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**NATIONAL TRUST**

*Every moment an amazing story*



The pictures in our heading this time feature Bendigo Miner's Cottages.

**National Trust of Australia (Victoria)**

**Bendigo and Region Branch**

***August 2019 Newsletter***

***BENDIGO & REGION BRANCH MEETING***

***ALL WELCOME***

***Monday 26<sup>th</sup> August, 7.30pm***

***Baxter Room Shamrock Hotel***

***9-23 Williamson St Bendigo***

***Guest Speakers: Residents from the Bannerman St Heritage Precinct-***

***Joe Dailey & Marie Bonne***

***“How Much Development Is Too Much?”***

Residents from the Bannerman Street Heritage Precinct have recently won a VCAT hearing to protect a Miner's Cottage at 10 Hill St Bendigo from inappropriate development. In the June newsletter their submission to VCAT could be read, and now the response from VCAT is available at

<http://www6.austlii.edu.au/cgi-bin/viewdoc/au/cases/vic/VCAT/2019/843.html>

We will celebrate their success and learn from their experiences at VCAT where they have won several hearings, and learn why they are so passionate about Miner's Cottages.

Here is a link to the Bendigo Council's Heritage Design Guidelines for Miner's Cottages

<https://www.bendigo.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2017-04/Heritage-Design-Guidelines-2-Miners-Cottages.pdf>

## *An update from the Branch President*

The Branch committee continues to follow up on issues, but unfortunately it all takes time to get results.

Here is the latest on issues raised in the previous newsletter-

- The Greater Bendigo Council is writing up a heritage citation on the Beebe observatory which is located on private land at 55 Condon St Kennington. It appears the sale of the property has been taken off the web. Do members have any updates?
- Ravenswood Stone Cottages are located on Crown Land. The Department of Environment are getting quotes for repair work and will cover the cottage which has had its roof blown off. A meeting is planned to further discuss the long term management of the site.
- Spring Gully Bridge/Culvert is under consideration for repairs and protection. While one meeting has been held with Parks Vic, several attempts to gain an update has not resulted in any response.
- Vic Roads has been contacted for a plan to plant trees as a result of the removal of many mature trees in the construction of the Ravenswood Overpass on the Calder Highway. No definite response has been received as to when this will occur.

## *We need your help*

There are many issues which need members' attention. The Branch is only as strong as the action taken by members. Our small committee tries, but can't do it all alone! If you have information please let the committee know. If you would like to join the committee to strengthen its action please contact me. The AGM will be held November 25<sup>th</sup> so if you are considering nominating for the committee you are welcome to attend current committee meetings which are held on the third Monday of each month at 6pm at 36 Hopper St Bendigo. We would welcome some Committee members from Maldon Castlemaine Rochester Maryborough Heathcote and other areas in our region. Please call 0447 473674 if you would like to attend.

*Peter Cox, Branch President.*

0447 473 674

## *Upcoming Events*

### **Spring Gully Water Reserve Walk**

**Thursday 29th August 10am to 1pm.** This is a Reserve that has been closed to the public for over 30 years. Members are welcome to join the committee to inspect this site. There is a limit of 15, you need to be fit and wear suitable outdoor walking attire. Bookings and further information ring Peter on 0447 473674.

### **Bendigo Creek Walk**

**Sunday 15th September 9am to 11am.** The Greater Bendigo Council has started a 'Reimagining Bendigo Creek Plan'. See the link on council site for further information

<https://www.bendigo.vic.gov.au/Services/Strategic-Planning/Strategic-Planning-Projects/Reimagining-Bendigo-Creek-Plan>

The Branch is conducting a walk along the creek from Golden Square to Lake Weeroona to gain an appreciation of what it is like to see the precinct from the creek bed. We will start the walk at the bridge near the Golden Square Fire Station where gold was first found in Bendigo, enter the creek via the pathway and then walk along the cobble stones to Charing Cross, go under the bridge and on to Lake Weeroona. There is a pathway out of the creek just near the Rowing Club Rooms. Strong walking footwear is essential and you will need to walk the full distance, approximately four kilometres. Meet at the Golden Square Fire Station at 8.45am.

Bookings 0447 473674.

## *Heritage listing for Bendigo. Is this an issue worth pursuing?*

### *National Heritage Recognition for Greater Bendigo*

The National Trust of Australia (Victoria) Bendigo & Region Branch would like Greater Bendigo to be recognised on the Australian National Heritage Register to highlight the distinct impact that Bendigo has had on Australia's development.

In particular, the impact of immigration from countries all over the world due to the discovery of gold in Bendigo in 1851 which has led to diversity in all aspects of Australian life and growth.

