



National Trust of Australia (Victoria)
Bendigo and Region Branch

May 2020 Newsletter

BENDIGO & REGION BRANCH MEETINGS AND EVENTS POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE DUE TO COVID 19

Some words from the Branch President

Dear members and supporters

We hope you are coping with the current situation with Covid 19 and that you are looking forward to more contact with friends and family over the coming months. You will be notified when Branch meetings resume again. Newsletters are produced bimonthly but as there are no meetings this is an extra edition to keep you up to date with local heritage issues.

The Greater Bendigo Council has now released the Bendigo City Centre Heritage Study. It is also considering a six storey hotel at the Beehive site while Mount Alexander Council has postponed the debate on the sale of the Chewton Wesleyan Church. Allison Glanville tells us about her research into the house 'Stirling' and there is more about the Beehive owner James Buick from Mike Butcher.

Peter Anderson from Queensland has responded to an article on architect John Beebe and his observatory and has provided a story of his life once he left Bendigo. The article is fairly long and includes a number of photos, so it has been uploaded to our webpage www.nationaltrust.org.au/branches.vic/bendigo-branch

If you are interested in a particular issue let the Branch know about it as it might be able to get involved or if you are keen on heritage and would like to become involved in a project there is plenty to do. The Branch also requires a space for its records as the storage space in the Nolan St Signal Box is now required for other purposes. It will require a small space for two filing cabinets, some boxes of books and signs. Any ideas?

The newsletter takes up some of the issues the Branch is working on.

Peter Cox, President. 04474736

The Bendigo City Centre Heritage Study Released

Here is the link to the City Centre Heritage Study – Stage 1 Volumes 1 and 2:

<https://www.bendigo.vic.gov.au/About/Document-Library/bendigo-city-centre-heritage-study-stage-1-vol-1-final-apr20-pdf>

[https://www.bendigo.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-05/Bendigo City Centre Heritage Study Stage 1 Vol 2 Final Apr20.pdf](https://www.bendigo.vic.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-05/Bendigo%20City%20Centre%20Heritage%20Study%20Stage%201%20Vol%202%20Final%20Apr20.pdf)

You will need to go to the bottom of the council page to click on the volumes.

The story of this study is long as it started back in 2015 and was only released after the May 6th Council meeting. The two volumes are long and will need some thorough research and discussion if the Branch is to put in a submission in regard to the Planning Amendment which will take place in the coming months. It is suggested that a small group be formed to discuss the study and prepare a submission. There is a great deal of history written in the volumes which you will find interesting and rewarding. The Branch will need to ask itself ‘what has been left out’ and ‘how will development evolve as a consequence of the study’?

You can contact Peter (0447473674) if you would like to contribute.

Six Storey Hotel for Bendigo?

The Branch has submitted objections to both Heritage Victoria and the Greater Bendigo City Council to the permit application to alter the Beehive Building Complex and its associated buildings to construct a new six storey hotel. The Branch believes the proposed works would fundamentally transform the cultural heritage significance of the existing structures which have existed in their current form from the 1870's when the current Beehive Store was built. The new hotel building will have significant impacts on the historical streetscapes and heritage places that surround the site. There are over 24 heritage buildings within 200 meters of the site with many more in the wider precinct.

Comment

The new proposed construction on this site must display the highest design qualities to justify inclusion on such a historical site. The plans present a building with little architectural merit with no separation from Allan's Walk. The entrance to Allan's Walk in Hargreaves St completely ignores its historical context of a well-used historic thoroughfare. While the applicant does not own Allan's Walk, as it uses it as a major entrance to its facilities it has a responsibility to maintain and enhance its historical building fabric. A white building of six stories will dominate the landscape when many of the existing buildings are constructed of red brick. The design of the surrounding buildings demonstrates the planning of a particular era when design and construction was displayed in the beauty and skill of the completed building. The buildings illustrate public art in their design and tradesmanship in the use of textures and materials used to blend for a finish that are admired by people from all walks of life. This is manifested by the millions of visitors that have come to Bendigo over the years to have an architectural experience

and to admire the craft of construction that is not displayed in the plans exhibited for this new construction.

There are alternative sites available including the derelict former Gilles factories close to Bendigo Railway Station.

