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GREATER SHEPPARTON

HERITAGE ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT 2022



## CONTENTS

<b>GREATER SHEPPARTON HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2022 MEMBERSHIP .....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2022 YEAR .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>1. HERITAGE ADVISORY SERVICE .....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>2. HERITAGE CONSERVATION GRANTS PROGRAM.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>3. BRUCE WILSON MEMORIAL HERITAGE LECTURE .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>4. HERITAGE OPEN DAYS .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>5. HERITAGE SIGNAGE.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>6. MASTER CLASSES .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>7. EDUCATIONAL VISITS .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>8. PROMOTIONAL VIDEO .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>OUR COMMITTEE .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>FAREWELLS.....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>SUB-COMMITTEES .....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>2023 WORK PROGRAM.....</b>	<b>13</b>

## GREATER SHEPPARTON HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2022 MEMBERSHIP

Community Representatives	Andrew Morcom (until 31 December 2022) Robyn Slee Bronwyn Cole (until 6 October 2022) Roger Perry
Greater Shepparton Councillors	Cr Greg James Cr Fern Summer
Bangerang Cultural Centre	Marlene Atkinson (on leave of absence)
Dookie Historical Society Inc.	Janet Batten Norma Sutherland (Alt)
Historical Society of Mooroopna Inc.	Barry Campbell John Mackellar (Alt)
Katandra and District History Group Inc.	Marjorie Earl (Secretary) Robert Kennedy (ALT) until 31 December 2022
Merrigum and District Historical Society Inc.	Anne Tyson Brian Fitzsimmons (Alt)
Murchison and District Historical Society Inc.	Kay Ball (Deputy Chair until 7 November 2022)
Shepparton Heritage Centre Inc.	Geoff Maynard (Chair) John Dainton (Alt)
Tatura and District Historical Society Inc.	George Ferguson (Deputy Chair from 7 November 2022) Evert Worm (Alt)
Toolamba Community Plan Steering Committee	Christine McKenzie Mary Coad (Alt)
Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation	
GSCC Strategic Planning	Michael MacDonagh (until 5 December 2022) Mitchell Stoter (until 5 September 2022) Melanie Squires (from 6 June 2022)
GSCC Heritage Advisor	Deborah Kemp



### **2022 GREATER SHEPPARTON HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

From back left: Deborah Kemp (Heritage Adviser), Anne Tyson (Merrigum), Janet Batten (Dookie), George Ferguson (Tatura), Geoff Maynard (Shepparton), Cr Fern Summer, John Dainton (Shepparton Alt), Michael MacDonagh (Council).

Front: Marjorie Earl (Katandra), Robyn Slee (Community), Kay Ball (Murchison) Melanie Squires (Council)

ABSENT: Andrew Morcom (Community), Bronwyn Cole (Community), Roger Perry (Community), Cr Greg James, Barry Campbell (Mooroopna), Christine McKenzie (Toolamba) Norma Sutherland (Dookie Alt), John Mackellar (Mooroopna Alt), Robert Kennedy (Katandra Alt), Brian Fitzsimmons (Merrigum Alt), Evert Worm (Tatura Alt), Mary Coad (Toolamba Alt), and Marlene Atkinson (Bangerang)

## 2022 YEAR

In January 2012 Council authorised the formation of the Heritage Advisory Committee (HAC) to provide advice on how to conserve and promote, and act as an advocate for all cultural heritage matters within Greater Shepparton. Over the last ten years HAC has worked very hard to raise awareness in the community that Greater Shepparton does have a cultural heritage and this has been reflected in an increased community membership from two to four and now six community members on HAC, along with representatives from the local historical societies and museums, the Bangerang Cultural Centre, the Heritage Adviser and with support from Council's Strategic Planning Team. HAC is a dynamic and busy committee, using a series of Sub-committees, which meet outside the general committee to ensure that events, activities and research can be completed to a high standard.

### 1. HERITAGE ADVISORY SERVICE

Greater Shepparton City Council (Council) provides a free heritage advisory service to all landowners of property within the Heritage Overlay. Through this service, advice is available on all aspects of conservation. There was significant demand for this service.

