

150 years of Blessing in Bendigo

A summary of some of the known blessings and other events that have happened in Bendigo over its life as found from the research of the Spiritual Mapping Team of Pray Bendigo

All praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
for all his goodness to us

Introduction

Named by Spanish Sailors. Bendigo means "I BLESS" in Spanish. Bendigo Valley before the Diggings 'A Place of Beauty' When Major Mitchell (Surveyor General) came to the area 1836 he was so impressed he named it the 'Australia Felix'. His writings stimulated a rush of squatters. The Sandhurst climate was likened to the Riviera, Madeira, Algiers and Morocco. Doctors recommended the sick to come here.

Source: Greater than Gold by Colin Webb & John Quinlan

An early settler Mr James Dungey left a description this place. He said it was 'one of the loveliest spots on earth the water holes being full of clear water which reflected back the gold of wattles growing on the banks of the creek. Scared kingfishers darted hither and thither like winged blue flames, while the air was full of the songs of magpies, butcherbirds and bellbirds. Native bears and opossums were at home among the leafy branches while now and then a splash could be heard where a duckbill-platypus slid down into the water'. Further up the creek where Bridge and McCrae Sts, Pall Mall and Rosalind Park now stand the country resembled an open park where kangaroos and emus wandered at will and the occasional dingo crept stealthily through the timber while the plaintive notes of the curlew and plover were heard along the creek. Not forgetting the kookaburra who laughed as he prepared to pounce on a snake gliding along the grass.

Source: Centenary of Bendigo the Bendigo Advertiser January 1951 page 7.

Bendigo was considered a forest city like Edinburgh, Berlin and Naples. Trees were everywhere. There were 75+ miles of trees.

Agriculture of the land in the Bendigo area called the 'Golden Centre' has produced food and fibre worth millions and millions more dollars than the precious metal.

Source: Greater than Gold by Colin Webb & John Quinlan

1850-60's

Mr Knight pioneer horticulturist grew exotic plants and flowers. HIS 'CENTENARY GRAPES' were ONE AND A HALF-Inches long and almost as wide and attracted attention with their super size

1850-60's Mr McDougall produced finest specimens of grain in the colony at Muskerry.

1860's 3 Protestant missions to the Chinese established in Victoria.

There were many factories in Bendigo to support the vegetable and fruit growing regions. These included White Crow, Rosella, Kia Ora, Leggo's and the Bendigo Preserving Company. Large consignments went to Melbourne up to 2,500 cases a day being consigned by rail

Also the Bendigo Music Conservatorium was very important and fostered many talented musicians.

1848

Oldest vineyard established by Mr. Bennets on Muskerry sheep station. Area became one of the most famous wine districts in the world.

1851

1. Mrs. Kennedy and Mrs. Farrell are the first ones to find gold along the Bendigo creek in what is now known as Golden Square.
2. Victoria separated from N.S.W.
3. All 603 men on Bendigo goldfields united for first Christmas dinner.

1852

1. March, 30,000 diggers on goldfield.
2. Edward Nucella Emmett arrived in Bendigo. The manager of Bendigo's first bank, he became committed to obtaining a water supply for Bendigo.
3. The first religious service in Bendigo was conducted at Golden Square by Mr. James Jeffrey who stood on a tree stump. Soon he and other workers erected a wooden hut on the present site of Golden Square Methodist Sunday School.
4. 1st church service held at Eaglehawk by Thomas Hunt who came from Geelong. Usual Methodist sequence 3 Hymns, prayer, bible reading, Sermon. 1st hymn "O for a Thousand Tongues". The following Sunday a visiting minister Rev Symons used the same hymn, prayer, bible reading and sermon. Wesleyan Lay preachers arrived on the goldfields. The first preachers were on the goldfields before Rev. Dr. Henry Backhaus.
5. In Early 1852, Rev. Dr. George Henry Backhaus conducted services in High street in the open air, later he used a large tent.
6. Church of England/Anglican - Rev. J Herbert Gregory arrived shortly after Rev. Backhaus. He also held services in a tent on the site of the

All Saints Cathedral (present day View Hill Fellowship).

7. South Australian gold escort welcomed as divine inspiration to save a colony from financial ruin.

8. John Hargreaves brought first cows to Bendigo from Sydney to commence milk industry in Bendigo.

1853

1. "Bendigo" became "Castleton" and after 5 weeks it changed to "Sandhurst".

2. Many Chinese arrived in Bendigo.

3. George Rowe elder statesman of Victorian Goldfields invented method of etching on stone, pioneering a process called tint painting.

Successful painter, etcher, lithographer. Awarded Gold Medal by Prince of Wales for his view of Victorian Goldfields.

4. First revival was the "Great White Hills" revival.

5. Lachlan McLachlan (Bendigo "Mac") was appointed to Bendigo as Police Magistrate. He administered the law with rigor and severity. He was determined to clean up the desperate characters on the goldfields, some of them being convicts.

6. Wesleyan Church - Rev. Raston arrived in the field in 1853. He held services in a tent near the corner of Bull street and Pall Mall. Later his tent was moved to Forest Street, where he preached to an eager congregation. Congregational church established in 1853 when Rev. Mark Butler preached in Market Square.

