boom and bust' of gold mining led to the development of a close symbiotic relationship of mining with farming. The agricultural nature of the area, especially sheep growing, cropping, timber logging and plant nurseries drove key manufacturing development into the 20th century. These were small scale businesses and included among others, woollen mills, knitting and textile factories, timber mills and furniture production, agricultural equipment, chaff, food production, abattoirs, dairies, small goods, charcuteries, bakeries, pasta, potato chips, mineral springs water, wineries and brewing.



Detail from [*Port Phillip and Colonial Gold Mining Co., Clunes*], circa 1861

Source: State Library of Victoria



Detail from *Ham's squatting map of Victoria Port Phillip District NSW. 1853*

Source: State Library of Victoria

3. Hepburn's heritage challenges and opportunities

Key issues to be addressed by this strategy:

Challenge/ Opportunity	Comments
<p>There is a large amount of research and ongoing work to respond to gaps in local heritage protection.</p> <p>Time, costs and resources associated with protecting places of significance in the Shire</p> <p>Agreeing on heritage priorities to guide Council in heritage management in the coming years particularly given Council's competing financial demands.</p>	<p>Council can develop a program for identifying places to be considered and assessed with statements of significance prepared for inclusion in the Heritage Overlay of the Hepburn Planning Scheme.</p> <p>Council is interested to accept new research undertaken by historical societies, organisations and individuals that may assist in protecting the Shire's heritage places. Heritage groups and historical societies can play a key role in leading the heritage vision for the Shire.(Any Heritage Advisory Committee should be led by a Terms of Reference)</p>
<p>Provide an easy-to-access heritage database for the Hepburn community</p>	<p>Council can work with Heritage Victoria, the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning and the Hepburn historical societies and libraries to ensure all heritage data is accessible.</p> <p>Council will continuously update its website</p>
<p>Places of state significance not included on the Victorian Heritage Register.</p>	<p>Council can support and work with the community in providing any information that supports a nomination</p>
<p>The community has high expectations and expects best practice heritage management from Council even as the Shire's townships face ongoing development pressure</p>	<p>Council can continue to work with community groups and Committees of Management in achieving best practice outcomes for publicly owned heritage places.</p> <p>For Avenues of Honour climate change is a challenge that impacts on the health of the trees, Climate change needs to be included in Conservation Management Plans</p>
<p>Ensure committees of management are supported in achieving best practice heritage outcomes.</p>	<p>Council resources are needed to provide further support</p>
<p>The need to ensure Council staff are capable in all aspects of heritage leadership and management, including the <i>Aboriginal Heritage Act</i> and any other changes in legislation.</p>	<p>Council can continue to train its staff on best practice heritage management.</p>
<p>Council-owned heritage assets include town halls, parks and other community infrastructure. The local community should have regular access</p> <p>Restoration and best practice management is important to ensure these assets are preserved for future generations.</p> <p>A key challenge for Council is funding emergency conservation works so that our heritage buildings are well utilised by the community, providing universal access into buildings and meeting relevant safety requirements.</p>	<p>Council continues to develop maintenance programs for our heritage assets on the Victorian Heritage Register. Further work is required on conservation management plans to support future funding grants.</p> <p>Council has found it difficult to secure grants funding for its assets on the State Register such as the town halls and other significant places.</p> <p>Budgeting for the cost of conservation works</p>
<p>Encourage public access to all of Council's heritage assets to avoid abandonment</p>	<p>All divisions of Council should consider using heritage places for community uses.</p>

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4. What has been achieved since the last heritage strategy?

Since the 2014 Heritage Review Strategy, Council has delivered the following:
(Note: this list is not exhaustive of all heritage projects and initiatives).

