

CITY OF
BALLARAT



my Ballarat

Spring
2019



Thirsty for **Spilt Milk**

The Ballarat band set to perform
at Spilt Milk this November.

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

Website

ballarat.vic.gov.au

NRS-friendly

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

Connecting with myCommunity



@BallaratCityCouncil



@cityofballarat



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TheCityofBallarat



Cover: Ballarat indie-pop band Meraki Minds' members, from L-R, Peggy Hill, Paula Maki and Sam Bailey, are preparing to take centre stage at the Spilt Milk festival this November in Victoria Park.

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

Ballarat is our event city this spring.

The line-up of major events set to entertain us and inject significant investment into our city's cafes, restaurants and accommodation venues is impressive.

We will host Spilt Milk – the city's largest inaugural music festival – in November and our first Fringe Benefits event on the eve of Spilt Milk. This event will feature 12 hours of live music, dance, play and performance.

There's also our third White Night and the Ballarat International Foto Biennale to name a few.

We have Grammy award winner Kris Kristofferson, with band The Strangers, as well as Lee Kernaghan performing at our magnificently restored Civic Hall.

We also have an incredible range of other events taking place, from our SONIKA-led annual pop cultural convention, PopCon, to a series of fun activities being held as part of Children's Week and the Seniors Festival Pop-Up Hub.

Last but not least, we also have the city's much-loved Springfest, Ballarat Show and the Ballarat Cup among a host of vibrant community-driven events.

Our ability to attract and sustain such a dynamic events calendar ensures Ballarat remains a compelling destination for world class events. This fills our hotel beds and the seats of our local cafes, restaurants and bars.

These events go to the core of our *Live Music Strategy*, *Ballarat Event Strategy* and our *Creative City Strategy*.

This spring edition of myBallarat also has a focus on the City of Ballarat's 2019–20 Budget. Throughout this edition, you'll find budget facts that detail just how much the City of Ballarat is investing to maintain \$1.7 billion in assets and to deliver 80-plus services for residents and visitors.

This budget provides for a bigger, better and bolder Ballarat and outlines a range of key projects for the city's future.

The budget features our commitment of \$15 million over three years towards revitalising the Bridge Mall/Bakery Hill precinct.

It also features \$1.9 million over two years towards the Ballarat Library's first major refurbishment since it opened in 1994.

As a Council, we are also exceptionally proud of the progress we've made against the *Council Plan 2017–21*. Our Council Plan sets this Council's vision for our city. Read about our progress and what's yet to be delivered on pages 18–19.

It's an exciting time to live in Ballarat. We hope the stories in this edition motivate you to experience all the fantastic range of events that Ballarat has to offer.



Mayor Cr Samantha McIntosh



Tuning in to live music: Minerva Books owner Julian Potter and Ballarat singer Freya Josephine Hollick are looking forward to the inaugural Fringe Benefits live music event.

live music on the fringe

Ballarat will host its inaugural Fringe Benefits live music event on the eve of Spilt Milk this November. Get ready for 12 hours of music, dance, play and performance in our city's restaurants and cafes, pubs, book stores and clubs.

Ballarat singer Freya Josephine Hollick is throwing her voice behind opportunities for local performers.

Freya, a cosmic country and soul artist, says events such as the City of Ballarat's new Fringe Benefits event, where performing artists will bring to life a range of traditional and non-traditional music, supports local performers to live their dreams.

“It's always really good fun to perform somewhere that's not a conventional venue.”

– Freya Hollick

“I've done a lot of playing in different kinds of stores, such as record stores and book stores, and it's always a very special event because

people are not used to seeing music in that sort of environment.”

Minerva Books owner Julian Potter has hosted a few performances in his Sturt Street book store, from acoustic music through to electronic pop bands, and is looking forward to hosting another performance as part of Fringe Benefits.

“I think a lot of the time people don't know how to react because of that intimacy with a musician, and the closeness of the sound,” he says.

“It's usually not amplified, it's very intimate and authentic.”

Fringe Benefits will run from 12pm to 12am on Friday 29 November, with the Spilt Milk festival set to take centre stage the next day in Victoria Park.