It has been reported in the media that Council is considering three hotel developments and with the addition of the new hotel development opposite Lake Weeroona, inner city tourist beds could increase by 400. This will impact negatively on the many small family businesses which currently provide visitor accommodation throughout Greater Bendigo. There are also other issues such as ratepayers paying for car parking infrastructure as the new developments are unlikely to provide their own parking and traffic management and pedestrian impacts in the city centre.

While the time for objections has closed, submissions are accepted by Council up until it considers the applications.

Recording the history of your home

Every home has a story to tell and it is interesting to find out who has lived in it, who built it and so much more information which builds the story of Bendigo or wherever you live. When I purchased my property at Hard Hill the previous owners left an album in the house of its history including historical records, photographs of renovations and sketches of the house. What a wonderful idea. I was well pleased and have added new information as I find it for the next owner. After all we are just custodians for a while.

Do you have an album in your home telling its story? It does not matter how old the house is. It still has a story to tell and could well be around in a hundred years. Here is an article provided by Allison and the story of “Stirling”. She also gives details on how she found the information.

Peter.

Researching our house by Alison Glanville



'Stirling'. Photo: Alison Glanville

Purchasing an old house is always exciting and when we purchased our house in Bendigo in March 2019 the first thing we wanted to investigate was the year of the house and who were the first occupants and most importantly what was the name of the house.

The title search we received from our conveyancer had the house listed at 1915. That date did not fit the style of architecture of the house. The house was a terrace brick with an old cast iron verandah and 15 foot ceilings. To us the house was much older perhaps early 1880's.

We attended the Bendigo Regional Archive Centre located on the first floor of the Bendigo Library to obtain a copy of the old rates books. The rates books did not display the number on the house, house numbers did not come into existence until early 1900's

Rateable value of houses were processed by the valuer walking around the streets, sometimes from left to right, a way of ascertaining the house was the name of the occupant, names of the house or the tenant. This did not change very often so reading the rates books required an exercise in reading the rates book as if the rates valuer was walking down one side of the street then crossing the street and keeping a valuation of changes to properties, from vacant land to a house the following year.

Notes from rates books held in Bendigo Library

Year	land	Owner	Tenant	Ratable value
1869	Land vacant	H.N Fick		
	vacant			
1883	vacant	John Sinclair Stewart		4
1884	vacant	John Stewart		4
1885	Land unfinished	John Stewart		14
1886	Land and house	John Stewart- Miller		38
1887		John Stewart	Alfred J Smith stationer- Auction of goods	38
1888		Caroline Stewart	James Sleigh railway inspector	38
1889		Caroline Stewart	James Sleigh railway inspector	38
1890		Caroline Stewart		38
1891		Caroline Stewart		38
1892		John Stewart		38

1893		John Stewart		38
1894		John Stewart-Caroline died 17 January 1894	J Gray	38
1895		John Stewart	Perry Hutchins Manager	38
1896		John Stewart		38
1897		John Stewart		38
1898		John Stewart		38
1899		John Stewart		38
1900		John Stewart		38
1901		John Stewart		38
1902		John Stewart		38
1903		John Stewart	William Stevenson accountant	38
1904		John Stewart	Henry Quennal	
1905		John Stewart		
1906		John Stewart	Clowney - Draper	
1907		John Stewart		
1908		John Stewart		
1909		John Stewart		
1910		John Stewart		
1911		John Stewart	William Kessel - Bank clerk	
1912	Died Dec 1912		Fanny Putnam	
1913	Garvin from Estate of Stewart	George Dawson Garvin	Edward Hunter- post office worker	

We were able to ascertain that the land was vacant land in 1884 and then concluded based on the increase in rateable value that a house was built between 1885 and 1886 and we were able to conclude that the house was an 1885 late Victorian Terrace.

Sometimes builders/ architect advertised by tender people to build houses in the Bendigo Advertiser. We were unable to find a tender for this build. However, when we had our roof

replaced last year the builder advised us that the trusses were built as if it were for a factory. So it may have been built by a team of builders who also worked on other industrial factories/sites /buildings in the area.

