

Sunnyside Woollen Mill, Mount Pleasant

Due to the decline in mining and the scarcity of employment, the idea of a woollen mill at Ballarat was first mooted by Andrew Anderson in 1868.

James Main, who was the prime mover of the project, convened a meeting in July 1870 for the purpose of establishing a woollen mill at Ballarat. Various sites were looked at to build the mill and Sunny Corner Mount Pleasant near to the Yarrowee River was chosen. For most of its life the mill was known as the "Sunnyside Woollen Mill".

The foundation stone was laid for the first building with grand honours in 1872. The architect for this building was Caselli, a well-known architect for numerous other buildings in Ballarat.

In July 1873 a road was constructed from Humffray Street to the mill gates, this being Hill Street. Gas was also connected to the mill.



The Sunnyside Woollen Mill and surrounds (taken after 1930). Image supplied.

The first flannel produced by the mill was exhibited in August 1873.

The second building was erected in 1874 and a further extension was added in 1882. The building you see today fronting Hill Street, was erected in 1886. It is unknown if Caselli was the architect for this addition as he died about 18 months prior to it being built.

In 1889 the old company was liquidated and a new company was formed known as the "Ballarat Woollen and Worsted Company".

During WWI the mill had a contract to supply material for army uniforms. In 1918 the new warehouse was built, this being the building closest to the Yarrowee River.



Workers at the Sunnyside Woollen Mill taken in the 1940s. Image supplied.

The round chimney you see today was erected in 1930, the first chimney being of a square design, and was located at what would now be approximately the centre of the building.

In its hey-day the company employed about 500 people; due to import tariffs being lifted it could not compete and closed in 1981.

*Mount Pleasant History Group,
Find us on Facebook*

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Friends of Canadian Corridor



Friends of Canadian Corridor volunteers planted 6500 trees, shrubs and grasses along Canadian Creek.

Friends of Canadian Corridor (FoCC) volunteers have planted 6500 trees, shrubs and grasses as part of the Victorian Government's Green Links "Urban Ripple" project on four sites along the Canadian Creek, Lal Lal Drain and Sailors Gully. The "Urban Ripple" revegetation project was funded by a grant of \$701,000 to revegetate waterways in Ballarat. The FoCC has four of the project's thirteen sites.

Residents around the sites were letterboxed with an invitation to join the community plantings. Signs were placed on sites advertising the coming planting events. Local residents responded in large numbers to the community planting days. In addition, four local schools assisted with plantings at Soapy's Dam and beside Sailors Gully in Woowookarung Regional Park.

Community Plantings

The FoCC held six Sunday community plantings during July and August:

- 800 trees, shrubs and grasses along the Canadian Creek Reserve north of Hocking Avenue on 13 July 2025.
- 600 riparian shrubs and grasses planted along Sailors Gully in Woowookarung Regional Park on 27 July 2025.
- 500 riparian shrubs and grasses planted along Lal Lal Drain on 3 August 2025.
- 750 trees, shrubs and grasses planted along the Canadian Creek on 10 August 2025 just north of the 13 July plantings.
- Sailors Gully received 300 plants on 17 August 2025.
- 450 trees, shrubs and grasses planted at Soapy's Dam on Sunday 31 August 2025.

Student Plantings

295 students planted 2065 trees, shrubs and grasses in thirteen sessions.

The FOCC hosted 295 students from Damascus College, Mount Clear College, Mount Rowan College and Woodmans Hill College in 13 planting sessions over July and August.

Students planted 1565 trees, shrubs and grasses on Soapy's Dam, Canadian and 500 on the east side of the Bunny Trail in Woowookarung Regional Park.

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Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre,
11 Tuppen Drive, Sebastopol
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Friends of Canadian Corridor



Rotary Club of Ballarat South at Canadian Creek Reserve, Mt Clear bringing the neighbourhood together on 13 July 2025. Image supplied.

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FoCC volunteers praised the students for their keen interest in working at landscape restoration activities.

Part of the school program at Soapy's Dam site was searching for remnant existing vegetation. Much to the students surprise three grasstrees were found hidden in a weed infested patch whilst juvenile grasstrees were found growing in a previously mown section. These are now safely protected by tree guards.

Sausage sizzles make the world go around

Sausage sizzles are the life blood of planting days. The wonderful Rotary

Clubs of Alfredton, Ballarat, Ballarat South, Ballarat West and Wendouree provided volunteers with welcome sausages at the end of each planting session. Sausage sizzles encourage local residents to stay for a chat, get to know each other and feel ownership of local parks. Some volunteers attended every session. Was the tree planting, or the sausage sizzle, the main attraction?

