

CITY OF
BALLARAT



Summer
2019-20



Tim Bone

From MasterChef House
to the Bakehouse

Pages 4-5

myContact

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TheCityofBallarat



Cover: Ballarat's homegrown MasterChef semi-finalist Tim Bone is part of a new generation of foodies delivering mouth-watering fare to Ballarat.

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.



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myMayor's message

I'm thrilled to be writing my very first Mayor's Message for the summer edition of myBallarat.

What a great time of the year it is in our beautiful city, with our streets, sporting fields, lakes and gardens all buzzing with activity.

However, another area of Ballarat that buzzes all year round is our hospitality venues.

Ballarat is rapidly gaining a reputation as a mecca for food lovers, with a wave of recent new offerings making this town a true culinary destination.

As our own homegrown MasterChef contestant Tim Bone attests, people are now driving from Melbourne to eat out in Ballarat. What a great testament to the fantastic growth in our local hospitality industry offerings.

And as we move into the warmer weather, what a wonderful time to sit outside, enjoy a beautiful meal and soak up all the beauty of Ballarat in summer.

We are midway through the engagement process for the *Ballarat is Open* strategy which is a way for the community and business to have a say on what Ballarat will be in the future, on how we position the city and how we market the city as the best place in Australia to visit, to live and to run a business.

As an example, the *Ballarat is Open* strategy will leverage our reputation as an emerging wining and dining destination. It will showcase Ballarat as a place to visit for our great food and cool climate wines, live here and enjoy our produce year-round or even start up your own hospitality business in an environment designed to support food ventures.

Ballarat is also open for a huge range of events this summer, including Eureka 165 celebrations, Christmas festivities, the Ballarat Short Film Festival and the return of our popular Summer Sundays.

We also have an amazing array of sporting events including a Women's National Basketball League game, the FedUni Road National Cycling Championships, the Ballarat Gift and Western United will play two A-League games for points at our very own Mars Stadium.

I urge you to get out and enjoy all these wonderful events on offer.

Also in this edition, we highlight the work of some amazing Ballarat residents. Learn about the work of the late Ray Mackay, and now his son Peter and grandson Andrew, in laying the foundations for one of our most successful businesses, Field Air. Ballarat can rightfully be very proud of the contribution Field Air makes across Australia every fire season.

We also speak to our Ballarat changemakers – the people power behind the community push to keep the Brown Hill Swimming Pool – the local pedal power behind the FedUni Road Nats, the people charged with telling our Eureka story in a more accessible way and the absolutely wonderful work of Ballarat Regional Industries – truly some of our unsung heroes.



Mayor Cr Ben Taylor



Vines and wines: Michael Unwin and his wife Catherine with their dog Poppy at the site of the new Unwin Winery cellar door and vineyard at Cardigan.

Unwin Winery moves to Ballarat

The decision by Michael Unwin to relocate his cellar door and establish a new vineyard at Cardigan is a coup for Ballarat, adding to the list of local attractions and a projected \$2 million economic benefit for the region.

Award-winning winemaker Michael Unwin is about to witness a three-year plan come to fruition.

It was that long ago that he and his wife Catherine made the decision to move their successful family business from Beaufort to Ballarat to be closer to their loyal customer base and the growing population of a regional city.

Michael has spent that time nurturing new vines in the rich, fertile red volcanic soil at Cardigan – perfect for cool climate wines – and planning and building a winery that, when open, will be three times the size of his Beaufort operation.

The 40-hectare property on Remembrance Drive houses three huge buildings, with a red (earth) floor, believed to be the first in the western world (Michael is unable to find a modern precedent).

The development is set to create a whole new cellar door experience for visitors who will arrive via a picturesque drive. A storyteller at heart, Michael is keen to share the process of winemaking with his customers, from planting to bottling and of course – tasting.

“Growing grapes and making and selling wine will remain our core focus.”

– Michael Unwin

Expect some new varieties to emerge out of this move – chardonnay and pinot noir and other more bolder varieties; gamay, pinot blanc and verdejo.

The Unwin's well-known warmer climate varieties continue to be sourced from the Grampians, Pyrenees and Moorabool regions.

