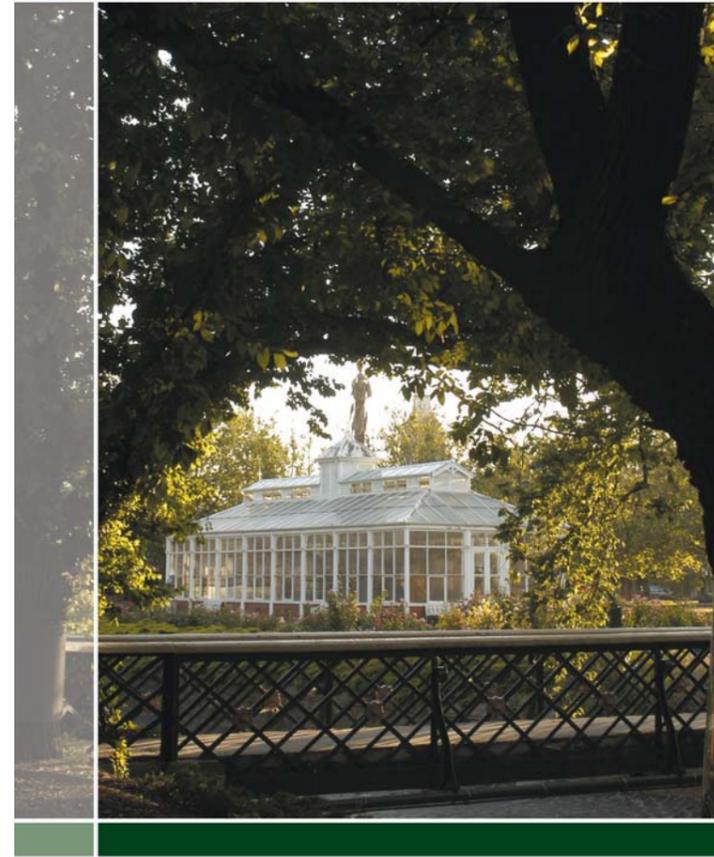


# LANSSELL GARDENS

Most miners left the goldfields empty handed and there are few memorials to them. The man who is remembered here, George Lansell, stayed and made his fortune. The large palm tree that is keeping George company in this garden is a very unusual tree. It is a Chilean Wine palm (*Jubaea chilensis*). Slow growing and difficult to propagate it is now very rare in Chile, its place of origin. The palm's sap was once used to make 'wine' hence its common name. The Chilean Wine palm is reported to be sensitive to frost and drought and therefore not really suited to our climate, however every autumn this palm produces masses of yellow plum sized fruit.



