

History & Heritage

Circulating Throughout Bendigo, Castlemaine, Maldon,
and Kyneton areas

A publication of the National Trust
Bendigo & District Branch. February 2024



Heritage listed section of the Bendigo Creek in Rosalind Park

Cover Story - Flood Damage in Bendigo Creek

**Next Branch Meeting - Tuesday 27 Feb. 5.30pm Bendigo Library
(enter via Hargreaves Street entrance)**

Open to all who are interested in history and heritage

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Cover image: Joel Bramley Photography, Flickr.

Cover story: Flood damage in Bendigo Creek by Norm Stimson

Norm Stimson recently undertook a walk along the Bendigo and Back Creeks and did not like what he saw. He is a strong advocate for heritage and the environment. This is an extract from Norm's letter about the condition of the Bendigo Creek.

'I wish to make a formal public complaint to State Department of Energy, Environment & Climate Change on the Greater Bendigo Council's apparent poor management of the Bendigo and Back Creek areas. I intend to make a more detailed submission in due course if and when more relevant information is at hand, however, for obvious reasons of urgency I am making this interim referral.

The bases for my complaint include the following:
(a) The current washing away and loss of fabric and impacts to Bendigo Creek values, whilst under the "management and care and protection" of CGB Council.

(b) The lack of a single proper and full heritage study over the entire areas of Bendigo Creek and Back Creek – such a study is **NEEDED**, to ensure proper holistic assessment and significance apportionment and proper protections, and, indeed, even to inform on a Conservation Management Plan which is **SORELY NEEDED IN THE CURRENT SITUATION**.

(c) The CGB Council's failures and or refusals to undertake such a study as outlined in (b) (and its refusals to respond or adequately respond to my public letters for same).



Bendigo Creek through Rosalind Park, on the Victorian Heritage Register. Image: Norm Stimson



Bendigo creek bed bluestone blocks broken away and washed downstream. 9 Jan 2024. Image: Norm Stimson



Example of deteriorating wall, this one sandstone with granite capping.
Image: Norm Stimson

(d) The obvious current deteriorations of the heritage fabric beds and walls of the subject creeks. (Note: Example 1 – many areas of the creeks' bluestone blocks are CLEARLY deteriorated in regards to mortar holding them together; it appears that this may have possibly originated from when Coliban Water put in a pipeline in circa 1990s); Example 2 – there are many areas where the fabric has deteriorated and requires urgent maintenance, however, there appears that virtually NOTHING is being done.)



Bendigo Creek through Rosalind Park and Conservatory Gardens. In flood 7 Jan. 2024. Image: Norm Stimson

(e) The obvious amount of graffiti that is “accumulating” at a fast rate along the walls and on bridges etc. of the subject creeks, and the apparent total lack of any enforcement or clean up by CGB Council. (Note: Some paints can have serious impacts to the stone fabric, not to mention the aesthetics of the heritage being trashed by the ugliness of this vandalism).

(f) The matter of the CGB Council’s “Low Line” walking and bicycle path along the bed of the Bendigo Creek (and Back Creek). This is of concern and is strongly objected to, for various reasons including: a lack of proper public consultation and input as part of the decision-making processes; the

impacts that the path will have on both the aesthetics of the creeks and on the direct impacts to the heritage fabric; the matter of public safety (e.g. in times of flood including flash floods); the matter of graffiti which will increase exponentially, with the increased access; etc.

(g) The section of Bendigo Creek through “Oscar’s Walk” area (next to the Bendigo Bank head office – being I think Crown land parcel P127625) was subject to a Planning Permit process. It is my understanding that many of the PP aspects required by DEECA as the Referral Authority (or rather one of its predecessor entities) may not have been, or were not, complied with. This may be of additional concern as the CGB Council is also the Responsible Authority.

(h) The section of Bendigo Creek through Rosalind Park is as I understand it on the Victorian Heritage Register. There are then significant obligations on CGB Council in this regard. I may, therefore, also refer this matter to Heritage Victoria.

I therefore submit this matter to DEECA for consideration / determination, and would appreciate DEECA’s timely and adequate response, addressing all issues, in due course.'

