



# History & Heritage

A publication of the National Trust of Australia (Victoria)  
Bendigo & Region Branch October 2022



## Cover story - The Bendigo Joss House Temple

Bendigo Joss House Temple over 120-year timeframe. Top: Bartlett Bros Studio, Bendigo, about 1900. Image supplied. Right: Allan Doney, about 1960. Doney Collection, National Trust of Australia (Vic). Left: Annual report, 2019/20 Bendigo Heritage Attractions.

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**Next Branch Meeting** - The next branch meeting will be held on Monday 24th October, 5.30pm, at the Shamrock Hotel taking up the issues from History & Heritage including the closure of the Bendigo Joss House Temple, Greater Bendigo's 108 State Heritage sites and more on your views about the redevelopment of the Bendigo Art Gallery. 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](mailto: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 November History & Heritage is Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November.

### 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.

### Book sale: A great birthday or Christmas present!

The branch has two books for sale.

Bendigo at Work-An Industrial History by Mike Butcher & Yolande Collins \$40

Postwar Portrait- Photographs by Allan Doney 1900-1987 by Mike Butcher & Yolande Collins \$30

## **Movie Night Fundraiser – in partnership with Bendigo Historical Society**

**Thursday 20 October, 7pm. Star Cinema, Eaglehawk**

*“The Lost City of Melbourne”* is a documentary that has just premiered at the Melbourne International Film festival and is being released in a small number of cinemas.

Please book online. Cost \$22.00.

Bookings: <https://www.starcinema.org.au/movie/bhs-fundraiser-the-lost-city-of-melbourne>.

Link to trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hGz5QX3muh0>

## **Bendigo Creek Walk – a new perspective, Sunday October 23 at 10.00 a.m.**

The Bendigo Branch is again partnering with the Bendigo Historical Society in presenting a walk along part of the Bendigo Creek. Branch President Peter Cox will lead the walk from Golden Square Fire Station to Lake Weeroona along the cobblestones of the Bendigo Creek with commentary at various locations. Sturdy walking shoes required for 1-2 hour walk.

Please make arrangements for your return to starting point at completion of tour - car pool or pre park car at end of walk. Cost \$10.00 (BHS & Trust members \$5.00 – cash on the day).

Below: This photograph taken by a visiting French photographer in 1898 shows a Chinese alluvial miner cradling for gold along the Bendigo creek, before this section was concreted. Behind you can see the gas works shed, still extant, up to late 2020. Image: courtesy of Dennis O'Hoy.



Above: Bendigo Creek flood 1871, Bridge Street, where the Chinese Museum is sited. Image: courtesy of Dennis O'Hoy

## Cover story

### The Bendigo Joss House Temple - Peter Cox

The branch has been concerned that the Bendigo Joss House Temple has been closed continuously for over four months. A response in June from Council's Economic Development Manager, Ben Devanny on why this has occurred said. "Recently there has been some disturbing antisocial behaviour at the Joss House and the surrounding areas of this historically significant site. As a result, Bendigo Heritage Attractions (BHA) who currently lease and manage the site from the City of Greater Bendigo (CoGB) have decided to close the site temporarily to protect the staff and site. BHA and COGB are working through measures to improve security of the site for staff, visitors and worshipers so the site can be reopened as soon as possible."

CEO of the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) Simon Ambrose wrote to the Mayor, Cr Andrea Metcalf about the closure on 18<sup>th</sup> July.

*"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.*

*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 from Mayor, Cr Andrea Metcalf

*"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 Attractions to ensure that the site can once again be available for tourists and worshippers."*

The site remains closed as History & Heritage goes to print. The Council has not met with the National Trust. A number of calls during August to the CEO of Bendigo Heritage



Attractions, James Reade, resulted in him saying that he will be able to talk to the branch in a couple of months as he was going on leave and there were currently staff shortages.

A report on ABC news this week reported that Bendigo Heritage Attractions is now wanting to have a discussion with Council on the future management of the site. It also reported that Dennis O'Hoy is now calling for the site to be managed by the Bendigo Chinese Association.