Action	Achievement	How did we do this?
Knowing	Ongoing engagement of heritage professionals and advice	Council has continued to engage property qualified heritage architects and engineers to prepare Heritage Reports and advise on proposals
	Council prepared an inventory of artworks and moveable objects at the Daylesford town hall	We engaged specialist consultants to undertake an inventory of moveable objects.
	Ongoing support for the Shire's museums	Council provides funds for the Shire's 3 museums annually. (Note: Although the Shire funds the Daylesford & District Historical Society, the Daylesford Museum Reserve is owned by the State Government and is managed by a Committee of Management.)
Protecting	Since 2015 Council have actively participated in the <i>Central Victorian Goldfields</i> World Heritage Bid.	We are continuing to collaborate with 13 LGA's to advocate for the Central Victorian Goldfields World Heritage Bid. This includes lobbying of State and Federal Government for ongoing funding to develop the bid
	The implementation of the Neighbourhood Character Overlay in Daylesford. The implementation of the VPO via the Significant Tree Report 2006-2016	We amended the Hepburn planning scheme to add new overlay provisions
	Calembeen park	We restored the dive tower at Calembeen park and successfully negotiated with Heritage Victoria to remove the top level due to safety concerns
	Reconstruction of the historic Anderson mill bridge	Council reconstructed the historic Anderson Mill bridge to a total cost of approximately \$400,000. The old timber bridge is on the Heritage Register. Council worked with Heritage Victoria and structural engineers to ensure the reconstructed bridge met modern structural standards.
	Council upgraded its local historic roads, ensured historic street trees were in good health and managed historic parks.	We prioritised the works in our annual maintenance programs. The Shire's heritage bluestones and historic street features are carefully conserved. Where upgrades are need to meet engineering and safety standards we carefully reinstate the historic features We developed the Wombat Hill Botanic Gardens masterplan (Daylesford)
	The Rex, Daylesford.	A former theatre, Council purchased the building in 2015 and has committed to retaining it for use as its Council offices.

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Action	Achievement	How did we do this?
	Glenlyon Shire Hall restoration	Council worked with the committee of management and DELWP (the owners of the hall) to restore this locally significant community hall.
	Drummond hall restoration	Council worked with the committee of management to restore this locally significant community hall so that it is fit for purpose
	Glenlyon Recreation reserve: Minor upgrades	Council has worked with the Committee of Management and allocated funds for ongoing repairs and conservation of these significant sites
	Masterplans for key recreation reserves that are of historic significance	We worked with the local community to develop masterplans for key sites.
	Lyonville hall restoration	Council has worked with the Committee of Management and allocated funds for ongoing repairs and conservation of these significant sites
	Ongoing development of design drawings with heritage permits for key heritage assets	We prepared design specs for Bridge at East Street, Wheelers Bridge,
	Hepburn Mineral Springs Reserve: Council funded repairs to the Hepburn Springs Bathhouse, the former Dance Pavilion and Curator's Cottage	We rebuilt a pedestrian bridge across Spring Creek to encourage tourism. We carefully repaired the roof of the bathhouse. More funds have been allocated in future years to repair the floor. We restored the bathhouse, pavilion and curator's cottage.
	Restoration works to the Wombat Botanic Gardens	Council employed a specialist horticulturalist to manage the gardens, we restored the entrances gates, fernery and cascades, begonia conservatory and developed an extensive inventory and management plan garden specimens. The Committee of Management has ongoing broad based fund raising
	Restoration works to the Avenues of Honour	Council continues maintain and care for the Avenues of Honour across the Shire including the conservation and maintenance of the Creswick Avenue of Honour at Kingston, Drummond Honour of Avenue and Daylesford Honour of Avenue.
	Restoration works to the War memorials	We restored the War Memorials at Hepburn Springs, Clunes, Creswick, Daylesford and Trentham.
	Restoration works to Clunes fountain	We restored Victorian very ornate fountain in Queens Park, Clunes
	Hepburn Heritage Policy 2015	Council adopted the 2015 heritage policy which includes a loans scheme
Supporting	We continued to work with committees of management and historic groups to ensure best practice outcomes on our heritage assets.	Council has a heritage advisor and properly trained professionals who provides expert advice to these committees of management
	We continued to fund and support the Clunes Medley Bottle Museum and museums at Creswick and Daylesford	Council provided funds and administrative support for the ongoing operation of museums at Creswick, Clunes and Daylesford

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Action	Achievement	How did we do this?
	Ensure heritage information is available to the public	The heritage studies have been included on the Council website
Communicating and promoting	There are several festivals that Council supports which are popular.	We regularly work with the National Trust of Victoria (Australia) to hold the annual heritage weekend festival at Andersons Mill. We also support the Swiss Italian Festival, the Begonia display, the local agricultural shows, ANZAC parades We worked with key local tourism organisation to emphasise heritage tourism as a key drawcard to the shire.
	Encourage tourists to visit our extraordinary historic sites and gardens	Council operates the tourist information centres 7 days a week within the shire. We also have a dedicated economic development team to support and promote use and visitation to our heritage sites
	Ongoing lobbying of governments to include key parts of the Shire in a World Heritage listing	Hepburn Shire Council is continuing to work with neighbouring Councils and the State government in the 'Central Victorian Goldfields' bid to include key parts of the shire in a World Heritage listing
	Friends of The Avenue: Creswick Avenue of Honour at Kingston (KFOA)	Hepburn Shire Council assisted and supported the KFOA grants, providing grants, installing infrastructure ie: the entrance signage and providing advise re event management. The Centenary of the Armistice and the Avenue Planting held on 11 November 2018, drew 2,500 people to the Shire from across Australia and took out the Shire award winning event of the year . Council continue to support the KFOA in promotional material and encouraging visitation.



