



NATIONAL TRUST

Mornington Peninsula Branch Newsletter Autumn – 2008

The Briars

The Conservation Management Plan for The Briars Homestead is well underway and feverish activity is taking place at present. The timber verandah foundations and walkway are currently being replaced, as well as attention to the guttering and down pipes supporting the ongoing strength and survival of the 1850s building. Interesting ambience in the Hutch during archiving or committee meetings sharing 'our space' with the builders and their musical tastes! I wonder what Alexander Balcombe would think.

Also of interest regarding The Briars was the unveiling by Michael a'Beckett, Balcombe descendant, of the 1850s Edward LaTrobe Bateman painting of the property. The unveiling took place at the Branch's AGM in November last year after receiving conservation work. The painting which had been in the a'Beckett family was generously donated to the Homestead by the family on the occasion of the Branch's 21st birthday in 2006 when Michael also handed the Branch the keys to the Hutch.

Collins Settlement Historic Site

Further down the Peninsula the Collins Settlement Site has been receiving attention recently with the sale of *The Sisters* property and completion of the Information Centre in Leggett Way which adjoins the property at the lookout point. The Centre building is currently undergoing the fit-out of internal décor and equipment and will open to the public later this year and will be manned by The Friends of Collins Settlement. The Branch is currently investigating the classification of two very old olive trees at the site.



Point Nepean

The point Nepean Community Trust recently celebrated the completion of the restoration works of The Medical Superintendent's House at Point Nepean. The Branch was present at the celebration and congratulates the heritage architects Lovell Chen, local builder Norveck and the Pt Nepean Community Trust on an excellent result.

Fossil Beach

The Fossil Beach Cement Works site in Mornington was the focus on an excursion by the Branch Committee in March. The site which is on the Victorian Heritage List, is a series of ruins in need of extensive attention. The site has a fascinating history, being the first commercial construction on the Peninsula built in the early 1860s. The branch has recommended a conservation management plan be implemented and will report to members of any progress in this regard.

Fireside Luncheons

On May 14th we start our very successful fireside luncheons for 2008 with photographer Helen Broad presenting a viewing of a selection of Victorian National Trust properties. The presentation will follow a basket luncheon and glass of wine and will be in the Edwardian Room at The Briars. Peninsula Trust members are most welcome. \$20 Trust members \$22 non members. Phone 5989 2550 for bookings.

All enquiries regarding the Branch can be made to The President 5989 2550 or Secretary 5988 9853