

# Malmsbury

Victoria

## Malmsbury Botanic Gardens



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The design of the Malmsbury Botanic Gardens takes advantage of natural features, including the topography and a billabong of the Coliban River floodplain, transforming it into a group of ornamental lakes, one with two islands. The northern boundary is lined with an avenue of Lombardy poplars, mostly replanted in 1985. The Gardens contain a fine collection of mature trees including, cedars, oaks, elms and redwoods. A Monterey pine grove is planted in the south-east corner. An English Hawthorn hedge and picket fence remnants remain along the southern and part of the eastern boundary, and once enclosed all of the Gardens. North of the pinetum is a tennis court overlooked by a simple gable roofed timber pavilion, formerly located at the northern end of the bowling green.



Avenue, Botanic Gardens



# Malmsbury Botanic Gardens and Railway Station are both open to the public

The land was reserved for public use in 1855, and by 1857 was specifically designated as a "Reserve for a Botanic Garden". The Gardens were first planted and permanently reserved in 1863. The initial design is attributed to Dr E Davy, a local councillor, under the influence of Dr Ferdinand von Mueller. The Malmsbury Town Hall on the edge of the Gardens was constructed in 1868. In the period 1880-1890, a bowling green, tennis court and croquet lawn were added. Malmsbury is one of Victoria's earliest botanic gardens and is associated with the gold rush history of Victoria, when towns which had grown as a result of the gold discoveries aspired to become major provincial cities with art galleries, botanic gardens, schools of art and design, and other cultural institutions befitting their status.

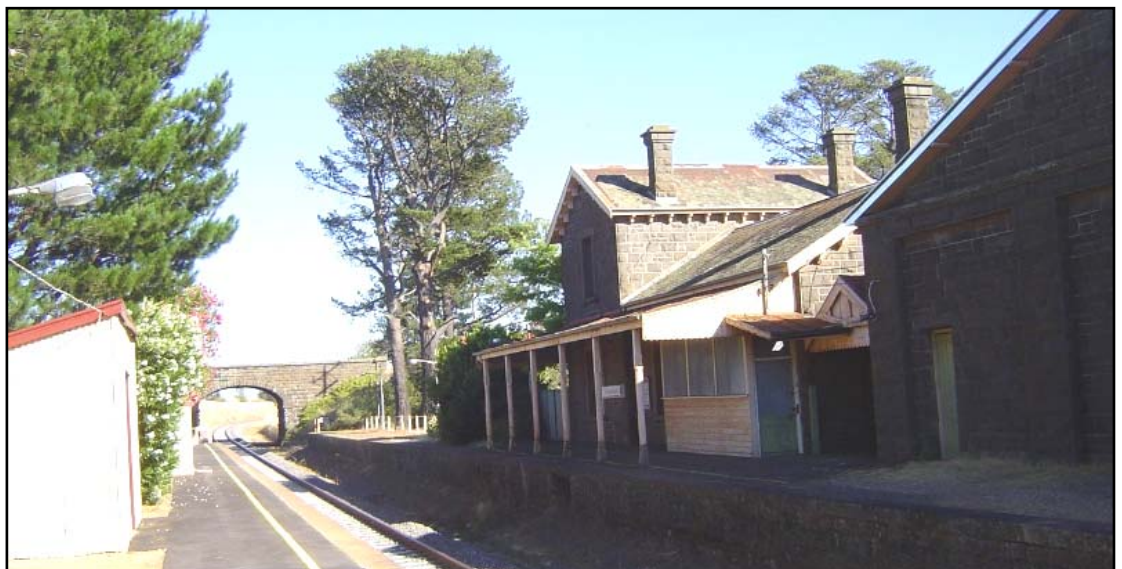
## Malmsbury Railway Station and viaduct

One of the most important vistas from the Gardens is to the 1859 bluestone railway viaduct, part of the government infrastructure based on the wealth from gold. This is a 500 feet long, rusticated basalt structure, erected in 1859 by Cornish and Bruce for the Victorian Railways. It carries the Melbourne-Bendigo Rail line over the Coliban River and comprises a five-span, segmented arch structure catering for two tracks.



View of viaduct from Botanic Gardens

The nearby Malmsbury Railway Station was constructed in 1862 by Robert Turnbull and Co. It comprises a single storeyed, standard basalt station building, with an attached two storeyed residence and timber additions. It is an early railway station for Victoria, built during the period of construction of the main trunk lines, the formative years of railway development in Victoria.



Malmsbury Railway Station

Heritage Council of Victoria  
Heritage Victoria  
Level 7, 8 Nicholson Street  
East Melbourne,  
Victoria 3002,  
Australia

Telephone: 03 96379475  
Facsimile: 03 96379503

[www.heritage.vic.gov.au](http://www.heritage.vic.gov.au)

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For more information contact the  
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