7. First hospital opened where Short Street is, from High to Rowan streets, combining the efforts of doctors and clergy.

8. German diggers turned their attention to Quartz reef mining.

9. Reefing began in Bendigo

10. First Quartz companies set up in Bendigo and Castlemaine.

11. Red Ribbon Movement formed. Later became the Land League. Achieved better conditions for miners and farmers.

12. Lachlan MacLachlan refused to carry out Governor of Victoria's instructions to collect Licence fees at the point of a bayonet. This saved Bendigo from bloodshed and loss of life that had resulted in following these orders in Ballarat.

13. First Bendigo Bank opened. The first institution of its kind on the goldfields. It was deposit only.

14. Coaches between Bendigo and Melbourne commence operation.

15. Bendigo Advertiser commenced printing. It was the first inland journal ever printed in Victoria. It was owned by Robert Haverfield and Arthur M. Lloyd

16. Dr Backhaus began 1st Catholic school.

17. Hugh Victor McKay designed the Sunshine harvester. Patented in 1885

1854

1. William C. (Carl Wilhelm) Vahland. Born at Nienburg, Hanover in 1828, he migrated to Australia in 1854 in search of gold. He settled in Bendigo and practised as an architect with his friend Getzschmann. He designed many beautiful public and private buildings in the city.

2. George Lansell arrived in Bendigo. He walked to Bendigo from Adelaide. When he arrived, George and his brothers set up a soap and candle works at View Place. He was known as the 'Quartz King'.

3. Baptist church - The first Baptist church opened at White Hills in 1854, where a small church had been erected. It was used for a year then removed to the Bendigo Creek. The former site was wanted by the diggers for mining. It was at the first hill of the seven White Hills.

4. Presbyterian church - The first services were conducted by Rev. Dr. J

Nish, at the blacksmith's shop in Bridge street, Bendigo.

- 5.The Hebrew Congregation held its first service in a wooden building.
- 6.Richard Larritt surveyed street plans.
- 7.First County Court in Bendigo
- 8.Dr James Lamsey (Lam See) Chinese Doctor became one of the most influential people in Victoria.
- 9.Article in Bendigo Advertiser stated that churches in Adelaide were collecting for distressed Jews in Palestine. Many of the miners came from Adelaide so are thought to have contributed to this appeal.
- 10.Progress in agriculture in North Victoria was due, in no small measure to the Bendigo diggers.
- 11.First official land sales in Bendigo.
- 12.The Bendigo Bank was sold to the Bank of Victoria.
- 13.Coliban Water Supply select committee formed. Angus Mackay a proprietor and former editor of the Bendigo Advertiser as Minister of Mines kept the scheme alive.

1855

- 1.Commissioner Panton came to Bendigo.
- 2.First elected court.
- 3.First permanent house erected in Crusoe road for Archibald Parkes McColough from Nova Scotia who arrived in Bendigo in 1852.
- 4.First Fire Brigade.
- 5.Steam powered machinery for mining set up.
- 6.Dr. Backhaus purchased land on which the Sacred Heart Cathedral now stands. He bought a lot of land in Bendigo and became one of Bendigo's richest landowners and most influential citizens.
- 7.Fruit growing industry, cherries, pears and apple orchards formed.
- 8.First tomato fields grown by Mr. Craik in Axe Creek.
- 9.Fruit growing industry was an absorbing industry. The Advertiser of December 15 of that year drew attention to the cherries grown on the Campaspe and sold in Bendigo. " We saw some very fine specimens the other day at Parker and Macord's measuring 3 inches in circumference" it stated.

1856

- 1.Trade union movement had an 8 hour day for building trades. Miners continued to work 10 hours a day.
- 2.Election of first Sandhurst Municipal Council. First council sworn in by Mr MacLachlan (Bendigo Mac): Bible used.
- 3.First city council assessment consisted of 1532 properties.
- 4.Mr Emmett 1st Major of Bendigo.
- 5.1st Lutheran Service held in Anglican School Room View St, Bendigo
- 6.Lutheran church - The German church was established in 1856, with Pastor Goethe of Melbourne officiating occasionally.
- 7.Surveyor general reserved land in White Hills for Botanical Gardens.
- 8.Hydraulic press for manufacturing plugs of tobacco invented by Mr.Wittscheibe of Axe Creek.
- 9.Mechanics Institute opened in McCrae Street.
- 10.Mrs Griggi's vine grew for 110 years. Its trunk was 3ft in diameter and needed 34 poles to support the vine, purported to be the largest vine in Australia. Vine expired due to competition from a Pepper Tree. George Mackay, in his book 'A History of Bendigo', quoted the Scripture Isa 41:18 (NKJV) I will open rivers in desolate heights, And fountains in the midst of the valleys; I will make the wilderness a pool of

water, And the dry land springs of water.

1857

- 1.Creek channel was cut through town.
- 2.Cohn family open brewery. Later they specialised in soft drink.

1858

- 1.Sandhurst Club formed.
- 2.Bendigo Benevolent Asylum opened.
- 3.Ernest Mueller, a Bendigo philanthropist, had a position of influence in various companies and was one of a large number of Germans who played a leading part in many aspects of Bendigo life.
- 4.Mining board formed.
- 5.First weir in Victoria built at East Loddon.
- 6.Bendigo Water Works Co. established
- 7.The Bendigo Land and Building society established.
- 8.Bendigo Pottery established.

