
GREATER SHEPPARTON

HERITAGE ADVISORY
COMMITTEE

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

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Greater Shepparton Heritage Advisory Committee

2021 MEMBERSHIP

Community Representatives	Andrew Morcom Robyn Slee David Gawne (until 05 July 2021) Geoff Maynard (until 28 February 2021) Bronwyn Cole (from 04 October 2021) Roger Perry (from 04 October 2021)
Greater Shepparton Councillors	Cr Seema Abdullah Cr Fern Summer
Bangerang Cultural Centre	On Leave of Absence
Dookie Historical Society Inc.	Janet Batten Norma Sutherland (Alt)
Historical Society of Mooroopna Inc.	Barry Campbell John Mackellar (Alt) (from 08 November 2021)
Katandra and District History Group Inc.	Marjorie Earl (Chair) Bob Kennedy (Alt)
Merrigum and District Historical Society Inc.	Anne Tyson (Secretary) Brian Fitzsimmons (Alt) (from 03 May 2021)
Murchison and District Historical Society Inc.	Kay Ball Debra Bower (Alt) (from 12 April 2021 – 06 December 2021)
Shepparton Heritage Centre Inc.	Peter Matthews (until 28 February 2021) Geoff Maynard (Deputy Chair) (from 01 March 2021) John Dainton (Alt)
Tatura and District Historical Society Inc.	George Ferguson Evert Worm (Alt)
Toolamba Community Plan Steering Committee	Christine McKenzie Mary Coad Alt (from 02 August 2021)
Yorta Yorta Nation Aboriginal Corporation	
GSCC Strategic Planning	Michael MacDonagh Kate Clark (until 28 February 2021) Mitchell Stoter (from 01 March 2021) Anne-Maree Michaelson
GSCC Heritage Advisor	Deborah Kemp



2021: ANOTHER HERITAGE YEAR OF COVID-19

It was a challenging year for the Greater Shepparton Heritage Advisory Committee (the Committee) but despite at all times observing the relevant Covid-safe restrictions a number of recurring and new items in the Committee's scheduled work program were able to be undertaken or progressed.

1. Amendment C205 to the Greater Shepparton Planning Scheme

Amendment C205gshe (the Amendment) to the Greater Shepparton Planning Scheme (Planning Scheme) was approved by the Minister for Planning and came into operation on 29 October 2021. The Amendment implements the recommendations of the *Greater Shepparton Heritage Study Stage II 2020* (the Study), which is a consolidation of all previous heritage studies undertaken since 2004. The Amendment applied permanent controls to 178 post-contact places of 'individual' heritage significance across the municipality, as well as introducing five heritage precincts in Dookie and Murchison. A number of these places were from rural areas of the municipality identifying places of early settlement and agricultural and horticultural pursuits. A number of these places were initially identified and recommended for inclusion in the Heritage Overlay by Committee members.

2. Heritage Advisory Service

Greater Shepparton City Council (Council) provides a free heritage advisory service to all landowners of property within the Heritage Overlay. Through this service, advice is available on all aspects of conservation. There was still significant demand for this service despite the Covid-19 pandemic.

3. Heritage Conservation Grants Program

Greater Shepparton is one of a very small number of regional councils in Victoria offering heritage grants. In spite of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Heritage Conservation Grants Program (the Program) was again very successful, with Council receiving 22 grant funding applications, with 11 applications awarded, to the total value of \$84,577.00 (incl. GST) (see below).

