



GREATER SHEPPARTON CITY COUNCIL

**GREATER SHEPPARTON HERITAGE
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

ANNUAL REPORT

for Year 2015

dated 2 May 2016

Greater Shepparton Heritage Advisory Committee 2015

Bangerang Cultural Centre	Marlene Atkinson/Clinton Edwards, John Atkinson (Alt)
Community Representatives (3)	Evan Lloyd, Gary Steigenberger, Leanne Raditsas/Robyn Slee
Dookie Historical Society	Gaye Sutherland, Norma Sutherland (Alt)
Greater Shepparton Councillor	Cr Jenny Houlihan
Historical Society of Mooroopna	Ian Pleydell, Val Hill (Alt)
Katandra & District History Group	Marjorie Earl (Dep. Chairperson), Betty Opie (Alt)
Merrigum & District Historical Society	Anne Tyson (Secretary), Kittie Dighton (Alt)
Murchison & District Historical Society	Warwick Finlay, Kay Ball (Alt)
Shepparton Heritage Centre	Bruce Wilson (Chairperson), Robin Close (Alt)
Tatura & District Historical Society	Evert Worm, Brian Williams (Alt)
Toolamba Community Plan Steering Committee	Geoff Maynard (Chairperson), John Gray (Alt)
Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation	Wade Morgan, Gaye Sutherland (Alt)
GSCC Strategic Planning	Michael MacDonagh
GSCC Strategic Planning	Lynette Bolitho
GSCC Heritage Advisor	Deborah Kemp

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Appendix 1 *Greater Shepparton Heritage Advisory Committee Terms of Reference*

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1.0 FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

Cr Dinny Adem,
Mayor – Greater Shepparton City Council

Mr Mayor,

It gives me much pleasure to present the Fourth Annual Report of the Greater Shepparton Heritage Advisory Committee.

The Committee continues to be involved in a full range of heritage matters including the provision of considered advice to Council as appropriate. Of particular importance has been the initiation of a Strategic Work Program facilitated by a range of active sub-committees.

I commend Council for resolving to prepare the municipality's third heritage study: the *Greater Shepparton Heritage Study Stage IIC*. This is an enormous undertaking and is only expected to be fully complete in late 2016. Committee members have spent countless hours researching places of significance across the municipality for inclusion in the Heritage Study. This work includes the development of preliminary research information and a list of heritage places supported by research data and historical information. This information has been invaluable in the preparation of a robust Study and it has significantly reduced costs for Council. Member's intimate knowledge of heritage buildings, places and sites outside the urban areas has been an invaluable aid in preparing the *Greater Shepparton Heritage Study Stage IIC*.

Council has also hosted the second Biennial Cultural Heritage Awards in April 2015 in association with the Committee. The Awards were deemed to be very successful and continue to promote our municipality's cultural heritage. Sub-committees are also involved in a range of other heritage matters including: the hosting of a Biennial Heritage lecture commencing in April 2016; promoting links with tertiary institutions; master class presentations on a variety of topics; and the possibility of incentives that promote conservation works and maintenance.

Members have a continuing interest in the future of the former Day's Flour Mill and Farm Complex at Murchison. The Committee recognises Council's interest in the preservation of this important 19th century flour mill.

The development of a Heritage Strategy for the City of Greater Shepparton is seen by the Committee as an important step forward in heritage protection and conservation - a key Committee focus in 2015. I understand that Council will consider the draft Strategy in late 2016.

Sincere thanks to Committee members for their continuing dedication and support. Michael MacDonagh, Colin Kalms, Deborah Kemp and Lynette Bolitho provide first class professional guidance and administrative support which is very much appreciated. The Committee noted the resignation of Community Representative Leanne Raditsas with regret and welcomed Robyn Slee to fill the position.

In conclusion, I wish to record the Committee's appreciation of the invaluable and enduring contribution made by our inaugural Chair, Bruce Wilson JP OAM. Bruce helped to structure and guide in the Committee in its early years, and chaired with both grace and efficiency. His knowledge

of local government has been invaluable to the smooth operation of today's Committee. Bruce's passion for history and heritage shone through all his work on the Committee.