Once one of the richest cities in the world because of its gold deposits, Bendigo attracted immigrants from all corners of the world which has over time has made Australia the most successful multicultural country in the world. They came with their skills and experiences that led to innovations to not only extract the gold for over 70 years but many other long lasting influences in housing, manufacturing, agriculture and services such as the delivery of water, gas, in the retail industry and in banking. It influenced, above all, the type of democracy and fair go for all that Bendigo and Australia has embraced to make Australia what it is today.

Bendigo has played an influential role in Australia's social history and political system being directly instrumental in processes leading to federation, challenging government and police corruption and introducing a unique egalitarianism to the way we live. It has achieved this with strong, non-violent representation while it has used innovation as its primary growth tool and acknowledged that different cultures have important contributions to make in building a community.

Bendigo is a City with wonderful architecture and streetscapes born from the riches of gold which have survived for over 150 years. Bendigo is renowned throughout Australia through the thousands of visitors it has each year. It is a City in a forest, very remarkable having had every tree cut down mainly due to mining. Registration for Greater Bendigo will highlight its magnificent heritage at a time when population is rapidly expanding and development threatens its historic fabric.

#### **Nomination**

A group of National Trust members have been meeting to discuss the nomination leading to some research and discovery of a number of themes based on immigration as being the major factor which underpinned Bendigo's growth.

There are nine criteria upon which Greater Bendigo could apply for nomination with criteria (a) probably being the most relevant. It states; "the place has outstanding heritage value to the nation because of the place's importance in the course, or pattern, of Australia's natural or cultural history." This includes places strongly linked to economic, political or social processes that tell a story important to the nation.

#### **Bendigo reveals a continuous history of how gold developed a nation through immigration.**

It reveals this story through five themes which include

##### **An instant city**

Population explosion

Where did the immigrants come from and in what proportions?

Cornish impact

Chinese impact

##### **Development of democracy**

Red Ribbon Agitation

Forming an egalitarian society

Australian Miners Association

Federation

## **Finance and housing**

Miner's residential areas/1/4 acre block

The great Aussie dream

Home design and street scapes

Building societies, banks and savings

Stock exchange

One of the richest cities in the world

## **Infrastructure and business development**

Inventions and innovations

Deepest gold mine in the world

Industrial and agricultural development

Transport through rail and road

Water, gas and electricity supply

Public institutions

## **Its services and cultural activity**

Law and order

Developing health and education services

Arts, culture and entertainment

## **A way forward**

The group has asked itself; Is Greater Bendigo worthy of national heritage recognition? Its answer is yes! There are many people and organisations who have methodically documented Bendigo's history over the years. It is important to obtain feedback from these people through their works and to delve into the writings of those who have passed on to better understand their research. The five themes as mentioned above may change as a result. It is important that this nomination is community based and we go forward with the most factual information that truly represents how Bendigo influenced the building of a nation.

It is important to note that Greater Bendigo is also involved in a group of thirteen councils in Central Victoria who are working towards getting recognition on the World Heritage Register for the Central Victorian Goldfields which includes the major centres of Bendigo and Ballarat. While this will take some years, registration for Bendigo at a National level will enhance World Heritage listing at a regional level.

**What are your thoughts? Are the topics relevant? Do you know of research which could contribute if it was decided to proceed with a nomination? Are you against working towards a nomination? Are you interested to join the Group? Please provide feedback. You can email your thoughts to [nattrustbendigo@gmail.com](mailto:nattrustbendigo@gmail.com)**

## ***Council responds to Branch's budget submission***

The June newsletter contained a copy of the Branch's budget submission to Greater Bendigo Council. Here is a copy of Council's response.

### **Heritage Items Update**

1. Bendigo City Centre Heritage Study - Finalisation of the City Centre Heritage Study has been delayed due primarily to mapping issues which as advised previously is a state wide issue. The specific issue is that due to the close and often multi-storey nature of buildings in the City Centre, CoGB used aerial photography to map the contributory and non-contributory elements of buildings i.e. the building footprint. However, the State requires us to use the cadastre from the Victorian spatial data system and unfortunately when the two layers are placed together the cadastre can be up to 1 metre out. This has made it quite complex to map the intricacies of 19th century heritage buildings in the City Centre.

While waiting for the mapping, the next steps in preparing the information for a planning scheme amendment have commenced. Cost: internal staff resources are being utilised.

2. The Greater Bendigo Heritage Strategy - Last year, through the budget process a three year allocation of funding was committed to undertake heritage studies. To ensure the funding is optimised an independent Gap Study was commissioned to identify the priority of works to fill the heritage study gaps. This work is considering the quality and updating requirements of the existing studies as many are quite old as well as identification of new studies.

As part of this independent review, input was sort from various heritage groups including a National Trust representative. This work is expected to be finalised in June/July. The recommendations will then be used to inform the Heritage Strategy and allow the conversation to occur with the community regarding their perspectives on heritage and the recommended list of priority works. It should also be noted that there is some very obvious gaps in the studies which will result in some of this work commencing ahead of the finalisation of the Heritage Strategy. Costs: Draft base budget indicates \$81,000.

