



Castlemaine Society Inc.

CASSOC Bulletin

Summer, 2024

Happy New Year to our members and supporters!

With January already behind us, CASSOC has 'hit the road running' to kick off the year and, with the Summer Bulletin, we bring news of exciting upcoming events, provide you with updates on the UNESCO World Heritage Bid information night late last year and on an appeal to MASC Council to commit to heritage funding and neighbourhood heritage guidelines, and more ...

We hope you enjoy the bulletin as we strive to keep you informed! Also do check out our fabulous website where you will find this bulletin and lots more at <https://castlemainesociety.org.au>

Important book launch

Historian, Marjorie Theobald's latest book *'The Goldfields Re-imagined: Militant Miners, Miscreants and Poor Mary Anne'*.

CASSOC are delighted to host this important book launch for our pre-eminent local historian Dr Marjorie Theobald who has written a number of histories of Castlemaine and the Mount Alexander Diggings. Her new book focuses on some colourful characters of the time, giving us a glimpse of life on the diggings, the privations, the bureaucracy and the personalities.

We are also very lucky to have as our guest speaker another local historian and author, Robyn Annear, and we look forward to an entertaining and informative presentation.

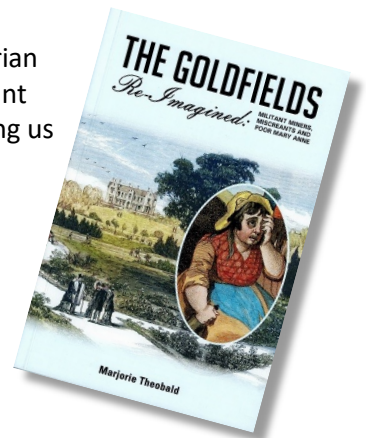
Do come along and support our local authors. There will be light refreshments and book signings.

When? Saturday, 24 February

Time: 3 - 5 pm

Where? Castlemaine's Market Building, 44 Mostyn St,

Please note: To assist with catering, if you have not already done so, your indication to join us would be greatly appreciated. Please email us on castlemainesociety@gmail.com



National Trust Australian Heritage Festival 2024 ... comes to Castlemaine!



The Australian Heritage Festival is the country's largest community-driven celebration of heritage over 40 years.

CASSOC has organised an event for the Heritage Festival 2024 to take place in Castlemaine. The event is a **National Trust Bendigo and Branch** event, and our committee members - some are National Trust members too - are running this event on the ground.

It will be modelled on a similar event we held last year, but this time it will be broadened with involvement from the Castlemaine Historical Society, displays and distinguished guest speakers as well as entertaining historical re-enactments from the Police Historical Society, highlighting the police presence on the diggings.

Our event is part of the Victoria's statewide participation in the Heritage Festival, in collaboration with National Trust Bendigo Branch. We are fortunate to enjoy an excellent working relationship with and support from Peter Cox, President of the National Trust Bendigo and Region Branch. We encourage you to support the local Bendigo Branch and would welcome any assistance from our community in running this event.

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(Heritage Festival 2024 continued from page 1)

To book for a tour, see the National Trust Website on:

https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/ahf_event/tour-of-the-castlemaine-government-camp-precinct/

Note: Any CASSOC member wishing to join the National Trust (Bendigo) can approach CASSOC for an application form. The normal joining fee of \$35 will be waived, leaving only the annual fee to be paid.

Recent events

* UNESCO Victorian Goldfields World Heritage Bid

CASSOC received excellent feedback from our 11 November 2023 *UNESCO Victorian Goldfields World Heritage Bid* Information Night presented by Trevor Budge, OAM. Trevor and the Honourable John Brumby, co-convened the bid.

An estimated one hundred people filled the Uniting Church Hall for a most informative presentation which highlighted the various styles of gold mining during the 19th century across many Victorian towns from Castlemaine to Beechworth.

There are high hopes that the bid will be successful and we await further developments.



* Gold Camp Castlemaine - Jewellery and Decorative Arts Auction

On 4 November, Gold Camp Castlemaine held a Jewellery and Decorative Arts Auction at the Botanical Gardens Tearooms. This was another highly successful event for GCC, supported by CASSOC, with a number of committee and other CASSOC members volunteering at the event.



Council-related issues

* Heritage budget allocation

CASSOC has lodged a budget submission to Mount Alexander Shire Council, requesting an increased budget allocation to Heritage. We have also liaised with other community organisations, including historical societies in Mount Alexander Shire, encouraging them to also lodge their submissions in support. There is extensive planning work that is overdue and there are insufficient resources to complete any of this work. CASSOC will monitor this space.

* Castlemaine, Campbells Creek and Chewton Housing and Neighbourhood Character Report

CASSOC has prepared and submitted to Council a response addressing concerns about disparities between the report and how it is interpreted in the *Guidelines* document. Our submission will soon be uploaded to our website.

* Permit Application PA 141/2023 - Carwash facility

Permit Application PA 141/23 is for an extended hours carwash facility, petrol station and kiosk at the site of former Best Motors at 30-32 Duke St, Castlemaine. The proposed facility would be closed for only 5 hours at night, potentially exposing residents to unreasonable truck and traffic noise. Concerned community members are encouraged to lodge an objection to Council soon, as there is only a short window left to lodge. See the CASSOC website for more details about members' concerns:

<https://castlemainesociety.org.au/2024/01/27/pa141-2023-duke-st-carwash-service-station-kiosk/>

Creating tomorrow's heritage today

President, Bryon Cunningham, has contributed an excellent item to the CASSOC website, *Creating Tomorrow's Heritage Today*. To view it, visit our website at:

<https://castlemainsociety.org.au/2023/12/13/creating-tomorrows-heritage-today/>

Camp Reserve update (from MASC)



If you were wondering what was happening around two *Eucalyptus Camaldulensis* (River Red Gum) at Camp Reserve, we are delighted that Council have heeded the recommendation in the new arborist's report to protect these two important trees.

The trees are either the actual trees shown in photographs taken in the Camp in 1861, or regrowth from them.

The recommendation is outlined in **Shape Mount Alexander's** *Camp Reserve Update* of 7 February in the following excerpt:

Preliminary investigations into trees on the southwest side of Camp Reserve recommends Council restricting access around the bases of the two red river gums and laying mulch at the base of the trees. Temporary fencing will be installed around these trees. In addition, recent tree assessments for other areas of the reserve include recommendations to improve tree growing conditions and restrict car parking under the oak trees inside the reserve fencing along Gingell Street. Contractors will lay mulch under these trees and visitors to the reserve will be asked not to park under the trees to protect their health.

Contractors will be on-site over the coming week to undertake these works, which are anticipated to be completed within one week (weather permitting).

CASSOC notes that the 2020 Master Plan for Camp Reserve included the recommendation that " ... the two *Eucalyptus Camaldulensis* [sic.] trees continue to be monitored, managed and protected for as long as practicable."

