

National Trust of Australia

Victoria

magazine



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We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Victoria and recognise the continuing connection to lands, waters and communities. We pay respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures; and to Elders past, present and future.

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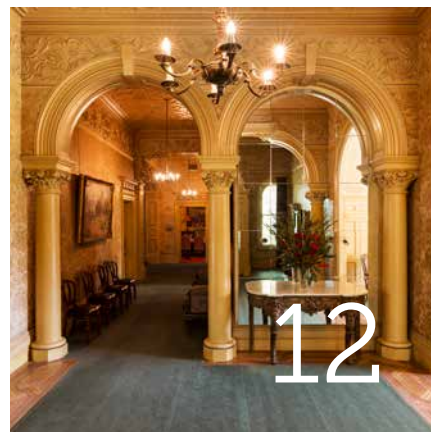


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Message from the Chairman

Kristin Stegley

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all of our readers. In this autumn issue of Trust Magazine, we continue to present innovative content. Our aim is always to keep our members informed on the Trust's important advocacy campaigns, to include articles of interest, and to provide updates on the many activities on offer to members at our properties. In many ways, the magazine reflects the truly independent and unique organisation the National Trust has come to be and exemplifies why we take such pride in the contribution it makes to Victoria's heritage.

I am delighted to report that the important work of charting the Trust's future has now been set out in our new Strategic Plan 2018–2022. We believe that the directions we plan to take in the future must be clear, and we know that our understanding of how we plan to get there must be just as clear. While we acknowledge the serious challenges facing the heritage sector, we also recognise the many opportunities that exist for the National Trust to grow its reach and create an even more dynamic, effective and interconnected heritage community

in Victoria. Our plan is for the organisation to thrive, to grow, to raise hell when required, to educate, to celebrate, and to enrich the everyday lives of Victorians through living heritage.

Accompanying this edition of the Victorian magazine is your copy of the national magazine, which beautifully showcases the work of the National Trust around Australia. We have also provided readers with details of the 2018 Australian Heritage Festival. This year, the festival explores the multifaceted theme of My Culture, My Story, and we hope you'll enjoy the many events and activities on offer.

I am also delighted to report that through the generosity of so many members during last year's Annual Appeal, full restoration of the Como entry gates has been made possible, and the research required for an authentic restoration of the Como exterior will soon be completed.

All of us at the Trust are feeling excited and positive about the year ahead, and we believe that the Trust is well positioned to continue to make a strong contribution to the historic, social and cultural fabric of Victoria, both now and for generations to come.



Message from the CEO

Simon Ambrose

What an exciting start to the year, with Rippon Lea turning 150 years old and Mooramong celebrating 80 years of Art Deco.

Rippon Lea Estate, like many of our properties, sits at the core of what we do at the Trust in terms of protecting history and preserving properties so that their stories may be shared and enjoyed by all future generations. It is incredible to look back at the generous spirit of Trust members and the general public, whose tremendous efforts protecting Rippon Lea in the 1960s enabled it to remain the magnificent property that it is today. I encourage you all to visit Rippon Lea in its 150th year and celebrate its ongoing success with us.

For those who love Art Deco, this year Mooramong celebrates its 80th year. Home to Scobie and Claire Mackinnon, Mooramong is one of the most intact historical examples of Art Deco that still exists today. The pool has recently been redone and the house holds a fascinating collection of Art Deco items that are mesmerising to all who visit.

Another exciting development for this year is the launch of Como Fashion Quarter, which will run from April to July at

Como House. During the exhibition, we will look at the way fashion influencers use space when they are each given a room at Como House to activate. This promises to be an incredible installation and is one worth devoting some time to.

One of the most important aspects of what we do at the Trust is advocacy. As Melbourne continues to grow, we will face increasing instances of competing pressures on the use of our historical buildings and public open spaces. On a daily basis, our advocacy team is approached by people facing changes and challenges to their immediate environments through development or planning. I encourage you all to support the protection of these spaces, so that instead of their redevelopment for the short term gain of a few, they may be enjoyed by the generations that follow us.

As you can see, we have many exciting celebrations and events coming up, and I look forward to seeing you out and about enjoying the magnificent properties and landscapes that the Trust continues to protect for Victorians.



Making News

MOORAMONG CELEBRATES 80 YEARS OF ART DECO

Alice McInnes

It was Claire Mackinnon, the new wife of Mooramong's owner, Donald 'Scobie' Mackinnon, who brought a taste of the American jazz age to Victoria's western district through the introduction of Art Deco and Art Moderne styles. A silent film star, Claire redeveloped what had been an ordinary weatherboard homestead into the glamorous centre of the area's social calendar, adding the clean lines and typical Art Deco green that belonged more to Hollywood than it did to Australia. The home was decorated with superb furniture, Art Deco curios and objets d'art, including a collection of Lalique glassware. Renovations included an Art Deco cocktail bar, a lit makeup mirror and a heated swimming pool—the largest in Victoria at the time.

Scobie passed away in 1974, and Claire followed four years later. Since driving the Wadawurrung people off their land in the 1800s, European settlers had destroyed much of the native flora and fauna of the area. On her death, Claire left Mooramong to the National Trust as a place for this flora and fauna to be preserved. The house itself has also been preserved, allowing visitors to see this wonderful time capsule of 1930s high living.

Last year, Claire's heated pool was restored, with tiles pulled up and concrete relayed to return it to the stunning addition to the house that it was when it was first built in the 1930s. Holidaymakers staying in the workers' cottages around Mooramong will be able to enjoy it in 2018, just as visitors to Mooramong have in the past.



CAPTAIN JOHN MILLS COTTAGE

Samantha Westbrooke, Conservation Architect

Captain John Mills Cottage, often referred to as Mills Cottage, is located at 40 Gipps Street, Port Fairy. The site includes a substantial timber cottage constructed in stages between c1841 and 1856, as well as bluestone stables, which were constructed in 1858. As one of Victoria's oldest surviving timber structures, the property occupies particular significance in the state, both for its sequence of development and for its display of a range of early building techniques and materials including many layers of wallpaper. The site is also important for its representation of pioneering mariners John and Charles Mills and their families, especially John Mills in his authoritative role as harbourmaster.

A Department of Environment Land Water and Planning (DELWP) Living Heritage Grant was awarded to the National Trust in 2017 to undertake interior and exterior conservation works to the cottage. The works commenced in January 2018 and will be completed by June 2018.

The aim of the works is to make the interior more accessible to visitors by cleaning, closing gaps, repairing timberwork and plaster, and stabilising the wallpapers. This will be carried out in a way that allows for the display of early building techniques and the range of finishes applied during the different stages of the building's development.

The building works are being undertaken by Simon Davies of SIDA Constructions and his team of subcontractors, including local carpenter, Martin Sullivan. The wallpaper stabilisation is being undertaken by a team of conservators from the Grimwade Centre for Cultural Materials Conservation. Samantha Westbrooke, Trust conservation architect, is acting in an architectural conservation advisory role, and volunteer property manager Marten Syme is providing great assistance as site coordinator throughout the works. Digital Heritage Australia will be photographically documenting the progress of the works from start to finish.



COMO FASHION QUARTER

Elizabeth Anya-Petrivna, Exhibition Producer

This April, Como House will host an exhibition of design and style that looks at the way influencers and stylists use objects, fashion and design to convey meaning and make pictures. In exploring this creative process, the Trust will also showcase its inspiring costume collection.

Fashion can be described as an elaborate form of picture-making, whether on the body, online, in print or on the runway. Behind the illusion of effortless glamour that fashion presents is a vast number of creative professionals. The stylist is one of these people. The profession is an unusual hybrid role, and in contemporary practice, the stylist is a bit of everything—artist, maker, curator and influencer—making the stylist's role difficult to define. These creative producers have the arcane ability to read the zeitgeist, and it is through them and their creations that fashion is interpreted by the public.

