

CITY OF
BALLARAT



my Ballarat

Winter
2018

Ride Like a Girl

the Michelle Payne story

The movie about the woman
who stopped the nation



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Address

The Phoenix, 25 Armstrong Street
South, Ballarat

Postal

PO Box 655, Ballarat, VIC, 3353

Phone

5320 5500

Email

info@ballarat.vic.gov.au

Website

ballarat.vic.gov.au

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Cover image: 2015 Melbourne Cup winning jockey Michelle Payne's story will take to the silver screen in the feature film *Ride Like a Girl*.

You can also read myBallarat magazine online at ballarat.vic.gov.au

The City of Ballarat respectfully acknowledges the Wadawurrung and Dja Dja Wurrung people - traditional custodians of the land on which we live and work.

All information correct at time of going to print.



myMayor's message

Home-grown hero Michelle Payne rode into the nation's hearts when she became the first female to win the coveted Melbourne Cup on *Prince of Penzance* in 2015.

Now her story, and that of her family, including her father Paddy and her brother and strapper Stevie, is about to be told on the silver screen in the feature film - *Ride Like a Girl*.

It's a story that not only showcases overcoming incredible personal and professional hardships in this talented jockey's rise to victory, it's also a story that focusses on the challenges women face in Australian sport.

This film, directed by acclaimed actor Rachel Griffiths, will undoubtedly inspire generations of girls and women to saddle up in 'the sport of kings' or to overcome gender barriers either in their chosen sport or their journey in life.

The City of Ballarat is proud to be a partner of this movie which will also shine the spotlight on Ballarat. Recent filming will project our incredible historic streetscapes and sites, such as the Ballarat Turf Club and Loreto College, to the world when the movie is released next year.

This film has already delivered a direct economic benefit to Ballarat with the film crew spending four days in Ballarat, and it has the potential to generate international investment opportunities. It also continues to showcase Ballarat as a tourism destination.

Read more about *Ride Like a Girl* on pages 4–5.

As we move into Winter, it's time to forgo hibernation to celebrate the chilly season in Ballarat. Ballarat Winter Festival is on again and will continue to transform what was a traditionally quiet time of the year for traders into a hive of activity.

Take in the spectacular sight of Winter Wonderlights at Sovereign Hill, the *Into Light* exhibition at the Art Gallery of Ballarat, or the much-loved ice-skating rink in the CBD. Turn to pages 23–27 to find out more.

If you're looking to stay indoors, there's never been a better time to reacquire yourself with Ballarat Libraries. Whether you want to read a paperback, download an eBook or tap into a free digital class, our libraries offer a range of reading, learning opportunities and activities. Find out more on pages 14–15.

And on page 9, we chat to a Ballarat couple who transformed their lives when they got moving with the free Sons and Daughters of the West health programs. We hope these stories motivate you to take advantage of all that Winter in Ballarat has to offer.



Mayor Cr Samantha McIntosh



Standing up: City of Ballarat 2017 Youth Awards Ambassador Lexi Ryan.

young leaders **taking charge**

Ballarat is home to about 20,000 people aged 12–25. With nominations opening for the City of Ballarat 2018 Youth Awards in July, it's time we recognise our outstanding young achievers.

At the age of 13, Lexi Ryan is already dedicated to helping in her local community.

The Ballarat Loreto Year 8 student works at Landcare tree planting days, lends a hand at school working bees, participates in Girls Space, a program which empowers young women, and is an advocate for "love is love".

Lexi, who raises funds for the World Wildlife Fund and Relay for Life, also implemented a 'buddy bench' at her former primary school, to help forge friendships in the playground.

Lexi was named the City of Ballarat's 2017 Youth Awards Ambassador in recognition of her contribution to the community, after receiving an Honourable Mention in the 12 to 17 Overall category of the 2016 Youth Awards.

"It's a lot of fun to do all of these things and you get a lot of

responsibility with all the planning," she says.

"Overall, it's worth it – it's so fun. If you just put in a little bit of extra time, you'll get lots of rewards back."
- Lexi Ryan

The Youth Awards, which first began in 2005 and are led by the City of Ballarat Youth Development team, are an opportunity to celebrate young people making a positive contribution to the community.

More than 110 people were nominated in the 2017 Youth Awards across 11 categories.

With nominations for the 2018 Youth Awards about to open, Lexi encourages the community to nominate Ballarat's outstanding young citizens.

"The Youth Awards are amazing - so many people get recognised and there needs to be more people in it," she says.

"I know a lot of amazing people and I know everyone else knows a lot of amazing people, and I think they should be recognised for their work, so please nominate."



Want to know more?

Nominations for the City of Ballarat's 2018 Youth Awards open in July and close in mid-August, with the Youth Awards ceremony held in late October.

Like the Ballarat Youth Services Facebook page for the latest updates.



Girl power: Director Rachel Griffiths and Ballarat jockey Michelle Payne join forces for Ride Like a Girl.
Credit: Pat Scala/Racing Photos/Getty Images.

riding high – the woman who stopped the nation

Ballarat jockey Michelle Payne overcame tragedy and adversity to become the first female to win the Melbourne Cup in 2015. Now, her inspirational story is giving Ballarat a starring role on the silver screen.

"It's such a chauvinistic sport," Michelle Payne said, after she made Australian sporting history when she won the Melbourne Cup on 100–1 outsider *Prince of Penzance*.

"I know some of the owners were keen to kick me off Prince, and John Richards and Darren (Weir) stuck really solid with me.

"I put in all the effort I could, I galloped him every gallop he had and did everything I could to stay on him because I thought he had what it takes to run a race in the Melbourne Cup.

"I just can't say how grateful I am to them, and I just want to say to everyone else - they can get stuffed because they think women aren't strong enough but we just beat the world."

Michelle's message was empowering to women everywhere. It also caught the attention of renowned Australian actor Rachel Griffiths, the *Muriel's Wedding* star, and Richard Keddle, producer of *Oddball* and *Little Fish*.

Now, the acclaimed duo will tell the story of Michelle's resilient rise to victory, her family's love and courage in the face of hardship and overcoming gender barriers in horse racing, in the feature film *Ride Like a Girl*.

"As women, we get put down a lot and my biggest thing was I always believed in myself, I don't know why – I just had such a strong belief that if I worked hard I could be successful," Michelle says.

"That's something that I think is really important. Growing up and having my Dad, who always used to say – the girls were as good as the boys, we just don't get the right opportunity.

"Having him say that all the time just made me believe that, and I think that's a really important message."

The film stars Teresa Palmer as Michelle, Michelle's brother Stevie plays himself, Sam Neill plays Michelle's father Paddy, and Jacki Weaver plays Payne's manager Joan Sadler.

In her directorial debut, Rachel says Michelle achieved what many people didn't think was possible.

"Her courage and resilience, the love of her family and the support of Paddy Senior, Stevie and Darren Weir show not just a girl who breaks down a huge barrier, but also shows how this change can happen, and celebrates the people who helped make it possible."

The film will also shine the spotlight on Ballarat. About 90 film crew spent four days filming in locations across Ballarat in May, capturing scenes at the Ballarat Turf Club, Loreto College and in Ballarat's iconic CBD. The multimillion-dollar production delivered an immediate economic boost to the city's traders and accommodation venues.

The City of Ballarat is a partner of the movie, supporting and assisting the film crew with the production and the film's promotion to the wider region.

When it's released next year, the feature film will showcase Ballarat on the world stage, with the potential to generate international investment opportunities while highlighting Ballarat as a tourism destination and an important location for the equine sector.

The film places Ballarat at the heart of Michelle's ride to victory – the setting for this remarkable Australian sports story.

As producer, Richard says the film showcases another extraordinary human first.

"We as humans have such unconscious boundaries and biases about what is possible, that when someone moves these posts or shatters the ceiling of how we limit ourselves, it's always an historic moment.

