

E-Newsletter from the Bendigo Regional Archives Centre

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

Bendigo Family History Expo: Sunday 15 March 2015, Kangaroo Flat Leisure Centre. BRAC will be there from 10am. Come and say hello!

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[WWI Education Pack](#)

With all the interest in World War I at the moment, BRAC staff have checked Council Minute books to gauge civic responses to the declaration of war, Gallipoli, and the end of the war. The material found has been developed into an education pack for Secondary School students' use. Images and suggestions for use can be found under the "What's On" tab on the BRAC website www.brac.vic.gov.au

If you are interested in the responses to the war from the Bendigo, Eaglehawk, Huntly, Marong, Strathfieldsaye, Mclvor and Raywood Councils in their Minutes, have a look at the link to our World War I Kit. Topics unearthed in correspondence to Bendigo Council include the formation and activities of local voluntary organisations, and the plans to construct our War Memorial in Pall Mall.

[W.C. Vahland in the Archives](#)

Throughout May the City of Greater Bendigo is celebrating the centenary of the death of W.C Vahland, our most influential Architect.

BRAC will be participating in this celebration by showcasing the correspondence from Vahland to the Bendigo Council, written between 1870-1899.

Join Michele Matthews, on Monday 11 May 11am-12pm, or Thursday 14 May 5.30pm-6.30pm, for a look at the working relationship between a notable Architect of the nineteenth century and the Council of the day.

Bookings can be made through the Goldfields Library website www.ncgrl.vic.gov.au

Look out for many other Vahland related activities in the community.

[Historic Rates Index online](#)

The City of Bendigo Rate books from 1856 to 1903 now have an online searchable index. Using the original Rate books held by BRAC, one of the longest running cooperative projects between the Bendigo Library and Bendigo Family History Group has been to index the Bendigo Rate books. More than 300,000 entries are now at your fingertips, with the ability to search by Owner, Ratepayer or Occupier, Year, Address, Occupation, Rate number, Council Name or Subdivision. Access is through the Goldfields Library website.

<http://www.ncgrl.vic.gov.au/e-resources/familyhistory>

Back in Time

Each e-newsletter, we focus on a series of records held within the BRAC collection.

The **Bendigo Council's Plans and Maps** collection is very extensive, covering a wide variety of topics and spanning the 1870s-1970s. Amongst the most attractive is the one drawn in the early 1900s showing the proposed site for the **Gold Monument statue**, at the conservatory end of Pall Mall (where it still stands). Rather than just a pencil sketch, this one contains shades of green for the grass area and trees. **(Bundle 20)**

A number of plans were submitted to Council, showing proposed alterations or additions to, or relocations of, 96 local **houses**. A permit number was given to each application. (From 1924 these numbers should correspond to the Bendigo Council's Building Registers, which are also held at BRAC). These plans will be a boon if present-day owners ever want to research the evolution of their home. **(Bundle 12)**

Aspects of physical structures within the **Upper Reserve in Rosalind Park** appear in the plan collection too. For example, there is an undated plan for the bandstand, a 1912 plan for the "new" Baths, a 1916 view of the old Show Grounds (now the Tom Flood Sports Centre), and 1914 internal and external plans of the renovations to the caretaker's residence, which is probably the one that still overlooks the QEO today. **(Bundle 19)**

Bundles 21 and 26 contain plans for many and varied **public utilities**, ranging from urinals and conveniences at Charing Cross, through to the 1916 proposed Baths at Golden Square. Plans for the Council's various gravel reserves, dotted around the city, are in this bundle too.

Until Next Time

Thank you for subscribing to our newsletter. Our next issue of Bric-a-BRAC will be sent out in May 2015. We will share 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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