

WORK is proceeding on the council's plan for Hargreaves Mall, and it is interesting to compare the activity from the initial project 25 years ago, which turned that section of Hargreaves Street into a mall.

But why is the street Hargreaves and not Hargraves, as it is spelt in many towns in Australia, such as in Castlemaine?

Local historian Rita Hull explains in her book, *Origins of Bendigo Street Names*, that on the original map of Sandhurst in 1854, the name of the street is spelt Hargreaves after Edward Hammond Hargreaves, the man credited with reporting the first gold discovery in Australia.

Who was this Hargreaves? Students of Australian history will be familiar with the words of Hargreaves to his guide, John Hardian Australia Lister, "This is a memorable day in the history of New South Wales. I shall be a baronet, you will be knighted, and my old horse will be stuffed, put into a glass case and sent to the British Museum."

In fact, Hargreaves did not become a baron, but he did become a Justice of the peace.

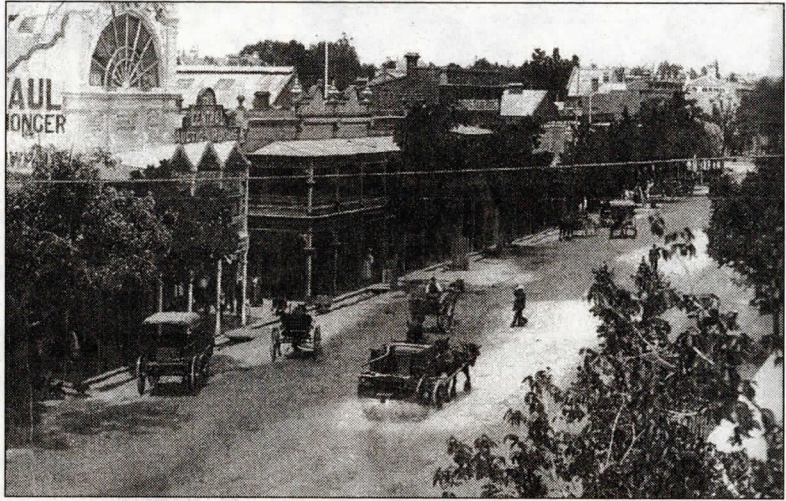
Professor Geoffrey Blainey, in his book, *The Rush that Never Ended*, points out that Hargreaves, despite his claims to have noticed a similarity between the goldfields of California and those of the countryside around Bathurst in New South Wales, in fact went to places where he knew gold had already been found.

He had been unsuccessful in California and in New South Wales, referred prospecting from horseback, leaving the hard work to John Lister and James Tom.

He returned to Sydney to ask for a reward, knowing that all gold belonged to the Crown and that it was as wise to depend on the government for such a reward.

Hargreaves convinced the authorities that he had found a goldfield and obtained a horse to ride west to meet the government surveyor to show him the goldfield.

In the meantime, Lister and William Tom, a brother of James, found what Hargreaves had failed to



OLDEN DAYS: A photograph of Hargreaves Street in 1908.



FINISHED: The completed mall was opened in May, 1982.

find — four ounces of gold and a payable goldfield.

Hargreaves returned west and named the diggings Ophir and the richest point Fitz Roy Bar.

To name the area after the biblical city of gold and the richest point after the governor of the colony truly indicate Hargreaves' main claim to fame — he was a master of publicity.

He wrote to the colonial sec-

retary of New South Wales, Edward Deas Thomson, "The effect of my appearance in the district has caused a little excitement amongst the people." The rest is history.

Back to Bendigo's Hargreaves. Miss Eva Wilson took photos for the Bendigo Historical Society of the construction of Hargreaves Mall from February, 1982, until the project was completed in May, 1982.



BUILDING: Construction of Hargreaves Mall began in February, 1982.



NEW IDEA: The mall as it is today will be redeveloped by council.

The oldest photo shown here, taken circa 1908, is the site of today's mall.

The water cart in the centre of the photograph is being driven along the street to lay the dust, indicating that the road surface is not yet tarred.

People wishing to learn more about Hargreaves Street, including its beautiful historic buildings such as the town hall. Specimen Cottage

and Colliers' building, should purchase the Historical Society's Self Guided Tours of Historic Bendigo, from the Visitor Information Centre on Pall Mall for \$10.

The book provides walking tours of Bendigo and is a good history, souvenir and Christmas present in one.

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