

History & Heritage

Circulating throughout Bendigo, Eaglehawk, Heathcote, Castlemaine, Maldon, Kyneton, Elmore, Echuca, and Rochester areas

A publication of the National Trust Bendigo & District Branch
August 2024



**Cover story: 2025 Australian Heritage Festival
a boost for history and heritage organisations**

**Next Branch Meeting
Tuesday 27th August 5.30pm
Bendigo Library
(enter via Hargreaves Street)
Open to all who are interested in history and heritage**

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Cover image: Map of Victoria. Department of Crown Lands and Survey 1888. The Bendigo district is circled.
Image: State Library of Victoria.

Cover story: 2025 Australian Heritage Festival - a boost for history and heritage organisations

The Bendigo and District Branch incorporates a large part of northern Victoria (see cover). From Echuca to Kyneton and Maldon to Heathcote. The Branch has been involved with the Australian Heritage Festival for many years and believes that the 2025 month-long event can be an even better celebration of the significance of our region: the Murray River, wine regions, goldfields, First Nations' culture, industrial heritage, agriculture, multiculturalism and much more, the festival provides more opportunities to interpret heritage and culture from across the region.

The Branch, along with many other organisations in the region, this year participated in the Australian Heritage Festival attracting many locals and visitors to heritage sites. The six events organised by the Branch interacted with over a thousand people visiting sites such as the Bendigo Gas Works, the Former Post Office, Open Houses and Gardens, Rocky Vale Villa and the former Castlemaine Government Camp Precinct. Other organisations also conducted tours, held displays and exhibitions, heritage talks and workshops.

While the National Trust co-ordinates the Festival, individual organisations can benefit by using the publicity platform for free. If you already have a venue, you are able to put on a special event to attract more visitors or use your local library, hall or school for an event. Most importantly it provides history and heritage organisations with a platform for promotion and a group of people who can assist.

Many people walk past heritage buildings every day and often say to themselves, "I would love to see what is behind those walls or fence." What is it in your area that people might like to visit that has a story or remarkable architecture or something you would like to show off in an exhibition? Do you have a home or garden, a workplace, a club with history, that people would love to visit?

The Festival is on again from 18th April to 18th May 2025 so there is lots of time to organise something special which will also give your organisation an opportunity to raise funds for something you believe in. To co-ordinate such a large festival and learn about what other people will be doing, it will be necessary to meet either in person or online. Meetings will be held in October to plan the 2025 Festival. If you are interested to conduct an event let the Branch know [by emailing](#) or ringing Peter 0447473674.

Welcome to Trust members in Echuca, Rochester and surrounding areas.

The Branch newsletter will now go out to your areas so if you know people who might like to receive *History & Heritage*, not members, but interested in heritage issues please encourage them [to email us](#) to subscribe.

Some feedback on H&H

Great pics of Rocky Vale Villa. *Mike*
To you and the team a superb Trust Newsletter, congratulations once again. *James*.
Thanks Mike and James.

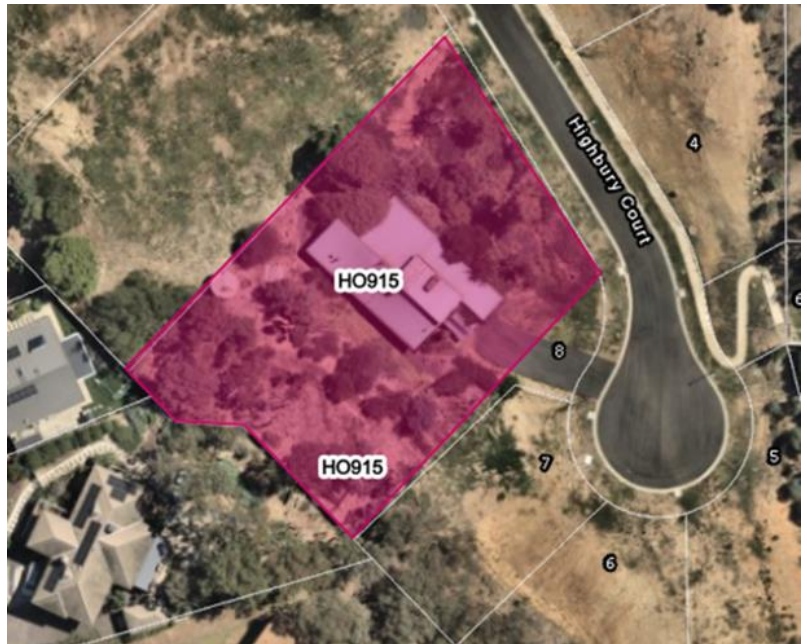
Nanga Gnulle planning consultation update

