

Connecting

Sebastopol

Community News



MARCH 2025 - ISSUE 9



Members of the Red Sunset Club performed the colourful Yangko Dance to celebrate Harmony Week

Celebrating diversity at Harmony Fest 2025!

A vibrant intercultural celebration kicked off Harmony Week at Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre in Sebastopol on 14 March. Over 200 attendees enjoyed a lively night of performances and a multicultural feast prepared by volunteers from Our Kitchen Social Enterprise. Entertainment included Chinese dancing and a skilled Chinese yoyo performer from Red Sunset Club, Latin American dancing from Elemento One, drumming by One Spirit Africa and traditional dances from Uzbekistan and India. The night was a true celebration of diversity, bringing together community members of all ages and cultures. The event was presented in partnership with the City of Ballarat 's Harmony Fest. Visit the [Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre Facebook page](#) for more photos and videos of this celebration.

Inside this issue:

- Community News
- Historical Feature
- Artscape
- Kids Corner
- Pets & Puzzles Page
- What's On

Use this QR code to view the full colour online newsletters





Acknowledgement of Country



We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land we live and work on, the Wadawurrung People, and recognise their continuing connection to the land and waterways. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging and extend this to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

About the Newsletter

Connecting Sebastopol Community News is a project of the Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre. This publication is compiled, edited and designed by volunteers, community contributors and Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre staff.

Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre

Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre is committed to creating opportunities for people to connect, learn and participate in their community. We offer adult education, one-on-one coaching for people looking for work, community activities, a community garden, volunteer opportunities and much more! www.ballaratnc.org.au
reception@ballaratnc.org.au

(03) 5329 3273

11 Tuppen Drive, Sebastopol

Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre welcomes
all LGBTQIA+ communities



Scan this QR code to
subscribe to the
e-newsletter or share a
story with us



Upcoming Issues

In 2025 this newsletter will be published quarterly in March, June, September and December. The next issue will be published in mid June, with articles, events and ads due by **Friday 30 May 2025** to community@ballaratnc.org.au or hard copy to Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre.

Advertise with us!

Printing of this newsletter relies on advertising revenue and donations.

Promote your business and support this valuable community initiative.

Advertising rates per edition are:

\$500 + GST: Half page

\$250 + GST: Banner or quarter page

\$150+ GST: Advertorial + Ad

\$50 + GST: Business Card

For more info contact Emily Macdonald

community@ballaratnc.org.au

5329 3273

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

We are very grateful for the growing number of volunteers helping to deliver this newsletter. Thanks to these dedicated volunteers, over 3500 issues of the December newsletter were distributed!

Volunteer With Us!

We are seeking volunteers to help us expand delivery to the whole of Sebastopol. If you can spare an hour or two a few times a year to drop some newsletters into letterboxes, please get in touch!
5329 3273 / community@ballaratnc.org.au

If your house is not yet covered by a delivery volunteer, you can drop into the following Sebastopol organisations to pick up a copy:

Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre
Open Door & Op Shop
Sebastopol Library
Sebastopol Mens Shed
Salvos Sebastopol
Carmel Welsh Church & Op Shop
G Gay & Co Mitre 10
My Local Store @ Hertford Street
Coles Sebastopol

Connecting Sebastopol Community Meet-Up



Attendees at the February Sebastopol Community Meet-Up. Photo by Will Lay

Our first Sebastopol Community Meet-Up for 2025 was held on 21 February at Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre. It was a lovely opportunity to catch-up with residents and representatives from a range of local organisations including Sebastopol Men's Shed, Sebastopol Historical Society, Sebastopol Fire Brigade, Sebastopol Senior Citizens, Open Door and Op Shop, Journey Early Learning and Relationships Australia. The group discussed that applications are currently open for the City of Ballarat Community Impact Grants, which allow local not-for-profit groups to apply for funding to deliver projects that build community capacity and foster community connections. We talked about this being an opportunity for us to work together on a project for the Burra. Sebastopol resident Eileen had an idea for a 'Celebration of Sebastopol' event which was enthusiastically received by everyone and inspired some exciting and creative brainstorming!

Some of the ideas included:

- Offering free food and activities so that everyone can come along and enjoy the event, no matter their circumstances
- Encouraging local community groups to host stalls to showcase what they offer and how people can get involved
- Engaging with local multicultural groups in the event planning and delivery to ensure inclusivity and celebrate the diverse Burra community
- Performances, 'come and try' activities, and talks by local guest speakers
- Sebastopol merchandise to encourage Burra pride

Working ideas for the event name include Showcasing Sebastopol, Sebastopol Community Festival and Celebration of Sebastopol.

A small group from the meet-up is currently working on the grant application and we would love to hear from anyone in the community who has ideas for this event or would like to get involved.

Share your ideas with us!

- Would you like to see a 'Celebration of Sebastopol' event happening in the Burra?
- Do you have suggestions or ideas you would like to contribute?
- Are you interested in volunteering to help plan or run the event if it goes ahead?

If so, we would love to hear from you! Contact Emily at Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre. Call 5329 3273 or email community@ballaratnc.org.au

We invite you to join us at the next

Sebastopol Meet-Up

10:30 - 11:30am, Friday 2 May
Sebastopol Men's Shed
201 Vickers St, Sebastopol

Join us for a cuppa and chat!

Everyone is welcome

To RSVP or stay informed about future meet-ups contact Emily Macdonald:
community@ballaratnc.org.au / 5329 3273
Or follow [Connecting Sebastopol](#) on Facebook

Community

Girl Guides Summer Fun!