*Jeff Rootes, Secretary
Friends of Canadian Corridor (FoCC)
info@focc.asn.au
focc.asn.au*

The purpose of FoCC is: Linking the community with Woowookarung Regional Park and the Canadian Corridor. Contact us to find out more and get involved.

Love Cricket?

The exciting All-Abilities cricket program has just bowled into action on Sunday 9 November at the Mt Clear Cricket Club.

This six-week program, for young people with a disability, is full of cricket activities (and plenty of give-aways) to develop and build skills including batting, bowling, catching and fielding.

As the only all-abilities cricket program in Ballarat (and one of only two in regional Victoria) this is an amazing program encouraging participants to be active, meet others and have a whole lot of fun!

Program Details

When: Sundays, 9 November - 14 December 2025 (6 sessions)

Where: Mt Clear Cricket Club, Olympic Avenue, Mt Clear

Time: 10.00 am - 11.00 am

What to Bring: Comfortable runners and clothes for activities, a water bottle and a hat.

Facilities: All-access clubrooms, adjacent parking, flat surfaces for all-access activities.

Registration: \$99

For more information, please contact our Junior Co-ordinators, Aaron Burford **0409 945 630** or Steve Young, on **0439 658 219**.

mountiejuniorecricket@gmail.com
mtclearcc.com.au

JOE McCRACKEN MP
MEMBER FOR WESTERN VICTORIA



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Ballarat Pétanque Club

The Ballarat Pétanque Club formed in 2020 and currently has 43 playing members. Many are also members of the Pétanque Federation of Australia and play competitively in competitions all around Victoria. Other members value the social connection and fun of our regular social games at the club.

The name pétanque means "anchored feet" and the throwing techniques enable people of all abilities to play. Pétanque emerged from an earlier game played by the French which was much more energetic requiring players to leap and twirl to throw the boule.

We love our game of Pétanque. We play on Tuesdays, Fridays and Sundays from 1.00 pm - 3.00 pm. During the hotter months, we start at 10.00 am on Tuesdays and Sundays and play a lovely twilight session on Fridays at 5.00 pm under lights. The cost is \$2.00 per game and tea and coffee are provided.

The Ballarat Pétanque Club is based at 300 Bradshaw Street, Golden Point (co-located with the Ballarat East Bowling Club). Join us!

*Gordon Oliver, President
Ballarat Pétanque Club
0414 325 023
Find us on Facebook*



BALLARAT PETANQUE CLUB
OPEN DAY

Friday 21 November
5-8PM

300 Bradshaw Street
Golden Point

What is Petanque?
It's a fun, social French game (also known as boules) where players throw metal balls to land as close as possible to a small wooden target ball. Easy to learn, fun to play and perfect for all ages!

OPEN DAY HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ FREE "come & try" social games
- ✓ Equipment provided
- ✓ Light supper provided
- ✓ All ages & skill levels welcome
- ✓ Wear flat closed shoes
- ✓ Licenced venue - strictly no BYO Alcohol

**REGISTER NOW OR
SIMPLY COME ALONG
ON THE DAY**

 **Ballarat Petanque Club**




BALLARAT PETANQUE CLUB



Bus Network



Have your say and help shape the future of buses in Ballarat

Ballarat is growing, with new housing and development changing the way people move around the area. That's why the Department of Transport and Planning is planning for future bus services now, to keep up with growing regional communities. Buses are central to local public transport, connecting people to jobs, schools, trains, hospitals and homes.

To help make buses better for Ballarat's future, the Department of Transport and Planning want to make sure they're planning changes shaped by local experiences. Planning for bus network reform takes time and this consultation is one step in this process of change. Any changes to the bus network will be subject to future funding. It's all part of Victoria's Bus Plan, which aims to increase the number of people who choose to take a bus by delivering simple, safe and reliable journeys.

Have your say!
engage.vic.gov.au/ballarat-bus-network-review

Complete the survey or upload a business submission. If you'd like to connect in person, there will be five pop-up sessions in November. Visit the website for all the details.

Saver Plus - Financial Education

Adoptees' Support



Saver Plus is a financial education program designed to assist people on lower incomes to build their financial skills and develop a savings habit. Participants join five online financial education workshops called *MoneyMinded*. They're encouraged to save consistently for 10 months and at the end of the program, their savings are matched up to \$500 by ANZ.

Saver Plus was developed by The Brotherhood of St Laurence and ANZ in 2003 and is funded by ANZ and the Australian Department of Social Services. The program is delivered across Australia in partnership with The Smith Family and Berry Street. More than 65,000 people have completed the program since 2003 and have saved over \$32 million. ANZ has matched over \$27.5 million.

An independent 2024 University of Tasmania report *Saver Plus at 21, Building resilience that lasts*, found that participants improved both their financial skills and their personal confidence.

