

E-Newsletter from the Bendigo Regional Archives Centre

Here is the second issue of Bric-a-BRAC for 2014, the Bendigo Regional Archive Centre (BRAC) e-newsletter.

This issue highlights BRAC's 5th birthday celebrations held in June 2014.

BRAC also hosted a tour, a talk and a workshop for Family History Month in August.

This issue has details of 14 new series available to order. There are also 6 series of McIvor records that have been transferred to BRAC from Ballarat Archives Centre.

As usual, we have a snapshot of some of our unique historical records penned by our in-house 'Historical Oracle', Dr. Michele Matthews. This quarter's column features records relating to 'Remembering the beginning of World War 1'.

Bendigo Regional Archives Centre 5th Birthday Celebrations

Staff has been kept very busy since Issue 1 was sent to you in May. We celebrated five years of being open to the public, with a week of Birthday activities held throughout the last week of June 2014. There were "behind the scenes" tours of the repository; workshops where participants learnt about the many different types of records housed at BRAC and had hands-on time; a talk about the establishment of BRAC and historical gems found in our collection.

The week finished off with a monster Birthday cake cut by representatives from each of the three organisations, that worked together to establish BRAC in 2008 - the Goldfields Library Corporation (GLC), the City of Greater Bendigo (CoGB) and Public Record Office Victoria (PROV).



Pictured here cutting the cake are Rod Fyffe, Councillor, CoGB with Chris Kelly, CEO, GLC and Graeme Hairsine, Assistant Director, Access Services, PROV.

14 New BRAC Series Available

July saw news that the next 14 BRAC series are now able to be ordered via the PROV online catalogue at www.prov.vic.gov.au. These series are listed here.

1. VPRS 17059/P1, Eaglehawk Valuation	1 vol.	1871-1882
2. VPRS 17060/P1, Strathfieldsaye Valuations	5 vols.	1870-1879
3. VPRS 17061/P1, Marong Valuations	19 vols.	1870-1988
4. VPRS 7006/P2, Mclvor Rate books	9 vols.	1878-96;1903;1910
5. VPRS 7010/P2, Mclvor Minute books	51 vols.	1927-1994
6. VPRS 7015/P2, Mclvor Letter books	24 vols.	1977-1994
7. VPRS16137/P1, Strathfieldsaye Minutes	52 vols./boxes	1864-1994
8. VPRS 17058/P1, Marong Committee Minutes	4 vols.	1881-1911
9. VPRS 17062/P1, Sandhurst Council Valuations	6 vols.	1856-59; 1862-63
10. VPRS 17063/P1, Sandhurst/Bendigo Protest book	1 vol.	1889-1974
11. VPRS 17064/P1, Bendigo Town Clerk's Reports	29 vols.	1968-1986
12. VPRS 17065/P1, Sandhurst/Bendigo Registers of Inwards Correspondence 5 vols 1876-1915		
13. VPRS 17066/P1, Raywood Rate books	3 vols.	1865-83; 1896-1915
14. VPRS 17067/P1, Raywood Minute books	5 vols.	1865-1915

Records transferred from Ballarat Archives Centre

More good news on the records front is that from now on researchers wanting to use any **Mclvor Council Rate books (VPRS 7006)**, **Minutes (VPRS 7010)** or **Letter books (VPRS 7015)** will only need to visit BRAC to use them.

On 6 August, all the volumes from these three series were transported to Bendigo from Ballarat, to be amalgamated with the Shire of Mclvor records already held at BRAC (see New BRAC series available). Listed here are the details of the volumes relocated to BRAC.

VPRS 7006/P1, Mclvor Rate books	44 vols.	1897-1948
VPRS 7006/P3, Mclvor Rate Books	1 vol.	1863-1869
VPRS 7010/P1, Mclvor Minute Books	14 vols.	1874-1927
VPRS 7010/P3, Mclvor Minute Books	2 vols.	1861-1867
VPRS 7015/P1, Mclvor Letter Books	9 vols.	1891-1958 (tbc)
VPRS 7015/P3, Mclvor Letter Books	3 vols.	(tbc)

Remembering the Beginning of World War 1

As this is a period in time where our global community is reflecting upon the commencement of World War I, we thought readers might be interested to learn about the records held at BRAC that deal with this watershed local and world event.

The Bendigo Council's **Twentieth century Incoming Correspondence** (no VPRS number) contains a number of subject files pertaining to the War- "Recruiting", "Repatriation", "RSSILA" (forerunner to our RSL) and an unnamed file which deals with matters including War Memorials' designs and funding; these files are all contained in **Box A**. They span the years 1916-1923.

In **Box X** is the file "Patriotic Funds". It contains correspondence from numerous local "Comfort" branches- St. Paul's, North Bendigo, Kennington, White Hills, AWNL (Australian Women's National League). A table itemising the amount of money raised by these branches during 1917-1918 shows a total of £2,234. Also listed was £80 raised, but listed beside the single term "Tunnelling"- most intriguing! The "Red Cross Carnival" that year raised a further £5,248-enormous sums raised from our city in a single calendar year.

Work has just been completed on a book about the Kennington branch (a Bendigo suburb) of the Red Cross, established just days after the war commenced. One letter from them to Bendigo Council, with a bold red letterhead, listed the four office bearers in 1918:-Mrs. GW Lansell (President), Mrs. J Beebe (Vice), Mrs HV Richardson (Treasurer), and Mrs A Montgomerie (Secretary). (**Box X**).

Before witnessing our local 6 August 1914 re-enactment, I went trawling through the Minutes of the Bendigo Council meeting that just happened to have been held the following day. Always renowned for its attachment to Monarch and Empire, the motion passed was particularly emotive of these sentiments:- "That this Council expresses its unswerving loyalty to the British throne, and its full approval of the action of the Commonwealth...to assist the British Government...It expresses its assurance to heartily render every support in its power...in the despatch of the Expeditionary force." This motion was carried "with enthusiasm" (**VPRS 16269 Bendigo Council Minutes, vol. 9, 7 August 1914, p. 275.**)

Lest We Forget!

Dr. Michele Matthews

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Until Next Time

Thank you for subscribing to our newsletter. Our next issue of Bric-a-BRAC will be out in November 2014. We will share any new updates, details of events and activities and more snapshots of our Records. Until then, happy researching!

BRAC Staff

Dr. Michele Matthews, Archives Officer (Mon, Wed, Thurs)

Claire McLeod, Archives Officer (Wed, Thurs)

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Address

You can find us on the 1st Floor, Bendigo Library
251-259 Hargreaves Street, Bendigo

Open Hours

Wednesday and Thursday 10am – 4.30pm (except public holidays)