

## HERITAGE COUNCIL DETERMINATION

Determination Date	5 April 2018
Place/Object Name	Banner of the Amalgamated Miners' Association of Australasia, Maldon No. 14 Branch
Location	Maldon District Museum, Former Market Hall and Royal Oaks Building, Maldon
VHR Number	H2384
Category	Heritage Object

At a meeting of the Heritage Council of Victoria on 5 April 2018 it was determined that, in accordance with Section 49(1)(a) of the *Heritage Act 2017*, the above object is of State-level cultural heritage significance and warrants inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Register, subject to the tracked changes in the below report. This decision was reached having considered the assessment against the Heritage Council's criteria, other information contained in the attached report and all submissions received in response to the Executive Director's recommendation.

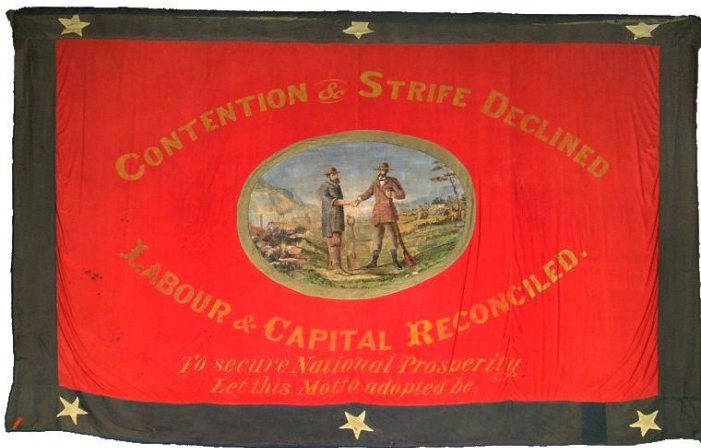
The Heritage Council endorses and adopts the attached report for the purposes of making its decision.



**Professor Stuart Macintyre AO**  
Chair, Heritage Council of Victoria

# Recommendation of the Executive Director and assessment of cultural heritage significance under Part 3, Division 3 of the *Heritage Act 2017*

<b>Name</b>	Banner of the Amalgamated Miners' Association of Australasia, Maldon No. 14 Branch
<b>Location</b>	Maldon District Museum, Former Market Hall and Royal Oaks Building, Maldon
<b>Provisional VHR Number</b>	PROV H2384
<b>Provisional VHR Categor(ies)</b>	Heritage Object
<b>Hermes Number</b>	201052
<b>Heritage Overlay</b>	N/A



Banner of the Amalgamated Miners' Association of Australasia, Maldon No. 14 Branch (September 2017)



c.1960s, Banner on parade in Maldon (Image included to indicate scale of banner)

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR RECOMMENDATION TO THE HERITAGE COUNCIL:

- That the Banner of the Amalgamated Miners' Association of Australasia, Maldon No. 14 Branch be included as a Heritage Object in the Victorian Heritage Register under the *Heritage Act 2017* [Section 37(1)(a)].

**STEVEN AVERY**  
Executive Director

**Recommendation Date:** 11 January 2018

This recommendation report has been issued by the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria under s.37 of the *Heritage Act 2017*. It has not been considered or endorsed by the Heritage Council of Victoria.

## EXTENT OF NOMINATION

### **Date that the nomination was accepted by the Executive Director**

23 August 2017.

### **Written extent of nomination**

All of the object known as the Banner of the Amalgamated Miners' Association of Australasia (AMAA), Maldon No. 14 Branch, located in the Maldon Museum, Former Market Hall and Royal Oaks Building, Maldon. (VHR H1390).

### **Nomination extent diagram**

The Banner of the AMAA, Maldon No. 14 Branch is located in the Maldon District Museum and is in the Category of Object. No extent diagram was required.

### **Is the extent of nomination the same as the recommended extent?**

Yes.

## RECOMMENDED REGISTRATION

The registration includes all of the object known as the Banner of the AMAA, Maldon No. 14 Branch.

## RATIONALE FOR EXTENT

The extent of registration of the Banner of the AMAA, Maldon No. 14 Branch in the Victorian Heritage Register is limited to the banner itself. There are eight union banners in the VHR as a collection (Eight Hour Day Trade Union Banners VHR H2086). The registration of the Banner of the AMAA, Maldon No. 14 Branch is recommended as a separate registration rather than as an amendment to VHR H2086, as it is not directly connected to the Eight Hour Day movement and unlike the banners which make up VHR H2086 the Banner of the AMAA, Maldon No. 14 Branch is owned by and located in the Maldon District Museum, Maldon.

## BACKGROUND

### WHAT IS THE OBJECT?

The Banner of the AMAA, Maldon No. 14 Branch is located in the Maldon Museum, Maldon. The double-sided banner measures 267cm high x 388cm wide, and is made of machine sewn cotton and wool fabrics set in double layers. Both sides of the banner have a central panel of red cotton twill and a border of blue wool with three white wool stars sewn across the top and bottom borders. One side has an image painted in oil on canvas of two male figures shaking hands which is surrounded by gold painted mottos. The reverse side of the banner also has gold painted wording.

