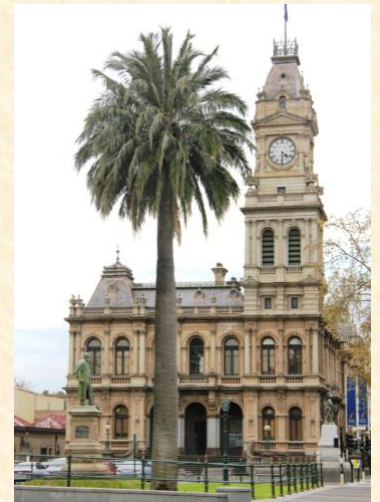


History & Heritage

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

A publication of the National Trust Bendigo & District Branch
February 2025

55 volunteers wanted for the Heritage Festival



Some of the beautiful Bendigo heritage sites at this year's festival where volunteers are needed: Top left: the Old Court House; Top centre: The Gasworks; Top right: the Old GPO; Below left: Hard Hill miner's cottage; Below right: Black Street miner's cottage



Next Branch Meeting

Tuesday 25th February 5.30pm Bendigo Library 259 Hargreaves St Bendigo
(enter via Hargreaves St entrance)

All members and supporters welcome to attend

Discussion will include:

- Action from 'Public Talk' on World Heritage Bid
- Program for Heritage Festival
- Rosalind Park Fernery; Redevelopment of the Bendigo Art Gallery
- Planning Applications and issues you wish to raise.

55 volunteers needed for the Heritage Festival during April and May

You don't have to be a history expert to assist with the 2025 Australian Heritage Festival. We all have skills! Are you willing to share them with some of your time to promote and save heritage throughout the region?

The Branch is seeking assistance from 55 volunteers to assist with the conduct of events. You can assist by working in a team environment with Branch members to-

- Help set up gazebos, tables and promotional material before start of events
- Welcome event patrons when they arrive and check them in for an event
- Sell Branch books and distribute Branch information
- Support tour guides by being at the back of the group to keep people moving
- Be available at some events to monitor activity in venues and homes
- Assist organisers of events to promote through social media
- Look after other volunteers with refreshments
- No one should be working alone, be a support person at an event

You might have suggestions on how you could assist. Please let us know! New ideas keep people amused and stimulated. People feel part of a team.

Contact Peter Legg, the Festival coordinator in Bendigo. 0431756329

Grand building tours need volunteers to make them happen



Have you been inside these buildings recently? An opportunity not to be missed! Photo: City of Greater Bendigo

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Cover images: Courthouse: Heritage Council Victoria; Gasworks: Bendigo Branch; GPO: Merak Kayangan; Miners' cottages: Bendigo Branch

Proposed Festival Program

The 2025 Australian Heritage Festival will be held from Friday 18th April to Sunday 18th May.

The events this year will include -

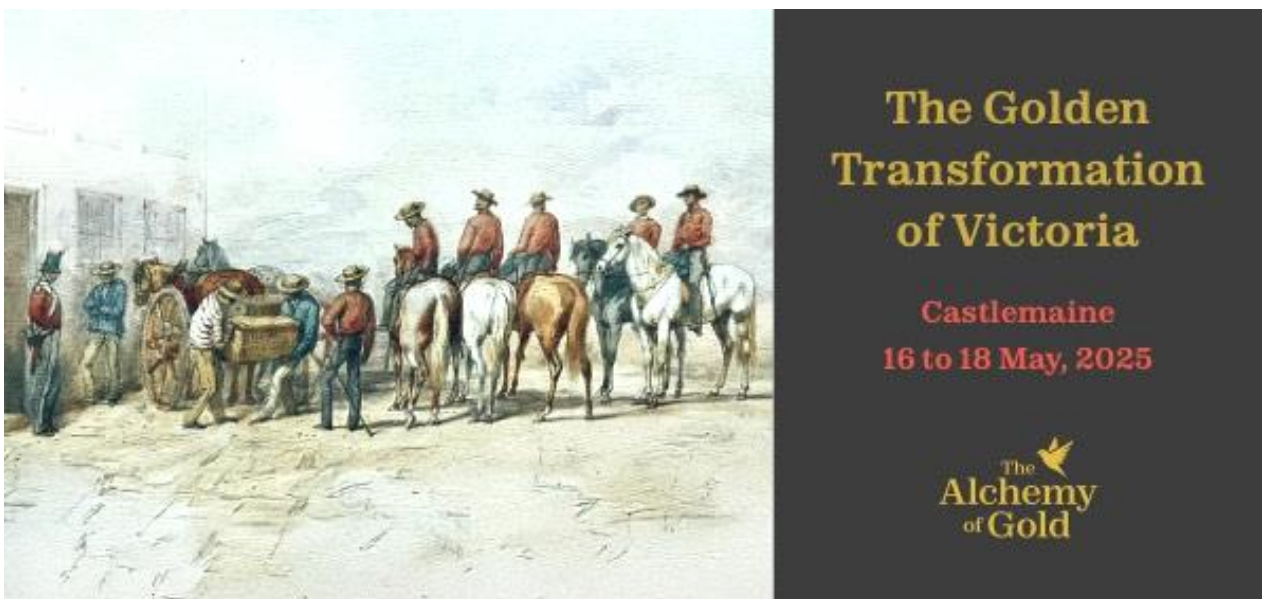
- A Festival Launch in early April at the Former Bendigo Mining Exchange
- Tours of the Bendigo Law Courts and a Play Performance in the main courtroom
- Tours of the Former Bendigo Gas Works
- Tours of the Former Bendigo Post Office
- Open House & Garden Day at three cottages.
- Open session at the Bendigo Cemetery Chapel
- Chinese Kiln at Peppergreen Farm

