

gb

Bloomin' marvellous

Earn while you learn
with the trainee and
apprenticeship program

BENDIGO LOW LINE

The missing link





ON THE COVER: Kryzel, Macy and Jovic enjoy a stroll on the Bendigo Creek trail.



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WELCOME FROM THE MAYOR

Throughout the ages, Greater Bendigo has enjoyed a long history of welcoming people from around the world.

In this Council term, this proud tradition has continued and we have had the privilege of some high-ranking international officials and special guests visit us in Greater Bendigo.

In 2022, when war broke out in the Ukraine, Ukrainian Ambassador to Australia, Vasyl Myroshnychenko, came to inspect the Thales Bushmaster assembly line to see where the life-saving vehicles were made that the Australian Government had given to Ukraine, so he could say thank you to the local team that builds them.

At the other end of the spectrum, also in 2022, a touch of celebrity graced our city when Priscilla Presley officially opened the *Elvis: Direct from Graceland* exhibition at Bendigo Art Gallery. She was so gracious in her praise for Bendigo and willingly visited local businesses, having her photo taken wherever she went and leaving all she encountered a little star-struck!

Our gold rush past brought a member of one of America's most famous families to Bendigo in February 2023 to honour the life of African American man John Joseph, who protested government licensing fees during the Eureka Stockade and was tried for high treason in Melbourne. He was acquitted by the jury and celebrated as a hero, and later died in an unmarked grave at White Hills cemetery.

American Ambassador to Australia, Caroline Kennedy, planted a tree at the cemetery in Mr Joseph's honour to acknowledge his life and place in American and Australian history.

And in 2024 we have maintained relationships with our longest cultural partners, our Chinese community, by welcoming Chinese Consul-General for Victoria and Tasmania Fang Xinwen to celebrate the Qingming Festival that honours Chinese ancestors, again returning to White Hills cemetery where many Chinese immigrants from the gold rush are buried.

More recently we have also strengthened ties with our growing Indian community, with the Mayor of the Day awarded the honour of being the Patron of the Indian Association of Bendigo. Both the Indian High Commissioner to Australia, His Excellency Mr Gopal Baglay, and Indian Consul-General to Victoria Dr Sushil Kumar have enjoyed the opportunity to meet with local industry representatives and discuss opportunities to welcome new skills into our local economy.

As we near the end of this Council term, I reflect on these opportunities and the honour to show off our city, its history and promote the capability found in our region.

Mayor Cr Andrea Metcalf



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1300 002 642

Operating hours

9am - 4.30pm, Mon, Wed - Fri
9am - 4pm, Tue

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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

Advocating for local projects

We're nearing the next Federal election, which is set to take place by May 2025, if not before.

Without knowing when it is going to be called, the City of Greater Bendigo has prepared its list of priority projects for candidates to consider, so they can be ready when asked by their parties what is needed in our community.

Our number one infrastructure project remains the Bendigo Art Gallery expansion. The City and State Government have already committed to this project, together with the Bendigo Art Gallery Board and philanthropic fundraising is in its early stages. A contribution of \$15M from the Federal Government is the missing financial piece.

Plans to turn the Golden Dragon Museum into the National Chinese Museum of Australia will require an investment to complete detailed design and planning, ready to apply for future grant opportunities. This is another example of a project that will require support from all three levels of government to make a re-vamped museum a reality.

Likewise, there are plans to revitalise the Central Deborah Gold Mine experience, with investment in stage 1 focused on surface-level improvements for those not ready to brave going underground.

It is important that our advocacy focuses on a range of community needs, some of which can't always be seen but are important to our overall wellbeing, such as our plans to transition Bendigo Library off gas to be fully electric. This will save approximately 293 tonne of CO₂ emissions each year.

To support our community to keep moving, these priorities include Ironbark Gully Trail, which is a shared walking and cycling path connecting North Bendigo Recreation Reserve to Garden Gully Reserve.

"It is important that our advocacy focuses on a range of community needs"

We're also looking to develop stage 2 of the North Bendigo Recreation Reserve and build a new pavilion for football and cricket user groups, and deliver a new skate park in Kangaroo Flat opposite Gurri Wanyarra Wellbeing Centre.

It would also be fantastic to attract funds to transition Brennan Park swimming pool to a year-round outdoor heated facility focused on fitness and lap swimming. All heating facilities would be electric.

And Truscott Reserve requires an upgraded pavilion to offer female-friendly and fit-for-purpose changerooms.

Flood recovery has not been forgotten in our asks of a future Federal Government. The City has applied for grant opportunities available to all flood affected local governments, these are separate to the election process but no less important.

Not every project can be a priority and we have a long list of capital works and other projects we aim to get to over time. However, we believe this is a varied list of projects ranging in scale and across our community that are ready for investment.

Andrew Cooney,
Chief Executive
Officer



A colorful promotional graphic for the 'Be Well Be Connected' event. The background features abstract shapes in shades of pink, orange, and purple. The text 'Be Well Be Connected' is written in a large, stylized font. Below it, 'Positive ageing and disability expo' is written in a smaller font, followed by '2024'. At the bottom, 'Heathcote Roadshow' is written in a bold, sans-serif font. To the right, two white speech bubbles contain the event details: 'Wednesday October 2, 10am-2pm' and 'Barrack Reserve, Barrack Street, Heathcote'. The graphic is decorated with various icons like hearts, stars, and dots.

Climate Collaboration to continue for next three years

The Greater Bendigo Climate Collaboration is set to continue for another three years with the majority of previous partners recommitting to the initiative and new partners also coming on board.

Greater Bendigo Climate Collaboration Coordinator Ian McBurney said the Collaboration was formed in 2021, with 12 partner organisations committing to three years of climate engagement and action.

"Since commencing, the Collaboration has put Greater Bendigo on the path to zero emissions," Mr McBurney said.

"We have strengthened each partner organisation's commitment to emissions reduction, moved the public conversation towards climate action and created a Greater Bendigo 2030 Zero Emissions Roadmap that features 35 actions to implement by 2030.

"The Roadmap has provided a collaborative pathway to a zero emissions future that is equitable and good for our local and regional economy.

"Our main action priorities for the next year are to create a model that will support low wealth homes with energy retrofits, investigating a solar farm for Greater

Bendigo, advocating for improvements to the City's bus services and continuing to grow the Beat the Power Bills program, which is a free initiative to help local small businesses reduce their power bills, emissions and plan for a renewable energy future.

"In addition to the main priorities, there is also a range of other projects we are working on that will hold great benefits for the wider community.

"We are very proud of the work that has been done to date and we are excited by what is still to come over the next three years."

For more information about the Greater Bendigo Climate Collaboration, visit go.bendigo.vic.gov.au/climate-collaboration **gb**

FOCUS: Half the average power bill is heating!

START HERE

PLAN FOR HERE

Low to no cost changes – Halve your power bill

- Seal draughts
- Lag hot water pipes
- Shower rose
- Behaviour; shorter showers, wear a jumper, cold water washing, etc.
- Heat spaces you use
- Winter sun, summer shade – plant deciduous trees/vines on north and west
- Thermostat control*

Big impact – Payback under 1 year

- Insulate; roof, floor, walls
- Bike
- LED lights
- North eaves
- Window film

Electrify everything – Save \$5,000pa by 2030

- Solar PV
- Electric vehicle
- Heat pump hot water
- Heat pump heating/cooling
- Induction cooking
- High Energy Star appliances

*Every degree above 19°C in winter and below 25°C in summer adds 10% to the heating/cooling bill.



Big ticket – Long term payback

- Double glazed windows
- North facing renovation/build



WANT TO STAY UP TO DATE WITH ALL THE ENVIRONMENT NEWS IN GREATER BENDIGO?

Simply sign up to the City's monthly *Environment Matters* e-newsletter to receive climate and environment news for the Greater Bendigo region. You will learn more about:

- Programs and initiatives
- Local plants and animals
- Upcoming environment talks
- Workshops and events
- Available grants
- Greater Bendigo Climate Collaboration initiatives

It's easy to sign up and receive your copy of *Environment Matters* each month at go.bendigo.vic.gov.au/environment or via the QR Code.

So, sign up now because the environment does matter! **gb**



THE BENDIGO LOW LINE IS COMING!

The Bendigo Low Line is an exciting project that will provide safe off-road travel into the Bendigo city centre, between Golden Square and White Hills, thanks to \$5M from the Victorian Government and funding from the City of Greater Bendigo.

City Chief Executive Officer Andrew Cooney said the Bendigo Low Line would fill a key missing section of the 20km Bendigo Creek Trail, which connected Crusoe Reservoir near Big Hill with the Huntly Streamside Reserve.

"The project will provide connections to local schools and facilities"

"The project will provide connections to local schools and facilities, such as Rosalind Park, the Golden Dragon Museum, Central Deborah Gold Mine, Lake Weeroona and Golden Square Recreation Reserve, and all the Bendigo city centre has to offer," Mr Cooney said.

"Importantly, it will also serve a population of 95,000 people who live within 5km of Bendigo Creek by providing safe off-road travel into and through the Bendigo city centre.

"For those who are wondering, the Bendigo Low Line had been named to reflect the channel section of the Bendigo Creek and has taken inspiration from New York's High Line, a public park built on a disused 1.45 mile-long elevated rail structure on Manhattan's West Side.

"For many years now, the City has been strategically working to plan, develop and deliver a network of interconnected, shared walking and cycling pathways to help people move safely around Greater Bendigo.

"Greater Bendigo already has approximately 118.5 kilometres of pathways in its protected walking and cycling network, with more

to come in the future, to create a fully connected and accessible network located within 500 metres of 90 per cent of houses within urban Bendigo.

"The Bendigo Low Line is a very exciting project and a strong investment by both the Victorian Government and the City in infrastructure for safe, active and sustainable travel."

Construction on the project is expected to start in late 2024.

For more information on the Bendigo Low Line project, visit the City's website at go.bendigo.vic.gov.au/lowline or scan the QR code. **gb**

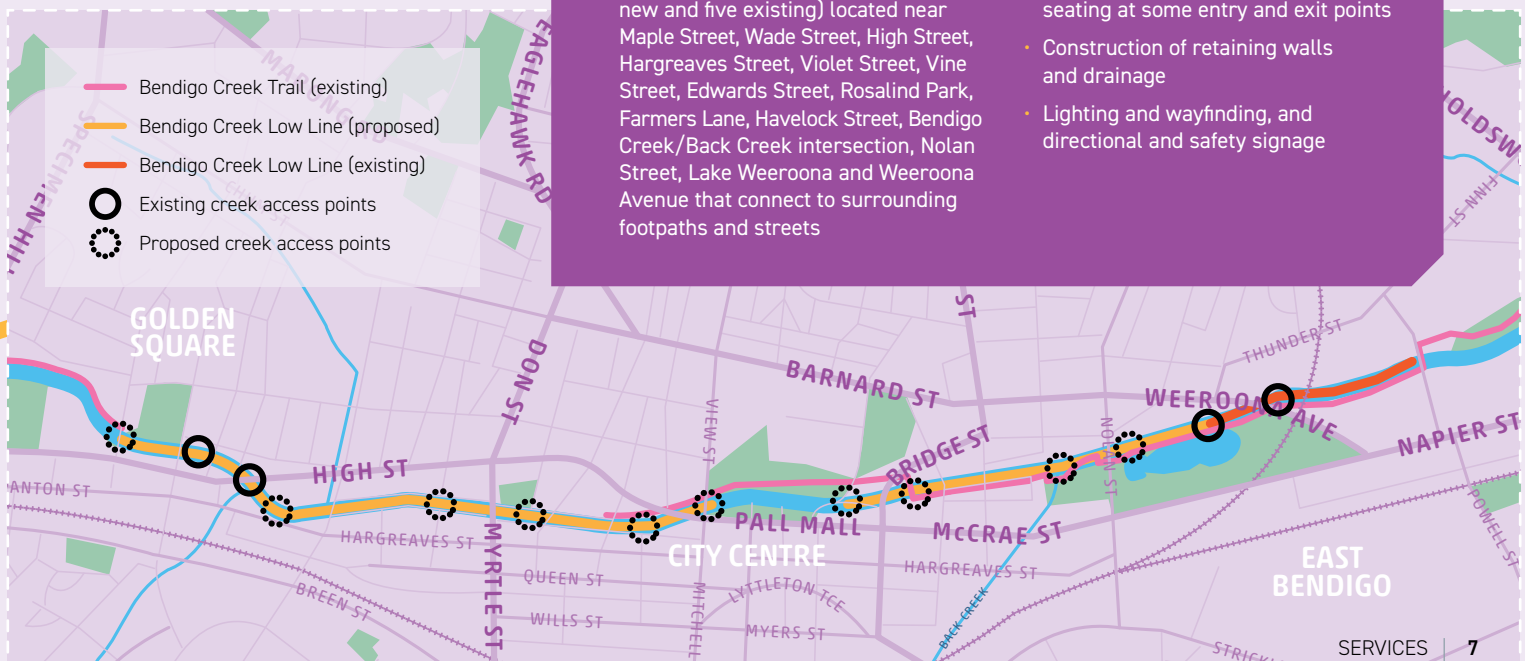




What is the Bendigo Low Line?

