



ARTS BENDIGO INC.

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Dear Mike,

This will be our FINAL request to you for a bit more coverage on the completion of our *BENDIGO HERITAGE MOSAIC* at the Rosalind Park poppet head. For interest, I enclose the brochure we had produced, for visitors to the site.

Leanne gave us excellent news cover after the official "completion" ceremony on July 28th, but we're hoping you can find a spot for the enclosed material one weekend soon. I've written a brief story - perhaps you could hunt out or obtain some photos to go with it - but especially, we'd love to see published the enclosed poem written by artist Maery Gabriel as she stood at the site, towards the end of all her, and our, hard work. She read this out at the recent small ceremony, and everyone there was highly impressed. We think it's very special.

If it's published, readers might need a note to explain that "GAIA" is an Ancient Greek name for the earth, or Earth Mother.

Maery has given her permission for publication, but it would definitely have to be set out exactly as written.

We hope you can find space for this last story about our big project.

Thanks,

Merle Hall



BENDIGO HERITAGE MOSAIC

Bendigo's latest attraction is finally complete! After more than a year's planning and work, the *BENDIGO HERITAGE MOSAIC* had its formal unveiling on July 28th.

This mosaic pavement surround to the poppet head lookout in Rosalind Park is more than 100m² in area, and depicts various aspects of Bendigo's heritage of gold. There are sections showing geological features of the area; some mine layouts, interspersed with interesting small mosaics representing the various nationalities from early settlement, and also designs of local flora and fauna, and of community achievements; and the mosaic works set within paving are a fascinating interpretation of gold - its many forms and its structure, created by the artist Maery Gabriel. It's one of the biggest community arts projects ever undertaken in Bendigo, and is also one of the most interesting public mosaics in Victoria.

Visitors to the site can obtain an excellent descriptive brochure from the Visitors Centre or from other tourism places in Bendigo.

The creation of the mosaic, initiated and administered by local group Arts Bendigo, involved leading mosaic artist Maery Gabriel (formerly Hall), and hundreds from the community, including a LEAP Team, primary school children, students and staff of BRITafe, and others from the general community. The City of Greater Bendigo provided great back-up with site works, and some funding, and more sponsorship was found from various sources. Many local businesses gave generous support with materials and expertise, and the whole completed project is one which can claim to be a true community achievement.

ATTACHED IS A POEM BY ARTIST MAERY GABRIEL, INSPIRED BY HER WORK AT THE POPPET HEAD LOOKOUT.

Reflections from Rosalind Park

What if

Lady Gaia

had not dreamed a dream

of rock and rain and river,

of sand and clay laid down in streaming ages,

of rock dissolved made rock once more

and, shuddering in a restless sleep between the sunset and
the dawn

breathed up fire from her deeps,

brought her crystal kingdoms rushing starward,

and into sandy caverns fired all her armoury of treasure,

of matchless quartz as hard as flint,

of sun-bright shining stuff that makes men gasp and

grab?

What if Lady Gaia had not dreamed that dream?

How then could this proud city stand?

How then this lofty tower that spies the world of men?

Good citizens, give thanks.

Mary Gabriel

GAIA:

The Greek Goddess of the Earth who gave birth to the sky, mountains
and sea