Written by Chérie Brown



It's hard to believe the Sebastopol & Delacombe Girl Guides only resumed for the year in February. The persistent heat of the Ballarat summer set the perfect stage for a month packed with exciting water activities. Our very first Thursday was a scorching 34-degree day, providing the perfect opportunity to kick off the year with a Water Activity Night. The girls had a blast with water balloon tosses, sponge bucket relays, water pistol challenges, overhead cup-passing games, and even launching a bottle rocket.



A much-anticipated annual event was the friendly competition with the local Scouts, where multiple teams of Guides and Scouts built ballistas using poles and ropes, and capable of launching water balloons at each other across the field. Each team put their knotting and construction skills to the test before enjoying the fun of seeing who could achieve the most accurate aiming, or who would get the wettest. Our favourite grassy knoll in Sebastopol provided the perfect slope for iceblocking, one of our favourite Guiding activities. This involves sitting on a large block of ice and sliding down the side of the hill, a fantastic way to cool off on a hot evening. The adventure continued with canoeing at St George's Lake in Creswick. Ideal weather conditions

allowed the Guides to practice paddling techniques, master safe canoe transfers, and even take on the extra challenge of deliberately capsizing and working together to swim their canoes back to shore. This thrilling exercise developed water survival skills, confidence, resilience and teamwork.

The Guides also made a difference in the Sebastopol community by participating in the Clean Up Australia program. Collecting bags of rubbish and recyclables at Phoenix Community College, Victory Park, and nearby streets, they demonstrated their commitment to caring for the environment and providing service. And after all that hard work on yet another hot night, what better way to cool down than some time at the water park?



It's been an action-packed start to the term for Guides throughout Ballarat. Sebastopol offers a Guide group for 10-16 year olds, and a separate group for 5-9 year olds, both on Thursday nights. There are also other Guide groups that meet on different nights of the week at different locations. For more information, visit girlguidesballarat.org.au

JOIN THE BURRA 2025!



We Are Looking for Juniors to join the Burra in 2025.

- Under 8, Under 10, Under 12, Under 14 and Under 16 Football
- BFLW Juniors - Under 14 and Under 16
- Under 9 and Under 11 Netball
- Great Coaches with a supportive and inclusive environment

Contact Chenay: 0428 930 444

Community

Sebastopol Mens Shed News

Our Shed now has three licensed Test and Tag operators who can check any electrical products that you have, including extension leads. It give you peace of mind that appliances are safe to use. We can do the whole process in one day, for low cost. Any members of the community can bring their appliances to the front office on Wednesdays from 9 am (we close at 2 pm), or to our Saturday markets.



Test and Tag is the name given to the process of checking the safety of portable electrical appliances. It involves two parts: inspecting the appliance for any damage, followed by electrically testing it with a Portable Appliance Tester. Once tested, the item has a tag secured to it to testing details. Our charge is very modest for this process. We prefer cash, but have EFTPOS facilities.

Even though it's dry, we still need to keep grass down everywhere. Our Shed Mower services are just the place to come for you to buy a quality used machine, or have your mower/whipper



snipper serviced. We encourage recycling of old mowers and would be very grateful if you can give us your old mowers, so that we can resurrect them for someone else. Maybe you have something metal that requires some welding repairs. If that garden furniture, or whatever, is broken, don't throw it out, but get it to the Shed for some expert spot welding, even on very light metal.

The Shed has been granted Deductible Gift Recipient status, which means that anyone can make donations to the Shed and we issue tax-deductible receipts. Donations are always welcomed by the Shed, as we are a self-funded operation.



Sebastopol Mens Shed Inc.
Strength thru Fellowship

Our Saturday Markets continue during the warmer months, from 10 am till 12 noon on these dates: 15 & 29 March, 12 & 26 April, and 3, 17 & 31 May. Cash or Credit Cards welcome to purchase flowering plants, pots, vegetables, jars of delicious Shed-made tomato relish, woodwork and furniture.

Finally, the Men's Shed is committed to providing its services to the wider Sebastopol community, and we welcome all visitors, whether you have a job for us, or might even like to look over the shed and perhaps join. Just pop into our front office at 201 Vickers Street any weekday between 9 am and 2 pm. Our phone is 5379 9256.

150 year school celebration

On November 22, 2024, Phoenix P -12 College celebrated 150 years of public education on the site of the Redan Campus. The Sebastopol Historical Society collaborated with the college to put on an exhibition of memorabilia, photographs and records arranged by decades. It was gratifying to see how many former and current students enjoyed finding themselves in photos and interacting with the exhibits. Participants were keen to share stories and memories. We are grateful for the donations of



badges and certificates that were made to the society. These will be kept at the museum and be available for future generations to enjoy. The museum is located at 185 Yarrowee St, Sebastopol and opens 1-4pm on the first Sunday of each month.

Community

Country Women's Association



CWA Sebastopol members, Elaine Kaminski, Marion Parker (President) and Jennifer McLeod.

