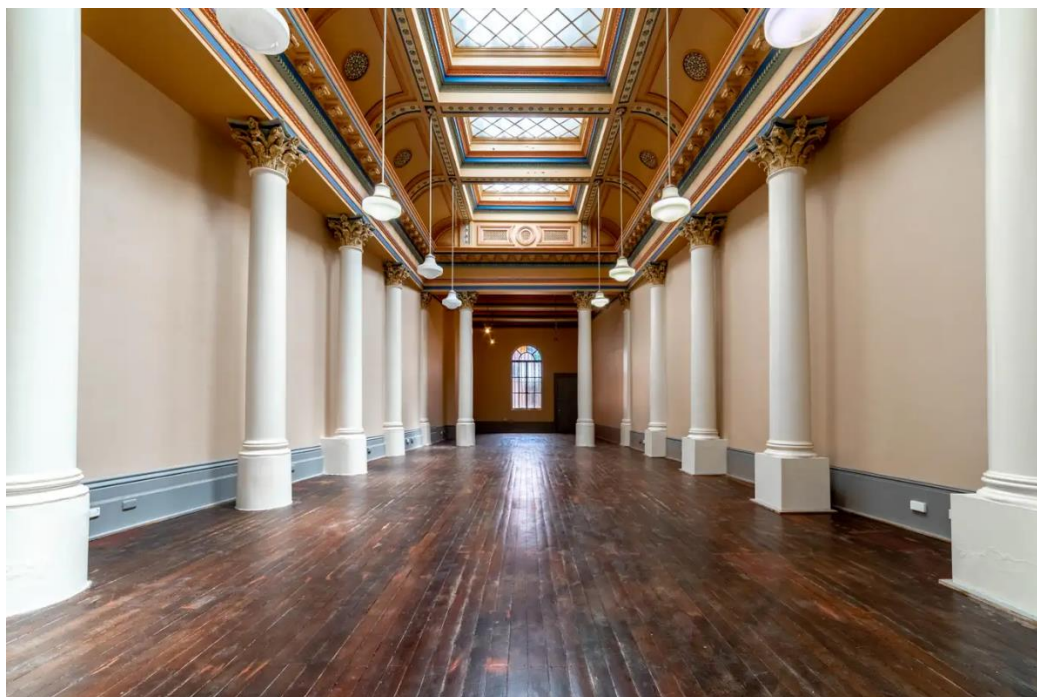




History & Heritage

A publication of the National Trust of Australia (Victoria)

Bendigo & Region Branch August 2022



Cover Story- 11 View Point Bendigo. Former CBA Bank. Photos Ray White Real Estate

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Next Branch Meeting- Branch Anniversary 1964 to 2022

The next branch meeting will be held on Monday 22nd August, 5.30pm, at the Shamrock Hotel taking up the issues from History & Heritage including the **Future of Pall Mall**. Our special guest will be local architect Dennis Carter who will help us with our discussions on Pall Mall. Come with your ideas and strategies.

All members and supporters are welcome to attend and raise issues.

History & Heritage – Branch Newsletter

Everyone has a story that, when combined with others, provide a record of the social history of our region and draws attention to the significance of local built heritage. To receive H&H or contribute a story or photograph, send a message to natrustbendigo@gmail.com To help increase circulation send it to your friends and family or sign up your organisation to receive it. To join the editorial group, contact the branch President, Peter Cox on 0447473674. Contribution deadline for the August History & Heritage is Friday 5th August.

For previous editions of History & Heritage

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/branches-vic/bendigo-branch/>

Join the National Trust – Advocate for Preservation!

Support! Explore! Enjoy!

A National Trust Membership is your ticket to the world, with over 1000 destinations to explore. <https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/membership-vic/> The National Trust of Australia (Victoria) is the state's largest community-based heritage advocacy organisation actively working towards conserving and protecting our heritage for future generations to enjoy, representing 30,000 members across Victoria.

