



**National Trust of Australia (Victoria)  
Bendigo and Region Branch  
Newsletter  
June 2018**

***Some words from the Branch President***

**Heritage Studies Needed-An Opinion**

**Protecting Greater Bendigo's Biggest Attraction-its Heritage**

Bendigo is known worldwide for its gold and the wealth it gave to the world in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It was once the richest city in the world. It is also known to Australians for its magnificent streetscapes and built environment. Therefore, it needs protecting and the only way to do that is through studies that come to recommendations that lead to protection. Not only is Bendigo's heritage not fully protected but some of the studies such as the 1993 Eaglehawk & Bendigo Heritage Study are now out of date and it becomes more difficult to protect those sites in the study when applications for demolition are lodged. More sites also need to be added to the study.

There is an amount of \$105,000 for further studies in the budget and a further \$80,000 for an Open House Bendigo Initiative. Open heritage events have no trouble making money if a small entry fee is charged, therefore, it would be more prudent to spend that money on further studies and provide a small sum to coordinate such an event with community organisations and members from the Heritage Advisory Committee taking an active role.

There is also a sum of \$70,000 to purchase bricks from the now demolished Epsom Primary School. Again it makes sense to divert this amount to studies to protect existing unprotected heritage buildings.

In summary Council could spend \$235,000 on studies to protect Greater Bendigo's heritage at a time of expanding population, heritage is under its greatest threat.

What do you think? Can you contribute to the debate?

## **Branch Meeting**

### **Shamrock Hotel Baxter Room**

### **Tuesday 26 June – Guest Speaker- Kristen McKay**

All members and friends are welcome to come along to the June Branch meeting. Guest speaker will be Kristen McKay, Curator of the Soldiers' Memorial Institute Military Museum located in Pall Mall.

As you would be aware the Memorial has undergone significant development over the past year and it is set to reopen later in the year. Kirstin will update us on its development and plans for the future. There will also be a review of the Heritage Festival so that plans can be put in place for next year. What would you like to see in next year's program?

The meeting will be held at the Shamrock Hotel, Pall Mall, who will provide a free venue to the National Trust at 7.30pm on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> June.

### **2018 Heritage Festival**

Our Bendigo Branch Heritage Festival events were a great success. All of our tours were booked out and the open day at Hard Hill was well attended.

We managed to arrange to have access to several sites which are not normally open to the public, including the Bendigo Gasworks and the Wattle Gully Gold Mine at Chewton, and our sincere thanks to the City of Greater Bendigo and Parks Victoria for making these places accessible. A big thank you also to all who attended, and especially to those who volunteered at the events contributing to their success.



*The Bendigo Gas Works Tours were booked out well in advance.*





*The Coliban Main Channel Bus Tour proved popular in spite of the cold weather.*



*Old and new technology at the Wattle Gully Gold Mine.*



*Visitors enjoy a visit to "Hard Hill" in California Gully, while WIN News talk to owner Peter Cox*

## **Volunteers Needed**

The Committee is looking for a couple of people to assist with its operation. Firstly with tracking possible demolitions being lodged with Council and providing a summary to the Branch.

Secondly someone to organise the sale of Branch publications. The books provide a valuable source of funds that help the branch to advocate on heritage issues. If you can assist please contact the Branch President, Peter Cox on 0447 473 674.

**Branches Forum Held In Ballarat** Six members of the Branch committee attended a National Trust Branches forum in Ballarat. Major issues discussed included an overview of the Trust's Strategic Plan and a review of the Branches Manual and governance procedures for branches, reports from Tasma on state heritage issues and its financial position.

The National Trust has launched the National Trust Advocacy Toolkit to support individuals and communities advocate for the protection of places of heritage significance. This useful document comes in five parts and may be downloaded from the National Trust website.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/advocacy-programs-vic/>

There is a Foundation in place to finance the National Trust Properties and their upkeep. The National Trust of Victoria Foundation aims to have \$200 million, the interest from which will be used to fund urgent conservation and preservation projects for the long term survival of NT properties. There is a current appeal for funds. Perhaps the Branch could have a fundraiser to boost the fund?

Here is some information from the National Trust website

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/about-us-vic/foundations-vic/>

The National Trust of Victoria Foundation provides the opportunity to build a sustainable future for the Trust and to assist in its important work.

The National Trust of Victoria Foundation was established for the purpose of creating a significant, secure fund to allow the National Trust in Victoria to carry out its mission and vision of preserving and conserving Victoria's heritage well into the future.

The Foundation will be able to direct funding to urgent conservation and preservation projects that have been deferred. National Trust resources will be freed up to engage in heritage education and learning programs, and maintain the National Trust's strong independent voice for heritage advocacy. There is a mistaken perception in the community that the National Trust has excess funds on which to draw. The cost of the upkeep and conservation of the Trust's irreplaceable heritage properties runs into the hundreds of thousands of dollars annually.