A consultation meeting with the owners, their architect and their planner with regard to the proposed very large additions to the house known as *Nanga Gnulle*, and objectors was arranged by the council planner and held on 18th July. The proposal also included removal of all vegetation. The owners, their architect, and their planner were working under the assumption that the 5-metre curtilage for HO 915 mentioned in the Statement of Significance applied, rather than the mapped curtilage which takes in the whole block as per the Panel Report. Objectors at the meeting were of the firm opinion that the mapped curtilage applied and the 5-metre curtilage was not correct. Council has investigated further and found that the mapped curtilage for HO 915 as shown here and as gazetted by the minister is correct. We await further developments with interest and will be keeping a close eye on it. Objectors believe that Alistair Knox's vision for house and landscape to be indivisible should be taken into account in any development.

An excerpt from the Council Planner's latest response to the Branch (8th August 2024) is as follows:

The Heritage Overlay has been applied to the site consistent with the recommendations of the Panel Report.

As Alison has advised, a subsequent Amendment (C261) to the Planning Scheme resulted in the incorrect reference document being inserted into



The overlay on the *Nanga Gnulle* site taken from the planning report.

the Planning Scheme, which refers to the previous 5-metre curtilage, rather than the increased curtilage Council recommended by the Panel, adopted by and gazetted by the Minister. This will be corrected via a future amendment to the Planning Scheme.

The map extents of the Heritage Overlay were not altered as part of C261, and the current mapping showing the Heritage Overlay for 8 Highbury Court remains correct.

While the applicant's planning report references the incorrect 5-metre curtilage, this does not impact the City's assessment of the application given that the Heritage Overlay applies to the whole of the site. The application and its impact on the whole of 8 Highbury Court will be assessed on its merits against the requirements of the Heritage Overlay in due course.



Nanga Gnulle by Alistair Knox. Image: tsfn.com.au

227 Eaglehawk Road Long Gully, a classic mid-century home (proposed) to be demolished for a childcare centre.

It has been brought to my attention that a rare 'American-style' mid-century Modernist classic home, built in Long Gully, is now subject to a Planning Application for a childcare centre.

The building register (Vol 3 p. 53) shows that the proposed brick and timber framed residence was approved on 11th October 1956 and built for owner Dr Donald Gibbs by J. Burgoyne. The value is stated as £8,500. The architect is yet to be determined.

The documents which support the Planning Application can be viewed in Council's website [here](#). Objections to the proposed development can also be lodged via this link.

A 2022 RealEstate.com listing promoted the property as noted below:

*A Mid-Century Classic with an abundance of potential!
227 Eaglehawk Road, Long Gully
Located in the growing suburb of Eaglehawk this stylish family home with commanding northerly views influenced by a classic American Mid-Century home with big bright windows, high ceilings and three levels of living. The engineering and design put into this property could not be replicated in a normal residential build these days - the property was built to last.*



227 Eaglehawk Road in 2024 Image: supplied



227 Eaglehawk Road Long Gully Image: Domain.co.au

Upon further research, the previous record of sale in May 2021 revealed that the property was purchased, mature trees were removed and the property was re-advertised in 2022 and sold to a commercial entity for a site for a childcare centre.

The current proposal is to demolish the house, totally clear the site of any remaining vegetation and construct a 2-storey modern childcare centre with a huge carpark at the Eaglehawk Road frontage.

It would be a great shame if another classic piece of Bendigo's architectural history is demolished for yet another childcare centre, in an area which is already well serviced with such facilities.

Please feel free to lodge an objection to this development via Council website.

