

History & Heritage

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

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



Cover story: Allan's Walk, The Mining Exchange and associated rooms at the Beehive



The Branch wishes all members and supporters an enjoyable festive season and thanks everybody for their contributions during the year. The Branch looks forward to 2025 with a passion for History & Heritage that will enthrall your love of learning.

In this issue:

P 2. Cover story: Allan's Walk, The Mining Exchange and associated rooms at the Beehive.

P 4. Bendigo and District Branch Annual General Meeting Report 2024

P 4. Snap Send Solve

P 5. Correspondence -115 Lily Street Bendigo Planning Application for a Medical Practice

P 6. Register your event for the 2025 Australian Heritage Festival (Victoria)

P 8. The Alchemy of Gold - Castlemaine event

P 9. Bendigo Cemetery Chapel restoration works complete

P 11 . *Let's Talk* with Greater Bendigo Council

P 12. Vote one for Barbara Rae

P 12. Celebrate the Diggers' 1851 Monster Meeting at Forest Creek

P 13. Bendigo Regional Archives Centre (BRAC) events

P 14. Membership and contacts

Cover: The Beehive building Pall Mall Bendigo c1870s.

Image: Bendigo Historical Society

Cover Story - Allan's Walk, the Mining Exchange and associated rooms at The Beehive. - from Dugal James's talk following the November meeting.

The building today

I've been a lover of all things old, forever, be it gardens, buildings, vehicles, people but all things historic. My first paid work was in the building sphere and the people I worked with were in love with old buildings. I started buying and renovating old buildings and I've been afflicted with that disease ever since. I watched the Beehive coming up for sale 10 years ago and staunchly directed myself never go inside. I'd heard descriptions of the interior, it's history and present state. I knew once I'd seen inside, I'd love it and I'd have to have it but that I'd definitely be biting off more than I could chew. So, I didn't go inside, I averted my eyes to the right on every drive past and was relieved to hear it had been sold.

Covid

Mid Covid I'd been looking at another historical building in town that was subsequently withdrawn from sale. The agent, however, whispered furtively that the Beehive might be available 'off market' Out of sheer curiosity and against my better judgement I agreed to have a look through. My fears were realised, and my passion ignited. It was a magnificent building with huge potential to be realised and brought back into circulation. To my great relief most of the hard yards of the restoration had been completed not only to a high standard but in such a way as to pay homage to the building's rich and varied past. Just a little finishing off, I convinced myself, a bit of dusting and a lick of paint here and there. Well of course here I am two years later with my duster and bailing twine still just finishing a few things off....

