


CITY OF  
BALLARAT   
*my*

# Ballarat

Autumn  
2019



## Starting up smart

The new City of Ballarat initiative  
boosting local entrepreneurs

## myContact

### Customer Service

Open hours Monday to Friday,  
8.15am–5pm

### Address

The Phoenix  
25 Armstrong Street South, Ballarat

### Postal

PO Box 655, Ballarat, VIC, 3353

### Phone

5320 5500

### Email

[info@ballarat.vic.gov.au](mailto:info@ballarat.vic.gov.au)

### Website

[ballarat.vic.gov.au](http://ballarat.vic.gov.au)

### NRS-friendly

Hearing or speech impaired?  
Call via the National Relay Service  
on 133 677

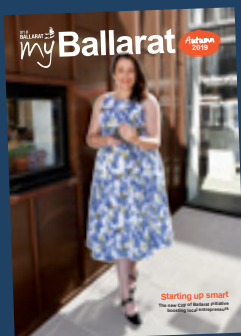
## Connecting with myCommunity

 @BallaratCityCouncil

 @cityofballarat

 cityofballarat

 TheCityofBallarat



**Cover image: Tech Studio Creative Director Olivia Lorkin says StartUp Ballarat provides vital opportunities and support to assist Ballarat's growing number of startup ventures.**

You can also read myBallarat magazine online at  
[news.ballarat.vic.gov.au](http://news.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.



*Getting started: Runway Ballarat, located next to The Workshop Cafe (above), is a co-working space supporting startups.*

## my Mayor's message

There's no doubt Ballarat is a progressive and dynamic city.

In this edition, we take a look at how our city is fostering and embracing innovation – in our people, in our businesses and also in our plans for future waste management.

When it comes to innovation, it's no surprise Ballarat is home to a growing number of startups – people who have identified a market gap, an industry solution or developed a unique concept.

At the City of Ballarat, we want to support our entrepreneurial residents to realise their ambitions. As such, we're equipping them with the right skills for an innovative, entrepreneurial and technology-driven future.

It's about supporting businesses with high impact potential and using innovation.

As you'll read on page 3, the City of Ballarat has received LaunchVic funding to manage StartUp Ballarat.

This new program will position the city as the home of startups by providing the best education, events and community support for startup founders.

StartUp Ballarat is a great example of the kind of programs now being established in our city that take our intrinsic creative spirit and apply it to our city's continuous innovation, economic growth and sustainability.

Continuing this theme of innovation, pages 4–6 take you inside the City of Ballarat's bid to have eastern Australia's first Waste to Energy facility.

Half a decade ago, the City of Ballarat began planning for a future centered on a change of mindset – we began thinking about waste as a potential asset rather than a liability.

This state-of-the-art facility would divert up to 90 per cent of our household waste from landfill and transform it into energy with the potential to power local businesses.

On pages 7–9, we tell the story of our city's burgeoning food and beverage manufacturing sector, shining the spotlight on Delacombe's So Soft Marshmallow Company, which is achieving incredible success.

We hope you enjoy reading about how our city is leading the way in so many areas.

At the City of Ballarat, we look forward to continuing to elevate our city and realising our vision for a forward-thinking and thriving Ballarat.



Mayor Cr Samantha McIntosh





## Starting up smart

**Olivia Lorkin knows all too well the challenges facing regional startups.**

As the Creative Director of Tech Studio, a creative IT agency, it's taken several years for the Ballarat company to find its feet.

Olivia says StartUp Ballarat, a City of Ballarat initiative that provides support to nurture startup founders, will help budding entrepreneurs navigate the complex journey of developing their ideas into local businesses.

"It's kind of scary when you're a startup and you put yourself out there. A program, like StartUp Ballarat, where you can talk to other people who have been through the same process and experience, is vital," she says

"It can help you figure out so many elements of your business – whether you want to be a sole trader or a company, how to do your business activity statement and tax or whether to explore different types of marketing."

Startups are different to small businesses. A startup is a business venture which is unique, highly scalable and uses innovation.

As they expand, startups create jobs and wealth, making them an important part of the mix in the local economy.

Startups can involve anyone who has developed an innovative concept, identified a market gap or an industry solution, such as university students, existing business owners and retirees.

Victoria is home to more than 2,700 startups and while 93 per cent of those are based in Melbourne, Ballarat has a growing number of dynamic startup ventures.

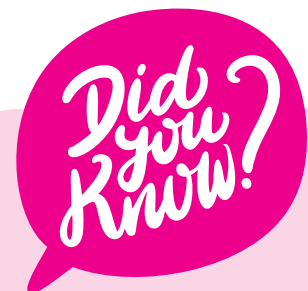
Late last year, the City of Ballarat received LaunchVic funding to manage the StartUp Ballarat program, which aims to position the city as the home of startups.

The program provides the best education, events and community support for startup founders to realise their ambitions, such as 'free pass' coworking days, themed networking meet-ups and masterclasses with business experts.

For Olivia, after rebranding her business and moving into co-working space Runway Ballarat in the city's Flecknoe Building, Tech Studio is now flourishing.

