

History & Heritage

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

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



Bendigo & District Branch Public Talk

Tuesday 26th November 2024, 6pm
(following the AGM)

Bendigo Library 259 Hargreaves Street Bendigo

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 interesting event.
RSVP text or phone 0447473674

Bendigo & District Branch Annual General Meeting
Tuesday 26th November 2024
5.30pm Bendigo Library 259 Hargreaves Street Bendigo
Members and Supporters welcome

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Cover image: *The Beehive* interior. Image: onehourout.com.au Inset: Dugal James. Image: Bendigo Orthopaedic & Sports Medicine.

Cover Story- A Man with a Vision

Dugal James is a man of many interests and he will be speaking as guest of the Branch at a ‘Public Talk’ on 26th November which is open to all.

A well-known Orthopaedic Surgeon here in Bendigo and owner of the *Black Swan Hotel* which prides itself in its spirit of 'Bikes, Blues and Brews' in Bendigo. He was attracted to Bendigo in the 1990s because of its Victorian architecture like so many other newcomers to the City. He is no stranger to preserving heritage buildings with his Orthopaedic and Sports Medicine Practice being located in a renovated 1880s school. The *Black Swan* has been a landmark since 1873 with its black swan bronze sculpture on its roof now for over 150 years.

Dugal has now taken on another venture with the purchase and development of the Beehive building in Pall Mall which includes Allan’s Walk and the Former Bendigo Mining Exchange which is listed on the State Heritage Register as being significant to the whole of Victoria. He has taken on this challenge when other buildings such as the Former Bendigo Law Courts and the Former Bendigo School of Mines are locked up, without a use or public access.

I asked a friend if he knew Dugal and his response was that “he would know me better as he has used his knife on me a number of times during operations.” A story that many would be familiar with.

What I like reading about Dugal’s profile is that he is someone who is interested in everything that is local. He promotes local brews, wines, music and his motorcycle museum provide much local interest. He even sells pizzas in the hotel that are produced from the business next door. It seems that Dugal always thinks about value adding in what he does that adds value to the community. He is very entrepreneurial. It's always good to hear success stories and strategies that make a difference. In Dugal’s case, heritage is benefiting from his ideas. It will be a most interesting presentation on November 26th.

**For bookings: text or call
0447473674**



Dugal James with a gallery of some of his Indian Motorcycle heroes. Image: motorweb.ws

Dugal graduated from Melbourne University (MBBS) and did his primary surgical training at the Repatriation Hospital, Melbourne. He completed his Orthopaedic Specialist Training (FRACS) with the Australian Orthopaedic Association and then undertook further subspecialty Fellowships. The first in Knee Arthroscopy / Ligament Reconstruction Surgery was undertaken with Dr Neil Thompson in Sydney; one of Australia's pioneers of knee arthroscopy. This was followed by a Joint Replacement Fellowship at the Brigham & Women's Hospital in conjunction with Harvard University Boston, USA, under the tutorage of Dick Scott, Tom Thornhill and Fred Ewald. His third placement was a Hip Replacement Fellowship under the mentorship of Robin Ling and the Exeter Group in England.



Left: *Francis Brothers Bee-Hive Stores*, Pall Mall Bendigo, c.1860, photographer Benjamin Batchelder. Image: State Library of Victoria



Above: Mining Exchange staff outside the Beehive building c1870s. Image: Bendigo Historical Society



Left: The 150+ year-old Black Swan of the *Black Swan Hotel*. Image: *The Bendigo Advertiser*

2024 Branch Report for AGM

Peter Cox OAM, President Bendigo & District Branch of the National Trust.

The Branch celebrated its 60th anniversary year during 2024 and acknowledged the Victorian National Trust founding member and heritage advocate Dr E Graeme Robertson who spoke at the inaugural public meeting of the Branch in 1964 at the Bendigo Art Gallery. The Branch is going back to its roots in that it has expanded its boundary of interest to include communities from Echuca to Kyneton and from Heathcote to Maldon and hopes that these communities will further their action to preserve their history and heritage. The monthly newsletter focuses on important conservation and planning issues and provides an opportunity for organisations and individuals to publicly raise issues of concern. It is also the Branch's administration and communication arm which keeps all who are interested informed and provides an ongoing record of issues and action being undertaken at all levels. However, it is a vehicle that is only as strong as the number of people who contribute to it. The Annual Heritage Festivals have been great successes with many organisations involved providing opportunities for locals and visitors to visit both public and private heritage sites. The responses of appreciation have led to a new enthusiasm to make the April/May events much bigger and more representative of the many stories about the region's history.



