



**Macedon
Ranges**
Shire Council

ATTACHMENTS

**Council Meeting
Under Separate Cover**

Wednesday, 28 August 2024

Table of Contents

PE.1	Draft Macedon Ranges Heritage Strategy 2024-2034	
	Attachment 1 Draft Macedon Ranges Heritage Strategy 2024-2034	4



Macedon
Ranges
Shire Council

DRAFT

Macedon Ranges
Heritage Strategy

2024-34



Cover Image: Lancefield Old Bank
 "I love how the morning and afternoon light hits these old buildings. They hold so much character and so many stories, and even if you're not aware of the history of these old buildings, there is always something that will make you pause in awe. These old buildings are a constant source of inspiration and I hope to see them kept, restored and honored for many years to come" – Tamika Petersen

Strategy endorsement

Date of Adoption	TBC
Adoption Method	Council
CEO Signature Date	TBC
Manager	Manager – Strategic Planning and Environment
Department	Planning and Environment Directorate
Unit	Strategic Planning
Term	Ten years
Last Endorsement Date	N/A
Nominated Review Period	Progress report annually / Strategy reviewed every 4 years
Next Endorsement Date	TBC

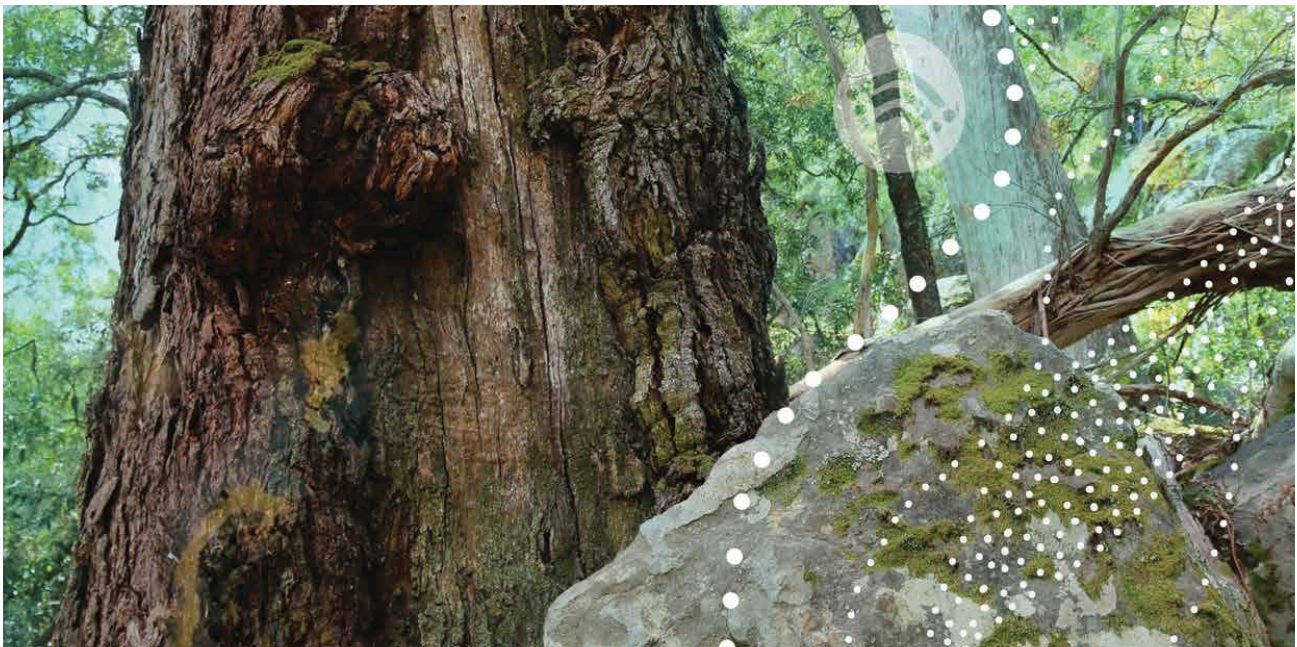
Acknowledgement of Country

Macedon Ranges Shire Council acknowledges the **Dja Dja Wurrung, Taungurung** and **Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung** Peoples as the Traditional Owners and Custodians of this land and waterways. Council recognises their living cultures and ongoing connection to Country and pays respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.

Council also acknowledges local Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander residents of Macedon Ranges for their ongoing contribution to the diverse culture of our community.

Artwork by Taungurung artist Maddi Moser. Artwork used with permission.

"[The artwork talks about] our connection, connection to Country, connection to places and connection to each other. This is signified by the whimsical circles that form the 'rivers; that wrap around our lands and ourselves. It reminds us that we should look out for one another."



Contents

Introduction	5
Macedon Ranges Heritage Strategy 2024-34 Purpose	7
Background	7
Consultation	8
Council Plan Objective	9
Council Plan Priority	9
Our goal for heritage in the Macedon Ranges	10
Objectives and Strategies	10
Objective 1 – Knowing	11
Objective 2 – Protecting	14
Objective 3 – Supporting	17
Objective 4 – Communicating and Promoting	20
Objective 5 – Preparing	23
Action Plan	26
Monitoring and Review	37
Related Legislation and Agreements	37
Related Policies	37
Related Projects	38
References	38
Related Terms	39

Photo and word credits

The images and words in this document are used with thanks, from community members who participated in the 'Love our Heritage' photo survey in May and June 2023.



**Image: Living Heritage Tree,
Main Street, Romsey**

"The branches of this magnificent tree once inspired a young Vincent Buckley. Keeping our living heritage is critical for future generations to enjoy"
– Peter Golding

Introduction

We protect heritage because it connects us to the past, gives us a sense of place in the present, and preserves what we value for future generations to enjoy. It belongs to all of us, and we are all responsible for caring for it.

The heritage of Macedon Ranges is rich and unique to our area. There are many types of heritage, from the natural, Aboriginal, and historic places we have created and inherited, to plantings of mature trees and avenues, or manipulation of landscapes for water, travel, agriculture, and industry. Evidence of the shire's past is present in objects and collections, records and stories, passed on to us from the First Peoples who have lived here for thousands of years as well as those who have migrated here in colonial settlement and since. The Macedon Ranges is fortunate to have a community who champion the heritage we love and who advocate and work to preserve and protect it.

Council has several important roles regarding the heritage of the Macedon Ranges:

- Council **protects** heritage that is of significance at a local, state, national and even global level under different legislative mechanisms. This is done through strategic planning to identify, assess and then implement controls for places through heritage studies and planning scheme amendments.
- Council is a **custodian** of the municipality's heritage – Council owns or manages many heritage assets, collects and maintains records and objects, and names places on behalf of the Macedon Ranges community.
- Council has a **regulatory** role permitting and advising owners to manage their private heritage assets through statutory processes.
- Council works to **promote** the value of heritage across the shire, supporting the community by building awareness and understanding of heritage matters.



Image: Pioneer Park, Gisborne
 "Gisborne Pioneer Wall, designed by the Historical Society as part of a LEAP programme, currently contains 130 plaques to recognise early settlers of this district" – Phyllis Boyd


Heritage in the Macedon Ranges at a glance



Planning

We plan for heritage with this Heritage Strategy, which sets Council direction from this strategic work.

- 1** Thematic Environmental History, which tells us what themes are unique and important in the Macedon Ranges' land use history
- 6** Heritage studies and reviews, which have been implemented through:
 - +** A number of council led heritage and correction amendments, which has resulted in:
- Over 2,100** properties, which are protected for their heritage and managed through:
- Approx one-third** of planning permits, which include heritage considerations



Places and objects

- 49** State heritage places
- 292** Local Heritage Overlay precinct and individual places
- 91** Archaeological places
- Over 800** Potential heritage places
 - +** Aboriginal sites that are nationally or state significant
- Over 8,000 objects** Kyneton Museum and collections
 - +** Public, historical and community records
- More than \$170 million** Council-owned / managed assets, including heritage buildings, gardens and streetscapes



People

- 3** Registered Aboriginal Parties
- 5** Heritage and historical societies
- 1** Museum Friends group
- +** Specially trained Council officers for heritage places, collections, records and plants

Macedon Ranges Heritage Strategy 2024-34

Purpose

The Heritage Council of Victoria's 2020 state-wide review of local heritage, the State of Heritage Review, identified that most of the heritage places in Victoria – more than 186,000 places – are protected by local government authorities, such as Macedon Ranges Shire Council. The Macedon Ranges Heritage Strategy 2024-34 (the Heritage Strategy) sets out Council's approach to the management of heritage within the municipality. It is a key strategic tool for assisting the organisation to meet our obligations under different pieces of heritage legislation.