Editor’s note. The ‘Low Line’ bicycle/walking path that Norm refers to will be subject to a permit from Heritage Victoria and the Branch will make a submission on its view at that time.

To see the full letter and more photographs [click here](#)



Wanted: social media assistance

Short term contract to develop the Branch's social media platforms

The Branch wants to hear from skilled social media enthusiasts to help members broaden the awareness of heritage issues throughout the region.

Heritage is underrated as a component of economic, environmental and wellbeing issues. It needs to change. The project will evaluate the Branch's website, Facebook page, its contacts and format of the newsletter.

Incentive Fee: **\$500 over 3 months**. Open to all ages including students.

Contact Branch President Peter Cox 0447473674 to discuss an opportunity or submit your ideas to natrustbendigo@gmail.com

Bendigo Art Gallery redevelopment objection lodged to Heritage Victoria

The Branch admires the work of the Bendigo Art Gallery and supports its aims to be a world class destination as well as a wonderful cultural asset for our city.

However, it is the role of the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) and our Bendigo and Region Branch to explore development applications and how we believe that proposed works could impact on the overall heritage nature of our city.



Artist impressions of the exterior impact on View Street. Image: City of Greater Bendigo

The National Trust has submitted an objection to the current application to redevelop the Bendigo Art Gallery for the following reasons:

- The impact of the overdevelopment of the site, in size, scale and style, is inappropriate for the context of the heritage-listed buildings and parklands;
- Necessary and important heritage works required are not given the appropriate priority as part of this redevelopment;
- The reasonable economic use argument does not justify the spending on this project when paired with the lack of investment in the existing state-listed heritage places and spaces that give the gallery its prominent site and context.



Artist impressions of the atrium looking through to Rosalind Park. Image: City of Greater Bendigo

The Branch further submits that the proposed new gallery in size, style and scale, would detract from the landmark qualities of the significant heritage building, including important views from View Street and Rosalind Park.

View Street provides the Victorian public with one of the finest precincts of 19th century buildings in Victoria. New buildings in this precinct need to be discreet, use textures in common with existing buildings and only developed for necessary use rather than for excessive space. This is echoed by the comments made by Heritage Victoria in their pre-application meeting for this site.

The Branch has made a number of further objections including, sight lines, proposed building materials, heritage works and economic use.

To read the full objection [click here](#)

Letters and correspondence

202 Barnard Street - Vacant house or is it occupied?

Last year there were a number of people concerned about the house at 202 Barnard St Bendigo (corner of View Street). It seems to be vacant for many years.

From COGB Heritage Advisor:

As promised, here is the link to the Vic planning maps website: [click here](#)

You check if places are included on the Heritage Overlay, or Victorian Heritage Register, using the map layers on the left-hand column. Please note that sometimes you may need to un-check Zones layer to see the Overlays.

I believe the building you were enquiring about is outlined in blue dashed line—the site is included on the Heritage Overlay as a significant place.

202 Barnard Street, Bendigo (HO93) Statement of Significance:

'Architecturally, the house has distinctive detailing, a prominent location and is close to original condition. It also contributes to a group of individually notable sites, some linked by Beebe's design and others by a common era. Historically, as the long-term house and surgery of a doctor, it takes on a quasi-public building role as a place known by many 'Bendigonians' early this century (20th).'



202 Barnard Street Bendigo, once the surgery and residence of a local doctor. Image: realestate.com

Letter regarding the Gillies Factory

Hello Peter, following our conversation yesterday I have visited the old Gillies factory site in Bendigo and I am appalled at the state of decay the building has been allowed to fall into. The main structure and framework of iron appear to a layman like myself to be in reasonably good order so the question remains why is the building being left to disintegrate? Along with the other disused buildings adjoining the Gillies factory and the vast amount of land surrounding the buildings and its proximity to central Bendigo it represents an ideal solution to the problem of a shortage of public housing in Bendigo.

Apparently, council will not get involved unless the site presents a public hazard which I suggest it does, given the large amount of uncovered and in cases rotting garbage around the area and given also that people appear to be squatting in the building, added to this the site is open to the public to freely wander around as I and some others were doing today.

