

# History & Heritage

A publication of the National Trust of Australia (Victoria)  
Bendigo & Region Branch September 2023

## Cover Story: Bendigo Station needs a master plan



## Next Branch Meeting at Central Deborah Gold Mine Tuesday 26 September 2023



**Note that the meeting will be in two parts:**

- **4.30 to 5.15pm** Surface Tour of Central Deborah Gold Mine. Meet at main entrance 76 Violet Street Bendigo. (Free)
- **5.30pm.** Meeting. Enter via gate 2 in Creek Street.
- Members and supporters of heritage are welcome to attend Branch meetings and events.



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Cover photographs Top: Undated view looking at the down side station building on the left, the goods shed in the middle and the loco dept on the right. Image: Victorian Railways. Bottom: Central Deborah Gold Mine employees. Image: <https://www.central-deborah.com/about-us/central-deborah-gold-mine-s-history>

## Cover Story: Bendigo Station needs a master plan

Cheaper fares and more expensive fuel are encouraging many travellers to choose trains over cars. The Bendigo Railway Station has seen a number of multi-million-dollar redevelopments over recent years including a large bus shelter, an all-purpose walkover with lifts over the rail line and refurbishments of amenities for better customer services and comfort. The intent of all of these projects has improved the use of the facility but has also added to the demise of the architectural style of the buildings which date back to the early 1860s. This has occurred as there is no master plan for the site and is much needed at this time as more and more people are seeing the benefits of travelling by train and coach services. Many people are now enjoying the relaxed journey and seeing the wonderful scenery of our seasons in the comfort of modern trains and coaches.

The Branch believes the time is right for a master plan to be developed for the whole site and much needed maintenance being undertaken on the buildings located there.

A discussion needs to take place with the community now to develop the plan as it is the premier entrance to our city for so many people. The Maryborough Station is a good example of how a station can be enhanced and managed and be a major daily attraction.

More on the Bendigo Railway Station buildings in the next *History & Heritage*.  
See link to more Bendigo Railway station photographs [here](#)



The railways celebrated 150 years in Bendigo on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2012: "Thousands of people flocked to Bendigo Railway Station yesterday to welcome Bendigo's own R711 steam train and mark the 150th anniversary of rail to the town. Among them were Peter and Alan Burrowes, great-grandsons of former Bendigo mayor Robert Burrowes who welcomed the first steam train to Bendigo in 1862." *Bendigo Advertiser*



Looking towards Melbourne before the up side buildings were built, circa 1885. Note the staggered platform. Image: Victorian Railways

## Vision needed to retain inner-city heritage homes - Peter Cox

In the August copy of *H&H* there was a display of photographs illustrating the many houses around the Bendigo CBD that have been taken over for full time business activity which leads to many of those homes being modified, gardens and backyards being converted to car parks but more disturbingly those properties being diminished of people at night and weekends who would normally be active participants walking to shop and frequent the many cafés and restaurants in the CBD. In addition, other homes are being used by short term stays and prime residential land being used for selling cars, storage and other commercial activities when there are many vacant premises inside the CBD being underutilised. At a time when the city is experiencing a critical shortage of housing you would expect a planning application for 38 Myers Street Bendigo, at the August Greater Bendigo Council meeting, to redevelop a period home in a heritage precinct to further extend its operation as a medical practice, would get some discussion about these issues.



Left: The Californian Bungalow house 38 Myers Street, Bendigo in 2011, now being used for business. Image: realestate.com.au  
Right: Artist's impression of the Medical Centre development proposal. Image: from the planning application

But no, the planning officer chose to report to Council that discussion is not about the use of the property as that decision was made in 2011 when a permit was issued for its use. The discussion was about it being located in a heritage precinct and that there was insufficient evidence on that basis not to approve the application. Plans on page 165 of the [City Council agenda](#) show elevations of the development (see below an example).

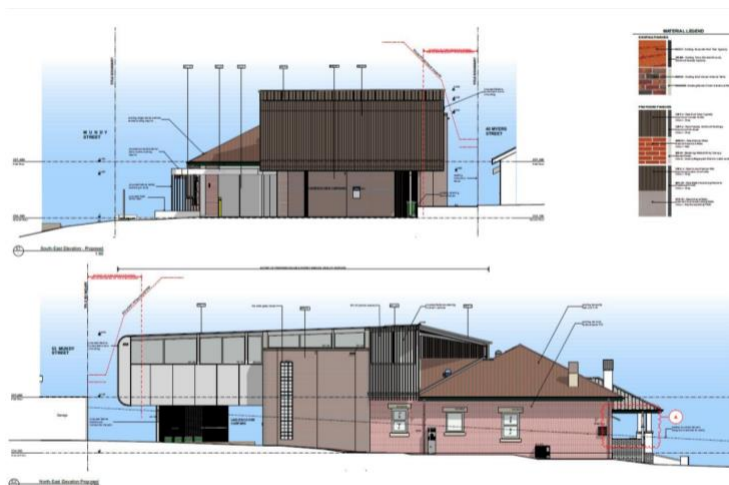


Figure 10: Elevations (residential interfaces)

It was disappointing that Councillors did not grasp the opportunity to debate a vision for the city's future, raise the Council's City Centre Plan which has been adopted by the Council, or even point out that the location of the development was on a corner where the streetscape would be completely destroyed if it proceeded.