After 15 years at Beaufort, Michael Unwin is grateful for the support of Ballarat people. “I just hope they will continue to follow us, come out and enjoy the experience and watch us grow,” he says.

A ‘soft opening’ is expected in the new year.

The Michael Unwin venture is an example of where the City of Ballarat's Business Concierge service works to assist new and existing businesses when setting up or growing their business. Delivered by the City of Ballarat's Economic Development team, the concierge service provided Michael with a single contact within the City of Ballarat to facilitate and guide him through the planning and building processes to meet his business relocation timelines.



Tasty Toasties: Tim and wife Abbey at their first market stall at Lake Wendouree which was a sellout.

The new kids **on the block**

Ballarat has welcomed a new wave of foodies with 1816 Bakehouse, Lola, Griffin Burger, and Pancho among the many additions. Alongside tried and tested restaurants like Moon and Mountain, Mr Jones and Underbar, our choice for dining out has never been more appetising.

Just ask Ballarat's MasterChef semi-finalist, Tim Bone.

The young entrepreneur is embedding himself in the emerging Ballarat foodie scene, with a series of 'pop up' food experiences.

After returning from the MasterChef house, Tim's calendar remains full, with appearances booked at key events including the Ballarat Beer Festival and the regional farmers' market circuit.

Ballarat residents will have the opportunity to see his talents in

action when he presents a series of cooking demonstrations at the 2020 Ballarat Begonia Festival.

"I received so much support both during and after my time on MasterChef that I am inspired to give back to this beautiful city and help put us on the map," Tim says.

"Ballarat has come such a long way in the food scene, in fact, we're spoilt for choice.

“There has definitely been a shift in how Ballarat is perceived. We no longer have to go to Melbourne for a memorable food experience.”

– Tim Bone

"Melbourne people are coming here to check us out as a food destination."

A number of Melbourne visitors were attracted to Tim's sell-out five course dinners at the Hydrant Food Hall, a renovated heritage warehouse in Ballarat, where he cooked all his favourite dishes, each course carefully matched with local spirits, beers and wine.

He is genuinely excited by the variety of food experiences now available in Ballarat and the potential to further capitalise on the popular Armstrong Street North food precinct.

"Imagine in summer closing off Armstrong Street to traffic from 5pm, with outside dining and string lighting across the street. There's no reason why Ballarat can't create its own summertime central food hub."

Tim is making a conscious decision in his own cooking to showcase Ballarat, partnering with local and regional suppliers and producers to ensure his food is fresh and tasty,



Custom Made: 1816 Bakehouse co-owner Josh Chapman at work at the popular new Armstrong Street bakery [@1816_bakehouse](#)

whether it's smallgoods from the Salt Kitchen, fresh mushrooms straight from the farm or bread from the local baker.

One of his valuable collaborations came about partly by chance, discovering the 1816 Bakehouse on Armstrong Street, one of the newest additions to Ballarat's food scene.

“I walked in one morning and discovered the most beautiful bread I’ve ever tasted.”

– Tim Bone

The owner now bakes a custom-length sourdough loaf for Tim's tasty range of gourmet market stall toasted sandwiches – known as 'Tim's Toasties'.

“What we really like about Tim is that he is as passionate about food as we are and about sourcing local to deliver good quality produce.

“There's a real synergy there,” says 1816 Bakehouse co-owner Josh Chapman.

Tim believes collaborations, like the one he has forged with 1816 Bakehouse, and the willingness of Ballarat businesses to work together, is what sets Ballarat aside.

“Really, the sky is the limit where food is concerned and while we have amazing restaurants in Ballarat, there is still room to grow,” Tim says.

Looking ahead to his own future, Tim hopes to create a bricks and mortar food business of his own in Ballarat. We'll toast to that.

The City of Ballarat's *Ballarat is Open* strategy will further cement our reputation as a food destination and as the ideal place to live and work, where you can enjoy a lifestyle of great food, coffee and wine.

Go to mysay.ballarat.vic.gov.au.

Tim's favourite toastie

THE SMASHING PUMPKIN

Roast pumpkin, bacon, caramelised onion, gorgonzola, rocket and maple syrup on 1816 white sourdough

[@timbonefood](#) #timstoasties



Ballarat gears up for the Road Nats

The most prestigious national event on the Australian cycling calendar returns to Ballarat and Buninyong this summer with the Federation University Road National Championships from 8 to 12 January.