City of Ballarat Coordinator Creative City Tara Poole says Fringe Benefits will encourage residents and thousands of festival-goers to explore Ballarat's diverse offering of local talent.

“Fringe Benefits provides a wide variety of different genres

of artists the opportunity to perform in locations they traditionally wouldn't have access to,” she says.

“We've got composers working on new operatics in town as well as rockers working on garage songs. This is about kick-starting opportunities right here in the city.”

Fringe Benefits is an example of the City of Ballarat's *Creative City Strategy* in action, which encompasses the *Live Music Strategy* and the *Ballarat Event Strategy*.

Visit creativeballarat.com.au for a complete list of Fringe Benefits events.

2019–20 Budget

The City of Ballarat is investing \$6.8 million in events, Creative City and tourism this financial year.

Thirsty for **Spilt Milk**

More than 20,000 people will converge on Victoria Park for the inaugural popular music, food and art festival **Spilt Milk** on Saturday 30 November. The festival will cap off the biggest spring events calendar Ballarat has seen, with major drawcards such as **White Night**, the **Ballarat International Foto Biennale** and our first **Fringe Benefits** event all cementing Ballarat as a leading event city.

Ballarat Indie-pop band Meraki Minds is excited to be taking centre stage at the major Spilt Milk festival in November.

There, the band will join local four-piece surf-punk garage outfit Leftfield Luxury, and the likes of international

headliners Khalid, Chvrches, Juice WRLD and Australian talent Illy, Dom Dolla, Middle Kids, G Flip, Dune Rats and many more.

Although Paula and fellow vocalist and multi-instrumentalist Peggy Hill have been singing and playing together for more than six years, the complete band was formed just two years ago.

Along with guitarist Sam Bailey, drummer Joshua Horvat and guitarist Peter Wynn, the band won the regional finals of SONIKA's Battle of the Bands last year and has taken to the stages of Ballarat and Melbourne's music scenes and released its EP, *Persuade Me*.

Meraki Minds vocalist Paula Maki says performing at Spilt Milk is an incredible opportunity for the five-piece band.

"We're pretty thrilled. We're so excited to play," she says.

“To have festivals come here, it's just great – it's reviving our live music scene.”

– Paula Maki

Spilt Milk first launched three years ago in Canberra, where it delivers \$11 million into the local economy each year.

Similar results are expected for Ballarat, with accommodation



Spring Event Highlights

- White Night Ballarat
- Royal South Street Society Eisteddfod
- Ballarat International Foto Biennale
- Fringe Benefits and Spilt Milk
- Springfest Market Sunday
- Melbourne United v Illawarra Hawks
- Kris Kristofferson and The Strangers

Read more events on pages 10–11.



providers, eateries and shops expected to reap the benefits of thousands of festival-goers descending on Ballarat for Spilt Milk and the city's first Fringe Benefits event.

Ryan Sabet, Managing Director of Kicks Entertainment which is bringing Spilt Milk to Ballarat, says the festival provides opportunities for creatives to showcase their talent while providing a major boost to the local economy.

"You see a lot of people getting excited from all different walks of life – it's great for the business community, it's great for the accommodation sector, there's huge tourism benefits," he says.

"But in a really simple sense, it's about people coming together, creating opportunities and memories, and listening to great music."

City of Ballarat Events Manager Heidi Zukauskas says research shows that for every dollar spent on live music, three dollars of benefit is returned to the wider community.

Heidi says 12 months of behind-the-scenes negotiations and planning went in to attracting Spilt Milk to Ballarat.

"We set ourselves a clear vision for Ballarat to be a compelling destination for world-class events by attracting and sustaining a vibrant events calendar that increases visitor

nights and spend in the city – that's exactly what Spilt Milk helps us achieve," she says.

Heidi says the festival will also act as a launching platform for local performers, providing them with the opportunity to play in front of thousands of festival-goers.

"As well as bringing in so many international and well-known Australian artists, who we know will inspire our own, we want Ballarat to be known as the place for incubating, educating and establishing creative talent.