Olivia says it's vital all startups have opportunities and support.

"For us, having the support of StartUp Ballarat would have been absolutely invaluable."



StartUp Ballarat assists you to develop your concept from an idea to a scalable business.

For more information on this free City of Ballarat program visit [startupballarat.com.au](http://startupballarat.com.au)



# Turning our **waste into energy**

**A Waste to Energy facility would transform the way we manage Ballarat's waste and signal a major reduction in our reliance on landfill. The City of Ballarat has bold plans for Ballarat to become home to the first Waste to Energy facility in eastern Australia.**

A Waste to Energy facility would divert up to 90 per cent of Ballarat's waste going into landfill and generate electricity, gas and steam with the potential to power local businesses.

The City of Ballarat is investigating the potential for a company to build, own and operate a multi-million-dollar facility at the Ballarat West Employment Zone (BWEZ), with no cost to the City of Ballarat.

Waste to Energy facilities have operated in Europe for more than 80 years. More than 100 facilities now exist in Germany and more than 120 operate in France.

The City of Ballarat has been lobbying state and federal governments to progress a Waste to Energy facility in Ballarat for the past five years.

This facility would transform Victoria's waste treatment, reduce carbon emissions and enable the City of Ballarat and surrounding municipalities to prevent 400,000 tonnes of waste from ending up in landfill each year.

## **Converting waste to energy**

Under the initiative, waste collection vehicles would unload waste inside a Ballarat Waste to Energy facility.

About 35 tonnes of waste per hour would be broken down.

Heat from the processing of waste would be converted into steam, electricity and gas to then be used by businesses at BWEZ. Any excess electricity would be sold to the grid.

The broken down waste could then be converted into construction materials for road building.

City of Ballarat Operations and Environment Executive Manager Steve Van Orsouw says it's exciting that Ballarat is looking



*Don't waste our waste: City of Ballarat Landfill Supervisor Greg Aldrich and Operations and Environment Executive Manager Steve Van Orsouw say our waste could create energy instead of going to landfill.*



to lead the future of waste management in Victoria.

“We can’t keep putting waste into landfill,” Steve says.

**“At the moment, waste from up to 45,000 household bins ends up in the Ballarat Regional Landfill each week.”**

– Steve Van Orsouw

“That’s the equivalent of 423 kilograms of general household waste per year, or 30,000 tonnes, that gets put in the ground, and it’s an expensive exercise with waste disposal costing us more than \$22 million a year.

“Sending waste to landfill is bad for the environment and these facilities are a better way to manage our waste in a way that’s clean and also generates energy.”

A Ballarat Waste to Energy facility would only cater for waste destined for landfill. The City of Ballarat would continue to recycle cans, paper and cardboard, glass and plastic.

### The technology

Late last year, Steve travelled to Denmark to investigate Waste to Energy projects.

The trip included a meeting with firm Malaysian Resources Corporation Berhad (MRCB) and a tour of the Amager Bakke Waste to Energy Plant in Copenhagen, which uses

the technology proposed for the Ballarat plant.

Steve says the furnace produces water vapour, not smoke, and is one of the cleanest emitting energy sources, with no smell or noise.

“This facility is so clean. I went to the top of the building where there’s water vapour coming out – there was no odour, it’s amazing,” he says.

“The facility was commissioned in 2017 and it’s replacing the one next to it, which was built 40 years ago, so the technology is not new to the people of Copenhagen.

“It has 10 storeys of office space, they’re building a ski slope off the side of the facility, it will also have





## Turning our waste into energy

*Waste not, want not: City of Ballarat Waste Collection Driver Aaron Thompson at the Ballarat Regional Landfill.*

a climbing wall on one side and will have a café on top. Copenhagen is turning its facility into a destination for locals and tourists – they are really proud of it.

“They are also reclaiming the former shipping docks nearby and transforming them for residential use – it’s good, proven technology. Having seen it first-hand, we can now say that what they’re running in Denmark is suitable for Ballarat.

**“It’s not something to be afraid of, it’s something we should be embracing.”**

– Steve Van Orsouw

As part of the City of Ballarat’s investigation into the technology, Steve visited two Babcock and Wilcox Volund-built Waste to Energy facilities in Denmark.

The company built its first Waste to Energy facility in 1931 and has since built Waste to Energy plants all over the world, including the United States, China, Sweden, Ireland, Denmark, Malaysia and Korea.

### Australian moves

Ballarat is not the first Australian city to explore Waste to Energy conversion as a more environmentally-friendly alternative to landfill.

The nation’s first Waste to Energy project is being built at Kwinana in Western Australia.

The facility, due for completion at the end of 2021, will prevent eight Perth councils from sending thousands of tonnes of waste to landfill each year and will generate enough electricity to power 50,000 homes.

On top of the environmental benefits, the construction of a similar Waste to Energy facility in Ballarat would also result in major economic benefits to our city.

The facility is forecast to increase the size of Ballarat’s economy by \$202 million through building and flow-on effects.

The facility would create about 420 jobs during construction and generate 120 ongoing jobs.

*Did you Know?*

Copenhagen has a new waste to energy facility – the Amager Bakke Waste to Energy Plant.