The City Centre Plan clearly presented a blueprint for the future:

"This precinct also provides the private sector with opportunities to invest, with the blocks bounded by Hargreaves, Mundy, Myers and Chapel Streets presenting numerous redevelopment options. As with other precincts, new developments need to be site responsive and consider adjacent or nearby heritage properties." (page 70 [Bendigo City Centre Plan](#) 2020)

However, the sentiment of the whole report talks about premium residential areas being a key factor to repopulating areas around the CBD. Prime residential land too, being returned to its former use as housing and Council to endeavour to make this happen.

If Councillors were in tune with the report and its vision and rejected the application, the owners of the business may have considered the expansion would be better located at an alternative site. While Officers often consider applications in isolation and narrow confines, it is the role of Councillors to encompass the 'Big Picture' issues, the future growth of our city and its historical built form.

What do you think about the new build? Do you have a view on the future of the CBD? Is heritage important? Should policy include addressing the housing crisis? Send your thoughts to *H&H*.

## **Miners' cottages: further submission to City of Greater Bendigo Amendment C275gben Panel Hearing Bendigo Branch National Trust of Australia (Victoria)**

In response to the Panel's request, the Branch makes the following comments:

Miners' cottages have played an important role in providing housing over the past 150 years in Bendigo and as a consequence provide a rich history of how people lived over those years. They often started as a small dwelling and added to as families grew and miners increased their income. The *Ironbark Heritage Study* (2010) describes their history in detail and this amendment extends the protection given as a result of that study to cottages in an extended area.

The cottages were mainly built from timber which allowed their owners to easily maintain and extend them. Bricks were also in supply and became an additional material used to enhance the buildings. These materials have always been available over the years and as a result the cottages have remained a major feature of the streetscapes of Bendigo. Repairs were done by replacing damaged timbers, like for like, which maintained the original design over a long time period.

These cottages were the mainstay of providing reasonably cheap affordable housing but as a result of them being purchased by investors many of them have not been maintained and have fallen into disrepair. Now Bendigo lacks the diversity of housing needed by our current population, many who are now either homeless who are threatened with it. With over a third of our population now living alone, one- and two-bedroom housing is a much-needed necessity. As miners' cottages disappear so does our diversity of housing and the history of the people who lived in them. They are often replaced with poorly designed residences with four bedrooms taking up the whole block, a step beyond what many people can afford.

Some comments on the four cottages requested by the Panel:

### **3 Pascoe St Long Gully**

A cottage that has been maintained but use of materials misguided. It is in a prominent location on the hill and on the street boundary. It is a miner's cottage to the onlooker and has potential to maintain its integrity. The poor choice of window selection, steel veranda posts and fencing and location of solar panels could be rectified.





### 55 Arnold Street Bendigo

A cottage in a very important corner location in a precinct of period homes. It is situated beside the Bendigo Creek which is to be opened as a Walking and Cycle Trail in the near future. It is intact and is a very important contributor to the streetscape. A tradesperson could do wonders to maintain this property.



### 266 Queen St Bendigo

This is one for the Panel to decide as the Branch has not had an opportunity to inspect. It appears it has been purchased to be demolished. It is in a very prominent position in a precinct of period homes. While the fence reflects the precinct it is disappointing that the cottage was not given the same understanding.



### 19 Grant Street Long Gully

A cottage that in 2017 was intact surrounded by mature trees but with little maintenance degraded into the state that it is found today. Purchasers of period homes have a responsibility to preserve and maintain and cannot claim ignorance as a reason for this neglect. It is members of a community that make a difference. There are hundreds of such properties around Bendigo and their demise is part of the housing problem and loss of history that we have today. A tradesperson working with available materials could rescue this home.



### Summary

The Branch supports the Council in its endeavours to preserve Bendigo's history through this amendment. While some purchasers of period properties do not fully understand the responsibilities of their actions, the Council has a much more important role in maintaining its local history incorporated under legislation through its Planning Scheme. It must do what is required of it. While this might seem unreasonable to some private owners, it is in the long-term interest of the whole community that its history, architecture, streetscapes and maintenance of existing housing stock be given its priority.