The Heritage Strategy identifies some of the work already being done on heritage matters and makes recommendations for the critical and urgent work that needs to be done in the future, to protect the rich history and heritage of the Macedon Ranges.

Background

The inaugural Macedon Ranges Heritage Strategy 2014-18 was adopted in June 2014. The 2014-18 strategy contained 55 actions organised under the four objectives – Knowing, Protecting, Supporting, and Communicating and Promoting. Of these, in the four-year strategy cycle around a third were completed, the majority were not commenced, and a small number have since become redundant. The insights from this have influenced this new Heritage Strategy; as a result, fewer actions will be recommended over a longer cycle, to have a greater chance of successful implementation and completion and provide a more realistic plan for what can be achieved.

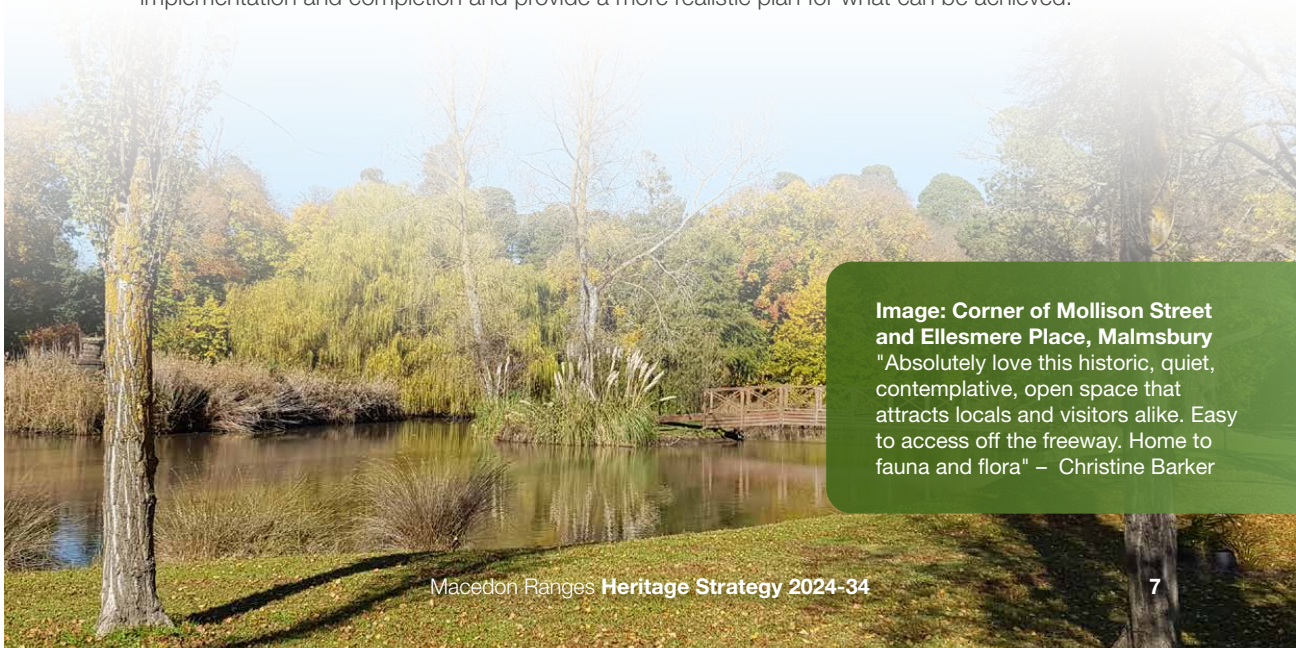


Image: Corner of Mollison Street and Ellesmere Place, Malmsbury
"Absolutely love this historic, quiet, contemplative, open space that attracts locals and visitors alike. Easy to access off the freeway. Home to fauna and flora" – Christine Barker

Macedon Ranges Heritage Strategy 2024-34

7

Consultation

The new Heritage Strategy project was launched in March 2023. It began with a review of the previous strategy and two rounds of consultation and engagement:

Community consultation – ‘Love our heritage’ photo survey

In May and June 2023, Council asked the community to tell us what they love about the heritage of the Macedon Ranges, in pictures and words. In response, more than 40 photos were submitted, telling us what community members love and want to keep, or would change for the better about our heritage.

The photos and words covered a range of topics, including:

- specific heritage places or features that are valued such as Woodend Court House and the Annis and George Bills Trough in Kyneton
- types of heritage – historic collections, farming heritage, streetscapes and town centres, architecture and infrastructure, mature trees and plantings, landscapes, and the natural environment
- places or issues that are of concern to the community – heritage that is undervalued such as bluestone pavements or shepherds’ huts, and issues such as demolition by neglect.

Organisation engagement

Officers from across the organisation were engaged on the project, following the community consultation.

The three key outcomes from the organisation engagement are:

- the need for training due to a lack of awareness of heritage legislation and practices
- that the organisation itself needs to lead by example, as one of the largest owners / managers of heritage assets in the municipality, and this should therefore be the focus of the Heritage Strategy
- the need to refine the project scope to 1) include climate change as an issue that disastrously impacts our heritage; and 2) to change our approach from the previous strategy, including reassessing the number of actions and how we track progress on these.

Draft Heritage Strategy 2024-34

This draft Heritage Strategy document has been prepared for community consultation, and feedback will be reviewed and addressed or incorporated. The final Heritage Strategy will then be presented to Council for consideration and adoption.

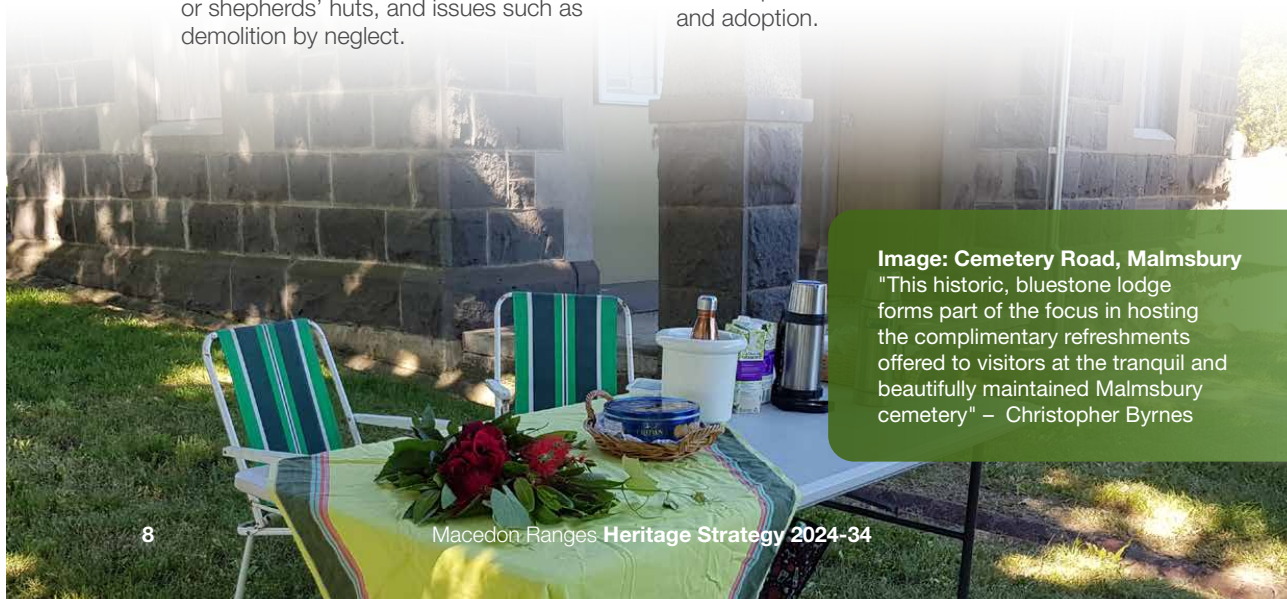


Image: Cemetery Road, Malmsbury
 "This historic, bluestone lodge forms part of the focus in hosting the complimentary refreshments offered to visitors at the tranquil and beautifully maintained Malmsbury cemetery" – Christopher Byrnes

Council Plan Objective

Strategic objective 1: Connecting communities

A connected community is where people have access to the services they need and are empowered to contribute, creating a sense of belonging.