Bendigo Heritage Attractions acting CEO, Deanne Poynton, responded to the ABC news report by saying that she hoped that the site will be reopened in late October with increased security measures. Ms Poynton indicated that BHA is talking to the Bendigo Chinese Association on how best to promote the site and that volunteers will be reintroduced to the site.

### **A Brief Guide to Heritage Listings – Elaine Doling**

People frequently ask what the difference is between a listing on the State Heritage Register, the National Trust Register, and local Heritage Overlays. It should be noted that a place can appear on one or all of the following listings.

Firstly, there is a difference between the **Victorian Heritage Database** and the **Victorian Heritage Register**.

#### **Victorian Heritage Database**

You can find information on places and objects of historical and cultural significance in Victoria in the [Victorian Heritage Database](#). The database lists not only all places and objects that are included in the Victorian Heritage Register, but a large number of heritage sites and items that are of local heritage significance or listed by the National Trust of Australia (Victoria). Entries in the database are labelled according to the relevant authority. Local Councils may have Local Overlays included in the Victorian Heritage Database. Twenty-nine councils (including the City of Greater Bendigo) have their data included so far.

**The Victorian Heritage Register** lists and provides legal protection under the Heritage Act 2017 for heritage places and objects that are significant to the history and development of Victoria.

**Heritage places** can include buildings, trees, parks and gardens, streetscapes, archaeological sites, cemeteries, precincts, shipwrecks and structures such as bandstands.

**Heritage objects** can include furniture, shipwrecks, relics, archaeological artefacts, equipment, transport vehicles and everyday articles that contribute to an understanding of Victoria's history.

A place or object included in the register cannot be altered in any way without a permit or permit exemption from Heritage Victoria. Severe penalties can apply for disregarding these provisions.

**A Local Level (Council) Heritage Overlay** protects places of value to the local community. Places of local significance are listed on a Schedule to the Heritage Overlay under the Council's local Planning Scheme. Planning permits must be obtained for alterations and development of such places under the Planning and Environment Act 1987.

#### **Classification by the National Trust**

The National Trust is a not-for-profit charity and community heritage advocacy group. The

National Trust Heritage Register is the most comprehensive single heritage register in Victoria, covering all types of cultural and natural heritage, including buildings, trees, landscapes, gardens, public art and pipe organs. However, the National Trust is not a government body, and classification by the National Trust does not entail legal recognition- it has no statutory power. Government bodies do give some weight to National Trust classification nonetheless, and the National Trust may campaign and advocate for the protection of classified places, and other heritage places in danger.



Bendigo Pottery 120-146 Midland Hwy Epsom VHR H0674, local HO 674 also NT Bottle Kilns 146 Midland Hwy Epsom File Only B3329. (Lower picture inside the Pottery Interpretation Centre.) Images: Bendigo Branch 2022

### **The War Heritage Inventory**

[The War Heritage Inventory](#) contains information and images of places related to Victoria's war history including memorials, avenues of honour, memorial buildings, former defence sites and places of commemoration.

### **The Victorian Heritage Inventory**

The Victorian Heritage Inventory is a list of known archaeological sites in the State. Some of these may also appear in the Victorian Heritage Register. Aboriginal archaeological sites are protected under the Aboriginal Heritage Act.  
For more information see

<https://vhd.heritagecouncil.vic.gov.au/about>

<https://heritagecouncil.vic.gov.au/heritage-protection/heritage-protection-explained/>

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/services/heritage-register-vic/>



Goldmines Hotel. Fence, Trees 49 -57 Marong Rd  
Golden Square VHR H0827 also CoGB HO 449 NT  
B6127. Images: Bendigo Branch 2022



### **A Vahland Building in Maldon - by Jan Warracke**

Here in Maldon, we've been very busy in recent years with the 'streetscape rejuvenation project' which encompasses the central historic area. This project has provided impetus to look deeper into the history of Maldon's historic streetscapes and add to the research carried out in the 1970s and 1980s. One recent discovery came as a pleasant surprise, namely a building designed by WC Vahland which is celebrating its quasiquicentennial in October 2022.