The Sebastopol Branch of the Country Women's Association of Vic. is proud of its seventy-two year history of service to the community. It is a not-for-profit organisation supporting women, children and families and still relevant today. It provides friendship, personal development and support for members. While more than just "tea and scones", our focus last year was on scones and sharing the

skill of making scones, with the children at the Journey Early Learning Centre then later at the Ballarat library teaching teenagers in the Youth Development Group. All had a lot of fun. Members baked 25 dozen scones for Ballarat City Council for the seniors Expo. Branch meetings are held on the first Monday of each month at the RSL Meeting room, 10 Beverin St, Sebastopol at 1 pm. Every second Thursday of the month, members are available at the Sebastopol library to assist members of the public with knitting, crochet and craft projects from 1 pm to 3 pm. All welcome to drop in for a chat. Members are preparing for a Group Cookery and Craft Exhibition at the Buninyong Town Hall, Friday 2nd and Saturday 3rd May and for Heritage Week at Sovereign Hill. Enquires to Association Secretary, Susan Pitman: 0459 092 043

Justice of the Peace

A Justice of the Peace (JP) is trained to act as an independent and objective witness to documents used for official or legal purposes. Did you know that JP's are volunteers?



Wayne Jones JP (pictured) coordinates a dedicated team of volunteers who provide JP services at Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre sites in Sebastopol and Delacombe. The need for their services has grown exponentially over the last few years, with 1048 people attending in 2024, compared to 214 in 2022, and 9431 documents signed in 2024, compared to 1697 in 2022. We thank all of the JP volunteers who provide this essential service for our community. Drop in to access JP services during school terms as follows:

Ballarat South Community Hub

11 Tuppen Drive, Sebastopol

- Monday 11:00am - 3:00pm
- Tuesday 9:30am - 11:30am & 6:00pm - 7:30pm
- Wednesday 9:30am - 11:30am
- Thursday 9:00am - 1:00pm
- Friday 10:00am - 1:00pm

Delacombe Community Hub

18 Nandiriog Drive Delacombe

- Monday: 1.15pm - 2.15pm
- Friday: 1.15pm - 2.15pm



Golden Point Medical Centre

Bulk Billing Medical Centre in Ballarat.
"Your Health, Our Priority: Compassionate Care for Every Step of Your Journey"

Interests: Women's and Men's Health, Health Assessments, Mental Health, Chronic Disease Management, Paediatrics.

Address: Shop 4, 402 Main Road, Golden Point, VIC 3350
Call us on [03] 5331 9542 or Book Online via Health Engine
GPs, Dietician, Pathology and Visiting Paediatrician.

www.goldenpointmedicalcentre.com.au

Community

Sebastopol Community Hub Update



A construction milestone has been reached for the Sebastopol Community Hub with pouring of the concrete slab. It is expected the structural steel framing will be complete in autumn as the design starts to become a reality with the project on track to open in early 2026.

The project, on the corner of Vickers and Beverin Streets, will bring enormous benefit to the southern suburbs of Ballarat with construction of an integrated community hub. Once complete, the facility will provide a new home for the Sebastopol Senior Citizens and community groups that used the former Sebastopol Senior Citizens Centre, include a 66-place kindergarten, Maternal and Child Health consulting rooms, and provide spaces for community groups and organisations to run activities, programs and services for the community.

Key deliverables of the project

- A new home for the Sebastopol Senior Citizens
- A 66-place kindergarten for education and play based learning
- Two consulting rooms for maternal and child health and other family-focused services
- New bookable spaces for community groups and organisations to run event and activities including three multipurpose activity rooms, and a large hall
- Spaces for early childhood programs and services including parent groups and supported playgroup

The project is jointly funded by the City of Ballarat (up to \$5 million), the Federal Government (\$4.5 million) via the Investing in Our Communities program and the State Government (\$4.5 million) via the Building Blocks Capacity program.

OPEN DOOR OP SHOP
SEBASTOPOL

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

WHY VOLUNTEER WITH US?

- Friendly Community Atmosphere
- Supportive Environment
- Develop New Skills
- Make a Difference

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE:

- Tues, Weds or Thurs
- 9-12 or 12-2

JOIN US!

DO YOU LOVE OP SHOPS?

VOLUNTEER WITH OPEN DOOR OP SHOP AND BE A PART OF OUR MISSION TO SUPPORT THE LOCAL COMMUNITY.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED:

Contact Sandra:
0427 808 263

Visit us:
106 Albert Street,
Sebastopol

Community

A new church in town



In the winter of 2024, a new church began worshipping on Sundays at the Open Door on Albert Street. Under the leadership of Father Jithin James, the Saint Severios Jacobite Syriac Orthodox Church has opened its doors to a new congregation.

The Jacobite Syriac Orthodox Church (JSOC) has its roots in India, where tradition says that St. Thomas (the one who “doubted”) came as a missionary.

The liturgy of the worship service is very old, tracing itself back to St. Ignatius of Antioch in the first century BCE. This makes them related to the Coptic Church in Egypt. The Open Door is thrilled to welcome this church community to Sebastopol, and is looking forward to a long relationship with them. For information on current worship days and times, please contact the Open Door at 0476 374 297.

The Open Door space at 104 Albert Street is also available for hire, with rates negotiable based on type of organization and needs. For inquiries, contact Rev. Marcia Eveland - 0476 374 297



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tamed.**

-  Friendly Technology Support
-  Snappy Repairs & Servicing
-  Patient Training & Advice

Call out for Heritage Festival contributions

The Ballarat Heritage Festival is on again from May 16 - 25, 2025 and the Sebastopol Historical Society will be mounting an exhibition at their Museum on the ground floor of the old Sebastopol Primary School in Yarrowee Street.