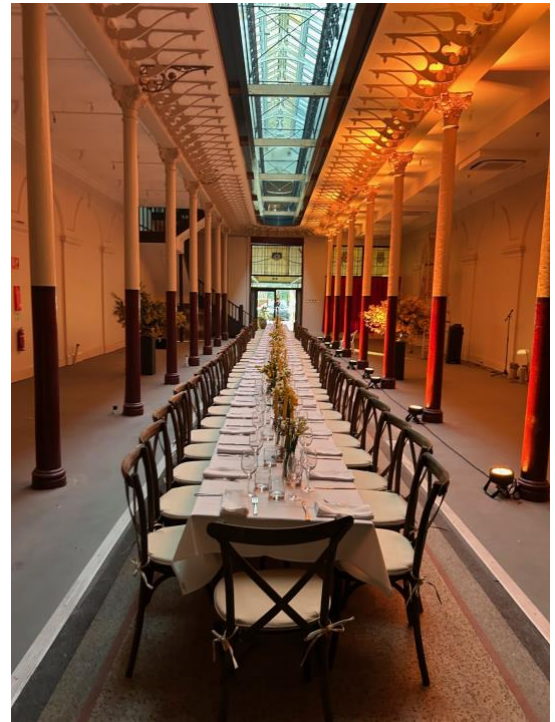


Just finishing a few things off.... Images: Dugal James



Things are happening

I'm very grateful that the Pall Mall Nominees certainly did the hard yards, I see my contribution completing their vision by bringing the building back to life and life back to the building. So, I've been working on sound, light, floor coverings, furnishings most importantly purpose and repopulation. There are three levels and both a front and rear to be considered. I'd like the large ground floor gallery to be used for just that, displays, exhibitions, functions and as an entertainment space. The first floor has a dozen small independent rooms that were the mining exchange offices. I'd like those rooms to be occupied by pervaders of passion, wine makers, distillers, condiment and confectioners, artists, sculptors, potters, jewellers, milliners, tailors; people who have a passion for what they do but lack an opportunity to share and present that to the community. There are two shops either side of the entrance from Pall Mall and I'd like these to be operated in collaboration with the emporium above, one may be a Provadore and the other display and sell craft items, ceramics, handmade jewellery, specialty garments and millinery.



The first floor has a ballroom at either end and the second floor another very large room. I intend to have these available for exhibitions, function and festival events such as The Book Week, The Writers Festival, collector groups, art exhibitions and film festivals. Bendigo and Central Victoria in general has a huge wealth of passionate creators and what we lack is a central precinct to support them.



It's taking some time but there's been good progress and we're not far off where we need to be.

To read Dugal's full speech [click here](#)



Top: ground floor; Middle: top floor with lightwell; Right: an exhibition opening. Left: original lead-lighting. Images: Dugal James



Bendigo and District Branch Annual General Meeting Report 2024

The Branch elected a new committee at its AGM consisting of Peter Cox as President, Michael Lake as Secretary, Gary Hill as Treasurer, Peter Legg as Festival Coordinator and Jan Sonogan, Marg Hogan, Phil Howe and Peter Sheehan as committee members.

The President's report was circulated in the November newsletter with the main points being the Branch celebrating its 60th anniversary, continuing to respond to planning applications which are in conflict with heritage integrity, demolition by neglect issues and advocating for major historic buildings particularly along Pall Mall such as the Former Bendigo Law Courts and the Former Bendigo School of Mines buildings. The over development of the Bendigo Art Gallery site remains a major concern.



View from the Shamrock Hotel looking over Pall Mall, the Court House, and Post Office. Postcard by Valentine & Sons, printed in Great Britain c1910. Image: Victorian Collections, Ballarat Tramway Museum

The Branch thanks the Bendigo Library for the use of its facilities for our meetings as it is an important place of history and heritage research. The Branch meets monthly at the library and the Branch newsletter continues to give members and supporters an opportunity to raise and comment on issues of concern.

Volunteers who worked on activities throughout the year were thanked for their important contributions.

The next Branch meeting will be held on Tuesday 27th February 5.30pm at the Bendigo Library. Enter via the Hargreaves Street door. Members and supporters are welcome



Snap Send Solve

Phil Howe gave us a short presentation at the AGM on how to report issues that you are concerned about.

Check out the free app [Snap Send Solve](#)

Something need fixing?

Reporting local issues can be time consuming. You might ask yourself questions like 'Which Council am I in right now?' or 'Who's responsible for fixing this road?' Use our free app or form below to report issues across Victoria and the rest of Australia and New Zealand in 30 seconds or less.

We take the guesswork out of reporting local issues and send your reports to the responsible authority in a Snap. From Dumped Rubbish and Illegal Parking to Overgrown Vegetation and Graffiti, we've got you covered!

Let's work together to keep communities clean, safe and beautiful.

Correspondence

115 Lily Street Bendigo – Planning Application for a Medical Practice at the rear of a classic timber miner's cottage - from Michael Lake, architect and heritage enthusiast, California Gully.

It has been brought to my attention that a miner's cottage at 115 Lily Street Bendigo, on a L-shaped block of approximately 3200 sq metres extending to Rowan Street, is subject to a Planning Application for a Medical Centre.

The documents which support the Planning Application can be viewed in Council's website [here](#). Insert planning application number DSD/408/2024

The current proposal is to retain the front part of the timber cottage including the verandah and demolish the rear section and outbuilding. The existing timber building and proposed modest addition will be used for allied health services, document storage, and accommodation for visiting medical practitioners. The modern Medical Centre is proposed to be built at the rear of the site, extending towards the Rowan Street frontage, with carparking between the two buildings and under the Medical Centre. The proposed clinic will focus mainly on Urology which is in high demand in Bendigo.

