

gb

Play it cool!

Ewing Park - something
for everyone

FEAST outdoors

SUMMER | 2023-2024





CONTENTS

NEWS

- 4 Farewell to the City
- 5 Andrew Cooney to lead next chapter
New Director to guide future growth
- 6 Ewing Park - something for everyone!

ACTIVE AND HEALTHY

- 8 This summer keep cool at a local pool
- 9 Play it cool!
- 10 Enjoy a day at Lake Eppalock
- 11 Discover Crusoe Res this summer!

BUSINESS

- 12 More people, more often - new plan to transform
Hargreaves Mall

SERVICES

- 13 New kindergarten for Marong
- 14 Dogs to be walked on-leash from January 2024
- 15 24-hour cat containment coming in July 2024
- 16 Keep pets safe from snake bite this summer!
- 17 New look for City website
What's in the works?
- 18 Protecting our glorious Town Hall
- 19 Weekly organics and fortnightly waste collections
to start in February 2024
- 20 Conserving and restoring a home with heritage
significance
- 22 Go on a StoryWalk adventure!

COMMUNITY

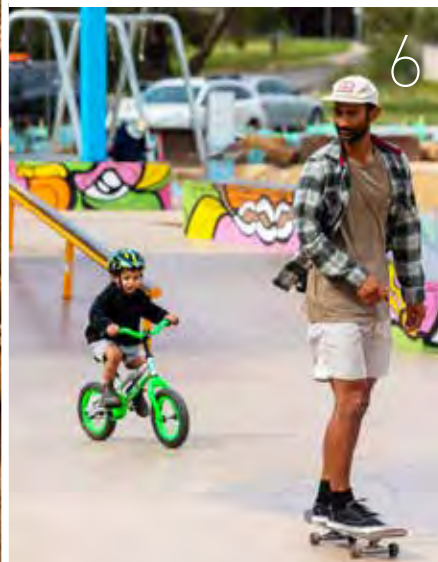
- 23 Where to go as a last resort when bushfire
threatens
Who's not here? Introducing equity impact
assessments

LIFESTYLE

- 24 Feast your eyes on Uniquely Bendigo
- 26 Pick the perfect spot!
- 27 *PICNIC* - a celebration of gathering in the great
outdoors!
- 28 Must see experiences on your doorstep
- 30 Head to the markets
- 31 *Strength in Stories: This is what we do*
- 32 Summer in the Parks
- 33 Create Lab videos unveiled on the big screen
- 34 *Marikit Santiago: The Kingdom, The Power*
- 35 What's on



ON THE COVER: Discover delicious ideas for your outdoor feast on page 24.





WELCOME FROM THE MAYOR

I am delighted to congratulate Andrew Cooney on being named the City of Greater Bendigo's new Chief Executive Officer.

Council undertook a thorough and extensive search to find a new leader, and was very impressed by Andrew's application and vision for the organisation and community.

Outgoing CEO Craig Niemann will hand over the reigns in mid-December and finish after 16 years as CEO and two years as a director prior to that.

Throughout this time, Craig has been a trusted and respected leader and passionate advocate for Greater Bendigo. He has been an outstanding CEO and on behalf of Council, I sincerely thank him for his commitment to our community and wish him the very best.

It is a great honour to return as Mayor for the final year of this Council term.

There's a few things I would like to see delivered or under way by the time Council signs off in October 2024. In particular, I hope we have welcomed some new businesses to Hargreaves Mall and introduced new landscaping (read more about our plans for the

Mall on page 12), and that we can celebrate the opening of the redeveloped Municipal Baths site on Barnard Street.

I also look forward to seeing construction start at the Bendigo Stadium, Bendigo Bowls Club and Bendigo Showgrounds, all sites that were due to host competition as part of the cancelled Victoria 2026 Commonwealth Games. The Victorian Government has committed to seeing through planned redevelopments at all three sites.

And regional leadership will continue to be an important focus for the City, particularly our involvement in Regional Cities Victoria and leadership and advocacy to government on behalf of the Loddon Campaspe Group of Councils, comprising the municipalities of Buloke, Campaspe, Central Goldfields, Gannawarra, Greater Bendigo, Hepburn, Loddon, Macedon Ranges and Mount Alexander.

I take this opportunity to wish all our readers a wonderful Christmas. I can't believe it's that time of year again. Please shop local if you can, stay safe and happy new year!

Mayor Cr Andrea Metcalf



CONTACT THE CITY OF GREATER BENDIGO

Main office

189-229 Lyttleton Terrace, Bendigo

Postal

PO Box 733, Bendigo 3552

Telephone

1300 002 642

← NEW NUMBER!

Hearing or speech impaired?

Call via National Relay Service on 133 677

Email

requests@bendigo.vic.gov.au

Website

www.bendigo.vic.gov.au

After hours/emergency number

1300 002 642

Operating hours

8.30am - 4.30pm, Monday to Friday

Follow us    

Want to read this document in an alternative format?

The City is committed to providing documents that are easy to read for all. If you would like to read the magazine in an alternative format e.g. large print, contact Customer Service on 1300 002 642 or requests@bendigo.vic.gov.au



Farewell to the City

The time has come for me to say
goodbye to the City of Greater Bendigo.

I first joined the organisation in 2005 as a director and then became Chief Executive Officer in late 2007. With the support of Councillors, I made the decision to depart at the end of 2023 following the move to Galkangu - Bendigo GovHub, knowing this would be the right time for both me and the organisation to embark on a new chapter.

Local Government is the best level of government when it comes to seeing first-hand the impact you are making in the community.

There have been some incredible projects undertaken that I'm really proud of, that have helped shape our community and set us apart as a regional city - places like Ulumbarra Theatre, Gurri Wanyarra Wellbeing Centre, Bendigo Stadium expansion, Bendigo Airport runway and terminal building, Bendigo Library, Edwards Street car park, Soldiers' Memorial Institute, Canterbury Park, Garden for the Future and Larni Garingilang as part of the Bendigo Botanic Gardens precinct, countless sports pavilions, grounds and courts, and most

recently Galkangu - Bendigo GovHub, a one-stop-shop for State and Local government services in Bendigo. Importantly, these are all places for people!

"I leave the CEO role
hugely satisfied and
proud of what the
organisation and
community have been
able to achieve together."

Internally, we have introduced new systems to help us do our jobs more efficiently for customers, enhanced our role in reconciliation and celebrating Traditional Owner culture, responded to natural disasters and a world-wide pandemic, and built a culture of doing the best work that we can for the community.

Nothing is achieved in isolation and I have been so well supported by a passionate group of staff, committed executive teams, and Councillors who have all shared a common goal of serving and doing our best for the community.

I recently marked 40 years in Local Government, serving across four central Victorian councils in that time. I grew up on a dairy farm and wanted to become a farmer, but my parents encouraged all their kids to go out into the world and try a few things first.

I'm grateful to have had that early guidance from my parents and am so appreciative of my wonderful family for their amazing support throughout my career. I'm not sure what will come next, but I leave the CEO role hugely satisfied and proud of what the organisation and community have been able to achieve together.

Craig Niemann,
Chief Executive Officer



"It is a privilege to be selected as the next Chief Executive Officer."

Andrew Cooney to lead next chapter

Council has appointed Andrew Cooney as the next Chief Executive Officer of the City of Greater Bendigo.

Mayor Cr Andrea Metcalf said Mr Cooney's appointment followed a competitive, external process where his experience and engagement with community shone through.

"Andrew brings a community-focused leadership style, strong advocacy skills, and a commitment to delivering outcomes that support our residents. We are delighted that amongst such a strong field of candidates was someone local who is familiar with Greater Bendigo and all it has to offer," Cr Metcalf said.

"Andrew is well-versed in all areas of the organisation, and his skills in financial management, governance, advocacy and community engagement will ensure Greater Bendigo and the wider region continues to prosper."

Mr Cooney said he was excited by the opportunity to lead the City into its next phase.

"It is a privilege to be selected as the next Chief Executive Officer," Mr Cooney said.

"I am proud to call Greater Bendigo home with my family, and it is very special to have the opportunity to lead the organisation and make a valuable contribution to our local community.

"I am excited by what the future holds, including supporting our plans for the sustainable growth of our region. There are also community-focused projects underway to improve everyday living, including investment in the Bendigo Low Line separated walking/cycling network, Municipal Baths redevelopment, stage one of the Ironbark Gully Trail and the multi-year Strathfieldsaye Town Square project."

Mr Cooney will succeed Craig Niemann, who will depart the City in mid-December. **gb**

New Director to guide future growth

Rachel Lee has joined the City of Greater Bendigo as its new Director Strategy and Growth.

Ms Lee joins the City following roles as Executive Director Regional Integration and Bendigo Delivery at Victoria 2026, as Executive Director Rochester Recovery Taskforce at Emergency Recovery Victoria and as Regional Director at Regional Development Victoria.

She also has previous experience working at the City with roles in tourism, economic development and major projects.

Chief Executive Officer Craig Niemann said Ms Lee brought a wealth of experience managing large and small-scale projects in complex environments.

"Rachel brings strong partnerships with stakeholders, having experience in and collaborating with the various Victorian Government departments that we regularly do business with and whose support we need to deliver for our community," Mr Niemann said.

"Rachel's involvement in regional development provides her with an excellent grounding in the growth that will occur in Greater Bendigo in the coming years and how the City's strategies will drive that growth. We welcome her contribution to shaping the future of our city and region."

Ms Lee is responsible for the Bendigo Art Gallery, Bendigo Venues & Events, Economic Development, Statutory Planning, Strategic Planning, and Tourism and Major Events units. **gb**





EWING PARK

- SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!

Have you checked out the redeveloped Ewing Park yet? Well, do yourself a favour and visit soon because there really is something for everyone!

If you're looking for a place to take the family for a fun day out, a place to exercise outdoors, go skating, cycling, running, walking, or a place to relax, enjoy and watch the world go by, then Ewing Park is definitely the destination for you.

Over the past few years, Ewing Park has undergone a major \$4.97M transformation into a multipurpose community and sporting precinct that provides many recreation opportunities for people of all ages, cultures and abilities who want to spend time at a great park or who want to be more active.

The \$1.6M first stage of the project was completed in 2020. This stage included construction of a new oval with irrigation system, AFL-standard LED competition lights and a dual lane, synthetic walking/running track and picket fence around the perimeter of the oval.