1859

- 1.Old police barracks built.
- 2.Dudley House built. It contained the offices of talented surveyor, Richard Larritt. Dudley House is the only government building from its era across Bendigo to survive intact.
- 3.Bendigo gas company formed. Rush on Pall Mall reserve.
- 4.Last gold rush on the Bendigo goldfield.
- 5.Baptist church established in Bendigo.
- 6.First Presbyterian Church meeting at Eaglehawk.

1860

- 1.First mining boom.
- 2.In 1860's a wind of repentance came among the children of Golden Square Methodists. (Cornish people)
- 3.Dr H.L. Atkinson appointed resident surgeon of Bendigo & District Hospital remained here most of life became big investor in mines and on the board of several mines. His son Rupert Atkinson achieved considerable prominence as a poet and dramatist. He had eight books of poetry and several plays published which were highly regarded at the time.

1861

- 1.First train came to Bendigo.

1862

- 1.Railway officially opened.
- 2.The Bendigo Independent first appeared. (Newspaper)
3. Pastor Munzel accepts the call to Bendigo's Lutheran Church.
- 4.Dr.Paul Howard McGillivray. He was an outstanding scientist and medical practitioner came to Bendigo in 1862. He was a resident surgeon of the Bendigo Hospital for 11 years. He died in 1895.
- 5.Eaglehawk becomes a Borough.
- 6.Two reservoirs built at Grassy Flat.

1863

- 1.Forest Street Methodist dedicated. 100 people were saved in 8-10 days of meetings.

1864

1. Marong became the centre of Marong Shire
2. Eaglehawk Town Hall built

1865

1. The Lutheran church is built in Rowan Street.
2. Bendigo Permanent Land and Building Society was formed.

1866

1. Bendigo's table grape yields astonish the rest of Victoria, due to yielding fruit not by tens of pounds but by hundreds of pounds in weight. It happened by accident as they were not trained to produce any particular result.

1867

1. St. Paul's Anglican church building begun.
2. Municipal boundaries defined.

1868

1. St. Paul's first service, Thursday 12th November 1868.
2. Sandhurst Cup richest provincial horse race in Victoria.

1869

1. St. Liborius Catholic Church opened.

1870

1. Dr Oliver Penfold arrived in Bendigo - considered 'the grand old man of Bendigo,' Was a surgeon and dispenser at the hospital. Introduced Vaccination to Bendigo; vaccine he prepared himself from calf lymph in 1881. He supplied these to the governments of Queensland, South Australia and Tasmania. Dr Penfold made an extraordinary contribution to the practice of medicine in Bendigo. Composed many hymns including a new arrangement of 'Nearer My God To Thee'.
3. Eaglehawk and California Hill Methodist had incidences of revival, with much repentance.
4. Sandhurst gained representatives in Government.
5. Sandhurst Corporate high school opened. One of the oldest of any secondary school in country.

1871

1. The government allocated an area of 5 acres of land as a park
2. Bendigo Easter Fair commenced. Oldest festival in Australia. It was started to raise funds for the Bendigo Base Hospital and Mental Asylum.
3. Another mining boom
4. Trains from Melbourne due to mining boom in Bendigo
5. Bendigo proclaimed a city

1872

1. Jewish Synagogue opened.

1873

1. Eaglehawk and California Hill Methodist had incidences of revival again, with much repentance.
2. Bendigo School of Mines and Industries was established in 1873. Here was pioneered the idea of Junior Technical Schools. From the school have gone out men who have taken the lead in technical education in Australia. Its name is known in many foreign countries through its successful graduates.

3. Judges in France insist Bendigo Hermitage wines were actually French wines with false labels.
4. The Victorian Quartz mine opened. The deepest mine in the world at the time.
5. Robinson Crusoe Gully Reservoir finished.

1874

1. Royal Princess Theatre opened
2. Catholic Diocese of Bendigo established. Rev. S Reville first bishop.

1876

1. Catholic secondary college opened.
2. Permanent water supply from Coliban opened. Within a week Coliban water was filling the Crusoe and Spring Gully reservoirs. This was very important as water almost vanished from Shire a hundred years ago.

1879

1. Eaglehawk and California Hill Methodist had incidences of revival again, with much repentance.
2. Marquis of Normandy opened the Juvenile Industrial Exhibition in Bendigo.
3. St. Andrews college opened.

1880

1. Bendigo is known internationally as the "jewel in the empire's crown" with much of the city's gold filling the eager coffers of the Bank of England.
2. In the early 1880's at California Hill, a Rev. Arthur Powell had to abandon his sermon, but they said, that's when things 'hotted up'.
3. First Water Works Trust in Victoria established as Loddon United Water Works.

1881

1. First locally made rock boring machines were used underground.
2. Sandhurst Permanent Mutual Building Society launched as a rival for the Bendigo Permanent Land and Building Society.

1882

1. Bendigo Advertiser most influential Newspaper in north central Victoria.
2. Electricity for lighting underground introduced into one mine.

1883

1. Amalgamated Miners' Association revived by William G Spence was Australia's largest trade union. It was rarely militant.
2. The Salvation Army marched into Bendigo. The first meeting was held in St. James Hall, Williamson Street, under the leadership of Major James Barker, who left Captain Ebenezer Phillips (the happy Welshman, as he was called) in charge of the work in Bendigo.