### WHAT IS THE HISTORY OF THE OBJECT?

The Banner of the AMAA, Maldon No. 14 Branch was created in 1888. The maker is not known. The banner was displayed by the Maldon Branch of the AMAA during union parades up until World War I, and in Easter parades until the 1970s. It is currently displayed in the Maldon Museum. The tradition of parades where the banners of unions and friendly societies were displayed originated in Britain. The first parades and banners in Victoria focused on the Eight Hour Day Movement, but as unions were formed, banners were created as a means of identity. The first unions were formed in the 1860s on the Victorian goldfields to protect the rights of miners as large company mines were established. In 1874, these individual unions united to form the Amalgamated Miners' Association (AMA) and at a meeting in Maldon in 1884, the AMA became the AMAA, the first intercolonial union in Australia, with branches in Tasmania, Far North Queensland and New Zealand.

## STATEMENT OF CULTURAL HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

### WHAT IS SIGNIFICANT?

The Banner of the [Amalgamated Miners' Association of Australasia \(AMAA\)](#), Maldon No. 14 Branch.

### HOW IS IT SIGNIFICANT?

The Banner of the AMAA, Maldon No. 14 Branch is of historical significance to the State of Victoria. It satisfies the following criterion for inclusion in the Victorian Heritage Register:

#### Criterion A

Importance to the course, or pattern, of Victoria's cultural history.

#### Criterion B

Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Victoria's cultural history.

#### Criterion D

Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural places and objects.

### WHY IS IT SIGNIFICANT?

The Banner of the AMAA, Maldon No. 14 Branch is significant at the State level for the following reasons:

The Banner of the AMAA, Maldon No. 14 is historically significant for its association with one of the earliest unions in Victoria, the AMA. The AMA became the AMAA, Australia's first national (intercolonial) union in 1884. The Banner of the AMAA, Maldon No. 14 is important in demonstrating the union's political and social aspirations and well as the non-oppositional labour and capital ethos that was the defining feature of the first Australian gold mining unions. [Criterion A]

The Banner of the AMAA, Maldon No. 14 Branch is the earliest known surviving trade union banner in Victoria. An estimated 200 union banners were created between 1856 and 1950 and there are now only twelve union banners known to survive in Victoria. The Banner of the AMAA, Maldon No. 14 Branch is a rare

historical document associated with an early intercolonial trade union for which there is little surviving documentary evidence. [Criterion B]

The Banner of the AMAA, Maldon No. 14 Branch is a notable example of the class of union banners. It is a fine and highly intact example of a nineteenth century union banner and displays a large number of characteristics which are typical of the class, including the materials, use of symbolic and political images and mottos, and the large scale and design. The design and sewing of the banner and the painting of the imagery and mottos are executed in a highly proficient manner. [Criterion D]

# RECOMMENDATION REASONS

## REASONS FOR RECOMMENDING INCLUSION IN THE VICTORIAN HERITAGE REGISTER [s.40]

Following is the Executive Director's assessment of the place against the tests set out in *The Victorian Heritage Register Criteria and Thresholds Guidelines (2014)*.

### CRITERION A

**Importance to the course, or pattern, of Victoria's cultural history.**

#### STEP 1: A BASIC TEST FOR SATISFYING CRITERION A

The place/object has a *CLEAR ASSOCIATION* with an event, phase, period, process, function, movement, custom or way of life in Victoria's cultural history.

**Plus**

The association of the place/object to the event, phase, etc *IS EVIDENT* in the physical fabric of the place/object and/or in documentary resources or oral history.

**Plus**

The *EVENT, PHASE, etc* is of *HISTORICAL IMPORTANCE*, having made a strong or influential contribution to Victoria.

#### ***Executive Director's Response***

The Banner of the AMAA, Maldon No. 14 Branch was created in 1888 and was paraded at sports day union processions from 1888 until World War I, and in the Maldon Easter Parade until the 1970s. It has a clear association with the development of the union movement in Victoria and with the AMAA in particular which was formed in 1884 and became the model for the organisational structure of later rural unions. The union movement is of historical importance having made a strong and influential contribution to Victoria. The association is evident in documentary resources and in the physical fabric of the banner.

Criterion A is likely to be satisfied.

#### STEP 2: A BASIC TEST FOR DETERMINING STATE LEVEL SIGNIFICANCE FOR CRITERION A

The place/object allows the clear association with the event, phase etc. of historical importance to be *UNDERSTOOD BETTER THAN MOST OTHER PLACES OR OBJECTS IN VICTORIA WITH SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME ASSOCIATION.*

#### ***Executive Director's Response***

The Banner of the AMAA, Maldon No. 14 Branch is one of the few surviving union banners in Victoria. It has a clear association with the AMAA which was Australia's first intercolonial union. It was used during processional and celebratory parades as a means of visual identification for the union. The Banner of the AMAA, Maldon No. 14 Branch allows the clear association with the foundation of the union movement in Victoria to be understood equally or better than most other objects in Victoria with substantially the same association.

Criterion A is likely to be satisfied at the State level.

## CRITERION B

Possession of uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Victoria's cultural history.

### STEP 1: A BASIC TEST FOR SATISFYING CRITERION B

The place/object has a *clear ASSOCIATION* with an event, phase, period, process, function, movement, custom or way of life of importance in Victoria's cultural history.

#### Plus

The association of the place/object to the event, phase, etc *IS EVIDENT* in the physical fabric of the place/object and/or in documentary resources or oral history.

#### Plus

The place/object is *RARE OR UNCOMMON*, being one of a small number of places/objects remaining that demonstrates the important event, phase etc.

OR

The place/object is *RARE OR UNCOMMON*, containing unusual features of note that were not widely replicated

OR

The existence of the *class* of place/object that demonstrates the important event, phase etc is *ENDANGERED* to the point of rarity due to threats and pressures on such places/objects.

