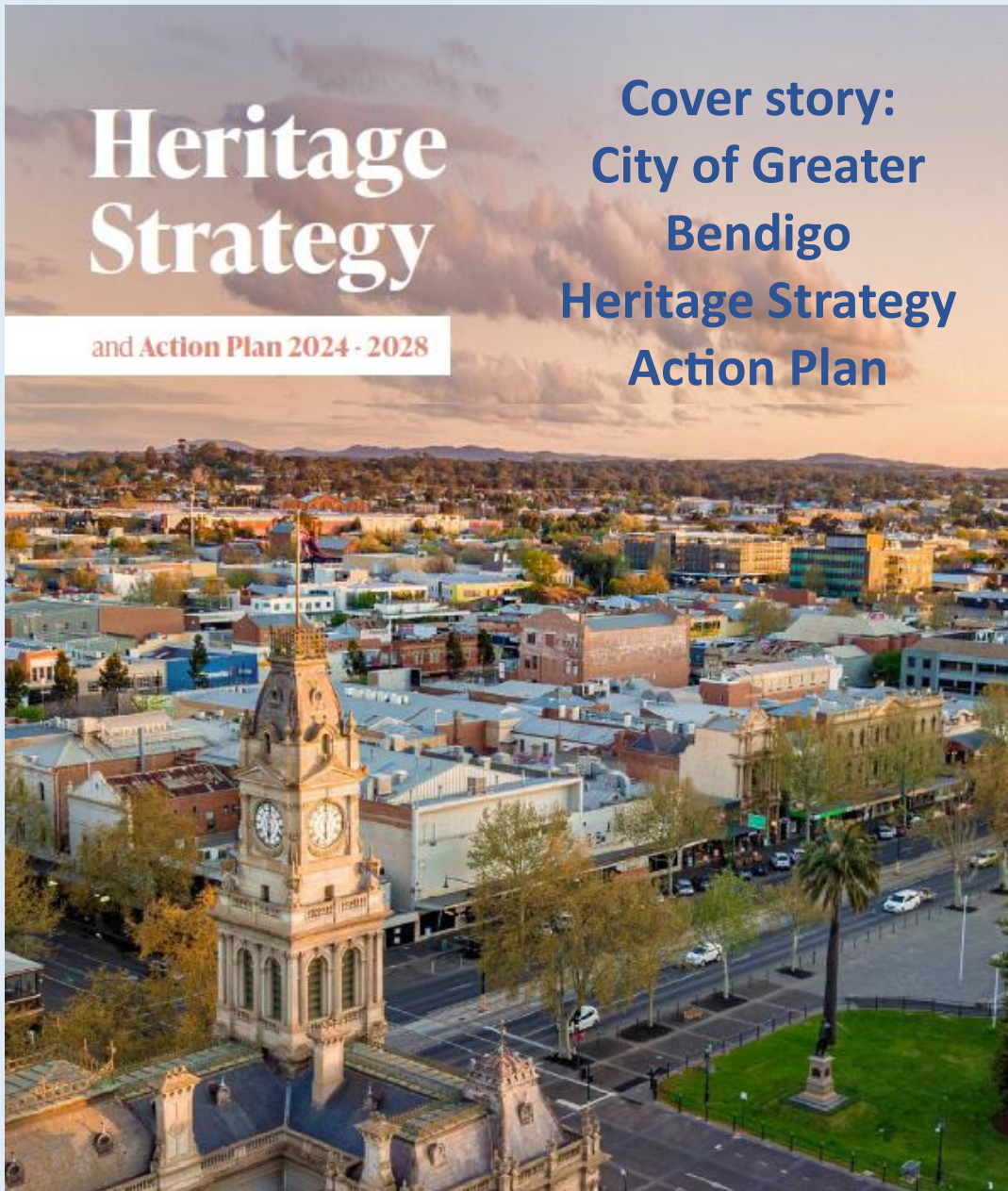


# History & Heritage

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

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



**Next Branch Meeting**  
**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 5.30pm**  
**Bendigo Library (enter via Hargreaves Street)**  
**Open to all who are interested in history and heritage**

**Theme: What are the major issues for the Branch to act on in 2025  
and how to do it?**

## Cover story:

### City of Greater Bendigo Heritage Strategy and Action Plan 2024 – 2028

An overview by Michael Lake and Belinda Irvin

As relative newcomers to Bendigo with a keen interest in preserving our built heritage, we recently read through the City of Greater Bendigo Heritage Strategy and Action Plan 2024 – 2028 to provide our insight on the document.