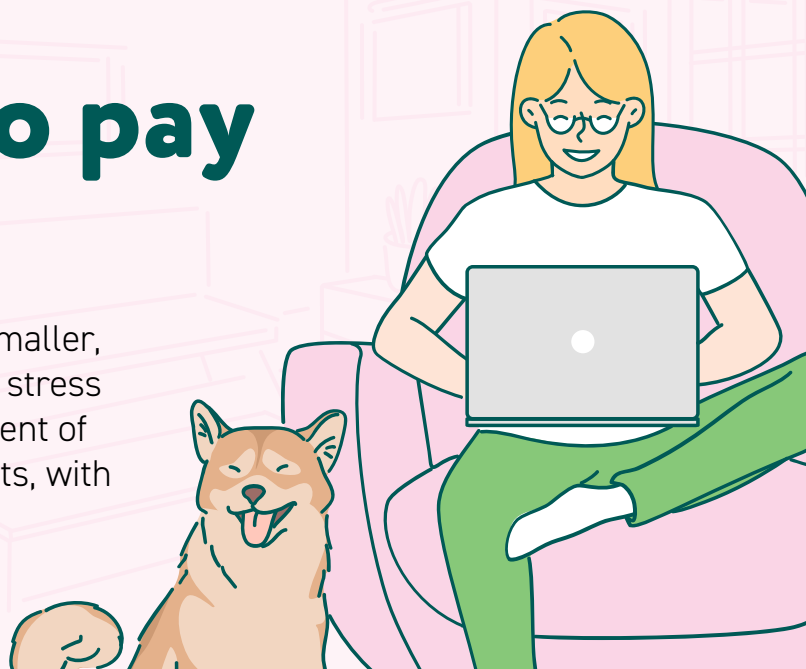
It is a 4.4km shared pathway in the Bendigo Creek channel located between Maple Street, Golden Square and Weeroona Avenue, White Hills featuring:

- A total of 14 entry/exit points (nine new and five existing) located near Maple Street, Wade Street, High Street, Hargreaves Street, Violet Street, Vine Street, Edwards Street, Rosalind Park, Farmers Lane, Havelock Street, Bendigo Creek/Back Creek intersection, Nolan Street, Lake Weeroona and Weeroona Avenue that connect to surrounding footpaths and streets
- Landscaped public spaces with seating at some entry and exit points
- Construction of retaining walls and drainage
- Lighting and wayfinding, and directional and safety signage



Easier ways to pay your rates

Have you considered paying your rates in smaller, regular payments to help ease the financial stress of managing household bills? Over 42 per cent of people prefer to pay rates in four instalments, with many choosing to break instalments into smaller amounts in a way that suits them.



In response to the current cost of living challenges, the City of Greater Bendigo has made changes to the payment options for the 2024/2025 rates notices. The option for full payment in February has been removed. This is to encourage ratepayers facing financial difficulties to engage with our Customer Service and Rates staff earlier. By talking to us, we can help ratepayers find regular, smaller rates payment options rather than dealing with the stress of a larger one-off payment.

Paying by instalments is the most popular way for people to pay their rates. Additionally, ratepayers can break down their instalment payments even further to help manage household bills in smaller bites. You do not have to wait for the due date, rate payments can be paid at any time and will come off the balance.

The City encourages and supports this with flexible payment options, such as fortnightly or monthly direct debits and Centrepay, so you can meet instalment due dates in a timely manner in a way that suits you.



Payment options on the rates notice

Pay by four instalments:

- **Instalment 1 due: September 30, 2024**
- **Instalment 2 due: December 2, 2024**
- **Instalment 3 due: February 28, 2025**
- **Instalment 4 due: June 2, 2025**



Early rates payment in full with a 1.5 per cent discount:

- **Due: September 30, 2024**

The City recommends setting up a regular direct debit for the instalment amounts. For a direct debit application form, visit: www.bendigo.vic.gov.au/rates

After you have received your Annual Notice, you will receive notice reminders for the remaining three instalments in December, February and June.

Director Corporate Performance Jess Howard said the removal of the full payment in February and the move to instalments reflected current trends.

"It is clear that most ratepayers prefer smaller, regular payments over the financial year either by instalments or flexible payment options, rather than the financial stress of paying a lump sum," Ms Howard said.

"This trend aligns with many utility, insurance and telecommunication companies, and VicRoads that offer monthly or quarterly billing.

"Many other local governments have also opted for instalments or smaller regular payments for ratepayers.

"Paying by instalments is the most popular way for people to pay their rates."

"The City understands that this will be a change for many people who wait until February to pay their rates. However, in the longer term, providing a more regular payment process for rates will help reduce the burden on those who have struggled to pay a larger annual payment.

"As an organisation, it is important to consider how we can best support ratepayers facing financial hardship in the current financial climate in a way that is still fair between ratepayers and enables the City to fund services valued by the community."

Am I eligible for a concession?

Residents who hold any of the following cards may be eligible for a concession:

- Pensioner Concession Card – issued by Centrelink or Department of Veterans' Affairs
- Department of Veterans' Affairs Gold Card – Totally and Permanently Incapacitated (TPI)
- Department of Veterans' Affairs Gold Card – War Widow (WW)

Please note, Health Care Card holders are not eligible. For more information visit: www.bendigo.vic.gov.au/rates

Payment difficulties?

People impacted by this change in rate payment options are encouraged to engage with our Customer Service team to discuss payment options, including financial hardship arrangements.

We recommend anyone facing financial difficulty seeks free financial counselling. You can be referred to a local financial counsellor by calling 1800 007 007 (Monday to Friday, 9.30am to 4.30pm) through the National Debt Helpline. This service provides access to a range of support options.

Our Financial Hardship Guidelines allow for flexible payment arrangements and the ability to defer payments on eligible debts.

Sometimes situations happen that affect your ability to pay for services. This could be illness, accident, loss of employment, some family issues or another change in your circumstances.

These guidelines outline:

- the definition of hardship
- the definition of financial hardship
- your eligibility for financial hardship consideration
- the process for applying for a payment arrangement
- the process for applying for a payment deferral

For more information, please visit:

go.bendigo.vic.gov.au/financialhardship

How to calculate your rates

To determine your rates for the financial year, multiply the value of your property by the rate in the dollar. For example, if the Capital Improved Value of a property is \$700,000 and the City rate in the dollar is set at 0.00287145 cents, the rate bill would be \$2,010 (\$700,000 x 0.00287145).

Your rates could increase by more or less than someone else because the rates you pay are affected by changes in the value of your property over time.

The City complies with the Victorian Government's Fair Go Rates system. The rate cap limits the total amount that the City can increase its total rates revenue each year. The rate cap for 2024/2025 is 2.75 per cent and only applies to general rates.

Need to know more?

For more information on rates payments, head to the City's website:

www.bendigo.vic.gov.au

For further enquiries about your rates and payment options, please contact the Rates team at ratesenquiries@bendigo.vic.gov.au or call 1300 002 642. **gb**

Where do my rates go?

For every \$100 we spend:

\$16.44
per \$100

Building and other capital works

Parks, gardens and open spaces

\$7.54
per \$100

Arts, culture and libraries

\$4.90
per \$100

Community programs and partnerships

\$2.35
per \$100

\$23.55

Transport and infrastructure

\$16.44

Building and other capital works

\$14.27

Waste, recycling and environment

\$13.35

City operations and governance

\$7.54

Parks, gardens and open spaces

\$5.99

City buildings and property

\$4.90

Arts, culture and libraries

\$4.38

Tourism and economic development

\$2.96

Community sport, recreation and pools

\$2.35

Community programs and partnerships

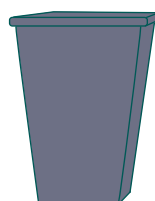
\$2.16

Town planning

\$2.09

Customer experience and communications

\$14.27
per \$100



Waste, recycling and environment

Earn while you learn

with the trainee and apprenticeship program

The City of Greater Bendigo offers an exciting opportunity for individuals to earn while they learn through its dynamic trainee and apprenticeship program. Almost 70 participants have benefited from this initiative, gaining invaluable job skills and experience over a 12-month period. The program is in partnership with CVGT Employment.

The program welcomes applicants from all ages and backgrounds, reflecting the City's commitment to diversity. The aim is to enhance participants' job skills with real-life work experiences, ultimately strengthening their resumes for future career opportunities.

Wide range of opportunities

With the City providing 68 services, the scope for trainees and apprentices is broad, offering numerous career experience opportunities. Participants can build their skill sets and earn a Certificate III qualification through hands-on experience. Career fields include:

- Early Childhood Education
- Community Services
- Parks and Gardens
- Arboriculture
- Works
- Communications
- Bendigo Venues & Events
- And many more

Support and mentorship

Each trainee and apprentice is paired with a supervisor mentor who serves as their go-to support. Supervisors help them settle into their roles, develop their skills and navigate various aspects of their job. This guidance includes learning different systems, enhancing customer service skills, working with different teams and projects, and understanding the City's ways of working.

Mutual benefits

The program benefits both the participants and the City. Trainees and apprentices bring fresh energy, new knowledge and enthusiasm, which contribute to the team. The trainees and apprentices gain hands-on practical experience, feel empowered with new skills and develop customer service expertise.

Success stories

Many who have completed the City's program, in partnership with CVGT Employment, have

secured employment, with some continuing to enjoy successful careers within the City. While there is no guarantee of a permanent role post-program, the experience gained significantly boosts participants' job prospects.

The City's trainee and apprenticeship program is a fantastic opportunity for anyone looking to build a solid foundation for their career while earning an income. Available trainee and apprenticeship positions are advertised on the City's, CVGT Employment's and job vacancy websites. **gb**



Caitlin VanDolderen

Business Administration Trainee in
YO Bendigo, the City's youth services team

The traineeship has been a great opportunity to kick start my career and do that in a learning environment. I absolutely love it and think it's one of the best opportunities for anyone to get involved in. I have a great team around me and I'm learning something new every day.

As a Business Administration Trainee at YO Bendigo, I complete meeting agendas, room bookings, social media posts, complete purchase orders, make taxi bookings and carry out other basic admin duties. I also create the YO Bendigo newsletter and write the social media posts.

The hands-on experience helps you to understand things quicker and more accurately. Some things you will be doing from your first day and then every day after that, so you learn how to do them quickly and it gives you a better understanding of how those things should be done in an office environment.

I'm enjoying learning about the wider organisation and have discovered that there are so many different pathways

that you can go down once you finish your traineeship. It's really interesting to learn about other people's roles and see what interests you for a future goal.

