



# **ENGINEERING HERITAGE VICTORIA** **WEBNEWS**

**MAY 2007**

*This is an occasional newsletter from Engineering Heritage Victoria (EHV) sent to all members on our email list. Enquiries, discussion or correspondence should be directed to [ehv@engineersaustralia.org.au](mailto:ehv@engineersaustralia.org.au) If necessary, contact can also be made through the Victorian Divisional Office of Engineers Australia at 21 Bedford Street North Melbourne.*

## **1 SPEAKERS' PROGRAM SESSIONS**

### **1.1 PETER SCRATCHLEY - COLONIAL ENGINEER**

On Thursday 21 June 2007, Major General Mike O'Brien CSC will give a talk on the life and times of one of Victoria's early Colonial Engineers - Capt Peter Scratchley (Royal Engineers - born 1835, died 1885). Interested members of the Royal United Services Institute have been invited to join us. Further details will be forwarded by email and pmail in early June.

### **1.2 MOTOR INDUSTRY IN AUSTRALIA**

On Thursday 16 August 2007, Dr Laurie Spark OAM (Director - Holden Innovation) will give a talk on the "History of Holden and the Motor Car Industry in Australia". This talk will be part of the EHV contribution to Engineers Week 2007. Further details later.

### **1.3 GAS PRODUCERS**

Still on the agenda but difficulties in coordinating available times for the Speaker with available venues will unfortunately push this talk back to the last quarter of the year. Further details will be circulated in the coming months. Contributions, contacts and comments are still welcome - email Don Bartlett at [donb@consuleng.com.au](mailto:donb@consuleng.com.au)

### **1.4 MP3 FILES - MURRAY DARLING BASIN TALK BY JOHN FORREST**

The audio and visual files for the presentation by John Forrest MP FIE(Aust) as part of the EHV Speakers' Program - 19 April 2007 are now available for downloading at [www.consuleng.com.au](http://www.consuleng.com.au)

## **2 EVENTS & VISITS**

The following events are in the pipeline for EHV during the coming months.

### **2.1 STATE LIBRARY VISIT**

We have been invited to visit the State Library of Victoria on Thursday 7 June 2007 at 5.25 PM. This is a rare opportunity to view material not generally available to the public. The Curator and staff have assembled a range of engineering drawings and related detail for our examination. The display will include the Henry Ralston Crawford drawings for the Turner patent mushroom pillars in the Myer Bourke Street building (from the Tompkins Shaw & Evans collection) and the Lincolne MacDougall Demaine drawings for the Capitol Theatre ceiling lights. There are also some engineering drawings for the Eldorado dredge. Janet Beeston, a post graduate student and conservation architect, will give a short presentation about the early steel frame buildings by Harry Tompkins (Tompkins Shaw & Evans). Numbers are limited - bookings are essential and will close on or before Thursday 31 May 2007. To

make a booking, send an email to [ehv@engineersaustralia.org.au](mailto:ehv@engineersaustralia.org.au) and please put "State Library Visit" in the Subject Line. Confirmation of bookings will be sent by email.

## **2.2 ENGINEERS WEEK 2007 SITE VISIT**

An opportunity is opening up for us to join with other Victoria Division groups to visit an infrastructure maintenance facility - as part of Engineers Week. Further details will be circulated as soon as possible.

## **2.3 NATIONAL ENGINEERING HERITAGE CONFERENCE - PERTH NOVEMBER 2007**

A reminder for anyone interested in the 14th National Engineering Heritage Conference to be held in Perth (WA) from 19 to 21 November 2007. Further information can be found at <http://www.debretts.com.au> or by email to [engheritage@debretts.com.au](mailto:engheritage@debretts.com.au)

## **2.4 DAYLESFORD RAILMOTOR TRIP**

Still on the list of things to do. Anyone interested in the idea and who has not yet said so, please do so - ASAP. So far there are three takers (including myself). We need 25 or more. If this goes ahead, it will be in the later part of the year.

## **2.5 PAST EVENTS**

During March, EHV conducted two very successful heritage cruises on the Maribyrnong River in the "Blackbird". Peter Somerville gave an excellent commentary. For many of us, the trip was the first time on the Maribyrnong. The amount of history along Melbourne's other river was a real eye-opener and the development was something to see too! Thanks to Peter and Warwick for their excellent service. They run regular cruises on the Maribyrnong. Their fares are very reasonable. Further details can be obtained from their website <http://www.blackbirdcruises.com.au>

In May, two groups of EHV members visited the private library of Professor Miles Lewis AM. Miles has been collecting books since his student days and his library extends way beyond the bounds of architecture. Before our visit, Miles put out a selection of books and articles that he felt may be of interest to engineers. To my mind, the notable part was his obvious love for explaining the intricacies and concepts contained in each book. After a glass or two of local cocktail, we adjourned to a nearby restaurant.

## **3 OTHER MATTERS**

### **3.1 AUDIOVISUAL WEBSITE - FORREST, CASSILIS AND MORE ...**

Some EHV material is now hosted at <http://www.consuleng.com.au> This site presently holds audio and visual material relevant to the John Forrest (Murray Darling Basin) talk on 19 April 2007 and some other EHV administrative material. A link to Ken McInnes's EHV webpage is included. Oral Histories on Gas Producers etc will be added at opportune moments and it is intended to include copies of EHV Newsletters, Meeting Notices, Topics of Interest etc. Audio files (and where possible- visual material) from past Speakers' Program sessions will be made available through this site. The Cassilis Hydro Power Scheme (John McCutchan) audio and photos are to be added next. I am updating the "Walkerville in the Limelight" talk and will soon post those files to the site.

