Restoring Vahland’s Bendigo

By Cr Peter Cox, Mayor

During the gold rush Australian wealth was generated in Bendigo and the town was instrumental in providing economic well-being throughout the continent. Although the gold rush ended more than a century ago, it left a lasting impression on our city, particularly our environment. As Bendigo saw the richest city in the world at one point, successful miners used their wealth to develop beautiful buildings that have stood the test of time.

Several of these buildings, both commercial and residential were designed by architect William Charles Vahland. A stroll through the CBD will find many of Vahland’s most iconic designs – the Bendigo Town Hall, the Capital Theatre of Vahland’s most celebrated civic and commercial designs throughout our CBD.

Economic impact of major events

The economic impact of major events can be difficult to determine. Australian Tourism Research data indicates that sporting events spend $120 per day when they stay in a city, while the REMPLAN economic modelling data that the City uses estimates that overnight stay visitors use an average of $167 per person.

Either way, attracting 143,600 visitors to Bendigo for major events alone results in a significant boost for our local economy. The REMPLAN model indicates more than $8,700,000 was injected into our local economy as a result of City-supported events in 2014/2015 financial year.

Win a family pass to see Circa’s Beyond at Ulumbarra Theatre on Thursday October 8

Beyond is breathtaking, surreal and unexpected. An eye-popping photo-realistic, dynamic circus acts like holograms, Chippaway’s tricks of light, Rubik’s Cubes and bendlids, this gene-bending creation is a cornucopia of technology and art. The body pushed to the extreme... Beyond will stimulate the mind, the soul and also like the Family home...

Terms and conditions: Family pass will not be available online and are only available for Circa Beyond at Ulumbarra Theatre on Thursday October 8 at 8pm. Passes are non-transferable and are only available for Circa’s Beyond on 08/10/15 at 8pm. Tickets can be collected from the Box Office at The Capital prior to the event or at the Box Office at Ulumbarra Theatre. The City council through tourism’s Events Partnership Program.
Listening to our rural communities

By Craig Niemann, Chief Executive Officer

Strong and successful rural communities are essential. Growing up in Warracknabeal, near Warrnambool, on dairy farms, I played football for the local teams and travelled miles for rural and die-hard fans.

My upbringing shaped a close and supportive community but the issues and opportunities rural communities face can be vast and long reaching.

That’s why the City is developing a Rural Communications Strategy.

Seventy per cent of the municipality is considered rural and it is the people in these communities that can give a true indication of what is happening socially, environmentally, economically and culturally.

Our rural communities are diverse and include people living in small townships, on smaller acreages and commercial farms. Following the release of the Rural Communities Discussion Paper, City staff are in the process of developing a draft Strategy for public comment.

The long term success and implementation of the Strategy will depend on hearing from all people who live in rural communities. To find our more visit www.bendigo.vic.gov.au/ruralcommunitiesstrategy.

I encourage others to take the time to have a ride along this trail for all or part of it from Bendigo to Heathcote.

Meanwhile, several City officers were recently able to take advantage of the cycling through the townships, into State Parks and through farm land.

For someone who has not ridden for a long time, the 27.5 km ride was a relatively easy one with not too many hills. And we did stop and inspect a number of structures and rest stops along the way, including the largest bridge which crosses across the O’Keefe Creek and the edge of Lake Eppalock.

The trail was built during the past three years with funding support from Regional Development Initiatives Victoria and the City.

I encourage others to take the time to have a ride along this trail for all or part of it from Bendigo to Heathcote. Find out more about the O’Keefe Rail Trail on page 18-19.

There is a new way for residents to reach the City’s Customer Support staff. WeChat is an instant messaging service located on the City’s website and it is available from 9.00am Monday to Friday.

“Customers that have used wechat have embraced the new technology, saying they love our new approach and the service it provides,” Debbie Thewlis, said customer feedback to date has been very positive.

“The City will be realising the technology over the next six months and our staff look forward to using this new and efficient way of helping our customers.”

What do I report a barking dog?

You can report a barking dog online at www.bendigo.vic.gov.au/animals. Alternatively, you can contact our Customer Support Team by phone, email or webchat and a staff member can log a barking complaint for you that will then be investigated by our Animal Management Team.

How do I report a wandering dog or cat I found?

If you have the dog/cat contained you will be able to contact your Customer Support Team at www.bendigo.vic.gov.au or chat online using the webchat service on the City’s website www.bendigo.vic.gov.au.

Customers that have used wechat have embraced the new technology, saying they love our new approach and the service it provides.”

WeChat was introduced to provide the community with an immediate one-on-one way of reaching us,” Debbie said.

“Customers that have used wechat have embraced the new technology, saying they love our new approach and the service it provides.

A Chat with customer support window will pop up automatically if you fill in the information scan. Simply click the button to communicate with a staff member.

City Customer Support Manager, Debbie Thewlis, said customer feedback to date has been very positive.

“Customers that have used wechat have embraced the new technology, saying they love our new approach and the service it provides.

The City will be realising the technology, over the next six months and our staff look forward to using this new and efficient way of helping our customers.”

Q&A

Customer Support Team by phone, email or webchat.

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**Trial to shape new organics service**

The City is trialling a new fortnightly organics waste kerbside collection and a fortnightly waste collection at 2,800 households in parts of Kennington, Strathdale, East Bendigo, White Hills and North Bendigo.

In 2014 Council adopted a Waste & Resource Management Strategy and committed to introduce a new organics service for residents living in the Bendigo urban area and in the townships of Heathcote, Elmore and Manor in an effort to divert organic material from landfill.

