

Ballarat East

Community News

Edition 1, February 2021

Connecting people in Ballarat East, Canadian, Eureka, Golden Point, Mount Pleasant and Warrenheip



Jim's Journey to Volunteering

Jim Thomson, retired Ballarat GP and Ballarat East Community News' first delivery volunteer, moved to Ballarat in 1993. He worked at the UFS medical clinic on Doveton Street and has spent lots of his time making house calls and working with the Ballarat East community.

Jim has recently joined the shared Committee of Management for three of the four Neighbourhood Houses in Ballarat. He's bringing his expertise as a long term Ballarat resident and GP to the committee and advising on policies and plans for the Houses.

Alongside this role, Jim has also

volunteered to deliver this first Ballarat East Community News. Jim says, "We need to connect with people, engage people with modern technology and teach people how to connect in difficult times." The Ballarat East Neighbourhood House and other local community organisations do just that.

Jim is a big believer in the power of giving back and participating in community initiatives. He says, "We create community through our own personalities. We have to be outgoing and easily approachable – this is innate for some people but, for others, we have to work on it. I think the important thing is you get a

group of people together that make a start and it will grow from there."

Jim also acknowledges that now he is retired, he has the time and can help out in his local community, although he does enjoy spending time with his grandchildren, gardening and researching his family history.

Jim also joined the Ballarat East Neighbourhood House Drawing Group in early 2020. For much of the year the group were not able to meet in person. However, they continued to draw together through Zoom and connected by using a Whatsapp chat group to share photos of their art.

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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, present and emerging.

About the Ballarat East Community News

The Ballarat East Community News is a project of the Ballarat East Neighbourhood House. Its establishment in early 2020 has been supported by the City of Ballarat through a Community Impact Grant.

Frequency and distribution

This publication will be printed six times each year. In 2021, it will be distributed in February, March, May, July, September and November to approximately 8230 letterboxes in the suburbs of Ballarat East, Canadian, Eureka, Golden Point, Mount Pleasant and Warrenheip.

Editions One and Two will be delivered by Australia Post. Future editions will be delivered by a team of local community volunteers, a key community development element of this project.

Contributors

Edition One was compiled by Ballarat East Neighbourhood House staff: Sarah Greenwood-Smith, Kelsie White and Emily Brumby.

We would like to thank our volunteer contributors and our proof readers, Deb Brevis and Ben Harrap.

Front page banner designed by Kelsie White: kelsiewhitedesigns.com

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

Advertising

We would like to thank the advertisers in this edition for financially supporting this important project for Ballarat East:

- Michaela Settle MP
- Catherine King MP
- Baker's Delight, Bakery Hill

Advertising rates per edition are:

\$100 + GST: Business Card

\$200 + GST: Banner

\$500 + GST: Half page

Sponsorship opportunities are also available. Contact us to find out more.

Subscribe

You can subscribe to be emailed a link to the full-colour PDF of each edition by registering online or emailing us.

Next Edition

Articles and ideas for Edition 2 are due by **Monday 1 March 2021** by email or in hard copy to the Ballarat East Neighbourhood House office. Please read the editorial policy: ballarateastnh.org.au/what-s-on/activities

The views expressed or 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.

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ISSN: 2652-9815 (Print)

ISSN: 2652-9823 (Online)

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0422 612 052

Barkly Square, 25-39 Barkly Street, Ballarat East

9.00 am - 3.00 pm Tuesdays to Fridays during school term.

Jim's Journey to Volunteering

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Jim says, "This past year has taught us more than ever that we have to act as good local communities and that's probably going to be the way of the future, especially as more people work from home."

For anyone looking to volunteer, Jim advises us to "be prepared to stretch yourself in new directions." There are plenty of exciting opportunities both in person and online available through the Ballarat East Community News project and if you would like to volunteer please contact the Ballarat East Neighbourhood House (details above).

