



NATIONAL TRUST
**AUSTRALIAN
HERITAGE
FESTIVAL**

2026 Highlights Program

18 April - 18 May

CHANGE



Presented by:



Festival sponsor:



Festival supporters:



Welcome to the Australian Heritage Festival 2026

Victoria's heritage is living and evolving. It is found not only in grand buildings and treasured objects, but in landscapes shaped over time, stories passed between generations, and communities continuing to redefine what heritage means today. This year, hundreds of events across Victoria invite you to explore these connections—strengthening cultural ties, uncovering overlooked histories, and forging new ones.

The 2026 Festival theme, **Change**, reflects on how history shapes who we are, and how communities continue to shape history in return.

The 2026 Festival also marks the 70th anniversary of the National Trust in Victoria. This milestone aligns seamlessly with the Festival's 2026 theme, as a year-long program of special events and experiences will celebrate our platinum anniversary exploring countless stories of how the National Trust has changed over seven decades.

To celebrate this occasion, every National Trust property open to the public will take part in the Festival—inviting all Victorians to connect with places they love, and perhaps discover new ones.

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Scan here to sign-up for Festival updates directly to your inbox



Acknowledgment of Country The National Trust of Australia (Victoria) acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Victoria and recognises their continuing connection to lands, waters and communities. We pay respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures; and to Elders past and present.

Plan Your Heritage Festival



Find Events

We've launched a new Festival website for 2026, making it easier than ever to discover events across Victoria.

Browse by region, event type, price and more.

While this Highlights Program showcases selected events, the website includes full event listings with details on locations, parking and transport, accessibility, and contact information for individual organisers.



Create Your Own Festival Program

Create a free account to personalise your Festival experience. Save your favourite events, build your own digital program, and receive alerts when new events of interest are added.

Your account also allows you to shortlist events and receive reminders before they take place.

Find out more at:
australianheritagefestival.org.au/page/attendee-faqs



Pre-booking

Some events require pre-booking to secure your place. Booking details are listed on each individual event page.

Where available, you'll find a direct link to book online. If no booking link is provided, contact the event organiser directly by phone or email.

Tip: Many events have limited capacity. Book early to avoid missing out.

Join as a Member and be part of the Next Chapter



In 2026, the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) marks 70 years of caring for Victoria's heritage. Join as a Member during the Australian Heritage Festival using code **ntv26hf** and we'll waive the \$40 joining fee. Enjoy free or discounted entry, exclusive events and offers, and help ensure the places and stories that shape our State continue to evolve and endure.

nationaltrust.org.au/membership-vic



Dow's Pharmacy, photo by Tim Bell.

FEATURED EVENTS



Through the Stained Glass: Embracing Change With Traditional Trades

23 April 2026, 5.30pm–7.00pm
Tasma Terrace, East Melbourne

An evening conversation at recently conserved Tasma Terrace exploring how traditional trades adapt to contemporary conservation and creative practice, featuring lead-lighting practitioners Eloise McCullough (Fools Glass) and Dr Bronwyn Hughes OAM (President: GLAAS Inc.).

Sponsored by Heritage Council Victoria.

Ticketed



Ain't What It Used to Be: Changing How We Do World Heritage

8 May, 12.30pm
Online webinar

Online public forum exploring how the Victorian Goldfields World Heritage bid reflects changing approaches to World Heritage, including Traditional Owner leadership, community consultation, sustainable development and evolving heritage values.

Sponsored by The Victorian Goldfields World Heritage Bid.

Free – registration required



Maldon: A Notable Day Out

10 May, 9.30am–3.30pm
Maldon

Celebrate Maldon's 60th anniversary as Australia's first Notable Town with a heritage market, self-guided walking tour, museum displays, shops and cafés, plus the option to arrive on the Goldfields Explorer steam train.

Free (train tickets separate)



Botanica Festival

10 May, 10.00am–3.00pm
Rippon Lea Estate, Elsternwick

A celebration of the natural environment, sustainability and gardening at Rippon Lea Estate, held in partnership with City of Glen Eira Council and welcoming locals, families and nature enthusiasts for a lush day out.

