

History & Heritage

Circulating throughout Bendigo, Eaglehawk, Heathcote, Castlemaine,
Maldon, Kyneton, Elmore, Echuca, and Rochester areas
A publication of the National Trust Bendigo & District Branch
November 2025



Next meeting is the
**Annual General Meeting: Tuesday
25th November 5.30pm**
Bendigo Library (enter via Hargreaves
Street). All members and supporters
welcome.

Guest speaker: Thomas Heywood, (pictured)
world renowned organist and co-owner of
the beautiful Langley Estate.

Cover Story: the AGM 2025

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Cover images: Top: The beautiful 1904 Langley Hall; below: Thomas Heywood with the 1875 George 'Grandfather' Fincham Pipe Organ, newly installed in the 1873 Lauriston Chapel at Langley Estate. Photos: Langleyestate.com.au

Cover Story: the AGM 2025 - by Philip Howe (Interim) President, National Trust Bendigo and District Branch

Branch Committee Nominations

At the upcoming Annual General Meeting of the Bendigo and District Branch of the National Trust of Australia (Victoria), nominations will be called for members of the committee of the Branch and particularly for the executive positions of the committee - President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary.

I hope these four positions will be filled along with at least two additional committee members. A group of six is considered ideal for a properly functioning committee of any organisation. The ramification of not achieving this outcome is simple; the Bendigo Branch of the National Trust will no longer be operational.

Committee positions are not overly demanding and they are very rewarding. I have only been a member of the National Trust for about 2 years but have found the Committee involvement enjoyable. Since I took on the Interim President role, I have appreciated the support of the current committee members and the professional and responsive support of the Victorian executive team at Tasma.

Please consider nominating for the Committee so that we can continue the good work of our Branch.

Bendigo Branch NTAV Secretary - position vacancy

Michael Lake will be standing down as Secretary at the AGM in November 2025. Nominations are being called from NTAV (National Trust Australia – Victoria) members and other interested people to take on this position.

The Secretary's duties usually take around 6 hours per month, including attending the monthly Branch meetings and the monthly Committee/Editorial meetings, taking and distributing minutes and other matters.

The official guidelines from NTAV Members' Branch Committee Terms of Reference are listed below. Please contact Michael Lake (michael.lake56@gmail.com) or President Phil Howe (philiphowe326@gmail.com) to discuss the position.

(Extract from NTAV Terms of Reference)

6. Branch Secretary duties:

6.1. Branch Committee members must meet the requirements of being a registered volunteer of the NTAV and must become registered within 20 business days of their election to the committee.

7.2. The duties and responsibilities of Branch Committee Office Bearers are as follows:

The Secretary is generally responsible for the management and recording of all Branch meetings and correspondence.

7.2.3.1. It is the Secretary's responsibility to ensure meeting minutes and Branch correspondence are filed with the NTAV archive.

8.4. Meeting Minutes - The minutes of each meeting must be kept, and should be an accurate record of all decisions, outcomes and actions (including passed or failed resolutions) of the meeting. The minutes must note who is present, absent, and who has given an apology, as well as any additional internal or external guests. The minutes should record high-level, key discussion points, all decisions (motions and resolutions, and whether they are approved) and proposals, with the name of the people responsible, any declarations of a conflict of interest,

a summary of relevant other/new business, the date and location of the meeting, along with the open and closing time of the meeting. The standardised templates include consistent wording for the recording of minutes. Clear actions should be recorded, with a proposed completion date listed, and the appointment of the individual responsible for the action. Minutes of all meetings must be saved to the NTAV Archive.

Please consider taking on this position. You will be well supported by the committee and it's a really great way to contribute to your National Trust Branch.

If you're not a member already, [click here](#) to join.