## Victorian Goldfields World Heritage Bid

### Update from Trevor Budge, World Heritage Strategic Projects Officer

#### Two Councils have joined the project.

The group of thirteen local governments, that originally formed the Central Victorian Goldfields World Heritage bid in 2019, has been expanded to fifteen Councils with the formal inclusion of the Shires of Baw Baw and Indigo. Those Shires include outstanding gold mining heritage, particularly in Walhalla and Beechworth respectively. Given the wider scope, the project is now formally referred to as the Victorian Goldfields World Heritage Bid. A title which will have wider recognition at the state, national and international level.



Chinese Cemetery, Beechworth 2013 Image: Wikimedia Commons

#### Selection of Proposed World Heritage Sites

The identification of proposed World Heritage site locations is a project that was commenced with funding by a Regional Development Victoria grant combined with regionally sourced funds late last year. The World Heritage 'Site' will be the Victorian Goldfields, but the Site will comprise several separate component parts or locations as



Walhalla bandstand, Star Hotel and Oddfellows' Hall. Image: visitgippsland.com.au

part of a cultural landscape – this is how a serial listing Site is put forward. The rigorous selection and explanation for the nomination of the component parts is a critical element of the whole project. Proposed component parts must be authentic, intact and have a demonstrated management regime to ensure their protection and ongoing conservation management. It is important to realise that the criteria for selection of these component areas is unique to World Heritage listing. Sites must relate to the identified attributes in the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value. There is no value in having multiple sites that illustrate the same attributes – it's a case of 'less being more'. The existing heritage listing and designation of Sites on the respective local planning scheme is an important management tool to ensure their protection and conservation. Because of the sensitivity of the selection of these component parts that make up the whole Site, the project staff are not involved in the selection of proposed locations. That process is relying on highly experienced national and international experts who are very familiar with the type of criteria used by UNESCO which are significantly different to the criteria used by heritage studies and planning scheme listing processes and justification. At this early stage it looks like there may be about 10 component parts which have been identified by a team of experts which they will recommend to collectively form the Victorian Goldfields World Heritage Site. Those component parts may straddle some municipal boundaries. Component parts will not be put forward unless there has been extensive consultation with local governments and other stakeholders.

#### Who will decide the places that will be listed?

Ultimately the UNESCO World Heritage Centre will decide from the list of places in the nomination put forward by the Australian government. The Victorian government, through a state cabinet process, will announce the sites it has agreed to put forward to the Australian government based on all the expert evidence and the outcomes of consultation. Sites will not be supported by the state government if there is no agreement by the respective local government.



**What role does UNESCO play once sites have been designated World Heritage?** Other than the power to delist sites because they no longer contribute to the statement of Outstanding Universal Value. UNESCO has no role in management, determination of planning permit applications, tourism development and so on. The current arrangements that manage these sites will continue.

## **National Trust position on 'The Voice Referendum'**

Australians will soon be asked to cast a Yes or No vote through a referendum on the First Nations Voice to Parliament (the Voice). The National Trust of Australia (Victoria) would like to provide factual and relevant information to encourage our stakeholders to make an informed decision. A Voice to Parliament would provide representation and recognition for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the Constitution. The Voice was proposed in the Uluru Statement from the Heart (2017), to enable Indigenous communities to help inform policy and legal decisions that impact their lives.

The Australian Electoral Commission is required to distribute a pamphlet to Australian voters, containing the Yes and No cases prepared by parliamentarians who voted for and against the proposed law. The Australian Electoral Commission does not have legislative authority to edit, amend or fact check this pamphlet. We encourage all our stakeholders to research and read accurate information which you can find in the below links, and always fact check your information sources:

- [Information on the Referendum question and the proposed Constitutional amendment](#)
- [FAQs about what the Voice would do and how it would be set up](#)
- [Information on the Referendum process - how to enrol and vote](#)
- [The Uluru Statement \(2017\)](#)

The National Trust in Victoria is strongly committed to the journey of reconciliation, and we still have a long way to go. Supported by the National Trust in Victoria's Aboriginal Advisory Committee to the Board we continue to deliver our [Fourth Reconciliation Action Plan 2022-2024](#) (RAP). As part of our RAP deliverables, we are committed to educating our stakeholders about the First Nations Voice to Parliament and reflecting on our governance as it relates to including and listening to the voices of First Nations stakeholders. As an organisation, we will continue to strive towards reconciliation, to listen, and to support the rights of Traditional Owners. In Victoria, the National Trust acknowledges that there has been a failure until relatively recently to adequately recognise and protect Aboriginal cultural heritage through legislation, and we support the rights of Aboriginal people to make decisions about Aboriginal cultural heritage. At the core of the National Trust's role, we are a community heritage organisation, and seek to remain apolitical in questions beyond our remit.