I have learnt confidence within my work, I used to question everything I did and wasn't sure if I was doing things right. Now, I'm learning how to be confident in the things I produce, my team has supported me a lot with this.

I just want to learn everything I can during the 12-month traineeship. I want to do as much as I can in this role so I can take these skills on to my next job after the traineeship is done.

I am wanting to get into something admin-related once this traineeship is over and I would love to one day get into a personal assistant job. I think the traineeship has already been a great step in this direction.

My advice to others who are thinking about a traineeship is don't be scared to jump in not knowing anything, just take the chance and learn as much as you can.

I am close to finishing my university marketing degree, which has left me facing the big question of what's next? Within a few weeks of searching for opportunities to challenge myself and apply my skills, this role appeared and it felt like the right step. I am really enjoying the traineeship. Everyone has been so welcoming and they really care about helping me to develop skills that will help me to progress my career long term. There's no better way to learn than by doing something. It really challenges you to ask questions and be self-reflective on how you can improve your skills. It teaches you communication skills more than anything else can.

I predominantly help with updating the website and helping to make sure it is as accessible as possible for everyone. However, I'm also lucky because I get to do a little bit of everything in the Communications unit, like social media and analytics, I even get to be involved in marketing discussions occasionally.

There are so many great people who work for the City, and I'm really enjoying hearing about how they got to where they have. Everyone builds their career differently and it's nice to know that you can take it wherever you'd like, you just need to put one foot in front of the other.

I've learned that it's important to never be afraid to ask questions. I am quite timid by nature, so I usually find it hard to speak up but if you don't ask, you'll never know the answer.

I hope to develop a wide range of practical skills that I can translate into future roles. It will also be nice to finish the 12-month traineeship with a Certificate III in Business.

My perfect job would be a role in marketing overseas, most likely in New York or London. This traineeship has taught me so many things but especially to consider things from all angles, which I think is important when it comes to unfamiliar environments like working overseas.

If you are thinking about a traineeship, go for it! The things that challenge you in life are always the most rewarding.



Jemma Coote

Marketing and Communications Trainee
in the City's Communications unit



Lily Andrews

Property Services Trainee

Once I knew more about traineeships, I saw what a great opportunity it was to be able to study and learn the job at the same time. It would help me to get a better understanding of how the things I was learning in school would apply to the job. I feel as though it has been an invaluable experience for me and it has helped me to level up my skills.

I do a lot of administrative tasks, such as invoices and responding to customer requests. I also do other tasks such as property key requests, making sure that people who need access to a city-owned

community building are handed the right key. Three times a week, I also help the Property Contract Officers with admin tasks. The benefit is that I am able to understand the tasks better because I am physically doing them instead of just learning in school. I am really enjoying the vast variety of tasks that are available for me to do and to be part of a team environment.

There are a lot of things that I have been able to learn already. One of the key skills has been the whole invoicing process, which can be very confusing but with lots of

support I have been able to do that. Over the traineeship, I hope to be able to confidently do all the tasks that I am learning and be able to excel in this type of work. After this traineeship, I would like to explore the vast variety of positions available at the City.

I strongly encourage people to do a traineeship. It is a great experience and there is a wide variety of benefits such as being able to study while working in the field you want to be in, getting paid while studying and being able to expand your knowledge and grow your skill set.

Dan Thomas

Bendigo Venues & Events Theatre Technician Trainee



This traineeship has been an incredible launchpad for my career. I've had the opportunity to dive deep into the live events industry, discovering aspects I hadn't previously encountered. My passion for this field ignited when I was 16, as I engaged with professionals at various shows, asking questions about their roles and the industry. This curiosity led me to work at smaller events, where I learned the basics of setting up PA systems and lighting rigs.

A friend in the industry suggested I apply for this traineeship, recognising that my experience with theatre was limited. Over the past six weeks, I've taken on a variety of tasks, from moving chairs to assisting with lighting rigging and video system operation. Getting hands-on with equipment has significantly improved my accuracy and precision in my work.

One memorable experience was assisting with the rigging for the Australian Opera. Seeing the intricate coordination and the final result was highly educational. The opportunity to work alongside seasoned professionals has broadened my understanding of the technical and creative aspects of live events.

The traineeship has also deepened my knowledge of event logistics and troubleshooting, skills I plan to build on as I pursue a long-term career in the industry. I'm particularly grateful to my colleagues who have been a key part in my development, offering guidance and support every step of the way.

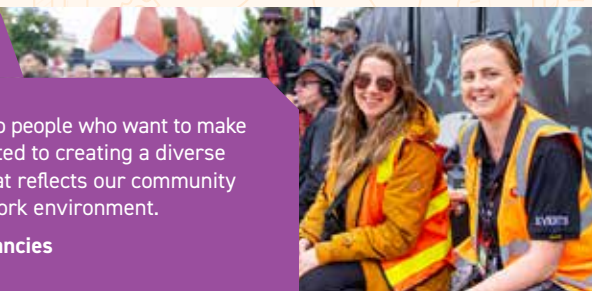
For anyone considering a traineeship in this field, I'd advise embracing every opportunity to learn and network. Being proactive and open to new experiences can make a significant difference in your growth and success.

As I continue to develop my skills, I'm excited about the future and the many possibilities within the live events industry.

Join our team!

We offer job opportunities to people who want to make a difference. We're committed to creating a diverse and inclusive workforce that reflects our community and fosters a supporting work environment.

go.bendigo.vic.gov.au/vacancies



Save the date this October for the...

2024 Greater Bendigo Seniors Festival

Explore, Engage, Evolve! October 6–13

The Greater Bendigo Seniors Festival (part of the Victorian Seniors Festival) will take place during October 2024, with plenty of free or low-cost events and activities on offer for local older adults.

This year's festival will celebrate with the theme Explore, Engage, Evolve and a highlight will be the concert on Friday October 11 at The Capital Theatre in 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 festival at local libraries, Bendigo and Heathcote Visitor Centres, The Capital, Neighbourhood Houses, the City's web site at www.bendigo.vic.gov.au and the Connect Greater Bendigo website at www.connectgreaterbendigo.com.au

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



Festival Partner

Victorian
Seniors
Festival
2024





"Strathfieldsaye now boasts a multipurpose, inclusive and accessible facility"

Creating a hub for everyone

The redevelopment of the main building at the Strathfieldsaye Community Hub, Club Court is now complete and ready to serve the fast-growing Strathfieldsaye Community.

Eppalock Ward Cr Greg Penna said the redevelopment of the hub building has been a strong investment by Council to create a place for everyone in the Strathfieldsaye area.

"Strathfieldsaye now boasts a multipurpose, inclusive and accessible facility that caters for a range of community functions and activities, provides local level infrastructure for both sporting club and community use, and features the modern facilities and amenities required to support increased participation and access for all," Cr Penna said.

"The City worked closely with the user groups to develop a flexible building, with spaces that can be shared and utilised by a broad range of users and members of the community.

"Stage 1 was completed in 2022 and focused on providing female-friendly facilities to cater for the growing number of female sporting participants. This first stage was funded by the City, along with a \$100,000 grant from the Victorian Government, and contributions from Sedgwick Cricket Club and Colts United Football Club.

"The recently completed stage 2 included the redevelopment of the remainder of the building, including club facilities to support the relocation of the Strathfieldsaye Bowls Club and 1st Strathfieldsaye Scout Group from their existing locations into the main building.

"The stage 2 works were undertaken over multiple financial years and were funded by the City, along with \$250,000 from 1st Strathfieldsaye Scout Group.

"The City is still working to finalise stage 3 of the project, which is all about improving the broader precinct.

"The final stage will include improvements to car parking, landscaping, pedestrian accessibility and additional sporting infrastructure, so the space can be accessed and enjoyed by everyone in the community for a range of uses.

"While the final stage as a whole is unfunded and will be subject to future budget approvals, funding has been provided in the current financial year for the design of additional external sporting infrastructure." **gb**

Pictured above left to right: Graham Etherton, Phil Berry, Deputy Mayor Cr Matthew Evans, Cr Greg Penna and Marg Keech OAM.

FOUR FUN FACTS FROM THE PAST!

1 In 1925 the Arch of Triumph at the entrance to the Bendigo Botanic Gardens, White Hills was unveiled to honour local men who fought in World War I.

2 In 1954 Queen Elizabeth II visited Bendigo with crowds of nearly 100,000 lining the streets to catch a glimpse of the young monarch and the Duke of Edinburgh just nine months after her coronation. The Queen visited the Upper Reserve, which was renamed the Queen Elizabeth Oval following the visit.



3 In 2000 the Sydney Olympic's Olympic Torch Relay passed through Bendigo, with the torch carried by a number of local torch bearers, including Jack Lockett, who was Australia's oldest man at the time.

4 Sunday April 7, 2024 marked 30 years since the former City of Bendigo, Borough of Eaglehawk and Shires of Strathfieldsaye, Huntly, Marong and Mclvor amalgamated in 1994 to form the City of Greater Bendigo.

Photos courtesy of Goldfields Library.

City of Greater Bendigo Budget 2024/2025



A big thank you to members from the community who contributed early in the Budget planning process. The City of Greater Bendigo Budget 2024/2025 delivers community priorities with a strong investment focus on roads, footpaths and flood resilience projects.

Each year, the City's Budget makes day-to-day life in Greater Bendigo possible, funding 68 important services and managing infrastructure that is valued in the community.

Residents were invited to provide their input on Budget priorities that supported 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.

As part of the online public engagement for the Budget, residents were invited to complete a short survey in the form of a 'Budget funding tool'. The scenario asked people to allocate \$100 across 14 core services that the City provides. Across the funding tool and comments received, investment in roads, bridges and drainage emerged as the number one community priority, followed by waste, recycling and resource recovery; parks, gardens, and open spaces; and footpaths, tracks and trails.

Director Corporate Performance Jess Howard said the Budget engagement process saw a significant increase in community involvement.

"We saw a threefold increase in the number of people engaging in Budget consultation compared to last year"

"We saw a threefold increase in the number of people engaging in Budget consultation compared to last year, which was a good opportunity for us to see what City services residents valued the most," Ms Howard said.

"I would like to thank everyone who contributed on our online engagement platform Let's Talk Greater Bendigo, which has helped to shape the Budget 2024/2025.

"Although Council spends significantly each year across the key areas highlighted by residents, community feedback was a helpful guide to prioritise spending public money, particularly as we continue to operate in a financially constrained environment.

"The reality of operating under rate-capping and costs continuing to rise, means there is less income available. Difficult decisions throughout this Budget process have had to be made so we remain fiscally responsible for the community we serve."

A funding gap of \$49M is estimated to have been created due to inflation being higher than rate cap increases over the past five years. This requires efficiencies to continue to be found within operations to ensure the City can keep delivering for the community. More than 60 per cent of the City's income comes from rates, with the balance coming from user fees and charges and government grants. **gb**



Budget snapshot

The Budget's \$168M operating expenditure will fund 68 essential services for the community, such as waste services, street cleaning, early years, maintenance of our fantastic parks, gardens and recreation facilities, environmental health, libraries, statutory planning, road maintenance, tourism and visitor services, Bendigo Art Gallery, The Capital and Ulumbarra theatres, and much more.