Ticketed

Ticketed: Paid entry (pre-booking or pay on the day) *Entry by Donation:* Admission by donation *Free:* No charge

Connect with the past.
Engage with the present.
Protect for the future.



© Hin Lim Photography 2026, Tower Hill State Game Reserve, (H1314)



Nights Out in Boroondara

4 May, 7.00pm–8.00pm
Camberwell Library, Camberwell

A lively talk exploring Boroondara's mid-to-late twentieth-century leisure and social history, from cinemas and gigs to beloved local venues, celebrating places still standing and those fondly remembered.

Free



A Walk in High Street Yackandandah

21 April and 28 April, 10.30am–11.15am
Yackandandah Museum, Yackandandah

Walk High Street Yackandandah and hear stories of buildings past and present, owners and businesses, spanning around 170 years since the miners arrived in the valleys.

Ticketed

Ticketed: Paid entry (pre-booking or pay on the day) **Entry by Donation:** Admission by donation **Free:** No charge

NATIONAL TRUST EVENTS

Connections to the Birrarung

18 April, 10.30am–12.30pm
Polly Woodside, South Wharf

Learn Wurundjeri connections to Country and explore Polly Woodside's sailing-era life.

Ticketed

Guided Tours of Waller House

10 May, 10.00am–1.30pm
Waller House

Rare small-group access to this preserved artists' home and studio.

Ticketed

Government House & La Trobe's Cottage Tour

4 May, 9.45am–12.00pm
King's Domain, Melbourne

Guided tour of Government House State Rooms plus La Trobe's Cottage.

Ticketed

Dress Detectives: Up Close With the Fashion & Dress Collection

9 May, 10.00am–12.30pm
Labassa Mansion, Caulfield North

Hands-on fashion collection viewing plus guided tour of Labassa Mansion.

Ticketed

Pre-Loved Vintage Cook Book Sale

16 May – 18 May, 10.00am–4.00pm

Rippon Lea Estate,
Elsternwick

Browse pre-loved cookbooks in Rippon Lea's historic Victorian kitchen.

Ticketed

Archaeology Open Day

16 May, 10.30am–12.30pm

Barwon Grange, Geelong

17 May, 10.30am–12.30pm

and 1.30pm–3.30pm

Como House, South Yarra

Hands-on introduction to archaeology using a simulated colonial-era site.

Ticketed

Artists at Gulf Station

26 April, 11.00am–3.00pm

Gulf Station, Yarra Glen

Watch local artists interpret a preserved nineteenth-century farm en plein air.

Ticketed

En Plein Air at Mulberry Hill

5 weekly sessions from 4 May
Mulberry Hill, Langwarrin South

En plein air painting classes with demonstrations and guidance.

Ticketed

Dow's Pharmacy and Lake View

Open Friday (Dow's Pharmacy only) and Saturday, 10.00am–2.00pm
Chiltern

Enjoy a day-out exploring a preserved country pharmacy and a Victorian-era home overlooking Lake Anderson.

Ticketed

Tours of Former H-Division Pentridge Prison

Thurs – Sun, Times vary
Pentridge Prison, Coburg

Take a ninety-minute guided tour with immersive audio through H Division's vivid history told by those who worked and served inside.

Ticketed



Waller House

Ticketed: Paid entry (pre-booking or pay on the day) *Entry by Donation:* Admission by donation *Free:* No charge

Swinging 60s



FREE EXHIBITION at Old Treasury Building | OTB.ORG.AU/SIXTIES

20 Spring Street, East Melbourne | info@otb.org.au | Sunday-Friday 10am-4pm
Image: Jean Shrimpton on Derby Day, 1965, Clive Mackinnon, *The Age* newspaper | *Swinging Sixties* was researched and curated by the Old Treasury Building in partnership with Public Record Office Victoria

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HISTORIC WINTON[®]

30th and 31st May 2026

Winton Motor Raceway



Photo: Ian Smith Autopix

historicwinton.org

NATIONAL TRUST BRANCH EVENTS

Flinders Open House & Garden

19 April, 10.30am–4.30pm
King St, Flinders

Self-guided tours of a c.1865 heritage cottage and restored Mid-Victorian gardens.