"Every day on set we film moments where we all look at each other and can't believe that we are filming yet another great moment of this community's rich history."
- Richard Keddle

Michelle, who still rides and also trains horses at her Miners Rest stables, says the movie is exciting for her family, especially Stevie.

"I think it's really great to see Stevie play himself in the movie – he'll be the star of the show I'm sure."

While winning the Melbourne Cup feels like a lifetime ago, Michelle recalls every detail of that day.

"It's very special. I feel like I've been blessed through my life, even though I've had a lot of downs, I've had a lot of highs," she says.

"For me, that's the best part about the film is that it inspires people to stick at their dreams and when times get tough, that happens to everyone - you've got to push through it. This might give people help in their life.

"I'm also a really proud Ballarat girl – Ballarat is such a beautiful city. I just think it's nice that this film will recognise what a great city we're from."



Providing a safe haven: Ballarat Animal Shelter Acting Manager Clare Douglas-Haynes.



Dog gone: Ballarat Animal Shelter staff member Bradley Teh with 'Rocky'.

giving animals **a new leash on life**

The Ballarat Animal Shelter is a safe haven for hundreds of lost or mistreated animals from across the region. Bold plans for a new state-of-the-art shelter will boost animal welfare and give animals a second chance at a better life.

'Rocky' needs a new home.

This male greyhound was brought in to the Ballarat Animal Shelter after his former owner could no longer care for him. Rocky was held for the mandatory eight day waiting period, when owners have a chance to come forward and collect their pets. He has since been temperament tested, vet checked, and recently joined the ranks of other dogs, cats and kittens up for adoption at the Ballarat Animal Shelter.

"Rocky is a great dog. Like many dogs we have here, he'd make the perfect addition to a family with children. However, we ask all residents wanting to adopt a pet to think carefully - pet ownership is a life-long commitment," Ballarat Animal Shelter Acting Manager Clare Douglas-Haynes says.

The shelter, which was run by the RSPCA until the City of Ballarat assumed management in September last year, is housed in an outdated facility - a former abattoir off Gillies Street, located behind the SES.

The City of Ballarat is calling for government funding to establish a new \$13 million regional animal facility on Blind Creek Road at the Ballarat West Employment Zone (BWEZ).

This new shelter will provide modern, functional facilities catering for more animals than the existing shelter - enabling animals to be reclaimed, held during court proceedings, or cared for and trained to enable foster caring and re-housing.

Clare says the new facility will replace the old, brown brick building that no longer meets standards, and will help animals that are brought in from across Ballarat and the surrounding municipalities of Golden Plains, Pyrenees, Ararat, Hepburn, Central Goldfields and Moorabool be better cared for.

"We need a new facility. This facility is not up to the standard we or our community expect. For example, there should be drains in every single dog pen and there's not," she says.

"In the new facility, we'll be able to provide assistance in the event of emergency evacuations. If there's a fire or a flood event, people can bring their animals in to us - we don't really have the space at the moment to do that.



Want to know more?

The Ballarat Animal Shelter is located at 5 Gillingham Place, Alfredton. Phone 5334 2075.

There is no cost to become a foster carer for a kitten, cat or dog. You can also adopt a pet for a fee. Each adopted animal is de-sexed, microchipped, vaccinated, receives flea and worm treatment, and comes with the first year of registration in the City of Ballarat.

Adoption fees:

- Kittens - \$180
- Adult male cats - \$100
- Adult female cats - \$150
- Dogs - \$380
- Cats and dogs over seven-years-old - free

Did we collect your stray cat or dog?

Owners can reclaim their pets within eight days under new pro-rata reclaim fees:

- Cats - \$17.50 per day
- Dogs - \$21.50 per day

Open hours

Monday–Friday, 8am–6pm
Saturday, 10am–3pm
Sunday, 11am–3pm

For more information visit
ballaratanimalshelter.com



“There are so many possibilities and I think we’re heading in the right direction where animal welfare is at the forefront of our work.”

On any given day, the shelter cares for more than 70 dogs and between 100 to 150 cats. Fourteen staff work at the shelter. All have previously worked in animal care, and are dedicated to reuniting animals with their owners, or caring for and working with the animals to find them new owners.

Clare, who volunteered at the former RSPCA facility before becoming a veterinary nurse and joining the City of Ballarat, says the community has also begun embracing the work of the shelter, with people volunteering their time to interact with the animals or donate much-needed flat sheets (not fitted-sheets), blankets, clothes, newspapers, dog and cat food, animal toys - even unwanted armchairs and stools for the cats to play on.

Clare says the work often takes an emotional toll on staff. Some animals which come through the doors have experienced mistreatment, illness and severe malnourishment.

All animals that need veterinary assistance receive treatment, and while staff at the shelter work hard

to reduce euthanasia rates, sadly, some animals have to be put down.

Despite the challenges, Clare says it’s rewarding to see animals returned to their owners or find a new home.

“Watching an animal’s new owners come in – they are so excited to meet them, knowing that they are going off to a better place is really rewarding,” she says.

“It’s also rewarding to see changes in some of the dogs that come in. Our staff put in so much work, even just to get a dog to trust them.”

Clare says shelter staff strive to match animals to those looking to adopt.

“We try to get out what they actually want out of their pet and match it up,” she says.

“We know these animals, we know what they’re like, so we know what kind of a life they’ll be suited to.

“It’s all about trying to connect them with the right family, so they are successfully homed and they’re not going to bring them back in a week and say – ‘it’s not working out’.

“It’s a lot more work but it’s a better outcome.”

Editor’s note: Rocky has now found a home.

kick-starting a healthier life

When the Western Bulldogs Football Club moved its kennel to Ballarat, and forged a special partnership with our city, it brought more than football to Mars Stadium. Its free Sons of the West men's health program has changed the lives of participants. Now, its new program, Daughters of the West, will take a punt on improving women's health.

Football is more than a game for Karen and Aaron Fowkes.

The Western Bulldogs' introduction of its Sons of the West program was just the wake-up call Aaron needed.

"Aaron's dad passed away and, after he went, Aaron barely left the house," Karen, Aaron's wife, says.

"I heard about Sons of the West on the radio and it sounded like something Aaron should do.

"I asked him if he'd go to the very first one in Ballarat, and if he didn't like it, he didn't have to go back. But he loved it and he hasn't missed one since."

Aaron, 46, has now completed his third year of the program. He's lost more than 30kg and says the program has completely changed his physical health and his outlook on life.

"I went from zero friends in Ballarat to probably 15 friends that night. It's amazing," he says.

"I've learnt how to exercise at my level, safely, which I couldn't do before. I play golf now, I'd never played before, and - I love it."

Introduced to Ballarat in 2016, Sons of the West has delivered programs at Sebastopol and Wendouree, with 91 men graduating from the program last year.

The program runs for 10 weeks and features guest speakers covering topics on health and wellbeing plus a supportive team of exercise physiologists, personal trainers, dietitians, occupational therapists and psychologists from local health organisations, such as Ballarat Community Health and Ballarat Health Services.

The program also connects participants to the Western Bulldogs through opportunities such as match day experiences.

The City of Ballarat has worked with the Western Bulldogs Community Foundation, Sports Central, Ballarat Community Health and community members to support the program's delivery.

Watching Aaron transform his life, Karen, 60, put her hand up to develop and participate in last year's eight-week pilot program for a women's version of the initiative, Daughters of the West.

The new program, identified in the City of Ballarat's 2018 Active Women and Girls' Strategy, officially kicks off in July.

"A lot of the ladies took away a real sense of themselves – that we are strong people and we can look after ourselves."

- Karen Fowkes

The couple thanked the Western Bulldogs and the City of Ballarat for implementing the programs and credited Andrew Milligan at Sports Central for his dedication to changing people's lives.

The programs are free to all men and women aged over 18 in Ballarat.

The Daughters of the West program begins in July, while the next Sons of the West program will begin in March 2019.

