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Happy birthday to The Capital!

City settles into Galkangu

Celebrating our diverse
and vibrant community

SPRING | 2023



CITY OF GREATER
BENDIGO



ON THE COVER: Alice Topp, Resident Choreographer with The Australian Ballet, celebrating The Capital with other performers.



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Looking good Bendigo!

Have you got a great photo of Bendigo? Submit your image to gbmag@bendigo.vic.gov.au and you might just see it featured here next edition.

WELCOME FROM THE MAYOR

Here's some handy news for community groups on the hunt for more opportunities to access financial support.

Recently, the City of Greater Bendigo undertook a review of its Community Grants Program and identified ways to make it fairer and easier to help local groups and clubs.

There will be a range of grant opportunities throughout the year, including:

- Community Group Essentials Grant (up to \$2,000, apply any time*)
- Small Grant (up to \$2,000, apply any time*)
- Medium Grant (up to \$10,000, applications open three times a year in March, July and November)
- Partnering for Impact Grant (up to \$75,000, applications open once every three years, now open)
- Community Christmas Meal Event Grant (up to \$1,000, applications open in September each year)

Importantly, we're wanting all interested groups and clubs to contact the City first before making an application.

Our review found that pre-planning by applicants is the key to success, and by speaking to a staff member you will be able to identify the best grant for your needs, ensure your application meets the required criteria and therefore have more chance of success!

When you've got the feedback you need, you will then access a new web portal called Smartygrants to submit your grant application.

Each year, the City allocates approximately \$850,000 in grants, and we want to see as many groups as possible accessing the funding.

I encourage you to read the updated Community Grants Guidelines at www.bendigo.vic.gov.au and stay informed about future grant opportunities.

Mayor Cr Andrea Metcalf



**Until all funds are expended*

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← NEW NUMBER!

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After hours/emergency number

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Operating hours

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City settles into Galkangu

Have you had a chance to pop into Galkangu yet? Councillors and staff have been in the building for a few months, and it's been open to the public since July 10.

This is a development I am really proud of and one that stretches back a decade when the 2013 Independent Review of the City of Greater Bendigo recommended Council plan and advocate for the consolidation of City offices (we have since managed to move from seven buildings into one!).

At the time, the Victorian Government was establishing GovHubs in regional areas, designed to co-locate a range of government services in one building. GovHubs like Galkangu have also been built in Ballarat and Morwell.

It was a big decision by Council to enter into this arrangement with the Victorian Government, and I thank past and present Councillors for their support of this project.

And now we have a seriously beautiful building that has brought together a range of Victorian Government departments and the City, making it a one-stop-shop for government services in our community.

Customers can make planning enquiries, obtain permits, make general enquiries and pay bills all in one place. There are also a range of meeting rooms that are available for the community to hire. From a staffing perspective, the two tiers of government work closely together on a range of projects, so it will be easier to meet face-to-face to deliver the best outcomes for our community.

The building will also place more people in the city centre for work and to do business, which will have positive flow-on effects for neighbouring retail and hospitality businesses. I'm also really pleased that the name and façade of the building has contributed to celebrating Dja Dja Wurrung Traditional Owner culture.

Galkangu means 'we make things happen together... more connected to Country'.

The City is a tenant in the building and we have locked in the cost of rent for the next 20 years, which does include a 3 per cent CPI

increase each year. It was not considered feasible to undertake a project of this scale on our own or to retrofit our old offices.

The \$90M project generated 200 new local jobs during the construction phase and injected an estimated \$131M into the local economy. The building has also achieved a 6-star Green Star rating, making it very sustainable.

Galkangu has been a long time in the making but well worth the wait.

Craig Niemann,
Chief Executive Officer





UNDERSTANDING GALKANGU'S STRIKING FAÇADE

The façade of Galkangu symbolises the values of respect, recognition, reconciliation and self-determination. It has been designed by Dja Dja Wurrung, Yorta Yorta and Jaru artist, Natasha Carter.

The diamond pattern, taken from a Djaara shield, is a common motif of the Dja Dja Wurrung and used to identify each other. It represents the historic 2013 Recognition and Settlement

Agreement, honour, protection and identity, and creating a sense of responsibility for present and future generations.

The layers in the background of the artwork reference the six layers of Country and the six seasons of Dja Dja Wurrung Country. The background semi-circle pattern represents the People.

When looking out through the windows, the small, dotted lines represent pathways and the steps taken across Country.



THE GALKANGU CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE

The new customer experience at Galkangu aims to help streamline your visit, so City of Greater Bendigo staff can provide the best assistance to you.

If you have an appointment to meet with a staff member, please go to the building's main reception desk to check-in.

If you need to book an appointment or make other enquiries, please follow the steps below.

If customers need to meet with a planner, they can make an appointment by emailing planningenquiries@bendigo.vic.gov.au

There are many ways to contact the City of Greater Bendigo. You can visit us in person, phone us on 1300 002 642, email requests@bendigo.vic.gov.au or search our website, www.bendigo.vic.gov.au, to find the information you are looking for. **gb**

STEP 1

Enter Galkangu via the main entrance, which faces Lyttleton Terrace.

Customers will be greeted by a member of the Customer Service team.

STEP 2

Customers will be asked what they would like to do at Galkangu (e.g. pay rates, make an appointment to see a staff member etc.).

Customers will be given a ticketed number.

Note – A staff member will initially operate the touch screen computer that will issue the customer with a number. In time, customers will operate the computer themselves.

STEP 3

Customers will take a seat and wait for their number to be called via the screens in the reception area.





New airport terminal build hits halfway mark

The first stage of the new Bendigo Airport terminal expansion is complete and welcoming Qantas passengers.

The new terminal will be complete in December but stage 1 has delivered a departure lounge, café, provision for security screening area, restroom facilities, office space and equipment shed.

The original terminal building will now be demolished as part of stage two works, with a new, larger building built in its place and the two new buildings will connect.

Stage two includes a new entry foyer, baggage check-in and baggage claim areas, and more restroom facilities.

The project has engaged nine local businesses providing concreting, carpentry, electrical, plumbing, flooring, glass and steel supply services, together with the main contractors Nicholson Construction.

It is generating up to 45 jobs during

construction and will create 10 new full-time jobs when complete.

The \$9.895M project is funded by \$4.5M from the Australian Government, \$4.5M from the Victorian Government and \$895,000 from the City of Greater Bendigo.

As part of adopting the 2023/2024 Budget, Council committed a further \$2.1M to enable completion of the terminal project, which has experienced significant cost pressures.

Development of the business park, including 14 air-side lots and seven land-side lots, will be subject to securing future funding. **gb**

Support for the Voice

At the June 2023 Council meeting, Council voted in support of constitutional recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples through a Voice to Parliament, and issued the following statement:

Australians will soon vote in the referendum on a First Nations Voice to Parliament.

For our part, the City of Greater Bendigo supports recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples through a constitutionally enshrined Voice to Parliament.

We also commit to share clear, unbiased information on our website regarding all aspects of the upcoming referendum.

Our support for the Voice to Parliament is another demonstration of our commitment to advancing reconciliation for Traditional Owners and local First Nations community, and aligns with objectives in the Council Plan (Mir wimbul), Reconciliation Plan Barpangu and Social Justice Framework.

Initiatives such as Aboriginal place naming of important civic buildings, being a signatory to the recognition agreement Yilingga Marna with DJAARA, Reimagining Bendigo Creek, support for NAIDOC Week and Reconciliation Week, and showcasing First Nations performances, art and culture in our theatres and galleries are in harmony with our support for the Voice to Parliament.

We recognise there is a diversity of views regarding the Voice to Parliament and the referendum, and we respect that.

We encourage residents to actively inform themselves and respectfully exercise their democratic right to have their say.

To learn more about the Voice to Parliament, visit www.bendigo.vic.gov.au **gb**

Long Gully Neighborhood Centre Coordinator
Kerry Parry and Cr David Fagg.



Investing in the Long Gully community

Since 1984, the Long Gully Neighbourhood Centre in Derwent Drive has been supporting the community by providing opportunities for local residents to undertake training and participate in programs, projects, activities and events.

Whipstick Ward Councillor David Fagg said the City of Greater Bendigo recognised the importance of the centre and recently carried out a range of improvements to support the great work done in the Long Gully community.

"The works undertaken will ensure the centre continues to meet the needs of the community well into the future."

"Improvements included the installation of a new, redesigned kitchen to increase its size, condition and functionality, as the existing kitchen was small and did not support food preparation and programs that take place at the centre," Cr Fagg said.

"The project also included removal of skylights to address leaks, an upgrade to the centre's heating and cooling systems, replacement of the existing hot water unit with a new efficient hot water heat pump unit and an upgrade to the female toilets.

"The works undertaken will ensure the centre continues to meet the needs of the community well into the future."

The \$161,000 project was an investment by the City in the Long Gully community. **gb**

FOUR FUN FACTS FROM THE PAST!

1 On July 1, 1852 the first post office in an Australian gold mining settlement opened in Bendigo. In the same year the first police court was held and the first church was built.

2 In 1913 the first Municipal Baths opened in Barnard Street and were nicknamed "the Muni" by locals. The City of Greater Bendigo is currently undertaking a project to once again open up this area for the enjoyment of the community.



3 In 1957 the Bendigo Creche, constructed over the Bendigo Creek in Rosalind Park, became the first childcare centre to be opened outside of the Melbourne metropolitan area. The creche was the vision of Mrs Annie Galvin, who was the second woman elected to the former City of Bendigo Council in 1968. The Annie Galvin Childcare Centre in Gladstone Street is named in her honour.

4 In 1958 the first parking meters were installed in the Bendigo city centre.

Photos courtesy of Allan Doney and the Bendigo Branch of the National Trust.

CELEBRATING OUR DIVERSE AND VIBRANT COMMUNITY



What happens when a group of 11 people from different backgrounds come together to share their cultural heritage and promote understanding between different cultural groups?

A better, more connected and caring community, that's what!

Earlier this year the City of Greater Bendigo proudly launched the 2023-2025 Intercultural Ambassador Program – a voluntary leadership opportunity for multicultural community members from across Greater Bendigo to enhance understanding and cultural diversity.

The program provides Ambassadors with the opportunity to develop leadership skills, inform policy, connect with others, and support a range of activities and events such as Harmony Day, Cultural Diversity Week and Citizenship Ceremonies.

The program is a key action of the City's Cultural Diversity and Inclusion Plan. It aims to support the participation of diverse cultural groups in community life and is part of the City's ongoing commitment to being a liveable and welcoming community. **gb**

We are very pleased to introduce our current Ambassadors to the community.



Nishadi Weeratunga

Nishadi is a Sinhalese woman from Sri Lanka who moved to Bendigo in 2019. She has a Bachelor of Urban and Regional Planning and worked as an Urban Planner for seven years before transitioning to a career in Community Services and Aged Care.



Marlissa Theresia

Marlissa is an Indonesian woman of Christian faith who migrated to Australia in 2020. She is a Law major undergraduate, having spent three years working as a Corporate Legal in Jakarta. In Bendigo, Marlissa works as a Farm Hand at Hazeldene Chicken Farm and in the kitchen at Newbridge Hotel.



Laila Hashimi

Laila is a Hazara woman born in Afghanistan. She came to Australia in 2014 as a refugee and has been a pillar of support for the community ever since. Laila is incredibly busy, working two roles at Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services, modelling for a number of Hazara fashion organisations, and volunteering at Golden Square Pool, the Old Church on the Hill and at community events such as Zinda Festival and White Night.



