

# History & Heritage

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

A publication of the National Trust Bendigo & District Branch

April 2026

## Samson's Cottage victim of neglect



Former Samson's  
Cottage

21 Doye Street  
Golden Square

Update since 2022

Next Branch Meeting

**Tuesday April 28<sup>th</sup> 5.30pm**

Bendigo Library (enter via Littleton Terrace)

All members and supporters are welcome

Contributions for each month's *History and Heritage* must be [emailed to the Branch](#)  
by the 1<sup>st</sup> of every month. Distribution is approximately 2 - 3 weeks after that.

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Cover images: Top: Samson's Cottage intact in 2012; Below: the cottage today. Photos: supplied

## Cover Story:

### Former Samson's Cottage - Victim of Neglect 21 Doye Street, Golden Square - update since 2022 Elaine Doling

In *History & Heritage* April 2022 we featured our concerns about the condition of State listed Samson's Cottage in Golden Square. It was constructed in stages beginning in 1856, and it is one of the few remaining unaltered early stone miner's cottages remaining on the Bendigo goldfield. The property was listed as of State Significance by both the National Trust (B7330) and Heritage Victoria (VHR H2231) in 2009, at the owner's request. It also has a local heritage overlay (HO702). At the time of listing, it was in reasonably good repair.

Sadly, nothing at all has been done to maintain or repair it since, and it has fallen into disrepair and partial collapse in the intervening 17 years. Since our 2022 report the front verandah has collapsed, sheets of iron are missing from the roof, and there has been further collapse at the rear of the building in what was formerly Thomas Sampson's boot making workshop. A lean-to add-on at the rear of the workshop building dating to the 1970s and used as a pottery was first to go and was of no significance, but its collapse may have contributed to the loss of the workshop. The cottage was last occupied in the 1970s. It has never had town water or electricity connected and was in original condition.

The images below document the cottage's decline. The structure was intact in 2009. By the time of the Heritage Festival in 2019 a Branch tour of the property, organised with the owner's permission, had to be cancelled due to its condition, exacerbated by vandalism of the windows and doors.

The cottage needs urgent work to save it before it succumbs completely to years of neglect. The main section of the building is still salvageable but not for too much longer.



Figure 1 left: An Aerial view in 2009, when the building was intact. It was included on the VHR in 2009.

Figure 2 right: By November 2024 rear sections and the verandah had collapsed. Images from [Nearmap Bendigo Community Compass, CoGB website](#)



Figure 3: In 2012 the verandah and windows were intact. Photo: supplied

Figure 4: By 2022 all windows were smashed and the verandah was collapsing. Photo: supplied



Figure 5: By April 2026 the verandah has completely collapsed, and iron is missing from the roof, exposing the shingles beneath and allowing water ingress. Photo: supplied



Figure 6: In 2009 the north side of rear bootmaker's workshop and verandah were still standing, although the wall was in need of repair. Photo: supplied

Figure 7: By 2017 the verandah had collapsed and the condition of the wall had worsened and was in danger of collapse. Photo: supplied

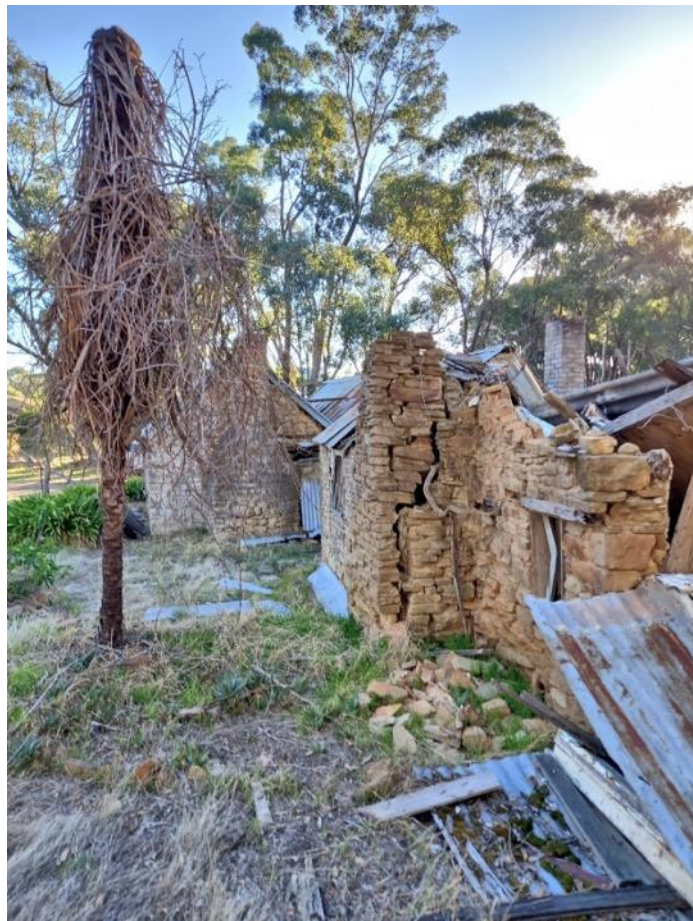


Figure 8: By 2022 the wall and roof had collapsed. Viewed from the inside. The outside is now inaccessible due to the collapsed roof and wall. Photo: supplied