Budget highlights

Roads, drains and bridges

- \$11.1M for road renewals, including Napier Street to Charleston Road, Valentine Street to Langston Street, Eaglehawk-Neilborough Road to Averys Road
- \$360,000 for design of six road safety projects ahead of construction in the following financial year (Black Spot Program)
- \$500,000 Midland Highway/Waratah Road intersection signals (funded through the Development Contributions Plan and the City)
- \$3M major road patching program
- Wattle Street bridge barrier repairs and works
- Bendigo Creek infrastructure renewal, including \$1.8M for wall replacement at Nolan Street and the section from Booth Street to High Street
- Work continues on the Kennington Reservoir dam wall rehabilitation – \$900,000
- \$500,000 for flood recovery works to Spillway Road, Eppalock (damage from the October 2022 floods)

Footpaths, tracks and trails

- Begin the Bendigo Low Line, a new shared walking-cycling path within the Bendigo Creek channel
- New and renewal funding for footpaths – \$2.8M (new footpaths include Edwards Road, Maiden Gully; Galvin Street, Bendigo; Nelson Street, California Gully; and Simpsons Road, Eaglehawk in two stages)
- Final allocation of funds for completing the Emu Creek underpass underneath Wellington Street, Strathfieldsaye – \$274,000
- New shared paths – \$674,000 (including along Gungurru Road and Rennie Street in Huntly)

Civic and city-owned community upgrades and projects

- The Budget will contribute to the \$4.3M Heathcote Civic Precinct upgrade, which also benefits from a \$1M Victorian Government Living Libraries grant and \$2M from the Federal Government's Growing Regions fund
- Marong Kindergarten and Community Hub stage 1
- Continuation of Elmore public toilet renewal
- Lake Weeroona changing place facility design
- Kangaroo Flat Library tea room, kitchen and walkway renewal designs
- Chinese Joss House stage 2 structural renewal

Environment initiatives

- Continued Council support for the Greater Bendigo Climate Collaboration – \$50,000
- Continuation of the Agribusiness Support Officer role, which will enable Council to continue to support our farming community
- Environmental upgrades program, which will include electrification, energy efficiency works and roof top solar installations at Council facilities – \$320,000

Recreational facilities highlights

- The Victorian Government Regional Sports and Infrastructure Program will invest in the Bendigo Showgrounds, Bendigo Bowls Club and Red Energy Arena
- Long Gully Recreation Reserve Community Pavilion, external painting renewal
- Malone Park scoreboard renewal
- Strathfieldsaye Club Court tennis and netball court upgrade
- Strathdale Park cricket nets extension
- Spring Gully cricket nets renewal
- Tannery Lane, Warne Court (junior oval) drainage and ground renewal
- Bendigo Regional Hockey Complex sport lighting design

Rates and fees

- 2.75 per cent increase to rate revenue, in line with the Victorian Government's Fair Go Rates system
- Small increases in fees and charges are necessary to adequately service the needs of the community and respond to rising costs
- Due to ongoing costs for waste services, waste charges will increase in the 2024/2025 financial year by \$34 (for a 140L bin). This rise reflects the cost of the service. The City does not make a profit from waste services, which includes organics and recycling activities, education programs, the landfill and transfer stations

For more on the Budget, visit go.bendigo.vic.gov.au/budget

Improving Kennington Reservoir's WILDLIFE HABITAT

The City of Greater Bendigo is taking advantage of lower water levels due to major maintenance works on the Kennington Reservoir dam wall, to undertake a range of habitat and other works to improve environmental and recreational fishing opportunities at this popular urban fishing spot.

Kennington Reservoir is home to a range of waterbirds, fish, turtles and more, and the works will improve wildlife habitat, reduce silt build-up, improve water quality, reduce algal blooms, enhance fishing opportunities, and improve the look and quality of the reservoir.

The project is a great way for the City to achieve additional biodiversity benefits and provide even more opportunities for the community to access and interact at this much visited spot.

The work is being undertaken with a \$110,000 grant from the Victorian Fisheries Authority Recreational Fishing Grants Program.

For more information, visit go.bendigo.vic.gov.au/kenningtonfishhabitat gb

"Kennington Reservoir is home to a range of waterbirds, fish, turtles and more"

Senior Biodiversity Officer Mark Hall.

THE PROJECT INCLUDES:

- Deepening parts of the reservoir by creating pools and channels
- Reusing the timber and roots removed from the dam wall to improve fish, frog and turtle habitat
- Planting of aquatic vegetation to improve water quality, food and nesting resources for wildlife
- Construction of a canoe ramp to improve water access for non-powered boats
- The creation of new casting spots along the banks using rocks, logs and native vegetation to increase access for fishing
- Restocking with more diverse fish species
- Installation of signage



*Cr Margaret O'Rourke OAM, Coordinator Civil Design
Andrew Smith and Landscape Architect Jonathon Lane.*



New Strathfieldsaye town square underway

Construction works are underway to create a town square and commercial heart in Strathfieldsaye where residents can shop, gather, meet and attend events.

The new town square is under construction at the corner of Apsley Lane and Wellesley Street. The project also includes construction of shared paths, public space infrastructure and landscaping within the currently unmade grassy and treed road reserve of Wellesley Street, located between Apsley Street and Strathfieldsaye Road.

Eppalock Ward Cr Margaret O'Rourke OAM said the creation of a town square was an exciting key project of the Strathfieldsaye Urban Development Framework, which was developed with extensive community involvement and adopted by Council in 2017.

"The community told us they wanted a gathering place for local events and, when completed, this new public space will feature amenities and facilities to enhance the quality of life and sense of place for residents and visitors," Cr O'Rourke said.

"It will also encourage future private development of new retail and commercial spaces at ground level and apartment living on upper levels.

"The community told us they wanted a gathering place for local events"

"Council is investing \$1.5M to create this new landmark destination, which will link to other public facilities, showcase the unique identity of Strathfieldsaye and provide a gathering place for the community."

The design of the new public space was informed by community feedback and developed by the City of Greater Bendigo's Landscape Design team, in partnership with the Traditional Owners the Dja Dja Wurrung.

Construction of the project is expected to be complete by the end of 2024. More information about the project is available on the City's website at go.bendigo.vic.gov.au/strathfieldsaye-town-square gb

THE NEW TOWN SQUARE WILL FEATURE:

- Flexible paved gathering spaces to cater for a range of community uses, including markets and cultural celebrations
- A shared path designed to ensure safety and accessibility for all users for walking, running and cycling activities along the site
- Raised garden beds to provide shading, seating and a barrier to car access
- Hardscape commercial break out area to allow businesses to extend their services and products into the public space
- Perimeter footpaths to service future commercial frontages and provide opportunities for slower-moving pedestrian traffic and connect the site to the surrounding streets and amenities
- Multiple lawn areas to provide green and open spaces for relaxation, recreation and socialisation
- Native garden beds to showcase local flora and fauna, and provide habitat and food for native wildlife and pollinators
- Native grass areas to create natural and low-maintenance ground cover



"A trip to a cat café can instantly lift your spirits, as simply watching a cat do cute things is enough to make you feel happy!"

BARC cats set to lap it up at Pop-up Cat Café

Bendigo Animal Relief Centre (BARC) is excited to help match adult cats to potential new homes through Bendigo's first Pop-up Cat Café, which will take place at Myvet Strathfieldsaye from 10am to 2pm on Sunday September 22.

The Pop-up Cat Café is an initiative of Myvet Strathfieldsaye, which is providing this unique opportunity for people to enjoy a coffee and a sweet treat while hanging out with some of the amazing cats BARC has available for adoption. So, whether your intention is to enjoy a cuppa in good company, fill your cat cuddle quota or find a new best friend, this is a great way to spend your Sunday morning.

Myvet Strathfieldsaye Veterinarian Dr Susan Bibby said cat cafés were very popular in other cities and they wanted to bring the experience to people in Greater Bendigo.

"As an International Society of Feline Medicine (ISFM) gold standard cat accredited clinic, we have an amazing reception area that we felt could be used to host cats and kittens in need, as well as provide a warm and inviting space for coffee, cake and kitty cuddles," Dr Bibby said.

"On a more serious note, the cat café is also an opportunity for local cats and kittens in need to find their 'forever home', and to raise funds for vaccination and desexing of these cats."

BARC Operations Manager Fra Atyeo said the colder months tend to see fewer adoptions happen across Victoria, with cat adoption rates particularly affected.

"The Pop-up Cat Café will give some of BARC's cats, who may have been waiting for

a home for some time, the chance to imprint themselves in someone's lap, who in turn may consider adopting them," Ms Atyeo said.

"Cat cafés started in Taiwan over 25 years ago and since then have opened around the world, with Melbourne providing the home to Australia's first cat café in 2014.

"Many cat cafés host shelter cats, which provides a great opportunity for them to meet potential new families.

"BARC and Myvet Strathfieldsaye both recognise the many health benefits of simply spending quality time in the company of a cat.

"A trip to a cat café can instantly lift your spirits, as simply watching a cat do cute things is enough to make you feel happy! Petting a cat raises levels of the hormone oxytocin, which lowers levels of the stress hormone cortisol, inducing a sense of calmness. Even the sound of a cat's purr has a calming and therapeutic effect."

Myvet Strathfieldsaye is located at 914 Wellington Street, Strathfieldsaye. Bookings are essential and can be made by scanning the QR code. [gb](#)



Bendigo Animal Relief Centre

City continues to invest in new public toilets

The City of Greater Bendigo continues to invest in new public toilet facilities as part of its ongoing commitment to implement the Public Toilet Strategy and to improve all-ability access across Greater Bendigo, with projects recently completed in Longlea and Heathcote, and projects underway in Golden Square and Elmore.

The City recently completed a new \$285,000 rest stop along the O'Keefe Rail Trail near the entrance to Peppercorn Park Reserve, off Longlea Lane. This project was funded by the City and features two unisex toilets, new car parking area, a new shelter with picnic tables, five new bike hoops and improvements to the entrance of Peppercorn Park.

Assisted by a \$180,000 grant from the Victorian Government, the City also recently completed a new \$210,000 Changing Places facility at Barrack Reserve, Heathcote to serve members of the local community and visitors to the region.

Changing Places are important facilities because they provide a secure public toilet with equipment required by people with high support needs. This enables them to participate in activities and events without having to limit their time away from home or worry if there are suitable toilet facilities available.



Friends of the Bendigo-Kilmore O'Keefe Rail Trail at the new facility in Longlea.

"Changing Places are important facilities because they provide a secure public toilet with equipment required by people with high support needs."

Work is underway on the construction of new \$520,000 accessible public toilet and Changing Places facilities at Railway Place, Elmore. Unfortunately, some delays have occurred with this project due to the discovery of a previously undetected water main under the former toilet block. This discovery meant the location of the new

building needed to change by several metres and amendments to project permits were required.

When completed, the new Elmore public toilet facility will feature five unisex cubicles, two accessible unisex cubicles and a Changing Place. The project received a \$210,000 grant from the Victorian Government and is now expected to be completed in early 2025.

Work is also underway on construction of new facilities to serve Allingham Street Reserve in Golden Square. This project includes construction of a new public toilet facility with one all-ability access cubicle and two ambulant cubicles, a new sheltered spectator area facing the oval, new bike hoops, picnic table and drinking fountain. This \$240,000 project is funded by the City and is expected to be complete by November 2024. **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

Bosquet Street – footpath works
Tom Flood – lighting upgrade
Municipal Baths
Forest Lane – road reconstruction
Bendigo Airport – civil works

EAGLEHAWK

Simpsons Road – footpath construction

ELMORE

Elmore-Mitiamo Road – road reconstruction

GOLDEN SQUARE

Thistle Street bridge – reconstruction

KANGAROO FLAT

Muriel Street – road reconstruction

KENNINGTON

Kennington Reservoir – upgrade

LOCKWOOD

Crusoe Road – Black Spot upgrade

MAIDEN GULLY

Edwards Road – shared path

MANDURANG

Sedgwick Road – Black Spot upgrade

SPRING GULLY

Cricket nets – upgrade

STRATHFIELDSAYE

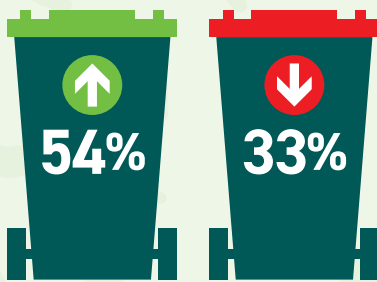
Emu Creek underpass
Town centre construction

Organics up, waste down – well done Greater Bendigo!

