

CITY OF
BALLARAT

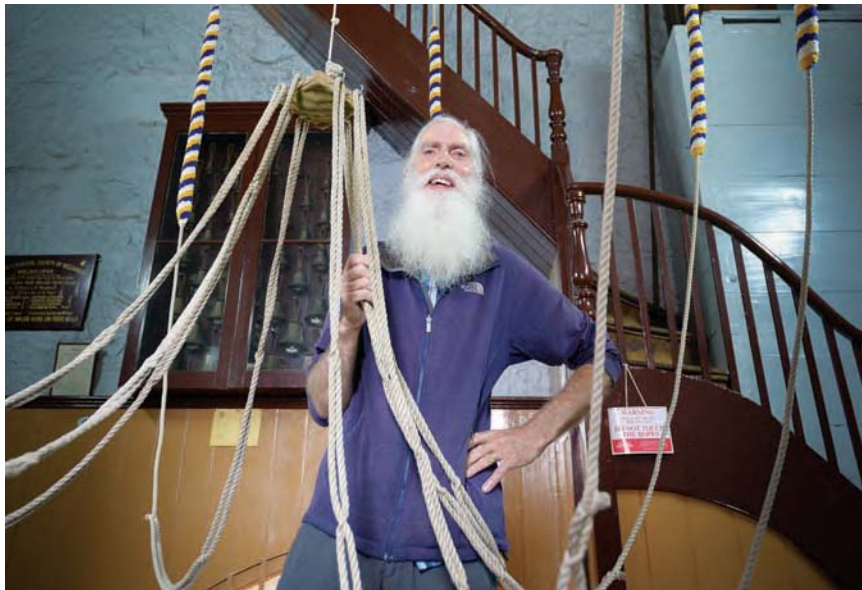


my

Ballarat

Autumn
2018





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Ballarat Heritage Weekend: Tony Evans Photography for Visit Ballarat

CITY OF
BALLARAT



myContact

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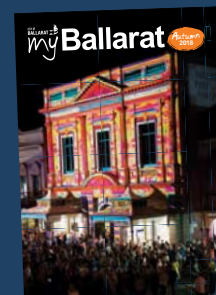
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TheCityofBallarat



Cover image: The Art Gallery of
Ballarat lights up in White Night
Ballarat 2017. Photo credit: SDP
Media.

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

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

All information correct at time of
going to print.



my Mayor's message

Autumn is one of my favourite seasons, when the changing colour of the leaves turn Ballarat's streets into hues of brown, copper and gold.

In this edition, we take a look at some of the events that will make Ballarat shine in the Autumn months, think White Night, Ballarat Begonia Festival and Ballarat Heritage Weekend, and we talk to the people who provide – and enjoy – the many community facilities and services that the City of Ballarat delivers.

Ballarat is a city with so much to offer, so it's no surprise that our population is flourishing. In fact, Ballarat is one of Australia's fastest growing inland regional cities, and forecasts show about 160,000 people are expected to call Ballarat home by 2040.

It takes a lot of people to deliver a huge range of services to cater for our growing community.

The City of Ballarat is one of Ballarat's largest employers, with more than 1,000 people delivering 100+ services to the community – including maintaining our roads, assets, and parks and gardens, collecting our kerbside waste, providing immunisations and parent support, and keeping the city's outdoor pools and sport and recreation facilities in top shape.

In this edition of myBallarat magazine, you'll find information about the City of Ballarat's assets and services and discover how our community uses them.

On pages 14–15, a group of early morning lap swimmers share their stories about taking the plunge at the much-loved Eureka Pool.

On pages 38–39, we go behind the scenes at the Smythesdale Landfill – the end destination for about half of the municipality's waste. Each year, an average of 423kg of waste for each person living in the municipality is sent to this modern facility on the outskirts of Ballarat.

As we move into a new season, our city also prepares to play host to some exciting major events.

White Night Ballarat, the acclaimed night art illumination festival that last year attracted 40,000 people to the streets of Ballarat and generated \$3 million for the local economy, will once again put Ballarat in the spotlight. On pages 4–5, we chat to two Ballarat artists who are preparing to light up the night with their art.

And from a new event to a long-standing one – the Ballarat Begonia Festival, one of Australia's oldest community events – returns to the Ballarat Botanical Gardens in March.

It takes many months of work to grow the beautiful begonias that attract thousands of people each year. Turn to pages 26–27 to find out more.

In this edition, we also take you inside the walls of the city's premier public building, the Ballarat Town Hall. Plus, you'll find out how to explore all the levels and rooms of this landmark building online – from the comfort of your armchair.

We also farewell Art Gallery of Ballarat Director Gordon Morrison, as he prepares to retire. Gordon reflects on his achievements and vision for the nation's oldest and largest regional gallery on pages 34–35.

These stories reflect a Ballarat that is a thriving, progressive and innovative city. They are stories of local government at its best, working for residents to create healthy, connected communities.



Mayor Cr Samantha McIntosh



By night: Chancery Lane (above) became the canvas for Christine and Erin's artwork, *Do Not Go Gentle*, at White Night Ballarat 2017. By day: White Night Ballarat artists Christine Tammer and Erin McCuskey return to Chancery Lane, below.

From the cover: *lighting up* the night

Ballarat streets will once again shine with a kaleidoscope of colour when White Night returns on Saturday 17 March. This year, even more Ballarat artists will be involved in transforming the CBD into a visual wonderland of installations, lighting, exhibitions and interactive performances.



Christine Tammer and Erin McCuskey are no strangers to leveraging the darkness as a blank canvas for their art.

Christine, a composer, musician and vocal improvisation teacher, joined forces with Erin, a multimedia and film artist, to create an audio-visual collaboration on death, dying, memory and love, titled *Do Not Go Gentle*, in Chancery Lane as part of Australia's first regional White Night in Ballarat last year.

These talented Ballarat artists are preparing to showcase *Random Number Generator*, their latest multi-channel film installation addressing Australia's addiction to poker machines, at White Night Ballarat on 17 March.

"It's very exciting. It's a chance to make my dream come true. I've been working on a cabaret called *The Venue* for some years now, and it's great to see a little part of the cabaret coming to fruition for

White Night," Christine says.

A large number of Ballarat artists will participate in this year's event, further enhancing Ballarat's reputation as 'a city of the arts'.

The event also shines the spotlight on many of Ballarat's landmark heritage buildings. The iconic Town Hall has been added this year – creating a historic backdrop to celebrate the city's past through black and white images.

With White Night Artistic Director David Atkins OAM at the helm, artists, musicians and performers will illuminate the city streets, reflecting the theme inspired by the words of Henry Lawson: *And the Sun sank again on the great Australian bush, the nurse and tutor of eccentric minds, the home of the weird, and of much that is different from things in other lands.*

This year's program has doubled in size, expanding from Sturt and Lydiard Streets to include the Armstrong Street area.



In colour: The Mining Exchange lights up at last year's White Night Ballarat.

An artist of 35 years, Christine says after five months of planning and three months of making last year's "soft and gentle rather than sparkly" installation, it was incredibly rewarding to watch people enjoy their art lighting up the night.

"There were all of these people standing around in this dark, little alleyway," she says.

"It was so wonderful to see our work being viewed by hundreds of people.

"The night was so beautiful, just seeing so many people out there with smiles on their faces was such a positive thing."

Christine says White Night is a fantastic opportunity for Ballarat artists.

"Artists have a hard time trying to get funding or trying to do their art,

and to have something like White Night come along and say – we want you, we think you're fantastic, well it's so wonderful."



Want to know more?

White Night Ballarat returns to the region on Saturday 17 March, between 7pm–2am.

View the program and find out more at whitenight.com.au/ballarat or follow the event on



#whitenightballarat

White Night Ballarat is a State Government of Victoria event that is owned and managed by Visit Victoria, and supported by the City of Ballarat.

white night 2018 highlights

- The Eagle – a 200m LED animation of Bunjil, inspired by the artwork of Ballarat Indigenous elder, Auntie Marlene Gilson
- Ghosts of Eureka – a fluorescent spray paint mural about the Eureka Stockade created by local artist Stuart Walsh
- Aussie Melting Pot – Ballarat artist Lou Callow's mixed media piece explores the quirky icons, symbols and rituals of what it means to be Australian
- Dreamscape – Ballarat-based artist Pauline O'Shannessy-Dowling's playful and humorous exhibition showcases the Australian bush
- 140 years above Ballarat - Skyline Drone Imaging's installation features aerial photos of Ballarat from the past and compares how our major buildings have changed
- A Blanck Canvas – The White Knight Messenger returns this year, along with other moving sculptures including Utility Kinetic Insect by Pelican Studios and the 5.5m stilt structure Bird Men
- The program will extend beyond buildings with an innovative new work by Giovanna Inserra featuring a series of eyes projected on to trees in Sturt Street.



Water works: Jeff McKenna at the controls of 'Chopper' on Lake Wendouree.

in prime condition

Lake Wendouree is in the best health it's been in for years. An abundance of fish and bird life, excellent water quality and thriving aquatic plants are all signs of an extremely healthy ecosystem.