Its state-of-the-art technology prevents about 99 per cent of waste from going to landfill.

The plant has a strong focus on waste education. Ultimately, we all need to do our bit to reduce waste as a Waste to Energy facility is a last resort for non-recyclable waste.







*Food for thought: Ballarat confectionery manufacturer Leigh Edward expanded his business into marshmallows.*

## Sweet success

**The future is looking sweet for Ballarat's food and beverage manufacturing sector. The City of Ballarat is assisting multiple manufacturers with their business investment and expansion plans, as Ballarat continues to build its reputation as a city with the key ingredients for manufacturing success.**

When several major customers started requesting marshmallows, Ballarat confectionery manufacturer Leigh Edward listened.

Already managing a successful sugar-free business, Ferndale Confectionery, which manufactures JILA® Mints and JOLS® Pastilles in Delacombe, Leigh began researching the \$80 million marshmallow sector in Australia and overseas.

More than two years later, Leigh, his father Bruce and their team have built an \$8 million marshmallow factory in Wiltshire Lane, and launched the So Soft Marshmallow Company, which is now stocked in 1,000 Woolworths stores nationally and is also being rolled out to shelves at IGA, Aldi, Coles and other major retailers this year.

"We identified there was a big opportunity to bring irresistibly soft air-puffed marshmallows to the consumers of Australia and also the world," Leigh says.

"So Soft Marshmallows are 35 per cent lighter than most marshmallows that people would have tried.

"The other noticeable difference is there's no dust. People traditionally get quite messy

eating marshmallows – So Soft Marshmallow Company is all about more puff, no dust.

**“We believe that having natural colours, natural flavours and also being gluten free are some other factors that are going to carry this brand to hopefully be market leader in Australia within a very short space in time.”**

*– Leigh Edward*

The company's early success has led to the creation of 17 jobs, and Leigh is expecting it will employ up to 50 people before the end of the year.



## Sweet success

*Ballarat's strong appetite for food manufacturing: Ferndale Confectionery employees Sarah Keats and Sarah Brown.*

Manufacturing in Ballarat is the city's largest revenue generator, worth more than \$2.9 billion to the local economy, with food and beverage manufacturing contributing more than \$1.1 million to the economy plus 1,630 jobs.

Ballarat is home to 128 food and beverage manufacturers, including industry leaders Mars Wrigley Confectionery, McCain Foods and Hakubaku. In recent years, a growing number of food and beverage manufacturers have been setting up shop in Ballarat, including Red Duck Brewery and Kilderkin Distillery.

Other manufacturers have revealed expansion plans for Ballarat, including Luv-a-Duck announcing a \$20 million purpose-built processing facility to be constructed in the Ballarat West Employment Zone (BWEZ), creating 30 new jobs.

Ballarat has a long history of innovation in food manufacturing with a highly skilled workforce. The city is perfectly positioned near the rich agricultural areas of Western Victoria and features exceptional links to road, rail and aviation infrastructure.

This sector is poised for an injection of future growth, thanks to the City of Ballarat's continued push for investment in BWEZ, along with advocacy for funding to build an Intermodal Freight Hub at BWEZ and Stage 2 of Ballarat Link Road, to provide faster and easier connections to the market.

Leigh, who was recently named the inaugural winner of the Young Business Person of the Year at the Ballarat Business Excellence Awards, says while many people in Ballarat have great ideas for businesses, they often need assistance to take the next step to commercialise their product.

"They need to take that step with the support of local government, industry bodies and other people within the sector to commercialise that opportunity to ensure that they can be profitable and also bring their ideas and entrepreneurial spirit to life, and to share it with Australians and people across the world."

City of Ballarat Economic Development Sector Specialist Kelli Moran says the Economic Development team works with existing and new business to drive economic growth in Ballarat.

Kelli says the team is always interested in hearing from businesses about their ideas, whatever stage they are at – be it startup, scale-up or business growth and innovation.

**“Ballarat is an inherently creative and innovative city which is growing in population and skills, as well as liveability,”**

– Kelli Moran

"With our competitive advantages, including the existing presence of global companies, a highly-regarded university and a growing entrepreneurial startup community, we are a city that is always encouraging and supporting new and creative ways of doing business."



Contact the City of Ballarat's Economic Development team on 5320 5500 to find out more.







# Colour your world

**Since it was launched in 2011, Harmony Fest has become the City of Ballarat's vibrant celebration of diversity. Get ready to experience a world of culture, music, food and dance, as this colourful festival takes centre stage from March 15–24.**

It's one of the most revered and celebrated festivals of India.

The Holi Festival of Colours is an ancient Hindu festival bursting with bright colours.

It's an event Meeta Narsi loves, and a festival she also takes pride in sharing with the Ballarat community each year as part of Harmony Fest.

The Ballarat Indian Association President is calling on the community to experience the Holi Festival of Colours, which will be held at Lake Wendouree's Fairyland precinct on Saturday 23 March.

"Join in as we celebrate Holi in Ballarat, dance with the crowd to ward off evil, welcome prosperity into your life and have a brilliantly colourful day as you play with eco-friendly colours," she says.