Yours faithfully,

Geoff Maynard

May 2016

1.1 From the Inaugural Chairperson

Cr Dinny Adem,
Mayor – Greater Shepparton City Council

Mr Mayor,

I am proud to have been a founding member of Greater Shepparton's Heritage Advisory Committee, and privileged to have held the position of Chair from the Committee's inception in early 2012 until ill-health forced me to retire from this role in August 2015.

It has been very pleasing to see an increasing recognition of the importance of heritage on the part of Council and the Greater Shepparton community in general. It is to be hoped that this trend continues, and that this significant heritage of the municipality, so often under-rated and under-valued, is conserved for the future.

The Committee's contribution has developed, and it now includes two biennial public events held in rotation, the Cultural Heritage Awards and the Heritage Lecture, with the inaugural Lecture having recently taken place with great success. I am proud that Greater Shepparton's Heritage Advisory Committee and its activities are now becoming recognised throughout the State.

I congratulate Committee members on the initiatives they have established, the contribution they are currently making on many aspects of heritage, and their hard work to date, and look forward to their further contribution. I commend Council on its continuing support for heritage and for its Heritage Advisory Committee, and wish Council and the Committee well.

Yours faithfully,

Bruce R Wilson JP OAM

April 2016

2.0 INTRODUCTION

2.1 Background

Council authorised the formation of the Greater Shepparton Heritage Advisory Committee on 17 January 2012. The primary purpose of the Committee is to provide the best possible advice to Council on how to conserve and promote the unique cultural heritage of Greater Shepparton, and to act as an advocate for all cultural heritage matters within the Municipality.

The establishment of a Heritage Advisory Committee was consistent with the objectives, strategies and actions outlined in the Environment section of the *Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy 2006*, and Objectives 18 and 31 of the *Greater Shepparton Council Plan and Strategic Resource Plan 2009-2013*.

2.2 Terms of Reference and Committee Composition

The Greater Shepparton Heritage Advisory Committee acts in an advisory role to Council on the future development of cultural heritage matters across Greater Shepparton. It has no executive authority and operates in accordance with the Terms of Reference. The Terms of Reference are reviewed biennially and were last adopted by resolution of Council on 18 March 2014.

The Terms of Reference provide for a Committee membership of up to two Councillors, up to two members of Council's Strategic Planning Team, Council's Heritage Advisor, one voting member from each of the ten identified member organisations listed and three community representatives unaffiliated with any of these organisations (see Figure One). Member organisations nominate an alternate delegate to ensure ongoing representative continuity.



Figure One: Members of the Greater Shepparton Heritage Advisory Committee, March 2014.

At the Committee meeting on 9 November 2015, the Committee elected office bearers for 2015-2016 year. The newly elected members are (see Figure Two):

- Chairperson - Geoff Maynard, Toolamba and District Community Plan Steering Committee;
- Deputy Chairperson - Marjorie Earl, Katandra and District History Group; and
- Secretary - Anne Tyson, Merrigum and District Historical Society

The *Greater Shepparton Heritage Advisory Committee Terms of Reference 2014*, the *Greater Shepparton Cultural Awards Guidelines 2014* and a wide range of heritage information are all available on Council's Website.



Figure Two: Office bearers for 2015-2016: Marjorie Earl, Geoff Maynard and Anne Tyson, November 2015.

2.3 Meetings

The Committee meets on the first Monday of each month with the exception of January. The Strategic Work Program, established during the year 2014 and designed to achieve defined goals while accommodating specific member interests through a range of sub-committees, was continued and developed. Sub-committees considered and made recommendations regarding the following:

1. Cultural Heritage Awards 2015

To plan and organise the 2015 Cultural Heritage Awards. These Biennial Awards aim to recognize outstanding contributions to cultural heritage conservation, research, education, promotion, interpretation, training and awareness-raising within the Municipality.

