

07/05/2018

The Editor
The Ovens and Murray Advertiser
Wangaratta, VIC

Dear Editor,

Re: Beechworth Goods Shed

The “Indigo Informer” (Indigo Shire Council's Newsletter) always makes interesting reading. The April-May edition is of particular interest because of the article, “Green Flag for Goods Shed”. Beechworth's historic Goods Shed is to be remodelled not just restored. The Goods Shed has existed since the opening of the Railway to Beechworth in 1876. It is the last remaining railway building that has not been substantially altered. As such it should be restored to original condition as a monument and museum commemorating a part of Beechworth's history that lasted for 100 years. The only remaining track is inside the Shed. Is the track going to be pulled up or concreted over?

Instead Indigo Shire Council proposes to make it into a cycling hub. It seems that the priceless and irreplaceable history of Beechworth is once again to be sacrificed on the altar of cycling to appease the gods of consultancy and bureaucracy. Cycling is a part of tourism but only a part. These days the Council has an obsession with cycling. Beechworth's proud and wonderful history is glossed over.

Does Council believe that our history is not trendy enough or not politically correct? Do they not care anymore or just couldn't be bothered? Perhaps it all of these things. There are rail trails and cycling hubs all over Victoria. There is only one Beechworth and what makes it unique is its history, which should be protected at all costs. It was once the “best preserved gold town in Victoria”. Unfortunately Indigo Shire Council doesn't want that any longer. Once our history is gone it is gone forever.

Yours sincerely,

John Harvey
Beechworth