

# Geelong Advertiser

Geelong

## Corio MP Richard Marles wants Geelong heritage trail, similar to London's

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Corio MP Richard Marles wants Geelong to recognise its heritage sites, with plaques and information boards at key areas including Malop St, where James Harrison invented refrigeration. Picture: Nigel Hallett

CORIO MP Richard Marles wants Geelong to take a leaf out of London's book by establishing a trail of information boards highlighting the city's significant sites and wealth of hidden history.

Mr Marles called on the City of Greater Geelong to act as he spoke on the issue in federal Parliament on Monday, saying Geelong's story was significant part of Australia's story and deserved to be better told.

City council heritage portfolio holder Cr Tony Ansett said the suggestion had been aired before but not costed, and he could not agree more with Mr Marles.

“We’ve got a lot to tell,” Cr Ansett said.

He plans to raise a similar proposal in next budget talks.

“I’ll put it on the table to see whether I could get some support with it or not,” Cr Ansett said.

“It’s something I’d be passionate about doing and we don’t have to do it all at once do we, we can start just chipping away.”

Mr Marles said London’s comprehensive series of blue heritage plaques, identifying and telling the stories behind more than 900 points of interest, made an example worth following.

“This is the oldest heritage model of its kind in the world which celebrates London’s past, its people, its architecture and its achievements, bringing it all together to be discovered in the present,” Mr Marles said.

“In Geelong a similar system would be welcome to shed light on our incredible history.”

He said the case of Geelong’s global father of modern refrigeration James Harrison made a case in point.

“That spark of genius, which has changed so much in the world, occurred in Geelong,” Mr Marles said.

“A little bit of snooping on the *Geelong Advertiser* website and an inquiry to Geelong Heritage Centre yields the likely site of that being on the corner of Clare and Malop St, where the Whyte, Just and Moore law firm now resides.

“Yet there is nothing around that indicating that such a significant moment in global manufacturing history, let alone our own, occurred at that place.”

He said Geelong did not celebrate its heritage as well as other regional cities.

“Certainly we do not do it like Ballarat and Bendigo, for whom their heritage is an enormous source of tourist attraction and a big part of their economy,” Mr Marles said.

“If we did it, we could do it so much better.”

Cr Ansett said Geelong had more heritage buildings recognised by the National Trust than Bendigo and Ballarat combined.