Michael Lake, architect and heritage enthusiast, California Gully



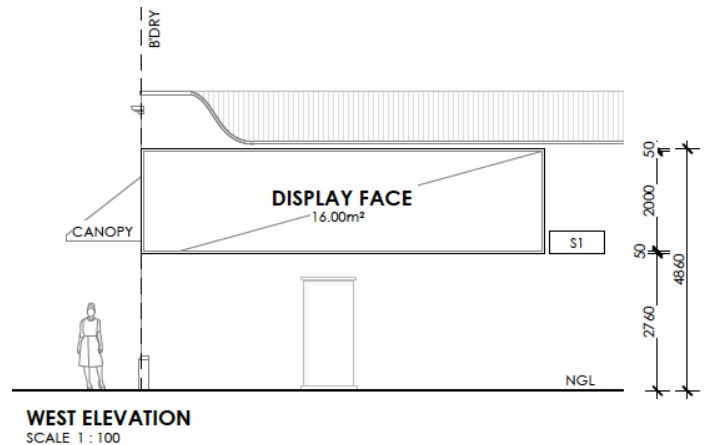
Google Street view image from 2019 showing mature trees on the block.

Proposed Planning Application for a large digital sign in Eaglehawk.

This digital sign is proposed to be located in Napier Street which is in the heritage precinct close to residential living. It will be in full view of the Town Hall area which is one of last remaining intact civic precincts in Australia containing the Former Post Office, the Town Hall, the Mechanics Institute and the Former Court House and Log Lockup, all of which are on the State Heritage Register. It is also opposite the heritage listed Canterbury Gardens. The intersection is considered dangerous as it swerves around at that point and the electronic sign could further distract drivers.

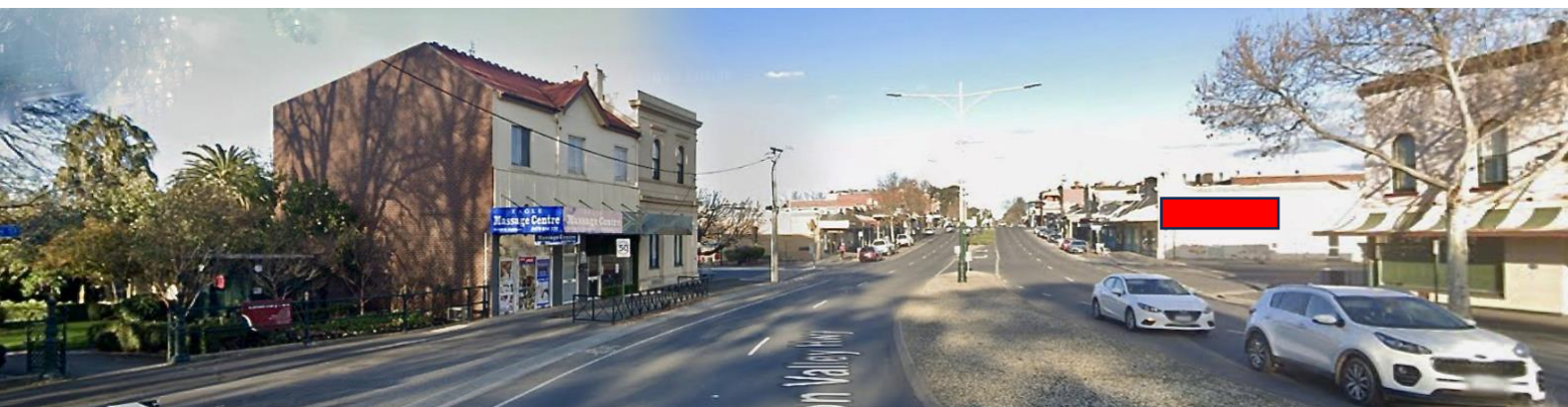
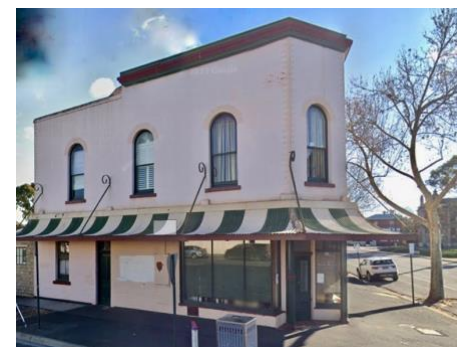
Steps to find a planning application:

1. Go to 'epathway' [Here is the link](#)
2. Go down the list to find application number. Sometimes you might have to click on 'Planning and Building Permit Registers'. **In this case DA/231/2024**
3. To search in 'epathway' enter the application number.
4. The application will come up and then click on the 'paperclip' symbol for all the reports.
5. You can send an objection by clicking 'submit an objection'.