There were also distinguishing features of the building which matched certain architects of the 1880's. Mike Butcher attended our house and was able to accurately assess, based on the type of cast iron on the verandah that it was designed by Architect Joseph Brady. Joseph Martin Francis Brady was an Architect from Dublin who was responsible for designing many buildings in Bendigo.

First owner - John Sinclair Stewart

We researched on the TROVE website under the Bendigo Advertiser articles the death notice of John Sinclair Stewart and then located his probate documents on the Public Records Office of Victoria website in Victoria .

John Sinclair Stewart was born in 1852 at Bannockburn Scotland (5 minutes by road to township of Stirling Scotland) and died in December 1912. He came over from Scotland to Australia when he was 11 with his family. John Sinclair Stewart was a miller by profession and established with Scott a flour mill in Wills street Bendigo (also known as Grimsby flour mill) . He lived in one of the terraces (with his wife) and tenanted the other .

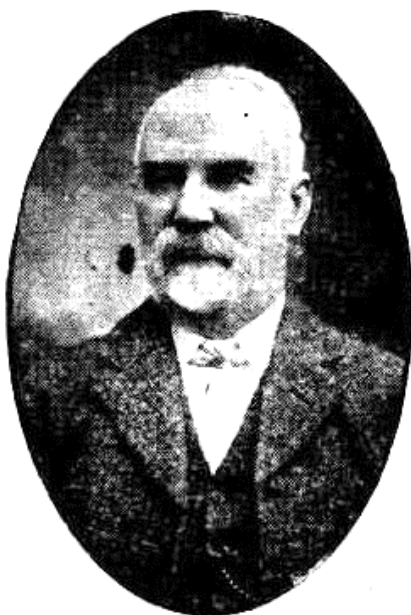
John Stewart was married to Caroline Stewart, his second wife was the daughter of John Pike, one of the earliest settlers. She died in 1894 in Melbourne. No children to either marriage. She willed her property to John Sinclair Stewart her husband. Caroline was the owner of both terraces between 1888 and 1891.

Obituary John Sinclair Stewart- from The Bendigo Advertiser

Tue 31 Dec 1912 Page 5 via TROVE

DEATH OF MR. J. S. STEWART. AN ESTIMABLE CITIZEN.

General regret was felt in the city yesterday afternoon when it became known that Mr. John S. Stewart of Wills-street, Bendigo, had died in Gippsland. Intimation of the sad event was received by deceased's partner, Mr. T. Scott, (of the firm of Stewart and Scott, the well known flour millers), who was greatly shocked on receiving a telegram informing him that Mr. Stewart had passed away on Sunday night. Mr. Stewart went to Almurta, in Gippsland, on Saturday, 21st inst., to spend Christmas with his brothers. When he left Bendigo he complained of having a bad cough, but nothing of a serious nature. Mr. Scott subsequently received a letter from Mr. Stewart, saying that his health had broken down altogether, but Mr. Scott never for a moment imagined that his partner's illness would have such a termination in so short a time. Mr. Stewart had not enjoyed the best of health for some time past, but his illness was not of a sufficiently serious nature to lead anyone to expect that the end was so near. Dr. Jackson attended him two or three weeks ago for bronchitis. Only yesterday morning his housekeeper (Mrs. Chalmers) despatched a parcel of clothing for him,



and was greatly distressed on hearing of his death. The deceased gentleman was 73 years of age. He was born in Bannockburn, Scotland, and came to Australia towards the end of 1852. After spending some time in Melbourne and Kyneton, he came to Bendigo, and became manager for the late Mr. De Graves, miller, of Hargreaves-street, a position which he occupied for seven years. Afterwards he became associated with the firm of Stewart and Scott, with which firm he had been connected for the past 32 years. Mr. Stewart had been twice married. His second wife was a daughter of the late Mr. J. Pike, and she pre-deceased him by about 15 years. There were no children of either marriage. He has three brothers living. Two reside at Almurta, and the third at Clayton. Mr. Stewart had been an active member of the Bendigo Benevolent Asylum committee for the past nine years, and was president of that committee at the time of his death. He was also chairman of the Sandhurst and Northern District Trustees,

Executors and Agency Company. He was a member of the Baptist Church for many years, having become associated with the Hargreaves-street church soon after his arrival in the city. He was at one time treasurer of the church. Mr. Stewart was a Freemason, and formerly took an active part in the management of the local lodge. He was of a very charitable disposition. The poor will miss a good friend, his employes a kind and considerate master, and the citizens generally one of their best members, and one whom the city can ill-afford to lose. The funeral will take place at 1 o'clock to-day at Almurta.

