



Bric-a-BRAC May 2015

E-Newsletter from the Bendigo Regional Archives Centre

Welcome to the fifth issue of Bric-a-BRAC, the Bendigo Regional Archives Centre's E-newsletter.

In this issue:

[W.C. Vahland Event](#)

[PROV records transferred to BRAC](#)

[Back in Time: The Bendigo Council dealt with a variety of Nuisances!](#)

[W.C Vahland Event](#)

Upcoming BRAC Event:- "Vahland in the Archives" talk by Dr. Michele Matthews in the BRAC Reading Room, on Thurs. 14 May 5.30-6.30pm. Please book via www.ncgrl.vic.gov.au or phone 5449 2703. This talk examines William Vahland's relationship with Sandhurst/Bendigo Council during the years 1864-1899. Hear about his previously unknown disputes with local civic leaders in 1870 and 1881, and the details of his architectural contracts for the Council, especially the Alexandra Fountain and the Town Hall.

The first session of this talk was on Monday 11 May; there was a full house, with 23 attendees seated in the BRAC Reading Room. The audience was appreciative, asking pithy questions, after Michele finished her spiel.

[PROV records transferred to BRAC](#)

In the last five months, the BRAC offsite repository at Nolan Street has become the new home for records transferred from PROV. These records, mainly Rate and Minute Books, were created by the former Borough/City of Swan Hill and the Shire of Rochester.

VA 2515 Swan Hill III (Borough 1939-1965; City 1965-1994)

VPRS 14676/P1

Council Minutes (1939-1994), 86 vols.

VPRS 14677/P1

Committee Minutes (1939-1994), 11 vols.

VA 2497 Rochester (Shire 1871-1994)

VA 3677 Campaspe II (Shire 1994-ct)

VPRS 17693/P0001 Rate Books [1909-1968], 49 vols.

VPRS 17694/P0001 Finance Committee Reports (1950-1962), 3 vols.

VPRS 17695/P0001 Deeds and Securities Register (1902-1995), 1 vol.

VPRS 17696/P0001 Elmore to Cohuna Railway Trust Rate Book (1918-1921), 1 vol.

These can now all be ordered via the PROV catalogue at www.prov.vic.gov.au.

Back in Time

Each e-newsletter, we focus on a series of records held within the BRAC collection. This month, I want to highlight what were termed **Nuisances** within the City of Sandhurst/Bendigo in the nineteenth century. References to these were mainly found in the regular reports from the city's Street Tree Curator, John Roper, to Council. This man had a genuine affinity for the 100 miles of street trees he oversaw the planting and care of between the early 1870s-1899.

Roper's observations of issues detrimental to the trees' health, caused by humans, were numerous:- removal/theft of tree stakes (**VPRS 16936, Box 13, 9 Oct. 1874**), destruction of trees and removal of tree guards (**VPRS 16936, Box 13, 6 Nov. 1874**), gas from the early gas mains leaking and causing the trees distress (**VPRS 16936, Box 15, 4 March 1880**), and the construction of early telephone poles (**VPRS 16936, Box 20, 1 March 1883**).

Another keen observer of local nuisances was William Buttle, a resident of Quarry Hill. He focussed on the nuisance caused by local teenage boys! In a letter in 1892, he told the Council that:- "The Northern district of Bendigo is infested and contaminated by the propensities of the youth. Young children and old people...suffer varying annoyances and pecuniary loss." (**VPRS 16936, Box 35, 9 May 1892.**)

The third source of nuisance information lies in 18 petitions now available on the new BRAC website www.brac.vic.gov.au Please have a look at them too, for a further understanding of local issues that annoyed residents in the nineteenth century. Not a lot has changed in some instances, except of course roaming goats!

Until Next Time

Thank you for subscribing to our newsletter. Our next issue of Bric-a-BRAC will be sent out in August 2015. We will share new updates, details of events, and more snapshots of our Records. Until then, happy researching!

BRAC Staff

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

Claire McLeod, Archives Officer (Wed, Thurs)

BRAC Contact

email: brac@ncgrl.vic.gov.au

phone: (03) 5449 2703

web: www.brac.vic.gov.au

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)

You can unsubscribe by emailing brac@ncgrl.vic.gov.au with the subject 'unsubscribe'.