The recently completed \$3.37M second stage has included:

- District-level skate park complete with mini bowl, ledges, quarter pipe, flat bar, eurogap, down rail, hubbas and stairs, along with a shade shelter, seating and drinking fountain
- Learn-to-ride park and playspace featuring a roundabout, pedestrian crossings, speed humps, different surfaces to practice on, natural and built play equipment, shade and seating
- Cycling trail hub shelter with repair station
- Parkland areas with walking paths, barbecue facilities, seating, drinking fountain, landscaping and tree planting
- Toilet block with accessible, unisex cubicles
- Boulderling/climbing wall and rebound wall
- Outdoor fitness equipment
- Picnic/viewing area and seating zones
- New car parks in Havlin Street West and Harcourt Street



Eppalock Ward's Cr Margaret O'Rourke said the City of Greater Bendigo, in partnership with the Victorian Government, had made a significant investment in Ewing Park.

"Ewing Park is bordered by Brougham Street, Williamson Street, Harcourt Street and Havlin Street West, and is home to the United Cricket Club, Sandhurst Junior Football Club and St Therese's Junior Football Club," Cr O'Rourke said.

"It's within walking distance to the city centre and is easily accessed from the popular Bendigo Back Creek Walking and Cycling Trail, making it very accessible off-road for many residents if they use the existing connecting cycling and walking trails.

"There are now so many great things for people of all ages and abilities to enjoy at the park, and I think it will become a much-loved destination for both residents and visitors for many years to come.

"When people discover Ewing Park and all that it offers, I'm sure they will return again and again."

The \$4.97M redevelopment has been a partnership project funded by the Victorian Government (\$2.89M) and the City (\$2.08M). **gb**



Cr Margaret O'Rourke tries out the new bike path.

"There are now so many great things for people of all ages and abilities to enjoy at the park."



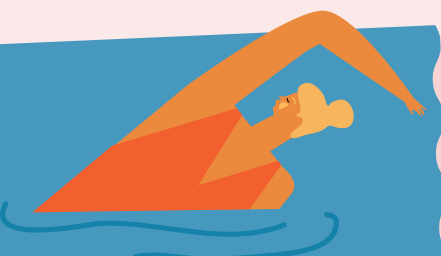
DID YOU KNOW?

Originally called the Williamson Street Reserve, Ewing Park was renamed in 1926 after former Bendigo Mayor, William Ewing, in recognition of his service to the city.

Mr Ewing served as a councillor from 1920 to 1928 and was Mayor in 1925. He passed away aged 72 in 1948 at his Williamson Street home.

THIS SUMMER KEEP COOL AT A LOCAL POOL

It's summer and pools across Greater Bendigo are opening for the 2023/2024 season.





With nine outdoor swimming pools, two indoor pools and one splash park, there is plenty of choice for those looking for somewhere to cool down, keep fit or just enjoy a day out with the family in Greater Bendigo.

For more information or to find a pool that's right for you, visit www.bendigo.vic.gov.au 



Local aquatic facilities to check out this summer include:

BENDIGO EAST SWIMMING POOL

 33 Lansell Street, East Bendigo
 5443 7078



Facilities: 50m, intermediate and toddler pools, barbecue and picnic areas, kiosk and off-street parking

BRENNAN PARK SWIMMING POOL

 Brennan Park Pool Road, Flora Hill
 5443 9407



Facilities: 50m (solar heated with accessible ramp), intermediate, toddler and diving pools, barbecue, kiosk and off-street parking

ELMORE SWIMMING POOL

 4 Elmore-Raywood Road, Elmore
 0477 196 840



Facilities: 25m and toddler pools, water slide, barbecue and off-street parking

FAITH LEECH AQUATIC CENTRE

 168 Barnard Street, Bendigo
 5443 6151



Facilities: 50m (heated with accessible chair lift), intermediate (with accessible ramp), toddler and diving pools, water slide, café, barbecue and al fresco dining area

GOLDEN SQUARE POOL

 14 Maple Street, Golden Square
 0401 804 701



Facilities: 50m, learner/intermediate and toddler pools, shade, kiosk and barbecue

GURRI WANYARRA WELLBEING CENTRE

 Browning Street, Kangaroo Flat
 4431 1000



Facilities: 51.5m heated pool (with moveable boom to create two 25m pools), beach-entry leisure pool for toddlers, children and family swimming, splash park, warm water program pool and spa facilities, steam room, sauna, gymnasium and group fitness rooms, childcare and multipurpose room, health and wellness centre and café (all pools are fully accessible)

GOORNONG SWIMMING POOL

 2 Bagshot Street, Goornong
 5432 2368



Facilities: 25m and toddler pools, barbecue, shade and kiosk

HEATHCOTE SWIMMING POOL

 10 Barrack Street, Heathcote
 5433 2223



Facilities: 25m and toddler pools (solar heated), shade and kiosk

MARONG SWIMMING POOL

 High Street, Marong
 5435 2207



Facilities: 25m and toddler pools, shade and kiosk

PETER KRENZ LEISURE CENTRE

 15 Napier Street, Eaglehawk
 5446 9222

Facilities: 50m heated, multi-use and toddler pools, water slide, spa and sauna, gymnasium and group fitness rooms, family change rooms and café

WHITE HILLS SWIMMING POOL

 30 Hamelin Street, White Hills
 5448 4295

Facilities: 33m and toddler pools, shade and kiosk



PLAY IT COOL!

Lake Weeroona
playspace.

If you are looking for ways to keep the kids cool for free, we've got you covered with the Long Gully Splash Park and the Lake Weeroona and Strathdale Park playspaces, all offering hours of splashy fun and water play.

Kids simply love the gold rush-themed Long Gully Splash Park, located at 21 Cunneen Street. This family-friendly and accessible, zero-depth water park is open daily from 9am to 8pm, and features a range of activated water equipment, fountains and sprays, shaded seating area, picnic tables, barbecues, toilets and change room, and extra all-season dry play areas.

The splash park has touch pads at each end of the splash pad to activate the equipment, which runs in 16 different cycles for four minutes before needing to be touched again.

Another cooling option is the fully fenced Lake Weeroona playspace, complete with seating and viewing access for families and carers. This new playspace features loads of play equipment along with a shaded water play area complete with a turtle water pump fountain to create streams that can be trapped with a number of water gates.

The popular Strathdale Park playspace, near the corner of McIvor Highway and Crook Street, also offers a water play area complete with a water play table, water tipping bowl and two channels with weirs to trap and release water, providing loads of fun for little ones. Partially shaded by trees and fenced, this playspace also has a wide variety of other play equipment for children of all ages and abilities.

So, why not pack up the family and play it cool this summer! **gb**



Long Gully Splash Park.

ENJOY A
DAY AT

LAKE EPPALOCK

Lake Eppalock is a great spot with plenty of recreational opportunities for both locals and visitors to spend time at this summer!

As a family-friendly water playground for all ages, the lake offers lots of great things to do such as swimming, waterskiing, fishing, boating, sailing, bushwalking, birdwatching, barbecues and picnics.

Built between 1960 and 1964 to supply water for irrigation to Bendigo, Lake Eppalock is the seventh largest lake in Victoria, covering more than 3,000 hectares and holding more than 304,000 megalitres of water when full.

Lake Eppalock also boasts facilities to suit every visitor, including four caravan parks, picnic areas with play equipment, electric barbecues, public toilets, large grassed areas and boat ramps.

For those who like to fish, the lake has a good balance of deep and shallow water, and is home to a healthy mix of Golden Perch, Redfin, Murray Cod and Trout.

Lake Eppalock is managed by Goulburn Murray Water and is an easy 30-40 minute drive from Bendigo via the Mclvor Highway or Strathfieldsaye Road, and a 15-20 minute drive from Heathcote.

For more information visit www.g-mwater.com.au **gb**

The City of Greater Bendigo wishes you and your family a joyful festive season and a happy and healthy 2024.

Merry
Christmas

www.bendigo.vic.gov.au





Discover Crusoe Res this summer!

Crusoe Reservoir is one of Greater Bendigo's best-kept secrets that you need to discover this summer.

Set in an area of 210 hectares surrounded by the Greater Bendigo National Park, Crusoe Reservoir is a terrific destination for swimming, non-powered boating, cycling, walking, jogging, fishing and bird watching.

The area is dominated by box ironbark forest ecology and when you visit, you'll see many examples of revegetation and habitat restoration works, such as frog ponds, storm water harvesting, nest box installations and native grass lawns.

A great place to cool off with a swim, Crusoe Reservoir features a wooden platform on the shoreline and an island pontoon further out in the water with ladders and plenty of space to dive from or just relax on.



If boating is your thing, non-powered boats, canoes, kayaks and sailboats are all permitted on the reservoir.

Or if you are a keen angler, it's a great spot to fish for native species with plenty of space along the dam wall and around the shoreline to set up a camp chair and settle in for a few hours of fishing.

For those who enjoy a walk or cycle, there is a 3.3km scenic circuit walk around the reservoir where you can enjoy a mixture of bushland and water views. The gravel track is wide, well-formed and accessible by walkers, cyclists, prams and wheelchairs. You can also walk across to the nearby No 7 Reservoir via a 1.7km walking track, which connects the two areas.

Grab a group of friends and head to Crusoe Reservoir this summer! **gb**

GETTING THERE

The main entrance is located off Furness Street, Kangaroo Flat. Turn at Harvey Norman when accessing from the Calder Highway.

AVAILABLE FACILITIES

Car parking, accessible toilets, picnic tables and seating.

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

- No dogs allowed
- No littering (anything you bring in with you must be taken home with you)
- No prospecting
- No camping or fires
- No motorcycles
- No RC boating
- No power boating

More people, more often – new plan to transform Hargreaves Mall

A goal of three years has been set to transform the Hargreaves Mall and broader city centre, to attract more people, more often.

The new Hargreaves Mall Action Plan 2023-2026 aims to propel business attraction and ensure the city centre, particularly Hargreaves Mall, again becomes a destination of choice for businesses, residents and visitors.

Mayor Cr Andrea Metcalf said a more direct approach was needed to create a more vibrant and inviting city centre.

"Traditionally, the City of Greater Bendigo's role in the context of Hargreaves Mall and the city centre is the maintenance and appearance of public areas. It does not own any shops and has no say on which businesses landlords lease their shops to," Cr Metcalf said.

"However, Council repeatedly hears complaints about the city centre. There is no one 'silver bullet' solution but the adopted plan's multi-pronged approach provides renewed guidance on making improvements.

"Where there are people en-masse shopping, dining out or attending events, we don't see anti-social behaviour occurring. Hargreaves Mall is the perfect space to

accommodate lots of people, it has a big screen, the necessary equipment for people to run a PA system or for a band to play, and is blocked off to traffic so people can move around safely.

"Once a road is reintroduced, there is no changing it back. Consistently there are calls to put a road through the Mall but this won't fix the current problems if we don't have the right balance of retail, hospitality and entertainment on offer that sets the city centre up as a destination of choice.

