

Summer Newsletter No.1 January 2011

President: Dianne Gow Phone AH: 5331 4854 AH Email: Dianne@harlequindesigns.com.au
Secretary: Marion Blythman 5333 5163 301 Clissold St. Ballarat 3350 .

Learmonth Weatherboard Tour October 2010

In October the Ballarat Branch of the National Trust were given a tour encompassing the many bluestone buildings of the Weatherboard Learmonth district. The main physical feature of this area is the extinct volcanic cone of Mount Weatherboard which stands 3,200 feet above sea level. In "Place Names Victoria" L G Blake suggests the name Weatherboard referred to a pastoral station building made of weatherboards, as most buildings at that time were slab huts the weatherboards were a distinctive feature. After the mystery of the name was explained the group toured the Old Shire Offices at Learmonth, were led on a tour of Learmonth and finally toured the district in convoy.

And what a day we had, site after site spectacular stables, school buildings, barns walls and private homes and gardens. The Ballarat Branch must thank Claudette and Geoff Crick OAM and the Learmonth Historical Society for their hospitality, enthusiasm and ability to herd up our members and keep them moving.



Weatherboard School No 656 c.1862



Miners cottage in Learmonth



Members inside the barn at Heathfield owners Margaret Findlay and family



Members viewing the stone walls at Corgyle owners Graham and Lois Findlay



Geoff Crick OAM



Geoff is a member of the Ballarat Branch of the National Trust committee and has recently received an Order of Australia Medal for his contributions to the agriculture industry.

In other voluntary service Geoff is an active member of our committee. Congratulations on your award from all in the Ballarat Branch.

(Left) Geoff Crick OAM at the entrance to the Learmonth School. During the Ballarat branches recent tour of Learmonth and the Weatherboard district.

Forthcoming Events 2011

- February

24th of February Observation Walk –Heritage Treasure Hunt.

On Thursday the 24th of February the Ballarat Branch of the National Trust will host a walk and observation tour starting and finishing at Seymours, on the corner of Lydiard and Seymour streets.

The guided tour will enable you to test your skill in observing the detail of Ballarat's heritage. After a leisurely and entertaining walk you are invited to join us for dinner at Seymours.

Commencing at 6.15pm everyone is welcome there is a \$2.00 fee for non-members.

All meals and drinks will be at the participant's expense. Come for the walk or come for the walk and dinner **HOWEVER** if you are coming for dinner ***please contact the secretary, Marion Blythman on 5333 5163 to book a place.***

- March

1st March 2011 General Meeting

General meeting of the National Trust Ballarat Branch, 5.30 at Seymour's on Lydiard. All members are welcome to attend this meeting.

National trust meetings are held on the ***1st Tuesday of the month.***

Ballarat Heritage weekend

Saturday 7 - Sunday 8 May, 2011 (Mother's Day weekend)

Website: <http://ballaratheritageweekend.com/> to view the Ballarat Heritage Weekend Program. (More information will be in the next newsletter)



NEWS:

BACCHUS MARSH AVENUE OF HONOUR STILL THREATENED – YOUR HELP IS NEEDED

The good news is that, as reported on our website in December, Heritage Victoria refused the permit application lodged by VicRoads for removal of eight mature elm trees and construction of the roundabout. After campaigning for more than a year with local community Avenue Preservation Group Inc, we were thrilled with this outcome.

The bad news is that Moorabool Shire is determined to press ahead with the works and has asked the new Minister for Planning, Matthew Guy, to intervene and overturn the decision.. We wrote to the Premier urging that an alternative route for the proposed new linking road to the realigned Western Highway must be found in order that the Avenue be preserved, and we have personally briefed Hon. Edward O'Donohue MLC, Parliamentary Secretary for Transport, on our position.

We need your help. Please email your opposition to the works to Hon. Matthew Guy MLC, Minister for Planning, and Hon. Edward O'Donohue MLC, Parliamentary Secretary for Transport.

The Victorian Liberal Nationals Coalition Plan For Veterans' Affairs (2010), states: "Recently Labor has approved the partial destruction of trees planted in Bacchus Marsh in August 1918... Before demolishing these living memorials, every effort should be made by government to ensure that all options have been considered and the community has been fully consulted. **It**

must be the last option to destroy any of these trees."

The planting of the Avenue by the local community in 1918 was a fundamental expression of community commemoration. The proposed roundabout and tree removal would desecrate a world class war memorial that could be argued to be amongst the finest avenues of Dutch Elms in the world. It is hard to imagine that desecration of a war memorial to accommodate trucks would be considered anywhere else in the world, particularly as we approach the centenary of the First World War in 1914 and centenary of Anzac in 1915.

We urge the government, VicRoads and Moorabool Shire Council to find an alternative solution to traffic and roads that will not impact on the Avenue. The construction of a large roundabout will involve the removal and loss of 8 to 11 historically and aesthetically significant Elms. The removal of these trees will seriously break the continuity of the Avenue, resulting in a loss of the fine colonnade effect and aesthetic integrity. We believe that all alternative routes should be exhausted before any trees are removed.

You can also follow this campaign on Facebook and follow us on Twitter.

Regards,

**Martin Purslow
Chief Executive Officer**

Want to join the National Trust?

For less than \$100.00 per year you can be kept informed of developments relating to our heritage PLUS you can come along with a vibrant local group on events and activities not usually available to the public. Contact the National Trust Phone: BH 9656 9800 or email: membership@naatrust.com.au or ring the Ballarat Secretary on 5333 5163 for further information

<http://www.natrust.com.au/>

