



National Trust of Australia (Victoria)

Bendigo and Region Branch

February 2019 Newsletter

BENDIGO & REGION BRANCH MEETING

**MONDAY 25TH FEBRUARY, 7.30PM, Baxter Room, Shamrock Hotel,
Williamson St, Bendigo**

GUEST SPEAKERS

Kylie Howe, Greater Bendigo's Heritage Advisor and Emma Bryant, Greater Bendigo's Heritage Planning Officer. ***ALL WELCOME***

Our heading includes some bridges from our region- How many do you recognise? Answers next time.

Some words from the Branch President

Welcome back to the National Trust in 2019. We hope you have had an enjoyable Christmas period and that the heat has been bearable for you. We can look forward to our lovely autumn weather in the months ahead (and hopefully some rain!).

Kylie Howe was appointed Greater Bendigo's Heritage Advisor late in 2018 and our first Branch meeting for 2019 presents an opportunity to meet her and learn about her new job and the challenges that go with it. Emma Bryant will also speak on the Council's Heritage Studies and what's ahead during the year.

Being an active Branch means knowing the issues and leading the discussion on a wide range of heritage topics. Two iconic historic buildings, The Bendigo Law Courts and the Bendigo School

of Mines are to change their uses and it is important that the Branch is involved in the process to make sure these buildings are maintained and have a practical use in the years ahead. Reading the newsletter you will see that the Branch is active on a number of issues and we encourage you to get involved with your comments, research and ideas.

Committee Meetings

The committee will meet on the third Monday of each month at 6pm. If you would like to contribute please contact President Peter Cox on 0447473674. Your 2019 Branch Committee consists of President Peter Cox, Secretary Kay MacGregor, Treasurer Gary Hill, Newsletter Elaine Doling and committee members Rosemary Stipanov, Darren Wright, Helen Wansink.

Branch Meetings -Dates for 2019- All Welcome

Our Branch Meetings are held in the Baxter Room at the Shamrock Hotel at 7.30 pm

Save these dates. We will have an interesting speaker for you at each meeting. Don't forget to check out our Facebook page for updates.

Monday 25th February, Wednesday 1st May, Monday 24th June, Monday 26th August, and Monday 28th October, with the AGM on Monday 25th November at 6pm.

Branch meetings are open to the public with the venue being ideal for a meal or a drink before the meeting. Please support them as The Shamrock provides its venue free of charge to the National Trust for its meetings.

More Committee Members wanted from 'out of town' or more Branches needed in Region

The committee is very much aware that the Branch does not fully represent the region as all committee members are from Bendigo. Are there members who would like to see more action on heritage issues in other localities? Do you have ideas, would you like to join the existing committee or form a new Branch in your town?

Your feedback will be appreciated!

Members are encouraged to submit short articles and photographs to raise awareness on heritage issues in the Bendigo region.

Peter Cox

Branch President

0447473674

The Australian Heritage Festival 18th April to 19 May 2019

This year the Branch has organised visits to Sampson's Cottage, Golden Square, the Shearing Shed on Ravenswood Run, miner's cottage Hardhill, California Gully, and a tour of Bendigo Botanical Gardens, White Hills. Some of these will have limited numbers. Keep an eye on <https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/ahf/vic/> for booking details to become available. They will also appear in the Heritage Festival Victoria booklet.

We have also organised “**An Oracle on Bendigo’s History**” which will be an interactive evening where the audience will be able to ask questions of five historians. It will be held in the Federation Room at the Shamrock Hotel on 1st May, 7.30pm with bookings essential. (Text 0447473674)



1 Sampson's Cottage, 2 Ravenswood Shearing Shed, 3 Hardhill, 4 Bendigo Botanic Gardens

Other local history/heritage organisations also have many events as part of the Festival and a local program will be published in early April.

Branch Activities

Spring Gully area-Brick/Stone Culvert under (former?) Government Road in the Bendigo Regional Park

The Branch committee recently had an excursion to the Spring Gully area to inspect a stone and brick bridge. The heritage feature appears to be an early culvert under a road way. Several large stones appeared to have been recently pushed off from the top of the structure, likely to be vandalism, with others having been moved in the past. Some graffiti is also present within the tunnel area of the structure.

The culvert does not appear to be on maps or on Historic Places databases. It seems to date to the 1860s. The committee decided to contact local authorities and look at records at the Bendigo Regional Archives Centre and the Bendigo Historical Society to seek further information and start the process to get the structure heritage listed and repaired.

Thanks go to Norm Stimson and James Lerk for providing information.



The stone bridge at Spring Gully

Greater Bendigo's Historical Artefacts

It has now been 18 months since the Strategic Report on Greater Bendigo's Historical Artefacts was written by Dr. Megan Cardamone.

The report says-

“The five groups in this study care for around 45,000 items of local heritage on behalf of the Greater Bendigo community. This volume of heritage material is of a size held by a major regional museum and yet they are being cared for by only 47 volunteers, 23 of them are volunteers in roles of legal responsibility and group leadership. These volunteer groups perform highly valuable service to the Greater Bendigo community. Some are extremely vulnerable due to shrinking member number and volunteer bases. All attempts should be made to keep them operating so they can continue to care for these collections. However it is important to plan now for the possibility that some groups may not be viable in the next few years.”