Four fashion practitioners have been chosen for the Fashion Quarter exhibition, and Como House has been divided up between them—into quarters. Historical fashion will be merged with contemporary design, creating a fusion of past and present. Each participant was selected for their unique attitude and creative vision. Kiri-Una Brito Meumann is an artist with an interest in fashion, and *Australian Vogue* describes her as an influencer who merges luxury fashion with high art aesthetics. Stuart Walford works across runway, editorial and onsite installation, and he has a refined, considered and intellectual approach. Marc Wasiak has been working in fashion for over 20 years, and with his depth of experience and extravagant production values, brings drama and vibrancy to the project. Thalea Michos-Vellis works both in front of and behind the camera as a stylist and photographer, and her approach is cool and offbeat, delivering a freshness and novelty to the mix.

Como Fashion Quarter will run from Friday 6 April until Sunday 1 July 2018.

COMO GATES

Alice McInnes

Restoration of the Como Avenue entry gates at Como House is due to commence in March 2018. Wrought Iron Renovators has been engaged to restore the iron gates, fence, fence base and the two accompanying lamps. The work will include stabilisation of a section of the bluestone base to the fence, recasting and replacement of missing ironwork elements to the fence and gates, and reconstruction of the damaged lamppost. All of the ironwork will be blasted to remove corrosion, followed by the application of fish oil and primer as rust inhibitors, and the repainting of all iron elements in a deep green.

The deep green colour will reflect the Federation period during which the gates were relocated from Toorak Road to their current location in Como Avenue in 1911. During a paint investigation undertaken on the fence, gates and lampposts at the end of 2017, this deep green colour was the earliest topcoat colour found by architectural finishes expert Donald Ellsmore.

Como Fashion Quarter images: Top left Marc Wasiak and Gerard Oconnor, top right Kiri-Una Brito, bottom left Thalea Michos-Vellis, bottom right Stuart Walford.



People

Emily Howells, People and Culture Advisor

JUSTIN BUCKLEY

Horticulture and Projects Manager

Justin joined the Trust in 1999 as a gardener based at Rippon Lea Estate. Since then, he has held the roles of leading hand, Rippon Lea head gardener, and manager of horticulture, overseeing the management and conservation of the Trust's portfolio of gardens across Victoria. As part of these roles, Justin promoted the key part our historic landscapes will play in our cities and towns in the future. Having completed a seven-month maternity cover position as acting assets manager for the National Trust—during which Justin managed the Trust's diverse portfolio of buildings, sites and landscapes across Victoria—he has now taken on the role of horticulture and projects manager following an internal restructure. We wish Justin all the best in his busy new role and look forward to seeing what's to come in this space.

JOHN WATERS-GROUIOS

Membership Executive

Late last year, the Trust welcomed John Waters-Grouios to the team as its membership executive. John had previously been a Trust volunteer at Tasma Terrace, and the opportunity to help in the conservation of significant heritage buildings—ensuring we can all continue to enjoy their rich and historic presence—attracted John to his current role. Overseeing the membership department, John's focus is on conveying the benefits of Trust membership and improving engagement with members. John's strong background in strategic sales and service, with proven success in relationship management, sales engagement and business development, make him a great asset to the team. John's goal is to grow the Trust's membership body and enhance member benefits in order to support the positive work the Trust does in Victoria. John believes in sharing heritage with the wider community. 'Let's not keep the benefits of membership a secret; let's get our communities involved!' he says.

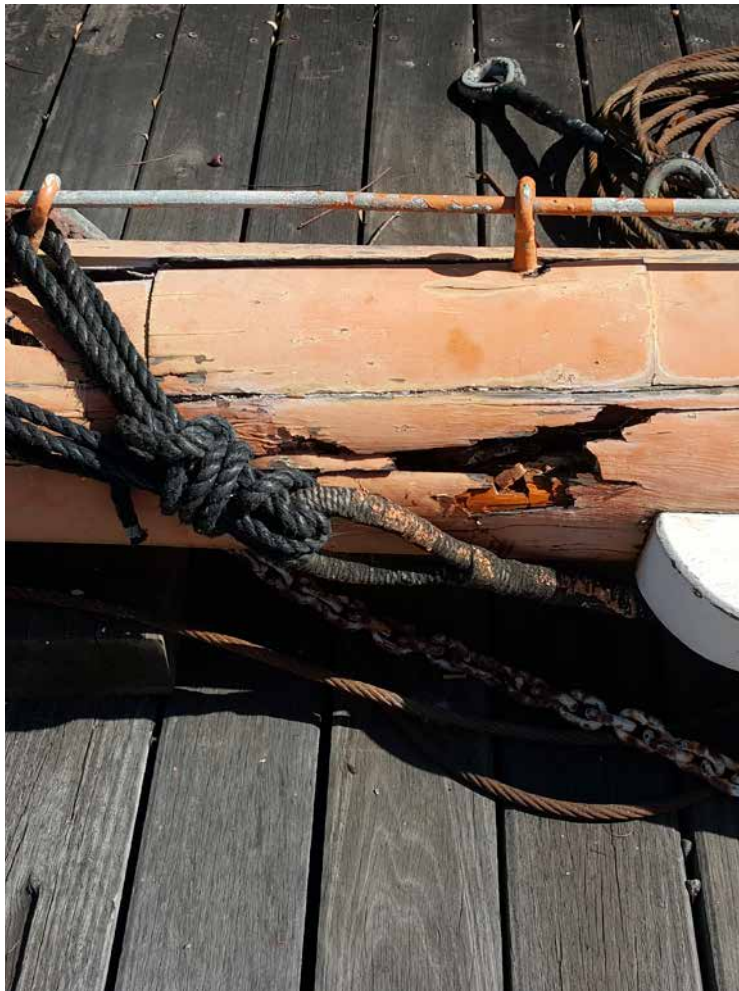


Polly Woodside

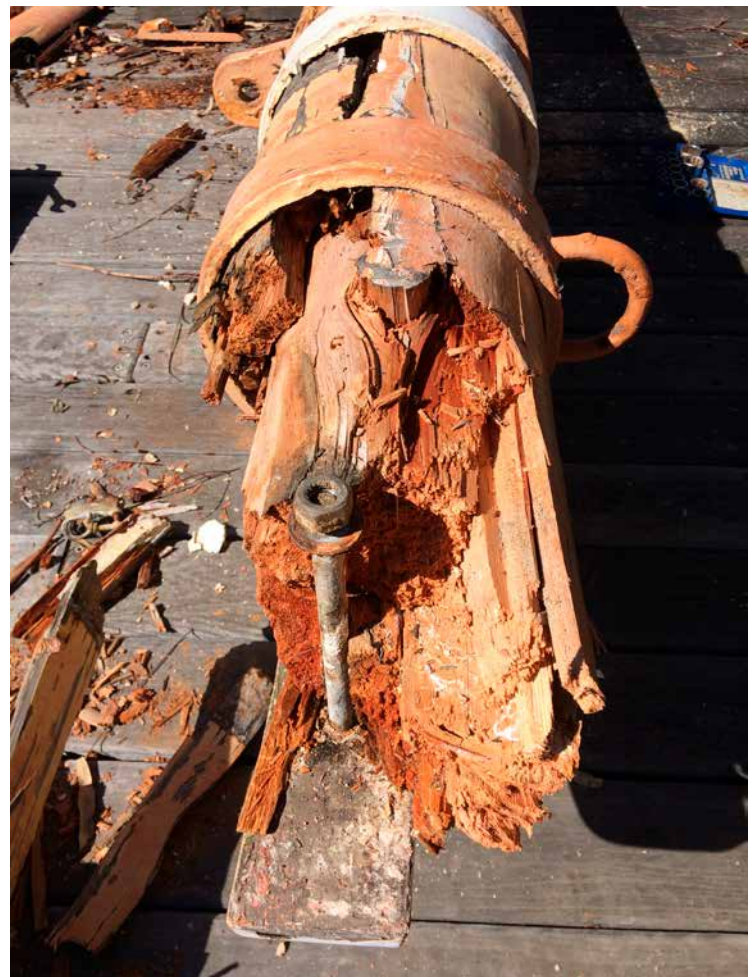
Sam Tait

At the beginning of 2016, the National Trust embarked on an ambitious but essential program to inspect and refurbish all of the Polly Woodside's masts and rigging—a task that includes no less than three steel masts, six steel yards, five timber mast sections, five timber yards, approximately 220 blocks, numerous deadeyes, turnbacks, backstays, forestays, shrouds and footropes, plus countless numbers of sheets, braces, clews and halyards (and other wonderful names that landlubbers use for 'ropes'). Recognising that this was no small undertaking, the Trust engaged the services of Tusk Engineering and a team of skilled shipwrights led by Ferdi Darley.

