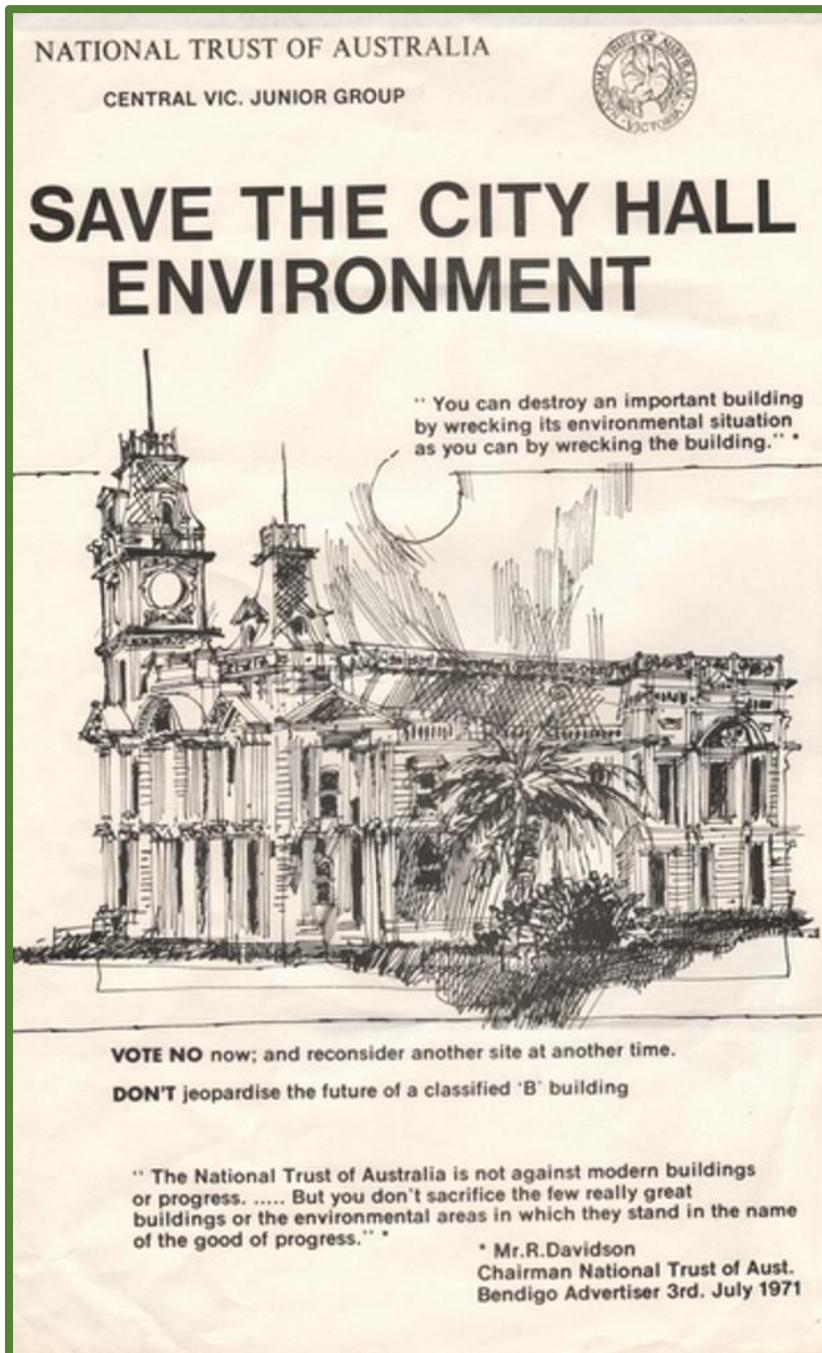


# History & Heritage

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

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



One of the most successful campaigns, saving the Bendigo Town Hall and environs.  
Image: Bendigo Historical Society Collection

## National Trust Bendigo & District celebrates 60 Years of Advocacy

Celebrate the Branch's  
60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September

5.30pm Branch meeting at  
Bendigo Library  
(enter Via Hargreaves Street)

6.30pm Sharing a meal together  
at GPO Restaurant  
(60-64 Pall Mall, Bendigo)

Members, partners, supporters,  
friends, all welcome.

Order from menu and pay for  
your food and drinks.

