



# ***Bric-a-BRAC*** November 2017

## **E-newsletter - Bendigo Regional Archives Centre**

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Welcome to the fourth issue for 2017, of our quarterly e-Newsletter Bric-a-BRAC.

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**BRAC will be closed on Wednesday 13 December 2017, for staff training.**

**For the Christmas/New Year period, BRAC will close at 4.30pm on Thursday 21 December 2017 and re-open at 10am on Wednesday 3 January 2018.**

### [BRAC Rate books are being digitised this month](#)

BRAC is fortunate to be part of the Public Record Office Victoria volunteer project digitising Victorian Rate books up to 1930 from the PROV Collection. 262 Rate books were collected on Wed 26 October from BRAC, and are due to be returned to us on 15 November.

The records being digitised are:-

16267/P1, City of Sandhurst/Bendigo Rate Books 1856-1930,	73 vols
16263/P1, Borough of Eaglehawk Rate Books 1864-1930,	30 vols
16266/P1, Shire of Marong Rate Books 1864-1930,	67 vols
16136/P1, Shire of Strathfieldsaye Rate Books 1864-1930,	52 vols
7006/P1 and P2, Shire of Mclvor Rate Books 1878-1930,	40 vols

## BRAC staffer spoke at SLV Family Feast Day, 21 August 2017

BRAC staffer, Dr Michele Matthews, was one of the speakers at the annual Family History Feast Day held at the State Library of Victoria (SLV). With the day's theme being Maps and Plans, Michele's topic was "From Cattle Yards to War Workers: the Plan collection of Bendigo Regional Archives Centre (BRAC)"

Michele told the stories behind examples from the extensive former City of Sandhurst/Bendigo Council Maps and Plans collection, and related them to numerous other BRAC records.

The Family History Feast talks were live streamed by the State Library of Victoria and are still available on the SLV website. <https://www.slv.vic.gov.au/whats-on/family-history-feast> .

Two of the examples presented have been used in a PROV blog post.

<https://www.prov.vic.gov.au/about-us/our-blog/bendigo-maps-and-plans>

## "In the Swim: a history of Bendigo's Pools" summer Exhibition presented by Bendigo Library, BRAC and Bendigo Historical Society

"In the Swim: a history of Bendigo's Pools" is a joint exhibition created by Bendigo Library, BRAC and the Bendigo Historical Society. It will run from 6 November-10 March 2018.

Located in the display cases outside the BRAC reading room, a fascinating combination of documents and artefacts tell the stories behind the creation of many of Bendigo's public baths and pools from the early settlement.

Anecdotes, experiences and drawings will be shared at a family celebration "Stories from the Pool" to be held on Tuesday 6 February 2018. 5.30 – 6.30pm.

## New seminar series "Discovering History"

La Trobe University-Bendigo in conjunction with BRAC and Bendigo Library, has begun a new series of seminars discussing different aspects of Bendigo and region history.

Seminars take place on the first Thursday of the month, from 5.30-6.30pm, in the downstairs performance space at the Bendigo Library.

The first seminar on 2 November was "Women and Children hidden in BRAC records" by Dr Michele Matthews from BRAC. Speaking about local Women and Children whose stories can be found in Court records, rate books, petitions and correspondence sent to the Sandhurst/Bendigo Council, Michele paid tribute to many interesting stories that have been unearthed in the BRAC records.

Future speakers details are:-

7 Dec 2017	Dr Charles Fahey	Who came for Gold? Migrant experience of goldmining Bendigo
1 Feb 2018	Richard Turner	Experiment in Victorian Democracy: Re-assessing elected local Mining Boards
1 Mar 2018	Brett Wright	Bendigo and Miners' Phthisis: an epidemic of respiratory disease and the medical response 1875-1906
5 Apr 2018	Natasha Joyce	Childhood and Faith on the Goldfields

## Uses of Our Records

What questions do BRAC researchers try to find answers to? Here is a sample of the reasons driving them in the months August-October 2017, giving readers some insight into the myriad questions BRAC records can answer.

### **August 2017**

Vivien used *Rate books* from Bendigo, Eaglehawk, Huntly, Marong, Strathfieldsaye and Heathcote, and *Bendigo Building Registers*, for her Family History workshop “Tracing the History of your House”. Michele used the *Bendigo Plans and Maps* collection, *Bendigo Rate books*, *VPRS 16936 Inwards Correspondence*, *20<sup>th</sup> C Correspondence*, and *Victorian Gold Jubilee Exhibition* volumes to prepare her presentation for the SLV Family History Feast Day.

A City of Greater Bendigo staffer used *Bendigo Rate books*, spanning the 1890s-1920s, to research an application to Council about the heritage significance of two local properties.