Figure 9: The rear section of Samson's Cottage in 2026. Photo: supplied

Figure 10: April 2026. The building continues its decline. The collapsed workshop is on the right. Photo: supplied



Below are the VHR and National Trust listings for this property. They include a brief history. [Click here](#) for more information and images from 2009, including interior photographs.

## Victorian Heritage Database place details - 12/4/2022

### FORMER SAMSON FAMILY RESIDENCE

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**Location:**

21 DOYE STREET GOLDEN SQUARE, GREATER BENDIGO CITY

**Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number:** H2231

**Listing Authority:** VHR

**Extent of Registration:**

1. All the land marked L1 on Diagram 2231 held by the Executive Director, being all of the land described in Certificates of Title Volume 9011 Folio 328 and Volume 9310 Folio 259, and part of Crown Allotments 63M and 63J Section L Parish of Sandhurst.

2. All the buildings B1 and B2, and feature marked F1 on Diagram 2231 held by the Executive Director.

General: The landscape and garden

B1 Main building

B2 Fowl shed

F1 Underground water tank

**Statement of Significance:**

The former Samson residence is a miner's cottage which was built in stages during the second half of the nineteenth century, probably beginning in the mid- to late-1850s. It was built on a Miner's Right taken up in the mid-1850s by Thomas Samson, a shoemaker, below Specimen Hill, on the outskirts of what became the town of Bendigo. A Miner's Right was from the mid-1850s the necessary evidence for the occupation of a mining claim. Later Goldfields Acts gave the miner a number of rights, including the right to occupy a quarter of an acre of Crown land for residential purposes, the right to take timber and stone from Crown Land for building and mining purposes, and the right to build races and dams on Crown Land for mining purposes. The Samson family had ten children, and as their family grew they continually extended the cottage, changing a two-roomed gabled cottage into a sprawling house with many rooms. Samson died in 1893 and his wife Sarah remained in the cottage until 1906. In 1908 it was bought by the Doye family, who lived there until 1966, and still owned it in 2009. It passed from Miner's Right to freehold in 1974.

The former Samson residence is a miner's cottage, mainly of sandstone rubble, with a corrugated iron roof set into the hillside on a gently sloping site. The original cottage was a two-room gabled structure (the south-west corner of the present building) with a low stone-paved verandah along the south side. This was over the years extended to the north and east with several additional gabled stone and timber skillion sections linked with a verandah along the north side. The original timber shingles survive under the corrugated iron in parts of the roof. The interiors are very simple, with floors mainly of dirt, walls of painted rough stone and ceilings lined with boards that follow the line of the roofs. At the front of the house is a small garden, and at the rear is a stone retaining wall with gardens above. To the north is a brick-lined underground water tank, to the east is a stone fowl shed and behind this the remnants of a water race.

The former Samson Residence is of architectural and historical significance to the state of Victoria.

The former Samson residence is architecturally significant as a largely intact example of a typical stone miner's cottage, built in stages from the mid- to late-1850s, which has remained largely unchanged since the late nineteenth century. It is significant as a demonstration of the typical form of such early miners' cottages, which generally began as two-roomed gabled structures and grew as their owners' needs and wealth increased. The former Samson residence is historically significant as an unusually intact example in Victoria of a miner's cottage known to have been built under a Miner's Right. It is also unusual in that it still largely retains its original context, partly surrounded by lightly forested Crown Land, with remnants of early mining infrastructure, such as a water race, and is strongly evocative of its mining era origins. It is also historically significant as a demonstration of the simple way of life of miners and other workers in Victoria in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

## Victorian Heritage Database place details - 12/4/2022

### Former Samson Family Residence

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**Location:**  
21 Doye Street,, BENDIGO VIC 3550 - Property No B7330

**Victorian Heritage Register (VHR) Number:** H2231

**Listing Authority:** VHR

**Extent of Registration:**

**Statement of Significance:**

The former Samson Family Residence is a mainly sandstone rubble stone building with a corrugated iron roof, with outbuildings, retaining walls, a well, water race, and front and rear gardens. It appears that the first two rooms (under the southern gable) date from the 1850s, while the northern gabled section dates from after 1866. The original timber shingles survive under the later corrugated iron. There are low pitched verandahs both to the north and south with stone paving, the northern one extending to the east to link up various stone and weatherboard skillion roofed additions. The cottage is cut into the slope to the north and east, with high retaining walls holding back the soil on both sides. The interior is extremely basic, with mainly dirt floors, painted rough stone walls and ceiling boards following the line of the roof. Apart from a few probably 20th century chimneys and a gas stove, the house appears little changed since the 19th century.

