

## Annual Report, Bendigo & Region Branch 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 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.

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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 demolition of the original Epsom Primary School building.

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