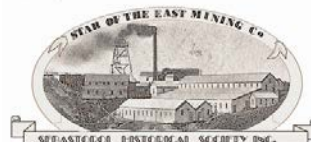
The theme for this year's festival is Entertainment. The society's 2025 exhibition will be Entertainment in the Borough 1864 - 1994. We would love to hear from former and current Sebastopol residents.



What do you remember doing for entertainment as a child . . . a teenager . . . a young adult . . . a parent . . . an older person? What games did you play? Where did you play? What toys did you have? Did you listen to the radio, go to dances, or the pub? Was there a playground or sporting facility near you? Did you attend activities at one of the local churches? What concerts or shows were on? What did you do on weekends? We have so many questions for you as we look to find out what the lighter side of the Borough was like.

You can come and share your stories and memorabilia with our members at our museum which is open from 1 - 4pm on the first Sunday of each month except January or our members are usually hard at work most Thursday nights at the museum at 185 Yarrowee St, Sebastopol.

If you can't visit in person you can visit our Facebook page ([Sebastopol Historical Society Victoria Australia](https://www.facebook.com/SebastopolHistoricalSociety)), or our website: sebastopolhistoricalsociety.godaddysites.com/



Community

Celebrating International Women's Day!



March 8th was International Women's Day, a day for celebrating women's achievements, raising awareness about discrimination and taking action to forge gender parity.

Many organisations around Ballarat recognised the occasion, including Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre who had a special guest speaker at their community lunch on 7th March, local dementia advocate Anne Tudor OAM. Anne and her partner Edie, who had dementia, were instrumental in establishing the Bigger Hearts Dementia Alliance Ballarat. Anne's service to people living with dementia and their supporters has been widely recognised, with Anne the recipient of a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM), a Victorian Senior of the Year Award and a Mayor's Award in the City of Ballarat's Senior of the Year Awards. Thank you Anne for your dedication and tireless work and for sharing your story and knowledge with us.

Become a Dementia Friend



Dementia Friends learn about dementia so they can collaborate with people impacted by dementia and make their communities more dementia-friendly.

Bigger Hearts Dementia Alliance Ballarat in partnership with Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre will be running Dementia Friend training in the coming months. This will be free and available to any community members and community groups.

To register your interest, please contact Emily at Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre:
community@ballaratnc.org.au / 5329 3273

BALLARAT ROCK 'N' ROLL FESTIVAL

BALLARAT ROCK 'N' ROLL FESTIVAL 2025

April 12th and 13th
Ballarat High School, 1726 Sturt Street

SATURDAY DAY EVENT - 10AM TO 1PM

11am to 1pm: Slim Gritty
1pm to 1.45pm: Partner and line dancing demo by Diane and Kevin McCann
2pm to 4pm: The Vincent's
2.50-3.10pm: Ballroom dance demo by Goldfields Recreation and Dance Club

SATURDAY TICKETED NIGHT EVENT

7pm to 11.30pm
The Lincolns
\$30 per person
BYO alcohol and nibbles
Door prize and raffle
Tickets via TryBooking or at the door

SUNDAY DAY EVENT - 10AM TO 1PM

11am to 1pm: The Memphis Suns (Adelaide)
1pm to 1.45pm: Lana Rose Fashion best dressed competition
2pm to 4pm: Memory Lane Band
2.50-3.10pm: Line dancing demo by El Dorado

INFO

Two days of entertainment, food vendors, stalls and a static car display.
\$10 per person per day. Children under 16yrs free. Cash and card accepted.

Community

A new year at Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre



Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre is back in action for 2025 with a range of free and cheap courses on offer, as well as volunteer opportunities and our famous Friday community lunches. We welcomed back Saranya, who has been away for 2 months visiting her family in India. Saranya is a vital member of our volunteer team, helping out in the office and performing a range of administration tasks. Her excellent organisational skills, computer competency, helpful, polite nature is a treasured asset to the Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre.

Saranya is just one of many brilliant volunteers we are lucky to have with us at the centre and there are plenty of volunteer opportunities available if you are interested in getting involved in your local Sebastopol community.

We would also like to share a lovely experience we had recently. We received some very positive feedback from community members who were so delighted with our staff's kind and generous service that they dropped in a bunch of flowers to say thank you, which made our day! We are proud to



be part of the Burra community and our aim is to work with the community to find ways to best support you and provide opportunities for all. If you have an idea for something you'd like to see happening in your local community, we would love to hear about it - get in touch!

Memory Makers Social Group

We are excited to announce a new weekly social group run by Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre volunteers. The group is aimed at anyone aged 55+ and is inclusive for people with support needs and their carers. Each week we will enjoy a variety of activities to get our minds and body active.

Bring your ideas and let's build on them while enjoying a morning tea, making new friends and most importantly having fun while sharing and making new memories together.

We are looking for volunteers to assist with this program under the guidance of the group coordinator. You will be supported through provision of a volunteer induction session and opportunities for training around becoming a 'Dementia Friend' to ensure the group is inclusive and welcoming for all.

If this program sounds something you would like to attend or volunteer with, register your interest by contacting Emily at Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre. Ph: 5329 3273 Email: community@ballaratnc.org.au See flyer below for more details . . .

MEMORY MAKERS SOCIAL GROUP

Please join us for morning tea and to make new friends

A new and exciting weekly social group for anyone aged 55+ including carers and adults they support

Commences Monday 5 May
10:00am - 12:00pm
Gold coin per session

To register your interest contact
Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre

Activities may include:

Health and Wellness

Quiz, Music, Theme Days

Crafts, Games and Hobbies

Morning Tea

Make Friendships

Volunteer Opportunities



Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre
11 Tuppen Drive, Sebastopol
Phone: 5329 3273
Email: community@ballaratnc.org.au

Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre

Our free and low cost classes will help build your skills and knowledge, whilst providing opportunities for social and community connection.