Cover Story- Former Commercial Bank of Australia



Photos Ray White Real Estate

Another architectural gem in the middle of the city

Statement of Significance

Last updated on - May 11, 1999. What is significant? The former Commercial Bank of Australia was erected in View Point, Bendigo in 1875 to a design by local architects, Vahland and Getzschmann. It was one of a number of banks established in this location from the 1850s, and the street subsequently developed as a commercial centre of the town. Economic growth occurred in Bendigo as a result of the town's successful alluvial goldfields, which were worked into the late 1860s, and the subsequent establishment of extensive quartz mines. Rich reefs ensured economic stability, with half the workforce employed in mining into the 1880s. A large number of banks were constructed in the town centre to support the mining activity and the majority of these were located in View Point. The former C.B.A. bank occupied premises in Pall Mall before a new site in View Point was purchased in 1874. Occupying a triangular site, the former C.B.A. bank building has a rendered, two storey facade of three bays, designed in the Renaissance Revival style. Four giant order engaged Corinthian columns support an entablature and balustraded parapet above. Rectangular openings at ground floor level are surmounted by segmental arched pediments and windows of the first floor are arch-headed. Ornate detailing is a feature of the classical facade, including Roman guilloche moulding, typical of the Renaissance, ribbon moulding and a Greek key frieze. The banking chamber itself is elaborately decorated and is lined with a colonnade of Corinthian columns and a coved lantern lit ceiling. The building underwent extensive restoration in 1987. How is it significant? The former C.B.A. bank, Bendigo is of architectural and historical significance to the State of Victoria.

Why is it significant?

The former C.B.A. bank, Bendigo is of architectural significance as a fine example of the work of the prolific local architects, Vahland and Getzschmann. Together with a wide range of buildings designed by this firm, the C.B.A. bank stands as an important example of their work in Bendigo. It is an important element in the View Street streetscape, one of the finest precincts of nineteenth century buildings in Victoria. The former C.B.A. bank, Bendigo is of

historical significance due to its association with the development of Bendigo, a major centre for gold mining in the nineteenth century. The elaborately decorated building demonstrates the prosperity of Bendigo and the importance of the bank in a gold mining centre. It is illustrative of the civic development that occurred as a result of the mining industry and specifically the commercial development in this locality. View Point became the financial centre of Bendigo and this bank is one of at least seven erected along View Point from the 1860s.

View Point, Pall Mall & McCrae St- one of the finest precincts of 19th century buildings in Victoria.

The branch continues to build awareness of the magnificent architectural buildings in this precinct. It is concerned that some of these buildings are currently vacant and others will become vacant without a future use planned. They include the Former Post Office, the current Law Courts, a group of buildings known as the Bendigo School of Mines including the Octagonal Library, Reading Room, Administration building and the MacGillivray Hall, and Allan's Walk and the Bendigo Mining Exchange which is currently for sale.

What could these buildings be used for? Send your ideas to H&H. The branch will put a submission to the State Government and Heritage Victoria to preserve these buildings in need of restoration and repurpose.



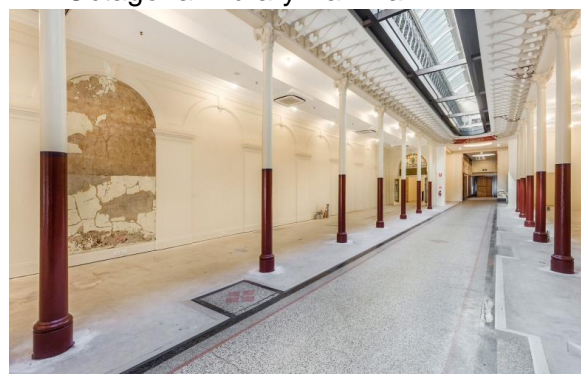
Bendigo Court House Pall Mall



Octagonal Library Pall Mall



Allans Walk Pall Mall



Allans Walk Pall Mall Photos from google



MacGillivray Hall McCrae St

The Bendigo Art Gallery



The Bendigo Art Gallery is on the Victorian Heritage Register, H1172.
Image: Victorian Heritage Register