2. Greater Shepparton Heritage Study Stage IIC

To continue to locate and add to the list of places to be considered for inclusion in the forthcoming *Greater Shepparton Heritage Study Stage IIC*, and to provide research data and historical information relating to these places. (Such information will guide Council in preparing tender documentation and reduce consultancy costs. The members' intimate knowledge of heritage buildings, places and sites outside the urban areas will be an invaluable aid in assisting Council's Strategic Planning Team).

3. Heritage Lecture and links with Tertiary Institutions

To initiate and plan for a Biennial Heritage Lecture in 2016 to alternate with the Cultural Heritage Awards, and to investigate possible links with local tertiary institutions in relation to heritage studies.

4. Master Classes/Presentations

To continue the program of Master Classes to be held at the conclusion of alternate monthly meetings.

5. Heritage Program, Events and Tourism

To extend recognition of the municipality's cultural heritage by encouraging the involvement of the historical societies and other groups in wider heritage events, for example, the National Trust's

annual Heritage Festival, and also in Greater Shepparton's own SheppARTon Festival, and to investigate opportunities for heritage tourism in Greater Shepparton.

6. Heritage Incentives

To continue to work with Council in an examination of possible heritage incentives to assist owners with the preservation of the municipality's cultural heritage.

7. Signage

To propose interpretive signage across Greater Shepparton and recognisable cultural heritage signage compatible with other municipal signage.

8. Heritage Budget

To contribute further input into Council's allocation of its heritage budget.

9. Committee Agenda:

Standard inclusions on all 2015 Committee agendas included:

A briefing of all active Planning Permit Applications within a Heritage Overlay; Suggestion and consideration of items for presentation as Short Discussion Sessions (SDS) for the Councillors; the ANZAC Commemorative Naming Project; Heritage Advisor Reports and updates; Strategic Planning Report; and Member reports regarding local historic/heritage activities.

3.0 HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

3.1 Brief Overview

Other sections of this report highlight the wide range of agenda and other activities of the Heritage Advisory Committee. This section provides a brief overview of some specific items that have a key membership focus.

It is particularly pleasing to note the success of the Greater Shepparton Cultural Heritage Awards 2015. As the then Mayor Cr Jenny Houlihan had noted at their launch in October 2014, "The Cultural Heritage Awards are an important event in the Council calendar. Cultural heritage is more than maintaining buildings; it's also about the fabric of our heritage, our identity, and making sure that our history is accessible for future generations to learn from."

The Committee is keen that its other large public focus, the biennial Heritage Lecture, the first of which will be held in 2016, will achieve similar success.

The former Day's Flour Mill and Farm Complex at Murchison, named after its original owners William and Anne Day, is the best preserved 19th century flour mill in Victoria. The mill is still in working order and in its original setting. The Committee has been kept up to date in general terms as to how the tender process is proceeding, and is trusting that a suitable outcome will be reached. All members have an ongoing interest in the preservation of this important heritage site.

The Committee was pleased to learn of, and supported, the nomination in 2015 of the German War Cemetery at Tatura in the Victorian Heritage Register, a nomination that has been ultimately successful.

In June, the Committee undertook a site visit to the Dhurringile Mansion, the German War cemetery at Tatura (nominated to the State Heritage Register) and the Italian Ossario at Murchison. Some members indicated they needed more intimate knowledge and exposure to these three significant places in the southern part of the municipality and appreciated this learning opportunity. Arthur Knee, local historian of long standing and expert on the municipality's unique prisoner of war and internment camps (from whence many inmates were finally buried at the German War Cemetery) explained the history and significance of the cemetery.

The future of the municipality's unique prisoner of war and internment camps remains of concern to the Committee, as most are on privately-owned land.

An interesting issue brought to the Committee's attention was the proposal to mine the sand deposit known as the Harston Hill. It was clear that the Hill had social and aesthetic value to the local residents, who felt very strongly that it should be retained. Council ultimately refused permission to mine.

The Committee supported a number of memos issued to the Council as Short Discussion Sessions (SDS) items including: the nomination of places in the Victorian Heritage Register, Heritage Advisory Service Funding, Soldiers' Memorial Hall at Tallygaroopna, the hosting of the Cultural Heritage Awards 2015 and the call for nominations for inclusion in the *Greater Shepparton Heritage Study Stage IIC*.