Hosted by the Mornington Peninsula Branch.

Ticketed

Hepburn Graves Open Day

10 May, 11.00am–3.00pm
Smeaton, Vic

Guided access to the Hepburn Graves site with views and local history.

Hosted by the Ballarat Branch.

Free

Tour of Former Bendigo Law Courts

Saturdays and Sundays,
11.00am and 1.00pm
Pall Mall, Bendigo

Tour a hidden Italian-style nineteenth-century public building and former law court.

Hosted by the Bendigo & District Branch.

Ticketed

Ticketed: Paid entry (pre-booking or pay on the day) *Entry by Donation:* Admission by donation *Free:* No charge



Tour of the Former Bendigo Gas Works

19 April and 9 May, 9.30am–3.30pm

Weeroona Ave, Bendigo

Rare guided access to an intact nineteenth-century gasworks site and key buildings.

Hosted by the Bendigo & District Branch.

Ticketed

MELBOURNE

See Yup Temple: The Next 170 Years

Saturdays and Sundays, 9.00am–4.00pm

See Yup Temple, South Melbourne

Exhibition on the temple's significance and conservation recovery after the 2024 fire.

Free

Old Cheese Factory – Cheese Making Workshop

18 April and 2 May, 11.00am–2.00pm

Homestead Rd, Berwick

Make bocconcini, mozzarella and halloumi in a guided workshop with tastings.

Ticketed

Melbourne Heritage Interiors: Hidden, Lost and Iconic

21 April, 6.00pm–7.00pm
Albert Park Library, Albert Park

Talk with authors on Melbourne Heritage Interiors, featuring research and images.

Free

Toilets of Naarm: From the Distasteful and Dirty to the Clean and Pristine

16 May, 3.00pm–5.00pm
Birrarung Marr, Melbourne

Guided walking tour focusing on the design and changing attitudes to this important public infrastructure.

Entry by Donation

Unlock the Change at Jack's Magazine

2 May, 11.00am–3.00pm
Jack's Magazine,
Maribyrnong

Open day with tours, discovery trail, displays and family-friendly entertainment.

Ticketed

Women of Influence

18 April – 24 April, 9.00am–6.00pm

Camberwell Library,
Camberwell

Exhibition spotlighting eight influential Hawthorn women through photos and artefacts.

Free

The Back Streets of Williamstown

19 April, 10.00am–11.30am
Hobsons Bay Visitor
Information Centre,
Williamstown

Casual walk past Williamstown's oldest buildings and early local structures.

Free

Living Off the Land Foraging Tour

18 April, 2.00pm–4.00pm
Bank St, South Melbourne

Foraging walk exploring traditional uses of native flora and seasonal knowledge.

Free

Ticketed: Paid entry (pre-booking or pay on the day) *Entry by Donation:* Admission by donation *Free:* No charge

GEELONG REGION, GREAT OCEAN ROAD AND SURROUNDS

Through Time's Lens: Warrnambool Then & Now

1 May, 9.00am–6.00pm
Kepler St, Warrnambool

Photo-archive journey showing Warrnambool's changing town, people and traditions.

Free

International Museum Day

16 May, 11.00am–4.00pm
National Wool Museum, Geelong

Guided tours, curator talk and hands-on textile activities exploring Change.

Ticketed

Fyansford Paper Mill: History Hunters and Heritage Lovers Special Tour

3 May, 10.30am–11.45am
Lower Paper Mills Rd, Fyansford

Immersive tour with access to buildings not often open to the public.

Ticketed

The Golden Days of Steiglitz

26 April, 10.00am–2.00pm
Steiglitz Court House, Steiglitz

Living 'ghost town' day with open buildings, tours, exhibitions and home-cooked food.

Free

Recollections of Apollo Bay

18 April, 2.00pm
Apollo Bay Museum, Apollo Bay

See the museum's oral history films with interviews and historic photos.