Philip

Feedback on the Draft Heritage Strategy from Strategic Planner CoGB

Thank you for your email and interest in the Draft Heritage Strategy. We appreciate your thoughts and suggestions on the draft document. There was a good response rate and so we are still in the process of working through the feedback and reviewing changes to the content.

You can view a summary of the community engagement on the [Let's Talk page](#) under 'Project Updates'. If you have not already had the opportunity, I highly encourage you to follow the page for notifications. Please feel free to share the Let's Talk page in your newsletter so your members can also follow along.

We hope to progress to a Council meeting early this year to report on community feedback and for Councillors to consider a final draft for adoption. However, there is still some review work to complete before then. Please watch the Let's Talk page for further updates.

Concern over stone wall at Quarry Hill – response from Council

Last year readers raised concerns about the stone wall at 216 Carpenter Street going down to Paterson Street, Quarry Hill.

'A planning permit application for subdivision was lodged for 13 Tennyson Street, Quarry Hill in 2023. This application did not proceed; however, I believe that other pre-application discussions relating to a revised subdivision design have occurred with the City's Statutory Planning Unit. In response to the initial application, the Strategic Planning Unit engaged a consultant to assess the significance of the stone wall. The consultant has undertaken the necessary research, and we are awaiting the heritage significance assessment. If it is confirmed as significant and recommended for local heritage protection, the Strategic Planning Unit will then include it in a planning scheme amendment to introduce a Heritage Overlay to the stone wall.'

The readers' view was that the wall needs protection as it is an asset to the neighbourhood. It may have been built in the 1970s but it provides character to the neighbourhood. Perhaps the community's heritage of the future.

Heritage Overlay schedule

Here is a link to the [Heritage Overlay schedule](#), that includes all places that have a Heritage Overlay. Some places within the Heritage Overlay schedule have the 'Tree Controls' turned on, which means that a planning permit is also required to remove, destroy or lop the trees. The City has also just started work on creating a Significant Tree Register. Once it is launched and trees have been identified for review, arboriculture assessments will then be undertaken to confirm the significance of trees. The list of significant trees will be subject to a planning scheme amendment to apply a Significant Landscape Overlay to those trees.

Post pillar box refurbishment

Last year Mary Smith contacted the Branch in regard to the condition of a number of these post pillar boxes. John Lewis, Chewton Chat, has been in touch to say that Chewton had their old post pillar box repainted by a volunteer, Mick Slocum.

The Branch has contacted Mick to see if he can come to Bendigo. Mary has identified post pillar boxes on the corner of Williamson and Galvin Streets, and in Buckley Street, Long Gully. If you know of others, could you let *H&H* know about them?

[Email us here](#).

Great work Mick!



Mick Slocum de-graffiti-ing and repainting the pillar box outside the Market Building in Castlemaine. He has refurbished some in Melbourne as well. Image: chewton.net

Don's been away on a holiday, sharing an idea.

On a recent trip to Beaconsfield, Tasmania I was reminded of a site in Bendigo that could be developed in a similar way to the *Beaconsfield Mine Museum* to make a fantastic tourist attraction. This Beaconsfield mine site (pictured here) has been extensively remodelled to present a great visitor experience. It not only tells the story of the 2006 mining disaster and the history of the mine over many sections of the site but also much of the history of the region. I believe that our present Gas Works has great potential for such development, to not only tell the story of the Gas Works (which we are told is one of the few left in the world with the tanks, etc still in situ), and also the extensive site and accompanying buildings would allow for the City to display many of our artefacts, such as the Robertson wrought iron collection, etc.

