



BSSC Walks Audit

Barnard St & Tom Flood
School Site Entries.

Feb-March 2010



What is a Walk Audit?

- It is a set of 28 questions that are divided into 6 sections, that draw your attention to different things that help make walking safe, interesting and pleasant.
- It's a practical tool to get people thinking and inspired about walking, the environment and the community, by taking a stroll around a site.



Click here for
a weblink

Why do people need to walk?

Walking is a very effective way of building physical activity into our everyday lives, which helps control obesity and a host of preventable diseases.

Walking helps people make and sustain connections with other people in their own neighbourhoods, which improves their sense of wellbeing and happiness.

Walking and other forms of active transport (such as cycling) combat traffic congestion and pollution.

Our school:

Bendigo Senior Secondary College is situated in central Bendigo. It has a population of over 1800 Year 11 and 12 students, aged from 16-20.



Our **ROLE** is to empower learners for individual, community and global leadership and we value Respect, Optimism, Learning and Environment.

Our project links to our mission as students of the College:

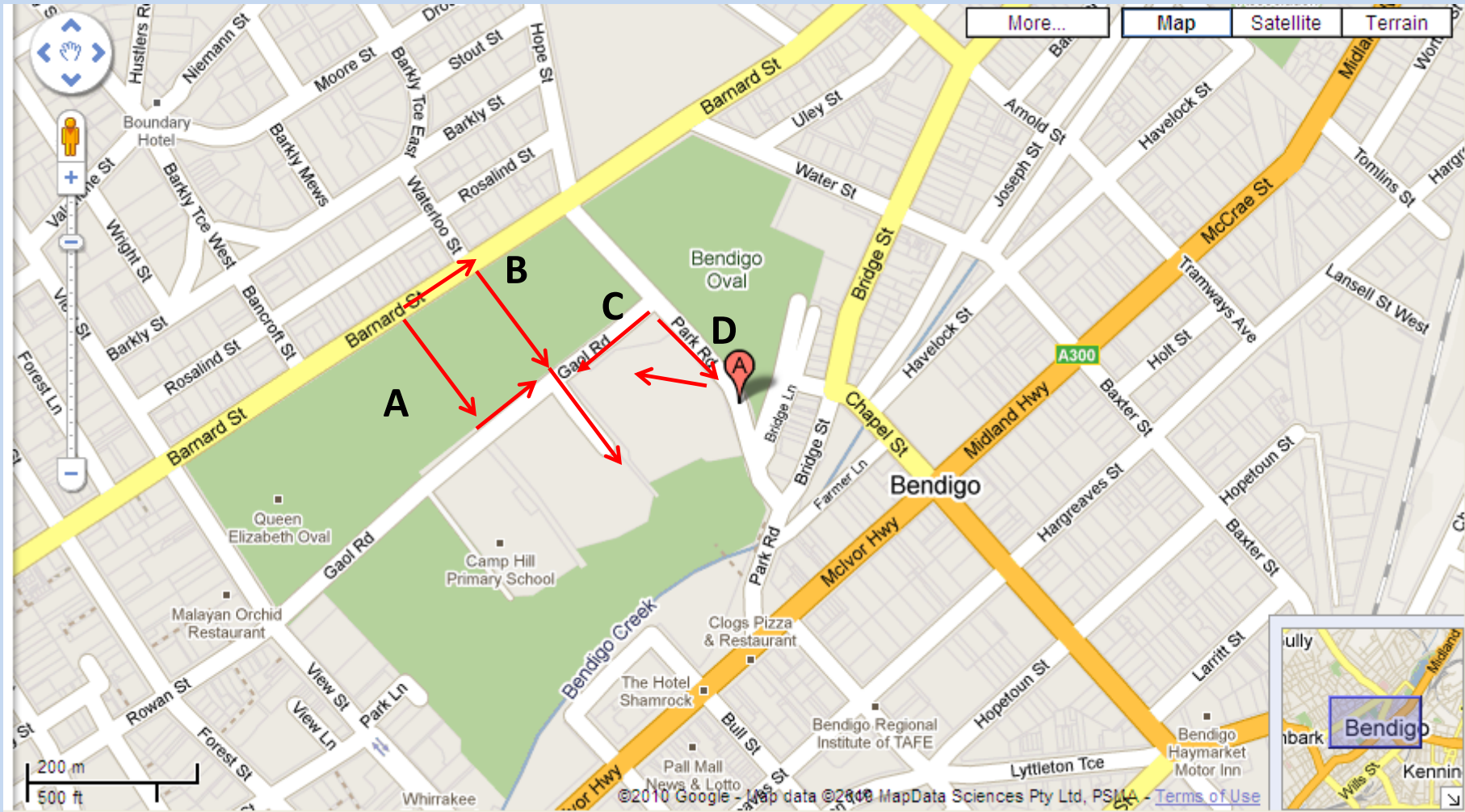


RESPECT	OPTIMISM	LEARNING	ENVIRONMENT
Respect means:	Optimism means:	Learning means:	Environment means contribution to:
Respecting ourselves, others and our relationships	Being enthusiastic in our living, learning and contributing	Embracing learning opportunities	The culture we make through our beliefs and actions
Respecting ourselves and others in all we think, say and do	Embracing opportunities to make a difference	Being a life long learner	The community we make through our relationships with others
Respecting our learning, community and environment	Being resilient and persistent in adversity	Being a continuously improving individual and community member	Sustainability and planetism through wisdom, balance and action
		Being a leader of self and of others	
		Being innovative and open to possibilities	



Walk Audit Location

Walk Audit Location



Route A







Route B



Walking between the tennis courts and the bowling club.



Route C



Route D



Coming into the BSSC site, past B Block.



Our Audit

- We have considered together the entry walks into our school. We have rated the overall situation and noted our observations.

Rating Scale:

0	I can't see any problems.
1	I can see a problem that might make it hard to walk here safely and comfortably if you're an older person, in a wheelchair, pushing a pram or walking with small children.