**Bookings essential.**  
Text or phone Peter **0447473674**

## Cover story 60 Years of Advocacy

We published the first part of this essay in the August issue of *History & Heritage*. Here is the full article:

### A 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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

### In this issue:

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- P 15. Acknowledgement of country; links to past newsletters and contacts

Cover image: Campaign poster to save the Bendigo Town Hall from demolition in 1971 Image: Bendigo Historical Society.



The Branch featured well known National Trust identity, Dr E Graeme Robertson at its inaugural public lecture held at the Bendigo Art Gallery in September 1964, making this September its 60<sup>th</sup> year. Image: Mark Strizic 1968

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. A special mention needs to be given to Mike Butcher, President of the Branch for over 30 years, historian, author and publisher who with many others, educated us all on the wonders of Bendigo's history. He, with others, published many books that told historical stories of what it was like in the years since the Sandhurst days of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. After Michael's years as President, Gary Hill, a Heritage Adviser and lover of miners' cottages and many other historical sites, machinery and traditions, took over as President for over ten years and carried on the story telling, the festivals and as a project close to his heart the acknowledgement of the Former Bendigo Gas Works, a task still in progress.



Above: *Castlemaine Market Building*, c1865. Albumen sepia-toned black and white photograph. Image: Castlemaine Art Museum.

Left: *Maldon*, c. 1950. Maldon was declared Australia's First Notable Town in 1965 by the National Trust of Australia. Image: State Library of Victoria

The Branch does not have a history written so it can be held proud for the generations to read both now and going into the future. Perhaps it is time that the Branch considers one by developing a process where many can contribute and in pictures, diagrams, art and words.

The National Trust has had its highs and lows, not only in our region but throughout Victoria. The 1980s saw a time that the National Trust just had too many properties to upkeep and operate.

The National Trust is Victoria's premier organisation advocating for the protection of Victoria's heritage. Just like in the 1960s many governments and authorities misunderstand the importance of history. While many sites have been lost, many too have been saved, restored and repurposed. But there is much to be done. You only need to walk down Pall Mall to see the buildings that are not in use, the many sites that are experiencing 'Demolition by Neglect' and the rapid reduction in vegetation and landscapes. Raising these issues over the past 60 years has been a journey which needs to continue.

Peter Cox OAM  
President  
National Trust of Australia (Victoria)  
Bendigo & District Branch  
Former Mayor & Councillor  
Greater Bendigo City Council





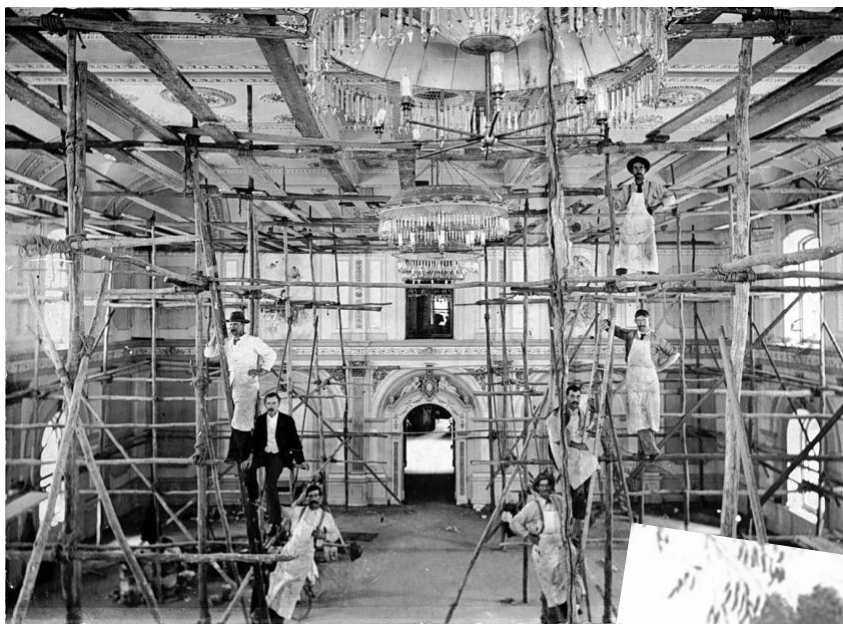
### Can you help?