"In three years' time, if there has been no shift in how the city centre presents and after a sustained effort to create positive change, then I expect Council will need to engage with the community about what further action and more permanent change may look like." **gb**

There are lots of Christmas and summer school holiday activities planned for Hargreaves Mall. To know what's happening and when, keep an eye on the City's Facebook page - www.facebook.com/CityofGreaterBendigo

Key features of the plan include:

- Remove pop up park and replace with new landscaped area including shade trees, seating and tables
- Increase cleaning services in Hargreaves Mall
- Increase funding for the activation of public spaces to enable more events to be held to attract people into the city centre
- Engage a specialist Business Attraction Broker to identify gaps in the retail and hospitality sector, and then target specific businesses
- Restart a targeted Expression of Interest process for micro tenancy activation of the two repurposed lantern structures in Hargreaves Mall
- Establish formal city centre stakeholder groups to work collaboratively to focus on social issues
- Reconfigure elements of the bus waiting facility in Hargreaves Mall to continue to offer seating but focus the visual connection to Mitchell Street
- Continue to advocate for reinstating three bus stops along Mitchell Street to reduce clustering in a single location

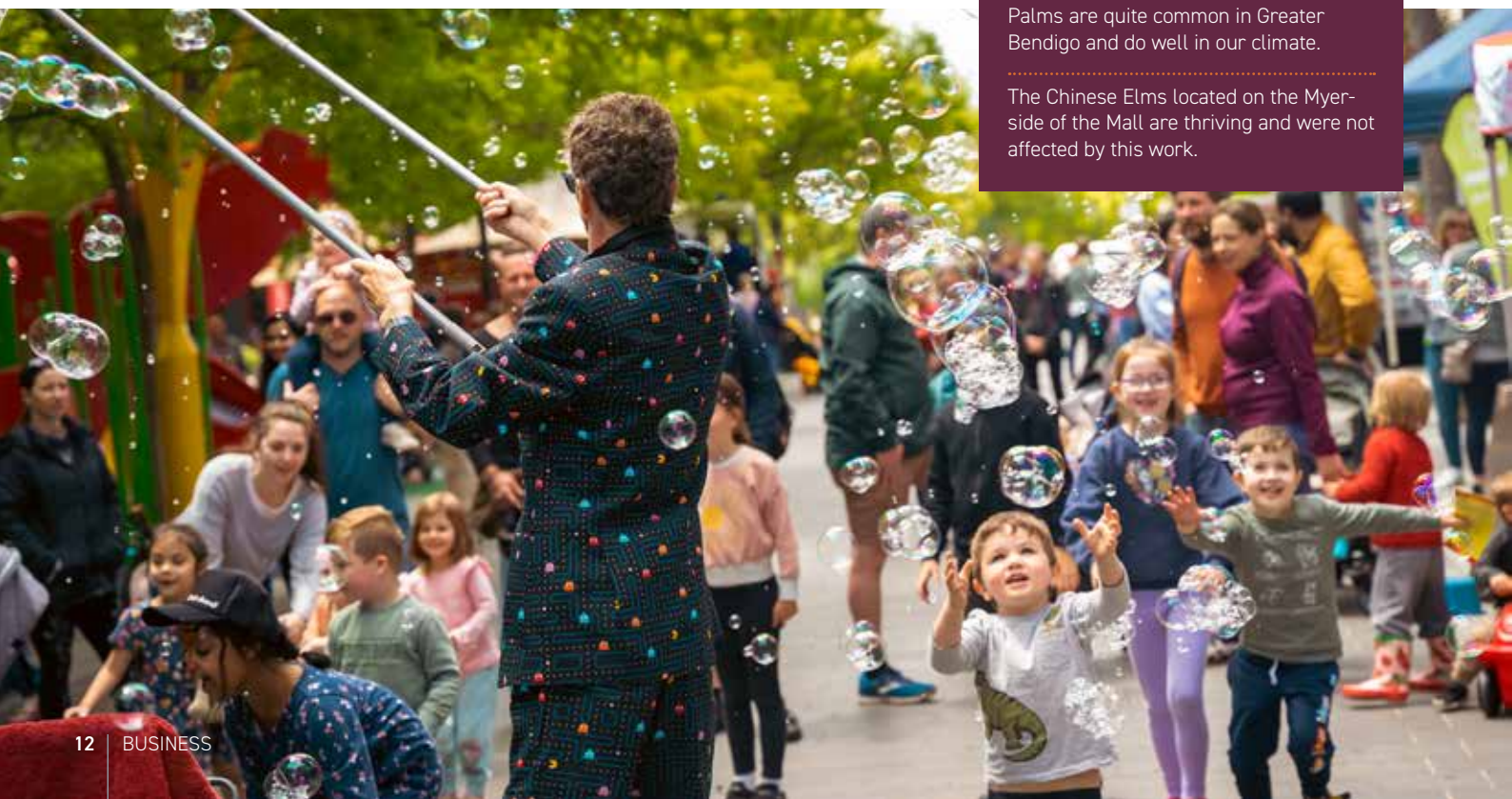
New trees for the Mall

Hargreaves Mall is home to 11 new Cotton Palms, following the removal of the Kauri Pines on the Killians Walk-side.

The Kauri Pines were replaced because they were rootbound and causing damage to the pavement.

Palms are quite common in Greater Bendigo and do well in our climate.

The Chinese Elms located on the Myer-side of the Mall are thriving and were not affected by this work.





New kindergarten for Marong

The City of Greater Bendigo has welcomed \$5.5M in funding from the Victorian Government to deliver a new kindergarten for Marong.

The new kinder will help respond to unmet demand for three and four-year-old kindergarten places in the region by providing a 99-place kinder.

The new building will be designed using environmentally sustainable building standards and will be fully accessible.

In partnership with the Victorian Government, the City is committed to meeting the demand for kindergarten places in Greater Bendigo.

The new building will be designed using environmentally sustainable building standards and will be fully accessible. It will feature three kinder rooms, two allied health rooms which could be used by maternal and child health and other health services, staff facilities, outdoor play area, kitchen facilities and bathroom amenities.

Plans for the new kindergarten are currently being finalised and construction is planned to start in 2024 for completion in 2025. A service provider to operate the new kinder is expected to be appointed in 2024.

Construction of the kindergarten is stage one of a two-stage project to establish a community hub complex bordered by High, Torrens and Cathcart Streets, Marong. The new kinder will be constructed on the site of the current tennis courts.

Stage two of the project, which is currently unfunded and may take several years to deliver, plans to provide flexible multi-purpose buildings and spaces. **gb**

CONNECT
Greater Bendigo

FIND JOIN CONNECT

Are you looking to join a local club or to find and attend local events?

Visit the CONNECT Greater Bendigo website www.connectgreaterbendigo.com to find-join-connect with a comprehensive range of local community clubs, groups, organisations and events.





DOGS TO BE WALKED ON-LEASH FROM JANUARY 2024

From January 1, 2024, Greater Bendigo will become a safer place for pets and people when our municipality changes from an off-leash default to an on-leash default municipality, with new designated areas where dogs can be exercised off-leash.

Greater Bendigo has one of the highest levels of companion animal ownership in Victoria, with more than one third of households currently owning a cat or dog. The change is being introduced following the adoption of the City of Greater Bendigo's Domestic Animal Management Plan 2021-2025.

The change is happening to help keep public areas safe and enjoyable for everyone and every dog. Other municipalities with the same on-leash requirements include Geelong, Ballarat, Mildura and Shepparton.





If you and your dog love an off-leash walk, there are still plenty of spaces designated for dogs to have a romp and play off-leash including four fully fenced dog parks as well as the following new designated off-leash areas:

- 🐾 **Finn Street Reserve**
64 Finn Street, White Hills
- 🐾 **Crusoe Heights**
70 Morrison Street, Kangaroo Flat
- 🐾 **Garden Gully Creek**
Reserve 2 Bradshaw Street, Ironbark
- 🐾 **Rodda Field**
174 Reservoir Road, Strathdale
- 🐾 **Spring Gully Oval**
133-135 Spring Gully Road, Spring Gully
- 🐾 **Junior Oval Strauch Reserve**
14 Gungurru Road, Huntly
- 🐾 **Section of Long Gully Reserve**
21 Cunneen Street, Long Gully
- 🐾 **California Gully Oval**
1-3 Loudon Street, California Gully
- 🐾 **Section of Quarry Hill Reserve**
4-14 Peel Street, Quarry Hill
- 🐾 **Queen Street Reserve**
194 Queen Street, Bendigo
- 🐾 **Reserve 1**
Raglan Street, Axedale
- 🐾 **Allingham Street Reserve**
19-29 Allingham Street, Golden Square
- 🐾 **Emily Way**
Between Emily Way and Norelle Crescent, Golden Square
- 🐾 **Reserve 2D**
Glenelg Drive, Maiden Gully
- 🐾 **Strathfieldsaye Junior Oval**
20 Warne Court, Strathfieldsaye
- 🐾 **Section of Inverness Drive Reserve**
Inverness Drive, Junortoun
- 🐾 **AFL Field No. 2 only (Epsom Huntly Recreation Reserve)**
353 Midland Highway, Epsom

You can exercise your dog off-leash in these areas at any time, except when the spaces have planned bookings for any organised event such as sports or training. Remember to bring your dog's own water and dog poo waste bags to these locations. Also remember these areas are not dog parks and most are not fenced.



Greater Bendigo's four dog parks are located at:

-  **Allingham Reserve Dog Park**
250 Allingham Street, Kangaroo Flat
-  **Harcourt Dog Park**
Crook Street, Strathdale
-  **Heathcote Dog Park**
26 Herriot Street, Heathcote
-  **Truscott Reserve Dog Park**
Corner Murdock and Turner Streets, California Gully

All of the City's dog parks are fully fenced, have water for dogs, dog poo waste bags, shaded areas and small dog spaces so smaller dogs can socialise without the big guys if they prefer.

Remember that even when using the fully fenced dog parks and designated off-leash areas, your dog must always remain under your control, which means they must have good recall.

IT'S A FACT!

There are over 15,470 dogs and 5,570 cats registered with the City

The City received more than 4,500 requests for animal services during the last financial year

In the last financial year, 356 dogs and 895 cats were rehoused and 657 dogs and 170 cats reclaimed by their owners from Bendigo Animal Relief Centre (BARC)



On-leash exercise is still a great way to exercise with your dog and can provide plenty of mental stimulation for them. In fact, on-leash exercise can more quickly build and improve on the bond you have with your dog.

Some great places to walk dogs on-leash include:

Lake Neangar, with its various extensions into Canterbury Park and around Lake Tom Thumb, provides a variety of landscapes and tracks to explore and is great for dogs who love to spend time with their noses on the ground!

The O'Keefe Rail Trail is a great walk or run for those who love the open space and the serenity. This trail is often used by bikes and horse riders, but overall is a great walk for dogs who might find populated walking areas too over-stimulating.