There will be many other events in Bendigo, throughout the region and Victoria. You will need to book for most events with the Branch using Humanitix which will go live on Wednesday March 12th. The Branch is also preparing a printed program of events being held in the region.

Another important event:

Be part of **The Alchemy of Gold** – a unique event in May at Castlemaine

For more information [click here](#)



Victorian Goldfields Given Green Light to go for World Heritage Listing

The Australian Government has officially given the green light for the Victorian Goldfields to seek World Heritage Listing, marking a historic milestone after 35 years of advocacy, with its successful inclusion on Australia's World Heritage Tentative List.

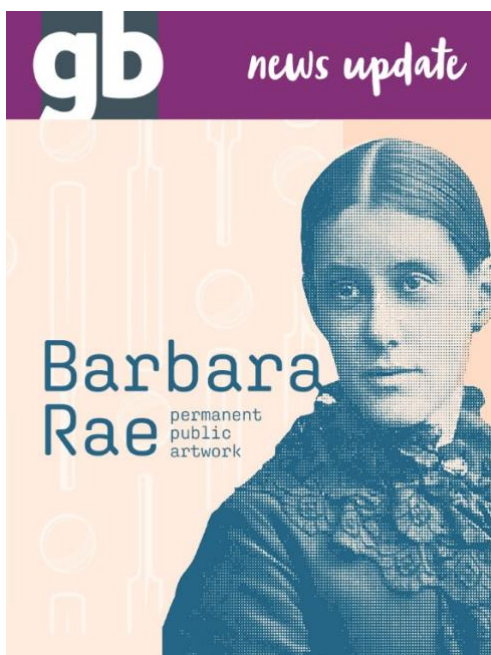


The journey to World Heritage Listing for the Victorian Goldfields is a collaborative effort. Fifteen councils across Victoria, Traditional Owners, the Victorian and Commonwealth Governments, and local and international experts are working together on the bid. Tentative Listing recognises the Victorian Goldfields' potential outstanding global heritage significance and seeks to celebrate and protect the region's multi-layered history – from the First Peoples living on Country to the goldrush and subsequent waves of immigration. "Victorian Goldfields represents the most extensive, coherent, and best-surviving nineteenth century global gold rush landscape anywhere in the world," said Barry Gamble, Chief Advisor to the Victorian Goldfields World Heritage Bid. A Tentative Listing is one step on the journey to being considered for World Heritage Listing. It acts as a placeholder for World Heritage listing and has no other consequences. Further research and consultation will be undertaken to determine sites for a World Heritage bid, which may include additional sites not part of the current Tentative List submission.

Achieving UNESCO World Heritage status will bring extensive benefits to the region's local communities including economic and social revitalisation, strengthening regional identity, building community pride and providing educational opportunities. A 2024 economic assessment found that the listing could see 2.5 million new visitors to the Victorian Goldfields Region over 10 years, with an estimated visitor spending increase into local economies of over \$500 million.

[Click here](#) for more information

Public Art Program to commemorate cricketer Barbara Rae



We are pleased to announce that the City has been selected in the Victorian Women's Public Art Program to commemorate cricketer Barbara Rae.