The Branch has minutes of its old meetings but needs support to go through them to seek out the decisions, campaigns and heritage places that were discussed. If we can all contribute a little time, the history of the Branch will come to life and be published in *History & Heritage*.

### Do you have a story to tell about Branch activities over the past 60 years?

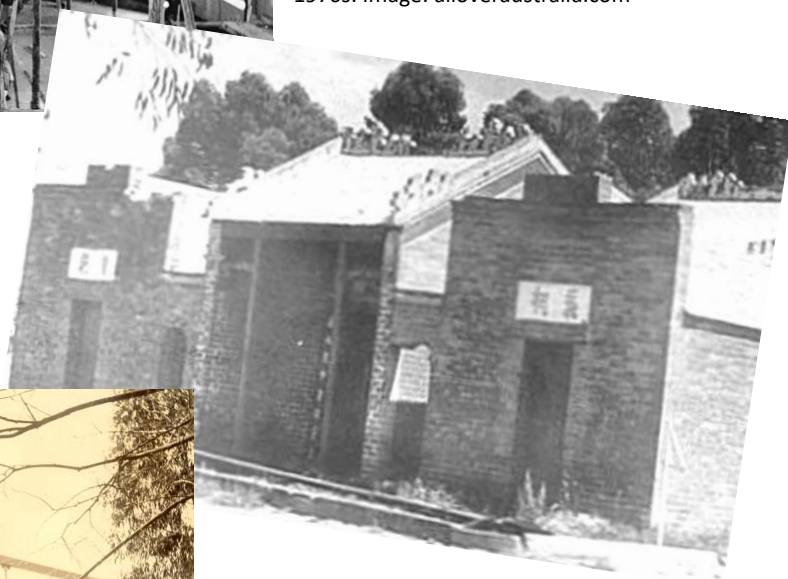
It can be as short or as long as you wish. Perhaps you have a photograph that tells its own story. You are encouraged to send it in with a brief description including any details you know of subject and where, date and who took the photo.

Contact the Branch or send your story to [natrustbendigo@gmail.com](mailto:natrustbendigo@gmail.com)



Restoration work on the interior of Bendigo Town Hall in 1902 Image: Museums Victoria

Below: Bendigo Chinese Joss House 1970s. Image: alloveraustralia.com



Below: Workers at Bendigo Gasworks about 1900. Wagon left has tram track wheels and the horse has skates on its shoes to run on the tracks smoothly and 'stay on track'. Image: Bendigo Historical Society