House name "STIRLING"



When we purchased the house there was a blank oblong name plate missing from the front wall and we wanted to research the name of the house and then commission a name plate for the house.

We undertook various searches under TROVE researching in the Bendigo Advertiser by typing in the name of the

tenant to the year they were registered as tenant in the rates book. We also searched under the owners name for the specific year they were registered in the rates book. We were able to find various tenant names which matched the same house named "STIRLING"

More on The Beehive Story

In the April newsletter the Branch appealed for stories about the Beehive Stores. Three people who worked in the Beehive building have contacted the Branch and their stories will be followed up after the lockdown is lifted. A video of the auction at the Beehive Stores in 1987 has also been located and it is hoped that a copy can be obtained. If you have stories, photographs or other memorabilia of the Beehive please let us know. (0447 473674)

Local historian, author and publisher Mike Butcher has provided the following article on The Grove, James Buick's home, owner of the Beehive in 1871.

Looking for The Grove at Big Hill by Mike Butcher

I have never seen an early photograph of James Buick's The Grove at Big Hill, only a photograph taken from it by Nicholas Caire that he included in his 1875 *Views of Bendigo*. In 1874, Vahland and Getzschmann had called tenders to make two-storey additions to the house at Big Hill and from the highway it was possible some years ago to see a two-storey mansion that eventually I went looking for. It was clearly not The Grove, having been built in the second half of the twentieth century. However, just a little further along the access road was a single storey house of the right antiquity to be the sought-for property.

At that time it was tenanted and I was welcomed to see it inside as well as out and to photograph it. Although small, it is a house of much refinement in its bay windows, elegant verandah and interior mouldings, but it appeared not to have been maintained as it would have been in the days that it was owned by James Buick, the owner of the Beehive in Pall Mall. If this was Buick's house, it is clear that he did not continue with the planned additions, possibly because of his recent outlay on the Beehive. The heat was also beginning to go out of the mining boom that had flooded Bendigo with money for mining exploration.



Photo: Mike Butcher ca 1985

Buick owned the Beehive in 1871, when, along with the Mining Exchange, it was destroyed by fire. He immediately replaced it with the present Beehive building, for which he commissioned Charles Webb as the architect. The cost was £19,000, but it was clearly a good investment that he kept until he died at Lorne in 1910. He placed a fifteen year embargo on his estate, which was not sold until 1925, when Michael Giudice purchased the Beehive for £56,000.

James Buick had a large family, but few grandchildren to carry on the family name. One of his sons, John Buick, became an architect in Bendigo and is best known for his design for the Bendigo Arcade in Pall Mall, built in 1893. It was acclaimed at the time as complementing the adjacent bank buildings, but did not last as they did, and was replaced in the 1960s, possibly following fire damage.

Ownership of The Grove passed from James Buick to Daniel Mathieson, licensee of the Cherry Tree Hotel at Big Hill, in 1898. The remnants of the Cherry Tree Hotel were still visible beside the highway until recent decades. Whether Buick built The Grove is unknown. It is a gem that deserves the sensitive ownership that often eludes the owners of small houses and additions would be difficult without compromising the existing building.

Chewton's Wesleyan Church (Follow up from last newsletter)

By John Ellis



Looking at, and inside, Chewton's former Wesleyan Church.

The church with a past (and what a past - since 1861 it had evolved into the Chewton Methodist Church and this became the Chewton Uniting Church, and ultimately was purchased by Metcalfe Shire to become the Chewton Community and Senior Citizens' Centre before council amalgamation saw it taken over by Mount Alexander Shire!) continues to create interest.

The open day at the church that Council had planned on Saturday 28 March was cancelled, knocked over by the virus! As an immediate alternative, council has taken a series of photographs of the church and has posted a "virtual tour" on-line. The photos of the interior provide "insights" into a building that has been closed since 2010.