Branch President Peter Cox. Image: *The Bendigo Advertiser*

Advocacy via planning applications remains the focus of the Branch along with the preservation of important historical buildings, in particular, along Pall Mall and McCrae Street including the Former Law Courts and the TAFE School of Mines buildings which all remain locked up. A long-term plan for Pall Mall is urgently needed and the City Centre Plan remains a Study sitting on a shelf. The overdevelopment of Bendigo Art Gallery site in a heritage precinct along with the huge costs increases makes it an immediate target for the new Council to review. 'Demolition by Neglect' of heritage places remains an ongoing issue for all Councils. Greater Bendigo Council did well to save John Beebe's home *La Rocca* and his Observatory which are now being incorporated into a new Childcare Centre. The approval of Greater Bendigo's Heritage Strategy provides direction and a plan of action which the Branch needs to be directly involved in.



Saved! John Beebe's Observatory and home *La Rocca* in the background. Image: *The Bendigo Advertiser*

The Branch has strongly supported the 13 Councils' and the State Government's UNESCO World Heritage Bid for the Victorian Goldfields. All communities need to take a direct interest in this Bid and support it through local advocacy.

The Bendigo Library has not only provided a community meeting place for the Trust but has also assisted with a range of facilities and training. Much appreciation is expressed for this very supported environment in the heart of Bendigo.

The final thanks go to the many volunteers, while loving history, go beyond the call of duty to make sure the stories are not only told but that the buildings, landscapes and artifacts are preserved. I encourage members and supporters to stand up and be heard during the year ahead and together much will be achieved. If you have a particular skill or keen interest in a heritage topic, please consider joining the team to enhance the operation of the Branch.

The Chaffey Trail – An historical look at Mildura, Australia’s first irrigation colony.

Michael Lake and Belinda Irvin, California Gully.

On a recent visit to Mildura, a first for us 'newbies' to Regional Victoria, we decided to try and find out a bit about the history of the region. A lot of long-term 'Bendigonians' will already know about the history of the Mildura region, but we didn't realise just how important this region is to Australia's food supply.



Rio Vista House Mildura. Image: supplied

We decided to visit the information centre and, true to form, the staff were passionate about the region and inundated us with information and brochures. One such brochure was about the Chaffey Trail, which I'll summarise below. But first, a brief history of the region: In 1847, the Jamieson brothers were granted a pastoral lease near the junction of the Murray and Darling rivers, which was officially named Mildura in 1858. Some years later, American gentlemen George and William Chaffey were developing an irrigation system in Ontario, California, when they met Victorian Cabinet minister Alfred Deakin, who was in America on a Government fact finding mission. The Chaffey's irrigation system impressed Deakin, who in turn impressed the Chaffey's with the potential to develop their system in the Mildura region on the Murray River.

The Chaffey brothers subsequently came to Australia and, after protracted negotiations, purchased the now abandoned pastoral lease in 1887 and created the Mildura Irrigation Colony. They developed a series of steam-driven pumps to lift the water from the Murray River firstly into Kings Billabong near the present Mildura township then from there disperse the water to around 33,000 acres (just under 13,000 ha). Over the following years, the Chaffey brothers developed a visionary plan for a splendid inland city with an agricultural college, schools, churches and wide boulevards with planted gardens running down the centre, all adjacent to the mighty Murray River.

The 'Chaffey Trail' (thechaffeytrail.com.au) covers many of the early buildings and other features which were established in the late 1800s. These include the old Mildura Homestead, Mildura Homestead Cemetery, *Rio Vista House* (William Chaffey's home), Lock 11 and the Mildura Weir on the river, Mildura Wharf, the *Grand Hotel* (originally the *Mildura Coffee Palace*) the Psyche Pumps and King's Billabong (mentioned above as the first irrigation system), *Chateau Mildura* (Mildura's first winery) and the settlement of Merbein which features some of the first Government-owned irrigation pumps.