*The City’s data shows that 50 per cent of waste placed in residents’ red lid waste bin is organic waste and it is currently going straight to landfill.*

Shepparton to be recycled into garden waste diverted service will see the way the City collects and disposes of it.

One of the biggest changes in the next 30 years in the way residents sort their waste and the biggest change in the past 30 years in the way residents sort their waste and the way the City collects and disposes of it.

*The trial of the new organics system is the biggest change in the past 30 years in the way residents sort that waste and the way the City collects and disposes of it.*

The City is relying on feedback from trial participants to test the new system and help identify and solve any problems before the service is introduced to the wider community.

The trial will be closely monitored and all trial participants will be contacted and asked to complete a survey about their experiences.

The City has also appointed a Project Officer, Bridgette McDougall, to manage the trial, any issues that may arise and provide a dedicated contact for trial participants.

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Trial households have received a new 240 litre lime green lid organics bin, a kitchen caddy and a supply of special compostable caddy liners.

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The trial will be closely monitored and all trial participants will be contacted and asked to complete a survey about their experiences.

**Who is participating in the trial?**

Two collection areas that take in parts of Kennington, Strathdale, East Bendigo and North Bendigo where waste is collected on Thursdays have been selected to participate in the trial.

The trial areas have been selected because they have a range of different property uses including multi-residential developments. Both areas also have a mix of larger families with young children and smaller family houses which will allow the City to assess the impacts and effects on or as many of these different demographic groups as possible.

Dirty people within the selected areas can participate in the trial and no exemptions are available. Trial participants will not incur any costs over and above the normal waste management costs already charged on their rates notices.

**What happens to the organics once collected?**

Organic material collected is sent to a commercial composting facility near Shepparton where it is turned into compost, soil and mulch. The compost is then used for improving soil health for primary production and improving the health of parks and gardens, therefore it is essential that contamination is kept to a minimum.

The City’s data shows that 50 per cent of waste placed in residents’ red lid waste bin is organic waste and it is currently going straight to landfill. This is unfortunate as organic waste is the biggest cause of methane gas in our landfill.

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**Q&A**

**Organics Collection Trial**

**Why do we need a new organics collection service?**

In Greater Bendigo over 50 per cent of our household waste is organic in nature (food and garden) and can be composted and reused rather than going straight to landfill.

By separating out organic waste through a new organics service we will not only extend the life of local landfill but also reduce the City’s current and future financial and environmental liabilities that must be paid to the State Government for every tonne of waste that we put into our landfills.

Why is the City of Greater Bendigo trialling an organics collection? The Council has committed to introduce a new separate organics waste collection service for residents living in the Bendigo urban area and in the townships of Heathcote, Elmore and Manor.

**Why change to fortnightly waste and fortnightly organics trial collection?**

Data collected both in Greater Bendigo and throughout other parts of Victoria shows that approximately 50 per cent of waste placed in residents red lid waste bin is organic waste. By introducing a separate organics collection the waste bin may not need to be collected as often.

Fortnightly collections for both organics and general waste will help to keep the cost of our organic kerbside collectors to a minimum for residents.

**Who is participating in the trial?**

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The trial will test the new system and help identify and solve any problems before the service is introduced to the wider community.

Trial participants will play a very important role and will ultimately help shape the way the full organics service operates when it commences in July 2016.

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**What can I put in my new organics bin?**

A combination of garden and kitchen waste can be put into the organics green lid bin. The full range of food and garden organics that can be placed in the new organics bin includes:

- Fruits and vegetable scraps
- Cooked or uncooked food
- Meat, poultry and bones (cooked or raw)
- Timber (unpainted, unstained)
- Sawdust
- Bread, rice, pasta, cereal
- Paper towel and tissues
- Tea leaves, tea bags and coffee grounds
- Paper and cardboard including shredded paper
- Biodegradable bags (except more than 20 mm diameter or 30 mm length)
- Large logs or stumps
- Plant pots
- Fruit trees and small plants
- Fruits and small banana trees (less than 100 mm diameter and 300 mm long)
- Bark
- Eggs and egg shells
- Fish and other seafood (cooked or raw)
- Vacuum cleaner dust and dirt
- Hair and animal fur
- Lawn clippings
- Dairy products including cheese, yoghurt and cream

What can’t I put in my organics bin?

- Treated or painted timber, lemain mat and HDF
- Garden tools
- Garden hose
- Garden furniture
- Plastic bags and plastic wrapping (eg. cling wrap)
- Liquids (e.g. cooking oil)
- Biodegradable bags (except more than 20 mm diameter or 30 mm length)
- Large logs or stumps
- Plant pots
- Householder garbage
- Dead animals

Q&A

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As part of Council’s commitment to deliver improved infrastructure, a range of works are currently underway or have recently been completed.

What’s in the works?

A $642,000 drainage project from Canterbury Gardens to Sovereign Court via Turnbull and Darling Streets and Sailors Gully Road, Eaglehawk will alleviate flooding. Works are expected to be completed by late October.

Works have been undertaken by a specialist to remove paint at the Joss House to restore the main temple to its original state. Project cost: $13,500.

The City in conjunction with Shire of Mitchell have constructed a new bridge over Wild Duck Creek on the Heathcote East Baynton Road, Eaglehawk. Project cost: $462,100.

Other works underway or completed:

- Three Hills Lane, Erina Creek road reconstruction
- Madonna Street Wool, Kangaroo Flat minor drainage upgrade
- Canterbury Park Project, Eaglehawk: Sports Precinct redevelopment
- Bendigo Botanic Gardens: restoration works on the Arch of Triumph
- Tree Planting and Maintenance program across the municipality
- Osborne Street, Flora Hill: drainage projects

A list of current works is available at www.bendigo.vic.gov.au/roadworks

The City is progressing with drainage construction in Broad Parade, Spring Gully. Works are expected to be completed in late October at an estimated cost of $520,000.

