

History & Heritage

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



Draft Heritage Strategy and Action Plan 2024-2028



**Cover Story: Call for Comment on the Draft Heritage Study
Submissions close October 24**

**Next Branch Meeting - Tuesday 24 October 5.30pm Bendigo Library
Open to all members and supporters
Main topic: Draft Heritage Strategy**

In this issue:

- P 1. Next Branch meeting
- P 2. Cover story: Draft Heritage Strategy and Action Plan 2024 - 2028
- P 4. Planning Panels Victoria - Report: serial listing of miners' cottages
- P 5. Greater Bendigo sites listed on State Heritage Register; Long Gully Uniting Church and Sunday School
- P 6. Concern for stone wall
- P 7. Bendigo Railway Station Precinct follow up; National Trust Branch Presidents' Meeting; Upcoming Events - Jewellery and Decorative Arts Auction
- P 8. Chinese Precinct Walk; 2024 Australian Heritage Festival Victoria
- P 9. September Branch meeting report
- P 10. National Trust membership; acknowledgement of country; Branch newsletter issues and contacts

Cover image: City of Greater Bendigo Draft Heritage Strategy and Action Plan 2024-2028

Cover story: Draft Heritage Strategy and Action Plan 2024 - 2028

City calling for feedback on the strategy by 24 October 2023

Thanks to the City of Greater Bendigo for preparing the Draft Strategy that, "has been designed to outline the City's heritage priorities over the next four years".

Greater Bendigo has not had a Heritage Strategy before. People love and cherish Bendigo's historical places, its street and land scapes, its events and the stories that depict great endeavour that made it one of the richest cities in the world in the 19th century. It also has horrific stories of how First Nations Peoples were treated and dispossessed. It also includes a story of great immigration and how it grew from people coming here from all parts of the world who wanted a better life for themselves.

The National Trust encourages, even urges all to take some time to read the Draft [Heritage Strategy and Action Plan 2024-2028](#) from the Greater Bendigo website, and pass on a comment to Council and submit an email expressing your views on the future for Bendigo. Because that is what it is all about. What we do now to shape our city will have great consequences for the future.

Over the past five years the Branch has raised many issues relating to our local heritage but little progress has been made. They include 'big picture' issues such as: a plan for Pall Mall which contains many buildings that are on both the State Heritage Register and protected under the Council's Planning Scheme; businesses taking over period residential properties solely for business; lack of development of heritage listed sites such as the Gillies complex and the protection of the Big Hill and Mandurang Valley landscape among others. None of these issues are listed in the draft document.

There does not appear to be a vision for the future for well-designed new buildings to sit side by side with existing period sites and while the redevelopment of the Art Gallery costing over \$50 million came out of the blue, no consideration was given to repurpose the three floors of the former Bendigo Post Office.