We went into the new GovHub building in Lyttleton Terrace and asked the Council staff for a copy of the document, which they provided in full colour free of charge within around 15 minutes of our enquiry. So far, we are impressed with Council's service!

One thing which stood out throughout the Strategy are the numerous references to the Aboriginal cultural heritage in the region – home to the Dja Dja Wurrung and Tuangurung peoples. Several sections outlined how first nations culture is celebrated and promoted in the region.

The introduction noted - "Heritage comes in many shapes and forms, including buildings, gardens, archaeological sites, objects and a range of sacred and religious places." We too often think of local heritage as the fabulous goldrush buildings, miners' cottages, the Gasworks, tram works, etc and forget about the heritage of the region which existed prior to the goldrush. It also emphasised that heritage value constantly changes depending on society and economic situations over time. What is valued as "heritage" today may change in another 50 years or more.

The initial meeting for this Heritage Strategy Action Plan was held in May 2022 and Community Engagement was held during September and October 2023. Only 36 people ranked their top 5 "heritage actions", 10 provided a short comment, 3 written submissions were received and 1 in-person meeting was held. Whilst encouraging, we felt that heritage is not highly valued by the Greater Bendigo community. One comment which stood out from the community consultation was that "we shouldn't be OLD in our heritage thinking and we should find ways to engage younger people. A contemporary heritage offering is a beautiful thing."

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Cover image: *A Strategy to protect Greater Bendigo's Heritage City of Greater Bendigo*

The Greater Bendigo Council and the State Government are responsible for a large number of heritage buildings, landscapes and objects. These include The Capital Theatre, Art Gallery, Ulumbarra Theatre, Bendigo Town Hall, Dudley House and a range of hinterland town halls. The Bendigo Gasworks is undergoing a specific study for adaptive reuse and will hopefully be another tourist destination in the near future.

There is now a recognition of newer heritage, such as post-war housing and commercial buildings. The best way to ensure heritage places are protected is through people using them, whether privately or publicly. Community spaces with heritage value which are maintained by Council include Rosalind Park, Bendigo Botanic Gardens, Lake Weeroona, Canterbury Park, Lake Neangar and Tom Thumb, Crusoe Reservoir and No 7 Park as well as fountains, statues, monuments, poppet heads and significant trees. The former Bendigo Municipal Baths are also currently being restored. Running through the Action Plan was the continual challenge to prioritise funds for heritage projects



against other community needs such as roads, rubbish collection, sporting and cultural venues and numerous other issues.

Greater Bendigo has a number of historical and heritage societies, including Bendigo Historical Society, the National Trust, Huntly Historical Society, McIvor and Heathcote Historical Society and Bendigo Soldiers Memorial Museum, among others, all of which work towards preserving the heritage of the region.