Council Plan Priority

Progress the Heritage Strategy to guide Council's priorities for further heritage protection (2021-2031 Year Three 2023-2024).

Our goal for heritage in the Macedon Ranges

Our goal is to value, protect, and celebrate the rich and diverse natural, Aboriginal, and historic heritage of the Macedon Ranges and its places, plantings, records, collections, intangible heritage and peoples.

Objectives and Strategies

The Heritage Strategy is organised by these five objectives:



Knowing



Protecting



Supporting



Communicating
and Promoting



Preparing

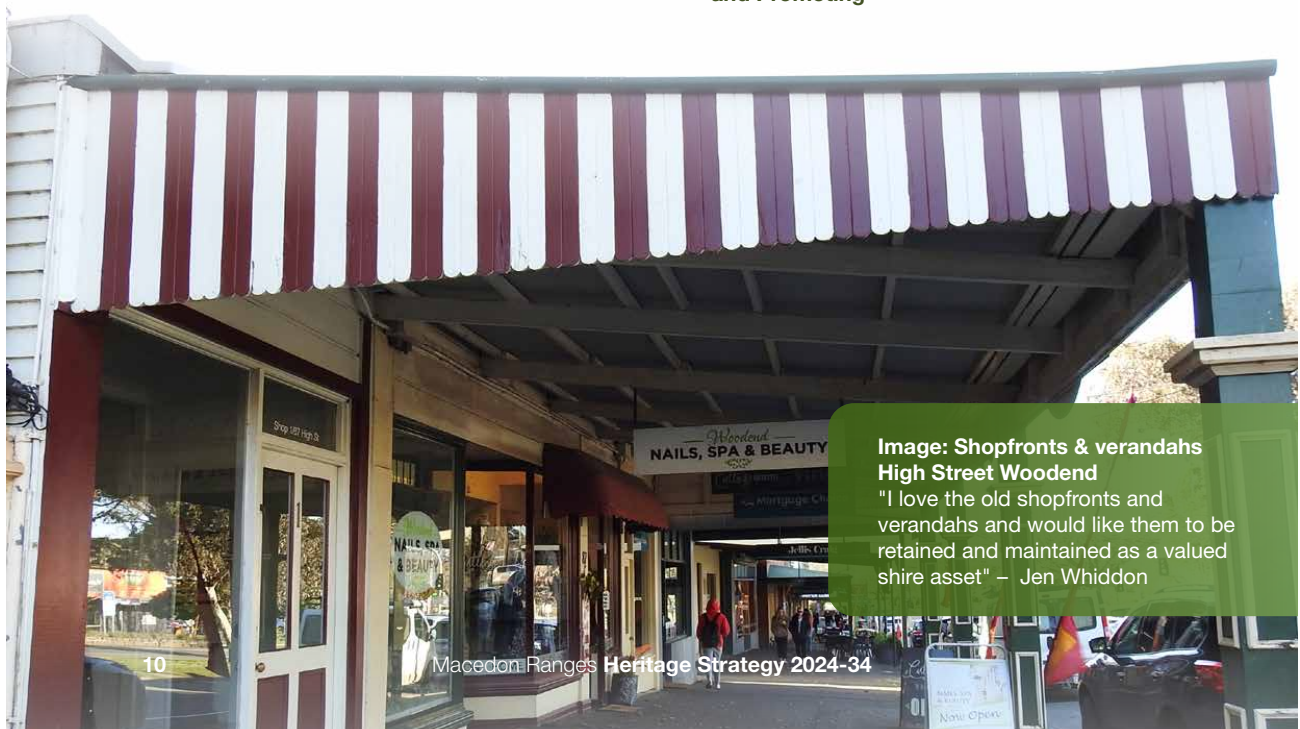


Image: Shopfronts & verandahs High Street Woodend
"I love the old shopfronts and verandahs and would like them to be retained and maintained as a valued shire asset" – Jen Whiddon



Objective 1 – **Knowing**



Image: Stone stables and garden at historic farm, Carlsruhe

"I love the rural aspect and small towns with heritage buildings, the natural wonders such as Hanging Rock, the Jim Jim, the Cobaws and Mount Macedon. I love the clean air, the kangaroos, koalas, wombats and bird life that abound, the tang of the bush and the sense of community" – Jannyse Williams

Knowing: Programming heritage studies to identify, assess and document our heritage places

Macedon Ranges Shire Council has three legacy heritage studies from the 1990s that provide the basis for much of our current heritage provisions:

- Shire of Kyneton Conservation (Heritage) Study 1990
- Macedon Ranges Cultural Heritage and Landscape Study 1994
- Macedon Ranges Pre-Contact Pilot Study Victoria 1996

These studies were ground-breaking in their time in their approach to the documentation of Aboriginal, landscape, natural and historic heritage, and between them they cover the extent of the municipality. The studies documented some 2,110 places and 36 precincts in total, with recommendations for protection or further study. But of these, only about 250 Heritage Overlays were implemented through the New Format Planning Scheme process in the late 1990s.

Council's heritage advisory program commenced in the late 2000s and began the process of reviewing the outstanding recommendations to continue implementing the 1990 and 1994 studies. This program achieved the following:

- Heritage study reviews of Lancefield, Riddells Creek, Romsey and Woodend in 2010-12, Gisborne and Kyneton in 2017-19, and Woodend, Lancefield, Macedon, and Mount Macedon in 2019-23, with associated planning scheme amendments putting in place Heritage Overlays for four new precincts and 110 new individual places.

- Initial entries for all legacy study places and precincts loaded into the Hermes Orion database of the Victorian Heritage Database in 2010-13.
- Mapping of the remaining potential heritage places and precincts (i.e. those not yet protected) in Council's internal mapping system.

Places having Aboriginal cultural heritage values in the municipality were drawn from the 1996 pre-contact study. These places were entered into the Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register by the Victorian Government authority, now known as First Peoples – State Relations.



Image: Malsbury Mechanics Institute

"This beautiful, bluestone building houses the collection and is the venue for MHS committee meetings... Building needs to be heritage listed and a commitment to repairs provided" – Christine Barker

Council has recently adopted the Macedon Ranges Shire Thematic Environmental History (2023). This strategic tool is used for understanding the land use development that has created the municipality that we know and value today. The report is organised around nine themes localised to the Macedon Ranges, for how the environment was shaped, to how people came to live here, travel, manage the



land, build industries, towns, and communities, and govern.

The next step is to analyse our current heritage protections and to determine what themes are already represented, and what the gaps might be to guide future heritage study work to protect under-represented themes and places.

Mapping is a key tool used to identify distinct types of heritage. Recently, a state-wide improvement has been the provision of archaeological mapping by Heritage Victoria, to improve awareness of protected underground sites. Several mapping refinements and changes have also been made within the organisation to improve awareness of heritage, such as:

- clearer and more accurate mapping of archaeological, Aboriginal, local, and state heritage sites
- ensuring different areas of the organisation have access to heritage mapping
- ongoing tree audits and mapping of Council-owned / managed mature trees, including heritage avenues and botanic gardens
- ongoing updating of places that have the potential to be of heritage significance.

A range of other information technology systems are used by the organisation to undertake asset management and capital works programming. Many Council assets have heritage significance, however these specialised computer programs are not currently designed to take heritage considerations into account. Ensuring heritage compliance and considerations are integrated into these programs will result in better outcomes for these heritage assets.

Strategy actions – Knowing

We will complete an analysis of the heritage controls in the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme against the themes listed in the Thematic Environmental History, to identify the main gaps to inform the heritage studies to be undertaken over the next decade.

We will commence the heritage studies in order of priority and protect these places through an amendment to the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme.

We will integrate compliance, conservation considerations, and period / type of heritage into the asset management system for Council-owned / managed assets.