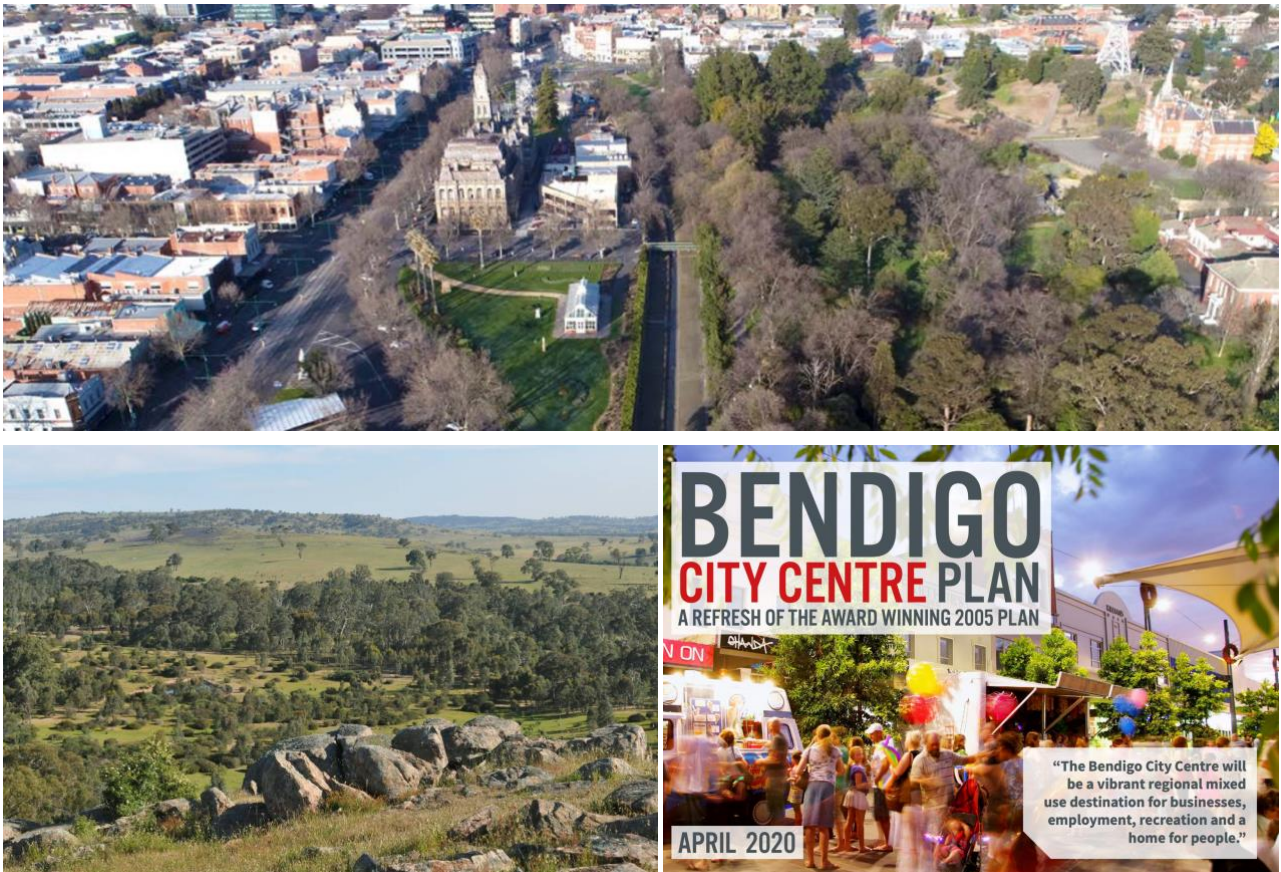
Discussion of storage and exhibiting collections of Bendigo's historical artifacts is mentioned but, like over the past ten years, there are no plans or actions in the document to overcome the problem. It appears that because the Strategy has been developed using mostly internal staff resources, it has a distinct feeling that "the current challenges which are faced around heritage conservation and management" do not have corresponding opportunities associated with them. In other words, many of the actions are administrative and quite inward looking.

Of major concern should be the limited vision for the outcomes that are listed and associated with each of the 4 parts in the Action Plan:

1. **Knowing our heritage** – Branch comment: the 7 actions are the minimum requirements and standard procedures that, at best, might provide higher quality data that could feed into action 3, but is not shown.
2. **Protecting our heritage** – Branch comment: as this should be a major part of the Strategy, the 3 actions listed are very weak.
3. **Supporting our heritage** – Branch comment: again, these are low level actions, and internally focused
4. **Promoting our heritage** – Branch comment: this will be most successful and sustained by solid heritage research, documentation and distribution through established and new networks.

The Bendigo Branch very much supports the statement below from the Strategy and through the monthly newsletter, *History & Heritage*, will be pleased to play a role in assisting broader engagement in the community about this significance of the Strategy and potential positive outcomes.

“Achieving the actions will best be achieved through partnerships with different tiers of government, heritage industries, heritage groups and the community. Every person has a duty of care to protect heritage and to ensure that current and future generations have an opportunity to experience and enjoy it. The next steps are to engage with the broader community and interest groups to ensure the final document can support community expectations for heritage protection, management and promotion”. (page 5)



Top: View of Pall Mall and Rosalind Park, Bendigo. Image: City of Greater Bendigo; below left: Big Hill and Mandurang Valley. Image: Bendigo Advertiser; below right: While the Branch understands that the Heritage Strategy is about more than the city centre, the City Centre Plan 2020, has some useful heritage related information.

The Branch also sees three main definitions as crucial for a future heritage strategy:

What is a strategy?

Strategic planning is a process in which an organisation's leaders define their vision for the future and identify their organization goals and objectives. The process includes establishing the sequence in which those goals should be realized so that the organization can reach its stated vision.

What is vision?

A vision statement is a written document that describes where an organization is going and what it will look like when it gets there.

What is consultation?

Consultation is technically any activity that gives local people a voice and an opportunity to influence important decisions. It involves listening to and learning from local people before decisions are made or priorities are set. (These definitions have been sourced from the internet including CIO Strategy, BoardEffect, Local Gov UK)

The document could be more meaningful if these values are incorporated into its content.