One thing which impressed us as we drove into Mildura were the extensive grape plantations, which we quickly learned are for table grapes and dried grape products such as raisins and sultanas. Very little of the grape production is for wine, although the region has a small number of wineries (not as many or as good as Bendigo and Heathcote though!). We also visited *Langtree Hall* Museum, a private museum in the CBD area with a stunning collection of local memorabilia. We were lucky to witness a screening of some old movies, TV newsreels and travel documentaries which happened to be running at the time of our visit. This building was Mildura's first Public Hall built in 1889 and later became a billiards hall before being dismantled and rebuilt piece-by-piece at the rear of a weatherboard home owned by the family of the current owner. The collection of international dolls and period clothing and other household items is absolutely stunning.

We also took a Murray River paddleboat tour up the river on *The Rothbury*. The 2-hour tour went through Lock 11 and around the weir and up the river and back to the wharf, with a full description of the features along both banks and a history of the region. Overall, there is much to do and see for heritage and history enthusiasts in the Mildura region and we will definitely become regular visitors in years to come.

Invitation from the City of Greater Bendigo to the Eaglehawk Heritage Study Community Workshop

You're invited to a workshop where you'll be joined by heritage consultants Mandy Jean and Charles Fahey, who have been engaged to prepare Stage 1 of the Eaglehawk Heritage Study (the thematic history). Mandy and Charles have been busy researching the history of Eaglehawk and have collated some themes that will form the basis of the study, but they would like to hear from you.



Eaglehawk Bowling Club. Image: Eaglehawk Bowling Club

After a short presentation about the early findings from Mandy and Charles' research, attendees will be welcomed to peruse a collection of historic photos and plans, share stories and information, and speak with the consultants and City staff.

Some of the indicative themes of the study include: sports, mining, housing, agriculture and importantly your issues.

- **Date and Time:** 2nd Dec 2024, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm
- **Location:** Eaglehawk Bowling Club 20 Simpsons Road, Eaglehawk VIC, Australia
[Get Directions](#)

Please arrive at 6 for a 6:30 start.

A light supper will be provided at 7.

[Register here](#) for the Eaglehawk community workshop

Council Planning results

Electronic Sign in Eaglehawk - not to proceed

Planning permit application

DA/231/2024

12 High Street, EAGLEHAWK
3556

Installation and display of an
electronic promotion sign



The proposed, now happily withdrawn, sign for Eaglehawk. Image: Gawk Outdoor.

I refer to your objection regarding the above proposal and advise that the applicant has withdrawn their planning permit application.

Thank you for your involvement in the application process.

Nanga Gnulle

Planning permit application DR/100/2024
8 Highbury Court, STRATHDALE 3550
Alterations and extension to existing dwelling

It is noted that you are an objector to the above planning application lodged with the City of Greater Bendigo. After consideration of the proposal, it has been decided to grant a permit and a copy of the Notice of Decision is enclosed.



Alastair Knox's Nanga Gnulle in 2018 Image: ArchitectureAU

Please read the important information about the permit on the back of the notice, including your rights of review. If you have any questions regarding the decision, please contact planning officer Beth Lavery on 5434 6408 or email b.lavery@bendigo.vic.gov.au. Please see the Notice of Decision and the Officer's report on the Council agenda at [this link](#).

Editor's note: The Branch is disappointed that as the curtilage to the heritage overlay was extended through a public process and an assessment by an independent panel and approved by Council and the State Planning Minister. "...the extension of the overlay preserves understanding of the 'siting' of the house designed by Alistair Knox, and protects the area from development." The extended curtilage seems to have been ignored in the planning decision. The house, *Nanga Gnulle* is to be fully restored.

Letter to Council candidates on the Bendigo Art Gallery redevelopment from Lynda MacGregor

Hello, I would like to congratulate you on your nomination in the upcoming Greater Bendigo City Council elections and appreciate the time and hard work that you are prepared to put in to keep our beautiful city a wonderful place to live and to visit. My husband and I have only lived in Bendigo for 5 years, having relocated from West Gippsland but we immediately felt a great deal of pride in the history and culture that the city celebrates.

The reason for my contact with you is to ask the question, "Are you fully aware of the details of the redevelopment of the Bendigo Art Gallery?" Maybe, if you could research the redevelopment and let me know your views if you were to be elected to council.