Statement of Significance Last updated on - May 7, 1999. The Bendigo Art Gallery is made up of buildings from four construction phases. The central building, now known as the Bolton Court, was constructed in 1867 by contractors Webb and Harlow to the design of the prominent Bendigo architectural firm Vahland and Getzschmann as a di-chromatic brick orderly room for the local volunteer militia. Although the building is encapsulated in later additions, parts of the original form and detailing are easily discernible from internal spaces within the gallery and from certain vantage points outside. In 1885 the militia vacated the building and it was restyled by WC Vahland himself in 1890 to house the Bendigo Art

Gallery. The gallery was added to at the rear in 1897 and 1905, and the front was hidden behind a cream brick addition in 1962 designed by John FD Scarborough. The Bendigo Art Gallery is of historical and architectural importance to the State of Victoria. The 1867 former orderly room within the Bendigo Art Gallery is historically significant as an extraordinary example of a colonial volunteer militia building from an era when patriotism and military fervour motivated citizens toward a particular kind of public service. The 1867 former orderly room within the Bendigo Art Gallery is an extremely rare example of a brick Volunteer orderly room. The building is historically important for its associations with the Bendigo Art Gallery which commenced in this building in 1890 and has been an important focus of artistic and cultural life of Bendigo ever since. The gallery is also of historical interest as a successful example of a new use for an older building. The former Bendigo Volunteer Orderly Room within the Bendigo Art Gallery is architecturally important as a fine example of a classically inspired public building skilfully executed in dichromatic brickwork to the design of notable Bendigo architects W C Vahland and Robert Getzschmann. The 1897 and 1905 gallery additions to the rear of the building are of note for their sympathetic blending with the former orderly room. Construction dates 1867, Architect/Designer Vahland and Getzschmann, Heritage Act Categories Registered place, Other Names VOLUNTEER ORDERLY ROOM, Hermes Number 4664 Property Number History Associated People: Assoc.People BENDIGO VOLUNTEER RIFLES ORDERLY ROOM Owner BENDIGO ART GALLERY;

Extent of Registration AMENDMENT OF REGISTER OF HISTORIC BUILDINGS Historic Building No. 1172: Bendigo Art Gallery, 42 View Street, Bendigo, City of Greater Bendigo. Extent: 1. To the extent of all of the buildings known as the Bendigo Art Gallery marked B-1, B-2 and B-3 on Plan 605751 endorsed by the Chair, Historic Buildings Council and held by the Director, Historic Buildings Council, but excluding the later additions so marked on the plan. 2. All of the land marked L1 on Plan 605751 endorsed by the Chair, Historic Buildings Council and held by the Director, Historic Buildings Council which comprises Crown Allotment 6A, Section 89C, Parish of Sandhurst more particularly described in Certificates of Title Volume 2877, Folio 361 and Volume 8967, Folio 641. [Victoria Government Gazette No. G15 18 April 1996 p.961]

Letters

I visited Rocky Vale Villa I would say 28 years ago. It was then for sale via Bendigo Real Estate Agent.

They wanted an opinion then of the Property's value. I recall it was in pretty sound condition with furnishings under wraps etc. although not lived in for a few years. And pigeons had got in.

Although I haven't been back, from memory it is to me, Architect/Planner etc. of great historic value.

But...Why hasn't someone bought it and restored it in the interim?

Probably the \$ required to bring it to a liveable condition have never made it worthwhile?

But a great Bendigo building that must have a wonderful history.

Very sad about the vandalism.

Regards Dennis.

It's great that you uncovered an iconic heritage landmark while out on a walk.

It's quite surprising what you come across when you are on foot.

I'm just wondering with regards to Rocky Vale Villa (what a great name) what the overdressed stone quoins refer to.