Lake Weeroona is a shorter track but is a bustling place full of people and is a wonderful walk for dogs who love to socialise.

The Bendigo Creek Trail is another trail full of variety and has busy and not-so-busy sections. This is a great trail to walk if you have a dog who needs their confidence boosted in public places.

Residents are also reminded that there are some places where dogs are banned, including the following areas unless permission to allow dogs within these areas has been granted by the City:

- Playing surface of the Queen Elizabeth Oval
- Playing surface of the Tom Flood Sports Centre (including cycling track)
- Playing surface of Epsom Huntly Recreation Reserve AFL No. 1 and Pitch No. 5
- Within the fenced area of the Bendigo Regional Hockey Complex, the Bendigo Regional Tennis Complex and the Bendigo Regional Athletics Complex
- All playspaces or children's play equipment areas including splash parks
- Playing surface of any synthetic sports grounds
- Crusoe Reservoir and No. 7 Park
- Within the fenced area of any City aquatic facilities
- Within school areas where the City has a current joint use agreement

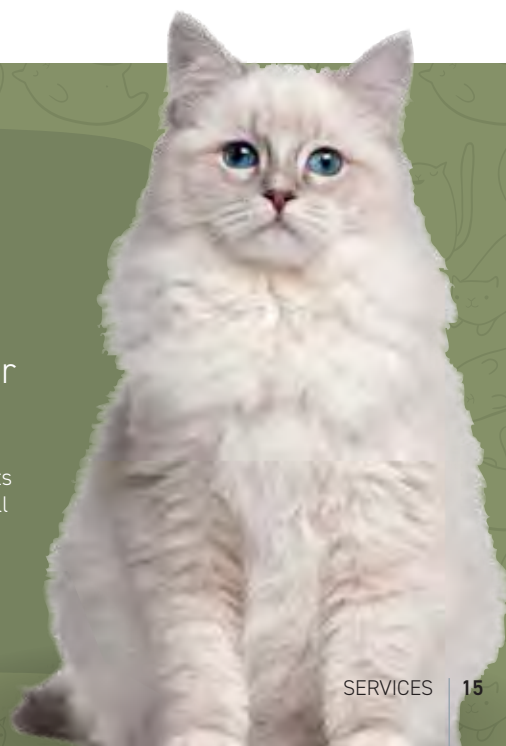
For more information visit www.bendigo.vic.gov.au gb

24-hour cat containment coming in July 2024

Calling all cat owners! From July 1, 2024 a new 24-hour cat curfew will be introduced in Greater Bendigo.

For many years now there has been an order in place in Greater Bendigo that requires cats to be securely confined to their owner's property from sunset to sunrise. However, this will change to 24 hours per day from next July following the adoption of the City's Domestic Animal Management Plan 2021-2025.

For more information visit www.bendigo.vic.gov.au gb



Keep pets safe from snake bite this summer!



This summer is predicted to be a big one for snakes! It's vital to deter snakes from yards to keep pets safe and know what to do if you suspect your pet has been bitten.

The Bendigo Animal Relief Centre (BARC) recommends having phone numbers for both your regular vet and the Central Veterinary Emergency service saved in your mobile phone, on your fridge or near your landline.

You should also ensure your yard is clear of clutter and things that attract snakes by:

- Keeping grass short and removing weeds from gardens
- Keeping hedges and trees trimmed and off the ground, raking up leaves and removing fallen branches
- Removing pet food from outside to deter vermin, which attract snakes
- Removing water sources such as old containers and buckets
- Removing materials like metal sheets, wood, pipes and tarps from the ground
- Limiting access for pets to wood and hay sheds and other locations comfortable for snakes

Pets are inquisitive and there is potential for a snake bite to occur if they attempt to interact with a snake. Reduce risks for your pet with training, recall and confinement by:

- Keeping your cat indoors or limiting their outside access within a cat park with a fine mesh
- Keeping your dog on a leash when on walks in bush and areas with long grass
- Teaching your dog the "wait" or "stop" command if they approach something suspicious (this command is a great way to get their attention if their recall isn't the best when excited by something)

General symptoms of a snake bite for cats and dogs include:

- Trembling, shaking or twitching muscles
- Drooling and panting
- Pacing around, acting restless
- Vomiting
- Pale gums
- Bleeding from nose or mouth
- Difficulty breathing
- Collapse, then seeming to "act normal"
- Loss of bladder and bowel control
- Paralysis
- Becoming unconscious

If you suspect your pet has been bitten, act fast and don't waste time searching for information on what to do! It is critical for you to:

- Remain calm, as this will soothe your pet and minimise their distress and movement
- Contact your vet immediately and follow their advice
- Apply a pressure immobilisation bandage if possible (similar techniques as recommended for people) or a broad pressure bandage over the bite site
- DO NOT use a tourniquet on the area of the bite
- Minimise movement. Carry your pet or use a blanket as a stretcher for bigger pets as movement spreads the venom
- DO NOT waste time trying to catch or identify the snake, as your veterinarian can use a venom detection test kit to identify the correct antivenom or administer a combination antivenom **gb**

This article is not a substitute for tailored veterinary advice. BARC recommends speaking to your veterinarian about a snake bite management plan if you think your pets are at risk of snake bite.



Bendigo Animal Relief Centre

NEW LOOK FOR CITY WEBSITE

Have you visited the City of Greater Bendigo's new website?

The City's newly redesigned website has proved to be very popular since its launch in September. Featuring a new colour scheme of teal and navy blue, the website layout has been designed to be much more user-friendly and accessible so it's easier to find what you are looking for.

Webpages have been streamlined to be clear and provide useful information and links. The home page has a top task bar that lists the most popular searches, so it's a great short cut. The top tasks bar will change regularly to reflect the top searches.

The current popular tabs are for paying rates, bins, parking, planning permits, fire prevention and making a request.



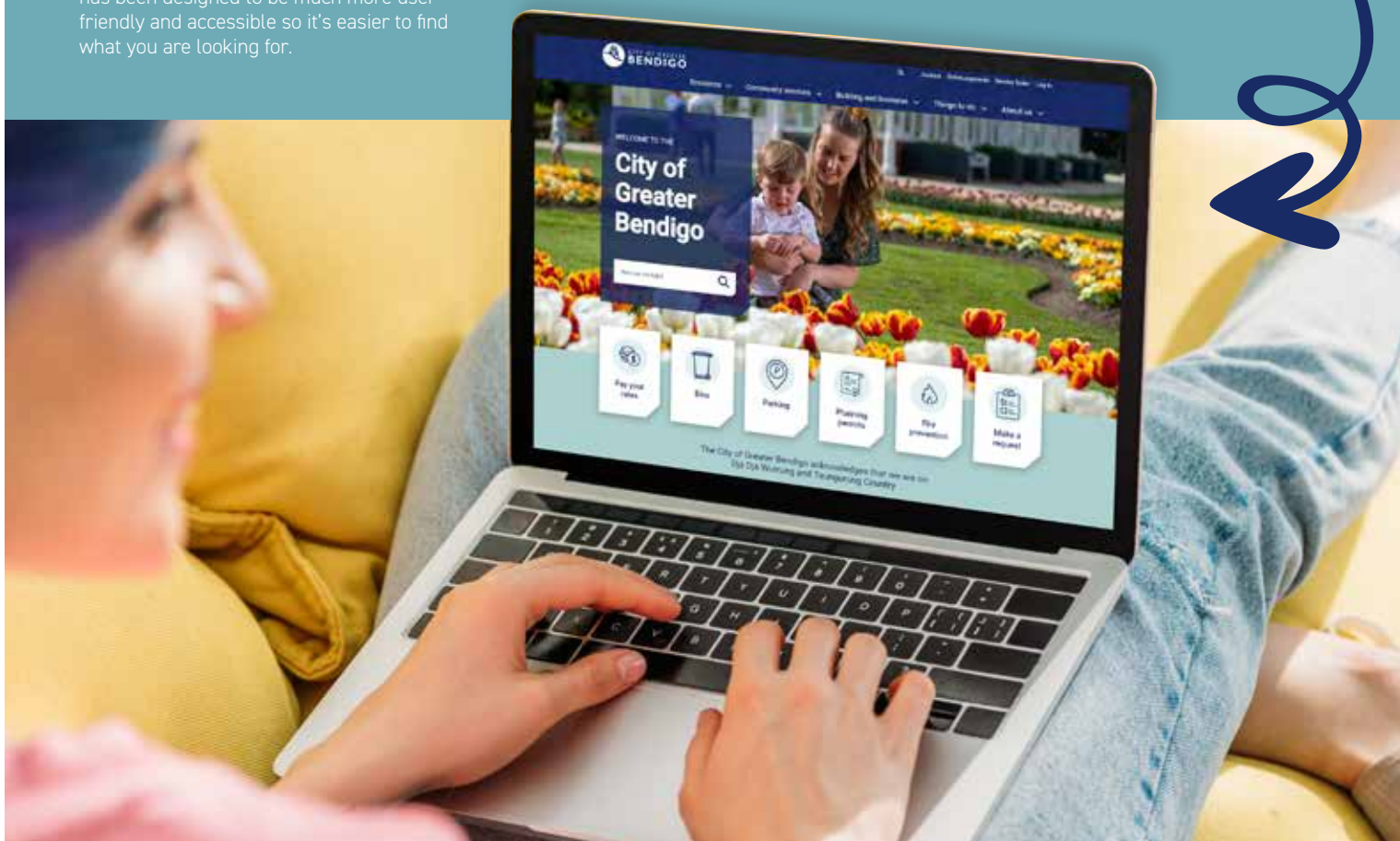
You'll also find the search function has been given a boost to make it easier to get to relevant pages quickly. You can keep up-to-date with the latest media releases, new projects and initiatives that benefit the community.

The changes to the website have had positive outcomes already. The website normally attracts around two million views in a year and early research reveals that the new website has already seen a 150 per cent increase in traffic.

The City recognises the importance in investing in technology. Developing better digital tools and technologies can improve the services we offer online and enhance the experience for you as a City customer.

The next stage of the project is to develop a customer portal, with scoping work to start in the coming months. The plan is for the portal to make it easier for customers to pay their rates, pet rego, parking fines, look at past planning applications etc.

If you haven't seen the City's new-look website, head to www.bendigo.vic.gov.au



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.

