

CITY OF
BALLARAT



my

Ballarat

Winter
2019



myContact

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Email

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Website

ballarat.vic.gov.au

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TheCityofBallarat



Cover image: Ballarat's own Paul Matthews and Allison Jones are the creative duo behind the bright and ever so sweet Sugar Republic phenomenon.

You can also read myBallarat magazine online at
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.

myMayor's message

At its core, Ballarat is a creative city.

We are a city that is culturally rich, that is not afraid to celebrate its talents and to showcase them on the world stage.

From our rich legacy of the Royal South Street Society Eisteddfod, community theatre groups and performing arts schools, Ballarat has produced many world-class musicians and artists.

We are host to a myriad of individual monuments and street art pieces, major arts festivals and one of Australia's best public art collections. We are home to Australia's finest regional art gallery and our 144-year-old performing arts theatre, Her Majesty's Ballarat.

We also have a growing creative industry sector that produces digital games and a wide range of designer and artisanal products.

To support and nurture the talent of our arts and culture core, and to establish a Ballarat that is proud, bold and thriving, the City of Ballarat recently adopted *Ballarat's Creative City Strategy*.

The creative sector in Ballarat is crucial to our prosperity, helping create better people and better places to live and work.

In this edition, we take a look at how we are strengthening and elevating our creative industries sector.

As you'll read on page 3, the City of Ballarat has created Ballarat's first Activated ArtWalk. This walk will showcase the work of six Ballarat artists through animation and sound, all via a smartphone app.

This exciting new event, as part of Ballarat Winter Festival from 29 June–21 July, is designed to blend technology and art, and entice residents and visitors to see our CBD streets in a new light.

On pages 4–5, we also shine the spotlight on the creative Ballarat duo behind Australia's first Insta-worthy experience, Sugar Republic.

This dynamic pop-up art event celebrates some of Australia's most renowned confectionary brands.

If you missed the bite-sized Sugar Republic event as part of Ballarat Heritage Weekend, then watch this space. The City of Ballarat's Events team hopes to bring this sweet treat back to Ballarat in the near future.

On pages 6–7, we tell the story of one of Ballarat's emerging creative industries – digital games development.

This feature showcases the rise of Ballarat's virtual drone racing game creator Casey Thomas and the community of people and organisations driving digital games development and eSports in Ballarat.

We hope you enjoy reading about our ambitious plans to turn our dream for a creative city into a reality.



Mayor Cr Samantha McIntosh



Transforming our streets into art: Cax One, Pauline O'Shannessy-Dowling, Margie Balazic, City of Ballarat Coordinator Creative City Tara Poole, Dillon Naylor and Demi Gerardi.

A new reality

The streets of Ballarat are being brought to life as part of this year's Ballarat Winter Festival. The inaugural Ballarat Activated ArtWalk is just one of a range of fantastic events designed to brighten up your winter.

The work of six Ballarat artists will be brought to life through animation and augmented reality this winter.

To celebrate Ballarat Winter Festival from 29 June–21 July, the City of Ballarat has created an augmented reality art walk in the CBD that will be brought to life through the EyeJack app on your smartphone.

Local artists Cax One, Pauline O'Shannessy-Dowling, Margie Balazic, Dillon Naylor, Demi Gerardi and Samantha Thompson have developed artwork that will encourage residents and visitors to discover the stories beneath the surface of our city's laneways, buildings and streets.

City of Ballarat Coordinator Creative City Tara Poole says the Activated ArtWalk is the first example of the City of Ballarat's new *Creative City Strategy* in action, embedding creative thinking and skills into the Ballarat Winter Festival.

"It is a first for us to blend art and new technologies. This is also the first year we've invited six artists to interpret the hidden stories of our city, and to create artworks that are carried on the walls and surfaces of the centre of Ballarat," she says.

"The use of augmented reality means that anyone of any age can engage with the artworks as regular art but, if you choose to hold up your phone, the artworks reveal a hidden side of animation and sound.

“It really does encourage us to view the whole city in a new light.”

– Tara Poole

As part of the initiative, Tara says the City of Ballarat will also provide the community with a chance to experiment with tech in a special family-friendly event set to be held over two weekends in the Mining Exchange.

Local creatives, artists and designers will also get a chance to learn how to use augmented reality.

"Workshops will be held throughout Ballarat Winter Festival," Tara says.