2	I can see a problem that would definitely make it hard to walk here safely and comfortably if you're an older person, in a wheelchair, pushing a pram or walking with small children.
3	I can see a problem that would make it hard for anyone to walk here safely and comfortably.

Our Audit

Focus Area 1 = Footpaths

Is there a continuous footpath network on both sides of the street, with no missing sections	0	1	2	3	The only section that didn't have continuous footpaths was the Section of Route B between the Bowling Club and the tennis courts. This section is a 3 rating.
Are the footpaths smooth, even and well maintained?	0	1	2	3	Yes, except for the section described above.
Are the footpaths wide enough for everyone to use? (eg. someone in a wheelchair or with a pram or stroller?)	0	1	2	3	We couldn't see any problems.
Is the footpath free of any temporary or permanent obstructions (eg. parked cars or signs?)	0	1	2	3	We only observed one car parked over the path.

Our Audit

Focus Area 2 = Crossing the Road

Are there crossings at logical places – such as opposite schools, major intersections, or shops?

0 1 **2** 3

Not always. Barnard St is very good, but there are no crossings coming into the school site.



Are there the right sort of crossings for the size of the road, and the amount of traffic?

0 1 2 3

Yes, where they exist.



Do the traffic signals allow enough time for you to cross in safety?

0 1 2 3

Yes



Where you cross, is the slope from the footpath to the road safe, smooth and comfortable to use?

0 **1** 2 3

There was two hazards indentified, where Route B came onto Gaol Road and further along the path into the school.

Is there a safe place to stop (a pedestrian island) in the middle of big roads?

0 1 2 3

This wasn't needed on any of routes audited.

Our Audit

Focus Area 3 = Aesthetics

Is the area attractive and pleasant to walk about?	0	1	2	3	Mostly it was. On Route A and B there is a large stretch that needs attention.
Is there attractive landscaping (eg. trees and flowers, public art?)	0	1	2	3	Some sections need a lot of attention. Some sections are set up well. Public art would be a great addition.
Are the shops and businesses well maintained and accessible?	0	1	2	3	Not Applicable
Is the area clear of litter and dumped rubbish?	0	1	2	3	Several spots need seating and bins.
Are there interesting features that make you want to walk?	0	1	2	3	No. More shade needed. Some history boards would help. Toilets too. Revamp of old swimming pool into a lake.