Originally referred to as Goldsmith's "Heart of Maldon", this building, admired for its richly ornamented façade, is located on Main Street, near the intersection with High Street; literally at the heart of Maldon's commercial precinct. The large site was purchased by F. Goldsmith in 1856 and throughout the 1860s shops and a warehouse were constructed. These buildings were destroyed by a fire in March 1891 and the site remained vacant for six years. It became known as "Goldsmith's Gap" and "Goldsmith's Folly", and was used as a short cut between Main and Tobin Streets. The lack of rebuilding progress caused considerable consternation within the town and prompted numerous Letters to the Editor of the *Tarrangower Times* in 1896-7.

Joseph Goldsmith was now the owner of the site and his attempts to fence it off met with vandalism. In March 1897 he announced that further damage would result in him erecting a 25 feet high hoarding to be used for advertising. By July 1897 Vahland & Son, Bendigo was calling for tenders for the erection of new shops for Mr Goldsmith.

An article titled 'Improvements in Maldon' (*Tarrangower Times* 15 Sep 1897:2) reported on the building boom then underway. The report on Mr. Goldsmith's Buildings stated "The contractors – Messrs. Thompson & Son, of Castlemaine – were making very satisfactory progress ... and expect to complete the work in October ... Mr. W. C. Vahland. F.R.V.I.A., of Bendigo, is the architect." It was anticipated that the buildings would "add considerably to the beauty of town, and form a most imposing structure". The building's imposing look seemed assured by its elaborate parapet reaching some 30 feet in height, and its unusual timber acroteria ornamentation. The construction materials included stone, brick and "the very best



Intersection of Main & High Streets looking north east c1907, with Goldsmith's Buildings behind the young elm tree. Most of these buildings remain extant with the notable exception of the Bank of Victoria building (at left side).

New Zealand Pine". The Melbourne City Corporation pattern cast iron verandah, extensive plate glass windows, and large lantern lights for ventilation and lighting were noted. All shops were let prior to completion. In March 1898 a footpath of new flagging from Harcourt quarries was laid.

The foundation stone which reads "THIS STONE WAS LAID JUBILEE YEAR 1897" is at the base of the north-side central pier. The Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria had been fulsomely celebrated in Maldon on 22 June 1897 and the community was keen to establish a memorial. Donations to erect a town clock at bank corner failed to reach the target amount and the project didn't proceed. Goldsmith was a member of the Permanent Memorial Fund sub-committee so it's possible that this connection influenced the wording on the stone. This foundation stone is Maldon's only public recognition of the jubilee. It is now coated in layers of paint and hidden from view behind a planter pot.





Far left: Foundation stone between the central and First tenant of northernmost shop, 1902. 2 October 2022.

Left: Northernmost shops, Maldon Conservation Study (1977):20.



Part of the complete parapet seen in the 1920s. The original colour scheme is identifiable.

Over time the “Heart of Maldon” site was subdivided, eventually leaving each of the original shops with a separate owner. The physical fabric of the shop fronts remained largely unchanged apart from the removal of the upper-level decorative elements of the parapet during the 1960s. The lower parapet section was covered to facilitate signage, and paint schemes were ad hoc.



This image from Maldon Conservation Study (1977) shows Goldsmith's Building prior to the commencement of conservation of Maldon's historic central area buildings.



During the 1980s new businesses occupied the shops and some remaining sections of parapet were uncovered prior to restoration works. The images were taken by Nigel Lewis, Maldon's Heritage Advisor in this period.

By 1995 the parapet had been largely restored and a period-appropriate paint scheme applied. Fortunately, one of the decorative upper sections had remained extant for pattern making purposes. The central section was not completed due to funding complications.



The Maldon Tarranettes in the Maldon Easter Procession in 1959. This image shows the complete parapet on Goldsmith's Buildings.

