



National Trust of Australia (Victoria)

Bendigo and Region Branch

February 2020 Newsletter

BENDIGO & REGION BRANCH MEETING

ALL WELCOME

Monday 17th February 6.30pm

Baxter Room Shamrock Hotel

9-23 Williamson St Bendigo

**The Beehive Stores: The Past, Present and Future
A Panel Discussion with Darren Wright & Allison Glanville**



Pall Mall Bendigo ca. 1890

Image: Museums Victoria

Bring Your Stories, Memories & Photographs

An application to construct a six storey hotel on part of the Beehive site facing Hargreaves Mall has been lodged with Heritage Victoria. Here are the details of the application. The Branch is interested to hear your views on this application and you are encouraged to make a submission to Heritage Victoria.

VHR H0686

Beehive Building Complex, 306-314 Hargreaves Street and 18-26 Pall Mall and 2-11 Allans Walk and 1-5 Beehive Plaza, Bendigo

Permit application P31366 for a permit to demolish internal walls, roof and the Hargreaves St façade, and construct a new six level hotel building (ie. ground plus five levels).

- [Heritage Impact Statement \(PDF, 2.1 MB\)](#)
- [Plans \(PDF, 8.0 MB\)](#)

Submissions close Wednesday 12 February 2020.

Some words from the Branch President

Welcome to 2020 and I hope you had an enjoyable Christmas and New Year. We welcome two new committee members this year; Allison Glanville who has returned to Bendigo from Queensland and Kay Smith who is the Manager of the Bendigo TAFE Library. Rosemary Stipanov has resigned as she now spends a lot of time in Melbourne. Gary Hill and Elaine Doling did not renominate having spent over 10 years on the committee. We thank them all for their passion and commitment to the Branch over many years.

Mark in your diaries!

This year all meetings will be held on the **third Monday of each month** in the Baxter Room at the Shamrock Hotel.

Branch Meetings, guest speaker and project reports at 6.30pm on the following Mondays

17th February, 20th April, 15th June, 17th Aug, 19th Oct with AGM on 16th Nov.

Committee Meetings, review of projects and branch organisation **at 5.30pm** on the following Mondays- 16th Mar, 18th May, 20th July, 21st Sept, 14th Dec.

Committee meetings are open to all members who might like to get more involved in the Branch and there will be a segment where anyone can come along and make a 10 minute presentation on a heritage issue they think the Branch could take action on.

As there are many issues which need addressing the committee encourage more people to participate in getting heritage issues addressed.

There will be two special events as part of the Australian Heritage Festival, one on the Mandurang Valley and the other on Dr E. Graeme Robertson's Cast Iron Collection which is in storage in Bendigo. Join his son, Dr Denis Robertson and Professor Miles Lewis for this event. Details of these events can be seen later in the newsletter.

The 2019 Branch Annual Report and Minutes of the 2019 Branch AGM can be found at the end of the Newsletter.

The Branch thanks the Shamrock Hotel for providing a meeting place for the Branch. You are encouraged to have a drink or a meal in the Shamrock Café.

Peter Cox Branch President 0447473674

Branch Projects

Ravenswood Cottages- The Branch has been working with DELWP over the past 12 months to preserve these stone buildings that probably date pre gold rush. Currently a new roof is going on one of the cottages. At a meeting last week it was decided to form a Management Committee for the site. The Branch is interested to talk to people who have a knowledge of the site so that a nomination can be prepared for it to be added to the State Heritage Register.



The Ravenswood cottages in 2019

Spring Gully Bridge/Culvert- The Branch has been advocating for repairs to be undertaken to this historic bridge which has been vandalised. It is understood that works will start shortly.

CBD Heritage Study- Again the Branch has been advocating for this Study to be released to the community. It is understood that over 300 sites have been evaluated and as Council has been working on this Study for four years and that re-developments like the Beehive Building are being considered, it is important that the Study is released for public comment. The City Centre Plan is also being considered but should only be considered in the context of the Heritage Study.

2020 Tree of the Year. Just in from head office!

Good morning Branches,

We are currently welcoming nominations for Victorian Tree of the Year. I'd like to invite each Branch to consider making a nomination of a tree in your region to the list. From there, in consultation with our Significant Tree Committee, a shortlist of 10 trees will be put together for the voting, which occurs during the Heritage Festival (April 18 - May 19).

Please note that the tree must be included in

<https://trusttrees.org.au/>

You can find out more about Tree of the Year here: <https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/treeoftheyear/>. If your Branch would like to make a nomination, please send me an email before Monday 2 March. I would also welcome updated photos on any trees nominated, if you notice that the photos on the register are out of date.

Kind Regards,

Eloise Dowd

Environmental Heritage Advocate

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Email: eloise.dowd@nattrust.com.au

National Trust of Australia (Victoria)

6 Parliament Place, East Melbourne, VIC 30

We do have some trees on the register in the Bendigo region, so have a look and we welcome your suggestions. Some examples are included in our heading.

The Australian Heritage Festival 2020

The Branch has organised two events- details below. Other regional organisations will be holding many other events which will be advertised in the next newsletter.