"It is a wonderful asset to be able to help the community to develop these skills."

Demi, who is studying design at Federation University, is thrilled to participate in the city's inaugural Activated ArtWalk.

"I've never done anything like this before. I'm very excited to be part of it," she says.

Tara says the Activated ArtWalk will encourage people to explore Ballarat in winter.

"This is our opportunity to take back the streets during the coldest months of the year."

This year's Ballarat Winter Festival will see the return of the pop-up Ice Skating Rink beside Ballarat Town Hall, Sovereign Hill's award-winning Winter Wonderlights and the Design Exchange market, which brings together emerging designers and contemporary artists.





The sweetest thing: Sugar Republic owners and entrepreneurs Paul Matthews and Allison Jones with their recreated classic Australian milk bar.

Sugar rush

A Ballarat couple is behind Australia's first Insta-worthy experience celebrating some of our most iconic confectionery brands. Building on Ballarat's reputation as a creative city, the City of Ballarat's Events team recently showcased a bite-sized version of the event, which has already taken hold of Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane, at Ballarat Heritage Weekend.

Allison Jones and Paul Matthews know what it feels like to be a kid in a candy store.

The Ballarat couple are the creative duo behind Sugar Republic – a sweet interactive experience encouraging visitors to take photos and have fun in colourful spaces that celebrate sweet treats and showcase iconic lolly, ice-cream and biscuit brands.

Sugar Republic this year transformed a level on each of Myer's flagship stores in Melbourne and Sydney, before coming to Ballarat for the first time in May to participate in Ballarat Heritage Weekend.

For Allison and Paul, who found inspiration for Sugar Republic in quirky museums from their travels around the world, the event is designed to wind back the clock, making adults feel like kids again.

"While kids can come too, we wanted to develop a space primarily aimed at grown-ups, where adults can forget about being a grown-up for an hour – they can feel that joy of just being," Allison says.

"At Sugar Republic, the experience is deliberately low-tech. People come in and let themselves go. They say – wow this is the best fun we've had in ages."

At the recent Melbourne event, sweet-tooths could jump out of a birthday cake and play in an infinity-style pit filled with 100,000 colourful balls overlooking the Melbourne skyline.

They could take a seat in the cosy teddy bear biscuit house, get lost in the aroma of a licorice-scented playroom and relax in a bubble gum lounge room.

As part of Ballarat Heritage Weekend, Sugar Republic showcased one of the most popular elements of the Melbourne exhibition – a recreation of a classic Australian milk bar, encouraging people to reminisce about the golden days of corner stores laden with rows of mixed lollies and Big Ms.

"My first job when I came from the UK to Australia was in a milk bar so



Sweet tooth: Rosie Carter enjoys the Arnott's Biscuits' Teddy Bear's House at Sugar Republic.

that's one thing I really wanted to create," Allison says.

“Adults love it and so do the kids – they love to run around and discover all this confectionery that they haven't seen before.”

– Allison Jones

Sugar Republic is not Allison and Paul's first foray into business.

In 2006, the couple founded giftware store Lark in Daylesford, later moving the store and their family, including their sons Jacob and Jules, to Ballarat. They sold the business three years ago to launch cake supply store Melt Bake and Party before embarking on Sugar Republic.

For its debut last year, Sugar Republic transformed Melbourne's historic MacRobertson Confectionery Factory, where Freddo and Cherry Ripe were invented, into a Willy Wonka-inspired playground. The eight-week exhibition was such a hit, it completely sold out. Shortly after, it was followed by another sold-out show in Brisbane's Fortitude Valley.

City of Ballarat Events Manager Heidi Zukauskas says Sugar Republic was a major hit at Ballarat Heritage Weekend, and the Events team hopes to bring it back to Ballarat in the near future.


“Sugar Republic is a wonderland for all ages. It's a dynamic event concept that we are excited to host in Ballarat given its popularity in the metropolitan cities of Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane,” she says.

“The City of Ballarat is proud to be able to support and showcase dynamic Ballarat-born event companies such as Sugar Republic. We hope to have it back in Ballarat soon, on a larger scale.”



This experience is part of a trend towards an increasing number of Instagram-able art events encouraging visitors to take and share photos.

Sugar Republic has more than 78,000 followers on Instagram.

