



Passengers boarding Bill Hussey's horse drawn bus service in Ringwood which operated between 1917 and 1925.

Photo Courtesy of Warrandyte Historical Society

## Recognising our heritage

To enable construction of EastLink, the northern half of Madden Street in Ringwood was closed. Closure of the southern half of Madden Street is scheduled to occur soon. Prior to undertaking tree clearing and excavation works in the area surrounding Madden Street, Thiess John Holland undertook archaeological investigations at the old Coach and Horses Hotel site on the corner of Madden Street and Maroondah Highway. The Coach and Horses Hotel was first recognised as a potential archaeological site in 1998, during an assessment of the historic sites along the Scoresby Freeway alignment.

In 1999, an archaeologist assessed its significance and made recommendations about future archaeological works. At this time relatively little was known about the history of the site other than the fact that the first hotel on the property had been constructed in the 1850s or 1860s and that the main building was destroyed by fire in 1907 and was replaced with a new hotel. When the site was assessed in 1999, it consisted of part of the structure associated with the second hotel and associated features including: a timber structure (thought to be stables), an area of paving, probably dating to a later period of occupation; and some mature border plantings, some of which may relate to early plantings at the site. The site also contained shops dating to the mid-20th century that had no association with the early hotels on the site.

Initial archaeological works performed by Thiess John Holland at the site involved monitoring the demolition of all the standing structures. Sub surface testing and controlled archaeological hand excavation

was then undertaken. Investigations revealed a cellar on the north of the site with a doorway leading to an above ground entrance, red gum posts which may have formed part of the foundations of the second hotel and a late 19th century artefact deposit. Beneath the buildings, a number of features that might have been associated with an earlier hotel were also noted.

Local histories record a number of changes in ownership of the Coach and Horses Hotel. Following the fire of 1907 and the construction of a new hotel, the Madden family, after whom Madden Street is named, purchased the hotel. They served as publicans from 1909 to 1924, and then again from 1931 onwards. The third Coach and Horses, which opened in 1940, was located across the road on the site of the current Coach and Horses Hotel. This hotel remained under the direction of Mrs Madden. The hotel on the original block was modified over time for a variety of commercial uses.

Thiess John Holland is currently constructing a new road between Sherbrook Avenue and New Street in Ringwood. As the old Madden Street will be permanently closed for the construction of EastLink, Maroondah Council and Thiess John Holland have agreed to name the new road 'Madden Street' to acknowledge the long association that the Madden family had within the area. In addition to being licensees of the original Coach and Horses Hotel, they were also well-known land owners in the area.

Materials and artefacts found are being managed in accordance with Heritage Victoria requirements. Heritage Victoria, the government authority responsible for overseeing all historical archaeological works in Victoria, has stringent requirements about the treatment and recording of artefacts recovered from archaeological sites.