



## **National Trust of Australia (Victoria)**

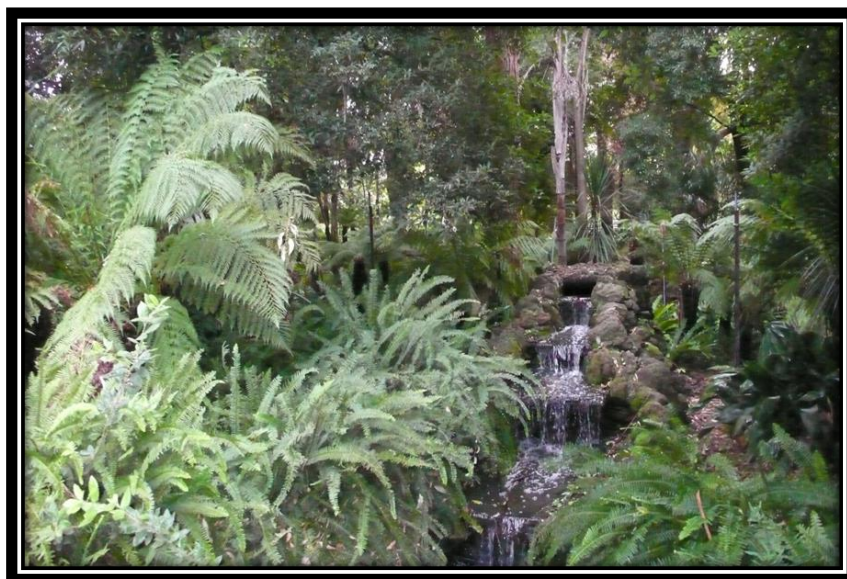
### **Bendigo and Region Branch**

#### **April 2021 Newsletter**

**Bendigo & Region Branch Meetings & Events are back!**

***Branch Meeting Monday 26<sup>th</sup> April, 7.30pm  
Federation Room Shamrock Hotel (1<sup>st</sup> Floor)***

***Guest Speaker- Gary Lautzsch Senior Landscape Architect CoGB  
on the Rosalind Park Fernery Development  
Members & Supporters Welcome***



## Some words from the Branch President

### *Dear Members and supporters*

This will be our first Branch meeting since the start of Covid so you are encouraged to make a special effort to attend and discuss important heritage issues which urgently need addressing. Gary Lautzsch will talk about works at the Rosalind Park Fernery. Council has recently applied for a permit to Heritage Victoria to construct a cable and a water spray system to support the bat population above the fernery. Last year up to 260 bats died. They fell from the trees in the heat of summer. It raises the question of protecting a heritage site and the survival of a protected animal.

**A special Branch Event, 'Revival of Robertson's Cast Iron Collection' has been organised for Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> May at 2pm.** Details later in newsletter.

### **Meetings for 2021**

- **Committee.** April 12th, May 10th, June 14th, July 12th, Aug 9th, Sept 13th, Oct 11th, Nov 8th, Dec 13th. These meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at 5.30pm to 7pm in the Baxter Room at the Shamrock.
- **Branch.** Apr 26th ( Annual Report), Special event the 'Revival of the Robertson Cast Iron Collection' Sunday 30th May 2pm, La Trobe Arts Institute, June 28th, Aug 23rd, Oct 25th, Nov 29th. These meetings are held on the 4th Monday bimonthly, 7.30pm to 9pm in the Federation Room at the Shamrock.
- **Newsletter deadlines.** April 1st, June 1st, August 1st, Oct 1st, Nov 1st. Articles, letters, texts, photographs and snippets of information are always most appreciated. It gives you an opportunity to make others aware of issues you are concerned about. Send to [natrustbendigo@gmail.com](mailto:natrustbendigo@gmail.com)

### **Meetings are supported by the Shamrock Hotel by free use of rooms**

Meetings are open to not only National Trust members but also to people throughout the region who have an interest in heritage issues. There is always an opportunity for you to raise issues of concern at all meetings and encourage the Branch to take appropriate action.

You can join with others and contribute your ideas to important heritage issues. These include- Planning Matters, Cast Iron Collection Revival, Protecting Heritage Sites and a Home for Heritage/Social History in Bendigo.

Volunteers are always needed to work on these issues.

**The Branch is in need of a technical person who can broadcast meetings and events throughout the region. The Cast Iron Collection event is one such example. Who can assist?**

## **Volunteers Needed!**

Issues arise weekly and often need urgent action. If you can contribute some time to work on these issues please get in touch. Perhaps you have other issues that you would like to see taken up.

You do not need to be a member of the National Trust, but have an interest in heritage and history. Have a think about it and contact me to discuss how you might contribute. Students

studying planning and heritage could also make their studies more relevant by doing an assignment on a heritage site that is at risk. Others who live in Kyneton, Maldon, Castlemaine and other rural areas could write short articles.