Thank you Greater Bendigo for embracing the change to weekly organics and fortnightly general waste kerbside bin collections – you are doing a great job and we have the results to back this up!

The change commenced on February 5, 2024 and for the first five months to July 5 the amount of organics collected was up by 2,946 tonnes and general waste was down by 3,320 tonnes compared to the same period in the previous year.

This is an impressive 54 per cent increase in the amount of organics collected and a 33 per cent decrease in the amount of general waste collected.



We know that change can be difficult but the move to weekly organics and fortnightly general waste collections is making a huge difference.

It means that more organics is now being recycled into a high-quality compost for re-use and less is going to landfill, which is great news for the environment as decomposing food and garden waste in landfill emits methane, a damaging greenhouse gas, into the atmosphere and contributes to climate change.

Reducing the amount of organic material in the waste stream is also important because the Eaglehawk Landfill has almost reached capacity making it necessary for the City to transport general waste to a landfill outside of Greater Bendigo.

The City collects waste and recycling from more than 53,000 residential properties, and the change to weekly organics and

Can't remember what bin to put out on bin night?

It can be confusing remembering 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 go.bendigo.vic.gov.au/binnight

Don't know what goes in what bin?

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 go.bendigo.vic.gov.au/wasteguide

fortnightly general waste collections was the biggest change to the City's waste management services since the introduction of the organics service in 2016.

Thank you to everyone for embracing the change and for helping make our community more sustainable and waste-wise. **gb**

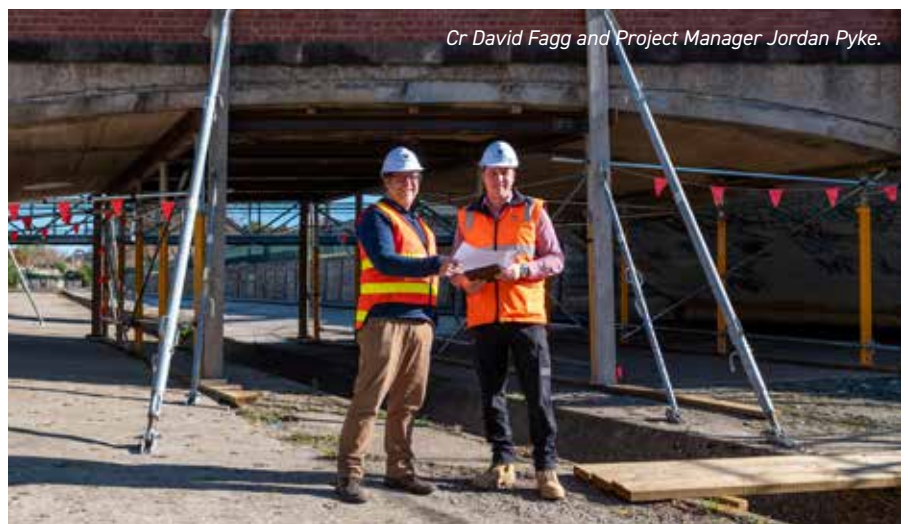
Bridge to serve for years to come

One of Bendigo's oldest bridges over Bendigo Creek, the Thistle Street bridge, is undergoing significant repairs to ensure it continues to serve the community for many years to come.

Built between 1902 and 1904 by Monash & Anderson, the Thistle Street bridge is a well-used thoroughfare over Bendigo Creek for many residents.

The bridge is also a great example of the Monier concrete arch bridges designed and constructed by Monash & Anderson, as it demonstrates an important stage in the development of reinforced concrete technology and early 20th century engineering.

Eight Monier reinforced concrete arch bridges were built in Bendigo between 1900 and 1902, and six remain: Thistle Street, Wade Street, Booth Street, High Street at Golden Square, Abbott Street and Weeroona Avenue.



Cr David Fagg and Project Manager Jordan Pyke.

Greater Bendigo Whipstick Ward Cr Dave Fagg said the Thistle Street bridge works were required because the bridge's arch had developed a sag in the centre.

"The repairs will strengthen the bridge to prevent further settlement," Cr Fagg said.

"The \$400,000 project, which is funded by the City of Greater Bendigo, involves removing

the road pavement and soil to expose the top of the bridge's arch, construction of a new arch on top of the old arch and rebuilding the structure's foundations.

"It is important for the work to be sympathetic to the heritage of the bridge and while the bridge will still look the same, it will serve the community well into the future." **gb**

Farewell to a Local Government legend

Cr Rod Fyffe OAM,

March 20, 1949 – July 12, 2024

In July, the Greater Bendigo community celebrated the life and service of Cr Rod Fyffe OAM.

For 38 years, Rod was a dedicated and beloved councillor. A truly kind man who took great pride in serving his community.

To pass away still a councillor, would have meant a great deal to Rod. He served until the very end – it was the role of a lifetime.

Rod was born on March 20, 1949 in Warracknabeal. He went to Monash University and graduated with a Bachelor of Economics, majoring in mathematics, statistics and economics, and he went on to undertake a Diploma of Education.

"You can only admire and be grateful for someone such as Rod, who gave so much of himself."

He commenced his teaching career at Mansfield High School before departing for Scotland in 1975 to undertake a Bachelor of Arts at Edinburgh University, majoring in archaeology, geology, geophysics and fine art.

He returned to Australia to live in Bendigo in 1979 and commenced teaching at the then Bendigo Senior High School.

In 1983, he wanted to give back to the community and so began his career as a Councillor with the City of Bendigo and later the City of Greater Bendigo. His last Council meeting was in May this year.

He was Mayor four times, Deputy Mayor twice and he worked with 12 Mayors, 12 CEOs and was a Councillor through the introduction of three Local Government Acts.

Through the highs and lows of community life, Rod was there.

When he celebrated 35 years as a Councillor, he reflected on the privilege of being able to steer the ship and contribute to a range of important decisions.

His passions were preserving the environment, caring for our heritage buildings, the arts, particularly Bendigo Art Gallery and The Capital, and in the community he was a passionate supporter of Golden Square Football Club.

He was a familiar sight to many residents walking around the city centre talking to his constituents, greeting everyone with his friendly phrase "Hello Worker".

You can only admire and be grateful for someone such as Rod, who gave so much of himself.

To read a statement approved by Rod in the days before he died, visit go.bendigo.vic.gov.au/valerodfyffe gb



Thank you, Councillors!

It's nearly the end of another Council term, so we're looking back on some of the great achievements and other exciting events that took place over the past four years. Thank you, Councillors, for your service to our community and congratulations on the legacy that you leave.

2020 (Council elected in October)

- The City became the first Local Government in Australia to be accredited as a Welcoming City by the Welcoming Cities Network
- The City announced plans for new female-friendly and accessible facilities at Strathfieldsaye Sports Centre community hub

Mayors

Cr Jennifer Alden – 2020/2021

Cr Andrea Metcalf – 2021/2022, 2022/2023, 2023/2024

Deputy Mayors

Cr Andrea Metcalf – 2020/2021

Cr Matthew Evans – 2021/2022, 2023/2024

Cr Jennifer Alden – 2022/2023

2021



- The 2021/2022 Budget included a \$2M COVID-19 support package for business and community. It included \$729,000 for business support grants, which supported 104 local businesses
- Council adopted a new Council Plan, community vision, 10-year Financial Plan, and Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan
- **The new Kangaroo Flat Library opened on Lockwood Road**
- The City was one of 46 Victorian councils to sign onto the Victorian Energy Collaboration, the largest-ever emissions reduction project undertaken by Local Government in Australia. The City's electricity is now powered with 100 per cent renewables
- The City of Sandhurst's 150th anniversary was marked with a plaque unveiling and a collection of Mayoress portraits was installed in the Bendigo Town Hall Council Chamber
- The City purchased 155 hectares of land in Marong to support the development of the Bendigo Regional Employment Precinct
- The Climate Change and Environment Strategy was adopted
- The Djaara Lights display was unveiled in the city centre
- The Domestic Animal Management Plan was adopted
- The new Reducing Harm from Gambling Policy was adopted

2022

- Bendigo Art Gallery exhibition *Elvis: Direct from Graceland* attracted more than 200,000 people
- A Progress Pride Flag was unveiled on the forecourt of the Bendigo Town Hall as a symbol of support for the LGBTIQ+ community
- The Gender Equality Action Plan and the Cultural Diversity and Inclusion Plan were adopted
- Bendigo Easter Fair celebrated 150 years
- Bendigo Writers Festival celebrated its 10th anniversary
- The Greater Bendigo Climate Collaboration was launched to support the City's goal of zero carbon emissions by 2030
- The Active and Healthy Greater Bendigo Framework was adopted to guide investment in sport and recreation opportunities
- Ukrainian Ambassador to Australia, Vasyl Myroshnychenko, visited Bendigo
- The City and Bendigo Art Gallery appointed Jackson Clements Burrows and Clare Design to design the Gallery's expansion project
- Kennington Recreation Reserve's pavilion redevelopment opened
- The City coordinated the Emergency Relief Centre at the Bendigo Showgrounds in response to floods in the region
- The Larni Garingilang precinct at the Bendigo Botanic Gardens was opened
- The new Lake Weeroona play space opened in time for the summer holidays
- **Permanent First Nations gallery, Djaa Djuwima, was opened in the Bendigo Visitor Centre**





Get in touch...

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Cr Margaret O'Rourke OAM

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Cr Greg Penna

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LOCKWOOD WARD



Cr Dr Jennifer Alden

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Cr Vaughan Williams

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Cr Rod Fyffe OAM passed away in July 2024

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Mayor Cr Andrea Metcalf

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Cr Dave Fagg

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Cr Julie Sloan

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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

2023

- Free soft plastic drop off points were set up at Strathfieldsaye, Goornong and Heathcote transfer stations, and at the Eaglehawk Recycle Shop
- Council endorsed the Zero Carbon – Net Zero Emissions Plan for Council operations 2023-2030
- Bendigo became the first regional city in Australia to stage Richard Wagner's epic opera series, *The Ring Cycle*
- A new Youth Action Plan was approved
- Work started on the redevelopment of the former Municipal Baths
- The Positive Ageing Action Plan was adopted, which outlined a commitment to older adults in the community
- The Greater Bendigo Planning Scheme Review 2022 was adopted to enhance the scheme's effectiveness
- The City moved into Galkangu – Bendigo GovHub**
- Mercy Junortoun Sports Precinct was opened
- Hargreaves Mall Action Plan was adopted to revitalise Hargreaves Mall and the city centre
- The Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan was adopted
- Stage two of the Ewing Park redevelopment was completed
- The City farewellled CEO Craig Niemann and appointed new CEO Andrew Cooney

2024

- Bendigo Athletics Track was renamed Lar Birpa
- Indian Consul-General to Victoria, Dr Sushil Kumar, and the Indian High Commissioner to Australia, His Excellency Mr Gopal Baglay, visited Bendigo
- The 150th anniversary of Australia's first women's cricket match, which was played in Bendigo, was celebrated with a commemorative game between Bendigo and Ballarat
- The e-scooter trial was launched in Bendigo
- Bendigo producers were showcased at the G'Day USA Gala event in Los Angeles
- The expanded Bendigo Airport terminal building opened
- Council endorsed upgrades to the Bendigo Bowls Club and Croquet Club, Bendigo Showgrounds and Bendigo Stadium funded by the Victorian Government
- Council agreed to release the draft Managed Growth Strategy for comment **gb**

COUNCIL ELECTIONS 2024

Don't forget to vote



Local Government elections will be held this October.

Anyone on the state electoral role or council-enrolled voters (property owners, tenants or business owners) must vote.

The election will be by postal vote, with voting packs expected to be mailed to households by the Victorian Electoral Commission between October 7 and 10.

Voting closes 6pm, Friday October 25.

The election is coordinated entirely by the Victorian Electoral Commission.

