

Roundup of Events Ballarat Branch

The Ballarat Branch had a busy start to 2011, starting with our planning day in January. A varied and ambitious program of events is planned including- updating of records and raising community awareness of heritage issues.

The first activity for the year involved members running inner city heritage tours for 35 women visiting Ballarat. These tours have become very popular and the branch is usually available to accommodate groups visiting Ballarat. Details can be obtained from the secretary Marion Blythman on 5333 5163.

Hepburn Graves maintenance and conservation. The Ballarat Branch of the National Trust regularly organises for members to maintain the Hepburn graves, Smeaton House at Smeaton near Ballarat. The graves are important as they are an intact private cemetery with historical associations with the Hepburn family. The Ballarat Branch is now involved in the development of a conservation management plan for the graves, this work will be carried out by local heritage architect Wendy Jacobs, a member of the Ballarat branch committee.

On a barmy evening recently the branch ran an Observation Walk through the streets of Ballarat. Members and their friends walked a course searching for the answers to a range of questions. Many people discovered details of buildings that had not observed before. A fun night was had by all , we gained an insight into the competitive nature of some members and the evening was rounded off with a wonderful meal at Seymours c. 1857.

Presently the branch is updating photographic records of National Trust listed buildings and establishing improved descriptions and condition reports on our significant trees.

At the last count sales of -"The Corner Shops of Ballarat" produced by the Ballarat Branch had passed 900 copies, at the current steady pace we hope to pass the 1000 mark soon.

Planning is well underway for Heritage Week in May and the Ballarat Heritage Awards.