BENDIGO

Bendigo Airport - civil works
Bendigo Airport - terminal and admin building
Larritt and Baxter Streets - footpath
High Street, Don to Vine - footpath
Municipal Baths
Lighting the Regions - street light LED replacement program
O'Keefe Rail Trail - drainage

EPSOM

Howard Street - road reconstruction

FLORA HILL

Nish Street - footpath

MAIDEN GULLY

Lower Beckhams Road - tennis court renewal

STRATHDALE

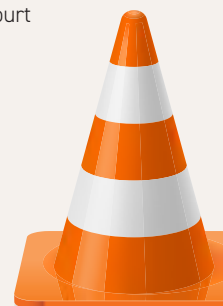
Harcourt Park - drainage

STRATHFIELDSAYE

Tannery Lane - footpath

WHITE HILLS

Waterview Drive - drainage





Cr Rod Fyffe OAM checks out the recent works at the Bendigo Town Hall.

Protecting our *glorious* TOWN HALL

Bendigo Town Hall is one of our grandest heritage buildings and the City of Greater Bendigo has, over many years, made a significant commitment to restore and undertake regular maintenance works to ensure it continues to be an important public heritage landmark for many years to come.

Recently the City has undertaken a range of interior renewal works to keep the Bendigo Town Hall in tip top shape.

Lockwood Ward Councillor Rod Fyffe OAM said few Victorian municipalities boast a town hall as impressive as Bendigo Town Hall.

"The recent works have included painting of the main hall, council chamber, entry and foyer areas. Other works include replacement of the carpet in the main hall, and sanding and polishing of the timber parquet floors in the foyer and entry areas," Cr Fyffe said.

"The Bendigo Town Hall is a building of national significance listed on both the Register of the National Estate and the Victorian Heritage Register, so it's important to undertake regular works to ensure it remains in good condition.

"In 1996, Council committed to a multi-million-dollar staged program to restore the building from the ground up because over the years it had fallen into disrepair.

"While the original restoration was an enormous, labour intensive and costly project, it brought one of our most treasured buildings back to life to become a functional public building able to cater for community events and special occasions.

"Undertaking regular maintenance works ensures it remains a building to be proud of." **gb**

➡ Find out over the page how a grant may help you restore your own heritage property.

DID YOU KNOW?

The original building was designed by town clerk George Avery Fletcher and constructed in 1859. This was followed by the addition of a Council Chamber in 1866 and a hall for the trading of grain known as the "Corn Exchange" in 1871-1872

In a series of major works between 1878 and 1902, the Bendigo Town Hall was transformed by renowned architect William C Vahland

In 1936 the interior was threatened by a proposal to convert it into a cinema and in the 1950s the majority of the mural panels were painted over

The building narrowly averted demolition in the 1970s

In 1973 the building was unsuccessfully offered for sale to the Public Works Department

In 2005, Vahland's vision of a clock in the clock tower came to fruition thanks to the generosity of the Bendigo Advertiser and the Rotary Club of Bendigo

Weekly organics and fortnightly waste collections to start in February 2024

Greater Bendigo's household kerbside general waste bin collections will change from weekly to fortnightly and kerbside organics bin collections will change from fortnightly to weekly from the week commencing Monday February 5, 2024.

The change will apply to every property and will be a simple swap, which means you will put your general waste bin out fortnightly on the same week as you currently put out your organics bin and your organics bin will go out weekly.

If you are still unsure, you can check when each of your bins are due for collection on the City of Greater Bendigo's website.

The changes are the result of an audit of the City's kerbside bin collections, which showed that local general waste bins contain a significant 31 per cent of food and garden material that should be going into the organics bin and not to landfill.

By making the switch to when the organics and general waste bins are collected, some 7,000 tonnes of organic material will be diverted each year from landfill.

Reducing the amount of organic material in the waste stream is very important because the Eaglehawk Landfill has almost

reached capacity, making it necessary for the City to transport all general waste to a landfill outside of Greater Bendigo, which will drive up the costs to dispose of general waste. These costs are passed directly onto ratepayers via the waste charge on your rates notice. Therefore, making this change will help to minimise future cost increases.

In addition, food and garden waste are valuable resources that can be recycled into a high-quality compost for use by farms, parks and gardens. Decomposing food in landfill emits methane, a damaging greenhouse gas, into the atmosphere and contributes to climate change.

The changes are in line with the Victorian Government circular economy policies and plan *Recycling Victoria: A new economy*, which has set key actions for all Victorian councils to have zero organic material going to landfill by 2030 and 80 per cent of materials currently going to landfill to be diverted to alternative disposal methods by

2030. These targets have also informed the key objectives noted in the City of Greater Bendigo Climate Change and Environment Strategy 2021-2026.

To find out what things should go in what bin and how to dispose of other items, download a copy of the A-Z Guide for Waste Disposal at www.bendigo.vic.gov.au/gb

DID YOU KNOW?

- The City collects waste and recycling from over 53,000 residential properties
- In the last financial year, the City collected over 23,600 tonnes of general waste and over 15,000 tonnes of organic waste from residential properties



FORTNIGHTLY

WEEKLY



HOW TO CHECK WHICH OF YOUR BINS ARE DUE FOR COLLECTION!

It's easy to get confused about what bins you need to put out on bin night. So, if you can't remember what bin is due for collection, it's easy to find out by checking your address on the City's website at www.bendigo.vic.gov.au or via the QR code. And when you visit our website, you can also download and print a collection calendar.

Keep this information in a handy spot like on the fridge and you'll always be able to quickly find out what bin to put out on bin night in the future.

Scan me



CONSERVING AND RESTORING A HOME WITH HERITAGE SIGNIFICANCE

If you own a property with a heritage overlay, you may be eligible for a grant from the Greater Bendigo Heritage Restoration Fund (GBHRF).

The GBHRF grant is a newly established scheme and is administered by the National Trust of Victoria. The City is among five councils involved in the grant scheme.

The GBHRF grant is suitable for eligible owners who are planning to carry out external conservation works on their property with a heritage overlay with the aim to protect and retain important heritage elements and values of a significant place.

Funding levels are assessed on a case-by-case basis and are generally up to a maximum of 50 per cent of the cost of works.

Grants will not be issued in full until the entire scope of funded works has been completed and the fund's Conservation Architect has undertaken all necessary inspections and approvals.

For more information on the criteria, visit www.bendigo.vic.gov.au gb



BANKING ON A HERITAGE HOME

These two property owners have made improvements to their heritage-listed homes. They received financial support through the City's Heritage Loan Scheme, which has now been replaced by the GBHRF grant scheme.

Paul Skinnon's residential property in Eaglehawk was originally the Oriental Bank. Built in 1861, it is highly regarded for its individual heritage and cultural significance as the oldest bank in Bendigo.

Paul applied to the City for financial assistance when he wanted to replace part of the galvanised roof. The heritage works were given approval to protect the integrity of the buildings. Paul followed the same like-for-like details, specifications and materials as the existing features including battens, gully traps and box gutters, and new flashings to parapets.

"A lot of love and hard work has gone into the building, and I love it," Paul said.

"I saved it from being gutted and now it is in keeping with its 1861 heritage and it is beautiful. You must have respect for a

heritage building. The money from Council for the galvanised roof has been helpful. I think it's important that people know there is financial help so you can get the building back to what it once was. My advice is do the work well, and don't cut corners. I feel very proud looking at my home. I'm very attached to it, and as an antique dealer I've got history all around me. Heritage adds value and beauty to Bendigo, and that's important."



Gerard Kennedy applied for financial assistance for restoration works at his heritage property in Heathcote where his family runs the Kennedy Vintners cellar door business on the ground floor and their home is on the first floor. The former Commercial Bank of Australia property is recognised for its local historic, architectural and aesthetic significance to the area. Built in 1886, the restoration work was extensive and included repairing the slate roof, replacing gutters, rain heads and downpipes, while the façade needed tuckpointing, rendering works and repainting.

"I've always loved old buildings, so we jumped at the opportunity when we saw this unique building for sale," Gerard said.

"But I was concerned about the state of the building. The leaking gutters above the façade were destroying the masonry and tuckpointing. One way or another, we were going to do the work. I felt a commitment to the town to do it right as it is an iconic building on the High Street in Heathcote.

"I didn't know about the financial assistance available through Council until I spoke to a Councillor."

"I didn't know about the financial assistance available through Council until I spoke to a Councillor. The support from Council allowed us to go ahead with confidence and complete the project.

"Because Bendigo has so many great heritage buildings, we were able to get access to local tradies who are used to working on heritage projects. The building looks incredible, and we've had a lot of positive feedback from the community. It is a privilege to conserve a place that has such significance in Heathcote's history."





Go on a StoryWalk adventure!

If you've got little ones, you've probably heard of a StoryWalk. Bringing children's stories to life along popular walking tracks, StoryWalks are a magical blend of physical activity and literary exploration in one!

Heathcote now has a semi-permanent StoryWalk thanks to a partnership between Goldfields Libraries and Healthy Loddon Campaspe. You can find it at the playspace at Barrack Reserve, opposite the library. It's set up all year round and library staff change the stories regularly to keep them fresh.

Kangaroo Flat and Eaglehawk libraries will also join in the fun with StoryWalks at Rotary Park and Canterbury Park throughout January.

"Families love them; they're the perfect way to get some fresh air, enjoy the outdoors and entertain the family."

Elise Wright, Coordinator of Community Based Services at Goldfields Libraries, said the StoryWalks had been a hit with residents. "Families love them; they're the perfect way to get some fresh air, enjoy the outdoors and entertain the family," Ms Wright said.

Just as being active is good for our bodies, reading is good for our brains. Combining both in a StoryWalk is a great way to support our overall health and wellbeing.

And StoryWalks aren't just for kids! While the stories are designed for children, they're carefully selected to appeal to all ages, so everyone can enjoy them.

"Summer is here, so be on the lookout for a new story. We won't give away the surprise - you'll have to see it yourself. Just don't forget the sunscreen," Ms Wright said.

Goldfields Libraries also host StoryWalks in Castlemaine and Kyneton. You can find all the details at ncgrl.vic.gov.au/storywalk



Goldfields
Libraries

Where to go as a last resort when bushfire threatens

Bushfire Places of Last Resort are to be considered a place of last resort in a bushfire emergency. They should only be used if all other plans have failed and should not be considered as places to relocate to when leaving early.

Bushfire Places of Last Resort are a piece of open ground that offer minimum protection against radiant heat and embers. Safety and survival cannot be guaranteed, and support services are not provided to people and their pets.

They are a place of last resort in bushfire emergencies only that may assist people when there is imminent threat of bushfire and they have no plan, or their planned options are not possible.