We also sat down with Jim to record a podcast interview which will be released soon. Find the Podcast online: ballarateastnh.org.au/what-s-on/activities

*Article by Kelsie White,
Ballarat East Neighbourhood House*

A project of:

Supported by:

Memberships:



Welcome to Edition One, Ballarat East Community News

Welcome to the first edition of the Ballarat East Community News! We are so excited to bring this important community development project to the residents, businesses, community, sporting and activity groups of Ballarat East, Canadian, Eureka, Golden Point, Mount Pleasant and Warrenheip.

In the 2020 Community Newspapers Association of Victoria (CNAV) conference, President Mary Farrow said community newspapers are “essential in building a strong sense of place, community strength and inclusion.”

She continued, saying, “While our publications record local stories, events and how we deal with adversity, it is also important to balance our publications with good news, success, humour and sharing memories too. We must continue to encourage hope and vision for the future.”

As a new organisation in this fabulous part of Ballarat, the Ballarat East Neighbourhood House team feels that creating a community-driven local news publication is a great project.

We are grateful for support from the City of Ballarat through a Community Impact Grant to establish this community publication. We also thank our first edition advertisers, Michaela Settle MP, Catherine King MP and Glenn and Kerryn from Baker's Delight, Bakery Hill.

We are keen to hear your thoughts on our working title, 'Ballarat East Community News'. If you have any ideas for other names or feel that this one hits the mark, please get in touch.

Sarah Greenwood-Smith
Editor, Edition 1
Manager, Ballarat East
Neighbourhood House
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reception@ballarateastnh.org.au

Join our volunteer team

A team of over 80 volunteers will form our delivery crew for the distribution of the Ballarat East Community News six times each year.

Each volunteer will receive a map and around 100 printed copies of every edition to deliver in their local suburb. This should take about one hour each time.

Editions will be released in January, March, May, July, September and November each year.

The first 20 delivery volunteers to register will receive a \$10 voucher from Baker's Delight Bakery Hill with their first delivery in May 2021.

If you can join our team, please complete the registration form: ballarateastnh.org.au/about-us/volunteering or contact us: 0422 612 052 reception@ballarateastnh.org.au.

Congratulations to everyone at Ballarat East Neighbourhood House!

You've done so much work and now you've got a newsletter and are all set up at Barkly Square.

Ballarat East, Canadian, Eureka, Golden Point, Mount Pleasant and Warrenheip are great places to live, but we can always make it better.

Please visit my website and tell me what is important to you.

I'm here to help, if there is any way I can, please contact my office by phone or email.


Visit www.michaelasettle.com.au

and fill out the community survey

Michaela Settle MP

STATE MEMBER FOR BUNINYONG

15 Main Road, Bakery Hill VIC 3350 P: 03 5331 7722

E: michaela.settle@parliament.vic.gov.au  MichaelaSettleMP

Authorised by Michaela Settle, 15 Main Road, Bakery Hill. Funded from Parliamentary budget.





A friendly walk along the new nature trail in Woowookarung Regional Park

A new nature trail has been built by Parks Victoria in the centre of Woowookarung Regional Park. The shared walk and cycle trail begins at the Park Lookout on Boundary Road and runs south through to Katy Ryans Road in Mount Clear.

The trail is an initiative of the Friends of Canadian Corridor (FoCC) which received \$78,000 in funding for construction from the Victorian Government 'Pick My Project' community grants scheme in 2019.

The winding trail runs past *Australis* grasstrees, wildflowers, peppermint and messmate trees as well as old mining relics.

The Friends organised a well attended first walk along the newly built trail on the Sunday before Christmas 2020 to see the new construction first hand.

Over the coming weeks Parks Victoria contractors will complete the installation of signage. Later in the year, some damaged areas will be restored with planting of trees and shrubs.

The FoCC is a local group dedicated to the conservation of the natural environment in Ballarat East, Woowookarung Regional Park and surrounds.

The FoCC run regular forums, monthly news, discovery walks, tree planting, clean up days and work with Parks Victoria and the City of Ballarat to keep the forest and local area in good condition.