Since the ship's original restoration in the 1970s, her masts and rigging have received ongoing maintenance from the Trust's volunteers, but a full inspection and refurbishment had not been possible for many years. However, it was plain to see from deck (and surveys confirmed) that the timber sections of the masts and yards, in particular, were in poor condition and were at risk of failure. Thus, the Trust successfully lobbied the understanding ears at Heritage Victoria to provide a generous grant to address the issue.



T'gallant yard from the foremast when first brought down



Monday's discovery

WHAT WE DISCOVERED

At the beginning of 2016, we commenced investigations into the condition of the mast's steel sections—using a non-destructive testing method called ultrasonic testing—and we were pleasantly surprised to find that the corrosion inside the masts was minimal, which was certainly not what we were expecting. This meant that we could avoid 'unstepping' the steel sections of mast and, in doing so, avoid significant expense and technical risk. The minimal levels of corrosion can be attributed to the quality workmanship that was carried out in the 1970s, which has successfully protected the steel sections all these years.

From there, we moved on to the timber sections. With a large crack or 'shake' visible from the deck, we could see that the T'gallant yardarm on the foremast was at the greatest risk of failing, so this was the first to come down. Over the weekend, while the yardarm was down and alongside, it succumbed to the elements and split in half.

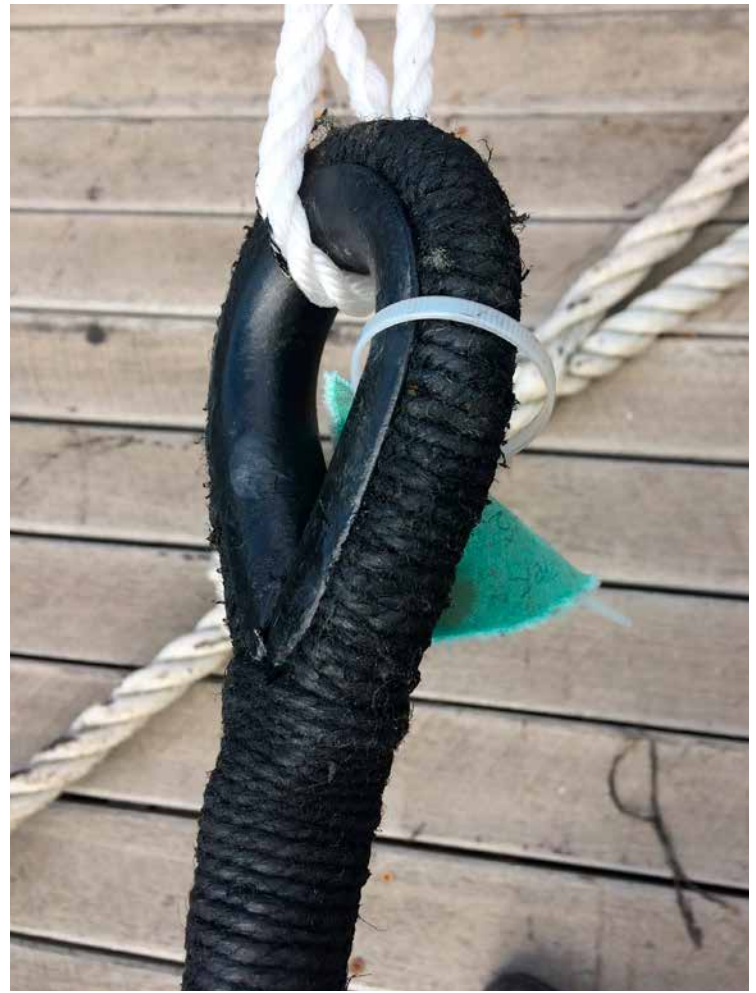
This prompted a detailed technical evaluation of the first timber sections we brought down from the mainmast, and the technical evaluation determined that replacing all of the timber sections with new timber (rather than refurbishing the existing timber) represented the best value for money.

PROGRESS SO FAR

Over the last year the following work has been completed:

- removal of the unsafe foremast T'gallant yard;
- removal of the foremast royal yard;
- lowering of the mainmast lower topsail yard (necessary to access timber sections);
- removal of all the timber sections of the mainmast;
- stripping of the mainmast timber sections of fittings and fixtures for refurbishment; and
- refurbishment of the mainmast rigging.

Refurbishing the rigging from the mainmast was completed through the efforts of our skilled shipwrights, who were on-hand to guide our regular and corporate volunteers, and collectively, they have done a fantastic job.



Before and after – a refurbished turnback

Some brainstorming by Ferdi and his crew also led to the development of a means by which to remove two mast sections at the same time, saving us valuable resources and reducing the time required for cranafe on-site and disruption to the ship's school programs.