"At the end of the day, securing Spilt Milk for Ballarat goes to the heart of our *Live Music Strategy*, *Events Strategy* and *Creative City Strategy*."

Pictured below. Making music in Victoria Park: Kicks Entertainment Managing Director Ryan Sabet with Meraki Minds' members Peggy Hill, Joshua Horvat, Peter Wynen, Paula Maki and Sam Bailey.





An artist's impression of a revitalised Bridge Mall.

Driving investment in the Bridge Mall

The City of Ballarat's \$15 million investment in the Bridge Mall will re-establish the precinct as Ballarat's civic heart, where residents and visitors can live, dine, shop and socialise.

Opening the Bridge Mall to pedestrians and slow-moving vehicles is just one of a range of investment initiatives as part of a bold plan designed to revitalise and encourage major private investment in the Bakery Hill precinct.

The Bridge Mall stands on the cusp of a dynamic new era.

The mall will be transformed into a vibrant city centre. It will offer a unique mix of shopping, business and entertainment options, set to attract hundreds of extra jobs, while also forming part of a bigger move to encourage an extra 5,000 people to live in the CBD by 2050.

The mall will be opened to slow-moving vehicles to bring movement back to the streets, while also creating a new arrival experience to the CBD, connecting Victoria Street to Sturt Street.

The City of Ballarat's significant investment in the Bridge Mall, one of the key projects outlined in the City of Ballarat's 2019–20 Budget, follows strong community feedback calling for major investment and change in the precinct.

Urgent action is needed to transform the area into a flourishing city centre. The vacancy rate has tripled in the past seven years to stand at 17.6 per cent earlier this year.

The *Bakery Hill Precinct Urban Renewal Project* began defining a vision and implementation plan to review Bakery Hill, particularly the Bridge Mall, last year.

After extensive community consultation, the project to revitalise the precinct includes a new accessible playground, open green space, restoration of historic shopfronts and improving car parking.

It will also boost pedestrian and cycling access, improve safety, encourage the use of upper floor building levels, and celebrate the precinct's indigenous and gold rush history.

For the past few months, the City of Ballarat's Strategic Planning team has been working with the community to develop the scope and design of the spaces, including mapping out the detail of how the mall will open to vehicles and pedestrians.

City of Ballarat Manager Strategic Planning Lisa Kendal says the investment will be transformational.



Did you know?

“It’s really the biggest investment we’ve seen in the CBD in years,” she says.

“It has the potential to totally reinvigorate the heart of the city and to meet the needs of all people, hopefully attracting new residents to live in the CBD as well and bringing the heart of the city to life.

“People told us that now is the time for change – they are ready. They don’t want the precinct to decline, they want to see investment and to see it reinvigorated.”

– Lisa Kendal

“Our community really loves the built history and the stories of the place and want to see that embedded in the future design of the space as well.”

Works to open the Bridge Mall could begin as soon as later this year, with the rest of the project to be rolled out within the next five years.

Have your say on the future of the Bridge Mall at mysay.ballarat.vic.gov.au.

2019–20 Budget

The City of Ballarat has allocated \$15 million, spread over three years, to stage one of the Bakery Hill and Bridge Mall precinct works.

- Bridge Street was transformed into a pedestrian mall in 1981.
- The Bakery Hill area features about 200 retail and hospitality industries where 1,900 people work.
- The Bridge Mall alone is home to 90 businesses, not including those fronting Curtis and Little Bridge Streets.

Watch this 38-year-old ABC report about the Bridge Mall at <https://bit.ly/2GXWfav>

Bridge Mall, State Library Victoria.





CITY OF
BALLARAT



Overcoming barriers to employment

Interculturalism is now a defining feature of our community given almost 10 per cent of Ballarat residents are born overseas. The City of Ballarat's Intercultural Employment Pathways program is creating real employment and training outcomes for our migrants and refugees.

Franklin Nnajofofor wants to help others.

Born in Nigeria, Franklin moved with his wife and two children to Ballarat in April and has since been seeking employment as a youth worker.

Franklin has a background in sales and logistics and has also completed a Bachelor of Arts degree in Human Rehabilitation and Counselling and a Master in Global Leadership.