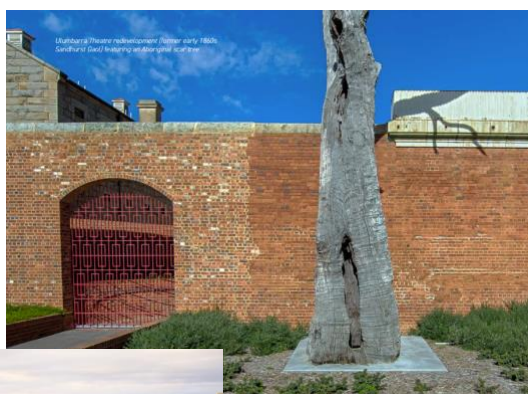
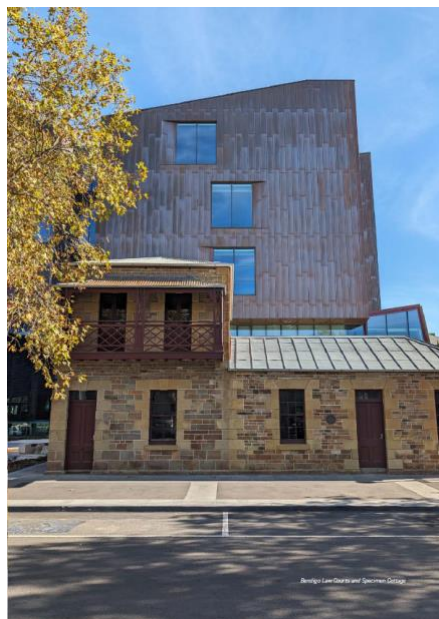
The Action Plan mentions the application for World Heritage listing of numerous sites in the Victorian Goldfields region. If the Australian Government supports the tentative listing, the World Heritage listing of the Victorian Goldfields could be made by UNESCO by 2028. If successful, this should bring significant economic benefits to the region.

The Action Plan summarises the 4 goals – **develop consistent heritage knowledge, lead heritage protection, provide resources to assist heritage management and increase heritage promotion and education**, along with specific “actions” for each goal.

In summary, we found the Action Plan to contain positive goals and actions in the area of heritage protection and promotion. Whether the outcomes in the Action Plan eventuate remains to be seen, but the overall Plan is optimistic.

To read the full strategy- [click here](#).

**Branch comment:** The Branch calls for urgent action on the reuse and restoration of privately-owned, high profile heritage sites (2.6); prevent privately owned heritage buildings from falling into disrepair (2.7); activation of the Bendigo Gasworks site (2.8); develop Heritage Design Guidelines for commercial areas (3.6); complete heritage studies through the Heritage Work Program (1.2); catalogue all collections (1.5); support the Victorian Goldfields World Heritage Bid (4.6); promote Greater Bendigo events during the annual National Trust Heritage Festival (4.9). (figures in brackets refer to points in the Action Plan)



Images from the City of Greater Bendigo Heritage Strategy and Action Plan 2024 – 2028

**Bendigo & District Branch Annual General Meeting & Public Talk**  
**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2024, 5.30pm**  
**Bendigo Library 259 Hargreaves Street Bendigo**  
**6pm: Public Talk: Guest Speaker Dugal James**  
***A vision for the Beehive Building, Allan's Walk,***  
***and the Former Bendigo Mining Exchange.***  
**Members, supporters and the public are welcome to attend this**  
**important event. RSVP Text or message 0447473674**

## Planning for the 2025 Australian Heritage Festival

A planning meeting has been organised for the 16<sup>th</sup> October 1.30pm at the Bendigo Library which *H&H* will report on in its November edition. It is for organisations, workplaces, Councils, owners of historical homes, gardens, public buildings, mining sites, monuments, authors and family historians who have a story to tell. The Festival will provide an opportunity to unearth the region's history from Heathcote to Maldon and Echuca to Kyneton.

It will also provide activity for events to be promoted for people and organisations to tell their story. If you are keen to participate let the Branch know of your possible activity via phone, email or text. You may know of somebody or an organisation that would be interested. Please share this information with them. It will be the biggest community driven Heritage Festival in Victoria! From Friday 18<sup>th</sup> April to Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> 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 and your local history. Your event will be promoted state-wide as part of the Festival.



Left: A Heritage Festival event at the Former Bendigo Law Courts in 2018. An hilarious re-enactment featuring The Hon. Howard Nathan KC as Judge, Peter Cox as the (alleged) criminal in the dock and Gary Hill as the Bailiff. The court room was packed to hear the lurid details. Right: Unearthing the Bendigo Gas Works in 2024 Images: Bendigo Branch

## Landscape review ready for planning scheme.

**Darren McLean, *Bendigo Times***

City of Greater Bendigo councillors approved the next stage of the City's Big Hill and Mandurang Valley Landscape Review at their September meeting.

At the meeting just before local government went into caretaker mode, councillors agreed to take the next steps in the project, voting to seek authorisation from Minister for Planning Sonya Kilkenney to prepare and exhibit Planning Scheme Amendment C288ben.

