



Rural Ararat Heritage Study

STAGE 2

ARARAT'S HISTORY

The rural areas of Ararat have a long and diverse history associated with indigenous traditions, pastoral settlement, goldmining, forestry, railway construction, and closer settlement.

The municipality is peppered with beautiful towns and places telling the story of a rich and varied history of the physical development of the municipality since first contact between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people. This includes prosperous pastoral leases and thriving small towns that have serviced the district for over 150 years. And this history can still be seen in many of the names of places associated with the region, such as Bayindeen, Yalla 'y' Poora, and Barton, and towns like Buangor, Lake Bolac and Willaura.

It is important that the legacies of those who built our state and developed our region are protected and enjoyed for present and future generations and to this end Ararat Rural City Council is committed to documenting and preserving this compelling history and heritage.

The Council has recently received funding from the State Government to undertake Stage Two of the *Rural Ararat Heritage Study* for small townships and rural areas of the municipality and are asking for community participation in this exciting project.

WHAT IS A HERITAGE STUDY?

A heritage study investigates the post-contact history of an area and identifies, assesses and lists places of heritage significance. A heritage study is usually undertaken in three stages:

- Stage 1 – *Thematic Environmental History*
- Stage 2 – *Research and documentation of places*
- Stage 3 – *Recognition of places in the Planning Scheme*

Stage One of the Study – the *Rural Ararat Thematic Environmental History* – has been completed and established the key themes in the development of the municipality over the past 170 years. This includes *Pastoral Occupation* (from 1837); *Road and Railway Construction* (from the 1840s); *Goldmining* (from the 1850s); *Forest Industries* (from the 1860s); and *Closer Settlement* (from the 1890s).

This stage identified over 500 places that contribute to a history of the municipality, including numerous farming homesteads, hotels, banks, tobacco kilns, public halls, bridges and culverts, and other properties and sites.

Stage Two of the Study, which we are now undertaking, will select 100 of the most significant sites for detailed assessment and documentation and this will require expertise as well as community input to achieve.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Community and landholder input into Stage Two of the Study is essential in ensuring that information gathered is accurate and contributes to our knowledge of the district's history and heritage.

To this end, a Heritage Consultant has been appointed to undertake this stage and will be working from

historical records, and old maps, through historical societies and word of mouth, as well as through visits to individual properties.

Individual property owners may be contacted to assist with the Study and are encouraged to contribute any information, anecdotes, and images that help paint a vivid picture of the history of the municipality's small towns and rural areas.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Additional Information will be provided through project bulletins, newsletters and local newspapers as the Study progresses over the next 12 months.

If you would like further information or wish to discuss the project please contact **Joel Hastings** or **Paul Melenhorst** on 5355 0200.

The Rural Ararat Thematic Environmental History is available on the Ararat Rural City Council website:

www.ararat.vic.gov.au/library/document//thermatics.pdf



Ararat Rural City