AGM Guest speaker: Thomas Heywood

Co-owner with his wife Simone, Thomas will talk about their journey to the ownership of one of Bendigo's landmark properties – Langley Estate. The magnificent property is in Bendigo's inner suburb of White Hills, at the north-eastern end of the Bendigo Valley, only five minutes from Pall Mall in the centre of Bendigo.

The early history of the estate dates to 1853, not long after gold had been first 'officially' discovered on Bendigo Creek in late October 1851. The diggers then followed Bendigo Creek downstream along the Bendigo Valley to 'the famous White Hills' of Bendigo.

Thomas is also an internationally acclaimed concert organist who hosts regular performances in the 1873-built Lauriston Chapel at Langley Estate.

Thomas said, "I'm also working on future programs for the beautiful 1875 pipe organ we installed in Lauriston Chapel as well as with some beautiful pipe organs in greater Bendigo, Castlemaine, Maldon, Inglewood, Echuca, Maryborough and Daylesford".



Langley Hall c.1928. Photo: langleyestate.com.au



Top: Thomas and the Lauriston Chapel. Photo: *Bendigo Advertiser*. Above: The 1873 All Saints Anglican Church, Lauriston, in its original location. Photo: langleyestate.com.au
Below: Thomas at the keyboard. Photo: *Bendigo Times*



Come along to hear some of Thomas's wonderful stories about Langley Estate and his love and passion for music.

Gold Camp Castlemaine Inc. update - from the GCC Inc. Committee

Thanks for your steadfast support throughout our long campaign, striving for a positive future for our beloved Camp Reserve. As we approach a new chapter, we would like to provide you with an update on recent developments and outline what is ahead for 2025-2026.

Current status of the Masterplan Planning Permit

The planning permit for the implementation of the Camp Reserve Masterplan has not yet been advertised, though we anticipate its announcement soon. Gold Camp Castlemaine (GCC) remains in close communication with Karen Evennett (Manager Parks Recreation and Community Facilities), Michael Annear (Director of Infrastructure and Development), and other relevant Shire staff and councillors to ensure we stay informed and do not miss any critical updates.

Archaeological dig report

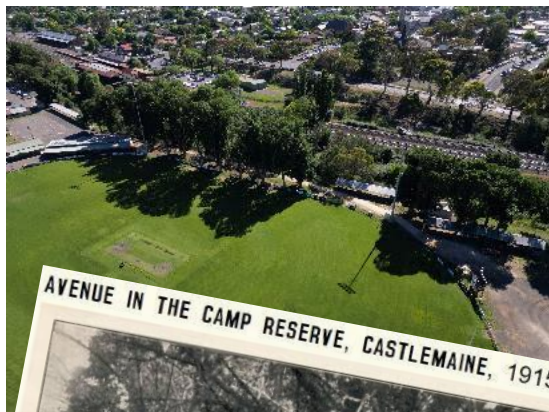
Many supporters have inquired about the outcomes of the 2024 archaeological dig. At this time, GCC has not received the final report. We expect this document, along with others, to be included in the materials supporting the planning permit application.

2025 GCC campaign achievements

Incorporation of Gold Camp Castlemaine

This incorporation provides legal protection for both the campaign and the committee. The inaugural committee, as required for incorporation, consists of the following members: John Lewis – President, Bronwen Machin – Secretary, Alice Matthiesson – Treasurer, Derek Reid – Committee Member, Maggie Fook – Committee Member, Bob Marmion – Committee Member. All supporters are now members of GCC Inc.

Significant Trees: Avenue of Elms and Howe's Survey Tree



The Avenue of Elms on Camp Reserve has been officially listed on the National Trust Significant Tree Register as being of State significance, thanks to John Lewis's nomination. For details click [here](#): The Mt Alexander Shire has been notified, and GCC is coordinating with the Shire to install an official plaque, as issued by the National Trust.