Having viewed the proposed plans and design of the redevelopment myself on the Council website and also on the site for Architects, Jackson, Clements, Burrows and also Clare Design, I was horrified to see a large white concrete style building which will overwhelm the position in View Street, dominating views in the surrounds of State listed heritage buildings and parkland. Whenever we have guests visiting, we take great pride in taking them into the CBD following the self-guided map provided by the Info Centre, especially down View Street to show them one of the finest precincts of 19th century buildings in Victoria. We believe that any new buildings



Proposed Art Gallery View Street frontage. Image: Jackson Clements Burrows

or redevelopments in this precinct need to be respectful in style and scale to the surrounding existing significant buildings. It is the architecture and sense of history that attracts hundreds of thousands of visitors each year and the world class events presented by the Art Gallery certainly are key to the future of tourism in Bendigo. It will be an amazing facility, but rather than having a building which is unsympathetic to the surrounding precinct and one that is obviously trying to compete for attention, we request that the front façade be redesigned to be in keeping with the beauty of our historical Bendigo City.

Having spoken to many other local residents about this proposal, it is obvious that there has been very little or no public awareness campaign about this unsympathetic redevelopment and this is my way of trying to 'get the word out' about something I am extremely passionate about. It's true that the plans are now on the Council website, but most people do not make time to look at these things, but when their attention is drawn to it, they fervently disagree with the look of the building.

As this will be the biggest capital works project ever taken on by Greater Bendigo Council costing \$54 million, your constituents need to be informed of the full details of the project and I request that you work towards correcting this indiscretion.

Stone Bridge at Spring Gully from Phil Howe

These photos are of what must be one of Bendigo's best kept secrets, a significant stone bridge on a road to nowhere. The bridge now forms a part of the extensive mountain bike trails in Spring Gully but I'm sure that most riders on this trail are unaware of the historical structure below them. Looked at closely this is an imposing and very well constructed bridge with massive buttresses and an unusual horseshoe shape. The bridge was obviously built to carry large and heavy loads, but who built it and when? Does anyone know the answers to these questions, if you do contact the National Trust in Bendigo.



Two views of this Spring Gully stone bridge showing the large supporting buttresses and interesting tunnel shape.
Image supplied

Festival Planning starts for 2025

The Branch has kicked off the first meeting for the 2025 Heritage Festival on Wednesday 16th October. The Branch aims to make next year's festival bigger and better by encouraging a wide range of events and will provide support to events and local promotion. Events need to be registered by 1st February.

A few key points were raised from the general discussion that followed. People put forward suggestions to include our heritage schools, churches and the Trades Hall. Trevor Budge stressed the importance of considering in the festival narratives, the aspects of law and order in the Victorian goldfields, in contrast to the lawlessness experienced in many other 19th century gold rush regions in other countries. A number of people were looking for more information on the use of using QR Codes and how to manage online bookings

and ticketing. People agreed there was a need to think of ways to involve and encourage younger people in these events.

The meeting agreed to meet again on the 13th November (1.30pm at Bendigo Library) and to include some training in on-line ticketing systems and QR codes.

The Alchemy of Gold - the golden transformation of Victoria. A 3-day forum in May 2025

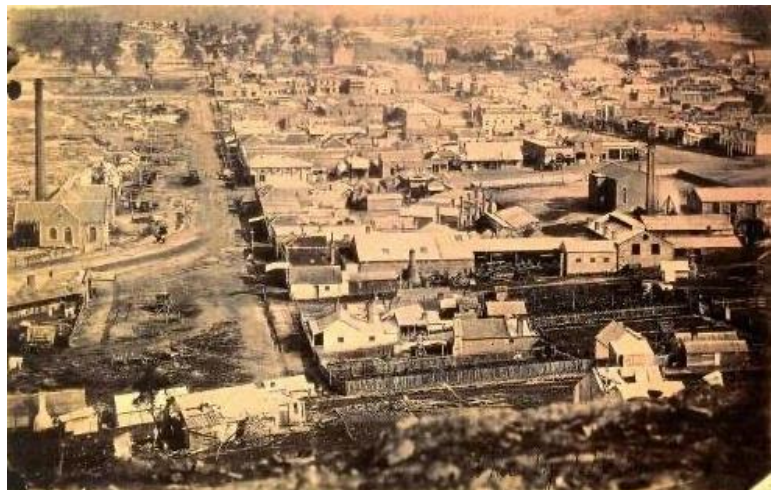
National Trust members of Mt Alexander Shire's historical community groups are collaborating to deliver an ambitious and exciting 3-day forum about the Victorian gold rush and will be part of the **National Trust Heritage Festival 2025**.

