Search The Gold Trail

In 2001, Bendigo celebrated 150 years since the Discovery of Gold. Within the heart of Bendigo there are a number of significant sites, which tell the story of gold mining… Follow these and discover!

1 Lansell – The Quartz King

George Lansell Statue, Pall Mall

Visit one of the most significant statues in the gardens between the visitor information centre and the Memorial Hall. George Lansell, the second most successful mining baron, owner of seven gold mines and investor in countless others became a legendary figure during Bendigo's gold mining boom.

Look closely at the monument inscription – words such as *"Indomitable courage and persistent enterprise of George Lansell in the development of Bendigo's gold resources"*.

Interestingly "the citizens of Bendigo" erected this statue. The story goes something like this.. in 1899, 2,628 Bendigonian's signed an illuminated letter begging Lansell's return (from England) to Sandhurst to help revive the flagging economy. Study the relief sculptures on this monument, they depict the development of mining form cradle to big companies involved in deep shaft mining.

2 Sniff The Wealth

RSL Memorial Hall, Pall Mall

Walk a little further along Pall Mall until you come to the domed Memorial Hall with its bronzed honour roll, which perpetuates the memory of Bendigo's soldiers who died during the Great War. Look closely at the soil beneath your feet. You are standing on the site of the Hustlers Royal Reserve No. 2 Mine, situated in the very heart of the city – it yielded 5,521 ounces of gold. On an angle the 1666 feet deep shaft is directly under this building.

Water from the shaft flows into the Bendigo Creek at the rear of the hall, giving rise to a strong pungent smell which permeates the air and reminds us all of its former usage.

3 View Point

Corner Of View Street & Pall Mall

Walk towards the fountain and you will arrive at View Point. This is the small promontory overlooking the Bendigo Creek.

Look across to the City Family Hotel, the expanse of road is in actual fact a bridge – some would have it as Australia's widest bridge and yes, you guessed it, Alexandra Fountain is built on the banks of the Bendigo Creek which is diverted beneath the road.

Now, look across to Rosalind Park. You can see the diggings. Today, the water flows beneath our feet through the bluestone lined channel in Rosalind Park.

4 Rosalind Park

The Bendigo Creek

Look beyond View Point into Rosalind Park – Exotic and Australian trees are a feature while a magnificent fernery is at the north eastern end.

This park is part of 27 hectares set aside under the land grant in 1857. The lower ground of Rosalind Park was the scene of the last alluvial Gold Rush on the Bendigo field. Before this time all ground in the area had been untouched because it was part of the Government Camp.

You may ask "*why the name Rosalind Park?"* and the simple answer is – the gracious park is named after the character in "*Rosalind"* in Shakespeare's *"As you like it".*

Why not explore the monuments, the drinking fountain in memory of JH Curnow (the founder of the Bendigo Sewerage Authority), the gates to the fernery, Ernest Mueller, enjoy the beauty of the cascades, and venture your way to the lookout tower for a spectacular view present Bendigo.

5 Look Out Tower

Upper Reserve

The tower in Rosalind Park is a typical mining headframe prevalent on the Bendigo field, known locally as a poppet head or poppet legs.

The tower is from the richest dividend paying mine in Bendigo, the Garden Gully United, which produced 444,337 ozs of Gold.

Climb the tower and see a magnificent panorama of Bendigo, including to the south three of the remaining poppet heads on the Bendigo fields. These three are those of Central Deborah, the North Deborah and the Deborah.

While you're at the lookout tower marvel at the mining heritage mosaic located at the foot of the tower depicting geological formations of local saddle reefs.