The application states that the existing miner's cottage will be renovated to a high standard, in keeping with a professional medical practice. It is noted that several other heritage buildings, mainly former houses, have been converted to medical rooms in the vicinity of this site. The site is in the general vicinity of St John of God hospital and several other medical practices and consulting rooms.

The building designer's drawings illustrate minimal change to the streetscape along Lily Street, with only a glimpse of the modern building at the rear of the site. The new building is sensitively designed, encased in vertical timber battens to minimise impact from the street.

Overall, I have no objection to this development in a Heritage Overlay zone.

Michael Lake



Above left: street view of site 2019; Above right: aerial view of site 2024; Below left: renovated miner's cottage; Below right: medical centre at rear of site. Images: supplied

Branch discussion on the planning application - Peter Cox

Hundreds of similar planning applications have been approved by Council over many years. Medical centres are an accepted business activity in a residential zone but Council has the discretion to approve or reject them and if necessary, defend their decision at VCAT.

As a result of this type of application being approved hundreds of heritage properties throughout the City no longer have people living in them and the integrity of such properties has been eroded due to inappropriate over development, lost gardens in exchange for bitumen and car parking and inappropriate signage. In fact, this will be the second such application that Bendigo Urology has made over the past eighteen months with approval being given to one at 38 Myers Street Bendigo.

As a result of so many of these applications, the population in and around Bendigo CBD has decreased over the past ten years and population living close to the CBD is the lifeblood of business. You only need to go for a walk through the CBD to see the many empty buildings including heritage buildings. Businesses will only invest when they can see a vibrant City Centre. The CBD is an appropriate location for such a business.

It seems that there is a disconnect between planning policy and the issue of planning permits. Recently the Council adopted a policy of 70% as infill and 30% as greenfield development to grow much needed housing yet by issuing permits for such developments it allows for prime residential land to be used for business purposes. In 2021 the Council adopted a City Centre Plan which highlighted these issues but in the pursuing three years appears not to have done anything to change their actions. In this Medical Centre application, Council has an opportunity to better protect this heritage property, retain it for residential use and to encourage the applicant to develop the whole parcel of land for what it is zoned for. It just might start a discussion on how Council plans to retain and increase housing in Bendigo.

What do you think?

Consider lodging a submission ([click here](#)) to Council expressing your point of view. Insert planning application number DSD/408/2024



Register your event for the 2025 Australian Heritage Festival (Victoria)

The Branch is planning to conduct six events for the Festival and would like to hear from others who would like to conduct an event. The events include-

- Launch of the Festival at an historic site in early April.
- Tours of the Former Bendigo Gas Works in partnership with Greater Bendigo Council & Bendigo Heritage Attractions.
- Tours and activities at the Former Bendigo Law Courts with Court Services Victoria.
- Tours of the Former Bendigo Post Office with the Bendigo Visitors Centre.
- Tours of the Bendigo Roundhouse Turntable in partnership with Bendigo Rail Workshops.
- Tours of the Spring Gully Water Reserve in partnership with Coliban Water.

What other events would you like to see being part of the Festival?

The 2025 Australian Heritage Festival (Victoria), presented by the National Trust, is your opportunity to celebrate and share our state's rich history and culture. From **18th April to 18th May 2025**, we're inviting heritage enthusiasts like you to help unearth incredible stories, events, and traditions.

After a record-breaking year in 2024, with over 300 events and 55,000 attendees across the state, we're ready to make 2025 even bigger. This year's theme, "Unearthed", will explore lesser-known histories, amplify diverse voices, and empower future generations to become custodians of our culture.

Registration for inclusion in the Festival's Digital Program closes on 10 February 2025, with the final deadline to be included on the Festival website being 31 March 2025. Stay tuned to this email list or visit our website for regular Festival updates, news and offers.

Who can get involved?