The Committee also supported and commended Council for preparing Amendment C143 to the Greater Shepparton Planning Scheme to correct a significant number of errors and anomalies in the application of the Heritage Overlay. The approval of this amendment will ensure that the municipality's places of cultural heritage significance will continue to be appropriately conserved.

Members continue to be concerned with two funding issues: the ending of State government funding for the Heritage Advisory Service through Heritage Victoria and the Rural Council Planning Flying Squad, and the potential effects of State government rate-capping on funding for heritage projects in the future.

The Heritage Advisory Committee is of the view that it fulfilled its core advisory functions during 2015 and has developed a professional Strategic Work Program that will measurably assist the Committee in streamlining heritage activities. Council will shortly consider the proposed *Greater Shepparton Heritage Strategy 2016-2020*, endorsed by the Heritage Advisory Committee as a key statement in the conservation and management of our cultural heritage.

3.2 Achievements

Committee Achievements in 2015 included:

- conducting the successful 2015 Greater Shepparton Cultural Heritage Awards (see 3.4 below);
- taking a lead role in the provision of research data and information for the now-completed first half of the forthcoming *Greater Shepparton Heritage Study Stage IIC*;
- instigating a Biennial Heritage Lecture as a second major focus of the Heritage Advisory Committee, to alternate with the Cultural Heritage Awards;
- inputting into the development of the *Greater Shepparton Heritage Strategy 2016-2020*;
- reviewing and updating the *Cultural Heritage Award Guidelines 2014*, including extending the timeline, based on the experience of the Awards in 2015;
- developing the Strategic Work Program;
- liaising with various organisations and community groups on matters of cultural heritage;
- ongoing Master Class presentations;
- ongoing support for the adoption of an agreed stakeholder process for a conservation management plan for the Calder Woodburn Memorial Avenue (sub-committee established);
- continuing to keep informed of planning applications concerning heritage matters coming before Council, and contributing to Council's consideration of any application impacts; and
- recommending the conservation and restoration of the Tirana City Walk Mural, Shepparton.

3.3 Advocacy and Advice

The Heritage Advisory Committee continued to provide valuable input and information to Council Planning Department staff regarding proposed developments to places of cultural heritage significance.

3.4 Cultural Heritage Awards

In 2012, Council agreed to a Committee recommendation to host the Greater Shepparton Cultural Heritage Awards to coincide with Australian Heritage Week, with the Inaugural Awards Ceremony held on Saturday, 20 April 2013. The Second Biennial Cultural Awards ceremony was held during Australian Heritage Week on Saturday 18 April 2015.

The Awards recognise outstanding contributions to cultural heritage conservation, research, education, promotion, interpretation, training and awareness-raising within the municipality and aim to promote the benefits of cultural heritage conservation by highlighting good practice conservation examples and guidance, as well as offering the owners or guardians of our cultural heritage recognition of their invaluable work.

The successful Cultural Heritage Awards 2015 culminated in a well-attended Presentation Ceremony at 2.pm on 18 April 2015 at the GV Hotel (see Figures Three and Four).

Awards were as follows:

- **Creative Reuse of a Place:** Historical Society of Mooroopna Inc., for its adaptive reuse of Grutzner House (the former Mooroopna nursing home) as the Mooroopna Museum and Gallery.
- **Conservation of a Place:** Trustees of the Shepparton Mechanics' Institute, for conservation works to the Mechanics' Institute.
- **Best Publication:** Katandra and District History Group Inc., for *Hope and Hardship: an Account of Soldier and Closer Settlement in the Katandra District 1919 to 1933*.
- **Interpretive Signage:** Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation, for 'The Flats' interpretive signage.
- **Other:** Trustees of the Shepparton Mechanics' Institute, for its displays that raise awareness of a number of historic places and people, most notably Joseph Furphy.

The Heritage Advisory Committee will be further refining the *Cultural Heritage Awards Guidelines 2014* and procedures, based on experience gained in 2015.