Some of the heritage sites  
now protected

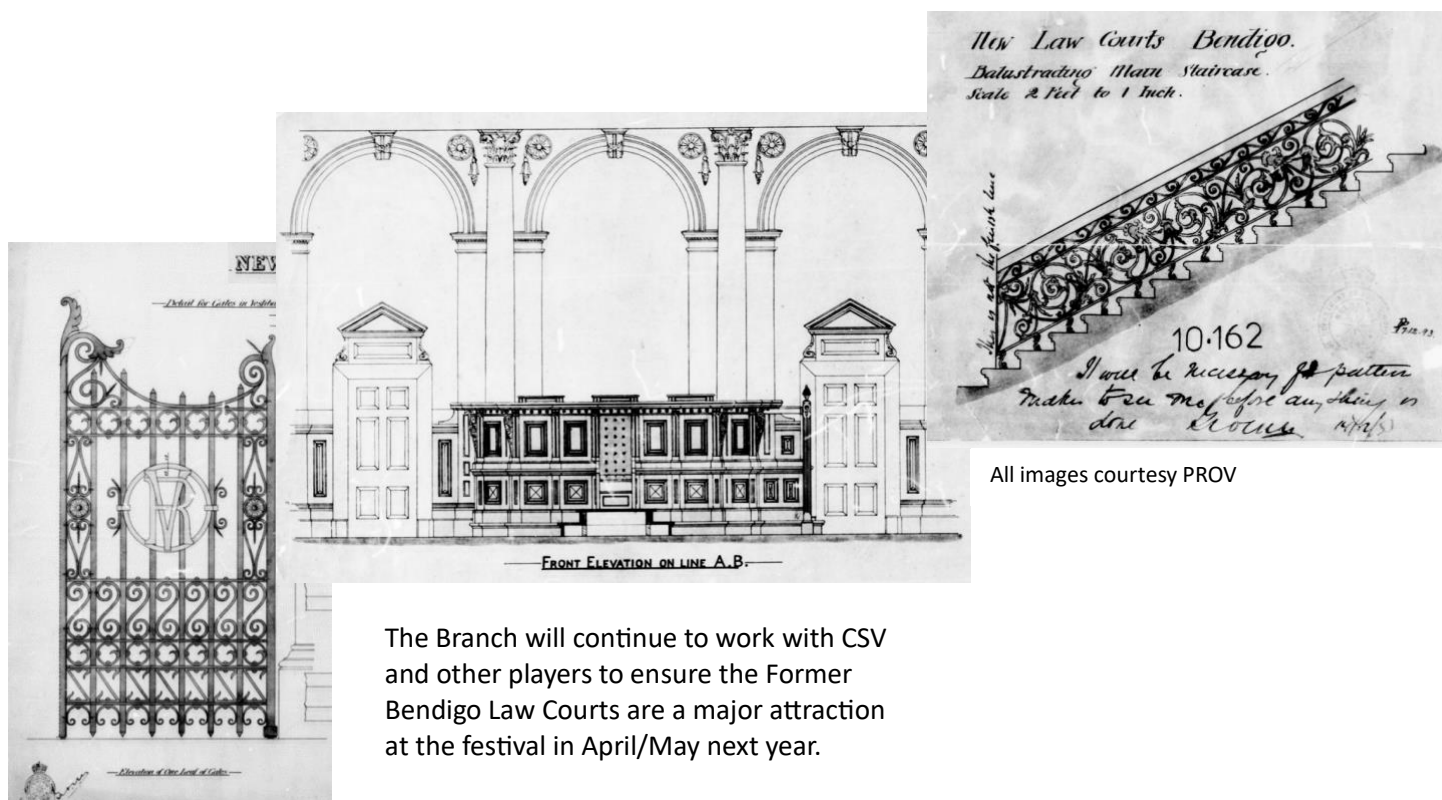
## Former Bendigo Law Courts Update - Positive response from Courts Services Victoria Peter Legg

There was much excitement this month when we received feedback from Court Services Victoria (CSV) on our requests regarding the Former Bendigo Law Courts. While we did not receive permission to access and photograph inside the former law courts at this time, we did get permission to access the 'restricted' public records on the former Bendigo Law Courts and also permitted to commence planning to include the former Law Courts in the 2025 Heritage Festival. Overall, the Branch felt the response was very favourable and welcomed the positive collaboration.

CSV also provided copies of the Conservation Management Plan and the Collection Management Plan as well as the possibility to

access images from the Collections catalogue. Click [here](#) for the Collection Management Plan. Click [here](#) for the Conservation Management Plan. This means we can move forward with our 'Save the Law Courts' plan with a real opportunity to finally get the Law Courts open for the first time during the 2025 Heritage Festival. The Heritage Festival is a great opportunity to showcase Bendigo's heritage and the Law Courts is a big part of Bendigo's premier Heritage Precinct.

Following the response from CSV, the Branch has now accessed the records of the former Bendigo Law Courts from Public Records Office of Victoria (PROV), acquiring the initial digital images covering the building specifications, quantity surveying and the associated building plans, all produced around 1892. These were the original documents used to build the former Bendigo Law Courts. The documents highlight the detail and planning that was part of the ornate design of the Law Courts. A few of the images are shown below.



All images courtesy PROV

The Branch will continue to work with CSV and other players to ensure the Former Bendigo Law Courts are a major attraction at the festival in April/May next year.

Next meeting of 'Save the Law Courts' Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September 10am at Bendigo Library. If you require further information ring Branch President Peter on 0447473674.



## The Allan Doney Photographic Collection - Euan McGillivray



Above: Screenshot of Facebook page from *Lost Bendigo & District*. Doney photographs are used far and wide. Most credit that Doney took the picture. The proper citation should be: Allan Doney Collection: National Trust of Australia (Vic). It is also important to note, that if some of the Facebook pictures been copied from books, they also need to be credited.

Many Bendigonians will know about Allan Doney's photographs. He took thousands of pictures in and around Bendigo during the 1950s & 60s. Today, some of his pictures appear on a range of social media platforms – often without citation. His work is of a high standard and about 14,000 film negatives survive today.