 [sugarrepublic.au](https://www.instagram.com/sugarrepublic.au)
#sugarrepublic

A digital game changer

Digital games development is one of Ballarat's emerging creative industries. The City of Ballarat's Creative City Strategy aims to develop Ballarat as an economy and a community powered by STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) while building our city as a major hub for game development.

In 2005, Casey Thomas was playing *Darksiders* at home and wondering how she could go from being the person who plays the game to the person who develops the game.

“I had a weird moment when I thought – you know what, maybe I could try and make a game, how hard could it be? I didn't expect it to snowball into all of these other things and to be where I am now.”

– Casey Thomas

After completing courses in game development and business management, today Casey is the founder and CEO of Ballarat's own Dark Shadow Studios and the developer behind drone racing game, *Drone Legion*.

Compatible with virtual reality (VR), *Drone Legion* challenges gamers to test their skills against other drone pilots around some of Melbourne's most iconic stadiums, including Rod Laver Arena and Marvel Stadium.

The game, which is set to be launched to the market this year, was nominated for the 2018 Esports Title of the Year in the Australian Games Awards, while Casey has also been named in the industry's Develop Pacific 30 Under Thirty list.

An educator at Ballarat's Tech School, where she passes on her skills to teach young people about games, coding and VR, Casey is also working to build Ballarat's game development community.

And she's not alone. Ballarat has a strong community of people and organisations passionate about driving digital games development and eSports in Ballarat, including the City of Ballarat, GUF Games, local indie games developers, Federation University's IT Society and Ballarat Tech School while Dark Shadow Studio held it's first local eSports tournament at the Ballarat City Football Club earlier this year.

Casey and another local indie games developer, Robert Dance, co-founder of Chaos Shard Studios, have also joined forces with the City of Ballarat's StartUp Ballarat to give budding game developers an insight into the world of gaming startups.

Robert, who is also President of Federation University's IT Crowd, says StartUp Ballarat has brought together at least 60 local people all working in Ballarat's games development sector.

“It really goes to show that there are a lot of people around Ballarat who are in the industry,” he says.

“Based on the support and the number of people involved in the industry, I definitely think Ballarat could become the largest regional hub for game development and possibly the largest hub for game development in Australia.

“Game development is an industry that you can actually make a career in – and you can do it in Ballarat.”

City of Ballarat Economic Development Sector Specialist Kelli Moran says the City of Ballarat has been supporting the local games development sector for the past 12 years, through hosting an annual Get into Games expo for school students while the new *Creative City Strategy* identifies digital games development as a key growth area for Ballarat.

“It's about harnessing that spark of creativity present across all of our businesses and industries and providing the environment for it to grow,” she says.

“Digital games development is one of the many creative industries we wish to see spark and grow in Ballarat.

“Casey's story is one that demonstrates beautifully what can happen when a group of supporters from across the community actively work to back our creative talent.”





Stepping up **for families**

Violence against women and children is unacceptable. Meet some of the Ballarat agencies standing shoulder to shoulder with the City of Ballarat to help families through their darkest times and discover hope for a brighter future.

"You are never alone – help is always there when you are ready to take the step of asking for assistance."

That's the message from Enhanced Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Nurse Karen Rossi.

Karen is part of a team of City of Ballarat Maternal and Child Health nurses working to improve a range of factors impacting on a child's development, including helping women and children experiencing family violence.

The Family and Children's Services Maternal and Child Health team provides additional no-cost visits to families working to help keep

women and children safe, through the development of personal safety plans and referrals to other specialist agencies.

"Over time, we develop a positive rapport with families. Eventually when trust is established, a parent will often broach the subject of family violence and the impact on the long-term wellbeing of children," Karen says.

The City of Ballarat team works with a range of Ballarat-based partners, many of which are members of the Central Highlands Integrated Family Violence Committee.

Partners include WRISC Family Violence Support for women and children, Berry Street, Victoria Police, Child FIRST, Centacare, Uniting Care, and Child and Family Services (CAFS).

These organisations are standing up for women and children and calling on the entire community to

support Ballarat families affected by family violence.

They are also members of the Women's Health Grampians-led Communities of Respect and Equality (CoRE) Alliance, an initiative to prevent violence against women and their children in the Grampians region.

“There’s an old saying it takes a village to raise a child. I actually think it takes a village to raise a child and to support families.”