Address	Summary of works	Cost of works
305 Dookie-Gowangardie Road, Mount Major (Dookie Cemetery)	Restoration of headstone plinths.	\$3,966.00 (excl. GST)
19 Dunkirk Street, Shepparton (Churchill)	Weatherboard and verandah repairs, and external painting.	\$5,454.55 (excl. GST)
54 Rea Street, Shepparton (House)	Weatherboard and verandah repairs, and external painting.	\$4,545.45 (excl. GST)
1320 Stewart Road, Dhurringile (former POW Camp 1)	Building stabilisation works and tree removal.	\$9,786.45 (excl. GST)
80 Gowrie Park Road, Tatura (Gowrie Park Homestead)	Cellar restoration.	\$7,958.50 (excl. GST)
12 Rushworth Road, Murchison (House)	Fence restoration.	\$3,139.10 (excl. GST)
36-42 High Street, Shepparton (former Union Bank of Australia)	Various roof repairs.	\$16,434.00 (incl. GST)
8 Acacia Street, Shepparton (Albanian Mosque)	Replacement of asbestos roof and guttering.	\$16,500.00 (incl. GST)
1 Rushworth Road, Murchison (Kestell, House)	Verandah repairs.	\$7,330.90 (excl. GST)
50 Ferguson Road, Tatura (House)	Verandah repairs.	\$1,490.00 (excl. GST)
2 Alexandra Street, Mooroopna (St Andrew's Uniting Church and Hall)	External painting, led light window and gutter repairs	\$7,972.00 (incl. GST)

In April 2021, the Committee agreed to rename the Heritage Grants Program to the Heritage Conservation Grants Program to avoid confusion with other grant programs. In light of the Heritage Conservation Grants Program's success over the last five years, it is expected that an additional round of the Heritage Conservation Grants Program will be held in the 2022/23 financial year. The Committee will continue to support the Heritage Conservation Grants Program, which to date has provided partial funding for conservation works to a variety of places of cultural heritage significance, with total works valued at up to \$300,000.

The Program is a critical way of promoting owner participation in conserving places of cultural heritage significance, and provides opportunities for the community to appreciate the municipality's cultural heritage.

4. Cultural Heritage Awards

Council in association with the Committee presented the Biennial Greater Shepparton Cultural Heritage Awards (the Awards) on Saturday, 1 May 2021 at the Goulburn Valley Hotel in Shepparton. The Awards have been undertaken biennially as a way to recognise the outstanding contributions to cultural heritage conservation, research, education, promotion, interpretation, training and awareness-raising across the municipality.

Geoff Allemand from the Shepparton Heritage Centre, who started the Lost Shepparton Facebook page with a focus on old photographs of Greater Shepparton and, over seven years, has published a range of historic books and products, was the guest speaker for the Awards ceremony. The Committee enjoyed and recognised several local landmarks from his presentation “Standing on the Corner”.

Nominations for the 2021 Awards were to be launched in August 2020. However, due to Covid-19, calls for public nominations only commenced on 16 November 2020. Advertising was both online and in the local print media, with the nominations closing on Monday 22 February 2021. Twenty-two nominations for eight categories were received from across Greater Shepparton from Tatura, Mooroopna, Shepparton, Dookie, Merrigum and Murchison.

Award nominations were presented for the following:

- Category 1 – Re-use of a Heritage Place: St Mary’s College & Sacred Heart Convent, Tatura;
- Category 2 – Restoration of a Heritage Place: Days Flour Mill, Murchison;
- Category 3 – Maintenance of a Heritage Place: 5 Stevenson Street, Murchison (Ravenscraig);
- Category 4 – Best Research Publication: ‘The Nazi Camp’ by Lurline and Arthur Knee;
- Category 5 – Other Publication: ‘Letters to Bruce’ by Jeanette Thompson;
- Category 7 – Interpretive Signage: Mooroopna Cenotaph and the Tatura Museum Murals;
- Category 8 – Community, Multicultural and Indigenous Events and Tourism: ‘Rock on Murchison’ and the Shepparton Albanian Harvest Festival; and
- Category 9 – Other Contribution: Murchison Historical Society Website.

Note: No nominations were received in Category 6 – Student / Youth.



Left: Geoff Allemand’s informative and engaging presentation ‘Standing on the corner’.

Centre: Alex Ranson receiving the grant on behalf of the Roman Catholic Trust Corporation for the Diocese of Sandhurst.