While the above statement refers to five groups, there are many other groups experiencing a similar crisis. The groups are meeting with City of Greater Bendigo Mayor Marg O'Rourke and officers in late February to further discuss the need for urgent action to support these groups.

The report did not include the considerable holdings of the City of Greater Bendigo held at the Central Deborah, Tramways and Gas Works.

Below is the **2018 Annual Presidents Report** presented to Annual General Meeting held on 27th November 2018.

Annual Report, Bendigo & Region Branch 2018

The 2018 Branch Committee consisted of- Peter Cox (President), Kay MacGregor (Vice President), Kate Crockford (Secretary), Gary Hill (Treasurer), Elaine Doling (Conservation & Newsletter), Peter Sheehan, Rosemary Stipanov, Helen Wansink and Darren Wright.

The Branch has enjoyed an eventful year with many activities including monthly committee and bi-monthly Branch meetings with newsletters being published bi-monthly. A very successful Australian Heritage Festival program was conducted with openings and tours at the Bendigo

Gas Works, Bendigo Law Courts, Coliban Water Main Channel, Chewton Town Hall, Wattle Gully Mine, and miner's cottage Hardhill. Branch meetings welcomed guest speakers David Bannear (Heritage Victoria), The Honourable Howard Nathan (Bendigo Law Courts), Kirsten McKay (Soldiers' Memorial Institute Military Museum), Darren Wright (Bendigo Joss House Temple) and Jane Cleary (Bendigo Botanical Gardens).

Submissions were written to-

- **Review of the Greater Bendigo Planning Scheme** "It is most important that a detailed program of heritage studies be undertaken and implemented so that Bendigo can ensure the protection of its significant places by a heritage overlay. There does not seem to be a sense of urgency for heritage studies."
- **The Strategic Report on Greater Bendigo's Historical Artefacts.** The establishment of an object storage and preservation facility and a Greater Bendigo Collection, Collection Policy, support for volunteers in the many history and heritage groups and the State Government be asked to transfer the custodianship of Specimen Cottage, Bendigo's first house from TAFE to the City of Greater Bendigo.
- **National Trust Branch Governance** It is not enough for Branch Committees to be the eyes and ears of the National Trust. Branches need to be able to display leadership without fear or favour in the same way that the National Trust does not accept funds from Governments for its operation. Branches need to feel that they are in charge of their operation in terms of issues raised, their financial security and their long term survival.
- Many in the community, including the National Trust headquarters at Tasma, campaigned for Nanga Gnulle and had a win at VCAT and later at Council. The Branch has also been active on the Bendigo Heritage Representative Group raising questions about the Historical Artefacts Strategy and organising a deputation to Council. The committee keeps an eye on demolition applications and makes representations when the need arises. It was disappointing to see the unnecessary demolition of the original Epsom Primary School building, despite objections including from the National Trust.

A small group of members have met during the year as a study group to research if Bendigo is worthy of recognition of being listed on the National Heritage Register.

The Branch continues to sell a range of books including 'Bendigo at Work' 'R A Love Goldfields Architect' and 'Post War Portrait'. Our thanks continue to go to Mike Butcher.

The Branch thanks the Shamrock Hotel for providing a room free of charge to hold Branch meetings.

Membership.

There are 233 memberships in the region consisting of single and family/household categories.

Members come from-

Bendigo area-50%

Castlemaine area-25%

Kyneton area-11%

Maldon area-8%

Heathcote area-3%
Maryborough area-3%

59% have household memberships.
43% hold concession memberships.
39% hold senior memberships.

An additional 40 members have let their membership lapse during 2018; 16 from Bendigo area and 9 from Castlemaine area.

Peter Cox, Branch President



Above are images of people enjoying some of last year's Heritage Festival events.

The 2018 AGM

**National Trust of Australia (Victoria) Bendigo and Region Branch
Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 27th November 2018, 6pm at La Trobe Arts
Institute 121 View St Bendigo**

1. Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners
2. Branch President Peter Cox welcomed members and guests including Simon Ambrose, Victorian CEO of the National Trust
3. There were 60 attendees

4. Apologies. James Lerk, Jean Wyldbore, Kristin Stegley
5. Minutes of previous AGM. Circulated
6. President's Report as circulated. Peter summarised the issues that the Branch had worked on during the year
7. Treasurer's Report
8. National Trust CEO Simon Ambrose spoke briefly on National Trust activities
9. Election of Committee-Simon Ambrose declared all committee positions vacant and called for nominations for the 2019 committee. The following members were nominated and declared elected. Rosemary Stipanov, Darren Wright, Elaine Doling, Kay MacGregor, Peter Cox, Gary Hill, Helen Wansink. The committee will meet in late January where committee positions will be decided.
- 10. Peter Cox thanked La Trobe University for waiving the venue hire fee for tonight's meeting and thanked the Shamrock Hotel for providing a venue for Branch meetings during the year without cost.**
11. Meeting closed at 6.30pm.

The Financial Report is available to Members upon request, and to view at Branch meetings.

