



# Bendigo Easter Fair Society Inc.

Australia's longest running Festival - Est 1871.

ABN 33 741 784 894

September 2017

## Welcome

How quickly the year has gone! It seems like we only just had Easter (almost).

As you will know from our last newsletter, the Bendigo Easter Fair Society ran the Spinning Wheel event again this Easter. We were set up in Rosalind Park where many members and friends stopped to say hello and of course bought tickets.

Needless to say, it was a huge success, raising more funds than last year. And it wasn't any surprise due to the great prizes we had. We again are grateful to the fantastic sponsors we had this year because it was due to their kind donations that helped boost our event.

We would also like to thank all the members and volunteers that helped to put on this event. Without their contribution, this would have been very difficult to make happen.



*Setting up in the early morning before the crowds come.*



## From the President

Welcome to the September Edition of the Bendigo Easter Fair Society Newsletter.

Since our last newsletter, Easter 2017 has come and gone and the planning for Easter 2018 is underway. Our efforts in 2017 were very positive and the fundraising has put us in a strong position leading into 2020. This means we will be able to produce, in conjunction with council, a spectacular celebration worthy of 150 years.



The Society was also the first major donor for the new dragon appeal and we were pleased to commit \$10,000 toward this important addition to the Easter Fair, hopefully from 2019.

We have also started to concentrate on what the 150th in 2020 might look like and this work is ongoing. The Society has outlined a few key elements it would like to see come to fruition in 2020.

The first is that the Gala Parade return to its traditional Monday position with a 4 day, rather than a 3 day festival. We want to see the return of some favourite events and entertainment and we would like to see more members of the community getting involved.

Over the past few months I have been doing a little research into the history of the Easter Fair, originally known as the Sandhurst Easter Fair or just The Easter Fair it really started with a bang. It was largely recognised as the largest ever gathering in Sandhurst up to that date.



*Shamrock hotel as it was in 1871*

Proposed at a meeting at the Shamrock Hotel on New Year's 1871, the Easter Fair was based very loosely on the Donnybrook Fair of Dublin which ran from 1204 to 1868.

Continued over page . . .

**The First Easter Fair Committee consisted of the following citizens;**

- Chairman** Mr. George Aspinall
- Secretary** Mr. James Rae
- Hon. Secretaries** Mr. James Burnside and Mr. John Augustus Woodward
- Executive Committee** Mr. Campbell Houston, Mr. Melrose, Mr. Jacob Cohn, Mr. Thunder, Mr. Meader, Mr. William Vahland, and Mr. Alfred Hinton
- Grand Marshall** Mr. John Stewart

The Easter Fair Society has been the custodians of this great festival for 147 years so far and intends to ensure it is a favourite of Bendigo Families for many years to come.

Simon Mulqueen  
PRESIDENT  
BENDIGO EASTER FAIR SOCIETY Inc.

**Your Committee members  
2016-2017**

- President—Simon Mulqueen  
Vice President—Ken Deveraux  
Secretary—Debbie Henderson  
Treasurer—David Wright  
Committee members—Gary Frank and Ian Dyett

**Interested in being a Committee member?**  
Send Debbie an email to [befs1871@gmail.com](mailto:befs1871@gmail.com) to discuss your interest.



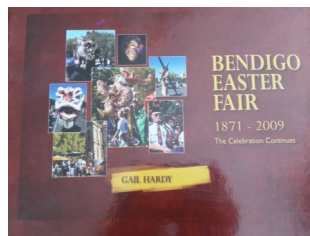
**Save the date**

Easter 2018—30 March (Good Friday)-1 April (Easter Sunday)

Easter 2020 (150 years)—10-12 April



**Easter book**



If you love Easter or know someone who does, why not buy our book on Easter. Great pictures and information.

Enjoy it for yourself or give it as a gift.

Retail price was \$35.00, for our members **only \$10.**

# Countdown to Easter 2020—150 years

On Monday, 17 July, the Bendigo Easter Fair Society committee members along with Bendigo's Mayor, Margaret O'Rourke, launched the 1000 day countdown at the Shamrock Hotel to our 150th celebration Easter in 2020.

The Bendigo Weekly and Bendigo Advertiser attended the launch and placed an article in each of their respective papers.