We welcome councils, community groups, galleries and museums large and small, libraries, universities, and historical societies to join the festival. Whether it's through heritage walks, talks, open days, exhibitions, or demonstrations, there's a place for everyone in the Festival.

Start Planning your event

Key Dates

Important dates to remember for the 2025 Festival

- 2 December 2024 | Registrations Open
- 10 February 2025 | Registrations close for inclusion in our Digital Program
- 12 March 2025 | Festival Program Launch
- 31 March 2025 | Final Registrations close for inclusion on the Australian Heritage Festival Website
- 18 April 2025 | Australian Heritage Festival (Victoria) opens
- 18 May 2025 | Australian Heritage Festival (Victoria) Closes

Event Organisers Kit

The Victorian Event Organisers Kit has everything you need to know about running a successful event in the 2025 Australian Heritage Festival. Whether you are a new event organiser, or have joined us in previous years, we recommend that you download our Kit for full details on dates and other frequently asked questions.

[Download the Organisers Kit](#)

Register your event

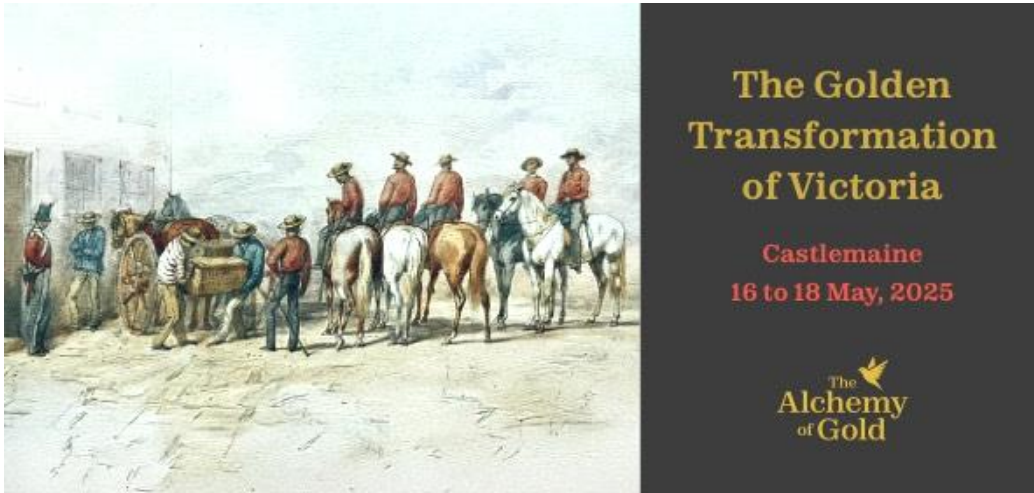
Register your event online via the [Australian Heritage Festival \(Victoria\) Website](#). We've updated our form this year to help make the registration process smoother!

From January, organisers will be able to access the Organisers Portal and request any changes to their event details.

[Start your registration](#)



The Australian Heritage Festival (Victoria) is presented by



Be part of **The Alchemy of Gold** – A Unique Event in May 2025

Dear Friends,

We're excited to announce a special upcoming forum in May 2025 – **The Alchemy of Gold - the Golden Transformation of Victoria**, organised by local history and community groups Castlemaine Historical Society, Castlemaine Society, Maldon Museum, and Chewton Domain Society and the Pioneers and Old Residents Association. The forum contributes to the National Heritage Festival 2025.

This 3-day forum includes a lecture series with field trips and workshops which 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 initiated 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 Alchemy of Gold will take place at the Campbells Creek Community Centre from **Friday, May 16 to Sunday, May 18, 2025**, with a launch event at **Castlemaine Art Museum** on **Thursday May 15 at 6pm**.

Whether you're a history enthusiast or professional, or are curious about Victoria's transformation, there will be plenty of opportunities to learn, engage, and ask questions. We welcome you or your organisation to get involved in **The Alchemy of Gold** event and share your ideas for topics, speakers, workshops, or even sites for field trips. Or, simply let us know if you're interested in attending and we'll provide more details. We hope you'll join us to make **The Alchemy of Gold** event truly memorable!