This 3-day lecture series with field trips and workshops will explore how the gold rush of the 1850s transformed Victoria – socially, economically, environmentally, and politically – with impacts that still shape the state of Victoria today.

The men and women of the gold rush fundamentally changed the social and political order of the then British military colony. These people kick started parliamentary democracy and began the modern industrial society we have today. The huge amount of gold produced transformed the Victorian economy and underpinned the international financial system. However, the mining also devastated much of the land and waterways and resulted in the clearing of vast tracts of the box-ironbark forests. The gold rush drew thousands of people from around the world to Victoria, where they founded towns that still stand today - many of which continue to thrive, though in new and different ways. The **Alchemy of Gold Forum** will explore how these changes played out, the impact the gold rush had on the First Nations people of the land and how the gold rush influenced the development of Victoria.

The working committee would love to receive assistance, involvement, sponsorship and ideas to make this into an exceptional event. Email inquiries to Alice Matthiesson at the Castlemaine Society Inc castlemainesociety@gmail.com

The **Alchemy of Gold Forum** will take place at the Campbells Creek Community Centre from Friday May 16th to Sunday May 18th 2025. Involved are representatives from; Castlemaine Historical Society, Chewton Domain Society, Maldon Museum, Castlemaine Society Inc.



Castlemaine 1857. Image: Castlemaine Art Gallery & Historical Museum

National Timber Design Awards

Some weeks ago, Andrew and Amanda Fedorowicz from Maldon were presented with an Award in the Standalone Structure Category of the 2024 National Timber Design Awards in Sydney for their design of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens Fernery.



Ballarat Botanical Gardens Fernery. Image: City of Ballarat

Branch Meeting 22nd October 2024

- Acknowledgement of Country
- 2025 Heritage Festival meeting attended by 20 representatives from a range of organisations who are keen to be involved in the festival. It will run from April 18th to May 18th 2025. The Bendigo and District Branch would like the 2025 Festival to be the biggest and best on record. The theme is “UNEARTHED” Stressed the importance of getting started on organising events early to have a registration of your event on the National Trust Heritage Festival website by February 1st 2025 and allowing for the Christmas break. The Bendigo and District Branch offers support for any individual or organisation wishing to hold an event during the festival, but it is up to the individual / organisation to run their own events on the day(s) during the festival. Everybody introduced themselves and their organisations. Topics for next meeting on 13th November includes introduction to using QR codes, online ticketing and proposed events.
- Possible Branch events for the Festival: Former Law Courts tours; Gas Works; Mining Exchange, Sandhurst Club, Railway Workshops & Turntable, a Walk at the Spring Gully Water Reserve; Ravenswood Homestead to be investigated. Idea to develop brochure for self-tours at Harvey Town, Victoria Hill Reserve, the three Vahland water features, lookouts, botanical gardens and parks.
- Nanga Gnulle - Council approved permit for extension. Branch decided not to take it to VCAT but will monitor works and the Heritage Protection Plan. Enquire about ANA doors, stone fence on driveway and type of fencing.
- Branch AGM (from 5.30pm) with Branch report and election of committee. Public Talk (from 6pm) with guest speaker Dugal James on his vision for the Beehive building. Refreshments to be provided.
- Major issues which need further action: Protection of Big Hill and Ravenswood landscape; continue to challenge the redevelopment of the Bendigo Art Gallery; works needed to preserve the Bendigo School of Mines and heritage buildings along Pall Mall.
- Review of October H&H. Heritage Strategy will provide an opportunity to raise issues. Cover story for November. Profile on Dugal James for public talk.
- Eaglehawk Heritage Study meeting 6pm 2nd December at Eaglehawk Bowls clubrooms.
- Support letter for Castlemaine’s Alchemy of Gold.
- National Trust AGM at Pentridge Goal, 23rd Nov at 11am.
- Dates: Articles for H&H by 4th Nov, Editorial meeting 6th Nov, 10am at Corner Store and next Branch meeting (AGM) 26th Nov.

Join the National Trust

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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 February *History & Heritage* will be **February 3rd 2025**. 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. **February 5th 2025** 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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