#### **Executive Director's Response**

The Banner of the AMAA, Maldon No. 14 Branch has a clear association with the early development of the union movement in Victoria and is a rare surviving example of a banner which was displayed during union and community parades. It has been estimated that more than 200 trade union banners were created and there are now only twelve known surviving examples in Victoria. Of these, this banner is the earliest and is associated with one of the earliest unions in Victoria and with Australia's first intercolonial union. Its design is uncommon for the period in which it was created in that the image is not the primary focus.

Criterion B is likely to be satisfied.

### STEP 2: A BASIC TEST FOR DETERMINING STATE LEVEL SIGNIFICANCE FOR CRITERION B

The place/object is *RARE, UNCOMMON OR ENDANGERED* within Victoria.

#### **Executive Director's Response**

The Banner of the AMAA, Maldon No. 14 Branch is a rare surviving example of a late nineteenth century trade union banner. It is the earliest banner of the twelve known examples in Victoria, and is associated with Victoria's first gold mining union and with Australia's first national (intercolonial) union. Its design is uncommon for the period in which it was created in that the image is not the primary focus. Little remains of the archival record of the AMAA and the Maldon banner is significant as rare surviving evidence of the social and political aspirations of the union.

Criterion B is likely to be satisfied at the State level.

## CRITERION C

Potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding of Victoria's cultural history.

### STEP 1: A BASIC TEST FOR SATISFYING CRITERION C

The:

- visible physical fabric; &/or
- documentary evidence; &/or
  - oral history,

relating to the place/object indicates a likelihood that the place/object contains *PHYSICAL EVIDENCE* of *historical interest* that is *NOT CURRENTLY VISIBLE OR UNDERSTOOD*.

#### Plus

From what we know of the place/object, the physical evidence is likely to be of an *INTEGRITY* and/or *CONDITION* that it *COULD YIELD INFORMATION* through detailed investigation.

#### **Executive Director's Response**

The Banner of the AMAA, Maldon No. 14 Branch does not contain physical evidence of historical interest that is not currently visible or understood. The banner was conserved in 2003 and its materials and methods of construction are well understood.

Criterion C is not likely to be satisfied.

## CRITERION D

Importance in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of cultural places and objects.

### STEP 1: A BASIC TEST FOR SATISFYING CRITERION D

The place/object is one of a *CLASS* of places/objects that has a *clear ASSOCIATION* with an event, phase, period, process, function, movement, important person(s), custom or way of life in Victoria's history.

#### Plus

The *EVENT, PHASE, etc* is of *HISTORICAL IMPORTANCE*, having made a strong or influential contribution to Victoria.

#### Plus

The principal characteristics of the class are *EVIDENT* in the physical fabric of the place/object.

#### **Executive Director's Response**

The Banner of the AMAA, Maldon No. 14 Branch is one of the class of 'trade union banners' which has a clear association with the early development of the union movement in Victoria. The union movement made a strong contribution to Victoria by lobbying for safe and fair work environments, and through its association with the Eight Hour Day Movement which established the eight hour working day.

The principal characteristics of the class of 'trade union banners', including the materials, use of symbolic and political images and mottos, and the large scale and method of construction which allowed for their prominent display during processions, are evident in the Banner of the AMAA, Maldon No. 14 Branch.

Criterion D is likely to be satisfied.



## STEP 2: A BASIC TEST FOR DETERMINING STATE LEVEL SIGNIFICANCE FOR CRITERION D

The place/object is a *NOTABLE EXAMPLE* of the class in Victoria (refer to Reference Tool D).

### *Executive Director's Response*

The Banner of the AMAA, Maldon No. 14 Branch is a notable example of the class of 'trade union banners'. It is fine and highly intact example of a nineteenth century union banner and displays a large number of characteristics which are typical of the class. The design and sewing of the banner and the painting of the imagery and mottos are executed in a highly proficient manner.

Criterion D is likely to be satisfied at the State level.

## CRITERION E

**Importance in exhibiting particular aesthetic characteristics.**

## STEP 1: A BASIC TEST FOR SATISFYING CRITERION E

The *PHYSICAL FABRIC* of the place/object clearly exhibits particular aesthetic characteristics.

### *Executive Director's Response*

The Banner of the AMAA, Maldon No. 14 Branch clearly exhibits aesthetic characteristics as a fine example of a nineteenth century banner which demonstrates a high level of craftsmanship and artistic skills. It is an artistic record of the AMAA, an association for which few documentary archives survive.

Criterion E is likely to be satisfied.

## STEP 2: A BASIC TEST FOR DETERMINING STATE LEVEL SIGNIFICANCE FOR CRITERION E

The aesthetic characteristics are *APPRECIATED OR VALUED* by the wider community or an appropriately-related discipline as evidenced, for example, by:

- *critical recognition* of the aesthetic characteristics of the place/object within a relevant art, design, architectural or related discipline as an outstanding example within Victoria; or
- wide public *acknowledgement of exceptional merit* in Victoria in medium such as songs, poetry, literature, painting, sculpture, publications, print media etc.

### *Executive Director's Response*

The aesthetic characteristics are appreciated and valued by the Maldon community, and by appropriately related disciplines but there has been no critical recognition of the aesthetic characteristics within a relevant or related discipline as an outstanding example within Victoria, or wide public acknowledgement of its exceptional merit in another medium.

Criterion E is not likely to be satisfied at the State level.