For further information please contact the FoCC:
focc.asn.au
facebook.com/friendsofcanadiancorridor
foccinfo@gmail.com

Article by Jeff Rootes, Friends of the Canadian Corridor

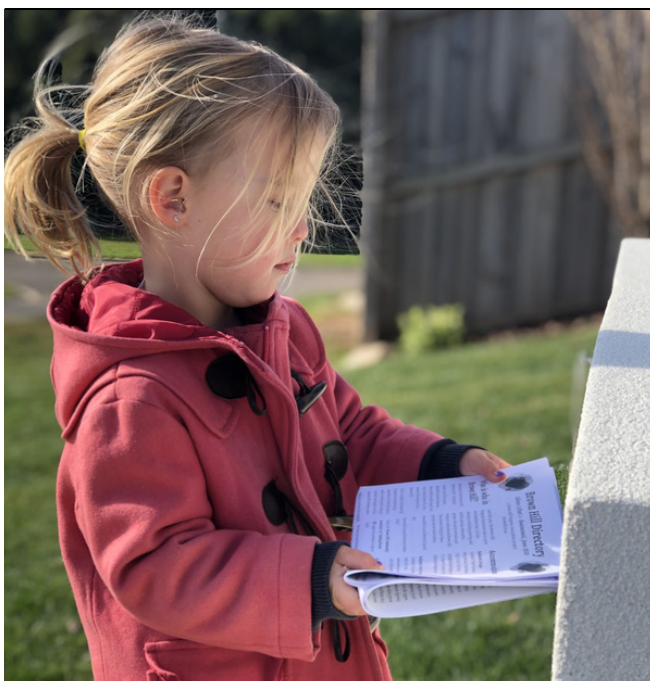
Volunteer to deliver the Ballarat East Community News

Want to be a part of your local community news team?

We're looking for volunteers to help us deliver to over 8,200 households in the suburbs of Ballarat East, Canadian, Eureka, Golden Point, Mount Pleasant and Warrenheip.

To register your interest, visit:
ballarateastnh.org.au/about-us/volunteering
 or call 0422 612 052

The first 20 delivery volunteers to register will receive a \$10 voucher from Baker's Delight Bakery Hill with their first delivery in May 2021.



The latest from the Ballarat East Neighbourhood House

We are super excited to have lots to tell you in this first edition of the Ballarat East Community News. We have moved to Barkly Square, a fantastic location for the Ballarat East Neighbourhood House to grow and connect with the wonderful people who are working in paid and volunteer positions at the many amazing community organisations already located there. To visit us, come in via the main entrance on Barkly Street and ask for us at reception or call and, if we are able to, we will come and say hello.

In Term One, 2021, we are running the following courses and activities:

Writing Community Newsletters

Kelsie and Sarah will be running our 'Writing Community Newsletters' course again, face to face (at Barkly Square) and online via Zoom. Come and learn all the tips, tricks and skills involved in putting together your publication - or helping with this one!

Tuesdays 12.30 pm - 3.00 pm

9 February - 30 March

\$25.00 for 8 weeks

Contact us for registration details.

Be Connected with Kelsie and Em (free of charge)

If you are aged 50 and over and would like to improve your digital skills, we have a whole host of Be Connected classes on offer. Please get in touch and let Kelsie and Em know what you are interested in learning about. They will be tailoring classes to meet the needs of the Ballarat East community.



Tai Chi with Jeni (\$8-\$10/class)

These very popular classes, run by Jeni, will be held at Eureka Hall on Tuesday mornings, 10.00 am - 11.00 am.

Yoga with Jen (\$8-\$10/class)

Keen for some lovely self-care time doing Yoga with Jen? Register for our Yoga classes at Eureka Hall on Tuesday afternoons, 1.00 pm - 2.00 pm.

Drawing Group with Jenette (small cost)

Join Jim (p.1) in our weekly Drawing Group with Jenette. Places limited. Time, day and cost to be confirmed.

Walking Group with Jeni and Bernadette (free of charge)

Our Heart Foundation Walking Group will be meeting on Mondays at 10.00 am at Eureka Hall to walk for about an hour. Numbers are limited so registration is required.

Gardening Group (free of charge)

We are looking to establish a Gardening Group and have developed an online hub of information on our website. If you want to get involved, please get in touch.