### 2. HERITAGE CONSERVATION GRANTS PROGRAM

Greater Shepparton is one of a very small number of regional councils in Victoria offering heritage conservation grants. In spite of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Heritage Conservation Grants Program (the Program) was again very successful, with Council receiving 28 grant funding applications, with 10 applications awarded, to the total value of \$91,713 (incl. GST)

Place	Project	Grant Amount Awarded (GST Inclusive)
St Germain's Homestead, 820 Hutchison Rd, Undera	Structural repairs to brick walls and replace roof timbers	\$16,500
Alexander Miller Home, 47-53 Wyndham St, Shepparton	Repair and paint windows	\$8,800
Harston Church, 915 Springvale Rd, Harston	Renew damp proof course and repoint brickwork	\$5,285
St Andrews, 2 Alexandra St, Mooroopna	Repair fascia boards and paint exterior	\$13,004.20
Nimitybelle, 110 Craven Rd, Tatura	Repair roof, verandah and chimneys	\$3,909.90
St Augustine's Anglican Church, 95-97 Maude St, Shepparton	Repair lead light windows and paint the exterior	\$1,602.70
Original Post Office building, 33 McLennan St, Mooroopna	Restore and paint timber gable, and reconstruct front fence	\$16,500
715 Midland Hwy, Shepparton East	Repair roof and verandah, and restore original doorway	\$16,500
Aloi Thai, 339 Wyndham St, Shepparton	Repair roof and replace ridge capping	\$7,977.20
Pine Lodge Uniting Church, Pine Lodge South Rd, Pine Lodge	Replace guttering and downpipes, and repair loose roof sheeting	\$1,633.50

In light of the Heritage Conservation Grants Program's success over the last six years, it is expected that an additional round of the Heritage Conservation Grants Program will be held in the 2023/24 financial year. The Committee will continue to support the Heritage Conservation Grants Program, which this year has provided partial funding for conservation works to a variety of places of cultural heritage significance, with total works valued at over to \$254,000.

The Program is a critical way of promoting owner participation in conserving places of cultural heritage significance, and provides opportunities for the community to appreciate the municipality's cultural heritage.

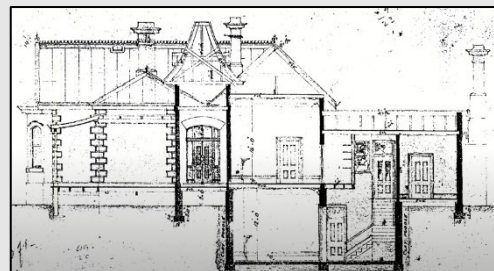
### 3. BRUCE WILSON MEMORIAL HERITAGE LECTURE



The fourth biennial Bruce Wilson Memorial Heritage Lecture was held on Wednesday 10 August 2022, with the Lecture being presented at 1pm and 6pm, as is usual, at the Senior Citizens' Centre in Welsford Street, Shepparton. The Heritage Lecture is seen as a valuable tool in promoting an understanding of cultural heritage and conservation in Greater Shepparton and pride and interest in the many facets of cultural heritage significance in our municipality. The Lecture this year, 'The contribution of architect J A K Clarke to

Shepparton and District', was delivered to great enjoyment and acclaim by local identity Evan Lloyd. As a child, Evan had moved with his family into Fairley Downs at Bunbartha, a homestead designed by Clarke, and subsequently researched Clarke and his work when undertaking tertiary studies. The topic was of local interest, and members of the audience greatly enjoyed hearing details of the life of Clarke, Shepparton's pre-eminent architect, and were fascinated to recognize and learn about the buildings he had designed.

Both sessions of the Lecture were exceptionally well attended by a diverse range of attendees, including local builders, architects, building designers, and those with an historical or general interest. The recording of the Lecture has garnered almost 200 views on YouTube: it can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O1I4u6sbQwg>. The level of audience appreciation indicated the value of local topics, and points to the importance of including such subjects in the future Heritage Lecture program. Further, this new level of knowledge of Clarke's works will enable updating of the Statements of Significance of some of Clarke's buildings in the Heritage Overlay.