– Karen Rossi

"In Ballarat, we have many agencies and everybody is on the same page, which is important."

WRISC Family Violence Outreach Program Team Leader Kristen Sheridan says it's important women have multiple ways to access services.



Helping women and children experiencing family violence: CAFS Coordinator Child FIRST Laura Reus, WRISC Family Violence Outreach Program Team Leader Kristen Sheridan, City of Ballarat Enhanced Maternal and Child Health Nurse Karen Rossi, Victoria Police Intelligence Analyst Joshua Francis, and City of Ballarat Executive Manager Family and Children's Services Sharelle Knight.

"Women often say walking into a service like WRISC is one of the hardest things they have ever had to do and sometimes it's not available to them because of the nature of the violence they're experiencing," she says.

"What we're trying to do is provide better and alternative ways for women to access support without that direct link to the service, so we're partnering with the City of Ballarat to develop some of those collaborations.

"We're upskilling City of Ballarat staff and volunteers to respond to disclosures of violence. We're training them to make sense of – what is family violence, why it occurs, what is the nature of it and how to respond."

With all agencies working together, Ballarat families now experience a wrap-around service.

"They don't have to tell the story multiple times – they can just say

it once, get the support they need and then they know these services are working together," Kristen says.

“A lot of women say they didn't know these services existed. It's really important that when Maternal and Child Health nurses are visiting these families, they know these services are there for them.”

– Kristen Sheridan

"We also want the broader community to know that we will do whatever we can to support victims of family violence – we don't accept it, we understand it and we're all here to help."

If you or someone you know is experiencing violence and need help or support, contact the

National Domestic Family Violence Counselling Service on 1800 737 732. If in danger, call 000.



Visit the City of Ballarat's Parent Place or contact the Maternal and Child Health Service on 5320 5720, call WRISC on 5333 3666, CAFS on 5337 3333 or for a list of local services visit dvrcv.org.au/central-highlands.



Event calendar

June

FREE

**Until
16 June**

Liz Souter Retrospective

Backspace Gallery

[f artgalleryofballarat.com.au](https://www.facebook.com/artgalleryofballarat.com.au)

2

Clunes Makers' Market

Clunes Showgrounds

9.30am–3.30pm

[f clunesmakersmarket](https://www.facebook.com/clunesmakersmarket)

8–10

Ballarat Model Train Show

Ballarat Specialist School Farm

800 Norman Street

FREE

8–16

The Crafts Council of Ballarat presents Everything Old is New Again exhibition

Robert Clark Conservatory

Ballarat Botanical Gardens 9am–

4.30pm

FREE

13

Men's Health Night

An evening with Ron Iddles

Civic Hall, 6pm

(Bookings essential)

[f ballaratlibraries](https://www.facebook.com/ballaratlibraries)

FREE

15

Intercultural Welcome Lunch

Ballarat Welcome Centre

25–39 Barkly Street, 11am

brmc.org.au

21–22

Welcome Film Festival

Ballarat Welcome Centre

25–39 Barkly Street, 6pm

brmc.org.au

22

Dancing with our Stars

Civic Hall

[f ballaratfoundation](https://www.facebook.com/ballaratfoundation)

23

Ballarat Symphony Orchestra's Youth Concerto Concert

Art Gallery of Ballarat, 2.30pm

[f BSOBallarat](https://www.facebook.com/BSOBallarat)

**29 June–
7 July**

Opera Van Diemensland presents La Boheme

Ballarat, Abbotsford, Ballan

operavandiemensland.com



BALLARAT WINTER FESTIVAL

29 JUNE–21 JULY
ballaratwinterfestival.com.au

**WINTER
WONDERLIGHTS**
Sovereign Hill

ICE SKATING
Armstrong Street South,
(Bookings recommended)

ACTIVATED ARTWALK
Art brought to life through the
EyeJack app

TIGER SANCTUARY
Ballarat Wildlife Park

**WINTERACTIVE
ARCADE**
The Mining Exchange
29–30 June and 13–14 July
Esports tournament, virtual reality,
augmented reality experiences,
workshops and ticketed gaming
sessions