But without local networks, connections and experience to get a foot in the door with potential employers, he's one of the many migrants and refugees to turn to the City of Ballarat's Intercultural Employment Pathways (IEP) program for assistance to find employment and training.

"I want to help people, I have a passion for that," Franklin says.

The IEP program, which first began as a pilot initiative two years ago, has provided training for 20 people and secured employment for 12 people.

Another success story from the IEP program is Katrina Baraquel, originally from the Philippines, who moved to Melbourne to gain a Post Graduate degree in Gender and Developmental Studies.

Despite her qualifications and the ability to speak six languages, Katrina applied for more than 100 positions before moving to Ballarat and joining the program. Last year, Katrina secured employment as a Customer Service Officer at the City of Ballarat.

"The program gave me access to one-on-one coaching on how to tailor my resume and ace my interviews. This gave me the confidence to present myself as the best candidate for the job," she says.

IEP Business Engagement Officer John Drennan says the program changes lives, helping new residents navigate the training and employment landscape.

John says there are now 66 people listed with the program, from people

with warehouse to accounting skills and experience.

"There's a lot of great people who just need an opportunity and they may not have contacts in Ballarat like many of us have, so I'm able to help put them in contact with businesses that are looking for people," he says.

"These people want to be here, they want to work, they want to contribute, they have a great work ethic they just need the old Australian fair go – someone willing to give them a chance."

Figures show Ballarat is home to migrants from 89 different countries. The City of Ballarat is promoting social inclusion and wellbeing throughout the city's migrant community as a key feature of its *Intercultural City Strategic Plan 2018–21*.



To find out more about the Intercultural Employment Pathways program, contact Business Engagement Officer John Drennan on 5320 5180.



Willing to work: Katrina Baraquel, Franklin Nnajofofor, Rasaratnam Muththan, Dimitri Dollard and Olumide Oyepitan. Rasaratnam secured employment with Ballarat Toyota, Dimitri joined the City of Ballarat as a Youth Development Project Officer and Olumide is seeking employment as a carer for people with disabilities.

Ballarat's BIGGEST spring event calendar

September

On now until 2 Nov	Royal South Street Society Eisteddfod f royalsouthstreetsociety
On now until 27 Oct	Jane Burton and Eugenia Lim exhibitions artgalleryofballarat.com.au
1	Father's Day Lunch Ballarat Greyhound Racing Club, 11.30am ballarat.grv.org.au
8	Piano for Pleasure 2.30pm artgalleryofballarat.com.au
13	Melbourne United vs Illawarra Hawks Ballarat Sports Events Centre ballaratbasketball.com
FREE 14	Ballarat Farmers Market Lake Wendouree, 9am–1pm f Ballarat Farmers Market
FREE 14	Mooncake Festival Art Gallery of Ballarat, 11am–8pm artgalleryofballarat.com.au
FREE 19	Our place and... Backspace Gallery artgalleryofballarat.com.au
FREE 21	White Night Ballarat CBD, 7pm–2am whitenight.com.au
23	Kris Kristofferson and The Strangers Civic Hall, 7.30pm hermaj.com
FREE 27	Brown Hill Market Brown Hill Hall, 9am–1pm f Brown Hill Market

October

5	PopCon 2019 Eastwood Leisure Centre, 10am–5pm f ballaratyouthservices
FREE 2	Seniors Festival Pop-Up Hub Lucas Community Hub f BallaratCouncil
11	Anthony Callea Wendouree Centre for Performing Arts, 8pm wcpa.com.au
11–13	VACSAL Victorian Aboriginal Senior Football and Netball Carnival Marty Busch Reserve vacsal.org.au
FREE 12	Maker's Market Ballarat North Community Centre, 10am–2pm u3aballarat.org.au
FREE 12	Ballarat Farmers Market Lake Wendouree, 9am–1pm f Ballarat Farmers Market
12	Love Your Sister Gala Ball Civic Hall twinhearts.org.au
FREE 13	Ballarat Eureka Stamp and Coin Fair Ballarat Specialist School, 9.30am–3.30pm
19	Kryal Castle Timeline Festival 10am f kryalcastle
19–27	National Children's Week 2019 ballarat.vic.gov.au
26	Ballarat Mini Friends Dollhouse and Miniatures Fair Brown Hill Hall, 10am–4pm