Objective 2 – Protecting

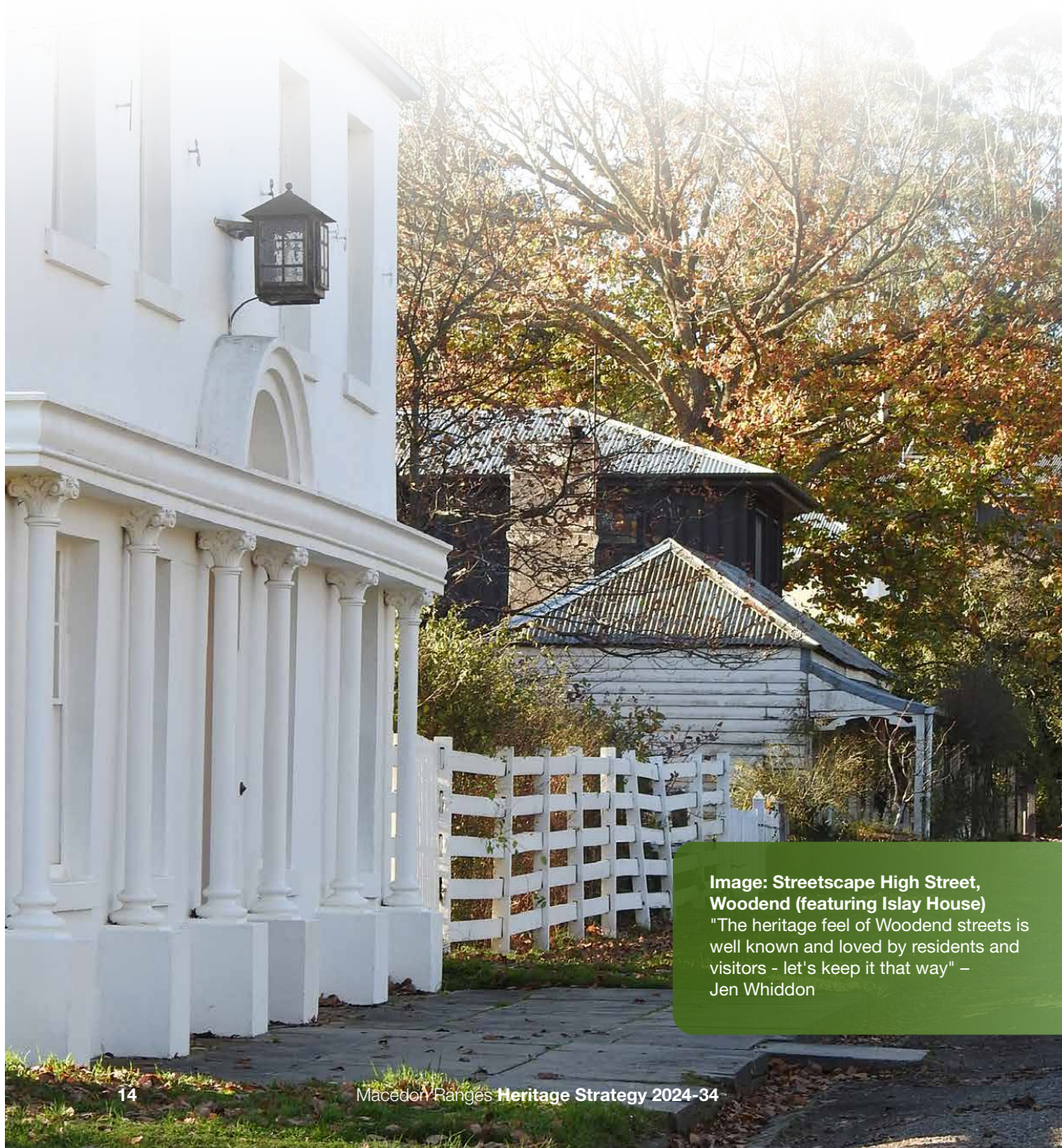


Image: Streetscape High Street, Woodend (featuring Islay House)

"The heritage feel of Woodend streets is well known and loved by residents and visitors - let's keep it that way" - Jen Whiddon

Protecting:
 Securing statutory protection for significant places; developing policy and guidelines to assist decision making; appropriate management of Council’s heritage assets

The Heritage Overlay controls we have today in the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme were introduced by the New Format Planning Scheme process in June 2000. Since then, it has been identified that many of these Heritage Overlays contained mapping mistakes where the location or extent of an overlay was incorrect. Several amendments have been run in the past decade to make corrections, but errors are still present in approximately two-thirds of the current Heritage Overlay controls. This means that the planning permit process is not as accurate, efficient, or sensitive to heritage places as it could be, and further work is required to improve the accuracy of our heritage controls.

There are also some anomalies with other areas of heritage protection in the municipality. Some of the state heritage places are inaccurate, and in the past three years Council has worked with Heritage Victoria to correctly identify these places, such as the Walter Burley Griffin house in Woodend. Additionally, some Aboriginal heritage places are protected by mechanisms other than Aboriginal heritage controls. This requires discussion with the relevant Aboriginal parties to ensure these sites are appropriately and sensitively managed through the appropriate legislation and authorities.

Council is responsible for the protection and management of many heritage assets

and material. Recently, streamlining of organisational processes has meant that heritage considerations are now routinely included in day-to-day business. Examples include:

- the introduction of due diligence processes for compliance with Aboriginal, state, local and archaeological heritage regulations in capital works project management
- the revision of the Macedon Ranges Community Local Law 2023 on dilapidated buildings.

All of these present opportunities for officers to develop processes for monitoring heritage, such as dilapidated heritage buildings, which can cause a great deal of concern in the community.

Other projects have been identified to ensure better protection of heritage material in Council ownership. For example, there is a large collection of historic Council records that requires transferring to the Public Records Office of Victoria, to be stored in protective archival conditions for future generations.



Image: Annis & George Bills trough, Kyneton
 "The Annis and George Bills watering trough has a unique story. It needs conservation because only a portion of the name plate survives" – Susanne Meier



Strategy actions – Protecting
We will strengthen the local policy for heritage in the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme.
We will commence a planning scheme amendment to correct Heritage Overlay errors and anomalies.
We will engage with relevant Aboriginal parties and First Peoples – State Relations to clarify the appropriate mechanism for the protection of Aboriginal heritage places in the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme.
We will engage with Public Records Office of Victoria to develop a project for dealing with the records held by Macedon Ranges Shire Council.
We will develop a Local Laws process for monitoring dilapidated heritage buildings.
We will continue to facilitate heritage compliance in the capital works project management process.



Image: Kyneton Museum
 "Kyneton Museum was established by the Shire of Kyneton in 1968. It now holds an important collection of over 8,000 objects, showing Macedon Ranges heritage circa 1840 to 1930" – Ronda Walker