Jeff McKenna has an office with an ever-changing view.

Jeff spends his working days on the waters of Lake Wendouree operating 'Chopper', the City of Ballarat's seven tonne weed cutter.

Chopper runs year-round keeping the lake navigable for sailors, rowers, sailboarders, canoeists, kayakers and people fishing.

"I get to see Ballarat's weather at its finest and its worst. Depending on the season and the job at hand, I see sunrises and sunsets over Lake Wendouree," Jeff says.

"It's also the best seat in the house to observe the hundreds of birds that live on the lake. At last count, 45 bird species were recorded, with Black Ducks, Little Pied Cormorants and Black Swans the most common."

Natural habitat

The islands and rafts of water milfoil, often referred to as lake weed, that dot the centre of the lake are teeming with life.

Bernard Blood, City of Ballarat's Supervisor Lake Wendouree, says modified cutting protocols were introduced in Summer following requests from local naturalists.

"The areas we're leaving unharvested won't affect aquatic sport - the rowing and sailing areas will still be cut, but we're leaving larger areas of weed uncut to offer shelter for wildlife, and habitat for macro invertebrates and fish," he says.

"Many of Lake Wendouree's water birds use the 'carpets' of lake weed as feeding, sheltering, resting and nesting places. The Rakali – native water rats – use them too."



Rakali - at home on the lake

Rakali are nocturnal and can be seen paddling across the lake at dawn and dusk.

With their partially webbed back feet and white-tipped tails, Rakali are one of Australia's least known native mammals - often confused with non-native rats.

Jeff says it's common for Rakali to hop up on to the harvester's deck, while stationary, where they'll feed on the bugs that get caught in the lake weed.



“We haven’t done a study but, anecdotally, the numbers of Rakali are increasing, we’re seeing more and more all the time. Lake Wendouree’s great water quality is ideal for Rakali, they do well here and are easily and regularly seen.”

It’s not a weed

Water milfoil is the most prolific of the seven types of aquatic plants on Lake Wendouree.

All are crucial to the lake’s health, helping to filter the water and provide habitat and food for aquatic invertebrates, fish and birds.

Jeff points out that water milfoil is not actually a weed.

“What we harvest is Indigenous aquatic vegetation – a weed is a plant where you don’t want it. Milfoil is native - it’s where it belongs, it’s not an introduced species.”

The lake plant isn’t wasted. Once harvested, a small amount goes to the Ballarat Transfer Station for residents to use as mulch, while the rest is composted at the Garden Recycling Centre in Learmonth Street.

A bumper season

Jeff and Bernard say Summer was a bumper season for water milfoil.

“The weather conditions made for the biggest growth in lake weed for years - we’ve had four cutters

operating, seven days a week, 10 to 12 hours a day, depending on what events are coming up.

“The water conditions are ideal for plant growth – clear, shallow water and no pollutants, means sun light penetrates to the bottom of the lake and promotes growth.

“Without our intervention, the lake tries to turn itself back into a swamp.”

Looking for a biological control

The City of Ballarat has been working in partnership with Federation University for the past 12 months on a project to discover biological ways to control milfoil growth.

Controlled test sites on the lake and at the university are studying growth rates and optimum timing for cutting.

Rubbish is still a problem

Despite the fact that there are 54 waste and recycling bins dotted around the lake foreshore, rubbish continues to be a major problem on and off the water.

Bernard says containers from fast food outlets and plastic supermarket shopping bags are the biggest problem – he estimates around 2,500 plastic supermarket bags are discarded each year in the lake precinct.

Flower power

Ballarat’s iconic floral clock is standing the test of time.

City of Ballarat Mayor Cr Samantha McIntosh joined descendants of Francis John Cutts, who was Mayor of Greater Ballarat in 1953-54 to unveil the floral timepiece as part of the 160th anniversary of the Ballarat Botanical Gardens.

Mayor Cutts escorted the then newly-crowned Queen Elizabeth II to take in the sights of the spectacular floral display in March 1954.

The much-loved clock, one of just three floral clocks in Victoria, features a new clock mechanism, metal numbers and light alloy metal hands.





Road works

North Ward

- Gillies Road, Sulky Road to Jubilee Road - road pavement reconstruction works, March-April
- Schwarz Road/Millers Road, Bald Hills - road reconstruction, March-April

Central Ward

- Young Street, Barkly to York Street - road pavement reconstruction, concrete kerb and channel, drainage works, April-May
- Raglan Street, Miners Rest. Howe Street to Sharpes Road - road shoulder construction and drainage works, March-April
- McAuley Drive, Brown Hill. Ryan Street to Jones Street - road reconstruction/traffic management works, March-April
- Russell and Adair Streets intersection, Newington - traffic management works, April
- Creswick Road service road, Macarthur Street to Beaufort Crescent - road reconstruction, kerb and channel works, March-April
- Duggan Street, Brown Hill - road reconstruction works kerb and channel, March-April

South Ward

- Dallas Avenue, Mount Clear - traffic management works and line marking, March.

Residents and businesses directly affected by these projects will receive letters from the City of Ballarat with details of the location and the impact of works. Remember to approach road work areas with caution and obey speed restriction signs.

Ballarat Link Road

A key transport priority, Stage 1B of Ballarat Link Road is expected to open to traffic in April.

The 16km road, a major north-south arterial road, will provide a direct link from the Western Freeway to the Midland Highway.

The State Government has provided \$38 million to plan the entire 16km road corridor and to construct Stage 1, between Remembrance Drive in Alfredton and Learmonth Road in Mitchell Park.

This major project includes a rail overpass of the Ballarat-Ararat Railway, combined wildlife crossing and drainage crossing for Mullawallah Wetlands.

It includes traffic lights at the intersection of Remembrance Drive and Dyson Drive and Gregory

Street West and Ring Road, plus construction of shared walking and cycling paths. The project also includes earthworks, services relocation, drainage, lighting and landscaping, as well as the realignment and upgrade of Blind Creek Road.

The City of Ballarat is delivering this stage of construction via a contract with Winslow Constructors.

The City of Ballarat is calling on the State and Federal Governments to fund construction of Stage 2 of the Ballarat Link Road, between Remembrance Drive and the Glenelg Highway and duplication of Stage 1.



Creating safer streets for women: Women's Health Grampians CoRE Support Worker Sascha Davies and regional consultant Kate Diamond-Keith.

a right to the night

Australian women experience a high rate of violence. Statistics show one in three women over the age of 15 experience physical violence, while one in three women avoid public spaces after dark. Now, an innovative Ballarat trial aims to make our CBD streets safer for women and curb these statistics.

Ballarat women are mapping where they feel safe and where they feel unsafe on our CBD streets.

The Right to the Night trial project, based on Melbourne's Free To Be initiative, is encouraging women to identify and comment on their impressions of public spaces in the CBD, between March and May.

Under the initiative, women use 'drop pins' on a web-based interactive map to identify locations and add comments about the space or a particular feature of the space.

Kate Diamond-Keith, Women's Health Grampians regional consultant, says the initiative empowers and engages women to provide vital feedback and information designed to improve their safety.

"It's not just about organisations deciding what's best for women

or what their needs are, it's about them being able to advocate and provide genuine real-time experiences about how they feel when they're out and about in Ballarat, with the expectation that this might lead to some change," she says.

"This is the chance for all women in our community to have their say about their perceptions of safety in the Ballarat CBD.

"This project is about building respect and equality for everyone but particularly for women to be able to participate fully in their community."

Project partners include the City of Ballarat, Federation University, Women's Health Grampians and Victoria Police.

how can women have their say?

- Visit righttothenight.com.au
- Use your mobile phone and the project link to pinpoint locations in the Ballarat CBD that make you feel safe or unsafe. Explain why you feel safe or unsafe in these spaces
- Walk with Right to the Night program members in a guided walk (day or night), to talk about safety. For bookings call Customer Service on 5320 5500.

After collecting information from the community, the City of Ballarat will:

- Map the locations that make women feel safe or unsafe, and explain the reasons why
- Identify ways to improve the public spaces that make women feel unsafe
- Tell public space designers and developers about women's needs
- Advocate for public space design that encourages safety and inclusiveness.



Celebrating the creative process: Artist Margie Balazic with her creations.

creating a creative city

The City of Ballarat wants Ballarat to be Australia's leading creative city. We are developing a strategy to make this a reality.

Ballarat artist Margie Balazic loves "enticing" the community's imagination.

"I love to break down barriers and allow the community to connect in a different way," she says.

"Community and events is my passion and I would like to continue producing innovative, exciting designs."

As an experienced illustrator, animator and graphic designer who works with children to create multimedia art installations and bring storybook illustrations to life, Margie knows the value of art to the entire community.

"Working as an artist in school creating amazing installations with children, I thrive in collaborating

with the community - producing interactive art installations and fun adventures with the importance of preservation of a story," she says.

"I create (art) to allow children to amuse themselves and break down barriers - art should be accessible for everyone."