## CRITERION F

**Importance in demonstrating a high degree of creative or technical achievement at a particular period.**

## STEP 1: A BASIC TEST FOR SATISFYING CRITERION F

The place/object contains *PHYSICAL EVIDENCE* that clearly demonstrates creative or technical *ACHIEVEMENT* for the time in which it was created.

**Plus**

The physical evidence demonstrates a *HIGH DEGREE OF INTEGRITY*.

### **Executive Director's Response**

The Banner of the AMAA, Maldon No. 14 Branch contains physical evidence that clearly demonstrates a high degree of creative achievement for the time in which it was created. The object is intact and has a high degree of integrity.

Criterion F is likely to be satisfied.

### **STEP 2: A BASIC TEST FOR DETERMINING STATE LEVEL SIGNIFICANCE FOR CRITERION F**

The nature &/or scale of the achievement is *OF A HIGH DEGREE* or 'beyond the ordinary' for the period in which it was undertaken as evidenced by:

- *critical acclaim* of the place/object within the relevant creative or technological discipline as an outstanding example in Victoria; or
- wide *acknowledgement of exceptional merit* in Victoria in medium such as publications and print media; or
- recognition of the place/object as a *breakthrough* in terms of design, fabrication or construction techniques; or
- recognition of the place/object as a successful solution to a technical problem that *extended the limits* of existing technology; or
- recognition of the place/object as an outstanding example of the *creative adaptation* of available materials and technology of the period.

### **Executive Director's Response**

The nature of the creative achievement is not 'beyond the ordinary' for the period in which it was undertaken. The materials and techniques used to create the Banner of the AMAA, Maldon No. 14 Branch were typical of those used to create the many banners made during this time.

Criterion F is not likely to be satisfied at the State level.

## **CRITERION G**

**Strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group for social, cultural or spiritual reasons. This includes the significance of a place to Aboriginal people as part of their continuing and developing cultural traditions.**

### **STEP 1: A BASIC TEST FOR SATISFYING CRITERION G**

Evidence exists of a *DIRECT ASSOCIATION* between the place/object and a *PARTICULAR COMMUNITY OR CULTURAL GROUP*.

(For the purpose of these guidelines, '*COMMUNITY or CULTURAL GROUP*' is defined as a sizable group of persons who share a common and long-standing interest or identity).

#### **Plus**

The *ASSOCIATION* between the place/object and the community or cultural group is *STRONG OR SPECIAL*, as evidenced by the regular or long-term use of/engagement with the place/object or the enduring ceremonial, ritual, commemorative, spiritual or celebratory use of the place/object.

### **Executive Director's Response**

The Banner of the AMAA, Maldon No. 14 Branch was displayed in union and community parades in Maldon from 1888 until the 1970s. It was part of union sports day processions for almost four decades and was then part of the Maldon Easter Parade for another five decades. Due to its deteriorating condition, the banner ceased to be displayed during parades in the 1970s and is now displayed in the Maldon Museum. This demonstrates a direct and strong association between the banner and the Maldon community, as evidenced by the regular, long term and enduring ceremonial and celebratory use of the banner by the community.

Criterion G is likely to be satisfied.

#### STEP 2: A BASIC TEST FOR DETERMINING STATE LEVEL SIGNIFICANCE FOR CRITERION G

The place/object represents a *PARTICULARLY STRONG EXAMPLE* of the association between it and the community or cultural group by reason of its *RELATIONSHIP TO IMPORTANT HISTORICAL EVENTS* in Victoria and/or its *ABILITY TO INTERPRET EXPERIENCES* to the broader Victorian community.

#### **Executive Director's Response**

All union banners have a direct and strong association with the community in which they were paraded. They are all related to the important historical event of the development of the trade union movement in Victoria. The ability of the Banner of the AMAA, Maldon No. 14 Branch to interpret these experiences to the broader Victorian community is no stronger than any other surviving trade union banner.

Criterion G is not likely to be satisfied at the State level.

### CRITERION H

**Special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in Victoria's history.**

#### STEP 1: A BASIC TEST FOR SATISFYING CRITERION H

The place/object has a *DIRECT ASSOCIATION* with a person or group of persons who have made a strong or influential *CONTRIBUTION* to the course of Victoria's history.

**Plus**

The *ASSOCIATION* of the place/object to the person(s) *IS EVIDENT* in the physical fabric of the place/object and/or in documentary resources and/or oral history.

**Plus**

The *ASSOCIATION*:

- directly relates to *ACHIEVEMENTS* of the person(s) at, or relating to, the place/object; or
- relates to an *enduring* and/or *close INTERACTION* between the person(s) and the place/object.

#### **Executive Director's Response**

The Banner of the AMAA, Maldon No. 14 Branch has a direct association with the Maldon gold miners who were members of the Maldon branch of the AMA and later the AMAA. These organisations as a whole made a strong and influential contribution to the course of Victoria's history and the association is evident in the physical fabric of the object. The banner was displayed in union and community parades from 1888 until the 1970s which indicates an enduring interaction between members and the object.

Criterion H is likely to be satisfied.

#### STEP 2: A BASIC TEST FOR DETERMINING STATE LEVEL SIGNIFICANCE FOR CRITERION H

The place/object allows the clear association with the person or group of persons to be *READILY APPRECIATED BETTER THAN MOST OTHER PLACES OR OBJECTS IN VICTORIA*.