Right: Representatives from Parks Victoria receiving the award for the restoration of Days Flour Mill, Murchison.



The Cultural Heritage Awards Ceremony.

The Committee would also like to pay special mention to Arthur and Lurline Knee OA who received the Order of Merit from the Federal Republic of Germany for their work researching the history of the former Tatura Prisoner of War (POW) Camps. The Committee believes that the work undertaken by Lurline and Arthur OA is exemplary, and their tireless work researching the former POW Camps has actively contributed to the ongoing understanding of these places.



Arthur and Lurline Knee OA with Mayor, Cr Kim O'Keeffe receiving the award for Best Research Publication.

Owing to the success of the Awards, the Committee is planning for the Awards to be held again in 2023.



Left: renovated 'Gate House' at Day's Mill, Murchison and 5 Stevenson Street, Murchison; winners of Category 2 for Restoration and Category 3 for Maintenance.

5. Heritage Signage

The Heritage Signage Sub-committee has overseen a number of projects and strategies.

In 2021, Council provided a budget of \$5,000 (on a dollar for dollar basis) for the establishment of the *Greater Shepparton Heritage Interpretative Signage Funding Program* (the Signage Program). The Program seeks to promote places of local heritage significance (buildings, structures and sites), and to increase public awareness and understanding of these places across Greater Shepparton. However, due to Covid-19 restrictions, the Signage Program was principally limited to the heritage centres and historical societies. The Signage Program was overseen by the Heritage Signage Sub-committee.

The Toolamba Community Steering Committee and the Murchison and District Historical Society Inc. were both successful in receiving funding under the Program. This was for the replacement sign of Toolamba's history in Coloura Gardens and three new signs at the site of the first hospital in Murchison, Stevenson Street streetscape in Murchison and Thornebridge (the former Gregory's Hotel) in Murchison East.



Interpretive signage installed at the site of the first hospital in Murchison, (left), Stevenson Street streetscape Murchison (middle) and at Thornebridge in Murchison East.

Greater Shepparton Heritage Plaques Pilot Program

The Greater Shepparton Heritage Plaques Pilot Program (the Plaques Program) was progressed using resources provided for the cancelled Heritage Open Days. The Heritage Open Days did not occur in 2021 due to Covid-19. The reallocated funding provides for the purchase of approximately 70 heritage plaques. The Sub-committee submitted 73 properties for consideration of which 53 land owners wish to participate. Only properties included within the Heritage Overlay are eligible and distribution will seek to ensure a good spread of

participants across the municipality. The Sub-committee agreed on a dark blue vitreous enamelled plaque manufactured by Glassmetal Industries Pty Ltd in Geelong. The plaques will include a QR code that links to an associated Council webpage; allowing additional material over and above what is written on the inscription. By the end of the reporting year, the wording on the plaques was almost completed and a vetting team in place to test the accuracy of the information.

The Sub-committee is working on a long-term strategy and policy for heritage signage (both interpretative signs and plaques) across the municipality.

The Bruce Wilson Memorial Heritage Lecture

The Biennial Bruce Wilson Memorial Heritage Lecture (the Lecture) was held on 18 August 2021 and was delivered by Ms Chris Johnston, one of the country's leading heritage figures, whose long, extremely productive and influential career has placed her at the forefront of heritage debate and practice.



Ms Chris Johnston

Her Lecture 'Navigating heritage: past, present, future' was both stimulating and challenging; the audience response clearly demonstrating viewers' involvement in and enjoyment of the material. It was pleasing to see the attendance of so many Councillors.

The Lecture had been originally scheduled for April 2020 but had been deferred several times due to Covid-19. As it happened, the final date coincided with Shepparton's Covid-19 outbreak. Due to this, the Lecture was delivered online and interactively, both to an in-house audience at the Shepparton Senior Citizens' Centre, and to those at home and elsewhere. As is usual, the Lecture was delivered twice, being presented at 1pm and 6pm to attract different audiences.