THE WAY AHEAD

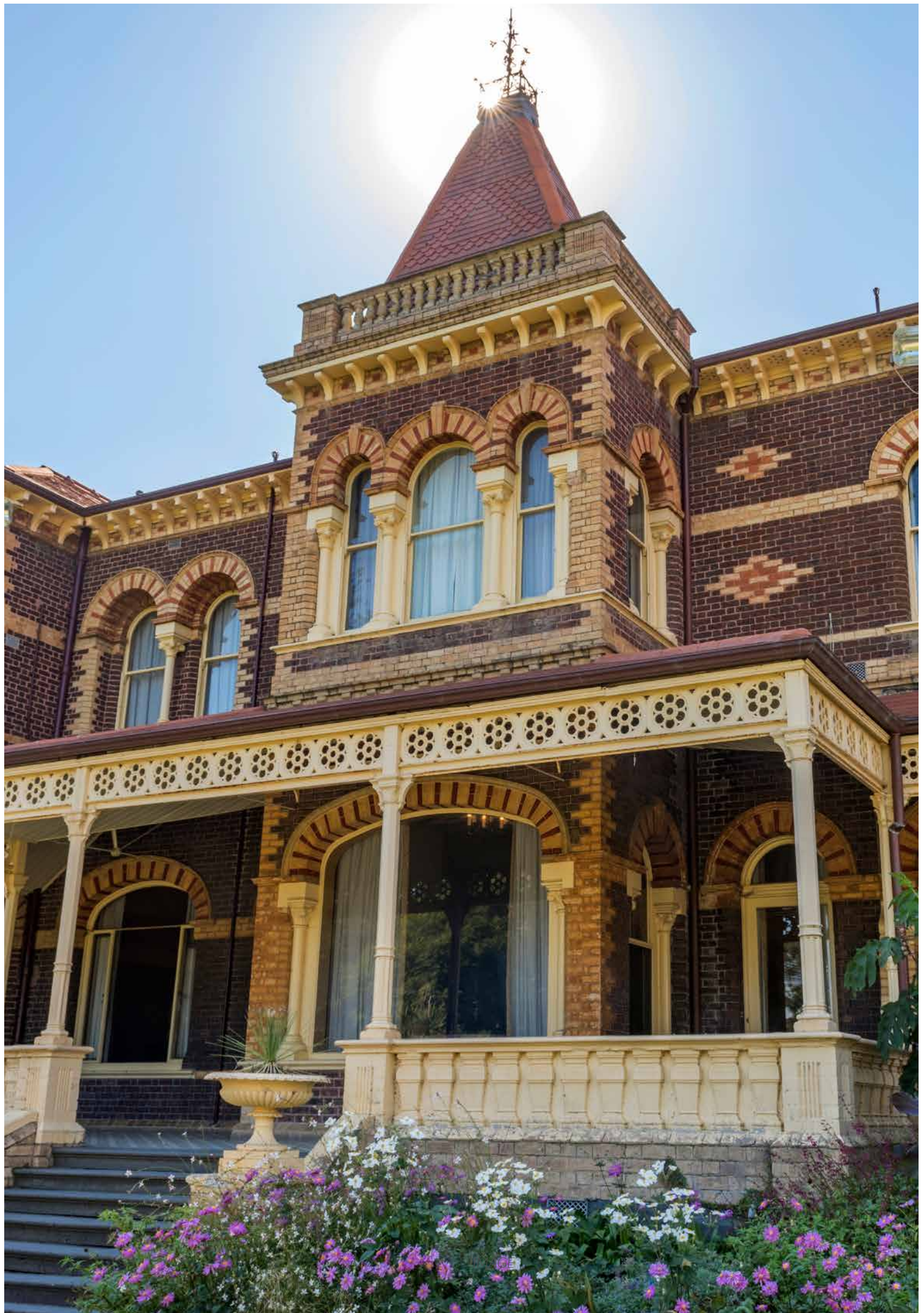
We've received a small shipment of timber, but we are now waiting for the remainder of the delivery. Sustainable tree farms in Canada are providing the Douglas fir logs, which are floated downriver to the mill, but we are yet to see if the right-sized timber was found before the river froze over for the Canadian winter—a unique logistical challenge!

Fashioning new timber sections, however, is only a portion of the overall task, and the effort involved in stripping, inspecting, serving and painting all of the standing and running rigging is enormous. Currently it is estimated that the foremast rigging alone will take 2,200 hours, and then there is the mizzenmast to come. Running to schedule, we expect to fully reinstate Polly's masts and rigging to their former glory by mid-2019.

With so much going on, we can't forget that this year the ship and her crew celebrate 50 years since the National Trust purchased her for the impressive amount of one cent on 18 January 1968.



Lifting away the two mast sections of the mainmast



Happy 150th Birthday, Rippon Lea Estate

Alice McInnes

This year, Rippon Lea Estate turns 150! As we celebrate the birthday of one of the National Trust's most famous properties, we look back at the lives and events it has witnessed since Frederick Sargood commissioned architect Joseph Reed to build his family home in 1868. Frederick named his home Rippon Lea—'Rippon' after his mother, Emma Rippon, and 'Lea' meaning meadow.

For the past 44 years, the National Trust, thanks to the generosity of its members, has made that meadow—now a picturesque Victorian garden—open to people from near and far, along with the house that stands on it. Rippon Lea has been the venue for countless performances, markets, weddings and other events, and regular tours are conducted to share the history of the property with visitors.

Since 1997, Rippon Lea has been interpreted as it was in 1939, the heyday of owner Louisa Jones' Hollywood-style entertaining. But to celebrate its 150th birthday, the house is undergoing a makeover. More of its history is about to be available than ever before, with many new rooms opening to the public in March this year—some for the first time ever—allowing for a wider array of the stories that make up Rippon Lea to be told.

From a bare paddock
and surroundings
under the guiding
mind of Father, the
garden began to grow,
trees were planted,
lawns were laid down,
and soon there was
a croquet lawn...

—Clara Webster née Sargood

Photo: Rippon Lea Estate by Christopher Groenhout



Before the arrival of European colonists like Frederick, the Yalukut Weelam people of the Kulin Nation had lived for hundreds of years on the land where Rippon Lea now stands, maintaining the landscape with regular burning off to encourage grassy pastures for the kangaroos, which were their main source of food. European colonists saw these pastures as the ideal location to graze sheep and cattle, and by the time Frederick arrived in the area, the Yalukut Weelam people had been forcibly removed from their lands and relocated to a reservation near Mordialloc. The area, now known as Elsternwick, was taken over by mansions, pleasure gardens and family homes.

In 1869, Frederick and his wife Marian moved into Rippon Lea with their six living children; they would go on to fill the house and gardens with a brood of ten. The estate included pleasure gardens, orchards and kitchen gardens that supplied food to the largely self-sufficient house, and a sophisticated underground water irrigation system, which continues to supply much-needed water today. The Sargood children had a happy childhood exploring these surrounds, growing vegetables in the garden, paddling in the lake and climbing trees. One hundred years on, their descendants still return regularly to visit, bringing new stories of the family who lived there.

This idyllic existence came to an end with Marian's death in 1879 during the birth of what would have been her 12th child, had the baby lived. After a brief visit to Frederick's family in

England, the Sargoods returned to Rippon Lea in 1883 with Frederick's new wife Julia and their newborn baby.

The Sargoods' growing household and large garden required many staff to manage it. At one time, the family had seven permanent maids, seven gardeners, a butler, a coachman and a groom, as well as their own electrician and carpenter. Many staff lived in the house itself, while others lived in the nearby streets in what was referred to as 'the village'. These staff and their families built homes, raised children and became important founding members of the Elsternwick community.

Rippon Lea's new interpretation uncovers and tells the stories of these staff members alongside the stories of the families who owned the house. One of these staff members was gardener Adam Anderson, who came out from England with Frederick and Julia in 1882. Adam redesigned Rippon Lea's 45-acre garden in a picturesque style. It soon boasted 14 acres of pleasure gardens, 24 conservatories and the largest fernery in the Southern Hemisphere. The garden's layout, with its irregular paths, encouraged visitors to explore and discover unexpected vistas of natural beauty. Much of the 14-acre garden remains intact today and can be explored by visitors just as it was over 100 years ago.

In 1882, Frederick became Victoria's first minister for defence. His new duties opened up Rippon Lea to a whirlwind of social gatherings, charity events and other functions. The family renovated their home, reflecting their growing prosperity with the addition of the tower and upstairs servants' quarters. These were the first of many changes to the house that would reflect the lifestyles of the people who occupied it for the next century and a half.

By the time of his death in 1903, Frederick, who had started his working life in Australia selling soft goods out of a tent on the goldfields, was one of Australia's first senators and the head of an international business. His death was described by the deputy president of Australia's Senate as 'a deplorable loss' to the country. Following Frederick's death, Julia sold the house to a syndicate headed by Victorian Premier Sir Thomas Bent, who never lived at Rippon Lea.

It wasn't until 1910, when businessman Benjamin Nathan bought the estate, that Rippon Lea once again became a family home, housing Ben, his wife Agnes and their two daughters Louisa and Lorna. Ben, the son of a Jewish father and a Christian mother—both British immigrants—was known in his native Melbourne as a successful businessman, colourful racing identity and former footballer for Fitzroy.

Like the Sargoods, Ben used Rippon Lea and its extensive gardens for personal pleasure and public entertaining. An avid orchid-grower, he installed new glasshouses at Rippon Lea and won many awards for the orchids he grew there. His other additions to Rippon Lea's garden included what he called his 'zoo'—a paddock housing kangaroos, wallabies, wedge-tailed eagles and macaws. Squirrels, peacocks and a stork with a wooden leg also lived on the property.

Photos: Rippon Lea, by Anthony Basheer.