The former Goldsmith's Building has received little attention since 1995. The imposing parapet is once again in need of work and the central section remains incomplete. On a positive note, the power pole which used to protrude through the central shop's verandah was removed in 2021. Unfortunately, the shop front colour scheme is again becoming fragmented.



Former Goldsmith's Building, October 2022.

This building demonstrates the issues faced when restoring or maintaining a building originally constructed and presented as a unified row of premises. It is hoped that ways can be found to preserve its distinctive qualities thus ensuring it continues to contribute to the heritage significance of Maldon.

Author's note: All images are either from the Maldon Museum & Archives collection, which includes original Maldon Conservation Study (1977) research notes and images and material relevant to early building conservation works, or from the author's personal collection.

## **Pall Mall & School of Mines**

The September edition of H&H had stories relating to a future for Pall Mall and the vacant Bendigo School of Mines building. The overall theme was retention, preservation and use of heritage buildings. Here is another thought on that theme.

### **A Long-Standing Issue - A Museum for Bendigo – Terry Davidson**

Bendigo has now become known both nationally and internationally for its Art Gallery managed by the City Council. However, today the City still has no regional museum. There is value in briefly looking at the story of how, over many years, this situation has come to be. As far back as the early days of the gold rush the people of Bendigo have been supportive of a museum and by the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century the School of Mines for some time had an extensive and well-respected series of museum displays.

Formed in 1935, Bendigo's first Historical Society had a museum on its agenda. Later, the local Branch of the Royal Historical Society (forerunner of the present Bendigo Historical Society) conceived the idea of presenting to the public, "a large-scale Historical Exhibition". It sought to raise funds towards the purchase of a suitable building for a permanent historical museum. A Historical & Mining Museum was later located in the Eaglehawk Mechanics Institute building. The Bendigo Historical Society's use of Council's Dudley House in View Street for many years incorporated a limited museum display of its collection.

The result of a 1999 large community forum organized by the Council indicated: *"The need for exhibition display space - a Regional Museum"*. The subsequently commissioned consultancy covered collections; venues; resources etc. Among its recommendations was the call for plans to be developed to meet a regional museum objective. A restructure of Council's management to reflect such a Bendigo Regional Museum proposal was

recommended. It called for any museum to be developed in accordance within the requirements of the Museum Accreditation Program.

Planning commenced again with the 2005 'Greater Bendigo +25' plan setting out community priorities through extensive group sessions and workshops. Regular sub-committee meetings followed with a consistent thread that a substantial museum and associated facilities were of prime importance. It formalized this under projected Key Achievements: *"In 2030 Greater Bendigo will have an Arts culture scene that is supported by high quality infrastructure. We will do this by establishing a centralized collection storage facility (historical, art, archival, library) on a major scale surrounded by museum display areas visited by tourists and researchers from near and far"*.

Then, in 2011 the 'Greater Bendigo 2036' community consultation document was published by Council. Noteworthy, however, within its seven Priorities was an unexplained lack of recognition of the formerly strongly supported view for a major museum facility.

In 2017 Dr. Megan Cardamone presented to Council a Strategic Report on Greater Bendigo's Historical Artefacts with some mention of a Regional Museum. It recommended to Council that if however, at some point, the City ever decided to establish a museum, three extensive prior collection measures would first need to be met, saying that only then would Council be in the best position to evaluate the feasibility of a Greater Bendigo Museum.

The emerging plan to relocate the Law Courts on Pall Mall to a new site drew community press attention to such a heritage building being a suitable one for a museum. In 2018, a promotion of this idea led by prominent former City Councillor Wayne Gregson would also receive some support from the Bendigo Historical Society.

More recently there has been some speculation as to the potential for a museum to be located in some of the now unused space within the heritage School of Mines building on Pall Mall. This brief review shows that along with continuing public interest there has been a varying level of consideration over the years at a Council level for a Regional Museum to showcase the wide history of Bendigo. This has not been accompanied by actions to date to bring such a concept to fruition.