There are some outbuildings from various periods to the north and east and rudimentary garden layouts to the north and south.

Thomas Samson, a shoemaker turned joiner, came to the Bendigo goldfields in the mid 1850s and took up a miner's right in Spec(k) Gully in the mid-1850s, and probably built the first stage of the cottage at this time on a miner's right site below Specimen Hill, south west of what became central Bendigo. He worked as a miner until about 1871 then returned to boot making from the property. From 1889 he was a partner in a shop a few blocks

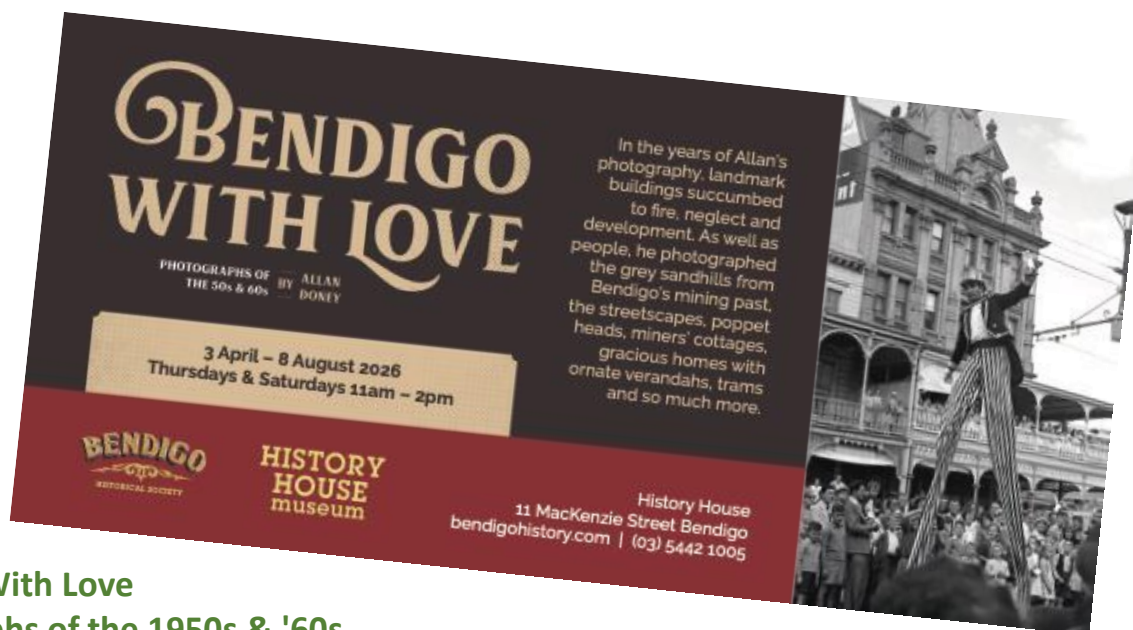
closer to the centre of town, and died in 1894. With his wife Sarah they had 10 children and she remained in the cottage until 1906. Albert and Florence Doye purchased the site in 1908 and lived there with their family until 1966. It was renovated by a tenant in the 1970s and passed from miner's right to freehold in 1974. It is now owned by Arthur Doye.

Former Samson Family Residence is significant for historic and architectural reasons at the State level.

The former Samson Family Residence is historically and architecturally significant as the dwelling of a family of simple means that appears largely unchanged since the 19th century. The first part of the house dates from the initial gold rush era in Victoria in the mid 1850s and perhaps uniquely demonstrates the early domestic conditions of the first mining families of the goldfields in the region. It is also directly associated with this early phase of surface mining through the nearby mine workings and other infrastructure such as the water race. The residence as a whole exemplifies the evolution of a family home and the range of activities involved in providing for a working class family.

The house is architecturally significant for its ability to demonstrate characteristic vernacular design and construction as seen in the rubble stone work, low verandahs and timber roof shingles of the goldfields era and for its very high level of integrity.

