



MOUNT ALEXANDER BRANCH

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NEWSLETTER MAY 2011



Hello to Trust Members and Friends:

This is the first of what will be a regular column in our Newsletters to keep members informed of items that are considered by the Branch Committee on a monthly basis.

These may include doubtful planning applications, decisions or undertakings that the committee think should be further investigated. Matters of interest at present include the railway goods shed, the Newstead Historic Study, the proposed Aquatic Centre on the Western Oval and the condition of the 1854 military quarters in Camp Crescent.

The railway goods shed is where the Maryborough Highland Society hopes to establish a gaming venue. It is contained within a Victorian Heritage precinct, so any alteration, internal or external, requires planning permission from Heritage Victoria. The committee is watching for any developments.

The Newstead Historic Study is an enormous undertaking by Council as the Study covers most of the Mount Alexander Shire with the exception of Castlemaine and Maldon. The material is of some 1800 pages and lists numerous areas and properties as being worthy of incorporation into the planning scheme. Consultations are about to begin this month with the final draft proposed to be available around the end of this year. Checking and addressing any anomalies in the initial draft will provide the committee with an enormous amount of 'homework'.

However, of more immediate concern, are the revised plans for the new police station on the corner of Hargraves and Templeton Streets. The plans are on view at the Mount Alexander Shire planning office in Halford St. Comments from members about the plans for the police station would be most welcome as would be input from members with local knowledge for the Newstead Historic Study.

We look forward to hearing from you. Call me personally on 5472 5176.

Best wishes:

*Janet Gilmore, President
National Trust of Australia (Victoria)
Mount Alexander Branch*

Members and Friends enjoy Heritage Festival Events

2011 saw the rebirth of the National Trust Heritage Festival in Victoria with the theme of celebrating the heritage of water. As part of this Festival the Mount Alexander Branch presented two events enjoyed by 57 members and friends.

On Saturday 30 April the Castlemaine Historical Society Inc hosted a morning tea in the former Castlemaine Court house in Goldsmith Crescent.



On a lovely autumn morning, following a welcome from Historical Society President Frank Buckman, nineteen National Trust members and friends enjoyed morning tea on the verandah of the historic courthouse. Alleyne Hockley then outlined the history and important features of this significant heritage building, its location in what was the original Government Camp, the work of the Historical Society and how it can help with family and other research. A tour of the Court House, the Historical Society's impressive archives and a viewing of a "water themed" exhibit drawn from the archives followed.

Our thanks to the Historical Society for hosting this very enjoyable morning.

On the following day, Sunday 1 May, Bruce Farnell from Bendigo led an all day bus trip of the main Coliban Channel from Malmsbury to Bendigo.



Coming from Melbourne, Cohuna, Lake Charm, Carisbrook, Glenlyon, Geelong, the Macedon Ranges, Bendigo and other parts of Victoria as well as Castlemaine, thirty eight members and friends found the tour enlightening and entertaining as it followed the main channel along highways and byways through the central Victorian country side.

Bruce's informed commentary on the history and features of the Coliban System was complemented by that of some participants who shared their own extensive

knowledge and experience of the system and the provision of water to the Victorian community.

Some highlights of the trip, not easily accessible to the public, included the impressive Taradale reverse siphon carrying water from the channel across a wide valley, various intricately finished stone and brick tunnels and the impressive Springs Road distributor, ingeniously slowing the flow of the channel down a steep hill side in Mandurang South.



Main Street Newstead, August 28, 1909



Historic Newstead Walk Sunday 19 June — 2.00pm till 4.30pm

Before the coming of Major Mitchell the grassy river flats along the Loddon River was the homeland of the Jajawurrong people. Major Mitchell crossed the Loddon at Newstead and the New South Wales squatters followed his dray tracks as they headed south to greener pastures.

Most of the site of modern Newstead was on the Tarrangower run owned by William Morrison Hunter. The township developed as a crossing place of the Loddon River for the diggers from the diggings around Mount Alexander to those around Maryborough, as well as the Gold Escort bound for South Australia. On the walk around Newstead find out about a proposed site of Newstead about a mile downstream on the Loddon River from the present site of the township along with the problems encountered in crossing the Loddon and the role that the Newstead hotel (now no longer) played in this, as well as the floods that plagued the town and led to the construction of the levee bank that is now 100 years old, as well as the moving of a number of the government buildings to higher ground. Newstead Road District was proclaimed 8th October 1860, and then the Shire of Newstead was proclaimed in 1865, which has had two shire offices before being amalgamated into the current Mount Alexander Shire in 1996.

Gold was a significant feature of early Newstead with several small rushes and the gold dredges which operated along the Loddon River and the Jim Crow Creek. In the early 1860s there was a Chinese camp of almost three thousand inhabitants.

Derek Reid, a member of the former Mount Alexander Shire Council Heritage Advisory Board, the Newstead

Historical Society, the Castlemaine Historical Society and the Mount Alexander Branch of the National Trust, will lead a guided walk of this historic and attractive town. The walk will start and finish at the Newstead courthouse and will be followed by afternoon tea and a variety of exhibits related to Newstead history and significant events.

\$10 per person - includes afternoon tea

Bookings by Tuesday June 14 to Brian Tresidder

Phone: (03) 5472 1108 Mobile: 04294 450 055

Email: tresidderbrian@yahoo.com.au

Meet at the Former Newstead Courthouse, Canrobert St.
(Directions available on booking).