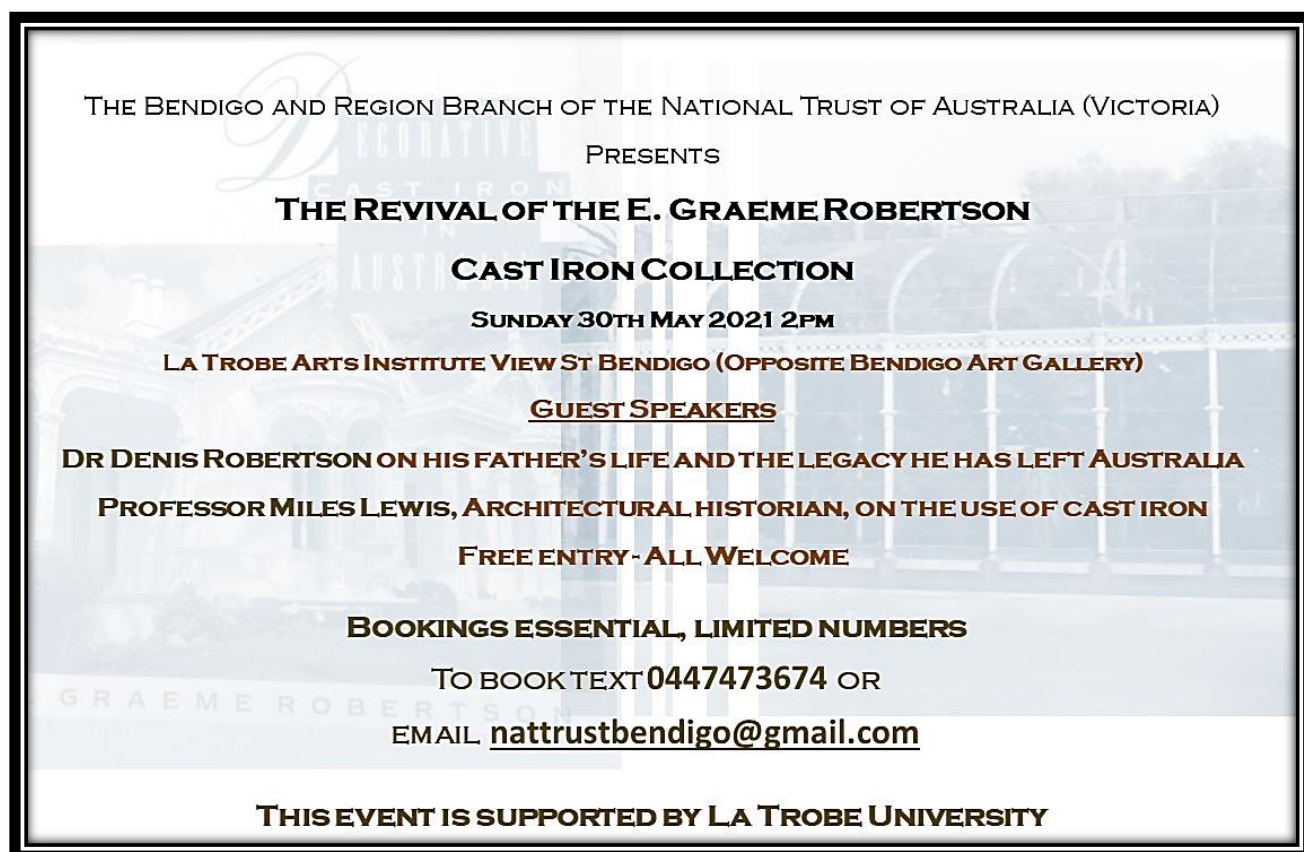
Please pass on the newsletter to others who might be interested.

Enjoy the read and some feedback on issues will be most appreciated.

On behalf of the Branch Committee

**Peter Cox, President, 0447473674**

**We are pleased to be able to present the following event on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> May at 2pm which we hope all will enjoy! Please remember to book early as numbers will be limited. A biography of E. Graeme Robertson appears later in the newsletter.**



THE BENDIGO AND REGION BRANCH OF THE NATIONAL TRUST OF AUSTRALIA (VICTORIA)  
PRESENTS  
**THE REVIVAL OF THE E. GRAEME ROBERTSON  
CAST IRON COLLECTION**  
SUNDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2021 2PM  
LA TROBE ARTS INSTITUTE VIEW ST BENDIGO (OPPOSITE BENDIGO ART GALLERY)  
GUEST SPEAKERS  
DR DENIS ROBERTSON ON HIS FATHER'S LIFE AND THE LEGACY HE HAS LEFT AUSTRALIA  
PROFESSOR MILES LEWIS, ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN, ON THE USE OF CAST IRON  
FREE ENTRY - ALL WELCOME  
BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL, LIMITED NUMBERS  
TO BOOK TEXT **0447473674** OR  
EMAIL [nattrustbendigo@gmail.com](mailto:nattrustbendigo@gmail.com)  
THIS EVENT IS SUPPORTED BY LA TROBE UNIVERSITY

**Edward Graeme Robertson, (1903–1975)**

**by Mary Ryllis Clark**

This article was published in *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, Volume 16, (MUP), 2002

**Edward Graeme Robertson** (1903-1975), neurologist and conservationist, was born on 20 October 1903 at Footscray, Melbourne, fifth child of Victorian-born parents John **Robertson**, draper, and his wife Cecilia

Elizabeth, née Hooper. Educated at Scotch College and the University of Melbourne (M.B., B.S., 1927; M.D., 1930), **Graeme** became a resident medical officer and registrar at (Royal) Melbourne Hospital. In 1930 he travelled to London where he worked and studied at the National Hospital for Diseases of the Nervous System, Queen Square. Returning home in 1934, he began to establish himself as a leading neurologist. On 29 August 1935 at Scots Church, Melbourne, he married with Presbyterian forms Mildred Jane Duce (d.1971), a nurse.