1885

1. Bendigo Town Hall built.

1887

2. Sandhurst Trustees Ltd. Had become one of Australia's most influential trustee companies.

1888

1. Robert Harkness born in Bendigo. Son of Abraham and Jane Harkness. Remarkable musical ability, he joined the evangelist team as a pianist. He travelled internationally and wrote over 900 hymns. He was known to play tunes on the whistles of his father's foundry.

1890

1. Select Committee of the House of Assembly appointed to inquire as to who 1st discovered gold in Bendigo. This included debate about the name. One suggested that the name Bendigo was given to the district by Spanish Sailors who found gold and called the area Bendigo which means 'I Bless' (THIS COULD BEEN THE REDEMPTIVE GIFT OF BENDIGO TO BE A BLESSING). Other suggestions were. After a shepherd nicknamed Bendigo and Bandicoot after a local animal.

2. Economic depression on Sandhurst was less evident than in other parts of the colony. Mackay writes Sandhurst 'unquestionably had the honour of being the soundest city commercially in the colony.'

3. Famous photo shows a row of hatted mine owners standing in front of 3 trains, the trucks of which carry the legend "Bendigo to London" and the caption reads "450 tons of Gold" the total production of the field at the time.

4. Gold mines reach 2300 feet below ground.

5. First trams between Bendigo and Eaglehawk.

6. Masonic hall converted to the Capital Theatre.

7. Government increases amount of land set aside for parkland from 5 acres to 35 acres. It was planted with trees and gardens. A rotunda and conservatory were erected as well.

1891

1. The name Sandhurst changed back to Bendigo.

2. First consignment of apples from Bendigo, sent to London Market, thus pioneering a market overseas.

3. Ashmans tailors and clothiers opened.

4. George Mackay's book, The history of Bendigo, published.

1892

1. Rev. Charles Tregear told of revival at California Hill Methodist Church.

2. Electricity came to Bendigo

1893

1. The bust after housing boom of the 1880's in Melbourne closed more than 80% of the metropolitan building societies. But the Bendigo and the Sandhurst were sound as bells and continued to pay dividends.

2. Phylloxera discovered. Destroyed vine industry.

3. Sir John Quick played major role in Corowa conference. He devised a formula for the votes in each colony to elect delegates to assemble to draw up Australia's Constitution.

1895

1. Rev. Ditterich began his time in Bendigo. Of Bendigo he said, that it was a "circuit of great congregations, immense Sunday schools, active endeavour societies, of soul shaking and of glorious singing powers".

2. Loan arranged from G. Lansell to design Sacred Heart Cathedral.

3. Chinese Association Building built in Bridge St
(Now Dragon Museum)

1896

1. Bendigo Law Courts opened. Designed by Major George Watson. One of Australia's finest public buildings.

1897

1. Dr. John Quick writes the Australian Federal Congress Bill, which opens the way for the 1897-98 Federal Convention to be held.
2. Sacred Heart Cathedral foundation stone laid

1899

1. Old Fire Station, View Street built.

1900

1. Dr. John Quick, one of ten Victorians elected to draw up the new Australian Constitution.
2. Bendigo shopkeepers decided to close their shops at 9pm on Saturdays from May 1st.
3. Sydney Myer opened his first store (Myers)

1901

1. January 1st, New Australian Constitution was inaugurated in Sydney. Dr. John Quick is knighted by the Queen.
2. The Victorian Gold Jubilee Exhibition held to commemorate the discovery of gold in Bendigo.
3. Sacred Heart Cathedral—formal opening of first stage.
4. English cricket team visited and played against Bendigo. It caused much interest.

1902

1. The year 1902 began on a positive note in the city with the building of the new tramway between Bendigo and Eaglehawk on January 15th.
2. Evangelist, Dr R. A. Torrey visited Bendigo. Charles Alexander was the singer, song leader.
3. The Bendigo Preserving Co. Ltd. commenced business. Canned products included fruit, jams, tomato sauce, soup and pickles.
4. Bendigo fruit grower Co-op.
5. Formal opening of the Bendigo jam factory, makers of the 'Digger' brand of jam.
6. Nellie Melba gave her first appearance in Bendigo since becoming world famous and was given a great reception.

1903

1. Sir John Quick, Bendigo's favorite son was elected at the federal elections.
2. The Bendigo Electric Tramway between Bendigo and Eaglehawk was inaugurated on April 20th.
3. St. John's Church of England was opened on November 27th.

1904

1. In September, a book titled, "The judicial power of the commonwealth," was co-authored by Sir John Quick.
2. A memorial to the soldiers who died in the South African War was sculpted in bronze and standing on a pedestal of Harcourt granite was unveiled in Pall Mall in November.
3. The Mechanics Institute and School of Mines were amalgamated on March 21st.

4.St. Aidan's orphanage was opened on July 19th. The institution, built to be both an orphanage and a penitentiary, was a massive three storey brick structure of English Gothic design.

5.A report on miner's phthisis disease was released on August 18th. It recommended rigid enforcements of several parts of the Mines Act regarding conditions in the mines and was endorsed by a public meeting.

1906

1.On September 11th, the mine owners, mining managers and miners associations met and agreed to provide better ventilation in the mines.

2.A statue commemorated the discovery of gold in Victoria and was funded by the profits of the Victorian Gold

3.Jubilee Exhibition was unveiled at the lower end of Pall Mall (Howard Place) on June 29th.

4.The Y.M.C.A. was established in Bendigo in July.