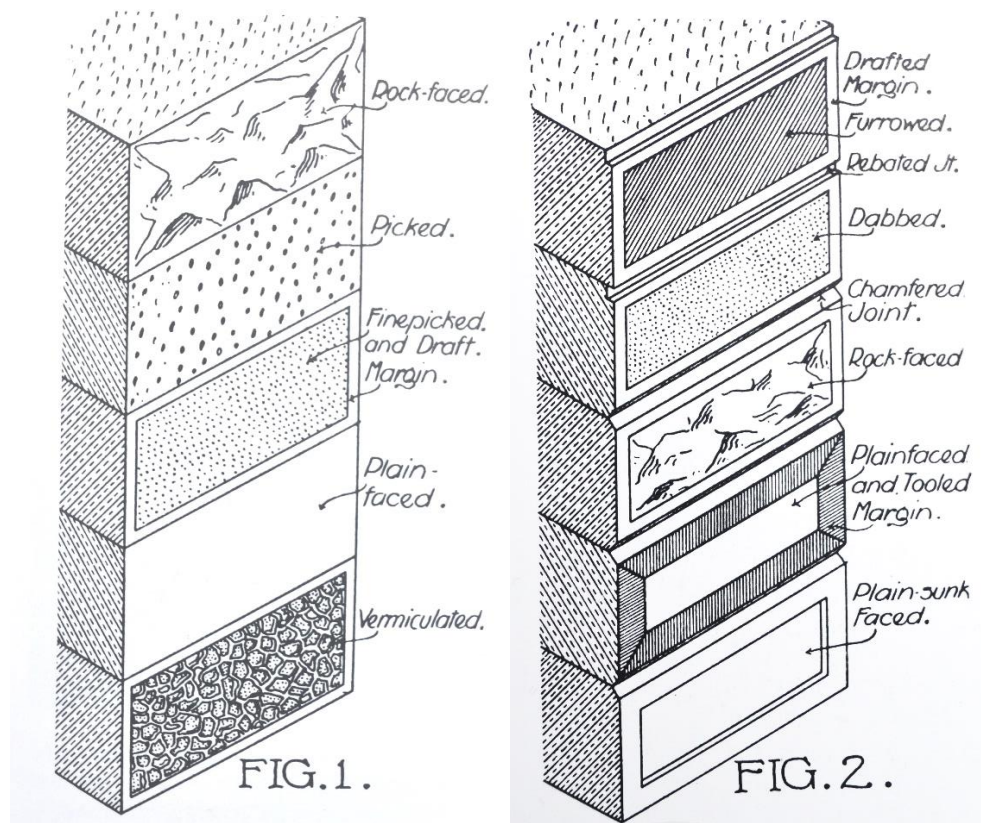
The skew corbels are integral to the gable end stone detailing to support the coping I understand.

But the question and the term used where the stone quoins are overdressed. Is this referring to their rustication?

I would love to know please. Thank you, kind regards, Chris.

Response from Elaine Doling, heritage consultant-
Hi Chris

I am not familiar with the term 'overdressed' with reference to stone. The dressed finish on the quoins, as far as I can tell from the photo, is what is usually termed 'Rock Faced', in this case with a drafted margin. According to one text "Rustication refers to ashlar-work with a specially rock-faced or faceted surface, also, ashlar of smooth-faced blocks with joints greatly emphasised." Ashlar usually refers to accurately cut and squared stone blocks or facing laid in a wall. Quoins are the corner blocks. The diagrams below give an idea of the types of finishes to be found on dressed stone.



Images from *Australian Architecture*, Robert Haddon, 1905.

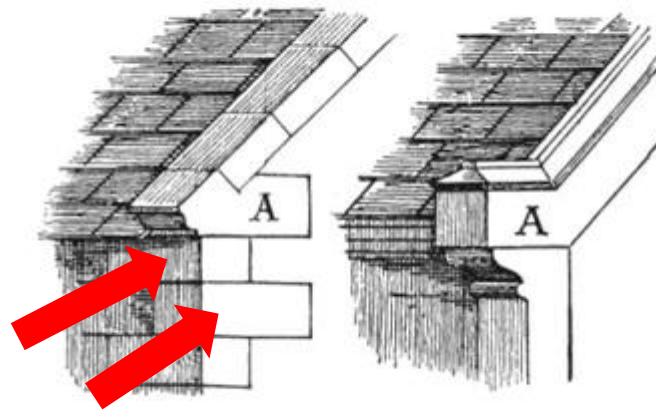
A good description of some methods of the dressing of natural stone can be found at <https://theconstructor.org/practical-guide/dress-natural-building-stones/40896/> from which the image below is taken-



Fig 4: Rock facing dressed.