**Ballarat International Foto
Biennale – Liu Bolin: Camouflage**

On now until 20 Oct

ballaratfoto.org



Pictured: *Balloons* - Liu Bolin, *Balloon No.1*, 2012

November

2–3

Ballaarat Quilters Exhibition

St Patricks Community Hall,
10am

ballaaratquilters.com

8–10

Ballarat Show

Ballarat Showgrounds
ballaratshow.org.au

9

The Hopathon

Hop Temple, 11.30am
hoptemple.com.au

11

Ballarat Remembrance Day Services

- Arch of Victory, 9am
- Miners Rest Cenotaph, 10.30am
- RSL Park, Buninyong, 10.45am
- Ballarat Cenotaph, 11am
- Ex Prisoners of War Memorial, 11.45am

16

Lee Kernaghan

Civic Hall, 8pm
hermaj.com

17

Run For A Cause

Victoria Park, from 6.30am
ballaratfoundation.org

23

Ballarat Cup

Ballarat Turf Club
 ballarat.turfclub

23

Melbourne Renegades vs Melbourne Stars

Eastern Oval, 2pm
bigbash.com.au

FREE
24

Springfest Market Sunday

Lake Wendouree
ballaratspringfest.com.au

29

Fringe Benefits

Various locations, 12pm–12am
creativeballarat.com.au

30

Spilt Milk

Victoria Park
spilt-milk.com.au



Taking Ballarat's heritage to new heights: S.J. Weir Ballarat Director Craig Jenkins, City of Ballarat Heritage Advisor Planning Annabel Neylon, Heritage Architect Janet Beeston and Reid's Guest House Manager Warwick Smith.

Highlighting our heritage

The restoration of the former Reid's Coffee Palace has breathed new life into one of Ballarat's historical architectural gems. It's also prompted more CBD heritage property owners to turn to the City of Ballarat's Heritage Advisory Service for expert advice and assistance designed to enhance their heritage buildings.

The façade of the former Reid's Coffee Palace has been restored to its former glory.

Built in 1886, Reid's Coffee Palace once stood as one of the most magnificent buildings in Ballarat, with its hand-painted murals, leadlight windows and outstanding timber staircase.

The state-listed heritage building is renowned as one of Victoria's last coffee palaces – part of the

temperance movement of the 19th century that aimed to counter the consumption of alcohol.

Reid's is now run by Uniting Ballarat as budget accommodation for those at risk of homelessness. Reid's was restored thanks to a \$60,000 grant from the Ballarat Heritage Restoration Fund. The fund is a partnership between the City of Ballarat and the Victorian Heritage Restoration Fund, which was administered by the National Trust, along with \$700,000 from the Victorian Government's Living Heritage Fund.

The restoration won two awards at the City of Ballarat's 2019 Heritage and Design Excellence Awards. The Conservation of a Heritage Place Award was presented to Uniting Ballarat and S.J. Weir Ballarat while the Excellence in Heritage Skills Award was presented to Rod and

Brendon of Hishon Bros Painting Specialists, Bill Hollick and Andrew Thorn of Artcare.

External works restored the building's exterior, including the verandah, while internal works reversed changes to the main entry and stair hall, which revealed and restored the early decorative paint scheme.

Reid's Guest House Manager Warwick Smith says the results are "amazing" for Ballarat and also for the building's residents.

“We often have people walking past looking in and our clients will actually say – ‘come in, look at where I live, look at this building’. It's really great to see.”

– Warwick Smith



Award-winning: The restoration of the former Reid's Coffee Palace won two accolades at the City of Ballarat's 2019 Heritage and Design Excellence Awards.

As part of the City of Ballarat's *Ballarat Heritage Plan 2017–2030*, the Heritage Advisory Service has launched a new CBD Outreach Program, to help CBD property owners undertake conservation works, such as verandah reconstruction and façade restoration works, and provide assistance to access heritage grants for restoration works.