Making it **easier** to communicate

A communication board designed for people with alternative or additional communications needs is now available at the Lake Weeroona playspace.

The communication board features various symbols and pictures that people can gesture, point at or scan to support communication.

Communicating our needs is a basic human right. Speech is only one way to communicate and the boards promote the various other ways we can connect with members of our community. They are a physical tool for community members to use to get their message across, regardless of ability or language spoken.

Communication boards can also be used as another way of supporting children's communication and developing language further. The boards are also a great way to assist children with decision making by utilising pictures when navigating play.

The new communication board is located near the main entrance to the Lake Weeroona playspace. **gb**



"Speech is only one way to communicate and the boards promote the various other ways we can connect with members of our community."

Calling all community groups...

Grants available for festive meal events

The festive season can often be a hard time for some residents, especially if they are alone or experiencing financial difficulties.

To help make a difference, the City of Greater Bendigo is offering Festive Meals Grants of up to \$2,000 to community groups interested in holding a small, welcoming and inclusive local meal event or purchasing items for food relief hampers.

The aim of the Festive Meals Grants is to support a range of small events and activities across Greater Bendigo from

Sunday December 1 to Tuesday December 31 to assist residents who may be alone, feeling disconnected or experiencing financial hardship at this time of the year.

The City understands how valuable this support is to people over the festive season, as we received considerable positive feedback from the many people who attended local events last year.

Now is the time for local community groups to start thinking about how they can support local people with meals or food relief throughout the festive season and consider applying for this funding.

This year the grant has been adjusted to reflect increasing grocery prices and includes the opportunity for groups to also purchase items for food relief hampers. The activity period has also been extended to cover the whole month of December.

Applications close at 2pm on Friday September 27, 2024. More information about the grant criteria and how to apply for funding, email grants@bendigo.vic.gov.au or call 1300 002 642. **gb**



The key to accessing local venues

According to Australian Bureau of Statistics data approximately 20 per cent of Victoria's population has some form of disability, which means about 20,000 people in Greater Bendigo could be affected by a permanent or temporary disability.

The City of Greater Bendigo has a strong commitment to social inclusion, human rights and diversity.

The City understands that it can often be difficult for residents with special needs to attend events at local venues. That is why the City has produced Access Keys to provide important accessibility information about some of Greater Bendigo's major venues.

Access Keys provide important information about getting to a chosen venue or event, parking, venue layout, access in and around a venue or event, reception/ticketing locations and services, identification of staff by uniform, toilets (including their accessibility), food and beverage services, programming, experiences and accessible offerings.

They help people understand what to expect from a specific experience before attending, determine the suitability of an experience, alleviate anxiety about visiting new places, support the interpretation of circumstances to help people process new concepts whilst in attendance, and are a great tool for fostering independence.

Access Keys are universally designed for a wide audience, regardless of their ability.

Access Keys are available for Bendigo and Kangaroo Flat libraries, Bendigo Emergency Relief Centre at the Bendigo Showgrounds, Dudley House and The Engine Room on View Street, Gurri Wanyarra Wellbeing Centre, Lake Weeroona playspace and The Capital and Ulumbarra theatres.

To view the Access Keys visit the City's website at go.bendigo.vic.gov.au/accesskeys gb



Pam Sherger at Bendigo Library.

CONNECT

Greater Bendigo

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

FIND JOIN CONNECT

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

Connect with your community – join a club or group, attend a local event and live your best life!





Embracing a new mode of transport

Urban Bendigo is buzzing about a new way to travel with Beam Mobility's e-scooter trial. Launched just four months ago, this initiative is already gaining traction among residents and visitors for short trips around the city.

The trial aims to evaluate the effectiveness of e-scooters as an alternative mode of transport, benefiting both residents and visitors. E-scooters offer convenient links between key destinations and significant precincts, improving connections to public transport such as buses and trains. By encouraging a shift from cars for shorter trips, the trial also supports sustainable transport solutions.

In July 2024, the Victorian Government announced that e-scooter hire programs will be permanently legalised across the state, allowing councils to partner with operators. The City of Greater Bendigo engaged Beam as a trial operator prior to this announcement and will see through the 12-month trial. This 12-month trial comes at no cost to the City, though it actively contributes by developing the trial area with Beam and providing ongoing feedback on any issues. Beam has been very responsive in addressing issues from community feedback.

Economic and environmental benefits

Similar trials in other cities have shown that e-scooters can stimulate business and tourism, ease traffic congestion and reduce emissions.

How the scheme works

Beam's trial in urban Bendigo operates from 5am to 11pm, seven days a week. To rent an e-scooter, users need to download the Beam app and scan the QR code on the e-scooter. The maximum speed is 20 km/h and e-scooters can only be used on roads, bicycle lanes and shared cycle paths, in accordance with Victorian road rules. Riding on footpaths is prohibited and users may be fined.

Safety and technology

Beam's e-scooters are equipped with state-of-the-art systems and 'geofencing' technology, ensuring they remain within the trial area. They don't work out of the area. Speed limits and parking restrictions are also enforced through this technology.

In the city centre, slow zones include Bendigo Train Station, Pall Mall, View Street and Rosalind Park, where speeds are automatically reduced to 15km/h. Riders must park in designated 'virtual docking stations' and confirm parking through the Beam app.

Beam normally initiates a small operating trial area to start with and may extend it as the trial progresses.

Adhering to the rules

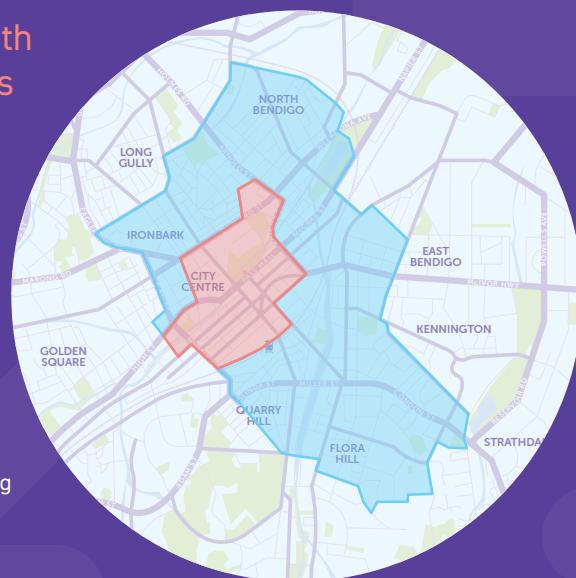
E-scooter riders must:

- Be aged 16 years and over
- Not exceed 20km/h
- Ride only on roads that have a speed limit of 60km/h or less, and on bike or shared paths
- Always wear a helmet
- Always have proper control and ride responsibly
- Use a warning (e.g., bell, horn or verbal) to avert danger
- Follow traffic rules
- Give way to pedestrians where appropriate
- Have front and rear lights if riding at night

E-scooter riders must comply with Victorian laws, including:

- No riding on footpaths
- No use of hand-held mobile phones while riding
- No riding under the influence of drugs or alcohol
- No carrying passengers or animals
- No riding in tandem

Victoria Police is actively enforcing these rules to ensure safe use. For more on the Victorian Rules, which include tougher penalties, visit here: www.vicroads.vic.gov.au/safety-and-road-rules/e-scooters-in-victoria



● Total operating area

● City centre (designated parking areas)



Total number of trips
15,690



Total distance travelled
26,641km



Average distance travelled per trip
1.7km



Average ride duration
11.3 mins



Number of unique riders
4,719

Data from May 23 to August 5, 2024



"I soon realised the convenience of e-scooters and how I could use them in everyday life."

Regular scooter users Rebecca and Pip.

Getting started

To ride a Beam e-scooter, download the Beam app from the Apple or Google Play stores. E-scooters cost \$1 to unlock and \$0.51 per minute. Subscriptions and concession pricing are available. Helmets are provided and released from the scooter via the app. The Beam Safe Academy is a safety education and enforcement program that delivers a pre-trip in-app safety briefing and safety quiz, ensuring riders abide by local riding rules and safe handling of the e-scooters. Riders receive a \$5 credit for completing the Beam Safe Academy Quiz. Valid student and concession cardholders can apply for a discount on the Beam For All program.

Reporting issues

Beam's 'Auto Dispatch' service addresses issues with incorrectly parked or obstructive e-scooters. For other enquiries or to report concerns, visit Beam's website: www.ridebeam.com/report-a-beam

If a rider is breaking the law, report the matter to the police as well. Each e-scooter has a unique identifying number.

For more information on the trial and to get started with Beam's e-scooters, visit Beam Mobility at www.ridebeam.com/au/rider_gb

Rebecca Hawkins was every excited to hear that Bendigo had an e-scooter trial.

Originally, my intentions of trying the Beam e-scooter were purely for entertainment, however, I soon realised the convenience of e-scooters and how I could use them in everyday life.

I am lucky enough that I am situated within the trial area and have readily available access to these e-scooters around my neighbourhood. They are purely a convenience in my lifestyle right now, as they are easily available and so easy to use, costing a lot less than petrol. I generally use Beam for getting to and from work in the city centre and La Trobe University where I am studying. It has also provided a great way to visit friends' houses across certain parts of Bendigo.

We have such an amazing set of large, shared paths that connect to a lot of Bendigo (creek trails) that I love using. One of the rides I have been doing is from Lake Weeroona to the La Trobe University Flora Hill campus.

It enables the chance to access spaces you may not have been able to access on foot or when you are reliant on others for transport. Having Beam has definitely made things a lot easier. It offers an opportunity to get some fresh air, ditch the car, get to places while enjoying the great outdoors.

The only downside I can see at this point in time is that the area that Beam covers is not wide enough. As it would be great to allow youth and all people alike located in further out suburbs to have a quick, cheap way of accessing places who may not have access to a car.



STAY CALM, SLOW DOWN AND TAKE CARE AT SCHOOL CROSSINGS

Rosa Abate is just one of Greater Bendigo's 61 School Crossing Supervisors who, rain, hail or shine, are charged with the huge responsibility of getting local kids safely to and from school.

Rosa's workplace is the school crossing on the Calder Alternate Highway in Maiden Gully and while she loves her job, she doesn't love it when motorists and pedestrians do the wrong thing.

Rosa said she moved from Melbourne a few years ago where she worked in Family Day Care.

"I didn't want to work full-time anymore but I still wanted to be involved with children, so supervising a school crossing ticked all the boxes," Rosa said.

"Road safety is everyone's responsibility and I enjoy speaking to and interacting with the students and pedestrians, bringing an awareness of road rules and guiding the behaviour of children around school crossings.

"I also like to wave to the school buses and one day, one of the buses stopped to learn my name. The next day the children in the bus were holding up a sign that said *"Good Morning Rosa"*. This is why I love my role.

"However, I don't enjoy it when motorists have no regard for the school crossing at all and just speed on through. I have had a motorist rev his engine because he was stopped. I have also had a few motorists toot their horns as if to say hurry up.

"It's also worrying when motorists have no regard for the speed limit during school times and just speed up the highway.