# Rosalind Park Discovery Walk

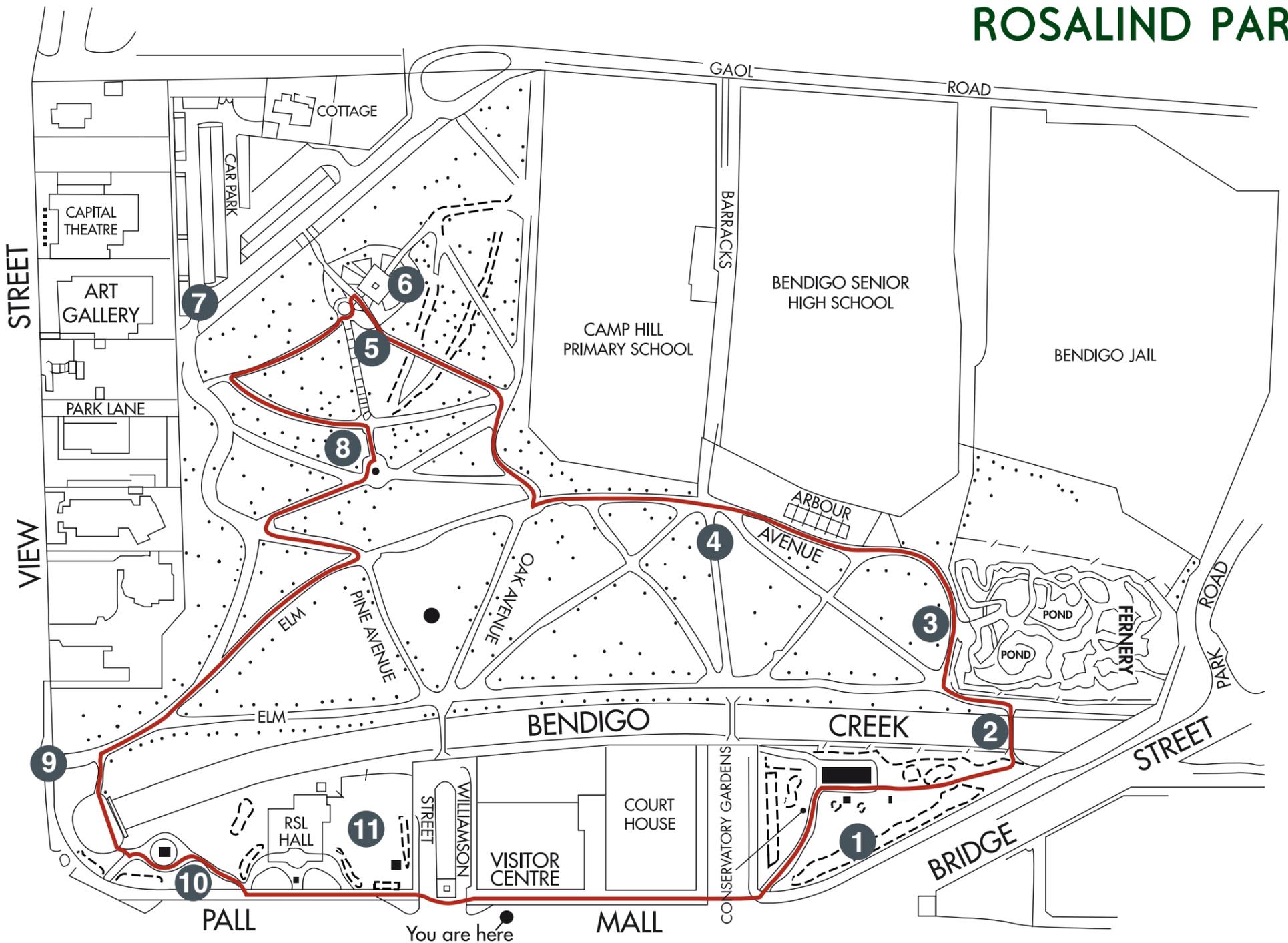


## ROSALIND PARK

Produced by  
FRIENDS OF BENDIGO BOTANICAL GARDENS  
with assistance from the City of Greater Bendigo.



## ROSALIND PARK



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Gold has had a profound effect on our landscape. Prior to 1851 the area we now call Rosalind Park was a grassy woodland with large River Red Gums (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) lining the creek that was a chain of deep, permanent fresh water pools. The creek would have been an important source of food and water for the Dja Dja Wrung people who lived in the area. The 1851 gold rush transformed this little valley into a crazy jumble of shallow shafts, mullock heaps and puddling mills. The story of Rosalind Park is about the transformation of a goldfield into an important public park.

## 2. CREEK

The three iron bridges over the creek link the historically significant Rosalind Park to the surrounding 19th century street scape. They were built in 1882 to replace earlier narrower structures. A Royal Commission recommended the construction of a timber box drain along the realigned creek in 1857, completed in the early 1860's. Later, to improve channel drainage, the creek was widened, lined with flagstones and walled with sandstone capped with granite.

This is a significant example of late 19th century urban infrastructure development and stone masonry.

## 4. BARRACKS LANE

Barracks Lane is right in the heart of the old Camp Reserve and was the earliest administrative centre of the Bendigo goldfield. A short distance up this lane are the old police barracks, built in 1859 using local sandstone. Back then the barracks would have been conveniently close to the old Supreme Court building which can be seen from the western side of the fernery. Looking back into the park there is a good view of the avenues of trees that were planted in the latter half of the 19th century. While the numerous elms (*Ulmus x hollandica*) and oaks (*Quercus canariensis x Q robur*) are the most numerous tree species, the Park does have other interesting tree species to look out for: African Yellowwood (*Afrocarpus falcata*), an avenue of ten mature Canary Island Pines (*Pinus fanariensis*), Australian Teak (*Flindersia australis*), Bunya-Bunya Pine (*Araucaria bidwillii*) and Queensland Kauri (*Agathis robusta*).

## 1. CONSERVATORY GARDENS

The cast iron fence was erected in 1878 enclosing land that was once used as a rubbish tip. The Washington Fan Palms (*Washington filifera*, a native of Arizona and California) were planted in the late 1800's. The beds under the palms are now used to showcase the city's spring tulip display. The garden has retained its 19th century statuary, garden baskets and conservatory building. The ornate conservatory building was erected in 1897 and is the last such building in existence in a public park in Victoria. Special floral displays are exhibited here throughout the year.