The City has completed drainage works in Strathdale Crescent, Strathdale to alleviate residential flooding. The estimated cost of the project is $285,000.

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Road reconstruction works being undertaken in Mainan Street, North Bendigo between Havilah Road and Harrison Street are estimated to cost $980,000. Works are scheduled to be completed by the end of September.

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The 2015/2016 Budget will deliver $10.23 billion in capital works and $15.6 billion in services to the community that will build a better, healthier and sustainable Greater Bendigo.

The Budget includes a rate rise of 4.75 per cent – the lowest in five years. Rate and user charges will raise around $12 per cent of the Council’s income, providing $2.1 billion towards the overall Budget.

The rates you pay are used to deliver projects and services that improve our overall livability in Greater Bendigo.

Strong partnerships with other levels of government mean that works on a world-leading runway at the Bendigo Airport, the Greater Bendigo Indoor Aquatic Leisure and Wellbeing Centre and the Bendigo Stadium expansion can commence.

To level the financial impacts on households, Council will borrow $5 million and receive $21 million in grants for capital works projects that will require $125 million in goods and services.

The Budget also includes a further $9.8 million in operating activities, along with $14.2 million in grants for capital works.

For more details on the 2015/2016 Budget visit www.bendigo.vic.gov.au/budget

How we compare with other regional centres in Victoria:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Municipality</th>
<th>Average rates increase</th>
<th>Municipal charges increase</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wangaratta</td>
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<td>Bullleen</td>
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<tr>
<td>La Trobe City</td>
<td>$59</td>
<td>$1,663</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

New $5.5m pool gets tick of approval

The Bendigo Botanic Gardens Garden for the Future project will undergo construction following a Budget allocation of $1.5 million. Last year the City signed a funding agreement with the Victorian Government that included a $1.4 million contribution from the City, $200,000 from Regional Development Victoria and $200,000 from Friends of the Bendigo Botanic Gardens to be put towards the new runway, a 1,600m runway at the Bendigo Airport.

Of the $6.8 million, Council has contributed $2.8 million toward the new runway, a 1,600m runway at the Bendigo Airport, which will be put towards the new runway, a 1,600m runway at the Bendigo Airport.

The new runway will allow the airport to receive aircraft weighing up to 25,000kg and carrying up to 75 people, small personal jets, single or twin propeller aircraft, and, at night, freight aircraft will be able to land at the airport. Due to Bendigo’s central location in the state, the works also ensure emergency services can remain at the airport and continue to serve people across Victoria.

News Paths Program, road drainage improvements, and East Bendigo Link Road

The $21.6 million News Paths Program will allow for new facilities in the growing urban areas of Epmon, Ararat, Kangaroo Flat and Hurley and further development of the shared path along Back Creek between William Street and Mundy Street.

The New Paths Program, road drainage improvements, and East Bendigo Link Road

The Bendigo Botanic Gardens Garden for the Future project will undergo construction following a Budget allocation of $1.5 million. The project will construct a new shared path along Back Creek between William Street and Mundy Street.

New grants program benefits community

Thirty-eight community groups have received a major funding boost following the first distribution of funds from the City’s Partnerships Grants Program. Successful applicants have shared in $1,131,550 with $377,300 to be allocated in the first year, $377,250 in the second year and $377,200 in the third year. The new funding program invited all eligible organisations to apply for funding for one, two or three year terms to deliver projects that:

• Align with Council’s strategic objectives.
• Support community resource organisation of cultural, historic or nationally significant events and activations.
• Promote partnership across organisations and have great potential for lasting community benefit.

Mayor Cr Peter Cox said the new program allows applicants to plan ahead and deliver projects over a number of years.

“It also encourages non-profit organisations to be ambitious in the goals they set and to consider how they can work in partnership to achieve positive outcomes for the broader community,” Peter said.

Applications to the Partnerships Grants Program will be open in 2016.

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Register a sausage sizzle for a fundraiser

Sausage sizzles are a great way to raise funds for a club, community group, charity, etc., however it is important that people planning to stage one take the time to register their activity.

Registering a sausage sizzle ensures that appropriate food safety standards are met and is a requirement under the Food Act 1984.

A typical sausage sizzle includes sausages, onions, bread and sauce and an unopened soft drink or water. Such an activity comes under the lowest-risk registration, and only requires a Class 3A registration.

To register a sausage sizzle, you can call 5434 6000.

Tripping hazards reduced in Mall

Small metal discs have been embedded into the pavement in the Haymarket Mall to guide the placement of shop displays, goods for sale, A-frame signs and outdoor display furniture.

The tripping indicators have been placed three metres from shop fronts and at metre intervals along the length of the mall.

City Environmental Health and Local Laws Manager, Susannah Milne, said the initiative is aimed at reducing tripping hazards by ensuring there is a clear pathway for pedestrian traffic.

“The City periodically receives complaints from residents about trip hazards in the Mall caused by signs, goods on footpath, being placed too close to the front of shops,” Susannah said.

“It is very important to maintain a clear path, especially for the visually impaired, people in wheelchairs or other mobility devices, and those pushing children in strollers.”

“This makes it easier for the public to window shop and move around the city centre on foot, which is good for business.”

Issues next door? Talk to your neighbour

Every year, the City receives over 900 complaints from residents that might have been better resolved by them taking to their neighbours. Issues range from smoking chimneys, loud music, bad language and noise from air conditioners and pool pumps.