Planning Panels Victoria - Report: serial listing of miners' cottages

The Branch welcomes the addition of more properties that are to be protected and included in the Greater Bendigo Planning Scheme. The Branch contributed a submission to this hearing supporting retention of the cottages under study. You can read the report (Greater Bendigo C275gben Panel Report.pdf) [here](#). Click on 'Panel hearing', then 'View more details and documents'.

Excerpts from the Panel Hearing Report

From page 7: 'Greater Bendigo Planning Scheme Amendment C275gben (the Amendment) seeks to implement the recommendations of the Heritage Study 2021. This includes applying the Heritage Overlay to 59 early miners' cottages, 42 Quartz Gold Boom miners' houses, 49 workers' and mine speculators' houses and 6 quartz reefers' houses.Building condition is generally not relevant when assessing the heritage significance of a place or deciding whether to apply the Heritage Overlay. Building condition may be relevant if there is clear evidence that restoring an uninhabitable building will diminish the identified heritage values to the point where it no longer meets the threshold of significance for justifying the Heritage Overlay..... Development opportunity, building alterations, maintenance, property value and private financial implications are relevant when assessing heritage significance or deciding whether to apply the Heritage Overlay.'

From page 9: 'Recommendations: Based on the reasons set out in this Report, the Panel recommends that Greater Bendigo Planning Scheme Amendment C275gben be adopted as exhibited subject to the following:

1. Delete the Heritage Overlay from:
 - a) 83 Allingham Street, Golden Square (HO1000)
 - b) 55 Arnold Street, Bendigo (HO1000) if after inspecting the property, the municipal building surveyor or another suitably qualified person agrees with the findings of the relevant structural engineering report
 - c) 266 Queen Street, Bendigo (HO1000) if after inspecting the property, the municipal building surveyor or another suitably qualified person agrees with the findings of Mr Stephenson (expert evidence on heritage from Mark Stephenson of Trethowan Architecture)
 - d) 15 Adelaide Gully Road, Golden Gully (HO1000)
 - e) 3 Pascoe Street, Long Gully (HO1000)
 - f) 19 Grant Street, Long Gully (HO1000)
 - g) 26 Oak Street, Golden Square (HO1001)
2. Amend the HO (HO1000) curtilage to apply only to lot 1 of 193 Mackenzie St West, Golden Square, as shown in figure 1 (page 42)
3. Amend the Statement of Significance: Series: Early Miners' Cottages, August 2022 to delete under 'Why is it significant?'

The collection of early miners' cottages displays a level of intactness and authenticity in terms of their architectural character, form and scale that demonstrates the principal characteristics of cottages, built by unemployed miners and sustenance workers, during the depression years of 1890s and 1930s.'



Above: three of the cottages that will not be protected if Council accepts the recommendations of the panel. Left: 266 Queen Street Bendigo; centre: 55 Arnold Street Bendigo; right: 3 Pascoe Street Long Gully.

Comment: The Branch has said it many times before that protecting heritage sites is very complicated and with little consultation very difficult. However, the *2010 Ironbark Heritage Study* and its amendment process demonstrated that it can be done successfully if you have one consultant or Council Officer undertaking the study and managing process, that public meetings are held to explain the process and that regular updates are circulated to owners of the properties to keep them informed. You are always going to get an objector or speculator who has purchased a period home with the only intention to demolish it.

Unfortunately, these successful steps have not been taken during the current process. The Branch understands that in 2017, 574 photographs of potential properties for consideration were taken by a consultant and then a further three other consultants were employed during 2017 and 2021 to evaluate the properties. There appears that there was little consultation during this time. The number of properties put to the Council meeting this year had been reduced to 159 and now further reduced by the Panel Hearing to 149. As you can see from the report, building condition is not generally relevant. However, the report goes on to say that building condition may be relevant and provides a list where it might be relevant. It seems to be contradictory. For example, development opportunity may be considered over heritage significance.

Have you been involved in the process to consider cottages for protection? Do you have a view about protecting Miners' Cottages? [Email](#) a comment to *H&H*.

Following up on sites listed on the State Heritage Register in Greater Bendigo

History & Heritage has asked members to check on the 108 sites in Greater Bendigo that are listed on the State Heritage Register. A member has notified the Branch of some concerns about the Long Gully Uniting Church, previously Methodist Church and Sunday School, in Wilson Street.