Classified: 01/06/2009



## Bendigo With Love Photographs of the 1950s & '60s by Allan Doney - Bendigo Historical Society

This exhibition is a snapshot of life in Bendigo through the eyes of one of Bendigo's most prolific photographers, Allan Doney (1900 – 1987). Doney was a tailor and amateur photographer with a particular sensitivity for capturing everyday people: children at the fairgrounds, commuters in Pall Mall, and shoppers in Bendigo's historic arcades – he recorded the onlookers as well as the main events. "Bendigo with Love" showcases a selection from over 13,000 negatives taken by Allan Doney now part of the Bendigo Historical Society collection.

Allan Doney was a quiet, reserved man, with fastidious attention to detail – and a modest sense of fun. However, life was a struggle during difficult financial times. In the late 1940s the Doney family moved to Bendigo and established a tailoring business. His real passion though, was photographing Bendigo and its people. Despite being an "amateur", Doney's talent and dedication to his photographic craft is evident. His eye for compelling compositions, atmospheric lighting conditions, texture, and contrast demonstrate an instinctive feel for the elements and principles of design.

Bendigo in the 1950s was a conservative city whose politics were reputedly directed from the pulpit. Rivalries between communities, especially Bendigo and Eaglehawk were old and deep. Its citizens were predominately Anglo-Celtic though the descendants of the once large Chinese population became visible each year at the Easter Fair.

In the years of Allan’s photography, landmark buildings succumbed to fire, neglect and redevelopment. He photographed the grey sandhills from Bendigo’s mining past, the streetscapes, poppet heads, miners’ cottages, gracious homes with ornate verandahs, trams and much more. Above all, his photographs show how much of the city has survived from the 19<sup>th</sup> century – and how much has not. Through two decades of great change, Allan Doney was there to capture ways people interacted with it. And although he travelled to many other places in Northern Victoria and beyond in search of subjects for his art, he seemed to always return to Bendigo for inspiration.

Euan McGillivray, President of Bendigo Historical Society said, “Bendigo locals, visitors, lovers of street photography and 20<sup>th</sup> century history alike will all find joy and curiosity in the time capsule presented in “Bendigo with Love”.

Some National Trust Branch members might recall that Allan was a central player in the controversy relating to the potential removal of verandahs from significant buildings in Bendigo. Photographs Allan took are credited with influencing some Council members to rescind the 1968 by-law that directed all non-cantilever verandahs be removed by 31<sup>st</sup> December 1970. Try to imagine the Shamrock Hotel without its verandah.

The National Trust used Allan Doney's superb photographs of significant buildings with integral verandahs and presented a submission to Council.



*Stilt walker, Pall Mall* in front of the Shamrock Hotel, Bendigo Easter Festival, 1954. Photo: Allan Doney. Try to imagine the Shamrock Hotel without its verandahs. Allan's photographs are credited with swinging the vote to save the verandahs.



St Paul's Cathedral, Bendigo taken from the verandah of the Hopetoun Hotel, a victim of a 1968 by-law. Photo: Allan Doney

### ***Bendigo with Love***

**Exhibition: 3<sup>rd</sup> April – 8<sup>th</sup> August 2026**

**Tuesdays and Saturdays 11am - 2pm**

**History House 11 MacKenzie Street, Bendigo  
(off View Street)**

Next page: **Full page spread from supplement to the *Bendigo Advertiser*, 1969.** It features some of Allan Doney's powerful images of verandahs, especially of the building in Farmers Lane. W.C. Vahland was the architect in 1885 for Mr Lamsey, a Chinese doctor and herbalist.



## BEFORE and AFTER . . .

Above you see a well known building in Bridge Street, Bendigo. A building with distinction. Below you see it as it is today—after its verandah has been demolished. The National Trust sadly reports "Other examples are easy to find."



# Lace Work

To the outsider, the pulse of Bendigo is to be found in its fine old buildings. "Your lace buildings," they will tell you, "are among the few tangible assets of the city's past."

There is a warmth of expression in the facades—the grandeur and opulence of the 19th century captured and held in the sandstone and extravagant cast iron embellishments . . .

In some cases, the iron decorating the buildings was smelted in Bendigo.

The unique patterns were sometimes prepared by resident craftsmen . . . so that these buildings are tangible and irreplaceable monuments to Bendigo's atmosphere and tradition.

They are representative of the building tradition embodied in families still active in the city.

These are the buildings that house a thousand secrets . . . secrets contained in trunk loads of faded papers and photos, bric-a-brac, family albums, bibles. They are the private homes—and the hotels.

Homes where the contents come up for auction every now and again—sadly. And homes which are going under the wreckers' hammers. Also sadly.

As for the hotels . . . well, Bendigo is more happily blessed in this regard. Many are still standing strong and sturdy, in silent testimony to the days when men had the "midas touch"—and hotels supplied the first theatres and concert halls.