Getting the City involved often sees the situation deteriorate with many residents reporting they wished their neighbour had “just spoken to me first.”

City Environmental Health and Local Laws Manager, Susannah Milne, said it is important for residents to feel empowered to manage situations themselves where they can.

“It is normal to feel anxious about approaching your neighbour, particularly when you wish to let them know that something they are doing is impacting negatively on you,” Susannah said.

“In many instances, though, residents are unaware that their actions are impacting on others and the situation is quickly resolved.

“If talking to your neighbour fails to resolve the issue, then that is the time to consider getting the City involved.”

There are many resources available to residents to help them deal confidently with neighbourhood disputes including:

- www.bendigo.vic.gov.au
- www.epa.vic.gov.au
- www.disputes.vic.gov.au
- www.bendigovea.gov.au
- www.maternalchildhealth.vic.gov.au

Family matters

Did you know more than 1,300 babies are born in the City of Greater Bendigo each year?

To help parents cope with the demands of newborns, the City operates 13 Maternal and Child Health Centres that provide a free service to all families with babies and young children aged zero to six years.

The centres are staffed by Maternal and Child Health Nurses and provide information, guidance and support on nutrition, family planning and much more.

To find out where the Maternal and Child Health Centres are located or for more information about the service, visit the Streatrader website at: www.streatrader.vic.gov.au.

Immunisation protects us

Immunisation is the most effective way to protect both children and adults against disease.

The City delivers a comprehensive immunisation program and in the first six months of this year gave 2,203 vaccines at public immunisation sessions and 5,058 vaccines in secondary schools.

Furthermore, the City conducts two free-published sessions at various venues across the municipality where all vaccines on the Immunisation Victoria Schedule are available at each session and no appointment is required.

City staff also attend each local secondary school three times a year to implement the school vaccine program in accordance with Department of Health and Human Services guidelines, which immunise students against the human papilloma virus and chickenpox, and provide booster shots to protect against diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis.

For more information on immunisation call 5434 6300.
Explore Greater Bendigo...by foot....by bike....

Did you know that there is a maze of shared walking and cycling tracks, trails and pathways throughout Greater Bendigo? Many residents may be unaware of the walking and cycling facilities located in their own backyard. Over recent years the City has invested considerable funds developing a network of interesting and varied shared pathways throughout both the urban and rural areas of the municipality.

The city’s shared pathways take in some of Greater Bendigo’s most scenic parks, gardens, natural bushland reserves and recreation areas, so why not check out some of the following:

- **Bendigo Creek Trail**
  The Bendigo Creek trail starts at Cruise Reserve and Hobo Park and largely follows the Bendigo Creek through to the Epmon Primary School. Its surface is bitumen and the trail is a shared walking/cycling path that allows low-level streets through the city centre. Recent works have been undertaken to utilise the Bendigo Creek to travel under both the Calder Highway at Golden Square and Elmore Road at North Bendigo.

- **Lake Weeroona**
  This lake is Bendigo’s most visited and popular recreation area. It has sealed walking paths, a basketball court, play space, barbecue and picnic facilities.

- **Spring Gully Creek Trail**
  This trail starts at the Spring Gully Recreation Reserve and follows Spring Gully Creek to the Bendigo Creek Trail. The tracks is bitumen and concrete and is a shared walking/cycling track from the Spring Gully Trail to the Bendigo Creek Trail. There has been funds from the current budget to extend the trail past Mundy Street.

- **Kennington Reserve/Strathdale Park**
  This reserve is located between the Bendigo Creek Trail and the Kennington Reservoir which is a shared walking/cycling path from the Kennington Reserve Trail to the Strathdale Park. It is a shared walking/cycling path that is easily accessed from the Kennington Reserve.

- **Lake Neangar**
  Lake Neangar was developed as a recreation area in 1883. The path around the lake is sealed and lit at night. Other features include a picnic shelter, boatshed, tables, chairs, barbecue, skate park and play space.

- **Hulga Bill Bicycle Trail**
  This trail connects Lake Neangar to the Lightning Hill Lookout in the Eaglehawk Valley. This well-formed trail is short but takes you to a lookout with magnificent views of Eaglehawk and Bendigo as well as the large area of forest to the north that is part of the Whipstick Public Lands.

- **Woodvale Trail**
  This walking and cycling trail lies on the northern side of the Woodvale Trail Reserve. It starts at the Eaglehawk North Primary School and finishes at the Woodvale Recreation Reserve.

- **Bendigo Bushland Trail**
  This trail encircles the urban area of Bendigo and covers a total distance of 74.4 km. It consists of bicycle and walking tracks as well as some road tracks and passes through urban parks, forests and other public land.

- **McIvor Creek Linear Park Heathcote**
  This 12km Goldfields Walk section starts at the McIvor Creek Reserve and finishes at the Castlemaine Railway Station. This shared walking/cycling track is a compacted gravel surface and scenic views of the McIvor Creek.

- **Viewing Rock, Heathcote**
  A walking track from the Visitor Information Centre at Heathcote takes you to this great lookout spot! The walk takes you into the Valley of the Liquidambers, and the McIvor Range Reserve and Pink Cliffs Historic Reserve.

- **Great Dividing Trail - Leanganook Track**
  This 60km section connects Bendigo and Castlemaine and passes through Mt Alexander, Expedition Pass and Chewton forked at the Castlemaine Railway Station. This 12km Goldfields Walk section starts at the Bendigo Railway Station and finishes at Sandhurst Reservoir. Visit the Great Dividing Trail Association website for more information www.gdt.org.au

- **Campaspe River Trail Elmore**
  This sealed trail commences at the bridge and follows alongside the Campaspe River.