Being aware that many municipal governments have embraced museums with enthusiasm I authored a limited scoping study of five municipal museum facilities which was submitted to Council in 2018 by the Bendigo Historical Society as part of its response to the Cardamone report. That 2018 review of the Newcastle Museum, the Orange Regional Museum, the Albury Library Museum, the Yarra Ranges Regional Museum and (briefly) to the Toitū Otago Settlers Museum (N.Z) constitutes a separate document.

See link to Terry's illustrated paper about 4 museums operated and largely funded by local government authorities with valuable community support.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/Scoping-Study-Four-LocalGovernments-supporting-Museums.pdf>



## Major development in heritage precincts

### Bendigo Art Gallery Development



While the Branch introduced this new development proposal to members in the September issue, it is interesting to see it together with the proposed development at the Tramways depot.

#### Extract from Bendigo Art Gallery website:

<https://www.bendigoregion.com.au/bendigo-art-gallery/redevelopment-project>

*'The redevelopment is expected to cost \$48M. The majority of funding support will be sought from the State and Federal governments (up to \$31M), together with funding commitments from the City of Greater Bendigo, Bendigo Art Gallery Board and fundraising through philanthropic donations.'*

*'We are currently planning an exciting major redevelopment of the Gallery. Thanks to the success and growth of the Gallery, we have outgrown our current facilities. If funding is secured the redevelopment will increase our exhibition and education spaces to provide more opportunities for residents and visitors to enjoy the arts.'*

*The project has been recognised by the City of Greater Bendigo as its number one priority project. The Gallery and City of Greater Bendigo are currently working hard to advocate for State and Federal government funding.*

*Funding will need to be secured by June 2023 for this project to go ahead so we have enough time to complete the redevelopment in time for the Victoria 2026 Commonwealth Games. Bendigo has been announced as a co-host for the Games where we are looking forward to being the cultural hub showcasing our program on a world stage.*

*If funding is not secured by June next year, we will pause the project until after the Games.'*

#### Another major project for Bendigo



An artist's impression of the  
Tramways Depot redevelopment.

### **Bendigo Tramways Workshop**

#### **Extract from 2019/20 Annual Report, Bendigo Heritage Attractions**

*'Scoping and preliminary design of the \$10.6 million Tramways Workshop expansion and redevelopment continued with the completion of a key step, namely the acquisition of the necessary land.'*

*'Planning and design for the new Bendigo Tramways Depot Redevelopment is progressing well. VicTrack is leading the project with support from BHA, City of Greater Bendigo and Regional Development Victoria. This world class facility will enable Bendigo Tramways to be an international leader in heritage vehicle manufacturing and restoration, whilst continuing to build its reputation as Australia's pre-eminent tourist tramway.'*

#### **Extract from 2020/21 Annual Report, Bendigo Heritage Attractions**

*'Throughout the past year we have continued working closely with VicTrack, the City of Greater Bendigo and Regional Development Victoria on the \$10.7m Bendigo Tramways Depot and Workshop Redevelopment. The project is focused on enhancing the visitor experience at Bendigo Tramways, expanding the Bendigo Tramways workshops and providing additional onsite storage for trams. This gives us the ability to increase the number of trams that we can restore, creating more jobs and generating economic activity in Central Victoria. We are currently in the final stages of developing the concept and master plans, with construction expected to begin in early 2022.'*

#### **Project update:**

While the concept sketch shown above, appears in the 2020/21 Heritage Attractions Annual Report, it is not the final design. The impression below is the latest version of the development. See link to full current plans.

<https://www.victrack.com.au/projects/key-projects/bendigo-tramways-expansion>



Concept by Y2 Architects. Image courtesy of Vic Track.

## **Bendigo Tramways: Bendigo Advertiser 9 September 2022**

"Work will start on the Bendigo Tramways expansion by the end of the year after a local company was appointed to deliver the project. The build is expected to take 12 month for Searle Bros, which won the contract following a competitive tender process run by the City of Greater Bendigo. Deputy premier and Bendigo East MP Jacinta Allan said the project would add to the Bendigo Tramways' legacy.