The Lecture is seen as a valuable tool in promoting an understanding of, pride and interest in cultural heritage and conservation within Greater Shepparton.

6. Master Classes

As in previous years, a program of bi-monthly master classes was proposed, with these routinely being delivered after the Committee meetings every second month. Tony Ford presented on the Ngurai-illum Wurrung mob in March 2021 and brought along many items used by indigenous people for us to understand their hunting and gathering methods.



Cr Fern Summer and Masterclass Presenter Tony Ford, 1 March 2021.



Clearing the lake bed, Victoria Park 1929, (Cr. John Pick)

Geoff Maynard from the Shepparton Heritage Centre Inc. discussed the comprehensive display of art work produced by Cr John Pick on 5 July 2021.

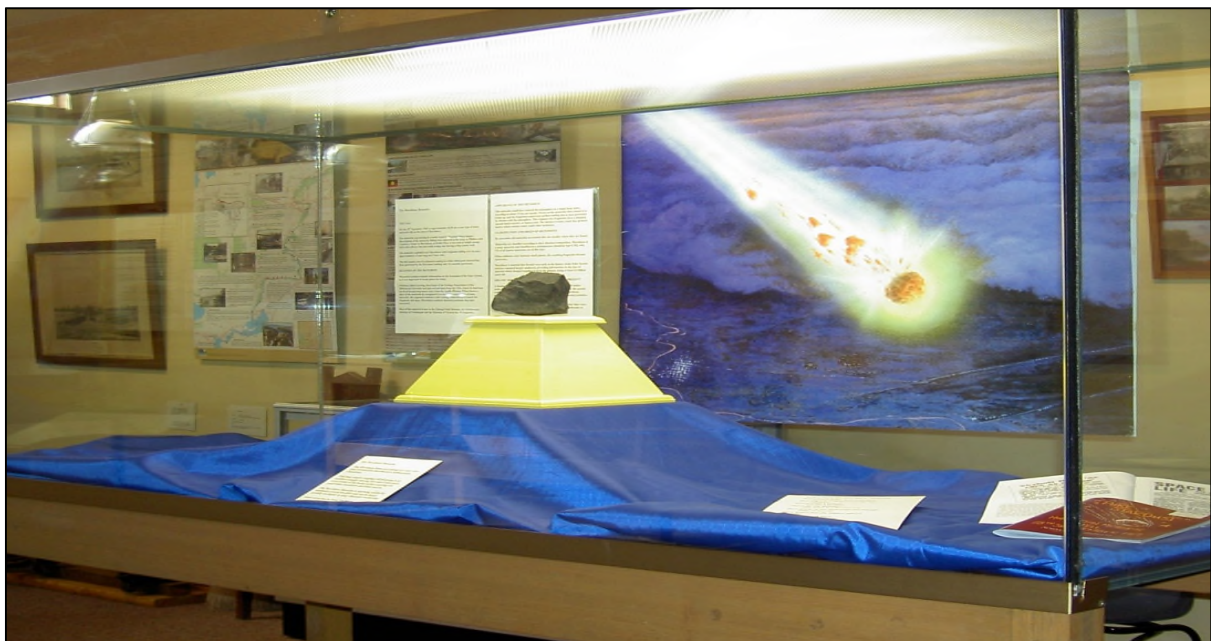
With the Committee meetings being held online via Zoom after July 2021, no further master classes could be organised.

7. Educational Visits

The Committee regularly organises an annual bus tour for its members to familiarise themselves with various historical sites and places in the municipality. Due to Covid-19, the planned bus tour was not organised in 2020 but fortunately could be held on 10 June 2021. A schedule of the day's activities is included below:

- 9am – Bus leaves Shepparton.
- 9-30am – 11 am – Visit to the Tatura Museum and Murals (49 Hogan Street, Tatura);
- 11.30am-1.15pm) – Visit the Murchison Heritage Centre (4 Stevenson Street, Murchison);
- 1.45pm – Visit to Former Prisoner of War Camp 13 (410 Wet Lane, Murchison) and also Camp 1 (1320 Stewart Road, Dhurringile) and 2 (1252 Baulch Road, Dhurringile). Visit the German Cemetery, Tatura (155 Winter Road, Tatura);
- 2.30pm-3.45pm – Visit to the Merrigum Museum (111-113 Waverley Avenue, Merrigum); and
- 4.15pm – Return to Shepparton.