Top: Proposed size and placement of the sign. Below: Proposed sign location (replacing *Bendigo JShop* sign) west elevation. Images: *Gawk Outdoor Planning Application*.

How is this signage appropriate to the local streetscape? Bottom: Google street view with red rectangle indicating the proposed sign. Below left: Proposed street view eastbound traffic. Image: *Gawk Outdoor*. Below right: Building opposite on corner Napier Street and Loddon Highway. Image: *Google Maps*



Suburban Ironbark Cut Down by Council at California Gully

I have been trying to protect this 130 to 150-year-old Ironbark in California Gully for a number of years. I objected to the construction of a new dwelling under it but was assured by the applicant's planner the tree will not be cut down. I wrote to council requesting it be put on the significant tree register.

In past weeks contractors took 3 days to cut it down. Now there is a For Sale sign up on the house. The tree flowered each year as shown in the photo and magpies built their nests in it. As it was being cut down the local birds were unsettled flying about. I guess they knew what was happening. The loss of such trees says a lot about us caring for the environment.
Peter



And in Kyneton too - Resident group blindsided, betrayed by 'unnecessary' tree removal



The removal of a stand of old elm trees at Kyneton this month has been slammed as unnecessary and undemocratic. The 10 trees, thought to have been 70 to 75 years old, were cut down by council order to make way for new netball courts as part of [a redevelopment plan for the Kyneton showgrounds](#).

John Monash and his innovative bridge designs



King's Bridge Bendigo. Photo: Owen Peake

Margaret Doring, a member from Kyneton, has sent in an article by Owen Peake, published in the *Engineering Heritage Australia* magazine, on the Monier/Monash bridges on Bendigo Creek which came up for discussion at the June Branch meeting. There are eight bridges in total and the Owen's article has a map showing the location of each bridge and photos.

You can read the history of the bridges [here](#).
Thanks Margaret

'Save the Law Courts' Peter Legg

The Bendigo Branch continues with its campaign to 'Save the Law Courts' but progress has been limited by the lack of feedback on the public consultation process and the approval to access the building and the public records. The Branch seeks permission to access the public records of the Law Courts and access the building to take photographs of the interior. It also seeks advice on including the Law Courts in the 2025 Heritage Festival.

The Bendigo former Law Courts is an important piece of Bendigo's history. Constructed between 1890 and 1896, the building is of Italian style corresponding in detail with the Public Offices (Post Office) which was completed earlier in 1887. The site was deemed expensive to build upon, as one condition insisted the buildings would command from all sides, the back and side elevations should be as rich in detail as the front.

Next Law Courts meeting Thursday 19th September, 10am, at the Bendigo Library.

A surprising and coincidental find was this image (right) found as a single framed print in a local lawyer's office. This print is believed to be one of the 101 original drawings of the Bendigo Law Courts currently held at PROV. Does anybody know where these prints can be accessed?



Bendigo former Law Courts today, viewed from rear of Post Office. Note how each side was as rich in detail as the front of building. Photo: Peter Legg.



One of the original drawings for the Bendigo Law Courts. Image: supplied

Help shape the future of the Victorian Goldfields World Heritage bid



Pink Cliffs Geological Reserve, Heathcote. An example of the dramatic effects on the landscape of hydraulic sluicing in the late 19th century. Image: goldfieldsguide.com.au

Councils are reaching out to communities seeking your input to help shape the future for Victorian Goldfields. The Victorian Goldfields is the most extensive, coherent, and best-surviving goldrush landscape in the world.

World Heritage can bring benefits like visitors, jobs, and new experiences and we want to know what things that make your community a great place to live right now, and what could be better and tell us what stories you most value and would like to know more about in your local area.

Simply complete the quick survey and let us know what is important to you. The survey will also be available in other formats at our roadshow events and will remain open while we prepare the bid for World Heritage. [Take the survey](#)

Call out to Members and Supporters - contribute your stories

The Branch does not have a documented history and as it has been operating for 60 years it would be an appropriate time, over the coming months, to record the Branch's activities. Members and supporters are asked to submit short pieces, stories and photographs about activities you might have been involved in over those years. What has it meant to you to be involved in heritage events and campaigns that have assisted to save the region's history and heritage? [Email the Branch](#) The Branch minutes are also available but needs a small group to search for the stories that can be featured.

