



**National Trust of Australia (Victoria)**

**Bendigo and Region Branch**

## *October 2019 Newsletter*

**BENDIGO & REGION BRANCH/PUBLIC MEETING**

**ALL WELCOME**

***MONDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 7.30 PM***  
***FEDERATION ROOM SHAMROCK HOTEL***  
***9-23 WILLIAMSON ST BENDIGO***

### **THE BENDIGO CITY CENTRE PLAN**

**Panel of speakers: Mayor Cr Marg O'Rourke, Architect Brad Hooper & Developer Scott Jackman and audience comment.**

#### **What will Bendigo's heritage look like in 2050?**

The long awaited Bendigo CBD Heritage Study which commenced in 2016 has not been released in preference for the City Centre Plan. The Branch believes strongly that the CBD Heritage Study must influence the City Centre Plan. It is always difficult to play catch up when development is put before heritage. Why the delay? Heritage contributes to Bendigo's economy more than any other single factor! Statements such as the following quote are of concern in the absence of the CBD Heritage Study

*"The City Centre has many important, high value heritage buildings (as well as civic spaces) which work together to create the rich character of Bendigo that we all value. The collective heritage value of buildings should not be compromised or undermined by the retention of every building simply because they are old or nice. Existing buildings will need to be considered in the context of the quality and quantity of already-protected examples. Economic and broader community benefits need to be weighed up in the same way that heritage is."* Page 23

Please encourage family & friends to come along to this important discussion.

We encourage everyone to download and read the draft Plan from Bendigo Council's website before the meeting

<https://www.bendigo.vic.gov.au/Strategic-Planning/Strategic-Planning-Projects/Bendigo-city-centre-plan>

Download the full document here [Bendigo City Centre Plan](#)

Please write a submission to council listing your concerns, and also what you think are good aspects of the plan. Submissions close at the end of October.

One Member put it this way

“The statement that heritage concerns with regard to planning in the Bendigo CBD should be a secondary concern is absolutely reprehensible. This serves to undo all the good work that has been undertaken for nearly half a century and will lead us back into the dark ages of the 1950's & 1960's and the "anything goes" approach to planning and development that the council took then. This has left us a lot more lacking in our built heritage than most people realise. It almost appears that everything has been thrown into the "too hard basket" or being done so as not to upset potential investors and developers. Our unique Bendigo Heritage is why people want to visit and reside here; we do not want to become a city full of bland, aesthetically abhorrent and low quality constructions. People might as well stay living and working in metropolitan Melbourne. The CBD Heritage study was commenced and therefore must be finished, nothing else should even be considered until this is so.”

**What are some of the buildings that you cherished and admired for their architecture elegance and practical use in years gone by? Let us know.**

*Peter Cox*

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

The release of the City Centre Plan with priority over the CBD Heritage Study has come as a complete surprise to the Branch. It certainly appears that development over heritage is an issue at Council. It is important that we all express our views to Council by making a personal submission. It does not have to be long but a statement expressing your view so that you become part of the process which will continue over the next few years.

Heritage and development can sit side by side, but being sensitive to our great history. To cater for population expansion, homes surrounding the CBD must be returned to residential rather than using them for business. 50% of them are now used for business and many of them have wonderful heritage features. The car yards along High St have already been designated for residential development and older industrial buildings can be rejuvenated for housing as demonstrated in many cities.

The Branch wrote to Greater Bendigo Mayor & Councillors requesting that the CBD Heritage Study be released before the City Centre Plan. However the Council decided to proceed with the City Centre Plan first. Please see link here: <https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/2019-10-09-Draft-City-Centre-Plan.pdf>

At the last Branch meeting residents from the Bannerman St Heritage Precinct spoke on Miners Cottages and their recent success at VCAT in saving a cottage at 10 Hill St Bendigo. You can read their talk at.....

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Shamrock-for-Trust-Publication.pdf>

I hope you enjoy reading the newsletter. Your feedback is important and perhaps you might like to raise an issue that the Branch can take action on.

*Peter Cox. Branch President. 0447473674*

### **Survey on City Centre Plan.**

There is a short survey on line that you might like to fill in about heritage in the CBD.

Here is the link.....<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/75F7DHH>

## ***Victoria Hill Talk & Tour. All Welcome.***

***Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November at 10am***

Victoria Hill is one of Bendigo's best kept secrets. It is open every day, is free and provides visitors with a history of the gold mining era via a short walk through this mining area.

Meet at the Albert Richardson Reserve opposite the Gold Mines Hotel in Marong Rd just past Spotlight. There is a picnic area so bring along a coffee or flask of tea for morning tea. Listen to Billy Allen tell the story of the site and enjoy a walk through the mining heritage site. This is a visit for all ages.



Victoria Hill has a fascinating tale to tell!

