

Ballarat East

Community News

Edition 24: Summer 2025 Connecting people in Bakery Hill, Ballarat East, Canadian, Eureka, Golden Point, Mount Pleasant and Warrenheip



Strong Communities Start Here... Keep Our Doors Open!

*The Ballarat East Neighbourhood House at Barkly Square, and almost half of Victoria's Neighbourhood Houses/Centres, need your help to keep our doors open. **Lend your voice**, fill out a campaign postcard in hard-copy or online via the QR code.*

Each week, more than 185,000 Victorians access community support and local services through the 400+ neighbourhood houses in the state, including four in Ballarat.

94% of neighbourhood house visitors experience improved physical wellbeing and 96% report improved emotional wellbeing as a result of participating.

Neighbourhood Houses are the heart of our community — offering vital services, education and a welcoming place for everyone. Without urgent action, communities risk losing the safe, inclusive spaces thousands of Victorians rely on every week.

The Ballarat East Neighbourhood House hosts a weekly Winter Woollies group (several members pictured above) on Wednesday afternoons. Participants have a wonderful time chatting, laughing and sharing stories, whilst knitting and crocheting, creating items to donate to people in need in the Ballarat community.

Coordinator of the Winter Woollies Group volunteer Sandra says, "Without the support of the Ballarat East Neighbourhood House, we wouldn't have a space to get together all year round." Participant Susan says, "I love the weekly get together and the friendships I have made" and Heather says the Neighbourhood House "gives us a place to come together in a safe and friendly environment".

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If you can't make it into the Neighbourhood House to complete a postcard, you can fill one out online to support this campaign.





Acknowledgement of Country



We acknowledge the Wadawurrung people and their ancestors who have been custodians of the Ballarat area for thousands of years, performing age-old cultural ceremonies, celebrations and traditions. We would like to acknowledge the Ballarat Aboriginal community, many of whom were forcibly removed from their families during the Stolen Generations decades and brought to Ballarat. We would also like to acknowledge and pay our respects to Elders past and present.



The Ballarat East Neighbourhood House welcomes all LGBTQIA+ communities.

About the Ballarat East Community News



The Ballarat East Community News is a project of the Ballarat East Neighbourhood House, compiled, edited and designed by volunteers and staff.

Ballarat East Neighbourhood House

Rooms 102 & 103, Ground Floor, Barkly Square, Wadawurrung Country, 25-39 Barkly Street, Ballarat East

reception@ballarateastnh.org.au
0422 612 052 (call or text)

Open: 9.00 am - 3.00 pm Mondays to Fridays (+ to 5.00 pm Tuesdays) during school term. Closed weekends, public holidays and school holidays.

Join our Team

Volunteer to help with this publication by joining our delivery team. Delivery takes about one hour per volunteer, four times a year. Interested? Please get in touch.

Frequency and distribution

This publication is printed four times each year. It is scheduled for distribution in March, June, September and November. 8000 hard copies are delivered by a team of more than 60 local volunteers to the suburbs of Bakery Hill, Ballarat East, Canadian, Eureka, Golden Point, Mount Pleasant and Warrenheip. Involving volunteers is a key community development element of this project.

Advertising

Thank you to our advertisers for financially supporting the printing costs of this important community project.

Advertising rates per edition are:

\$175+ GST: Business Card

\$350 + GST: Banner

\$875+ GST: Half page

This publication is printed locally on 100% recycled paper by a family-owned business, Ballarat Mailworks.

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Read it online in colour (scan above)

ballarateastnh.org.au/ballarat-east-community-news/community-news

Next Edition

Articles and ideas for **Edition 25** are due by **Wednesday 25 February** via email to news@ballarateastnh.org.au or in hard copy to the Ballarat East Neighbourhood House, Barkly Square. Please read the editorial policy (online, link above).

The views expressed and information provided in this publication are not necessarily those of the Ballarat East Community News or Ballarat East Neighbourhood House, including any officers, members, agents, volunteers or contractors.



Memberships



Purchase a box of lemon or fruit mince tarts and receive **4 free traditional white rolls!**

Offer valid until: **30 November 2025**

Only valid at Bakers Delight Bakery Hill:
Shop 6, 73 Victoria Street, Ballarat, 5333 3845

Only one pack of 4 rolls per transaction. One coupon per customer per day.