Outreach Program Heritage Architect Janet Beeston is helping CBD property owners navigate the complex heritage conservation landscape to restore their verandahs, shop fronts and facades.

Janet helps property owners discover the original appearance of their building and provides advice on how they can achieve a restoration that accurately

restores the original design, from conducting historical research and undertaking paint scrapes analysis to navigating the planning system.

"Anyone can contact me to just have a chat about their building," she says.

"If they want to put a verandah back up, I can find out if there was a verandah on their building and assist them to get that reconstructed."

City of Ballarat Heritage Advisor Planning Annabel Neylon says the Reid's restoration is an example of how heritage can be a great opportunity to work with the community to boost the city centre.

"It's been an enormous benefit to Lydiard Street and people are starting to ask – how can we look at doing some work on our

building and tie it into the Heritage Outreach Program?"

The Heritage Advisory Service's new CBD Outreach Program can help you discover more about your heritage building. To find out more, contact Customer Service on 5320 5500.

Want to apply for a heritage grant? Visit vhrf.org.au or call Victoria's Heritage Restoration Grants on 9656 9870.

2019–20 Budget



The City of Ballarat is investing \$1 million into the restoration of the Town Hall ballroom, making it more accessible to the entire community.

Ballarat changemakers

Meet Robyn Cunningham – winner of the Award for Senior of the Year 2018. Robyn volunteers with a range of groups to help those less fortunate. The City of Ballarat will shine the spotlight on our seniors in October through the Ballarat Senior Awards 2019 and our Seniors Festival's first ever Pop-Up Hub.

Robyn lends her voice to some of our community's most vulnerable people.

As a regional convenor and community visitor with the Office of the Public Advocate, Robyn oversees a small team designed to protect and promote the health, safety, wellbeing and rights of people receiving mental health services.

Through her role, Robyn visits mental health facilities in the Grampians region to ensure patients are safe from harm and exploitation, and they are being treated with dignity and respect.

"I think I've been blessed with a good life, a happy life, and some people just get the knocks," she says.

“This service is like putting a hand out to someone. It's just a delight to be able to go out and assist people.”

Robyn has spent most of her life giving back to the community, including as a foster parent and also as an elder, board member and volunteer with the Ballarat Seventh-day Adventist Church.

At the age of 79, Robyn shows no sign of slowing down.

"I've always enjoyed my volunteering work and I really love what I do," she says.

"My life is my family and my church – the local community is very important to me. As we retire, I think it's so important to get out and do things."

This is the eleventh year the City of Ballarat has presented the Senior of the Year Awards. It recognises local residents, aged 55 years and older, who have made a significant contribution to the Ballarat community.

You can nominate an outstanding senior for the City of Ballarat's Senior of the Year Awards 2019.

Be quick – nominations close on Sunday 15 September. To nominate an unsung senior hero, visit mySay.ballarat.vic.gov.au or pick up a form from The Phoenix Customer Service, in Armstrong Street South, or from Ballarat Libraries.

As part of the *Growing Older Well in Ballarat Strategy*, the City of Ballarat's Active Ageing team will host a Seniors Festival Pop-Up Hub on Wednesday 2 October at Lucas Community Hub.

Find out more about our Seniors Festival at ballarat.vic.gov.au.





Share your photos with us on Instagram using **#SturtStreetGardens** and we will share them with the community. The best photos will receive free tickets to some of the great events being held as part of the Ballarat International Foto Biennale.

Getting to know the Sturt Street Gardens

They may reach just 20m in width but at 2kms in length, the Sturt Street Gardens has a major impact on the thousands of people passing by or lingering to enjoy the gardens each day. Explore and rediscover the Sturt Street Gardens this spring.

The Sturt Street Gardens is the perfect escape right in the heart of our city. It stretches for 13 blocks between Grenville and Pleasant Streets.

Whether you want to enjoy an ice-cream or a take-away lunch on the bench seats or want to explore one of the finest collections of Victorian era statues, fountains and memorials in the Southern Hemisphere, the Sturt Street Gardens has a lot to offer.