The bus tour imbued the members with knowledge, awareness and appreciation of the displays, artefacts, books, paintings, maps, and machinery contained in the Tatura, Murchison and Merrigum Museums.



Murchison Meteorite on display at the Murchison Heritage Centre.

8. Events and Activities Postponed due to the COVID-19 Pandemic

The very popular Heritage Open Days event was initially planned for 16-17 October 2020, but postponed due to Covid-19. The Committee looked at the possibility of reinstating the

Heritage Open Days in 2021, possibly in a reduced form, but this did not happen due to the Covid-19 situation.

OUR COMMITTEE

Background

Council authorised the formation of the Committee on 17 January 2012. The primary purpose of the Committee is to provide the best possible advice to Council on how to conserve and promote the unique cultural heritage of Greater Shepparton, and to act as an advocate for all cultural heritage matters within the municipality.

The assistance provided by the Committee is consistent with the objectives, strategies and actions outlined in the Environment section of the *Greater Shepparton 2030 Strategy, 2006*, and the *Greater Shepparton City Council: Council Plan 2021-2025*.

Terms of Reference and Committee Composition

The Committee acts in an advisory role to Council on the future development of cultural heritage matters across Greater Shepparton. It has no executive authority and operates in accordance with the Terms of Reference. The Terms of Reference are reviewed biennially and were last adopted by resolution of Council at the Ordinary Council Meeting held in 16 February 2021.

The Committee's Terms of Reference provide for a voting membership consisting of up to two Councillors, along with one representative from each of the ten identified member organisations listed and up to six community representatives unaffiliated with any of these organisations appointed for a two year term, and a non-voting membership comprising Council's Heritage Advisor and up to two members of Council's Strategic Planning Team. Member organisations nominate an alternate delegate to ensure continuity of representation.

In mid-2021, Council sought application from persons interested in participating on the Committee as community representatives. Applicants were interviewed on 4 August 2021 and it was agreed that the Committee would request that Council appoint four community representatives to the Committee. Council subsequently resolved to appoint the following community representatives at the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 21 September 2021. These community representatives were:

- Andrew Morcom;
- Bronwyn Cole;
- Robyn Slee; and
- Roger Perry.

The Committee's elected office-bearers for 2021 were:

February 2021-7 November 2021:

- Chairperson: Marjorie Earl (Katandra and District History Group Inc.).
- Deputy Chairperson: Geoff Maynard (Shepparton Heritage Centre Inc.); and
- Secretary: Anne Tyson (Merrigum Historical Society Inc.).

November 2021 – Current:

- Chairperson: Geoff Maynard (Shepparton Heritage Centre Inc.);
- Deputy Chairperson: Kay Ball (Murchison and District Historical Society Inc.); and
- Secretary: Marjorie Earl (Katandra and District History Group Inc.).



Marjorie Earl (left), Geoff Maynard (centre) and Kay Ball (right).

Meetings

The Committee generally meets on the first Monday of each month with the exception of January, and also November when the meeting takes place on the second Monday. The Committee still managed to meet each month (except January) in-lieu of social gathering restrictions.

The first two meetings held in February and March were in the Classic Room at the Goulburn Valley Hotel, and in April and May the Committee was able to meet in the Council Board Room. Some members attended in person in the Council Boardroom in June whilst others attended online and in July all returned to the Council Boardroom. In August, members met in the Council Boardroom or virtually. The September, October and November meetings were undertaken virtually. The Committee was able to finish the year in December with some members in the Council Boardroom and others participating online.