Barbara was the winning captain and top scorer of the first women's cricket match in Australia, which took place at the Easter Fair in 1874! This was a significant milestone in the history of women's sport. Barbara stood up for the right for women to play sport publicly which was frowned upon at that time.

Now 150 years on, Barbara's contribution has paved the way for women's cricket to thrive and attract record-breaking crowds and participation levels.

The public artwork to honour Barbara will be funded by the Victorian Government under the scheme. The Victorian Women's Public Art Program aims to address the under-representation of women and their achievements by funding six public artworks in Victoria.

You can receive *GB Update* each Monday free. To subscribe [click here](#)

Humpty Dumpty wall receives a rock-solid grant - reviving beloved heritage sites damaged by disasters.

The Victorian Labor Government is helping revive and restore some of Victoria's most treasured heritage landmarks after they were damaged by natural disasters through a new grants program.

Member for Bendigo West, Maree Edwards MP, has announced that, as part of more than \$2 million in Disaster Recovery Heritage Grants across the state, funding will go towards a heritage assessment and documentation of disaster impact at the Chewton Wall in Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park. The grants will support the restoration of 16 heritage sites across Victoria that were damaged by floods, storms, and bushfires.



Flood damaged section of the Chewton Wall in the Castlemaine Diggings Heritage Park. Source: *Chewton Chat* February 2025

“By investing in the Chewton Wall, we’re protecting a piece of Castlemaine’s history and ensuring it can continue to be enjoyed by residents and visitors alike,” Maree Edwards said.

The Disaster Recovery Heritage Grants program was launched last year to help repair heritage sites impacted by extreme weather events, particularly to help small community organisations that needed more support after their insurance and damages were assessed following the October 2022 floods and other natural disasters. Victoria’s heritage sites contribute approximately \$2.4 billion each year towards the state’s tourism industry and support around 185,000 jobs. For a full list of successful projects [click here](#)

Busting Graffiti in Historic Castlemaine - Jane Cafarella

“If you want something done, do it yourself” is a quote often attributed to Napoleon Bonaparte. It’s that philosophy that encouraged a group of local volunteers in Mt Alexander Shire to go into battle against the proliferation of ugly graffiti tags that were destroying the beauty of the historic goldmining town and threatening its bid for World Heritage status. The five concerned residents had been campaigning fruitlessly for more than five years for support to get rid of the tags on private and public property. An ABC report in December 2023, naming Castlemaine the “graffiti capital of Victoria”, based on per capita crime statistics, was the last straw.



Who ya gonna call? Castlemaine Graffiti Busters – 0447 767 304 or [Email](#) also [facebook](#)

Inspired by the highly successful Beaumaris Graffiti Busters, started by Geoff Bransbury OAM, in June 2024 the group organised a fund-raising concert to buy and equip a trailer with graffiti removal equipment and paint to eradicate tags on private property in the shire. As the Beaumaris Busters’ experience showed, prompt and persistent removal works. Busters’ Co-President Marli Wallace said, “They come back, but so do we.” Just six months later, the group has raised almost \$10,000, including a \$3000 community grant from Mt Alexander Shire Council, and another \$1400 grant from Castlemaine Rotary Club and has conducted more than 20 “busts” to clean up the town, winning the support of local traders and residents. “Not enough words to express my gratitude and appreciation for the work you do,” wrote one local resident - a typical reaction. “We now have about 10 regular busters who spend a few hours about twice a month removing tags, and more than 30 supporters on our books,” Marli said.

Graffiti busting is an empowering, social activity that makes a visible difference to the look of the shire and the welfare of residents. “We’re not here to solve the social problem, we’re just here to clean up the mess” In December 2024, the group established Castlemaine & District NHW Inc, to extend its activities and provide public liability insurance for members.

Rocky Vale Villa Update - Peter Cox

At last year's Heritage Festival an event was held at *Rocky Vale Villa*, a house built by William Beebe Snr from 1872, a prominent Bendigo stonemason. The Villa reveals the harsh but inspiring story of one man building his home from the stone on his property while in recent times it has been vandalised with authorities being indecisive about its importance and its future. 80 people attended the event with ancestors of the Beebe family present along with others who had lived in the house over the past century. Historian, author and publisher, Mike Butcher, spoke about the Villa's history and the lives of William Beebe Snr, William Beebe Junior and John Beebe who have all contributed much to Bendigo's life and growth. You can read Mike's story [here](#)