[http://www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/Files/DESD/Virtual_tour_photos -
Chewton Community Centre - March 2020.pdf](http://www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/Files/DESD/Virtual_tour_photos_-_Chewton_Community_Centre_-_March_2020.pdf)

Some submissions have already been received by council, but the submission process will be re-opened when decision-time for council draws near. The decision-making process regarding the church's nomination for heritage listing is continuing, and the original nomination is being expanded to include the whole complex, including the adjacent Church Sunday School which council has not included in the motion of intention to dispose.

Some more information

- The Bendigo Historical Society has produced a wonderful development plan for Specimen Cottage. See more on their website www.bendigohistory.com
- A walk to inspect the Ravenswood Stone Buildings will be organised shortly to catch up on works. Who might be interested?
- The Branch needs to develop a short plan for further works at the Spring Gully Bridge which has recently had some repairs but needs to be protected with a fence and signage. Who lives in Spring Gully and interested?

Pressed Tin Ceilings (What lies beneath...)

By Elaine Doling

Everyone is familiar with the ubiquitous pressed tin ceiling, often seen as a cheap alternative to just about everything else in its day by the modern viewer. It was produced in a large number of patterns- one house we are familiar with has at least 12 different patterns, not including cornices.

Most seen these days have been painted many times, but many originally were multi coloured and even embossed with gold leaf to highlight the pattern. Some were hand painted in the factory, while others were done after purchase.

Ernest Wunderlich started The Wunderlich Patent Ceiling and Roofing Company in Kent St, Sydney in 1885. Initially they brought out skilled artisans from Europe who trained Australian workmen. His first major project was for the ceiling in the Centennial Hall at Sydney Town Hall. In 1887 his brother Alfred joined him and the business expanded so that in 1890 they had to move to larger premises in Redfern, and later interstate as well.

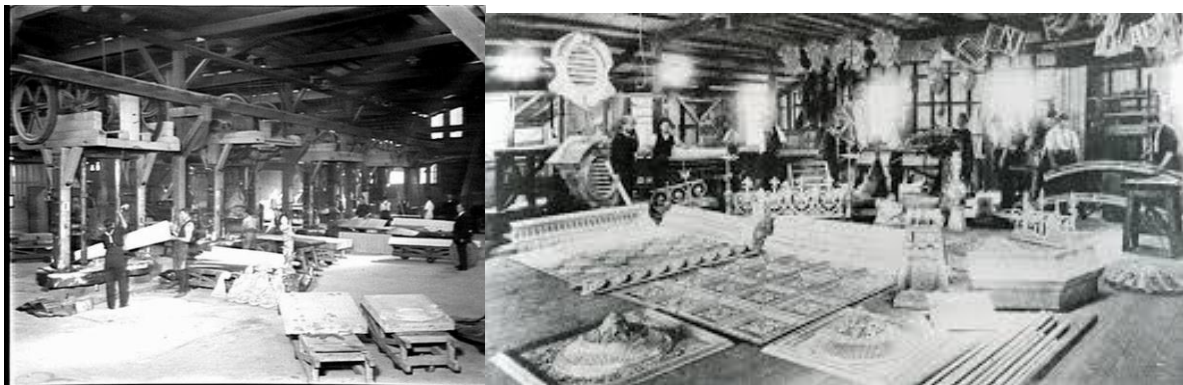
The process for manufacturing began with working drawings, sometimes to an architect's own detailed requirements. These then went to the modelling room, where the work was first modelled in clay by skilled sculptors and then cast in plaster. The plaster casts were then sent to the die foundry, and then cast into metal dies of varying degrees of hardness and from these matrices were produced. These were then fixed to the stamping machinery and after heating to increase malleability, the sheets of zinc, steel or other metal were placed between die and matrix, and stamped with half-ton drop hammers. The sheets passed through the painting machines prior to stamping. They were then cut to the required sizes by 8 foot guillotines, and fancy pieces such as mitre leaves were cut out by band saws. The finished pieces then went to the packing and forwarding department for distribution to customers. Immense quantities of cast ventilators, cowl, finials, lamps, centre flower pieces, and cornices were produced. In 1905 alone twenty miles of cornice were produced. Reference: Cyclopedia of Victoria Vol. III 1905.