Public Talk

Peter Cox welcomed guest speaker Scott Jackman, developer of the All Saints Church site, Forest St Bendigo.

Scott gave a comprehensive presentation on the plans that have been submitted to Council to construct 14 residences on the site including the retention of the original church building. There were questions and comments from those in attendance. A small presentation was made to the guest speaker. The Public Talk concluded at 7.45pm and the night finished with refreshments and further informal discussion.

COMING EVENTS THAT YOU WILL ENJOY

National Trust Heritage Festival 2019 at the Library

A number of interesting talks and workshops will be held at the Bendigo Library by various groups during the Heritage Festival. We have included the programme here. No doubt you will find something of interest.

Living in Bendigo, Past and Present

Involving Bendigo Library, Bendigo Family History Group, Bendigo Regional Archives Centre, Bendigo Regional Genealogical Society, Minerva Heritage, City of Greater Bendigo Heritage Dept, Bendigo Historical Society

Monday 29 April 2019:

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| 10.00am – 11.00am connection | Bendigo Regional Genealogical Society (BRGS) – Looking for a Bendigo Talk Introduction to finding Bendigo ancestors (Intro to family history) |
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11.00am – 3.00pm **BRGS** Research help (Every Monday, except Public Holidays)

2.00- 3.00pm **BRGS - They must have swum!**
Talk Using shipping records and other sources to find your ancestors' arrival.

Tuesday 30 April 2019

5.30pm – 6.45pm **Minerva Heritage Consultants - Looking for my house Part 1**
Bendigo's significant house styles
Talk What are the features that can help date a house?
Elaine Doling has many years of experience as a Heritage Consultant and will illustrate the features particularly relevant to dating houses in Central Victoria.

Wednesday 1 May 2019

10.00am – 4.00pm **Bendigo Family History Group (BFHG) Research Help** (Every Wednesday)
With experts and local resources at their fingertips, members of the BFHG are ready and willing to assist with family and local history research.

10.30am – 11.30am **Rita Hull Bendigo Family History Group – A Helping hand in Troubled times**
Index Launch / Talk The Bendigo Benevolent Asylum began as a home for worn out miners and then a place for destitute older people. The BFHG have been researching and indexing early records of patients and practices and are launching their latest database.

Thursday 2 May 2019

2.00pm – 3.30pm CoGB Heritage **Looking for my house Part 2: Identifying the site**
Using titles and Parish Plans
Talk/workshop Dannielle Orr will lead you through locating historical titles and finding and deciphering Parish Plans.

5.30 pm – 6.30pm Discovering History
Dr Brian Rhule **Construction and Near Destruction: the story of the Beehive Chimney and it's Bendigo-Maldon Connections 1861 - 1951.**

Saturday 4 May 2019

10.30am – 11.30am Bendigo Library **Looking for a footprint using TROVE**
Workshop with Bendigo Library research staff exploring the local information that can be found in the National database.

10.00am – 3.00pm BFHG Research help

Monday 6 May 2019

10.00am – 11.00am **Bendigo Regional Genealogical Society (BRGS) – Looking for a Bendigo connection** Talk Introduction to finding Bendigo ancestors (Intro to family history)

11.00am – 3.00pm BRGS Research help (Every Monday, except Public Holidays)

Tuesday 7 May 2019 Bendigo Historical Society

10.30 – 11.30 **These are a few of our favourite things** Talk combined with Exhibition
BHS volunteers have each researched a favourite piece from the Collection. Hear some of the stories unearthed through the cataloguing and preservation of treasures donated to

the Bendigo Historical Society.

Wednesday 8 May 2019

10.00am – 4.00pm Bendigo Family History Group (BFHG) Research Help (Every Wednesday)

Thursday 9 May 2019

2.30 – 4.00pm Bendigo Library **Looking for my house Part 3**
Following the people who lived in your house through Rate books, Electoral rolls, Directories and other sources.

Saturday 11 May 2019

10.00am – 3.00pm BFHG Research help

PLEASE LET US KNOW YOUR CONCERNS!

Don't forget The National Trust has an interest in industrial and mining heritage, trees, landscapes and gardens as well as buildings! And we don't just concentrate on the Bendigo town area—we include the following areas- Castlemaine Kyneton Maldon Heathcote Maryborough Goornong and Rochester, and we would love to hear from you!

PLEASE CONTRIBUTE TO THE BRANCH'S NEWSLETTER !

We welcome your ideas, contributions and images to the Newsletter. Please let us know of your concerns on heritage issues. We would really welcome "Letters to the Editor". And keep up with the current advocacy issues at the Trust Advocate Blog at <http://www.trustadvocate.org.au/>

EBAY SHOP STILL NEEDED

The Branch has copies of 'Bendigo at Work,' 'R A Love Goldfields Architect' and 'Post War Portrait' for sale and would like to sell them on line. Is there a member who has an eBay shop that the books could be sold through? Contact Peter 0447473674

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.

National Trust of Australia (VIC) Bendigo & Region Branch

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We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Victoria and recognise the continuing connection to lands, waters and communities. We pay respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures; and to Elders past, present and future.

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