Our Audit

Focus Area 4 = Traffic

Is the posted speed limit right for this area?	0	1	2	3	We couldn't see any problems.
Are there any devices in place to slow traffic down (eg. islands, speed humps)?	0	1	2	3	In one section. More would help.
Are drivers obeying the speed limit?	0	1	2	3	Yes.
Do drivers obey other road rules – stopping at a safe distance from crossings and traffic lights, checking before backing out of driveways and parking bays?	0	1	2	3	Drop off time at BSSC is dangerous. Main crossings are OK.
Are cyclists riding on the street or footpath? Is there an on-road bicycle lane?	0	1	2	3	We couldn't see any problems.
Are there barriers between the traffic and people walking (eg. safety barriers, trees or a nature strip?)	0	1	2	3	Park Road between BSSC and Tom Flood buildings needs barrier.

Our Audit

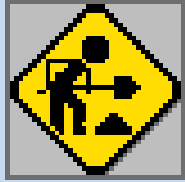
Focus Area 5 = Facilities

Is there street furniture (eg. seating, rubbish bins) provided in good condition?	0	1	2	3	Need more rubbish bins and more seating in some areas.
Are there trees or enough shade on [paths to keep you comfortable on a hot day?	0	1	2	3	More needed along all pathways, except in Rosalind Park.
Is there signage to guide and direct pedestrians (as well as cars)?	0	1	2	3	Not applicable. But it could be if there were places of interest created along the walks. This would make people more likely to walk along these paths.

Our Audit

Focus Area 6 = Safety

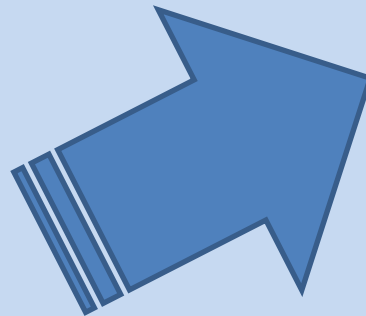
Does the areas feel safe to walk around?	0	1	2	3	We couldn't see any problems.
Is there adequate street lighting?	0	1	2	3	Some sections have none.
Are you aware that other people can see you as you walk around – like drivers and residents?	0	1	2	3	Yes, except for the section between the pool and the bowling club.
Are there enough people around on the street to make you feel safe?	0	1	2	3	Yes during the day – not sure at night.

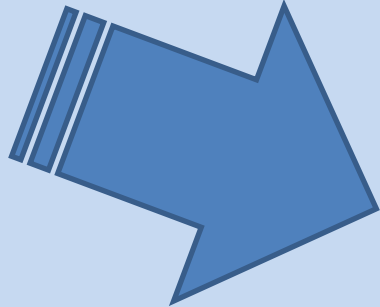


Audit Outcome: Suggested Action Areas.

- 1 – The walking track between the Bendigo Pool and the Bowls Club/Croquet Club.
- 2 – The walking track between the Lawn Tennis Courts and the Bowls Club/Croquet Club.

Our ideas for the future.