Water, Woes, Food & Wine in the Mandurang Valley National Trust of Australia (Victoria) Bendigo & Region Branch

The Mandurang Valley has been a productive food and wine region for over 160 years. Join local wine producers Wes and Pamela Vine, who started business in the Valley in the late 1970's, as they share their successes and challenges of working in this beautiful region.

SUN 3 MAY 1:30–4PM

Mandurang Valley Winery, 77 Fadersons Lane, Mandurang

[Bookings: nattrustbendigo@gmail.com](mailto:nattrustbendigo@gmail.com)

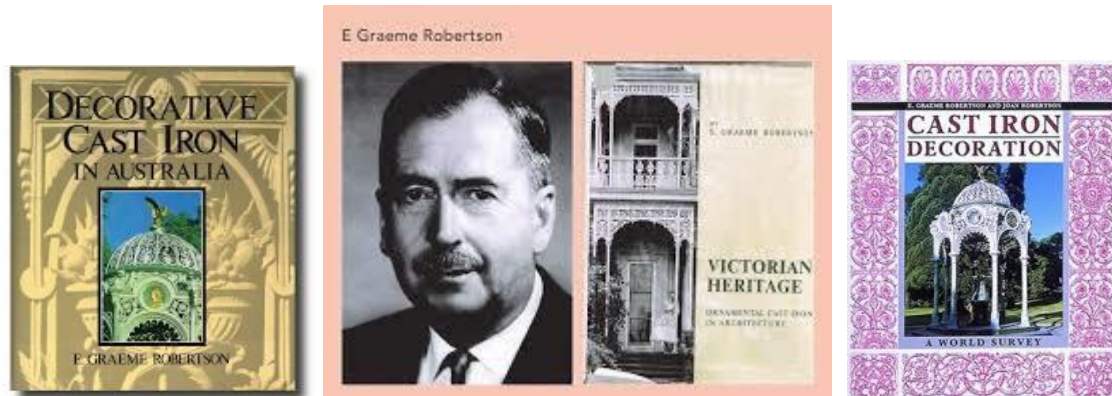
ADULT \$10



Wes and Pamela Vine- enjoying the fruits of their labour

The Revival of the Dr E. Graeme Robertson Cast Iron Collection

National Trust of Australia (Victoria) Bendigo Branch in partnership with La Trobe University, Bendigo



Dr Graeme Robertson, a founding member of the National Trust in Victoria, played an instrumental role in the defence of Victoria's 19th Century ornamental cast iron. He authored a number of books on cast iron, and arranged a collection of decorative cast iron and other cast iron items currently held in storage in Bendigo. Join his son, Dr Denis Robertson and Professor Miles Lewis to learn more about Robertson's legacy and how he campaigned throughout the 1950s-60s to protect this significant piece of our built heritage. This event is sponsored by Latrobe University, Bendigo.

SUN 17 MAY 2-4PM

La Trobe Art Institute, 121 View St, Bendigo

Bookings: natrustbendigo@gmail.com

BY DONATION

National Trust of Australia (Victoria)

Bendigo & Region Branch

Annual Report 2019

Branch Committee consisted of- Peter Cox (President), Kay MacGregor (Secretary), Gary Hill (Treasurer), Elaine Doling (Conservation & Newsletter), Rosemary Stipanov, Helen Wansink and Darren Wright. Allison Glanville has been assisting the committee. I thank them for their commitment during the year.

The Branch has enjoyed a successful year with many activities including monthly committee and bi-monthly Branch meetings with newsletters being published bi-monthly. Speakers at Branch meetings have included Emma Bryant and Kylie Howe (Council Heritage Planning), Lindsay Jackson (Bendigo Mechanic's Institute & Free Library), historians James Lerk, Darren Wright, Rita Hull, Jim Evans and Leigh McKinnon at the Oracle on Bendigo's History, Joe Daily and Marie Bonne (Bannerman Street Heritage Precinct Group) and Mayor Cr Margaret O'Rourke, architect Brad Hooper and developer Scott Jackman. (discussion on the Bendigo City Centre Plan).

The Branch conducted five events during the Australian Heritage Festival program with openings and tours of the Ravenswood Shearing Shed, the Bendigo Botanical Gardens at White Hills and Miners Cottages at Hard Hill and Black St Long Gully along with the Oracle event. Another twenty events were held by other organisations in the region. Your ideas for the 2020 Festival will be most welcomed.

Submissions were written on

- **The Strategic Report on Greater Bendigo's Historical Artefacts-** the Branch met with Council who have prioritised a new building at the Bendigo Regional Achieve Centre in Nolan St to store artefacts.
- **Greater Bendigo City Council Budget-** the Branch emphasised the need for more heritage studies and the release of the 2016 Bendigo CBD Heritage Study, the need for a Heritage Strategy, further work on the protection of the Big Hill/Mandurang Valley area, a Significant Tree Register and support for aging volunteers who care for historical collections.
- **The Draft Bendigo City Centre Plan-** the Branch advocated that the unreleased CBD Heritage Study must inform the City Centre Plan and that residential sites now operating as businesses be returned to residential. The Branch is concerned that development is a higher Council priority and that design guidelines need to be clearly written and implemented.