Innovations this year include changes to the time trial course to allow spectators to see more of the action, more often, while a new timeslot for the Gran Fondo and the return of the popular community event in Buninyong are sure to be highlights.

Home crowd advantages are a rare event for most Australian cyclists.

But for Nick White and Shannon Malseed, racing at the Road National Championships provides an extra spur to success.

Shannon, who grew up in Victoria's south west and spent five years in Ballarat, took out the 2018 women's road race, while Nick, also from Ballarat, won last year's under-23 men's road race.

Both riders say the unique atmosphere generated by the supportive local crowd provides a huge boost. It's like our very own Tour De France, cow bells and all.

"I spend most of the year racing overseas where my family and friends are on the other side of the world. They don't get to see most of my racing," Shannon says.

"To have them here and close enough to reach out and touch me, it's an amazing feeling. It's one of my favourite races of the whole year."

Nick agrees: "To be able to pull off a result for those people is pretty special. It helps push you and motivate you."

Victory at the Road Nationals entitles the winner to wear the Australian champion's jersey for the rest of the year.

“It means a whole year of respect in the professional peloton and it's a super proud feeling to be able to pull on that jersey.”

– Shannon Malseed

Fans can look forward to some exciting additions to the event program.

The time trials will run on a new course which starts and finishes at the Federation University Mount Helen campus, providing a more technically demanding ride for competitors and better viewing for spectators.

The Gran Fondo, where fans can ride the road race course, moves to a new timeslot on Saturday afternoon, leading in to the popular Saturday evening community event at Buninyong's De Soza Park.

City of Ballarat Events Manager Heidi Zukauskas says the Road Nationals is a key plank of Ballarat's summer events offering.

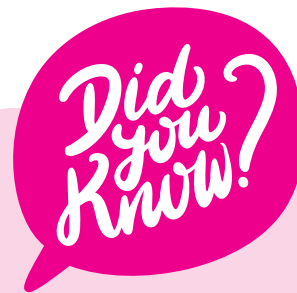
"What was once a quiet time of year for the city is now alive with events like Christmas in Ballarat, Nitro Circus and Summer Sundays," Heidi says.

"The event also gives Ballarat unparalleled media exposure in Australia and to tens of millions internationally, through live broadcasts across SBS and Fox Sports."

The summer events program reflects the direction outlined in the City of Ballarat's *Events Strategy 2018–2028* and the *Ballarat is Open* project to attract and sustain a vibrant events calendar and build visitor economy.

"Securing hosting rights is extremely competitive. That we've retained the Road Nats for the past 14 years is mainly due to the event friendly environment created by the City of Ballarat and professional event support provided by our events team.

"We've facilitated and encouraged changes to the program, like last year's shift of the criterium to Friday night, to maximise the benefits for our accommodation, retail and hospitality sector, and we're confident this year's additions will further enhance those benefits," Heidi says.



The Federation University Road National Championships will put Ballarat and Buninyong in front of a global audience via SBS On Demand. In 2019, people as far away as Belgium tuned in to watch.

Australian viewers can catch the criterium, elite and U23 women's road race and elite men's road race live on SBS and Fox Sports.

 roadnationals.org.au





One-stop shop for Ballarat families

Ballarat's Girrabanya Integrated Children's Centre has almost doubled in capacity following a major renovation and expansion.

The Ballarat community can now find expanded family and children's services in the heart of the CBD courtesy of a \$1.25 million Victorian Government revamp of Girrabanya Integrated Children's Centre.

The upgrade of the City of Ballarat centre in Steinfeld Street includes:

- a new 23-place occasional care room
- an expanded 33-place kindergarten room
- an overall increase of 11 long day care places
- an upgraded foyer, meeting space and kitchen.

The City of Ballarat's occasional care service relocated to the centre after more than 30 years of operation in Market Street. The move provides greater flexibility for families, with the ability to transfer between different types of childcare.

"The expansion of occasional care, long day care and kindergarten services at Girrabanya is in response to a growing demand for childcare and kindergarten services in central Ballarat," City of Ballarat Director Community Development Neville Ivey says.

