



Rippon Lea Estate



Can you see a link in these photos to our local area?
More info about this interesting link can be found on the page 2

Volunteers day out at Rippon Lea & Como

Casey Cardinia National Trust Shop Volunteers recently enjoyed a day out at a couple of our National Trust iconic properties, Rippon Lea and Como House.

We hired a City of Casey bus and enjoyed morning tea and a guided tour at Rippon Lea then headed to Como where we had lunch in the splendid Stables café before another expertly guided tour of the mansion and grounds.

Of course there was some very important work conducted too. One of our tasks, along with learning more about the work of the National Trust and how important our memberships are to that work, was inspecting the National Trust shops at both these properties. While both shops are superbly merchandised and very appealing for gift purchasing, it was concluded by volunteers that their shop, our shop, at Pioneers Park in Berwick is even better! Maybe biased because the volunteers work there, but maybe not, perhaps you too could visit all three and decide?

We were able to see first hand just how important our membership and donation dollars are when;

- we viewed the fernery at Rippon Lea which holds one of the largest and last known 19th century ferneries in Australia and the Southern Hemisphere, containing 200 rare and native ferns and is considered nationally and internationally significant
- we stood in the entrance of Rippon Lea and heard about plans to restore the walls with a replica of the original wallpaper. \$100,000 for wallpaper? Sounds excessive doesn't it, particularly when it only buys 3 square metres of it! Tell that to former Rippon Lea owners, Frederick Sargood and his wife Julia whose mission it was to create a statement of wealth and success with everything they did so of course they acquired one of the world's most expensive wallpapers to adorn the walls at the front entrance to tell their frequent high society guests just how well they were doing
- we were fortunate enough to see just how the Armytages lived for around 100 years at Como House as a result of the National Trust having been able to purchase and maintain the mansion and most of their household contents making a visitor feel as if they were a part of Melbourne's socialite set that was regularly entertained at Como

Holm Park Mansion Beaconsfield

Holm Park Mansion's link to Como House

According to its Statement of Significance, it was "Built in the late 1870s, Holm Park is of State significance for its reflection of the lifestyles of the important Ramsden and Armytage families. Its importance is underscored by the fact that George Ramsden, a Melbourne financier and the house's first owner, offered the property to the Governor of Victoria as a country residence. This also highlights the early reputation of the Upper Beaconsfield area as a prestigious country retreat."

"Holm Park is a large stuccoed hipped roof Italianate-style house with a central parapeted tower and return castiron verandah. There are large two-storey service wings at the rear, reputedly built for the Armytage family, along with a converted two-level stable block. The house is sited on the top of a hill, surrounded by mature exotic trees and some garden, and faces a circular carriage drive with a central fountain. The house is also entered from Holm Park Road. The main house was near symmetrical (plus rear additions), has a plain window and door treatment, a slated roof, and moulded cemented chimneys. The tower is more ornamental than the house with an arched entry and paired arched windows in the upper level. The tower parapet is balustraded between piers, and is adorned with urns at the corners. It has impost moulds and a bracketed string mould at the storey line."

Further information about the significant exterior and gardens can be found at <https://vhd.heritagecouncil.vic.gov.au/places/30036/download-report>

After the death of Como House owner, Charles Armytage, Holm Park was sold to Charles's widow Caroline and her ten children, and retained by the family until around 1945.



Casey Cardinia National Trust Heritage Gathering

Harkaway Hall – June

National Trust members and other friends of our heritage enjoyed a great evening of history, heritage and catch ups at the Harkaway Hall. We were fortunate to hear from Mike Pender, President of the Hall committee, about the history of the hall. Other friends spoke of their heritage links to Harkaway, fascinating historical accounts of residents, one celebrated their 21st birthday at the hall (quite some time ago!) and a story of a ghost that may or not be present in local property.... All this over some lovely wine. We were thrilled to have new members join the National Trust and we welcomed the offer of a new committee member from Annie O'Riley, local historian - www.oddhistory.com.au/

Next Heritage Gathering
Will be held on Monday September 30th at the Pakenham Upper Hall - Corner Old Gembrook and Bourkes Creek Rd.



Harkaway Hall 2019



Harkaway Hall circa 1909



Pakenham Upper Hall circa 1872

Casey Cardinia National Trust Shop @ Pioneers Park Berwick

Have you visited recently?

We constantly have new unique products perfect for gifts, along with much local historical and heritage information. We also stock many National Trust books and collectable items. Come in sometime soon, say Hi to our lovely volunteers, buy a gift for a friend (Do you know you receive 10% off for being a member?) and enjoy a coffee in the next door Primary Café. Also you can renew your membership at the shop or make a donation.



Diary Dates

- September 30 Heritage Evening in Cardinia 7pm at the Pakenham Upper Community Hall Corner Old Gembrook and Bourkes Creek Rd.
- October 20 – Members visit to Labassa <https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/places/labassa/>
- November Heritage Evening in Casey (Christmas at Edrington)

More information to come



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Interested in becoming a Member?

Join in your local Branch community and also enjoy the global benefits of a National Trust membership – free entry to over 800 properties worldwide.

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