#### **Executive Director's Response**

The achievements of the Maldon branch of the AMA and AMAA are no greater than the achievements of the many other branches and other trade unions in Victoria who lobbied for improved working conditions for their members, including the introduction of the Eight Hour Day. The achievements of unions including those of the AMA and the AMAA are better represented at other places in the VHR including Trades Hall (VHR H0663) and the Eight Hour Monument (VHR H2084).

Criterion H is not likely to be satisfied at the State level.

# PROPOSED PERMIT POLICY

## Preamble

The purpose of the Permit Policy is to assist when considering or making decisions regarding works to a registered place or object. It is recommended that any proposed works be discussed with an officer of Heritage Victoria prior to making a permit application. Discussing proposed works will assist in answering questions the owner may have and aid any decisions regarding works to the object or to the place in which it is located.

**The extent of registration of the Banner of the AMAA, Maldon No. 14 Branch in the Victorian Heritage Register affects the whole object.** Under the *Heritage Act 2017* a person must not remove or demolish, damage or despoil, develop or alter or excavate, relocate or disturb the position of any part of a registered place or object without approval. It is acknowledged, however, that conservation may be required to keep places and objects in good repair and adapt them for use into the future.

If a person wishes to undertake works or activities in relation to a registered place or registered object, they must apply to the Executive Director, Heritage Victoria for a permit. The purpose of a permit is to enable appropriate change to a place or object and to effectively manage adverse impacts on the cultural heritage significance of a place or object as a consequence of change. If an owner is uncertain whether a heritage permit is required, it is recommended that Heritage Victoria be contacted.

Permits are required for anything which alters the place or object, unless a **permit exemption** is granted. Permit exemptions usually cover routine maintenance and upkeep issues faced by owners as well as minor works or works to the elements of the place or object that are not significant. They may include appropriate works that are specified in a conservation management plan. Permit exemptions can be granted at the time of registration (under s.49(3) of the *Heritage Act 2017*) or after registration (under s.92 of the *Heritage Act 2017*).

## Collection Management

It is recommended that the Banner of the AMAA, Maldon No. 14 Branch is included in the Collection Policy (CP) for the Maldon Museum in a manner which preserves its cultural heritage significance.

The significance of the object lies in its rarity and intactness as a union banner. The entire registered object is integral to the significance of the object and any alterations that impact on its significance are subject to permit application. All storage and exhibition locations, methods and materials must be designed to prevent light damage to the colours, damage from handling and other deterioration. Formal arrangements should also be made to ensure the conservation and survival of the object, and to ensure that it remains publicly accessible in the event of the closure of the museum.

The CP documentation and all aspects of the management of the banner should be in accordance with the *National Standards for Australian Museums and Galleries*.

## Security

Fire detection and suppression systems suitable for museum use should be installed if this has not already occurred. A Disaster Plan should be prepared and implemented in accordance with Museums Australia's standards. A security system suitable for museum use should be installed.

## Movement or Relocation

Temporary external movement, permanent relocation or loan of objects requires permit approval by the Executive Director pursuant to the *Heritage Act 2017*.

The temporary relocation or movement of a registered heritage object resulting from works to the building in which the object is housed requires permit approval by the Executive Director pursuant to the *Heritage Act 2017*. The building in which the Banner of the AMAA, Maldon No. 14 Branch is held is the Former Market Hall and Royal Oaks Building (VHR H1390) and any works to the building require a permit. Some of these works may have the potential to damage the Banner. These works include but are not limited to the works listed below. The Banner must be removed if the works are likely to impact the area in which the Banner is located before the works commence and not be returned until after the works have been completed. If works occur in another area of the building, the Banner should be protected from potentially damage causing elements, including dust.

- Renovation of the building.
- Demolition, removal or installation of walls, ceilings, wall linings, doors, windows, bathroom, kitchen or office fitouts, lights, built-in furniture, and the like.
- Installation, removal or replacement of electrical wiring, computer and audio visual systems.
- Repairs and maintenance.
- Painting of walls and ceilings.
- Vermin control.
- Security and fire detection and suppression.

### **Cultural heritage significance**

#### ***Overview of significance***

The cultural heritage significance of the Banner of the AMAA, Maldon No. 14 Branch lies in the fabric of the banner itself.

## **PROPOSED PERMIT EXEMPTIONS (UNDER SECTION 49(3) OF THE HERITAGE ACT)**

It should be noted that Permit Exemptions can be granted at the time of registration (under s.49(3) of the *Heritage Act 2017*). Permit Exemptions can also be applied for and granted after registration (under s.92 of the *Heritage Act 2017*).

### **General Condition 1**

All exempted alterations are to be planned and carried out in a manner which prevents damage to the fabric of the registered place or object.

### **General Condition 2**

Should it become apparent during further inspection or the carrying out of works that original or previously hidden or inaccessible details of the place or object are revealed which relate to the significance of the place or object, then the exemption covering such works shall cease and Heritage Victoria shall be notified as soon as possible.

### **General Condition 3**

All works should ideally be informed by the Collection Policy prepared for the object. The Executive Director is not bound by any Collection Policy, and permits still must be obtained for works suggested in any Collection Policy.

### **General Condition 4**

Nothing in this determination prevents the Heritage Council from amending or rescinding all or any of the permit exemptions.

### **Conservation**

Written notification is required for any proposed conservation activities. The applicant will then be notified by the Executive Director whether the conservation activity requires permit approval pursuant to the *Heritage Act 2017*, or whether it is permit exempt.