"Having a range of early childhood services integrated on the one site provides a one-stop shop for local families."

Maternal and child health and immunisation services continue to operate from the centre, with extra

staff on-site to provide families with information about early childhood services.

In 2008, Ballarat was recognised by UNICEF as a Child Friendly City. Child Friendly Cities improve outcomes for children and community and provide a framework to consider the needs of children in planning. The City of Ballarat is committed to ensuring children's voices are heard and their rights are a central consideration in public policies and decision-making.

Proud Gunditjmara/Wotjobaluk woman Nikki Foy joined the City of Ballarat in 2019 as its first Aboriginal Cultural Liaison Officer.

Nikki's role within the City of Ballarat is to work with the community, Councillors, officers and customers to achieve outcomes for the Koorie community in Ballarat – to strive for reconciliation, maximum self-determination, or control of their own future, and sustainable positive change. Nikki will also work with City of Ballarat officers and the wider community to deliver, monitor and report on the third Reconciliation Action Plan that was launched in July 2019.

Nikki also works to ensure the Koorie community has equal access to the City of Ballarat's programs and, where appropriate, work to increase the use of council services to the Koorie community.

The name Girrabanya – an Indigenous word for "place of possums" – was chosen in consultation with the Ballarat Aboriginal Co-operative in the lead up to the centre's opening in 1992.

Nikki says the revamped centre is "a culturally-safe, supportive and inclusive space".

“It is a place where our kids feel proud and strong in their cultural identity, where our culture is evident throughout the facility and our culture is acknowledged, valued and respected.”

– Nikki Foy

"Girrabanya staff incorporate Koorie perspectives throughout their programs. For example, at the beginning of each day, the children acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land and all Koorie community who live on Wadawurrung country.

"It's always great to walk into any service and see links to our culture, for example, acknowledgement plaques, Aboriginal flags and artwork."

Nikki is a big advocate of the Victorian Government's Early Start Kindergarten initiative, which provides Aboriginal and Torres Islander children with 15 hours of free kindergarten a week for two years prior to attending school. To be eligible, children must be three years of age by 30 April in the year they'll start kindergarten.

To find out more about Girrabanya Integrated Children's Centre, call 5320 5720 or visit ballarat.vic.gov.au

Summer of events

December

- 1** **FREE** **Pose: Portraits from the Gold Museum Collection**
Gold Museum, 9.30am–5.30pm
sovereignhill.com.au
- 1–31** **FREE** **Christmas in Ballarat**
christmasinballarat.com.au
- 1** **FREE** **Eureka 165 Community Day**
Eureka Centre, 10.30am–2.30pm
[find us on facebook](#)
- 3** **FREE** **Eureka 165 Commemorative Service**
Eureka Centre, 9am
[find us on facebook](#)
- 3** **The Eureka Rebellion**
Sovereign Hill, 2.15pm
sovereignhill.com.au
- 6** **WNBL Game**
Bendigo Spirit v Canberra Capitals
Ballarat Sports Events Centre, 7pm
ballaratbasketball.com
- 6** **Christmas Fest by the Lake**
Pleasant Street Primary School, 5pm–9pm
christmasfestballarat.com.au
- 7** **FREE** **Buninyong Village Christmas Market**
Buninyong, 7pm
buninyong.vic.au
- 7** **Buninyong Community Carols**
De Soza Park, 4.30pm–9pm
buninyong.vic.au
- 7** **FREE** **Farmers Market**
Bridge Mall, 9am–2pm (extended hours)
bridgemall.com.au
- 8** **FREE** **Mt Pleasant Christmas Carols**
Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre, 6pm–8pm
[find us on facebook](#)
- 12** **FREE** **Brown Hill Lions Club Carols in the Park**
Progress Park, 5.30pm–8pm
brownhill.vic.au
- 14** **Ballarat Motorcycle Toy Run**
Crown Hotel Buninyong to Victoria Park, arrive at Crown Hotel at 9.30am
[find us on facebook](#)
- 14** **Motor City Sound Concert**
Minerva Space at the Ballarat Mechanics' Institute
ballaratmi.org.au