Shilin Joseph

Shilin was born in India and moved to Australia in 2007. She spent her first year in Australia studying and living between Ballarat and Melbourne. When she found a job at Bendigo Health in 2008, Shilin and her family made Bendigo their home. She is currently a Clinical Nurse Consultant and in her final year of studies to become a Nurse Practitioner.



Dr Thaera O'Brien

Thaera is from Malaysia, migrating to Australia in 2019. She was born into a family of advocates and activists, and has become an academic in her own right with over 20 years of experience in teaching, training, research, cross-cultural intelligence and project management in the higher education industry. Thaera also has significant experience working with non-profit organisations, working across a number of multicultural women's organisations. Her last position was as the Chairperson for Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services.



Yadwinder Singh

Yadwinder is a Punjabi man of Sikh faith from India. He migrated to Australia in 2013 as an international student, graduating with a Bachelor of Information Technology. He moved to Bendigo two years ago and works as Depot Manager at Direct Freight Express. Yadwinder also volunteers with Australian Sikh Support, a not-for-profit community support organisation.



Eunmi (Rachel) Cho

Rachel was born in South Korea. She first visited Australia in 2006 as a student to learn conversational English for a year but fell in love with Bendigo and has since spent her years building a life here with her family. Rachel has a Bachelor in Human Resource Management and is currently an Employment Mentor at Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services.



Enos Mahachi

Born and raised in Zimbabwe and having lived in Botswana and the UK, Enos had great lived experience as an immigrant before settling in Bendigo in 2017. His journey sparked a passion for inclusion, diversity and social cohesion, which has seen Enos support the community through his previous work as a social worker and current role as Director at an NDIS provider.



Miriam Casas

Miriam was born in Mexico and spent her youth across South America, including Venezuela, Peru and Brazil. She spent her teenage years in the US before moving to Bendigo in 2013. Throughout her career, Miriam has found her strengths in education and linguistics. She is a founding member of Hispanos Unidos de Victoria, which aims to provide a richer understanding of Spanish-speaking cultures in Victoria.



Maha Htoo Sein

Maha was born in Myanmar (Burma) and is of Karen background. His family migrated to Western Australia on a humanitarian visa in 2009 before moving to Bendigo in 2015. Maha previously worked as a personal care assistant at an aged care facility before landing a traineeship at Loddon Campaspe Multicultural Services. He has since worked in a number of roles including as a Multi-lingual Support Worker (English, Poe Karen and Burmese) and is currently a Project Coordinator (Communications).



Dassanyake Sampath Wickramasinghe

Dassanyake, also known as Sam, is a Buddhist from Sri Lanka. He worked in the tea plantation sector and was the president of the Regional Rotary Club before moving to Australia in 2006, where he has spent the last 15 years working for the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing. Sam is currently a Senior Advisor in the Public Housing Department.



Koorie Youth Flick Fest winners showcased at Fed Square

Winning entries from the 2023 City of Greater Bendigo Koorie Youth Flick Fest have received major exposure across multiple days on the big screen at Melbourne's Federation Square during NAIDOC Week.

In a first for the competition, two entries were named joint winners for their films entitled *The Proud Story* and *2 Sides*.

Ngatatji Bysouth, Dontae Bysouth and Tylajae Charvat produced *The Proud Story* – a retelling of the creation story of Bunjil in which they utilised their own original art and music to tell the story.

Kobe McCaig and Montana Moore produced *2 Sides* – a film which explored the diverse lifestyles of First Nations people and the different ways they connect to Country.

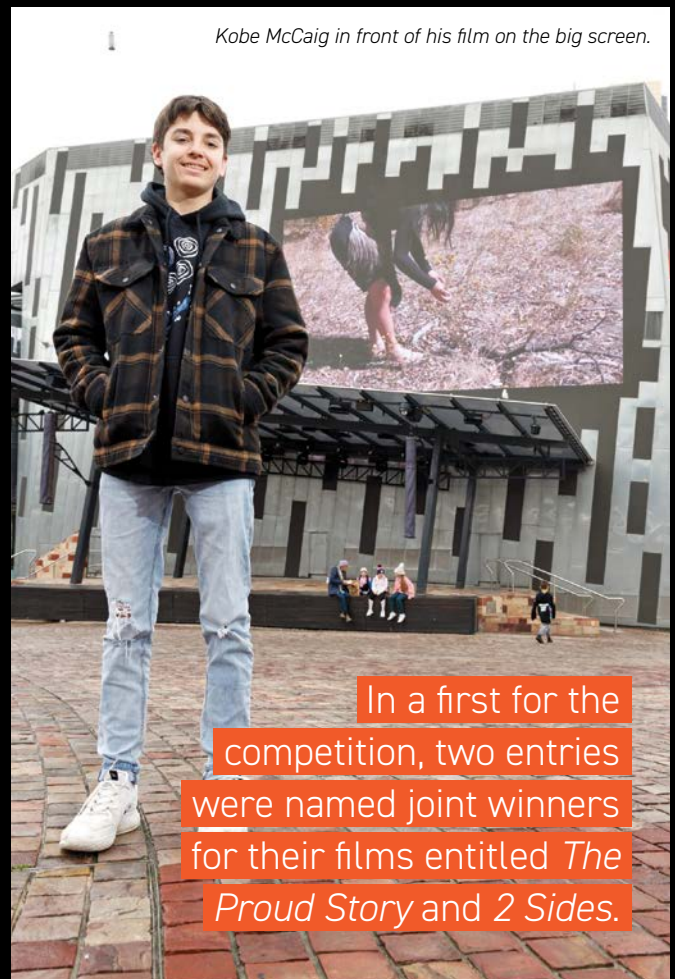
The two winning groups each received a \$1,000 cash prize and a trip to Federation Square during NAIDOC Week to enjoy a celebratory lunch and watch their films on the big screen.

Honourable mentions were awarded to Keira Long for her heartfelt film *Walla Walla* starring her siblings and exploring what Country means to them, and Klarissa KJ Hearn's film *Beautiful just the way you are* is a music video featuring her own original song about her experience as a young Aboriginal person in the foster care system. Both honourable mentions received a \$250 JB HiFi gift card.

The competition was open to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people under 25 years living in central Victoria.

The theme this year was *Me on Country*, with winners announced at the launch of the Central Victorian Indigenous Film Festival during Reconciliation Week.

To view the winning films visit youtu.be/QB80_-7Xl84_gb



Kobe McCaig in front of his film on the big screen.

In a first for the competition, two entries were named joint winners for their films entitled *The Proud Story* and *2 Sides*.

Blurred lines: how libraries are embracing diverse learning styles

You've just stepped foot in your local library. What do you expect to see? Shelves of books, tables for studying, people quietly reading and mingling? Sure. But you'll also find excited toddlers singing along at Storytime.

And what about caterpillars? Probably only the very hungry variety.

Libraries have always been sanctuaries for book lovers, offering a treasure trove of knowledge, history and imagination waiting to be explored. But in recent years, libraries have enhanced that traditional role, evolving into dynamic community hubs, second loungerooms and places of learning.

Recognising that many of us learn by doing, seeing, touching and hearing, libraries now offer programs and opportunities that focus on fun, enjoyment and engagement, and learning naturally follows. These can come in the form of aquariums, possum skin cloaks, wicking beds, storywalks, food swaps, seed libraries, murals, artworks, sustainable house kits, sporting equipment, exercise classes and more.

Libraries now offer programs and opportunities that focus on fun, enjoyment and engagement.

"By making our libraries fun and bringing in things like chickens, we acknowledge that everyone has a unique preference when it comes to learning," Goldfields Libraries CEO Mark Hands said.

In 2018, Kangaroo Flat Library hatched chickens after receiving a Science Week Grant, aiming to teach the community about their lifecycle. The program was a huge success and has since travelled the region and expanded to include other creatures.



Library patrons are even getting involved.

"A patron of ours found some caterpillars in her garden and brought them into the library. We did some research and then created a safe home for them where visitors could see them eating, growing, pupating and, eventually, emerging as beautiful Monarch butterflies," Kangaroo Flat Library Manager Kinta Walker said.

"People were fascinated by them! And it was a really great way to show the life cycle of these pretty creatures. Once they were ready, we released them into the gardens around the library.

"You could easily find this information in a book but by presenting information in different ways, we're appealing to a broader range of people and encompassing the different ways we learn."

Kangaroo Flat Library has also displayed a nature table, encouraging visitors to touch a real snakeskin, a mummified fox, and various feathers and bones.

"Some people find it a little bizarre and that's OK, but

it's great to encourage curiosity in all ages. Many children have brought in things they've found themselves and many adults share their own experiences, which just adds to the interest."

Bendigo Library's aquarium and mural have also been key in engaging and teaching the community about the Bendigo Creek, including its history, wildlife and the important role it plays for the Dja Dja Wurrung People.

"These are all great examples of how the lines between traditional library collections and programs are blurring. Libraries have blossomed into inclusive learning ecosystems, reaching beyond books to empower everyone to explore knowledge, expand their horizons and cultivate a lifelong love of learning," Mr Hands said.

Learn more about what's waiting for you at the library by visiting ncgrl.vic.gov.au or dropping in. **gb**



Recycle your textiles at a local transfer station now

Greater Bendigo residents can now recycle their unwanted textiles and clothing for free at new drop off points located at the Strathfieldsaye, Heathcote and Goornong transfer stations, and the Eaglehawk Recycle Shop at the Eaglehawk Landfill.

Eppalock Ward Councillor Greg Penna said the City of Greater Bendigo had partnered with Textile Recyclers Australia (TRA) to implement the new textile recycling collection points as part of its commitment to embracing circular economy solutions.

"All items collected will be transported to Melbourne for sorting," Cr Penna said.

"Textiles suitable for recycling will be mechanically shredded and spun into yarn, which will then be used to make a variety of recycled products including totes, cushions, gloves, socks, rugs, throws, blankets, felts, underlay, insulation and furniture filler. While garments deemed useable and too good for shredding will be sent for a second life.

"It's a great initiative and we think it will be very handy for residents to be able to drop off their unwanted clothing and textiles, and know they are going to a better place."

Textiles accepted at the new drop off points include clean clothing such as pants, skirts and jackets, linen items such as sheets, pillowcases, blankets, towels, cushions, pillows and doonas, pairs of shoes, and material and yarn off-cuts.

Textiles not accepted include swim wear and underwear, backpacks, mattresses and mattress protectors, curtains with hooks and eyelets, and re-useable shopping bags.

Commercial quantities of textiles will not be accepted. **gb**



Organics to be extended to all rural households

In line with the Victorian Government's state-wide kerbside waste reforms and the *Recycling Victoria – a new economy* policy, the City of Greater Bendigo will extend its organic waste collection to include a further 5,500 rural households from November 17, 2023.

The City's organic waste service has been successfully operating in urban areas since September 2016 and in more recent years was extended to the townships of Heathcote, Elmore, Goornong and Axedale.

The new rural households to receive an organics collection will not be charged for

the new service in the current 2023/2024 financial year, to provide them with an opportunity to become accustomed to the service. Charges for the service will only commence in the 2024/2025 financial year.

Once rural residents have utilised the organics service for six months, they will be able to apply for an exemption in May 2024 if they are able to comply with the City's Kerbside Organics Exemption Policy and can demonstrate the ability to manage their own organic waste on their property.

Prior to November 2023, the City will deliver a new organics kerbside bin, a kitchen caddy and a roll of compostable caddy liners, along with a range of information to households.

Initially, the new organic rural collections will be fortnightly on the opposite week to their recycling collection. However, commencing the week of Monday February 5, 2024 this will change along with the rest of the municipality to weekly, with waste bins to be collected fortnightly.

