

History & Heritage

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



Cover story: Guildford's Red River Gum
2023 Victorian Tree of the Year, National Trust Victoria

Next Branch Meeting - Tuesday 28 November 5.30pm Bendigo Library
(enter via Hargreaves Street entrance)
Open to all members and supporters

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Cover image: National Trust Victoria

Cover story:

2023 Victorian Tree of the Year

The Mount Alexandra Shire Council area is well known for its magnificent trees and again the area has won the National Trust's 2023 Tree of the Year. It also won the 2021 Tree of the Year being an English Oak *Quercus Robur* being located in the Castlemaine Botanic Gardens.

Some details about the 2023 winning tree:

Age approx. 500 years

Diameter 3 metres Height 32 metres

Common name Red Gum

Botanical name *Eucalyptus camaldulensis*

Aka: The Big Tree

Type: Specimen

Condition: Good

Municipality: Mount Alexander (VIC)

Location: west of Templeton Street (Midland Hwy), Fryers Street Guildford VIC 3451

Access: unrestricted

Significances:

- Outstanding size (scientific)
- Outstanding species (scientific)
- Location/Context (social)
- Landscape (social)
- Species/Location (aesthetic)

Date of measurement: 12 June 2010

Date of classification: 23 April 2018

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE: This tree is of state significance as an outstanding example of a mature River Red Gum, being one of the largest River Red Gums in Victoria (cf. the Bilston Tree).

NOTES: This is one of the largest River Red Gums in Victoria (cf. the Bilston Tree). The tree is well-known and its direction has been signposted on the Midlands Highway. It contains a small amount of deadwood and several cavities but is generally in excellent condition. The tree has a large natural branch graft on its northern side. The tree is of State significance and is an outstanding example of a mature River Red Gum.

Final Branch Meeting for 2023 will be held on Tuesday 28 November, 5.30pm, at the Bendigo Library. You will need to enter via the Hargreaves Street entrance as the library closes at 5.30pm but there will be someone on the door to let you in. The meeting will focus on activities for 2024 so come with your ideas. The Branch needs to activate its social media platforms and is looking for members and supporters who have skills who can assist with these tasks. Potential speakers, issues and tours will be discussed to enhance the Trust's major role of advocating for the region's heritage. Meetings are open to all who are interested in history and heritage. You do not have to be a member.

As it is the final meeting for 2023 you are invited to have a drink and pizza after the meeting. RSVP Peter, text or phone 0447473674



Social Media Expert Wanted



The Branch is seeking some volunteers to assist with activating *History & Heritage* on social media to publicise heritage issues to communities throughout the region. They will be part of the Editorial Committee but will use their skills to launch new advocacy sites.

Branch Submission to Greater Bendigo's Draft Heritage Strategy

The Branch commends and thanks the City of Greater Bendigo for preparing the Draft Heritage Strategy that, "has been designed to outline the City's heritage priorities over the next four years."

Engaging the community will further add to the work of the staff and broaden the actions already contained in the draft Strategy. You can read the full submission [here](#)

The Branch has put forward a series of recommendations to Council to be considered for inclusion in the Strategy. Here they are-

Knowing Our Heritage

- That Council continues its Heritage Studies during 2024-2028 but with more community education, consultation and participation.
- That Council immediately advocates for State Government funding to undertake the necessary Heritage Studies so that planning applications are not held up and the information is available to those involved.

Protecting Our Heritage

- That Council develop a Plan for Pall Mall by the end of 2024 which studies those buildings that require repurposing, ways to increase foot traffic and reduce vehicle numbers, and increase business activity in the precinct.
- That Council investigates their Local Laws in 2024 to include measures that will reduce 'Demolition by Neglect' of heritage properties throughout Greater Bendigo.
- That Council takes further steps to protect the Big Hill Range and Mandurang Valley Landscape in 2024 by taking steps to implement a Planning Scheme Amendment.

Supporting Our Heritage

- Council explores ways in 2024 to retain residential occupancy in heritage buildings in and around CBDs and hospital precincts.
- That Council reaffirm its support of the 'The World Heritage Bid for the Victorian Goldfields' in partnership with other local Councils and the State and Federal Governments so it is completed by 2027 in this Strategy.
- That Council progress actions in the Strategy that are related to the Greater Bendigo Planning Scheme to amendment stage during 2024-2028.

Promoting Our Heritage

- Over the next four years Council publish a six-monthly Strategy Bulletin describing the action taken and progress in relation to this Strategy.

- That Council convene a consultation session early in 2024 before the Strategy is finalised engaging a range of stakeholders and the community and for it to invite speakers to contribute to the discussion.
- Actively promote the City's Heritage Design Guidelines over the period of the Strategy.