For more information visit westernbulldogs.com.au or contact Sports Central Programs Manager Andrew Milligan on 5331 6966 or email andrewm@sportscentral.org.au



Kicking goals: Karen and Aaron Fowkes are loving life thanks to the Sons and Daughters of the West health programs.

Ballarat changemakers

Meet Amber Barker-Lovett – the Ballarat and District Aboriginal Co-operative's (BADAC) Koorie Youth Engage Project Officer. Amber works to help disengaged Indigenous youth, aged from eight to 24, get back on the right track.

Amber is proof that one person can make a difference.

A proud Gunditjmara and Wemba Wemba woman, Amber is working with local Koorie artists to write and record music videos that highlight the dangers of crystal methamphetamine, the drug known as ice.

As part of Indigenous Hip Hop Projects, two YouTube videos, *Tears in my Eyes* and *No Ice in Koorie*, are now raising awareness about the devastating impact of the addictive drug on the wider community, and encouraging more people to reach out for help.

The videos will be officially launched during NAIDOC Week, from 8–15 July, which celebrates the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

"Most of the rappers have been affected by ice in some way," Amber says.

"One of the guys said – 'thank you so much, after doing this music video, it's actually opened my eyes'. He's now mentoring younger boys."

The 2018 theme for NAIDOC Week is *Because of Her, We Can* – which acknowledges the contributions of Aboriginal women – women leading the way like Amber.

Amber, who completed Year 12 at Phoenix P-12 Community College in 2015 and was a part of the Australian Indigenous Mentoring Project, followed in her parents' footsteps to work at BADAC, where she began as a receptionist before taking on her current role.

This year, Amber also became the newest member of the City of Ballarat's Koorie Engagement Action Group (KEAG) – which works to enhance opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples living in Ballarat.

At BADAC, Amber works to connect with Koorie youth who feel disillusioned and disengaged,

helping to support and encourage them to take a different direction in life.

"Once I started this job, I realised there's heaps of Koorie youth not going to school. There's disengagement – not coming in to your community, not participating in anything, just staying at home and hanging with the wrong crowd - this leads them into the drugs and the justice system," she says.

"They play back on themselves – 'people are bullying me because I'm Aboriginal, I can't do it because I'm Aboriginal'.

"I tell them – 'well, you can. I'm Aboriginal – I've got a full-time job, and I'm 20'.

"They need to realise that they've got heaps of people there supporting them." - *Amber Barker-Lovett*

"They think they are in a dark room by themselves when, really, they've got a crowd around them, wanting to support and help them.

"I think that's what I love the most, that I can work with people that are the same age - I feel I can relate to them and that they can relate to me."

In her role, Amber says she has found her voice. And now, she feels empowered to use it to help Koorie youth reach their full potential.

"Going from reception to this, I think I've achieved a lot. I feel like I can achieve so much and do so much more because I feel like I have got a voice now," she says.

"Helping is pretty rewarding - knowing that I'm putting a smile on someone's face, because they feel like they're also achieving something."

Find the Ballarat Koorie Engagement Action Group on Facebook.





Fighting the flu: City of Ballarat Immunisation Team Leader Veronica Fay (right) delivers the vaccine to resident Rosemary Kinna.

arm yourself **against influenza**

Victoria experienced one of the worst flu seasons on record last year, with more than 48,000 confirmed cases of influenza. Ballarat residents are being encouraged to have the flu shot – to protect themselves, their families, friends and the wider community.

Every year, Rosemary Kinna rolls up her sleeve to receive the flu shot.

"It's for my own wellbeing and it assures me that I will not pass the flu virus on to anybody else," she says.

"I would advise everyone to have it. If everyone has the flu injection, it ensures no-one will pass the virus around to the vulnerable and people at-risk."

- Rosemary Kinna

Last year, the City of Ballarat delivered more than 4,000 flu shots to Ballarat residents, like Rosemary, and employees at 110 businesses.

As Victoria braces for the onset of another flu season, City of Ballarat Immunisation Team Leader Veronica Fay says everyone aged six months and older, wanting to protect themselves from the flu, should be vaccinated annually – it's their best protection.

"It's really important to have a flu shot, it's never too late you can have it at any time," she says.

"Traditionally the flu season in Australia is from June to September, with the highest prevalence of disease in August, so the vaccine is at its peak three to four months after you receive the vaccine."

For the general population, the 2018 flu vaccine contains four strains of influenza protection, while those aged over 65 years will receive a new higher dose of the three-strain vaccine – shown to be more effective in this age group.

Rosemary says she often hears people say they won't have the flu shot because they'll get sick.

Veronica, a nurse immuniser with 13 years' experience, says it's a common misconception.

"This vaccine is not live so it can't give you the flu. Some people experience illness after vaccination – in this situation they most commonly have already been exposed to the virus and don't realise this when they present for vaccination."



Want to know more?

The City of Ballarat delivers the flu (influenza) vaccine for free to:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 15 years and over
- People aged 65 years and over
- Pregnant women – at any trimester in pregnancy
- Adults with chronic disease – diabetes, alcoholism, obesity, heart disease, asthma
- Children aged six months to five years can receive the vaccine for free from their GP, including children with medical risk factors.

For all other people, the flu vaccine costs \$20.

For more information, contact the City of Ballarat Immunisation Service on 5320 5850.



Healthy steps: Anja and Max Coulter prioritise their health at the Ballarat Aquatic and Lifestyle Centre (BALC).

fighting cancer **with fitness**

When their health began to deteriorate, Max and Anja Coulter joined the Ballarat and Aquatic Lifestyle Centre (BALC) to improve their fitness. Now, almost 20 years later, they are in the best shape of their lives – even in the face of cancer.

Max Coulter was commuting to his office job in Melbourne each day.

At the age of 49, his weight had ballooned to almost 100kg.

"I saw Anja getting fit – she was turning into a gym junkie," Max says.

"I was about to turn 50 and I looked at her and thought – if she can manage to go to the gym and do that, maybe I can manage to do that too."

That decision to prioritise his health changed Max's life.

He became a BALC member, had a health assessment, lowered his blood pressure, and then began working out in the Health Club before eventually moving into group fitness classes.

Two years ago, when Max received a diagnosis of pancreatic cancer, his world "spun around".

Both Max, now 67, and Anja credit his fitness for helping Max through his cancer journey of chemotherapy treatment and major surgery.

With the gentle encouragement of staff at BALC, Max returned to exercise six months after his surgery and has returned to his former fitness level.

It's not just the fitness that has seen him through the experience. With the love and support of his family and friends, Max has also been inspired and motivated by the friendships he's forged at BALC, where he often shares a coffee in the café with Anja and their friends.

"A lot of people have got struggles in their lives - we share some pretty tough life stories but we're all still here," Max says.

"That hour after we have our class when we have a coffee is just as important – you look after your

physical health and you look after your mental health."

Anja's improved fitness has also helped her overcome her own health difficulties, from a broken ankle to a life-threatening pulmonary embolism.

While Max's cancer has returned, he's determined to keep exercising, and be fit for the challenges ahead.

"This is still an important part of the treatment - staying fit, and the social part of being here with people," he says.

"We're in that group of people who believes there's an afterlife so something better is coming. Before then, let's make the most of this and every day."

Check out the new Winter Group Fitness Timetable at ballarataquaticcentre.com or find us on Facebook.



Fun for kids: Evie and Tilly Barlow.

Ballarat library – so much more than books

If you walk into Ballarat Library on any day of the week, you will see a hive of activity.

From young families singing along to a nursery rhyme, to the reading circle discussing their favourite book – the library is buzzing.

No longer a silent space, today's library has welcoming staff, comfortable lounge areas, free WiFi, ample charging stations, and special reading corners.

While many come to browse or work, others come to experience something they can't do at home – wander through an exhibition, talk about books, dress up as a favourite Harry Potter character, learn something new such as dancing, yoga or how to sell on eBay – the list goes on.

While Ballarat Libraries' programs and services are diverse, the one thing they all have in common is their focus on community.