***Save the Date- Branch AGM. Monday 25<sup>th</sup> November 6pm***

***La Trobe Arts Institute 121 View St Bendigo.***

***Public Talk: Jon Marshallsay, Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation.***

The AGM will be held at 6pm followed by the Public Talk.

Members are asked to consider being a committee member. The Branch would like to see more Branches in the region as the Bendigo & Region Branch is only active in Bendigo. Those interested could discuss activities with the current committee.

Most Bendigo residents know so little about the history of Dja Dja Wurrung so the meeting will provide some interesting stories. The night is open to the public.

### **Some books on Aboriginal History.**

Almost everything observed and commented on has been, of course, by the colonizers. For example Major Mitchell's Journals are surprisingly [perhaps] enlightening. His comments on the knowledge and usage of the environment and tools by the native/local people is extensive.

Bain Attwood; The Good country: the DDW, the settlers and the protectors. [Bain presents both sides]

Paul Haw; Footprints Across the Loddon Plains: a shared history.

Bruce Pascoe; The Dark Emu

Stan Grant; The Australian Dream

I think you would find "First Australians" useful too. It is written by Aboriginal people. The book is edited by Rachael Perkins and Marcia Langton.

Also Bill Gammage's "The Biggest Estate on earth, How Aborigines made Australia"

*Diana Collier*

You will find these books by Dr Fred Cahir useful as well-  
"Tanderrum: Freedom of the Bush", Fred Cahir

"Black Gold: Aboriginal people on the Goldfields of Victoria" by Fred Cahir is available as a book and also for free download at

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/323963597\\_Black\\_Gold\\_Aboriginal\\_People\\_on\\_the\\_Goldfields\\_of\\_Victoria\\_1850-1870](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/323963597_Black_Gold_Aboriginal_People_on_the_Goldfields_of_Victoria_1850-1870)

*Editor*

### ***Bendigo Creek Walk held last month.***

The walk along the Bendigo Creek was organised by the National Trust Bendigo Branch with members completing the walk from Golden Square fire station to Lake Weeroona Rowing Club car park on Sunday 15 September 2019.

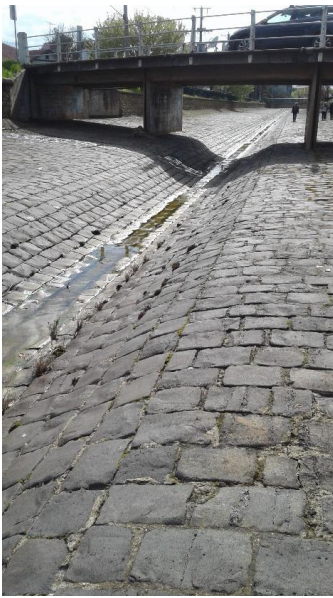
The 4 km walk along the Bendigo Creek highlighted the skill and craftsmanship of the early residents who were instrumental in designing, manufacturing and building the blue stone curb and channelling of the creek. In various locations the bluestone and sandstone wall is suffering significant subsidence, requiring urgent repair, however the craftsmanship of the walls and gutters in the Bendigo creek, which are over 100 years old, is still standing strong thanks in part to the ongoing investment and the importance of maintaining the historic waterway heritage status.

We walked under Charing Cross Bridge reported as one of the widest bridges in Australia. The walk takes under an hour and was widely used by residents in years past.

*Allison Glanville.*

We have included below a number of photos for your enjoyment- a very different view of Bendigo! *Editor*





### ***Spring Gully Reservoir Walk.***

On Thursday 29 August a group of members enjoyed a tour around the Spring Gully water reserve in beautiful spring weather. Accompanied by Andrew from Coliban Water, we managed to pile into two 4x4 vehicles and were able to visit a number of sites we would not have been able to on foot. Apart from the large number of very interesting mining relics and geological features, the bush is a haven for wildlife and ground orchids and wildflowers were starting to open. One of the most interesting sites visited was an early open cut mine. The site of Diamond Hill village was also seen. A recently collapsed mine shaft served as a reminder of the dangers of attempting to explore the area unaccompanied. Fortunately this area is now mostly undisturbed and protected within the water reserve.



### ***Spring Gully Bridge Update.***

The Branch has been advocating for this unnamed site to be repaired and protected as vandals have damaged its structure. Peter Foster from Parks Victoria reports that contracts to undertake repairs and fencing have been called for with works commencing before Christmas.

Kay MacGregor reports-

“I have found a Shire of Strathfieldsaye tender advertisement ( 12<sup>th</sup> November, 1879, Bendigo Advertiser) which seeks a tender ***‘to be received at the Shire Hall till 12 o’clock noon on Thursday, the 20<sup>th</sup> November, 1879, for the following Works:-***

1. ***Cutting hill, forming bank, and constructing masonry culvert in Spring Gully, near the Reservoir bank.***

As discussed previously, there are quite a few mentions of culverts being built in the Spring Gully area but this sounds particularly promising. Mention of the reservoir bank places it definitely in the right area.”