The Creative City Strategy will develop a vision and guide to the ongoing development of arts and culture as well as other creative industries in Ballarat.

It will also deliver a master plan to guide the future development of the arts and culture precinct in the city, including a feasibility study to examine expanding the Art Gallery of Ballarat.

Margie, founder of the Ballarat Children's Art Award, says the strategy will provide exciting opportunities with innovative

direction for Ballarat as well as the area's many talented artists.

"Networking and connecting people provides an opportunity for a community to flourish," she says.

"Creative people make change, they can improve social connections. By connecting and providing resources, a community's wellbeing becomes innovative."

Work to develop the Creative City Strategy will soon begin with community consultation.

As she prepares to showcase her work at White Night Ballarat, Margie says creating is for everyone.

"Learning and developing new skills, participating and connecting with your community - it is exciting and rewarding. Positive attitude develops a wonderful community."

For updates visit ballarat.vic.gov.au



Ringling in tradition: Bellringer Ed Dunens.

getting to know the **Ballarat Town Hall**

As the city's premier public building, the Town Hall hosts a range of civic, political and cultural events. Ballarat's first Town Hall was built in 1856 but burnt down several years later. The Town Hall was then built in several stages following the designs of three architects, with the first Council meeting held in 1872. Since then, this landmark building has stood at the heart of the community's celebrations and achievements.

The Town Hall has always been at the centre of social and community life in Ballarat, from religious services and French classes in the 1800s to dance nights, wedding ceremonies and HSC exams.

At one stage, the ground floor of the Town Hall was let out for commercial use, and became a temporary home to the District Police Court, bank chambers and medical rooms.

In the 1960s and 1970s, the first-floor A Hall was the venue for HSC exams for many Ballarat schools, and wedding ceremonies were held in the Town Hall between 1963 and 1991.

On 16 August 2001, history was made at the Town Hall with the first regional sitting of the Victorian Legislative Council.

In recent years, the Town Hall has played host to the Ballarat International Foto Biennale, the Ballarat Heritage Weekend and Open House Ballarat.

Today, this multi-purpose public building is home to the Council Chambers, where public meetings that shape the city's future are held, as well as the Mayor's office, a communal space for Councillors, administrative staff, Visit Ballarat, and the Visitor Information Centre.

This much-loved community asset has many interesting stories to tell...

If these walls could talk

When the fire started in the original timber Town Hall, the keys to the

locked standpipe - which enables hoses to connect to the water supply - were inside the building and the hallkeeper could not be found. According to unofficial reports, he was in Craig's Hotel at the time.

An anthrax scare caused a lockdown of the Town Hall for a whole day in the mid-2000s.

According to legend, Town Hall ghost Agatha lives under the stairs and has been known to rattle the doors to make her presence known.

Ringling the bells

The Alfred Memorial Bells sound throughout the city to ring in the New Year and a new Mayor, and to mark very special occasions such as the Queen's visit. The oldest Town Hall bellringer is aged in his



The Ballarat Town Hall was used for public dances in the 1940s and 1950s. Boxes of this wax were used to rejuvenate the flooring. Read more about the Town Hall's historic collection items at sketchfab.com/CityofBallarat.

90s and hasn't missed ringing in a new year in 53 years. As one of only four town halls in the world boasting a peal of bells, the Town Hall attracts bellringers from around the world, with the longest peal rung lasting 3 hours and 13 minutes.

Interested in becoming a bellringer? Contact the City of Ballarat on 5320 5500.

The clock

The Town Hall clock dates back to 1873, creating unique challenges in an increasingly digital world. To maintain correct time, the clock's giant hands are adjusted weekly, with a special adjustment made at the start and end of daylight savings. The clock strikes the hours and quarters on the Alfred Memorial Bells.

Take a virtual tour of Town Hall

Always wanted to walk up the stairs of the Town Hall tower, view the bells, peak inside the Mayor's Room, or take in the grandeur of the Trench Room?

Now you can explore and learn more about the Ballarat Town Hall without ever stepping inside.

The City of Ballarat has launched a virtual tour of the Town Hall so you can explore all the incredible rooms of this majestic building from your computer and phone. You can also step into a virtual world of the Town Hall using a VR headset.

This dynamic simulation of the Town Hall, delivered by Ballarat's Jolt Media, features still photography, 360-degree panoramas, videos and heritage information as well as a view from the Crows' Nest at the top of the Clock Tower.



Check it out at ballarat.vic.gov.au/ac/townhall

Did you Know?

- Queen Elizabeth II, Prince Philip, Prince Charles, and Diana, Princess of Wales, have visited the Town Hall
- The Town Crier World Championships were held in Ballarat in 1995
- Cr Jessie Margaret Scott made history in 1976 when she became the first female Mayor of the city
- During World War 1, working bees were held in the Court Room, inside the Town Hall, where women knitted balaclavas, socks and gloves for the soldiers in the trenches. Today this room is known as The Trench Room
- The Alfred Memorial Bells are named after Prince Alfred, in commemoration of his visit in 1867
- The Town Hall has eight bells. Cast by Mears and Stainbank of Whitechapel, England, the bells weigh almost four-and-a-half tonnes, and are considered to be one of the finest sets of eight bells in Australia.





Taking the plunge: Ian Ellis is a regular early morning swimmer at the Eureka Pool.

the Eureka Pool – a hidden gem

Built in 1972, the Eureka Pool is a much-loved Ballarat facility attracting thousands of pool-goers each Summer. While many go to escape the heat, others rise early to follow the black line.

What compels someone to get to the Eureka Pool before the sun is up to swim laps every morning, regardless of whether it's eight degrees, raining, or heating up early ahead of a Summer scorcher?

For those in the know, swimming outdoors has a 'feeling about it' that keeps them going back, day after day, year after year.

While everyone knows Ballarat's weather and temperature can vary wildly, between November and April the water in the 50-metre pool is always warm.

Ian Ellis has been a regular for "too many years to remember".

As a youngster growing up in Ballarat, swimming was Ian's main sport. He recalls training at the Ballarat City Baths in Armstrong

Street North, near the corner of Mair Street, back in the day.

Since returning to Ballarat with his young family in the mid-1970s, Ian has been a five-day-a-week swimmer. "I feel at home in the water," he says.

At 20 laps per session, five days per week, a conservative calculation suggests Ian has covered at least 5,000kms in the Eureka Pool. It would be fair to say he knows it better than anyone.

Ian describes the early morning atmosphere as a "hidden world". He talks about dawn breaking and misty rain and friendship. He tells of sessions when he's had the whole pool to himself. While he admits that's an amazing experience, he'd love to encourage more lap swimmers and is quick to add

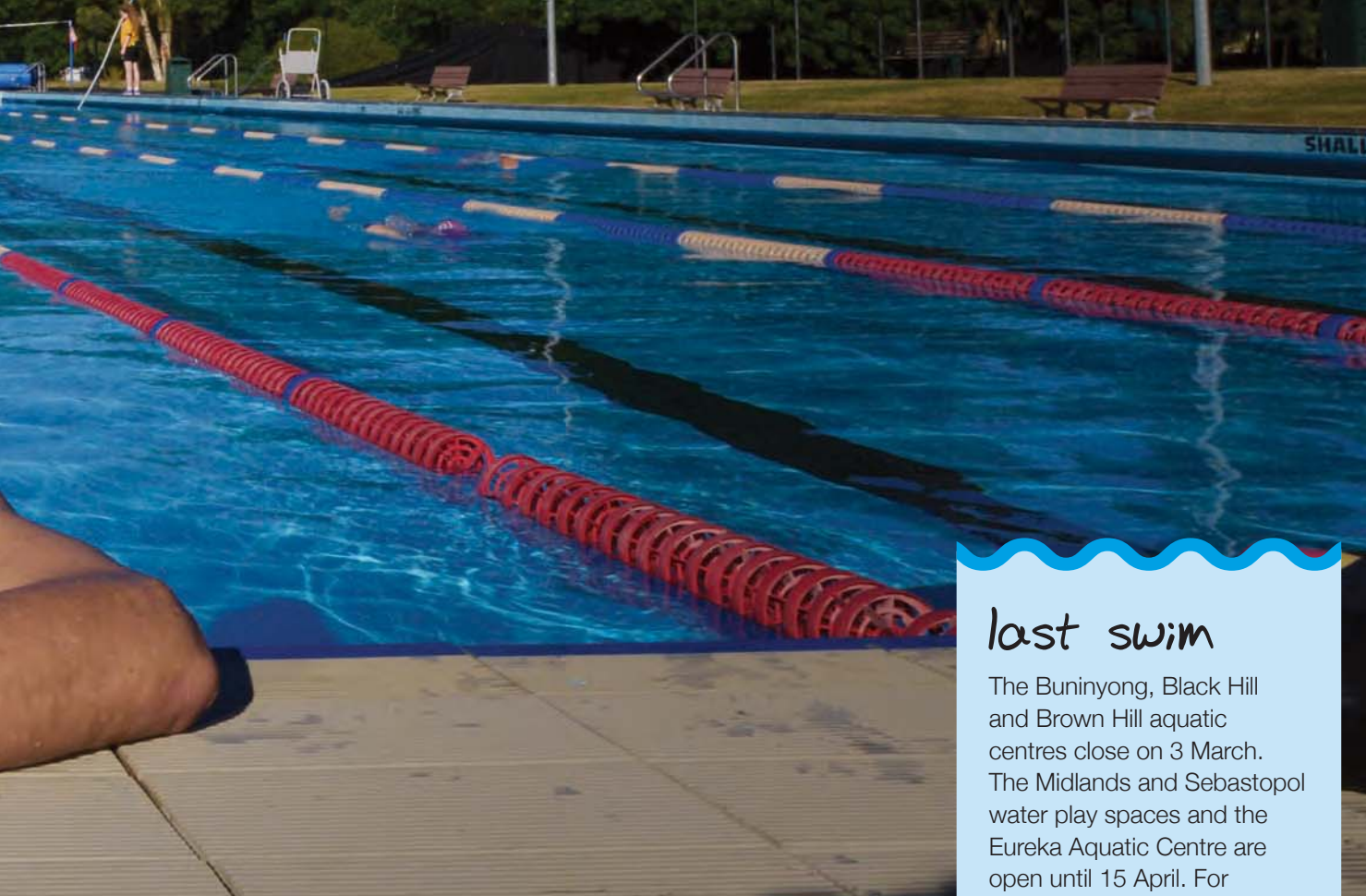
"I'd love to see the pool full in the morning, especially with younger swimmers."

