

21/07/2020

The Editor  
The Ovens and Murray Advertiser  
Wangaratta, VIC

Dear Editor,

**Re: Burke Museum Moving Heritage Online (O&M Advertiser – 17/07/2020)**

Beechworth's Burke Museum is to be congratulated for its efforts to digitise the Museum's artifacts and photographs making them freely available online. It is a very worthy endeavour and will create a valuable resource for future generations.

Indigo Shire Council has recently embarked on a publicity campaign to prove its heritage credentials. Regrettably the Council is starting to believe that technology is all that is required to preserve Beechworth's priceless and irreplaceable heritage.

Turning the Beechworth Courthouse into a Ned Kelly theme park is not protecting Beechworth's heritage. The Council needs to concentrate on preserving, restoring and maintaining Beechworth's physical heritage. Technology, websites and digital images have their place but cannot replace "bricks and mortar". Virtual heritage is not real heritage. Inappropriate development, lax enforcement of heritage laws and the general neglect of historical buildings mean that real heritage is very much under threat. The present policies of Council will reduce Beechworth's history in a few short years to digital images on a website in the same way that the signage once promoting "Victoria's Best Preserved Gold Town" is now a mere #.

Yours sincerely,

John Harvey  
Beechworth