While maintaining his private practice, **Robertson** accepted appointments as honorary neurologist to four hospitals: the (Royal) Victorian Eye and Ear (1940), the Royal Melbourne (1944), the (Royal) Children's (1944) and the (Royal) Women's (1949). He was also a consultant to the Tasmanian Department of Public Health and the Royal Australian Navy. A foundation fellow (1938) and vice-president (1962) of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians, he played a leading role in forming the Australian Association of Neurologists (1950)—of which he was president (1958)—and the Asian and Oceanian Association of Neurologists (1962). Both the Association of British Neurologists and the American Neurological Association accorded him honorary membership.

**Robertson** was an authority on the radiological examination of the brain. He published three scientific monographs, *Encephalography* (Melbourne, 1941), *Further Studies in Encephalography* (1946) and *Pneumoencephalography* (Springfield, Illinois, United States of America, 1957), and sixty-six scientific articles. He 'saw in the nervous system a complexity reduced to a perfection of orderliness which fascinated him'.

Interested in 'architecture and furniture and allied things of beauty', and concerned about the destruction of fine nineteenth-century buildings in the name of 'progress', **Robertson** 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 him and fired his passion for decorative cast iron. **Robertson** was appalled that councils throughout Victoria were ordering the destruction of cast-iron verandahs in the 1950s and 1960s. His first non-medical book, *Victorian Heritage* (Melbourne, 1960), captured in words and black-and-white photographs the beauty of the State's ironwork. The book sold out. It helped to apply a brake to what he called 'vandalism' committed by those in authority.

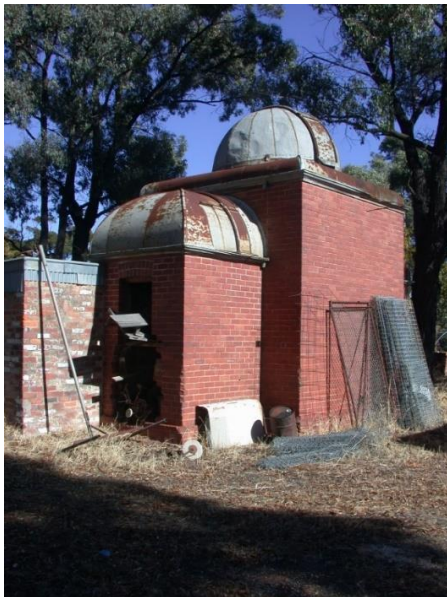
**Robertson**'s subsequent books included *Sydney Lace* (1962), *Early Houses of Northern Tasmania* (with Edith Craig, 1964), *Ornamental Cast Iron in Melbourne* (1967), *Early Buildings of Southern Tasmania* (1970), *Adelaide Lace* (1973) and *Carlton* (1974). His daughter Joan co-authored his last books, *Parkville* (1975) and *Cast Iron Decoration: A World Survey* (1977). The Royal Australian Institute of Architects commented: 'by direct and indirect means', Dr **Robertson** revealed ornamental cast iron 'to thousands of people, raised it to the status of an art form worthy of serious study and influenced the preservation of much of what survives'. In 1969 he became 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.

In 1950 **Robertson** had been a founding member of the Society of Collectors, inaugurated by (Sir) Joseph Burke. His special areas of interest were Australiana, and antique English and early colonial furniture. One of his prize possessions was a magnificent desk purchased from [Sir Keith Murdoch](#). With [Clifford Craig](#) and Kevin Fahy, he wrote *Early Colonial Furniture in New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land* (1972). **Robertson** travelled extensively. While visiting San Francisco, U.S.A., in 1961, he had learned that one of the world's remaining wrought-iron ships, *Rona*, lay berthed at Melbourne. He persuaded the Victorian branch of the National Trust to buy the hulk and chaired (from 1968) the committee which oversaw its restoration under the barque's former name, *Polly Woodside*.

To friends and colleagues, **Robertson** was a lovable eccentric whose perfectionism verged on the obsessional. In July 1975, although seriously ill with cancer, he attended a meeting of the National Trust's council to argue for the acquisition of an appropriate site for the *Polly Woodside*. Survived by his son and daughter, he died on Christmas Day 1975 at Toorak and was cremated



## ***Beebe's Observatory on land up for sale- again!***



The branch advocated that heritage protection be put on this important site about 2 years ago. While Council has completed a Citation on the site it has not gone to a Council meeting for approval.

The branch had an exchange of emails with Council on 31 March 2021, once again requesting action, as the property has come back on the market. The Ward Councillors have been notified.

**A report on Beebe and his observatory appeared in our June 2019 Newsletter, and is repeated here for the benefit of new members-**

### ***Our heritage in danger-Amazing Observatory Comes To Light***

*An observatory known as the Back Creek/East Bendigo Observatory operated by John Beebe has come to light, as the land it is located on at 55 Condon St Kennington is up for sale with the words "Developers Dream." Darren Wright says that it is thought the observatory was built around 1880, as the equipment was purchased from James Nelson Jones, who had an observatory located at his business, the Adelaide Brewery, on the corner of Arnold and Lucas Streets, which he disposed of in 1878. Beebe ceased using his observatory in 1914, before he moved to Brisbane.*

*This building is an important survivor and is representative of the city's early endeavours into scientific research, and the National Trust believes it should be preserved. It is currently zoned General Residential, with no heritage protection overlay. The existing house on the block was also John Beebe's. The advertisement for the block makes no mention of the observatory, or the history of the block.*

*A booklet entitled *The Historic Bendigo Observatories of J. Nelson Jones and John Beebe* by Daryl Martin and Wayne Orchiston was published in 1987 by the Astronomical Society of*

Victoria. It gives further information on the observatory and Beebe's astronomical work. In their conclusion the authors note that  
"This building still survives, and could be restored and converted into a small museum commemorating the evolution of astronomy in Bendigo."