22 **Ballarat Carols by Candlelight**
City Oval, 7pm
ballaratcarolsbycandlelight.org.au

28 **Western United v Wellington Phoenix**
Mars Stadium, 5.15pm
[find us on facebook](#)

31 **New Year's Eve Family Event**
Kryal Castle, 2–8pm
[find us on facebook](#)

January

- 4** **FREE** **Farmers Market**
Bridge Mall, 9am–1pm
bridgemall.com.au
- 5** **FREE** **Summer Sundays**
Ballarat Botanical Gardens, 4.30–7.30pm
[find us on facebook](#)
- 8–12** **FedUni Road National Championships**
Federation University, Sturt Street and Buninyong
roadnationals.org.au
- 10** **2020 Organs of the Goldfields**
25th Annual Organs of the Ballarat Goldfields
ballaratorgans.com.au
- 12** **FREE** **Summer Sundays**
Ballarat Botanical Gardens, 4.30–7.30pm
[find us on facebook](#)
- 18** **Ballarat Short Film Festival**
The Mallow Hotel, 3pm
[find us on facebook](#)
- 19** **FREE** **Summer Sundays**
Ballarat Botanical Gardens, 4.30–7.30pm
[find us on facebook](#)
- 25** **FREE** **Farmers market**
Brown Hill Hall, 9am–1pm
ballaratmarkets.com.au
- 26** **FREE** **January 26 Survival Day Dawn Gathering**
Lake Wendouree, 5.30am
- 26** **FREE** **Fireworks at Lake Wendouree**
Lake Wendouree, 9.30pm
- 26** **Lunar New Year**
Sovereign Hill, 10am–5.30pm
sovereignhill.com.au



February

7–9

ROCK Ballarat

Civic Hall, Mining Exchange, 5pm start

[find us on facebook](#)

8–9

Ballarat Gift

City Oval

[ballaratgift.com](#)

9

FREE

Ex-Prisoners of War Memorial Commemoration Service

Ex-POW Memorial, 11am

[powmemorialballarat.com.au](#)

15

Ballarat Beer Festival

North Gardens, 11am

[find us on facebook](#)

16

Ballarat Cycle Classic

Lake Wendouree, 7.45am

[find us on facebook](#)

16

Western United V Brisbane Roar

Mars Stadium, 4pm

[find us on facebook](#)

16

FREE

Cricket for Causes – Super 7's

Victoria Park, 9am

22–3

May

FREE

Next Gen 2020

Art Gallery of Ballarat

[artgalleryofballarat.com.au](#)

22–

23

Victorian Goldfields

Medieval Faire

Polocrosse Grounds, Airport Road

[vicgoldmedievalfaire.com.au](#)

22

Farmers Market

Brown Hill Hall, 9am–1pm

[ballaratmarkets.com.au](#)

27

Ballarat Lyric Theatre presents Les Miserables

Her Majesty's Ballarat

[ballaratlyrictheatre.com.au](#)

28–

29

Ballarat Swap Meet

Airport Road Ballarat, 7am–6pm

[ballaratswapmeet.com.au](#)

[find us on facebook](#)

29

Nitro Circus

Mars Stadium, 5–7.30pm

[find us on facebook](#)

A fresh vision for the Eureka Centre

It's the site of Australia's most famous rebellion and the home of the flag under which it was fought.

Now a new 2030 Vision for the Eureka Centre has been developed to position it for a sustainable future. Together with an Interpretation Plan for the centre and Eureka Stockade Memorial Park, the vision will guide how the Eureka story is told over the next decade and beyond.

Finding new ways to bring historic sites to life is familiar territory for Samantha Fabry.

Samantha is a member of the Eureka Centre Community Advisory Committee, formed in 2018 to advise on the promotion, commemoration and celebration of the Eureka Stockade and its legacy.

The committee's primary task over the past year has been to define a vision for the Eureka Centre and surrounds.

Representing the committee's advice to Council, the 2030 Vision presents strategic recommendations in the focus areas of place, partnerships, advocacy and programming to inform ongoing strategic and business planning.

The committee's diverse skillsets and backgrounds include education, history, heritage, culture, business, marketing, government and tourism.