Contact us to find out more or register your interest.

Upcoming Short Courses include



GARDENING

Landscaping from Scratch
Urban Farming
Garden Basics

COMPUTERS

Basic & Intermediate Computers
Introduction to Artificial Intelligence (AI)
Excel
Xero, MYOB



HOSPITALITY

Commercial Kitchen Skills
Cooking up Jobs
Cooking Skills for Men
Become a Barista
Front of House

ART & CRAFT

Beginners & Intermediate Sewing
Knit & Crotchet for Beginners
Op Shop Upcycling
Art, Create & Learn



JOB & INDEPENDENT LIVING SKILLS

Become Work Ready
Independent Living Skills
Resumes, Interviews & Job Applications
Find a Job - Trades, Aged Care, Hospitality, Retail

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

ESL Level 1 & 2
Prepare for IELTS
Practical Literacy & Numeracy
Reading & Writing Basics
Baking with Language



Community Lunches are back!

Join us for a delicious two-course lunch

Time: 12 noon - 1pm / Cost \$15

Dates: Friday 4th April

Friday 16th, 23rd, 30th May

Please call to book: 5329 3273

*Vegetarian & gluten free options available on request

☎ 03 5329 3273 ✉ reception@ballaratnc.org.au

📍 11 Tuppen Drv, SEBASTOPOL 🌐 www.ballaratnc.org.au



Catherine King MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR BALLARAT

I know families here are under pressure. That's why Labor is:

- ✓ **Delivering** tax cuts for every taxpayer
- ✓ **Funding** the biggest ever investment in bulk billing
- ✓ **Delivering** energy bill relief for every household
- ✓ **Freezing** medicine prices
- ✓ **Providing** cheaper childcare
- ✓ **Helping** to cut inflation, paving the way for lower interest rates

Standing up for our community!

☎ (03) 5338 8123 ✉ Catherine.King.MP@aph.gov.au 🌐 [CatherineKingMP](https://www.facebook.com/CatherineKingMP) 📱 [@catherine_kingmp](https://www.instagram.com/catherine_kingmp)

Authorised by Steve Staikos, Australian Labor Party, (Victorian Branch), 438 Docklands Drive, Docklands VIC 3008.



Community



Digital Sisters Program

Free in person sessions to support women use technology and learn new digital skills

What we offer

Customised digital skills training for women aged **18 to 50** from diverse cultural backgrounds. Whether you're just beginning to develop digital literacy or already have some experience, it will boost your confidence, help you stay connected with the world, and ensure you navigate the online space safely and effectively!



What You'll Learn

- Essential digital skills
- Staying safe online
- Navigating new technologies like AI

Contact us for more information

(03) 5329 3273 reception@ballaratnc.org.au Ballarat Neighbourhood Center





Ballarat Dementia Friendly Carers Gardening Group

Carers who look after a person with dementia (person with dementia is welcome if accompanied) are welcome to join other community members at the Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre Tuesday Gardening Group.

A relaxed, welcoming space where you can join other green thumbs. Experienced gardener Matt will guide you through different gardening activities each session.

Free event with morning tea provided. Collaboration between Villa Maria (VMCH) & Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre.

Time: 9:30am-11am

Location: Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre
Ballarat South Community Hub 11 Tuppen Drive, Sebastopol, 3556

Dates: Tuesday 27th May 2025
Tuesday 3rd June 2025
Tuesday 10th June 2025
Tuesday 17th June 2025

Call Melissa: 0474 871 479 or email melissa.edwards@vmch.com.au to register your interest or for more information.



Supporting Sebas

As your local State Member of Parliament, I'm here to represent you and the Sebastopol community.

I am proud that the Victorian Government is contributing \$4.5 million towards the new Sebastopol Community Hub in Vickers Street.



JULIANA ADDISON MP
MEMBER FOR WENDOUREE

211 Dana Street, Ballarat 3350
5331 1003
juliana.addison@parliament.vic.gov.au
julianaaddison.com.au

[JulianaAddisonMP](https://www.facebook.com/JulianaAddisonMP)
[@juliana_addison](https://twitter.com/juliana_addison)
[julianaaddison](https://www.instagram.com/julianaaddison)

Artscape

Art, Create & Learn

Are you interested in art but not quite sure where to start, or need some guidance? Why not head along to Art, Create and Learn, a class aimed at giving learners a solid understanding of foundational art skills and art techniques. The class encourages participants to creatively explore art concepts and visual language.



The classes are best suited to adults at the start of their creative journey. Learners' will have the opportunity to use a variety of art mediums and techniques as they explore concepts and ideas through practical exercises, theoretical discussions and visual art journal entries, increasing language, creative skills and confidence. Term 2 will run every Wednesday from 30th April - 18th June, 9:30am - 12:30pm at Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre. Cost is \$100 for the term. For enquiries or to enrol, contact Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre: 5329 3273 / reception@ballaratnc.org.au



Raintree Art Gallery
64 SCHOOL LANE
CAMBRIAN HILL 3352

14 minutes from Ballarat's CBD
or 9 minutes from Buningyong
off the Midland Hwy (A300)

Aboriginal Art
www.raintreeart.com.au

Contact Us
0409 846 200
info@raintreeart.com.au

Ballarat National Theatre is proud to present its 2025 season of shows!