- **Pink Cliffs, Heathcote**
  Below: Spring Gully Creek Trail

- **Spring Gully Trail**
  This 12km Goldfields Walk section starts at the Spring Gully Oval and finishes at the Woodvale Recreation Reserve.

- **Great Dividing Trail - Longannet Track**
  This 12km Goldfields Walk section commences at the Great Dividing Range in central Victoria. The Longannet Trail is a 60km section connecting Bendigo and Castlemaine and passes through Mt Alexander, Expedition Pass and Chewton forked at the Castlemaine Railway Station.

Caring for the bush.
If you see our unique bush land areas please assist in their conservation by taking your rubbish home, observing the regulations and remaining on the tracks. Dog on leads are permitted and all native plants and animals are protected.
Discover the O’Keefe Rail Trail - there’s lots to see and do!

A major 52 km upgrade and extension of the O’Keefe Rail Trail from Axedale to Heathcote is now complete and available to explore. The extended trail features significant start and end destinations, a major regional city at one end and a wine and arts oriented town at the other. It will provide significant economic development, tourism and recreational opportunities and benefits for locals and visitors alike.

Prior to the new extension, the trail ran for a total distance of 46km from Benalla to Axedale; however, the new 35km extension from Axedale to Heathcote has extended it length to a total of 81km.

The extension project has been considerable and has included construction of 14 new bridges including a very large 40m long concrete bridge downstream of the Worsham Highway Bridge in Axedale. In addition, new $2m deal pedestrian bridge over the Moira Creek where it meets Lake Eppalock has been built and the former rail embankment has been raised above the Lake Eppalock full supply level.

An underpass of the McIvor Highway on the Axedale side of the Campaspe River was also constructed so that users of the trail avoid the busy highway at Axedale with the underpass linking to the new bridge across the Campaspe River. It also provides a much safer connection along the western bank of the river for all users of the trail.

To complete the project, parts of private properties were acquired and access agreements with three organisations and three private landowners were negotiated. The extension was funded by a $3.18M contribution from the State Government's Regional Infrastructure Development Fund and a $3.18M contribution from the City.

The trail is now comparable to other significant Australian trails such as the Murray to Mountain and Great Victorian Rail Trail in Victoria and the Riesling Rail Trail in South Australia and complements existing trails in the region such as the Wombat Forest Trails and The Goldfields Track which links Ballarat to Bendigo.

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For more information visit www.okeeferaltrail.com.au

Did you know?

By 1855 the town boasted 22 hotels and 3 breweries. In its hey-day Heathcote’s population was approximately 3,000. Cold was first discovered in Heathcote in 1851.

Destination Heathcote: it’s a long way from one end of town to the other.

The surrounding State Forests provide bush walking, cycling trails, look out points, tourism trails, wildlife, and recreation and leisure opportunities.

Heathcote has a good range of scoff places, restaurants, cafes and inns and is fast becoming one of Australia’s most loved new regions known for its award winning Shiraz and other red wine varieties.

Visitors are encouraged to stop into the Visitor Information Centre in High Street to find out more about the comprehensive list of attractions on offer.

Heathcote is located on the McIvor Highway and is just a short 30-40 minute drive from Bendigo.

Heathcote is one of the City of Greater Bendigo’s historic treasures. It is beautiful and appealing as its residential and commercial approaches blend with buildings from the past. Its landscape settings striking with the McIvor Ranges boldly providing a raised backdrop to the town.

Our environment

Big savings for Multi-Storey Car Park

The Hargreaves Street Multi-Storey Car Park caters for 290 cars and through the upgrades more than 250 LED sensor-enabled lights have been installed in the car park decks, stairs and and ground floor areas to replace older, power guzzling light sources saving over $24,500 of its annual power bill. As a consequence the City’s latest initiative to reduce carbon emissions in this part of Greater Bendigo’s constructed environment has already made a difference.

The Energy Efficiency Upgrades saw the exit lights, halogen down lights, and install new pump controls to energy-efficient options. The Energy Efficiency Upgrades saw a raft of bright sources switched to energy-efficient alternatives, which included replacing incandescent lights, halogen down lights and fluorescent tubes with LED or T5 fluorescent, installing sensor lights, removing guzzling fluorescent lamp fittings and removing some lights altogether.

These measures have cut energy use by 4.8 per cent. Peter said he would continue consulting with staff at the City’s building and property specialists on steps to cut carbon emissions even further. “Solar solutions would be good if my unit could achieve that’s even better. If my unit could achieve that’s even better.”

Parking co-ordinator John Hasty said his number one priority was getting people safely in and out of those spaces, but it wasn’t a top priority to report that it has wiped just over $8,000 from annual power costs. We’re seeing a massive 37 per cent drop in the car park’s power bills. We’re very happy with the results. I’ve been tracking it myself from the operational side of the budget and we’ve definitely been making good savings. The money that we’ve saved can go to other projects that need it.

Lighting accounts for 62 per cent of the building’s energy use, it made sense for the project to target that lump sum. "We were able to make big savings having identified the big inefficiencies. Our environment department was able to continue the project to target that lump sum. "We were able to make big savings having identified the big inefficiencies. Our environment department was able to continue the project to target that lump sum.

The budget tracker of most busy office buildings expect to see annual savings in the power bills and chart their progress through the Energy Efficiency Upgrades. In the Hargreaves Street Multi-Storey Car Park’s case we have been able to reduce carbon emissions and lower operational costs at this consuming site.

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I always admire people like Christopher whose actions speak louder than words.