"It is such a blessing that we can celebrate these festivals and give our children the opportunities to follow and learn the traditions of Indian culture in an adopted country."

Holi is just one of a range of cultural events and activities that attracts about 12,000 people to celebrate the City of Ballarat's popular Harmony Fest each year.

Harmony Fest wraps around Harmony Day, the United Nation's International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, which is celebrated on 21 March.

This day encourages Australians to come together to reflect on and celebrate the many cultures that create our great nation.

With figures showing Ballarat is home to migrants from 89 different countries and almost 10 per cent of Ballarat residents were born overseas, interculturalism is now a defining feature of our community.

City of Ballarat Intercultural Services Officer Elizabeth Hardiman says Harmony Fest has a focus on raising awareness and promoting acceptance of other cultures through celebrating diversity.

**“It's really important to celebrate what people from all over the world bring to our community – colour, music, food and dance. That's why Harmony Fest is such an important event,”**

*– Elizabeth Hardiman*

"Harmony Fest is an opportunity for absolutely everyone in Ballarat to participate, whether that be as an organiser of an event, a participant, dining at a participating restaurant or merely supporting Ballarat as a recognised intercultural city – where diversity is celebrated and is the norm."

The City of Ballarat is committed to building a culturally tolerant and socially cohesive community through a range of initiatives, such as Harmony Fest, the Intercultural Ambassador Program, the development of the *Intercultural City Strategic Plan 2018–21* and by declaring Ballarat as a Refugee Welcome Zone.

Ballarat has a strong Indian community. The non-profit Ballarat Indian Association was formed in 2007 to represent and support the city's 860-strong and growing Indian community.

Meeta, who is of Indian descent, moved from South Africa with her

husband and son more than 20 years ago to find new opportunities and a better life in Australia.

Now an Intercultural Advisor to the City of Ballarat, Meeta says Harmony Fest welcomes everyone.

"Our diversity makes us unique and binds us together," she says.

"I really do enjoy seeing, meeting and talking with people from different backgrounds.

"We encourage the community of Ballarat and surrounds to come together to celebrate, embrace each other's cultural heritage and join in the experiences of a diverse life.

"Bring your friends and make new friends."



**Ballarat Harmony Fest 2019** will be celebrated from March 15–24 with more than 30 events at various locations across Ballarat.

Highlights of the festival include the popular Tastes of the World event, featuring some of Ballarat's best restaurants, the Holi Festival of Colours, the Rock the Block youth-led culture event and the spectacular Intercultural Gala Dinner.

For more information, follow Harmony Fest on Facebook or visit [ballarat.vic.gov.au](http://ballarat.vic.gov.au)







*Celebrating diversity: Ballarat Indian Association President Meeta Narsi is looking forward to the Holi Festival of Colours, a highlight of Ballarat Harmony Fest 2019.*



## Event calendar

March

FREE

1,8

### Ballarat Backyard Tasters

Alfred Deakin Place,  
5.30–8.30pm

[f](#) @ballaratbackyardtasters

2

FREE

9–11

### Begonia Ball

Civic Hall  
[hermaj.com](#)

### Ballarat Begonia Festival

Ballarat Botanical Gardens  
[ballaratbegoniafestival.com](#)

[f](#) @BallaratBegoniaFestival

9–11

### Ballarat Antique Fair

[ballaratantiquefair.com.au](#)

9–11

### Ballarat Senior Basketball Tournament

[ballaratbasketball.com](#)

10

FREE

11

### JLT Series, Western Bulldogs V St Kilda

Mars Stadium  
[westernbulldogs.com.au](#)

### Ballarat Begonia Festival Stamp and Coin Fair

Ballarat Specialist School Farm Campus, 9.30am–3.30pm  
[ballaratstampclub.com.au](#)

15–17

FREE

15–24

### Victorian Masters Baseball Competition

Prince of Wales Reserve  
[vicmasters.baseball.com.au](#)

### Ballarat Harmony Fest

[ballarat.vic.gov.au](#)

26–27

### Swim to the Rings

Lake Wendouree  
[f](#) @Swim2rings

29–30

### Bended Knee Music Festival

Buninyong Town Hall precinct  
[buninyongfestival.com.au](#)

April

FREE

6

### Bridge Mall Farmers Market

9am–1pm

[f](#) @bridgemallfarmersmarket

6

### Pyrenees Unearthed Wine and Food Festival Avoca

[pyreneesunearthedfestival.com.au](#)

FREE

13

### Ballarat Farmers Market

Lake Wendouree, 9am–1pm

[f](#) @ballaratfarmersmarket

14

### Modellers of Ballarat 2019 Expo

Eastwood Leisure Centre

[f](#) @modellersofballarat

17–20

### Singer Car Club National Rally

Lake Wendouree

[singercars.com.au](#)