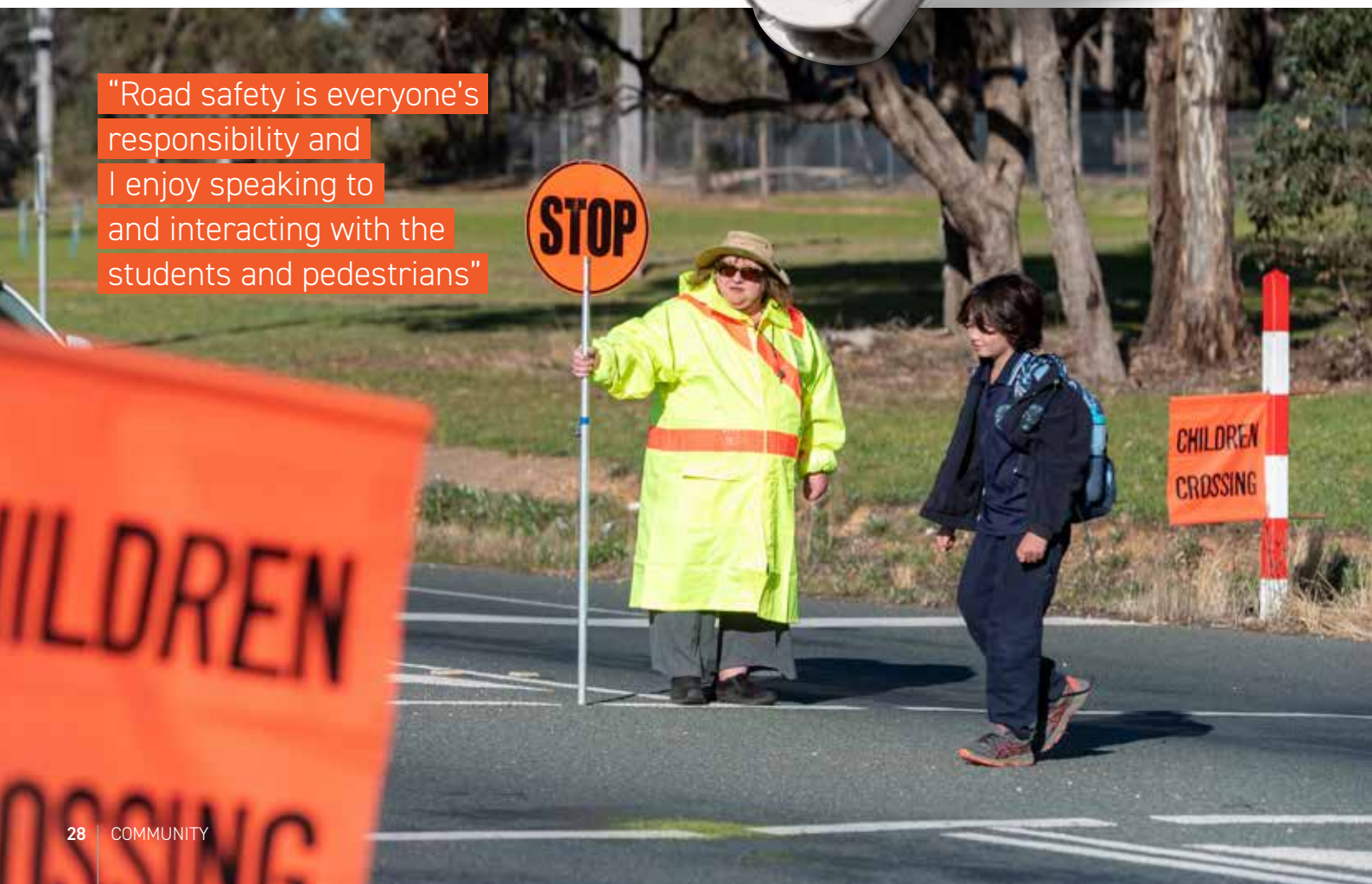
"Only once was I really scared, when a motorist failed to stop and I'm still not sure how they missed hitting me. It was such a close call that the driver of the car behind them stopped to ask if I was ok.

"My best advice to pedestrians is to stop and wait for the crossing supervisor to call you across. Don't think just because the stop sign is out that the cars are going to stop, so always wait for the whistle.

"My advice to motorists is to be aware of the speed limit in school zones and stick to it. Be aware of the school crossing and the Crossing Supervisors doing their job. Stay focussed and leave the discussions with children and adults until you have reached your destination. Just have patience as it might save an injury or a life." **gb**



"Road safety is everyone's responsibility and I enjoy speaking to and interacting with the students and pedestrians"



Rob McHaffie: We are family

From super cool hipsters to art world aficionados, street artists, mums and dads, commuters, dog walkers and carefree youth, Rob McHaffie's keen observations of everyday surroundings reveals contemporary Australian life with colour, whimsy and humour.

This major exhibition surveys the recent work of central Victorian artist Rob McHaffie.

Rob McHaffie: We are family brings together recent and new paintings, collages, works on paper and ceramic sculptures in a vibrant showcase of McHaffie's creative vision. Through pop culture references and musings on human relationships, McHaffie's work reveals an enjoyment of and amusement at life.

"The exhibition highlights his joyful observations."

Director of Bendigo Art Gallery Jessica Bridgfoot said the exhibition was one in a series focused on showcasing the rich artistic talent of the central Victorian region.

"This is the largest presentation of McHaffie's work to date. Spread over five galleries and featuring works drawn from public and private collections in Victoria and Canberra, the exhibition highlights his joyful observations," Ms Bridgfoot said.

"The Gallery has played a pivotal role in shaping the cultural landscape of regional Victoria and has a longstanding tradition of

supporting the diverse creative practices of artists who reside and work in this area. Each year the Gallery offers artists working in regional Victoria a unique opportunity to produce a substantial body of work for display at the Gallery. The annual event aims to highlight the varied and vibrant practices of contemporary artists in the region."

Born in 1978, Rob McHaffie spent his formative years in Melbourne before moving to Castlemaine with his young family. He holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts (Drawing) and a Master of Fine Art from the Victorian College of the Arts, and has been the recipient of numerous awards and residencies. Mr McHaffie exhibited widely in Australia and New Zealand over the past 20 years. His work is held in many public collections, including the National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne; Museum of Contemporary Art, Sydney; Art Gallery of New South Wales, Sydney; Queensland Art Gallery/Gallery of Modern Art, Brisbane; and the Ian Potter Museum of Art at the University of Melbourne.



Rob McHaffie. *Café set* 2024, oil on linen.
Courtesy of the artist and Darren Knight Gallery.

"This exhibition is an opportunity to work on a much larger and more ambitious scale and to consider the major themes of my work. Urban and regional life, portraiture, family, all these things draw upon observations I have recorded in diaries for the past 30 years," Mr McHaffie said. **gb**

Rob McHaffie: We are family
August 10, 2024 – January 27, 2025
Bendigo Art Gallery
www.bendigoartgallery.com.au

Fly from Bendigo to the
Gold Coast via Sydney




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Your gateway to
anywhere in the world

All flights are subject to last minute aircraft changes. Visit qantas.com

Bloomin' marvellous

It's the season to flourish with Greater Bendigo's Bloom spring events program offering an exciting range of experiences and family fun during spring and the school holidays.

Bendigo is celebrating 21 years of its stunning tulip display, with more than 43,000 tulips bringing colour, fun and joy to Rosalind Park from September 14 to October 6. It is also the centrepiece for the Bloom program inviting you to explore the city and enjoy food and wine events that celebrate spring.

Immerse in *Sonic Bloom* soundscapes

This spring, Rosalind Park's historic Conservatory will come to life with *Sonic Bloom*, a transformative sound experience designed by Artistic Producer Aimee Chapman and commissioned by the City of Greater Bendigo, with support from Emporium Creative Hub. *Sonic Bloom* invites you to step away from the everyday bombardment of screens and visual stimuli, and reconnect with Bendigo's extraordinary parks and gardens through immersive soundscapes, audio stories and live music.

You're invited to come along to the Conservatory lawns on Sundays, September 8, October 6 and November 3, as Aimee is joined by an eclectic roster of talented musicians and performers from across regional Victoria, including Troy Firebrace, Aviva Endean and Nathan Curnow. Together, they will create improvised live performances fuelled by sound recordings from Bendigo's parks and gardens, including talks with the City's Parks staff and volunteers who care for these beautiful



Credit: David Darrah of Bendigo Headshot Studio.

spaces. These performances will then be available to experience by visitors during Conservatory opening hours for the remainder of spring.

Bring a picnic and immerse yourself in this harmonious blend of art, nature, history and community at Rosalind Park's Conservatory located on Pall Mall.

Live performances:

Sunday September 8, 2pm-3pm

Sunday October 6, 2pm-3pm

Sunday November 3, 2pm-3pm

Sound installation daily throughout spring inside the Conservatory:

Opening hours: 7 days a week, 7am-9pm

Local floral and fauna artwork blooms at Dudley House

Located in the heart of the View Street Arts Precinct, there is a beautiful new artwork on the exterior of Dudley House from local street artist Chris Duffy (Ha Ho Art). The artwork is inspired by local flora and fauna. The artwork includes crepe myrtle, ginkgo biloba and the native Bendigo Wax plant, Musk Lorikeet, Rainbow Bee-eater and Whistling Kite among others. All bird life depicted are listed as inhabitants of the Bendigo Creek area. The artwork also includes the endangered Eltham Copper butterfly and a White Wood butterfly. The artwork was commissioned by the City of Greater Bendigo as part of its Temporary Public Art program 2024, and is best viewed during the day and accessible from Queen Elizabeth Oval car park.



Highlights

Until October 4

Cornella Canola Walk

A delightful outdoor adventure through vibrant canola fields near Heathcote, located at the Shiraz Republic and Cornella Brewery.

September 7 - November 30

Spring in the Bush

The City of Greater Bendigo's Parks and Natural Reserves team has put together a wonderful array of workshops, walks and talks taking place in Bendigo to celebrate the natural landscapes of the Box-Ironbark country. Highlights include Meet the Mammals of No.7 Park (nocturnal walk), Wildflowers, Wattles and Wildlife Walk, Bat Buddies, Nature by Night in Rosalind Park, Frogs of Bendigo and Breakfast with the Birds.

September 7 - November 30

Bendigo Botanic Gardens Walking Tours

September 14 - October 6

Bendigo Annual Tulip Display

September 14 - October 12

Village of Gnomes

Eaglehawk's beautiful Canterbury Gardens welcomes 12 new residents, the Spring Bloom Gnomes. Enjoy exploring the gardens whilst hunting for the gnomes as they lead you on a trail to the amazing Eaglehawk playspace.

September 20 - October 6

Bloom after Dark

The popular Bloom after Dark returns. Experience the stunning tulip displays in an after dark trail along Pall Mall from 6pm to 10pm.

September 25

Australia Diamonds vs England Roses netball test match at Red Energy Arena

September 27 (Grand Final Public Holiday)

Harvest Moon Festival

A cherished celebration observed in various forms across numerous Asian countries. Join the festivities at the Dai Gum San precinct from 4pm to 7pm to express gratitude for the bountiful harvest and offering well wishes for the prosperity and wellbeing of loved ones.

September 28

Mountain of Light

Join the awe-inspiring Kooyoora Cultural Tour and discover the rich history and natural wonders of the Mountain of Light in Bridgewater.

September 29 and October 27

Bloomin' Good Market

A pop-up market in Pall Mall that celebrates Spring and Bendigo's UNESCO City and Region of Gastronomy. Think macarons, honey, jams, wine, spirits, fresh flowers, coffee, cakes, donuts, pastries and bread. Food trucks will also cover Turkish, Indian and a vegan/vege option.

Fun fact

Did you know tulips have been planted in Bendigo since 2003 when the City was looking for a drought tolerant plant for use in a period of water restrictions? The tulips are now an important part of Bendigo each spring.

October 5

Vegecareian Festival

Vegecareian Festival at the Great Stupa is a family event that is all about loving food, animals and life. Bring along your furry friends and get them blessed by a monk.

October 5 - 6

Heathcote Wine and Food Festival

An icon on the Australian wine calendar that showcases the region's wines. Live music, lawn games and kids' entertainment are among the festival activities.

October 5, November 2 and 23

Moonlight Market

The market in Hargreaves Mall brings together live music and art, speciality food trucks, street performers and a huge range of stalls featuring the works from artists, crafty creators, talented food producers and local businesses.

October 11 - 19

Bendigo Wine Week

Bendigo Wine Week at various locations brings wine, food and fun. The Heritage and Hidden Spaces Wine Walk is the finale to the annual event on October 19.

October 12

Zinda Festival

The Zinda Festival at Garden for the Future is all about multicultural music, food and arts in Bendigo.