Last year's Heritage Festival event at *Rocky Vale Villa*.
Photo: Branch

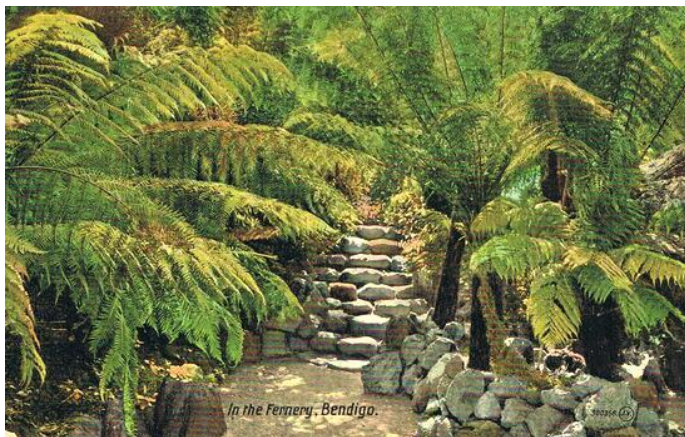
It is understood that there have never been any drawings for the Villa or that they have been lost. One of the outcomes of the event was that Mike McEvoy, a former architect, Peter Bimpson, a Survey Technician and Mike Butcher decided to document more evidence about the Villa which resulted in the drawings. The Branch thanks these three stalwarts of history for their many hours of work, their vital skills and knowledge and patience in completing the project. The drawings cannot be used for commercial purposes as they are owned by the Branch. It is hoped that the Villa will be secured and locked up and a plan for its restoration developed.



Rosalind Park Fernery - Peter Cox

The Branch has been corresponding with Greater Bendigo Council over the closure of the Rosalind Park Fernery for a number of years. In response the Council has been conducting workshops on the Master Plan for Rosalind Park. One was held prior to Christmas where organisations were invited to attend. Only three organisations attended and other workshops are not open to the public to attend.

The Branch is concerned that the Fernery has been closed for nearly three years, a place which is protected by Victorian Heritage legislation.



Postcard (undated) of the Fernery, Rosalind Park, Bendigo. 'The Valentine & Sons Publishing Co. Ltd Melbourne' Image: Bendigo Historical Society

The reason for its closure is that the grey headed flying fox use the site. The species is also protected by Government legislation. At the workshop it was stated that a solution has to be found to cater for both the protected Fernery and the protected flying fox. The Branch fully agrees! However, the workshop only catered for the flying fox without any material being presented on the protection of the Fernery which is on the State Heritage Register.

In its correspondence to council the Branch has requested copies of reports and the workshop's Power Point presentation, but nothing has been provided. The council has refused to consult with the Bendigo community.

Yes, it is a very difficult issue but the best solutions are found when many are involved. What might be the Branch's next step? Your ideas are welcomed. [Email us here](#).

Eaglehawk Heritage Study Update



1928 group in front of the Eaglehawk Town Hall. Source: Bendigo Historical Society

An updated heritage study for the Eaglehawk district is needed as the previous study was completed in 1993. The 1993 study focused on the Victorian era and well-known heritage places, and as such, there were gaps in different heritage styles and eras which we think should now be reviewed. [Click here for update](#)

257 Eaglehawk Road California Gully – a classic case of “Demolition by Neglect”.

I recently sent a “Snap-Send-Solve” report to Bendigo Council on the neglected condition of an old house with a current Heritage Overlay (HO542) at 257 Eaglehawk Road, California Gully. This house is opposite the bus stop I frequently use. This house was originally built around 1873 for James Calverley, miner. It was owned by the Calverley family until 1922. John Mitchell owned the house until the 1950s. A concerned local resident told me that this house has been brought to the attention of Bendigo City Council a number of times over the past 30+ years, but still nothing has been done.

I was contacted by a senior building surveyor from Bendigo Council a few days later. He explained to me that this house had been in this condition for many years and was not considered dangerous to the general public, due to being set back a distance from Eaglehawk Road. He claimed that Council had no control over the condition of buildings unless they presented urgent danger to people passing by on the footpath, for example.

I have also noticed that a (slightly better) timber cottage on a similar-sized block at 249 Eaglehawk Road is currently for sale with architectural documents showing a 4-unit housing development. I suspect that the owner of 257 Eaglehawk Road may be considering such a development once the building becomes so unstable it falls down and has to then be demolished.