As to the skew corbels, you are quite right. Beebe was a stonemason, so the house displays his skill. The fleur-de-lys finials on the tower and contrasting finial on the front gable serve this purpose well. The image below is from Illustrated Dictionary of Historic Architecture by Cyril M. Harris. The corner stones seen in the left hand image are the quoins (arrowed).

skew corbel, skew putt A stone built into the bottom of a gable to form an abutment for the coping, eave gutters, or wall cornices.



A, A, skew corbels

I hope this helps.

Castlemaine Townhouses

In response to your news section regarding the VCAT decision to NOT approve two new dwellings in Farnsworth St adjacent the heritage Powder Magazine and Keeper's House. The "voice" of Castlemaine with an interest in heritage preservation, restoration and adaption really needs better coordination. With the demise of the local branch of the National Trust some 7 years ago, there is no longer an easy conduit for a collective voice. This Farnsworth Street situation is a perfect example. We see a committed land owner of a heritage place that has conserved, restored and adapted it to give it an extended life want to build what are obviously new age dwellings nearby (in a precinct punctuated with dozens of "new" building erected over the past 50 years) only to be denied that opportunity. We cannot live in a vacuum – Castlemaine is not a town lost in time – it is a dynamic ever-changing community – most of the heritage buildings and sites are long gone. While we need to protect and preserve and adapt what remains, infill to add to the modern community is also required. What we do not need is pseudo heritage – pitched roofs for the sake of it, articulated fronts for the sake of it – the square black iron structures with flat roofs were intended to provide a contrast – that could never be mistaken for being from another era.

We cannot wrap ourselves in a blanket and lock out the world of change. We need to embrace change and the same time ensure that our built heritage is preserved, restored, maintained, adapted and most importantly used.

Cheers – Kim

Editor's note. The branch in the July H&H congratulated the residents for protecting their heritage precinct, however, debate and discussion is important for good planning decisions. Do other readers have a view on this issue?

Response to branch letter sent to Courts Victoria.

"In relation to Specimen Cottage, I can update you on progress of works:

As discussed, the works currently being undertaken that are generally covered by the original permit conditions as follows:

- Remedial works to stormwater collection (roof gutters and drainage) to the 1861 building

- Remedial works to 1861 cottage brickwork
- Remedial works to stone facades to the 1856 and 1861 buildings
- Final documentation to the 1856 roof works is nearing completion

Additional works (permit exemptions) have been approved by Heritage Victoria to remove the 1980's internal render to allow for the walls to be desalinated. These works are effectively finished with re-rendering yet to be undertaken.

Further design reviews have been undertaken by CSV landscaping consultants to complete the protection of Specimen Cottage from the further ingress of stormwater from external sources, both above and below ground with amended details to garden beds and the introduction of trench grates surrounding parts Specimen Cottage to collect water from new paved areas. The Conservation Management Plan is still to be finalised."



Specimen Cottage is currently being restored by Courts Victoria. Branch photos.

18 July 2022. To Mayor Cr Andrea Metcalf Re: National Trust enquiry regarding Joss House closure From Simon Ambrose, Chief Executive Officer National Trust of Australia (Victoria)

I write on behalf of the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) and our Bendigo & Region Branch in regard to the temporary closure of the Bendigo Joss House. I note a recent media article in the Bendigo Advertiser which reported that the Joss House is currently not open to worshippers and tourists. The National Trust would like to gain a better understanding of the situation, and in addition we ask that Council strongly advocate for this historic venue to be open to visitors. In handing over the site to Council in 2007, the National Trust signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Greater Bendigo Council. It was understood that Council would assist the Trust in finding a suitable operator to succeed the National Trust in managing the site and "ensure the Joss House is preserved as a historic feature of Bendigo and available for tourists and worshippers." We have been contacted by Dennis O'Hoy, a noted supporter of the Joss House, who has concerns about the prolonged closure of the site, and reports that worshippers have travelled from Melbourne but have been unable to gain entry. As a tourism organisation, the National Trust understands the challenges of operating historic sites in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is also most disappointing to hear of allegations that staff and volunteers at the Bendigo Joss House have been harassed. However, we would like to understand how Bendigo Tourism Attractions plans to regularly reopen the site to visitors.