5.Early in the year, one of the world's largest fruit dealing firms offered a prize of 20 pounds for the best apples, with entries to be sent to Germany for exhibition. Strathfieldsaye Shire Council's Cr. T. Somerville decided to enter and sent 40 cases of apples. In June he was notified Bendigo had won the world's championship for the finest apples.

1908

1.Catherine United Mine depth 2300 feet paid dividends of 559.035 pounds.

1910

1.Flooding of Victoria Quartz mine stopped deep mining.

2.In August, the Bendigo city council outlined a scheme for the sewerage of the central area of the city.

1911

1.The Duncan brothers of Huntly established cyanide plants for deep lead mining.

2.A bacteriological laboratory at the Bendigo Hospital was opened on March 10th, by Edith Lansell, widow of Sir George Lansell, whose generosity helped fund the facility.

1912

1.Gertrude Alice Jones was admitted to practice as a barrister and solicitor by the full court on March 4th. She was only the 3rd woman to gain that distinction in Victoria, the second being Anna Brennan, daughter of former secretary of Strathfieldsaye shire.

1913

1.The Lyric Theatre, Bendigo's premier picture theatre opened in February.

1914

1.The Bendigo High School was finished in May for about 7500 pounds.

2.In business, the Bendigo Chamber of Commerce adopted Saturday as a half holiday on November 27th.

1915

1.1st Egg laying competition in Australia was run in conjunction with Bendigo Advertiser on Rosedale poultry farm Kangaroo Flat.

1916

- 1.The first ANZAC day celebrations took place in Bendigo churches on Sunday April 23rd.
- 2.Three new schools opened. Bendigo East state school, The Church of England Girls Grammar school and the Bendigo School of Domestic Arts at Quarry Hill.
- 3.In October, Six O'Clock Closing of hotels, legislated by State Government, came into force.
- 4.Another milestone occurred on November 29th, when Bendigo man, Basil Watson flew a plane from Point Cook to Bendigo. He was the first native airman to fly to Bendigo and the first Bendigo native to view Bendigo from the air.

1917

- 1.On January 18th, the city council decided to declare a half-day holiday on Saturdays.
- 2.The Bendigo railway workshops began operations on November 19th.

1918

- 1.The News that that the Armistice had been signed, ending the war, reached Bendigo about midnight, November 11th. At 2am, the mayor, Cr. Dunstan read a message from the Governor-General, from the steps of the town hall to about 1000 people. Archdeacon Aickin led the singing of the hymn, "Nearer my God to thee", while the fire bell, the bells of St. Paul 'sand the continuous tolling of the Town Clock, awakened the people, who came to the city in great numbers. The mayor led those present in a thanksgiving service containing hymns and the national anthem.
- 2.The Mayor led a procession of bands, returned soldiers etc. to the upper reserve, where thousands of people had gathered. The national anthem was sung, a brief address was given by the Anglican Bishop of Bendigo and prayers and hymns followed.
- 3.For the rest of the year, there were many welcome homes, for the returning ANZACs and before the end of the year, the city council approved the proposed site in Rosalind Park for a R.S.L. Memorial Hall.
- 4.An exhibition of paintings by Bendigo's Marion Jones was opened in the Melbourne Athenaeum, by Lady Munro-Ferguson. Miss Jones had won the National Gallery travelling scholarship in 1917, but the war had prevented her trip abroad.
- 5.Saturday, November 30th was the last time the Bendigo Independent appeared as a separate newspaper.

1919

- 1.The council agreed to have a lookout tower erected on the summit of One Tree Hill. The 42 foot tower was completed in May.

1920

- 1.From August to October, young aviators, H.K & E.A Morris, received great patronage for their passenger flights at Epsom. They established a temporary aerodrome near the Turf Tavern Hotel and took joy flights over the city.

1921

- 1.September 1st, the acting Prime Minister, Sir John Cook, announced

the Government would establish a miners phthisis investigation clinic in Bendigo.

2.The Bendigo Advertiser reported, Cr. Curnow, an ardent supporter of sewerage the city, believed the move would, "transform the city from what it is now, a second or third rate city, into one of the first class cities and will make it to be recognised as one of the best cities in Victoria for residential purposes."

3.Prime Minister, Billy Hughes, a member for Bendigo, was given a farewell on the eve of his departure for Great Britain.

1922

1.A new Commonwealth laboratory was opened on the Bendigo Benevolent Asylum. A feature of the laboratory was a finely equipped X-ray room.

2.The Victorian Co-operative Freezing Company opened at Bendigo East, employing 300 people.

1923

1.Farewell to Sir John and Lady Quick, who moved to Melbourne, due to his judicial duties.

2.The Bendigo Advertiser, appeared as a paper of 16 pages, of nine columns each, the largest provincial paper in Australia.

3.In Bendigo, 24 businessmen met and formed a vigilance committee for the protection of property in Bendigo, the main thoroughfares were specially illuminated and businessmen employed watchmen.

1924

1.The continued growth and expansion of the Bendigo Advertiser, made it imperative, larger premises be secured.

2.A sacred concert of hymn singing and welcome to Robert Harkness, who was visiting his home city was held in the Princess Theatre, View Street.

1926

1.Bendigo Teachers College formed. First such Australian college in provincial centre. Suspended 1931, re-opened 1945.