October 15 - 20

Bendigo Comedy Festival

This year's festival is hosting 25 shows with big headline acts such as Dave Hughes, Damian Callinan, Bron Lewis, Luke Heggie, Nath Valvo and Kirsty Webeck.

October 25 - 26

Bendigo Agricultural Show

Bendigo Agricultural Show brings favourite activities, livestock displays, animal nursery, LEGO displays, a two-day horse program, Monster Trucks, circus, rides and fireworks.

October 25 - 27

Sanguine Music Festival at Sanguine Estate

November 1 - 3

Malamiya Mang Arts Festival

The inaugural Malamiya Mang Arts Festival draws on the connection of Dja Dja Wurrung Country and People, from the past to the here and now showcasing Djaara art, design, music, and Culture on Dja Dja Wurrung Country.

For more information and bookings, visit www.bendigotourism.com.au



SAVE THE DATE!

**Saturday October 19
11am to 2pm
Hargreaves Mall and
Williamson Street**

Don't miss this opportunity to join us to celebrate National Children's Week with a range of FREE fun activities and live entertainment for children and families to enjoy!

City supports *Faces of Peace* exhibition

The stories of 30 local peacekeepers who served in 14 of the 62 peacekeeping missions Australia has participated in since 1947 are showcased in the special exhibition *Faces of Peace – Peacekeepers/Peacemakers/Peace Builders* currently on display at the Bendigo Military Museum.

Hidden away in our local communities are everyday heroes who have put their lives on the line to bring peace to communities that aren't as lucky as ours.

Featuring videos, photographs, letters and other memorabilia, the exhibition shows the many different faces of peace that will make you rethink what a veteran looks like. It will also provide a unique window into what a peacekeeper does and what it means to be a peacekeeper.

Kellie Dadds, a former Field Intelligence Officer who served in peacekeeping missions in the Solomon Islands, Israel and Syria, said peacekeeping missions were the most important and most challenging operations that Australian Defence Force personnel deploy in.

"If we had not participated, there is no way our region would be as secure as it is now. Our combined efforts, with other countries, have brought stability to those regions," Kellie said.

Carl Chirgwin, a UXO Specialist who served in peacekeeping missions in Pakistan and Mozambique where he helped to train refugees to safely clear minefields and landmines, said while the work they did was extremely dangerous, it enabled locals to return to their villages.

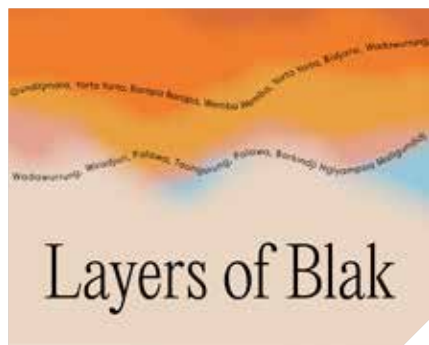
"Every kid who still has two legs is because the teams we were working with cleared a mine, it makes it all worthwhile," Carl said.

The *Faces of Peace* exhibition is open on Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays from 11am to 3pm, or by appointment for groups at other times, until November 24, 2024. Entry is \$9 for adults, \$7 for concessions, \$5 for students and free for under 12s. For further information visit bendigorsl.com.au/museum

The City of Greater Bendigo is pleased to have supported the exhibition with funding of \$10,000 through its Community Grants Program. For more information on the City's Community Grants Program, visit www.bendigo.vic.gov.au/community-services_gb



"If we had not participated there is no way our region would be as secure as it is now."



LAYERS OF BLAK

This exhibition showcases jewellery by eleven Victorian First Peoples artists, celebrating the creative outcome of the Koorie Heritage Trust's Blak Design program. Presented by KHT, NGV and RMIT University.

September 14 - November 10 / Bendigo Art Gallery / bendigogartgallery.com.au



VEGECAREIAN FESTIVAL

Join us at The Great Stupa of Universal Compassion for a free, family-friendly event celebrating food, animals and life! Featuring cooking demonstrations, wellness activities, cultural performances and animal blessings.

October 5 / The Great Stupa / stupa.org.au/vegecareian-festival



HEATHCOTE WINE AND FOOD FESTIVAL

This iconic wine festival offers you the exclusive opportunity to sample new release wines from the Heathcote region, while also learning about wines that have recently garnered international and national acclaim.

October 5-6 / Heathcote Showgrounds / heathcotewinegrowers.com.au/festival



BENDIGO WINE WEEK

A week filled with wine, food and fun across dinners, lunches, new release launches and tastings, finishing with the Heritage and Hidden Spaces Walk, which includes nine spaces to explore in Bendigo's city centre.

October 11-20 / Various locations in Bendigo / www.bendigowine.org.au/events

WHAT'S ON



INTERNATIONAL NETBALL'S BIGGEST RIVALS TO PLAY OFF IN BENDIGO

Reigning World Champions, the Origin Australian Diamonds will host the England Roses in a three-match test series this September, with the final match to be played here in Bendigo. The match is delivered in partnership with the Victorian Government, through Visit Victoria and supported by the City of Greater Bendigo.

September 25 / Bendigo Stadium / diamonds.netball.com.au

Photo: Charlie Crowhurst, Getty Images



ZINDA FESTIVAL

Come celebrate vibrant multicultural music, food and art in Bendigo's Garden for the Future. "Zinda" means alive and lively in several languages, including Dari, Bengali, Farsi, Hindi, Hazaraghi and Urdu, making it the perfect name for our truly multicultural festival.

October 12 / Garden for the Future / zinda.org.au



ANGELA HEWITT

One of the world's most legendary pianists comes to Bendigo for an iconic program of Bach, Mozart, Handel, and Brahms! It's a night simply not to be missed for any pianist or music lover.

October 13 / The Capital / gotix.com.au



WARU - JOURNEY OF THE SMALL TURTLE

In Bangarra's first dedicated work for children, join our heroine Migi as she undertakes a journey of discovery and survival. An interactive and immersive introduction to Torres Strait Islander culture and dance for 3 to 7-year-olds.

October 17-18 / Ulumbarra Theatre / gotix.com.au

CREATIVES' VIDEOS

...screened in Hargreaves Mall...



Creative digital works from talented contemporary musicians and music artists have been screened in Hargreaves Mall for several months as part of the City of Greater Bendigo's Create Lab small grants program.

In this latest grant round, the music artists were encouraged to explore the themes of time, place, people and culture through digital storytelling.

The grant could be used to form new collaborations, explore new ways of creating or create a video for promotional purposes.

Participating artists were selected through an expression of interest process and they received small grant subsidies of up to \$4,000 to create video works.

The works were unveiled at a special evening launch at the Emporium Creative Hub in early

winter, followed by a special premiere screening of all four works on the Hargreaves Mall large screen for the grant recipients and invited guests.

Creative Industries Officer Mandy Field said Create Lab was an important initiative to support local music and digital creators.

"It is very exciting seeing this next cohort of artists having an opportunity to develop video works that can support and promote them. This is a great way to be seen and heard more as practising contemporary musicians and creators," Ms Field said.

"Creating music videos and digital assets is often beyond the scope of resources available to independent music artists, and these videos can be used for promotion, for increased exposure and to support live performances. Video is versatile in this way."

The City would like to thank project partner Emporium Creative Hub and local director and composer David Gagliardi, who has been involved in Create Lab as an artist mentor.

The Create Lab project video can be seen here:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=HrtKjJ3weFo

creative works include:

The City grant enabled a new collaboration between singer-songwriter Frankie Bell and digital artist Ivan Sun. The new creative partnership brought Frankie's music to life through animation and video.

"Frankie's music speaks to me of the underbelly of the Bendigo community – the battlers and "have-nots" that we mostly do not hear about. Kudos to the council for supporting me in capturing Frankie's amazing songwriting and performing talents to share with Bendigo and beyond," Ivan Sun said.

"I've always wanted to do a music film clip. I have never done one before. I have original music that I am recording so this project is a great opportunity to make that wish come true," Frankie Bell said.



A new audio-visual artwork produced by Kylie Art/Sharp Candy, *The Women's Memorial Tree*, is a poignant protest about violence against women. Meticulously sculpted by hand, natively in Virtual Reality by Reverse Butcher, it is a versatile and experiential artwork set to an emotive soundtrack written and performed by Sharp Candy.

"While Kylie had a clear vision for this commissioned piece, she entrusted me with the creative freedom to realise and contribute creatively to her concept. My goal was to create a Memorial Tree that embodied a quiet, reflective space – one that was solemn, respectful and enduring," Reverse Butcher said.

"The Create Lab was an amazing opportunity to develop an idea into a powerful and thought-provoking audio-visual artwork, while collaborating with an artist I admired. We are very lucky to have these opportunities for artists in Bendigo," Kylie Art/Sharp Candy said.



The City grant for local indie rock band *Broad Parade* helped with a new music video for their upcoming EP release from videographer Ben Martin (Astiik).

The project has given the band an opportunity to master the single and line up the video to have maximum impact alongside the release of the single. The new project has had a fantastic response from their fan base so far. The promotional videos on social media have already accumulated 60,000 views.

"This grant program from the City has helped us out in a massive way. I am confident in saying not a lot of bands have done as much as we have, in as little time as we have. The grant and this current opportunity are the reasons why we have been able to do so. We would not be able to do all we have done so far without this grant. The funds gave us the production of a music video, band insurance, footage of our concert, and social media content from videographer/film maker Ben Martin," Riley Bruce from *Broad Parade* said.

"You can often box yourself in your own vision but when you have other people, that can put yours and their creative input into it," filmmaker Ben Martin said.

Greg Stehle from the *Heisenberg Principle* collaborated with local cinematographer Chris Poynton, friends and family to create a series of video clips to launch the band's debut album *Icarus*. The process of making these clips formed strong working relationships that will create more works in the future. The art of the videos matches the moving lyrics and compositions of his music.

"With the collaboration with Chris Poynton, I hoped to have a fresh interpretation of my vision through someone else's eyes. Giving him a degree of free reign to experiment, I was happy to see the results he came up with, as I believe creativity comes through this kind of experimentation and combination of different perspectives," Greg Stehle said.

"I had envisioned the clip for *It is not the end of the world* for some time, as the song lent itself to a kind of short film treatment. Seeing the struggles my son and daughter go through worrying over what adults tend to think is unimportant, I reflected on how "adult" problems need the same kind of perspective to see that they are not the end of the world. So, I hoped this clip and song might give people some hope to get over whatever troubles they are going through." gb



Gold for Bendigo and bronze for Heathcote in Victorian Top Tourism Awards

Bendigo scooped gold and Heathcote won bronze at the 2024 TAC Victorian Top Tourism Town Awards held in July.

Bendigo was awarded gold in the Top Tourism Town category in recognition of another big year for tourism in the city.

The city celebrated Bendigo Easter Festival's Year of the Dragon, the beautiful *Paris: Impressions of Life 1880-1925* exhibition at Bendigo Art Gallery, and the successful Bonjour Bendigo marketing campaign. Visitors and the community enjoyed a fantastic range of French-themed experiences.

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

Director Strategy and Growth Rachel Lee said the awards were a testament to the passionate and hard working tourism industry, as well as City staff involved in many roles to present a beautiful, welcoming region.

"Our attractions, accommodation, retail, and hospitality providers welcome visitors wholeheartedly and they are proud to offer unique experiences and service for tourists of all ages and interests," Ms Lee said.

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



SEP - OCT 2024

#ExploreBendigo f @

BENDIGO

BLOOM

INSPIRED BY NATURE

Celebrate Bendigo this spring and be inspired by over 43,000 tulips and gardens on display. Experience Bendigo's performing arts, gallery exhibitions and indulge in food and wine events that celebrate Australia's first UNESCO City and Region of Gastronomy.

BENDIGOTOURISM.COM



SCAN TO VIEW
THE FULL PROGRAM