"Today's library is like a third living room," says Lesley Morgan, the Library's Coordinator of Community Engagement and Partnerships. "People like being around other people, so we offer them a comfortable space to connect, learn, or just enjoy themselves."

Most days the library will have more than 1,000 people walk through its doors. Its demographic is broad – from babies who attend Baby Rhyme Time to older people who are enrolled in a computer class.

The library also offers an eLibrary, which is accessible from a computer or tablet, and gives

visitors access to borrow an eBook, watch videos, or learn how to get online. Book deliveries to homes, audio download services, and special exhibitions are all part of Ballarat Libraries' mission.

Technology hub

Over the past few years, Ballarat Libraries has evolved to accommodate the growing needs created by today's digital lifestyles.

In 2012, it introduced the Technology Hub – a space where the public can access equipment and free digital classes. Technology Coordinator Graham Booth runs group sessions in the mornings followed by one-on-one training sessions in the afternoon.

Graham says the classes are a great resource for the community.



On the move: Outreach Library officer Kerry Taylor with the pop-up library that travels around Ballarat.

“A lot of people have been left behind because of the digital revolution,” he says. “In these sessions, we go back to the very beginning. You don’t have to have any knowledge of computers, and no question is a stupid question.”

There’s no doubt Graham’s classes have had a positive impact on the community. Over the four years it’s been running, he’s helped people gain employment, connect with family and friends online, and acquire the everyday skills essential in the 21st century.

Words on Wheels

Aimed at adults of all ages, Words on Wheels is a new library program that involves storytelling and reminiscing using books, poetry and props. Run by Kerry Taylor, the

program now visits a nursing home, and is already receiving a lot of interest from community groups.

“Telling a story can bring the past to life, open a door to the future or be a simple pleasure shared in the present,” says Kerry. “It encourages life-long learning and is very therapeutic.”

Kerry says the program has many health and wellbeing benefits. It’s intellectually stimulating and encourages engagement and socialisation.

“The older people love listening to stories on the past, on how they used to live 50 and 60 years ago,” she says. “They also love to hear about Ballarat’s history and Australian poetry.”

Little Languages

Little Languages starts each session by opening a magic suitcase. Run by Meghan Appleton, the program visits a new country each week. Through storytelling, music and costumes, Meghan inspires young people to learn about the world around us.

“Children are like sponges and sending a positive and empowering message about multiculturalism will build knowledge, understanding, inclusion, and develop an appreciation of the beauty of their culture and the culture of others,” says Meghan.

Although it’s specifically tailored for three to five-year-olds, the whole family is encouraged to join in the fun.

Find Ballarat Libraries on Facebook.





Construction zone: Marg and Gordon Jarvis (left) watch the works on the Sebastopol Library get underway.

a new era for Sebastopol Library

Works are underway to renovate the Sebastopol Library. This \$2.8 million redevelopment will take this vital community asset into the future.

Marg and Gordon Jarvis love living close to the Sebastopol Library.

Before works began earlier this year to renovate the ageing Albert Street building, Gordon often used his mobility scooter to travel to the library from the couple's home and to carry the numerous books they borrow each week.

While works are underway, Marg and Gordon use Ballarat Libraries' Outreach van when it visits Ballarat Community Health in Vickers Street each Thursday.

This major redevelopment will transform the Sebastopol Library into a vibrant community hub, featuring a larger library space, indoor amenities, an expanded

lending library and reading space, a dedicated youth area, children's library, two refurbished Maternal and Child Health consulting rooms, two large community meeting rooms, outdoor areas and a 24-hour accessible public bathroom.

The work, funded by the City of Ballarat and the State Government's Living Libraries Program, is expected to be completed in October.

Marg and Gordon are looking forward to the opening of the new Sebastopol Library, which will have more modern facilities and improved accessibility for residents like Gordon, who use mobility scooters.

Marg, a retired office worker, enjoys reading fiction, while Gordon, a retired Police Senior Constable, delves into pre-ancient and ancient history.

The couple also enjoy the technology Ballarat Libraries' offer. Marg often downloads library books on her iPad for night-time reading, and Gordon has completed a computer course.

They love how libraries are a community hub bringing people of all ages and abilities together, and they love the new technology they offer.



State of play: Netball player Jessica Smith on court at the Ballarat Sports and Events Centre.

the ultimate goal

The long-awaited redevelopment of the Ballarat Sports and Events Centre will deliver a major boost to local netball, basketball and badminton while attracting significant sporting events to Ballarat. But sport is not the only area set to benefit – the other winner is the community.

Jessica Smith is aiming high.

At the age of 15, Jessica already plays at a senior level in women's netball and in open mixed netball with the Wendouree Netball Association.

"I started when I was about nine. It's good to play at a high level - there's older people who really support you, and it's such a fast game," she says.

"I play all of the time, and I'd like to play for Australia one day."

While Jessica feels at home on the Ballarat Sports and Events Centre's two courts in Norman Street, Wendouree, she's looking forward to the day when she'll get to step

out on to the state-of-the-art new courts being built as part of the \$24 million redevelopment of the facility.

"Because there will be courts, more teams will be able to play. There will be more teams that come and play from other districts, and more teams from primary schools and high schools, and for adults to come and play in these facilities," she says.

"It's definitely going to be good - I can't wait."
- Jessica Smith

Earlier this year, works began to construct the new facility – which will feature six community courts, including retractable seating for

a 3,000-seat show-court, café, amenities and facilities, plus more parking.

Overall, the development will result in eight basketball, netball or volleyball courts and 26 badminton courts on the one site, with an elite show court for the Ballarat Miners, Ballarat Rush, Ballarat Sovereigns, while the facility will play host to state and national sporting events.

Expected to be completed in June 2019, the redevelopment has received \$5 million in funding from the City of Ballarat, \$10 million from the Federal Government's Building Better Regions Fund, and \$9 million from the State Government's Regional Infrastructure Fund.



Winners are grinners: Basketball players Toby Walshe (Phoenix Basketball Club) and Angus Haire (Saints Basketball Club) join Jessica and Wendouree Netball Association manager Jordan O'Keefe at the site of the \$24 million redevelopment.

Wendouree Netball Association manager Jordan O'Keefe says the overhaul of the facility, built in 1986, is long overdue.

"It will be great for us to be able to offer more competitions and greater opportunities for an elite pathway as well," he says.

"We would like to attract the likes of the Melbourne Vixens here for training, hopefully practice matches as well, and really everyone will be able to see netball at its best being showcased here."

Ballarat Basketball Chief Executive Officer Peter Eddy says the next generation of basketball players will benefit from the improved facilities.

"It's not only for the kids who are here in Ballarat but when we have events, we just can't cater for the number of people.

"This will create that next level both for Western Victoria but also for our big tournaments where people come from all over Australia, so it's really exciting from an economic point of view."

While the project will boost local sport and provide a home base for Special Olympics and Wheelchair Sports, Peter says the centre, which is already home to the University of the Third Age (U3A), will also work to bring the community closer together.

"This will be a community hub from 9am until 10pm - so during the day there might be recreation or learning classes for older adults, there could be FedUni Human Movement or Sports Science classes or activities on the courts," he says.

"There will be elite teams training, there will be kids coming in after school, there will be competitions of a night - but you can walk in any time of the day and have a coffee.

"Particularly for older adults in the community who might be living alone...what a great way to actually socialise and make friends in a risk-free, passive recreation environment. This will be a social hub for Wendouree."



Modern facilities: Lakers Head Coach Dale Power addresses the players in the new changerooms.

a new home for **the Lakers**

"The best football facilities in country Victoria" is how Lake Wendouree Football and Netball Club (LWFNC) President Dave Clifton describes new upgrades to his sporting facility.

Dave, who has been President since 2013, says: "There's no doubt the new facilities have aided the standard of football over the past few years."