Due to the significance of the negatives, in 1980, the Bendigo Branch of the National Trust organised for the National Trust (Vic) to purchase the collection. The Trust (Vic) had an arrangement with the Bendigo Library to store the negatives and also to make copies of images available to researchers and historians.

In 2021, a *Preservation Needs Assessment* was undertaken to ensure that the negatives were in optimum condition. A recommendation of the assessment was to transfer the negatives from their existing storage folders and bags and re-house them into archival materials. The Bendigo Library was unable to resource this project.

Later in 2024, the Bendigo Historical Society in partnership with the National Trust of Australia (Vic) will re-house about 14,000 of Allan Doney's negatives. That means BHS volunteers will remove the negatives from the current storage paper sleeves and 're-house' them in archival quality polypropylene sheets especially made for photographic negatives. All the materials have been provided by the National Trust, including polypropylene ring binders, and BHS will provide the labour to undertake the task. This re-housing project by BHS does not include dealing with any future access issues to the collection.



Right: the negatives filed in their current storage paper sleeves. Image: Bendigo Historical Society

### Brief summary of the Doney Collection

Allan Doney was a tailor and a prolific amateur photographer in Bendigo between the mid 1950s to 1970. Using the critical aspects of great photography - light and composition, he created a delightful time-capsule of Bendigo and the surrounding small towns, mine sites and farms. Doney, more importantly, also left us images that can be studied for their significant content in a time of great change to some of the central Victorian natural and built environments.

The Doney style was 'documentary' - he was said to have 'recorded what happened in front of him'. In the time after WW2 and particularly throughout the 1960s, documentary photography was an expanding field in Australia. Allan may have been aware of a collective of photographers in Melbourne that advocated the use of 'straight' or unmanipulated photography as a means of expression.

There is little evidence that he used heavy filters or elaborate lens selection to capture his subjects. Documentary photography, especially in the

volume contained in this collection, forms a vital role as evidence regarding the rhythms of everyday life in a time of social change in Bendigo. The significance of the collection is not limited to its photographic qualities. The content captured over a period of more than twenty years provides us today, and into the future, with many points of reference regarding social issues. Many of the pictures demonstrate an artistic flair with dramatic use of backlight and strong composition.

Broadly, the collection is also of research significance. The very nature of the streetscapes, building details, people and landscape images and their ability to be seen against similar modern equivalents lends them research value. The collection forms an important source of information for local and Victorian history. Its significance lies beyond the social/historical and into the role the photographer played, with others, in a photography movement that championed a documentary style that literally focussed on what the subject had to say. While Doney photographed many buildings and streetscapes in Bendigo and district, he was also a skilful and sensitive people photographer.



Left: Allan Doney in his workroom, Beehive Building, Pall Mall, Bendigo, about 1965. Image: Allan Doney Collection, National Trust of Australia (Vic.)

Right: Only very occasionally was Doney himself in the picture. Here he is, on the right, reflected in the Bendigo Arcade, Pall Mall, Bendigo, about 1965. Image: Allan Doney Collection, National Trust of Australia (Vic.)







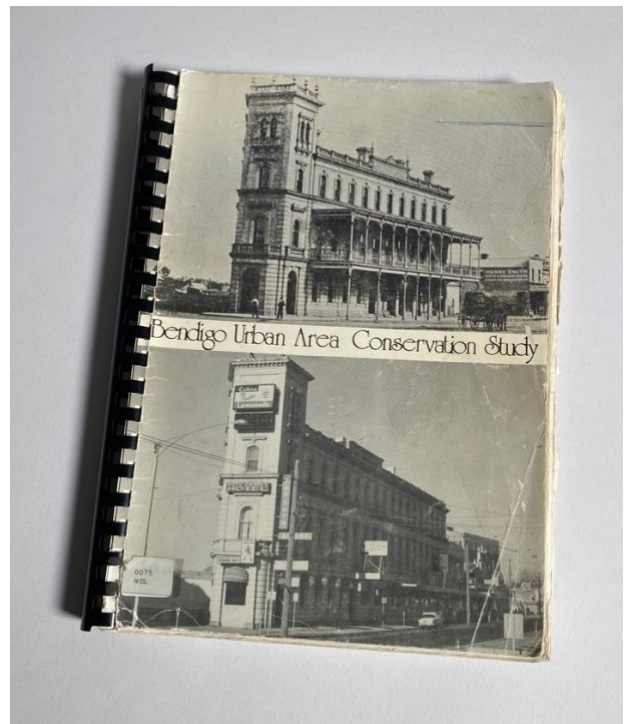
A selection of the beautiful photographs from the Allan Doney Collection, National Trust of Australia (Vic.)