Two other trees within the Government Camp precinct were already on the Significant Tree Register; the "[Prisoner Tree](#)" in [Goldsmith Crescent](#), and Howe's Survey Tree. The latter is the remarkable, and currently unmarked, [Eucalyptus camaldulensis](#) located west of the junction of Barkers and Forest Creeks at the end of Yandell Street. GCC has requested a plaque for this tree.



Awaiting plaques: above Avenue of Elms today and in 1915; right: Howe's Survey Tree. It was marked during the 1840s pre gold rush and is shown on the 1854 plan of the town of Castlemaine (VHD). Photos: supplied.

The Alchemy of Gold Conference – May 2025

Tours and lectures about the Government Camp were organized for this 3-day conference, raising awareness of the historic precinct and the central role of Camp Reserve. Alice, John, and Derek Reid contributed to organizing this highly successful event. Dr. Marjorie Theobald, Dr. Bob Marmion, and Stuart Duff also delivered lectures and Eliza Tree, a GCC supporter, spoke on the Dja Dja Wurrung landscape and colonial impact. Several councillors attended, and our dedicated volunteers played a crucial role.

Government Camp map reprint

The Government Camp map has been reprinted and is now available free of charge at the information centre and the Castlemaine Historical Society. This map is a cornerstone of our educational efforts.

Plans for the future

Tours for Councillors

We plan to provide tours of the Government Camp for Councillors, especially for new members eager to better understand the historic setting. GCC remains committed to offering such tours whenever possible.

Planning Permit advertising stage

Once the planning permit is advertised, GCC will rally supporters to initiate a campaign focused on submitting objections and raising public awareness. We will provide guidance and support for those unfamiliar with the objection process. Key objection points will include:

- Public accessibility: Concerns about limited access for the broader community to the proposed facility.
- Consultation process flaws: Issues with the compliance and adequacy of community consultation.
- Economic argument: Questionable cost and value outcomes.
- Flood plain issues: Challenges posed by the development's location on a flood-prone site.
- Environmental concerns: The impact on large, mature trees.
- Historic overlay and heritage obligations: The council's responsibility under the Burra Charter to protect heritage values.
- Neighbourhood amenity: Potential effects on the surrounding area.

Professional Advice and VCAT Pathway

When a formal planning application is lodged, GCC will seek expert advice from a professional VCAT planner. Should the permit be approved, we are prepared to continue the process through the VCAT pathway as needed.

Fundraising Initiatives

As funding requirements for the campaign become clearer, we will organize additional fundraising activities to support our efforts.

Collaboration with Castlemaine Society Inc (CASSOC)

Gold Camp Castlemaine has long enjoyed the support of Castlemaine Society Inc (CASSOC). CASSOC invites the public to attend **"Selected Views of the Mount Alexander Goldfields," a presentation by Ken McKimmie at the Northern Arts Hotel at 7 pm on Friday, 21 November.** Ken will discuss a recently discovered drawing of the Government Camp and Camp Reserve, first presented at the Alchemy of Gold conference. We encourage all to attend this free event; registration is essential. Use the QR code here or [click here](#).



Heritage cottage saved from demolition

67 Eaglehawk Road Ironbark - by Michael Lake, Architect and heritage enthusiast

For some months I had driven past this ramshackle dwelling on Eaglehawk Road near the intersection of Marong Road and wondered if this would be another case of “Demolition by Neglect”. A larger vacant block of land adjacent to this site was recently cleared and offered for sale as 4 smaller blocks. Then to my surprise, a “For Sale” sign appeared followed shortly after by a “Sold” sticker. I wondered what the buyer had in mind. Would the house be demolished and form part of the adjacent subdivision

In the space of 2 months, the building has been transformed. Every day there are tradesmen on site – painting, repairing brickwork, demolishing an old shed in the front of the house, installing air conditioners, renovating kitchen, bathroom and other internal spaces.