6 Goddess Fortuna

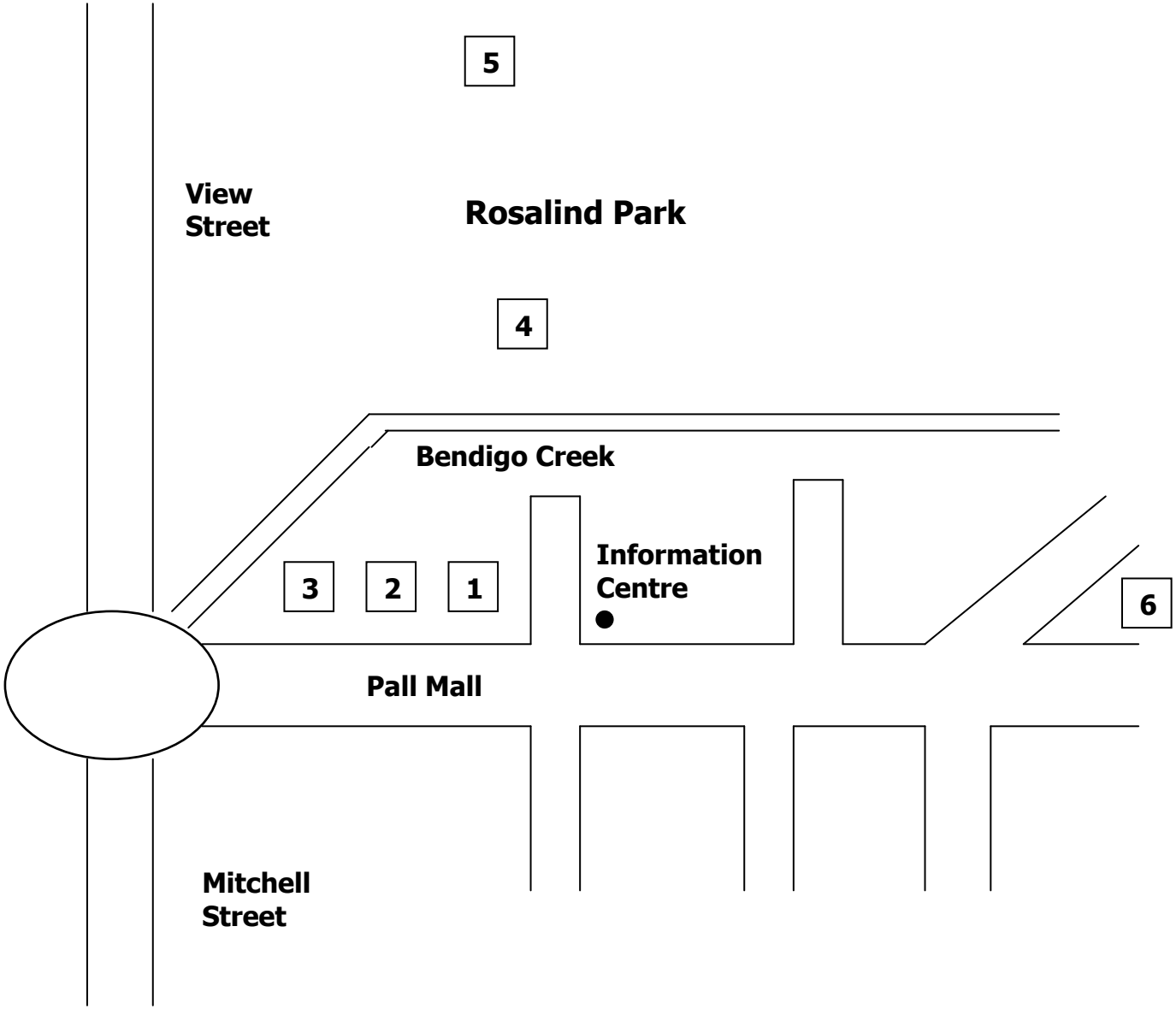
The Golden Jubilee Statue

Walk down through the park, amble through the lush fernery and through to the corner of Bridge and McCrae Street better known as Howard Place.

At this junction is a majestic and elegant statue of the goddess Fortuna leaning over a digger and dropping nuggets into this pan.

This was commissioned by the committee of Victorian Golden Jubillee Exhibition and was completed in 1906.

The scroll on the pedestal states, between 1851 and 1941, 21,064,357ozs of gold were won on the Bendigo Goldfield.



Bendigo's Gold Trail

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