Wesleyan Methodist Church and Sunday School, Wilson Street, Long Gully. See Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number H1373. The Sunday School built in 1865, church built in 1877 designed by Vahland and Getzschmann. Images: Victorian Heritage Database and Bendigo Branch. See the VHD significance statement below.

**From the Victorian Heritage Database: UNITING CHURCH AND SUNDAY SCHOOL
14 - 26 WILSON STREET LONG GULLY, GREATER BENDIGO CITY**

'The Uniting Church and Sunday School were built in two stages for the Wesleyan Methodists. The Sunday school was built as a church in 1865 by Mr Patterson and the church in 1877 by Manley and Harris and Mr Marks. The architects for both stages were Vahland and Getzschmann. A pipe organ by Alfred Fuller was installed in 1882. Tenders for a new gallery were called in 1893 and a kindergarten room was added about 1910. The complex is dominated by the 1877 polychrome brick, Gothic style church with the simple, brick buttressed Sunday School at the rear. The two are joined by a small arcade.

The Uniting Church and Sunday School are of architectural and historical significance to the state of Victoria. The 1877 former Wesleyan church is architecturally significant as an important example of the Gothic Revival style in Victoria. The highly distinctive church includes a number of significant features such as the polychrome detailing, the fine pinnacles and bellcote, the rows of tiny clerestory windows and unusual small porches on the west facade. The interior reflects a German hall church influence with its lofty aisles, slender cast iron columns and a shallow clerestory. The focus of the church is on the pulpit, the pipe organ by Alfred Fuller and the choir gallery, reflecting its Wesleyan Methodist tradition.

The Church and Sunday School are historically significant for their associations with the Wesleyan Methodist church in the goldfields, particularly with the Cornish community. Cornish miners, bringing with them their strong Methodist tradition, were concentrated in the gullies to the west of Bendigo and Long Gully became the centre of "Little Cornwall". The scale and quality of the church illustrates the important role played by the Methodists in the goldfields where they became the most active denomination.'

While some people may be very familiar with the 108 sites, others new to heritage, can be introduced to these sites that are on the State Register. ([Click on this link](#) then click on 'location' in the left column, scroll down to 'Greater Bendigo City' or 'Mount Alexander Shire', click on the property you want to check.) Also see [H&H October 2022](#) page 5.

It would be most appreciated if you have time to visit a site and report its condition to *H&H*.

Concern for stone wall

The Branch had an enquiry about a stone wall in Quarry Hill (see photo below). It is pretty long, runs along the back of a housing estate from circa 1970s, in front of 216 Carpenter Street and down to Paterson Street and along Paterson Street in sections. If you have information on the wall, please contact the Branch.



Image: Photo supplied.

Follow up on Bendigo Railway Station Precinct

In the September issue of *H&H* the Branch reported on the need for a Master Plan for the Bendigo Station Precinct. It has been over ten years since Bendigo celebrated the Station's 150 anniversary when a Master Plan was discussed for the site. The Branch has since learnt that a Conservation Management Plan was advertised for the site in 2019 but as yet nothing is known about it. The Branch has written to both local members, Jacinta Allan and Maree Edwards, who are following up on the issue.

Our congratulations are extended to Jacinta on being elected the Premier of Victoria.

National Trust Branch Presidents' Meeting

As President I attended a Victorian Branch Presidents' meeting in which I raised three important issues. They include Demolition by Neglect which Tasma provided a speech from a Geelong Planner on how they are tackling the problem which I will report on at the Branch meeting, the Victorian Goldfields World Heritage Bid and the State Government's intentions to review Planning regulations.

It was good to catch up with members from throughout the State. Peter Cox

Events coming up

Fundraiser for Castlemaine's Camp Reserve - Spring Auction of Jewellery and Decorative Arts

(including ceramics and textiles)

Venue: Former tearooms, Castlemaine Botanical Gardens, Downes Road, Castlemaine.

Saturday November 4, 2pm-5pm

Come with friends and enjoy an exciting day of bidding, music and wine! Take home a jewel. All proceeds are to advocate for Camp Reserve's significant landscape, heritage values and old trees. Camp Reserve is at the heart of Castlemaine's premier historic precinct, and it deserves an outstanding design response. Help us to achieve this!