Welcome

In May 2023, one of my sisters and I were looking for something different to celebrate with our Mum on Mothers' Day. We decided to meet in Melbourne and see the musical *&Juliet*. (Let's be honest, I wanted an excuse to go.) It was SO fun! We knew so many of the songs, bangers from the 1990s, and Mum felt very clever for picking up on lots of the Shakespeare references. After playing the soundtrack on repeat, my family is also obsessed. I literally gasped when I saw that Ballarat Lyric Theatre are presenting *&Juliet* in 2026. I am so pleased we could include an interview with one of the stars, Izzy (p.16) and can make sure everyone living in broader Ballarat East doesn't miss out on this awesome musical! It will be so great.

Thanks to financial support from our ongoing advertisers, and a few new ones, we have been able to extend this edition to 16 pages. This edition has lots of great community content - hopefully something for everyone. If you know a local organisation which may be interested in supporting this important community project through advertising, please ask them to contact us.

Sarah Greenwood-Smith (she/her)
Editor, Edition 24
Manager, Ballarat East
Neighbourhood House
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Strong Communities Start Here



...continued from p.1

Volunteers from the local community are key to the Neighbourhood House model. We provide the space, marketing, administration, coordination and insurance for volunteers to host groups which bring people together. Christine volunteers to lead our Book Group, Liz, our Mend-along group and Susan and Gerry host a Climate Cafe group. Supported by our Federation University placement student, volunteers (and sisters) Jenny and Helen lead a Walking Group and Chatty Group. Three past participants from our Community Auslan Courses, Lynden, Al and Sue, volunteer to help coordinate our two Auslan Practice Groups. They give their time, skills and enthusiasm to help bring our community together.

Our small organisation is a community-managed charity, based at Barkly Square, Ballarat East, alongside around 30 other amazing local organisations. We work within a community development framework, looking to create community connections, advance mental health outcomes and prevent social isolation of people living and working in the broader Ballarat East area and beyond.

We offer a range of regular, free or low-cost activities and groups, various volunteering roles, adult education opportunities and more.

Our peak body, Neighbourhood Houses Victoria, is calling on the State Government to increase annual funding by \$11.7M or risk the closure of 200 neighbourhood houses across Victoria, including the Ballarat East Neighbourhood House.

Many neighbourhood houses and community centres are grappling with increased community needs due to cost of living pressures, while having to deal with cost increases themselves. It's simple: without sustainable funding our doors will close. With fair funding we will continue to be the safe, welcoming places every Victorian community needs. It's time to save our sector and keep our doors open.

How to help

Sign a postcard - drop in to the Ballarat East Neighbourhood House, Room 102, Ground Floor, Barkly Square, 25-39 Barkly Street, Ballarat East. Our office is open 9.00 am - 3.00 pm Mondays to Fridays (and until 5.00 pm Tuesdays).

If dropping in is tricky, you can visit: nhvic.org.au/2026-campaign for more about this campaign and links to send your message to the state government by 10 December.

*Sarah Greenwood-Smith, Manager,
Ballarat East Neighbourhood House*

Catherine KING MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR BALLARAT

 (03) 5338 8123

 Catherine.King.MP@aph.gov.au

 CatherineKingMP

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happening in our electorate



Authorised by Catherine King MP, 6 Lyndard St Nth, Ballarat VIC 3200

The 171st Anniversary of the Eureka Stockade



Eureka Centre will mark the 171st anniversary of the Eureka Stockade with a range of special events. This program provides an opportunity for people to honour those involved in defending their democratic rights and liberties at the Eureka Stockade, which is widely considered the birthplace of Australian democracy. People of all ages and backgrounds are encouraged to join together to reflect on Eureka's legacy and celebrate its place at the heart of Ballarat's community identity.

The program commences with Eureka Sunday in the Park on Sunday 30 November 2025 from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm. This inclusive program of family-friendly activities features free face painting, craft activities, lawn games, interactive music with Coco Sounds and a special Eureka-themed Storytime. This community celebration is presented in partnership with the Art Gallery of Ballarat and the Ballarat Aquatic and Leisure Centre. The nearby Eureka Pool will present

the Eureka Sunday Pool Party, offering free entry all day from 8.00 am to 6.00 pm.