Michael Lake, architect and heritage enthusiast,
California Gully



Left: 257 Eaglehawk Road California Gully 2022. Photo: RealEstate.com Right: 2024 photo sent to Snap Send Solve

A 2022 RealEstate.com listing promoted the property as:

Classic renovators delight! 257 Eaglehawk Road, Long Gully

Located in one of Bendigo’s most established suburbs 257 Eaglehawk Road is your chance to bring something special back to life! Sitting amongst an attractive 1015sqm allotment size there is a wealth of opportunity at this property.

With minimal maintenance done since its former glory, the home’s beauty from the past can still be found and is looking for an owner with a vision to bring it back to life.

This historic home is well set back on the property allowing for a level of privacy to be felt. Comprising of 5 rooms inside this 1872 built home, it still retains many period features with plenty of room to renovate or extend (STCA).

Positioned between School Street and Eaglehawk Road, it’s just a stroll to everything from cafes, public transport, schools and all of Eaglehawk’s amenities. Less than 3.9 kilometres to the Bendigo CBD, this is pure potential in a prime position. Take advantage of the myriad of possibilities and bring your dream home or boutique development to life (subject to council approval).

More information:

[Heritage Council of Victoria](#) and
[RealEstate.com 2025](#)

Some feedback from readers on the December *History & Heritage*:

Sending my congratulations to all those involved in the publication of the latest edition of *History & Heritage*. Such a wonderful newsletter with so much information to included.

Best wishes to the Committee for a Safe, Happy and Healthy Christmas and New Year of 2025. Wendy

Many thanks for the December newsletter-an interesting read. Michael

Great newsletter. Aylene

Just a note to say thank you for organising Dugal to present last night. He was passionate, inspiring and a real doer! Thanks for the wonderful newsletters and all the work the National Trust is doing. Have a great Xmas and look forward to 2025. Kathryn

One of a number of naturally available materials for construction in Bendigo is its stone, specifically sandstone. There are some interesting examples still evident of its use in house building. Well known is *Specimen Cottage* constructed in 1856 by stonemason James Brierly. Another example is *Hybla*, one of architect George Knight's creations in the Florentine style. Foundry owner Abraham Harkness had his family home built of local stone. Newsletter readers undoubtedly can think of many other examples such as perhaps the cottages in Harvey Town. Have fun discovering many other examples in the Bendigo area.

Kind regards, James



These photographs show another of our hidden gems where the medium of stone has been utilised for the entire home with its part wrap-around verandah edged with iron lace. Photos supplied.

There were emails too from people who had received *History & Heritage* from friends who had forwarded a copy on to them and requested that they be added to the mailing list. It now goes out to 570 people throughout the region. **Could you forward a copy to a friend or perhaps an interested organisation? And keep the stories, photographs and issues coming during 2025.** They are very much appreciated!

Branch Report

The report of the Annual Meeting in November was circulated in the December copy of *History & Heritage*. There are so many issues which need addressing. Greater Bendigo Council will not discuss the redevelopment of the Bendigo Art Gallery, the closure of Rosalind Park Fernery nor 'Demolition by Neglect' issues. Is it time for more direct action? Certainly, there needs to be more people talking about these issues but Council do not hold public discussions.

Your ideas most welcome or come along to the Branch meeting where they will be discussed at the next meeting. **Tuesday 25th February at 5.30pm at the Bendigo Library.**

Bendigo Historical Society events coming up:

Walk into History: Sunday March 2nd 10am **Lansell at the New Chum** [Details and booking](#)

Talk: Friday March 7th 2pm **Essential Work - Training as a Nurse** free event [Details](#)

Make 2025 the year to connect, contribute, and protect heritage in your local area

Would you like to be a voice for heritage in your community? By joining a National Trust Branch, you'll have the opportunity to make a meaningful difference in preserving and celebrating the heritage of your local area. The National Trust's Branch network spans metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria. Our Branches play a pivotal role in advancing heritage advocacy, organising local events, and working with communities to protect treasured places and stories.

As a Branch member, you'll enjoy opportunities to:

- Participate in the annual Australian Heritage Festival and other events.
- Partner with local government on National Trust Heritage Action.
- Influence heritage protection through local council planning schemes.
- Coordinate activities with local historical groups, councils, and not-for-profits.

Every Branch offers unique ways to get involved, and your skills and passion can help shape the future of your community's heritage. Branches are a vital part of the National Trust, enabling members like you to support our mission of protecting and celebrating Victoria's rich heritage.

[Find your local Branch](#)

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 **1st March**. 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 **10am 6th March, Bendigo Library** 1st floor meeting room

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.

To unsubscribe:

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

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