The real estate advertisement, copied below, emphasised that this was not a project for the fainthearted or inexperienced! However, the asking price was most reasonable considering the location:

“PRIME LOCATION IN THRIVING IRONBARK” 67 EAGLEHAWK ROAD, IRONBARK

Positioned in a superb location on the Bendigo side of Ironbark sits this opportunity to renovate and bring your vision to life. The home itself is quite large but is in need of a full renovation. Boasting mostly original external features and could have huge potential upside for someone willing to tackle the project. There is structural work requiring attention fairly urgently, with a report available upon request outlining this however, the reward for tackling this will be the restoration of a unique part of Bendigo’s history. The rest of the home features a flexible floor plan with existing bedrooms and living space. The main living area has a feature bay window and original fireplace. There are multiple other rooms suited to bedrooms or living space. The kitchen has ample bench space and a free-standing gas oven, a good size walk-in pantry which flows through to the sunroom and the formal dining room. The bathroom features a shower over bath, vanity and toilet. If you’re seeking a renovation project and think this may be of interest, please feel free to reach out to book an inspection or to discuss the unique opportunity in more detail.



Before sale - street front view of 67 Eaglehawk Road Ironbark. Photo: PH Properties Ltd.



Rear views of 67 Eaglehawk Road Ironbark. Photos: PH Properties Ltd.

I recently found out that the owner is planning to offer the house as worker or holiday accommodation. It is well located for this, being near a bus stop and within walking distance to the city centre.

I would encourage readers of this newsletter to inform the local Branch of the National Trust of any buildings they come across and consider “Demolition by Neglect” potential. The Branch has had considerable success in the past saving buildings which might have otherwise been demolished, through publicity, advocacy and working with Council and developers.

Here are some recent photos of the renovations (taken by Michael Lake):



Bendigo Branch has a new Facebook page



(Interim) President meets Patron

The City of Bendigo was pleased recently to host the Governor of Victoria - and Patron of National Trust Australia (Victoria) - Her Excellency Professor the Honourable Margaret Gardner AC.

Interim President of Bendigo NTAV Branch, Philip Howe, attended the Civic Reception at the Bendigo Town Hall on 16 October and had the opportunity to meet Her Excellency.



Important event coming up in Maldon

PRESERVING THE PAST AND MANAGING CHANGE



The Maldon Heritage Network is hosting a presentation by Mount Alexander Shire Council.

Ever wondered how heritage and change work together in Maldon? Hear from Council's planning team about heritage overlays, design guidelines, and what to know before starting new works – plus how planning helps balance preservation with progress.

When: 6.00pm Wednesday 12 November with refreshments served afterwards.

Where: RSL Rooms, 97 High Street, Maldon (rear of the Athenaeum Library)

Enquiries: maldonheritagenetwork@protonmail.me

A gold coin entry donation towards the RSL is appreciated.

Rosalind Park Fernery

The 'bin chicken' solution: how Bendigo could tackle the big ibis mess

(Article from the *Bendigo Advertiser* October 27th 2025) By Tom O'Callaghan

Ibis eggs and nests would be in the council's sights under a new plan to reopen Rosalind Park's fernery and help deal with the stink the birds cause. "Suitably qualified" people would be brought in each fortnight from the start of 2026's breeding season under the draft plan to help stabilise the birds' population.

But neither ibises nor flying foxes would get the boot from the park under the draft plan, which Bendigo's council has released for public comment. It came despite the controversial animals bringing a new layer of smell, poo and other messes to the historic park.

Both were protected native species, the council said. And the animals were part of the region's "unique biodiversity", it said in a briefing document linked to the public feedback process.

Not everyone's a fan.

More than 100 ibises had been seen in and around the fernery at times, while up to 20,000 flying foxes have been known to gather throughout the park.

The birds and flying foxes were controversial in some circles and have been blamed for rising levels of noise, smells and animal poo. They had been seen pulling rubbish out of Rosalind Park bins, though many were thought to be foraging for food elsewhere, including four kilometres away at

the Eaglehawk Transfer Station. The animals had helped kill off some tree limbs in the fernery, which has impacted some of the fern species below, a recent report by experts at *Ecosure* found. That posed a "significant challenge" for anyone trying to manage the heritage-protected fernery, while replacement tree limbs grew, the experts said. But they noted trees had also been lost during storms, droughts and natural attrition.