KNIGHTS OF FIRE
29 June–14 July
Kryal Castle

**THE DESIGN
EXCHANGE**
Ballarat Mining Exchange
6–7 July, 10am–3pm

July

Until
10 July

Wonderful Things Exhibition
Gold Museum
sovereignhill.com.au

FREE
1-31

**Suppression and Reflection
by Ruby Hyatt (winner of
Next Gen Exhibition Prize)**
Unicorn Lane Gallery

FREE
Until
7 July

**Venus Rising Group
Exhibition**
Backspace Gallery
artgalleryofballarat.com.au

13-14

**Eureka Arms and
Militaria Fair**
Ballarat Sports and Events Centre,
Saturday 9am-4.30pm, Sunday
9am-3pm
[f ballaratfarmersmarket](https://www.facebook.com/ballaratfarmersmarket)

FREE
14

Facing Up
performance, NAIDOC Week
Prime Ministers Avenue,
Ballarat Botanical Gardens, 2pm
[f ballaratlibraries](https://www.facebook.com/ballaratlibraries)

27

The Red Series
Ballarat Mining Exchange
[f redseriesballarat](https://www.facebook.com/redseriesballarat)

FREE
27

Buninyong Village Market
Buninyong Town Hall
[f buninyongvillagemarket](https://www.facebook.com/buninyongvillagemarket)

FREE
27

Ballarat Farmers Market
Brown Hill Hall, 9am-1pm
[f ballaratfarmersmarket](https://www.facebook.com/ballaratfarmersmarket)

29 July-
2 Nov

**Royal South Street
Society Eisteddfod**
[f royalsouthstreetsociety](https://www.facebook.com/royalsouthstreetsociety)

FREE
Until 4
August

**Becoming Modern:
Australian Women Artists
1920-1950**
Art Gallery of Ballarat
artgalleryofballarat.com.au

August

FREE
1-18

**Common Ground Group
Exhibition**
Backspace Gallery
artgalleryofballarat.com.au

FREE
Until 4
August

**Nana Ohnesorge: No Picnic
at Ngannelong**
Art Gallery of Ballarat
artgalleryofballarat.com.au

FREE
Until 4
August

**Tai Snaith: A World of One's
Own**
Art Gallery of Ballarat
artgalleryofballarat.com.au

FREE
3

Bridge Mall Farmers Market
9am-1pm
[f bridgemallfarmersmarket](https://www.facebook.com/bridgemallfarmersmarket)

FREE
10

Ballarat Farmers Market
Lake Wendouree, 9am-1pm
[f ballaratfarmersmarket](https://www.facebook.com/ballaratfarmersmarket)

17-18

**Ballarat Gem, Crystal,
Mineral and Fossil Show**
Ballarat Specialist School
800 Norman Street

19

Ballarat Careers Expo
Ballarat Grammar
201 Forest Street, 6.30-8.30pm

23 Aug-
20 Oct

**Ballarat International Foto
2019 Biennale**
Including 90+ free exhibitions
Various locations.
ballaratfoto.org
[f ballaratfoto](https://www.facebook.com/ballaratfoto)

FREE
24

Ballarat Farmers Market
Brown Hill Hall, 9am-1pm
[f ballaratfarmersmarket](https://www.facebook.com/ballaratfarmersmarket)

24/25*

**Western Bulldogs
v Adelaide Crows**
*Date to be confirmed
Mars Stadium
afl.com.au

29

**Business Excellence
Awards 2019**
commerceballarat.com.au

Getting to know Mars Stadium

After a \$26 million redevelopment, history was made on 19 August 2017, when the first bounce for AFL premiership points took place at Mars Stadium. Our new home of AFL, and a home-away-from-home for the Western Bulldogs, is renowned as Ballarat's premier multi-sports and events facility – encouraging visitation and bolstering the city's position in the state's events scene.

For the past two years, Mars Stadium has played host to the three-day Victorian Aboriginal Senior Football and Netball Carnival.

VACSAL Community Development Officer and Carnival Coordinator Tony Lovett says the carnival, which first began in the 1970s, showcases the outstanding skills of players from about 80 netball and 20 football teams.

Tony says the event is about much more than sport. It's a celebration of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, and also promotes healthy lifestyles.

"We know that Aboriginal communities in general have lower life expectancies, we have higher rates of diabetes and kidney issues," he says.

"If we can impact on that by promoting healthy lifestyles, by encouraging active participation in sport and recreational activities, we are going to help raise our life expectancies.

"We also talk about socialisation, about people being together as a mob – everyone comes together.