## 3. FERNERY

At the northern end of the Park is the granite gateway (known as the Good Mother Gateway) leading into the fernery. In 1879 G S Mackay who was a leading authority on ferns proposed the establishment of a fernery in an area known as, The Willows, which was once a bend in the Bendigo Creek. The billabong was levelled and transformed into an open air fernery where mature trees now provide a canopy of shade for the more tender ferns. The area has a luxuriant character with its water features, bridges, rockeries, gravel paths and a fern and palm collection. The River Red Gums (*Eucalyptus camaldulensis*) growing in the fernery are the remnants of the original vegetation of the Bendigo Creek and are of historical significance. This fernery remains the last surviving fernery garden in Victoria that was established on public land from this era. As you leave the fernery pause to take in the aesthetically significant vista of the Park with its retained 19th century layout, its significant plantings, some dating from the 1870's, its different levels of horticultural intensity and its interface with the magnificent 19th century street scape and significant government buildings.

## 5. THE BENDIGO HERITAGE MOSAIC

Designed by Maery Gabriel, The Bendigo Heritage Mosaic was completed in 1987 by hundreds of volunteers from the Bendigo community. The mosaic depicts aspects of Bendigo's mining history. It is designed to be viewed from above, on the first level of the lookout tower where there is more information displayed.



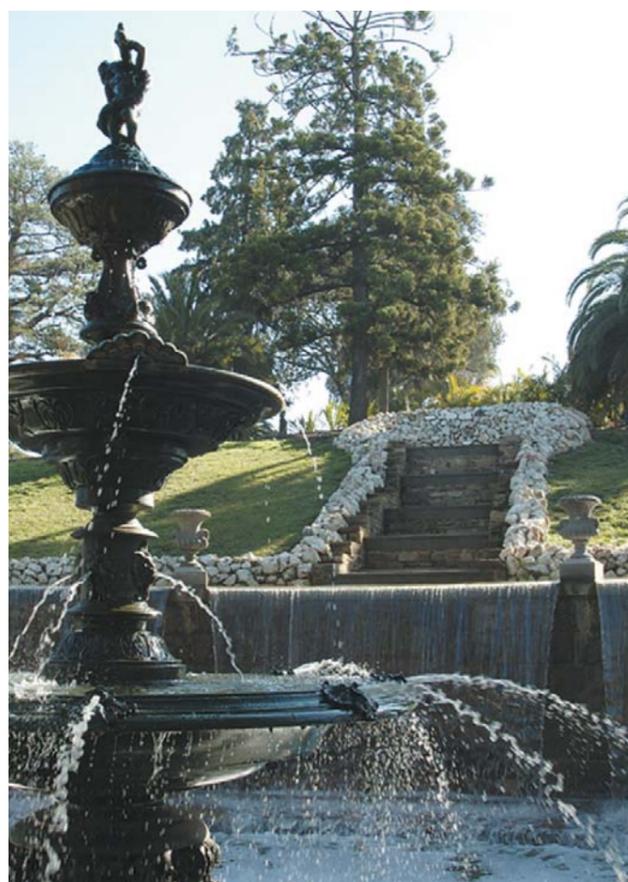
## 6. LOOKOUT TOWER

The present poppet head lookout tower was erected in 1931. It was shifted from the Garden Gully United mine which was one of Bendigo's richest. During the gold rush a flag was flown from the top of Camp Hill to signal the arrival of mail. Because of the absence of trees which were cut down for the mines, the flag could be seen from all parts of Bendigo.



## 8. CASCADES

Water features were very popular in the 19th century. They provided a cool green contrast to what would have been a very dry dusty street scape outside the park. The Cascades, constructed in 1880 were designed by architect William Vahland, best known as the architect of many of the most significant buildings in Bendigo of the time. The original Cascades featured statues, fountains and a grotto that displayed many varieties of ferns. Alas, its ambitious complicated design was seriously flawed and fell into disrepair sometime in the early 19th century. It was partially reconstructed in 1997.



## 9. VIEW STREET GATES

The granite gates and iron fencing leading into the park from View Street date from 1878. The many historically significant buildings on the north side of View Street were excised from the original government land over time. Viewing Rosalind Park from this gateway gives a splendid view of the impressive Dutch Elm avenues and the original general layout of the park. Beyond the bust of Ernest Mueller further into this section of the park the following trees can be seen: Bunya-Bunya Pine (*Araucaria bidwillii*), Hoop Pine (*Araucaria cunninghamii*) and a South African Yellow-wood (*Afrocarpus falcata*). All are listed on the National Trust Register of Significant Trees.

## 10. QUEEN VICTORIA GARDENS

Note the Alexandra Fountain opposite the gates and iron fence of the Queen Victoria Gardens. Of significant interest in these gardens are the Queen Victoria statue dating from 1903, the Sir John Quick bust dating from 1934, the Queensland Lilly Pilly (*Waterhousea floribunda*) and the floral bedding.



## 7. BENDIGO ART GALLERY

Officially established in 1887 the Bendigo Art Gallery houses an important collection of 19th century European paintings as well as Australian works from the early 1900's to the present day. The most recent extension was completed in 2001. This Gallery is recognised as being one of Victoria's oldest, most significant galleries.