Willum (Bunurong dwelling) built by Lionel Lauch, at the National Trust property *McCrae Homestead*, McCrae, Mornington Peninsular, Image: National Trust of Australia


## Bendigo Reconciliation Committee presents *Voice Forum*

To book for this free community event [click here](#)

### Bendigo history events:

**Bendigo Regional Archives Centre (BRAC)** have many upcoming events for History Month. [Click here](#) to see their latest list which includes events such as how to research your house, Bendigo items in the National Archives, the Bendigo Health collection and many more.





The Bendigo Reconciliation Committee presents







# VOICE FORUM

In the lead up to the Voice to Parliament referendum, the Bendigo Reconciliation Committee is hosting another Voice to Parliament - Community Forum featuring a panel discussion with local First Nations people and Elders. Discussions will include both perspectives on the referendum.

Wednesday 4th October 2023  
Engine Room  
58 View Street Bendigo VIC  
6:00PM - 7:30PM

Register here - <https://tinyurl.com/4pcbwp28>

This event is delivered in partnership with



### Bendigo Historical Society Red Ribbon Petition display



Following the 170th anniversary celebration of the Red Ribbon Agitation, the Bendigo Historical Society have currently on display at *History House* 11 Mackenzie Street Bendigo, a replica of the Red Ribbon Petition of 1853. This display is open to the public on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11am to 2pm. See if your ancestors are on the list.

Visitors enjoying the Bendigo Red Ribbon Petition replica on display at *History House* Image: Bendigo Historical Society

### The Branch needs to work on its website

The Branch has plans to update its website and expand its voice on important local heritage issues and places. Greater Bendigo has 108 sites listed on the State Heritage Register with 865 sites listed on the Heritage Data Base while Mount Alexander Shire Council has 121 sites listed on the State Heritage Register and 528 sites on the Data Base. Other registered sites in the Branch area includes sites listed in Kyneton and Echuca and in other rural areas.

You can assist the Branch by sending groups of photographs that you may have on sites near you. For example, [click here](#) to see our Bendigo Gas Works photographs.

The other task the Branch would like to undertake is combine the articles in the Branch newsletters over the years on particular issues. For example, develop a file on all the articles on the Bendigo Gas Works that have been published in the Branch newsletter and put on the website.

If you would like to assist, contact Peter 0447473674 to discuss.



## August Branch meeting report

James Reade, CEO Bendigo Heritage Attractions, spoke at the August Branch meeting. Here is a short summary:

**Central Deborah Gold Mine** - Level 9 now closed, tours from Level 5. Water rising from mines at 16 locations around Bendigo. State Government has allocated \$52m to install treatment plant then water to be released back into Bendigo Creek. Visitor numbers higher than before Covid. BHA has received a \$220,000 grant from the state government for planning activities.

**Tourist Tram and Museum** - Council maintains tracks while BHA maintains services above ground. 49 trams in ownership. There is an \$11.7 m development at the tram depot due to be opened in October.

**Joss House & Temple** - There has been a security upgrade. Opened at weekends. Works are being undertaken to expose the original red bricks. Have had talks with the Bendigo Chinese Association on future of site but no decisions yet.

**General** - it is a challenge to balance all activities including operating a tourist attraction and maintaining income, undertaking maintenance at three sites including all safety procedures and being the custodian of many heritage artefacts that belong to the City. Aim to get more volunteers involved.

James offered the Branch to meet at the Central Deborah Gold Mine for its September meeting.

### General Business-

- Bendigo Gas Works. Works about to start at site so tours are on hold. Contact has been made with Visitor Information Centre for bookings. Could use BHA as alternative booking place.
- The National Trust through the Branch gave approval for the demolition of former football clubrooms beside the grandstand at the QEO.
- Branch survey now closed.
- *History & Heritage* editorial committee to meet September 6<sup>th</sup> 10am, Corner Store. Contributions to September issue by 4<sup>th</sup> September.
- **Next Branch meeting Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> September, Central Deborah Gold Mine**, 76 Violet Street Bendigo. Surface Tour of site at 4.30pm, meeting at 5.30pm. If you are only coming for the meeting enter via Gate 2 off Creek Street at 5.30pm.

## 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.

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 40,000 members across Victoria. [Click here](#) to join.

You can keep up with the current advocacy issues at the Trust Advocate blog [click here](#)

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.

## ***History & Heritage* Branch newsletter - receive, contribute, read past issues**

Everyone has a story that, when combined with others, provides a record of the social history of our region and draws attention to the significance of local built heritage.

The Branch welcomes your ideas, contributions and photographs for the newsletter which is published monthly. The contribution deadline for the October *History & Heritage* will be **Monday 2 October 2023**. For previous issues of *History & Heritage* [Click here](#)

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 0447 473 674 Editorial group next meeting: Wednesday 4 October 10am Corner Store Café.

Email: National Trust of Australia (Vic) Bendigo & Region Branch [Click here](#)

Telephone: President, Peter Cox 0447 473 674 or mail: c/- 57 Green St. California Gully 3556.

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