At 11.00 am on Eureka Sunday cultural historian Peter Freund will present the talk *'Commemorations and Crisis: Evocations of the Eureka Stockade 1930-1960'*, followed at 1.00 pm by a rehearsed reading by Overlook Projections of *'The Silver Stars of Freedom'* – a 1935 play by Florence Spriggins, inspired by the Eureka Stockade. Tickets to the play reading are \$10/\$8 and available via Eventbrite. Hermione Verbeek will also lead two guided walking tours on the day, leaving from the site of the Old Government Camp at 8.45 am and 11.00 am and arriving at the Eureka Centre. Find out about Ballarat as it was during the time of Eureka and the remnants left behind. This 90-minute tour requires participants to walk a significant distance. A complimentary shuttle service is available to return participants to town. Tickets are free, but bookings via Eventbrite are essential to avoid disappointment.

Eureka Day on Wednesday 3 December marks the day in 1854 in which protesting miners barricaded in the Eureka Stockade were attacked by military and police forces in an unexpected dawn raid. Two special events will be held on Eureka Day, beginning with the Eureka Stockade Commemorative Service at 8.00 am. Here we will

honour those who fought and died on both sides of the battle and remember those who helped forge Australia's democratic traditions through debate, lobbying, protest, and direct action. The service will take place at the historic Eureka Stockade Monument, followed by a free breakfast at the Eureka Centre.



George Megalogenis.
Image supplied.

At 6.00 pm one of our leading political and economic thinkers, George Megalogenis, will present the Peter Tobin Oration on the topic, *'Eureka, the rise, fall and return of Ballarat as a population magnet'*. Following his talk, George will be joined in conversation by journalist, author and the Guardian Australia's former rural and regional editor, Gabrielle Chan. Tickets (\$15/\$12) are selling fast. Book now via Eventbrite or join the waitlist to secure your spot. The annual Peter Tobin Oration honours the contribution of the late Peter Tobin OAM to the commemoration of the Eureka Stockade. More information: eurekacentreballarat.com.au/events/?eventcat=eureka-171.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

CELEBRATING THE SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY

WISHING EVERYONE A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY, HEALTHY START TO THE NEW YEAR.

Michaela Settle MP
Member for Eureka

michaela.settle@parliament.vic.gov.au 5331 7722 [/MichaelaSettleMP](https://www.facebook.com/MichaelaSettleMP)

What's on at Ballarat Libraries



Discover engaging programs for every age, sign up for a free library card, and find your next great read on the Ballarat Libraries website. Visit libraries.ballarat.vic.gov.au



The Book Tailor

Not sure what to read over the summer? Fancy a surprise? Expand your reading horizons with The Book Tailor:

tinyurl.com/thebooktailor

Start planning a weekend getaway while we curate your summer reads for you.

Complete the online form to receive personalised reading recommendations from Ballarat Libraries staff. We'll let you know when your books are ready to pick up from the branch of your choice.

First Friday Book Chat

Share your latest reads, get great recommendations and explore the library collection with fellow book lovers at First Friday Book Chat. Book Chats are a fun, casual way to meet other readers and discover your next favourite read.

Fridays 5 December and
6 February 2026, 2.00 pm - 3.00 pm
Sebastopol Library, bookings optional

Chinese Calligraphy Workshop
Celebrate our culturally diverse community and learn about Chinese culture, zodiac signs and the art of Chinese calligraphy. Create and take home your own written examples of the Chinese characters 福 (fú) meaning "blessing" or "good fortune" and 马 (mǎ) meaning "horse," the Chinese zodiac animal for 2026.

Saturday 7 February 2026
1.30 pm - 3.00 pm
Ballarat Library, bookings required.

Big Sing for Peace

The first 'Big Sing for Peace' was held at Barkly Square, Ballarat East on Saturday 25 October. This was a community-led event bringing people together in song to celebrate all that's good in humanity and to expel hatred.

There were 50+ members of the Ballarat community there with their best singing voices, led by an amazing band and vocalist, Stella Savy from Coco Sounds, as we learnt and rocked our versions of the Black Eyed Peas' 'Where is the Love' and Bob Marley's 'One Love'.

We blew the roof off the building as we sang our way through the collective trauma and grief we all experience from the personally affected or witnessed impact of war, discrimination and violence. We sang, we laughed and we cried, together as one big collection of beautiful human souls.

The next event is on Sunday 14 December from 3.00 pm - 4.00 pm at Barkly Square. Join us!

Ballarat Wholefoods Collective



Stella Savy and band at the Big Sing for Peace. Image supplied.