Ian's morning routine is part of his commitment to staying fit and healthy and in touch with people. He'd swim outdoors all year round if he could. "You're breathing fresh air. It's invigorating."

Ian knows all the regulars.

"There are swimmers of every ability and everyone is friendly. There are no egos here," he says.

As a regular for the past three years, Anita Koelle is a relative newcomer. For her, swimming outdoors is what's special and she only swims during the Eureka Pool season.



last swim

The Buninyong, Black Hill and Brown Hill aquatic centres close on 3 March. The Midlands and Sebastopol water play spaces and the Eureka Aquatic Centre are open until 15 April. For opening hours visit ballarat.vic.gov.au

let's climb

Ballarat Aquatic and Lifestyle Centre (BALC) is scaling new heights with its latest addition – a rock climbing wall. The 5m-high rock climbing wall is now being used for kids' birthday parties, in the school holidays program, and for Fitcamp members. General public climbing sessions are coming soon. Find out more at ballarataquaticcentre.com or follow BALC on Facebook.



Some of her favourite sessions are when the early morning mist over the water is so thick she can't see if anyone else is in the pool.

"When the outside temperature is eight degrees it's beautiful in the water," she says. As she heads off to work she feels exhilarated. "It's a very peaceful start to your day."

Ballarat Masters Swimming Club's Phil McDougall says while the club trains all year round it chooses the Eureka Pool as its training venue in the outdoor season.

"It's the outdoor factor," he says. "There's a special feeling about swimming under the open sky. Eureka is such a nice pool to swim in and the facilities are great since they've been done up."

As the early morning mist burns off on a picture-perfect January morning and families start making their way into the Eureka Aquatic Centre for some Summer holiday activity and fun, Ian has the final word - "How magnificent is this? It's a hidden gem," he says.

He sums up what all the regulars are thinking with a warm laugh - "Let's not tell anyone else. Let's keep it secret."

Sorry Ian - the word is out.

Did you know?

The City of Ballarat has five aquatic centres – the Ballarat Aquatic and Lifestyle Centre (BALC), Eureka Aquatic Centre, Buninyong Aquatic Centre, Brown Hill Aquatic Centre (managed by the Brown Hill Progress Association), and the Black Hill Aquatic Centre, plus two water play spaces at Midlands and Sebastopol.



Family-friendly: Lois, Quirin and Heather at Parent Place

a family affair

A unique hub is changing the face of parenting right in the heart of Ballarat. Parents and carers from across the Ballarat region, and visitors to the city, are embracing this free drop-in centre offering a helping hand to families.

For Heather, Parent Place is so much more than child's play.

The mum of Quirin, 2, discovered this central, welcoming and safe family environment several years ago – and hasn't looked back.

Heather has made numerous friends through Parent Place, and loves the City of Ballarat service so much, she joined its dedicated team of volunteers two years ago.

Heather developed the Sing-a-Song program – which she now runs each Friday, often alongside her mother-in-law Lois, a retired teacher, who plays her ukulele.

Originally from China, Heather and her husband decided to make the move from Melbourne to Ballarat five years ago.

After starting their family in Ballarat, Heather wanted to meet other parents with similar interests.

"I just wanted to talk to someone who was my age and had just had a baby. I have made lots of mum friends here, and Quirin often has his little playmates around - we all met here," she says.

"We have a Chinese mothers' group which also started from here, and because Ballarat is becoming more multicultural, we also had a Japanese mothers' group start from here."

Located in Sturt Street, between the Bridge Mall and Central Square, Parent Place is a convenient, toy-filled environment that features change and feeding facilities, maternal and child health support, lactation consulting, playgroups, free wi-fi, tea and coffee, and story time.

Parent Place also provides general support and information on family day care, Maternal and Child Health, kindergarten, playgroups and immunisation.

The free service has become a popular haven for families in the city centre – attracting more than 8,600 parents, grandparents, carers and children last financial year.

"Parent Place is great. When you're tired and you want to sit down, you can just come in and you can get your baby or toddler changed," Heather says.

"It's really good, particularly for mums with newborns because it can be full-on and a very stressful time. This is a really good place to be able to come for a chat."

Lois agrees. "There's access to services like lactation consultants and healthcare and those sorts of things, so there is also an educative aspect to Parent Place," she says.

"Parents and carers can walk on in – everyone is welcome."

Did you Know?

- Parent Place is open 9am–5pm weekdays
- It's located at the corner of Sturt and Albert Streets, Ballarat. Phone 5320 5720
- Connect with Parent Place on Facebook.



Loving the Lucas Community Hub: Tiarra Lockwood, her daughter Willow, and Julie Lebkowski, YMCA Ballarat Educational Leader.

Lucas Community Hub opens

The Lucas Community Hub opened its doors in January. This \$4 million state-of-the-art facility brings together kindergarten, Maternal and Child Health consulting rooms and multi-purpose rooms for the community.

Willow Carter couldn't wait to start four-year-old kindergarten at the Lucas Community Hub.

Willow entered a logo she drew in a YMCA Ballarat logo competition for the new kindergarten facility. Willow's design won, and is now featured on the kindergarten uniform.

"The logo is Willow and her best friend going to kinder," Willow's mum, Tiarra Lockwood, says.

"She was very excited about starting kinder, and she loves it - there are heaps of activities to do and a great playground.

"It's an incredible kindergarten – it's really modern, fresh, open and big, it's a really nice spot."

YMCA Ballarat operates the two kindergarten rooms, providing three-year-old and four-year-old kindergarten, and 'wrap-around' care.

The Lucas Community Hub offers much more than kindergarten

facilities – with three Maternal and Child Health consulting rooms, immunisation sessions, additional consulting room for visiting services, a multi-purpose community meeting space with a kitchen to accommodate activities and services, plus two meeting rooms. Library Outreach also visits on Tuesday mornings, and holds storytime sessions.

The City of Ballarat provided \$2.4 million towards the project, the State Government contributed \$1.6 million.

A nod to the past

Built by Ballarat's Nicholson Construction, the design of the facility showcases Ballarat's history, with elements of the Ballarat Tartan and 'the Lucas Girls' thread throughout the building.

The suburb of Lucas is named after textile factory owner Eleanor Lucas and her employees, known as 'the Lucas Girls', who planted thousands of trees along the Ballarat Avenue of Honour and raised thousands of pounds for construction of the Arch of Victory.

Eleanor Drive was chosen as the name for the main through-road of Lucas, in honour of Eleanor Lucas.



Want to know more?

The Lucas Community Hub is located at 17 Coltman Plaza, Lucas. Stay up to date on Facebook @Making Lucas

The large community meeting space and the meeting rooms are available for hire, for both casual and regular bookings. The City of Ballarat is seeking expressions of interest for use of the rooms.

For more information, contact Amy Treyvaud, City of Ballarat Stakeholder Engagement Officer on 5320 5701 or amytreyvaud@ballarat.vic.gov.au

For Maternal and Child Health appointments or kindergarten registration enquiries, call 5320 5720 or visit ballarat.vic.gov.au/pc/lucas-community-hub.aspx



fostering purr-fect **pets**

Ever considered becoming a foster carer for kittens, cats or dogs? The Ballarat Animal Shelter has animals in need of a little attention and care in a temporary home.



Fostering connections: Leanne Whyte, centre, and her children Jude, left, and Leila, right, have fun with their foster kittens.

Fostering has brought three bundles of energetic joy into the house of Leanne Whyte and her children Leila and Jude Graham.