Objective 3 – Supporting

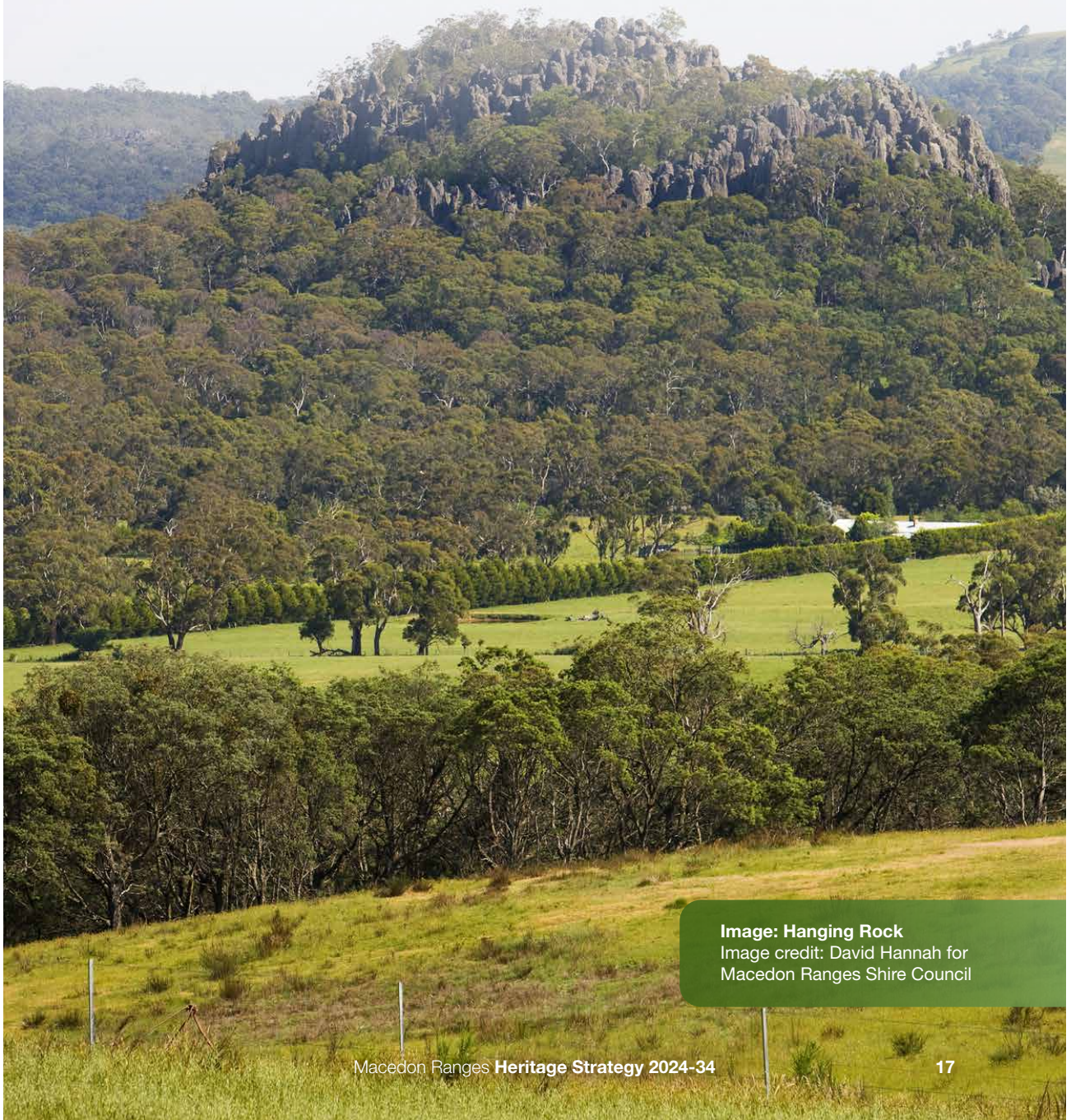


Image: Hanging Rock
Image credit: David Hannah for
Macedon Ranges Shire Council

Supporting: Helping Council and the community to manage heritage projects and assets through incentives, advisory services, and financial assistance

Macedon Ranges Shire Council has been funding a heritage advisory service from around 2010. It is a part-time service provided to the organisation for Council works and activities, permit applicants through referrals, and the community through pre-application advice on key sites and projects. Currently heritage advice is needed for around one-third of planning permit applications, and building permits and compliance matters can also require heritage advice.

One-on-one pre-application advice is provided for key sites and projects on a case-by-case basis, such as the Old Kyneton Primary School redevelopment. The Heritage Planner also supports the organisation, as the largest owner and manager of heritage assets, through a hotdesk service providing regular on-the-spot heritage advice at the three main Council offices.

An opportunity exists however to boost awareness of heritage more broadly, through the development of training and resources both for the organisation and the Macedon Ranges community, such as:

- training for Council officers on best practice compliance and management for Aboriginal and historic heritage
- development of guidelines and information packs for property owners on caring for heritage places, navigating the planning permit process and good design outcomes.

Other types of support for heritage are available from grants and financial assistance schemes, including the 'Restoring Community War Memorials and Avenues of Honour' and 'Local History' grant programs funded by the Victorian Government. The heritage advisory service assists both Council and community groups with applications for these external grant sources and other targeted heritage funding.

These supportive measures could be reviewed to identify where the organisation can best improve funding for heritage assets, whether it be improvements in organisational process for accessing grants, supporting community and business applications and projects, or distributing funding directly through dedicated heritage schemes. Examples of direct support could include:

- support for groups and businesses that will deliver a positive heritage or history project
- incentivising heritage restoration of private properties through grant, loan or rebate schemes, similar to models such as the Victorian Heritage Restoration Fund.



Image: The Victorian Goldfields World Heritage Bid logo

On a wider scale, Macedon Ranges Shire Council is also a participant in projects with a state-wide, national, or even global context and impact. Council is represented on the Heritage



Council of Victoria's Local Government Specialist Committee which oversees implementation of the recommendations of the State of Heritage Review: Local Heritage report (2020). These include practical improvements to strengthen the current heritage protection system in Victoria, address persistent problems such as demolition by neglect, and develop programs for highlighting the values of local heritage.

Council is also a key partner in Victorian Government projects to develop the Hanging Rock Strategic Plan and Precinct Master Plan, and a new master plan for Victorian Mineral Springs including the nationally significant Kyneton Mineral Springs. On a global scale, Macedon Ranges Shire Council is one of 15 local government and other authorities that have been working since 2016 on the Victorian Goldfields World Heritage Bid.



Image: The Lodge, Malmsbury Cemetery

"...In particular the lodge itself should be listed as a historic building to enable the Malmsbury Cemetery Trust to apply for grants to restore the building to a good condition. As a small cemetery the trust does not have the finances to fund this work and so relies on grants to carry out the work needed to ensure that the cemetery is able to meet the current and future demands of the local community" – Christopher Byrnes

Strategy actions – Supporting

We will develop training and professional development for the organisation on Aboriginal, local, and state heritage legislation.

We will develop heritage guidelines or information packs for applicants and owners on sympathetic design for heritage places and best practice heritage advice.

We will review external and internal grants and funding assistance schemes, to identify where improvements can be made in accessing, supporting, or distributing funding for Council, community, and privately owned heritage assets.

We will continue to provide a heritage advisory service to assist the organisation and community with permits, major projects, key business development and compliance with Aboriginal, state, and local heritage legislation.

We will continue to support national and state heritage key projects: World Heritage Listing of the Victorian Goldfields, master planning for Kyneton Mineral Springs and implementing the strategic plan for Hanging Rock.





Objective 4 – Communicating and Promoting



Image: Lancefield Mechanics Garage
"I would love to see a form of "Heritage building trail", an APP that allows you to find heritage buildings. There is a 'Silo Art Trail' and a 'Rail Trail', so perhaps the 'Heritage building trail' could be added to the mix. A real-life treasure hunt of sorts" – Tamika Petersen

Communicating and Promoting: Raising awareness and appreciation of the heritage of Macedon Ranges

Aboriginal heritage of the Macedon Ranges is managed and protected by three Aboriginal parties, the Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation, Taungurung Land and Waters Council, and Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation. Each of the Aboriginal parties provide information about their history and heritage through cultural awareness training, tours on Country, and on their websites. Opportunities exist to expand on this by providing more information for visitors at Macedon Ranges tourist sites and visitor information centres which receive numerous requests for information about the heritage of our First Peoples. Each of these First Peoples also collaborate and contribute, along with other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders who live in the municipality, in developing the Macedon Ranges Reconciliation Action Plan. This Heritage Strategy deals specifically with Aboriginal heritage, protected by the Aboriginal Heritage Act, but supports the broader strategic work of the Reconciliation Action Plan and process.

Macedon Ranges Shire Council promotes the use of names that are historically related to our municipality through the recently formed Naming Committee. Naming for large developments for new subdivisions could be stronger and the Committee is working on processes to collaborate with and improve this process for developers. More recently, the state-wide Naming Rules have been revised to set targets for Aboriginal and gender naming inclusion, which needs to be reflected in the Council's Naming Protocol for Roads and Places (2016).



The organisation also holds a range of information about the heritage of the municipality and Council's web pages have undergone a substantial review in the last few years, to ensure heritage reports, strategies and plans are publicly available and accessible. However, many of these documents are large and can be unwieldy when trying to find information on individual places. This information could be made accessible through the public Victorian Heritage Database, joining other users such as Heritage Victoria, the National Trust of Australia (Victoria), and other councils to provide valuable information to all residents, owners, and managers of heritage assets in the municipality. To date, over 2,000 individual entries for the Macedon Ranges have been loaded into Hermes Orion, the Victorian Heritage Database used by heritage professionals and government. There is the opportunity to communicate this information by reviewing these entries for accuracy, adding new data from Council's more recent heritage studies, and making all entries available via the public Victorian Heritage Database.

