

BEECHWORTH TOWN HALL TAPESTRY 1988



Unveiling of the Tapestry by Bill Peach 1988

Tapestry Design: Leonie Bessant

Tapestry Weavers: Leonie Bessant & Robyn Daw

Dimensions: 2200mm X 2400mm

- The Beechworth Town Hall Tapestry was completed for the Bicentennial Celebrations in 1988 and was a community project initiated by Beechworth Arts Council in 1983.
- The design was developed by Leonie Bessant from the Victorian Tapestry Workshop with the reference materials being assembled by members of the community.
- The tapestry is woven in wool and took two weavers three months to complete and was woven on the loom sideways.
- Funds for this project were raised by the community fundraising activities, from State and Federal government grants and private donors. *[Donors names are shown on the wooden board on the wall opposite the Tapestry in the Town Hall.]*
- The Beechworth Town Hall Tapestry was unveiled on 2nd December, 1988 by the Project Patron and media personality Bill Peach.

BEECHWORTH HISTORIC & CULTURAL PRECINCT

The Beechworth Historic and Cultural Precinct is a collection of nationally significant buildings that tell the story of how Australia grew and prospered. The buildings are Australia's best preserved living collections and have been registered by Heritage Victoria, the National Estate, the National Trust and the Indigo Shire Council Planning Scheme

A Historic & Cultural Precinct ticket includes entry for the following places:

- Burke Memorial Museum
- Telegraph Station
- Beechworth Historic Court House
- Beechworth Chinese Cultural Centre
- Powder Magazine

Tickets can be purchased from Beechworth Visitor Information Centre, Burke Memorial Museum, Historic Court House and Beechworth Chinese Cultural Centre

Pick up a map and directions from Beechworth Visitor Information Centre for the Out and About drives, walks and activities

For booking and enquiries:

www.beechworthonline.com.au

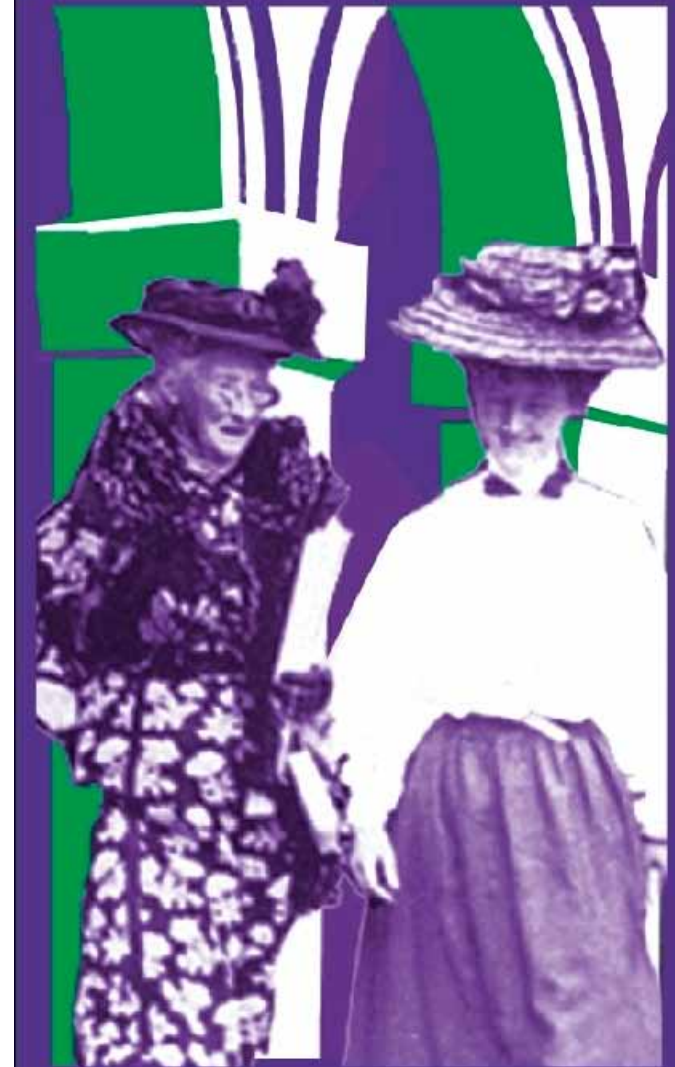
Ph: 1300 366 321

The Beechworth Town Hall Tapestry- Self Guided Tour is one of the events for the Beechworth Arts Council's 'Centenary of Women's Suffrage: Women Vote: 1908 – 2008' Project

Supported by the Beechworth Visitor Information Centre, Burke Memorial Museum, Beechworth Neighbourhood Centre, Beechworth Business and Professional Women, Beechworth Branch Australian Red Cross, Beechworth Secondary College and Indigo Shire Council



Front Cover designed by Adrian Osborne and image reproduced from 'Beechworth Post Office' photograph [1906] from a lantern slide from the Burke Memorial Museum Collection Beechworth



BEECHWORTH TOWN HALL TAPESTRY Self Guided Tour

Celebrating 20 Years 1988 – 2008

Centenary of Women's Suffrage: Women Vote: 1908 – 2008

Funded by Beechworth Arts Council and Office of Women's Policy

BEECHWORTH TOWN HALL TAPESTRY Self Guided Tour To Celebrate its 20th Anniversary

Beechworth Town Hall

130 Ford St Beechworth

Enjoy the [architecture](#) of the Beechworth Town Hall built by Donald Fiddes and view the Tapestry, built in 1859 the restoration of the Town Hall in the 1980's was the inspiration for the commissioning of the Beechworth Town Hall Tapestry that now hangs on the northern wall of the Hall. See the watercolour and collage that were the working references for the final work. Open daily from 9 am – 5 pm.