"A lot of the clubs from Melton and Sunbury are just gobsmacked when they see the facilities Council has provided for us." - Dave Clifton

In September 2014, the City of Ballarat began the \$1.65 million upgrade of LWFNC's home turf at C.E. Brown Reserve. The upgrades were part of the Sport and Recreation Seven-Year Capital

Program, which was adopted by Council in 2013. At this time, Council committed \$21 million to be invested in sports infrastructure.

Staged in two parts, the project comprised a major oval redevelopment which introduced an irrigation and drainage system, reconstruction of the playing surface, new fencing and spool drain. External works included new coach's boxes, interchange benches and interchange steward's box.

The second part of the project included two new netball courts, shelter, seating, perimeter fencing and a concert terraced spectator area.

In May 2015, the State Government allocated \$2.5 million to the football and umpiring facilities, changerooms, indoor training facilities, accessible toilets, storage area, and lounge and kitchen

areas. This funding formed part of the government's \$31.5 million commitment to the Ballarat Sports and Events Precinct.

Since the new facilities opened, the club's membership and participation rates have soared. There are now 16 competing football teams of around 80 men, 200 boys, 20 women and 50 girls. There are 14 competing netball teams, including 60 seniors and 80 juniors, and this year E-Grade Netball was introduced.

The President

Asked what effect the new upgrades have had on the club, Dave whips out a photograph saved on his smartphone. The faded black-and-white snap shows his eldest son Sam in a football tackle. Sam, along with the other players, are barely recognisable, completely engulfed in mud.

The photo was taken prior to the upgrades. "You couldn't tell who



On solid ground: The Lakers train under lights at their new facilities at C.E Brown Reserve.

was who,” says Dave. “The players would all come out that colour.

“The ground would be good for two or three weeks, and then the rain would come and turn everything to mud.”

Dave, a former junior coach, team manager, runner, and barman, has strong family ties to the club. All three of his sons played for LWFNC, and his wife, sister and brother-in law, along with other relatives have all held roles at the club.

“We had some of the worst facilities in the state, and now the ground is so good you can play bowls on it.”

The Assistant Coach

The club’s recent results tell the story, says Senior Football Assistant Coach Mick Taylor.

“Since we have had the new ground, our senior teams have finished on top. We are training better, there are less soft tissue

injuries because teams are playing on a softer and more even surface, and people just feel better. There are benefits all round physically and mentally.”

Mick vividly remembers the days when the team would get changed in a converted tractor shed.

“As a club, we had very little for so many years,” he says. “Now we have a new ground and new facilities - it’s just made a huge difference to the general vibe and our enjoyment.”

The Captain

Captain Ash Simpson says no-one is happier about the ground upgrades than his Mum.

“She doesn’t have to wash white shorts after every training session,” he says. “She’s over the moon.”

Ash has been playing with LWFNC since 2006, in the under 12s side. He says while he loves the new

ground, he also loves the spacious changerooms.

“We now have a proper trainer’s room for rehab, where we have things like ice baths. There was nothing like that with the old facilities. So, it’s been huge, and it really does cater for everything.”

- Ash Simpson

Ash says the upgrades to all the grounds, including Marty Busch, Alfredton, and now City Oval, have not just improved the performances of each club - they have strengthened the Ballarat Football League.

“Ballarat has some of the best ovals in the state. It has made the league a lot stronger because people want to play on good grounds.”



Our events city: City of Ballarat Creative Arts and Events Manager Heidi Zukauskas at White Night Ballarat.

standing out from the crowd

Whether it's White Night, Ballarat Begonia Festival or the Ballarat Winter Festival, Ballarat is making its mark as a leading events city. City of Ballarat Creative Arts and Events Manager Heidi Zukauskas works behind the scenes to regularly shine the spotlight on Ballarat.

How long have you worked at the City of Ballarat, and how long have you worked in events?

I have worked for the City of Ballarat and in the events industry for eight years. I commenced as an Events Officer in 2010 and in November I became the new Creative Arts and Events Manager.

What does your role involve?

I lead a team of eight Arts and Events Officers, who collectively deliver major events, manage exhibition spaces, public art, and arts and culture projects for the City of Ballarat. The major events we deliver include the Ballarat Begonia Festival, Ballarat Heritage Weekend, Ballarat Winter Festival and we host major events, such as the Cycling Australia Road Nationals and White Night. We deliver Summer Sundays, Backyard Tasters, and lead the CBD streetscape Christmas decorations and activation. We also deliver multiple civic events, such as Australia Day, ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day. Our small team delivers major events for Ballarat - we are dedicated to delivering nothing but the best for our city.

What do you love most about working in this role?

I love the variety of events and projects we deliver and facilitate for the city - no two events are the same. I love working with the community groups and local businesses which contribute their valuable time and resources to make each event a success.

It's a fabulous time to be living in Ballarat - there is nothing more satisfying than seeing families and friends spending quality time together at our events.

How important are events to Ballarat?

With an annual visitor expenditure of more than \$51 million, events provide an enormous economic and social benefit to Ballarat. A lot of hard work goes into creating a full and vibrant annual events calendar for this city. We have developed a strong events reputation - winning multiple bids to host significant national and world events such as the World Masters Rowing Championships, national cycling events, Open House and White Night.

White Night was a hit again this year, attracting 60,000 people.

What is this event's future in Ballarat?

What a night! White Night delivered so much for our city, showcasing local artists, celebrating our built heritage and engaging the public in an immersive arts event. This year the event covered a larger area, which meant the city could accommodate the increased number of people without affecting their comfort levels. White Night is a State Government of Victoria event that is owned and managed by Visit Victoria, and supported by the City of Ballarat. We worked hard to keep White Night in 2018 and will do all we can to secure the event in 2019.

What can the community expect to see and experience at this year's Ballarat Winter Festival?

Ballarat Winter Festival will see the return of festival highlights, such as Sovereign Hill's Winter Wonderlights and the ever-popular ice rink in the CBD. New additions to the 2018 program include the *Into Light* exhibition at the Art Gallery of Ballarat, lumieres artist installations in CBD laneways, food and retail-inspired events in the Mining Exchange, plus specialised offerings from food and retail outlets across the city. The City of Ballarat and Visit Ballarat have worked together to produce a dynamic range of events. For the full program visit ballaratwinterfestival.com.au

How important is this festival to bringing people to Ballarat in what was traditionally a quiet time of the year for traders?

Several years ago it became very clear we needed to develop and introduce a new festival into the Winter period - and what better theme to embrace than our chilly Ballarat Winter climate! Creating a festival that spans a month provides opportunity for greater city-wide involvement. Retail, hospitality and tourism attractions are all invited to develop and showcase a special event or offering for the month.



June event calendar

Post your event details to the City of Ballarat online calendar at ballarat.vic.gov.au

It's a great way to promote your event free of charge.

Saturday
2

Victorian Beekeeping Clubs Conference 2018
Mercure Hotel and Convention Centre, Main Road
9am–5pm
vicbeeclubs.com.au

Bridge Mall Farmers Market
9am–1pm
bridgemallmarket.com.au

Sunday
3

The Design Exchange Market
The Mining Exchange, Lydiard Street North
thedesignexchange.com.au

Saturday
9

Ballarat Farmers Market
Lake Wendouree, 9am–1pm
Facebook @ballaratfarmers

9–11

McDonalds Junior Basketball Tournament
Minerdome
ballaratbasketball.com

Ballarat Intergroup Indoor Bowls Championships
Ken Kay Badminton Stadium
ballaratbadminton.com

Monday
11

Queen's Birthday public holiday
City of Ballarat offices closed
No change to City of Ballarat waste collections

Wednesday
13

Ordinary Council Meeting
Town Hall, Sturt Street, Ballarat, 7pm
ballarat.vic.gov.au

Thursday
14

Men's Health Night
6–8.30pm
Facebook @Ballaratlibraries

Saturday
23

Into Light: 19th century paintings from the Musee de la Chartreuse
Opens and runs until 9 September
Art Gallery of Ballarat
artgalleryofballarat.com.au