Nowadays replicas of a number of ceiling panels and cornice patterns are being reproduced.

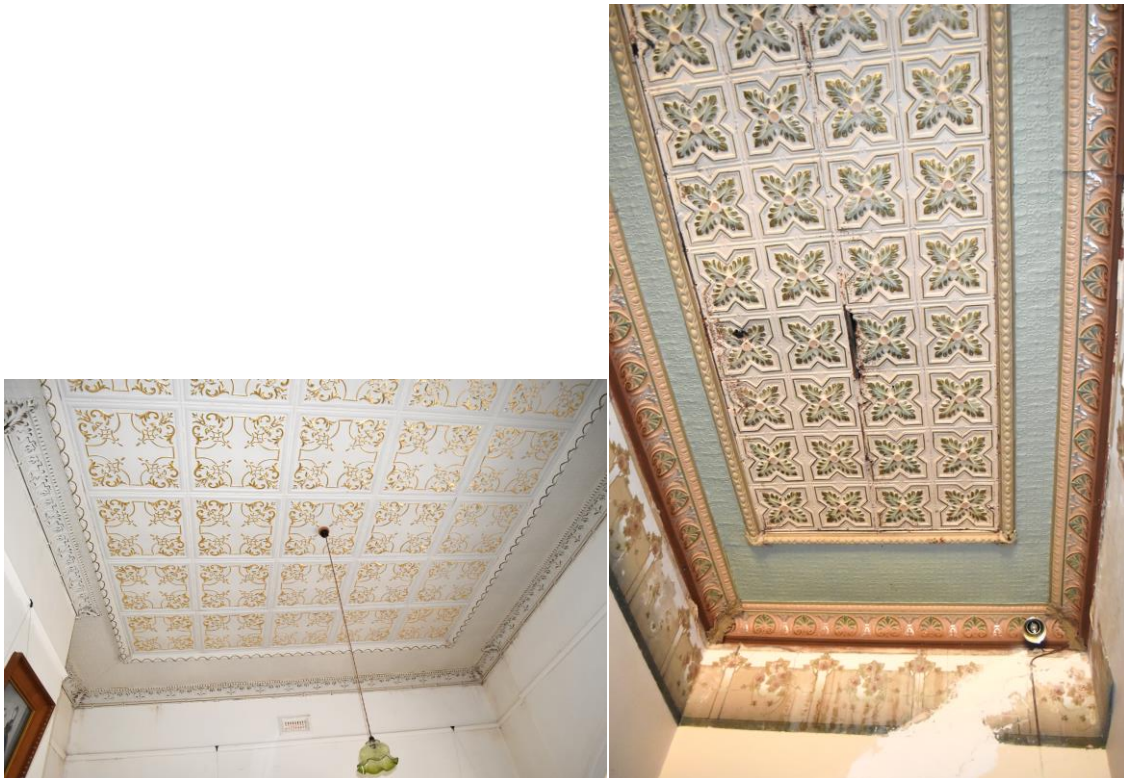
Do any readers have photos of examples that they would like to share? Send them to nattrustbendigo@gmail.com for inclusion in the next edition.

We have seen several in Bendigo in the past.

Further examples of original painted ceilings can be seen at <https://www.mileslewis.net/illustrated-contents/10-australian-building/09-internal-finishes.pdf>



Inside Wunderlich's Factory Redfern. Note stamping machines. Image: State Library NSW no date



Two original ceilings at Yurunga Homestead, Rainbow, Victoria. Left side example from a bedroom is highlighted in gold leaf. Yurunga is a house museum and will welcome your visit when restrictions are lifted. Photos: Elaine Doling



Examples from a private home in the Wimmera dating to 1908. The ceiling roses are very rare. Photos: Elaine Doling

More ‘Sunlight’ lamps

Last time we saw the ‘Sunlight’ gas chandelier lamp by T J Connelly that survives at the Mechanic's Institute Library. There were also several installed in the Bendigo Town Hall, as seen in this photo taken in 1902. They must have looked quite resplendent when lit.

The scaffolding might not be up to current regulations, but the workmen look quite happy with it.



Sun lamps in Bendigo Town Hall 1902. Image: Museums Victoria Collection

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.

Newsletter editor Elaine Doling

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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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