

Korean visitors help out

By Erin Williams

SOUTH Korean volunteers helped restore the historic Macaroni Factory in Hepburn Springs last week as part of the Hands-on-Heritage program.

Managed by Conservation Volunteers Australia, the Better Earth team of eight removed exotic weeds, constructed a retaining wall, levelled the outside dining area and reconstructed a fence.

Team leader Brian Anderson said most of the participants were on a working holiday and improving their English.

He said the team had been working with the CVA for about four weeks and would transfer to Bendigo and Melbourne this week.

CVA partnerships man-

ager Peter Sacco said volunteers found it rewarding to participate in preserving Victoria's valuable cultural and environmental heritage.

He said volunteers with CVA enjoyed the outdoors, met new people and learnt new skills, while making a difference to the environment.

Marina Gibson, 20, from Brisbane, said she enjoyed maintaining and protecting the Macaroni Factory's grounds.

"It's been good. I've enjoyed working outside," she said.

The Macaroni Factory is the oldest Italian building within Australia and consequently is of great historical, scientific, industrial and social significance.

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ABOVE: Inyi Kim, left, and Jedeok Moon from South Korea lend a green thumb to help tidy up around Hepburn's Macaroni Factory.

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LEFT: Better Earth team leader helps his conservation volunteers improve the surroundings of the historic factory.

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