Ballarat Farmers Market
Lake Wendouree, 9am–1pm
Facebook @ballaratfarmers

Saturday
30

Ballarat Winter Festival begins
Various CBD locations
Ice rink opens and runs until 15 July, eight sessions daily, from 9am–8.30pm, Armstrong Street South
Tickets: Adult \$15, Child \$8, Family \$30 (two adults and two children) Session times are one hour, skaters are advised to arrive 20 minutes prior to start time
Bookings essential at ballaratwinterfestival.com.au

30

Ballarat Potato Fest
Ballarat Mining Exchange, Lydiard Street North, 3–8pm
ballaratwinterfestival.com.au

30

Winter Wonderlights begins
Sovereign Hill
winterwonderlights.com.au

30

Winter Native Flower and Plant Show
Robert Clark Horticultural Centre, Ballarat Botanical Gardens
10am–4.30pm
Entry - \$5 for adults

2



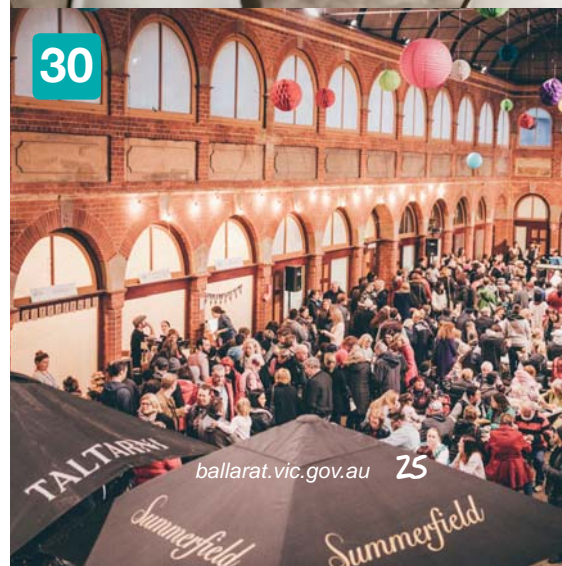
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30



30





July event calendar

Post your event details to the City of Ballarat online calendar at ballarat.vic.gov.au

It's a great way to promote your event free of charge.

Until
29

Ballarat Winter Festival

Various CBD locations
ballaratwinterfestival.com.au

Sunday
1

Winter Native Flower and Plant Show

Robert Clark Horticultural Centre, Ballarat Botanical Gardens
10am–4.30pm
Entry - \$5 for adults

Wednesday
4

Ordinary Council Meeting

Town Hall, Sturt Street, Ballarat, 7pm
ballarat.vic.gov.au

Saturday
7

Bridge Mall Farmers Market

9am–1pm
bridgemallmarket.com.au

Sunday
8

Ballarat Boutique

The Mining Exchange, Lydiard Street North, 11am–4pm
ballaratwinterfestival.com.au

7–8,
11–14

Ballarat National Theatre presents Mr Bailey's Minder

The Courthouse Theatre, Lydiard Street South
bnt.org.au

8–15

NAIDOC Week 2018

naidoc.org.au

14

Bastille Day Ball

Ballarat Mining Exchange,
7.30–11pm
Featuring band La Mauvaise
reputation and a French DJ
Visit artgalleryballarat.com.au
for ticket sales

Ballarat Farmers Market

Lake Wendouree, 9am–1pm
Facebook @ballaratfarmers

14–15

Eureka Arms and Militaria 30th Anniversary Fair

Wendouree Sports and Events Centre
Saturday 9am–4.30pm, Sunday 9am–3pm
ballaratarms.com.au

21

Salumi and Charcuterie Festival

The Mining Exchange, Lydiard Street North, 11am–6pm
ballaratwinterfestival.com.au

21–22

Victorian Motocross Championship Round 4

Monza Park
ballaratroversmcc.com.au

Until
22

WOW – LOOK AT THAT!

Exhibition by artists Anne Chibnall and Tim Sedgwick
Art Gallery of Ballarat
artgalleryofballarat.com.au

Sunday
29

AFL Game

Western Bulldogs V Port Adelaide
Mars Stadium
afl.com.au

29



1



14



21





Into Light exhibition: Pierre Bonnard's *Modèle se déshabillant*

August event calendar

Post your event details to the City of Ballarat online calendar at ballarat.vic.gov.au

It's a great way to promote your event free of charge.

Wednesday
1 **Ordinary Council Meeting**
Town Hall, Sturt Street, Ballarat, 7pm
ballarat.vic.gov.au

1 **Into Light: 19th century paintings from the Musee de la Chartreus,**
Runs until 9 September
Art Gallery of Ballarat
artgalleryofballarat.com.au

Saturday
4 **Cross Country and Road Racing (XCR)**
18 Round 7 Lake Wendouree Road Race
Lake Wendouree
athsvic.org.au

Saturday
4 **Bridge Mall Farmers Market**
9am–1pm
bridgemallmarket.com.au

Sunday
5 **Eureka Cycling Club**
Ercildoune Circuit
Facebook @EurekaVeteransCyclingClub

Saturday
11 **Ballarat Farmers Market**
Lake Wendouree, 9am–1pm
Facebook @ballaratfarmers

Sunday
19 **Grand National Jumps Day**
Ballarat Turf Club
country.racing.com/ballarat

Wednesday
22 **Ordinary Council Meeting**
Town Hall, Sturt Street, Ballarat, 7pm
ballarat.vic.gov.au

Saturday
25 **Brown Hill Market**
Brown Hill Hall, 9am–1pm
Facebook @brownhillmarket

Saturday
25 **Ballarat Regional Athletic Centre 10km Road Race**
Victoria Park
ballaratregionalaths.com.au

July-October
Royal South Street Eisteddfod
royalsouthstreet.com.au

Thursday
30 **Business Excellence Awards 2018**
commerceballarat.com.au

4



5



19



22





Art appreciation: Art Gallery of Ballarat volunteer guide Fiona Tonkin with a painting of Roma and Frances James, circa 1885.

getting to know the Art Gallery of Ballarat

Founded in 1884, the Art Gallery of Ballarat is the oldest and largest regional art gallery in Australia. Housed in a heritage-listed building, this grand old dame stands at the core of Ballarat's cultural life.

"This painting of two sisters was actually painted in Europe but to show that they came from Australia, the artist, Hubert von Herkomer, has put the parrot in, which I think is absolutely gorgeous," Fiona Tonkin says.

"A couple of months ago, I was guiding here and this painting was all that the visitor wanted to see - because his grandmother was one of those young girls." - Fiona Tonkin

Fiona is one of more than 40 volunteer guides bringing art to life at the Art Gallery of Ballarat.

A guide for nine years, Fiona is passionate about sharing the stories behind the paintings and sculptures that adorn the walls and floor space at the Gallery.

"If you don't hear the stories, you just look at the paintings, and unless you've got art knowledge they don't have the same depth of meaning," Fiona says.

"But once you have a story - it's real, and sometimes the story is in

the picture, sometimes it's in the artist, but there is always a story."

The Gallery's outstanding collection focusses on the history of Australian art. It also features Indigenous art, is the only gallery in Australia to have a collection of religious icons, and is the only gallery in regional Australia to have a collection of medieval manuscripts.

Ballarat connections

The Gallery also shines the spotlight on regional artists and works showcasing the growth of Ballarat.



Capturing Ballarat on canvas: *Ballarat* by James Meadows, 1886.

One remarkable painting, *Old Ballarat as it was in the Summer of 1853/54*, shows Ballarat in its early days as a tent city, and stands at the heart of the Gallery's collection.

Another painting created in 1890, *Under the Burden and Heat of the Day*, is the work of Ballarat's David Davies.

"David Davies has painted this for a reason. He entered it into a competition and what he wanted to do was win enough money to get him to Europe because all of the artists at that time wanted to

go to Europe – that's where it was happening," Fiona says.