The reality is that without the strong and active support of the Victorian community our heritage is at risk. Everyone is therefore affected by this. It is imperative to act and solve this, and if not now when?

And finally the committee meets each month. If you would like to join the committee and contribute to the operation of the Branch please let me know.  
Peter Cox Branch President 0447 473 674



## Heritage Protection or Demolition by Neglect

The Branch Committee discussed a number of heritage properties that are falling into disrepair at its last meeting.

As members could you send in a photo of such a property so that consideration could be given as to what action the Branch could take on this issue?

There was an article in The Age where property owners who do not maintain their protected property can be prosecuted. A report on the issue of demolition by neglect in Victoria was commissioned by the National Trust with the support of the Heritage Council of Victoria and completed in 2014. It may be downloaded from The National Trust website at

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/initiatives/demolition-by-neglect/>



*A Bendigo property falling into ruin*

## Monthly Discussion on National Heritage Listing

A group continues to meet monthly to discuss the possibility of Bendigo being listed on the National Heritage Register. Like Broken Hill which is listed Bendigo has greatly influenced the development of Australia as a national and therefore could be considered for nomination.

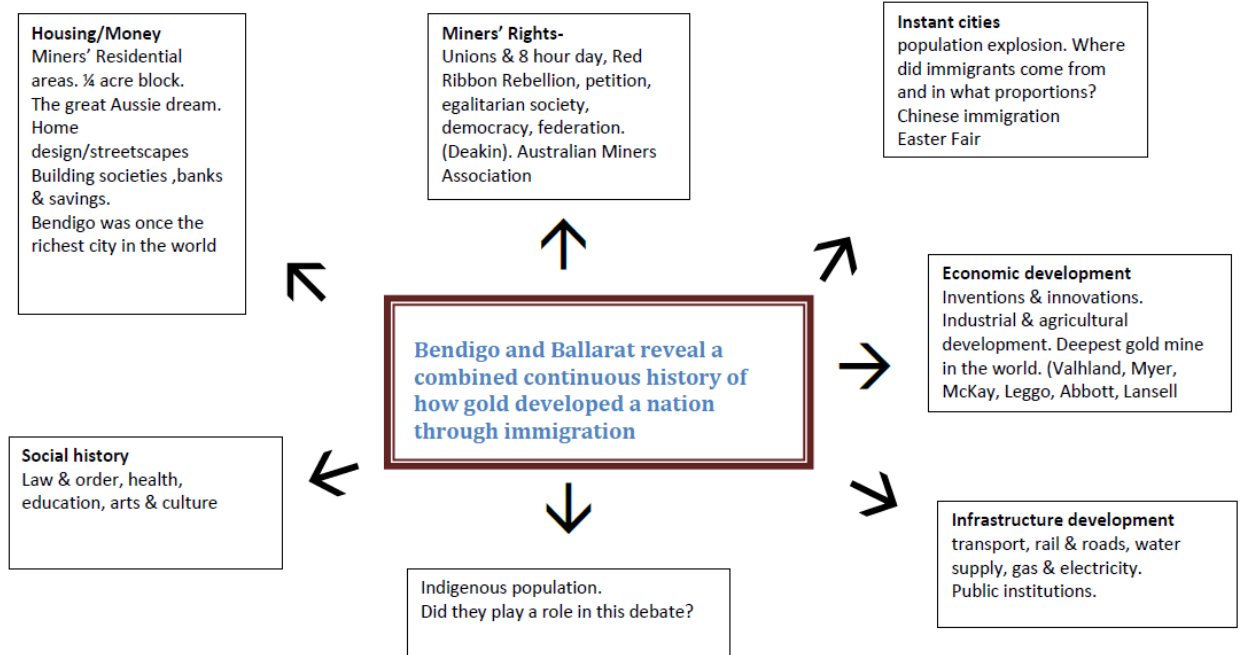
The group has come up with its central theme and would like to team up with Ballarat for a combined nomination

“Bendigo and Ballarat reveal a combined continuous history of how gold developed a nation through immigration.”

Members are welcome to join the discussion. Much research is needed.

Below is a diagram of discussions.

## Is Bendigo worthy of national heritage recognition?



We welcome your ideas, contributions and images to the Newsletter. Please let us know of your concerns on heritage issues.

And don't forget to keep up with the current issues at the Trust Advocate Blog at <http://www.trustadvocate.org.au/>

Our publications, *Bendigo at Work: an industrial history*, *Post War Portrait: photographs by Allan Doney* and *R A Love: Goldfields Architect* are available at the Tourist Information Centre, Old Post Office, Pall Mall.

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