

September 2019

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Secretary: Rod Armstrong, rodarmstrong501@gmail.com

Advocacy and the National Trust

From the National Trust Advocacy website, trustadvocate.org.au – “Since 1956, the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) has been the state’s leading independent heritage advocacy organisation. We advocate for the recognition, protection, and celebration of our diverse natural, cultural, social and Indigenous heritage in our cities and regions.”

Trust Branches are encouraged to participate in advocacy matters, by being aware of threats to heritage in their area which may need monitoring, local action, or supporting the Trust at VCAT or Heritage Victoria. The Trust has an Advocacy Team headed by Advocacy Manager **Felicity Watson**, with support from **Freya Keam** and **Caitlin Mitropoulos**. Many Inner West Branch members will know Felicity, Freya and Caitlin and be aware of the great work they do..

In July, Felicity spoke at a public information session on Brutalist architecture hosted by Maribyrnong City Council. Several Inner West members attended Felicity’s presentation. The event was organised following the recommendation by Heritage Victoria to include the Brutalist **Footscray Psychiatric Centre** in the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR), which was nominated by the National Trust, and aimed to highlight the significance of Brutalism both locally and globally.

Brutalist architecture is a significant marker in the history of our built environment and the function of our communities within it. Additionally, these buildings present creative opportunities for adaptive re-use to accommodate the needs of our communities today.

Branch members are the ‘eyes and ears’ for Felicity and her team, and we can all help in ensuring that heritage is recognised, protected and celebrated in our region.



Photo: Footscray Psychiatric Centre (trustadvocate.org/JohnJovic)

Activities

July: Soup Kitchen. One of the highlights of the Branch Activities is the annual soup kitchen, generously hosted by Branch Vice-President Hugh Basset and Secretary Rod Armstrong at their CBD apartment on 28 July. Around 18 members attended, and as usual Hugh and Rod were wonderful hosts, providing a selection of delicious soups snacks and bread, which members supplemented with mouth-watering desserts. It wasn't all fun and games though, we did have a Branch meeting to finalise future activities and discuss advocacy matters.

August: Heavenly Queen Temple On Saturday 24 August 12 members visited the Heavenly Queen Temple in Footscray. The Branch visited the site a few years ago, and since then it has been further developed, with a large community meeting hall built alongside the Temple, and a new Buddhist Temple being built.



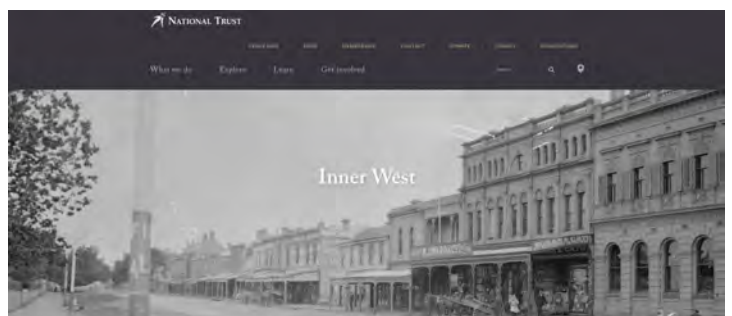
Heavenly Queen, also known as Mazu, Lin Mo Laing (A.D. 960-987) was born in Mei Zhou Island, Fujian province during the Sung dynasty in China. At an early age, she demonstrated great intelligence with photographic memory, healing the sick and helping the poor people. She also acquired the ability to predict the weather, saving many fishermen lives at sea. Although her life was short, her intelligence and life saving legend remained forever. After her death, people built a temple at the spot where she ascended to heaven and become immortal. This became the origin of all Heavenly Queen temples around the world.