April 4 & 6: A dramatic reading of *This is the Way the World Ends*, A series of thematically connected shorts, where the common themes of lack of empathy and connectedness become one of the great challenges for the planet we live on. Directed by Louise Permezel, *This is the Way the World Ends* is a new work written by Ballarat's own Barry Kay.

June 19-22: Geoffrey Naufft's Tony Award nominated *Next Fall*, a moving and thought-provoking drama about a committed couple and their opposing beliefs. Director Matthew Henderson will lead the audience through this deeply emotional and, at times, humorous exploration of faith, acceptance, and love.

October 16-19: Yasmina Reza's *God of Carnage*, the Tony Award black comedy that centres on the meeting of two sets of parents due to an unfortunate school yard incident, directed by Ruby Abbott.

In partnership with the Ballarat Mechanics Institute, performances will take place at the BMI Ballarat, 117-119 Sturt St, Ballarat.

Tickets available via our website
bnt.org.au

BALLARAT NATIONAL THEATRE PRESENTS
NEXT FALL
A TONY AWARD NOMINATED PLAY BY
GEOFFRY NAUFFTS
DIRECTED BY MATTHEW HENDERSON

JUNE 19-22
BNT.ORG.AU

Historically Speaking

The Sebastopol Avenue of Honour – Part I From Cheshunt Street to Birdwood Avenue

Have you ever wondered how the streets of the Borough were named? This is the story of how one well known street came by its name.

The deaths and injury of so many young men during the first World War left a huge sense of loss and tragedy in the hearts of the communities and families from which these soldiers came. People were keen to find ways to commemorate and honour the service of these men.

Avenues of Honour were one way communities sought to show their support. Ballarat's well known Arch of Victory marks the start of the city's Avenue of Honour. It is thought to be the earliest known and Australia's longest of Avenue Of Honour at 22 kilometres long. The idea for the avenue, the subsequent fund-raising and planting were the work of the staff of the clothing firm, E. Lucas & Co.

The Borough of Sebastopol has it's own Avenue of Honour which ran along what is now known as Birdwood Avenue. On Wednesday July 17th, 1917 a public meeting, chaired by by borough Mayor Cr. Jones was held to discuss the proposal to follow the example of the employees of Lucas and Co to plant an avenue of trees to honour the enlistment of local soldiers.

A week later a committee presented their findings to another public meeting. While they recommended that what was then known as Cheshunt Street as the best site nominations were also received for Albert and Hertford Street. After a vote by all those present Cheshunt Street was chosen. Things moved quickly. Another committee was formed to mark out the placement of the trees and oversee a working bee to

prepare for the planting of the trees. The price of a tree was set at 10/6 and donors could nominate in whose honour the tree would be planted. There were many volunteers and the preparations were rapidly completed with the official tree planting conducted on Saturday, August 4th, 1917.

It was reported in *The Courier* on August 6th, 1917 that "Practically the whole of the available population of Sebastopol turned out on that afternoon for the opening of the Avenue of Honour in commemoration of the soldiers from the borough who are fighting the Empire's battles abroad. Although the movement was only initiated a couple of weeks ago the work of the organisation was so well carried out — thanks largely to the efforts of the Mayor (Cr. J. E. Jones) and the secretary (Mr N. Howell) — that everything was in readiness for the planting of 120 trees . . . holes had been sunk, tree guards erected, name plates prepared and a substantial notice board erected bearing the following inscription."

Birdwood Avenue

**This avenue of trees was planted by the
residents of Sebastopol**

**In honour of our brave boys who
volunteered to fight**

For King, Empire and Freedom

**Mayor J.E. Jones Chairman, N. Howell Secretary
4th August 1917**

The name of the street was changed from Cheshunt Street to what we now know as Birdwood Avenue as a "compliment" to General Sir William Birdwood. Who was General Birdwood? Find out in Part II of this article in the next Sebastopol Community News.



Joe McCRACKEN MP

MEMBER FOR WESTERN VICTORIA

Always fighting for Sebastopol!



17 Lydiard St North, Ballarat VIC 3350



www.joemccracken.com.au



joe.mccracken@parliament.vic.gov.au



03 5332 2405

Historically Speaking

The Ballarat Ranger Military Museum

Written by Neil Leckie

The Colony of Victoria separated from the Colony of New South Wales on 1 July 1851, that day becoming known as Separation Day. In 1854, in response to the perceived threat during the Crimean War (1853-56) that 'the Russians are Coming', the government of the Colony of Victoria received notification from the British Government that it could raise its own Defence Forces. The Victorian Defence Act of 1854 saw the raising of Volunteer Rifle Regiments in Melbourne and Geelong, along with Artillery batteries around Port Phillip Bay.



On 9 August 1858, the Ballarat Volunteer Rifle Regiment held its first meeting. Men from Sebastopol would soon join the Volunteers. The Regiment was known for most of its existence as the Ballarat Volunteer Rangers. The Volunteers closed in 1883 and reopened as paid Militia in 1884. Ballarat's unit became the 3rd (Ballarat) Battalion, Victorian Rifles. In 1885/86 the Drill Hall, later named Ranger Barracks, was built. There were a few names changes until Federation in 1901 when the unit became the 3rd Battalion, Infantry Brigade, under the new Federal Government.

The Australian Army was raised on 1 March 1903 and Ballarat's unit became the 7th Australian



Infantry Regiment. Compulsory Military Training for young boys from 12 years of age began in 1912, expanding the Militia. After war was declared in August 1914, many Sebastopol men joined the 8th Battalion raised in Ballarat.