"Kids get to play with their parents or their uncles and aunties. It's a feeling that is not replicated in too many other senses in sport."

However this year, due to significant ground maintenance works that will take at least eight weeks to complete to ensure the ground remains at AFL-standard, the 11–13 October VACSAL carnival will be held at some of Ballarat's other outstanding sporting facilities.

Tony says it will be great for the carnival to play football on grounds, such as the City Oval and Marty Busch Reserve, and he hopes it will return to Ballarat's premier stadium next year.

While the spring works at Mars Stadium will ensure the ground is match-ready for players, works will also soon begin to improve the game-day experience for fans.

The stadium will receive new entrances, including undercover areas, improved disability access and seating arrangements in the western and eastern stands under a \$6.6 million boost.

The funds, committed by the Victorian Government during last year's election campaign, will also provide a clearer view of the on-field action with improved standing areas, permanent food and beverage areas plus permanent toilet facilities.

Mars Stadium is Ballarat's major multi-sport and events facility, catering for more than 11,000 spectators. It features an oval the same size as Marvel Stadium and state-of-the-art facilities, including coaches' boxes and media facilities as well as toilets with all abilities access.

It hosts AFL, JLT Series and AFLW matches and it's also home to the North Ballarat City Football Club (BFL) and the Greater Western

Victoria Rebels' (NAB League) men's and women's teams, plus it provides weekly pathways programs into AFL Victoria.

It hosts the final series for the Central Highlands Football League, the Ballarat Football Netball League (BFNL) and the BFNL Juniors, as well as interleague challenge matches and showcases a range of Bulldogs' promotional activities.

It's also used for National Super Rugby and Ballarat Carols, and has the potential to showcase cricket as well as women's and men's A League Soccer.

Marg Richards, City of Ballarat Venue Manager for Mars Stadium and the Ballarat Regional Soccer Facility, says she's proud to oversee major events and AFL at Ballarat's premier stadium.

“When we had the JLT match earlier this year, I was talking to one of the players from the Western Bulldogs and he tells me this is the best ground that they play on.”

– Marg Richards

"Our staff that look after the surface take great pride in it and they do a fantastic job – as you can see."



The Western Bulldogs will take on the Adelaide Crows in Round 23 at Mars Stadium, on either 24 or 25 August, with the date and time to be confirmed.





Lending a helping hand: Soup Bus volunteers Phyllis Beaton (left), Janet Matthews (centre) and Lorraine Gittings (right) with Soup Bus founder Craig Schepis (second from left) and Ballarat Young Citizen of the Year Jake Sbardella.

Ballarat changemakers

This winter, many people will be doing it tough in Ballarat. There are many organisations working together to help improve outcomes for people experiencing homelessness, including housing providers and community agencies. There are also many others, like Ballarat's Young Citizen of the Year 2019, who volunteer to lend a helping hand.

Jake Sbardella loves spreading happiness.

Three years ago, at the age of 10, this young Buninyong resident wanted to raise enough money to buy a Backpack Bed for a person experiencing homelessness.

That Christmas, he asked his mum, Emma, to make him an advent calendar with inspirational quotes to replace the traditional chocolate advent calendars. The calendar was not only a hit with Jake but with his family and friends.

With the help of Emma, who designs and prints the calendars with Jake's happiness quotes, Jake has gone on to develop and sell Happiness Advent Calendars each Christmas and Easter.

Jake and Emma sell the calendars for \$15 each at markets, through local shops and through their Happiness Advent Calendar Facebook and Instagram pages. All funds raised, excluding the cost of printing the calendars, is donated to help Ballarat's homeless.

Jake has now donated \$11,000, which has contributed 24 Backpack Beds locally, and he has also donated funds to charities that support Ballarat's homeless, including the Soup Bus.

The City of Ballarat recognised Jake's outstanding contribution earlier this year, naming him Ballarat's Young Citizen of the Year as part of the Australia Day Awards.

Jake's act of kindness has the support of Ballarat Soup Bus and On Track Foundation founder Craig Schepis.

“Kids like Jake are just special – what he will achieve in his lifetime, I just can't wait to follow his progress. He'll inspire others and that's the key.”

– Craig Schepis

Craig has inspired his own army of 500 volunteers who help to provide Soup Bus service and to also organise and collect food from the city's generous cafes, restaurants and bakeries, which donate their surplus food to the cause.