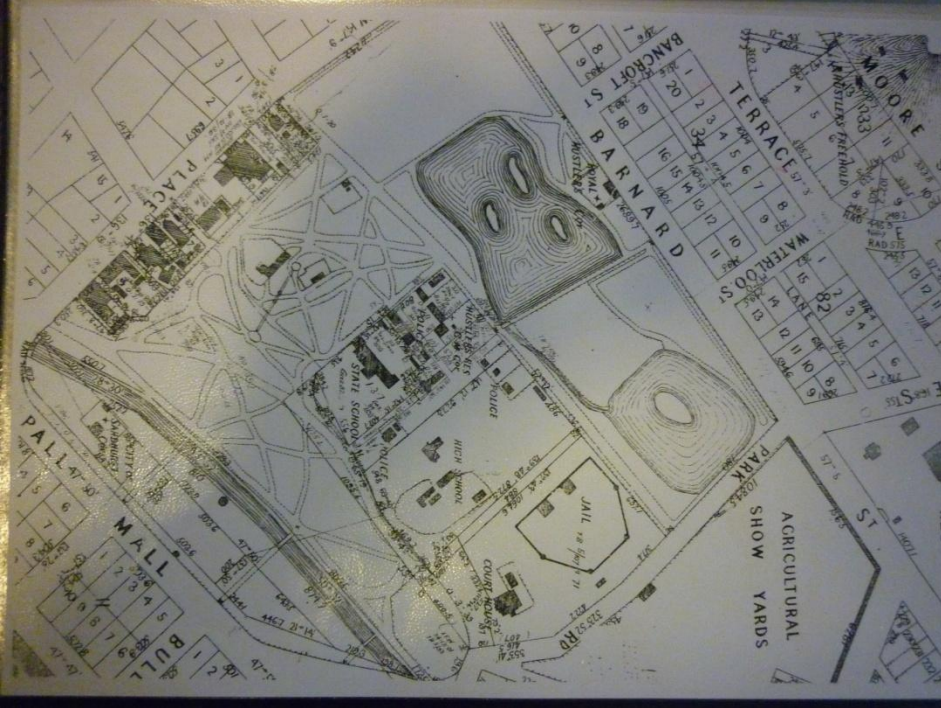


Along the paths ...



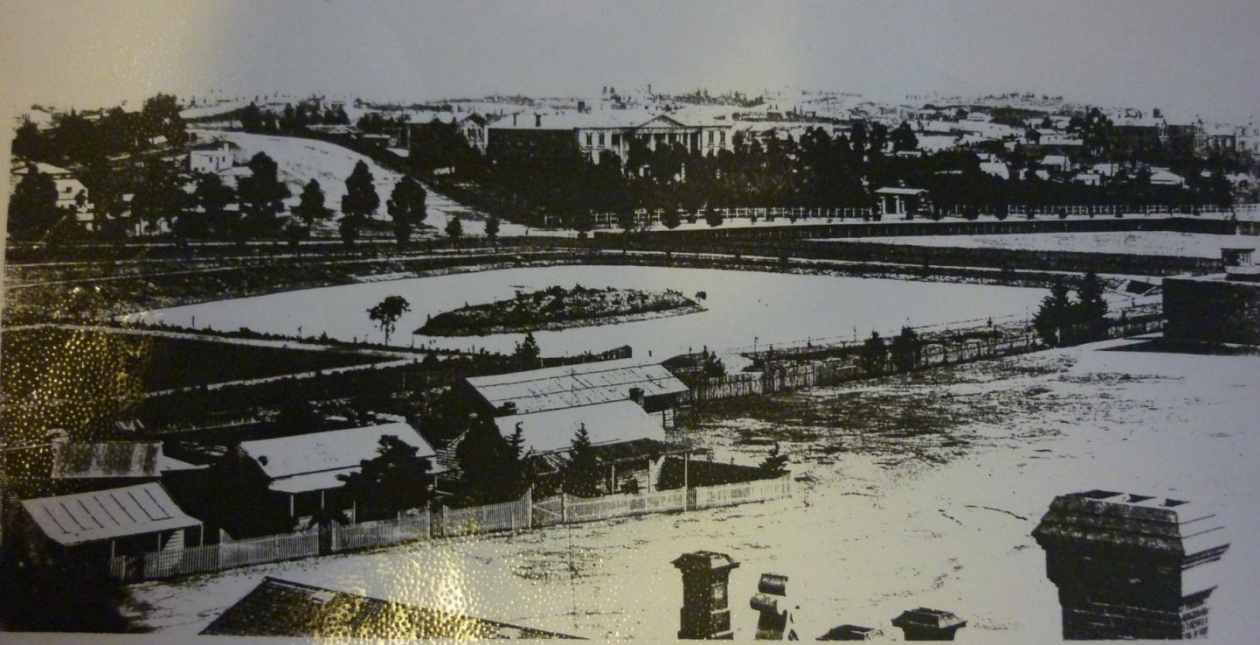
Why make the changes?