## RELEVANT INFORMATION

<b>Local Government Authority</b>	Mount Alexander Shire
<b>Heritage Overlay</b>	N/A
<b>Heritage Overlay Controls</b>	N/A
<b>Other Overlays</b>	N/A
<b>Victorian Aboriginal Heritage Register</b>	No
<b>Other Listings</b>	No
<b>Other Names</b>	No

## HISTORY

The Banner of the AMAA, Maldon No. 14 Branch is a trade union banner which was displayed by the Maldon Branch of the AMAA at meetings, events and processions from 1888 until World War I. The AMAA was formed in 1884 and was the first intercolonial union in Australia, with branches in Tasmania, Far North Queensland and New Zealand.

### History of Banners

The tradition of parades where the banners of unions and friendly societies were displayed originated in Britain. The first parades and banners in Victoria focused on the Eight Hour Day Movement, but as unions were formed, banners were created as a means of identity for the various organisations. They were elaborately painted with imagery and wording, usually had tassels and fringing and were of a large scale to allow for their prominent display on horse drawn carts. The imagery included tools and emblems associated with the various trades, and mottos espousing the beliefs and vision of the particular union or organisation. Figures depicted were usually men and if women were included, they were usually depicted as representations of ideals such as truth and wisdom.

### Mining unions

The first mining unions in Victoria were established in the 1860s to protect the conditions and wages of miners on the goldfields when mining evolved from the use of labour intensive, simple surface-focused techniques undertaken by individual miners, to the establishment of large mining companies. Initially established in each mining area, the individual unions united in 1874 to form the AMA. Most branches had large banners which were displayed during parades as symbols of pride and solidarity and as a means of visual identification.

In March 1872, the Bendigo Miners' Association held the first annual Miners' Picnic and Sports Day, an event which was to define the miner's unions. It was held at Ravenswood and an estimated 3,000 people attended. In addition to sports such as quoits, foot racing, and hop, skip and jump; there was an open air meeting where Robert Clark, President of the Bendigo Miners' Association, stated that the picnic was also being held to celebrate the increasing success of the agitation for an eight hour day system. Three months after the Ravenswood Picnic and Sports Day, gold miners at Bendigo were awarded an eight hour working day, reputedly the first miners in the world to win the Eight Hour Day battle. This was one of the most important industrial reforms won by unionists in the nineteenth century. Sports and picnic days became annual events, commencing with a procession in which the union banners were displayed. They were fund raising events, often declared public holidays by the mining companies and attended by huge crowds. For example, the Miners' Association Sports Day at Creswick in 1882 attracted 7,000 people with approximately 1,700 participants in the parade which was 1.2 kilometres in length.

In June 1874, a conference of the individual miners' associations was held at Bendigo. The principal discussion focused on the formation of a union which would combine the multiple district unions and this resulted in the establishment of the AMA. As the *Bendigo Advertiser* reported, the philosophy of mutual satisfaction was to continue to guide the new association – *'there can be no question in the world that it will*



*be better for both masters and men that a union of the sort to be formed, should exist. So long as one side is not unreasonable we are quite satisfied that the other will not be ... the design of men, being selfish and corrupt, must be resisted and defeated*'. These sentiments are expressed in the mottos on the Banner of the AMAA, Maldon No. 14 Branch.

While upholding reconciliation and industrial harmony, the AMA reserved the right to industrial action if its legitimate claims were denied. Through the AMA, miners had the combined strength to dispute wage reductions, defective equipment and poor working conditions. They went on strike to protect their rights and any miner who filled the place of a union member was disqualified from joining the AMA.

In October 1884, 39 delegates from the 20 branches of the AMA held a conference in the Masonic Hall at Maldon. This meeting resulted in further amalgamation with other unions including the New South Wales Coalminers' Union to form Australia's first intercolonial union, the AMAA. Union rules were based on those of the National Miners' Association of Great Britain with a decentralised organisational structure with branches which were kept in close contact with the union's central committee through stewards appointed at each mine. In 1888, union membership in all Bendigo mines was made compulsory. These were progressive achievements which were later adopted by the emerging rural workers' unions. The AMAA presence spread from central Victorian goldmines, to all Victorian mining fields, and within a decade to Tasmania, Far North Queensland and New Zealand.

#### History of the Maldon banner

Maldon AMAA held its first Sports Day in 1883 and borrowed a banner from Creswick Branch. They continued to borrow banners until 1888 when the existing banner was delivered to Maldon by William Guthrie Spence, Secretary of the AMAA. The double-sided banner was designed to be suspended from its upper edge on a horizontal rod and to be viewable from both sides. During parades, it was displayed on the back of a horse drawn cart, and later a truck, when the horizontal rod was supported by vertical rods in combination with supporting stays and rigging.

The gold industry began to decline around World War I when gold production began to decrease. Maldon's main mine, the North British mine closed in 1914 and led to the demise of Maldon's mining industry and the annual sports day parades ceased.

In 1918, the AMAA became part of the Australian Workers' Union. Unlike other unions, no substantial archival records of the AMA or the AMAA survive. The surviving banner, together with the Stawell banner, therefore provides the most tangible record of the union's aspirations and an insight into the character of nineteenth century miners.

Although the AMAA ceased as a union, the banner of the AMAA, Maldon No. 14 Branch continued to be displayed in the town's annual Easter Fair parades until the 1970s. It is likely that this was due to the formation of the Maldon Fraternal Society during World War I and its association from 1918 to 1974 with Maldon's annual Easter Festival. The Fraternal Society was a very active Melbourne-based organisation that held social events to raise money to support organisations in their home town and impart knowledge of their gold mining heritage to the younger generations. Membership was similar to the former Maldon AMAA membership and included W Lewis, unionist, member of the Maldon AMAA, and honorary organiser of the Fraternal Society's first successful association with the Easter Fair.