18

### Good Friday Appeal Ballarat Variety Concert

Ballarat Greyhound Racing Club

[f](#) @ballaratgoodfridayappeal

19

### Good Friday Appeal Ballarat Family Fun Day

Ballarat Greyhound Racing Club

[f](#) @ballaratgoodfridayappeal

20

### Buninyong Festival Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Buninyong Botanic Gardens, 10am–1pm

[f](#) @buninyongfestival

FREE

27

### Ballarat Farmers Market

Brown Hill Hall

[f](#) @ballaratfarmersmarket

27

### Ballarat Masters Rowing Regatta

Lake Wendouree

[vic.rowingmanager.com](#)





May

1–31

**Plate Up Ballarat**  
[plateupballarat.com.au](http://plateupballarat.com.au)

FREE

4

**Buninyong Village Autumn Market**  
Buninyong Town Hall, 4–8pm  
f @buninyongvillagemarket

FREE

4

**Bridge Mall Farmers Market**  
9am–1pm  
f @bridgemallfarmersmarket

4–5

**Clunes Booktown Festival**  
[clunesbooktown.com.au](http://clunesbooktown.com.au)  
f @clunesbooktown

11

**Western Bulldogs V Brisbane Lions**  
Mars Stadium  
[westernbulldogs.com.au](http://westernbulldogs.com.au)

12

**Mother's Day Classic**  
Lake Wendouree  
[mothersdayclassic.com.au](http://mothersdayclassic.com.au)

12

**Mother's Day Races**  
Ballarat Turf Club  
f @ballarat.turfclub

FREE

25

**Ballarat Farmers Market**  
Brown Hill Hall  
f @ballaratfarmersmarket

24–26

**Buninyong Film Festival**  
Buninyong Town Hall  
[buninyongfilmfestival.com.au](http://buninyongfilmfestival.com.au)

FREE

25–26

**Ballarat Heritage Weekend**  
10am–5pm  
[ballaratheritageweekend.com.au](http://ballaratheritageweekend.com.au)  
f @ballaratheritageweekend



FREE

### The Art Gallery of Ballarat

#### Lumina Collective: Echoes

Open until 17 March

#### Eliza-Jane Gilchrist:

##### Strange Garden

Open until 28 April

#### Louiseann King: solis

Open until 7 April

#### Next Gen 2019

Open until 14 April

#### Picasso: The Vollard Suite

Open until 28 April

#### The Guirguis New Art Prize

30 March–2 June

#### Nana Ohnesorge: No Picnic at Ngannelong

20 April–11 August

#### Becoming Modern: Australian women artists 1920–1950

11 May–4 August

### Backspace Gallery

FREE

#### The Art Teachers' Exhibition

Open until 3 March

#### Beyond 50%

7–24 March

#### Women's Work

28 March–14 April

#### Expressions of Landscape

18 April–5 May

#### Extempore Group Show

9–26 May

#### Liz Souter Retrospective

30 May–16 June

### Unicorn Lane Gallery

FREE

#### Home by Freya Maberly

Until 27 March

#### Time Collapsed by Nick Barlow

30 March–24 April

#### Lost Things Found by Jessica De Siso

2–30 May

### ContainART Gallery

FREE

#### Into the Muse by Tiera Stuart

2–22 March

#### The Oneironaut: Dream Traveller by Areka Brown

30 March–24 April

#### Inclusive Arts Network

27 April–29 May



*Flower power: Carolyn Priddle holds a photo of the 1939 Ballarat floral tram, while attending one of the sessions to recreate Ballarat's historic floral trams.*





# Tram blooms for Ballarat Begonia Festival

To celebrate the 67th Ballarat Begonia Festival from 9–11 March, the Ballarat Tramway Museum is reimagining the floral trams that took to the rails in Ballarat in 1938 and 1939. This nod to the past is just one of a range of initiatives shining the spotlight on sustainability at this year's festival.

For Carolyn Priddle, spending countless hours crafting hundreds of flowers from plastic to decorate a Ballarat tram is like walking in her mother's footsteps.

Carolyn's mum, Eileen Lindsay, worked at the textile company E Lucas & Co. Eileen was one of a group of female employees who spent many hours creating hundreds of flowers out of crepe paper, which were then waxed, and used to create the 1939 floral tram.

"When I was growing up, Mum used to tell me about this tram that she spent hours and hours helping other ladies make flowers for," Carolyn recalls.

“My mum was on the tram and they wore layered dresses made of crepe paper. It teemed with rain on the day, so the dye ran out of the crepe paper, onto their skin, and she was the colour of the dress for quite some time.”

– Carolyn Priddle

When Carolyn discovered the Ballarat Tramway Museum was recreating the floral tram for this year's Begonia Festival, she put her hand up to help.

Last June, the Museum began its bold project to recreate Ballarat's renowned floral tram – with one major difference – the team is

creating 21st century flowers by recycling and reusing plastic, including single-use plastic bags, soft drink and water bottles.

About 120 people, like Carolyn, have volunteered to paint the bottles before transforming them into thousands of flowers. The flowers will be fastened to panels, which will be secured to the outside of the tram, creating a modern take on Ballarat's famous floral tram.

Project Coordinator Pam Waugh says floral trams were used during the Ballarat Floral Festivals of 1938 and 1939.