The Trust would welcome the opportunity to meet with Council and Bendigo Tourism Attractions to discuss the issues contributing to the closure of the site, and with the Trust's experience in operating historic sites, explore solutions to ensure that the site can be regularly reopened to visitors.

Response: Thank you for your letter dated 18 July 2022 regarding the temporary closure of the Bendigo Joss House. The Mayor, Cr Andrea Metcalf has asked me to respond on her behalf. Unfortunately, the Bendigo Joss House was temporarily closed recently after some threatening behaviour towards staff on site. This decision was made by Bendigo Heritage Attractions to protect their staff. Bendigo Heritage Attractions operate the Bendigo Joss House under a Lease agreement from the City of Greater Bendigo as they do for a number of other important heritage assets in our city. Since this temporary closure a lot of work has happened with security contractors, City staff and Bendigo Heritage Attractions to work out some security improvements so the site can be reopened and the staff be safer, in an attempt to have the site reopened as soon as possible. We understand the heritage and cultural significance of this site and City staff will be continuing to work with Bendigo Heritage Attraction to ensure that site can once again be available for tourists and worshippers.

At the time of sending this newsletter the Joss House remains closed.

John Beebe's East Bendigo Observatory and Home-

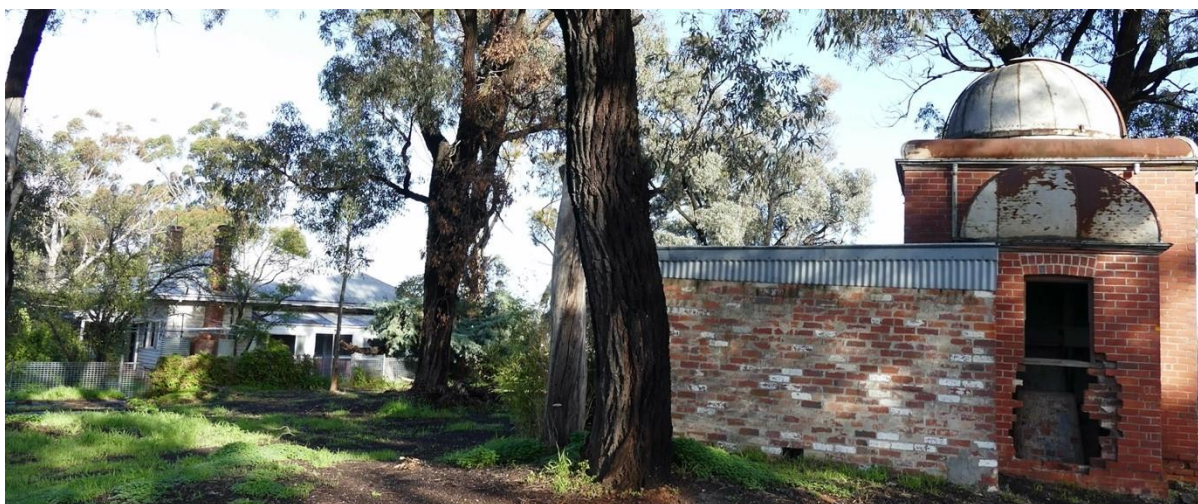
Planning Panels Victoria at a recent hearing decided to support an Amendment put forward by Greater Bendigo Council to protect the observatory, the house "La Rocca" and some land around those structures. The branch supported the Amendment at the hearing.

From the Planning Panels Report. The Panel concludes the former East Bendigo Observatory is of local heritage significance and demonstrates: • historical significance (Criterion A) • rarity (Criterion B) • representativeness (Criteria D) • aesthetic significance (Criteria E) • technical significance (Criteria F) • associative significance (Criteria H).

Parts of the Statement of Significance should be modified to clarify the elements of the former observatory that are of heritage significance. The Panel agrees it is appropriate to apply internal alteration controls to the former observatory building. The three clusters of trees identified in the exhibited Statement of Significance are not of heritage significance.