It is important to develop a plan, understand your risk and stay informed, as having a well-prepared plan to leave early for a more suitable location is a much safer option. On extreme or catastrophic days, it is recommended you leave early in the morning or the night before if you are at risk of a bushfire. **gb**

Bushfire Places of Last Resort in Greater Bendigo are located at:

AXEDALE

- Axedale Primary School oval, 81 High Street

BENDIGO

- Queen Elizabeth Oval, View Street

EAGLEHAWK

- Canterbury Park car park and events area, Simpsons Road

HEATHCOTE

- Holy Rosary Primary School oval, 18 Pohlman Street

JUNORTOWN

- Lord's Raceway, McIvor Highway

KANGAROO FLAT

- Dower Park, Station Street
- Lansell Square Shopping Centre car park, Calder Highway

MAIDEN GULLY

- Maiden Gully Primary School, basketball courts, Carolyn Way

NORTH BENDIGO

- Bendigo Showgrounds, Holmes Road

STRATHFIELDSAYE

- Strathfieldsaye Community Hub, Club Court (JG Edwards oval east of cricket pitch to Uxbridge Street)

REDESDALE

- Redesdale Recreation Reserve oval, Corner Moylans Road and Kyneton-Heathcote Road

For more information visit www.cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/neighbourhood-safer-places

Who's not here?



Introducing equity impact assessments

The City of Greater Bendigo is changing the way it deliver policies, programs and services. Staff now conduct Equity Impact Assessments (EIA) to ensure policies, programs and services meet the needs of different genders and diverse user groups.

EIAs support the City to step into the shoes of all community users, particularly those who face discrimination or exclusion, to explore what barriers are preventing people from fully participating in and benefiting from our policies, programs and services.

Once those barriers are identified, staff can then work on reducing or removing them

so that everyone is included and everyone benefits.

A recent EIA was conducted as part of the development of a site and infrastructure plan for the Maiden Gully Recreation Reserve, to ensure the reserve will meet the current and future needs of the community.

By undertaking the EIA staff found that women had a preference for lighting along paths in the reserve, while under-represented groups preferred seating and gathering areas that provided some privacy while remaining in the public space.

Some multicultural users wanted these spaces to allow for family gatherings without affecting other users, while LGBTIQ+ community members wanted a safe space to sit with their partner, and young people saw these spaces as being welcoming and safe for chatting and connecting socially in groups.

The City undertakes community engagement and EIAs for projects that directly and significantly impact the community.

To watch a short video explaining EIAs, visit www.bendigo.vic.gov.au gb

Feast your eyes on Uniquely Bendigo

During this holiday season, dress your table to impress with our great range of produce that celebrates the region's reputation for gastronomy. From chutneys to wines, Uniquely Bendigo is perfect for gift ideas and a great way to love your local too.

You can see the Uniquely Bendigo collection at the Bendigo Visitor Centre and Heathcote Visitor Centre, or you can order online at www.uniquelybendigo.com.au

➡ With your picnic goodies sorted, find the perfect picnic spots in the region over the page. **gb**





- 1 Orange Tree Consulting chopping board. **On the board:** Husk & Harvest Walnut and Date Roulade, Salute Oliva Mixed Olives, Husk & Harvest Walnuts Natural Kernel, Bridgewood Grove Olive Oil, Bendigo Fine Foods Bread and Butter Cucumbers, Dalhousie Organic Jams, Castlemaine Fine Biscuit Co. Rosemary & Olive Oil crackers, Long Paddock Cheese Banksia. 2 Harcourt Apples. 3 Rare Seed concrete bowl, Indulge Chocolates Gold Chocolate. 4 Cabosse & Feve Chocolate Rainbow Drops. 5 Garry Bish ceramic bowl, Emily Dellios honey dipper, Collins Honey. 6 Saff Collective salad servers. 7 Froni Binns bowl. 8 Sillee Billee wombat. 9 Froni Binns large dangle earrings. 10 Australian Eucalyptus Oil Company room spray and mould spray. 11 Garry Bish white pendant. 12 Emily Dellios bud vases - Sassafras. 13 Froni Binns large dangle earrings. 14 Abundance Unlimited Signature Stoneware candle. 15 Michelle Collins felt rabbit and lamb. 16 Bendigo Brittle. 17 Eeny Meeny Miny Mo coin purse.

Pick the perfect spot!



* Grab your picnic basket and rug, stock up on delicious, fresh produce and freshly baked bread along the way (for Uniquely Bendigo produce, see page 24-25), or choose from a variety of local eateries for a takeaway lunch or twilight dinner.

Glorious warm weather is enough to tempt anyone to eat al fresco with family and friends. So, whether you're heading to the bush, a heritage park or waterway, *GB mag* has a perfect selection of picnic spots. Make your picnic an entire day to relax, kick back and share the feast.

Albert Richardson Reserve

This landscaped park is located at 40 Marong Road and features a memorial to mark the 2009 bushfires that devastated Victoria, including parts of Bendigo. This lovely small park features seating, open lawns, shelter, barbecues, tables and public toilets.

Canterbury Park Gardens

This is the jewel in the crown of the Eaglehawk open space precinct. First proposed in 1870, the garden was set out in 1873 on 'upside down country', a First Nations' reference to the impact of the gold rush mining days. Visit the garden, walk the trails around Lake Neangar and Lake Tom Thumb, see the amphitheatre, jetty and island, and check out the Canterbury Park Oval and sports precinct and the Mulga Bill-themed playspace.

Gateway Park

Take a leisurely walk around the lake in Kangaroo Flat, have a barbecue or a picnic, or just enjoy the local flora and fauna. The Bendigo Creek meanders through the park and adds to the unique natural character of the area. Located right next to the Gurri Wanyarra Wellbeing Centre, Gateway Park is a wonderful outdoor green space to explore.

Rosalind Park and cascades fountain

Rosalind Park boasts one of the best centrally located vantage-points in Bendigo. This sheltered enclave features both exotic and native trees. Why not venture up the 124 steps of the Poppet Head lookout tower for a panoramic view of Bendigo and beyond. Or see the magnificent cascades fountain, a vision brought back from Italy by the 'quartz king' George Lansell and designed by architect William C Vahland. The playspace is part of Camp Hill Primary School but is open to the public on weekends, public and school holidays.

Garden for the Future

Head to the lush greenery and take in the 30,000 climate-resilient plants that are flourishing in the Garden for the Future in White Hills. Located next door, step across the new wetlands at Larni Garingilang where the aquatic plants are settling into their new home. There are plenty of tables and green lawn for your picnic spread.

← Bendigo Botanic Gardens

A short stroll from Larni Garingilang is the heritage Bendigo Botanic Gardens in White Hills. These were Bendigo's first public gardens and were included on the Victorian Heritage Register in 2001 due to their historical, architectural, scientific, botanical, aesthetic and social significance. The garden provides a serene setting and plenty of quiet picnic spots.

Kennington Reservoir

An ideal spot for bird-watching, enjoy an easy stroll in Kennington using the pathways around the reservoir and adjacent bushland before finding a picnic table or bench among the gum trees. It's a great place to enjoy nature and relax by the shore.

Bendigo Creek

Experience Bendigo's unique heritage, history and attractions along Bendigo Creek. There are many sites along the creek where you can have a picnic and enjoy some bird-watching. A good way to see the creek is via the Bendigo Creek Trail for walkers and cyclists. The trail traces its course north-east from Crusoe Reservoir, past natural bush and historic landmarks, all the way to Bendigo Pottery in Epsom. Take a picnic and enjoy a great stopover on the way.

Picnics with younger children

Young families can enjoy recreation, nature and opportunities that are sure to keep energetic children entertained. You can enjoy the award-winning Eaglehawk playspace or the Crook Street playspace in Strathdale, or try out the Lake Weeroona playspace and enjoy a circuit around the lake by foot or by bike. **gb**



DID YOU KNOW?

The word picnic first appeared in France in the late 16th century as pique-nique but was not adopted in England until the 1800s. It was first used as a social event, where each guest provided a share of the food. Later, it became an outdoor excursion to a place in the country.

PICNIC

- a celebration of gathering in the great outdoors!

PICNIC is a new Living Arts Space exhibition that celebrates gathering in the great outdoors.

PICNIC invites you to soak up the colour, warmth and joy of the summer season. The free exhibition displays works from a ceramist, a jeweller, a textile designer and two painters. Such diverse practices make for a visually inspiring installation with predictable and unpredictable interpretations of the theme, just like a real-life picnic with family and friends.

Lisa Kearns is a jeweller and object maker who repurposes anodised aluminium objects into exciting new jewellery and sculpture. Libby Noblet

is a textile screen printer who works with pigments and layering of colour to create bright captivating patterns. Katie Jacobs is a ceramist who creates functional objects that often contain humorous social commentary. Karen Holland works with oil paint to capture light and objects descriptive of place, and Selby Ginn is a multimedia artist thematically exploring through colour and texture.

During the school holidays in January the Living Arts Space will be running summer and picnic-themed workshops for children. These workshops will be facilitated by some of the artists from the *PICNIC* exhibition and other local Bendigo creatives. Please see the Living Arts Space webpage for further details: www.bendigoregion.com.au/explore-bendigo/living-arts-space **gb**

***PICNIC* is at the Living Arts Space located in the Bendigo Visitor Centre until Sunday February 4. Open every day except Christmas Day.**

Photography by artist
Lisa Kearns.



Must see experiences on your doorstep

Enjoy fascinating attractions in Greater Bendigo that are free or low-cost for truly memorable experiences.

All aboard a Vintage Talking Tram

Explore Bendigo's beautiful streetscapes on a Vintage Talking Tram where you can take in the city's landmarks and monuments, including Central Deborah Gold Mine, Sacred Heart Cathedral, Alexandra Fountain, Rosalind Park, the Old Post Office, Lake Weeroona and Bendigo Joss House Temple.

A round trip takes approximately an hour and is the perfect way to get your bearings and explore Bendigo's beautiful streetscapes. Tickets start from \$12.50 for adults and \$7.50 for children (3-15 years). Your Vintage Talking Tram ticket is valid all day, allowing you to hop off and wander through the city at your leisure to enjoy many attractions, shops and to dine.

Discover The Great Stupa in Myers Flat

Indulge in a little spiritual wellbeing at The Great Stupa, the world's largest Buddhist Stupa outside of Asia. The stupa is the same size and design as The Great Stupa of Gyantse in Tibet.

For as little as a donation on entry, you can wander through the Peace Park, enjoy quiet meditation, see varieties of native and exotic plants, such as the Bodhi trees, and make a wish at the wishing well. You can also see the Jade Buddha of Universal Peace, which is the largest Buddha to be carved out of gem-quality jade. You can also grab a coffee and vegetarian food at the Stupaview Café and browse the gift shop on the way out.