Christopher recently placed a Trust for Nature conservation covenant on his property. A conservation covenant is a legal document that places restrictions on a property's use, which in this case, ensures that bushland, important for biodiversity, is protected. This covenant demonstrates Christopher's commitment to protecting bushland on his property.

Myrtle Creek resident, Christopher, is one of many Bendigo residents who are committed to protecting bushland on their property. Christopher recently placed a Trust for Nature conservation covenant on his property. This action is an excellent example of how individuals can contribute to the conservation of our natural environment.

Trust for Nature is a not-for-profit environmental organisation that seeks to protect bushland. It does this by placing covenants on properties, which restricts the types of development that can occur on the land. This ensures that bushland, important for biodiversity, is protected.

Christopher’s action is an excellent example of how individuals can contribute to the conservation of our natural environment. By placing a conservation covenant on his property, Christopher is committing to protecting bushland on his property.

Residents are reminded to be prepared for the upcoming fire season. The threat of bushfires is high, and it is crucial that residents take steps to prepare their property for the fire season. This includes clearing flammable vegetation, creating a defensible space around the property, and ensuring that the property owner is prepared for any potential emergencies.

The City of Greater Bendigo and the Country Fire Authority (CFA) have been working together to increase awareness of the fire season and the importance of preparing properties for the fire season. The CFA have also been working to ensure that all properties in the high-risk fire area are covered by a fire management strategy.

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Safeguarding our heritage assets

Whipstick Ward

Greater Bendigo City Council is committed to safeguarding our magnificent heritage assets so they can be enjoyed by future generations.

Over the past few months, restoration work has been underway at several sites in Whipstick Ward, including the Eaglehawk Town Hall, the Bendigo Joss House and the Bendigo Art Gallery.

Works at the Eaglehawk Town Hall, opened in 1921, involved removing and replacing the roof of the landmark clock tower.

The old lead roof was torn and letting in rain, damaging the tower’s structure. It has been removed and replaced with a lighter material.

Works also included replacement of the clock tower’s flagpole with a replica to match the original and the installation of a new system designed to protect the building from lightning strikes.

The project cost around $50,000, to complete, was partially funded by a grant from Victoria’s Heritage Restoration Fund, and occurred at the same time as landscaping and drainage works in the surrounding precinct valued at some $150,000.

The work at the Bendigo Joss House involved restoring the temple to its original state by carefully removing paint that had been covering its internal walls since the 1970s.

The paint from the 1970s has been trapping moisture in the temple’s walls. Due to the heritage value of the building, the work was undertaken by a specialist paint remover in line with Heritage Victoria and EPA guidelines and cost around $13,500.

At the Bendigo Art Gallery, the work involved replacing the guttering and lower section of roofing over the Abbott Court Gallery. The $68,000 works were aimed at weatherproofing the gallery space, which was built in the early 1900s.

The City is also working in partnership with Bendigo Historical Society. The works will enable the Cottage in Hargreaves Street, which is used by the TAFE to restore the cantilever balcony at Specimen Cottage in Hargreaves Street, which is used by the TAFE to

Go Bulldogs!

Lockwood Ward

My goodness Bendigo is a great place to live. It’s hard to say Bendigo has gone from strength to strength in this past decade or so and I’m thrilled that our thriving arts and cultural reputation has helped contribute to the city’s success.

I’m a great supporter of the local arts scene and the recent opening of the Ulumbarra Theatre has been a highlight for the Council this year. This is truly remarkable facility, funded by all three levels of government and available for use by Bendigo Senior Secondary College and the community.

The productions of Ned and Mary Poppins are just the beginning for Ulumbarra and in the coming months it will be exciting to welcome the Russian National Ballet and the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra.

Ulumbarra complements last year’s unveiling of the extended Bendigo Art Gallery and together with the Capital Theatre and our highly regarded food and wine retailers, means Bendigo is standing as a diverse and contemporary regional city is standing.

Although the arts is more than just live theatre or a painting on a wall, it’s always important to the natural beauty of where we live. Bendigo’s 25 minute drive from the CBD and you’re provided with a place to work, relax and enjoy.

Despite all this, my favourite place will come as no surprise to some – the kiosk at Golden Square Football Netball Club. I have been a passionate Bulldogs supporter for more than 20 years and an eager volunteer in the kiosk.

The Star Cinema in Eaglehawk to watch an art house film, while the library provides residents with an endless supply of reading material – books, newspapers, magazines. Not to mention DVDs and CDs, all of which are free.

Arts and culture is just one aspect of Bendigo that makes our city truly liveable. As a Councillor in the Lockwood Ward, which includes Crusoe Reservoir and No. 7 Park, I am always astounded by the natural beauty of where we live. Bendigo is a 15 minute drive from the CBD and you’re provided with a place to work, relax and enjoy.

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Implementing the Integrated Transport and Land Use Strategy

Councillors plan to encourage healthy living and cut traffic congestion

Greater Bendigo City Council has adopted a bold new strategy that seeks to limit future traffic congestion, encourage healthier urban and rural economic activity - all while accommodating significant population growth.

The Greater Bendigo Integrated Transport and Land Use Strategy (ITLUS) showed how this can be done on time, everyone can play a part in ensuring Bendigo can be the most liveable regional city in Australia.

"In order to make a difference. By changing the way we get to work or school or city in two - by walking or riding or public transport - we can help keep fit and healthy and reduce congestion on our roads," Mayor Cr Dior Cox said.

Peter said ITLUS was born from community disillusion at an earlier strategy that sought to widen and build more roads in response to increased traffic congestion. "More than 50 per cent of people at the 2012 transport discussions believed Greater Bendigo should set a vision for a more sustainable transport system and 70 per cent thought Greater Bendigo should be a more compact city with still full development," he said.