2.On ANZAC day, the honour roll was unveiled outside the Memorial Hall.

3.Hanro (Australia) Bendigo knitting mills opened.

1927

1.The city area had been sewerage and works in Kennington were underway.

1929

1.During the great depression, four Bendigonians descended the Victorian Quartz mine shaft to a depth of about 26 metres. They broke the shaft timbering and commenced driving north. They obtained enough gold to save their respective families from the worst effects of the depression.

1930

1.First Easter fair street carnival.

1931

1.3BO radio station opened.

2.The Rosalind Park look-out tower was erected.

1932

1. Sir Charles Kingsford Smith visited Bendigo, with his record breaking aeroplane, Southern Cross, taking many on joy flights over the city.

1933

1. The English test team visits Bendigo as part of the infamous "bodyline" series.

1935

1. Armstrong tyre service established.
2. The private Kurmala wing of the Bendigo Base Hospital opened.

1936

1. Optimism returned to the Bendigo goldfield, with a high yield of gold.

1937

1. The engineer in-chief of the Bendigo Sewerage Authority, Mr. Moore, reported the introduction of the sewerage scheme had almost completely eliminated Typhoid fever from the district.

1939

1. Central Deborah Gold mine opened. Open until 1954.
2. Woolworths opened in Hargreaves street, Bendigo.

1940

1. Gillies 'Great Aussie Pie' company started

1941

1. The Federal Government announced, an ordnance factory would be built in Bendigo.

1942

1. The ordnance factory was inspected by war correspondents, reporters, photographers and newsreel makers. The factory had the largest plant of its kind in Australia for heat treatment needed to rejuvenate heavy naval guns and 4 inch naval guns. Some of the work that staff did had never been attempted in Australia before.
2. The Bendigo field's prominence among the world's gold producers, was shown by the fact that from 1851 to 1943, more than 21,259,000 ounces, had been won from alluvial deposits and quartz reefs.

1944

1. Margaret Brennan was appointed secretary of the Strathfieldsaye Shire council succeeding her father. She was the third successive member of her family to hold the position.
2. The new wonder drug, penicillin, was used in Bendigo in July for the first time, when it was administered to a patient at the Bendigo Base Hospital.

1945

1. In Bendigo, the city went mad with joy and cheering crowds packed the streets with news of the end of the war. Many rushed out of shops and offices to dance and embrace one another. Cars did constant processions around the main city blocks. Crackers went off everywhere, church and fire bells were rung in Eaglehawk as well as blasts of the air raid siren.

2.About 10,000 people went to the Upper Reserve for a civic service of thanksgiving.

1946

1.Bendigo showed its gratitude to the men and women of the fighting services with a huge welcome home celebration in July. 2 The North Deborah became the richest mine of the century and was estimated to have extracted more than a million dollars worth of gold in its short history.

1948

1.Dunlop opens factory in Station Street, Kangaroo Flat.

1950

1.Bradford factory opened, High street, Kangaroo Flat
2. Northern School of Nursing opened.

1951

1.Bendigo celebrated centenary of Bendigo.
2.Gillies Pies moved to the now famous corner in city.

1954

Queen Elizabeth II visited Bendigo.

1956

Faith Leech of Bendigo won gold & bronze medal at the Melbourne Olympic Games.

1959

1.Prominent Bendigonian died, Countess Erna Cadorn (Nee Mueller). She was international born in Sandhurst and began musical studies in Bendigo and had achieved international fame.

1960

1.Eppalock Dam, 4th largest in Victoria, was started as part of the Coliban scheme.
2.New Teachers College started at Flora Hill.
3.First woman, Mrs Christine Wiseman elected to council.

1961

1.Channel 8 Bendigo's first Television station commenced.

1963

2.Bendigo Benevolent Home changed name to Bendigo Home and Hospital for the aged.

1964

1.First traffic lights installed at Mitchell - Hargreaves intersection were the first of its kind installed in Australia.

1965

1.Hazeldene erected a modern chicken hatchery at Kangaroo Flat.
2.Gold Nugget weighting 127oz valued at 2000 pound found by Les Priest at Spring Gully.

1967

1.Plans to link Geelong, Ballarat and Bendigo to Victoria Natural Gas Network.

1968

1.First vine planting in Bendigo since the destruction of local vineyards by phylloxera in 1890's begun in Kangaroo Flat by S. Anderson and in Mandurang by the Grose family.
2.First colour magazine supplement to appear within an Australian Daily Newspaper was carried by Bendigo Advertiser.
3.New Coles store opened.

1970

1.It was announced a regional agricultural centre and veterinary diagnostic laboratory would be built at White Hills.

1971

1.Stafford Ellinson factory opened. It was to be one of the most advanced complexes of its kind.
2.The Royal Historical Society of Victoria put forward a suggestion that part of the Bendigo Tramway and track be retained as a tourist attraction when trams ceased operating passenger services.(1972)
3.The new 20 bed Mirridong nursing wing for the blind was opened.
4.Mount Alvernia Hospital was opened. It was believed to be the first hospital in the world to have incorporated in its basic planning the air conditioning of its kitchen.
5.Late night shopping was introduced in Bendigo. (Friday nights only)

1972

1.Tramways ceased their passenger services in March/April. Then in December, the tourist tramway was opened between the Central Deborah Gold Mine and the Joss House.
2.The first Dahlia and Arts festival commenced in Eaglehawk.