The review investigated significant landscapes in the Big Hill and Mandurang Valley areas, and aligns with an action within the Greater Bendigo Council Plan (Mirwimbul) 2021-25 to scope a gateway study for Big Hill and Mandurang Valley. The review looked at the area that runs from Harcourt North in the south up to parts of Strathdale in the north and across to Ravenswood and Lockwood South to the west.

Fieldwork was carried out to document key views, with results included in a broader analysis of particular viewpoints and viewing corridors across or towards identified significant landscapes and features.

The report found that the Big Hill ridgeline, the upper slopes, and the Big Hill Granitic Uplands areas are the most highly valued landscape features of regional significance that are most prominent from the most-frequented viewing spots.

Strategy and growth director Rachel Lee said the review clarified the next steps to be taken to protect these valued landscapes: "It provides a detailed landscape review that includes a comprehensive visual analysis and assessment that helps to understand the visual exposure and value of significant landscape features," Ms Lee said. "Council supported the recommendations for revised 'Significant Landscape Overlay' boundaries over these areas."

The report also found that the Significant Landscape Overlay was not justified over the Mandurang Valley area, in contrast to previous studies, due to having lower levels of visual significance and exposure.

Alternative planning controls to address the protection of these landscapes may be investigated by the City in future.

Public consultation has also guided the process. A community survey held last November covered values including scenery and outdoors, wildlife and biodiversity, history and cultural heritage, recreation and activities, agriculture, productivity, and economic return.



For the future: Planning Minister Sonya Kilkenney will be asked to approve preparation of a planning scheme amendment after the Big Hill and Mandurang Valley Landscape review. Image: Greater Bendigo Council.

## And further....

However, at the same meeting Councillors voted to include Ravenswood as an investigation area in its Managed Growth Strategy.

The motion was passed 5 votes to 3: 'Adopt the Managed Growth Strategy (Attachment 1), with the inclusion of land in Ravenswood (on the east side of the Calder Highway) as an investigation area, but note that City officers will prioritise the planning of identified Potential Growth Areas including Huntly, Maiden Gully, Marong and Strathfieldsaye.'

The Branch is concerned that the door is now open for developers to continue to lobby governments at all levels that a suburb should be located in the above landscape.



## New suburb? Fears developers might 'feast on Ravenswood'

Tom O'Callaghan, *Bendigo Advertiser*

Bendigo will try to rein in urban sprawl even as it leaves the door open to building an entirely new suburb. The city's council has voted to "investigate" whether 2000 hectares of Ravenswood land could be turned into [a new housing tract](#) for 10,000 people.

Multiple councillors have blasted the decision, which was tacked onto [a reform package](#) supposed to cut the number of new builds on Bendigo's edge to 30 per cent, down from 50 per cent, compared to those built in existing suburbs. "The developers who for so long have sought to influence this council to vote against [the new

target and] the community's best long-term interests have won," Cr Jen Alden said.

Cr Julie Sloan said there was enough space in existing areas of Bendigo to fit 38,000 homes over three decades, while Cr David Fagg said it sent a "strong signal" the council was not serious about its new targets. He said any Ravenswood investigations would "almost certainly squash the possibility of urban infill development happening in any serious way".

"Developers will not tackle the challenge of infill if they have a huge greenfield site such as Ravenswood to feast on," Cr Fagg said

## Post War Study Stage 1 endorsed by Council

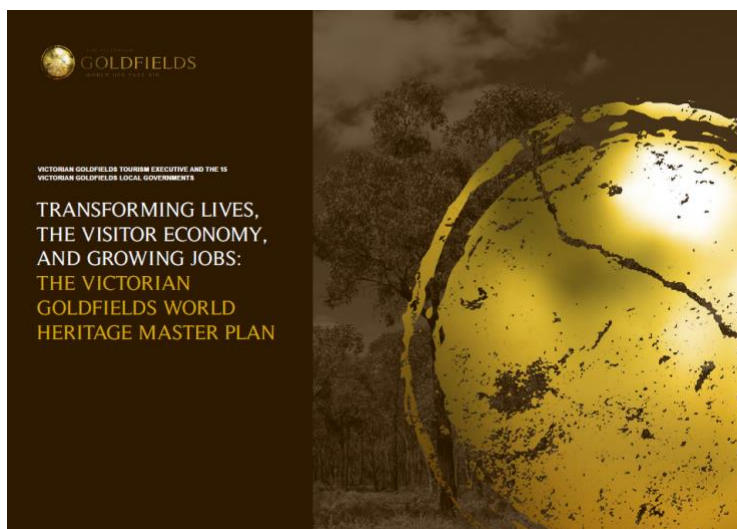
The recently completed Greater Bendigo Post War Thematic Environmental History 1945 to 1980, was endorsed by Council at its meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