For Samantha, that includes more than two decades curating, researching and advising on historic collections and sites in Australia and abroad, including a stint as curator at Sydney's World Heritage-Listed Hyde Park Barracks Museum.

"It's a been a great experience, and I've met some wonderful people as part of this process who have a vast amount of knowledge and expertise in this field," Samantha says.

"This experience has helped me see the emotional ties and collective memories connected with the people of Ballarat as well as further afield."

One consideration was the bid by 13 councils, including the City of Ballarat, to have the central Victorian goldfields region added to UNESCO's World Heritage List.

“I think it is important to view this location and its history not only as a ‘site of memory’ but also as part of a World Heritage site, as it maintains local, state, national and international significance.”

– Samantha Fabry

As part of the process, the committee also considered



submissions from the public gathered through consultation for an accompanying Interpretation Plan for the centre and its surrounds.

Advisory Committee member Phillip Moore is past president and honorary life member of Eureka's Children, an association of descendants of those involved in the Eureka Stockade. Phillip says the Eureka story has enduring significance for all Australians.

"Eureka is the first stand for rights and liberty in this country – their demands for democracy are embedded in our Australian constitution," Phillip says.

"It's up to every Australian to protect and enhance our democracy which is being challenged every day of our lives.

"That's the importance of Eureka and the Eureka Centre, which will inspire us to become more engaged in our democracy."

Eureka Centre Manager Anthony Camm says the committee is confident the centre is well positioned for sustainable growth.

"We're fortunate to be the home of the Eureka Flag, one of Australia's most alluring destination objects," Anthony says.

"We're in a landmark building on a National Heritage listed site.

"These are features both the 2030 Vision and the Interpretation Plan hope to build on."

City of Ballarat Heritage and Cultural Landscapes Officer Catherine McLay says the ideas the community and stakeholders shared had shaped the direction of the Interpretation Plan.

"It's clear there is a strong attachment to this important story we all share, and a groundswell of support for the Eureka Centre to go from strength to strength," Catherine says.



Pathway of Remembrance

Tuesday 3 December marks the 165th anniversary of the Eureka Stockade.

As part of this year's commemorative activities, City of Ballarat is partnering with Eureka's Children to formally open the Pathway of Remembrance at the Eureka Stockade Memorial Park. The pathway acknowledges those who died during the battle on 3 December 1854.



Ballarat changemakers

Almost 15 years ago, the Brown Hill Progress Association rallied to save the Brown Hill Pool from closure. Today, the dedicated community group continues to manage this outdoor City of Ballarat aquatic facility to ensure the community can get together to make a splash each summer.

The Brown Hill Pool is much more than a fun place to cool off on a hot day or evening.

Brown Hill Progress Association (BHPA) secretary Brendan Stevens says it also brings the community together through events such as an annual Australia Day party, Learn to Swim program and Toys at the Pool Day.

"Last year we had about 90 kids participate in our low-cost learn to swim program for children aged four years and older," Brendan says.

"We also run Zumba water classes for adults and kids in the evenings in January and February. One night, we had 68 people in the pool, leaping around and doing Zumba with the music going. It was just fantastic."

A recently retired X-ray and ultrasound technician, Brendan joined the BHPA when his neighbour asked him to help fit out the pool's first aid room.

BHPA is the umbrella association under which is a committee of management for the Brown Hill Pool. The group also works closely with the Brown Hill Community Hall Committee, produces a local newsletter six times each year, runs an annual community festival and maintains an online presence through the Brown Hill Community Online Hub.

BHPA also assists the local kindergarten, primary school and Uniting Church and is a community

voice for groups such as the Brown Hill Partnership and Local Area Plan Working Group.

Brendan says the pool means a lot to the local community, with many families spanning several generations having spent their summers there.

"The pool is over 50 years old and the council built the pool but the community built all of the other facilities here," he says.

“The actual bricks in the walls of our changerooms were handmade bricks, made by volunteers in working bees and laid by local bricklayers.”

– Brendan Stevens

Located in Humffray Street North, the Brown Hill Pool features a 30 metre unheated outdoor pool, a toddlers' pool, waterslide, barbecue and picnic facilities, a kiosk and a basketball half-court.

"Our customer demographic is mostly primary school kids and younger, their parents and their grandparents. It is very family orientated," Brendan says.