Please contact us at info@thealchemyofgold.com.au

Best regards,

Carol Dorman President **Castlemaine Historical Society**, Ruth Giddings Vice President **Castlemaine Historical Society**, Mark Gandolfo Member **Castlemaine Historical Society**, Derek Reid President **Maldon Museum**, Pat Healy Committee Member, **Chewton Domain Society**, John Lewis Treasurer **Castlemaine Society**, Alice Matthiesson Committee Member **Castlemaine Society**, Roger Archbold Member **Castlemaine Pioneers and Old Residents Association**.

Bendigo Cemetery Chapel restoration works complete

The Bendigo Cemetery Chapel has reopened after restoration works were completed. The reopening took place on 22 November 2024, with MP for Bendigo West Maree Edwards cutting the ribbon.

The Bendigo Cemetery Chapel was constructed in the Gothic style in 1873 from Harcourt granite. The restoration project was carried out using funds from a Heritage Victoria Living Heritage Grant and completed the conservation works that were needed to allow the chapel, which had been unused for several decades, to now be used regularly.

These works included addressing ongoing salt attack in the interior rendered walls and exterior pointing mortar. These repairs were carried out using renders and bedding mortars of traditional lime putty and washed sand under the direction of the heritage consultant. The original and early finishes to the interior walls were left untouched where undamaged. More recent acrylic paint was removed by gentle scaping where flaking. Where it was still well attached, it was left to flake off over time. Due to the very porous nature of the original render using a paint stripper would have caused considerable damage to the original finish.



The Bendigo Cemetery Chapel front entrance porch with restored doors. Image: Gary Hill

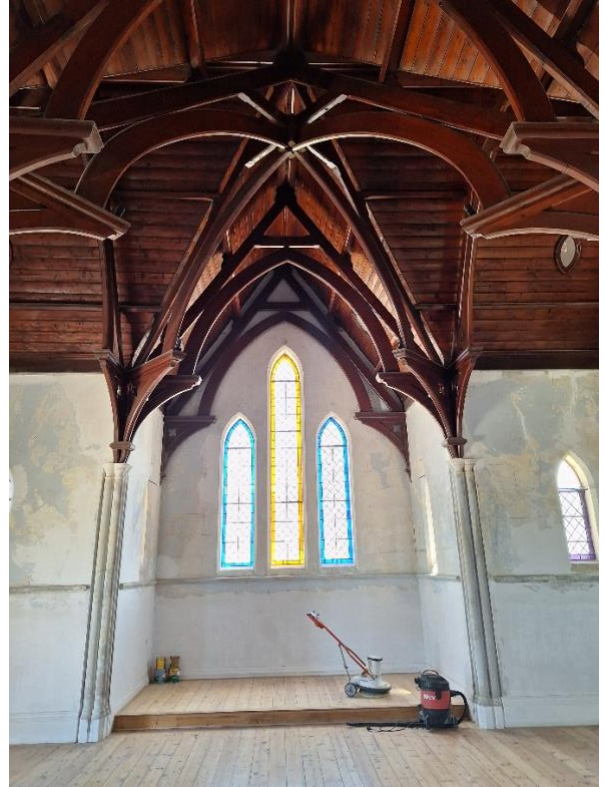


Before and after: left: Damaged render was removed and salt damp addressed. Right: Wall render and skirting reinstated and doors repaired and painted. Images: Gary Hill

Accumulated bird droppings were removed from the roof trusses and the vents were re meshed. Repairs to the slate roof and flashings addressed leaks. The original timber doors were repaired and repainted in their original 19th century colours. Decorative cast iron faux door hinges were replicated where missing and reinstated, and appropriate door furniture was installed. Missing decorative columns on the buttresses were replicated.