It is clear the 2012 decision by Council to host biennial Cultural Heritage Awards program continues to gain interest from across Greater Shepparton and within local government circles.

It can be shown that the Cultural Heritage Awards clearly improve the understanding of community cultural heritage issues and awareness as well as recognising and highlighting good conservation practices. The Awards are a unique opportunity to promote community participation and education in cultural heritage issues.



Figure Three: Award winners at the Cultural Heritage Awards 2015.



Figure Four: Collage of images from the Cultural Heritage Awards 2015.

3.5 Liaison

Liaison in relation to cultural heritage matters has been ongoing with a range of organisations including meeting:

- with stakeholder groups regarding the ANZAC Commemorative Naming Project;
- with stakeholder groups concerned with the Calder Woodburn Memorial Avenue and the 2004 Conservation Management Plan for the site;
- with stakeholder groups concerned about the retention of the Roses in the Queens' Gardens commemorating the Women's Groups and the Business and Professional Women's Woman of the Year Award.
- with the Shepparton Rotary Club and interested persons regarding the conservation of the Tirana City Walk Mural;
- with the Honorary German Consul-General of Victoria regarding the German War Cemetery and Camp 13; and
- with the Premier of Victoria regarding lack of funding programs for places of local heritage significance in Victoria.

In addition, a range of heritage issues/queries is regularly raised by Committee members in line with the Committee's Terms of Reference.

3.6 Master Classes

During 2015, Master Classes were presented on several aspects of heritage conservation, the planning process and the impact on the identification, conservation and development of places of cultural heritage significance.

Presentations:

- Ian Pleydell presented on 'The development of Recreational Reserves' (2 February 2015);
- Geoff Maynard presented on 'The Importance of Toolamba as a Railway Junction' (13 April 2015);
- John Dainton presented on 'The Bridges of the Goulburn Valley and the Dainton Family connection' (1 June 2015); and
- John Gray presented on 'The former Shire of Rodney and the morphology of Mooroopna' (3 August 2015).

In 2016, Master Classes will be presented at every second meeting in accordance with recommendations from the Master Class sub-committee.

3.7 General

As in previous years, Committee members and Alternative members demonstrated their committed enthusiasm in all matters heritage, and continued to improve their heritage understanding and knowledge. Members recognise the growing Council involvement in strategic planning, and look forward to the adoption and promulgation of a *Greater Shepparton Heritage Strategy 2016-2020*.

4.0 PROPOSED ACTIVITIES FOR 2016

Forward planning for 2016 includes:

- presenting the Greater Shepparton Inaugural Biennial Heritage Lecture on 21 April 2016 (during the National Trust's 2016 Heritage Festival);
- supporting the preparation of the *Greater Shepparton Heritage Study Stage IIC*: finalising research data and historical information so as to guide Council in preparation of tender documentation;
- planning and commencing the implementation of the Cultural Heritage Awards 2017;
- advocating for cultural heritage conservation within the municipality;
- advancing the adopted Strategic Work Program as set out in Part 2.3 of this report;
- assembling of background information that will allow Council to nominate a number of places to the Victorian Heritage Register. This includes the C. W. Wilson Drinking Fountain in Tatura, the Pump Site in Murchison, the Soldiers' Memorial Hall in Tallygaroopna, Gowangardie Weir at Shepparton East and various mid-19th Century log structures within the municipality;
- developing and adopting the 2016 Master Class program;
- liaising with Council in an examination of possible heritage incentives to assist owners with the preservation of the municipality's cultural heritage;
- encouraging Council and local historical societies and community organisations to participate in State and regional heritage initiatives and programs such as History Week and the National Trust's Heritage Festival;
- supporting the recommendations within the *Calder Woodburn Memorial Avenue Conservation Management Plan 2004*;
- contributing further input into Council's allocation of its heritage budget; and
- proposing interpretive signage across Greater Shepparton, and the development of a suggested approach to provide recognisable cultural heritage signage across the municipality compatible with other municipal signage.