The change to a weekly organics collection and a fortnightly waste bin collection in

February 2024 follows a 2022 service review, which found 46 per cent of rubbish in red general waste bins should either be in the recycling bin or the organics bin, and not be going to landfill. Of this, 28 per cent was organic food and garden waste.

By making the switch the City is aiming to stop about 7,000 tonnes of organics and 4,500 tonnes of recyclables from ending up in landfill each year.

More information on the extension of the service is available at www.bendigo.vic.gov.au **gb**



RECYCLE YOUR GLASS BOTTLES AND JARS AT OUR NEW GLASS DROP OFF POINTS!



With major changes coming to the way we recycle glass, the City of Greater Bendigo, with funding provided by the Department of Energy, Environment and Climate Action, has installed 19 specially branded glass drop off points for residents to recycle their glass bottles and jars for free.

The Victorian Government's state-wide kerbside waste reforms and the *Recycling Victoria – a new economy* policy mandates that in the future glass will no longer be able to go in kerbside recycling bins, as glass breakages contaminate other recyclable material.

The great news is that all glass bottles and jars taken to the new drop off points will be recycled.

Until these changes are finalised and announced, the City has installed the new glass drop off points for residents to use at the following locations:

- Axedale Playspace car park, 94 McIvor Highway, Axedale
- Bendigo Rail Workshop, corner Little Breen Street and Gladstone Street, Quarry Hill
- Eaglehawk BMX Track car park, 198 Upper California Gully Road, Eaglehawk
- Elmore Recreation Reserve, 24 Elmore-Raywood Road, Elmore*

- Former Bendigo Pony Club reserve, 12 Belle Vue Road, Golden Square
- Goornong Transfer Station, 55 Englishs Road, Goornong
- Water standpipe, 26 Herriot Street, Heathcote
- Strauch Recreation Reserve car park, 19 Gungurru Road, Huntly*
- Lansell Square car park, (behind Petbarn), 267 High Street, Kangaroo Flat
- Bendigo Rowing Club car park, 34-36 Weeroona Avenue, Bendigo
- Lockwood South and District Community Hall, 784 Calder Alternative Highway, Lockwood South
- Maiden Gully Recreation Reserve car park, 9 Lower Beckhams Road, Maiden Gully
- Malone Park car park, 41 Malone Park Road, Marong
- Raywood Recreation Reserve car park, 1 Macaulay Street, Raywood*
- Spring Gully Tennis Club car park, 101 Spring Gully Road, Spring Gully
- Strathdale Oval car park, 188 Reservoir Road, Strathdale



- Strathfieldsaye Community Hub car park, 42 Club Court, Strathfieldsaye
- Red Energy Arena (Bendigo Stadium) car park, 91 Inglis Street, West Bendigo
- White Hills Recreation Reserve, 55 Scott Street, White Hills*

Glass that cannot be taken to the new drop off points include drinking glasses, broken crockery, storage and baking ware, perfume bottles and window glass. Please also remove all corks and lids.

The great news is that all glass bottles and jars taken to the new drop off points will be recycled and turned into products such as sand for road base. **gb**

**May not be available on game days for organised sport. Sites could be subject to change.*

Supporting a circular economy in Greater Bendigo

The City of Greater Bendigo's Circular Greater Bendigo program is supporting the new Bendigo Share and Repair Shed, a partnership between Access Australia Group, Commoners Co-op and the Bendigo Repair Café.

Cr Jennifer Alden said with support from the City, the Bendigo Repair Café and Bendigo Share and Repair Shed have now moved into permanent premises at 120 Garsed Street, Bendigo and have plans to expand to include a tool library and a range of other recycling services.

"The City, through its Circular Greater Bendigo program, is supporting the venture by providing funding towards the rental of the new Garsed Street premises," Cr Alden said.

"I was proud to be a co-founder of the Bendigo Repair Café, which was established in 2017 and has provided a regular monthly café at various local locations. It is part of an international repair movement that began in the Netherlands in 2009, where repair cafés engage volunteers to both fix broken items for community members and teach them how to fix things for themselves.



Cr Jennifer Alden and Keith Coshan look at repair possibilities.

"The Bendigo Share and Repair Shed and the Bendigo Repair Café are fantastic initiatives that encourage people to repair items rather than throw them out and purchase new. Both epitomise what a circular economy is all about and the City is pleased to support such important initiatives for Greater Bendigo."

The City's Circular Greater Bendigo program draws upon the global rise of the circular economy concept to shift how Greater Bendigo consumes resources and how materials at the end of their life are valued and recycled back into new products. It also reduces negative environmental impacts, helps tackle climate change and cut greenhouse gas emissions

through the making of new products, and provides new economic development opportunities for businesses in the region.

For some time now the City has been working to identify, develop and implement a number of circular economy and resource management solutions to handle, reprocess and recirculate end-of-life material resources, and is now supporting a number of initiatives through its Circular Greater Bendigo program.

For more information visit the Bendigo Repair Café website www.bendigorepaircafe.com or Facebook page at www.facebook.com/BendigoRepairCafe **gb**

Victorian Government to introduce new container deposit scheme

Victoria's Container Deposit Scheme, CDS Vic, is set to start in November 2023. The scheme will reward Victorians with a 10-cent refund for every eligible can, carton and bottle they return. It's part of important work that is transforming Victoria's waste and recycling system.

How will it work?

- You purchase a drink
- You return your empty drink container to a refund collection point
- You receive a 10-cent refund for every eligible container you return (you can choose to keep the funds or donate to a participating charity, sport, community or environmental group, or educational organisation)
- Your returned container will be recycled into a new product

Eligible containers include:

- Non-concentrated fruit or vegetable juice bottles
- Flavoured milk bottles
- Beer cans and bottles
- Soft drink cans and bottles
- Mixed spirits cans and bottles

Containers that won't be accepted include:

- Glass wine bottles
- Glass spirit bottles
- Juice bottles over 1 litre
- Cordial bottles
- Milk (other than flavoured milk)
- Concentrated fruit or vegetable juice bottles
- Health tonics



Visy has been appointed by the Victorian Government as the CDS Network Operators for the Loddon Mallee region.

The City of Greater Bendigo is not involved in running this program. Residents wanting more information about the Container Deposit Scheme should visit www.vic.gov.au/container-deposit-scheme **gb**

Soccer lights up in Spring Gully

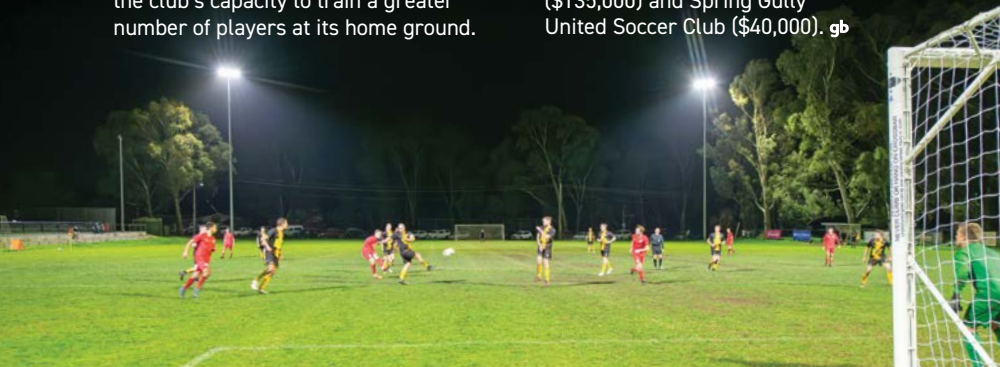
A major upgrade of lighting at Stanley Avenue, Spring Gully soccer pitches is proving beneficial for local soccer!

The City of Greater Bendigo recently installed new Football Federation Victoria standard training and match LED lighting on two turf pitches at the facility, which is home to Spring Gully United Soccer Club – one of Greater Bendigo's largest sporting clubs, with over 450 members and 35 junior teams.

The new lighting provides improved safety for all players and officials for training and competition, and increases the club's capacity to train a greater number of players at its home ground.

The new lights have reduced the over-use of playing surfaces by allowing training and competition matches to be undertaken over the two playing fields. It has also provided the club with opportunities to improve social connections for members as well as reducing the cost of hiring other venues to cater for training and competition.

The \$390,000 project was funded by the City (\$215,000), Victorian Government (\$135,000) and Spring Gully United Soccer Club (\$40,000). **gb**



Support our own. Choose locally grown!

Residents across our region are encouraged to purchase and eat locally grown fruit and vegetables via the Healthy Loddon Campaspe *Support Our Own. Choose Locally Grown* initiative.

Some of the main benefits of choosing locally grown fruit and veggies are:

- It's good for our health
- Food is fresher and has less distance to travel
- You will enjoy eating with the seasons
- Local growers, stores and economy benefit
- It's readily available and accessible across our region

Healthy Loddon Campaspe Coordinator Alicia O'Brien said there was a huge variety of produce grown within the Loddon Campaspe region, including apples, avocados, oranges, pears, potatoes, tomatoes and leafy greens.

"Our region has a wide selection of fruit and vegetables to choose from, as well as a vast selection of places to buy locally grown," Ms O'Brien said.

"The initiative also aims to increase community knowledge around healthy food, and how simple it is to eat and cook with locally grown fruit and vegetables.

"Through the initiative, Healthy Loddon Campaspe has also engaged with local fruit and vegetable growers, retailers and farmers markets throughout the region to promote the initiative via in-store marketing material."

To find out about local growers, retailers and farmers markets that grow and sell locally grown produce, information on in-season fruit and vegetables, and recipes using local produce visit www.healthyloddoncampaspe.au/chooselocallygrown **gb**

Work out at Lake Neangar

The City of Greater Bendigo has installed new outdoor fitness equipment along the Lake Neangar walking path near the car park at the rear of the Eaglehawk Bowls Club.

The new fitness station includes a cross trainer and two exercise bikes with touchscreens and Bluetooth connectivity, a balance station and arm bike, along with line marking for leg exercises such as lunges and jumps. Instructional signage on how to use the equipment has also been installed.

The equipment was selected after receiving feedback from users of the City's other fitness stations in Kangaroo Flat and Long Gully.

The new fitness station provides the community with access to free exercise equipment along the existing walking circuit.

It is free to use and easily accessible, and will hopefully encourage members of the community to increase their physical activity and improve health and wellbeing outcomes.

The new equipment will benefit the whole Eaglehawk community by providing a free opportunity to exercise in a space that is always available.

The project is a \$127,500 investment in the Eaglehawk community by the City. **gb**



New Mercy Junortoun Sporting Precinct now open!

The exciting new \$25.4M Mercy Junortoun Sporting Precinct is complete and available for use!

The new precinct is a state-of-the-art junior sporting hub that provides significant new facilities for cricket, AFL, netball, soccer and basketball to support educational use during school hours and community use outside of school hours.

This major project has been a partnership between Catherine McAuley College, the City of Greater Bendigo, Cricket Australia, Cricket Victoria and the Victorian Government to provide much needed new school and community joint use sporting facilities at the Catherine McAuley College Coolock Campus in Junortoun.

The new precinct is a major investment in the fast-growing Junortoun and Strathfieldsaye area that provides new facilities for junior sport for boys and girls, and the growing participation by women in cricket and AFL. It also provides a new area for the community of Junortoun to enjoy recreational activities.

This project was funded by Catherine McAuley College/Mercy Education LTD (\$17.9M), City of Greater Bendigo (\$7M) and the Victorian Government (Cricket Australia Sport and Recreation Victoria \$500,000).

The partnership provided the City and the College with the ability to deliver a superior shared use facility that reduces the need for duplication of sports field investment across education and community sectors.

Sporting and community groups will have access to the facility outside of College operating hours, for example prior to 8.30am and after 4pm weekdays, all weekends, public holidays and school holidays, except for Good Friday or Christmas Day.