Branch Action. A range of issues were raised with authorities and continue to be followed up for adequate protection and maintenance. These include

- Spring Gully bridge/culvert off Wattle Drv. Parks Victoria
- Ravenswood Cottages located near historic shearing shed. DEWLP
- John Bebee's Observatory at 55 Condon St Kennington. Bendigo Council
- Replanting of trees at the Ravenswood/Marong overpass. Vic Roads

Other events during the year.

Walks and tours were conducted in the Spring Gully Water Reserve, the Bendigo Creek and at Victoria Hill.

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 and Yola Collins.

The Branch thanks the Shamrock Hotel for providing rooms free of charge, namely the Baxter Room and The Federation Room to hold Branch meetings. We particularly acknowledge the owner of the Shamrock Hotel, Jim Hogan, who has supported the Branch over many years and who has recently sold the business. We also thank La Trobe University for providing a subsidy to hold the AGM at this venue and have done so for many years.

Membership.

There are 243 memberships in the region consisting of single and family/household categories.

The Year Ahead

The Branch thanks Gary Hill and Elaine Doling for their commitment over many years to the National Trust and taking on the responsibility at committee level for operating the Branch. They have been the mainstays and have raised many issues which otherwise would not have been acted on.

They now operate their own heritage consulting business, Minerva Heritage, and need to separate their personal involvement at committee level, however, they will continue to be active as Branch members.

Therefore, it is important that other members and supporters step up to take on the many heritage and historical issues confronting Bendigo at this time. While the follow up on issues can be slow with governments at all levels giving heritage a low priority it is perhaps appropriate at this time that we look for inspiration from previous leaders. While pressing governments for action must remain the primary role of the Branch, reflection on visionary ideas from the past can give us new energy and attract a new generation to get involved. The Branch committee has decided to take up this challenge by learning more about Dr E. Graeme Robertson. (1903-1975)

Graeme was a neurologist and conservationist. While maintaining a private practice he also worked at four Melbourne hospitals. (Vic Eye & Ear, Royal Melb, Royal Women's, Royal Children's) Both the British and American Associations of Neurologists accorded him honorary membership.

Interested in 'architecture and furniture and allied things of beauty, and concerned about the destruction of fine 19th century buildings in the name of progress, Graeme helped to found the Victorian Branch of the National Trust of Australia in 1956. He was a keen photographer who often rose at dawn to take his shots. The play of light on the detail of buildings captivated and fired his passion for decorative cast iron. He was appalled that councils throughout Victoria were ordering the destruction of cast iron verandahs in the 1950's & 60's. His first non-medical book, Victorian Heritage (Melb 1960) captured in words and in photographs the beauty of the State's ironwork. It helped to apply a brake to what he called 'vandalism' committed by those in authority. He published many other books. In 1969 he became the founding chairman of the

National Trust's committee for cast iron. Examples that he had gathered over many years formed the nucleus of the Trust's collection. It remains in storage, awaiting the fulfilment of his dream that it will be housed in a museum dedicated to cast iron. (Australian Dictionary of Biography, Vol 16, 2002)

This collection is stored in Bendigo. The Branch will be active in 2020 to not only have this collection on display but to establish a library where restorers can gain patterns for their restoration works. The Collection also includes statues, stoves, hall stands, clocks, door stops, altar rails and a variety of other items.

This is a project that is worth engaging the Victorian National Trust, all levels of governments, business and the wider community to come up with a solution to Graeme's dream. It will not be easy to achieve but through the good will of all the parties it can be achieved. We would like you to join us to make it a reality.

Peter Cox

Branch President

Bendigo & Region Branch

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 25th November 2019, 6pm at La Trobe Arts Institute 121 View St Bendigo

National Trust of Australia (Victoria) Bendigo and Region Branch

PO Box 123

California Gully 3556

1. Acknowledgement of Traditional Owners
2. Branch President Peter Cox welcomed members and guests including guest speaker Jon Marshallsay, Program Manager, Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation
3. There were 38 attendees
4. Apologies. Simon Ambrose, Leo Brunier, Ros Trimble
5. Minutes of previous AGM accepted.
6. President's Report as circulated. Peter summarised the issues that the Branch had worked on during the year
7. Treasurer's Report, Gary Hill.

8. Election of Committee- Gary Hill declared all committee positions vacant and called for nominations for the 2020 committee. The following members were nominated and declared elected. Rosemary Stipanov, Darren Wright, Kay MacGregor, Peter Cox, Helen Wansink, Allison Glanville. The committee will meet in late January where committee positions will be decided.
9. 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.
10. Meeting closed at 6.30pm.

Public Talk

Peter Cox introduced Jon Marshallsay, Program Manager Cultural Heritage, Dja Dja Wurrung Clans Aboriginal Corporation. Jon is an archaeologist and has been working in Bendigo for three years. Jon spoke on the history of the Dja Dja Wurrung.

There were questions and comments from those in attendance. A small presentation was made to the guest speaker.

Public Talk concluded at 7.45pm and the night finished with refreshments and further informal discussion.

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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