Don Leversha



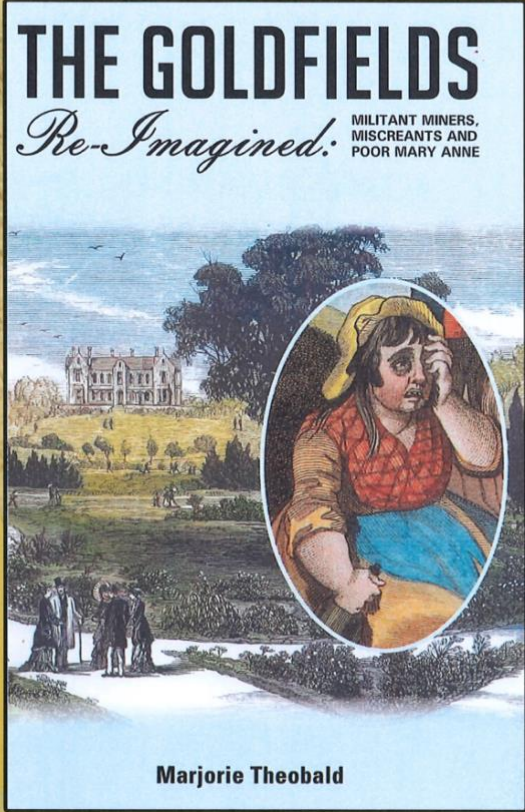
Photos Don took when visiting the Beaconsfield Mine, Tasmania.

Book launch – free event

CASTLEMAINE SOCIETY INC PRESENTS

BOOK LAUNCH

You are invited to the launch of the latest book by author, historian and Castlemaine local Marjorie Theobald with guest speaker Robyn Annear.

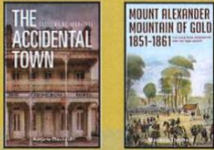


THE GOLDFIELDS
Re-Imagined: MILITANT MINERS, MISCREANTS AND POOR MARY ANNE
Marjorie Theobald

Details:
Saturday February 24
3-5pm
Market Building
44 Mostyn St
Castlemaine

RSVP:
castlemainesociety@gmail.com

Previous publications by Marjorie Theobald



Saturday 24 Feb 3-5pm at the Market Building Mostyn St, Castlemaine.

Wine and finger food.

Marjorie Theobald's new book *The Goldfields Re-Imagined; militant miners, miscreants and poor Mary Anne*, is an absolute ripper. It has chapters on women, convicts, businessmen, swindlers, and Captain Bull and his environmental activism.

Robyn Annear will be the guest speaker, and both Marjorie and Robyn will be signing their books

Branch Meeting News

At its last meeting in November 2023 the Branch decided to:

Make a submission to the planning application at 55 Condon St Kennington in relation to a new childcare centre which will be on the site of the East Bendigo Observatory and house *La Rocca*.

Hold an event program for the Australian Heritage Festival.

Discussed some actions for the Branch's social media communication and decided implement it.

Next Branch meeting- Tuesday 27 February, 5.30pm, at the Bendigo Library. Enter Hargreaves Street.

Discussion on Bendigo Art Gallery development, Heritage Festival, social media strategy, editorial content for next *H&H*, upcoming meetings. You do not have to be a member of the National Trust to attend, supporters are welcome.

Australian Heritage Festival 18 April to 19 May 2024

- April 20 & 28 Bendigo Gas Works [Book here](#)
- April 27 Castlemaine Government Camp Tours [Book here](#)
- May 5 Two 'Open House and Garden' events: 1876 miner's cottage [Book here](#)
1874 miner's cottage [Book here](#)
- May 11 Former Post Office tours [Book here](#)
- May 12 *Rocky Vale Villa* visit [Book here](#)

Bookings are live from February 18

The Branch is organising 6 events and is working with the City of Greater Bendigo to include tours of the Former Bendigo Gas Works and the 3 tiers of the Former Bendigo Post Office in Pall Mall.

Castlemaine is holding a tour of the Castlemaine Government Camp Precinct, a wonderful experience to stand in the footsteps of those involved in the 1850s and to visit some of the original buildings.

Marg Hogan and Peter Cox are opening their miners' cottages. Inspect the homes inside and enjoy the gardens.

The owner of *Rocky Vale Villa* has allowed the Branch to have an event on site. It has an interesting story to tell as it towers out of the landscape. Ancestors from the Beebe family will be present.

There will be knowledgeable speakers at all events.

Volunteers needed for Heritage Festival

The Branch will need many volunteers for these events. Contact Peter Cox 0447073674. Everybody is welcome to help out and you get into the event for free.



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 **4 March 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

Editorial group next meeting: Wednesday **6 March 2024**, 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.