Brief History of the National Trust Bendigo & District Branch 1964 – 2024

The first meeting of the Central Victorian Branch met in the Bendigo City Hall on 10th July 1964 with Cr A. S. Craig being the interim President. He expressed his delight with 68 in attendance, five representatives being from Castlemaine. There were 70 apologies.

After the election of a committee with Cr Craig confirmed as President, the main business of the meeting was the conduct of a public lecture by Dr Graeme Robertson. (Minutes of meeting) This occurred on 23rd September 1964 at the Bendigo Art Gallery and was reported in the *Bendigo Advertiser* the following Day. When a slide was produced on a screen showing a shop with a cast iron trimmed verandah Dr Robertson said "The whole appearance of streets had been destroyed where Councils decreed that these verandahs should be torn down Certainly, it belongs in the past but is something of the past which should be preserved." Cr Craig said the function had a two-fold purpose, to inaugurate the Central Victorian Branch and the chance to hear Dr Robertson. Fine black and white photographs depicting much of Bendigo's 'iron lace' taken by Mr A. Doney, created considerable interest.

Two issues that the Branch focused on during 1960s included The Joss House in Bendigo which was the only remaining one of four Chinese temples in the area and its major restoration. The Branch took on the lease of the Joss House in 1965. Maldon was also declared the first Notable Town in 1965. It became an instant tourist attraction which ironically threatened the town's historic integrity.

In 1968 the Castlemaine Market was transferred to the Trust and reopened in 1974. In 1969 Dr E. Graeme Robertson formed a Cast Iron Committee

and donated part of his collection to the Trust. In 1976 the Trust acquired the former ANZ Bank in View Street Bendigo. In October 1977 the Maldon Planning Scheme was gazetted- the first statutory attempt in Victoria to conserve a whole town.

The Maldon Restoration Fund was established and Architectural Advisory Service (later changed to the Heritage Advisory Service) founded. In 1981 the Penny School in Maldon opens to the public after restoration. In 1987 Central Highlands Branch holds its first meeting in Malmsbury and the Trust declares Castlemaine as an Urban Conservation Area.

The Branch has worked on many projects since the 1980s. As branches were formed in other towns beyond Bendigo a name change was required and it has been known as the Bendigo and District Branch over the past forty or so years but the actions remained the same. Making submissions to important Council planning strategies, objecting to planning applications where heritage properties were at risk, participating in Heritage Advisory Committees, conducting events for the Annual Australian Heritage Festivals and advocating for protection of properties, sites, monuments, landscapes, vegetation that tell their story by being there, all need protection. Newsletters and publications have also been a feature of Branch activity.

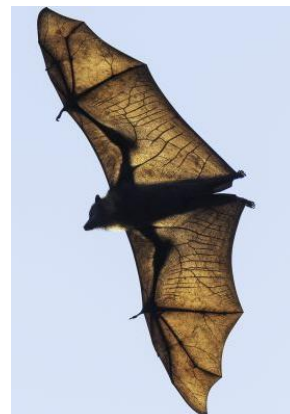


Maldon heritage streetscape. Image: Australian Rural & Regional News

Correspondence from City of Greater Bendigo

Grey-headed flying fox and the Australian white ibis

Thanks for your enquiry regarding Rosalind Park and the Grey Headed Flying Fox and Ibis population. The City of Greater of Bendigo, as you may be aware in recent media, are developing an overall Rosalind Park Management Plan. We are currently working with Ecologists and Wildlife consultants who are assisting with components of this Management Plan ensuring the City adhere to State and Federal regulations.



Above left: Threskiornis Molucca and right: Pteropus poliocephalus
Images: geoffpark.wordpress.com and David Whelan swiftt.net.au

As part of the consultation process, the opportunity to provide feedback on the Rosalind Park Management Plan will be extended via the City's *Let's Talk* platform and scheduled workshops, of which the National Trust has been identified as a key stakeholder and will be extended an invitation in the very near future. The community survey and workshops will inform the future of the fernery and a long-term roost management plan for the grey-headed flying fox (*Pteropus poliocephalus*) and Australian white ibis (*Threskiornis Molucca*, pictured above) that reside in the park and are anticipated to take place in November 2024. We note a preliminary investigation report on the impact of the grey-headed flying fox campsite on trees at Rosalind Park was prepared in 2010. As the City is currently working with ecologists and wildlife consultants on an updated long term roost management plan for the grey-headed flying fox, we encourage you to promote to members through your Branch newsletter, the opportunity to complete the survey, to ensure feedback is considered as part of the revised Rosalind Park Management Plan.