#### 4. HERITAGE OPEN DAYS

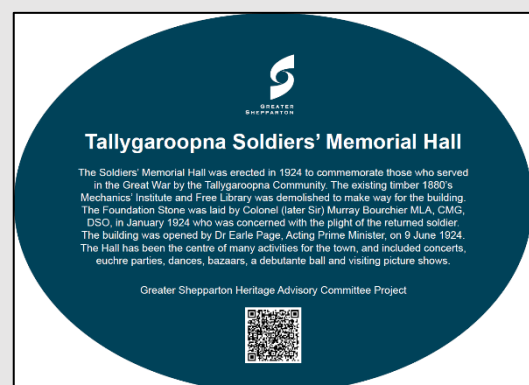
The Committee, in association with Council, initially envisaged that a reduced Heritage Open Days program could be organised for Friday 21 and Saturday 22 October 2022. The usual visits to private homes of heritage significance, the free bus tours, the walking tours in Shepparton, Mooroopna, Tatura and Murchison and opportunities for independent visiting of public, and commercial sites, did not happen due to the pandemic situation and flooding.

The funding for the Heritage Open Days was available in the 2022/2023 financial year so the matter was discussed and it was decided that the Greater Shepparton Heritage Open Days would be held during the next Australian Heritage Festival (April to May) on Friday 12 May and Saturday 13 May 2023. As in previous years an information booklet listing the venues would be prepared by the Committee and this in itself is a valuable guide to Greater Shepparton's heritage places. A report on these days will be included in the next Annual Report.

#### 5. HERITAGE SIGNAGE

Plaques and interpretative signage are an effective and visible means of celebrating Greater Shepparton's historical and cultural built and natural environment. The Signage Sub-committee has overseen a number of projects and strategies relating to signage in 2022.

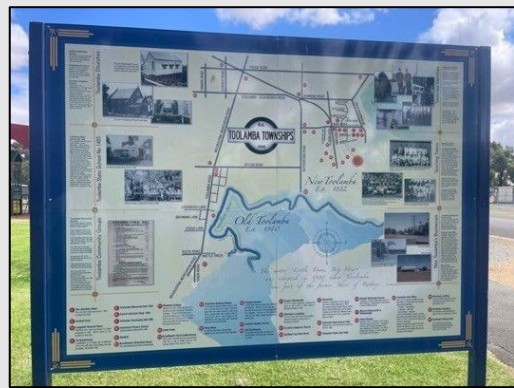
*Greater Shepparton Heritage Plaques Pilot Program:* Plaques are one of the most accessible and powerful means of celebrating our historic built environment. The Pilot Program, conceived in 2020 but set back by the Covid-19 pandemic, aims to install heritage plaques on a range of places in the Greater Shepparton Heritage Overlay. The Sub-committee agreed on a dark blue vitreous enamelled oval plaque; these will include a QR code that links to an associated webpage, allowing additional material over and above what is written on the inscription. The Program is being progressed using resources provided for the cancelled Heritage Open Days which did not occur in 2021 due to Covid-19. The reallocated funding provided for the purchase of approximately 70 heritage plaques. The Sub-committee listed 73 properties for consideration, the distribution ensuring a good spread across the municipality. In all, 53 landowners indicated a wish to participate. Texts were limited to 125 words, and by the end of the 2022 the wording on the plaques was almost completed, with a vetting team in place to test the accuracy of the information. It is envisaged the plaques will be installed in the second half of 2023. Consideration will be given to undertaking a further plaques program.



*Interpretive signage:* Interpretive signs allow for more detailed information to be provided, again with the potential for QR codes to allow access to further related material. Greater Shepparton, unlike many municipalities, had not had a policy in relation to the recognition of heritage places by heritage signage such as interpretive signs or building plaques. In 2022 the Signage Sub-committee

has been involved in progressing an overall policy for interpretive signage, the *Greater Shepparton Heritage Interpretative Signage Guidelines*, to be presented to Council in early 2023.