### **3.2 COLIN CRISP AWARD**

The Colin Crisp Award is given for effort deemed by Engineering Heritage Australia (EHA) to have demonstrated excellence through one or more of the following activities:

- ✚ conservation of an engineering work of historic or heritage significance (in this context conservation includes maintenance and may include preservation, restoration, reconstruction, and adaptation);
- ✚ engineering work that facilitates or is essential to the successful conservation of an historic or heritage structure or building;
- ✚ recording, research, or documentation of an engineering history or heritage nature;
- ✚ education, or the creation of awareness in engineering history or heritage; and
- ✚ such other endeavour related to engineering history or heritage, deemed by the Subcommittee to be worthy.

For further information contact [ehv@engineersaustralia.org.au](mailto:ehv@engineersaustralia.org.au) and put "Colin Crisp Award" in the Subject Line.

### **3.3 JOHN MONASH MEDAL**

The John Monash Medal is awarded by Engineers Australia (on the recommendation of EHA) to an individual who, over a considerable period of time, has made an outstanding contribution to engineering heritage in Australia. The award is open to non-members of Engineers Australia. The closing date for nominations is 31 July 2007. Further information can be obtained by contacting [ehv@engineersaustralia.org.au](mailto:ehv@engineersaustralia.org.au) Please put "Monash Medal" in the Subject Line.

### **3.4 CABLE TRAMS TRACKS IN NORTH MELBOURNE.**

Recent roadwork in Abbotsford St North Melbourne have uncovered two sets of cable tram tracks under the bitumen seal - uphill from the corner of Queensberry St. The relics include the rails and cable track, a set of terminus points and several pit covers. There is undoubted community interest in the find and it is understood that the Melbourne City Council along with Heritage Victoria are working on ways to preserve the relics and possibly make them visually accessible to the public. The site's location immediately uphill of the old North Melbourne Engine House makes it an ideal adjunct to the existing heritage display in the foyer of the old building (now residential units). The display is open to the public and is well worth a look if you are in the area.

### **3.5 HINDSIGHT - IN THE TRACKS OF GOYDER**

The ABC Radio National program "Hindsight" recently put to air a one hour segment on the South Australian Colonial Surveyor General, George Goyder. The Goyder Line is a South Australian icon. It runs across the mid-north of the state from the fringes of the Nullarbor all the way to the Victorian border. South of the line there's enough rainfall to grow wheat; north of the line rains become too unreliable. In dry years, you can see the line in the landscape, where the saltbush ends and the mallee begins. It's a natural boundary which marks the limits of sustainable agriculture.

The audio clip ("In the Tracks of Goyder") is available for download from the ABC Website. The following link should get you to the site <http://www.abc.net.au/rn/hindsight/default.htm> You can listen on-line or download the MP3 file.

### **3.6 BBC4 - BRITAIN'S MODERN BRUNEL'S.**

The BBC (BBC Radio 4) have just completed airing a four part series on Modern Brunel's. The Website is <http://www.bbc.co.uk/radio4/science/britainsmodernbrunels.shtml> and there is provision to "Listen Again" if you are interested.

### **3.7 THE ROLE OF EHV & THE BUDGET FOR 2007-08**

Membership of EHV is free. Running EHV does however have a cost. We meet our expenses from a modest budget allocated by Engineers Australia through the Victorian Division. In broad terms, our funding is made available because EA has a policy to use part of its income to raise the profile of the engineering profession within the community. The role of EHV is to foster an understanding of the history and heritage side of all disciplines within the profession (including new and emerging disciplines). The Division assists in other ways. They make facilities like the John Connell Auditorium available to us - at no cost. They provide staff to assist with administration and support. Our budget for 2007-08 has recently been approved by the Division. It holds a modest increase on last year and is considerably more than it was three years ago.

**Don Bartlett**  
**Chairman**  
**Engineering Heritage Victoria**

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#### *MEETINGS & NOTICES*

*EHV tries to limit the number of times we contact you by email. Speakers' Program notices are usually issued about a fortnight ahead of each session. However, availability of speakers, venues and unspecified emergencies often complicate this schedule. In general, the EHV Newsletter is issued every two months (in the odd numbered month). Event Flyers are circulated "as required".*

#### *DISCLAIMER*

*This newsletter has been prepared on behalf of Engineering Heritage Victoria which is a Special Interest Group of the Victorian Division of Engineers Australia and the Institution of Engineers (Australia). Any "historical" content is given in a topical sense and is not the result of exhaustive research on the part of the Editor. Where deemed to be relevant, references are quoted - if they exist. From time to time, there will be errors or misleading claims. However, the newsletter is also intended to promote discussion. Although mistakes are regrettable, the Editor (presently the Chairman EHV) is ready and willing to retract, clarify or argue the case - as appropriate - should anyone care to point out the alleged blemishes.*

#### *SUBSCRIBE*

*If you would like to receive email material from Engineering Heritage Victoria (about once per month), please send an email to [ehv@engineersaustralia.org.au](mailto:ehv@engineersaustralia.org.au) with SUBSCRIBE as the only word in the subject line.*