It is widely known that the best of our cast iron dismantled in recent years has found a ready market in other places; and that Melbourne dealers are constantly haunting Bendigo and district auctions.

So three rousing British cheers for the staunch citizens who today are fighting tooth and nail to have certain buildings (many of them hotels) exempted from a Council ordinance that says "off with those verandahs."

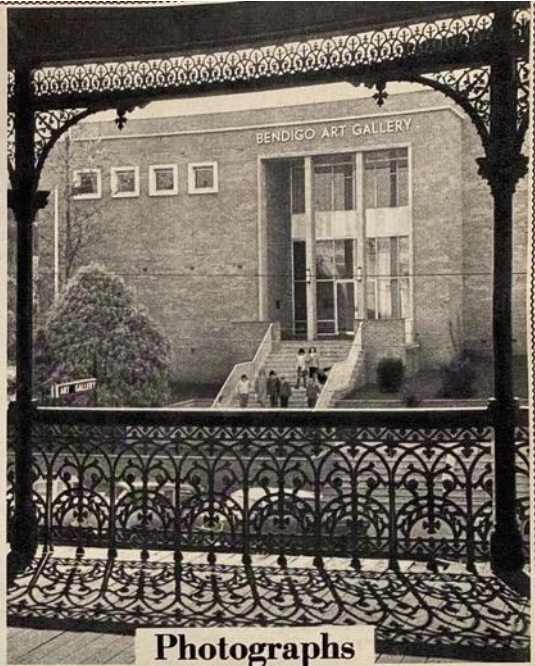
The by-law was to have read: "All non cantilever type verandahs, erected across a footway, must be demolished before 31st December 1970."

The National Trust of Australia (Victoria) thought the by-law embodied wisdom and foresight but that the amendment "except certain buildings as listed" would enhance its value to both present and future citizens of Bendigo.

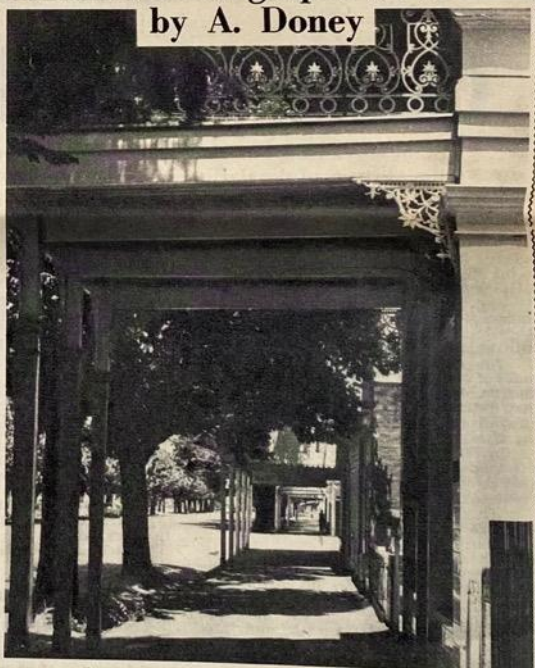
If you want to see what you think about retaining some of Bendigo's history, the buildings are the Shamrock Hotel; Dr. Long's Surgery; Mrs. E. Batchelder's 346 McCrae Street; Favalaro's Cafe; Bendigo Jockey Club; View Point Hotel; Johnson's butchery; Hopetoun Hotel; Limerick Castle Hotel; BUFS Dispensary; Rifle Brigade Hotel; Goldmines Hotel; Manchester Arms Hotel; Victoria Hotel.

The way things look, the City Fathers have said aye in principal—and it's now just a matter of having a thing or two cleared up in Melbourne.

Then the verandahs can stay . . .



Photographs  
by A. Doney



Above is the Bendigo Art Gallery as seen from the B.U.F.S. Dispensary, View Street verandah (a work of fine art in itself).

And underneath a shaded walk framed by the verandah on Johnson's Butchery in High Street.

At left is another view from B.U.F.S. balcony looking across to the Temperance Hall and the Sandhurst Trustees' building. The B.U.F.S. verandah is finely detailed, well set back from the kerb, and protected by deep gutters, twin columns, and a stout S.E.C. pole. Things that gladden National Trust hearts!





## National Trust Australian Heritage Festival events in Bendigo and our region

Use [this link](#) to explore these events in Bendigo and district and more.....

### Two popular events from our Bendigo Branch:

#### Tour of the Former Bendigo Law Courts

- Saturday 18 April 2026 + 8 More Dates (see booking)
- 2 tours offered on each date
- 30 Pall Mall, Bendigo VIC 3550
- [Book tickets](#)

The former Bendigo Law Courts opened in 1896 and is one of Australia's finest nineteenth century public buildings and a masterpiece of the Public Works Department of Victoria. Locked away from public view for most of its working life, this building is no longer an active court and resides quietly waiting its future use.