Explore Bendigo's Chinese history

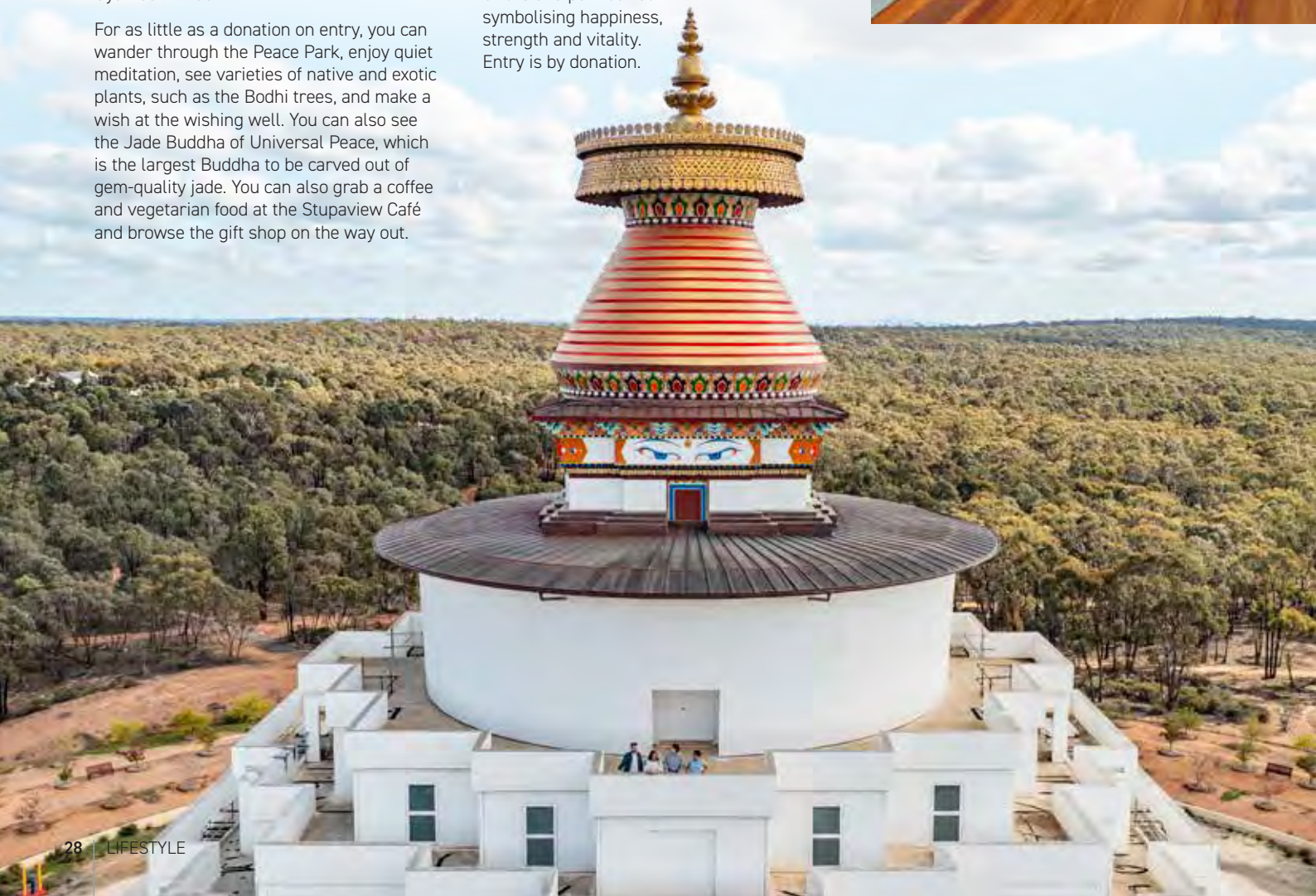
Bendigo is rich in Chinese history and culture. During the mid-1800s, 20 per cent of Bendigo's population hailed from China. They came as miners and merchants, bringing their customs, culture and beliefs to the goldfields. Today you can experience and explore some of these for yourself.

Head into the **Golden Dragon Museum**, home to the world's longest Golden Dragon, Dai Gum Loong, an extensive collection of Chinese artefacts, costumes, history and so much more. Make sure you wander into the tranquil Yi Yuan Gardens and Kuan Yin Temple, home of the Goddess of Compassion. Tickets are \$10 for children aged 5-16 and \$16 for adults.

The stunning heritage-listed **Joss House Temple** is a Chinese place of prayer. Standing for more than 150 years, it is one of Australia's oldest remaining temples of its kind, constructed with locally handmade bricks and painted red symbolising happiness, strength and vitality. Entry is by donation.

Bendigo Art Gallery

Bendigo Art Gallery is one of the oldest and largest regional art galleries in Australia and it's on your doorstep. It's open daily and features free exhibitions. The Gallery has an extensive collection, with everything from 19th century European art and Australian art from the 1800s, alongside a growing collection of contemporary art. It's renowned for presenting highly acclaimed exclusive exhibitions on show throughout the year (tickets and costs may apply).





Central Deborah Gold Mine

Bendigo was once the richest producer of gold in the world. Over 700,000kg of gold was yielded, which would be worth \$64B in today's prices. Central Deborah Gold Mine was one of over 5,000 registered gold mines on the Bendigo Goldfields. You get the chance to explore underground with an expert tour guide after being kitted up with a hard hat and light. You'll get to see gold in its natural state and hear stories about the miners from the past. The tour lasts around 75 minutes (suitable for children aged 3 and over). Above ground, you can step into the heritage-listed buildings and see the machinery before trying your hand at panning for gold.

For information, visit www.bendigoregion.com.au



Hosting visitors this summer?

If you have family or relatives coming to stay with you during the holidays, become a Bendigo Ambassador and receive great savings.

The Bendigo Ambassador Pass entitles the holder to free entry to a range of Bendigo attractions when accompanied by a full fee paying adult or if a family ticket is purchased. It's a great way to be a tourist in your hometown with hidden benefits.

The pass means you're not out of pocket when you want to show off the best of Bendigo to your extended family and friends.

Get a Bendigo Ambassador Pass before the holidays season kicks in. Just fill out your details and a Bendigo Ambassador Pass will be emailed to you. It's that simple. Head to: www.bendigoregion.com.au/explore-bendigo/bendigo-ambassador-pass gb



Head to the markets

Bendigo is home to numerous markets throughout the year. Not only are they free to attend, they are family and pet-friendly. Check out our favourites to visit in Bendigo.

Bendigo Showgrounds Market is held every Sunday from 8.30am-2pm at the Prince of Wales Showgrounds. Enjoy a stroll around the markets with hot and cold food, plants and tools, clothing, toys, gifts and homewares.

Trove Makers' Market is on the third Sunday of every month (except in December), 10am-2pm at The Good Loaf. Soak up the joy of a lazy Sunday with up to 50 stalls, live music, sensational coffee and food. If you love creative markets - paintings, jewellery, photography, clothing, decor and quirky pieces - the Trove Makers' Market is for you.

Bendigo Community Farmers Market is a must and a local favourite amongst foodies. You'll find it every second Saturday of the month, 9am-12.30pm at Dai Gum San. Alternatively, drop in to a pop-up mini market at The Good Loaf every Thursday from 1pm-4pm.

Moonlight Market is a fantastic twilight market complete with live music and art, specialty food trucks, street performers and a huge range of market stalls featuring artists, crafty creators, vintage finds, local producers and more. For upcoming market dates, visit www.moonlightmarketbendigo.com.au gb



Bendigo Art Gallery holiday program

Free and low-cost workshops and activities. Visit our website or follow us on social media for updates and bookings.

**BENDIGO
ART GALLERY**

42 View Street, Bendigo
www.bendigoartgallery.com.au



Nathan Phillips: *Mind Lights*
spray paint on canvas.

Strength in Stories: *This is what we do*

The First Nations gallery Djaa Djuwima celebrates its first anniversary with a beautiful exhibition from First Nations men, brotherboys and youth.

Strength in Stories: This is what we do is the third exhibition at Djaa Djuwima, Bendigo's permanent First Nations gallery located in the Bendigo Visitor Centre.

"It's a wonderful exhibition that captures the 'male spirit in all its creative forms'."

The exhibition showcases creative works from traditional to contemporary art and includes woodwork and wood burning, painting, body adornment and digital art from First Nations men, brotherboys and youth.

Gallery curator and Bendigo Venues & Events Arts Officer, First Nations Janet Bromley said it was an important way to showcase this work to the whole community and to First Nations Peoples locally.

"It's a wonderful exhibition that captures the 'male spirit in all its creative forms'," Ms Bromley said.

"The City of Greater Bendigo is proud to contribute to a culture of preserving, celebrating and profiling First Nations' creativity."

Djaa Djuwima officially opened in November 2022 as Bendigo's first gallery dedicated to showcasing First Nations artists living in or connected to our community.

A priority action in the Greater Creative Bendigo Strategy was to address the underrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander creatives and their culture in Greater Bendigo.

The gallery space enriches our region's cultural experiences and creates better understanding, recognition and respect for the living culture of First Nations Peoples.

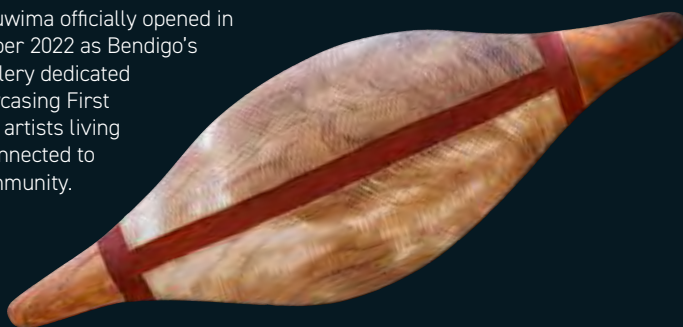
Djaa Djuwima means to 'show, share Country' in Dja Dja Wurrung language and this gallery is a safe place for First Nations artists to explore cultural expression, identity, heritage and connection.

It also represents Victorian First Nations' art practice, particularly across the north of Victoria.

"Djaa Djuwima is not just an art gallery, it is a place for exploration and representation of First Nations art in Victoria, and a place to build community and inform visitors," Ms Bromley said.

***Strength in Stories: This is what we do* is open to the public every day until Monday January 22, 2024 (except Christmas Day). gb**

Woodwork by
Simon Briggs.



SUMMER IN THE PARKS

DEC • JAN • FEB

Enjoy a great range of free or low-cost events during December, January and February.

This year's program has a fantastic line-up of activities so there's something for everyone.

Australia Day

There are many events taking place on Australia Day to respectfully celebrate your way.

The annual event at Lake Weeroona is happening again and there will also be fun family events across suburbs and small towns on the day. Times, locations and all activities will be advertised prior to the day on the Summer in the Parks website.