The trio fostered three short hair tabby kittens from the Ballarat Animal Shelter, and have enjoyed every minute of it.

"We have all loved the unconditional love the kittens have given us," Leanne says.

"It has been a wonderful experience. We know that we have provided the kittens with the care and socialisation that will stand them in good stead when they are looking for their forever homes."

Leanne says the experience has enabled Leila, 9, and Jude, 11, to give something back to the community.

The foster care program was introduced when the City of Ballarat assumed management of the Ballarat Animal Shelter in September last year.

Shelter Supervisor Narelle Sillitoe says fostering helps animals that may be too young for adoption, being treated for an illness, or in need of rehabilitation in a safe, relaxing and caring environment.

"We have fostered four mother cats with kittens, four sets of juvenile kittens, and one cat with a collar wound that required care in a home

environment to reduce stress and provide a relief from the shelter environment," she says.

Anyone interested in becoming a foster carer can find out more online at ballaratanimalshelter.com

Narelle says foster care is not just required for the high kitten season months, from October to March, but also into the Winter months as well.

"Foster caring is a truly rewarding thing to do and not only enriches the lives of animals that need it most, it will also enrich your life," she says.

Leanne agrees. "Fostering pets is a great way to get families, and especially children, involved in community participation without requiring anything more than time, patience, and of course plenty of love and attention."



Did you know?

There is no cost to foster care a pet.

The Ballarat Animal Shelter provides everything you need to care for your foster pet, including food and bowls, litter and litter trays, bedding, toys and a carrier or lead. You can collect more food or litter anytime during opening hours.

Want to help out another way? The Ballarat Animal Shelter continuously needs donations of towels, litter, cat and dog food, and enrichment toys to provide high quality care to Ballarat's cats and dogs.

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

It's open weekdays from 8am–6pm, Saturdays from 10am–3pm, and Sundays from 11am–3pm.

Find out more at ballaratanimalshelter.com

register your pet

Pet registration renewals are due by 10 April each year.

How does registration help pets?

Registration information helps the City of Ballarat reunite lost pets with their owners. When you register, a plastic identification tag is supplied, which can be easily attached to your pet's collar. The registration fee includes a State Government levy, which funds responsible pet ownership programs.

What are the penalties for not registering a pet?

Owners of an unregistered pet risk an on-the-spot fine of \$317.

How much does it cost to register a pet?

The registration fee varies depending on factors such as if your pet is micro-chipped and/or desexed. Full payment details are available on the registration form and at ballarat.vic.gov.au

Holders of Pensioner Concession Cards receive a 50 per cent reduction on all fees, except for dogs declared as Dangerous/Menacing or Restricted Breed.

FREE FIRST REGISTRATION

See below for more information

How do I renew my pet registration?

Your personalised renewal form will arrive in the mail. If you don't receive it, visit Customer Service at The Phoenix, 25 Armstrong Street South, to complete your registration.

Free first registration

The City of Ballarat offers free registration for desexed and microchipped dogs and cats under the age of six months.

All dogs and cats being registered for the first time must be microchipped – an easy procedure at a local vet clinic.

To register for the first time, visit our Customer Service team at The Phoenix, 25 Armstrong Street South, the Ballarat Library, Doveton Street North, or register your pet online at ballarat.vic.gov.au



Grants for the community: Ballarat Wholefoods Collective founder and grant recipient Wendy Aston with Rhonda Jacobs.



Community Impact Grants

Bringing people together through a love of good food.

It's not just a passion for seasonal, local, organic and whole foods that brings people through the door of the Ballarat Wholefoods Collective.

Founder Wendy Aston says people get talking and connect. "We see people sharing ideas, and swapping recipes and even phone numbers. People love it."

Since starting less than five years ago out of Wendy's back room with around 20 products, membership has grown quickly to 100. Members include long-term Ballarat locals and newcomers to the area, with 20 to 30 people shopping at the Collective each week.

New products are gradually being added in response to members' needs. "The new fridge purchased in 2017 means we can stock fresh products like milk, cream, yoghurt and seasonal fruit and vegies. The seasonal berries for Christmas were a big hit."

The Collective has just published its second recipe book, *Meet the Producers*, and also hosts workshops including cheese and yoghurt-making.

In 2016, the Collective received a grant through the City of Ballarat's Community Impact Grants program for storage, and in 2017 it received another grant for a fridge and laptop. "These items have really helped us evolve and grow," Wendy says.

More than \$41,000 was allocated to 15 community groups in Round Two of the 2017–18 Community Impact Grants program for a wide variety of projects, including \$1,400 to The Bard in Buninyong for the production of *As You Like It*, \$1,500 to the Ballarat City Football Club for a social cohesion program, \$2,500 to the Ballarat Agricultural and Pastoral Society for picnic tables, and \$1,600 to the Burrumbeet

Soldiers Memorial Hall Committee for its school gates project.

The Ballarat Wholefoods Collective is located at the Brown Hill Cricket Club in Reid Court. It opens on Wednesdays from 9–11am and from 5–7pm. New members welcome. To find out more go to ballaratwholefoodscollective.org





New facility: The Bonshaw Early Learning Facility under construction.

new and upgraded kindergartens

Bonshaw Early Learning Centre – Morgan Street, Sebastopol

Bonshaw Early Learning Centre will open its doors in term two, welcoming children from Sebastopol West Kindergarten, which is relocating to the new hub.

The centre features two kindergarten rooms with places for 66 children, two consulting rooms for Maternal and Child Health services, and a community meeting room.

Cost: \$1.6 million – fully funded by the State Government.

Mount Pleasant Kindergarten - Laurie Street, Mount Pleasant

Work began on the Mount Pleasant Kindergarten upgrade in January, with Ballarat company Masterson Builders PL awarded the construction contract.

The works will add a second kindergarten room/community

space to cater for an additional 22 children, plus an improved foyer, toilet, kitchen and storage facilities.

The upgrade is expected to be completed by term four.

Cost: \$750,000 – fully funded by the State Government.

Girrabanya Children's Centre - Steinfeld Street, Ballarat

Work began on the Girrabanya Children's Centre upgrade in January.

Ballarat company Searle Bros has been awarded the construction contract to refurbish and expand the centre, with an overall increase of 22 kindergarten and long-day-care places. The works will also provide a new home for occasional care services, currently located in Market Street.

The upgrade is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

Cost: \$1.25 million – fully funded by the State Government.

Early Start Kindergarten

Want your three-year-old to go to kinder?

Three-year-old children can access a funded kindergarten program two years before they go to school.

A child is eligible for Early Start Kindergarten if they are aged three by 30 April in the year they attend kinder, if the child is Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, or if the family has contact with Child Protection or been referred to ChildFIRST.

For more information, visit education.vic.gov.au

Central kindergarten registration

Don't forget to register your child for three and four-year-old kindergarten.

Families can submit a single registration form with three preferences for 32 kindergartens across Ballarat. Register online at ballarat.vic.gov.au

Paper application forms are available from Customer Service, Parent Place, local kindergartens, Early Years Management Services, Ballarat Libraries, and the City of Ballarat's Maternal and Child Health centres.

Applications can be submitted by 30 June, however enrolments will still be accepted after this time.





Renovations: The Sebastopol Library

construction zone

Sebastopol Library – Albert Street

Works have begun to renovate and expand the Sebastopol Library.

4Front Construction was awarded the contract to deliver a refurbished, larger library space, with increased accessibility at entrances, indoor amenities, expanded lending library and reading space, dedicated youth area, children's library, two refurbished Maternal and Child Health (MCH) consulting rooms, two large community meeting rooms, outdoor areas and a 24-hour accessible public bathroom.

The project is expected to be completed in August.

The Sebastopol MCH centre will be closed throughout the works. MCH nurses have been relocated to other MCH sites in Ballarat and can be accessed at Girrabanya MCH Centre, Buninyong MCH Centre and at Parent Place. The new MCH Centre at Bonshaw will open soon.

Community members can access the Wendouree and Ballarat libraries, as well as the Library Outreach locations.

Cost: \$2.1 million – funded by the City of Ballarat and the State Government's Living Libraries Program.

Civic Hall

Restoration works to restore the interior of the Civic Hall have begun.

Local contractor SJ Weir was awarded the contract to complete restoration works, including heating, cooling, ventilation, insulation, electrical, lighting, plumbing and fire services, as well as new lifts to the mezzanine, seating and stage area.

The interior fixtures and finishes will also be restored and upgraded, including an acoustic treatment to make the hall suitable for a wide variety of users.

Cost: \$4.6 million contract – fully funded by the City of Ballarat.

Ballarat Sports and Events Centre

Works have begun to deliver a state-of-the-art Ballarat Sports and Events Centre.

AW Nicholson was awarded the contract to redevelop the centre, which will include six additional community courts including a 3,000-seat show court, café, amenities and facilities, plus more parking.

The existing Wendouree Sports and Events Centre will continue to operate throughout the construction phase.