1976

1.Bendigo High School becomes first senior high school in Victoria.
2.Kalianna, a special school, was built and opened.
3.In water skiing, Sue Wright, became the first woman to win the New Zealand Rothman's cup.

1977

1.Sacred Heart Cathedral spire completed.
2.Bendigo's first youth hostel, part of St. Aidan's orphanage opened.

1978

1.Bendigo's electronic trunk exchange in Short Street was opened. It catered for STD and international dialling and was one of only four of its kind in Australia and Australia's first regional electronic exchange.
2.Bendigo water skier, Glen Thurlow, was selected in the world team to compete against USA in Texas. He was also invited to a 20,000 dollar event for the world's leading 20 skiers.

1979

1.St. Luke's started in Bendigo. St Luke's is the largest non Government Community Service in the Loddon-Campaspe Region.

2. The Marong Village Shopping Centre was opened.
3. Bendigo Aerodrome was opened.

1980

1. Assemblies of God opened. The name Wallara means 'a place of joy' in the Aboriginal language.
2. Hume and Iser celebrated 100 years of trading
3. "Hand of Faith", a gold nugget, of 720ozs, was found at Wedderburn. It was the largest nugget found in Victoria since 1906
4. The Abbot Supply moved after 125 years to Golden Square. (est 1855)

1981

1. Shamrock Hotel reopened: owned by the State of Victoria at that time.
2. St Paul's became the Anglican Cathedral.

1982

1. Bendigo Building Society became the first in Australia to join Visa International.
2. Hargreaves Mall proclaimed
3. Bendigo announced the winner of the prestigious Premier Town Award.

1983

1. Bendigo Spastic Centre opened
2. The Bendigo and Sandhurst Building Societies merged to form the strongest Society in country Victoria.

1985

Bendigo's \$3 million Earth Station opened officially. It became the hub of Telecom's new satellite phone system.

1986

Bendigo Ordnance Factory picked up contracts worth \$4 million following orders for 23 warship engine bases for American shipbuilder General Electric. The factory won a \$12 million contract to supply Hamel guns to the NZ Govt.

1987

1. The Capital Theatre became the Regional Arts Centre.
2. Strath Village Shopping Centre opens
3. Bendigo Ordnance Factory won 1/3 of the work in a \$60 million contract for 5 new submarines.

1989

1. Documents from early Bendigo found in old clock and bell towers of Town Hall showing the Council Budget in 1884 was \$20,000 (by 1993 it was \$27 million)
2. Stage 1 of the Capital Theatre opened
3. Bendigo Ordnance Factory won a contract for 12 Anzac Frigates and came under the Australian Defence Industries in March.

1990

- 1.Collapse of Pyramid empire took more than \$150 million out of Bendigo's accounts but, unlike most other building societies the Bendigo coped entirely out of its own resources.
- 2.Rosita's, formed in Bendigo, has become the nation's largest corn chip manufacturer. The company turned over \$15 million in the year 2000-2001 and has extended into Asia.
- 3.Bendigo's ADI awarded \$3.5 million contract. It is now Australia's leading heavy engineering factory.
- 4.Army Survey Regiment (the largest in Australia) based at Fortuna celebrated its 75th year (1915)

1991

- 1.Golden Dragon Museum opened.
- 2.ADI shirt making factory moved to Bendigo.
- 3.Head office of Department of Agriculture transferred to Bendigo.
- 4.Bendigo College Of Education changed its name to LaTrobe University College.

1992

- 1.The Bendigo became Australia's 3rd largest building society with assets well over a billion.

COMMENT:

- Members of the Methodist Church in Bendigo were behind the establishment of the Bendigo Building Society. Banks were for the rich, the societies allowed the ordinary worker a safer way to save and helped keep them out of poverty. Wesley told the people 'Work all you can, save all you can and give all you can'. We believe this gives us an indication as to why the blessing of God is on the now Bendigo Bank.
- 2.Bendigo Hospital was classed as one of the nation's largest hospitals, specialising in services for older people and people with disabilities. It is also Bendigo's largest employer.
 - 3.\$6.5 million Tip Top bakery opened at Eaglehawk.

1993

- 1.ADI won contract to supply turbine engine components to the USA.

1994

- 1.City of Greater Bendigo established, 7th April.
- 2.Bendigo's 1st Sprinter(130-km/h) train went into operation in March.

1995

- 1.Bendigo Market Place opened.
- 2.Anne Caudle and Bendigo Hospital merged to form Bendigo Health Care Group.
- 3.Bendigo Building Society became a Bank (after 137 years as a society)
- 4.Bendigo Mining began its \$11 million digging and exploration works.

1996

- 1.Restoration of cascade fountains in Rosalind Park commenced.
- 2.Bendigo Mining constructed a decline to reach the Deborah line reef under the city.

1997

- 1.Cascade Fountains restoration completed and opened.
2. State Planning Minister, Rob Maclellan says Bendigo has been named

Australia's Golden Victorian City.

3. Victoria's first Constitutional Convention took place in Bendigo to discuss possible creation of Australia as a republic.
4. A protest was taken up against erotic dance club and a petition of 10,000 signatures was presented to State Government.
5. Moves were made to revitalize the Bendigo Stock exchange turning it into capital 'supplier' for small and medium businesses nationwide.
6. Bendigo Bank announced the 'Community Bank' Scheme designed to help small country towns.