"We are one step closer to enabling more of our historic trams to be restored and preserved for the future, right in the heart of Bendigo," she said.

"The expansion of the Bendigo Tramways will create jobs and provide a boost to our local economy, while ensuring the rich history of our tram network can be maintained for years to come."

The tramways expansion will see storage at the site increase - allowing for retired W-Class trams from Newport to be kept at the site. Workshops at the site will also be upgraded meaning crews can take on bigger projects and more restorations, while a new visitor experience will allow for an increase in tourism.

"The expansion of Bendigo Tramways will enable opportunities for locals and people right across regional Victoria to learn skills that help to preserve our transport history," Bendigo West MP Maree Edwards said."

## **Planning & development conundrums**

A conundrum is a confusing or difficult problem or question. In planning and development of buildings, spaces or other public or private infrastructure, competing priorities obviously need to be discussed, and, eventually resolved. Here is one example.

## **Castlemaine residents release own design for Camp Reserve upgrade, unhappy with council's plan**

Follow the story.... [https://www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/Page/Page.aspx?Page\\_Id=2319](https://www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/Page/Page.aspx?Page_Id=2319)



*'In September 2020, (Mount Alexander) Council approved a master plan for the site, which provides direction for future improvements at the reserve and plays an important role in helping Council to secure funding for the upgrades. The master plan was developed by sport and recreation experts in consultation with the reserve's Committee of Management which is made up of user groups.*

*The master plan aims to strike the right balance between keeping historic features and traditions at the reserve, while bringing the major sports facility up to modern day standards.*

*Council will carry out the recommendations in the master plan over a number of years, and in various stages pending funding. The Camp Reserve Master Plan is part of Council's commitment to investing in sport and recreation infrastructure to promote increased participation in healthy physical activity for all users.'*



Left: The Mount Alexander Shire is planning to upgrade the pavilion and netball courts and move them to the other side of the reserve. (ABC Central Victoria: Shannon Schubert)

Right: The Gold Camp is Castlemaine wants to see the facilities rebuilt in their current locations. (Supplied: The Gold Camp is Castlemaine)

### **The Castlemaine community is divided over proposed plans for a new pavilion and multipurpose courts at Camp Reserve.**

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-09-22/castlemaine-community-sports-facility-upgradeplan-camp-reserve/101465322>

The key points are: the council's design proposes moving the netball courts and pavilion at Camp Reserve; the community says the facilities are in urgent need of an upgrade and old trees will be removed under the current design

*The Mount Alexander Shire in central Victoria released the designs of the upgrade to the public for feedback earlier this month. It proposed building the new courts at the southern Forest Street side of the reserve, rather than at the current location. The pavilion is also set to be built on the western boundary, near the intersection of Caroline Street and Gingell Street, according to the draft masterplan, which was endorsed by councillors in September 2020. The Gold Camp is Castlemaine community group is calling for the council to reconsider the design, which included the removal of several trees. The group has even created their own masterplan for the redevelopment.*

*"The main difference is we place the netball courts and the pavilion at the north end of the oval, which has no heritage value," group co-convenor John Lewis said.*

*"We believe that protects the rest of the reserve, protects the vegetation, the heritage aspect of the southern slope, which dates back to the Gold Rush as an integral part of the gold commissioner's camp." Under current plans, six trees will be removed from the site when the*



*facilities are upgraded. This includes removing one peppercorn tree and two English elms, located near the Forest Street entrance, and two river red gums and one small Eucalyptus tree. Mr Lewis said some of the trees the council was planning to remove could be hundreds of years old. "We would lose 75 per cent of the green space," he said.*

### **Have your say...**

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/> 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 the email below to 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. National Trust of Australia (Vic) Bendigo & Region Branch [natrustbendigo@gmail.com](mailto:natrustbendigo@gmail.com) President, Peter Cox 0447473674 M C/- 57 Green St California Gully VIC 3556.