3. Updating the 1993 Eaglehawk and Bendigo Heritage Study - Work has now commenced on this major piece of work, and is using the Golden Square Structure Plan area as a pilot study. We will be reviewing the application of the heritage overlay in this area to protect those places currently unprotected by the Heritage Overlay, and are updating the Statements of Significance for the precincts so that they can better support statutory planning decisions. Costs: Internal staff resources are being used for the base data collection this financial year. In the next two financial years, Heritage Studies will have an allocation of \$380,000 (\$190,000 19/20 and \$190,000 20/21). Some of these funds will be utilised for this work.

4. Big Hill and Mandurang Valley Landscape Assessment – Whilst being important and on our out years’ program of work, there is no specific budget allocation to progress this further, however, existing staff resources will review the government’s decision to determine next steps prior to considering a budget bid.

5. Greater Bendigo’s Significant Tree Register - The future of this register has been considered as part of the Gap Analysis and further work will be undertaken to ensure that significant trees are protected. Costs: No specific budget allocation until project is fully scoped and considered in the context of the priorities of all heritage work, which will inform the Heritage Strategy.

6. Historical Artefacts Strategy – Discussions have commenced with potential funding bodies. Once the options have been fully investigated Council will be able to consider what funds may be required in future years. Existing staff will continue to provide support to collecting groups through such initiatives as the Museums Victoria training for collections currently being organised for late 2019.

7. Protecting Heritage while supporting affordable housing – request for structural advice to be provided by the Heritage advisor - The heritage adviser currently provides advice to owners and potential owners of heritage buildings on what structural issues a building might have and how they can be repaired and renovated. It is appropriate that the enquirer then uses this advice to obtain independent professional advice, either via a builder, engineer or architect, to support a future planning or loan application, as the adviser will have to assess the application on behalf of Council. The City further supports potential purchasers by providing heritage design guidelines and a heritage loan scheme, which can be used to cover the cost of professional advice as part of a renovation project.

## *Heritage Issues*

It seems that the Ballarat City Council is way ahead of Bendigo as it has adopted a Heritage Strategy and a 10 Year Heritage plan, which you can see at

[www.hulballarat.org.au/cb\\_pages/ballarat\\_heritage\\_plan.php](http://www.hulballarat.org.au/cb_pages/ballarat_heritage_plan.php)

However Bendigo is not the only place lagging behind in heritage protection, as can be seen in the following article about the lack of heritage protection in Elsternwick, Melbourne, leading to the loss of heritage homes.

Quoting the National Trust's Advocacy Manager, Felicity Watson, the article ends with "Ms Watson said many councils simply lacked the resources to conduct regular, rigorous assessments of what should be protected, and called for the State Government to fund them. "I think this is really crunch time, where the State Government needs to work with local government to address this issue," she said. "It keeps coming up again and again, and the community outcry is growing."

Read the article here

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-08-03/battle-to-save-melbourne-heritage-homes-from-developers/11378710>

## *Some more events you might be interested in*

### **Collection Policy Development Workshop**

Thursday 22th August 10am to 3.30pm

La Trobe Art Institute 121 View St Bendigo

Provided free by the City of Greater Bendigo

Bookings: [www.bendigoregion.com.au/bendigo-art-gallery-events/collection-policy-development-workshop](http://www.bendigoregion.com.au/bendigo-art-gallery-events/collection-policy-development-workshop)

### **Upcoming Post Office Gallery Exhibition**

'Pieces of a story: people and places of Bendigo'

11th October 2019 to 29th March 2020



As part of National Family History Month, Bendigo Regional Archives Centre invites you to explore

## **After Hours Archives**

Saturday, August 24, 2019 from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM (AEST)

Weekday workers, BRAC is making it easier for you to access local, original public records by adding an extra Reading Room day this Family History Month.

Join a quick introduction to BRAC at 10am if you're unfamiliar with our collection, or drop in any time to view all those records you've been waiting to see!

No bookings required but records should be ordered before 12PM Thursday 22 August via PROV's catalogue - a guide to ordering can be downloaded [HERE](#).



## **PLEASE LET US KNOW YOUR CONCERNS!**

## **PLEASE CONTRIBUTE TO THE BRANCH'S NEWSLETTER !**

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

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! Send your thoughts, contributions and photos to our email [natrustbendigo@gmail.com](mailto:natrustbendigo@gmail.com)

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 0447 473674

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**

**PO Box 123, California Gully, VIC 3556**

**Phone President, Peter Cox 0447 473 674 Email [natrustbendigo@gmail.com](mailto:natrustbendigo@gmail.com)**

**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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