Cost: \$24 million project– funded by \$5 million from the City of Ballarat, \$10 million from the Federal Government Building Better Regions Fund, \$9 million for the State Government Regional Infrastructure Fund.



Installing the turf at Buninyong Recreation Reserve.



Completed: The new turf surface at Buninyong Recreation Reserve.

Buninyong Recreation Reserve

This project features new drainage and irrigation systems, surface profile re-shaping, new sand cap installation, and new couch turf installation and establishment.

Delivered by Pitchcraft Australia, the project is ready for the start of the 2018 football season.

Cost: \$500,000, including \$450,000 from the City of Ballarat and \$50,000 from the State Government, as part of the 2016-17 Community Sports Infrastructure Fund – Minor Facilities.

City Oval Bowling Club

The old green has been removed and replaced with a new turf bowling green.

The project, delivered by Sports Turf Curators, included drainage and irrigation systems, a perched water table profile, and a couch turf playing surface.

The new turf surface was sown in early December, with the grow-in and establishment phase expected to be completed and ready for play by March.

Cost: \$350,000 - fully funded by the City of Ballarat.



New turf at the City Oval Bowling Club



Installing the turf at City Oval.

City Oval redevelopment and lighting upgrade

New turf has been installed at City Oval.

The works form part of an extensive redevelopment of the oval, which features new subsurface drainage, an automatic irrigation system and new oval fencing.

All remaining works are on track to be completed by the start of the 2018 BFL Season.

A lighting upgrade, which will provide new lighting towers and lighting upgraded to semi-professional level to enable local night matches to be played, will also be delivered this year.

Cost: \$1.6 million – fully funded by the City of Ballarat.

Ballarat Sportsground Flood Lighting Project

Under this project, the Western Oval and White Flat Reserve will receive new flood lighting.

Works began in January, with the two projects expected to be completed before the start of the 2018 football season.

Each lighting project includes the installation of a new four-pole lighting system, lit to the AFL minimum training standard of 100 lux.

Designs have been completed for Doug Dean Reserve oval, with works planned to commence mid-year. This project also includes an upgrade of power supply.

Funding: The Western Oval project has a funding allocation of \$250,000, including \$200,000 from the City of Ballarat and \$50,000 from the State Government, as part of the Country Football Netball program. The Doug Dean Reserve project has a funding allocation of \$325,000, including \$250,000 from the City of Ballarat and \$75,000 from the State Government, as part of the 2017-18 Community

Infrastructure Fund – Minor Facilities. The White Flat project has a funding allocation of \$250,000, including \$200,000 from the City of Ballarat and \$50,000 from the State Government, as part of the Country Football Netball Program.

Eastern Oval

This project delivers a new turf wicket training facility, oval lighting upgrade, two redeveloped unisex changerooms, and oval resurfacing.

Construction of the turf cricket nets, oval resurfacing and changeroom upgrades are expected to be completed by March.

Cost: \$2 million, including \$1.5 million from the City of Ballarat and \$500,000 from Sport and Recreation Victoria, as part of the Community Cricket Program: On Common Ground Regional Priority Projects.



Green thumb: City of Ballarat Gardens and Nursery team leader Glen Fisher.

growing behind the scenes of the Ballarat Begonia Festival

Since it was first launched in Autumn 1953, the Ballarat Begonia Festival has become one of Australia's oldest and much-loved community events. City of Ballarat Gardens and Nursery team leader Glen Fisher chats about what it takes to make our beautiful begonias grow.

How long have you worked at the Ballarat Botanical Gardens?

I've been with the City of Ballarat for nearly 10 years, I've always worked in horticulture.

What do you love most about working in this role and being part of the Begonia Festival?

I love working with my team, sharing horticultural knowledge and delivering the highest standard of plants and presentation. We plan for the Begonia Festival for 12 months. When the Festival comes around, it's very satisfying to see how many people appreciate all our hard work.

What sets begonias apart from other plants?

There are two main forms of begonias - tuberous and non-tuberous varieties. The tuberous begonias are our show-stoppers, they come in many colours, from singles to doubles and all shades of red, pink, yellow, orange and white. Some of our begonias will have dinner plate-sized flowers.

Non-tuberous begonia varieties come in many forms and shapes, they're grown more for their foliage and have smaller flowers.

Why is Ballarat the home of begonias?

Ballarat has a long history of begonias, they first appeared in the Ballarat Botanical Gardens in the late 1890s. The gardens started to import tuberous begonias from England in 1901, now we grow about 2,500 tuberous begonias and 800 non-tuberous varieties.

How much work goes into growing begonias?

Growing begonias is a year-round job, the non-tuberous begonias are looked after in our heated glasshouse - they can grow outside, but need protection from the cold and extreme heat of Summer.

The big showy begonias start off in Spring, the tubers are taken out of storage, potted up and placed into our heated glasshouse to get them going. Once the shoots have appeared and have reached about 5 to 10cm, cuttings are taken about mid to late November. The tuberous begonias are then potted to their final pot size and moved to our non-heated glasshouse.

The team disbuds the flowers until the start of February to encourage larger flowers, and to ensure they're looking their best for the Festival.

All the flowers are wired to show them to their full potential and the plants staked, so they don't snap under the weight of the flowers. All our begonias are hand-watered so they don't get over-watered, which can cause rot in the tuber.

Once the cool weather sets in, the tuberous begonias slowly start to die back to ground level. All the tubers are taken out of the pots and inspected for any damage from weevils or tuber rot. We store them in our bulb room over Winter and we then start all over again in Spring.



- The inaugural Ballarat Begonia Festival was opened by Prime Minister Sir Robert Menzies in 1953, the 11-day program of events included archery demonstrations, square dancing and floral displays
- Queen Elizabeth attended the festival in 1954, the Queen Mother visited a few years later
- Over the decades, the festival has included car rallies, sheep dog trials and talent quests
- In 1985, the festival extended to 16 days with no less than seven parades, including a people's parade, a children's procession and a grand parade
- The Begonia Queen competition ran until the 1990s and was broadcast live on TV.



Want to know more?

Visit ballaratbegoniafestival.com or find us on Facebook.

what's on in March

more than child's play

Ballarat's Biggest Playgroup

Tuesday 27 March,
10am–12pm

Get ready to play

Ballarat's Biggest Playgroup is back for this one-day event featuring music, storytime, art and craft, sensory play, baby play, and much more, held at the Museum of Australian Democracy at Eureka (M.A.D.E).

Come along for this much-loved annual event that helps babies, toddlers, pre-schoolers and their carers become connected with each other and their community, grow important developmental skills, and have loads of fun.

To stay up-to-date with Ballarat's Biggest Playgroup, connect with Parent Place on Facebook.

The City of Ballarat's Playgroup Coordinator can help find or create a playgroup that's right for you. Phone the coordinator on 5320 5720 or call Playgroup Victoria on 1800 171 882.



We are one but we are many: Anthony Lovett celebrates Harmony Fest.

celebrating cultural diversity

Promoting the theme *All of Us*, Harmony Fest 2018 will explode across the city in a celebration of rich cultural diversity. This 10-day community extravaganza of fun, flavour, music and special events will take centre stage from 16–25 March.

After attracting more than 12,000 people last year, thousands are once again expected to get involved in this year's 10-day Ballarat Harmony Fest.

Now in its eighth year, Harmony Fest celebrates the diversity that makes our city stronger, and a more dynamic and vibrant place to live.

The City of Ballarat's popular annual Harmony Fest *Parade of Cultures* leads into the celebrations, as part of the Ballarat Begonia Parade on Monday, 12 March.

Harmony Fest 2018 celebrations are a chance to learn more about Ballarat's multicultural community.

Championed by both the community and corporate sectors, the event will feature local restaurants plating up a range of cultural cuisine, as part of the *Tastes of the World* food trail.

The festival will culminate with the inaugural *Rock the Block* youth-led

culture event in the CBD on Sunday 25 March.

This party will feature four hours of continuous stage performances from headline acts Indigenous Hip Hop Projects, Bortier Okoe plus local talent Rhiannon Simpson, EMBE and Butterfucked, at Federation University's Lydiard Street campus, from 3–7pm.

The event will also include a range of activities, workshops, activities, creative workshops, delicious food offerings and a chill-out space.



Want to know more?

To view the entire Cultural Diversity Week program visit ballarat.vic.gov.au or follow Harmony Fest on Facebook.

