



Bric-a-BRAC November 2014

E-Newsletter from the Bendigo Regional Archives Centre

Welcome to the third issue of Bric-a-BRAC for 2014, the Bendigo Regional Archives Centre's (BRAC) E-newsletter.

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As usual, we also have a snapshot of BRAC's unique historical records penned by our in-house 'Historical Oracle', Dr. Michele Matthews. 'The Victorian Gold Jubilee Exhibition', 113 years old this November, is in the spotlight this issue.

BRAC's Annual Report for 2013-2014

Lots of flurry in the last few months with the completion of the BRAC 2013-2014 Annual Report (see the full version at http://www.brac.vic.gov.au/About_Us/Annual_Report). The report is an overview of our year, highlighting the shift back into Hargreaves Street (together with the Bendigo Library), the 5th Birthday celebrations, and our other activities over the past twelve months. Enjoy reading with a cuppa!

Conservation of BRAC's Oldest Volumes

We were excited to welcome the return this week of volumes 1 and 2 of **VPRS 16267 Bendigo Rate Books**. These are the oldest volumes in the BRAC collection. Our local expert bookbinder and conservator, Simon Dart from SB Libris, has done an amazing job repairing the signs of wear and tear over the last 150 years. All the pages have been re sewn into the spine, and the interior of both covers have been flawlessly repaired. Simon's wonderful expertise should see the long-term preservation of these volumes, and allow researchers to use them again, for another century and more.

New Council Records Series Available to Order

As we highlighted in our August e-newsletter, 14 more Council series of records are now available to order via the PROV online catalogue at www.prov.vic.gov.au. For full details of these series, please look at the updated BRAC Guide 4 available on our website http://www.brac.vic.gov.au/Collections/BRAC_Records_Lists.

A Busy October

October 2014 was the second busiest month in the history of BRAC. 45 Researchers visited us and used a variety of our records for all sorts of research purposes, ranging from genealogical quests to Honours theses and every topic you can think of in-between.

Back in Time

Each e-newsletter, we focus on a series of records held within the BRAC collection. On the 113th anniversary of the commencement of the **Victorian Gold Jubilee Exhibition**, held at Bendigo from **13 November 1901 to 14 May 1902**, we share the story of the two volumes created to record the details of this exhibition.

The volume of greater interest has the sub-heading **“Entries”** on its front leather cover. The hundreds of exhibits displayed in the exhibition were itemised in detail. Name and address of each exhibitor, a description of each exhibit, its value in £ and which display court it was allocated to are all listed. The courts were numbered from one, or had titles like “Machinery”, “Agricultural”, “Naval & Military Court” and “Art”.

The female visitors to the Exhibition were able to view exhibits deemed suitable for the fairer sex and located within their own “Women’s Court”. There were exhibits such as “Parasols & Umbrellas”, cotton and haberdashery from Manchester and Staffordshire, “Corsets & Embroideries” from Paris.

The most valuable exhibits were mining machinery such as Taylor Horsfield’s £850 “Air Compressor & Rock Borer”. “Bohemian Glassware” brought down from Sydney was valued at £600.

The profits from this Exhibition were used to fund the sculpture known as the Gold Monument, which still gazes along Pall Mall (from the McCrae Street end). The Exhibition’s **Cash Book** shows payments, which totalled £1160, were made to the then up and coming sculptor C.D.Richardson. Recently a City of Greater Bendigo staff member used both these volumes to write a detailed report about this monument, for Heritage Victoria.

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 February 2015. We will share any new updates, details of events and activities and more snapshots of our Records. Until then, happy researching!

BRAC Staff

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Open Hours

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

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