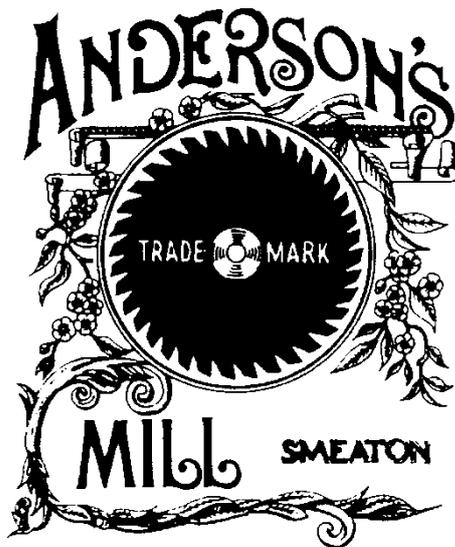


Andersons Mill - Smeaton

Celebrating 150 years – April 1, 2012

Mark your calendar to attend a range of activities planned to celebrate this milestone.

Standing today, much as it was 150 years ago, the five-storey bluestone building still has its massive iron water wheel in place - which will turn again during the Mill's celebratory festival. In a postcard setting on the banks of Birch Creek, Anderson's Oat and Flour Mill stands as a powerful reminder of days gone by. For further festival details visit www.andersonsmillfest.org.au/ or www.parks.vic.gov.au.



Anderson's had built this place...had guided its destinies and worked on it...had lived beside it, never out of sound of its moving parts. Creswick Advertiser, April 1939

About the mill

The Anderson family owned and operated the mill for all of its working life. Anderson's Mill is in Smeaton, north of Creswick; an area well known for its goldmining past and fertile volcanic soils.

Construction of the mill commenced in 1861, and was operational within six months, opening April 29, 1862. The oat section of the mill was completed by the following harvest.

Outbuildings such as the stables, grain store and bluestone office were added later as the operation expanded.

The water wheel was developed from designs by John Smeaton and the patterns were cast in Ballarat at Hunt and Opie's Victoria Foundry.

Water to drive the wheel was collected from Hepburn Lagoon about 5km from the mill, then released into Birch Creek before being channelled into the wheels water race.

The amount of water required depended on the product being processed. The person operating the release gates at Hepburn Lagoon would be asked to release "half oats water" or "full flour water" for the shift's operation.

The Anderson family

The Anderson brothers arrived on the goldfields from Scotland in 1851. After success as diggers on the Goldfields they became sawmillers, supplying timber for the booming local gold industry from their Wombat Forest sawmills.

In 1861, as the available timber supply shrank, the brothers identified the growing needs of the expanding local agricultural industry and towns. They used their money, generated from the gold and timber industries to built Anderson's Mill.

The building was designed by John Anderson, who had trained as a millwright in Scotland. The height of the building reflected the need to use gravity in the milling process, and the siting to utilise the water from Birch Creek.

End of an era

The Andersons had worked the mill through boom times, depression and war. But despite its impressive beginnings, its prosperity was short lived. Railway lines bypassed Smeaton and the centre of wheat growing gradually shifted north and west.

Wide annual variations in wheat harvests also made it difficult for small-scale local millers to obtain regular supplies.

After the mill closed in 1959, most of the machinery was sold for scrap.

For almost twenty years the building stood unused. In 1974 it became one of the first buildings to be included on the Historic Buildings Register.

Much needed repairs were made and the mill was finally purchased by the State Government in 1987. Restoration then began in earnest to preserve the history and beauty of the mill.

What you see today is the culmination of hard work and dedication from conservation professionals, local groups and government departments involved in the restoration program.

Significance of the mill

The building is listed on the Historic Buildings Register and the National Estate Register of the Australian Heritage Commission, and is also classified by the National Trust.



Further information

Parks Victoria
Information Centre
13 1963
or visit the website
www.parks.vic.gov.au

Parks Victoria Office
La Gerche Gully
Sawpit Road
Creswick
Ph: 13 1963

Visitor information centres

Ballarat

Visitor Information Centre
Lydiard St
Ballarat Vic 3350
Toll Free: 1800 44 66 33

Creswick

Visitor Information Centre
Albert St
Creswick Vic 3363
Tel: (03) 5345 1114

Daylesford Regional

Visitor Information Centre
Vincent St
Daylesford Vic 3460
Toll Free: 1800 454 891

Caring for the environment

Help us look after this area by remembering these guidelines:

Please take rubbish away with you for recycling and disposal

Dogs must be on leads

Fire

Anderson's Mill and surrounding parks are in the **Central Total Fire Ban District**

Total Fire Ban District

It is your responsibility to know if it is a day of **Total Fire Ban**

If in doubt call the **Victorian Bushfire Information Line: 1800 240 667**

No fires/flames, (including gas or fuel stoves/lanterns in tents) may be lit on days of **Total Fire Ban**.

Park Closures

Be prepared to leave early as **extreme weather may cause the closure of some park areas** for public safety.



Photograph courtesy Miss L Anderson and Mrs S Meulan

Be sure to attend the festival held annually in early April.

Centenary activities planned will bring the Mill and surrounds alive again - celebrating 150 years.

Exploring the region

Spend an hour or a day enjoying a variety of nearby villages, opportunities and attractions from Victoria's golden past.

Buried Rivers of Gold Heritage Trail

This car-based tour passes the underground mining operations that won wealth beyond our wildest dreams.

Tour booklets are available at Creswick Museum and the Creswick Visitor Information Centre.

Creswick Museum

The museum brings the area's rich local history to life and is open Saturdays, Sundays and most public holidays between 11am and 3.30pm.

www.creswickmuseum.org.au

Creswick Regional Park

With links to John La Gerche, the founder of forestry in the Creswick area, the park has easy walks for people of all ages, with picnic areas at places of interest.

Hepburn Regional Park

Winding creeks with dry stone miners' walls, bushwalks along old water races, and mineral springs in lush bush gullies makes this park a real treasure to explore.

Mount Beckworth Scenic Reserve

A lone pine tree on the granite peak is a landmark across the district, and the slopes of Mount Beckworth protect an abundance of native plants and wildlife, especially in spring.

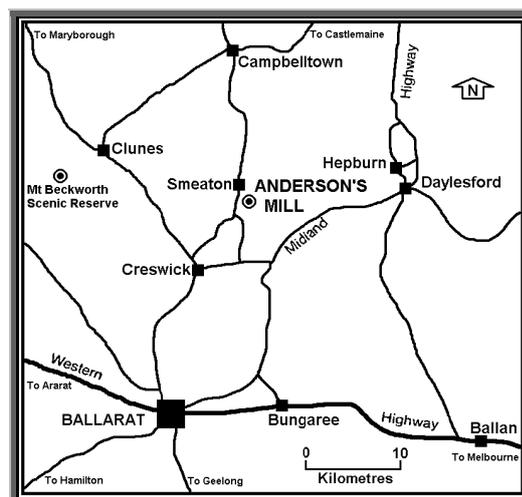
Opening times

The Mill is open the first Sunday of each month from 12 to 4pm. Entry by donation. Booklets are available.

The Mill's informative on-site signs and picnic ground may be enjoyed at all times.

How to get there

Andersons Mill is located along the creek just before the main town of Smeaton. The Mill is north of Creswick and 120km north-west of Melbourne. From Creswick, head north along the Clunes Creswick Road. After 2km turn right on the Creswick-Newstead Road and follow the signs to Smeaton.



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