Post-WW1, Ballarat's unit was the 8th Battalion (City of Ballarat Regiment), which served in WW2 until being disbanded at the end of the war. The Citizen Military Forces were

re-raised in 1948. Ballarat was amalgamated with Mildura to form the 8th/7th Battalion (North Western Victorian Regiment). This changed in 1960 to the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Victoria Regiment and changed again in 1987 to the 8th/7th Battalion, The Royal Victoria Regiment, the current name.

The Ballarat Ranger Military Museum was opened in the old Ranger Barracks (now Dan Murphy's) in 1987. When the old barracks were sold in 2001, the museum moved to the Sebastopol Hall, known to locals as the Sebastopol RSL. The new Ranger Barracks (left), at the corner of Sturt Street and Ring Road Alfredton, were completed in 2003. During the building phase of the new barracks, a WW2 hut from the Ballarat airport, which had been used as a storage shed at the old Ranger Barracks, was moved to the Russell Street, Newington, Depot for use by the Army Cadets. In 2004 the hut was moved to the new barracks and set up as the museum. The museum was officially opened on the battalion's 150th Birthday on 9 August 2008.

The museum, which holds memorabilia from as far back as the 1800s, is open Thursday afternoon 1 – 4pm, the fourth Sunday morning 9am to noon, or by appointment.

Community

Free Workshops for Community Groups!

Grant Writing with Community Bank Buninyong

Find out how your group can apply for funding.

Wednesday 30 April, 10.00am – 12.00noon

Community House Buninyong,
407a Warrenheip Street, Buninyong

Ballarat Community Directory and MySay

An interactive session with Council officers to increase your groups presence online and advocate to Council through the Ballarat Community Directory and MySay.

Monday 12 May, 6.30pm – 7.30pm

Thursday 15 May, 10.00am – 11.00am

Barkly Square, 25-39 Barkly Street, Ballarat East

Law Week – Legal Issues for Community Groups

Learn from Ballarat and Grampians Community Legal Service about how your community group can deal with legal issues that may arise.

Tuesday 20 May time and place TBC

For further information or to register, contact

Kay at Ballarat East Neighbourhood House

community@ballarateastnh.org.au / 0422 612 052

Conflict Resolution

Learn tools and practice skills to manage conflict within groups.

Friday 30 May, 2.00pm - 5.00pm

Saturday 31 May, 10.00 – 1.00pm

Barkly Square, 25-39 Barkly Street, Ballarat East

Volunteers – Inducting, Managing and Retaining

Find out practical ways to engage, manage, energise and retain volunteers.

Thursday 5 June, 10.00am – 11.30am

Barkly Square, 25-39 Barkly Street, Ballarat East

Wednesday 18 June, 6.00pm – 7.30pm

Online via Zoom/Face to Face TBC

Marketing and Promotion for Community Groups

Workshop ways to help make your organisation stand out from the crowd.

Wednesday 11 June, 10.00am – 11.30am

Barkly Square, 25-39 Barkly Street, Ballarat East

Thursday 12 June 6.00pm – 7.30pm

Online via Zoom



Community events,
services and clubs
are just a **click away**



Need it near?
Find it here!



**Ballarat
Community Directory**

CITY OF
BALLARAT



Ballarat Community Directory

We invite you to sign up to the Ballarat Community Directory and list your club or organisation.

Supported by the City of Ballarat, this fantastic resource will help you to connect with local residents and promote your organisation and services provided.

Why sign up?

- Increase your organisation's visibility
- Connect with the Ballarat community
- Share your events, programs, volunteering opportunities and services

How to sign up

1. Visit the [Ballarat Community Directory](#).
2. Click "List for FREE" at the top of the page.
3. Follow the simple steps to enter your organisation's details.
4. Submit your listing for approval.

Signing up is quick, easy, and free. For assistance or questions, please call the Council's Community Development Department on (03) 5320 5500.

Kids Corner

Free assistance to help parents become work ready



Do you have pre-schoolers and plan to return to work within the next twelve months? If yes, then our supported family playgroup can help you explore your employment options. Bring your little ones along to our playgroup while you discover a new career path, access free training and talk to employment services staff who will help you become ready to return to the workforce. This free playgroup program is for parents, carers and guardians with preschool age children (0 to 5).

Playgroup runs 10:00am - 12:30pm on Mondays, Delacombe Community Hub, 18 Nandiriog Drive. For more information or to register, contact Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre on 03 5329 3273 / reception@ballaratnc.org.au

Starting Kinder at Sebastopol South Kindergarten



The children at Sebastopol South Kindergarten have had a great start to the year. It is lovely getting to know our new children and families and reconnecting with our existing families. We have been learning kinder routines such as sitting on the mat, washing hands for morning tea and lunch and sharing and taking turns. We enjoy reading stories and singing. The children are enjoying water play and the sandpit, along with duplo, and painting.

Recycle and support the Sebastopol Community News!

Next time you take some bottles and cans to your local container deposit point, why not consider donating your refund to the Sebastopol Community News?

This publication relies on paid advertising and donations to operate so every dollar counts!