Brown Hill is the only City of Ballarat-owned aquatic centre managed by the community.

"The pool has gone from strength to strength each year," Brendan says. "Last year the City of Ballarat put a whole new pump system into the pool and it made our job a lot easier."

There's a lot of work that goes into running the centre, from cleaning the pool after winter and carrying out repairs to recruiting lifeguards and managing the centre's day-to-day operations in summer.

Brendan says the committee manages the workload thanks to the many community groups and residents willing to lend a hand or provide sponsorship but they always need more.

"I've never lived in any other part of Ballarat where there's been such a strong community feel," he says.

"It is great to see families have birthday parties and family celebrations at the pool – it is like a great big shared backyard for the Brown Hill community over summer."

"People are really proud of the community area. The kids who live in the area know this is their asset and they look after it."

"There's a strong sense that this pool is ours and we want to make sure it stays here."

Cool summer

Ballarat's aquatic facilities include:

- Ballarat Aquatic and Lifestyle Centre (BALC)
- Brown Hill Pool
- Eureka Pool
- Buninyong Pool
- Black Hill Pool
- Midlands water play space
- Sebastopol water play space

For more information about the facilities visit ballarataquaticcentre.com





Going from strength to strength: Brown Hill Progress Association members Rachel Zuidland, Liz Mason and Brendan Stevens.

Field Air's big vision

In April 1963, armed with a big vision, the late Ray Mackay chose carefully when he started his agricultural aerial spraying and spreading company at Ballarat Airport.

Fifty-six years later Field Air is a Ballarat success story. Ray's son Peter and grandson Andrew run the thriving business in conjunction with a long-serving team of dedicated employees and management staff.

Field Air has expanded its services to include aerial firefighting, pilot training, aircraft sales and maintenance and regional bases in Deniliquin, Finley and Hay, supported by 50 permanent staff and a fleet of 18 aircraft.

Peter Mackay is the company's managing director. He says his father chose to set up business in Ballarat because it offered good infrastructure and a great lifestyle.

"Ballarat Airport offered excellent facilities and was centrally located to the Western District, Wimmera and Mallee, where demand for aerial agricultural support services was greatest. These were essential factors in my father's decision to start Field Air in Ballarat. In the beginning there were two pilots, two small Piper Pawnee aircraft, two loading trucks, a couple of Holden utes and three ground support personnel," Peter says.

A turning point

In 1978 Field Air imported two Air Tractor aircraft from the USA to provide larger, more cost-effective aircraft to service rice growing operations in the Riverina.

Ray Mackay secured the Australian dealership for Air Tractor, the world's largest manufacturer of agricultural and firefighting aircraft. Peter says it was a turning point.

"We extended the dealership to include Asia and the west Pacific region, selling into China, Malaysia, the Philippines, Indonesia, New Zealand and in Australia."

Fire fighting

When the Australian fire season hits Field Air is at its busiest, contracting its fleet of specialist firefighting aircraft – Air Tractor AT- 802F's – to battle the devastation caused by blazes in Victoria, New South Wales and Tasmania. Ballarat can be proud of the role this local company plays in protecting communities around the country.

"The AT-802F's have a 3200-litre capacity and computerised technology for accurate placement of fire suppressants, they're recognised around the world as extremely effective initial fire attack aircraft.

"We're also responsible – in conjunction with Canadian company Conair – for the Australian operations of the Avro RJ-85, larger air tankers which are deployed on contract to fight fires around the country."

Field Air has recently installed an Air Tractor flight simulator to train local and international pilots and has expanded its maintenance facility to employ 25 aircraft maintenance engineers.

A longer runway

The north south runway at the Ballarat Airport was cut in half by an access road in the 1960s. The City of Ballarat is seeking \$22.5 million funding from the Victorian and Australian governments to reconnect and upgrade the runway to reduce ongoing maintenance cost. A business case to support the investment is underway. This is core infrastructure for a regional city the size of Ballarat.

“Better facilities at the airport will improve employment opportunities, open the possibility of commercial passenger flights, provide for air freight and the development of an Emergency Services and Innovation Hub.”