### ***Barfold Gorge***

The Gorge has apparently outstanding geological values to potentially National significance, as well as other very high values including scenic, European and Aboriginal heritage, biodiversity, aesthetic bushwalking / potential tourism, etc. values. There are apparently some issues in regard to access as you have to cross private property to enter.

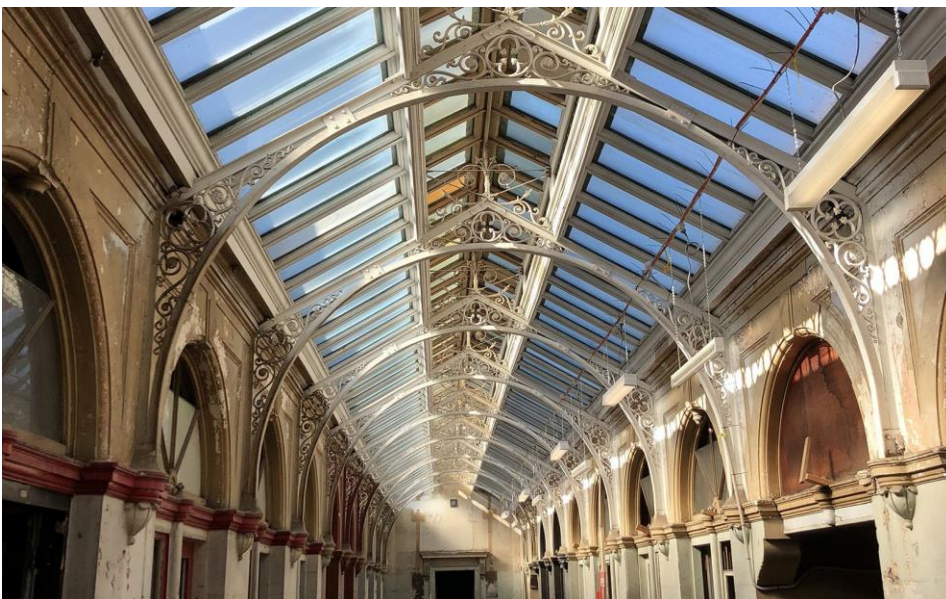
The Branch would be interested to talk to members who have information about this important site. *It might make an interesting visit.*

### ***Open House Bendigo 2019***

The Open House Bendigo Weekend, 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> October, will open 27 buildings old and new in Bendigo, Eaglehawk and Castlemaine. It also contains talks and tours of precincts.

The full program is at [www.openhousebendigo.org](http://www.openhousebendigo.org)

If you would like to volunteer at Open House Bendigo please contact Brianna Carroll at [brianna.carroll@ohm.org.au](mailto:brianna.carroll@ohm.org.au)



The Beehive Building is one of the featured properties.

### ***Branch Website***

The Branch website is located at

[www.nationaltrust.org.au/branches-vic/Bendigo-branch/](http://www.nationaltrust.org.au/branches-vic/Bendigo-branch/)

You can read past newsletters and other information relevant to branch activities.

## ***An Interesting Event***

Emma Busowsky Cox has forwarded an invitation to an interesting event-

You are warmly invited to attend a special lecture with Dr Ian Travers, President, Australia ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites).

### **Moving with the times: Cultural heritage and national identity**

**THURSDAY 24 OCTOBER, 6PM**

**La Trobe Art Institute, 121 View St, Bendigo**

Places of cultural significance enrich people's lives, often providing a deep and inspirational sense of connection to community and landscape, to the past and to lived experiences. They are important expressions of Australian identity and experience, and may be significant for their aesthetic, historic, scientific, social or spiritual values, for past, present or future generations. Notions of what is culturally significant are not necessarily fixed, however, and may change over time alongside societal values or as a response to modernity. What then are the implications for the conservation of places of cultural significance in Australia?

The International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) is primarily concerned with cultural heritage conservation and is UNESCO's principal adviser on cultural matters related to World Heritage. ICOMOS Australia's *Burra Charter*, adopted in 1979, provides a best practice standard for managing cultural heritage places in Australia for those who provide advice, make decisions about, or undertake works to places of cultural significance, including owners, managers and custodians.

Dr Charles Fahey, Department of Archaeology and History, La Trobe University will provide an introduction and refreshments will be provided.

For more information and bookings please visit:

<https://www.bendigoregion.com.au/bendigo-art-gallery/bag-events/lecture-moving-with-the-times-cultural-heritage-and-national-identity>

Best wishes,  
Emma

**Emma Busowsky Cox**

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## **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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