A thematic environmental history documents the principal historical themes in the development of a municipality and in this case specifically for the post-war era from 1945-1980. This helps to identify and provide the justification for places to be considered for more detailed heritage assessment, and potentially heritage protection in the future.

[Click here](#) to read the media release.

## World Heritage Master Plan

The Victorian Goldfields World Heritage Master Plan (the 'Master Plan') positions the Victorian Goldfields as Australia's foremost World Heritage Journeys destination. Renowned universally, captivating global audiences and honouring the richness of First Peoples experiences and the global goldrush story. It promotes and cultivates social capital, community pride and confidence, and it seeks to enrich the quality of life for all who call the region home.



The Master Plan charts an ambitious course towards reaping the benefits of World Heritage listing of the Victorian Goldfields. By strategically investing and providing targeted support, we have set the groundwork for a remarkable transformation over the next decade and beyond. Delivering the Master Plan will support and provide surety for businesses and communities and investors in our regional communities.

To read the Master Plan, fill out a survey and obtain further information click [here](#)

**Castlemaine Society Inc (CASSOC) is holding the following event:**  
**'Preserving the past: an information session for heritage property owners in Mount Alexander Shire'**

**Date:** Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2024

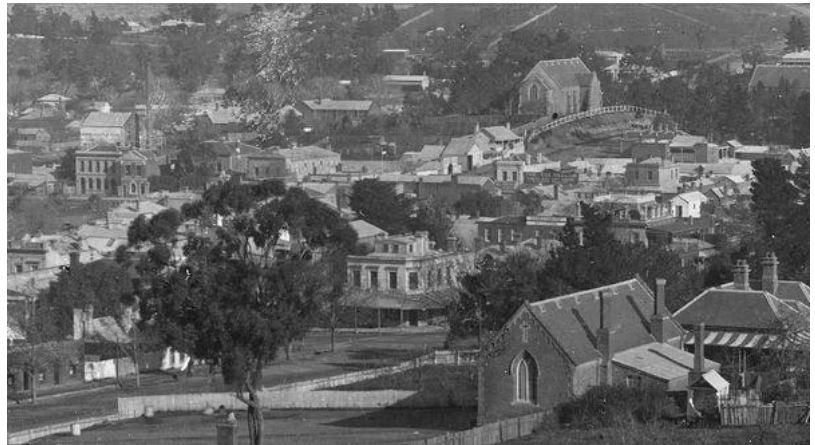
**Time:** 5pm-7pm

**Venue:** Northern Arts Hotel 359  
Barkers Street Castlemaine

Do you own a heritage property in the shire? Come along to an information session with representatives from Council's Planning Department and learn what this means for you. The team will share their knowledge on heritage, and give you answers to common questions such as:

- What should I know if I buy an historic house, or live in a neighbourhood where heritage overlays apply?
- How do I restore, rebuild or modernize?