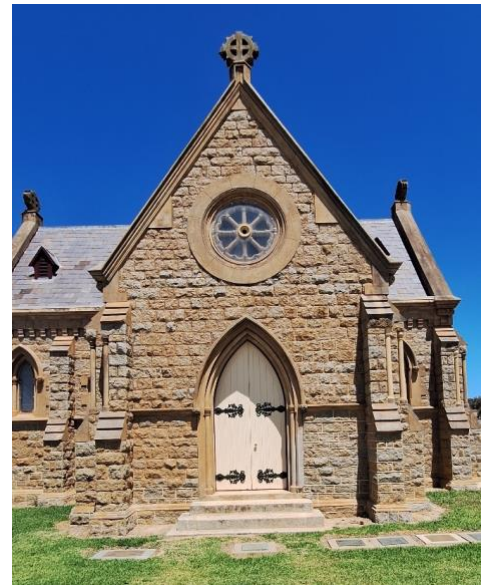
By rectifying a number of serious issues the building had in the past, the owners Remembrance Parks Central Victoria, with the aid of the Cyclic Maintenance Report, produced as part of the project, will now be able to keep the building in good condition into the future. The inclusion of the drain behind the chapel has

had a considerable effect in reducing erosion of graves and roadways around the area and keeping the soil below the floor dry.



Above: before and after: left: Bird droppings on the roof trusses. Right: Roof timbers cleaned and walls repaired. Below: the North entrance before and after repairs. Images: Gary Hill

There have been requests from the community for use of the chapel at the Bendigo Cemetery for some time for a number of purposes. These uses include a quiet reflective space out of the weather, a meeting space, conducting small funerals, weddings etc and general small event space. The works, as well as the inclusion of power to the site, which was not part of the grant, has allowed the building to meet these community expectations. The building will be offered to community groups free of charge in some instances.



The complete project from providing assistance with the application for the grant and permits to completion of the works was managed by Dr Gary Hill of Minerva Heritage.

Wayne Evans, Remembrance Parks Central Victoria (RPCV) Director of Operations, worked closely with Dr Hill through the entire process. Dr Hill set the specifications and engaged the contractors who worked on the project and kept RPCV informed of progress and any issues that arose during the works. The works were carried out using only local tradespeople. In total eight local firms were engaged, several of whom had a number of employees. The project provided an opportunity for all involved to either practise skills they already had or learn new skills specific to heritage conservation works. An earlier round of works in 2018, also funded through Heritage Victoria's Living Heritage Grant Scheme, addressed repairs to the flèche, roof slates and floor.

The Bendigo Cemetery Chapel is listed on the Victorian Heritage Register (VHR 1614).

Let's Talk with Greater Bendigo Council

Help shape the priorities for Greater Bendigo

The Council is calling on the community to help shape the 2025/2026 Budget and the next four-year Council Plan by sharing your priorities and what matters most to you.

The annual Budget is essential for making day-to-day life in Greater Bendigo possible, funding over 60 vital services and maintaining infrastructure that supports everyone in the community.

Around 60 per cent of the City's revenue comes from rates, with the remainder from user fees, charges, and government grants.

You are invited to participate by completing a quick survey to help us understand how you would prioritise public spending for our region.

This feedback will guide the development of the four-year Council Plan and Health Plan, the Asset Plan, the Financial Plan, and the 2025/2026 Budget.

Your input is important as we continue to face ongoing financial challenges with the cost of City-run facilities and services rising faster than the income from rates, fees, and grants.

The survey is open until Thursday December 19. Further information- [click here](#)

1. **The Branch** would like to see the necessary funds allocated so that the Council's Heritage Strategy can be implemented.
2. That funds be allocated so that the Bendigo Gas Works can have regular tours.
3. That research be undertaken so that a By Law can be introduced to protect heritage buildings threatened by 'Demolition By Neglect'
4. That funds be allocated so that the Council can undertake a comprehensive community consultation on the future of the Former Bendigo Law Courts as agreed to by the State Government
5. Review the expenditure of the redevelopment of the Bendigo Art Gallery so that it can be modified so it does not have such a large negative impact on the View Street Historic Precinct.
6. Maintain the Bendigo Creek so that walkers and cyclists can use the Creek bed for recreational activities.

Vote one for Barbara Rae

Did you know that Bendigo is the birthplace of women's cricket in Australia? The first women's cricket match occurred as part of the Easter Fair in 1874.