After Saver Plus:

- Participants' financial wellbeing improved from 35 out of 100 to 66 out of 100 (against a national average of 54 out of 100).
- Financial resilience scores leapt from 27 out of 100 to 59 out of 100.
- 92% felt more confident generally after achieving their savings goal.
- 71% felt more satisfied with their life overall.
- 69% felt less stressed about the future generally.

Who can join Saver Plus?

To be eligible to join Saver Plus, you need to meet all of these requirements:

- Be 18 years or older
- Have a current Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card
- Have a child in school, starting school next year, or be studying yourself
- Get a regular income (can be you or your partner)
- Agree to join in free online financial education workshops



Ballarat Peer Support Group
for Adoptees

This group offers empathy and support, an opportunity to listen, share experiences and learn from others who are searching for family, experiencing the complexities of reunion or exploring the lifelong impacts of adoption.

Come to one or many sessions, when it suits you or you have a specific something to explore.

You will always be welcome.

Held from 2.00 pm - 4.00 pm on the third Saturday of the month at the Ballarat East Neighbourhood House, Barkly Square, 25-39 Barkly Street, Ballarat East.

The group is facilitated by a qualified professional who understands and has a lived experience of adoption.

For more information and to secure your place, call 1300 826 474 or 9328 8611 and leave a message for SallyRose.

Dates for January to June 2026, Saturdays:

17 January, 21 February, 21 March, 18 April (2nd Saturday, not 3rd), 23 May and 27 June.

VANISH is a not-for-profit organisation for adults affected by adoption, including adopted people, mothers and fathers separated from a child by adoption, and other family members. VANISH also assists Forgotten Australians (Care Leavers) and donor conceived people.

vanish.org.au



Ballarat East Neighbourhood House

Gardens4Wildlife Ballarat

Backyard Biodiversity

Encouraging wildlife-friendly gardening in urban Ballarat

Gardens for Wildlife Ballarat is delivering a new program in 2025-26 for the local community, funded by the City of Ballarat through the Ballarat Community Education for Sustainability and Environment project. Gardens for Wildlife Ballarat is a community-based gardening program that provides advice and ideas to those interested in making more wildlife-friendly spaces in urban gardens. Visit:

gardensforwildlifeballarat.com.

The program will be delivered in collaboration with other local groups. The Ballarat East Neighbourhood House is a delivery partner, supporting the program through promotion and administration.

There will be a range of activities on offer in 2025-26, including:

- 1.Spring Walking Tour: Creswick Forest (Sunday 30 November)
- 2.Workshop: Propagation and Nursery Tour
- 3.Presentation: Gardening for Wildlife
- 4.Presentation: Indigenous Plants for Ballarat Gardens
- 5.Workshop: Nestboxes, bee hotels and bird baths
- 6.Autumn Walking Tour: North Gardens Reserve
- 7.Workshop: Planning a Garden for Wildlife
- 8.Workshop: Planning a Nature Strip/Pollinator garden
- 9.Workshop: Propagation and Nursery Tour
- 10.Planting: Creating a garden for wildlife in a public space
- 11.Planting: Creating a Nature Strip/Pollinator garden in a public space

Spring Walking Tour:

Woowookarung Forest (Report)

On Monday 27 October, 19 people joined the first event of the program, a Spring Walking Tour along the Woowookarung Dementia-friendly Forest and Sensory Trail in Canadian. They discovered a small part of the forest and its cultural heritage. They saw native wildflowers, learnt the sights and sounds of local birds and learnt about traditional Wadawurrung relationships with forest plants and animals from Yarning Garden representatives, Bec and Shannen. Participants took away ideas to start thinking about the benefits of growing local flora.

Spring Walking Tour:

Creswick Forest (30 November)



Backyard Biodiversity

Come for a walk in Creswick Forest

Sunday 30 November, 2.00 pm - 3.15 pm

Register now (FREE): ballarateastnh.org.au/social-connection/backyard-biodiversity
Or call the Ballarat East Neighbourhood House on 5422 512 552



Explore a small patch of local bushland on this free family-friendly guided stroll along Slaty Creek and surrounding forest. Along the way we'll look for wildflowers, introduce you to the sights and sounds of local birds, familiarise you with the trees and shrubs that make up their habitat and start you thinking about the benefits of growing local flora to create a wildlife haven in your own patch.

To find out more and register, visit:
ballarateastnh.org.au/social-connection/backyard-biodiversity

Free help: Local Home Energy Champions

Ballarat Renewable Energy and Net Zero Emissions - or BREAZE - is a volunteer-run community group based at Barkly Square, Ballarat East. Aiming to help Ballarat residents reduce their emissions along with their energy costs, BREAZE is running a free *Champions Day* event at the Ballarat East Neighbourhood House from 10.00 am - 3.00 pm on **Thursday 20 November**.

