



MEDIA RELEASE

Over the past two years, Remembrance Parks Central Victoria (RPCV) has made a significant commitment to preserving the historical and heritage aspects of the cemeteries under its operation. A major part of these works has been the restoration projects made possible by grants received from the Victorian Government as part of the Living Heritage Program and standalone government grants.

This next twelve months will see the restoration of the historic gates and fence at the White Hills Remembrance Park. The cast iron fence and gates situated at the Holdsworth Road entrance are representative examples of typical nineteenth century cemetery features and were designed by Bendigo Architect William Charles Vahland in 1881.

Furthering the restoration of significant heritage landmarks at White Hills, a restoration project facilitated by RPCV and in conjunction with WDEA works is also set to be undertaken.

This project will include works to repair and refurbish the historical Rotunda located in the old monumental section of the cemetery. Built in 1898, the Victorian style rotunda is one of the enduring pieces of historical architecture at the site.

Preservation of these important landmarks solidifies the White Hills Remembrance Park as a substantially intact example of a mid-nineteenth century gold-fields cemetery for visitors to experience as a timestamp of the gold rush era.

The Bendigo Remembrance Park has also undertaken considerable restoration works to its historic Bendigo Chapel under the Living Heritage Program. Built in 1873 and designed by George Avery Fletcher, the chapel is unique in its Gothic Revival style and Harcourt granite walls. Stage one restorations were completed in May 2018 and included restoration of the roof, bell flèche, the interior floor and stormwater drainage system. The chapel is now again able to hire and host public events.

Additionally, in 2019 we hope to complete the restoration and re-installment of the Sexton Bell at the Bendigo Remembrance Park. The bell was erected in 1898 and was yoked atop its cast iron Corinthian column, situated outside the Sexton's residence. This restoration will again see the bell return to its rightful place within the cemetery.

History is in its landmarks not only preserved by RPCV, but also in our extensive collection of burial and cremation records which date back to the 1800s. Such records will be preserved forever and are publicly available from RPCV to those seeking them.

To better allow the public to engage with this historical data when tracing ancestors or detailing family trees, RPCV has established a central volunteer hub at our Eaglehawk cemetery. This will allow volunteers greater access to information, resources, staff support and allow for more comprehensive research to be conducted. The team of volunteers at RPCV can work with the public to aid in their historical research enquiries and a central hub will allow for this service to meet changing needs of the community.

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Main gate to White Hills Remembrance Park – Holdsworth Rd entrance



White Hills Cemetery - Historic iron fencing to be restored