First laid out by surveyor William Swan Urquhart's survey in 1851, electric trams were introduced on either side of the central gardens on August 18 1905. This created six lanes of traffic, until the last tram ran in 1971.

Today, the Sturt Street Gardens remains a showcase for our city centre. Not only serving as a traditional wide median strip, the gardens provide a space for ceremonial activities, such as flag-raising events at Queen Victoria Square opposite the Town Hall. The location is also used for ceremonial commemorative purposes around the Cenotaph and the South East Asian War Memorial.

The gardens has two bandstands listed on the Victorian Heritage Register, the Queen Alexandra Bandstand and the Titanic Memorial Bandstand, as well as the Burke and Wills Fountain and memorials, such as the Eight Hour Labour Day Memorial.

The location is also home to an impressive collection of statues, including the Queen Victoria Statue, the Boer War Memorial, Robbie Burns Statue, Thomas Moore Statue and the Peter Lalor Statue, just to name a few.

The Sturt Street Gardens will soon become home to the city's first statue created by a female artist.

As part of the vision, outlined in Ballarat's *Creative City Strategy*, for new public artwork to focus on telling local stories, artist Lis Johnson has created a life-size public artwork of Ballarat-born humanitarian George Devine Treloar, renowned for his work to resettle Greek refugees.

The statue will be unveiled at the intersection of Sturt and Errard Streets in September.

2019–20 Budget

The City of Ballarat will invest \$13 million into the municipality's parks and gardens, including the Ballarat Botanical Gardens, Buninyong Botanic Gardens, Victoria Park and the Sturt Street Gardens.



Food waste **for thought**

More Ballarat residents are composting, transforming their food scraps into rich soil and fertiliser at home while reducing landfill and greenhouse gas emissions. The City of Ballarat has joined forces with Compost Revolution to encourage more residents to embrace alternative ways of disposing their food waste.

Lou Ridsdale wants your food scraps.

The founder of not-for-profit initiative Food is Free uses food waste for composting, in a bid to create soil to grow more food for the community.

“Once a week we have to empty a wheelie bin full of compost just at the Food is Free laneway alone, so that’s a lot of people taking up the opportunity to compost with us,” she says.

“It might be people living in small apartments, it might be people who don’t have the impetus to have their own composting system or the means.

“We offer people the opportunity to come and drop off their compost scraps – their veggie scraps, their leaves and their shredded paper.”

Five years ago, Lou created Food is Free Laneway at the corner of Ripon Street and Warrior Place. Here, people can drop-off or collect surplus nutritious food, such as veggies, fruit and herbs, and connect with their neighbourhood.

The City of Ballarat granted Food is Free access to use a parcel of land in Ripon Street at the Western Oval.

Here, Food is Free has created a Green Space dedicated to growing food for at-risk or marginalised community groups. It’s also set-

up as a classroom to teach the community about growing food and sustainability.

Both sites not only work to address food security, a key element of the City of Ballarat’s recently adopted *Good Food for All: Food Strategy 2019–22*, they also contribute to the ShareWaste phenomenon, an online platform that connects people wanting to recycle their kitchen scraps with their neighbours, who are already composting, worm-farming or keeping chickens.

“We get great benefits from it but the planet gets an extraordinary benefit from it because it means those scraps aren’t going into the rubbish tip.”

– Lou Ridsdale



Catch on to composting: Food is Free founder Lou Ridsdale with Florence and Elsie Brady.

“When it goes into the rubbish tip, compost produces really bad methane gasses, so we don’t like it going into rubbish tips, we would rather it go into the compost systems at Food is Free.”

Compost Revolution

Research shows food scraps make up 40 per cent of residents’ rubbish bin content. This has prompted the City of Ballarat to join forces with online platform Compost Revolution to encourage more people to reuse their food waste.

The social enterprise, first started by three inner city Sydney councils, offers a large range of subsidised products, including compost bins, worm farms and Bokashi bins, enabling residents to reuse their food scraps with the product best suited to their home.

All products are ordered online at compostrevolution.com.au. The website also features educational tutorials that explain how each product works.

Residents have embraced the initiative since it was first launched earlier this year, with the worm farms and Bokashi bins proving the most popular.