The above images illustrate a range of heritage examples. Clockwise from top left: The Big Hill Landscape needs protection. Image: *Bendigo Advertiser*; Clarke Street Heritage House. Image: CGB Draft Heritage Plan; Successful residential heritage restoration Image: CGB Draft Heritage Plan; Successful residential heritage restoration; Bendigo Law Courts redevelopment with Specimen Cottage. Image: <https://wardle.studio/>

Long Gully Uniting Church and Sunday School - follow up from Heritage Victoria on last month's story

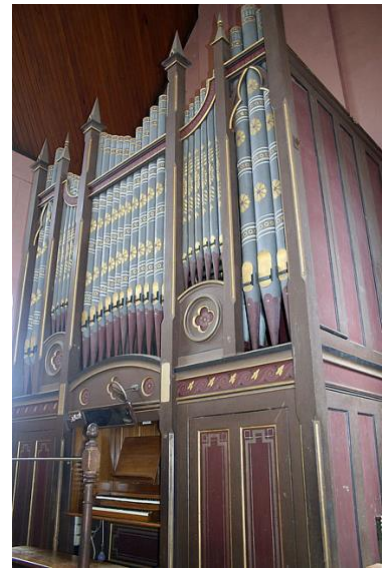
'Thank you for your email - we will log this as a new case. All our new cases are triaged to determine next steps, and factors such as harm to the heritage place/object, conduct of owners, and public realm issues are considered when determining prioritisation.

I note your invitation to meet with your branch when coming to Bendigo - we will aim to factor this into a future site visit. I also note your offer of assistance. We are currently working with the Heritage Council of Victoria, an independent statutory authority, to look at how private owners can be incentivised to care for their heritage spaces - the Sampson Family Cottage is being considered as part of this initial work. It may be that partnerships with community organisations such as the National Trust are explored as part of any incentives model. I will keep you updated as this work progresses.



Long Gully Uniting (previously Methodist) Church, Wilson Street. Image: Bendigo Branch 2023

We are very appreciative of you drawing our attention to the condition of the Long Gully Uniting Church & Sunday School. If you observe any other potential Heritage Act breaches, you can log them via our portal – instructions on this can be found [here](#) or email them directly Heritage.Compliance@delwp.vic.gov.au.



The magnificent 1892 organ at the Long Gully Uniting Church. Image: Trevor Bunning 2008. [Click here](#) to find out more about this amazing instrument.

Victorian Heritage Register and Database

While some people may be very familiar with the 109 heritage listed sites, others new to heritage, can be introduced to these sites that are on the Victorian Heritage Database. ([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 [click here](#) to see **History & Heritage October 2022 page 5** (then scroll down to Newsletter Archive). It would be most appreciated if you have time to visit a site and report its condition to H&H.

What condition are these buildings in?



Left: Former Huntly Court House. Right: Costerfield Gold and Antimony Mining Precinct Both are listed on the State Heritage Register. Images: Heritage Victoria.

Have your say! (see survey link next page)

The [Heritage Council of Victoria](#) wants to hear what kind of heritage is important to you, and whether it is reflected in the Victorian Heritage Register. This is your opportunity to help shape the Victorian Heritage Register over the coming decade.

What is the Victorian Heritage Register?

The [Victorian Heritage Register](#) is a statutory list that provides legal protection for heritage places and objects that are significant to the history and development of the State of Victoria. The 2,400 listings can be viewed online, and include places and objects associated with important events and communities in Victoria's history. Registrations include the [Shrine of Remembrance](#), the [Eureka Flag](#), the [Former Aboriginal Church of Christ](#), the [Former Benalla Migrant Camp](#), architecturally significant buildings like the [Olympic Swimming Stadium](#), and places of archaeological significance like the [Ellen Kelly Homestead Site](#). The Victorian Heritage Register was established in 1974 and is administered under the *Heritage Act 2017*.

Why is the Victorian Heritage Register important?

The Victorian Heritage Register recognises and protects our state significant heritage for future generations to enjoy. Through the protection and conservation of our shared heritage, Victorians can learn more about our history and the development of our communities today. Places and objects in the Victorian Heritage Register are of state-level cultural heritage significance. This means that they must be of importance to Victoria's history (rather than a single local area) and represent a key, outstanding or rare aspect of our state's heritage.