### The 1976 Bendigo urban area conservation study - Euan McGillivray

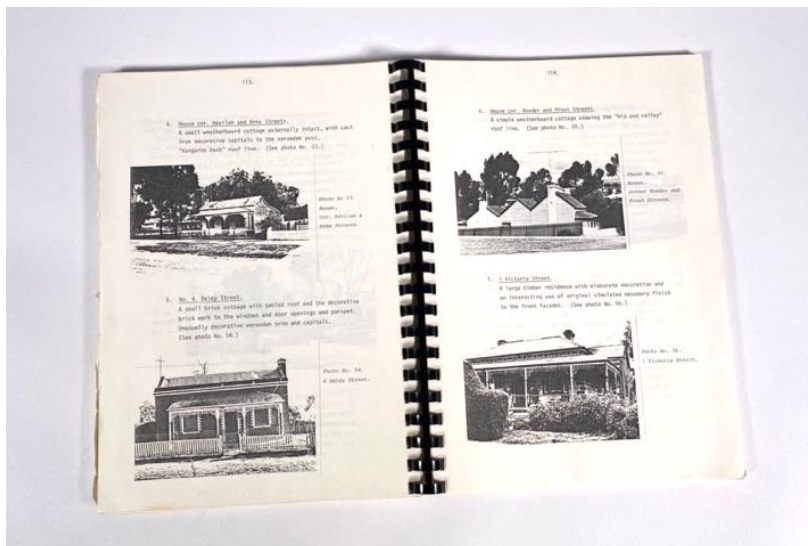
The Branch has a remarkable collection of images taken for the Bendigo Urban Area Conservation Study, undertaken in 1976 by Lawrie Wilson & Associates, Urban & Regional Planners.

There are about 1000 b/w 35mm negatives from the study. Each negative has also been scanned. The Branch is investigating ways to make these images of homes, commercial and civic buildings in Bendigo available.





Previous page and right: Copy of the 1976 Urban Area Conservation Study. Pages showing miners' cottages and residences: corner of Havilah and Arms Streets; No. 4 Daley Street; corner Roeder and Prout Streets; and No 1 Victoria Street. Bendigo Historical Society Collection. Image: BHS



Samples of digitised images, about half can be located by street address. Image: BHS

**The National Trust has developed a number of new pages on its website.**

You do not need to be a member to access these resources, but if they help you, consider membership.

#### For Heritage Protection

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/advocacy-vic/heritage-protection/>

#### Demolition by Neglect

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/initiatives/demolition-by-neglect/>

#### Advocacy Resources and Toolkits

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.au/advocacy-vic/toolkits-and-resources/>

## 2025 Australian Heritage Festival Victorian Dates and Theme Announced

It's time to start planning for the biggest community driven Heritage Festival in Victoria!

From Friday 18 April to Sunday 18 May 2025 the National Trust will again be coordinating an incredible program of events celebrating cultural heritage across the state.

### 2025 Theme: *Unearthed*

Revealing the past, bringing to light lesser-known histories, stories and narratives, unearthing knowledge to empower younger generations as custodians of culture and traditions.

The Branch will once again be holding events and it is keen to work with and encourage organisations throughout the Bendigo region to hold an event. It's a great opportunity to promote your organisation, your local history and raise funds for your activities. Your event will be promoted state wide as part of the festival.



Above: Tours of the Former Bendigo Post Office were held this year. Image: Bendigo Visitors Centre. Below: *Bendigo Post Office and Law Courts 1887*. Image: museumvictoria.com.au



### 2025 Festival Information Gathering Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October, 1.30 pm.

**Aim: To co-ordinate the 2025 Heritage Festival during April & May next year.  
Bendigo Library 259 Hargreaves Street, Activity Room 1**

For organisations, workplaces, Councils, owners of historical homes, gardens, public buildings, mining sites, monuments, authors and family historians who have a story to tell. An opportunity to unearth the regions history from Heathcote to Maldon and Echuca to Kyneton. It will also provide activity for you to promote your event and raise valuable funds while you tell your story. If you cannot make this gathering let the Branch know of your possible activity via email or text.