What began as a decision to introduce himself to a homeless person on the streets of Ballarat, prompted the personal trainer to make a difference.

Craig launched the first community-run Soup Bus in 2009, which is now being re-fitted, and operates another outreach Soup Bus in Sebastopol alongside the Soup Bus service in the Ballarat CBD.

He created a documentary, *One Month Before Christmas*, to provide an insight into homelessness, and in 2010 launched a scholarship fund which is providing five children from disadvantaged local families with private secondary school education.

Craig says there is growing demand for the Soup Bus' services.

“We have a real problem in Ballarat with people doing it tough but I think most of the community is rallying together – they get it,” he says.

“When things get tough, people do start to pull together – it's often a simple act of kindness or a helping hand.”

How the City of Ballarat helps

All levels of government, homelessness and health services and community organisations play a role in responding to homelessness, and each have different responsibilities.

The City of Ballarat provides referrals and information to people experiencing or at risk of homelessness about where they can access housing and local support services.

For more information, read our Homelessness Protocol at ballarat.vic.gov.au.



Need help?

Housing and Outreach Services

Opening Doors - this is the single-entry point process which coordinates homelessness services in Ballarat and is delivered by Uniting Ballarat.

Street 2 Home program - this program re-engages rough sleepers with emergency relief and healthcare, and advocates on their behalf to secure long-term accommodation options.

If someone is homeless or having a housing crisis they can contact:

Uniting Care Ballarat

☎ 5332 1286

🏠 105 Dana Street, Ballarat

🌐 unitingballarat.org.au

to arrange a meeting with a housing worker.



Brushing up on female artists

A new Art Gallery of Ballarat exhibition is showcasing the works of female artists from an era when women were making their mark on the art world. This dynamic exhibition of modernist works will also celebrate Ballarat's lesser known female artists.

Alison Jobe is custodian of a colourful treasure trove of her aunt's paints and brushes, ink sketches and watercolour paintings.

Alison's aunt, Alice Watson, studied art at the Ballarat Technical Art School (SMB), now Federation University, in the early 1930s before becoming a dressmaker.

In the years after Alice's death at the age of 95, Alison donated her folio of drawings to Federation University's collection. Some of Alice's works have been loaned from the university and are set to

feature in an exciting new exhibition of women artists, *Becoming modern: Australian women artists 1920–1950*, taking centre stage at the Gallery.

"Alice painted still life and landscapes. There was one of a tree at Lake Wendouree with Mount Warrenheip in the background, and I really love her fashion sketches made with black ink - they are just beautiful," Alison says.

The Gallery is committed to supporting regional artists and promoting local creativity as highlighted in the City of Ballarat's new *Creative City Strategy*.

Gallery Curator Julie McLaren says Alice's work captures and reflects a bygone era – when women were breaking barriers and becoming independent.

"Alice's watercolour painting, *Girl at the beach*, is a great example of what was known as the new woman in the early 20th century," Julie says.

"Women were cutting their hair short, wearing a lot more make-up and being much freer."

Julie says it was also a time when women began exploring careers in the art world, gaining recognition and respect for the first time as professional artists.

“In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, women were finally able to attend art school and a lot of their practice revolved around becoming commercial artists.”

– Julie McLaren

"As a result, Alice's folios include a lot of designs for wallpapers or for fire screens or for embroidery and textile designs.

"It makes sense that Alice became a dressmaker and had that interest in fabric and textiles – it's really the professionalisation of women in the arts that drew me to looking at her work.

"While she may not have left a lot of artworks behind and didn't continue on painting much after she left art school, it's more that these works are really a snapshot in time of the design and the art trends in post-secondary education art schools."

Julie says these female modernist artists were often trailblazers, travelling to Europe and England and bringing back trends such as abstraction and cubism, making a significant contribution towards Australian art.

"This era of modernism reflects one of the most exciting periods of art in Australia," she says.

"Some of the art coming out was considered quite revolutionary at the time and quite shocking but it's not that shocking by today's standards."

Becoming Modern: Australian women artists 1920–1950 will showcase over 100 works by more than 50 women artists and will span five spaces on the ground floor of the Gallery.

While the display will exhibit the works of renowned artists such as Margaret Preston, Grace Cossington Smith, Clarice Beckett and Ballarat-born artist Hilda Rix Nicholas, it will also feature a handful of lesser known artists, like Alice, who either studied or lived in Ballarat.