**Also from the June 2019 Branch Newsletter -**

Well known local historian and author Mike Butcher has kindly supplied the following article and images:

**John Beebe's Observatory in Condon Street under Threat of Demolition  
by Mike Butcher**

"One of Bendigo's less well-known architects of the first part of the 20th century was John Beebe. His brother, William Beebe, was far better known as an architect and was Mayor on two occasions.

Originally stonemasons, John remained in the business of designing and making monuments until he qualified as an architect in 1900. He joined in partnership with Henry Vahland, but that partnership ended with the untimely death of Henry in 1902.

Henry's father, William Vahland, had retired in 1900, but after his son's death, he took Henry's place in the partnership with John Beebe, possibly to support Henry's young widow and family.

By 1910, John Beebe was in sole practice in Bendigo, when he was appointed as architect for the Anglican Diocese. His churches from this period include St Paul's bluestone church in Axedale and St John's in North Bendigo.

John Beebe appears to have had some health problems which took him to Queensland in 1916, where he was offered a job with the Public Works

Department in Brisbane. His wife and family remained in Bendigo. Later, when in private practice, he was responsible for some substantial buildings and the portals of the Hornibrook causeway.

He died on 15 December 1936 and is buried in the Lutwyche cemetery in Brisbane, in an unmarked grave.

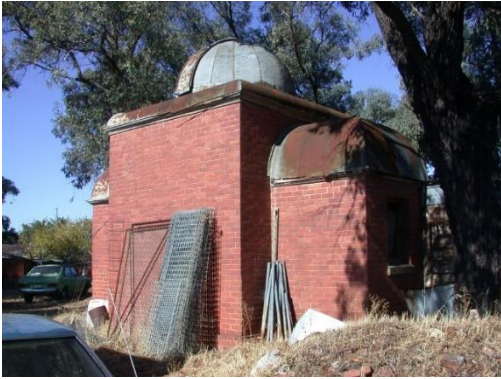
One of John Beebe's other interests was astronomy, and he is believed to have purchased the telescope of James Nelson Jones, an early pioneer, who had an observatory at his brewery in Lucan Street, and wrote occasionally about astronomy in the Bendigo Advertiser.

John Beebe was elected a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society in 1917, just after his move to Brisbane. He was a fine mathematician and had no trouble calculating the orbits of comets.

Just when Jones sold his telescope is not known, but Beebe built this brick observatory to house it. Some bricks have been removed in one place, revealing the cavity construction of the walls, which are otherwise in perfect condition after more than a century. The brick pier on which the telescope was mounted is still in place. Gerard House, when a neighbourhood boy, can remember rotating the sheet-metal dome by winding a handle.

This building is a very rare survivor and an important relic of late 19th century scientific endeavour in Bendigo and should be placed on the Victorian Heritage Register."

A further lengthy article on the life of John Beebe by Peter Anderson appeared in our April 2020 Newsletter, and is worth re-reading.



*Observatory Photos by Mike Butcher taken in 2004, Realestate.com.au image 2021 of John Beebe's house at 55 Condon Street.*

**From the realestate.com.au website-**

***PRIME REAL ESTATE - 2 ACRES - GENEROUS SIZED ALLOTMENT***

<https://www.realestate.com.au/property/55-condon-st-kennington-vic-3550>

The observatory does not appear in any of the 27 images of 55 Condon Street on this site as of 6 April 2021, nor is it mentioned. On April 8 the text was the same, but the number of images was reduced to 8.

The text from the on line advertisement appears below.

*55 Condon Street,, Kennington*

*This property features a huge two acre block ... Hidden away in the middle of a built up popular sought after residential area. It comprises a period weatherboard four bedroom home and a one bedroom unit which are both in liveable condition but in need of some TLC. (Refer to floor plans).*

*All services available. Zoned: General Residential Zone. Fantastic location. A block this size is a rare opportunity.*

*Ideal for subdivision or unit development (Subject to Council Approval), Land bank it for the superfund. Fantastic lifestyle property for the growing families and maybe operate a business from home (Subject to Council Approval).*

*This property has loads of potential and is in an outstanding location with the bus servicing Condon Street and it is close to La Trobe University, Kennington Reservoir, Bendigo Train*

*Station, All shopping facilities including: Bendigo Market Place, Bendigo CBD, Strath Hill Shopping Centre, Strath Village and Kennington Village .... Take your pick.*

*Approx. 2 Km drive to Bendigo's CBD. (Approx. 4 minute Drive).  
Approx. 153 km drive to Melbourne.*

*Inspections by appointment only.  
Tender closes: Friday 4TH June at 5:00pm.*

*Contact ELLIS NUTTALL REAL ESTATE for the TENDER DOCUMENTATION*

**The emails between the branch and council, all dated 31 March 2021, appear below-**

I note the Beebe Observatory is back on the market listed by Ellis Nuttall. Has the citation been completed and can it be presented to council for protection?  
Can you forward a copy for our members?  
What are the procedures from here to get it protected and can it be treated as an urgent matter by council?  
Your attention to this matter will be appreciated. (Branch)