In these articles, we called onto the community members to share or donate their memorabilia, photos, and/or items of Easter that we could also use to help make our 150th even more spectacular. If you or anyone you know have anything you think we could use or wish to donate, please do not hesitate to email the Secretary on [befs1871@gmail.com](mailto:befs1871@gmail.com)



1000 DAYS: 2020 is set to be a big year for the Easter fair. Photo: ANDREW PERRYMAN

## Countdown is on

THIS Monday marked 1000 days to go until what is likely to be one of the biggest parties ever seen in Bendigo, the 150th Bendigo Easter Fair.

With a new dragon due in 2019 and planning already underway, the fair in 2020 is shaping up to be a monumental event.

The fair was first run in 1871, the planning began at a meeting held at the Shamrock Hotel on New Year's night 1871.

Originally established to provide financial support to the Sandhurst Hospital and the Benevolent Asylum, the Easter fair is now the city's largest annual event bring thousands of visitors to the city and millions of dollars into the economy every year.

Bendigo Easter Fair president Simon Mulqueen said the fair was the longest running community based festival in

Australia and an important part of the fabric of Bendigo's history and culture.

"The fair committee is a small but dedicated group who works with council's events department to ensure each and every Easter is worthy of the continuation of this rich tradition," Mr Mulqueen said.

"The community is encouraged to get behind the 150th and start think-

ing of ways they, via community groups, schools and business (or as individuals) can contribute to the magnificence of this once in a lifetime celebration."

Any member of the community with historic memorabilia, and historic photos and items is encouraged to contact the Bendigo Easter Fair Society secretary Debbie Henderson on [befs1871@gmail.com](mailto:befs1871@gmail.com)

## Facebook

I'm sure by now you would have seen our Facebook page? If not, search for us and like us. It will keep you up to date on what's happening. You will also see some pictures from the past. If you have any, you are welcome to add them to the page.

## Website –COMING SOON

We are very excited to tell you about our new website page, thanks to **SASI marketing** and their kind sponsorship. ([www.sasi.com.au](http://www.sasi.com.au))

Just go to [www.bendigoeasterfairsociety.org.au](http://www.bendigoeasterfairsociety.org.au)

# Thank you to our Spinning Wheel sponsors

A 35-37 Charleston Road, Bendigo VIC 3550

P 03 5440 7100

W <http://humeiser.com.au>



**BENDIGO FUNERALS**  
29 MILLER STREET BENDIGO VIC 3550  
POSTAL P.O. BOX 2750 BENDIGO DC 3554  
PH: 5444 0400 FAX 5444 0411  
EMAIL: SIMON@SMFD.COM.AU



**Electrical**  
**Laser**

**Laser Electrical Bendigo**  
15a Wellsford Drive, East Bendigo, VIC 3550

[www.laserelectrical.com.au](http://www.laserelectrical.com.au)

T: [+61 3 5442 1455](tel:+61354421455) | M [+61 418 571 521](tel:+61418571521)



84 Barnard Street  
Bendigo 3550  
P 03 5441 3833  
F 03 5441 3580  
E [risingsunbgo@bigpond.com](mailto:risingsunbgo@bigpond.com)  
W [www.risingsunhotel.com.au](http://www.risingsunhotel.com.au)



**35 Queen Street Bendigo**  
**P: 5440 5000**  
**W: [www.dck.com.au](http://www.dck.com.au)**



111 Mollison Street  
Bendigo Victoria 3550  
**(03) 5443 0055**



## Thank you to our Business Members



61-65 Bull Street, Bendigo VIC 3550  
PO Box 454, Bendigo VIC 3552  
Direct Line: 03 4408 5366  
General Office: 03 5443 0344 F: 03 5443 5304  
[www.afsbendigo.com.au](http://www.afsbendigo.com.au)



BENDIGO FUNERALS  
29 MILLER STREET BENDIGO VIC 3550  
POSTAL P.O. Box 2750 BENDIGO DC 3554  
PH: 5444 0400 FAX 5444 0411  
EMAIL: SIMON@SMFD.COM.AU



A 35-37 Charleston Road, Bendigo VIC 3550  
P 03 5440 7100



Laser Electrical Bendigo  
15a Wellsford Drive, East Bendigo, VIC 3550  
[www.laserelectrical.com.au](http://www.laserelectrical.com.au)  
T: +61 3 5442 1455 | M +61 418 571 521

## Contact Details

The committee have received a positive response to receiving communication via email to help our carbon footprint. If you would like to do this, just email the secretary at [befs1871@gmail.com](mailto:befs1871@gmail.com).