## MANUFACTURE DETAILS

**Maker's name:** Unknown  
**Date made:** 1888

## VICTORIAN HISTORICAL THEMES

- 04 Transforming and managing land and natural resources**
  - 4.5 Gold mining
- 07 Governing Victorians**
  - 7.2 Struggling for political rights

## PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

The Banner of the AMAA, Maldon No. 14 Branch is located in the Maldon Museum, Maldon where it is displayed on a support and covered with a protective cloth. The double-sided banner measures 267cm high x 388cm wide and is made of machine sewn cotton and wool fabrics set in double layers. Both sides have a central panel of red cotton twill and a border of blue wool with three off-white wool stars sewn across the top and bottom borders. One side has a cameo painted in oil on canvas depicting a labourer and a capitalist shaking hands and surrounded by the gold painted wording 'Contention & Strife Declined/Labour & Capital Reconciled./To secure National Prosperity,/Let this Motto adopted be'. The reverse side of the banner also has gold painted wording; 'United We Stand/Amalgamated Miners Association/of/Australasia/Maldon Branch No. 14/ Established Aug 28<sup>th</sup> 1882/Divided We Fall'.

## INTEGRITY/INTACTNESS

Intactness – The intactness of the object is very good. The banner underwent conservation works in 2000 and 2003 under a policy of minimal intervention. Historical repairs and patching were retained. (November 2017)

Integrity – The integrity of the object is very good. The cultural heritage values of the object can be easily read in the extant fabric. It is currently displayed on a supporting structure and only one side of the banner is visible. (November 2017)

## CONDITION

The object is in very good condition after stabilisation and conservation treatments. The banner is currently displayed supported on a purpose-built structure with only one side of the banner visible. The banner is kept covered while not on display to protect it from dust and excessive light exposure. (November 2017)

## COMPARISONS

### Union banners in the VHR

#### **Eight Hour Day Trade Union Banners (VHR H2086) Museums Victoria, Carlton**

The Eight Hour Day Trade Union Banners collection is of historical and social significance to the State of Victoria. It comprises eight banners created between 1890 and 1916. The first Eight Hour Day procession was held in Melbourne in 1856 to celebrate the winning of the eight-hour working day by building workers, one of the most important industrial reforms won by unionists in the nineteenth century. The march became Melbourne's biggest annual procession and processions were also held in regional towns. The day was declared a public holiday in 1879, and renamed Labour Day in 1934. The major features of the processions were the large trade union banners, mounted and carried behind horse-drawn carriages or on floats. One side of the banner was usually a realistic depiction of the particular trade, including associated materials, tools and skills, while the other displayed allegorical figures and symbols. The Eight Hour Day Trade Union Banners are of historical and social significance for their important associations with the history of trade unionism in Victoria and with the Eight Hour Day movement. They are important historical documents which demonstrate the concerns of workers, the nature of their work and the identity of unions,

as well as being powerful symbols of the role of unions in advancing conditions and wages for working people. The banners are rare surviving examples of nineteenth and early twentieth century trade union banners and represent the only substantial collection in Victoria and one of only two major Eight Hour Day banner collections in Australia.



Australian Boot Trade, Ballarat Division (1905)



Australian Railways Union (1912)



Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners, Victorian Branch, 1914



Operative Painters and Decorators Union (1915)



Australian Tramways Employees Association, Victorian Branch (1916)

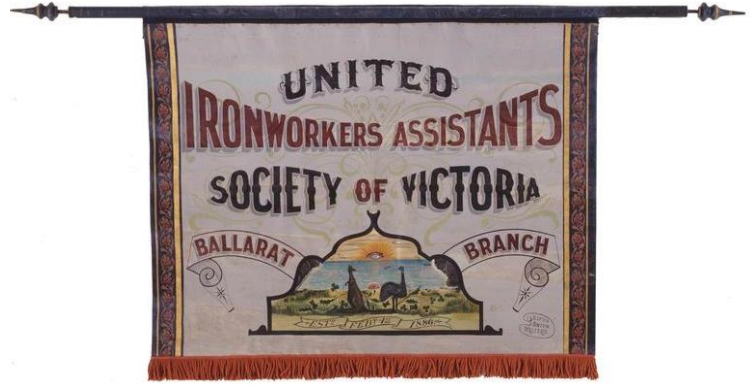


Manufacturing Grocers Employees Industrial Union of Victoria (n.d.)





Amalgamated Society of Engineers, Blacksmiths, Fitters, Patternmakers, Turners and Machinists, Ballarat (n.d.)



United Ironworkers' Assistants Society of Victoria, Ballarat Branch (n.d.)

**Union banners not in the VHR but recommended for inclusion in the VHR by the Executive Director, 19 January 2018**

**Stawell AMA Banner, Stawell**

The Stawell AMA Banner is a large cloth banner with painted illustrations and mottos, and cords and fringing. One side commemorates the Eight Hour Day movement with a central image surrounded by mottos referencing the movement. The other side commemorates the Stawell AMA with two male figures representing labour and capital shaking hands. The banner was created in 1904 as a replica of an earlier banner. It was supported on an upper horizontal rod and displayed on the back of a horse and dray during the annual Sporting Day procession until 1909 when the parades ceased due to a lack of interest. It remained in storage until it was conserved and displayed in its current location in Stawell Town Hall in 1990. It is of historical significance for its association with the development of the union movement in Victoria and with the AMAA in particular.