1998

1. New Bendigo Gold Project began. The company assembled the largest geological teams now operating in Australia and specialists from around the world.
2. ADI won multi million dollar contract to produce 27 high-speed vehicles for Australian Army. Also won \$250 million deal in USA.
3. For the 1st time in history the Federal Cabinet met in Bendigo on July 21st.
4. Art Gallery reopened after renovations.
5. Bendigo Advertiser won international Tony Whitlock Award for excellence in Newspaper design.

1999

1. Lead On Youth Development Program Bendigo business community working with young people to give them a genuine taste of working life.
2. Bendigo to have Postel, one of Australia's largest call centres.
3. ADI awarded \$200 million contract to build 341 BUSHMASTER troop carriers.
4. Bendigo Bank took over all IOOF operations in the state.

2000

1. The Bendigo Mining Company believe that there are 10 million ounces or about \$5 Billion worth of extractable gold in a previously mined area beneath the city.
2. Aqua 2000 Coliban Water commitment to provide world class drinking water looked forward to water that exceeds Australian and World standards, and employs world's best practice.
3. Bendigo Advertiser stated that 'It is an exciting time for Bendigo. All over the region businesses small and large and community organizations are rediscovering their power to make things happen'
4. The New Mediterranean (a joint venture of the Greater City of Bendigo, Loddon Shire Council and Gannawarra Shire Council) initiative aimed at developing opportunities through central Victoria for a Mediterranean type industry within the region.
5. Beijing TV series on Chinese Australians including Bendigo and the Dragon Museum was viewed by an audience of 1½ billion people.
6. Aim to establish the region's wine making industry as a tourist attraction.
7. Bendigo Bank led the way in Community Banking allowing communities for the first time to invest in a publicly owned structure in their own community.
8. Aim to establish Bendigo as a significant goldfield linked to past, present and future development. Olives, wildflowers and squab production are three industries expected to show strong growth in Bendigo region in coming years.
9. ADI specialist fabrication skills continue to be utilized across the world.

10. BRIT's world reputation is growing significantly.
11. Bendigo Health Care Group establish the 1st Centre for Rural Mental Health in Australia. It will attract and foster research into rural mental health.
12. Country's 1st inland beach plan by 2003 - Bendigo will have 2 beaches.
13. Restoration Grant to Town Hall building considered of statewide significance built in 1859, remodelled 1878.
14. Former Bendigo woman has become 1st Lady of the world's newest nation, East Timor. Kirsty Sword is married to Xanana Gusmao.
15. The oldest man (Australia's oldest man Bendigo's Jack Lockett) ever to carry the Olympic torch caused emotional scenes that were relayed to a world wide audience of more than a billion people.

2001

1. The city of Greater Bendigo was declared the geographical centre of Victoria. The exact centre of Victoria is a 138 year old Uniting church in Mandurang. It is located on the corner of Pentlands Road and Hallidays road.
2. LaTrobe University, Bendigo campus launched regional Victoria's only environmental health degree course.
3. Bendigo Regional Institute of TAFE has proven itself to be in the state's highest order of educators.
4. A multi-million dollar masterplan was released for public comment.
5. Karen Ward won Australia's most prestigious sculpture prize, the coveted Helen Lempriere national sculpture award.
6. Dudley House restoration complete.
7. The city's reputation as a major Australian communication hub was further enhanced when the new satellite dish capable of serving Australia and South East Asia was erected on the Telstra building in Short Street.
8. "Bendigo is the sporting capital of regional Australia"
- Mayor Laurie Whelan
9. Victoria's newest emergency helicopter ambulance service is to be based in Bendigo.
10. New water treatment plants in Bendigo, Castlemaine and Kyneton to be finished by the end of the year.
11. Bendigo has been hailed as the top recycling city in the world by the producers of the yellow and white pages. 85% of all telephone directories in the Bendigo region were recycled last year.
12. Bendigo today still remains 2nd to Kalgoorlie as having Australia's richest goldfield and the 7th largest in the world.
13. Bendigo Senior Secondary College received International Accreditation from the European Council of International Schools.
14. ADI Bendigo's Bushmaster project has a contract to supply 341 of the specialist-armored troop carriers to the Australian Army. The Bushmaster vehicle has won widespread acclaim in the industry & was also used in East Timor.
15. The 16th August was the first time Parliament has ever sat outside a capital city in any country having the Westminster System of Government: the Lower House met in Bendigo 'A leader in Victorian Development Bendigo has played a significant role both as one of the country's largest and richest and most important goldfields and in the movement toward federation' Mr. Bracks said.
17. REGION'S CRIME FALLS. Crime rate has fallen 8.5 per cent during past 5 years according to figures released by Victoria Police. CHANGE in NUMBER of CRIMES: Bendigo down 11%, Eppalock/Axedale down 22%, Golden

Square/Kangaroo Flat down 2.5%, Eaglehawk up 5.9%.

18. Estimated that 500,000 tourists come to Bendigo a year.

19. **'Green City'**. Bendigo to become a city surrounded by Parks. The regional park would include existing Eaglehawk, Whipstick, Wellsford, Mandurang Parks and Marong State forest and Diamond Hill Reserve.

A restoration of the land to what it was like before the Gold Rush

Source: Bendigo Advertiser Thursday 23rd August 2001