Heritage Survey

An Opportunity to Participate - Future Directions of the Victorian Heritage Register

We want to hear from you. Please help shape the Victorian Heritage Register by taking 10 minutes to complete this survey: [click here](#)



Example of a site on the Victorian Heritage Register - Luna Park (VHR H0938) Wilson Street, St Kilda. Image: **VHD**

Readers' emails and comments

Just read your great response to the Council's draft Heritage Study. Your thorough analysis and suggestions/recommendations cover everything I can think of that needed to be stated AND need to be added to the Strategy. I too am surprised that your group and others were not given a chance to have feedback into the draft. So much for transparency and inclusion of community input! I look forward to following the Strategy's progress, and being involved in a community forum. *Michelle*

My main problem was with lack of specificity in the actions. A real strategic plan will have timelines and strategy. A real threat will be from loss of curtilage from dual occupancy on existing sites, and site clearance for higher density housing. If they are genuine about post 1950s buildings, the hour of Nanga Gnulle might have arrived (and the other mudbrick houses). Well done. *Michael*

I really enjoy reading these newsletters, and I am thankful to the group for the work you do. The wall in Quarry Hill is a beauty. Barb, (who lives on the corner of Paterson and Carpenter Streets?), once shared some info she'd been given by a relative with me - I can't remember the details, but it was all part of a family farm. Hopefully the wall stays when the big empty block is inevitably developed. *Shae*

Thank you for your enquiry regarding the Sentinel Towers at Crusoe Reservoir. Giselle Harris has moved to a new employer and it appears that your request may have been mislaid. The site has been inspected and we are currently developing a building renewal project next financial year and potential roof repairs in the interim. We thank you for your interest in this site.

Greater Bendigo Council

Thanks, What a read! *Jill*

Many thanks, congratulations to you and those involved for another great newsletter. *Annette*

Not sure what is happening on the old Cobb & Co property but the attached photo (right) broke my heart. Everything around the old barn has been levelled and I expect the barn is destined to go as well. *Bev*

Below: Old barn seen from the Calder Alternative Highway at Marong. Image supplied.



How to obtain property titles

For all sorts of reasons property titles can be quite complex and working through them can, at times, be as much art as science. The following example is what is commonly found however some situations can be quite complex, too complex to cover here.

Current and historical titles to a property can be obtained in two ways, either free through the Public Records Office Victoria (PROV) or purchased through LANDATA (<https://www.landata.online/>)

To obtain titles from LANDATA [open their web site](#) and click on 'Titles & property certificates'. This takes you to step one, specifying the property you want the title for. If you know the volume and folio number of the property that is the best search criteria to use, and it will go straight to the purchase page. If this is not known the street address is often used. Whichever search option you chose click on it and further options will become available. Fill this section with as much of the requested information as possible and click 'next'.

Generally, there will be an option to 'View and confirm on map'. It is best to use this to confirm that you are investigating the correct block of land. In the case of my property, and this can be true for many others, the map highlights a small sliver of land at the rear of my block. If this occurs, click on the portion of the map that contains the building you are interested in to ensure you have the correct title. In my case the sliver was added to the original title in the past. Once the correct block of land is identified on the map click 'Confirm Property Detail' to go back one step and click 'Confirm Property Detail' again.

This opens a page where you can select the certificate you are after. There are various options available, for historical searches the 'Title History Search Statement' is usually the best option. In a number of the selection options, it will automatically include the 'Land Index Search' selection as well. This is the fee to search for the Volume and Folio number of the title, which is criteria all titles are filed under. If you used the Volume and Folio number at the start this fee will not be charged. Note that this document does not always include a copy of the title plan, so if this is required click the 'Copy of Plan' box as well. In most cases the plan is not needed at this stage.

Once all documents required are selected click on 'Next' at the bottom of the page.

At this stage the site will ask you to Register or Login. If you are not registered do so at this point, if registered login. Once you login you are taken to the 'Delivery Details' page. Fill this and click 'Next' to go to the payment page. Enter your details and click Next. Your receipt appears on the next page. Go to the email account you used in your login and the receipt will appear there. This will be followed by another email a short time later with a copy of the title.

At this point there can be quite a difference in the details contained in the document you receive. In almost, if not all cases, the first page will be typed. This will show the current owner and any changes to the title, i.e. previous recent owners and dealings etc since being transferred to the modern Torrens Title format. It may also include a copy of the original title or grant if the property has not been subdivided prior to being transferred to Torrens Title format.

This document may also be quite short and only go back a few years. This commonly occurs when a previous owner has subdivided a larger block with the block of interest to you being one of the new blocks formed by the subdivision. In these cases, near the upper left corner under the Volume and Folio number, you will often find a heading, 'Parent Title', with one or more Volume and Folio numbers. If there is only one repeat the purchase process using that Volume and Folio (V & F) number. As you have these numbers this time the next title will cost less.