Rippon Lea

150

years

Celebrate with us

Get your FREE guest garden
entry tickets overleaf



Rippon Lea Estate
192 Hotham St, Elsternwick
ripponleaestate.com.au



NATIONAL
TRUST

Rippon Lea
150
years

Rippon Lea Estate free garden entry ticket

To celebrate Rippon Lea Estate turning 150, the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) invites you to bring a guest to celebrate with us during this exciting time.

This voucher is valid for one adult general admission ticket to Rippon Lea Estate when visiting with a National Trust member. Valid for garden entry only. Offer ends 31 March 2019.

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When Ben died in 1935, he left Rippon Lea to his eldest daughter Louisa, who continued to live there with her barrister husband, Timothy Jones, and their four children. While Ben had made few changes to the house during his time there, Louisa had other ideas, renovating Rippon Lea into what we see today. Looking to Hollywood for inspiration, she added the swimming pool, terrace and ballroom to facilitate the style of indoor-outdoor entertaining so popular in the 1930s. A keen swimmer, Louisa used the pool every day, and her children learnt to swim there.

Like Frederick and Ben before her, Louisa loved Rippon Lea's garden, and she dedicated herself to maintaining it. The garden, pool and ballroom were used for lavish parties, informal gatherings and philanthropic events, especially during World War II. At the same time, Rippon Lea's staff dwindled, and late in Louisa's life, her housekeeper and companion Lily Leys, and chauffeur Ken Webb were the only staff living on the property. The large gardens—already much smaller since the Sargoods' time—also became too much for Louisa to manage.

In 1954, Louisa sold 2 acres of the remaining 16 to the Commonwealth Government, which began building Melbourne's first ABC studios on the site in time for the 1956 Melbourne Olympics. Ten years later, Louisa announced her intentions to leave the estate to the National Trust to be preserved for the people of Victoria. Almost immediately, the government announced plans to seize a further 4 acres of the estate in order to expand the studios. Louisa resisted, respecting her father's wishes for the gardens to remain available for public use. In April 1964, 10,000 people protested on Rippon Lea's lawns in support of Louisa. The government revoked its decision, and on Louisa's death in 1972, Rippon Lea was passed on to the National Trust, which has managed the property ever since.

Researchers have been digging through the National Trust's archives, talking to the families of people who once lived and worked at Rippon Lea, and trawling through newspapers to uncover these stories. From oral histories to family photo albums, these snapshots of information can be pieced together to give visitors a behind-the-scenes look at Rippon Lea. For the first time, we will show not just the house's public face but also the private spaces in which the people who lived and worked there ate, played and slept, creating a picture of life in Melbourne from 1868 to 2018.

Elizabeth Anya-Petrivna, exhibition producer, says, 'The new rooms opening at Rippon Lea will tell this wider story, covering time periods from the early Sargood era in the 1870s until the fight for Rippon Lea's survival in the 1960s. Voices that haven't been heard before—those of children, servants and the Indigenous community—will be incorporated, bringing new dimensions to the history of the house.'

Visitors will be able to wander into the Sargood children's nursery and play with their toys; they'll be able to visit teenage Winifred Sargood's bedroom in the 1890s as she prepares for an archery party; and the bedroom of Louisa Jones's daughter Pat will give a glimpse of a schoolgirl's life during World War II.

The servants of the household will be remembered though the bedroom of the Sargood children's beloved nurse Bella and the sitting room of Louisa's housekeeper Lily. A new interpretation space will welcome and orientate visitors on their arrival to the property, giving Rippon Lea's story a wider context.

Visitors to Rippon Lea in the past few months will have noticed hints of a transformation taking place at the house, including everything from painting and relaying carpet, to the painstaking work of removing stains from the original wallpaper. Reconstructions of original curtains and upholstery are being sewn, furniture is being sourced and photographs are being consulted to recreate these rooms as they once were.

None of this, of course, has detracted from a wonderful summer program at Rippon Lea, marking the beginning of a successful 150th year. The glamorous fashion show held around the heritage water feature at Rippon Lea on Sunday 21 January was a sell-out, with the charming Miss Chrissy from Lindy's Charm School for Girls gracefully presenting colourful pool fashions from vintage eras. Guests enjoyed Solerno cocktails on arrival and mini brioche hot dogs and ice-creams by Port Melbourne Paletas. The vintage market was a great success, with visitors taking advantage of the unique and rare couture.

There was also plenty on offer for music lovers. On 26 January, more than 100 pianists performed throughout the day, providing continual music for visitors to the house and gardens, while 23 February was a wonderful day and night of music, drinks and canapes featuring a special gala performance by renowned pianist Victor Hu and organist Tony Fenelon.

Children have also derived great joy from Rippon Lea's gardens, with the Australian Shakespeare Company's production of *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* bringing Lewis Carroll's crazy characters to life in a promenade-style performance. On 25 February, the Trust presented its 28th annual Teddy Bears' Picnic, with roving entertainment, performances, market stalls and the famous Teddy Bear Treasure Hunt.

Visitors also came along to Barefoot Cinema, with Rippon Lea providing the backdrop for one of the most beautiful outdoor cinemas in Australia, featuring food trucks and live music.

The National Trust is proud to be able to be a part of Rippon Lea's past, present and future, sharing this beautiful house and gardens with the people of Melbourne and beyond, just as Louisa Jones wanted. The house has developed with the city around it for over 150 years, and we hope it continues to do so for 150 more.

For all upcoming events at Rippon Lea Estate, visit ripponleaeate.com.au

Advocacy Watchlist

Advocacy Team – trustadvocate.org.au



MELBOURNE METRO RAIL PROJECT

At the end of last year, the National Trust prepared a substantial submission to the Cross Yarra Partnership (CYP) in response to the Early Works Plan and Precinct Development Plan released as part of the Melbourne Metro Rail Project. As part of our submission to the CYP, the Trust expressed concerns, including the lack of Traditional Owner consultation, the extensive tree removal proposed, the urban design response of the new built form, the relocation of various pieces of public art, over-site development at the new stations, and impacts on Federation Square and the Campbell Arcade.



TOOTGAROOK WETLAND

The Mornington Peninsula Shire has announced its intention to compulsorily acquire a large section of the Tootgarook Wetlands to save it from a housing development. About 30 hectares of the wetlands in Rosebud West will be acquired from property developers who want to build a retirement village of 80 units plus a 75-room hotel. Save Tootgarook Swamp Inc. has identified the site as a vital and integral part of the Tootgarook Swamp, the largest remaining shallow freshwater marsh in the entire Port Phillip region. The National Trust applauds the council's initiative in acquiring the site and the tireless advocacy work undertaken by local community groups.

Photo: Southern Peninsula Indigenous Flora & Fauna Association



FEDERATION SQUARE

In late December 2017, the Victorian Government announced plans to demolish the Yarra Building at Federation Square to make way for a new flagship Apple store. It is understood that negotiations between Apple and the state government have been underway for up to two years. However, there has been no public consultation undertaken. The planning minister has announced a planning scheme amendment to facilitate the new development, using his powers under clause 52.03 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987. Public statements criticising the government's approval of the redevelopment have been issued by the Australian Institute of Architects, the Planning Institute of Australia, and the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects. The National Trust is currently preparing a response.



SMART PLANNING

On 16 October 2017, the state government released the Reforming the Victoria Planning Provisions discussion paper for consultation. Launched in July 2016, the government's Smart Planning initiative is a two-year program to reform Victoria's planning system, proposing to 'simplify planning regulation to improve the quality, consistency and efficiency of planning decision making, and develop digital systems that allow citizens, industry and government to more easily access and understand planning rules and processes'. In December, the National Trust made a submission in response to the proposed reforms. This submission raised serious concerns regarding the proposed extension of VicSmart and the lack of broad public consultation.