- It is an historical site/area and we should be encouraging people to visit and enjoy the area.
- Give people a reason to walk along the sites.
 - It would create an enjoyable leisure spot for people to spend time in.
- The areas should be neater than they are now.
- Teach people about the environment and the flora and fauna in the area.

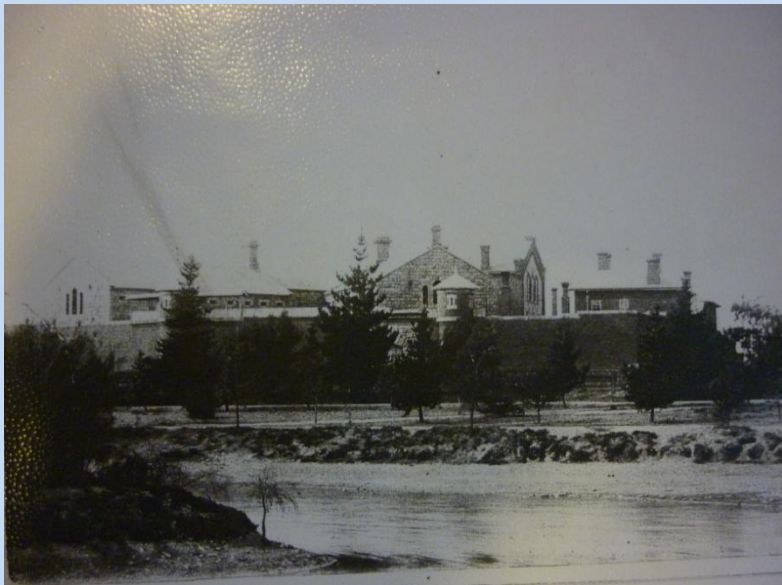


History of the sites.





Date: 1900's



Some history snippets:

- The areas for action are part of Commissioner's Gully.
- The pond in the Bendigo Aquatic Centre and the site of the tennis courts were ornamental lakes.
- The two walkways suggested for action were dykes, out in to hold back water for the ornamental lakes and provide walking tracks from Barnard Street to the Government Camp Reserve.
- The area is the site of the Red Ribbon Rebellion in the 1853 (a meeting about mining licence fees).

Linking to the BSSC Travel Plan.

- **An objectives of the BSSC Travel Plan is to increase active forms of transport to and from Bendigo Senior Secondary College (walk, ride).**

Relevant targets:

- Increase by 5% of present figure the percentage of students who walk or cycle to and from school.
- Increase by 5% of present figure the percentage of staff who walk or cycle to and from school.

Linking to the City of Greater Bendigo TravelSmart School Counts (May 2009).

- **Findings:**
- If more students were to walk, ride or catch the bus to school there may be a decrease in traffic to the area, this would then make it safer for pedestrians in the area to access.

The Student Voice – about our audit outcomes.



- I think that we should fix the area up because it looks untidy and it isn't a good look for our central area. (Crystal)
- Our work is important because our ideas are using the history and it will help people be interested in visiting the area. (Brad)
- It would be really good to put a lot of the ideas in place because it will make me feel good when I walk through there. (Kerry)

- If we changed the area I would like to see a environment for bird to colonise. People would come to look at these. (Fedre)
- Our audit work is important because it has good ideas made up by people who belong to the community and who use the area. (Jayden)
- I think it is a good idea because it looks bad now and it could look better which would help to make people walk along there. (Kyal)

Thankyou

- **Dr Ben Rossiter**
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- **Charmaine Chew**
Community Engagement Coordinator, Victoria Walks Inc.
- **Dr Ralph Birrell and Kay McGregor**
Bendigo Historical Society.
- **Nicole Porter**
Sustainable Transport Officer
City of Greater Bendigo