If there are more than one set of numbers, you need to pick the one for the block in question. If there are a number of these parent titles that have similar or consecutive numbers try any odd one first. Also check to see if



the plan on the title references subdivision, sometimes the V & F numbers are written on it. It is at this stage where experience helps as it can become an art at this stage.


Keep tracing the parent title and eventually you will end up with the first title. In areas of previous mining such as Bendigo, many properties began as miner's rights and were not titled. They belonged to the Crown and were leased rather than owned. Many of these blocks will have a Crown Grant as the first 'title'. This may have occurred many years after the construction of a dwelling on the land under a Miner's Right- in fact the transfer to a Crown Grant in many cases occurred well into the 20th century, even up to the 1980s and 1990s. It is important to remember that this does not mean that the dwelling was moved onto the block in recent times. Each title will contain the dealings that have occurred on that title. For example, when a property is mortgaged, that mortgage is paid out, a caveat is taken over the land and transfers of ownership etc are all listed on the document. When a dealing causes a block to be divided, even by a small amount, this can cause the creation of a new parcel of land and hence a new Volume and Folio number, the old title becoming the parent title of both new titles.

Finding the date that a Miner's Right was issued is a more involved process as these are physical records held at PROV at North Melbourne and are not online at present. Rates searches may help in these cases. Bendigo Regional Archive Centre (BRAC) can be of assistance with rate searches.

Elaine Doling



Events coming up




UNESCO VICTORIAN GOLDFIELDS WORLD HERITAGE BID

GOLDFIELDS REGION PUBLIC MEETING

Guest Speaker:
Mr Trevor Budge AM (Bid Coordinator)

**Thursday Nov 23, 2023.
7pm-9pm**



- Learn about the aims and aspirations of this bid
- Where is the bid up to?
- What are the time frames?
- What's in/out of the bid?
- What do our heritage and our communities stand to gain?
- Question time at the end

Where?
Uniting Church Hall
24 Lyttleton St,
Castlemaine

RSVP for numbers and refreshments.
Email:
castlemainesociety@gmail.com

UNESCO Victorian Goldfields World Heritage Bid Public Meeting

Consider attending this important event (see left)

It is all about people from different towns coming together to highlight the importance of our gold mining heritage and to build tourism around our history.

2024 Australian Heritage Festival Victoria April 18 - May 18

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 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 website](#) for updates on when registrations open and for the 2024 Event Organiser's Kit.
- Questions or enquiries, contact the National Trust [here](#)

Branch meeting report

Discussion at the October meeting revolved around the Greater Bendigo Draft Heritage Strategy with guests Strategic Planners Anthony Petherbridge & Leah Morris. They introduced themselves and described the process that had taken place to get the Strategy to this point. While the consultation has been internal council discussion, they saw consulting the Heritage Advisory Committee as being external consultation with further consultation with the wider community occurring in the months ahead. The Branch has lodged its submission.

Other issues discussed:

- Long Gully Uniting Church window reported to Heritage Victoria
- there is a need to visit and report on other State Listed Heritage Sites throughout the Bendigo region
- no further information on stone wall in Quarry Hill
- fundraiser for the protection of Castlemaine Camp Reserve
- ideas for projects and events for the 2024 Australian Heritage Festival needed for April/May next year.
- Next meeting-Tuesday 28 Nov. 5.30pm at Bendigo Library.

H&H Editorial group next meeting: Wednesday 7 February 2024, 10am at Corner Store Café, View Street
Interested in joining? Call President, Peter Cox on 0447 473 674, or mail: c/- 57 Green St. California Gully 3556, or email: National Trust of Australia (Vic) Bendigo & Region Branch nattrustbendigo@gmail.com

PlanningAlerts - a new free tool

Find out for free what is being built and knocked down in your area and receive email alerts when something new is planned.

About *PlanningAlerts*

You'd probably know if your next-door neighbour was going to knock their house down (you'd get a letter through the door telling you they had applied for planning permission and asking you what you thought about it). But you'd probably never find out if the old cinema or pub 5 streets away is going to be converted into luxury flats until the bulldozers turned up.

[PlanningAlerts](#) is a free service which searches as many planning authority websites as it can find and emails you details of applications near you. The aim of this is to enable shared scrutiny of what is being built (and [knocked down](#)) in peoples' communities.

PlanningAlerts is brought to you by the charity the [OpenAustralia Foundation](#). It was created by Matthew Landauer and Katherine Szuminska.

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 **5 February 2024**. 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

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