Creswick Avenue of Honour at Kingston showing the monument and pruning

(Source: <https://kingstonavenueofhonour.org.au>)

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Extract of former local citizens, From Hepburn Shire's collection of Daylesford Town Hall historical artefacts. (Source: Hepburn Shire Council)



Council recently purchased the locally significant (former) Rex theatre to be converted to the shire's new administration centre. (Source: Hepburn Shire Council)



Andersons' Mill, Smeaton and opening of the restored bridge (Source: Hepburn Shire Council)



Clunes Museum receives ongoing funding from Council (Source: Visit Victoria)

5. Hepburn's heritage vision

The Hepburn Shire's heritage vision is encapsulated in the Council Plan 2017-2021 Mission Statement. (Also quoted in Section 2 of this Strategy)

Hepburn Shire's Council Plan 2017-2021

Hepburn Shire Council will maintain, promote, protect and enhance the districts' unique social, cultural, environmental and heritage characteristics. This will be achieved through effective, caring management and responsible governance. We will strive to gain maximum advantage for our community by protecting and enhancing our natural and built environment.

5.1. Empowering the Hepburn community with local heritage conservation

Council has strong connections with any community led organizations that play a pivotal role in local heritage management. Some of these sites are Council owned and some are Crown land managed by the Department of Land, Environment, Water and Planning (DELWP). They include (but are not limited to):

Type of asset	Community group	Key role
Avenues of Honour	Creswick (Kingston), Drummond, Ullina, Daylesford, Trentham, Glenlyon, Allendale. Lawrence, Dean and Clunes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Care of Avenue of Honour maintain plaques manage arborists promote heritage tourism and festivals.
Botanic Gardens	Friends of the Wombat Hill Daylesford; Queens Park, Clunes; Trentham Gardens, Creswick.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fund raise through an annual plant sale Work with Council on coordinating care of the gardens Ongoing and broad based fundraising
Cemetery trusts	Daylesford, Clunes, Creswick, Trentham, Glenlyon, Eganstown, Campbelltown, Kingston, Smeaton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manages funds Arranges burials Takes bookings Keeps historical cemetery records
Railway	Daylesford spa country railway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting heritage tourism and festivals Run the railway every weekend to Bullarto from Daylesford
Mineral springs	Friends of the Hepburn Mineral Springs, Glenlyon, Eganstown, Lyonville, Sailors Falls, Lithia complex, Central springs complex, includes Lake Daylesford	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain the sites in accordance with the Australian Natural heritage charter. Promoting heritage tourism Work with Council on promoting the mineral springs network Bush walking and ecotourism

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Type of asset	Community group	Key role
Museums and historical societies	Creswick, Daylesford, Clunes, Clunes Bottle museum, Trentham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage the building, collections and archives • Heritage walks • Genealogy • Promoting heritage tourism and festivals
School of mines	Clunes, Yandoit, Creswick, Bandroom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community events such as angling clubs • Community events • Apply for maintenance grants
Mechanics institutes/ Free libraries	Clunes, Creswick, Trentham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage the building, collections and archives • Community events
War memorials and gates	Returned Services League Victoria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manages and funds the war memorials
Mining areas	Friends of Cornish Hill and Committee of Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restoration and interpretation of the Cornish mining relic landscape by working with schools, the dja dja wurrung, DELWP and Council
Public halls:	Lyonville Glenlyon, Clydesdale, Drummond, Bullarto, Trentham, Creswick, Dean	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow public access • Community events • Apply for maintenance grants
Recreation Reserve and agricultural shows	Glenlyon, Kingston, Creswick, Daylesford, Clunes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotes the reserves through nature based active tourism (ie mountain bike touring)
Public reserves and forests	Jubilee lake, Castlemaine national digging parks (National Heritage Register), Mount Franklin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage campers and nature based tourism (bush walkers)

If you would like to connect with any of these groups, please contact Council on 5348 2306



Clunes School of Mines

Source: www.workingheritage.com.au/places/clunes-school-of-mines



The recently restored Glenlyon Hall.

(Source: Hepburn Shire Council)

6. 2020 to 2030 Heritage Action Plan

This action plan will be updated as the Hepburn Council Plans is developed on a four yearly cycle.