The former Law Courts was built in 3 levels, a court at each level, with the Supreme Court being the most decorative and imposing, taking its rightful position on the top level. Each level is connected by grand staircases and all areas finished with ornate furniture and fine woodwork. The building was designed to impress and show authority. Take a tour through this hidden gem.

#### Tour of the Former Bendigo Gas Works

- Sunday 19 April 2026 and 09 May
- 5 tours each day (see booking)
- 8-32 Weeroona Ave, Bendigo VIC 3550
- [Book tickets](#)

The Bendigo Gas Works are one of around three remaining intact 19th century gas works in the world, and the only one in Australia. It is on the Victorian Heritage Register and regarded by the Institution of Engineers Australia as an internationally significant example of an entire provincial gasworks.



The Bendigo Gasworks operated from 1860 until 1973 when natural gas was introduced and remain as they were at the time of closure, a treasure of industrial heritage frozen in time. The site is rarely open, and access is only possible via a guided tour. Our knowledgeable guides will tell the story of the retort house and a number of other fascinating features including the gas holders, condensers, purifier shed, stables, engine room and boiler house.

## More local events for the 2026 National Trust Heritage Festival:

### Bendigo Church Organs with Thomas Heywood

- Saturday 18 April 2026, 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM
- 161 McCrae St, Bendigo VIC 3550
- [Book Tickets](#)

Join the internationally acclaimed organ virtuoso Thomas Heywood on a tour of three churches and their organs. For St Killian's Church, the German-built organ bought in 1871 by the legendary Bendigo priest, musician and property investor, Henry Backhaus, the St Andrew's Uniting Church, in 1882, ordered an instrument from Alfred Fuller for the former church building, which was moved into the present church building in 1930. The tour will also re-visit the 1883 Alfred Fuller organ at St Paul's Cathedral currently being restored by Australian Pipe Organs of Melbourne. Walk or drive between venues. A program with directions and start times will be available at the first church, St Killian's.



### Deluxe High Tea with Guided Tour

- Saturday 18 April 2026 2:30 PM - 5:00 PM
- Langley Estate 484 Napier St, White Hills VIC 3550
- [Book Tickets](#)

Enjoy a delectable Traditional High Tea served with an elegant selection of sandwiches, savoury treats, scones with jam and Chantilly cream, and sweet treats together with tea, coffee or champagne. Before the High Tea service, you'll be treated to a special performance by Thomas Heywood - 'without argument one of the world's best concert organists' - on the magnificent 1875 pipe organ in the historic 1873 Lauriston Chapel. After the High Tea, take a guided tour around the Langley Estate mansion and gardens (the walls can't talk - but your tour guide Thomas Heywood can!).



### In the Company of Small Things

- Saturday 18 April 2026 [+ 30 More Dates](#)
- Buda Historic Home & Garden, 42 Hunter St, Castlemaine VIC 3450
- [Book Tickets](#)

This is a series of exhibitions and installations that invite audiences to slow down and look closer. Discover new works by local artists Dianne Longley (Trentham) and Clayton Tremlett (Castlemaine), interpreting Buda's House and Garden in new and exciting ways. See the surprising treasures from Buda's historical collection: 19<sup>th</sup> century botanical specimens, nature studies, sketchbooks and flora-inspired items hand-crafted by members of the Leviny family who once resided here. Bring the kids and pick up the *In the Company of Small Things* map at reception. Join the artists and Buda's Curators for a series of workshops, inviting you to create your own works in response to the Leviny collection, garden or your own history.



## The Story of Bridge Street's Chinatown

- Thursday 23 April 2026, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM
- Golden Dragon Museum, 1/11 Bridge St, Bendigo
- [Book Tickets](#)

Join Golden Dragon Museum's Research Officer, Leigh McKinnon, for a special talk on the owners, occupants, and businesses of the old Bridge Street Chinatown in Bendigo and how the streetscape and community have changed from the 1850s to the present day. This photograph depicts members of the Kong and O'Hoy families at the back of a Bridge Street shop and residence. Photo courtesy of Michelle Lau.



## Seasons of Change: A Star Cinema Retrospective

- Friday 01 May 2026, 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM
- Star Cinema, Peg Leg Road, Eaglehawk VIC
- [Book Tickets](#)

Federation era Eaglehawk Town Hall with its grand façade and ornate clock has stood in Brassey Square since 1901. *The Star Cinema*, a not-for-profit social enterprise, has been here for more than 20 years, offering a boutique cinema experience. This tour includes the cinema space, voted one of the 25 most beautiful cinemas in Australia, the supper room, the time warp cinema balcony and the historic council chambers where there are historical artefacts including the trowel that turned the first sod. You can also stay on for the film and enjoy the red plush sofas and unique experience of *The Star Cinema*. The choc tops are legendary!



## Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet in the Former Bendigo Law Courts

- Saturday 02 May 2026, 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM
- 77-85 Pall Mall, Bendigo VIC 3550
- [Book Tickets](#)

*BottledSnail Productions* is a not-for-profit performing arts company providing a creative outlet to Melbourne's legal profession and the wider Melbourne creative community. One of the company's ongoing projects is "Shakespeare in the Supreme" where members perform rehearsed readings of Shakespeare's plays in the Law Library in the Supreme Court of Victoria. As part of the Australian Heritage Festival, members of this project will perform a reading of Shakespeare's "Romeo & Juliet" in another beautiful historic Court, the former Bendigo Law Court.



## Victorian Colonial Express

- Saturday 02 May 2026, 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM
- Victorian Goldfields Railway (VGR), Kennedy St, Castlemaine
- [Book Tickets](#)

Join us for a memorable ride on Victoria's oldest railway carriages.

### Return Travel between Castlemaine and Maldon - with 3 hours to

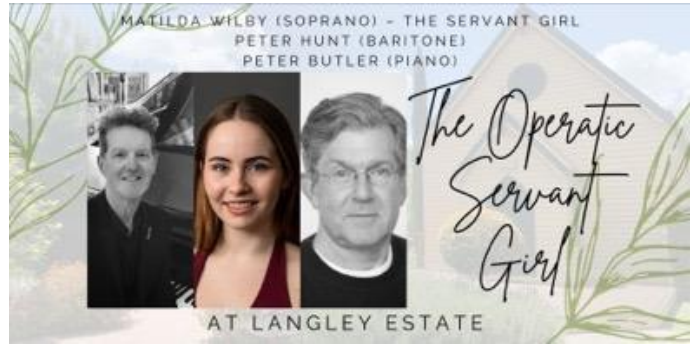
**explore historic Maldon.** Over 140 years old, these relics are from a long past era. Experience rail travel of the 1880s when these quaint carriages were the latest in speed and comfort. You will travel on an early branchline with original infrastructure. The train will also feature re-enactment of the loading and unloading of "van" goods by guards and station porters at each of our three stations. For information about departure times etc [click here](#).



## The Operatic Servant Girl – A World Premiere Performance 165 Years in the Making!

- Sunday 03 May 2026, 3:00 PM - 4:15 PM
- Langley Estate 484 Napier St, White Hills.
- [Book Tickets](#)

‘Confound that servant girl of mine! She’s opera mad. I allowed her to go out two evenings last week to see Trovatore and the Traviata and she’s been singing the music ever since instead of answering my questions on domestic affairs.’ An excellent evening’s entertainment by Charles Robert Thatcher (1831-1878)



## Wheel Power – Discover the Story of the Garfield Water Wheel

- Sunday 03 May 2026, 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM Free
- Garfield Water Wheel, Leanganook Track, Chewton VIC
- [0433006663](tel:0433006663)

Join us at this evocative heritage site to explore how water once powered local industry. Enjoy an on-site display of historic photographs, and chat with archaeologists who will bring the site to life by explaining why the wheel was built, how it worked, and the people who relied on it. Set within the beautiful Castlemaine Diggings National Heritage Park, this is a great opportunity to combine local history with hands-on learning for all ages. The archaeologists will be on-site from 10am to 1pm for you to drop in and ask questions. There is no set talk so turn up as you please during that time. [Click here](#) for more information.



## Women on the Early Victorian Goldfields

- Saturday 09 May 2026, 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM
- 97 High St, Maldon VIC 3463
- [0437094469](tel:0437094469)
- [maldonathenaemlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:maldonathenaemlibrary@gmail.com)

An enlightening and informative presentation by local author and academic historian Marjorie Theobald based on her 2025 publication 'Keeping an Orderly Tent: Women on the Goldfields of Central Victoria'. This book is a vital piece of social history that effectively dismantles the "men-only" myth of the Australian gold rushes.



While traditional narratives often centre on the rugged digger and the rebellion at Eureka, Theobald shifts the lens to the women who were not just present, but essential to the fabric of the Victorian goldfields. Keeping an Orderly Tent explores the "shadow history" of the goldfields—the domestic and public lives of women in areas like Castlemaine, Chewton, and Maldon. The title itself serves as a metaphor for the female effort to impose domesticity and order on a chaotic, transient, and often brutal landscape. [Click here](#) for more information.