To cover costs, there is a registration fee to attend most classes run by the Ballarat East Neighbourhood House. We encourage you to pre-pay online. There will be an additional administration fee for classes when paid for in cash on the day or at the Ballarat East Neighbourhood House during office hours. Discounts are available for pre-booking multiple classes. Participant numbers in all classes are limited and registration is required. Please contact us for details.



Contact the Ballarat East Neighbourhood House:

0422 612 052

reception@ballarateastnh.org.au

ballarateastnh.org.au

Barkly Square, 25-39 Barkly Street, Ballarat East

Opening hours: 9.00 am - 3.00 pm Tuesdays to Fridays during school term



Catherine KING MP
Federal Member for Ballarat

03 5338 8123
Catherine.King.MP@aph.gov.au
CatherineKingMP
@CatherineKingMP

Standing up for our Community!

WWW.catherineking.com.au

Authorised by Catherine King, Australian Labor Party, 5 Lydiard St Nth, Ballarat VIC.

Bakery Hill

Bakers Delight

Baking fresh daily.

EDITION 1 SPECIAL

Buy 1 loaf of bread and receive another loaf up to the same value for free! Simply present this voucher to redeem the offer.

Shop 6, 73 Victoria St, Bakery Hill Shopping Complex
Valid until 15 March 2021 at Bakers Delight Bakery Hill only.
1 per customer per day.

Mount Pleasant History Group

The Mount Pleasant History Group (MPHG) began in 2017. From the beginning, the aim was to "tell the story of the people, places and events which make up the rich history of Mountie" - the first settled suburb on Ballarat.

To that end, the group focussed on the production of a brochure which highlighted 20 historic sites around Mount Pleasant. The brochure was supported by a series of seven signs; five free-standing and one affixed to the school fence. The seventh sign was part of a joint project between the MPHG and a local resident. The project took the form of a large mural attached to a shop in what had been the commercial centre of Mountie for much of the 20th Century and also the Tram Terminus over that period. The sign was incorporated into the mural.

The launch of the mural took place after the first (and last) meeting of the MPHG in 2020 due to restrictions. However, the group was not inactive in 2020. Members continued their research and the signage project was a finalist in the 'Keep Victoria Beautiful' Awards.

As restrictions allow, MPHG hope to resume our monthly meetings and hold one evening presentation each term.

Enquiries can be made through the President, Max: 0407 664 593
mphg.ball@gmail.com
ballarateastnh.org.au/discover-community/community-groups



Photo of the postcard (right) by Em Brumby

Libraries After Dark at Sebastopol Library



The City of Ballarat Libraries are back in action, with activities including the 'Libraries After Dark' program at Sebastopol Library.

On Thursdays, Sebastopol Library will be open until 10.00 pm. Come in and browse the collection, use the public computers or bring your own device and use our WiFi. Come along each week and meet new people, enjoy our free entertainment and activities, or spend time relaxing in our community lounge.

First Thursday Book Chat

Do you want to discuss your latest reading adventures? Meet other readers? Get some inspiration?

Join the 'Libraries After Dark' team at Sebastopol Library for their 'First Thursday Book Chat', hosted at 7.00 pm on the first Thursday each month.

The Book Chat is an opportunity to talk about reading, connect with other readers and have a cuppa and a chat.

This is a free of charge event. Please register to attend:

centralhighlandslibraries.org.au
(navigate to Ballarat Libraries, then Libraries After Dark)

facebook.com/ballaratllibraries

5335 7985

181 Albert Street, Sebastopol



Photo of the mural (left) provided by Max Duthie

An opportunity to meet your neighbours

The Mount Pleasant Community Connections Group and Ballarat East Neighbourhood House have created and distributed a postcard to promote residents' reconnecting with their neighbours.

We hope that this postcard helps residents meet someone new and spread some neighbourly cheer. One side is the lettering of local artist,

Kelsie White, and the other is a postcard on which you can write a message to a neighbour.