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Woodmans Hill Secondary College

2026 School Captains



Ipsita



Mason



Ruby

Hello to all, we are the 2026 school captains (college leaders) within the Woodman's Hill community. Firstly, we want to say that we are incredibly honoured and excited to step into the role in 2026. We are very resilient and positive individuals when it comes to challenges that come our way and we strive to be safe and approachable for people to voice their needs and concerns. We see this role very much as a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and we are very grateful for this chance to represent our school community.

One of our main goals as captains is to ensure that every student's voice is represented and valued. Our school is full of passionate, creative and unique individuals and it's important that everyone feels they have a say in shaping our school community. Whether it's through student-led activities, open discussions or new ways to share ideas, we want every person to feel confident that their input matters.

We are looking forward to running a range of lunchtime activities that cater to different interests across our school. Whether students are into sports, art, music, gaming, or just looking for a space to relax, we hope to make sure there's something for everyone. These activities will be a great way to try new things, meet people with similar passions and strengthen our sense of community. We want every

student to feel that there's a place for them to get involved and enjoy their time at school.

Another key focus for us is student wellbeing. We plan to introduce regular wellbeing check-ins during homegroup time, with simple activities and reflection sheets to help students pause, reset and look after their mental health. These sessions will give everyone a chance to start conversations about wellbeing, share positive strategies, and remind each other that it's always okay to ask for support.

We are determined to work closely with our teachers, leadership team and students to continue making our school a place where everyone feels respected, supported and proud to belong. We can't wait to see what we can achieve together in 2026.

*Ipsita, Ruby and Mason
2026 School Captains
Woodmans Hill Secondary College*

Behind the News

On Thursday 30 October students at Woodmans Hill Secondary College had the incredible opportunity to have ABC's Behind the News (BTN) come and share what it is like to be a journalist. We learned what a day looks like for youth journalists, saw behind the scenes and were shown the steps for creating website and TV content. We investigated what it looked like filming the news, how topics are chosen and how students are interviewed.

They touched on topics including Artificial Intelligence (AI) and, in particular, how they have harnessed AI in the field of journalism. We were shown a video of students guessing if content was AI or a reality. What this showed is that it was very difficult to determine what was created with AI and what was real. What stood out was the increasing complexity of the AI used to make realistic videos. Some of them got us second guessing everything we see on social media.

Later, we did an interview about our thoughts on the under 16 social media ban, which is coming soon. We were asked questions about the effects of the ban on youth. Overall, it was a great experience and one that we hope the school gets the opportunity to participate in again!

*Ipsita, Ruby and Mason, Year 11,
Woodmans Hill Secondary College*



**Year 11 students, Cal and Joel, with the BTN Crew.
Image supplied.**

Victoria's Oldest Country Kindergarten



Bakery Hill Kindergarten Illustration

Over 114 years ago what began as a playgroup organised by a group of women, led to the opening of the *Ballarat Free Kindergarten*. Now after more than a century of expanding small minds, from a belief that children deserved the very best start in life, it remains a special place in the hearts of many locals.

With the commencement of early childhood education, as country Victoria's oldest kindergarten, established 1911 and later changing its name in 1995 to *Bakery Hill Kindergarten*, its story is a contributing part of history for the educational movement in the state of Victoria. It has weathered many challenges over the century, always overcome with support from local families, private benefactors, dedicated staff, historical mothers' club fundraising and the parents who make up the association.

In the past, committees have had to take on financial and managerial operations new to them and rely heavily on parent participation for fundraising. While the management of the kindergarten is no longer their responsibility (although still locally run), the building is still owned by the Bakery Hill Kindergarten Association and is supported by its committee and parent association.



Ballarat Free Kindergarten 1946

*Back: Mrs A.E. Stohr, Mrs Nicholls, Mrs Desnoy
Front: Joan Kerrins, Unknown, Unknown,
Barbara Middleton*

As owners and caretakers of the building, local support is still valued to maintain this special heritage, cultural and educational asset for our community.

With this in mind, Bakery Hill Kindergarten Association invites community members to its Annual General Meeting:



In support of country Victoria's oldest kindergarten the

BAKERY HILL KINDERGARTEN ASSOCIATION

invite community members to the

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

7:30pm Monday 24th November 2025

at Bakery Hill Kindergarten, Pearse Street

Enquiries: bakeryhillsecretary@gmail.com

*Deneale Deppeler, Secretary,
Bakery Hill Kindergarten Association*

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