Heritage management pillar	Initiative	How we will do this
Knowing	Undertake a comprehensive thematic environmental history to assist prioritising gaps for potential heritage studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Allocate funds in future budgets for appropriately qualified consultants
	Increase Council knowledge of heritage systems and processes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to train/ inform staff and Councillors regarding the local history of the area Staff may attend Heritage Victoria workshops Continue to fund Council's heritage advisor
	Continue to produce local heritage information/publications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shire newsletters and website updates Continue to produce historical information and promote the historic townships of Clunes, Creswick, Daylesford, Trentham and Glenlyon in addition to smaller settlements, rural areas, former mining establishments and farms.
	Protect historic moveable objects that are associated with key heritage places	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a policy for moveable objects across all Council owned buildings and assets to ensure they are protected against loss, damage or deterioration. The policy should encompass acquisition, de acquisition, cataloguing, safeguarding, protecting/conserving of Council owned moveable objects and artworks (including historic pieces of furniture).
	Prepare a heritage signage strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare a heritage signage strategy to demonstrate proper design and siting, for heritage context and public safety.
Protecting	Undertake heritage 'gaps' studies to provide heritage (and potentially landscape) protection. (A detailed list of gaps is provided in Attachment B)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statements of Significance for individual places in the heritage overlay to provide further clarity around why a place is locally protected Update mapping in the heritage overlay to ensure accuracy Continue to update the Significant Tree Register Protect significant landscapes across the Shire Undertake planning scheme amendments to ensure key sites are formally protected.
	On a regular basis review and refine adequacy of local heritage controls (mapping & content)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage locally significant places through a strong local heritage policy enabled through the Hepburn Planning scheme.

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Heritage management pillar	Initiative	How we will do this
	Review the Hepburn Heritage Policy 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undertake a review in collaboration with key heritage groups
	Continue to nominate places for the Victorian Heritage register	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage members and historical societies in the community to nominate places for the heritage register • Archaeological sites; if a member of the community find an archaeological site, this needs to be recorded and information provided to Heritage Victoria and Hepburn Shire Council
	Ensure council owned heritage places continue to be regularly maintained:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure Council's asset management plans incorporate heritage priorities • Prepare a register of Council owned and managed heritage places. • Apply for heritage grants. • Provide budget for restoration and maintenance on Council owned heritage assets. • Prepare maintenance plans for Council owned sites on the Victorian Heritage Register
	Encourage the repurposing of vacant heritage places	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure Council and government owned heritage places are well utilised and valued by the community • Encourage privately owned heritage places to be utilised and well maintained
	Continue to protect historically significant moveable objects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council will continue to undertake audits of its historically significant moveable objects and to ensure they are protected and preserved
Supporting	Work with key heritage community groups to ensure best practice heritage outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Committees of Management of Council heritage assets including mineral springs sites to ensure the ongoing utilisation and management of these sites benefits the community into perpetuity • Develop terms of reference for Council Committees of management and historical societies of heritage places to ensure best proactive heritage management protocols are followed and to provide support for grants and other asset management initiatives • Support Committees of Management in seeking funding • Through tourist information and web links assist Committees of Management in the promotion of the Shire's heritage

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Heritage management pillar	Initiative	How we will do this
<p>Communicating and promoting</p>	<p>Ensure local heritage information is made publicly available and promoted</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Add all local heritage places to the HERMES data base⁸ • Ensure that archaeological sites are included on the State's heritage inventory⁹ • Add all local heritage places to Council's website¹⁰. • Add all local heritage places to Council's libraries • Ensure Tourist information centres within the shire have heritage background material to promote visitation. • Investigate new ways to heighten the heritage tourism experience in the Shire including heritage festivals such as the Swiss Italian Festa and the Australian Heritage Festival
	<p>Encourage the active use of Council owned heritage assets</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure vacant heritage buildings currently owned by Council are encouraged to have be used
	<p>Engagement with key groups such as historical societies. Avenue of Honour committees and the National Trust of Victoria (Australia)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular community engagement with key community groups (consistent with Council's community engagement plan)
	<p>Ongoing review of the Strategy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review this strategy at the time of the annual report to Council, with a full Review of the Strategic action plan to occur at the time of a new Council Plan and as Planning Scheme Reviews are undertaken on a four yearly cycle.
	<p>Ongoing engagement with the Dja Dja Wurrung and Wurundjeri registered aboriginal parties</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We will engage early with the Dja Dja Wurrung and Wurundjeri registered aboriginal parties in the early planning for Council led projects, in raising community awareness ab out aboriginal cultural heritage and in facilitating cultural heritage activities.