Postcards were delivered in December to residents in Mount Pleasant. There are a few left, which can be collected from the Ballarat East Neighbourhood House, Barkly Square, 25-39 Barkly Street, Ballarat East or by contacting us (details p.2).



Meet the incredible organisations at home in Barkly Square, Ballarat East

The Barkly Square precinct located opposite the Ballarat East Fire Station at 25-39 Barkly Street, Ballarat East, has been a hub for learning since 1862. Amongst other historic activities, this site was formerly Ballarat Secondary College. Through the efforts of a broad range of stakeholders, it has been transformed into a vibrant and green community centre focusing on education, training and employment outcomes in the Central Highlands and surrounding regions.

Coordinated by lead tenant, BGT Jobs and Training, a key objective of Barkly Square is to provide a site for community growth, education, and wellbeing.

This is why the Ballarat East Neighbourhood House is now located

at Barkly Square, surrounded by these great community organisations:

- A Pot of Courage café
- Altitec Academy
- Ballarat Community Men's Shed
- Ballarat Italian Association
- Ballarat Permaculture Guild
- Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council
- Ballarat Times News Group
- Ballarat Toy Library
- Ballarat Wholefoods Collective
- Centre for Multicultural Youth
- Cops and Kids Camp Ballarat
- Djerriwarrh Community and Education Services
- Djirra Legal Services
- Goldfields and District Lacrosse League
- Noah's Ark
- Sports Central
- The Tool Library

- Very Special Kids
- Victorian Aboriginal Community Services Association
- Voice FM
- YMCA Ballarat

With several great community spaces to use, both indoor and outdoor, Barkly Square is a great environment in which to establish and grow our neighbourhood house community.

Whilst we will also be running classes at Eureka Hall in Ballarat East, our 'Writing Community Newsletters' course will be held at Barkly Square in Term 1, 2021.

We look forward to introducing you to the inspiring people and wonderful organisations calling Barkly Square home.

Support local with Ballarat Wholefoods Collective

Based at Barkly Square, Ballarat Wholefoods Collective (BWC) is a volunteer-based not-for-profit group offering an extensive range of organic non-perishable staple foods.

Our aim is to cut out the 'middle man', go straight to the source and support our farmers. As a result of this, our prices have a minimal mark-up.

We feel very strongly about over-packaging of food. Members are asked to provide their own containers/bags, as we buy in bulk to avoid this waste.

Members are not required to purchase a minimum quantity of product, only what you need.

The initial annual membership to BWC costs \$50.00, with a \$20.00 renewal each year, due in June. Opening hours (during school term): Thursdays and Saturdays, 9.00 am - 12.00 noon.

Contact

ballaratwholefoodscollective@gmail.com
facebook.com/ballaratwholefoodscollective



Photo from Ballarat Wholefoods Collective Facebook

Have you visited the Ballarat Observatory?

This Observatory, situated at Mount Pleasant, was established and funded by James Oddie. It was formally opened to the public, on 11 May 1886.

When Oddie presented the Observatory to the people of Ballarat, it became the first municipal observatory in Australia.

The Ballarat Astronomical Society (BAS) was formed in 1958 and has managed the Observatory programs and telescope collection for over 62 years.

The Observatory has served the Ballarat community for over 134 years and in May will celebrate its 135th anniversary. The celebrations will include viewing at the Baker Telescope, if the clouds co-operate.

Apart from its astronomical use, the Observatory buildings and telescopes are of great historical interest. They were classified by the National Trust in 1989 and added to the Historic Buildings Register in 1992.

Our latest AstroTour movie is Expedition Earth (13 min). The community are invited to attend a special launch session on 9 February. Book online using code **exoplanets** for a 20% discount. All funds raised help to support our unique Observatory.

Be sure to visit our website for all of the events coming up in 2021.