Community groups can book the pavilion's social and meeting spaces for alcohol-free functions, meetings and events at www.bookings.bendigo.vic.gov.au **gb**

THE NEW PRECINCT WAS OFFICIALLY OPENED IN SEPTEMBER AND FEATURES:

A redevelopment of the lower oval precinct, including:

- Construction of two junior-size ovals, one with lights
- Construction of one minimum-size senior oval, with lights
- Construction of one full-size senior oval (no lights)
- Construction of three synthetic cricket pitches and a turf cricket wicket on the full-size senior oval
- Construction of two outdoor netball courts with lighting
- Irrigation, access ways, pathways, landscaping and car parking
- Goal posts, training lights, interchange benches
- Electronic scoreboard on minimum-size senior oval

Construction of an indoor community sporting complex, amenities and cricket hub, including:

- A two-court indoor stadium
- Community and club social and meeting spaces x2
- Kitchen and kiosk spaces x2
- Local level AFL, Cricket Victoria, and Netball Victoria female-friendly changerooms and amenities x8
- Umpire changerooms x4
- External viewing area to all sports fields
- Dedicated storage areas for sporting user groups and school
- First aid room
- Kitchen/kiosk

The cricket hub area includes:

- A six-lane cricket training net facility with operable walls
- Dedicated storage space
- Office administration area



Surrender is not the only option



BARC is striving to work with the community to assist struggling owners to keep their much-loved pets at home.

Bendigo Animal Relief Centre (BARC) understands that surrendering a pet to an animal shelter is often an owner's last resort but reaching out to the shelter for assistance should be the first point of call.

Shelters like BARC have recently seen a massive increase in the number of animals being surrendered into our care. In fact, we've never seen such high numbers.

Surrenders of animals obtained during COVID-19 lockdowns are by far the highest contributing factor to this current influx. Obtained free to a good home on social media or bought from backyard breeders, these animals are now in adolescence and often haven't received training or proper veterinary checks resulting in behavioural issues and medical issues.

An influx of litters from illegal backyard breeders who can no longer find a market for their animals is also part of the problem.

As a result, BARC is striving to work with the community to assist struggling owners to keep their much-loved pets at home by providing small amounts of food or parasite treatments, finding short-term

boarding options, working with other organisations to provide discount dog desexing programs to those with greatest need, or simply by providing advice about how to modify certain behaviours.

Our partnership with Petcademy provides ongoing check-ins and 24 hour behavioural service to all our adopted animals. This program has been extended and can help people requesting assistance before they make a decision to surrender.

BARC also has a community cat desexing program, which has serviced hundreds of local cats to help reduce unwanted litters that add to the problem.

Another alternate solution to surrendering to a shelter is the Home 2 Home initiative run by PetRescue.com.au, where owners are able to rehome their animals privately. This program assists owners to find suitable new homes while guiding them through requirements regarding medical and behavioural assessments.

It is inevitable that some animals will still be surrendered through the shelter system, but BARC hopes that "you are our last option" is something we soon hear a lot less. **gb**



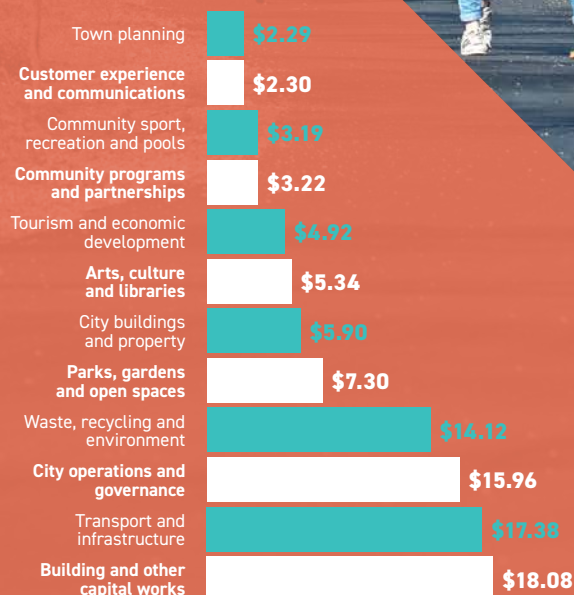
BARC
Bendigo Animal Relief Centre

The making of a Budget

The City of Greater Bendigo's Budget 2023/2024 is community-focused with priorities to improve everyday living. This Budget is responsible and sustainable, and invests in high value projects with long term benefits for a growing community.

Where do my rates go?

For every \$100 we spend:



What factors are considered?

The Budget 2023/2024 is presented in line with the City's community vision and Council Plan (Mir wimbul) 2021-2025 and other key strategies, including the Climate Change and Environment Strategy 2021-2026 and Healthy Greater Bendigo 2021-2025.

The City delivers important services to the community that are low cost, affordable and free, where possible. Many are everyday services that are often taken for granted and yet provide essential services for the community, such as early morning street cleaning and bin collections, early years services for families, maintenance of our fantastic parks and gardens, tourism and major events, environmental health to keep the community safe, and the Bendigo Animal Relief Centre caring for dogs and cats.

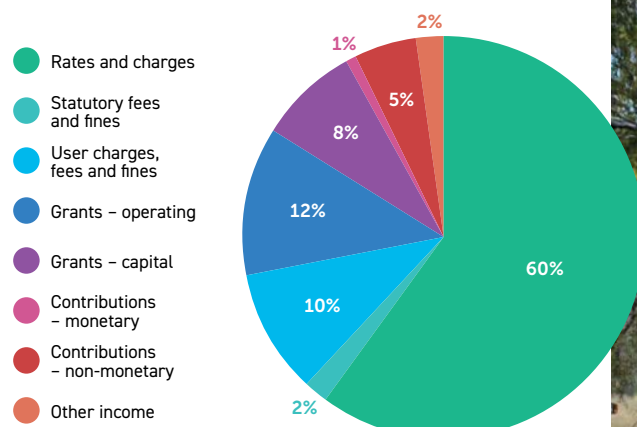
The annual Budget also meets the City's commitment to renew and maintain a wide range of community assets worth \$2.7B, including infrastructure such as roads, footpaths and bridges, Goldfields Libraries, swimming pools like Gurri Wanyarra, Red Energy Arena (Bendigo Stadium), Bendigo Art Gallery and The Capital and Ulumbarra theatres. The assets also include community halls, playspaces, recreational and sports facilities, iconic heritage buildings like Bendigo Town Hall and much more.

Budget challenges

This year's Budget has been the most challenging the City has experienced in some time. More than 60 per cent of the City's revenue comes from rates. As in previous years, Council did not apply for a variation to the 3.5 per cent rate cap, which means the City needs to absorb increasing costs and respond to lower forecast revenue. The reality of operating under the rate cap is having an impact on the City's Budget, as the costs of materials and service delivery continue to increase. Construction and other costs have increased significantly faster than the rate cap. For the City, over the past two financial years, the difference between rates increases and general inflation represents an approximate funding gap of more than \$8.25M. This is limiting available funds for new projects and initiatives in this Budget. This Budget seeks to address a challenging revenue scenario by continuing to fund existing services, increase some fees, and prioritise works and services in a financially responsible manner.

Comprehensive income statement

The following graph presents a snapshot of income budgeted for the 2023/2024 financial year.



Budget highlights

The Budget 2023/2024 focusses on delivering projects and services that enhance everyday living as well as seeing through financial commitments on multi-year projects. The Budget funds \$68M for capital works and includes \$36M for renewals, supporting important infrastructure for the community and maintaining assets such as the Golden Dragon Museum, community buildings, recreational facilities, Bendigo Town Hall and other important heritage buildings. Funding highlights include:

- Stage one of the Ironbark Gully Trail between Nolan Street and Holmes Road
- Design for the new Bendigo Low Line separated walking/cycling network between Golden Square and Lake Weeroona
- Municipal Baths redevelopment work in line with the Rosalind Park Recreation Reserve Precinct Master Plan
- Work to start on a multi-year Strathfieldsaye Town Square project and shared path between Wellesley Street and Apsley Lane
- Complete stage one of the Bendigo Airport terminal expansion
- Funding for the next three years to support Neighbourhood Houses in Bendigo, Eaglehawk, Marong, Heathcote, Long Gully and Kangaroo Flat
- A Changing Places facility in Heathcote
- Final stage funding for the shared Mercy Junortoun Sporting Precinct
- Maiden Gully Recreation Reserve Tennis Pavilion shelter, storage and toilet works, tennis lighting and hard surface renewal
- Environmental initiatives including a sustainable land management education program and community biodiversity engagement activities
- Detailed design for a Bendigo Creek levee from Racecourse Creek at Midland Highway

Maintaining essential infrastructure

- \$10M for sealed roads
- \$3.9M for unsealed roads
- \$2.6M for drainage works
- \$2.1M for works on footpaths and shared paths
- \$6.9M for buildings

Many ways to have your say

Community engagement for the annual Budget process is not the only avenue to have your say on things that matter to you. There are many ways to interact with the City of Greater Bendigo throughout the year.



Community grants

Residents can make submissions through the City's community grants programs. In the last financial year, 86 community groups were successful in receiving funding to help support their activities or projects. The City publicises when grants open and advice is available for those wishing to make a submission. These include a Community Group Essentials Grant, small grants of up to \$2,000, and medium grants of up to \$10,000. Other grants available through the program include Partnering for Impact and Community Christmas Meal Events grants. Visit www.bendigo.vic.gov.au

Let's Talk Greater Bendigo

This is an online engagement platform that makes it easier for you to share your ideas and opinions on decisions, projects and services that will shape Greater Bendigo. If you sign up to Let's Talk, you will receive regular updates on projects you have provided feedback on to find out how the project is progressing. Visit letstalkgreaterbendigo.com.au

Listening Posts

Councillors hold Listening Posts throughout the year in the Eppalock, Lockwood and Whipstick wards, or at a specific event or place for all Councillors to attend at the same time. Listening Posts are a great way for the community to engage with Councillors. Residents are encouraged to come and meet their Councillors to discuss topics that matter to them.

Lodge a request with Customer Service

You can contact the City's Customer Service team either by phone 1300 002 642, email requests@bendigo.vic.gov.au or lodge a request at www.bendigo.vic.gov.au or in person at our Customer Service centres in Galkangu – Bendigo GovHub or our office in Heathcote.

Talk to us about things that matter to you such as community priorities or projects, initiatives and local infrastructure works. Information you provide to the City may assist with things such as asset renewal priorities and maintenance works. This helps our engineering and asset maintenance staff to plan and action asset renewals, including footpaths, roads, drainage, playgrounds etc.

Meet the Mayor

You can arrange an appointment to meet the Mayor and discuss topics that are important to you. Scheduled times are usually promoted on our social media platforms or you can email councillor.support@bendigo.vic.gov.au to arrange a time to suit you.

Presenting to Council

Community groups and organisations can apply to present at informal meetings with Councillors. Topics must be aligned with the Council Plan, meet an identified need and community benefit, contribute to the community, and not be part of an existing program or Council initiative. Selected groups are invited to give a 10-minute presentation and answer questions from Councillors. For more information, head to www.bendigo.vic.gov.au **gb**

WHAT'S IN THE WORKS?

As part of the City of Greater Bendigo's commitment to deliver improved infrastructure, a range of works are currently underway or have recently been completed.