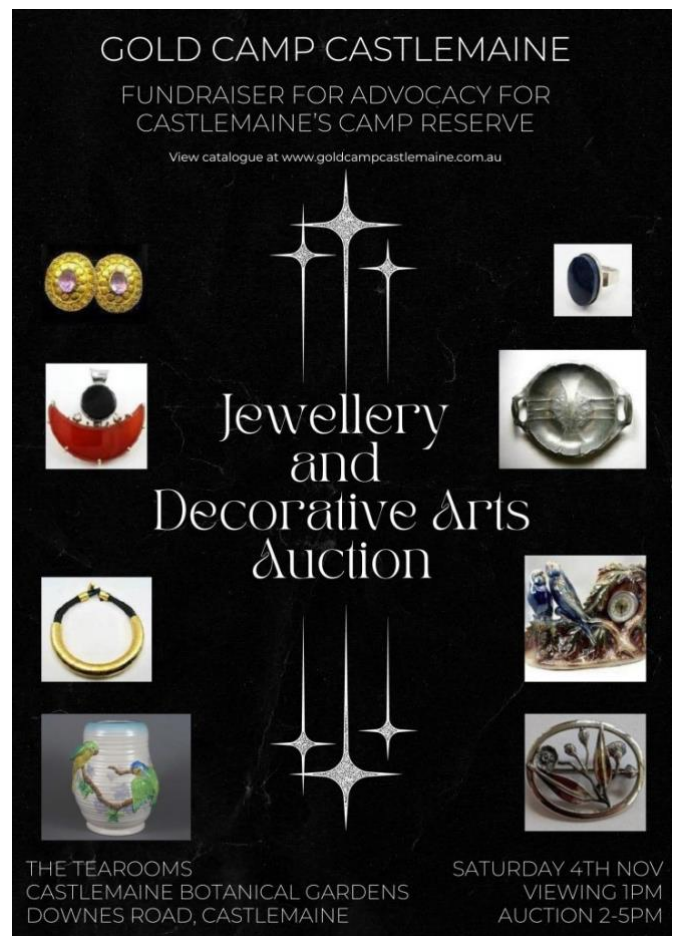
Free entry. (There will be an optional donation box at the door) Viewing opens at 1pm. Auction is 2pm-5pm.

Christmas Gift Table. Small items of jewellery, ceramics, textiles, paintings at fixed prices from this table – sales commence at 1pm. Get in early with Christmas shopping and purchase collectable and rare items. There is something for everyone! Enjoy a glass of wine! The bar opens at 1pm. Hosted by *The Northern Arts Hotel* with their house wines at bar prices. Bring a picnic lunch to the gardens and make a day of it!

[Click here](#) to download a PDF of the catalogue

Prior bids accepted up to Thursday November 2. Email bid to: gold.camp.castlemaine@gmail.com with the Item no., the bid, and your contact details. Your bid, if above the reserve, will be submitted during the auction of that item.

Ring Alice 0400 115 674. See [Gold Camp Castlemaine](http://GoldCampCastlemaine.com.au) website.



Bendigo Historical Society - Walks into History

Bendigo Chinese Precinct, Bridge Street Bendigo

Sunday 5 November, 10am meet at the Lotus Flower

\$5 members - \$10 non members

In this tour Leigh McKinnon will explore the history and personalities of the old Bridge Street Chinatown, from the first Chinese businesses which were established there in the 1850s, its heyday in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, its decline and near complete demise in the mid 20th century through to its subsequent revitalization with the construction of the Golden Dragon Museum, the Yi Yuan Gardens and Guan Yin Temple, and the completion of the Dai Gum San Precinct. The tour will also include the rare opportunity to enter the Bendigo Chinese Association Elders' Room which is part of the only surviving building of the original Chinatown.



Left: One of the little seen treasures of the Golden Dragon Museum site are the ground floor windows of the Elders' Room in the old Bendigo Chinese Association building.

The coloured glass flags were added in 1915 and depict the then national flag of the Republic of China. Each coloured stripe represented a constituent ethnic group of the new republic - red for the Han, yellow for the Manchus, blue for the Mongolians, white for the Muslim Hui, and black for the Tibetans.

Added colour is given by the yellow verandah and green Chinese elms on the other side of the frosted glass. Images: Golden Dragon Museum facebook

2024 Australian Heritage Festival Victoria

The National Trust of Australia (Victoria) is excited to announce that Australia's biggest community driven Heritage Festival will run from **Thursday 18 April to Saturday 18 May 2024** in Victoria. The Branch has participated in this festival for many years and calls on members, supporters and local organisations to submit ideas for events. The Branch is keen to partner with other organisations to conduct events. Are there heritage sites that you would like to see open?