"The community has realised there is a better way to accommodate our growing population without destroying what we love about Bendigo.

"Through ITLUS our council have put community attitudes by developing a strategy that encourages a compact Bendigo with most of our daily activities within 10 minutes of where we live.

"ITLUS demonstrates how a small increase in walking or cycling to work, school or using public transport is a practical way to incorporate daily healthy activity into our lives. People will still have their cars, and we use them often. Globally cities with a focus on active and public transport are increasingly seen as more livable, more desirable and more economically successful than cities dominated by car-based transport.

"Under the ‘business as usual’ scenario, traffic volumes on some roads could grow by up to 50 per cent over the next 20 years, increasing congestion and commuting times."

City Chief Executive Officer, Craig Neaman said ITLUS recommends a series of actions, including ensuring that new residential developments are linked to the bicycle and pedestrian networks and services made available for appropriate walking and cycling infrastructure within the development.

"The strategy supports a major increase in the frequency of bus services, the establishment of a centralised transport network, with more stations and more frequent train services that are better connected to bus services," Craig said.

Over time, a network of new railway stations to be built at North, Lamont Square, Marian, Menzies and the proposed Horsham Business Park, and the re-opening of Golden Square station.

Traffic hubs would be developed in strategic locations outside the urban area, where larger loads that are delivering goods to a growing population and expanding economy, would be broken up into smaller loads and lighter vehicles.

ITLUS finds there is no substantial evidence to support building a new Bendigo ring road and instead for the existing road network to be used in a smarter way. Council said ITLUS provides a clear view, and sets priorities for expenditure and action.

Other groups and organisations that have agreed to partner with the City under the supplement ITLUS include:

- Bendigo Bank
- La Trobe University
- Bio-Bendigo Inc.
- Bendigo Health
- Healthy Together Bendigo
- Urban Development Institute of Australia
- White Hills Primary School
- Whitmore Group (Town)
- Victorian Bus Association
- Chamber of the Car Co
- Bendigo Manufacturing Group
- Bendigo Business Council
- Bendigo Sustainability Group
- Public Transport Victoria
- Coliban Water
- Wodonga

Planning our city

City staff ride through CBD. Image courtesy of the Bendigo Advertiser.
ITLUS actions include:

- Accelerate the progressive reduction of footpaths, shared paths and bicycle paths and interest and local parking in Bendigo and key townships, with a focus on improving safety, access and connectivity to key destinations such as schools, public transport, sport and recreation facilities and activity centres.
- Coordinate local and regional networks so that bus-to-bus and bus-to-train interchanges are efficient and considered for public transport provision, particularly for the Bendigo railway stations.
- Work closely with the Bendigo Taxi Directorate to identify opportunities to widen the scope and better integrate these services with public transport and community transport.
- Ensure that new residential developments are linked to well-planned and pedestrian network and provide appropriate walking and cycling infrastructure to support the development.
- Investigate the potential of telecommuting and teleconferencing as a means of reducing congestion for a small number of trips for some daily travel.
- Coordinate walking services to improve public transport connections between healthcare and urban centres, with Bendigo without services for Morowa and Jerrum Creek.
- Develop Township Structure Plans for Marong, Elmore and Heathcote to provide a framework for the growth, improved public transport connections with Bendigo, improved walking and cycling options and development, which will protect the towns’ unique character.
- Advocate for the progressive rollout of “real time” bus arrival information across the city’s interchanges and at bus stops.
- Explore the introduction of a specialised, high frequency and longer span shuttle service between La Trobe University, the city centre and Bendigo Hospital.
- Consider weaving or reducing the statutory car parking requirements for businesses which enable arrangements to enable employees to work from home and can demonstrate other measures to reduce staff travel as single occupant drivers.
- Common discussions with commercial car sharing companies and provide incentives to encourage them to set up schemes in Bendigo.
- Explore opportunities to develop a Bendigo branded public transport app which makes it easier to navigate the public transport system.
- Develop an educational campaign to dispel the danger and encourage healthier transport options are two of the key objectives of ITLUS and the City and Bank have agreed to explore opportunities to collaborate to deliver this and other objectives.
- Mayor Cr Peter Cox said the partnership between the City and the Bendigo Bank was just the beginning.
- “Council is keen for all major employers to work with the City so we can encourage more employees to make the shift from cars to cycling, walking and public transport,” Peter said.
- “We could take over 1,000 cars off the road each day if for one day per week each employee at the City, Bendigo Bank, La Trobe University and Bendigo Health, walked, cycled, car shared or used public transport”.

The City and the Bendigo and Adelaide Bank recently teamed up to provide their staff with an opportunity to sample a new bus service to and from Strathfieldsaye. The proposed new bus service will be operated by Whitmores Bus Lines and will take around 30 minutes during peak times.

The City’s new bus service will be offered as an alternative to car travel, which will add to Greater Bendigo’s overall appeal,” Scott said.

Some of Greater Bendigo’s biggest employers are encouraging their staff to walk, ride or take public transport as an alternative to car travel.

“Reducing peak hour traffic congestion on Bendigo’s roads and encouraging healthier transport options are two of the key objectives of ITLUS and the City and Bank have agreed to explore opportunities to collaborate to deliver this and other objectives,” Mayor Cr Peter Cox said.

“Council is keen for all major employers to work with the City and the Bendigo Bank to reduce their car usage.

“An initial is a result of collaboration between the City and Bendigo TAFE.”

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At the heart of ITLUS and the City’s adopted Bendigo and Bendigo Health transport plan for 30-minute

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Playing In Greater Bendigo

Taste of Olympics with Rugby Sevens tournament

Rugby Sevens are coming to Bendigo with the Melbourne Rebels, and the City hosting the Goldfield Sevens on October 24 and 25 at the Epsom Huntly Regional Recreation Reserve.