FESTIVAL HALL

In January 2018, Stadiums Limited, owner of Festival Hall, announced that a permit application had been lodged with the City of Melbourne for a major redevelopment that would require the demolition of most of the popular music venue. The proposed development includes 179 apartments and mixed-use commercial space, featuring two towers reaching nine and 16 levels. Stadiums Limited has stated that its intention is to sell the property to a developer once the permit application is approved. Following the announcement, Festival Hall was nominated to the Victorian Heritage Register, reigniting debate about how to manage places of social and cultural heritage significance.

Photo: Festival Hall Exterior Stadium, Lyle Fowler, 1957, Harold Paynting Collection, State Library of Victoria.

SUNBURY RINGS CULTURAL LANDSCAPE

In a panel report released in late December 2017, Planning Panels Victoria provided support for the National Trust's Sunbury Rings Cultural Landscape classification, calling for further protection for the landscape from inappropriate development. The Trust was also successful in seeking a significant reduction of the footprint of a proposed residential development within the Sunbury Rings Cultural Landscape. While a proposed crossing of Jacksons Creek was not ruled out in the panel report, the panel was not convinced that the strategic justification for the crossing outweighed heritage considerations. The National Trust will conduct further discussions with the Victorian Planning Authority and Wurundjeri Tribe to seek further protections for the Sunbury Rings Cultural Landscape.



WEST GATE TUNNEL PROJECT

The National Trust made a submission to the West Gate Tunnel Project Environment Effects Statement (EES) public hearing late last year. The primary concerns raised in the Trust's submission included the impact on natural heritage due to widespread losses of healthy mature trees, long-term impacts on native vegetation in waterways, impacts on the Yarrville Gardens, and the visual impact on various heritage places. The Trust's submission also highlighted concerns relating to the lack of meaningful engagement with traditional owner groups regarding the proposed project design and the impact of twin elevated road structures intended to be built over Footscray Road.



MOUNT BUFFALO CHALET

In December 2017, the Andrews Government announced that \$200,000 had been allocated to the Alpine Shire Council to prepare a business case for tourism concepts identified in the Mount Buffalo Destination Advisory Group's Vision for Mount Buffalo report. The Trust expressed its disappointment in the media regarding this announcement, as no mention of the deteriorating chalet was made in the plan. It is the Trust's view that the chalet will continue to languish and deteriorate while another business case is prepared. We believe that action and investment are needed now to secure the future of this important heritage place.



APM BOILER HOUSE

In November 2017, the minister for planning announced that, under section 43(1) of the Heritage Act 1995, he had determined that the APM Boiler House would not be included in the Victorian Heritage Register, disregarding a recommendation for its inclusion by Heritage Victoria. The minister justified his decision by stating that the building is 'unattractive' and 'universally hated' by residents, yet the move has attracted widespread condemnation from the heritage profession and heritage supporters within the community. The National Trust has written a letter to the minister outlining its disappointment and highlighting the implications of the precedent this sets for the protection of Victoria's heritage.



FORMER HOFFMAN BRICKWORKS

In January, the National Trust prepared a submission regarding the proposed demolition of the former brick Pressing Shed and Engine House to allow for the construction of a 24-level tower within the former Brickworks site. In our submission, we noted that a significant amount of heritage fabric had already been demolished and/or heavily altered since the redevelopment of the site commenced. It is our understanding that the adaptive reuse of the former brick Pressing Shed and former Engine House was intended to offset the construction of new built form. As such, we do not believe the demolition of these buildings represents an acceptable heritage outcome.



FORMER SMITHS NURSERY

In December, the National Trust wrote to Heritage Victoria regarding a permit for a six-lot subdivision and creation of a public reserve at the former Smiths Nursery site at Riddells Creek in the Macedon Ranges. The site has had minimal active use in recent years, which has highlighted the need for conservation work to be undertaken as a priority at this site. The National Trust is generally comfortable with the proposal, as it will see conservation and ongoing maintenance of this heritage place, along with the creation of a public reserve that will contain features of great significance, such as vegetation relating directly to the site's use as an early nursery.

Photo: Australian Garden History Society.



SALISBURY PLACE

The National Trust prepared a statement of grounds for a VCAT hearing to determine whether an eight-storey apartment tower should be constructed atop a pair of nineteenth-century terrace houses in Fitzroy known as Salisbury Place. The terraces border the Royal Exhibition Building and the Carlton Gardens, both of which are UNESCO World Heritage sites and are included within the World Heritage Environs Area Precinct. A determination was released on 6 December 2017 granting the permit with only minor conditions. The National Trust does not agree with the tribunal's view that the 'respectful and recessive materials' proposed for the new building correspond with the scale and architectural characteristics of the nineteenth-century context.



2018 Australian Heritage Festival

Jessica Hood, Community Advocate—Environmental Heritage

The 2018 Australian Heritage Festival is fast approaching, with a copy of the printed program included with this issue of the magazine. The Festival runs from 18 April–20 May 2018 and explores the theme *My Culture, My Story* in celebration of the diversity of cultures that have shaped our shared history and heritage. With a vast array of events taking place throughout metropolitan and regional Victoria, we encourage you to make the most of the lively program and explore events from across a variety of themes. To get you started, we have highlighted a selection of our most highly anticipated events below.

Each Friday afternoon throughout the duration of the festival, the Koorie Heritage Trust will be offering its *Birrarung Wilam Walk*—a guided walking tour through Federation Square and down to the *Birrarung Wilam* Aboriginal art installations—providing an opportunity to learn more about the Aboriginal history of Birrarung Marr and the peoples of the Kulin Nation. Continue your exploration of ancient and contemporary Melbourne with the *Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria Aboriginal*

Heritage Walk, reconceptualising our understanding of the gardens and the land on which they reside as the original meeting place and hunting grounds of the Kulin Nation.

Join Beaumaris Modern as it presents *Let's Talk Mid-Century Modern Heritage: An Expert Panel Discussion*, highlighting the growth in appreciation of Modernist architecture in the suburbs. Reflecting on what makes mid-century Victorian architecture so unique and worthy of preservation, this event will celebrate, inform and advise on owning, buying and renovating mid-century homes. Further explore the Modernism theme with Vicki McLean, heritage advisor for the City of Manningham, as she presents a background talk on the mid-century suburban development and housing in Manningham and launches a self-guided tour—*Manningham Modern*—developed in partnership with the National Trust Suburban Modern Working Group and Context Heritage Consultants.



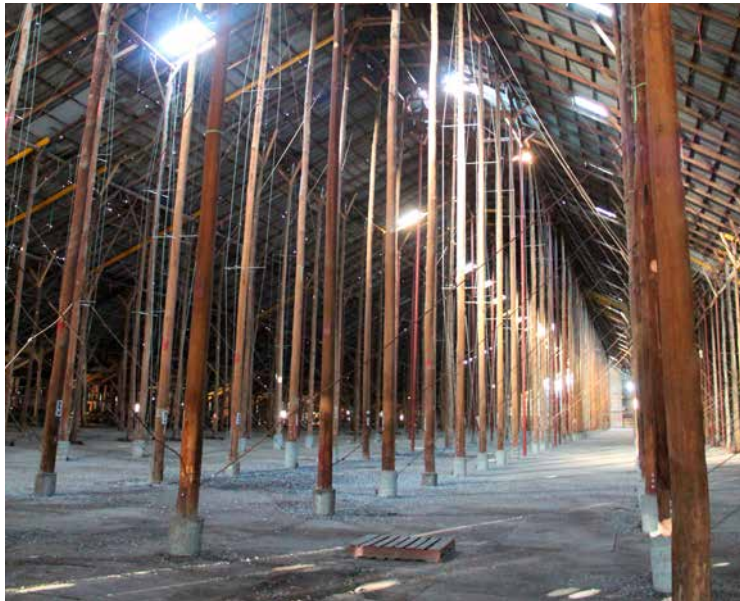
Celebrate the heritage of the inner west with Hobsons Bay City Council as it offers a suite of events and guided walking tours designed to engage the local community and visitors in the rich history of its municipality. From waterfront Williamstown, the original port of Melbourne, to the 176-year-old Altona Homestead built by the Langhorne family, there are many stories to tell. Visit the fascinating Truganina Explosives Reserve, watch a screening on tugboats that guide ships into the port, or explore the industrial heritage of Spotswood, Williamstown and Newport.