The 2024 theme is **Connections**: Encouraging celebration of the rich and diverse stories of our nation, strengthening cultural and historical ties and forging new bonds. The 2024 theme acknowledges our link to people, places and the past, and the enduring connections that will shape the future of heritage.

Key Dates

- Event Registrations Open Late 2023
- Registrations for inclusion in our Digital Program and Itineraries close 1 February 2024
- Final Registrations for inclusion on the Australian Heritage Festival Website close 1 April 2024
- Australian Heritage Festival in Victoria will run Thursday 18 April — Saturday 18 May 2024.

Keep an eye on your inbox for further announcements or visit the [Australian Heritage Festival](https://www.australianheritagefestival.com.au) website for updates on when registrations open and for the 2024 Event Organiser's Kit. Questions or enquiries, contact festival@natrtrust.com.au



One of the previous sites for the Australian Heritage Festival: The Tower Hill Natural History Visitor Centre was designed by Robin Boyd in 1962. It is currently managed by the Worn Gundidj Aboriginal Cooperative in partnership with Parks Victoria and features displays on the geology, flora, fauna and human history of the area. Image: Australian Heritage Festival facebook.

September Branch meeting report

Bendigo Heritage Attractions and the Central Deborah Gold Mine kindly hosted the Branch for a tour and provided space for our October monthly meeting. On a beautiful Bendigo evening, Branch members enjoyed learning from tour guide 'Baz' about the above ground works at the mine, working conditions for miners, and changes in technology over the years. CEO of Bendigo Heritage Attractions, James Reade, also referred to the forward plans about developing this significant heritage and tourism asset for the City. Many thanks to Baz, James Reade and Bendigo Heritage Attractions.



Above and centre: tour guide Baz takes us through the miners' changing rooms, and shows us the miners' carbide lamps. Far right: James Reade explains the workings of the engine room and the winding mechanism. Images: Bendigo Branch



Discussion at the meeting-

- Bendigo Railway Station. It was decided to write to local members Jacinta Allan & Maree Edwards to seek further information about the Master Plan for the station. A tender was advertised about 3 years ago to write a Conservation Management Plan on the station.
- Miners Cottages Serial Heritage Listings Amendment – waiting for report to be released.
- Gold Fields World Heritage Listing. It has been extended to cover Victoria with Beechworth and Walhalla being added.
- Gas Works Tours. Works are starting on decontaminating Gas Holder 2. Once works are completed tours will be considered.
- QEO. Demolition of former football club rooms agreed to on condition that no vegetation will be removed. However, removal did take place without it being in the permit. Need to write to council.
- Council has released a draft Heritage Strategy with comments closing on October 24. It was agreed that an email be circulated to members and supporters ASAP encouraging them to make a submission. Branch to collate ideas and put in submission.
- Vision needed to retain inner city period homes as residential properties by discouraging businesses from using them solely for business activity. It was suggested that the branch could formulate a 'Position Statement on Bendigo CBD' in light of the council's position to spend more money on the Hargreaves Mall.
- H&H has featured a number of articles over the past couple of years relating to planning and the Bendigo CBD including-
 1. A Plan for Pall Mall. If historical buildings are going to be refurbished, repurposing them will need additional foot traffic.
 2. Concern over the \$50 million Art Gallery expansion. Buildings such as the former Post Office could be refurbished to accommodate art exhibitions.
 3. Businesses taking over period residential properties solely for business adds to the housing crisis. Council issuing permits to allow businesses to take over these properties is a policy which conflicts with council's aim to repopulate the CBD and surrounds.

4. Lack of development in disused buildings such as the former Gillies complex need encouragement rather than let them lie idle.
5. Objected to the construction of a poorly designed \$14 million six storey hotel in a heritage precinct in the CBD.
6. Council not discussing big picture issues and write planning reports in isolation from other key issues.
7. Prime housing real estate land not being used for residences along High Street to repopulate the CBD.
8. Branch submitted to City Centre Plan.
9. The role that Myer may play in the CBD.
10. The need for consultation and involvement by businesses and the community in developing the CBD.

These articles could be the basis for such a statement and it was decided to further investigate the idea.

Next Branch meeting, Tuesday October 24, 5.30pm, Bendigo Library.

Next *H&H* editorial meeting, October 4, 10am at Corner Store Café, View Street. Articles by October 3.

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](#)

***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 November *History & Heritage* will be **6 November 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 8 November, 10am at Corner Store Café, View Street

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.