Committee Agendas

There are a number of standard inclusions on all Committee agendas, including:

- a briefing on all active planning permit applications within the Heritage Overlay;
- a report from the Heritage Advisor on relevant projects and updates;
- a report from the Strategic Planning Team on relevant matters;
- member reports regarding local historic/heritage activities which alternate monthly with updates from the various sub-committees; and
- suggestions and consideration of items for presentation as Short Discussion Sessions (SDS) for the Councillors.

Sub-committees

The Committee is of the view that despite the limitations resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic, it fulfilled its core advisory functions during 2021 and that its professional Strategic Work Program was again successful in focusing the Committee's heritage activities to the extent possible in these unusual times.

The Committee's Strategic Work Program was divided amongst a number of sub-committees:

1. HAC Operations:
 - a. Administration: Annual Report, Budget, Heritage Guidelines, Grant Coordination;
 - b. Terms of Reference Review; and
 - c. Master Classes.
2. Heritage Promotion and Education:
 - a. Heritage Signage;
 - b. Heritage Lecture;
 - c. Cultural Heritage Awards; and
 - d. Heritage Open Days.
3. Heritage Planning:
 - a. Victorian Heritage Register;
 - b. External Engagement;
 - c. Heritage Design Guidelines; and
 - d. Scoping that identifies future investigation for the Committee's involvement.
4. Heritage Incentives:
 - a. Conservation Grants Program;
 - b. Publications; and
 - c. Heritage Marketing.
5. Heritage Projects:
 - a. A Heritage Study investigating Aboriginal and our shared cultural heritage;
 - b. A Heritage Study investigating places of potential heritage significance from the 20th century; and
 - c. Scoping study to assess long term options for the heritage preservation for the World War II Prisoner of War and Internment Camps within Greater Shepparton.
6. Other ongoing activities were curtailed somewhat, but included:
 - a. Representation on the Calder Woodburn Memorial Avenue Advisory Committee; and
 - b. Support for the proposed Heathcote to Murchison 'Rail Trail' and its possible extension within our municipality:
 - i. Support for the proposed Goulburn River Trail from Murchison to Shepparton.
7. Leave of Absence:
 - a. The Bangerang Cultural Centre requested a leave of absence for the 2021 calendar year and was not able to attend any Committee meetings.

2022 WORK PROGRAM

The following projects are identified in the Committee's Strategic Work Program for 2022:

- The Biennial Cultural Heritage Awards 2023 – Nominations for the 2023 Cultural Heritage Awards, conducted by Council and the Committee, are due to open in August 2022 with the Awards Ceremony to take place during Heritage Week 2023.
- The Biennial Bruce Wilson Memorial Heritage Lecture 2022 – The Lecture will be held in late 2022 and the Committee is considering the details and arrangements for this to happen later in the year.
- Heritage Conservation Grants Program – Given its success over the last five years, it is expected that another round of the Heritage Conservation Grants Program will be held in the 2022/2023 financial year. The Committee sees these grants as a prime vehicle for raising awareness of heritage across the municipality.
- Heritage Open Days – A reduced Heritage Open Days program is envisaged for Friday 21 and Saturday 22 October 2022. The usual visits to private homes of heritage significance are unlikely, and the free bus tours, walking tours and opportunities for independent visiting of public, commercial and similar sites will also be dependent on the pandemic situation. The Committee, in association with Council, nevertheless hopes to present a limited program, including some new venues and activities in October 2022. As in previous years, an informational catalogue on the venues will be prepared by the Committee, in itself a valuable guide to Greater Shepparton's heritage places.
- Victorian Heritage Register – The Committee believes that Greater Shepparton's heritage is under-represented on the state's heritage list (the Victorian Heritage Register or VHR). The Committee will further progress the nomination to the of heritage sites to the Victorian Heritage Register that are of heritage sites recognised as being of state significance in the *Greater Shepparton Heritage Study Stage II 2020*.
- Heritage Signage – Interpretative signage is an effective and visible means of celebrating Greater Shepparton's historical and cultural built and natural environment. Interpretive signs have the ability to create a communication connection between the person reading them and the place they are located in. Currently, in Greater Shepparton, interpretive signage remains under represented with only a handful of installations throughout the municipality. The Signage Sub-committee will continue with its work in by implementing various heritage plaques and interpretive signs throughout the municipality in 2022 through the Greater Shepparton Heritage Signage Interpretive Funding Program and the Greater Shepparton Heritage Plaques Pilot Program. The Sub-committee has been successful in obtaining participants from approximately 60 places in the Heritage Overlay for the Greater Shepparton Heritage Plaques Pilot Program; resulting in the installation of a plaque on these places sometime in mid-2022. The Committee envisages that this project will be met with renewed interest from Council as part of a future program. Greater Shepparton, unlike many municipalities, has not had a policy in relation to the recognition of heritage places by heritage signage such as building plaques or interpretive signs. The Signage Sub-committee will continue with its work in developing such a strategy and policy, and institute pilot programs to assess possible approaches. It is hopeful that the *Greater Shepparton Heritage Interpretative Signage Guidelines 2022* will soon be presented to Council.
- The program described above, comprising the installation of plaques on a limited number of heritage buildings and structures, will be introduced in 2022 as part of