"Did he win? No, he didn't. He approached (Gallery founder) James Oddie – 'Will you buy this painting for 50 guineas? That will get me to Europe', and Mr Oddie looked at the painting and looked at him and said – 'I wouldn't pay 50 guineas for that painting, I'd pay 100. So, he bought it and 12 months later he donated it to the Gallery.'

The Gallery features the work of Wathaurung/Wadawurrung elder Marlene Gilson, in *Mount*

Warrenheip and the Eureka Stockade. She depicts Indigenous people in the Ballarat gold rush.

There are also several paintings of Lake Wendouree. One painting, *Lake Wendouree, Ballarat*, painted by Knud Bull circa 1866-1870, shows white swans on the waters of the lake.

"That's accurate," Fiona says. "They did try and introduce white swans to Lake Wendouree but it was never successful."



Women in art: Fiona (left) joins Gallery Curator Julie McLaren.

Female artists

As you walk through the first few rooms of the Gallery, most of the paintings are the work of male artists. That is, until you come to the Modernists Gallery.

Gallery Curator Julie McLaren says this is her favourite part of the Gallery, which features the works of Ballarat-born artist Hilda Rix Nicholas.

"This is really a period of art where women came to the forefront and the other change in this room is that it depicts a period of troubling times in Australia – World War One and World War Two, and the period in between – the Depression – and it shows a really big influence coming from Europe.

"There are works that are influenced by trends like Cubism - you start seeing a little bit more abstraction and artists playing with colour rather than painting the Australian landscape exactly how it looks.

"Paintings also start to almost shrink in size in this period. Materials were

more limited during this time, and you also find that on the back of a lot of these paintings, there's another painting. Artists were being really economical with their materials."

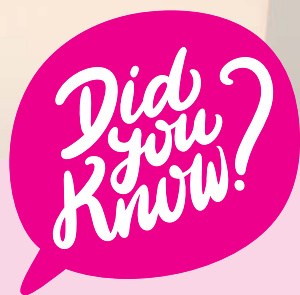
A work of art

The Gallery was purpose-built in an era of gold rush opulence with two downstairs shops, a grand staircase, made from Lethbridge stone, that leads to two upstairs rooms. The upstairs area hosts the permanent collection and the temporary exhibitions go on show downstairs.

For Julie, it's a spectacular place in which to work each day.

"On any given day, I could be selecting works to go change around in the permanent collection upstairs, taking people on a tour through the Gallery or conducting research," Julie says.

"Just being surrounded by art every day is an incredibly special experience."



- Alfred Deakin opened the Gallery on 13 June, 1890
- Gallery founder James Oddie gave the Gallery a painting he had commissioned from noted artist Eugene von Guerard
- In 1979, the Gallery Association gave the building and collection to the Ballarat City Council, which today continues to operate the Gallery for the benefit of Ballarat. The Gallery is governed by an 11-member Board, responsible for its day-to-day operations
- The City of Ballarat is developing a Creative City Strategy. This will deliver a master plan to guide the future development of the arts and culture precinct, with a feasibility study to examine expanding the Gallery.
- The latest exhibition - Into Light: 19th century paintings from the Musee de la Chartreuse - opens 23 June
- The Art Gallery of Ballarat is open daily 10am-5pm, and closed Christmas Day and Boxing Day. Entry is free, plus there are free guided tours daily at 2pm

Visit artgalleryofballarat.com.au or find us on Facebook.



activating art

Meet Louise Tegart - the new Director of the Art Gallery of Ballarat. After working in both curatorial and directorial roles in galleries for 23 years, Louise is looking forward to captivating new audiences with the wonders of art.



Why did you pursue a career in art?

My parents took me to galleries and museums from a young age. My first memory of being really moved by an object in a gallery was when I was about six and went to the Chinese exhibition at the National Gallery of Victoria. On display was a Han Dynasty jade burial suit, comprised of plaques of jade sewn with gold thread from around the 2nd century BC, which completely enthralled me.

What interested you in the position at the Art Gallery of Ballarat?

The Art Gallery of Ballarat is one of the most prestigious galleries in the country and has

an amazing collection, and I can see the potential for new ways of interpreting it and for increasing audiences. Ballarat is going from strength to strength in the arts with the Biennale of Australian Art, the Foto Biennale and the new Creative City Strategy underway. My curatorial projects have had a focus on combining historical and contemporary art, so I can see the opportunities for continuing this kind of practice.

What have been some of the highlights of your career?

I have been really fortunate to work with some amazing artists. One highlight would be working at the Australian Pavilion at the Venice Biennale when Patricia

Piccinnini was the artist. At the State Library of NSW, I got to work with several of my photography heroes, including Don McCullin, Stephen Dupont and Tony Mott, and at the Museum and Art Gallery of the Northern Territory I worked with incredible Indigenous artists. I have also worked on some capital projects to refurbish or build new galleries and, in my most recent role, have been leading a project to open a megafauna museum in Alice Springs.

What are you looking forward to most about this role at the Art Gallery of Ballarat?

I am passionate about audience engagement and I look forward to developing programs that increase and diversify the audiences for the Gallery. I absolutely believe in the power of art to transform and enrich people's lives but too often galleries are elitist, so while education is a key factor in the role of a gallery, encouraging curiosity and wonder are just as important. I'm looking forward to meeting the team and working with them, the board and stakeholders to ensure that the Gallery is an integral part of the Ballarat community and continues to attract visitors to the city.

What do you love about the Gallery's range of exhibitions?

I think the breadth of exhibitions is great - from natural history to skulls. The fact that many are based on the collection is testament to the strength of the collection. I would like to see more of the collection changing regularly so that there is always something new to see and would love to get the collection available online.





Creating a world of colour: Geoff Bonney, Tim Sedgwick, Anne Chibnall and Sarah Lloyd at the Art Hall in Learmonth.

the wow factor

Ballarat artists Anne Chibnall and Tim Sedgwick are transforming blank spaces into bright canvasses with their dynamic paintings and sculptures.

“WOW – LOOK AT THAT!”

Inspiration for the name of Anne and Tim’s latest art exhibition came from the two artists’ own enthusiasm and love of their colourful works.

As they join their mentors, painter Sarah Lloyd and painter and sculptor Geoff Bonney, in the 150-year-old former Learmonth Mechanics Hall, known as the Art Hall, Tim often takes a step back to enjoy the sight of his finished sculptures.

“Wow!” he says, prompting Anne to look, turning away from her easel, paint-brush in hand, to exclaim – “look at that!”.

After showcasing their art at numerous solo and joint exhibitions, the long-time friends and artists are now holding their first exhibition at the Art Gallery of Ballarat.

Inspiration for Anne’s vibrant paintings comes from flowers and landscapes. With Sarah at her side offering advice and support, Anne often positions a vase of flowers

next to her easel or captures flowers on paper, in pencil or charcoal.

“I’m into all of the colours of the rainbow,” Anne says.

*“I like getting ideas from flowers. Sometimes I just want to go outside and look at them in the garden - seeing the flowers and the shapes of them.”
- Anne Chibnall*

Tim’s ‘found object art’ transforms objects - from flippers, rakes, guitars and thongs - into sculptural pieces depicting animals and insects, such as fish, dogs, birds and ants.

Tim comes up with the designs and draws them on paper. Geoff then helps to bring the designs to life as sculptures.

Anne and Tim have a loyal following, and their exhibitions are regularly sold out.

“Their work is getting seen, a lot of people are collecting it – it’s pretty cool,” Geoff says.

“I want people who see their work to be amazed. Art opens your eyes - start opening your eyes, because this sort of art, by artists of this ability, is very, very clever.”



Want to know more?

WOW – LOOK AT THAT! is on exhibition until 22 July at the Art Gallery of Ballarat. Entry is free.

Visit artgalleryofballarat.com.au or find us on Facebook.