Don't forget it's FREE entry to all outdoor pools on Australia Day. 9b

Highlights include:

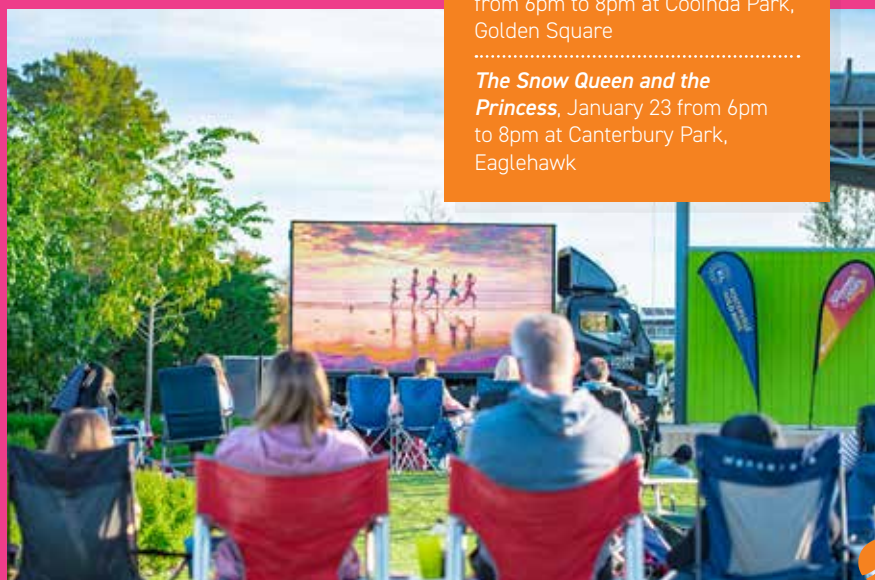
- **All day scavenger hunt** at the Garden for the Future and Bendigo Botanic Gardens on December 9 to mark Lifely's 40 years of supporting people with disabilities
- **Christmas carols** in Eaglehawk (December 10), Axedale (December 10) and Heathcote (December 16)
- **Rotary Club of Bendigo Carols by Candlelight** in Rosalind Park on December 17
- **Roller skating disco** in Hargreaves Mall on January 20
- **Wild kids Summer Splendour** - \$10 per family for a WildPlay day, a nature immersive event and outdoor activities at Crusoe Reservoir on Saturday January 20
- A **Christmas Market** at Dai Gum San on Thursday December 21 from 4pm to 7.30pm
- **Footy 4 Fun** come and try sessions on Sunday January 21 (must register)
- **Bendigo Bricks LEGO mural** in Hargreaves Mall on January 28
- **Come and try Bowls** at South Bendigo Bowls Club on January 28, January 31, February 7, February 14 and February 28
- **Bendigo Nature Club learn, explore, and play** activities on Sunday February 18 at English's Bridge in Goornong
- Series of **live music events** in the Mall and several park locations

Outdoor cinema screenings including:

Blueback, January 12 from 6pm to 8pm at Goornong Recreation Reserve

Cats in the Museum, January 19 from 6pm to 8pm at Cooyinda Park, Golden Square

The Snow Queen and the Princess, January 23 from 6pm to 8pm at Canterbury Park, Eaglehawk



The full Summer in the Parks program of events, activities, times and dates is available at www.bendigsummerintheparks.com





CREATE LAB

videos unveiled on
the big screen

A diverse range of new video works from talented local creatives have premiered on the large TV screen in Hargreaves Mall.

The works have been produced through the City of Greater Bendigo's Create Lab small grants program, which supports local artists to test new ideas or explore new collaborations through digital media that would be suitable for a public setting like Hargreaves Mall.

Participating artists were selected through an expression of interest process, and they received small grant subsidies of up to \$4,000 to create a local-inspired theme through new artworks or projections.

"Create Lab allowed artists and creatives to explore, experiment and test ideas."

Among the presenting artists were illustrator Lyn Raymer who collaborated for the first time with animator Kain White, bringing her illustrations to life. CreateA Performance Ensemble created a series of video-based vignettes to explore a new performance idea called Burnout Ballet.

Irene Holub worked with members of the local deaf community to create Auslan Poems. Paul Fletcher explores the concept of a Bendigo Symphony, combining poetic imagery and sounds from the local landscape. Annelise Henderson, Sara Hancock and Jac Hartje worked in a site-specific context in a combination of live projection and video.

City Creative Industries Officer Mandy Field said Create Lab proved to be a successful pilot project for artists to extend their creative practices in new ways.

"Create Lab allowed artists and creatives to explore, experiment and test ideas that extend the capacity, develop skills, and support new collaborations and partnerships among Greater Bendigo's creative community," Ms Field said.

The City would like to thank the artists' mentor David Gagliardi, who has been involved in the Create Lab project and has inspired and encouraged artists through the creative process, and project partner Emporium Creative Hub for providing meeting and studio space and hosting the Create Lab launch event. **gb**

Get in touch...

EPPALOCK WARD



Deputy Mayor Cr Matthew Evans
T 4408 6694 M 0437 867 028
E m.evans@bendigo.vic.gov.au



Cr Margaret O'Rourke
T 4408 6692 M 0429 061 096
E m.orourke@bendigo.vic.gov.au



Cr Greg Penna
T 4408 6690 M 0429 721 958
E g.penna@bendigo.vic.gov.au

LOCKWOOD WARD



Cr Dr Jennifer Alden
T 4408 6695 M 0499 005 735
E j.alden@bendigo.vic.gov.au



Cr Rod Fyffe OAM
T 4408 6688 M 0419 874 015
E r.fyffe@bendigo.vic.gov.au



Cr Vaughan Williams
T 4408 6696 M 0437 858 776
E v.williams@bendigo.vic.gov.au

WHIPSTICK WARD



Mayor Cr Andrea Metcalf
T 4408 6697 M 0499 009 096
E a.metcalf@bendigo.vic.gov.au



Cr Dave Fagg
T 4408 6698 M 0437 892 918
E d.fagg@bendigo.vic.gov.au



Cr Julie Sloan
T 4408 6689 M 0437 862 975
E j.sloan@bendigo.vic.gov.au

Councillor emails, like other correspondence, are the property of the City of Greater Bendigo and may be referred to a staff member for action. As with any correspondence, if you would like emails to be kept private and confidential please place 'private and confidential' in the subject line.



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

MARIKIT SANTIAGO: *The Kingdom, The Power*

Marikit Santiago embraces her role as a woman, daughter, migrant and mother through creativity in this stunning new exhibition at Bendigo Art Gallery.

This is the first solo exhibition in Victoria for celebrated Australian artist Marikit Santiago. The exhibition explores her Filipina-Australian identity and her complex experiences as a woman, daughter, mother and artist. Combining classical figurative painting, biblical narratives and pop cultural references, Santiago confronts personal history and universal themes with tenderness and courage.

Winner of the 2020 Sulman Prize and a three-time Archibald Prize finalist, Santiago's compelling work unearths the complex inheritances of religion, ancestry and gender, and she casts her own family in richly symbolic and dramatic scenes.



Above: Marikit Santiago, *Filipiniana 2021*, with Maella Santiago. Photo by Mim Stirling. Courtesy of the artist.

Below: Artist, Marikit Santiago. Photo by Leon Schoots.



The exhibition titled *Marikit Santiago: The Kingdom, The Power* references a phrase spoken by the congregation during Catholic Mass, which praises God as creator of earth and humankind. In *The Kingdom, The Power*, Santiago considers the privileges and obligations of the 'Eden' created for her by her parents, who migrated to Australia in the 1980s and, in turn, the world she is constructing for her own children.

Santiago's figurative painting is both classical and highly contemporary. She blends luscious oil paint and gold leaf with humble found materials, such as cardboard boxes and texta. Her three young children appear not only as cherished subjects in her paintings but as her artistic collaborators, contributing ever-changing marks within Santiago's polished figuration.

Marikit Santiago lives and works on Dharug Country in Western Sydney. In 2022, Santiago held her first institutional solo exhibition at Sydney's renowned 4A Centre for Contemporary Asian Art, followed by solo exhibitions at Fairfield City Museum & Gallery and Museum of Art and Culture Lake Macquarie yapping in 2023.

Marikit Santiago: *The Kingdom, The Power* is at Bendigo Art Gallery until Sunday February 4, 2024. gb



ELF ACADEMY

The Central Deborah Gold Mine will be transformed into a Christmas wonderland. Through a series of craft activities, games and challenges, children will discover all the skills required to become a qualified Elf.

December 16 – 23 / Central Deborah Gold Mine / www.bendigoregion.com.au



THE VICTORIAN BALLET – THE NUTCRACKER

The Nutcracker Ballet is a timeless, world-famous classical ballet Christmas treat that will enchant children and grown-ups alike.

December 17 / Ulumbarra Theatre / gotix.com.au



COAL MINER'S DAUGHTER – THE STORY OF LORETTA LYNN & FRIENDS

Award-winning songstress Amber Joy Poulton brings this sensational country music tribute to Australia.

December 17 and February 4 / Ulumbarra Theatre / gotix.com.au



NEW YEAR'S EVE FIREWORKS

Watch the sky light up with colour as Bendigo's annual New Year's Eve firework display erupts off the Rosalind Park Poppet Head at 9.15pm and midnight.

December 31 / Rosalind Park / www.bendigoregion.com.au



BENDIGO CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL 2024

A hugely varied program full of brilliance and poetry, bringing Bendigo's remarkable venues to life with the sounds of passionate music-making.

January 31 – February 4 / Ulumbarra Theatre / gotix.com.au



SUMMER IN THE PARKS

The ever-popular Summer in the Parks program features free or low-cost events and activities during December, January and February.

December – February / Various locations / www.bendigosummerintheparks.com



SHEN YUN

Shen Yun's unique artistic vision expands into a multi-dimensional, inspiring journey through one of humanity's greatest treasures - the five millennia of traditional Chinese culture.

March 1 – 3 / Ulumbarra Theatre / gotix.com.au

WHAT'S ON



THE CAT IN THE HAT LIVE ON STAGE

Yikes the school holidays are coming! What to do with YOUR Thing 1 and Thing 2?

Here's an idea! Bring the whole family to 'The Cat in the Hat' for an experience they'll never forget. Young and old alike will delight in this lively adaptation of a classic book coming to life before your very eyes.

January 22 / The Capital Theatre / gotix.com.au



Bendigo International Collections

PARIS

Impressions of Life
1880 – 1925

16 March – 14 July 2024
Bendigo exclusive

BENDIGO
ART GALLERY

bendigoartgallery.com.au



blue illusion®



Exhibition organised by the Musée Carnavalet – Histoire de Paris, Paris Musées.
Image credit: Jean Béraud, *The Entrance to the 1889 Universal Exhibition (detail) 1889*,
oil on wood, Musée Carnavalet. © CCO Paris Musées / Musée Carnavalet – Histoire de Paris.

@bendigoartgallery   