For those looking to experience the landscape, the City of Melton will be presenting a free guided bus and walking tour of the Sunbury Ceremonial Rings, a site of immense spiritual significance to the Traditional Owners of the land, the Wurundjeri people. Take advantage of this rare opportunity to visit one of Victoria's most significant heritage places in the beautiful setting of the Jacksons Creek Valley. Be guided by a Wurundjeri Elder and learn about the use of the rings for ceremonial purposes and their importance to cultural practices past and present.

Rediscover your love for regional Victoria during the festival as the Goldfields come alive with a number of events, many of which have been coordinated by the Regional Centre for Culture as part of its Wonder program, a yearlong celebration showcasing local creativity across the City of Greater Bendigo, and Central Goldfields, Mount Alexander and Hepburn shires. Also in the Goldfields, the National Trust Anderson's Mill Heritage Weekend in Smeaton is a free event to be held 11–13 May, suitable for all ages and featuring a rich program of performances, demonstrations and displays. In Castlemaine, the Victoria Goldfields Railway will be running its memorable Victoria Colonial Express each weekend throughout the duration of the festival, presenting visitors with the opportunity to ride on Victoria's oldest railway carriages and visit the historic National Trust Notable Town of Maldon.

Photo left: Anderson's Mill, Smeaton.

Photo above: Birrarung Marr, Melbourne.



Set in the picturesque upper Yarra Valley, the Convoy of Conservation will be hosting a self-drive tour of the Yellingbo and Toolangi regions, home to Victoria's faunal emblems the Helmeted Honeyeater and Leadbeater's Possum. Attendees will be invited to visit some of the biggest trees on mainland Australia and assist in the revegetation of the vital habitat at the Yellingbo Nature Conservation Reserve. Strap on your walking shoes, roll up your sleeves and immerse yourself in this breathtakingly beautiful part of the world.

For those fascinated by monumental architecture, Murtoa Stick Shed will be hosting an open day on Sunday 6 May, inviting visitors to explore this massive National Heritage-listed structure, known colloquially as the 'Cathedral of the Wimmera'. Completed in 1942, this unique and dramatic structure will captivate your imagination with its serene and evocative cathedral-like interior. Walk the length and width of the shed and be amazed by the vastness of the space, hear about the historic importance of the place from those who worked in the shed, and learn about the impact of World War II on the Australian homefront, especially in terms of the production of agricultural exports, such as wheat.

And finally, we invite you to join the Trust Advocacy team, in partnership with the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, for the launch of our new Advocacy Toolkit. This free online resource will provide communities across Victoria with the tools they need to protect their natural and cultural heritage. At this special launch to be held in Melbourne, experts and community advocates will discuss recent heritage campaigns, sharing insights derived from both wins and losses, and their top tips for successful community advocacy and activism.

For more details on the events highlighted above, see the 2018 Australian Heritage Festival program included with this issue or visit australianheritagefestival.org.au.

Photo top left: Buchanan House, Wolfgang Sievers, Pictures Collection, State Library of Victoria. Top right: Convoy of Conservation, Yellingbo Nature Conservation Reserve. Bottom left: Murtoa Stick Shed, Murtoa. Bottom right: The Substation, Newport, Hobsons Bay City Council.



In Conversation with Sam Teed –Volunteer Gardener, Rippon Lea Estate

Alice McInnes

Why did you decide to start volunteering in Rippon Lea's garden?

My wife and I joined the volunteering group in 1993, later to be known as the Garden Party, which was the brainchild of Bruce McBrien. I had been delivering Meals On Wheels in my area for some time, and when the distribution centre closed down, I was looking for somewhere to volunteer and heard that Rippon Lea was looking for gardeners, so I joined immediately.

At that time, there were 15 volunteer gardeners who met every Wednesday morning at either Como, Labassa, the Portable Iron Houses or Rippon Lea.

What sort of tasks do you do?

Each week, we are guided by the instructions of one of the staff gardeners to assist with the weeding, pruning and planting out the annuals or other plants, most of which have been propagated locally by the staff. As we attend to different sections of the garden, it is always interesting to see the changes from season to season.

What is your favourite thing about volunteering at Rippon Lea?

My favourite thing about gardening at Rippon Lea is getting to see how much a garden bed can improve after just one day. There is also the social side to the gardening, as we bring and eat our lunch together, and in spring and at Christmas time, we have a party lunch together. It is always a pleasure to see the garden being enjoyed by the public, particularly by groups of schoolchildren who love having somewhere to run.

Do you have a favourite spot in Rippon Lea's garden?

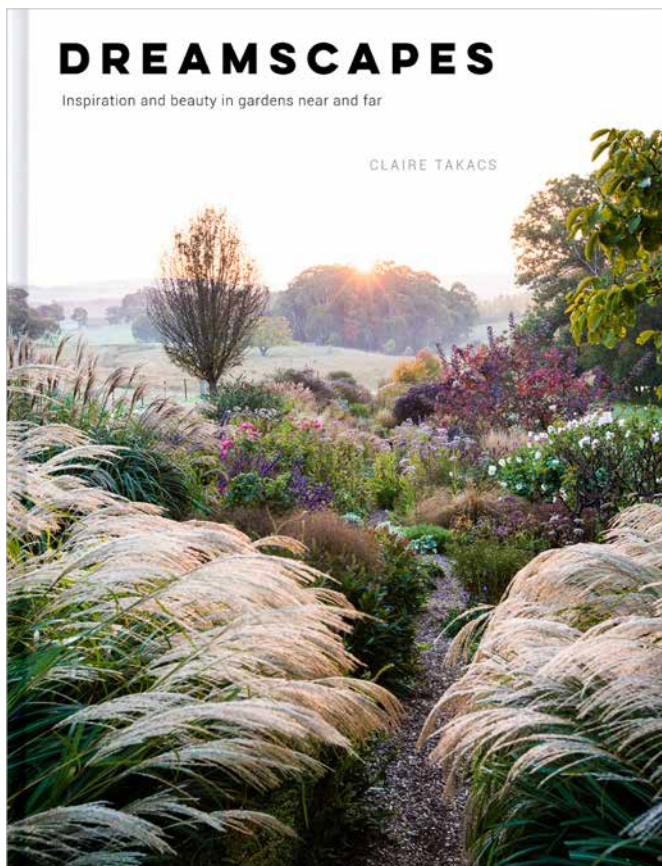
My favourite area is around what we call the cedar lawn, as it has a great variety of plants and there is always something in flower.

What would you say to somebody who was thinking of joining Rippon Lea's garden volunteers?

Rippon Lea is a great place to learn about plants, as there are many varieties not seen in many of Melbourne's other gardens. If someone was thinking of joining the Rippon Lea volunteers, they should not be influenced by just one visit, as we have a variety of activities from week to week.

To learn about how to join the gardening team, or for information on volunteering opportunities, email volunteers@nattrust.com.au.

Book Review



DREAMSCAPES: INSPIRATION AND BEAUTY IN GARDENS NEAR AND FAR

Claire Takacs

Hardie Grant Books, 2017

In this book, highly regarded garden photographer Claire Takacs takes readers on a visual journey to some of the best and most innovative gardens she has visited in Australia and internationally. Truly a visual delight and beautifully produced with full-page colour images, this book demonstrates why Takacs's photography is highly sought after by top international garden magazines and writers.