Our 'Energy Champions' are Ballarat locals who have started or completed the electrification journey in their own homes, able to offer free, impartial advice drawing from their own experience.

If you are interested in finding out how rebates apply and how to navigate government websites to find them - we are here to help. Our champions can share how their journey has changed their home for the better and, of course, how to save money.



Contact Jodie Hogan at **assist@breaze.org.au** to find out more or make a booking for a half-hour personal consultation at the free Champions Day event.

Drop in sessions at the BREAZE office, Barkly Square, are also available from 11.00 am - 12.00 noon on Saturday mornings until 13 December. No booking required. See: **breaze.org.au/ceep**

Ballarat East Neighbourhood House



Free Workshops for Community Groups

The Ballarat East Neighbourhood House is excited to be partnering with Community Bank Buninyong to continue to offer free governance support to local community groups.

On **Friday 21** and again on **Saturday 29 November** (repeat session), we will be offering two free Community Group Workshop Days. Topics will be specific to community groups and there will be networking opportunities and lunch provided.

ballarateastnh.org.au/community-governance/community-groups



Power Saving Bonus

The Ballarat East Neighbourhood House is an official community outreach provider for the State Government's \$100 Power Saving Bonus. We are assisting eligible community members to receive this one-off payment to help ease energy bill stress and to help them seek out a better energy deal.

Contact us on **0422 612 052** to make an appointment.



Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Support

In partnership with Deaf Victoria, our Community Auslan teacher at the Ballarat East Neighbourhood House has compiled a list of online support for the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing community. We welcome feedback and suggestions to improve it for the community. Topics include:

1. Resources for children and families
2. Online Learning Resources (formal)
3. Online Learning Resources (informal)
4. Online Assisted Tech. Resources
5. Social Opportunities
6. Advocacy/Support for Deaf and Hard of Hearing people
7. Interpreting services

ballarateastnh.org.au/support/deaf-hard-of-hearing-support

Get involved in 2026

Our Term 1, 2026 Activities Calendar is currently being developed. Visit: ballarateastnh.org.au/classes-activities to find out more.

The Ballarat East Neighbourhood House relies on volunteers to coordinate free and low-cost social groups, events and activities for local people (see p.1). Through the generosity of these volunteers, we are able to host a range of different activities to bring together and meet the needs of a range of people from our community.

If you have ideas for new or existing groups which could meet in our welcoming community rooms at Barkly Square or elsewhere in broader Ballarat East, please drop in during school hours (or until 5.00 pm Tuesdays), call or text us on: **0422 612 052** or email: reception@ballarateastnh.org.au.

What if Juliet's ending was just the beginning?

From 26 February to 8 March 2026, Ballarat Lyric Theatre will be rocking Her Majesty's Theatre with a coming-of-age jukebox sensation, *&Juliet*. Meet Izzy Farrah, playing Juliet, who chooses her own ending when the script is flipped on the world's most famous love story

When Izzy was little, her mum raised her on blues, soul and jazz musicians, such as Aretha Franklin, Ella Fitzgerald and Whitney Houston. Those amazing voices became the ones Izzy emulated as she was learning to sing. When her voice started to develop, Izzy says, "I knew that performing was what I was made for - and I have never looked back since!"

Izzy says that, so far in her career, *&Juliet* is her favourite musical to perform in because it has challenged her. Having to push herself in ways she never thought she could, Izzy says, "Juliet has been such an amazing character to sink my teeth into, she is a fierce young woman who takes charge of her life and learns how to love herself. I see so many similarities between us, so not only do I connect to the story, but I also connect to the character on a personal level." Izzy explains, "As Juliet heals herself through her story, I am also healing parts of myself alongside her." Izzy's favourite songs in *&Juliet* are 'Since You've Been Gone' and 'Roar'. She says, "They are such amazing songs to sing! You don't want to miss it!"

This production of *&Juliet* has a cast filled with very experienced and hard-working performers who are, according to Izzy, "true triple threats" (meaning they can act, dance and sing). "I feel so lucky to be doing this show with such an amazing group of people in a beautiful theatre," she says. From the cast to the production team, Izzy explains, "Everyone has put their heart and soul into their role. We are



going to give Ballarat one amazing show, filled with pop bangers. You will want to see it again and again!"

"As much as *&Juliet* is extremely comedic," says Izzy, "it also has a very empowering storyline. People will leave the theatre feeling inspired and hopeful for their own destiny, knowing that a happy ending is possible. It really is a truly special show."

Izzy wants Ballarat to get excited! She says, "The show is only a few months away now. We can't wait to see you all there!"

Buy your ticket today:

ballaratlyrictheatre.com.au/andjuliet2026

or

hermaj.com/events/and-juliet-lyric-theatre-2026