Stawell Banner within a Perspex display box in Stawell Town Hall. Front face (left) Reverse face (right).

**Waterside Workers Federation Banner**

The Waterside Worker's Federation Banner was created in 1949 by artist Richard Ovenden. It is a large double sided canvas banner with imagery and mottos painted in oil paint on both sides, although only one side is currently visible. The banner hangs on a wall, suspended by its top cross bar and the visible side has a central female figure in white robes holding a torch with a wharf, ships and a massed crowd at the base. Mottos and wording surround the image. The Waterside Workers' Federation (WWF) was a national organisation formed in 1902 with strong links to the Australian Labor Party. The WWF emerged from the

Melbourne Wharf Labourers' Union (MWLU) which was formed in 1885 and played a significant part in the national strike of the late 1880s known as the Maritime Strike and involving many trades.



Waterside Workers Federation Banner, front face.

## SUMMARY OF COMPARISONS

The Banner of the AMAA, Maldon No. 14 Branch is a rare surviving example of a late nineteenth century trade union banner. It is the earliest banner of the twelve known examples in Victoria, and is associated with Victoria's first gold mining union and with Australia's first intercolonial union. The Eight Hour Day Trade Union Banners (VHR H2086) are union banners which were used primarily during Eight Hour Day Movement parades. The Stawell Banner also references the Eight Hour Day Movement. The Banner of the AMAA, Maldon No. 14 Branch does not reference the Eight Hour Day Movement but is a visual representation of the Maldon branch of the AMAA, which when displayed during processions, provided a powerful form of identification for the organisation. Unlike the Eight Hour Day Banners, which were displayed primarily during Eight Hour Day annual processions, the Maldon Banner was also displayed during celebratory community parades and was part of the community Easter Parade until the 1970s. The Waterside Workers Federation Banner also makes no reference to the Eight Hour Day Movement but it was created at a much later date when the significance of the Movement had decreased. Unlike other unions, there is no substantial archival record of AMAA. The Banner of the AMAA, Maldon No. 14 Branch, together with the Stawell AMA Banner, is a tangible record of the AMAA's aspirations and provides insight into the beliefs of nineteenth century miners who were willing to work with mine owners, but were equally determined to defend their rights.

## KEY REFERENCES USED TO PREPARE ASSESSMENT

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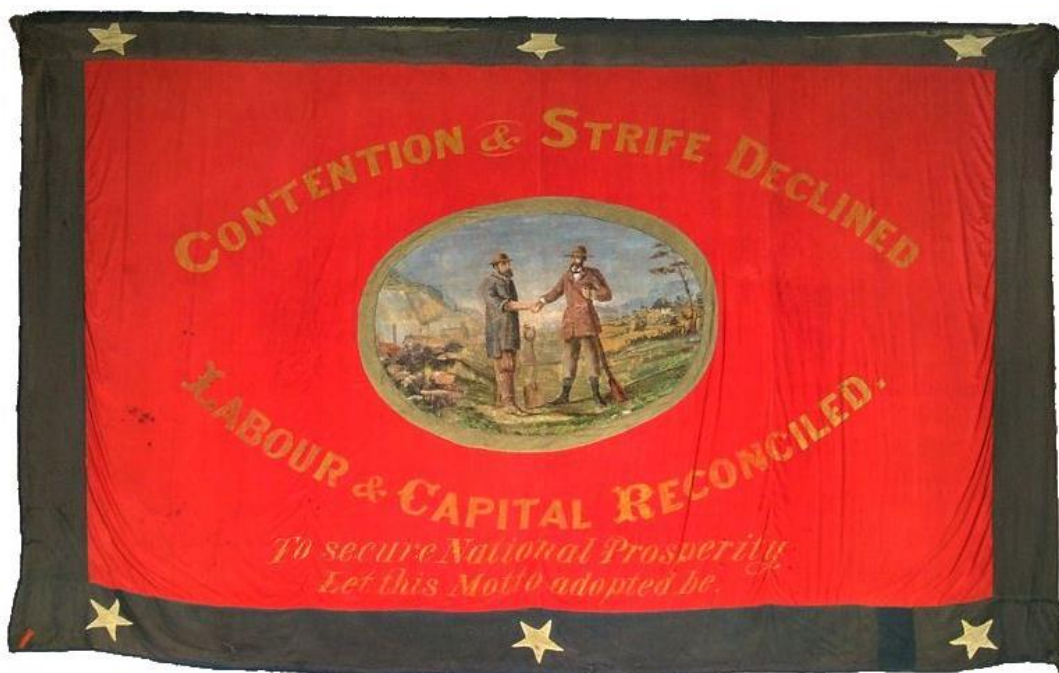
Malden Museum and Archive Association, Amalgamated Miners' Association – Maldon Branch Banner [http://maldonmuseum.com.au/?page\\_id=572](http://maldonmuseum.com.au/?page_id=572)



ADDITIONAL IMAGES



2016, Banner on display in the Maldon Museum with its protective cover raised.



Front face of the Banner of the AMAA, Maldon No. 14 Branch.



Rear view of the banner before conservation works.



c.1960s, Banner hanging between posts in Maldon.





c.1960s, Banner on parade in Maldon, front face.



c.1920s, Maldon banner during parade, rear face.



c.1920s, Maldon banner during parade, front face.



c.1900, Banner in use during a Maldon parade, front face. (Source: Maldon Museum).