We thank you for your ongoing interest in the management of Rosalind Park and look forward to the National Trust's participation in the upcoming workshops.

Letter from a member: *Re flying foxes – for some many years we have been sharing our plums from a self-sown plum tree out the front of our house actually on council property. The foxes used to take all the top fruit and I got the bottom lot to make jam but in the last 2 years the flying foxes must have found it harder to get fruit or there are more of them in RP. This year they arrived even before the fruit even had changed colour – then they continuing arriving till they had got every last one leaving us a huge mess daily on our driveway and the footpath. So, after a lot of consideration for our age and cleaning this all up I rang the council and asked them to remove the plum tree on their property right by my letter box. They say we are on a 60-day waiting list. Carol.*

Vahland Fountain repairs

Thank you for your reply in relation to repairs to pictures and storyboards at Vahland Fountain. We acknowledge that the expectation was for the repairs to be undertaken in September 2022 and confirm that budget has been allocated to complete this project within the current 2024/2025 delivery program. It is anticipated that an onsite meeting will be scheduled with key stakeholders in late September 2024 to commence the process and inform options for replacement, which will be followed by design and procurement and subsequent installation by March 2025.



Vahland Drinking Fountain 1880, Vahland Place, Bendigo. Image: TripAdvisor 2021

Branch meeting held 23rd July 2024

- Review of 2024 Heritage Festival. Meeting with GB Council held to discuss regular tours of Former Bendigo Gas Works and Former Bendigo Post Office. Meeting to be called for 2025 Festival inviting organisations in the region to participate.
- Report on Former Law Courts. Contact is being made with agencies in charge of the Courts and its maintenance and preservation. Meeting held with local Law Association.
- Concern expressed about access to the Rosalind Park Fernery. It has now been closed for three years with no reopening date. Contact Heritage Victoria in regard to its maintenance.
- Planning Consultation meeting held on planning application for Nanga Gnulle. Dispute about heritage plan and citation of property which needs further investigation. Branch requested further information, a Landscape Plan and a Heritage Protection Plan.
- Snap Send Solve. Gold monument where two women first found gold in Bendigo - graffiti removed.
- Branch boundaries have been extended to include Echuca and Rochester areas.
- Review of July newsletter. Very informative. Cover story for August edition. 2025 Heritage Festival. Report on planning applications.
- August meeting. Request a representative from National Trust (Vic) to attend meeting to discuss Branch activities.
- Next Branch meeting: Tuesday 27th August, 5.30pm, Bendigo Library. Editorial group meeting 7th August, 10am, Corner Store Café.
- Contributions to *H&H* by 1st August.

Things to do and book launches

Discover the beauty of Victoria's Historic Gardens this August

As an exclusive member benefit in partnership with [The Diggers Club](#), National Trust members can enjoy free access to more of Victoria's iconic gardens.

Throughout August, visit:

- [Heronswood](#): The historic house and gardens in Dromana, with breathtaking views of Port Phillip Bay.
- [The Garden of St Erth](#): Once a bustling township in Blackwood, now a serene garden sanctuary.
- [Cloudehill Gardens](#): World-renowned gardens in Olinda, celebrated for their exquisite design and diversity.

Typically, \$15 each, these gardens are now open to National Trust Members at no cost for the month of August - simply show your Membership Card on arrival.



The garden of St Erth at Blackwood. Image: The Diggers Club

As an added bonus, join The Diggers Club for 2 or 5 years during your visit and receive a complimentary copy of Clive Blazey's (OAM) latest book, [We Speak for the Trees](#). This invaluable resource, valued at \$44.95, offers comprehensive insights into nearly 100 ornamental, fruit, and nut trees, focusing on climate suitability, shade, habitat protection, and bushfire prevention.