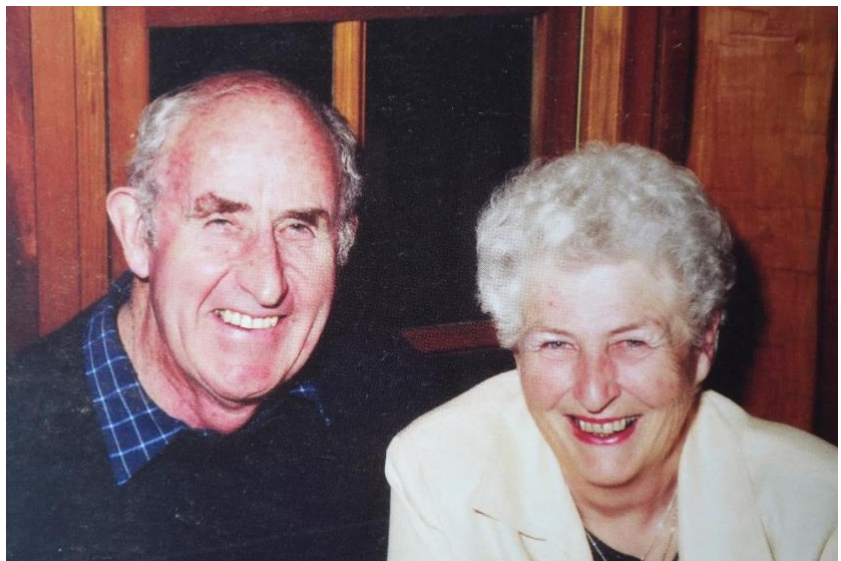
Learn how to achieve great outcomes for your heritage property at this practical insightful session.



**Vale Robin Green**

Long time National Trust member Robin Green passed away recently at 88 years of age.

Rob arrived in Bendigo with his wife Peg and children in 1967 as a teacher at White Hills Technical School (now Weeroona College). In 1971 the Greens purchased a paddock of about five acres in Harley Street Strathdale. This would become 'Nanga Gnulle' with its Alistair Knox designed mud brick house and extensive gardens.



Rob and Peg Green. Image: from their book *Nanga Gnulle A Memoir*

Robin was a Foundation Director of the Bendigo Trust (now Bendigo Heritage Attractions) and was instrumental in the preservation and continued operation of the Bendigo Tramways, a legacy that Bendigo will always be grateful for. He was a Life Member of the Y Service Club and gave 50 years of service to the community. He will be missed by many and the Branch extends its condolences to his wife of 66 years, Peg, and his family.





# TREASURES

from the collection

New exhibition now open Tuesdays, Thursdays & Saturdays 11am – 2pm

History House 11 MacKenzie Street Bendigo  
Until 29<sup>th</sup> March 2025



*TREASURES* span the familiar and the unfamiliar, the priceless and the everyday.



This exhibition highlights some of the people and stories from the over 40,000 items in the collection. Over 150 items never seen before from the 1850s to the 1960s are on display. Bendigo and district families have generously donated items over the past sixty years, while thousands of volunteer hours have been dedicated to cataloguing and preservation. Visitors will discover items relating to First Nations, gold, businesses, inventions, law and order, entertainment, war service, and immigration.

Euan McGillivray from Bendigo Historical Society said: “unique objects and images are held in regional collections, like Bendigo Historical Society and there are many aspects of Australian history not well represented in state and national collections, or in mainstream libraries and archives ..... Collections about mining, transport and agriculture and so on are best understood in their regional and local context, connected with the place where the work was done, and the objects were used.”

This community exhibition is a recognition and celebration of Greater Bendigo’s history and of its place in a larger national picture. Over 35,000 database records are now available online using a free Victorian Government supported collection management and access portal called [Victorian Collections](#).

[Click here](#) to go to the Bendigo Historical Society website.



A small selection from History House Museum. All images: BHS



## Correspondence

From Rachel Lee, Director Strategy & Growth, City of Greater Bendigo  
Re. the Bendigo Art Gallery redevelopment

Dear Peter

4 October 2024

Thank you for your follow up correspondence regarding 2461306 - Public Questions, September 16, 2024 Council Meeting – Response.

In September 2022, the proposed design for the Bendigo Art Gallery's redevelopment was publicly unveiled. On November 25, 2023, separate planning applications were lodged with the City and Heritage Victoria and advertised for a 14-day period, including an advertisement in the Bendigo Advertiser. Additionally, on November 27, 2023, a media release was issued by the City and letters were sent to over 150 affected property owners and the National Trust Victoria branch.\*

During this 14-day period community members had the opportunity to provide feedback, raise concerns or support the application.

