

THE BENDIGO TRUST

gratefully acknowledges the assistance with the opening
day activities by the following:

City Family Hotel and City Club

Gillies

Sandhurst Dairies

McDonalds, Bendigo

Swan Breweries

3BO

Domenic House of Hair and Beauty Care

ESG Studios

Selex-Decal

Victorian Police Band

V-Line

Bendigo Timber

Stonemans

Alan Williams Sound

Radio Rentals

Waterfall Quarries

Arthur Holt

Bart'n'Print

Sandhurst Town

THE BENDIGO TRUST

in conjunction with the
CITY FAMILY HOTEL
present the opening of the

**CENTRAL DEBORAH
GOLD MINE
UNDERGROUND
PROJECT**

by

Premier John Cain

20th June, 1986

featuring the

City Club Dancers

THE LEGEND OF GOLDEN LADY DEBORAH

Late last century, an English lord became penniless when his roguish elder brother gambled away the family fortune and estates, and then took to the high seas as a pirate.

With nothing more than his title, the lord migrated to Australia to try and strike it rich on the goldfields, so that he might return to England and reclaim his family estates.

The lord arrived at the Sandhurst (Bendigo) goldfields, set up camp and immediately began his search for the elusive metal. As time went by and the lord made several quite profitable strikes, he began to suspect that a rich reef of gold ran under the township. Although other miners scoffed at his suspicions, claiming that all the reefs in the area had been discovered, the lord became obsessed with finding the reef.

The only person who believed the lord was a young dancer with Lola Montez' chorus line. Deborah was strikingly beautiful, possessed of a sparkling smile, laughing eyes, and a charm which entranced all who met her. It was love at first sight for the lord when he saw her at a Lola Montez show. He courted her and won her heart.

The lord's burning desire to find the reef of gold was the only thing that exceeded his passion for Deborah. He refused to marry her until he could keep her in the manner he would wish. He wanted to reclaim his title and make her his Lady Deborah. Hence, he referred to the elusive reef as Deborah's reef.

Working feverishly night and day the lord became very ill. He drove himself onward, consumed by his burning ambition to find the reef. Deborah begged him to cease his quest and save his health but he continued. Deborah had taken to keeping a vigil at the top of the mine shaft while the lord worked below.

One bleak day, the lord failed to return to the surface, and an extremely worried Deborah persuaded some miners to descend the mine and search for him. They found the lord dead with a large gold nugget in his hand. In the wall of the tunnel where he had been digging they could see clearly a gold reef.

Deborah was overcome with grief and refused to leave the site of the mine. For two days she huddled piteously by the mine shaft. Sometime during the second night she vanished. Police and miners searched the mines and surrounding area but to no avail.

Legend has it that Deborah disappeared into the mine and to this day has protected the mine and all those who enter it.

Over the years miners often reported sighting a mysterious golden woman just before they made a rich strike. The mine closed in 1954, but recent sightings of a ghostly golden figure in the Bendigo area have been reported.

At the opening ceremony the golden lady Deborah emerges from the mine to be reawakened, during a fully choreographed dance sequence presented by the City Club Dancers.

AWAKENING OF DEBORAH

Introduction: Victorian Police Band

Main Sequence: Deborah emerges from the mine tunnel to be reawakened, representing the reopening of the gold mine. The contrast between the hard physical aspect of mining and the feelings and emotions evoked by gold are depicted in this sequence.

Finale: Victorian Police Band

Deborah's hair and make-up by Domenic House of Hair and Beauty Care.

CENTRAL DEBORAH GOLDMINE

The Central Deborah Goldmine was the last working mine to close on the Bendigo field. It closed in 1954.

In 103 years the Bendigo field had yielded a record 650,000 kilograms of gold and paid more than 14.3 billion at today's prices.

During its relatively short working life of fifteen years, the Central Deborah Goldmine produced nearly one tonne of gold and paid out dividends of \$78,000.

In 1970 the Bendigo City council bought the mine for \$6000, and opened the surface workings to the public.

The underground facility at the Central Deborah has recently been restored at a cost of over \$650,000. This involved considerable drainage work as the mine, like all mines in Bendigo, was flooded to within a few feet of the surface.

Under the 21.3 metre high poppet head, the mine's main shaft is almost 500 metres deep and a network of drives spreads out through the underground reefs.

From June 20, 1986 the public will be able to descend the mine shaft to a working level 60 metres below the surface.

There they will be lead on a guided tour of actual mine workings.

On the surface of Central Deborah the public may view the engine rooms and winding engine, the miners' change rooms and first aid room, and various activated gold retrieval processes.

MRS CYNTHIA PARRY
3 YANDON STREET
BENDIGO VIC. 3550

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BENDIGO TRUST MR. D. H. R. McCLURE
AND DIRECTORS

CORDIALLY INVITE

MR + MRS J. PARRY

TO BE PRESENT AT

THE OFFICIAL OPENING
BY THE HONOURABLE JOHN CAIN, M.P., PREMIER OF VICTORIA

OF THE

**CENTRAL DEBORAH GOLD MINE
UNDERGROUND PROJECT**

VIOLET STREET, BENDIGO

AT 2.15 P.M., FRIDAY, 20 JUNE, 1986

R.S.V.P. by 10 June, P.O. Box 333, Bendigo, 3550

If no reply by R.S.V.P. date we assume you will not be attending