these new initiatives. Consideration will be given to undertaking a further plaques program.

- *Greater Shepparton Heritage Strategy 2019* – The Heritage Strategy, which outlines the Council’s vision and priorities for heritage protection within the municipality over the medium and longer term, has been completed, endorsed by Council and is available on the Council website. The adopted Strategy may provide a guide to any future realignment of the current sub-committee structure, and point the way to future Committee activities.
- Scoping study to assess long term options for the conservation of the World War II Prisoner of War and Internment Camps within Greater Shepparton. The Committee is keen to support the preservation of the tangible and intangible cultural heritage values of our unique group of local former Prisoner of War camps and the associated related collections. The Committee will consolidate information held by its members, and assess available resources to initiate a scoping study with Council, subject to funding.
- Increase public access to local histories – The Committee will investigate ways to share heritage information and stories with the community, including exploring possible sources of funding to develop a bank of digital heritage stories. It is thought that a list of publications produced and available at historical societies in Greater Shepparton could be a useful resource. The Committee has also arranged for the preparation of a promotional video on the history of the former Prisoner of War Camps, which is expected to be prepared in early 2022 and narrated by Kay Ball, President of the Murchison and District Historical Society Inc. The Committee will also ensure that copies of local histories that relate to the municipality, and to specific historical societies, are provided to the Prahran Mechanics’ Institute, the State’s premier repository of local history publications and materials.
- Resourcing member organisations – The Committee will continue to pursue its role in assisting member societies with training, policies, and information sharing. Recently a new sub-committee was also established to discuss issues and opportunities common to historical societies and museums.
- Support for the Dookie College Museum – Another sub-committee has been formed, after being advised that the Dookie College Museum was falling into disrepair, to advise on maintenance and restoration of the Dookie Campus Historical Collection with the University of Melbourne.
- Committee Educational Visits – Committee members recognise the need to develop greater knowledge of and exposure to a number of heritage places across the region. They will participate in further educational visits, broadening knowledge of heritage assets in localities beyond their own familiar area.
- Master Classes – The Committee plans to continue to hold master classes following Committee meetings every second month to hear from experts in the field, local and other historians, business owners and others.
- Heritage Advocacy – The Committee continues to pursue all opportunities to raise the profile of heritage throughout the municipality. It is also concerned with ensuring historical accuracy in relation to heritage and history. Council was contacted about changing the wording of the former Acknowledgment of Traditional Owners to only acknowledge the Registered Aboriginal Party for the majority of Greater Shepparton but seemed to be unaware that the Ngurai-illum Wurrung people located in the southern part of Greater Shepparton have a different language and totem and are excluded from the newly worded acknowledgement.