"We think the first floral tram was decorated by the Tramway employees' wives and, the following year by the 'Lucas Girls'," she says.

"The 1939 festival had a much grander floral tram – even the roof was covered – it was absolutely stunning. We think that festival celebrated the turning on of public electric lighting in Ballarat."

Each year, the Museum runs a free tram service during the Begonia Festival to transport people around this much-loved City of Ballarat event. The floral tram will be one of six trams taking passengers along Wendouree Parade throughout the three-day festival.

"This has generated an amazing buzz," Pam says. "It will be a piece of art that will be on public display and everybody who has been involved, from collecting bottles through to making the flowers, is really excited about seeing the finished product."

## Begonia Festival highlights

This year's festival will feature up to 800 tuberous and non-tuberous begonias on display, celebrity guests, such as *Get Grubby TV's dirtgirl*, crowd favourite Costa

Georgiadis, Paul West host of SBS show *River Cottage Australia*, and Circus Drop Zone – an entertainment space where you can learn new skills, including juggling and the 6m-high trapeze.

There will be a super sandpit, Pot-A-Plant activity with the BotaniKids and a creative designer market.

The festival will also provide live music entertainment across four stages and a range of great food outlets, ensuring an opportunity for everyone to enjoy the varied creative offerings of our city – a key aim of the draft *Ballarat's Creative City Strategy*.

City of Ballarat Events Officer Claudia Lengfelder says the Begonia Festival has a long and rich history, attracting more than 60,000 people over three days.

"The festival program offers an array of exciting activities for both adults and children, involving the community in a healthy and free outdoor nature experience."

Claudia says this year's festival will have a focus on sustainability.

"The Begonia Festival aims to achieve a more sustainable footprint heading into the future. We are creating new waste stations and improving the festival's waste management and working with partners and celebrity guests who are dedicated to sustainability."

"Our food vendors have sustainable practices, including no plastic straws and environmentally-friendly cups and food trays."

The festival aims to be a single-use plastic-free event. Claudia encourages festival-goers to bring their own carry bags for purchases from the market and to bring their own coffee cups.

For more information, visit [ballaratbegoniafestival.com](http://ballaratbegoniafestival.com) or find us on Facebook.





*Bringing Vietnam vets together: Vaughan Nelson and Tony Brown.*



# Ballarat changemakers

**Meet Vaughan Nelson and Tony Brown. These Vietnam Veterans are organising a reunion for the Headquarter Company 1st Australian Logistic Support Group in Ballarat later this year. The group has received a grant through the City of Ballarat's Community Impact Program to help host this special reunion.**

Tony Brown was a transport driver and Vaughan Nelson was a steward in the Catering Corps, while serving in a ground support unit of the Australian Army during the Vietnam War.

While they both served in the Headquarter Company 1st Australian Logistic Support Group based at Vung Tau, they served at different times – Tony served in 1968–1969 and Vaughan in 1970–1971.

If it wasn't for a biennial reunion to bring members of the unit back together, Tony and Vaughan would never have met and become friends.

For Vaughan, who hadn't caught up with his former Army colleagues since leaving Vietnam at the age of 22, attending his first reunion of the unit in Mildura five years ago was "one of the best things I ever did".

"The only difference was that everyone was older, greyer and probably even a little fatter but all their faces were the same," he says, laughing.

"It was like I'd seen them yesterday – it was unbelievable."

The reunions enable men to reconnect, share their experiences and heal from their past experiences together.

Vaughan says the reunions are a great chance to catch up with friends, reminisce and have a laugh.

"It's people who you spent maybe 12 months or so living with and you never forget them," he says.

"There's a lot of clowning around and joking and the stories of what we got up to get bigger and better. It's good fun."

For the first time, the unit will hold its reunion in Ballarat this year. The reunion will span November 8–11.

Tony says the reunion is expected to be its biggest – bringing about 130 servicemen and their partners to Ballarat, who will attend the Ballarat Remembrance Day service and visit the Prisoner of War Memorial as part of their visit.

The reunion will bring together the unit's banners – the last two flags in Vietnam – along with special guests, Ray Bate, a military policeman in Vietnam and author of the book, *MP: The First In*, as well as Les Boag, an officer who was the last man out of the Vung Tau camp.

**“Les talks about how he was sitting there and there was not a soul around. He was hoping the helicopter would come back to pick him up and that they hadn't forgotten about him,”**

– Tony Brown

"These two guys, just like myself and Vaughan, wouldn't have known each other on returning but they have come together and

know each other now through the reunions."

The unit received a grant through the City of Ballarat's Community Impact Grant program for wreaths for the Remembrance Day service and for catering.

Fourteen local not-for-profit organisations shared in almost \$60,000 funding from round one of the City of Ballarat's Community Impact Grant Program 2018–2019, including \$10,000 for Ballarat Sebastopol Cycling Club's BMX Division to help purchase bikes and safety equipment, more than \$8,000 for Uniting Ballarat's volunteer training, more than \$4,000 for Buninyong Little Athletics' season launch, and more than \$2,000 for a defibrillator installation for Friends of Royal Park.