– Peter Mackay

Peter says Field Air's capacity to expand further at Ballarat Airport and to create more jobs, is limited by the length of the runway.

"We'd like to expand our aircraft maintenance capabilities at Ballarat Airport but because larger planes can't land here our engineers have had to go off site to carry out maintenance on these aircraft. We're spending money out of town to do business, we'd much prefer to have the facilities in Ballarat to do this work – access to a longer runway to bring in larger aircraft is essential for us."



- 20+ community groups use the Ballarat airport
- 10+ businesses operate from the airport
- During the Second World War it was home to around 2,000 personnel and the RAAF radio training facility.



The sky's the limit: Field Air's Andrew and Peter Mackay.



No glass: Andrew Clarke and Lisa Forssman with the new recycling message.

Recycling revolution

Tucked away in Mitchell Park's industrial area is a perfect example of the circular economy in action.

Ballarat Regional Industries (BRI) not only has the City of Ballarat contract to deliver new garbage bins but it also takes away old bins, puts them through a granulation process to break them down into tiny pieces and sells them to a plastic re-modeller to be made into new products then used across the municipality.

"It's like a really round circle," BRI manager Andrew Clarke says.

"It's actually a really, really good story because it's a Ballarat company (Replas) that we sell it to.

"They mould it into different types of products – it might be a park bench or a bollard."

Established in 1984, BRI provides jobs for people with disabilities

and empowering them to live rich, independent and fulfilling lives.

As well as providing employment opportunities, BRI helps with workplace training, person-centred plans that help people with disabilities live the life they want to lead and a range of support services to help with social participation.

Andrew has been with BRI for eight years and still marvels at the range of services they offer, particularly for the City of Ballarat.

“We have over 50 business customers in the Ballarat region who we collect cardboard and paper from and we do document destruction for more than 500 businesses.”

– Andrew Clarke

There's also a kiln on site which heat treats timber for export while old broken wheelie bins from across Victoria, truck mudguards and some types of drums are broken down, put through the granulator and re-purposed.

"We also have a landscaping division that does some mowing and roadside clean ups."

BRI's events division helps with decorations for City of Ballarat events, installing the Christmas decorations in Sturt Street every year.

One of the recent contracts BRI carried out for the City of Ballarat was the placement of 'No Glass' stickers on all of the municipality's recycling bins.

According to Andrew, the process flowed "very smoothly".

And he has a message for all Ballarat households, particularly in



Waste not, want not: BRI recycles cardboard and paper from over 50 business customers.

light of the recent recycling changes caused by a push to use more of the product in local manufacturing.

“With any form of recycling, the better you sort it, the better dollar value we get for it.”

Recycling changes

With overseas markets no longer taking as many Australian recyclables, and with the collapse of former recycling contractor SKM, the City of Ballarat appointed a new contractor, Australian Paper Recovery, which specialise in sourcing paper, cardboard, aluminium and plastics for local markets.

To meet the requirements of these manufacturers the material needs to be as clean as possible. As a result, the focus of no glass, bagged rubbish and clean and empty bottles and containers is really important.

Residents across the municipality have been asked to take all glass out of their recycling bin to avoid

it contaminating the rest of the recycling load, especially as glass can shatter in the bin and embed in the product.

The City of Ballarat is taking a lead by working closely with industry to find solutions that involve recycling glass.

By separating glass from recycling, the glass product remains clean and can be used for research and development opportunities, including road making materials and concrete product trials.

The intent is to use all glass recovered for the highest and best recycling purposes, with this ideally being the production of food and drink glass containers of the future. The market within Australia is reasonably limited. The City of Ballarat is also exploring less high end uses such as road making materials.

Visit recyclingballarat.com to discover how you can better recycle and reuse.



Circular economy in action



The park bench you sit on may have once been an old, broken rubbish bin put through the granulation process at BRI, broken down into tiny pieces and given new life by plastic remodeller Replas.

CONNECT WITH YOUR COUNCILLORS

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NORTH

CENTRAL

SOUTH

The Ballarat municipality is divided into three wards – South, Central and North – 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 Ben Taylor.

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.

The next Council meeting will be held on 11 December, with meeting dates for 2020 to be confirmed. Follow us on Facebook to find out more.

SOUTH WARD

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

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.