⁸ hermes.heritage.vic.gov.au

⁹ <https://vhd.heritagecouncil.vic.gov.au/>

¹⁰ <https://www.hepburn.vic.gov.au/plans-strategies/>

ATTACHMENT A

HEPBURN SHIRE COUNCIL LIST OF LOCAL HERITAGE STUDIES

- *Daylesford and Hepburn Springs Conservation Study* (author) Perrot Lyon Mathieson Pty Ltd (1985)
- *Talbot and Clunes Conservation Study, Part A Study Report and Part B Background Information* (author) Richard Aitkens (1988)
- *Creswick Shire Heritage Study: A Study of the Built and Environmental Heritage of Creswick Shire* (authors) Lester Tropman & Associates, Wendy Jacob, Chris McConville, Richard Aitken (1990)
- *Creswick Shire Heritage Study: A Study of the Built and Environmental Heritage of Creswick Shire: Building Citations Index Appendix A- Volume 1* (authors) Lester Tropman & Associates, Wendy Jacob, Chris McConville, Richard Aitken (1991)
- *Creswick Shire Heritage Study: A Study of the Built and Environmental Heritage of Creswick Shire: Building Citations Index Appendix A- Volume 2* (authors) Lester Tropman & Associates, Wendy Jacob, Chris McConville, Richard Aitken (1991)
- *Shire of Kyneton Conservation (Heritage) Study, Volume One, Volume Two, Volume Three, Part C* (authors) David Bick, Phyllis Murphy and John Patrick, and background history by Susan Priestley (1990)
- *Daylesford and Glenlyon Conservation Study started 1989-95 completed 2003* (authors) Wendy Jacob, Volume 1 Environmental History, Volume 2 Planning Recommendations, Volume 3 Individual Citation Sheets For Significant Places

Other studies and Conservation Management Plans:

- McConville Chris, and Associates. "Cultural Landscapes Study of Creswick Goldfields Area". Report for the Australian Heritage Commission (1989)
- Lee Andrews and Associates "Wombat Hill Botanic Gardens Conservation Management Plan". December 2007
- Clunes Medley Bottle Museum Conservation Management Plan
- Clunes Town Hall and Court House Conservation Management Plan
- Daylesford Town Hall Conservation Management Plan
- Creswick Town Hall Conservation Management Plan

Other guiding documents

- International Charter of Monuments of Significance (ICOMOS) "The Burra Charter, 2013"
- The Victorian Heritage Register Criteria and Threshold Guidelines, 2019
- National Trust of Australia Victoria. Advisory Tool Kit. Advocacy Guide No 1

ATTACHMENT B

HERITAGE GAPS

This list is not exhaustive and is to be updated as the Hepburn Council Plan is developed on a four yearly cycle.

Buildings

- Residential, Commercial, Industrial, Inter-war and Post-war building types
- Public Buildings including transport-related infrastructure
- Industrial and agricultural buildings, landscapes such and structures including shearers sheds, terrace and drainage systems for irrigating vineyards, Itinerant seasonal potato workers huts (approx. 60-86), migrant industries and Chinese mining sites and labour activities
- Significant interiors (including a review of the Zelman Cottage, Daylesford)
- Migrant camps
- Other places of social significance including pubs, clubs, hotels and theatres

Trees and Gardens

- Individual trees
- Gardens
- Key plantings

Historic Landscapes

- 19th century plantations of carob trees on public land established by itinerant Afghan traders,
- Larger cultural landscapes eg early 19th century forestry plantations, nurseries
- Avenues of Honour and town entrances including the Malmsbury Road entrance
- Ornamental landscape gardens eg Lake Daylesford, Lake Jubilee, Lake George.
- Campsites
- Chinese mining sites and labour activities
- Drystone walling
- Agricultural related structures, shearers sheds, terrace and drainage systems for irrigating vineyards, and sites
- Railway sites including Trentham

Infrastructure

- Public water systems
- Public fish hatcheries
- Drystone walling
- Sustenance workers infrastructure projects such as walking trails
- Urban design infrastructure features of towns e.g. road layout, street trees

Places of natural beauty

- Areas of natural beauty as tourist sites (eg Trentham waterfalls, country historic tourist sites eg 73 mineral springs with early 20th century outdoor bathing areas)
- Historic geological features

Dja Dja Wurrung

- Cultural and natural significance of volcanic cones and volcanic wetlands
- Archaeological sites and ruins
- Sites of Aboriginal significance including vegetation and mining sites

Crown land

- Forests and water reserves
- Regional, state and national parks
- Mining landscapes and mineral springs
- Archaeological sites

Ruins and archaeological sites

- Mining landscapes and mineral springs
- Archaeological sites

Commercial operations and industries

- Commercial
- Industrial
- Migrant industries
- Nurseries
- Fish hatcheries