Providing safe roads: City of Ballarat Road Maintenance team - Greg Elliott, Ken Brand, Sean Cahir, Lance Clohesy and Jarad Leggett.

on the **right road**

While the management and repair of Ballarat's arterial roads falls under the responsibility of VicRoads, the City of Ballarat maintains about 1,200 kilometres of sealed road network across the municipality.

The City of Ballarat's Road Maintenance team works year-round to proactively maintain the road network - reducing road damage and providing safe roads for cyclists and motorists.

In the past 12 months, the team's patrol crews have completed about 2,000 repairs.

The team conducts road inspections and carries out surface repairs, such as crack sealing, minor patching, pothole repairs and shoulder maintenance.

The team also responds to residents' requests for road repairs that fall under the City of Ballarat's responsibility.

City of Ballarat Coordinator Road Maintenance Luke Ives says while roads deteriorate as a result of traffic, wet weather and ageing infrastructure, the team of about 40 staff, including three patrol crews, continually carry out vital

maintenance works in a bid to ensure municipal roads remain in peak condition.

Luke says these works reduce one of the most common types of road damage – potholes.

“Potholes are formed when water gets into the road pavement.”

- Luke Ives

“Potholes tend to develop in high traffic areas. Once water gets into the pavement, the weight of cars and trucks pass over the weak



spot in the road, causing pieces of the road material to weaken and become displaced, creating a pothole.

“Our proactive programs, such as crack sealing and minor patching, help to maintain the surface of sealed roads, which helps to prevent water from getting in – and therefore prevents the potholes developing.

“These works aim to reduce maintenance costs, reduce wear and tear on vehicles, and make our roads safer for everyone.”

Want to report road damage?

Check if the road belongs to VicRoads. VicRoads has a map of roads it maintains, online. Search for Maps of Declared Roads at vicroads.vic.gov.au. Contact VicRoads for more information or to report damage to a VicRoads' road.

Repairs to City of Ballarat roads

To request repairs to a City of Ballarat road, visit forms.ballarat.vic.gov.au/ReportIssue or call Customer Service on 5320 5500.



Want to know more?

VicRoads has responsibility to maintain arterial roads, such as Sturt Street, Main Road, Creswick Road, Latrobe Street, Howitt Street, Norman Street, Midland Highway, Whitehorse Road, Geelong Road, Albert Street, Skipton Street, Remembrance Drive, Wiltshire Lane, Ballarat-Carngham Road and Drummond Street.

The City of Ballarat maintains the local roads which run off these main roads.



The morning after: The City of Ballarat's Street Cleaning team - Mick Malone, Jeff Gale, Mick Gidley, Peter Thompson, Gary Mahar and Andrew Peldys clean up Lydiard Street.

a sweeping success

Under the cover of darkness each Sunday morning, the City of Ballarat's Street Cleaning team swings into action, removing the mess often left behind in the CBD from the Saturday night revellers. Street Cleaning Supervisor Peter Thompson chats about what it takes to put the sparkle back into Ballarat's streets.

What does the work of the Sunday crew involve?

We want to achieve pristine streets. We clean up the awful mess left behind from some of the people who've had a night out – the rubbish, vomit and any other mess – so that the weekend early birds can enjoy our city. We have two sweeper drivers and two street cleansing drivers on duty every weekend of the year.

The street cleansing drivers work on a Sunday from 5am until 8.30am. They operate the two-tonne truck with the hot wash trailer, servicing Lydiard Street, Bridge Mall, Phoenix Mall and bus shelters around the Ballarat CBD. The crew hose the footpaths, gutters and roads, and manually pick up loose litter.

The sweeper drivers work from 5am until 8.30am on a Saturday and Sunday. They cover the CBD area of Ballarat from Pleasant Street to Bakery Hill, North Gardens to South Gardens of Lake Wendouree and Howitt Street Shopping Centre.

How much work goes into this service?

The Street Cleaning team works 365 days of the year, providing Ballarat with street cleaning and waste collection services to keep the city in excellent shape. We also maintain the city's entrances, remove dead animals, collect dumped rubbish, clean street furniture, remove graffiti and collect the street litter bins daily.

We are also heavily involved in all Ballarat events, including White Night Ballarat, the Ballarat Begonia Festival, Spring Fest, AFL games and Clean Up Australia Day. We are continually improving our business operations and striving to achieve cleaner streets to deliver a high-quality service to the Ballarat community.

How long have you worked at the City of Ballarat?

I have worked at the City of Ballarat for 25 years. I started in the role of the Bridge Mall attendant, where I was cleaning and sweeping the Bridge Mall and surrounding areas, and went on to become a cleaner driver, servicing street cleaning in the Ballarat CBD and surrounding locations, before taking up my current role.



Did you know?

What do you love most about your role?

There is never a dull moment – you're continually engaging with colleagues and the community to help make Ballarat a more presentable place to live and work. I love supporting and interacting with community groups – where possible we offer our assistance – and to achieve the best outcomes for the benefit of the community. My aim is to make Ballarat the best presented city in Victoria.

Is there anything else you'd like to mention?

We really appreciate it when the community lends a hand to clean up the streets, parks and creeks in Ballarat. We are a team of 15 employees who are faced with

the increasing demands of our growing city. I can't speak highly enough of those community members who take incredible pride in our city, and assist us to help clean up our city, and ensure it continues to look its best.

In the street cleaning world, we don't have Autumn, we have 'leaf season'. It can last for four weeks to four months depending on the weather. We have some residents who rake up the leaves on their front nature strips. This allows us to come along and remove them, which means we can cover more areas. On another note, each year our team competes to see who can predict the start of leaf season. I'm proud to say I retain the record!

- The City of Ballarat's Street Cleaning team has 15 full-time employees and five casual employees
- The team carries out street and footpath sweeping, collects loose litter and dumped rubbish, gutter cleaning, leaf collection, dead animal collection, graffiti removal, cleans pits and street furniture, sprays weeds, and collects street litter bins
- The team is equipped with three road sweepers, two footpath sweepers, a leaf collection truck, a two tonne truck, a ute and a hot wash trailer. It also uses shovels, brooms, whipper snippers, pick-up sticks, a weed spray unit and rakes.

NORTH

CENTRAL

SOUTH

The Ballarat municipality is divided into three wards – Central, North and South - with three elected Councillors representing each ward. The City of Ballarat Council is made up of a dynamic group of people, led by Mayor Cr Samantha McIntosh.

Council encourages community participation at its Ordinary Meetings, which are open to the public and held at the Ballarat Town Hall every three weeks, on a Wednesday, from 7pm.

Upcoming meetings will be held on 13 June, 4 July, 1 August and 22 August.

CENTRAL WARD

- Ballarat East • Eureka • Black Hill • Soldiers Hill • Redan
- Newington • most of Mount Pleasant and Brown Hill
- part of Alfredton.

NORTH WARD

- Ballarat North • Invermay Park • Wendouree • Lucas
- Cardigan • Miners Rest • Learmonth • most of Alfredton and part of Brown Hill.

SOUTH WARD

- Delacombe • Sebastopol • Canadian • Mount Clear
- Mount Helen • Buninyong and part of Mount Pleasant.

CENTRAL WARD



Mayor Cr Samantha McIntosh

5320 5528

samanthamcintosh@ballarat.vic.gov.au



Cr Belinda Coates

0417 456 513

belindacoates@ballarat.vic.gov.au



Cr Mark Harris

0409 930 928

markharris@ballarat.vic.gov.au

NORTH WARD



Deputy Mayor Cr Daniel Moloney

0418 165 503

danielmoloney@ballarat.vic.gov.au



Cr Amy Johnson

0417 018 369

amyjohnson@ballarat.vic.gov.au



Cr Grant Tillett

0417 256 671

granttillett@ballarat.vic.gov.au

SOUTH WARD



Cr Des Hudson

0409 865 093

deshudson@ballarat.vic.gov.au



Cr Jim Rinaldi

0407 325 693

jimrinaldi@ballarat.vic.gov.au



Cr Ben Taylor

0419 507 305

bentaylor@ballarat.vic.gov.au