*We did see the listing for the observatory yesterday and have contacted the agents to let them know that there is heritage interest on the site so they can pass this information on to prospective purchasers. We have a citation completed, but it cannot be sent out as yet because it is not a public document as yet. The current plan is to include the site in an amendment for a wider study. If there is an application to demolish any of the structures before we have progressed far enough along that path, we would be able to apply to the Minister for Planning for an interim overlay to protect the buildings while we move through the process. Hopefully that answers your questions. If you have any more, please let me know. (Council)*

I would suggest that the process you propose will take a long time and weaken the opportunity to get this site protected. Council had an opportunity last year to include heritage protection with other properties that went to council and if I was the applicant to have it demolished I would argue that council does not regard protection as urgent. The National Trust raised protection for this site some years ago and it was understood that the council was not aware of the importance of the site. I also do not understand why the citation cannot be viewed by citizens before it goes to council as members of the National Trust might have further important information to be included. The current procedure does not seem to be transparent and inclusive for all to be involved in protecting local heritage sites.  
It is appreciated that a citation has been written which will go a long way to protecting the site but interim protection orders are difficult to pursue and puts council in a weak position not to mention the additional workload it would present to staff.  
I have cc'd the Ward Councillors into this email to broaden the discussion on this important site. (Branch)



# Museum Revival

This is the headline on the Front page of the Bendigo Advertiser, Saturday March 13<sup>th</sup> 2021

## It is time to breathe new life into Bendigo's storied past: paper MUSEUM REVIVAL

It is good to see that Lindsay Jackson's paper on the future of the Bendigo Mechanics Institute and Free Library was featured in The Advertiser.

The Bendigo TAFE has designated the library, the Administration building and the McGillivray Hall as a future community precinct.

"It could become similar to the Bendigo Art Gallery. Bendigo is at a point where another major attraction is needed in the city centre. The community needs to be consulted on how these buildings can be restored and asked for ideas on how they might be used. Like the old goal, a strong partnership between TAFE, the community, Council and the State & Federal Governments can breathe new life into these buildings. The Ulumbarra Theatre has demonstrated that a successful strategy can be implemented." -Branch comment.

SATURDAY MARCH 13, 2021 bendigoadvertiser.com.au

# WEEKEND Bendigo Advertiser

EST 1853

\$2.20 INC GST

NEWS  
**FLYING THE FLAG**

NEWS  
**LUCKY TO BE ALIVE**

SPORT  
**AFL TIPPING CHART**

**Festival shares cultures**

BENDIGO residents will share their rich array of cultures, as arts space Kultur-Ali Makaan prepares to open at the upcoming Castlemaine State Festival. The intercultural arts space is set to feature 11 performances from Bendigo performers, including from members of the Karen, South Sudanese, Indonesian, Colombian and Indian communities.

**DANCE JOY:** Shreya Tumu's performance in Kultur-Ali Makaan mixes Indian dance and music with other cultures. **Picture: DARREN HOWE**

It is time to breathe new life into Bendigo's storied past: paper

# MUSEUM REVIVAL

BY TOM O'CALLAGHAN

BRINGING back a long-lost museum could help energise the wider Full Mall precinct amid sweeping changes to the area, a national trust branch president says.

Peter Cox has urged Bendigo to think about possible community uses for a Bendigo TAFE campus that once housed a celebrated museum.

Any museum will have to be well-cared for. The last one rotted from neglect and pieces vanished without a trace.

A Story - PG

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03 9422 9999 [elliottbros.com.au](http://elliottbros.com.au)

# Museum back from dead?

BY TOM O'CALLAGHAN

BENDIGO TAFE buildings could once again house a museum 77 years after an old one was allowed to go to wrack and ruin.

It is one of the ideas floated in early talks on how to use heritage buildings at TAFE's McCrae Street campus after construction works elsewhere on site finish.

A discussion paper circulated by the Friends of the School of Mines outlines a pitch to once again house a collection of artifacts.

The pieces would need loving care to avoid the rot that beset the old collection.

The campus once housed a famed natural history collection that reputedly contained a now lost stuffed dodo.

The former School of Mines closed the museum in 1944 after decades of neglect. Some former students have told historians that stuffed animal specimens were given away as prizes to people who showed academic merit.

Historians have also heard some of the rock specimens were dumped down mine



SKY'S THE LIMIT: National Trust Bendigo president Peter Cox says community ideas could help influence the wider Pall Mall precinct. Picture: DARREN HOWE

shafts, though others were donated to museums.

Kay Smith, who has worked at the Bendigo TAFE library since 2006, said the historical accounts held limited detail.

"From information I have read, a shortage of space in the post-war years led to the breakup and dispersal of the [former] library and museum," she said.

It is "inconceivable" that

Bendigo does not have a museum for industrial artifacts given it honed deep mining practices, discussion paper author Lindsay Jackson said. "[It was] the very technology that enabled Bendigo and

indeed Melbourne to become so wealthy in the latter part of the nineteenth century," he wrote in the paper.

The museum would focus on metallurgy, explosives and the laboratory knowledge that Bendigo honed at the old school of mines, according to the discussion paper's author Lindsay Jackson.

It could also feature insights into other key industries from the city's past like textiles, brewing, architecture and arts and pottery. Displays could be temporary much like Pall Mall's Post Office Gallery.

Professor Jackson said there might be opportunities to secure funding, given the state government recently announced a \$50,000 grant to help the wider goldfields region's bid for UNESCO World Heritage listing.

Any museum would have to work in conjunction with the existing restaurant area.

"It is envisaged that various historical groups, interest groups, and clubs, would hold meetings accompanied with a lunch/dinner," he wrote.

The area would be open to

the public on a restricted basis, Professor Jackson noted.