The Goldfield Sevens tournament will see over 30 Australian and international teams compete in a range of competition levels from Under 12s to Senior Men’s and Women’s.

Rugby Sevens was recently announced as the newest sport to be added to the 2016 Olympic Games, with interest in the sport growing rapidly in Australia and around the world.

“This is going to be Victoria’s largest ever Rugby Sevens tournament, with teams from Victoria, South Australia, the ACT and around the world set to compete.”

Melbourne Rebels Manager of Game Development and Elly Sevens Tyrone Mitchell is excited to be bringing this growing sport to one of Victoria’s richest sporting regions.

“We’ve noticed such a huge demand in Victoria’s sport growing rapidly in Australia and the newest sport to be added to the 2016 Olympic Games, with interest in the sport growing rapidly in Australia and around the world.

“The City is committed to maintaining and upgrading its sports grounds and has been steadily assisting clubs over the past few years to install electronic scoreboards,” Patrick said.

“Safety is a top priority, so it’s great volunteers no longer have to climb ladders to reach the scoreboards or stand in bad weather.

“The new scoreboards also offer clubs an opportunity to attract sponsorship and display advertising, providing them with an additional income stream.

“The City’s Open Events Manager, Terry Karamhalou, said Bendigo is excited to host the Goldfield Sevens Tournament and showcase the latest sport to be included in the Olympic Games.

“Having such great, quality facilities such as the Epsom Huntly Regional Recreation Reserve that can be used for a multitude of sports has been instrumental in attracting this event to Bendigo.

“The City is working hard to attract a diverse range of sporting and cultural events to our region. It’s great for our local economy and provides a diverse range of opportunities for residents to be exposed to different sports.

“We look forward to hosting over 30 national and international teams to Bendigo later this year.


Businesses benefit from accreditation program

Success will now be assessed digitally at White Hills Recreational Reserve following the installation of a new electronic score board. The White Hills Football Netball Club is one of eight local clubs to participate in this program.

City Active and Healthy Communities Development Officer, Kendyl Hopley said the City was very thankful to them for giving the entire Community department here at the City this opportunity.

“The effort of the Major Events and Active Communities departments in helping us put together this event has been incredible, and the entire Community department here at the Rebels is very thankful to them for giving us this opportunity.

“I’d really encourage Bendigo locals with an interest in Rugby, or simply a love of sport to come down to watch the tournament. Rugby Sevens is a really fast, exciting game and it’s awesome to watch.”

“We’re also looking for support from local businesses, with sponsorship and partnership opportunities available for this wonderful event with national reach.”

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To meet this program requirement B Keogh & Sons, Jimmy Possum, Australian Turntable Company, Riches Auto Refinishers, Harrower and scrap plant and equipment from their Eaglehawk premises.

Six local firms, including B Keogh & Sons, are currently participating in Quality Management accreditation programs, funded under the State Government’s, Manufacturing Productivity Networks (MPN) program, that offer support to local small and medium sized businesses and manufacturers.

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“The Economic Development Unit is looking forward to seeing the participating firms reap many benefits by undertaking the program and it’s great to also see our groups like Radius benefitting as well.”

“Businesses benefit from accreditation program”

Settling the score

Success will now be assessed digitally at White Hills Recreational Reserve following the installation of a new electronic score board. White Hills Football Netball Club is one of eight local clubs to participate in this program, while the City provided $50,000 in funding.

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“I would encourage other companies to consider using organisations such as Radius for special projects like this”

B Kingh & Sons Manager John Manning said his company was pleased to provide the clean-up work to Radius, who did a great job.

“Accreditation is fast becoming a prerequisite required by government and businesses in both the domestic and global markets to ensure competences and compliance with contemporary standards of safety and quality in production processes.

“By partnering with Radius we were able to prepare our premises for the audit. It was a win-win situation. We got some great help cleaning up and the Radius staff got some great experience.

“I would encourage other companies to consider using organisations such as Radius for special projects like this,” John said.

City Economic Development Unit Manager Brian Gould said the Quality Management accreditation program is provided by the City’s Economic Development Unit, with financial support from the State Government.

“I would encourage other companies to consider using organisations such as Radius for special projects like this”
September
16-27 Aerobics Australia Championships and AEROSchools Competition and National Gymnastics Club Carnival
Bendigo Stadium, Flora Hill Stadium and Ulumbarra Theatre

October
1-4 Calisthenics Victoria State Championships
Ulumbarra Theatre
6-9 Elmore Field Days
Elmore Events Centre
9-11 Victorian Schools Cycling Championships (BMX/Mountain Bike/Road)
Bendigo BMX Club, Spring Gully Reserve and Bendigo CBD
10-11 Netball Victoria State Titles
Golden City Netball Courts (near Bendigo Stadium)
9-10 Bendigo Wealth Heritage Uncorked
Various heritage buildings in Bendigo’s CBD
10-11 Heathcote Wine and Food Festival
Heathcote Showgrounds
28 2015 Jayco Bendigo Cup
Bendigo Racecourse
October 31 - November 1 Australia’s Strongest Man Competition incorporating the Bendigo Fitness Weekend
Tom Flood Sports Centre

November
5-8 Bendigo Blues & Roots Music Festival
Various locations across Bendigo
8-15 William Loud Bendigo International Women’s Pro Tour
Bendigo Bank Tennis Complex
14-15 Bendigo Swap Meet
Bendigo Showgrounds

For more details visit www.bendigo.vic.gov.au/events