March event calendar

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

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

1-11

Jesus Christ Superstar

Ballarat Lyric Theatre Inc.
Wendouree Centre for Performing Arts
wcpa.com.au

Until
12

Next Gen

Annual showcase of student artwork
artgalleryofballarat.com.au

2-31

ContainART Mobile Gallery

Architecture: A Response to Nature in prints
Invermay Recreational Reserve, Muscatel Street

2-31

Unicorn Lane Gallery

Paintings by David Mellows

2-4

The Great Outdoors and 4x4 Expo

Ballarat Showgrounds
greatoutdoorexpos.com.au

10-12

Ballarat Begonia Festival

Ballarat Botanical Gardens
10am-5pm daily
ballaratbegoniafestival.com

52nd Begonia Open Chess Tournament

Ballarat Clarendon College,
1425 Sturt Street
begoniaopen.com

Monday
12

March Labour Day

Public Holiday

Wednesday
14

Ordinary Council Meeting

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

16-25

Harmony Fest

Various CBD locations
ballarat.vic.gov.au or @harmonyfest2012COB

Saturday
17

White Night Ballarat

Ballarat CBD, 7pm-2am
whitenight.com.au/ballarat

Saturday
24

The Weekly Times Rural Lifestyle Expo

Ballarat Showgrounds,
Howitt Street
9.30am-4.30pm
ballaratshow.org.au

Australian National Busking Championships

Various CBD locations, 10am-4pm
buskingballarat.com.au

Rumble Run

Victoria Park
rumblerun.com.au

24-25

Try 4WD Weekend

Will Street, off Whites Road, Smythesdale
ballarat4wdclub.org.au

Sunday
25

Swim to the Rings

Ballarat Triathlon Club, Lake Wendouree
Ballarattriclub.com or @Swim2Rings

Tuesday
27

Ballarat's Biggest Playgroup

Museum of Australian Democracy at Eureka (M.A.D.E)
10am-12pm
ballarat.vic.gov.au

Friday
30

Good Friday

Public Holiday

Saturday
31

Easter Saturday

Public Holiday

3

AFL Pre-Season Game

Western Bulldogs
vs Hawthorn
Mars Stadium
afl.com.au

10



10



16



17



ballarat.vic.gov.au

29

what's on in April



Engraving by James Gillray, *The Three Graces in a High Wind*, 1810

bringing Jane Austen fashion to life at the Ballarat Library

To mark the 200th anniversary of her death, Ballarat Library is hosting two outstanding events bringing renowned English novelist Jane Austen to life, through original fashion of the era.

Be Persuaded – Jane Austen, 9–23 April

This unique travelling exhibition features rare fashion and accessories from the 18th century period of Jane Austen, from her life to the unforgettable characters she created.

Presented by Dressing Australia - Museum of Costume, the collection features an 18th century silk gown, diaphanous empire-line frocks, spencers, capes and shawls, boots, pumps and stockings, bonnets and parasols.

No bookings required.

Visit Ballarat Library during open hours– Monday–Thursday 9.30am–6pm, Friday 9.30am–7pm, Saturday 9.30am–4pm, and Sunday 1.15–4pm.

Getting dressed with Jane – An evening with Lise Rodgers, Thursday 19 April, 6.30–8pm

Using excerpts from the letters of Jane Austen and other opinions of the day, this special event will delve into an evening of Georgian and Regency fashion with actor Lise Rodgers.

Bookings essential. Visit gettingdressedballarat.eventbrite.com.au



Want to know more?

A curator talk will also be held as part of the Be Persuaded exhibition. For details or to connect with Ballarat Libraries, follow us on Facebook.

Honour our ANZACs

On Wednesday 25 April, Australians will gather to honour the nation's veterans, servicemen and servicewomen at ANZAC Day services.

The Ballarat RSL welcomes residents and visitors to its ANZAC Day services at the Ballarat Cenotaph in Sturt Street:

- 5.45am
Dawn Service, followed by Gunfire Breakfast at RSL Midlands Golf Club until 9.30am. Buses will be provided.
- 10.30am
ANZAC Day March, from Lydiard Street to Ballarat Cenotaph.
- 11am
Commemorative Service, followed by refreshments and Two-Up from 1pm at Midlands Golf Club. Buses will be provided.



April event calendar

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

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

Sunday
1

Daylight Savings Ends

At 3am, turn your clock back to 2am. Replace batteries and test smoke alarms.

Easter Sunday
Public Holiday

Monday
2

Easter Monday
Public Holiday

Wednesday
4

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

Saturday
7

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

7–10

JT Silver Series Junior Tennis Tournament
Ballarat Regional Tennis Centre
ballaratennis.com.au

9–23

Be Persuaded – Jane Austen Exhibition
Ballarat Library
Facebook @ballaratlibraries

Saturday
14

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

Sunday
15

Last water play
Eureka Aquatic Centre, and Midlands and Sebastopol water play spaces close today
ballarat.vic.gov.au

Thursday
19

Getting Dressed with Jane – An evening with Lise Rodgers
Ballarat Library, 6.30–8pm
Facebook @ballaratlibraries

20–22

Pyrenees Unearthed Festival
Featuring the Avoca Wine Festival
pyreneesunearthedfestival.com.au

Wednesday
25

Anzac Day
Public Holiday
ballatratrsl.com.au

ANZAC Day Avoca Races
Avoca, gates open at 11am
country.racing.com.au/avoca

Saturday
28

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

Don Huntley Memorial Piano Recital FLYER
Featuring pianist Kristian Chong
Wendouree Centre for Performing Arts, 7.30pm. Bookings wcpa.com.au or 5338 0980

Sunday
29

Buninyong Village Market
9am–1pm
Facebook @buninyongvillagemarket





Ballarat Heritage Weekend: Tony Evans Photography for Visit Ballarat

May event calendar

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

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

Wednesday
2

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

Saturday
5

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

Saturday
5

AFL Game
Western Bulldogs V Gold Coast
Mars Stadium
afl.com.au

5–6

Clunes Booktown Festival
Clunes
clunesbooktown.com.au

The Wizards Annual Book Fair Book, record and collectibles fair
Messenger Hall, Nolan Street entrance of VRI Hall 235 Lydiard Street North, Ballarat. 10am–5pm, Facebook @LydiardFurnitureAndAntiques

Sunday
6

Ballarat Autumn Day (BAD) Ride
Facebook @ballaratautumndayride

11–13

Ballarat International Horse Trials
Victoria Park
ballaratponyclub.com.au

Saturday
12

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

Sunday
13

Mother's Day Classic
Walk or run 6km or 12km for breast cancer research
Lake Wendouree
mothersdayclassic.com.au

Mother's Day Races
Ballarat Turf Club, gates open at 11.30am
country.racing.com/ballarat

Friday
18

National Walk Safely to School Day
walk.com.au

Saturday
19

Ballarat Autism Expo
Mercure Convention Centre, 10am–4pm
ballaratautism.com

Wednesday
23

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

21–27

National Volunteer Week
volunteeringaustralia.org

Saturday
26

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

26–27

Ballarat Heritage Weekend
10am–5pm
ballaratheritageweekend.com.au

Sunday
27

Buninyong Village Market
9am–1pm
Facebook @buninyongvillagemarket

5



5



18



26





at the heart of art

As Gordon Morrison prepares for retirement, he reflects on his time as Director of the oldest and largest regional gallery in Australia, and as custodian of Ballarat's extraordinary collection of art.

How long have you worked at the Art Gallery of Ballarat?

I started work here in February 2004, having previously worked in various roles at the National Gallery of Victoria, most recently as Manager of Exhibitions and Collections.

What does your role involve?

Being the Director of a major regional gallery involves many things, however the care and wellbeing of the collection has been my primary focus. This includes adding new works to the collection and interpreting the works within it.

I've been responsible for making sure there's a diverse range of changing programs and that visual art forms, across a range of mediums, styles and periods, are celebrated. I've had to ensure the people in the small team that make all this happen are properly

supported and encouraged, and I've always felt my role is to act as a champion of the visual arts in this region.

Why did you want to work in this role?

Thinking back, I felt at the time I had a lot to offer to this gallery and its community. You could say that everything I had done working in the state gallery up until that time had given me the broad experience to take on this job. I've always been passionate about the visual arts. Art matters - it's been my mission to prove that it does.

What do you enjoy most about working in this role?

The role of Director is incredibly varied and quite often very challenging. You're a public figure and therefore accountable to the public for the decisions you make.

At the same time, I've had an opportunity to imprint something of my own interests and outlook on life on an institution that will, hopefully, still be going strong 50 years or even 200 years after I am gone. Feeling part of what I will call a 'noble continuum' is really mind-blowing when you stop to think about it.

What do you love most about the Art Gallery of Ballarat?

No question about that - the collection. It is so rich and so diverse, it can be combined and interpreted in an infinite variety of ways.

I really only ever scratched the surface of it, but I was fortunate to have an opportunity to add some very special things to the collection. The journey I've had with the collection was not something I did on my own, it was an adventure shared with some fantastic people.



End of an era: Gordon Morrison is set to retire.

What are you looking forward to most about retirement?

Giving my garden my almost undivided attention.

What have been some of the highlights of your time in this role?

I'm most proud of the fact that during my tenure here we extended the collection of contemporary Indigenous art, expanded the collection of cartoons and satirical art to make it the most extensive collection of its type in any art gallery in Australia, and built up the collection of Australian natural history art, to make the Art Gallery of Ballarat a national leader in this area.

