



NATIONAL TRUST

Every moment an amazing story

Ballarat Branch of the National Trust Spring Newsletter No.20 October 2015

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Up Coming Events

The 55th birthday celebrations and AGM of the Ballarat Branch of the National Trust.

Tuesday the 10th of November at the Miners Tavern 120 Lydiard street Ballarat. Starting at 6.00pm for 6.30.

Guest speaker Dr G. Blackman:

Australian and Victorian President of the National Trust

A man with an amazing array of interests and achievements including-
Director Australian Youth Orchestra,
Chairman of the Board National Stem Cell Foundation of Australia2011,
Chairman of the Board Australian Council of National Trusts.

RSVP to Pam Thompson on 5339 5847 by the 23rd of Oct.

Please mention any special dietary requirements.

Drinks will be at bar prices the cost for the meal is \$40pp.

Payment can be made at the Westpac bank in person or electronically using the following - *BSB 033605. Account number 161721 in the name of National Trust of Australia (Victoria) Ballarat Branch, include your name and the number attending as a reference.

OR

Place the correct amount in an envelope, write the name(s) of those attending, 55th NT Dinner and a contact phone number on the outside, deliver to Harlequin Designs 915 MacArthur Lake Wendouree.

In anticipation of a wonderful night in your company
Ballarat National Trust Committee

A VERY Special Event at Mooramong.

Sunday November 1st Open Day.12-4.00 This will be a big day as Albus the Maremma Guardian Dog Ambassador from Zoos Victoria will be in attendance with his trainer David Williams.



Bandicoot Bodyguards in training, Banjo and Mackinnon.

Maremma Dogs and Eastern Barred Bandicoots may seem like strange bedfellows but in a new pilot program, their relationship could help save the bandicoot from extinction.

The Federal and Victorian Governments, Zoos Victoria, Mt Rothwell Biodiversity Interpretation Centre, Tiverton Property Partners, National Trust of Australia, Mooramong and the Eastern Barred Bandicoot Recovery Team are working together on a Guardian Dog trial for the Eastern Barred Bandicoot.

This trial draws on the success of programs such as the Middle Island Maremma Dog Project (Warrnambool) where Maremmas have successfully protected Little Penguins from fox predation.

Maremmas are a breed of guardian dog that originated in Italy and have been used for centuries to successfully guard livestock. They are considered ideal for conservation work because they can bond to an array of animals, defend them from introduced predators and have a low prey-drive.

Once widespread across the basalt plains of South-Western Victoria, Eastern Barred Bandicoots are now extinct in the wild on mainland Australia as a result of habitat loss and predation from introduced predators, such as foxes.

Breeding programs and reserves surrounded by feral-proof fences have been critical to establishing an insurance population of this species. Now, we have an opportunity to bring the Eastern Barred Bandicoot back from the brink of extinction.

The Guardian Dog program will trial whether bandicoots, protected by specially trained Maremma Guardian Dogs, will be able to form self-sustaining populations in areas that are not enclosed by feral proof fences.

The first two working dog pups, Mackinnon and Banjo, have joined the program and over the next two years they will be gradually introduced to sheep, Eastern Barred Bandicoots and other native species.

When the dogs have matured they will begin work at trial sites including Tiverton Station, a private reserve in Western Victoria and Mooramong, a National Trust property near Skipton. Up to six Maremma Guardian Dogs will take part in the trial that will be staged over five years.

If successful, the trial could result in the creation of a Fighting Extinction Dog Squad, a specially trained squad of dogs that protect and help monitor a host of native wildlife.

If you'd like to know more about this unique trial, contact Ben Sanders, Zoos Victoria, bsanders@zoo.org.au

The Presidents Report.

It has been a busy year, the local branch continues to monitor and maintain the Hepburn Graves, is photographically recording the cast iron of Ballarat and "The Corner Stores of Ballarat" book is getting quite close to having sold almost 3000 copies, amazing.

50 people enjoyed a bus trip to Rippon Lea to explore the amazing fashions and story of Miss Fisher. Spring at Rippon Lea is always wonderful and the presentation of the Miss Fisher collection was a special experience for all. Look out for our next excursion.



Ballarat and Victorian Heritage Grants.

Some of the local applicants to receive grant money are -Former Reid's Coffee Palace, Ballarat, Hut #29, former Ballarat RAAF Base, Old Colonists Association, Ballarat, Clunes Town Hall and Court House, Ballarat Mechanics Institute, Sturt Street, Ballarat, Bath House Pavilion, Hepburn Mineral Springs Reserve Hepburn Springs.

Any residences in areas covered by a Heritage Overlay are eligible to apply.

For more information go to www.vhrf.com.au



Replacement of a slate roof funded through the Victoria's Heritage Restoration Fund .

Group Tours and Accommodation at Mooramong

Mooramong has become a very popular destination for Probus and various other clubs and groups with its fascinating history, splendid gardens and beautiful interiors. Mooramong a Victorian era building underwent an Art Deco make over in 1938. Claire Adams a former silent movie star married Donald Scobie McKinnon and promptly set about bringing the homestead up to date. Unlike many heritage properties the contents of the home from this era are still in place. There are two walled gardens at Mooramong including the pool garden the scene of many garden parties and "comfort " parties during WW2.

The Skipton Lions Club provides catering for groups ensuring that everyone enjoys their visit to this unique property.

For more information on the property visit <http://www.nationaltrust.org.au/mooramong>

Tourist accommodation is available in three charming restored workers cottages go to <http://www.nationaltrust.org.au/vic/AccommodationAtmooramong>

For enquiries about group tours and accommodation at Mooramong email bookings@nattrust.com.au or telephone the bookings office on (03) 96569889 or (03) 9656 9804

FESTIVAL OF SPOKES



The Gold Museum Ballarat 31 October, 2015 10.00 am - 3.00 pm

It's time to put on your cycling best and ride into Ballarat as the Gold Museum celebrates a special community day, the *Festival of Spokes*.

Families can visit the Gold Museum for free to learn about the history of bikes and cycling, bike safety, and see bikes including an early velocipede and a hobby horse.

Wheelie experts from The Squeaky Wheel will be on hand teaching people how to ride, providing safety tips and also help you decorate your bike for a spectacular parade. Bring along your bike, scooter or pram and create a design masterpiece!

The YMCA will run bike maintenance workshops and see cycling fashion come alive in true style with Fashions in Time. Pick up a bargain at the Wozzles Op Shop stall supporting Child and Family Services Ballarat. Catch cyclist Damien Kierl in a heart-stopping race as he tries his luck on a penny-farthing against a modern cyclist and a hobby horse rider.

Want to join the National Trust Ballarat Branch?

Keep informed of developments relating to our heritage PLUS you can come along with a vibrant local group on events and activities not usually available to the public. Contact the National Trust Phone: BH 9656 9800 or email: membership@nattrust.com.au or ring the Ballarat Secretary on 5332 8332 for further information <http://www.nattrust.com.au/>