### **September 2017**

A local researcher used *Bendigo Rate books* from the 1930s-1950s, to continue researching the past owners of her Kennington home.

Michele used *VPRS 16936 Inwards Correspondence*, the *Victorian Gold Jubilee Exhibition Cash book*, and original tickets for the 1902 Coronation (found inside a volume of *Bendigo Committee Minutes*) to research for articles for BRAC promotional purposes.

Researchers from NSW used *1870s-1890s Shire of Marong Rate books* to trace the land ownership of two family branches, and *Shire of Huntly Minutes* to confirm an ancestor's term as Shire President in the 1890s.

### **October 2017**

A local researcher traced Bendigo Cemetery history using *VPRS 16936 Inwards Correspondence*.

A local consultant used *Shire of Strathfieldsaye Minutes* to research the locations of the Annis and George Bills' funded horse water troughs within that Shire.

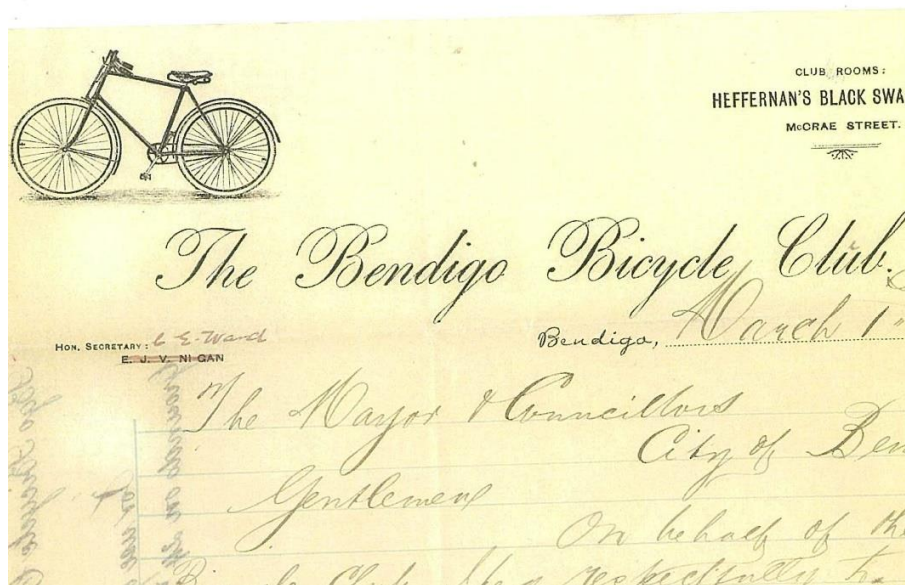
*Shire of Rochester Rate books* were used on behalf of an interstate researcher, to locate the 1920s property of their family who migrated from Wales to South America then Bamawm.

## Back in Time

Local Bendigo and district residents made time for Leisure and Entertainment in the nineteenth century. Many of the activities frequented by locals were held annually and seasonally, so there were varied events to attend in most months. For weekday events, a public holiday was declared by writing to the Council requesting either a half or full day to be gazetted. In most cases, a Council outdoor or indoor venue including the Agricultural Show Ground, Town Hall, or Lake Weeroona was used to hold these varied activities so permission had to be given by Council for this usage.

In 1896, the Bendigo Athletic Club asked the Council for the use of the Show Ground on 25, 26, 29 and 30 December to hold "our 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Intercolonial Sporting and Cycling Carnival". (See the similarity between this combined event and our annual Madison and Athletics carnivals held for decades at the same venue, just under a different name!) (20/10/1896, Box 44)

Look at the appropriate letterhead image used when the Bendigo Bicycle Club asked to hold their "Sports meeting" in the Show Ground on 24 May 1899. (01/03/1899, Box 48)



For those locals interested in more cultural pursuits, a "Sacred Cantata" was presented by the Bendigo Glee Club in the Wesleyan Church, Forest Street, in 1899. (24/03/1899, Box 48) The Sandhurst, then Bendigo, Liedertafel held one concert in the Town Hall in June 1890 (17/06/1890, Box 30), then a "Grand Festival Concert" at lake Weeroona, in conjunction with Sandhurst Rowing Club, on 14 February 1894. (02/02/1894, Box 39)

\*All letters cited are from VPRS 16936 Sandhurst/Bendigo Inwards Correspondence, held at BRAC.

\*Part 2 of this topic will appear in the February 2018 E-newsletter.

## Until Next Time

Thank you for subscribing to our E-newsletter. The next issue of Bric-a-BRAC will be available in February 2018. We will continue to provide updates, promote events and happenings, as well as share more snapshots of our wonderful records. Until then, Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and keep researching!

### **BRAC Staff**

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

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**Opening Hours:** Wednesday and Thursday 10 am-4.30 pm (except public holidays)