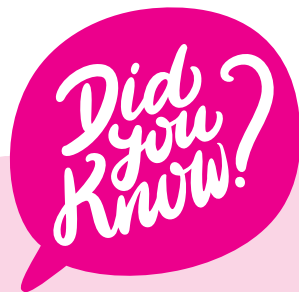
As for exhibitions, the recent *Romancing the Skull* exhibition was tremendously important. The survey show we did for Kevin Lincoln celebrated an Australian artist in a

marvellous way, and both *Capturing Flora* and the *Eikon* exhibition were very important to me.

Is there anything else you'd like to mention?

It's been the greatest privilege to have worked here with this collection and with my team. My time is now up, and I wish my successor all good things for the future.

Editor's note: The City of Ballarat extends its sincere thanks to Gordon for his dedication and commitment to transforming the Art Gallery of Ballarat into one of Australia's premier art galleries, and we wish Gordon all the very best in retirement. An announcement regarding the new Director of the Art Gallery of Ballarat will be made in the near future.



- The Art Gallery of Ballarat presents about 30 exhibitions each year and employs 16 staff.
- When Gordon Morrison first became Director in 2004, 45,000 people visited the Art Gallery of Ballarat. Last financial year, 237,000 people visited the Gallery.
- Outstanding pieces include Von Guerard's *Old Ballarat*, Tom Roberts' *Summer Morning Tiff*, Hans Heysen's *Three Gums*, Arthur Boyd's *Golden Calf*, Jeffrey Smart's *The Listeners* and Rick Amor's *Study for the Dry Season*
- This year, the Gallery will present two major exhibitions: Eugene von Guérard: Artist-traveller and *Into Light* (19th and 20th century masters from Douai in France), and is a core venue for the Biennale of Australian Art (BOAA)
- The Art Gallery of Ballarat is the only gallery in Australia to have a collection of religious icons, and the only gallery in regional Australia to have a collection of medieval manuscripts
- The Art Gallery of Ballarat is open daily from 10am-5pm, and closed Christmas Day and Boxing Day. Entry is free, plus there are free guided tours daily at 2pm.
- Visit artgalleryofballarat.com.au or find us on Facebook.



autumn at the Gallery

From a rare bonsai exhibition to works showcasing Australian landscapes and animals, the Art Gallery of Ballarat is turning to nature for its inspiration this season.

In the shadow of summer: An exploration of design through Bonsai, 9–12 March

Did you know bonsai is not a form of garden decoration? It's a way of contemplating and paying reverence to the natural world, based on principles developed by Buddhist masters in China and Japan many centuries ago.

Designed to complement the Ballarat Begonia Festival weekend, the exhibition brings together 25 mature trees from the collection of one of Australia's leading bonsai exponents, Jeff Barry.

The exhibition will feature talks from bonsai experts Joe Morgan-Payler and Jeff Barry, and a concert led by shakuhachi player Adam Simmons.

Beckler's Botanical Bounty, 24 February–27 May

This collaborative exhibition featuring 20 Melbourne artists pays tribute to the plant collecting activities of Dr Hermann Beckler,

a doctor on the Burke and Wills Expedition. Over a period of 10 years, these artists have visited the site of Beckler's collecting at Menindie in outback New South Wales, re-gathering and drawing the plants he collected at the site in 1860–61.

In Occupation: Pastoral settlement on the Wimmera, 3 March–11 June

This incredible collection showcases 10 watercolour sketches of early pastoral homesteads around Donald and Charlton in 1859

Animalia Australis, 3 March–6 May

An exhibition of prints from the gallery's amazing collection, this exhibition celebrates the first encounters between white explorers, scientists and settlers with the animals of the Southern continent, and demonstrates their attempts to depict these strange and exotic creatures.

Eugene von Guérard: Artist–traveller, 24 March–27 May

A pre-eminent landscape painter of colonial Australia, Eugene von Guérard came to Australia as a gold-seeker and spent time on the Ballarat goldfields.

After spending more than 25 years travelling Australia, he transformed his sketches into detailed paintings.

This exhibition, which tells the story of von Guérard's travels through his sketchbooks and paintings, is accompanied by a book, produced in a partnership between the gallery and the State Library of Victoria.



Want to know more?

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



Tidying up: The City of Ballarat's Street Cleaning team removing the Autumn leaves.

cleaning up

Turning over a new leaf

Autumn means leaves, and lots of them!

As more than half of the city's street trees are deciduous, the City of Ballarat's Street Cleaning team has its work cut out for it in the Autumn months.

The team, which includes 10 staff and three street sweeper drivers, removes leaves from footpaths, nature strips, and out of gutters.

The team follows a regular route throughout the streets, and also responds to requests when residents need their leaves collected after sweeping them up into large piles.

You can also compost and mulch the leaves from your property or dispose of them in your green waste bin.

Green waste collection

Since the City of Ballarat's green waste service began in July 2016, more than 9,000 tonnes of green waste have been turned into high value compost for use in the agricultural and horticulture markets.

More than 12,000 tonnes of green garden waste have been collected since the new green waste collection service began, with more than 10kg of average household kerbside green waste and 16,120 bins collected each fortnight in the 2016-2017 financial year.

Diverting green waste from landfill ensures methane produced during the decomposition process is not released in to the atmosphere - where it's a major greenhouse gas that contributes to climate change.



Want to know more?

- Green waste is anything cut from your garden - leaves, grass clippings, prunings, weeds, flowers, and small branches (10cm in diameter and 55cm in length)
- No construction material
- Don't bag your green waste
- Maximum weight for collection is 70kg





Above: Landfill Supervisor Greg Aldrich in front of the landfill cell.

Right: We need to prevent recyclables ending up at the Smythesdale Landfill.

talking rubbish

The City of Ballarat services more than 40,000 homes, businesses, commercial operations and industries with a range of waste and recycling facilities. While some of our waste is recycled and green waste is transformed into high grade compost, about half of our waste ends up at the Smythesdale Landfill.

The days of driving to your local tip, parking the car alongside the large pit, throwing your rubbish over the edge, and perhaps even leaving with someone else's dumped goods, are long gone.

For Greg Aldrich, Landfill Supervisor of the Smythesdale Landfill, those distant memories couldn't be further from the way modern landfill sites, including our region's sole landfill at Smythesdale, work today.

"It's completely the opposite of what you remember a tip to be like back in those days," he says.

"When anyone comes here, they are so surprised at the way it's

constructed, the way it looks and how clean it is.

"A lot of people now don't know where their rubbish goes – they don't even know that this landfill exists."

With more than \$2.5 million in capital investment, the former quarry was developed into a 500-acre landfill site and opened in 1996.

As one of the City of Ballarat's larger assets, the site is open to commercial vehicles only, and is not open to the general public.

The landfill mainly accepts municipal and commercial waste. Residents

can dispose of asbestos by appointment only (phone 5342 8540). It must be double-wrapped before it's taken to the site.

Landfills are highly regulated and audited, and current construction standards require significant works to protect leachate, gas, litter and odour from impacting on the environment. For example, the liners are now composite liners made from compacted clay, geomembranes, geotextiles and drainage systems.

On average, 423kg of waste for each person living in the City of Ballarat is sent to the Smythesdale Landfill each year.



Reduce what goes into landfill

- Reduce the amount of waste created at home. Use containers to pack sandwiches and snacks instead of plastic cling film, and avoid over-buying and wasting food.
- Reuse and repair items instead of throwing them away. Reuse containers, jars and bottles where possible. In the garden, create a compost heap or worm farm for organic waste. Reuse lawn clippings as mulch.
- Recycle. Ensure your recyclables - cardboard, paper, tin and aluminium cans, bottles and jars - goes into your recycling bin, not your general waste bin. Electronic waste, or eWaste, such as DVD players, phones, computers, batteries, kettles, dishwashers and TVs, can be recycled at the Ballarat Transfer Station.

By 2026, it's predicted our production of waste and recoverable materials will increase to 61,000 tonnes annually – up from 52,879 in 2017 - with 30,000 tonnes being recovered and 31,000 tonnes entering our landfill.

The City of Ballarat is planning for the future with the development of the Resource Recovery and Waste Management Strategy 2018–2022.

This five-year strategy, which was open to public consultation in February, provides significant environmental benefits, minimises operation costs and maximises job

opportunities, while also providing strategic direction with the aim of achieving zero recoverable waste to landfill by 2040.

Most importantly, the strategy positions the City of Ballarat to be ready for the development of a Waste to Energy facility. A Waste to Energy Facility will create greater opportunities for recycling and for turning waste into a resource, which is the ultimate aim - resource recovery and good service delivery.





New Residents Welcome Booklet

new to our city?

To assist in your relocation, the City of Ballarat's New Residents Welcome Booklet is a friendly guide to our vibrant city - to help you quickly and easily settle into the local lifestyle.

The booklet provides information about key City of Ballarat and other community services, including public transport services, education, health services, waste and recycling.

The booklet also includes thousands of dollars' worth of discount offers to assist in making Ballarat your new home.

If you are a permanent resident of Ballarat and have been living in the City of Ballarat for less than three months, you are eligible to receive a free copy of the New Residents Welcome Booklet.

For more information, contact the City of Ballarat Customer Service team on 5320 5500.

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