In round two of the program, 12 not-for-profit organisations shared in almost \$60,000 funding, including more than \$3,000 for equipment for the Ballarat Woodworkers Guild, \$10,000 for the Wendouree Ballarat Rowing Club's Youth Pathway Rowing Program and more than \$5,000 for the Buninyong Festival Committee for the Bended Knee Music Festival.



Visit [ballarat.vic.gov.au](http://ballarat.vic.gov.au) to find out more about the Community Impact Grant Program and to submit your online application.



Pablo Picasso, *Taureau ailé contemplé par quatre enfants*. (Four children watching a winged bull.), December 1934. National Gallery of Australia. ©Succession Picasso. Licensed by Viscopy.

## Printmaker Picasso

**A celebrated series of etchings from renowned Spanish artist Pablo Picasso is being showcased at the Art Gallery of Ballarat. The Gallery is one of only three venues around Australia to host this significant National Gallery of Australia exhibition.**

In a major coup, the Art Gallery of Ballarat will host the series of 100 etchings created in the neoclassical style, known as the *Vollard Suite*, named after Ambroise Vollard, Picasso's early art dealer and publisher.

Art Gallery of Ballarat Director Louise Tegart says the suite, created in the 1930s, represents a major landmark in Picasso's extensive career as a printmaker

and offers a rare glimpse into his brilliant artistic style.

"The predominant theme in the Picasso *Vollard Suite* is the sculptor in his studio, a theme that reflects Picasso himself," she says.

"The other key theme is the Minotaur, a mythological creature that is half man, half bull. Like the sculptor in his studio, the theme of the Minotaur also has biographical undertones, serving as an artistic alter ego for Picasso."

Louise says it's a privilege for the Gallery to showcase this rare set of works from one of the 20th century's master artists.

"The series of 100 etchings that make up Picasso's *Vollard Suite* is at once among the artist's best and least known works of art," she says.

"Individual prints from the series, such as *Faun Uncovering a Sleeping Woman* and *Blind Minotaur Led by a Little Girl by Night* are reproduced in almost every textbook of 20th century art, but relatively few people have ever seen the set in its entirety."

Ambroise Vollard commissioned Picasso to produce the 100 etched plates that make up the series in exchange for paintings by Renoir and Cézanne.

Although Picasso executed most of the work in 1933, it took him seven years to complete the project and another two for the master printmaker Roger Lacourière to finish printing sets.

Vollard's sudden death in May 1939, followed by the outbreak of war,





meant the complete set only came on to the market in the 1950s.

Given the long period of time it took for Picasso to complete the suite, it reflects his erotic and artistic obsessions, marital issues and the darkening political situation in Europe over many years.

Louise says the exhibition, which will also showcase photographs of Picasso, sculptures and artist books that reflect these mythological themes, has broad appeal.

“When developing the draft *Ballarat’s Creative City Strategy*, the community told us they wanted world-class offerings to demonstrate to locals, visitors and international audiences what Ballarat is capable of. This is an exhibition that will do that.

**“This is an exhibition not to be missed,”**

– Louise Tegart

“Lovers of printmaking will find the exhibition fascinating as it is one of the most outstanding examples of modern printmaking and entire sets of the suite are extremely rare.

“In the *Vollard Suite*, Picasso faced a formidable technical challenge – the mastery of etching in all its forms.

“From the first relatively simple line etchings, his prints become more complex as he learnt to use the techniques of dry point and aquatint.

“The mythological stories are also sure to interest visitors, and anyone who appreciates drafting and drawing will love the exhibition.”

**Picasso: The Vollard Suite** will be on show until 28 April at the Art Gallery of Ballarat.

Guided tours of the exhibition are available each Wednesday through to Sunday at 11.30am.

A series of workshops, talks and children’s activities are being held as part of this exhibition.

For more information, visit [artgalleryofballarat.com.au](http://artgalleryofballarat.com.au) or find us on Facebook.



Pablo Picasso, *Femme nue assise, la tête appuyée sur la main*. (Seated nude woman with her head resting on her hand.), 9 March 1934. National Gallery of Australia. ©Succession Picasso. Licensed by Viscopy



*Learning curve: Art teacher Julia Newson and art student Mikayla Holland with their exhibition works.*

## Different strokes

**For the first time, the work of art students and art teachers will be on show in Ballarat at the same time.**

The Art Gallery of Ballarat will exhibit the work of students who have recently completed VCE studies in design and media, art, design and technology, studio art and visual communication in the *Next Gen 2019* exhibition until 14 April.

Former Loreto College student, Mikayla Holland is looking forward to seeing her metal kangaroo and two emus on display as part of the renowned annual *Next Gen* exhibition at the Gallery.

**“The exhibition is a great way for young artists to get exposure going into the real world and to develop their skills further.”**

– Mikayla Holland

The Miners Rest teenager, who completed the sculptures in her VCE studies last year, says her art teachers inspired her to experiment with a different type of art.

“I just wanted to do something out of my comfort zone and completely different to stand out,” she says.

“I love challenging myself every time I do something, and I wanted to improve my skills in sculptural work so I thought I’d just give it a go.