HOW TO DONATE YOUR REFUND



When recycling your containers as part of the Victorian Container Deposit Scheme, search for us on the screen at your refund point, download the CDS Vic West

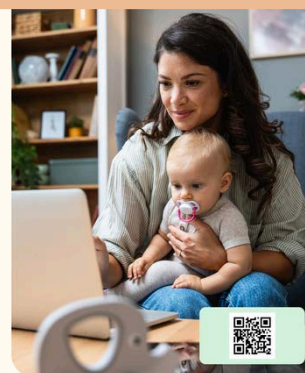
app and set us as your payout charity or ask in person at a depot to donate to:

Connecting Sebastopol Community Newsletter

Parent Pathways
An Australian Government Initiative

1300 000 175

Djerriwarrh
Community & Education Services



Childcare Support + Financial Aid + Education

Parent Pathways is a gateway to resources and services for parents with young children. Our qualified Parent Mentors will work with you to help you connect with local community activities and programs, identify your goals and provide mentoring and funding support to help you achieve these goals. They can even help you connect with family friendly employers.

For more info, please speak to Len at the Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre, Tues - Fri from 9am - 5pm, or call us or visit our website:

<https://djerriwarrh.org.au/>

Pets & Puzzles Page

Meet a Local (or two!)

Name: Koko & Gizmo

Bio: Hi we are Koko and Gizmo and we are both 12 years old. We were rescued and have had a fabulous life travelling Australia with our human. The beach and the outback are our favourite places.



Send us your pet pics!

Want to see your furry friend on this page? All kinds of pets are welcome. Send your submissions including a pic, your details, and your pet's info to: community@ballaratnc.org.au

Guess where?

This month we bring you another set of stained glass windows from somewhere in Sebastopol. Where would you find these?

Answer at bottom of page



Photographer: Will Lay

EASTER WORD SEARCH



Word list:

BASKET
BUNNY
CARROTS
CHICKS
DYE
EGGS
FIND
FLOWERS
HIDE
HOP
PEEP
RABBIT

Guess where: Located in St. James' Parish Church

WHAT'S ON

March, April, May

Stick me on your fridge

FREE FILM SCREENINGS at Sebastopol Library

Another Man's Poison

Thurs 3 April, 1pm - 3pm

Iris

Tues 29 April, 10am - 1pm

Tudawali

Thurs 1 May, 1pm - 3pm

Sebastopol Library
181 Albert St, Sebastopol



Sebastopol Men's Shed Saturday Markets

10am - 12pm on the following dates:
29 March, 12 & 26 April, 3, 17, 31 May
201 Vickers Street, Sebastopol
www.facebook.com/SebasMensShed



" UP THE BURRA "

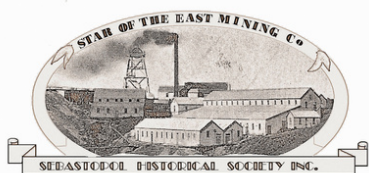
SEBASTOPOL FOOTBALL NETBALL CLUB



Head along to support the Burra
as they take on East Point in
Round 1 of the footy season.
2pm, Sat 5 April, East Point Oval

Sebastopol Meet-Up

10:30 - 11:30am, Friday 2 May
Sebastopol Men's Shed
201 Vickers St, Sebastopol



Sebastopol Historical Society Museum
Open Days, 1pm - 4pm
Sunday 6 April & Sunday 4 May
185 Yarrowee Street, Sebastopol



Giant Easter Eggs and Neon Lights!

A free display in the Sturt Street Gardens
from 31 March - 16 April

Power FM Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday 8 April from 9am
Alfred Deakin Place

Age-specific egg hunt sessions, free art
activities, food trucks, Easter Bunny and
Power FM broadcasting live

Easter Fun at the Bridge Mall

Saturday 19 April, 10am - 1pm
Live music, craft activities, jumping
castle and the Easter Bunny!

CULTURAL DATES

Below are just a few of the many upcoming significant
cultural and religious dates

APRIL

12 - 20: Passover - Jewish pilgrim festival
13: Palm Sunday - Beginning of Christian Holy Week
13 - 15: Songkran - Thai New Year
14: Vaisakhi / Baisakhi - Sikh New Year
14: Navavarsha - Nepalese New Year
20: Easter Sunday - Christian celebration
25: ANZAC Day - Anniversary of Australian and New
Zealand Army Corps landing in Gallipoli

MAY

5: Cinco de Mayo - Mexican celebration
23: Vesak Day / Buddha Day - Buddhist celebration
26: National Sorry Day - Acknowledgement of the
mistreatment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
peoples and recognition of Stolen Generation survivors
31: Dragon Boat Festival - A day of celebration in China,
Taiwan, Malaysia, Singapore and parts of Indonesia





**Our Kitchen
Social Café**

An exciting new social enterprise cafe for Ballarat!

Open 8:30am – 2:30pm, Monday – Friday
Barkly Square, 25 Barkly Street Ballarat East

Enjoy a tea, coffee, sweet or savoury treat and support your local community!

Weekly Wednesday Devonshire Tea

\$15 for a pot of tea, 2 mini scones with jam & cream, and 2 finger sandwiches



More than just a cafe, our vision is to provide a safe and inclusive space for trainees to learn and develop employability skills, meet potential employers, and provide a trained workforce which celebrates diversity. Every cup of coffee or cake you buy will go into growing and supporting the social enterprise to succeed. Our Kitchen Social Cafe was established in February as a registered business of the Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre.

THINKING OF STUDYING SECONDARY TEACHING?

Scholarships are available to help get you started on your teaching journey.



SECONDARY TEACHING SCHOLARSHIPS

Authorised by the Victorian Government, Melbourne