Telegraph Station

Ford St Beechworth

Visit the Telegraph Station Oral History Room and listen to Leonie Bessant on the handset.

The Beechworth Town Hall Tapestry was designed by Melbourne-based artist Leonie Bessant who has designed a number of significant tapestries, including *Paradise in Trust*, a suite of six tapestries hanging in the arrivals hall in Melbourne's International Airport. She was also the senior weaver for the Arthur Boyd tapestry that hangs in Parliament House, Canberra. In 2000 Leonie recorded recollections of her experiences of working with the local community and weaving the [Beechworth Community](#) tapestry.

Burke Memorial Museum

Loch Street Beechworth

See the artworks from the art collection of the Burke Museum, also documents and objects from the Museum's collection that inspired the designer of the tapestry and the group of Beechworth Arts Council members who assisted with selecting the ideas and resources for the design.

'Reedy Creek Falls'

Colour lithograph by Eugene Von Guerard [1811-1901] Depicting the landscape of the Reedy Creek Falls [now called Woolshed Falls], Von Guerard chose this dramatic place with its statuesque Black Cypress Pine (*Callitris Endlicheri*) to record the landscape on his visit to Beechworth.

'Wallace Illuminated Address'

Artist unknown

1890 watercolour and ink on paper, leather

This address was presented to local mining magnate John Alston Wallace in appreciation of his contribution and the community's contributions to the Beechworth Benevolent Asylum. The pink ribbons from the address add a flourish to the Tapestry.

'Beechworth Post Office'

Artist Unknown, 1906

Photograph, black and white

Reproduced from a glass lantern slide from the collection of the Burke Memorial Museum

View of Spring Creek diggings, Beechworth

Artist unknown Woodcut 1888

From '*Victoria and Its Metropolis: Past and Present'* Volume II. *The Colony and its People in 1888*, McCarron, Bird and Co Publishers, Melbourne 1888

'Wishing Prosperity to the Undertaking'

Chinese characters

Borrowed from a processional banner commissioned and made in China they were shipped to Beechworth and [were](#) displayed by the Chinese community as part of the parade for the Charity Carnival held in May 1873 to commemorate the Prince of Wales birthday and to raise funds for the Beechworth hospitals. The characters translate as 'Wishing Prosperity to the Undertaking' and the translation was made the then owners of Beechworth Village Restaurant.

Cheapside House

Artist unknown - Black and white photograph

Owned by John Armstrong this was a large drapery store in Ford Street. He was there in 1886 and by 1900 owned the premises and was still there in 1916 and died soon afterwards.

The Nodding Blue Lily (*Stypandra glauca*)

Featured in the top right hand corner of the Tapestry, the Nodding Blue Lily with its delicate blue flowers can be seen in spring time (September-October) in the Historic Park, the Gorge and other areas close to the town of Beechworth

Superb Blue Wren

Commonly resident in patchy undergrowth in forest and woodland they are abundant in the Beechworth area.

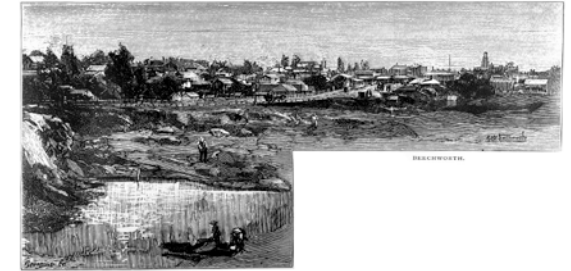
OUT & ABOUT

Pick up a map and directions from Beechworth Visitor Information Centre to explore the tapestry places

Cheapside House

53 Ford St Beechworth

Now Beechworth Toys & Collectables, its facade and shop front has changed little since the 19th Century.



Spring Creek Diggings

Walk or drive from Ford Street along Albert Road to Lower Stanley Road and look across Lake Sambell, the Chinese Gardens, Albert Road and Spring Creek to view the scene depicted in the woodcut of the Spring Creek diggings. The area around Temple Street was the site of the Chinese Village. Across the Lake are the silhouettes of the iconic buildings of Ford Street.

Woolshed Falls

Walk in the Beechworth Historic Park or enjoy a picnic or BBQ at Woolshed Falls. See the beautiful granite formations and the landscape of the Woolshed Falls and be inspired by the spectacular rocky scenery of the falls and the superbly symmetrical and graceful local pine trees (*Callitris Endlicheri*) so characteristic of the landscape on the Beechworth plateau

Beechworth Historic Park

Nodding Blue Lily (Stypandra glauca) can be seen abundantly in early spring with its delicate intense blue flowers.

Black Cypress Pine Trees (Callitris Endlicheri) depicted by Eugene Van Guerard at Reedy Falls can be seen in the hills on the northern side of Beechworth, the Gorge Drive and in Beechworth Historic Park.