In exciting news, the City has been shortlisted in the Victorian Women's Public Art Program to commemorate [Barbara Rae](#) as the winning captain and top scorer of the first women's cricket match in a permanent public artwork outside the Queen Elizabeth Oval.

The entry is now live on Engage Victoria and it's over to the public to vote for their favourite entry until December 8.

Please vote today to see this important piece of history put on the map! [Vote now](#)



Barbara Rae. Image: Bendigo Historical Society

Celebrate the Diggers' 1851 Monster Meeting at Forest Creek.

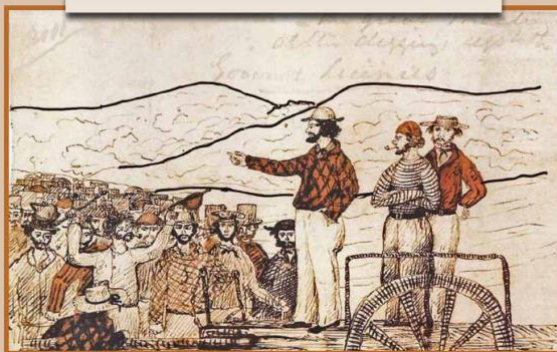
Sunday 15 December – 10am to 12pm
Monster Meeting site at Golden Point Rd., Chewton

Celebrate the Meeting that kick-started democracy in Victoria. It started the protest movement that led to the 1853 Red Ribbon Rebellion in Bendigo and the Eureka uprising that finally ended the old order in the goldfields.

At 10am there will be gold panning with help from Parks Vic Rangers. Gold pans are provided. It will be fun but, like the 1851 Diggers discovered, not everyone will find gold. It is all a matter of luck.

The event may be cancelled by Parks Vic or CFA, depending on the weather.
Organised by Chewton Domain Society & Parks Victoria.

Remember the Diggers of 1851



Authorised by P. Healy for Chewton Domain Society.

Coming Up In Heritage

While these details are current at time of issue, please check with organisers for any changes:

THU 30 JAN - 2:00PM [Scanning photos, slides & negatives](#), presented by Bendigo Library, Hargreaves Street Bendigo, FREE

MON 10 FEB - 11:00AM [Family History: Getting Started](#), presented by Joy Roy, Bendigo Regional Genealogy Society, Bendigo Library, Hargreaves Street Bendigo, FREE

FRI 14 FEB - 11:00AM [Jenny Date: What happened to the girl from the Mallee](#), presented by Jenny Date, Boort Library, 119 Godfrey Street Boort, FREE

FRI 14 FEB - 4:00PM [Such Sweet Sorrow: Victoria's tragic chocolatiers](#), presented by Bendigo Regional Archives Centre, Woodend Library, High & Forest Streets Woodend, FREE

TUE 25 FEB - 2:00PM [Reading and Using Historical Maps & Plans](#), presented by Bendigo Regional Archives Centre, Bendigo Library, Hargreaves Street Bendigo, FREE

THU 27 FEB - 5:30PM [Reading and Using Historical Maps & Plans](#), presented by Bendigo Regional Archives Centre, Kyneton Library, 3 Baynton Street Kyneton, FREE

EVERY SUNDAY & TUESDAY - 11:00AM [Bendigo Town Hall Tour](#), presented by Tourism Bendigo, Hargreaves Street, bookings essential, tickets from \$10

SOME TUESDAYS - 2:00PM [Sandhurst Gaol Tour](#), presented by Tourism Bendigo, Gaol Road, bookings essential, tickets from \$10

If your group has a heritage event coming up in the next quarter, please [email us](#) with details. BRAC provides this listing for information only, listing is not an endorsement. Please check with providers to ensure details are correct.

Sharing Our History

BRAC's vision is to collect, protect and share the history of Central and Northern Victoria, through researchers, historians, academics using the documents in our collection. Help us share what we hold in our archive by forwarding this information to friends, colleagues or groups that you think might have an interest in our collective history.

[Click here](#) to subscribe to BRAC news and updates direct to your own inbox



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 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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