## Maldon: A Notable Day Out

- Sunday 10 May 2026, 9:30 AM - 3:30 PM Free
- Maldon VIC 3463
- [Book Tickets](#)

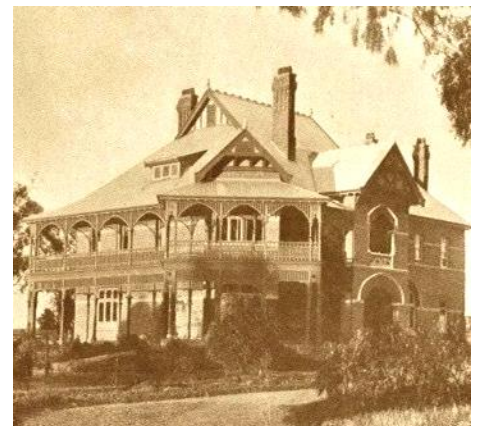
In 1966 the National Trust's declaration of Maldon as the first Notable Town was publicly announced and to mark the occasion in fine festivity, we invite you to help celebrate our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary and what makes Maldon special today. Explore the town and bushlands on a self-guided walking tour. Enjoy the Heritage Market (9.00am-1.30pm). Nestled in and around the 1905 heritage-listed former Scots Presbyterian church, discover local arts, crafts, food, and live music. Book a one-hour bus tour of historic Maldon leaving from the Kangaroo Hotel at 11.00am (bookings [info@maldonnc.org.au](mailto:info@maldonnc.org.au)). See displays at the Maldon Museum (11:30am-2:00pm) in the former 1859 Maldon Shire Hall, including the first Notable Town Exhibition. Explore the Maldon Vintage Machinery and Museum (10.00am-2.00pm) on the site of the former Great Western Cymru Company Mine. Arrive in style in Maldon from Castlemaine on the century-old timber carriage Goldfields Explorer steam train (bookings <https://www.vgr.com.au/>).



## Guided Tour of Langley Estate

- Saturday 16 May 2026, 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM
- 484 Napier St, White Hills VIC 3550
- [Book Tickets](#)

A guided tour of Bendigo's iconic Langley Estate mansion, chapel and gardens: a goldfields landmark since 1904. Experience the 'Langley Magic' guided by Langley Estate owners themselves, Thomas and Simone Heywood. The Langley Hall mansion was built on the grandest scale in 1904 as the Bishop's Palace for Henry Langley, the first Anglican Bishop of Bendigo; the internal floor space alone covers over a quarter of an acre. The estate also houses the 1873 Lauriston Chapel, now a 100-seat concert room complete with its own newly installed 1875 pipe organ, as well as the 1936 Langley Manor and extensive landscaped gardens.



## Port of Echuca Heritage Walking Tour

- Saturday 16 May 2026, 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM
- 74 Murray Esplanade, Echuca VIC 3564
- [Book Tickets](#)

Join a passionate and knowledgeable tour guide on this exclusive tour through the heart of the Port along the old Murray Esplanade, where you'll discover the fascinating stories and lively characters behind these stately facades (and where possible, a glimpse inside). Your guide will bring to life the Port's charming streetscape whose fortunes often rose and fell with the old riverboat trade, and the much-loved Echuca Wharf.



## Book Launch - *Monumental Days* – The Bendigo Cemetery over 165 Years

- Sunday 17 May 2026, 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM
- Bendigo Cemetery 70 Carpenter St, Quarry Hill
- [Book Tickets](#)

*Monumental Days* is a two-volume history of Bendigo Cemetery, a story of human endeavour that is not without drama or scandal. Spanning 165 years, it depicts the struggles planners, sextons and cemetery trusts faced in meeting the changing religious, political, economic and aesthetic expectations of the wider society. The work includes stories of those buried or memorialised at the cemetery, the legacy of Bendigo's highly acclaimed stonemasons and the funeral rites and rituals of the time.



David Cooney was born and educated in Bendigo and after graduating from university, worked as a reporter and sub-editor, beginning at the *Bendigo Advertiser*. He has had a life-long interest in history.

The launch will be in the **Mortuary Chapel at Bendigo Cemetery** (pictured).

**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.**



### ***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.

Contributions for each month's *History and Heritage* must be emailed to the Branch by the 1<sup>st</sup> of every month. Distribution is approximately 2 - 3 weeks after that. Send to the [Bendigo Branch here](#).

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.

#### **Next Branch meeting, Tuesday April 28<sup>th</sup> at Bendigo Library 5.30pm**

Email: National Trust of Australia (Vic) Bendigo & District Branch [click here](#)

You can see the current Victorian advocacy issues at the Trust Advocate blog: [Click here](#)

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