Further, for the past two years, under the Greater Shepparton Heritage Interpretive Signage Funding Program, grants of up to \$5,000 have been available for the installation of interpretive heritage signage. The place or site must be of local significance to Greater Shepparton ('individually significant' and/or a 'contributory significant' place), as guided by the *Greater Shepparton Heritage Study Stage II 2020*, or listed as a place of significance in the Victorian Heritage Register. These grants are generally only for 50% of the cost of works recommended for funding on a \$1 to \$1 basis. The total sum available under this Program is \$5000.



## 6. MASTER CLASSES

As in previous years, a program of Master Classes was undertaken with these being delivered after the Committee meetings every second month.

Members were keen to hear the presentation from Heritage Adviser Deborah Kemp in March 2022 listing some possible places which could be explored for inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Register.

In June 2022 Richard Broome, President of the Royal Historical Society of Victoria, presented a Master Class on the state of history in schools and the creation of new VCE text books series. He is an executive member of the Victorian History Teachers' group and advised that the teaching of history is not compulsory in Victoria, but is in most other states of Australia. Members were interested in looking through the copies of the VCE proposed text books.

Geoff Maynard, Chair of the Greater Shepparton Heritage Advisory Committee and an enthusiast for railways both in Australia and overseas, presented a Master Class in October 2022 entitled 'History of the Goulburn Valley Railways: Seymour to Tocumwal'.

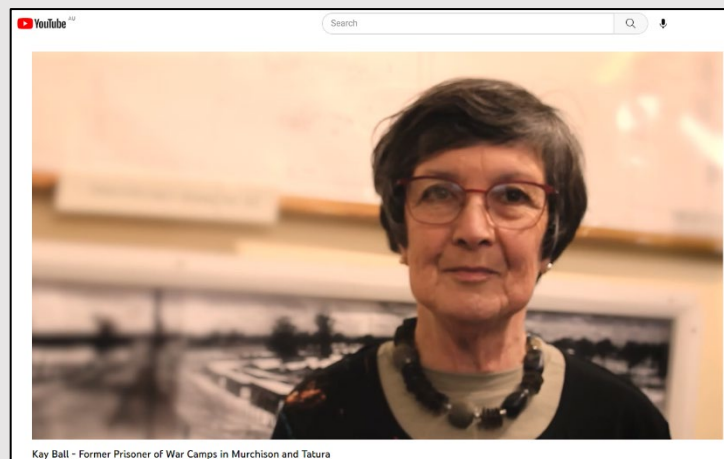
## 7. EDUCATIONAL VISITS

The Committee usually organises an annual bus tour for its members to familiarise themselves with various historical sites and places in the municipality but this did not occur in 2022. Recovering from the limitations of visiting places after Covid followed by the intense flooding of many parts of the municipality meant the educational visits could not be held.



## 8. PROMOTIONAL VIDEO

The Committee has arranged for a promotional video on the history of the former Prisoner of War Camps, narrated by Kay Ball, Heritage Advisory Committee member, and President of the Murchison and District Historical Society Inc, to be made available.



## OUR COMMITTEE

### Background

Council authorised the formation of the 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 assistance provided by the Committee is consistent with the objectives, strategies and actions outlined in the Environment section of the *Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy, 2006*, and the *Greater Shepparton City Council: Council Plan 2021-2025*.

### Terms of Reference and Committee Composition

The 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. At the first meeting for the year the Terms of Reference are read and discussed so that all members are aware of the content. The Terms of Reference are reviewed biennially and were last adopted by resolution of Council at the Ordinary Council Meeting held in 16 February 2021 and the Committee have commenced looking at the Terms of Reference as they are due for review again in February 2023.

The Committee's Terms of Reference provide for a voting membership consisting of up to two Councillors, along with one representative from each of the ten identified member organisations listed and up to six community representatives unaffiliated with any of these organisations appointed for a two-year term, and a non-voting membership comprising Council's Heritage Advisor and up to two members of Council's Strategic Planning Team. Member organisations nominate an alternate delegate to ensure continuity of representation.

