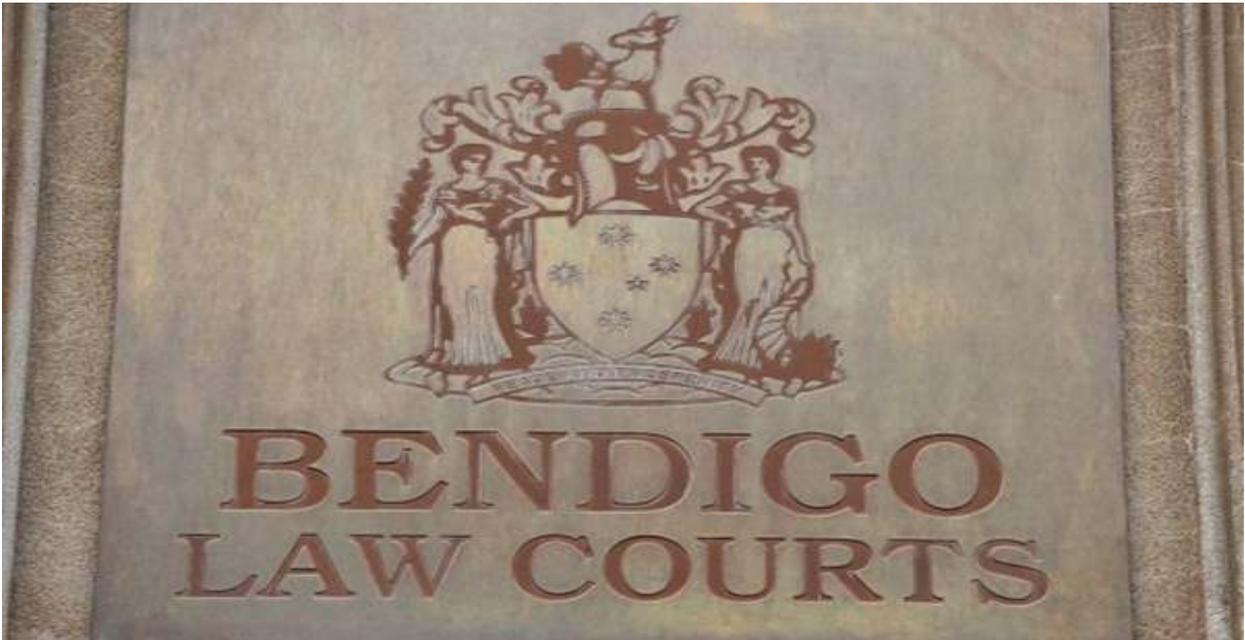


# Bendigo man has sentences suspended

By Hannah Knight June 12, 2012, 12:27 p.m.



A BENDIGO man has two suspended jail sentences hanging over his head after pleading guilty to a litany of charges.

Grant Gibson, 27, appeared in the Bendigo Magistrates Court yesterday and was accused of refusing an oral fluid test, aggravated burglary, theft, driving an unregistered vehicle, possession of methamphetamine, fraudulent use of number plates, assault and breaching an intervention order.

Magistrate Bruce Cottrill fined Gibson \$800, cancelled his licence and sentenced him to one month imprisonment and another term of six months imprisonment, both suspended sentences.

“You’ve pleaded guilty to a consolidation of charges and the combination of charges are serious and bring into question the consideration of a reasonable term of imprisonment,” Mr Cottrill said.

“It is a common expectation in courts that those who commit aggravated burglary and enter a private property would expect to serve a term of imprisonment. There’s a good reason for that.

“A person’s home ought to be a place where safety and security is expected.

“You not only entered the property but you engaged in theft ... the assault matter alleged against you was a punch to the head ... a cowardly act.”

Prosecuting, Leading Senior Constable Dave Somerton said Gibson refused to provide police with an oral fluid test in October last year.

In December, he broke into a house where a person with an intervention order against him was living, stole a handbag and wrestled with a victim. In January, he punched a protected person to the head with his fist and was caught by police driving an unregistered vehicle with the wrong number plates.

Gibson’s preliminary breath test was negative but he again refused to give an oral fluid test.

“He was observed to have slow and slurred speech and appeared to be quite relaxed in the car,” Leading Senior Constable Somerton said.