The residence 'La Rocca' The Panel considers the residence 'La Rocca' is part of a heritage 'complex'. In this context, the residence should be assessed as part an overall 'site', rather than as an individual heritage place. It is acknowledged that the residence 'La Rocca' has been modified over time, however there is sufficient fabric in place to assist in understanding and appreciating the dwelling. Although the mid twentieth century alterations and additions to the residence diminish the significance of the place, the remaining fabric enables the building to be understood as a transitional late Victorian or early Edwardian residence. The Panel considers the residence 'La Rocca' does not meet the threshold for aesthetic significance (Criterion E). The heritage significance of the residence is, however, justified on other criteria. The residence 'La Rocca' is a unique building. It is the only known surviving residence in association with a (former) private observatory. The residence 'La Rocca' contributes to the importance of the former East Bendigo Observatory building and provides an important setting and context for the observatory. The understanding and appreciation of the observatory would be diminished without the residence 'La Rocca'. The Panel considers the residence 'La Rocca' satisfies the criteria for historical significance (Criterion A), rarity (Criterion B) and associative significance (Criterion H). Heritage Overlay boundary. The heritage curtilage should be setback 10 metres from the front (southern side) of the residence 'La Rocca'. See link to full report.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Greater-Bendigo-C271gben-Panel-Report-.pdf>



This photo, taken by Euan McGillivray, demonstrated the unique connection between the Observatory and the house La Rocca. The branch presented a series of photos which finished up in the Panel's report.

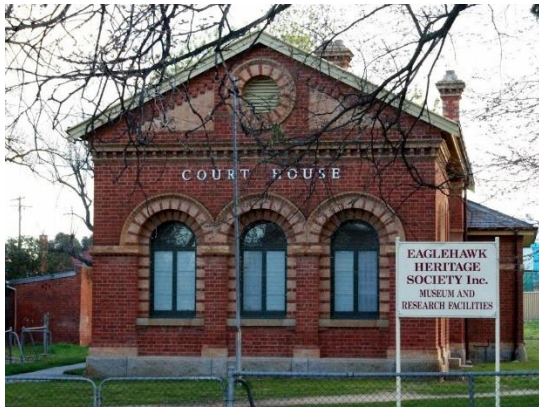
Eaglehawk Heritage Society to Close

The Eaglehawk Heritage Society has decided to wind up their Association having been established in 1994 to preserve the local history of Eaglehawk. In talking to some of the members they say that they are heartbroken to make the decision but with little support they feel they have no choice.

They are currently contacting people who have donated artifacts, family histories, mining records and many other items to their museum which is located in the former 1869 Eaglehawk Court House. They wish to return items where people can be found. The Court House was repaired and refurbished during their stay in the building. The Society also conducted tours of the Eaglehawk Town Hall containing the former Council Chambers and valuable pictures of former Mayors and unique furniture which dates back to the 19th century. They have provided research services for many families and organisations over the years as so many people have descendants from the area because of the gold rush from the 1850's. Alongside the Court House sits the former Eaglehawk Lock Up also managed by the Society.

To contact the Society ring Aylene Kirkwood 5446 9528.





The Eaglehawk Court House and Lock- Up with signs. Photos Eaglehawk Heritage Society

In 2017, Dr. Megan Cardamone wrote a Strategic Report on Greater Bendigo's Historical Artefacts. The Executive Summary states in part-

"A comprehensive survey, case studies and onsite visits were used to reveal and explore some current critical issues facing historical artefacts and the core community collections which hold them. The study has a special focus on the Bendigo Historical Society Inc., but also examines four other core collecting groups in Greater Bendigo - Eaglehawk Heritage Society Inc., Elmore Museum (Elmore Progress Association), Heathcote McIvor Historical Society Inc. and Huntly & Districts Historical Society Inc. The five groups in this study care for around 45,000 items of local heritage on behalf of the Greater Bendigo community. This volume of heritage material is of a size held by a major regional museum and yet they are being cared for by only 47 volunteers, 23 of whom are volunteers in roles of legal responsibility and group leadership. These volunteer groups perform a highly valuable service to the Greater Bendigo community. Some are extremely vulnerable due to shrinking member and volunteer bases. All attempts should be made to keep them operating so they can continue to care for these collections. However, it is important to plan now for the possibility that some groups may not be viable in the next few years. These groups have already received support from Council, mainly through provision of premises and access to support and advice mainly from two Council staff members. These forms of support are appreciated by the groups, but as their size and viability decrease, it becomes more likely that Council will need to take on more responsibility for care of these local heritage collections."