Following some resignations Council sought interest from persons to participate on the Committee as community representatives until September 2023 with the nominations closing on Monday 28

November 2022. Applicants were interviewed and it was agreed that the Committee would request that Council appoint four community representatives to the Committee.

The Committee's elected office-bearers for 2022 were:

- Chairperson: Geoff Maynard (Shepparton Heritage Centre Inc.);
- Deputy Chairperson: George Ferguson (Tatura and District Historical Society) and
- Secretary: Marjorie Earl (Katandra and District History Group Inc)



George Ferguson, Marjorie Earl, and Geoff Maynard

### **Meetings**

The Committee generally meets on the first Monday of each month with the exception of January, and also November when the meeting takes place on the second Monday. The Committee still managed to meet each month (except January) in spite of social gathering restrictions and flooding, with some members participating online.

### **Committee Agendas**

There are a number of standard inclusions on all Committee agendas, including:

- a briefing on all active planning permit applications within the Heritage Overlay;
- a report from the Heritage Advisor on relevant projects and updates;
- a report from the Strategic Planning Team on relevant matters;
- member reports regarding local historic/heritage activities which alternate monthly with updates from the various sub-committees; and
- suggestions and consideration of items for presentation as Short Discussion Sessions (SDS) for the Councillors.

### Leave of Absence:

The Bangerang Cultural Centre requested a leave of absence for the 2022 calendar year and Andrew Morcom was granted a leave of absence in June for 6 months due to working away from the area and not being able to attend any Committee meetings.

### FAREWELLS



Andrew Morcom joined the Heritage Advisory Committee as a Community member in 2018 and was elected as Deputy Chairperson in 2020. He regularly participated in all Committee meetings and was an active member of the Victorian Heritage Register Sub-Committee. Andrew suggested that the Heritage Advisory Committee should include into its work plan a heritage study investigating places of potential significance from the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Andrew presented a Master Class on the Roman archaeological ruins at Vagnari in Puglia, Italy and he has also advised of his willingness to present future Master Classes to the Heritage Advisory Committee, on projects outside Greater Shepparton, especially sites of First Nations' peoples.

The Committee also farewelled Bronwyn Cole, who joined as a community member in October 2021 and resigned in October 2022 due to increased work responsibilities. The Committee acknowledges Bronwyn's active participation, enthusiasm and commitment during her time with us. We welcome her future input and valuable assistance with the presentation of master classes and guest speakers for heritage events.



The Committee reluctantly farewelled our long serving Greater Shepparton City Council Strategic Planning Team Leader Michael MacDonagh. Joining us in September 2011, Michael served on the committee for more than a decade as an invaluable resource with his extensive knowledge of and passion for heritage. As we extended the Committee's activities to include the heritage awards, conservation grants, lectures and open days, Michael supported us in securing funding and developing the biennial planning and delivery cycle. Michael's dedication to heritage, the community and the Committee is greatly appreciated by all. His thoughtful, open and inclusive approach to seeking advice from everyone helped to build the capacity and momentum for cultural heritage within the municipality. He was often heard to acknowledge the value of learning from volunteers about how to make things happen. He will apply the knowledge gained from the Committee members in his future personal and professional life. We wish him well in his future endeavours.

## **SUB-COMMITTEES**

The Committee is of the view that it fulfilled its core advisory functions during 2022 and that its professional Strategic Work Program was again successful in focusing the Committee's heritage activities.

The Committee's Strategic Work Program was divided amongst a number of sub-committees:

1. HAC Operations:

Administration: Annual Report, Budget, Heritage Guidelines, Grant Coordination and Terms of Reference Review;

2. Heritage Promotion and Education:

- a. Heritage Signage;
- b. Heritage Lecture;
- c. Cultural Heritage Awards;
- d. Heritage Open Days.
- e. Master Classes

3. Heritage Planning:

- a. Victorian Heritage Register;
- b. External Engagement;
- c. Heritage Design Guidelines; and
- d. Scoping that identifies future investigation for the HAC involvement.