The idea has caught the attention of Bendigo's National Trust branch.

Its president Peter Cox said it could be one of a number of exciting ideas.

"It could become a centre like the Bendigo Art Gallery. Bendigo is at a point where it could take another major visitors centre," he said.

"Those ideas should be sourced from the Bendigo community and I'm sure people would have a lot of good ones.

"And I think you could look upon it in a similar way to the old Bendigo jail, which lay idle for some time before the community, a school and state and federal governments formed a very strong partnership to turn it into Ulambarna Theatre."

Mr Cox said whatever ended up there could be part Pall Mall experience.

The area is already changing. Historic shopping complex the Beehive has been refurbished and the current law courts will soon be vacated for a modern facility on Hargreaves Street.

Bendigo Advertiser 13<sup>th</sup> March page 5

## Pall Mall's Big Change Bendigo Advertiser Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2021

*Pall Mall could become a centre for the preservation of history under one idea circulating to deal with sweeping changes in the area.*

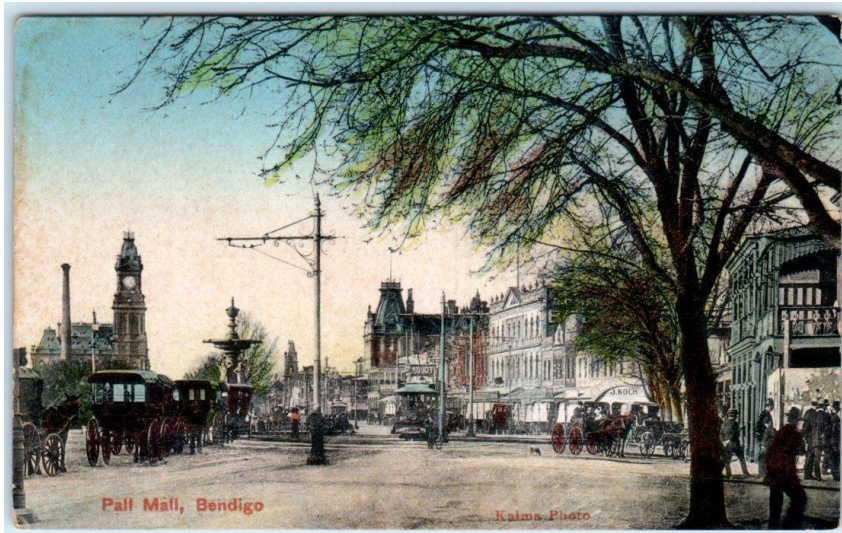
*Greater Bendigo's Mayor Cr Jen Alden said one idea was to create a centre for education on conservation and preservation.*

*"If you look at what we already promote to tourists you have all these attractions from the Sacred Heart Cathedral, Solders Memorial Institute, the Golden Dragon Museum and a range of others. So the question becomes what we do to complement all of these offerings."*

The branch has been raising these issues for some time. A new Pall Mall Plan is needed to use these spaces more effectively and there are a number of them.

- Pike's Corner buildings (Pall Mall & Mitchell St)
- Allan's Walk and The Mining Exchange
- The former post Office building
- The Myer building in need of refurbishment
- The current Court House building soon to be vacant
- The TAFE Community Precinct

Trucks need to be taken out of this area and use of the inner ring road promoted more affectively. New pedestrian crossings need to be installed to provide better safety and links to Rosalind Park, cafes and existing attractions.



Pall Mall Bendigo Kalma Postcard ca. 1910

## Sadly no recognition

A recent letter in the Bendigo Advertiser-

"Recently, I have been using the train weekly to Gisborne and return. I have been disgusted in the poor condition of B Box at the south end of platform two. Some time ago a commitment was made by either the City of Greater Bendigo or the state government that this old signal box would be restored and was being put on the heritage listing along with the Round House (Engine Shed) to show recognition to what the rail industry did for Bendigo. This was around the time the City of Greater Bendigo let the R Class Locomotives that were placed in the parklands of Railway Place go. But unfortunately these promises were never kept and the railway history disappears, along with all the old clocks that were in every office and station platforms around the state. They all disappeared along with the statue of a guard/shunter that was just inside the main entrance to the Market Place - they disappeared without a trace. The D3 Steam Engine that stood outside the North Bendigo Workshops along with the yard shunting engine went to Maldon. There were models of some freight wagons made by apprentices in the Copper shop at the North Bendigo Railway Workshops, a board of various plates from different rail wagons and carriages, and a copper mural - they have all disappeared. These things should be recovered and placed in the VRI Hall in Railway Place as I am of the understanding there is a collection of other railway memorabilia being collected and stored there. But unfortunately all these commitments have been lost and not being carried out so history doesn't get the recognition that it deserves.

*Ivan Kitt, Bendigo"*



Signal Box B in 2018.



## Follow up from our February newsletter

A very good newsletter. My understanding of the Pike's Corner deal was that he was given the corner block by the State Gov in exchange for his site and building on the later fountain site. This makes sense chronologically because the building was there before the first land sales. I've not looked for details in the archives. I've attached a pic of the PO at View Point, next to the bridge.

*Mike Butcher*



Image Source: National Library Australia.