City of Ballarat Health and Wellbeing Planner Caroline Amirtharajah says composting is not only good for the environment, it also helps people to re-think their food waste.

“It gets people to really think about reducing their waste in the first place and the best way to reduce your waste is to not buy more food than you need,” she says.

“We really want people to use up their leftovers, to try and create ways of reusing that last meal or

freezing things but also planning meals before you shop.”

Caroline says the *Good Food for All: Food Strategy 2019–22* outlines the City of Ballarat’s role in the local food system and the actions Council will take over the next four years, from increasing access to and the promotion of safe and nutritious food to improving community knowledge and the skills to grow and prepare healthy meals.

2019–20 Budget

The City of Ballarat will spend \$15.2 million on delivering waste services, including the Ballarat Transfer Station, waste collection and managing the Smythesdale landfill.

Bold vibrant and thriving

How Ballarat is tracking in 2019.

This year marks the halfway point of the City of Ballarat Council Plan 2017–2021.

At the start of the current council term in 2016, Councillors asked you, the community, to nominate your priorities for Ballarat. From these conversations, Councillors developed the City of Ballarat Council Plan 2017–2021. It called for Ballarat to be a city that is **bold, vibrant and thriving.**



Council Plan 2017–2021

This year marks the mid-point of the Council Plan, so it's a good time to ask:

How are we tracking as a city?

Across a range of measures, the answers are very encouraging.

A thriving economy

The Council Plan identified the need to grow jobs and investment to match present and future population growth and today the Ballarat economy is in robust good health.

The 8,576 businesses registered in Ballarat contributed to an economic output that has continued to expand, from \$12.7 billion in 2016 to \$14.3 billion in 2018. Median house prices are up from \$320,000 in 2016 to \$400,000 in June 2019.

A growing city

Ballarat's population reached 107,325 in 2018, an increase of 13,824 since 2011 and an annual average growth of 1.8 per cent. This places Ballarat as the fastest growing regional city in Victoria.

Victorian and Australian Government investment

Ballarat has also attracted significant Victorian and Australian Government investment for key strategic projects such as next stage works to Her Majesty's Ballarat, Mars Stadium and the Ballarat Sports Events Centre (BSEC) and lighting for Lake Wendouree and Victoria Park.

What's been delivered from the Council Plan already?

Major and community sports facilities open

Mars Stadium was officially opened and already it's hosted AFL, AFLW and local football finals on a surface rated as the best in the AFL.

The Ballarat Sports Events Centre Stage One was completed in July and is fulfilling its role as a hub for community indoor sport and major indoor sports events.

Upgrades at City Oval, White Flat and Mount Pleasant Reserve are also making a big difference in those neighbourhoods.

CBD icons restored

Civic Hall was reopened this year and is also hosting some fantastic events in the heart of our CBD, while Her Majesty's Ballarat will soon open its doors on 13 September following comprehensive restorative works.

Community facilities built

New buildings such as Lucas Community Hub and Bonshaw Early Learning Centre, along with the refurbished Ballarat North Community Centre and Sebastopol Library Hub have delivered modern facilities for communities across our city.

That's just a few of the great things we've already completed, and there's plenty more to come.

What is still to come?

Bakery Hill entrance renewal

We've committed \$15 million over three years to revitalise the Bakery Hill entrance to our CBD, including opening Bridge Street to vehicles.

Ballarat Library upgrade

Ballarat Library will get a \$1.9 million upgrade, its first major overhaul since the current site was opened in 1994.

Sustainability programs

We'll progress our Urban Forest Action Plan by planting thousands of trees across our city and install LED lighting across the city to help reach our target of carbon neutrality by 2025.

Next stage of major projects

Civic Hall, Ballarat Sports Events Centre and Her Majesty's Ballarat will all have the next stage of works to complement the outstanding projects already completed at those venues.



Visit ballarat.vic.gov.au to see more about the projects already done and those still to come from the City of Ballarat Council Plan 2017–2021.

CONNECT WITH YOUR COUNCILLORS

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 11 September, 2 and 30 October, and 20 November.

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 Tillet

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