Each garden has been carefully chosen to represent a wide range of garden styles around the globe. The accompanying photographs are expertly composed to capture the textures and structures of plantings or the surrounding landscapes. These incredible photographs will be appreciated as aesthetically pleasing images in their own right, but they also provide an expert interpretation of the changes in light, colour and seasons experienced in these gardens.

Focused almost exclusively on photographs of 69 different gardens, the book also includes a short and accessible passage on each, highlighting the owner's connection to the place, along with an insight into Takacs's experience of the garden. A must for all garden lovers, this book will interest both armchair travellers and those with an itinerary to fill, and will provide inspiration aplenty for home gardeners as well.

Dreamscapes: inspiration and beauty in gardens near and far is available for purchase in the National Trust stores at Como Estate, Tasma Terrace and Rippon Lea Estate.



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See overleaf for postal application form

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Or scan and send to membership@nattrust.com.au

What's On

EVENT	LOCATION	DATE
La Trobe's Birthday Celebration and Exhibition	La Trobe's Cottage	Sunday 18 March
Open Day at La Trobe's Cottage	La Trobe's Cottage	Please visit our website for current opening hours
Pirate Sundays	Polly Woodside	First Sunday of every month
Como Open Day	Como House	Please visit our website for current opening hours
Vintage Clothing Sale	Como House	Saturday 17 March–Sunday 18 March
Escape the Gaol	Old Melbourne Gaol	Saturday 31 March–Sunday 15 April
Easter Fun Day	Rippon Lea Estate	Sunday 1 April
Como Fashion Quarter	Como House	Friday 6 April–Sunday 1 July
Gulf Station Open Day	Gulf Station	Thursday 19 April
Labassa Open Day	Labassa	Third Sunday of every month
Garden Tours at Rippon Lea	Rippon Lea Estate	Please visit our website for current opening hours
2018 Australian Heritage Festival	Visit our website for a list of all upcoming events	Wednesday 18 April–Sunday 20 May

TO BOOK

Call (03) 9656 9889 or visit nationaltrust.org.au/vic to view all open days and operating hours. Please note that events will appear on the website eight weeks prior to the event date. This calendar is correct at the time of print and may be subject to change.





Easter Fun Day

- Easter Egg Hunt
- Meet the Easter Bunny
- Market stalls
- Outdoor games
- Mansion tours

SUNDAY 1 APRIL 2018
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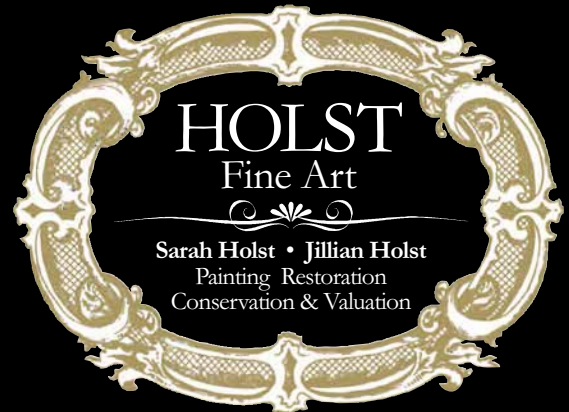
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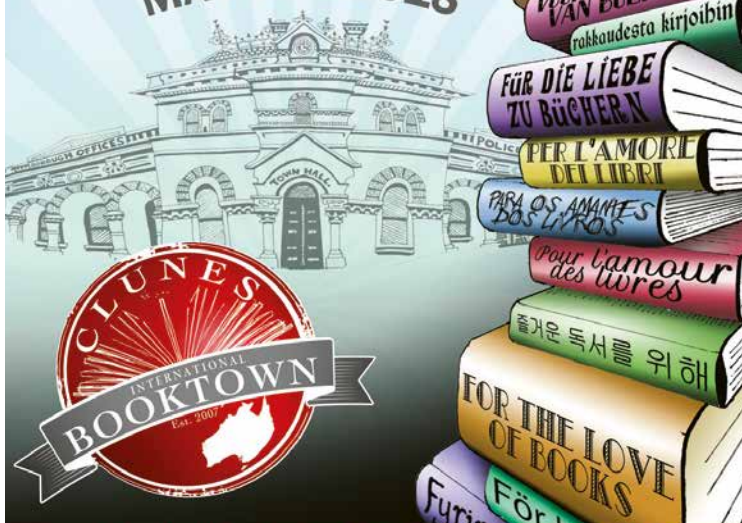


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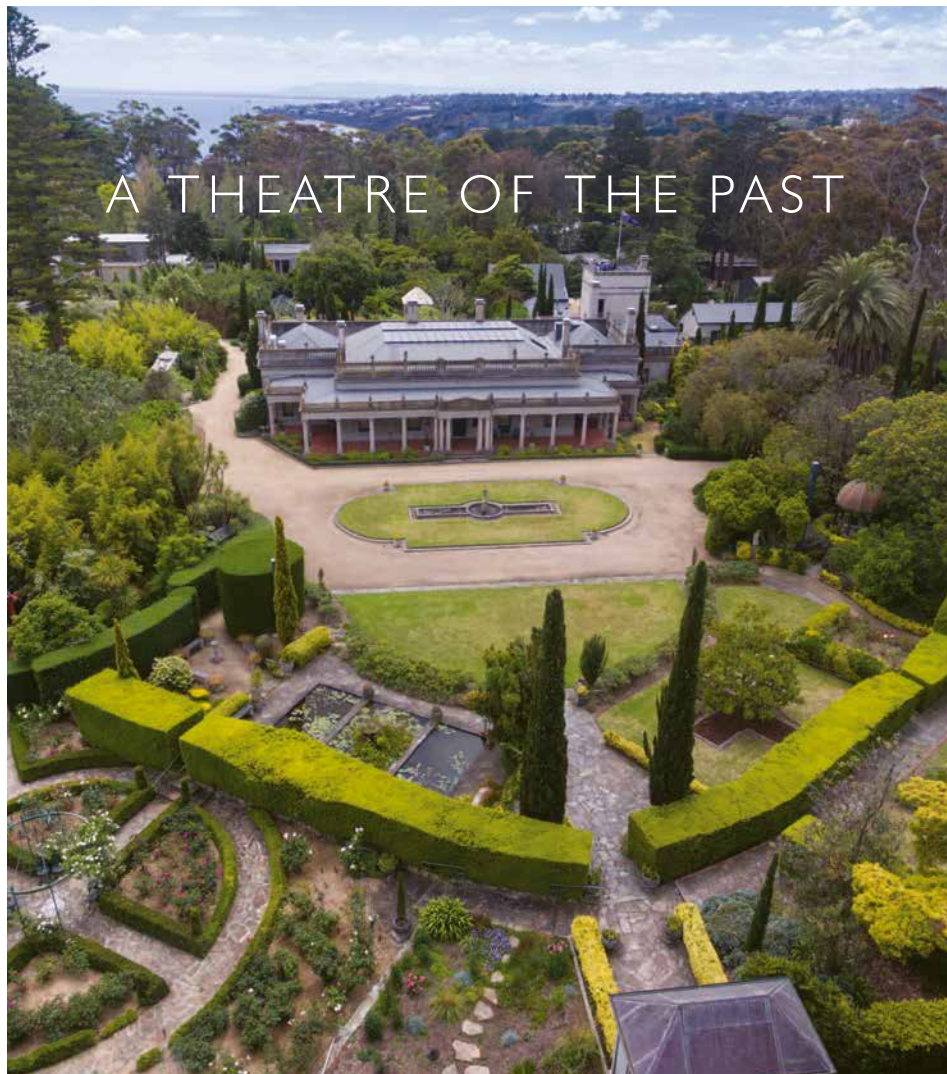
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