**Further information** [natrustbendigo@gmail.com](mailto:natrustbendigo@gmail.com) or call Peter 0447473674



## Gold Camp Castlemaine News

For those who attended the official public briefing led by Jeremy Smith, Principal Archaeologist at Heritage Victoria, the preliminary findings that were reported were not substantial. Since then, there has been extensive further exploration by GML Heritage, with more substantial results. We have been told that there will be another briefing regarding the new findings.

### Protecting the historic precinct of the Government Camp PA045/2023 2 Camp Crescent.

Many objections to the revised plans at 2 Camp Crescent for a two storied townhouse were sent to the Council. These referred to the unsuitable height for the single storied precinct, the undersized proposed subdivision of 261sq metres, the precedent that this sets within the precinct, and the impact on neighbourhood character. The planning department held a meeting between objectors and the developer on Thursday 15 August to see if an acceptable compromise could be reached. With no compromise achieved, the process will now proceed to an objector's meeting and then a Council meeting in November at earliest. For further information and purchases of merchandise (see below) Email [gold.camp.castlemaine@gmail.com](mailto:gold.camp.castlemaine@gmail.com)

Section of the archaeological dig at Castlemaine Gold Camp. Image: Gold Camp Castlemaine



This lovely jute shopping bag displaying Clarke Ismer's *The Government Camp, Castlemaine in 1852*. The bags are 40 cm x 36 cm x 18 cm, with an attached gift card of the same image. Limited run. RRP \$25.00.

The Castlemaine Information Centre and Buda are stocking these, but please buy from the Gold Camp Castlemaine campaign directly. Contact Alice and John, or email [gold.camp.castlemaine@gmail.com](mailto:gold.camp.castlemaine@gmail.com)

Alice 0400115674  
John 0418316227



## Historic Eaglehawk Court House reopens for event and meeting space



Eaglehawk Court House showing its event and exhibition space with committee in charge.  
Image: *Bendigo Advertiser*

The doors to the historic Eaglehawk Court House have re-opened after two local organisations announced the building as their new home. Community enterprise [Empowering Eaglehawk](#) and events group Eaglehawk Festivals will use the building for their meetings and planning of their festivals.

Eaglehawk Festivals organises the traditional [Dahlia and Arts Festival](#), as well as the [Burra Block Party](#) and annual Christmas carols.

## Correspondence

**Both the Bendigo Art Gallery and Bendigo's State Registered Heritage Buildings need funding! Why not combine the two?**

Branch letter to Lisa Chesters MP,  
Member for Bendigo

The Bendigo & District Branch of the National Trust of Australia (Victoria) writes to you as Member for Bendigo in the Federal Parliament in regard to the recent delegation from Greater Bendigo Council which has visited the parliament to promote the funding of projects.

It is of concern to the Branch that the Greater Bendigo Council intends to proceed with the redevelopment of the Bendigo Art Gallery at a time when a number of historic buildings listed on the State Heritage Register lie idle or underutilised along Pall Mall. They include the Former Bendigo Law Courts, the Former Bendigo School of Mines and the Former Bendigo Post Office.

In December 2023 the Branch and National Trust in Victoria made the following joint submission to the planning permit application for the redevelopment of the Art Gallery:

“We submit that the proposed new gallery in size, style and scale, would detract from the landmark qualities of the Bendigo Art Gallery, (former Bendigo Volunteer Rifles’ Orderly Rooms), including important views from View Street and Rosalind Park. Renders of the proposed design indicate that the new development, a monumental concrete style building with minimal articulation, will overwhelm the site, dominating views in the surrounds of State listed heritage buildings, open space and parkland. View Street provides the Victorian public with one of the finest precincts of 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings in Victoria. New buildings in this precinct need to be respectful in scale and style, to the existing significant buildings, not compete for attention.” (The full submission is attached)

As you would be aware the Bendigo Art Gallery in 2014 had a major update which doubled its exhibition space, provided a new temperature-controlled storage space in its basement, a new café and extensive landscaping. In the current plans much of this \$8.5 million work will be demolished while less than 20% of its residents visit the Art Gallery annually even after the 2014 work which promised an increase of use by locals who pay for the operating costs through the council's annual budget.