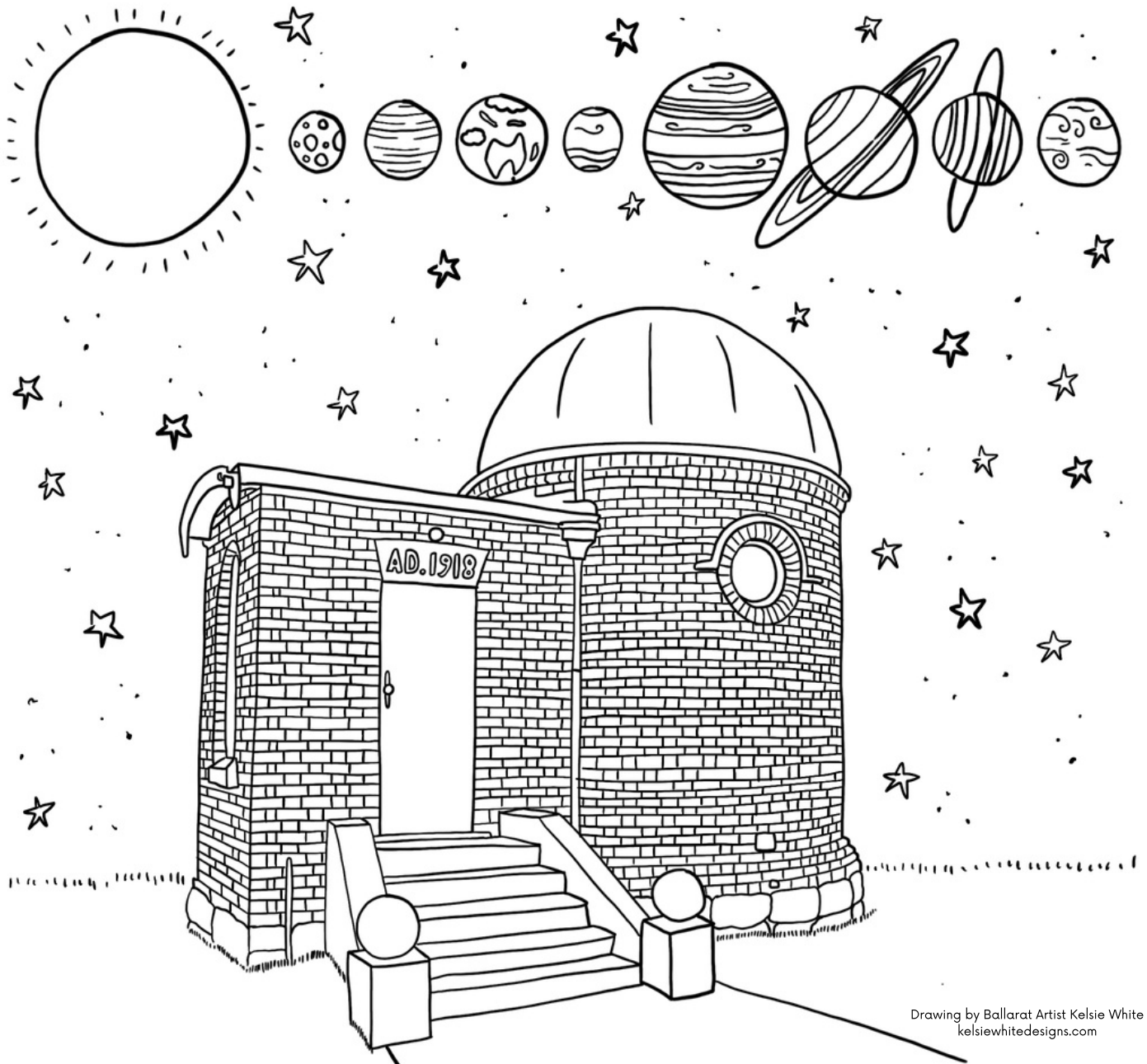
Contact

5332 7526 (4.00 pm – 7.00 pm)

ballaratorbservatory.org.au

Corner of Cobden and Magpie streets,
Mount Pleasant

Ballarat Observatory Colouring Competition



Drawing by Ballarat Artist Kelsie White
kelsiewhitedesigns.com

All ages: Get creative! Colour in, take a photo and get your grown up to email it to us with your first name and age to reception@ballaratorbservatory.org.au by 1 March 2021 and you could win one of 5 family passes to the Ballarat Observatory.