4. Heritage Incentives:

- a. Conservation Grants Program; including avenues for funding conservation
- b. Publications; collection policies, collection of local histories, links to Prahan mechanics Institute
- c. Heritage Marketing and working in with Greater Shepparton tourism and cultural events
- d. Dookie College Museum
- e. Historical Societies and Museums

5. Other ongoing activities were curtailed somewhat, but included:

- a. Representation on the Calder Woodburn Memorial Avenue Advisory Committee; and

## 2023 WORK PROGRAM

The following projects are identified in the Committee's Strategic Work Program for 2023:

- The Biennial Bruce Wilson Memorial Heritage Lecture will be held in 2024 and the Committee will consider the details and arrangements for this to happen later in the 2023 year.
- Heritage Open Days - This event comprising free bus tours, walking tours and independent visiting of public, commercial and other sites of historic and heritage importance will be dependent on funding in 2023/2024. The Committee, in association with Council, hopes to present a program in 2023 including some new venues and activities.
- Heritage Conservation Grants Program – Given its success over the last five years, it is expected that another round of the Heritage Conservation Grants Program will be held in the 2023/2024 financial year. The Committee sees these grants as a prime vehicle for raising awareness of heritage across the municipality.
- Heritage Signage. - The Signage Sub-committee will continue with its work through the Greater Shepparton Heritage Plaques Pilot Program with the installation of the 53 or so heritage plaques, following consultation with landowners as to the location of the plaque on their property. The Committee envisages that this project will be met with renewed interest from Council as part of a future program. The Sub-committee will further explore the possibilities for increased interpretive signage throughout the municipality.
- Victorian Heritage Register – The Committee believes that Greater Shepparton's heritage is under-represented on the state's heritage list (the Victorian Heritage Register or VHR). The Committee will further progress the nomination to the Victorian Heritage Register of heritage recognised as being of state significance in the *Greater Shepparton Heritage Study Stage II 2020*, and any further sites that may be deemed as of potential state significance.
- Master Classes – The Committee plans to continue to hold Master Classes following Committee meetings every second month to hear from experts in the field, local and other historians, business owners and others.
- Heritage Advocacy – The Committee continues to pursue all opportunities to raise the profile of heritage throughout the municipality. It is also concerned with ensuring historical accuracy in relation to heritage and history in Greater Shepparton.
- Greater Shepparton Heritage Strategy 2019 – The Heritage Strategy, which outlines the Council's vision and priorities for heritage protection within the municipality over the medium and longer term, has been completed, endorsed by Council and is available on the Council website. The adopted Strategy may provide a guide to any future realignment of the current sub-committee structure, and point the way to future Committee activities.
- Scoping study to assess long term options for the conservation of the World War II Prisoner of War and Internment Camps within Greater Shepparton. The Committee is keen to support the preservation of the tangible and intangible cultural heritage values of our unique group of local former Prisoner of War camps and the associated related collections. The Committee will consolidate information held by its members, and assess available resources to initiate a scoping study with Council, subject to funding.

- Investigating places of potential heritage significance from the 20<sup>th</sup> century in Shepparton, Mooroopna, Tatura and other towns in the municipality to identify older buildings and façade changes.
- Increase public access to local histories –The Committee will investigate ways to share heritage information and stories with the community, including the possibility of developing a bank of digital heritage stories; it will also look into creating a list of publications produced and available at historical societies, and ensure that copies of local histories that relate to the municipality are provided to the Prahran Mechanics’ Institute, the State’s premier repository of local history publications and materials.
- Cultural Awareness Training for HAC members.
- Resourcing member organisations – The Committee will continue to pursue its role in assisting member societies with training, policies, and information sharing through a sub-committee established to discuss issues and opportunities common to historical societies and museums.
- Support for the Dookie College Museum, after being advised that it was falling into disrepair, to advise on maintenance and restoration of the Dookie Campus Historical Collection with the University of Melbourne.
- Committee Educational Visits – Committee members recognise the need to develop greater knowledge of and exposure to a number of heritage places across the region. They will participate in further educational visits, broadening knowledge of heritage assets in localities beyond their own familiar area.