The National Trust also stated in its submission on the redevelopment application:

"The applicant can take heart that the Gallery's recent 'Elvis Exhibition' was the largest attended, with over 219,000 visitors, 86% of whom came from outside Bendigo. This increase in tourism provided a huge boost to local businesses. The Gallery was able to achieve this success with the spaces currently available, rather than requiring a significantly larger, and more obtrusive construction that impedes the heritage sites surrounding it."

The largest capital works project to be funded in recent times in Bendigo could have a wider impact by considering the utilisation of the buildings listed above as an alternative rather than the proposed development. The activation of Pall Mall will also provide a much-needed boost to the CBD all year round. As a key funding source, the Federal Government could influence the final outcome of this project. The Council already leases the Former Bendigo Post Office and Bendigo TAFE which owns the Bendigo School of Mines group of buildings, have no funds to maintain or repurpose the site.

Bendigo's historic buildings, architecture and sense of history attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors each year, the Bendigo Art Gallery compliments these City attributes. The attraction of visiting a historical City, a wonderful Art Gallery and other entertaining sites and events are key to the future of Bendigo's tourism. Ignoring one over others will not serve Bendigo well. The \$54 million (and rising) redevelopment will certainly impact the funds available to retain the City's heritage.

Your response on these matters will be most appreciated.

Bendigo & District Branch, National Trust of Australia (Victoria)



The currently available artist impressions of the View Street frontage and the foyer interior. Images: Jackson Clements Burrows

The Branch will print Ms Chester's response when it is received

### Concerns re lack of transparency

It is of concern to the Branch that the Council permit for the project was not decided at an ordinary monthly Council meeting but by Council officers. In previous permit approval processes for major Council capital works, to demonstrate transparency, planning applications were normally dealt with at a public Council meeting.

## Branch meeting held 27<sup>th</sup> August 2024

- Former Bendigo Law Courts. Letter received from Court Services Vic consenting to access to Public Records, planning for Law Courts to be part of the 2025 Heritage Festival and provision of documents including Conservation Management Plan, Collection Management Plan and Photographic Inventory Catalogue. Peter Legg to arrange for documents from PROV. Next meeting of 'Save the Law Courts' group, 19<sup>th</sup> Sept, 10am at Bendigo Library. All welcome.
- NT Collections. Euan McGillivray reported that about 12,000 Doney photographic negatives will be preserved in updated files by volunteers of the Bendigo Historical Society. Materials to be provided by National Trust. It will take about 6 months. Negatives of the 1976 Bendigo Conservation Study will be stored with BHS with potential of them being available online. Copy of study to be sourced. Euan showed a sample of photographs. The Branch to write to Council and the NT in Melbourne to gain an up-to-date report on the Robertson Cast Iron Collection currently held by Greater Bendigo Council.
- A meeting will be held in early October inviting organisations in the region, owners of State registered heritage properties, Councils, workplaces and interested individuals to participate in the 2025 Australian Heritage Festival. List of invitees to be prepared and all are asked to contribute to the list and form a group to organise. **What venues would you like to visit during the Festival?**
- Nanga Gnulle planning application. Incorrect listing of size of curtilage around house in citation not clear in terms of assessing the application. Landscape plan designating concrete and Colourbond to be used rather than stone and timber.
- Presidents' meeting on Thursday to assess Branch Handbook submissions.
- Review of August *History & Heritage*. Positive feedback. The Branch now has a significant region from Kyneton to Echuca and from Maldon to Heathcote so need to encourage activity in all areas by those living throughout the region. Cover story for September may be Bendigo Art Gallery but discussion will decide at editorial meeting.
- General Business. 'Gold Camp is Castlemaine' group have pictured bags and cards available for sale to raise funds for their campaign to save the historic landscape.
- Story for NT Spring Magazine required.

## Contributions to *History & Heritage* by 1<sup>st</sup> September

## Editorial group meeting, Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> Sept, 10am, Corner Store Café

## Next Branch meeting. Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September, 5.30pm, at Bendigo Library



## 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 **October 1<sup>st</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> October** 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:

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