The heritage of the Macedon Ranges has been supported by community advocacy for many decades, and groups such as the Macedon Ranges Heritage Council play a vital role in promoting the heritage of the municipality. The Macedon Ranges Heritage Council was formed in 1995 and is made up of five historical and heritage groups and one friends group, with two Councillors and Council officers. These groups celebrate and promote local heritage and history information through publications, websites, self-guided tours and brochures, and heritage festival events. Some of these groups also hold objects in collections, as does the Kyneton Museum, which holds a valuable collection of nineteenth century everyday objects related to ordinary life. There are also significant tree collections at the two state-listed botanic gardens in Kyneton and Malmsbury; all of these important objects, botanical and local history collections could be made accessible to everyone through digital collection management archives such as Victorian Collections, to communicate the unique values of our heritage to current and future generations.

Strategy actions – Communicating and Promoting

We will review Aboriginal heritage material produced by Macedon Ranges Shire Council for tourism and visitor information centres, and **engage** with relevant Aboriginal parties for consent, support, and review to update and promote.

We will update the Naming Protocol for Roads and Places to include recent measures regarding Aboriginal and gender naming.

We will review and update online information for heritage places in the Macedon Ranges and **publish** these on the Victorian Heritage Database.

We will publish online collections information for Council-owned / managed botanic and object collections.

We will continue to support the implementation of the Macedon Ranges Shire Council Reconciliation Action Plan.

We will continue to support the Macedon Ranges Heritage Council in their advocacy, promotion, and celebration activities.

We will continue to improve the heritage information made available to residents, owners, and community on Council's web pages.

We will continue to strengthen the process for historic naming in subdivisions and large developments.



Image: From Kyneton Museum collection
 "Wonderful to see the recent renovations. Could we have greater promotion of this significant collection with more days open each week" – Ronda Walker





Objective 5 – Preparing

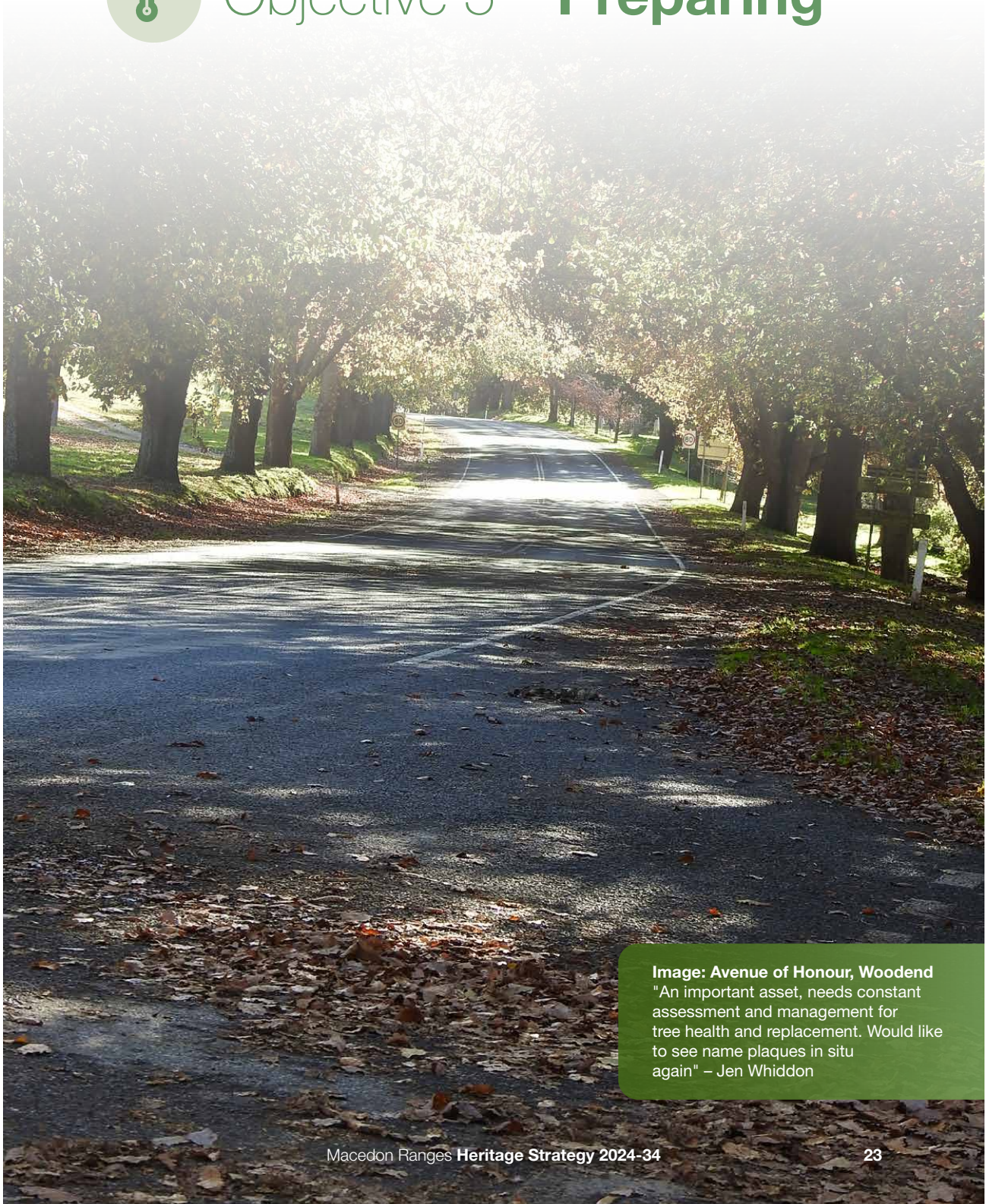


Image: Avenue of Honour, Woodend
"An important asset, needs constant assessment and management for tree health and replacement. Would like to see name plaques in situ again" – Jen Whiddon

Preparing: Getting ready for how climate change will impact the heritage of the Macedon Ranges

Heritage needs to be considered in the broader climate change discussion in several ways. Heritage helps connect us to place and supports our resilience and wellbeing in times of change. But heritage assets are also highly vulnerable, and can be severely impacted, damaged or even suffer total loss in disaster events and emergencies. In the Macedon Ranges, a number of state-listed and locally protected heritage places have been damaged, some beyond repair, in climate events over the past few years. These heritage assets have a better chance for continuation and survival if we are proactive in adapting and preparing them for climate change.

Climate change adaptation applies not only to built heritage, but also to our heritage trees which can be impacted by high temperatures, floods and drought, and storm damage. This is relevant for all of the shire's mature trees and plantings but will be particularly crucial for state heritage Avenues of Honour that are a key tourist attraction for our municipality. It will be important to consider which species are the most suitable to replace trees that die through natural attrition or are lost to damage, that complement the heritage landscape while being more resilient to changing weather patterns.

Other measures will include identifying the number of heritage assets Council owns or manages, and whether we can realistically prepare these assets for climate change. In some cases, the transfer of the heritage asset out of Council ownership or management will enable groups or owners to better care for these assets and prepare them for the future. Retrofitting and adapting assets is another option for climate change and heritage conservation.

The Counting Down to ZERO plan, developed to guide the organisation to net zero emissions in its operations by 2030, is already seeing results with installing appropriately sized solar panels on heritage buildings, such as the Kyneton Town Hall. This resulted in both an emissions reduction, as well as helping to make this significant heritage building sustainable in the future. This work will continue with other Council heritage assets with upgrades such as gas appliance removal, energy efficiency improvements, and insulation to boost thermal comfort for users.



Image: Old bluestone hospital in Kyneton

"I love the rich cultural heritage and historical landmarks of Shire, and want to preserve them for future generations to appreciate and learn from" – Sharon Timmermans

It has been identified that during climate disasters, Council officers require more training and access to specialised heritage databases, so they can identify Aboriginal and historic heritage assets and plan for their protection. A post-disaster process also needs to be developed to ensure heritage structures that have been damaged or destroyed are dealt with in a way that engages and respects the community value for that heritage. There are several options after a disaster – repairing, making safe, or memorialising the lost heritage – and these choices need to be considered in partnership with the community to agree on the most appropriate way to honour that history and heritage.



A good range of information and resources have been developed in relation to heritage and climate change, on topics such as retrofitting heritage places for sustainability. After the Black Summer fires, guidelines and toolkits were developed by Heritage Victoria and the Heritage Council of Victoria on how to deal with climate disasters. Opportunities exist to improve community awareness of these resources so that residents and owners can future proof their heritage assets.