“First, I had to create the framework, so I had to learn to weld. Then it was wrapping chicken wire, bending other metals and welding it together and sculpting with pliers. I love the end result.”

For the past 20 years, the Art Gallery of Ballarat has exhibited some of the best works of students from Ballarat and across the region.





*Next Gen* is an important part of the Gallery's exhibition program, providing industry training to students, inspiring current VCE students, and providing visitors to the Gallery with an insight into the world of today's youth.

A key aim of the draft *Ballarat's Creative City Strategy* is to support local creatives, including students, to develop the broad range of skills required to sustain and grow their creative businesses in Ballarat in the future. *Next Gen* provides an important part of that pathway.

This year, the exhibition will feature a new parallel display for

art teachers to showcase their expertise. *The Art Teachers' Exhibition* will be on show at Backspace Gallery until 3 March.

Phoenix P-12 Community College Art Teacher Julia Newson says the exhibition supports teachers to explore their own art.

"We all teach art because we love it so much but teaching means you don't often have a lot of time for your own art," she says.

Julia is exhibiting a series of self-portraits, which began as weekly phone 'selfies' and became lino prints, which explore emotions, textures and patterns.

"Every year, I take every student I have to see *Next Gen*. It enables students to experience the Gallery and lets them see what other students can do," Julia says.

**“Now, *The Art Teachers' Exhibition* helps students to actually realise their teachers are artists too,”**

– Julia Newson

"It supports teachers – it validates what we say and makes students realise that we're creative as well."



*Fighting plastic: Wala Animal Sanctuary operator Karen Pohlner and City of Ballarat Environmental Education Administration Officer Emma Swift at Lake Wendouree.*





# Putting a stop to plastic pollution

**Plastic bags pollute our parks, bush and waterways, injuring and killing our animals and birds. Saying no to plastic bags at the checkout will prevent them from harming our wildlife and ending up in landfill.**

Karen Pohlner is all too familiar with the impact of plastic bags on Ballarat wildlife.

The operator of not-for-profit organisation Wala Animal Sanctuary, who rescues and rehabilitates about 2,000 wild animals and birds each year, says plastic bags and fishing line waste at our region's lakes, including Lake Wendouree, Lake Esmond, Lake Learmonth and Lake Burrumbeet, are taking a horrific toll on our wildlife.

**“I have seen plenty of birds being caught up in the handles of bags or eating and ingesting them,”**

*– Karen Pohlner*

“Plastic can end up being caught around their legs, which can become necrotic and fall off, or it can get caught around their necks.

“I am seeing a lot of bird nests now being made out of plastic. Animals learn to adjust to their environment and unfortunately we are creating an environment that is not healthy and they are trying to adjust to it.”

Plastic bags take up to 1,000 years to break down.

Until supermarkets banned single-use plastic bags last year, Australians used up to 10 million

plastic bags every day – adding up to almost four billion every year.

At the end of this year, a legislative ban on lightweight single-use plastic bags will come into effect across the state, with a supporting plan to prioritise actions to reduce other types of plastic pollution.

While shoppers are slowly building better bag habits at the supermarket checkout, the City of Ballarat's latest recycling bin audit found plastics bags are the number one material incorrectly placed in the recycling bin.

City of Ballarat Environmental Education Administration Officer Emma Swift says common mistakes include residents bagging their recyclables in plastic bags, then placing them in the kerbside recycling bin.

“All recyclables should be loose in the bin and not bagged,” she says.

**“If you can scrunch the plastic, such as a bread bag, and it stays crunched, then it can't go in your kerbside recycling bin.”**

*– Emma Swift*

Emma encourages residents to only use plastic bags as a last resort, and once finished with, to dispose of them in the general waste bin.

“Bring your own reusable bags when shopping. Keep a few in your car or a spare in your handbag – there are lots of alternatives to plastic bags.”



## Stop plastic bags

At each stage of the plastic bag cycle, you can do something to stop plastic bags.

1. At the shops – BYO canvas, string or fabric bags
2. At home – Put your waste straight into the bin, and wash the bin out
3. At the recycling bin – plastic bags do not go in the recycling bin. Ballarat's recyclables go to the SKM Facility in Geelong, where they are sorted into categories. Plastic bags can get tangled in the machinery and end up in landfill.
4. At the general waste bin – remember plastic bags take 1,000 years to break down.

## Recycle soft plastics at REDcycle

Soft plastics which can be crunched into a ball can be recycled through REDcycle bins at some supermarkets. Find your nearest REDcycle bin at [redcycle.net.au/where-to-redcycle/](http://redcycle.net.au/where-to-redcycle/)

## Other ways to say no to plastic

- BYO containers to the butcher, bakery and deli
- Choose fruit not in plastic wrapping

**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 March, 3 and 24 April, 1 (Special Meeting) and 15 May. Follow us on Facebook to find out more.

## 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 • Burrumbeet
- 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 5685

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



**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



**Deputy Mayor Cr Jim Rinaldi**

0407 325 693

jimrinaldi@ballarat.vic.gov.au



**Cr Ben Taylor**

0419 507 305

bentaylor@ballarat.vic.gov.au