

Bacchus Marsh Chicory Kiln - Restoration



Chicory Kiln before the restoration, note the overgrown vegetation, weathered timber and top vent.

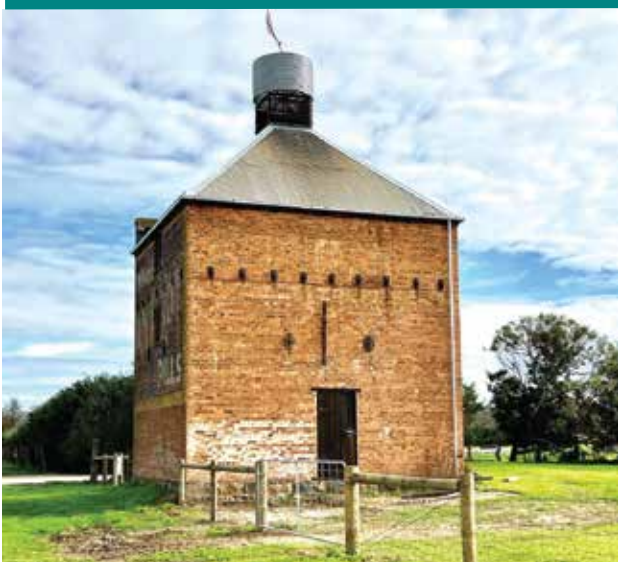
The Bacchus Marsh Lions Club have recently completed restoration works on the Chicory Kiln on Taverner Street in Bacchus Marsh. The project was instigated by the Lions Club in 2021, with the original intention of repainting the Dr Morse Indian Root pill sign. As the Kiln is protected by the Victorian Heritage Register, the Lions Club gained approval from Heritage Victoria to complete a historically accurate restoration, however painting the sign was not possible at this stage.

The restoration was split into four major projects:

- Removal of the ivy
- Repairs and replacement of steel tie rods
- Replacement of lintels and sills on several windows and doors and the painting of all woodwork
- Removal, rebuild and replacement of the top vent. The removal of the non-conforming spouting and replacement with approved spouting and the repair of the galvanised roofing



Chicory Kiln during the restoration, with support of volunteers and local businesses



Chicory Kiln after the restoration

Heritage Victoria funded 50% of the restoration, with the remaining funded by the generosity of local community groups:

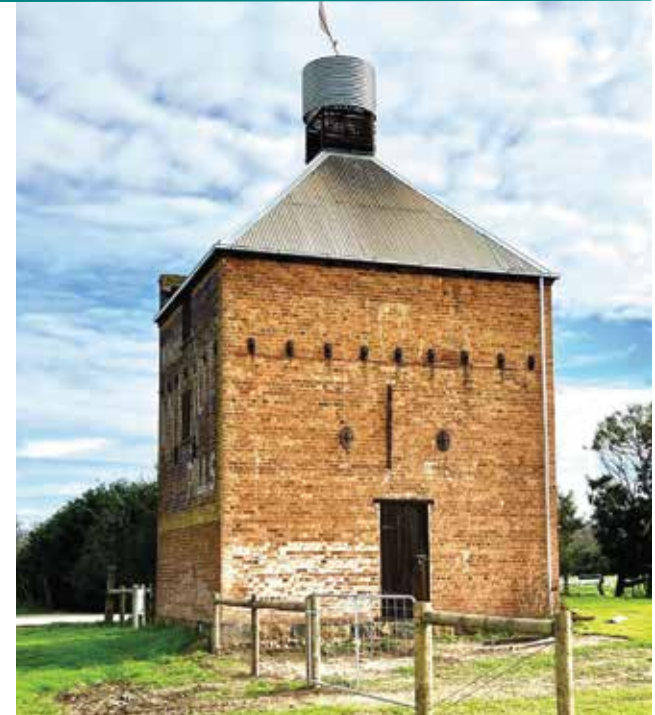
- BM Lions Club
- BM Rotary Club
- BM Community Bank
- The Farmelo Family

Following an 18 month approval process, the project was given a 12 month timeline for the restoration to be completed, which the Lions Club achieved through many hours of work by their dedicated volunteers and the support of local businesses

Bacchus Marsh Chicory Kiln - History

The Chicory kiln was built by the Pearce Brothers in 1885 to dry chicory roots that were grown in the paddock to the north of the kiln. This process included harvesting the Chicory, chopping the roots and elevating to the drying floor. It was then dried by lighting a fire on the floor. Once dried it was transferred to Melbourne by lorry and train after 1887.

The kiln operated for 10 years and finally closed in 1910. It was purchased in 1945 by George Vallance who ran a dairy farm on the property. The kiln is now owned by Damian Farmelo, the grandson of George.



The Bacchus Marsh Chicory Kiln is located at 30 Taverner St, Maddingley - which is a short drive or walk from the Bacchus Marsh Train Station or Bacchus Marsh town centre. If you would like further information please contact the Bacchus Marsh Visitor Information Centre.