Image: Malmsbury Gardens Autumn
 "We are so lucky in Malmsbury to have Botanical Gardens full of amazing trees, overlooking the Viaduct. Majestic, delightful, soul filling. Keeping the amenity of Gardens, nature keeps our lungs full of fresh oxygenated air and beauty" – Belinda Saltmarsh-Kram

Strategy actions – Preparing

We will establish long-term planning and future-proofing for Council-owned / managed heritage assets.

We will engage with VicRoads and Heritage Victoria to develop a project for preparing state heritage Avenues of Honour for climate change.

We will promote Heritage Victoria and Heritage Council of Victoria climate change guides through Council's website and events to assist the community with disaster preparedness for heritage.

We will engage with relevant stakeholders to develop a training program for emergency officers to plan for and protect Aboriginal, local, and state heritage assets.

We will advocate for better protection and processes for Aboriginal, local and state heritage in the Municipal Emergency Management Plan.

We will continue to support 'Counting down to ZERO: Our plan to reach ZERO net emissions by 2030' in considering works on heritage assets owned or managed by Council.



Action Plan

Guide to the action plan

Actions

Actions from the Knowing, Protecting, Supporting, Communicating and Protecting, and Preparing objectives are listed here.

Responsibility

Designates the area of Council that will take the lead for that action.

Role

Continue

Activities or processes that are already established and should be maintained.

Deliver

A new action, directed by Council.

Facilitate

An action that could be initiated by Council, but could be extended to include community, groups or other stakeholders.

Support

An action led by external stakeholders, community, or groups but which Council can encourage or assist.

Resourcing and budget

Resourcing

- Current capacity – there is an officer or project within the organisation that could accommodate the action within an existing work program.
- Additional resourcing – a contract officer, consultant or external expertise will be required.

Budget:

- Ongoing – budget that is already allocated, established or part of routine business.
- New initiative – the action would require a new budget allocation to complete.
 - Low cost – less than \$10,000
 - Medium cost – \$10,000 to \$100,000
 - High cost – \$100,000+

(High-level estimates only; more detailed costing will be required at scoping stage).

Timeframe

- Ongoing – activities or processes that are to be carried on as usual, part of routine business.
- Short term 1-3 years – new actions that should be prioritised as urgent, or that are the first step in a multi-phase program.
- Medium term 3-5 years – actions that build on previous work, require a sufficient understanding of heritage to be successful, and that will take several years to complete.
- Long term 5-10 years – actions that see previous work through to completion, require a high degree of understanding about heritage, and are considerable commitment over many years to finalise.

 **Knowing**

Objective	Actions	Responsibility	Role	Resourcing and budget	Timeframe
K1	Complete an analysis of the heritage controls in the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme against the themes listed in the Macedon Ranges Thematic Environmental History, to identify the main gaps for the heritage studies to be undertaken over the next decade.	Strategic Planning	Deliver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current capacity Ongoing - no additional budget required 	Short term 1-3 years
K2	Commence the heritage studies in order of priority and protect these places through an amendment to the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme.	Strategic Planning	Deliver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current capacity New initiative – high cost Budget will be required for studies, amendment costs, Panel, and consultation 	Long term 5-10 years
K3	Integrate compliance, conservation considerations, and period / type of heritage into the asset management system for Council-owned / managed assets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assets and Operations Strategic Planning 	Deliver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current capacity Ongoing - no additional budget required 	Short term 1-3 years

 **Protecting**

Objective	Actions	Responsibility	Role	Resourcing and budget	Timeframe
P1	Strengthen the local policy for heritage in the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic Planning Statutory Planning 	Deliver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current capacity New initiative – medium cost Budget will be required for amendment costs, Panel, and consultation 	Medium term 3-5 years
P2	Commence a planning scheme amendment to correct Heritage Overlay errors and anomalies.	Strategic Planning	Deliver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current capacity New initiative – medium cost Budget will be required for amendment costs, Panel, and consultation 	Medium term 3-5 years
P3	Engage with relevant Aboriginal parties and First Peoples – State Relations to clarify the appropriate mechanism for the protection of Aboriginal heritage places in the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic Planning Community Strengthening 	Facilitate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current capacity New initiative – low cost Budget will be required for consultation with Registered Aboriginal Parties. Further stages: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New initiative - medium cost if strategic work is required 	Short term 1-3 years

 **Protecting**

Objective	Actions	Responsibility	Role	Resourcing and budget	Timeframe
P4	<p>Engage with Public Records Office of Victoria to develop a project for dealing with the records held by Macedon Ranges Shire Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Permanent public records to be transferred to the Public Records Office of Victoria Archives. Assessment of temporary public records and other records of historic or community interest for suitability for deposit with the Bendigo Regional Archives Centre or Places of Deposit in the municipality. Assessment of the remaining temporary records to ensure they have no unique or significant attributes before destruction. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information Management Strategic Planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver Facilitate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current capacity Ongoing – no additional budget required for engaging. Further stages: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New initiative – medium cost, for a consultant / contract position to complete 	Short term 1-3 years
P5	<p>Develop a Local Laws process for responding to reports of dilapidated heritage buildings.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safer Communities Strategic Planning 	Deliver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current capacity Ongoing - no additional budget required 	Medium term 3-5 years
P6	<p>Facilitate heritage compliance in the capital works project management process.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assets and Operations Strategic Planning 	Continue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current capacity Ongoing - no additional budget required 	Ongoing



Supporting

Objective	Actions	Responsibility	Role	Resourcing and budget	Timeframe
S1	<p>Develop training and professional development for the organisation on Aboriginal, local, and state heritage legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote existing external opportunities for heritage training throughout the organisation more widely. Develop programs, where gaps exist, for heritage training specific to organisational areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic Planning People and Learning Whole of organisation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver Facilitate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current capacity New initiative – low cost Budget required for Registered Aboriginal Parties 	Short term 1-3 years
S2	<p>Develop heritage guidelines for applicants and owners on sympathetic design for heritage places and incorporate into the Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic Planning Statutory Planning 	Deliver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current capacity New initiative – low cost Budget required for production and communications 	Medium term 3-5 years



Supporting

Objective	Actions	Responsibility	Role	Resourcing and budget	Timeframe
S3	Review external and internal grants and funding assistance schemes, to identify where improvements can be made in accessing, supporting, or distributing funding for Council, community, and privately owned heritage assets.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communications and Advocacy • Community • Strategic Planning 	Deliver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current capacity • Ongoing – no additional budget required for review • Further stages: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New initiative – medium cost if grants or funding assistance are introduced by Council 	Medium term 3-5 years
S4	Provide a heritage advisory service to assist the organisation and community with permits, major projects, key business developments and compliance with Aboriginal, state, and local heritage legislation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Planning • Whole of organisation 	Continue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current capacity • Ongoing – no additional budget required 	Ongoing
S5	Support national and state heritage key projects: World Heritage Listing of the Victorian Goldfields, master planning for Kyneton Mineral Springs and implementing the strategic plan for Hanging Rock.	Whole of organisation	Continue	Resourcing is already provided and budget allocated for these projects	Ongoing



Communicating and Promoting

Objective	Actions	Responsibility	Role	Resourcing and budget	Timeframe
CP1	Review Aboriginal heritage material produced by Macedon Ranges Shire Council for tourism and visitor information centres, and engage with relevant Aboriginal parties for consent, support, and review to update and promote.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Economic Development and Visitor Economy Community Strengthening Strategic Planning 	Deliver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current capacity New initiative – medium cost Budget required for consultation with Registered Aboriginal Parties, production, and communications 	Short term 1-3 years
CP2	Update the Naming Protocol for Roads and Places to include recent measures regarding Aboriginal and gender naming, in consultation with the Registered Aboriginal Parties.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Naming Working Group Creative and Connected Communities Governance 	Deliver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current capacity New initiative – low cost Budget required for consultation with Registered Aboriginal Parties 	Medium term 3-5 years
CP3	Review and update online information for heritage places in the Macedon Ranges and publish these on Victorian Heritage Database.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic Planning Business Improvement and Project Management Communications Geographic Information Systems 	Deliver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current capacity New initiative – low cost Budget required for software integration 	Medium term 3-5 years