Lighting the Regions – street light LED replacement program

BENDIGO

Ellis Street – footpath

Bendigo Airport – civil works, terminal and administration building

Ewing Park – car park, remaining landscape works

High Street (Don Street to Vine Street) – footpath

Municipal Baths

AXEDALE

Axedale-Kimbolton Road – stage 3 road reconstruction

GOLDEN SQUARE

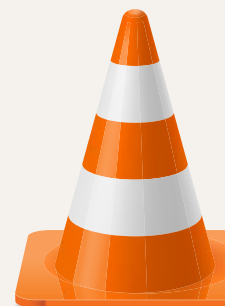
Pethard Place – drainage

KANGAROO FLAT

Bendigo Creek – shared path

STRATHDALE

Paperbark Court – drainage



THE ART OF CONSERVATION

The City of Greater Bendigo's Heritage Collections Officer Simone Ewenson is responsible for caring for the City's Civic Collection, which includes a variety of tasks such as cataloguing, digitising and finding safe storage for our valued heritage pieces.

Here's an example of one Simone's latest projects.

In October 2022 the City received a request from the Lions Club that leases the Strathfieldsaye Shire Hall about a framed councillor portrait hanging in the hall that needed attention. After visiting the hall and seeing the hanging works, with many over 100 years old and in need of attention, Simone began a digitisation project to ensure the long term conservation for the collection of more than 20 unique photographs.

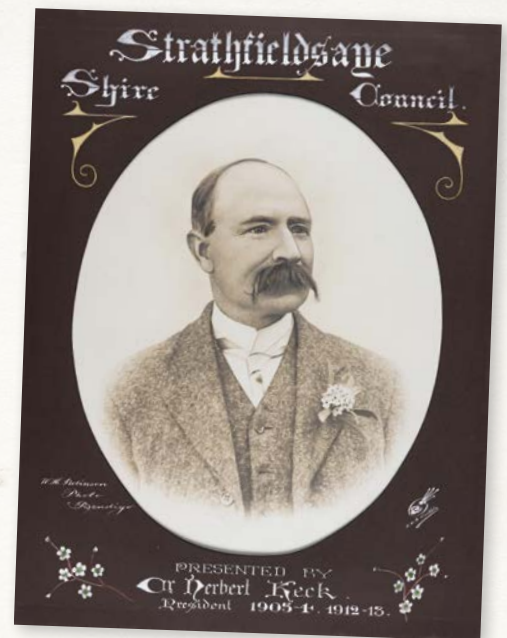
Strathfieldsaye Shire Hall was built in 1869 based on a design by George Steane, the Shire surveyor, at a cost of £700. Constructed of red brick, the hall has a unique ventilation system with hollow walls open at the top and bottom to ensure a draught to cool the building in summer.

Simone said prior to electricity in the early 20th century, this seemed like the perfect solution for people using the hall.

"The building's design has affected the photographs. Being open to the outside environmental conditions over the years has been detrimental to the collection housed there," she said.

Hanging the original items in the Strathfieldsaye Shire Hall was always the preferred outcome. After weighing up factors such as their condition, age, rarity and uniqueness, and the sensitive nature of photographic materials, it was evident that creating high quality reproductions was a more realistic outcome. This would ensure the long term preservation of the originals.

A few of the photographs from the collection needed expert attention and they were sent to the Grimwade Centre for Cultural Materials Conservation for repair. Simone looked after the remainder that were still in good condition despite their age, but still needed care and attention to return them to their former glory. Simone carefully took apart each portrait so that she could gently clean them before being professionally photographed and reprinted as high quality copies, which were then framed. It's a meticulous process, as each portrait took around a day for each stage of the digitising and framing process.



By investing the time to preserve these portraits, this has enabled the City to provide a copy of the whole collection for display at Strathfieldsaye Shire Hall, without fear of environmental factors damaging precious originals.

"In June 2023 I returned to Strathfieldsaye Shire Hall to meet again with Brian Fry from the Lions Club and hang the reproductions. As long term tenants of the hall, they have been custodians of these portraits and other Strathfieldsaye Shire Hall objects, and I would like to pass on my thanks for their support," Simone said

"I am delighted that the collection has been preserved with the originals stored as part of the region's heritage collection."

DID YOU KNOW?

Community collecting groups or groups that have heritage and memorabilia items can contact Simone for advice. As the City's Heritage Collections Officer, Simone cares for the civic collection and supports community collection groups offering her expertise. Simone also hosts professional development workshops, which are open to collecting groups.

Before and after

Among the 20 photographs was a group shot of 15 men in the alcove at Strathfieldsaye Shire Hall. The photographic emulsion on paper has been attached directly to a cream mount card. The original photo was torn but by creating a high quality copy, the tear was removed so the new high quality copy that hangs in the hall is intact without any hint of the original damage.

You can explore these works and other objects from the former Shire of Strathfieldsaye via the City's Civic Collection at victoriancollections.net.au/organisations/city-of-greater-bendigo-civic-collection?q=strathfieldsaye **gb**

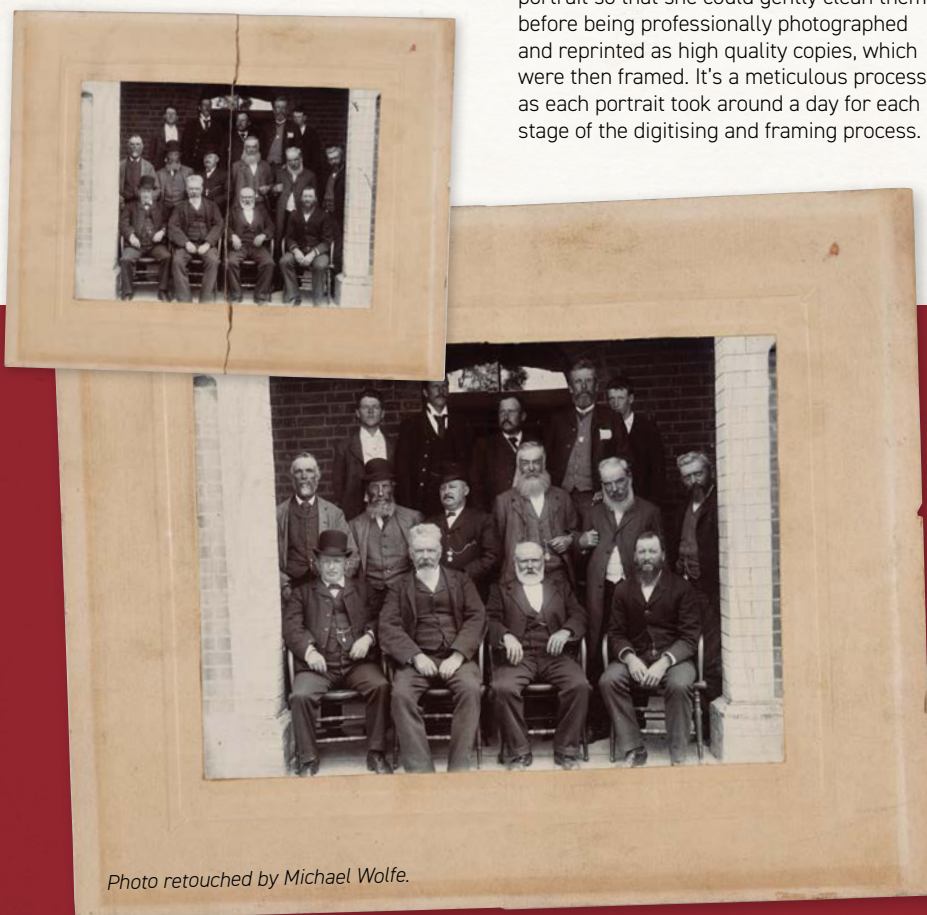


Photo retouched by Michael Wolfe.



Thank you and farewell to our wonderful aged care workers

Caring for an ageing population has been a core part of the City of Greater Bendigo's service delivery since Council amalgamations in 1994.

The service ceased in July this year, following significant changes to the way aged care services will be delivered in the future. Councils in Victoria have traditionally delivered the service on behalf of the Australian Government.

To mark the end of an era and the amazing care that was provided by our dedicated team, staff were farewelled recently at a special lunch where they received a small gift to acknowledge their years of service.

Part of the celebration included staff reflecting on what they loved about their time

with the City and also some kind notes from clients thanking the City for the service.

The relationship between carers and clients is very special, and we thank our clients for letting us care for them over the years.

We wish our carers and administration staff all the very best as they embark on their next chapter. Some staff accepted jobs with the new aged care providers, others chose a new career path and some started their retirement.

To these staff we say goodbye, good luck and thank you! **gb**

Save the date this October for the...

2023 Bendigo Seniors Festival – *Learn Love Live!*

October 1-8, 2023

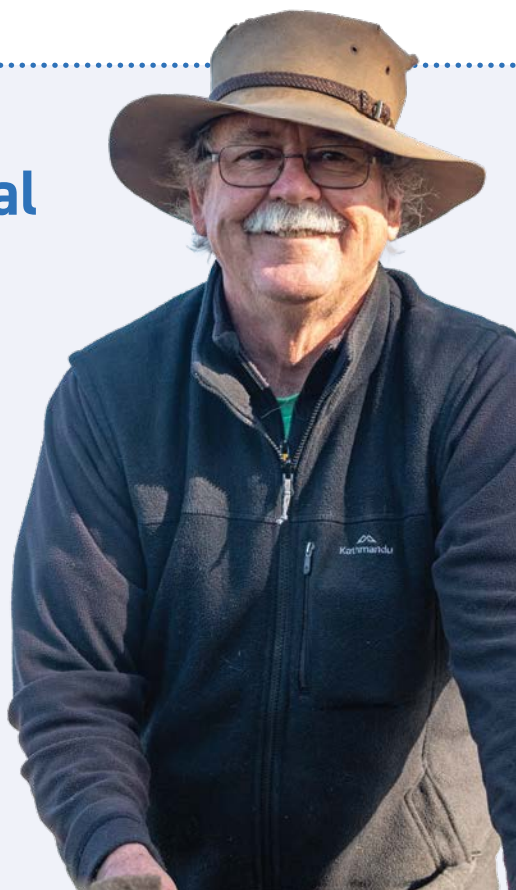
The Bendigo Seniors Festival (part of the Victorian Seniors Festival) will take place between October 1 and 8, 2023 with plenty of free or low cost events and activities on offer for local seniors.

This year's festival will celebrate with the theme *Learn Love Live* and a highlight will be the Seniors Concert on Friday October 6 at The Capital on View Street. Tickets will be available closer to the date from www.gotix.com.au

Lookout for the festival program, which will be available closer to the date at local libraries, Bendigo and Heathcote Visitor Information Centres, The Capital, Neighbourhood Houses and on the City's website www.bendigo.vic.gov.au

Take advantage of eight days of free public transport from October 1 to 8, which provides a great opportunity to explore our region, welcome friends to Bendigo and enjoy learning, loving and living life.

So, save the date and we'll you see you there!





Food for thought

City and region of Gastronomy turns four

It is four years since Bendigo and the region became Australia's first UNESCO Creative City and region of Gastronomy, recognising all the exciting things happening across our city and region in food and beverages, culture and sustainability.

The four-year mark celebrates a collaborative approach from the City of Greater Bendigo with the Dja Dja Wurrung Traditional Owners and eight other municipalities, including the shires of Buloke, Campaspe, Central Goldfields, Gannawarra, Hepburn, Loddon, Macedon Ranges and Mount Alexander. Our reputation for gastronomy continues to grow, not only as a magnet for talented artisans and producers but also as a leading culinary and cultural destination for visitors and residents.



What is Gastronomy?

Many people think of fine dining and top class restaurants when they hear the term Gastronomy. As one of only 50 UNESCO Creative Cities of Gastronomy in the world, it means so much more. The designation celebrates the region's diverse food culture and the commitment to local, sustainable, delicious and creative produce, and the art of good food and drink. It also recognises the importance of the Dja Dja Wurrung's cultural heritage, creativity and collaborative approach, and the renowned gourmet produce our region grows today.