The council had removed ibis nests and eggs from palm trees in the park in the past. Under the draft plan for egg removals, each ibis nest would need to be thoroughly checked for newborn chicks before any removals. "If any eggs are allowed to hatch, nest removal in that area will need to be postponed ... to ensure chicks are not inadvertently impacted," the council said in a briefing paper. The removals would be timed for peak breeding and roosting times from October through to early summer.

What else is in the plan?

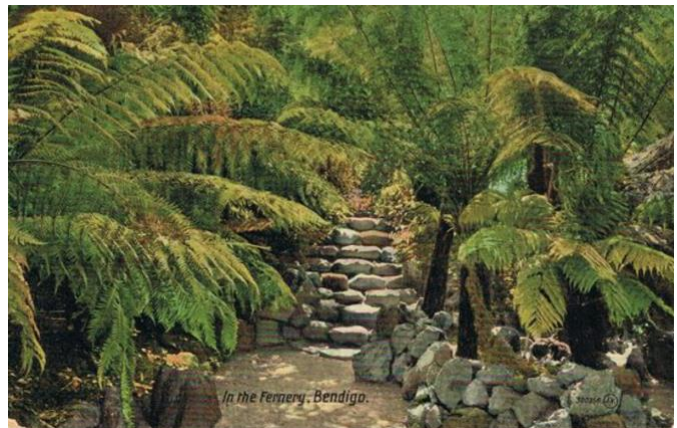
The draft plan also called for the council to continue routine cleaning and tree health assessments throughout the park. It suggested jasmine could cover the entire fernery's fence line to mask ibis and flying fox smells. The council said it could up the number of new plantings to help keep the existing look and feel of the fernery, and to gradually replace parts of the canopy that had been lost in the past. Other parts would "look and feel different" because of new, interactive displays and walks, the council said.

It might also try "detering" flying foxes from some areas to allow some trees to recover, though the marsupials would continue to be able to roost in the park. [Click here for a link to the Fernery updates.](#)

(With thanks to Trevor Sharpe for alerting the Branch to this information.)



Photo: *Bendigo Advertiser*



Rosalind Park Fernery, postcard by The Valentine & Sons Publishing Co. Ltd Melbourne - printed in Great Britain. Image: Victorian Collections, Bendigo Historical Society

National Trust Bendigo and District Branch – October 2025 meeting summary

Meeting chaired by Phil Howe, President (interim)

Topics discussed:

- New Facebook page
- Sign on sheets for National Trust volunteers
- Branch President's meeting at Tasma Terrace (NTAV head office)
- Annual General Meeting November 25th
- Old Law Courts update
- "Demolition by Neglect"
- Civic reception for Governor of Victoria
- *History & Heritage* "alternative" email list
- Gasworks update
- *Hardhill* for sale
- 67 Eaglehawk Road renovation
- *History & Heritage* newsletter

***History & Heritage* Branch newsletter - receive, contribute, read past issues**

Everyone has a story that, when combined with others, provides a record of the social history of our region and draws attention to the significance of local built heritage. The Branch welcomes your ideas, contributions and photographs for the newsletter which is published monthly. The contribution deadline for *History & Heritage* is the first day of each month. For previous issues of *History & Heritage* [click here](#)

To help increase circulation send it to your friends and family or sign up your organisation to receive it. To join the editorial group, contact **Gary Hill - 0428 467 409**.

Next Branch meeting, the AGM Tuesday 25th November at Bendigo Library 5.30pm

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

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

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

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Victoria and recognize the continuing connection to lands, waters and communities. We pay respect to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, and to Elders past, present and future.