Communicating and Promoting

Objective	Actions	Responsibility	Role	Resourcing and budget	Timeframe
CP4	<p>Publish online collections information for Council-owned / managed botanic and object collections:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council-owned / managed collections, such as the Kyneton Museum collections, onto Victorian Collections Council-owned / managed significant trees in the Kyneton and Malmsbury Botanic Gardens on the Victorian Heritage Database. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic Planning Economic Development and Visitor Economy Open Space Business Improvement and Project Management Communications Geographic Information Systems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver Facilitate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current capacity New initiative – low cost Budget required for software integration Further stages: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New initiative – medium cost, for a consultant / contract position to complete 	Medium term 3-5 years
CP5	<p>Support the implementation of the Macedon Ranges Shire Council Reconciliation Action Plan.</p>	Whole of organisation	Continue	Resourcing is already provided and budget allocated for this plan	Ongoing
CP6	<p>Support the Macedon Ranges Heritage Council in their advocacy, promotion, and celebration activities.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic Planning Community Strengthening 	Continue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current capacity Ongoing – within current capacity No additional budget required 	Ongoing
CP7	<p>Improve the heritage information made available to residents, owners, and community on Council’s web pages</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic Planning Community Strengthening Communications 	Continue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current capacity Ongoing – within current capacity No additional budget required 	Ongoing



Communicating and Promoting

Objective	Actions	Responsibility	Role	Resourcing and budget	Timeframe
CP8	Strengthen the process for historic naming in subdivisions and large developments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Governance Statutory Planning 	Continue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current capacity Ongoing – no additional budget required 	Ongoing



Preparing

Objective	Actions	Responsibility	Role	Resourcing and budget	Timeframe
Prep1	Establish long-term planning and future-proofing for Council-owned / managed heritage assets.	Whole of organisation	Deliver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current capacity Ongoing – no additional budget required for review and assessment stages Further stages: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> New initiative – medium cost, for strategic and capital works as required 	Long term 5-10 years
Prep2	Engage with VicRoads and Heritage Victoria (Department of Transport and Planning) to develop a project for preparing state heritage Avenues of Honour for climate change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic Planning Environment Open Space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver Facilitate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current capacity New initiative – medium cost Budget required for consultant arborist expertise 	Medium term 3-5 years
Prep3	Promote Heritage Victoria and Heritage Council of Victoria climate change guides through Council's website and events to assist the community with disaster preparedness for heritage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic Planning Environment Emergency Management and Recovery Communications 	Deliver	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current capacity New initiative – low cost Budget required for speaker fees, events, and communications 	Medium term 3-5 years
Prep4	Engage with relevant stakeholders to develop a training program for emergency officers to plan for and protect Aboriginal, local, and state heritage assets.	Whole of organisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver Facilitate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current capacity New initiative – medium cost Budget required for Registered Aboriginal Parties 	Medium term 3-5 years



Preparing

Objective	Actions	Responsibility	Role	Resourcing and budget	Timeframe
Prep5	Advocate for better protection and processes for Aboriginal, local and state heritage in the Municipal Emergency Management Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee Strategic Planning 	Facilitate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current capacity New initiative – medium cost Budget required for Registered Aboriginal Parties 	Medium term 3-5 years
Prep6	Support Macedon Ranges Shire Council 'Counting Down to ZERO: Our plan to reach ZERO net emissions by 2030'.	Whole of organisation	Continue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current capacity Ongoing – no additional budget required 	Ongoing

Monitoring and Review

Progress on actions will be checked annually, and a progress report will be presented to Council and the community. The Heritage Strategy plans for the period 2024-34 but should be reviewed every four years, in line with other long term Council planning, such as the Council Plan.

Related Legislation and Agreements

- » *Aboriginal Heritage Act 2006* and Regulations (Victoria)
- » *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Commonwealth)
- » *Geographic Place Names Act 1998* (Victoria) and Naming Rules for Places in Victoria 2022
- » *Heritage Act 2017* and Regulations (Victoria)
- » *Local Government Act 2020* (Victoria)
- » *Memorandum of Understanding for Heritage Data Sharing with State of Victoria*, Heritage Victoria, and Macedon Ranges Shire Council 2009
- » *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and Regulations (Victoria), and Macedon Ranges Planning Scheme
- » *Public Records Act 1973* (Victoria)

Related Policies

- » Macedon Ranges Shire Council Plan 2021-2031
- » Macedon Ranges Shire Council Asset Plan 2021-2031
- » Macedon Ranges Shire Council's 'Counting Down to ZERO: Our plan to reach ZERO net emissions by 2030'
- » Macedon Ranges Shire Council Economic Development Strategy 2021-2031
- » Macedon Ranges Shire Council Reconciliation Action Plan 2021-23
- » (superseded) Macedon Ranges Shire Council Heritage Strategy 2014-18

Related Projects

- » Hanging Rock Project, Macedon Ranges Shire Council and Victorian Government
- » Old Kyneton Primary School Redevelopment; Creative Victoria, Development Victoria, and Working Heritage
- » Victorian Goldfields World Heritage Bid;
 - Local government partners: Ararat Rural City, Baw Baw Shire Council, Campaspe Shire Council, Central Goldfields Shire Council, City of Ballarat, City of Greater Bendigo, Golden Plains Shire, Hepburn Shire Council, Indigo Shire Council, Loddon Shire Council, Macedon Ranges Shire Council, Moorabool Shire Council, Mount Alexander Shire Council, Northern Grampians Shire Council, Pyrenees Shire Council.
 - Registered Aboriginal Parties: Barengi Gadjin Land Council Aboriginal Corporation, Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation, Eastern Maar Aboriginal Corporation, The Gunaikurnai Land and Waters Aboriginal Corporation, Taungurung Land and Waters Council Aboriginal Corporation, Wadawurrung Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation, Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung Cultural Heritage Aboriginal Corporation and Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation.
 - Tourism bodies: Daylesford and Macedon Ranges Tourism, Bendigo Regional Tourism, Tourism Midwest Victoria, Grampians Tourism, Tourism North East, Destination Gippsland, Murray Regional Tourism, Victorian Goldfields Tourism Executive.
- » Victoria's Mineral Springs Project, Victorian Government

References

- » Macedon Ranges Cultural Heritage and Landscape Study 1994
- » Macedon Ranges New Format Planning Scheme: Report of the Advisory Committee and Panel, March 1999
- » Macedon Ranges Pre-Contact Pilot Study Victoria 1996
- » Macedon Ranges Shire Council Stage 1 – Heritage Review Citations 2010 (revised April 2011)
- » Macedon Ranges Shire - Gisborne and Kyneton Heritage Study 2017
- » Macedon Ranges Shire Heritage Study: Woodend, Lancefield, Macedon and Mount Macedon 2019 (Adopted 2022)
- » Macedon Ranges Shire Thematic Environmental History 2023 (Adopted)
- » Shire of Kyneton Conservation (Heritage) Study 1990
- » State of Heritage Review: Local Heritage, Heritage Council of Victoria, 2020

Terms

Term	Definition
<p>Heritage Council of Victoria</p>	<p>The independent statutory body that recognises, protects and celebrates Victoria's cultural heritage. The Heritage Council of Victoria advises government and others on how to conserve and protect historically important objects and places for the enjoyment of current and future generations. The Heritage Council of Victoria also provides legal protection for places and objects that are important to the history and development of Victoria.</p>
<p>Heritage Council of Victoria Local Government Specialist Committee</p>	<p>A Specialist Committee to the independent state statutory body, the Heritage Council of Victoria, made up of external specialists that advise on local government heritage issues and trends, and supports delivery on Heritage Council of Victoria projects.</p>
<p>Macedon Ranges Heritage Council</p>	<p>The Macedon Ranges Heritage Council is made up of the following groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friends of Kyneton Museum • Gisborne and Mount Macedon Districts Historical Society • Kyneton Historical Society • Malmsbury Historical Society • Romsey and Lancefield Districts Historical Society • Woodend and District Heritage Society
<p>Macedon Ranges Heritage Advisory Service</p>	<p>A part-time service (one officer) provided to the organisation for Council works and activities, permit applicants through referrals, and the community through pre-application advice on key sites and projects.</p>



Macedon Ranges Shire Council
(03) 5422 0333 | mrsc@mrsc.vic.gov.au
mrsc.vic.gov.au