What can be done with the Gastronomy designation?

A broad range of initiatives have been created to help make our City and region of Gastronomy more inclusive, liveable, resilient and sustainable. The City is extensively investing in health and nutrition projects, water sensitive city initiatives, healthy and sustainable food systems and strategies, urban agriculture, and community food hubs. Collaborative projects with the Dja Dja Wurrung are centred on healthy water, healthy Country and the restoration of damaged landscapes.

The Four Pillars – our commitment

Bendigo is transforming. A changing climate, a growing population and inequalities pose significant challenges that require creative community approaches. The City's strategies embrace culture, creativity, food systems and action against climate change. These are interconnected drivers of sustainability for our region. To be considered as a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy, creativity and gastronomy are at the centre of all future strategies.

The City's strategies embrace culture, creativity, food systems and action against climate change.

In Bendigo, it is based on four key pillars, and these are just some of the many initiatives taking place with the City and region of Gastronomy designation:

Pillar 1

Celebrate and elevate First Nations' culture, creativity and knowledge

- DJAARA is aiming to farm 15 tonnes of crayfish a year in what will be the biggest yabby farm in the southern hemisphere
 - DJAARA has also created a website that highlights commercial enterprises in one place – dumawul.com.au
 - Kangaroo grass project continues to research and develop methods to grow large-scale kangaroo grass crops on Dja Dja Wurrung Country
- DJAARA received \$1.82M through the Smart Farming Partnerships program
- Hoo-Gah Six Season Dinner was sponsored by the City and featured a First Nations speaker and menus that were designed by a First Nations artist



Pillar 2

Recognise our creativity, cultural diversity and innovation

- The City will be sponsoring a range of multi-cultural community lunches and community cooking classes at The Old Church on the Hill
- The City has partnered with Bendigo Foodshare to support teenage parents to help them prepare healthy food
- The *Australian Women's Weekly* exhibition celebrated the creativity of gastronomy. The City sponsored a question and answer event with Pamela Clark, the original editor of the *Australian Women's Weekly Birthday Cake Book*
- Gastronomy merchandise – the City commissioned local artist Natalie Ryan to create a water colour that has been printed on tote bags and tea towels. Both items are available at the Bendigo Visitor Centre. Each item of fruit and veg on the artwork is directly related to Bendigo, both now and historically
- The Gastronomy Guide is located on the Gastronomy website and promotes stores, wineries, distilleries etc. The guide continues to expand with more producers and businesses on board. It also provides an opportunity for businesses to collaborate and develop specialised trails that highlight their products and services
- The Bendigo letters in the piazza in Rosalind Park had a makeover to celebrate all things gastronomy – a perfect selfie spot
- Creative Victoria funding has been allocated to encourage collaboration and establish new opportunities for Creative Cities of Geelong (City of Design), Ballarat (City of Craft and Folk Art) and Melbourne (City of Literature)
- Creative Residencies in 2021 and 2022 provided support for a range of gastronomy residencies. A selection of local artists were paired with a local gastronomy-related business and worked onsite taking inspiration from their surroundings. Artists were Aleisha Ng, Andre Sardone, Natalie Ryan and Paul Fletcher
- Bendigo Writers Festival had a great line-up of gastronomy-related events last May, including an opening night Festival Banquet with MC Alice Zaslavsky, a lunch at the Golden Dragon Museum with Louisa Lim, and a Dish it Up brunch with Sonia Anthony and Jess Ho

Pillar 3

Improve health and wellbeing particularly through healthy eating

- Seeds for Citizenship Ceremony program – All new Australian citizens receive a small bag of vegetable seeds as a gift to encourage conversations around growing your own food, food security and supporting local businesses
- As a partner in the Practical Regenerative Agricultural Communities Program, the aims are to help identify and implement practical land management practices to improve grazing, productivity, soil health, biodiversity and waterway health. Includes free on-farm advice, webinars, workshops and field days, holistic grazing management short course and farmer discussion groups
- The City took a leading role in the development of the 'Towards a Healthy, Regenerative and Equitable Food System in Victoria' consensus statement, which adopts a rights-based food systems approach that seeks to ensure access to healthy and culturally appropriate food. The statement will be used to advocate to State and Federal government for change in 10 areas to help reduce barriers and support food system action at the local level
- Bendigo Foodshare Grow, Cook, Share Food Hub Program was launched with VicHealth and their trainees. The Food Hub is starting construction this year



Pillar 4

Prioritise environmental sustainability, sustainable agriculture and food production as we tackle climate change. City initiatives include:

- The City is a partner in the Healthy Landscapes program, working with farmers to learn about regenerative farming
- The development of a Zero Emissions Roadmap, which focuses on energy, transport, waste, agriculture and natural systems
- Support the Greater Bendigo Climate Collaboration opportunities
- Establish circular economy hubs for commercial and community enterprises
- Promote reduce, reuse, recycle messaging as much as possible
- Integration of First Nations' approaches
- Complete works on a Biodiversity Strategy



Bendigo Farmers Market opportunity

With support from the UNESCO Creative City and region of Gastronomy, the Bendigo Farmers Market has created a pop up market stall for companies new to the industry. This is suitable if you are a small business or producer who has new or one-off produce/product they wish to sell directly to consumers for feedback, or perhaps you have an abundance of produce or goods and a market would be ideal. This is an opportunity for a business that has never attended a market or does not have the infrastructure to have a stall themselves. For more information, email manager@bcfm.org.au

The local Producer Directory

The Producer Directory is a comprehensive collection of producers located across the region of gastronomy, located on the gastronomy website. It's free to join and there is a simple form to fill out on the website if a new business would like to add a listing. The Bendigo and region Gastronomy website is a great resource for tourists, chefs and locals looking to support the region's producers.

Categories include: Baked products, brewery/cidery/distillery, confectionary, dairy, fruit and vegetables, olive products, preserves and condiments.

The guide also profiles farmers markets, online retail offerings, local stockists and farm gates.

If you would like your business/products or services to be featured on the Producer Guide, head to bendigogastronomy.com.au/ producers and click on 'apply to join'. Fill in your details and the Gastronomy Project Officer will be in touch to finalise the details.

UNESCO Creative Cities network

The City hosted a UNESCO network meeting with representatives from the UNESCO Creative Cities network across Victoria and Tasmania – Bendigo (Gastronomy), Ballarat (Craft and Folk Art), Geelong (Design), Melbourne (Literature) and Launceston (Gastronomy). It was an opportunity to highlight the initiatives under the various designations and to identify future collaborations. Connecting with other Creative Cities helps to focus Bendigo and the region's creativity as a social and economic driver for sustainable development. It will open new opportunities for exchanges, knowledge and shared learning.

Use of the gastronomy logo

The logo is a significant branding tool for our status as a UNESCO Creative City and region of Gastronomy and should only be used for purposes that support the aims and ambitions of the designation. The City commissioned the logo and will grant permission to organisations and events who request its use, and who comply with conditions. The logo represents important cultural knowledge of the Dja Dja Wurrung people.

Business owners and producers can head to the 'contact us' page and submit an EOI for review at bendigogastronomy.com.au/contact



**BENDIGO
GASTRONOMY**
UNESCO CREATIVE CITY & REGION, PARTNER

Putting Bendigo on the map

The City also recently hosted 15 representatives from a range of Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade/Consular Corp departments, including representatives from New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Lithuania, Malaysia, Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Guatemala, Luxembourg, North Macedonia, Philippines, Romania, Slovak Republic, Sri Lanka and Switzerland. The group was very receptive to Bendigo's broad offering, which focused on gastronomy, creative industries,

**The group was very
receptive to Bendigo's
broad offering.**

manufacturing and export. Some countries expressed that they would like their ambassadors to visit Bendigo. DFAT covered all the associated costs for the diplomats. **gb**



Some of the international representatives enjoying the offering from Das Kaffeehaus in Castlemaine.

The best things in

As the weather starts to warm up, there are lots of great free things to do this spring.



GORGEOUS GALLERIES

Bendigo Art Gallery on View Street is the most visited regional art gallery in Australia and features a beautiful free exhibition space to roam. Take in works from three centuries including contemporary Australian art.

Living Arts Space and Djaa Djuwima are in the Bendigo Visitor Centre on Pall Mall and present free exhibitions to showcase a range of local creatives. Djaa Djuwima's latest exhibition celebrates First Nations leaders with a range of artworks.

VISIT A LIBRARY

Visit a local library in Bendigo, Kangaroo Flat, Heathcote or Eaglehawk where there are great books, magazines, newspapers, activities and services on offer. Check out free library events including author visits, workshops, information sessions, films and craft activities. Visit ncgrl.vic.gov.au

PLAYSPACE FUN

With 135 playspaces to choose from, spring is a great time to discover a new favourite. The new playspace at Wolstencroft Reserve has an observation mound, a scramble park and large rocks for climbing. The new playspace at Lake Weeroona is also a big hit for kids to run around. It has a large pyramid climbing net, see-saw rocker, various swing options, accessible carousel and nature play. They can also do a lap around the lake if they still have more energy to burn. Visit www.bendigo.vic.gov.au

BENDIGO BOTANIC GARDENS

Take a stroll around the new Larni Garingilang that features wetlands and indigenous plants, while nearby the established beds at the Garden for the Future bring a splash of colour and great spots for a picnic on a sunny day.

TOURIST IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD

Go exploring around Heathcote's Bald Hill, Devil's Cave, Stranger's Rock and the historic Pink Cliffs, or discover another suburb close to home. Eaglehawk, for example, has beautiful heritage buildings and a hidden gem, Canterbury Park.

SENIORS FESTIVAL COMING UP

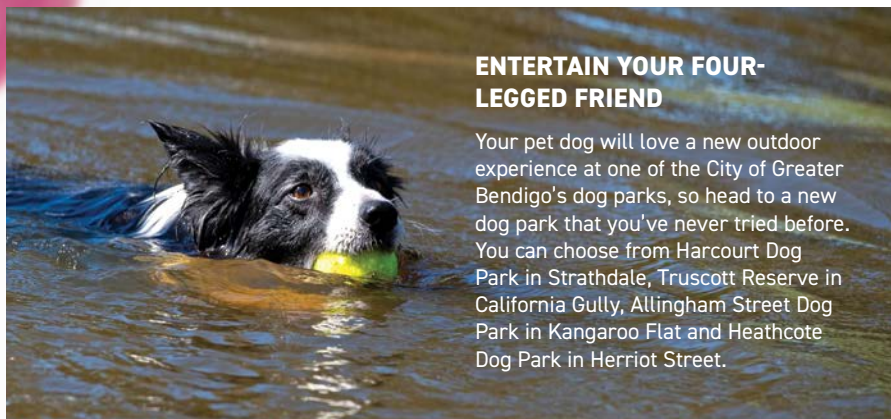
The program for the Seniors Festival, running October 1-8, will be out soon to help you plan to attend activities, tours, and come-and-try days. There will also be art competitions, old time dancing, music, events and much more.

ART SELF-WALKING TOURS

Enjoy a self-walking tour to see Bendigo's wide range of public art, including Djaara Lights in the Bath Lane precinct.

BLOOMIN' IDEAS

Take a look at the City's Bloom spring campaign offering a mix of experiences and family fun. Head to bendigoregion.com.au



ENTERTAIN YOUR FOUR-LEGGED FRIEND

Your pet dog will love a new outdoor experience at one of the City of Greater Bendigo's dog parks, so head to a new dog park that you've never tried before. You can choose from Harcourt Dog Park in Strathdale, Truscott Reserve in California Gully, Allingham Street Dog Park in Kangaroo Flat and Heathcote Dog Park in Herriot Street.

life are **FREE!**



HAVE A POTTER

Bendigo Pottery is a great place to visit for its historic setting and unique pottery. You can visit the village of artisans and watch creatives in action, or browse the antique market for retro intrigue while you are there.