Don't miss this exclusive Member opportunity to explore and learn from some of Victoria's most beautiful and historic gardens. [Plan your visit](#)

BOOK LAUNCH

WHEN:

Sat. 24th August 11.00 am

WHERE:

Mandurang Valley Wines

77 Fadersons Ln. Mandurang

TO BE LAUNCHED BY:

The Hon. Howard Nathan QC



Man of Stature

J.A. Panton

1831-1913

Arriving from Scotland a 20 year-old Joseph Panton soon carved out a significant life in the administration of justice in the dramatic early days of Sandhurst (Bendigo). He saw the country advance from the 'gold-rush' days through to the first decade of Federation.

Panton advanced through country postings to become well known for 30 years as Melbourne's Police Magistrate. Numerous activities illustrate his broad interests - pioneering inland property developer, vigneron, artist, botanist, collector and perennial committee man.

Historians have viewed him as a significant player in managing the pre-Eureka 'Red Ribbon' disturbances on the Bendigo gold-field, but 'Man of Stature' widens the knowledge of his role in the historical fabric of the growing Colony and State.

A biography by Terry Davidson

Cost \$35 268 pp. Colour, b&w From: tands2@aapt.net.au

Please join author **Lynne Cooper** in
celebrating

The Mystery Medal

BOOK LAUNCH

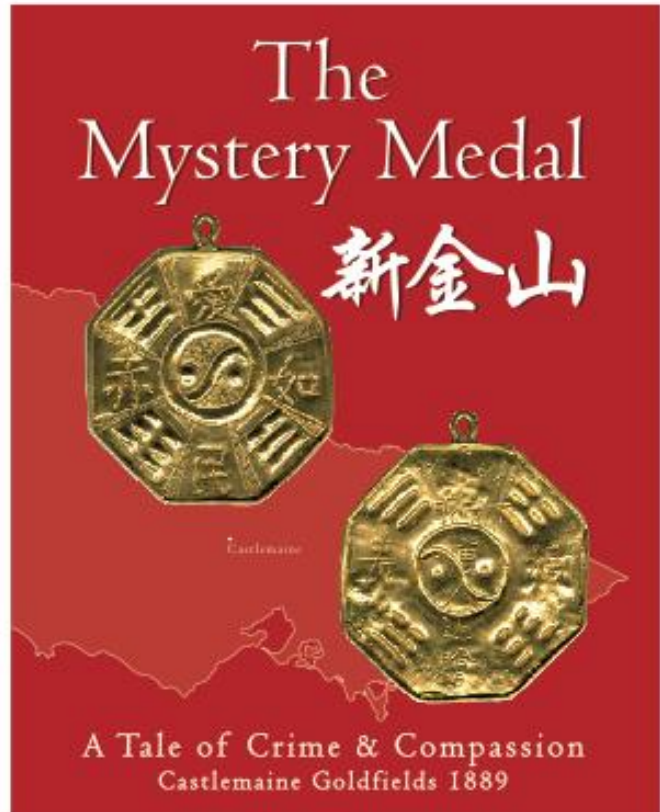
1:00 pm | September 8th, 2024

La Trobe Art Institute
121 View St, Bendigo

Nibbles & Refreshments provided

Please RSVP to Lynne Cooper by
Monday September 2nd

Books \$40 - available for
purchase on the day or directly
through the author



It was 1889 in a quiet street in Fitzroy, Melbourne ... a most unusual sight. A small delegation of Chinese from the Castlemaine Goldfields knocked on the door of retired police sergeant Henry Frood. Their gift to him was a solid handcrafted gold medal. It was to be treasured but there was a mystery. The medal lay in my father's briefcase for decades and was finally presented to the Golden Dragon Museum in Bendigo for safe-keeping. But the mystery demanded answers. What had Henry done to deserve this precious gift? A century later and thirty years of research has unravelled amazing stories of crime and compassion and united the descendants of four families who are deeply connected to the medal, the goldfields and the Chinese community.

Lynne Cooper

LynneCooper2024@gmail.com

0438591063

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 July *History & Heritage* will be **September 3rd 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

Next editorial group meeting. **Wednesday 4th September** 10am Corner Store Café, View Street

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

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

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

To unsubscribe:

You are receiving this email because you are a member of the National Trust of Australia (Vic) or have asked us to send you the newsletter. If you no longer wish to receive these emails, please [email](#) the Bendigo Branch. Add 'unsubscribe' in the subject line.