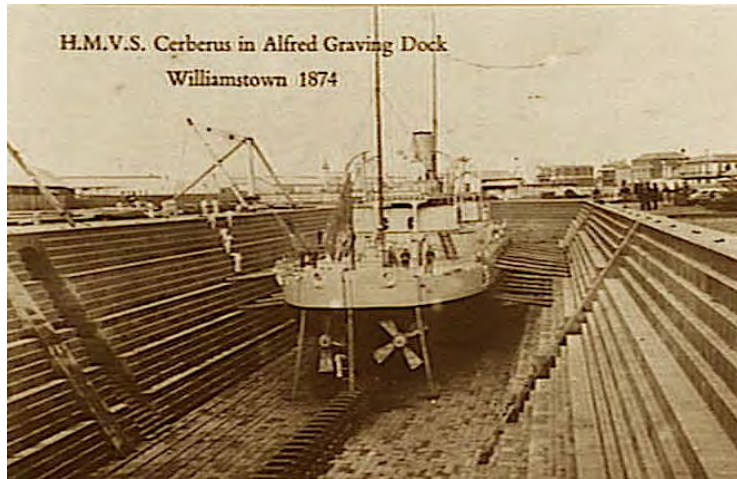
National Trust Website

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/branches-vic/inner-west-branch/>

Did you know that the Inner West Branch has it's own page on the National Trust website? The Trust is currently updating the Branch pages to make them more user-friendly and relevant. If you have any ideas of how the page can be improved please let Ralph Coghill know, via email at rvcoghill@bigpond.com



Williamstown Shipyards and Alfred Graving Dock



With the wind-down of shipbuilding activities at the BAE shipyards in Williamstown there is speculation that BAE might sell the land to developers, with the likelihood that apartments will be built on the site, as has been happening in many bayside suburbs.

The Williamstown shipyards has a long and interesting history dating

back to 1858, when it was the shipyards for the Colony of Victoria. It was requisitioned by the commonwealth in both World Wars, then passed into private ownership in 1987. It has associations with many of the Victorian Colonial Navy and the Royal Australian Navy ships, and with the US Confederate ship *Shenandoah*

The site contains the Alfred Graving Dock, built in 1874 and for a time the largest in the Southern Hemisphere. The Dock is listed on the State Heritage Register.

For security reasons, during operation of the shipyards the Alfred Graving Dock was closed to the public, but if apartment development goes ahead it is important that not only the Dock be preserved, but that it be made accessible to the public. The Branch and the Trust will monitor developments at this important historic site.

B-24 Liberator Restoration Project

The B-24 Liberator restoration project, which is supported by the National Trust, is a group of volunteers restoring a World War II Liberator Bomber. Very few of these iconic planes survive, despite thousands being built during the war. The Trust has a representative on the management committee and Inner West stalwart Cyril



Curtain has ably represented the Trust for many years. The position is currently vacant and the Trust would like to appoint a replacement for Cyril. If you are interested please contact Felicity Watson at Tasma Terrace, Felicity.Watson@natstrust.com.au or email Ralph Coghill at rvcoghill@bigpond.com.

Inner West Branch Activities

September: Wednesday 18, 7.00 pm.

Dinner and meeting at **Hardiman's Hotel**, Kensington

October: Saturday 19, 11.00 am Napier Waller House, Ivanhoe (*top right*).

November: Activity to be advised – either **Robin Boyd House**, South Yarra (*bottom right*) or **Newport Mosque**

December: Wednesday 4, 6.00 pm.
Annual General Meeting and Christmas Break-up, Truganina Explosives Reserve, Altona



Weekend Getaways

Members might be wondering what happened to our weekend getaway this year. We had planned to visit the **Budj Bim Cultural Landscape** site in Western Victoria, and stay in Port Fairy, with an exclusive tour of **Mott's Cottage**, in conjunction with the Port Fairy Branch of the National Trust.

*It was not possible to plan the getaway this year, but we now hope to have it in **early 2020**. We will advise members when details are set.*



Budj Bim has recently been declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is located in the traditional Country of the Gunditjmara Aboriginal people in south-eastern Australia and consists of three serial components containing one of the world's most extensive and oldest aquaculture systems. The Budj Bim lava flows provide the basis for

the complex system of channels, weirs and dams developed by the Gunditjmara in order to trap, store and harvest kooyang (short-finned eel) (*left. Photo: 'The Age'*). The highly productive aquaculture system provided an economic and social base for Gunditjmara society for six millennia.

Mott's Cottage in Port Fairy is a Trust property but in recent years has been closed to the public. The Port Fairy Branch is trying to re-establish itself, and our visit may assist them in that process.

We are planning a **Murray River Cruise** on a restored paddlewheeler for our 'regular' 2020 getaway. Stay tuned for details!