"There will be a lot of works that people recognise but also some surprising works that people won't recognise," Julie says.

"I love that we can use our collection to expose people to artists they otherwise would not have come across."



Becoming Modern: Australian Women Artists 1920–1950 will be on show until 4 August at the Art Gallery of Ballarat. For more information, visit artgalleryofballarat.com.au or find us on Facebook.



Celebrating female artists: Alison Jobe and Art Gallery of Ballarat Curator Julie McLaren with a painting by Alice Watson.

Repair, recycle and **reboot your eWaste**

Electronic waste, or eWaste, is growing three times faster than general waste. Described as anything with a plug or a battery, the state's eWaste is expected to increase from 109,000 tonnes in 2015 to about 256,000 tonnes in 2035. With the Victorian Government banning eWaste from going into landfills from July, one Ballarat resident is starting an initiative encouraging more people to repair and reuse.

"Don't bin it, repair it."

That's the message from Ballarat resident Mary Duff who is building a team to launch Ballarat's first Repair Café.

A Repair Café is a community-run activity designed to repair items to prevent them from going into landfill. Community members bring their broken items for repair and work with a volunteer repairer to learn how to mend their broken products.

Repair Cafés first started in Europe a decade ago. There are now more than 1,500 Repair Cafés across the world and more than 30 in Australia.

"The main aim is to prevent things from going to landfill unnecessarily. Sometimes it may only give an item an extension of its life but everything helps," Mary says.

"We hope to remove the complacency about our throw-away society by encouraging our community to choose things that are built to last and are repairable. We need to consider - is that toy screwed together, can those shoes be re-soled? Cheaper is not always better."

Mary says Repair Cafés have other benefits – they bring the community together to share knowledge and skills while reducing household spending.

"They bring together people of different ages and interests as well

as a broad range of community groups in collaboration. I love that this also often leads to new friendships," she says.

"These things in turn foster more self-confidence and belief in the community that they can repair their own belongings."

Mary is working to establish the Ballarat Repair Café and already has the backing of the Ballarat Renewable Energy and Zero Emissions (BREAZE) group and the Ballarat East Community Men's Shed.

BREAZE Vice President Mary Debrett says Repair Cafés are a fantastic way to reuse and recycle in the war against waste.

"We see it as a great way to help diminish the waste mountain that we hear so much about now," she says.

"Products break down from time to time and it's much better to fix them, if we can, than to buy new ones, which is a habit we've all gotten into."

Ron Lancaster, President of the Ballarat East Community Men's Shed, says the group's 120-strong membership builds new items and often repairs furniture.

“Now when people break something, they throw it in the bin and get a new one, which is not a good idea. I think repairing things is a great idea.”

– Ron Lancaster

The City of Ballarat has bold plans to cater for the future waste management needs of Ballarat's rapid population growth, including plans to construct an All Waste Interchange Facility and support Waste to Energy facilities.

The City of Ballarat also aims to achieve an organisational zero emissions target by 2025 with its Carbon Neutrality and 100% Renewables Action Plan.

Want to get involved?

Volunteer with the Ballarat Repair Café. Email repaircafe@breaze.org.au to find out more.










We want to hear about how you reduce, reuse and recycle.

Email media@ballarat.vic.gov.au

Divert your eWaste from landfill

eWaste CANNOT go in your kerbside bins. Electronic products contain metals, which can be recycled.

What can be taken, free of charge, to the Ballarat Transfer Station?

-  CD/DVD players and stereos
-  Smart phones, cameras, iPods and iPads
-  Computers, laptops and printers
-  TVs, remote controls and batteries
-  Kettles, microwaves, dishwashers
-  Electric toys, fans, cords and old watches
-  Shavers, hair dryers and hair straighteners
-  Washing machines and clothes dryers
-  Fridges and air conditioners, accepted at a cost

Read our complete Waste Guide at ballarat.vic.gov.au.



Let's repair and reuse: Ballarat Repair Café founder Mary Duff joins Ballarat East Community Men's Shed President Ron Lancaster (front), Shed member Rodney Sheean and BREAZE Vice President Mary Debrett.

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 12, 19 (Special Meeting) and 26 (Special Meeting) June, 3 and 31 July, and 21 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 • 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



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