## ***Get involved!***

*Below are some items of interest and activities*



## Central Victorian Goldfields - Happiness Index Survey

**The National Trust of Australia (Victoria) is proud to be supporting the Central Victorian Goldfields World Heritage bid, and the Happiness Index survey, which opens on 20 March – the International Day of Happiness.**





**We encourage all of our National Trust members and supporters across the Goldfields region to get involved by taking the survey, and forwarding this email to your friends and local networks, or sharing the link on social media**

The World Heritage Bid is shining a light on the Goldfields, creating opportunities to share the significance of the region with visitors, while also strengthening the economy and allowing communities to thrive.

As part of the World Heritage Bid, the Goldfields communities are being placed front and centre in tourism planning, starting with measuring happiness.

The Happiness Index survey will assist government decision-makers to understand what contributes to community well-being. This will help focus investment to improve quality of life and assist with COVID recovery. The launch of the Happiness Survey is a first in Australia, and the National Trust is proud to support this innovative work that puts Goldfields communities at the heart of the movement to recognise and celebrate the heritage of this internationally significant region. The Happiness Index survey takes on average 12-14 minutes to complete. To complete the survey, click the link [here](https://goldfieldsworldheritage.com.au/get-involved/happiness-index/)

<https://goldfieldsworldheritage.com.au/get-involved/happiness-index/>

***From the Bendigo Botanic Gardens Illustrators and Raillery Hub-***

We're very pleased to announce the St Arnaud Railway Station Gallery will be featuring a new Exhibition, entitled '**Naturally Inspired**' presenting the work of the Bendigo Botanic Gardens Illustrators & the Friday Group. **View from April 10th to June 7th 2021 on Friday, Saturday, Sunday & Monday (11am – 4pm).** Please see the attached Poster. We would appreciate you forwarding this information to your friends, family, co-workers and contacts who may also like to visit or see our Facebook or Instagram Posts. We will be practicing social distancing and hand sanitiser will be available. We will supply a QR code for you to scan on your phone, as we're required to collect visitor contact details or you can record this information on paper if you prefer. Numbers are limited to 30 people at a time inside. We appreciate your cooperation. We look forward to sharing this Special Exhibition with the Community.

Raillery Hub Incorporated

St Arnaud Railway Station, Queens Avenue, St Arnaud Vic.  
(Located directly behind Riddleys Barastoc 7-19 McMahon Street)

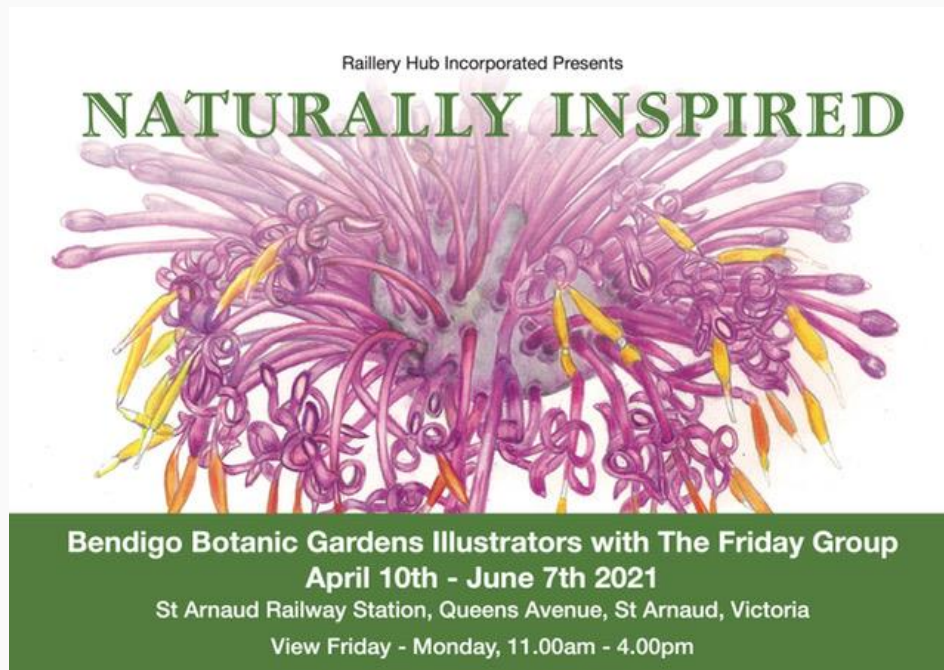


Illustration by Audrey Baillie

### ***POST OFFICE GALLERY***

**Old Post Office Pall Mall Bendigo**

**02 Apr 21 - 29 Aug 21 10 am 5pm daily**

## **Modern Revolution: Bendigo and the 1960s**



The 1960s is remembered as a dynamic decade; a time of great social and political change.

This exhibition features the insights and memorabilia of a selection of local people who

grew up, lived and worked in Bendigo during that decade. Alongside their recollections of significant local and world events, *Modern revolution: Bendigo and the 1960s* reveals lived experiences of what some historians say was a time of unprecedented change.

Don't forget that we have copies of *Postwar Portrait-the Photographs of Alan George Doney* for sale featuring photos of Bendigo and region from the 1950s and 1960s. Contact Peter Cox, or the Tourist Information Centre in the Old Post Office Pall Mall to obtain a copy- maybe buy a copy while you are at the exhibition.

***Help Restore Dawson & Gill's Historic Cactus Garden in White Hills, Bendigo***  
***Victorian Heritage Register number H1406, CoGB Heritage Overlay HO684***  
Calling all plant lovers and history buffs!

Nearing its 100th Anniversary, the garden is one of the rarest concentrations of Cactus species in Australia!

Although it boasts two heritage listings we need your help to restore it to its former glory.

Help us save this treasure and inspire future generations in the rewarding arts of gardening, botany & local history.