However, no objections to the planning permit were received during this time, leading to its issuance on March 19, 2024, and the Heritage Victoria planning approval being issued on March 22, 2024.

The proposed design and its integration with the View Street streetscape were thoroughly evaluated by the Office of the Victorian Government Architect, City and Heritage Victoria with their subsequent endorsement and approvals indicating their support of the design.

Reports where a decision is made under Delegation (which was the case for this application as no objections were received) are not published on our website. We do make such reports available to the permit applicant, and objectors (in cases where there are objectors) up until the last date where a VCAT appeal can be made (60 days in the former, 28 days in the latter). The publicly available permit and plans are on the City's website as previously advised.

We are planning future engagement opportunities for all interested parties with the Project Team including the Architects and once locked in, I'll ensure the National Trust is included.

\* Editor's note: the Branch has checked correspondence from that time but has not been able to find the letter referred to.

***Bendigo Advertiser asks "The \$54 million Question"***  
**[Click here](#) to read the latest on the Bendigo Art Gallery redevelopment.**



## Correspondence cont.

From Elaine Doling

Re. the photo of the Gasworks in last month's issue of *H&H*:  
the horse does not have skates on its shoes.



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.

From last month's issue of History & Heritage

The wagon is similar to those used at coal mines that used pit ponies such as Wonthaggi, and ran on rails from the coal siding on the railway line near Peppergreen Farm to the Gasworks. The horse walked between the rails. As can be seen from the detail image below, the horse has caulks on its shoes to give it more traction and stop it slipping on mud, or slippery hard ground between the rails from the railway siding and the works.

The colour photo shows a modern example of a caulked shoe. They were often used on draught horses in cities where there was little traction on cobblestones or hard surfaces. They work rather like studs on football boots. Smaller caulks are often screwed to the shoes on show jumpers, and race horses going on a heavy track.

A modern example of caulked shoes.  
Image: Elaine Doling



Editor's note: We apologize for giving incorrect information regarding the horse shoes.  
Thanks Elaine, for drawing this to our attention.



## Branch Meeting 24<sup>th</sup> September 2024

- Acknowledgement of Country
- Celebration of Branch's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. On this day in 1964 the Branch had its first public meeting/lecture at the Bendigo Art Gallery with guest speaker Dr E. Graeme Robertson. He spoke on issues relating to the demolition of heritage properties occurring all over Australia and, in particular, the loss of cast iron decoration and verandahs which left many streetscapes devoid of their beauty and history.
- Greater Bendigo Council adopted its first Heritage Strategy & Action Plan. Michael and Belinda volunteered to do an overview for *H&H*. Branch needs to work out its priorities in relation to the Action Plan.
- At its last meeting Council agreed to provide an update of the Art Gallery redevelopment on its website including [plans](#). The Council had previously informed the Branch that it would need to put in a Freedom of Information request.
- The Branch decided it would hold a public co-ordination meeting for the 2025 Australian Heritage Festival and invite all interested organisations and individuals. Meeting to be held on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> Oct, 1.30pm, at the library. Everybody to encourage all interested people.
- 'Save the Law Courts' group met and is going through information gained from various sources including the Public Records Office & Conservation Plans.
- September *H&H* review. Very positive feedback, in particular, the articles on Collections. Cover story for October to be the Heritage Strategy.
- Branch History. A process to collate history and stories needs to be defined.
- General Business: AGM. It was decided to hold AGM on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November at 5.30pm in the library. To be followed by a 'Public Talk' with guest speaker Dugal James at 6pm.
- Dates for *H&H*- October 1<sup>st</sup> for articles. October 2<sup>nd</sup> for editorial coffee. October 8<sup>th</sup> for copy to Tasma. It will be circulated on October 16<sup>th</sup>. Next Branch meeting October 22<sup>nd</sup>.  
Theme: What are the major issues for the Branch to act on in 2025 and how to do it?

The meeting was followed by an enjoyable meal at GPO Café with former Presidents Mike Butcher and Gary Hill and former Secretaries Yola Collins and Elaine Doling with members and supporters.

### 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 **November 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 6<sup>th</sup> November** 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

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