CONNECT GREATER BENDIGO

Have you visited the CONNECT Greater Bendigo site? It's a great place to start if you are looking to find and attend local free events run by community clubs. It's also a good way to find a wide range of community clubs, groups and organisations. Visit www.connectgreaterbendigo.com

TRACKS AND TRAILS

The City of Greater Bendigo has around 145 kilometres of bikes/shared paths that are used by people of all ages and abilities for walking, running, cycling, scooting, pushing a pram and dog walking. There are shared paths at Lake Neangar, Lake Tom Thumb, Bendigo Creek Trail, Long Gully Trail, Lake Weeroona, Rosalind Park, Back Creek Trail, O'Keefe Rail Trail, Kennington Reservoir, Mulga Bill Trail, and Crusoe Reservoir and No.7 Park. Please note, no dogs are permitted at Crusoe Reservoir and No.7 Park.

Tracks for hiking or cycling, wildflowers aplenty, and opportunities for bird watching or even a spot of prospecting can be found throughout National Parks and State Forests close to town. The popular O'Keefe Rail Trail is perfect for a scenic walk or bike ride.

TRY OUTDOOR EXERCISE EQUIPMENT

Lake Neangar has new outdoor fitness equipment at the rear of the Eaglehawk Bowls Club, which is free to use including a cross trainer, two exercise bikes and a balance station. There's also permanent outdoor fitness equipment located at Kangaroo Flat near Gateway Park and Long Gully Recreation Reserve.

TRASH OR TREASURE?

If you've never been to the Eaglehawk Recycling Centre or the transfer stations at Heathcote, Goornong or Strathfieldsaye, it's worth a visit to get an idea of what's available at considerably low prices.



IT'S TULIP TIME!

Bendigo is starting to bloom with over 53,000 tulips varieties featured in magnificent displays at Rosalind Park located in the Conservatory Gardens, Queen Victoria Gardens, Civic Gardens and Pall Mall area. There will be smaller displays at Eaglehawk's Canterbury Park and the Bendigo Botanic Gardens at White Hills. Keep an eye out for a surprise display in the Conservatory Gardens that you will love and more

free events included in the City's Bloom spring campaign. The City's Parks and Open staff have planted 25 varieties, so discover your favourite flower and colour!

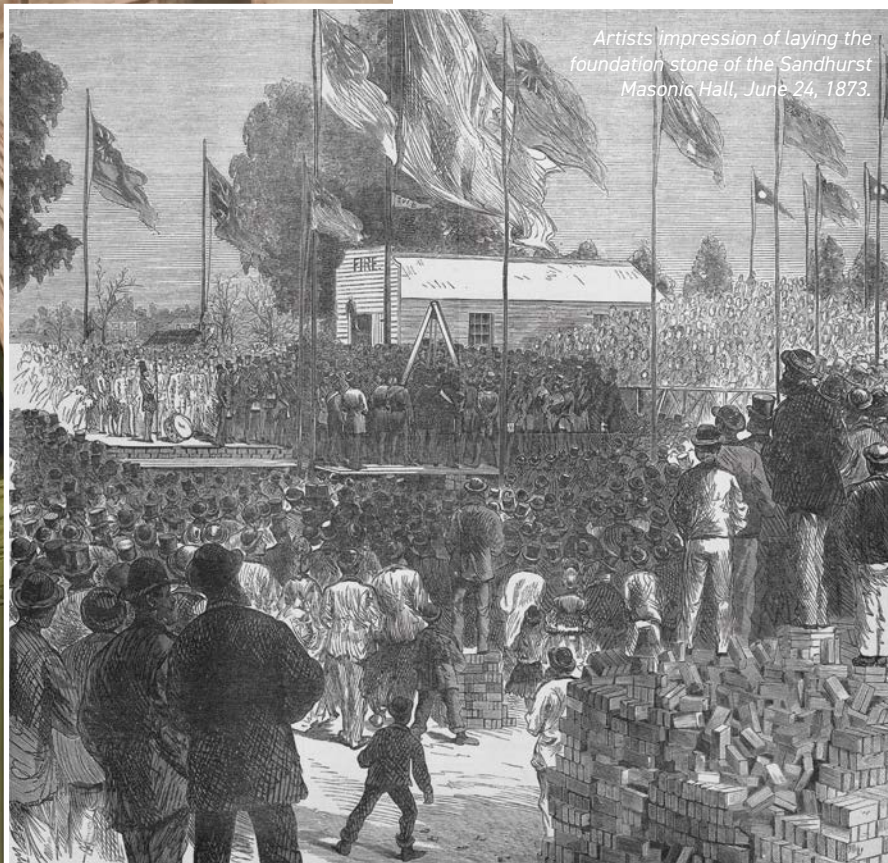
While you're in Rosalind Park, don't forget to visit The Conservatory for more blooms. Built in 1897, this building has enduring appeal with stunning floral displays. If you're feeling energetic, climb the Poppet Head and take in a great view of the city.



Happy birthday to The Capital!

With its 10 metre Corinthian-inspired pillars and striking ornate features, The Capital stands grand and proud on View Street. Despite experiencing many changes and internal alterations during its 150-year history, this magnificent heritage-listed building remains a much-loved and significant venue in our cultural and heritage landscape.





Originally built as a Masonic Hall, The Capital is one of the most distinctive architectural landmarks funded by gold-rush money. The masterminds behind the iconic design were none other than prolific architects William Vahland and Robert Getzschmann, who made their mark designing several of the city's significant landmarks.

On June 24, 1873 the foundation stone was laid with pomp and ceremony, watched on by an excited 300-strong crowd. Construction moved at a cracking pace and 17 months later the stunning Sandhurst Masonic Hall opened on October 22, 1874.

**"It was proclaimed
the finest Masonic Hall
in Australia."**

One hundred and fifty years later, the building retains all the charm of the Victorian era. The main building frontage extends 60 metres along View Street with its bluestone steps and a façade rising 20 metres above the street. The six fluted columns are decorated with an ornate frieze and cornices, and topped with pediments with decorative moulded coping. They are copies of the Temple of Jupiter Stator in the Campo Vacino in Rome, Italy.

Bendigo Venues & Events Manager Julie Amos said The Capital was the envy of other cities.

"It was proclaimed the finest Masonic Hall in Australia and one of the largest, only surpassed in Victoria in size by the Melbourne Town Hall. Downstairs there was a tavern and upstairs was a dining hall, library and

ballroom where operas, plays, lectures, recitals and balls were held. Later, silent movies were screened there," Ms Amos said.

The 1890s, a time many considered to be the golden years of live theatre in Bendigo, saw the building undergo major refurbishments. The ballroom was converted to a proscenium arch theatre to meet the community's insatiable appetite for live entertainment and staged performances. Originally called the Masonic Hall Theatre, the larger stage and dressing rooms were a welcome addition.

Consensus grew for a Regional Arts Centre

The advent of TV, cinema and other entertainment, coupled with The Capital's increased maintenance costs, finally led to its closure in the late 1970s after almost a century of staging opera, drama and dance. The 1980s brought disagreements and political wranglings on the future of the building. Other theatres from the golden age had already gone, including Vahland's stunning Princess Theatre nearby. A community campaign to save the theatre became strong and vocal. The Borough of Eaglehawk agreed to purchase The Capital and worked with Strathfieldsaye and Marong Shires on a Regional Arts Centre complex. The City of Bendigo took longer to be convinced, due to concerns about the costs of restoration and ongoing maintenance, but finally agreed. The community voice won the day and The Capital was saved.

Financial support finally came at the state and local level, with private and public subscriptions and overwhelming community support. Renovations, costing around \$6M, started in 1988 in two stages and The Capital was fully restored with a significantly upgraded auditorium seating 500. The building was officially reopened by former premier, The Hon. Mrs Joan Kirner on April 26, 1991 as the Bendigo Regional Arts Centre.



The re-opening in April 1991. Left is former premier, The Hon. Mrs Joan Kirner. Second from right is then Borough of Eaglehawk Mayor Cr Willi Carney (Chairperson – Arts Centre Board).



In 2004 the building was briefly closed to make improvements to backstage facilities, lay new carpet, replace the theatre seating, convert the Masonic Lodge room into a theatre and paint the interior.

From 2008 to 2010, the basement was restored, air conditioning was upgraded, façade restoration took place, a new passenger lift for the theatre was installed and a fire detection system was introduced.

In the 2023/2024 financial year works have been scheduled to repair the roof in the portico, address rising damp in the basement, replace the carpets and paint the interior of the building. Repairing the historic slate roof and portico are also part of a renewal program.

Thanks to a passionate community, live theatre continues to flourish at The Capital. Audiences enjoy over 200 performances each year, with thousands of theatre troupes, school groups, touring acts, one-off performances and speakers gracing the stage.

Ms Amos said The Capital was an important slice of Bendigo's living history, celebrating its past, present and future.

"The Capital may have been built in a very different time but it has an important place in central Victoria's social and cultural landscape. Its incredible contribution to our visitor economy, our arts culture, our

heritage and our history cannot be underestimated, and we all play a part in keeping and enjoying this beautiful building by supporting the arts and performances. As an important asset for the region, the City of Greater Bendigo continues to invest and maintain this magnificent heritage-listed building for future generations to enjoy," she said.



Image courtesy of Antique Post Cards Facebook group.

16-month long celebrations for the iconic building

A special Gala Dinner was held in June to mark 150 years since the first foundation stone was laid. More celebrations for The Capital's 150th anniversary are being planned over coming months. The building showcased a textile exhibition by Dawn Duncan-Smith in June and July celebrating the people behind the building. There are decals in the front windows of W. C. Vahland, a historical recount of the laying of the foundation stone and an artist's impression of the building's frontage. There's

also a display of memorabilia in the foyer and even a large LEGO model of the building.

Carriageway projections on the side of The Capital building capture the many faces of The Capital, from its jubilant opening days, use as a community theatre, near miss for demolition and resurrection as a cultural hub. A community concert is being planned for October 2024 to celebrate the milestone opening in 1874.

Have you experienced The Capital?

Entering through the towering Corinthian columns and taking a seat in The Capital's beautiful theatre is a unique experience. Enjoying a fantastic live performance in one of Bendigo's most treasured and magical places is one for your bucket list. Head to www.bendigoregion.com.au/arts-culture-theatres



New artwork at The Capital to mark its 150th birthday

First Nations artist Daikota Nelson has been commissioned to create a new artwork that will have a prominent and permanent place in the foyer at The Capital.

The artist is developing the new commission, which will be unveiled at the end of 2023.

Manager Bendigo Venues & Events Julie Amos said a priority action in the Greater CREATIVE Bendigo Strategy was to support

First Nations artists and culture, and this high profile commission was one of many City of Greater Bendigo initiatives to support our commitment to reconciliation.

"Huge congratulations to Daikota Nelson for her concept, which blew the judges away as a landmark piece to celebrate The Capital's 150th anniversary milestone," Ms Amos said.

"The concept encapsulates First Nations storytelling, culture and Country, the history of the area and knowledge of The Capital's history.

"Ms Nelson's work will have permanent pride of place in a prominent position as you enter The Capital, so this will be a celebrated focal point for all visitors to the building to see, talk about and admire.