Ticketed

GOLDFIELDS

Walking Through History: Gold Changed Everything

Sundays, 2.00pm–3.00pm
Departing from Bridge Mall, Ballarat

Sunday street walk exploring changes to Ballarat's built environment.

Ticketed

Wheel Power – Discover the Story of the Garfield Water Wheel

3 May, 10.00am–1.00pm
Garfield Water Wheel, Chewton

Meet archaeologists and explore how water powered local industry at this site.

Free

The Story of Bridge Street's Chinatown

23 April, 6.00pm–7.00pm
Golden Dragon Museum, Bendigo

Talk on Bendigo's old Bridge Street Chinatown and how it has changed.

Ticketed

Victorian Colonial Express

2 May, 11.00am–4.00pm
Kennedy Street, Castlemaine
Return rail trip in 1880s carriages with time to explore historic Maldon.

Ticketed

Historic Bendigo City Walking Tour

Daily, 10.00am–12.00pm
Departing from Pall Mall, Bendigo

Two-hour guided walking tour uncovering Bendigo's gold rush stories.

Ticketed

19th Century Technology in 21st Century

2 May, 9 May, 16 May, 2.00pm–3.00pm
Ballarat Tramway Museum, Lake Wendouree

Behind-the-scenes look at restoring and operating heritage trams today.

Ticketed

Ticketed: Paid entry (pre-booking or pay on the day) *Entry by Donation:* Admission by donation *Free:* No charge

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MORNINGTON PENINSULA AND SURROUNDS

Our Stories: Living in the 60s and 70s

16 May, 10.00am–3.00pm
Mount Martha House, Mount Martha

One-day event with music, displays, talks, workshops and 1970s-inspired activities.

Ticketed

Cape Schanck Lighthouse and Lightkeeper's Houses Tours

18 April, 11.00am–12.30pm
Cape Schanck Rd, Cape Schanck

Climb the tower plus tours of the head keeper's house and assistant keeper's quarters.

Ticketed

Quarantined: Stories Behind the Gates

Saturdays, 4.30pm–6.00pm
Point Nepean Information Centre, Portsea

Immersive guided tour through the Quarantine Station with costumed storytelling.

Ticketed

Auto-Photo: A Life in Portraits

18 April – 2 May, 10.00am–5.00pm

Frankston Arts Centre, Frankston

Exhibition of Alan Adler's photobooth self-portraits and related works.

Free

HIGH COUNTRY

Heritage Day at the Merrigum Museum

19 April, 10.00am–3.00pm
Waverley Ave, Merrigum

Demonstrations of pioneering skills, crafts, engines, stalls and refreshments.

Ticketed

Tour of Wangaratta Woollen Mills

21 April, 10.00am–11.30am
Textile Ave, Wangaratta

Walk through the mills and hear Wangaratta's textile heritage stories.

Free

Guided Tours of Bonegilla Migrant Experience

Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays, 11.00am–12.30pm
Bonegilla Rd, Bonegilla

Guided tour of camp buildings and migration stories at a National Heritage site.

Ticketed

Reel History: Benalla's Story on the Big Screen

29 April, 1.30pm–3.30pm
Mair St, Benalla

Screen-based exhibition bringing Benalla's past to life through films and stories.

Ticketed

YARRA VALLEY AND DANDENONG RANGES

Emerald Museum & Nobelius Heritage Park Open Day

3 May, 10.00am–4.00pm
Nobelius Heritage Park, Emerald

Open day with guided park tour, museum discoveries, and children's activities.

Free

Stamped With a New Beginning, History Still Delivers!

17 May, 1.30pm–3.30pm
Kinglake Heritage Centre, Kinglake

Opening of the restored 1914 Kinglake Post Office, restored by local groups.

Entry by Donation

Ticketed: Paid entry (pre-booking or pay on the day) *Entry by Donation:* Admission by donation *Free:* No charge



Phillip Island, photo by Johan Mouchet on Unsplash

Bear's Castle Tours

3 May, 10.00am–12.30pm
Yan Yean Reservoir Park, Yan Yean

Rare access to Victoria's only known cob-constructed building, built c1846.

