



## **April Newsletter to Members**

Happy Easter – be careful out there, and don't eat too many eggs. Enjoy the famous Starfish hot cross buns.

### **9 BRIDGE RD – SO FAR ALL GOOD**

The Panel comprising Ms Lucinda Peterson has presented her report to the City of Greater Geelong. We are pleased that she has supported our submission for a permanent protection of 9 Bridge Rd.

Thank you to Ross Harrison, the Thomas family, the Barwon Heads Community, the City of Greater Geelong, all the experts for confirming that this is an important property in the history of Barwon Heads and informing this discussion. In particular we acknowledge the excellent work by RBA ARCHITECTS + CONSERVATION CONSULTANTS, and the initial Heritage Values Review. This has been a project that has renewed interest in the town and rekindled old relationships and formed new friendships. Our community will celebrate when this recommendation for a permanent protection is implemented and look forward to building on the wonderful information we have gathered through this process to ensure that our coastal village and its heritage is understood and protected.

### **The Panel Report Executive Summary**

Greater Geelong Planning Scheme Amendment C354 (the Amendment) proposes to apply a permanent Heritage Overlay to the property at 9 Bridge Road, Barwon Heads and apply a permanent tree control to the mature cypress tree in the front of the property. The permanent Heritage Overlay would replace the interim control which was introduced through Amendment C271.

In response to the exhibition of the Amendment, 76 submissions were received including one opposing the Heritage Overlay and the remaining submissions in support. The key issues raised in the Amendment include:

- whether a Heritage Overlay is justified for 9 Bridge Road, Barwon Heads
- whether tree controls are justified for the cypress tree in the front yard of the site,
- given its condition whether the application of the Heritage Overlay will undermine the planning policy and strategic outcome for the site given the site's zoning and proximity to Barwon Heads activity centre.

The Panel considered all submissions as well as four heritage assessments prepared by separate heritage consultants. All of the heritage assessments found 9 Bridge Road, Barwon Heads is of historic and aesthetic significance at a local level, albeit with some diverging views on the use of particular heritage criteria and correction of some historical information.

The Panel also considered the policy context of the Amendment and has found that

there is strong policy support in the planning scheme to apply the Heritage Overlay where it is justified and an expectation in local planning policy that increased residential density and diversity must take into account unique site characteristics such as heritage.

### **The Panel Recommendations:**

Based on the reasons set out in this Report, the Panel recommends that Greater Geelong Planning Scheme Amendment C354 be adopted as exhibited subject to the following: Replace the exhibited Statement of Significance for 9 Bridge Road, Barwon Heads with the following Statement of Significance:

#### **What is significant?**

The house and cypress tree (*Cupressus Macrocarpa*) at 9 Bridge Road, Barwon Heads comprising a late Victorian cottage built c.1890, and including the modifications made to the place up until c1930 is significant. Significant elements include the single storey gabled roof forms clad in corrugated sheet metal roofing, rendered chimneys, timber bargeboards with timber vertically-slatted gable infill and timber finials, timber weatherboard wall cladding and the mature cypress tree. The siting and substantial setback of the house and the open front garden are also significant aspects of the place.

#### **How is it significant?**

The house and cypress tree at 9 Bridge Road, Barwon Heads is of local historic and aesthetic significance to the City of Greater Geelong.

#### **Why is it significant?**

9 Bridge Road is historically significant as a result of its early date of construction (c1890) and its association with the initial development of the township of Barwon Heads. It is one of a relatively small group of nineteenth century timber houses and public buildings that have survived to enable interpretation of the first settlement in the township. This historic significance is embodied in the late Victorian design elements of the house.

9 Bridge Road is historically significant for its association with prolific Geelong architect A J Derrick who is credited with the design of the house; but also a prominent member of Wesley Church Geelong and the architect of Wesleyan churches in Barwon Heads, Wallington, Ocean Grove and Drysdale. Derrick's successful practice in Geelong contributed a significant number of buildings in the area during 1887 – 1892. Derrick's later career as founding secretary of the Central Methodist Mission at Wesley Church, Melbourne resulted in his life being memorialised in a stained glass window at Wesley Church, Yarra Street Geelong.

The cypress tree (the remaining one of a pair planted in c1930s) is historically significant as part of the landscape of the early twentieth century phase of the house under the proprietorship of Thomas family. (Criterion A.)

9 Bridge Road is historically significant for its long association with the Thomas family who owned the property from 1901 to 1992 and used it for holiday purposes. The historical significance of the house is therefore also embodied in the early 20th century changes made to the house under the custodianship of the Thomas family. William Charles Thomas was the founder of W C Thomas & Sons, a

successful and highly regarded milling company with mills in Murtoa, Beaufort, Greater Geelong Planning Scheme Amendment C354 □ Panel Report □ 4 April 2017 Ballarat, Newport and throughout the Wimmera and Mallee in Victoria. W C Thomas & Sons were significant exporters to the UK, South Africa and various Asian countries. W.C.Thomas is an important figure as an early adopter of the eight- hour day in the milling industry, a Councillor and later President of the Shire of Ripon and a lay preacher of the Methodist Church. His son, W.C.F. Thomas was also a prominent agriculturalist who was appointed by the Commonwealth Government to represent the employers' interests at the International Labour Conference of the League of Nations in Geneva in 1924 and 1930. On 3 July 1926, W.C.F Thomas was awarded the Order of the British Empire – Commander (Civil) [C.B.E], for services to the Dried Fruits Board. (Criterion H)

9 Bridge Road and the cypress tree (*Cupressus Macrocarpa*), are aesthetically significant for their prominent raised siting and landmark qualities at the end of Hitchcock Avenue.

As a late Victorian dwelling, 9 Bridge Road demonstrates the surviving design qualities from 1890, together with the changes made to the place until c.1930. The house is a representative example of late Victorian architecture in Barwon Heads, a style characterised by the architectural form of main gable roof and intersecting gabled wings decorated with timber slats and finials, horizontal weatherboard cladding, corrugated iron roof cladding and a cement rendered chimney with terracotta pots. Whilst having undergone extensions and alterations from the 1930s to the 1990s, the house still retains its late Victorian form. When compared with other nineteenth century houses surviving in Barwon Heads (and on the HO), 9 Bridge Road is comparable in terms of its integrity given that such changes to beach houses were commonplace and exhibited by almost all other examples of nineteenth century houses. (Criterion E)

**OUR APRIL MEETING IS ON THE 24<sup>TH</sup> APRIL AT THE BARWON HEADS BOWLING CLUB SARAH HENDERSON WILL BE OUR GUEST PLEASE JOIN US AT 7:00PM**



Register online at [RegisterNow](#) (search for Sheepwash Classic), or at [BHPS](#) on Good Friday (9am-12pm), or at [Lahey Square](#) carpark from 7am on the day.

4km Run/Walk starts at 9am, 8km Run starts at 9.10am.

There will be no parking on site and Bluff Road will be closed!!!!

This is a major fundraiser for BHPS.