Fun facts

- In 1912 the theatre was leased to West's Pictures and operated as a cinema
- Bendigo's operatic superstar Amy Eliza Castles performed *Waltz Song* from *Romeo and Juliet* in 1897 as a 17-year-old from St Mary's College. She went on to tour the world and 20,000 people attended a concert in Melbourne to see her
- The Bendigo Operatic Society, now operating as Bendigo Theatre Company, made The Capital its home in 1952 and has staged performances in the building for more than 70 years
- Names of community members who sponsored a seat in the theatre to help to save The Capital in the 1980s can be seen on the wall of the staircase. Early campaigners included Willi Carney, Marilyn Wallace and David Wright, Les Thurrowgood, Reg McDonald, Dawn and Bob Colbourne, and many others adding support along the way
- During the campaign to save The Capital a cartoon series by Ian Glanville appeared in the *Bendigo Advertiser* featuring larger-than-life personalities of the day



- To mark the occasion of the building re-opening in 1991, a community production involving a cast of 60 performed *Golden Journey* as a cavalcade of musical numbers, dramatic scenes and comic skits about the history and growth of Bendigo (pictured above)
- A fire broke out on stage in 1955 when a stage curtain caught fire from spotlights
- Rare Sandhurst drink bottles were discovered under the floorboards when new heaters were being installed in 1968
- Originally called the Sandhurst Masonic Hall, it was renamed the New Britannia in 1912 and then The Capital in the 1930s. It became known as Bendigo Regional Arts Centre and the Bendigo Performing Arts Centre for a short time in the 1980s, before going back to The Capital **gb**



Keepsake book

A beautiful keepsake book to celebrate the building's special milestone is available. It features archive photos capturing the colourful history of this iconic and illustrious theatre in Bendigo. www.bendigoregion.com.au/arts-culture-theatres/capital-150



"The main theme for the proposed artwork depicts growth, acknowledging years of knowledge and sharing stories.

"It will be a striking contemporary artwork with a depiction of the rings of a tree to illustrate the passing of time."

Ms Nelson said her passion for art started young.

"I have always had an interest in art, growing up my passion has only increased. I am inspired by natural landscapes and storytelling traditions, native flora and fauna, and the land we stand upon. My artwork tells a unique story for old and young generations," she said. **gb**

Right: City of Greater Bendigo Mayor Cr Andrea Metcalf and artist Daikota Nelson.



Uncle Jack's life celebrated and remembered

A young local artist's portrait of the much-loved, late Elder Uncle Jack Charles has a new home at Ulumbarra Theatre.

The artwork celebrates Uncle Jack's life as an actor, musician and activist, and was created by a former Bendigo Senior Secondary College (BSSC) student and emerging First Nations artist Keira Long.

Bendigo Venues & Events Coordinator Creative Communities Maree Tonkin said the bold artwork honoured the much-loved First Nations Elder from Boon Wurrung, Dja Dja Wurrung and Woiwurrung Country.

"The artwork will be on display at Ulumbarra to celebrate the late Uncle Jack Charles, who enjoyed a prolific career in the performing arts and was highly respected for his work in the community as an Elder and activist," Ms Tonkin said.

"Uncle Jack also played an important role at the opening of Ulumbarra in 2015, where he captivated the audience talking about Dja Dja Wurrung history.

"This artwork has so many synergies with Ulumbarra and it was an opportunity to profile a young First Nations artist who also enjoys a connection to Ulumbarra as a former student at BSSC."

Wiradjuri artist Ms Long said Uncle Jack was an inspiration.

"The artwork reflects the essence and purpose of a strong Elder who represented our community, Country and people throughout his life, and still continues to shine among all Elders," Ms Long said.

"The bright colours in the background and the clothing represent Uncle's quirky and outgoing personality, and the red and yellows throughout his beard represent the soil and mother nature's sun from the Aboriginal flag. The Aboriginal symbol on the border represents the journey Uncle has gone through and continues to throughout dreamtime."

A new billboard featuring a copy of the Uncle Jack portrait can also be seen at the back of The Capital, following approval from Heritage Victoria in 2022. The billboard's purpose is to create additional exhibition space to showcase and support local creatives.

The City purchased the artwork from Ms Long and paid \$2,000. **gb**

UNCLE JACK'S LEGACY

Uncle Jack enjoyed an illustrious and long acting career on stage, film and TV, and is best known for films such as *The Chant of Jimmie Blacksmith*, *Bedevel*, *Blackfellas*, *Tom White*, *Pan* and *Cleverman*.

The performer and activist was part of the stolen generations, and endured many personal challenges as a young child that led to addiction, homelessness and time in jail. As a reformed man, Uncle Jack became a respected Elder across Victoria for his work as a mentor for Aboriginal youth in the prison system and youth detention centres.

Wiradjuri artist Ms Long said Uncle Jack was an inspiration.



Coordinator Creative Communities Maree Tonkin, Arts Officer First Nations Janet Bromley, Artist Keira Long and Manager Bendigo Venues & Events Julie Amos.

Bendigo and Heathcote both win silver in the Victorian Top Tourism Town Awards

Bendigo and Heathcote both won silver awards at the 2023 TAC Victorian Top Tourism Town Awards held in July.

Bendigo was awarded silver in the Top Tourism Town category in recognition of its heritage architecture, beautiful parks and gardens, and its many attractions including the Great Stupa and Bendigo Art Gallery.

Heathcote received silver in the Top Small Tourism Town category for its stunning natural landscape, boutique wineries, walking and cycling trails.

Mayor Cr Andrea Metcalf said the awards acknowledged Greater Bendigo's incredible offerings for visitors.

"This is a fantastic endorsement for all those who contribute to Greater Bendigo's strong reputation as a must-see destination."

"I am absolutely delighted that people have found Bendigo and Heathcote to be such wonderful and memorable places to visit," Cr Metcalf said.

"This is a fantastic endorsement for all those who contribute to Greater Bendigo's strong reputation as a must-see destination.

"We have a passionate and hard working tourism industry, including attractions, accommodation, retail and hospitality providers that are proud to offer unique experiences and service for visitors of all ages and interests.

"Tourism is vital for our local economy because it supports a diverse range of businesses, generates job opportunities and keeps the spend local."

The awards from the Victoria Tourism Industry Council also provided the opportunity for the public to vote for their favourite Victorian destinations, with votes counted towards the final scores. The awards had 17 towns from across Victoria in the finals.



Pictured in the back row (left to right): Manager Tourism and Major Events Terry Karamaloudis, Marketing Manager Glenn Harvey, Digital Marketing Officer Izabelle So. Front row (left to right): Visitor Experience Officer Merryn White, Business Events Coordinator Jacqui Trimby, Coordinator Heathcote Visitor Centre Janet Wicks, and Industry and Marketing Sales Officer Melissa Jensen.

It has been a huge year for arts and culture in the region, with exclusive exhibitions including *Australiana: Designing a Nation*, and *The Australian Women's Weekly: 90 years of an Australian Icon* at Bendigo Art Gallery.

Bendigo received rave reviews for being the first regional centre in Australia to stage Richard Wagner's famous opera, the *Ring Cycle*, three times over six weeks at Ulumbarra Theatre attracting visitors from across Australia and abroad.

In 2022, Bendigo won gold in the Top Tourism Town category and Heathcote won bronze in the Top Small Tourism Town Award category.

Bendigo went on to win silver nationally at the Australian Tourism Town Awards.

This is the third year in a row that both Bendigo and Heathcote have reached the finals. **gb**





Essays on Earth – artists share their love of the natural world

Bendigo Art Gallery exhibition *Essays on Earth* unites leading regional artists Brodie Ellis and John Wolseley and poet Paul Kane AM, and celebrates nature by having the artists' work reflect and complement Kane's recent essay series titled *Earth, Air, Water, Fire* (2022).

A highlight of the exhibition is painter and printmaker Wolseley's large-scale panoramic painting *Distant glimpses of the great floodplain seen through a veil of trees and hanging vines* (2017), which stretches almost 10 metres in length and depicts the fertile landscape, bush foods and unique flora of East Arnhem Land.

Alongside works by Wolseley are sculptural field studies by Ellis cast in bronze and impressed into clay.

Details of each artist's works also feature in an expansive video installation, which debuted at the Castlemaine State Festival earlier this year and is at the heart of the exhibition.

Bendigo Art Gallery Director Jessica Bridgfoot said she was excited to bring together the work of these revered local artists at Bendigo Art Gallery.

Details of each artist's works also feature in an expansive video installation.

"This collaborative exhibition is a mesmerising presentation of everything we have come to admire about these artists, including their deep appreciation for the natural world. The exhibition invites us to slow down and take notice of things that are often overlooked and contemplate the beauty and mysteries of the natural world and our place within it," Ms Bridgfoot said.

Essays on Earth is open from September 9, 2023 - January 14, 2024. **gb**

Image credit: John Wolseley, *The life of inland waters - Durabudboi river* 2015 – 18, watercolour, graphite, woodcut on paper. Courtesy of the artist.

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Unsure what ward you live in?
Visit www.bendigo.vic.gov.au/aboutgreaterbendigo



BENDIGO ANNUAL TULIP DISPLAY

The City of Greater Bendigo puts on a great annual tulip display along Pall Mall and the Conservatory Gardens. The display features more than 50,000 tulips in an assortment of colours, sizes and blooming times.

Mid-September to mid-October / Rosalind Park / bendigotourism.com



HEATHCOTE WINE AND FOOD FESTIVAL

The festival is your chance to be among the first to sample new release wines from the Heathcote region and learn more about wines that have recently achieved success in international and national awards.

October 7-8 / Heathcote Agricultural Showgrounds / www.heathcotewinegrowers.com.au



VEGECAREIAN FESTIVAL

Held annually, this free, fun, family-friendly event is all about loving food, loving animals and loving life. There will be food stalls, cooking demos, animal blessings, kids activities and more.

October 14 / The Great Stupa of Universal Compassion / bendigotourism.com



BENDIGO WINE WEEK

Bendigo Wine Week will be held from October 13-21. It features a range of regional wine activities across the Greater Bendigo region.

October 13-21 / Various locations in Bendigo / bendigotourism.com

WHAT'S ON



BANGARRA DANCE THEATRE – YULDEA

Yuldea awakens the earth and sky worlds to tell the story of the Anangu people of the Great Victorian Desert.

Yuldea explores the moment traditional life collided with the industrial ambition of a growing nation.

October 13-14 / Ulumbarra Theatre / gotix.com.au



DAVID SCHEEL – DON'T SHOOT ME, I'M ONLY THE PIANO PLAYER

This is a hilarious send-up of classical music, which has Australian pianist David Scheel as the successor to the legendary Victor Borge. Beautiful music and musical fun performed in so many accents/voices.

October 30 / The Capital / gotix.com.au



AN EVENING WITH THE MSO – BEETHOVEN 5

A brilliant concert for newcomers and classical buffs alike, Benjamin Northey conducts this program featuring the lush beauty of Respighi, the thrilling brass of Shostakovich, and the extraordinary talent of two Australian greats – Amy Dickson and Matthew Hindson.

November 4 / Ulumbarra Theatre / gotix.com.au



CELEBRATE IT'S A CAPITAL CHRISTMAS

To wind up a fantastic year of matinee shows at The Capital, Promac Productions Australia Company, led by star tenor Roy Best and compère funny man Chris McKenna, will bring their highly acclaimed Christmas production to Bendigo.

December 1 / The Capital / gotix.com.au

SEP - NOV 2023

#ExploreBendigo f i y

BENDIGO

BLOOM

COME BE INSPIRED

Celebrate over 50 events and experiences this Spring including our annual 53,000 tulips and gardens on display. Experience Bendigo's performing arts, gallery exhibitions and indulge in food and wine events that celebrate Australia's UNESCO City and Region of Gastronomy.

BENDIGOTOURISM.COM