Ticketed

PHILIP ISLAND AND GIPPSLAND

Change Through Time: Phillip Island – Then & Now

18 April, 10.00am–5.00pm
Thompson Ave, Cowes

Then-and-now photo exhibition pairing historic and contemporary Phillip Island views.

Free

From Hooves to Horsepower: Change in Transport, Defence & Knowledge

30 April, 10.00am–2.00pm
Lloyd St, Moe

Specialised tour through Gippsland's ANZAC exhibition and local wartime impacts.

Ticketed

The Changing Face of Main Street

19 April, 10.00am–2.00pm
Lloyd St, Moe

Guided tour of changing styles of communication, health care, law and fashion.

Ticketed

GRAMPIANS AND THE MURRAY

Shed Day: Murtoa Stick Shed

9 May, 10.00am–3.00pm
Wimmera Hwy, Murtoa

See artefacts, hear stories, and celebrate the Stick Shed's changing history.

Ticketed

Grave Insanity – Ararat Cemetery Walking Tour

18 April, 25 April, 2 May,
9 May, 16 May, 10.30am–12.00pm

Ararat Public Cemetery, Ararat

Walking tour exploring archives, institutional history, and the legacy of the asylum.

Ticketed

Millewa Pioneer Park: Preserving the Past, Inspiring the Future

18 April – 18 May, days and times vary

Millewa Pioneer Park, Meringur

Hosting a range of activities at the hands-on display of early Millewa history and lifestyle.

Ticketed

Ticketed: Paid entry (pre-booking or pay on the day) *Entry by Donation:* Admission by donation *Free:* No charge



ANTIQUES & ART FAIR MELBOURNE

30 APRIL - 3 MAY 2026
MALVERN TOWN HALL



\$10 General Admission tickets (1-3 May) for National Trust readers, use code **NATRUST25** at checkout online or mention at the door.

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Find events offering ticketing discounts and offers, exclusively for National Trust Members.



Browse events

Browse the full Heritage Festival program at australianheritagefestival.org.au
(More events added until 31 March 2026)



Be the Change Our Heritage Needs

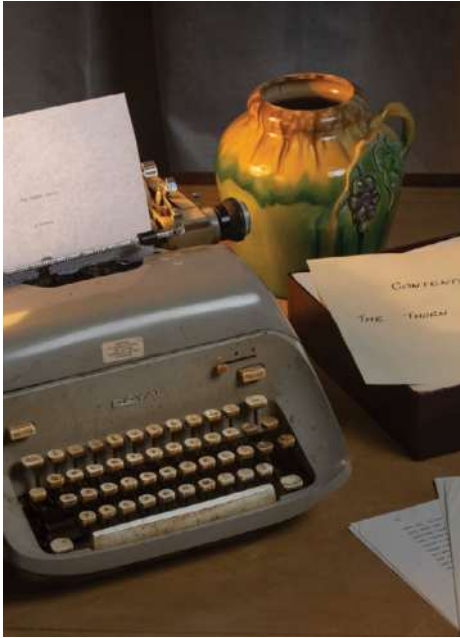
Presented by the National Trust, the Heritage Festival is made possible by the generosity of sponsors, members and supporters. Your tax-deductible donation helps drive positive change—supporting our work in conservation, advocacy and education so Victoria's irreplaceable places and stories can adapt, endure and inspire.

Give today: nationaltrust.org.au/donate-vic



Rippon Lea Estate, photo by Neisha Breen.

The Australian Heritage Festival is an initiative of the National Trust of Australia. Except for events delivered by the National Trust of Australia (Victoria), we are not responsible for the content, quality or outcomes of registered events. Information was correct at the time of publication and is subject to change.



Entries Invited

Australian, Maritime
& Exploration

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Learn more



The Autumn Auction Series

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Monday 27 April

Viewing

23-24 & 26 April, 11am-5pm

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Learn more