While the community does have a suitable storage facility, in Nolan Street North Bendigo, for historic paper records, it does not have one for other artefacts like furniture, clothing, machinery and all those other three-dimensional items. So much is being lost forever.

Royal Historical Society of Victoria- History Month October 2022

Wednesday October 5th at 10.00 a.m. Seniors Week "A Stroll in Rosalind Park" With Jim Evans. Meet at the Bendigo Visitors Centre, Pall Mall. Cost \$10 (\$5 members)

Saturday October 8th 160th Anniversary of Bendigo Railways. Join in the festivities including our historical display at the Bendigo Railway station. Full details to be confirmed.

Sunday October 16th at 2.00 p.m. "Almost lost wineries of Strathfieldsaye". By popular demand we are again running this bus tour to discover the stories of the historic wine areas in the region and places of interest along the way. Cost \$20 (Members \$15)

Thursday October 20th at Star cinema at 7.00 p.m. Film Fundraiser (Film to be announced.) An important fundraising event to support our Society. Cost \$25.

Sunday October 23rd at 10.00am. With Peter Cox (National Trust) "A New Perspective from the Bendigo Creek" A walk from Golden Square Fire Station to Lake Weeroona along the cobblestones of the Bendigo Creek with commentary on various sites. Walking shoes required for 1-2 hour walk & Talk. Cost \$TBA.

Sunday October 30th at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. "The wonders of mining at Victoria Hill" led by Billy Allen with extensive knowledge of geology and mining history. Meet at Victoria Hill (opposite the Goldmines Hotel). Cost \$10 (\$5 members).

These events are being organised by the Bendigo Historical Society. Phone Pip Johansson for further Information 0472975068

**Echuca Historical Society
Museum & Archive**

**1 Dickson St Echuca
0408505662
Open daily 10am to 2pm
echucahistoricalsociety.org.au**



Danger Page Report/follow up on issues as of June 2022

In the May edition of H&H it was suggested that a 'Danger Page' be included in each copy. It will take some consideration to formulate it. Suggestions are welcomed. Here is a list of issues that the branch has been working on for some time. Can you assist with these issues?

Bridge/culvert at Spring Gully has been repaired but is still not protected from erosion and riders underneath the structure.

§ The **stone buildings located at the Ravenswood Water Reserve** are in poor condition, need to be secured and a Committee of Management formed to oversee the protection of the site.

§ An independent assessment of **the E. G. Robertson Cast Iron Collection** is currently being undertaken with a report due in the coming months.

§ The storage of the **Doney Photographic Collection** is currently being considered with a report due sometime this year.

§ **The Bendigo Gas Works** have undergone a decontamination program and a draft master plan for the future of the site has been drawn up by Council. Council has informed the site that it will consider reopening the site for tours towards the end of 2022.

§ **Nanga Gnulle** has a heritage overlay to protect the house and a small part of the land around it. It is considered by the branch to be at risk.

§ **The Vahland Fountain** has been vandalized with restoration works to be undertaken over the next couple of months.

§ **The Bendigo TAFE** gates/part fence located beside the MacGillivray Hall have been hit by a truck. Repairs are due to be completed by September.

Your views are sought on heritage issues. The branch welcomes your ideas, contributions and photographs for the newsletter which is published monthly. You can 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. E nattrustbendigo@gmail.com President, Peter Cox 0447473674 M C/- 57 Green St California Gully VIC 3556. You are receiving this email because you are a member of the National Trust of Australia (Vic) or have asked us to send you the newsletter. If you no longer wish to receive these emails, please contact the Branch at nattrustbendigo@gmail.com with unsubscribe in the subject line. We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Victoria and recognize 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