*Image: VHR*

Currently occupied by retired antiques salesman and part time actor, John Martin, we're publishing a handbook detailing the history and species preserved here.

Your donation will kick-start:

1. Restoring heritage listed structures and landscaping
2. Employing horticulturalists and hospitality workers
3. Publishing of the handbook; preserving a piece of local history

4. Plant species available to the public
5. Making the site available for functions, tourists and students

Should we meet our target, donors of \$100 or more will receive a dedicated, personalised copy of the 'Dawson & Gill Cactus Garden Species and History Handbook'. Complete with historic photos, original articles, documents and water colour paintings of the plants from the 1930s onward!

From the bottom of our spiky, green hearts,  
Thank You,

Dawson & Gill Cactus Garden :-)

Want to get in contact?:

Sam Fenton

0411 242 029

dawsonandgill@protonmail.com



Sam Fenton and John Martin

## Transforming democracy in Australia

Here is some information about the OpenAustralia Foundation. Many of us use it to find out about planning permit applications in our neighbourhoods. By signing up you get regular updates of applications and a very simple process to register your comments about the application. These comments automatically go through to the responsible authority and you become part of the process including becoming a registered objector.

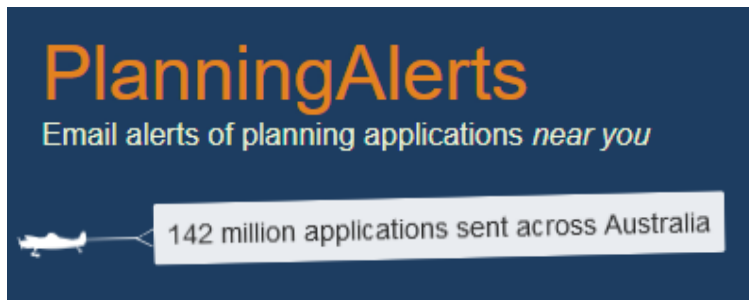


The OpenAustralia Foundation is a pioneering charity whose **vision** is to **transform democracy in Australia**. Our **mission** is to give all Australians the tools they need to **effect the change** they want. We create technologies that encourage and enable people to participate directly in the political process on a local, community and national level. We currently do this

with [theyvoteforyou.org.au](http://theyvoteforyou.org.au), [RightToKnow.org.au](http://RightToKnow.org.au), [OpenAustralia.org](http://OpenAustralia.org), [PlanningAlerts.org.au](http://PlanningAlerts.org.au). These websites aim at finding better ways of making government, the public sector and political information freely and easily available for the benefit of all Australians. This transparency aims to encourage and inform people about how they can make a difference.

The OpenAustralia Foundation is a strictly non-partisan organisation. We are not the government, nor are we affiliated with any political party. We are passionate about making our democracy work. We believe that we can help to reinvigorate Australia's civic culture by using powerful new technologies to inform and empower people, to address the current disconnect between our Government and the people who elect it.

## PlanningAlerts



You'd probably know if your next-door neighbour was going to knock their house down. But you might live in blissful ignorance that your favourite old cinema or pub five streets away will never reopen because it's going to be converted into luxury flats, until the bulldozers turned up that is.

PlanningAlerts is a free service which searches planning authority websites for development applications in your area and then emails you their details. It could not be simpler, you sign up to the service, specify the location you are interested in and then if any applications are lodged in this area you are sent an email. You can view the applications on a map or even subscribe to a RSS feed. We don't have the whole country covered yet, but we're working on it!

So far PlanningAlerts has sent out more than one hundred and forty two million (142,000,000) development applications in email alerts!

<https://www.planningalerts.org.au/> Email us at [contact@planningalerts.org.au](mailto:contact@planningalerts.org.au)

Sample email below, concerning a development application in central Bendigo



**126 Williamson Street, Bendigo**

**3550, VIC**

1.2 kilometres southeast

Use of land for a medical centre and waiver of car parking

Add your own comment

The above application highlights the many heritage homes that are being taken over by business. The population around the Bendigo CBD is declining and gardens are destroyed as businesses need car parking.

**The Bendigo City Centre Plan states**

**PRECINCT 3 -Premium Residential.**

“This precinct will evolve from its current mix of dwellings and converted dwellings (that are used for small scale professional services) into a Premium Residential precinct with a distinct heritage character. The precinct is primarily made up of existing heritage residential stock and is ideally suited to family living. Businesses that are currently located here will continue to operate, though it is preferable for them to ultimately relocate into the upper levels of buildings in the Retail Core or Peripheral Retail and Commercial precincts. New dwellings in this precinct must respect the existing heritage character of the area and make a positive contribution with high-quality, contemporary residential architecture. It recommends

- Improve the public realm interface to the Bendigo Creek along Creek Street South
- Upgrade Hargreaves Street as a primary cycling route.
- Promote investment in heritage restoration of buildings.
- Promote removal of hard-stand areas and reinstate gardens transitioning from commercial to inner city residential.”

But Council continues to grant planning permits for businesses who are establishing themselves in residential dwellings rather than getting them to establish in the inner CBD commercial precinct.

**Discussion needs to take place on what action the branch can take.**

**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/>

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.**

You are receiving this email because you are a member of the National Trust of Australia (Vic) or have asked us to send you our newsletters. If you no longer wish to receive these emails, please contact the Bendigo Branch at [natrustbendigo@gmail.com](mailto:natrustbendigo@gmail.com) with Unsubscribe in the subject line.