

Bringing Ballarat's Stories to Life



The Inclusive Practice Team at Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council. Image supplied.

Meet the People Behind BRMC's Inclusive Practice Program

If you've ever wondered what it really feels like to arrive in a new country and rebuild your life in an unfamiliar place, the Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council has people who can tell you firsthand.

BRMC has been a cornerstone of our region's multicultural community for 25 years. Last July, they launched Inclusive Practice, a program of cultural training and lived experience speaking to help local organisations become more inclusive and culturally responsive.

Thanks to funding from the City of Ballarat, BRMC has recently filmed the stories of local community members for a brand-new e-learning program, a digital version of their popular half-day Cultural Competency Training, making it more accessible than ever. An anti-racism course is also set to launch in the coming months.

At the heart of the program are two facilitators and nine lived experience speakers from countries including

India, the Philippines, Malaysia, Colombia, Nigeria, South Sudan, and Iraq.

Among them are Farid, a facilitator with over 35 years of experience across criminal justice, education, and community development, whose approach gently challenges assumptions and builds practical understanding of cultural intelligence and inclusion, and Diana, a Colombian woman who has called Ballarat home since 2014. A documentary filmmaker and Speakers Bureau member, Diana was also the person behind the camera for the newly funded community stories.

The team is available for local events, school programs, staff training days, and community gatherings of all sizes. For enquiries, contact training@brmc.org.au or call 5383 0613.



Try a FREE Course to Help You

- Improve your Computer Skills
- Find a Job
- Volunteer for the Community
- Improve your English and Literacy
- Learn Something New!

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



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: libraries.ballarat.vic.gov.au



Preparing for Emergencies with Tyson Whelan

Join us for an informative presentation on emergency preparedness with Tyson Whelan, Emergency Broadcast Coordinator for the ABC. Gain the knowledge and confidence you need to stay informed, connected and safe when it matters most.

This event is brought to you by ABC Friends Ballarat, ABC Alumni and Ballarat Libraries.

When: Tuesday 15 September from 12.30-1.30pm

Where: Ballarat Library

Bookings: Bookings required.
events.humanitix.com/preparing-for-emergencies-spring-2026-ballarat-library



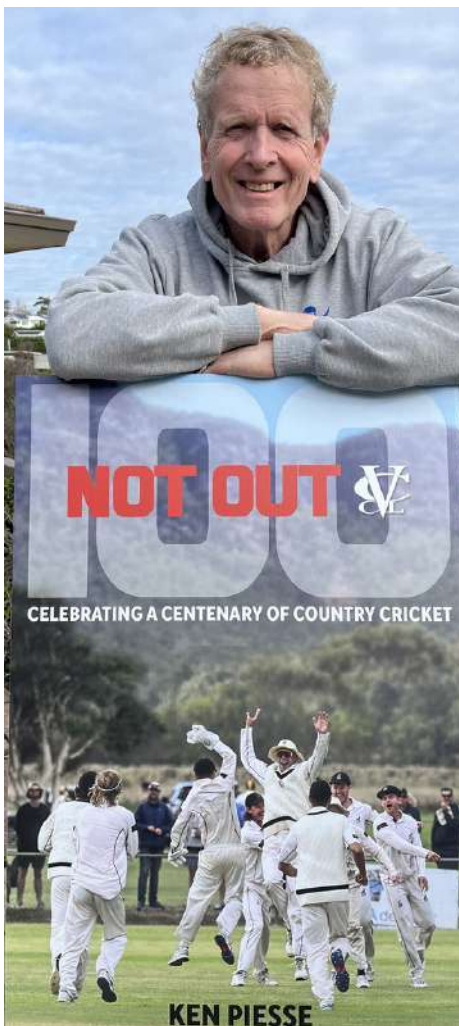
Author Talk: Ken Piesse

Listen to Australia's most prolific sports author, Ken Piesse discuss his latest book, 100 Not Out: Celebrating a Centenary of Country Cricket. Ken Piesse is a master storyteller who has written books with the likes of Max Walker, Terry Jenner and Brad Hodge and was once stumped by Shane Warne.

When: Friday 2 October from 11am-12pm

Where: Ballarat Library

Bookings: Bookings required.
events.humanitix.com/author-talk-ken-piesse-spring-2026-ballarat-library



Bakery Hill Kindergarten



I read with interest the article about the Mair Street Kindergarten, as I attended that kinder in 1952 when this photo was taken.

My most vivid memories are of "nap time"; an old frame of a car complete with steering wheel; the sand pit where we used to play and a chestnut tree at the front gate.

Speaking of trees, that huge Tasmanian Flowering Gum was a focal point in the area even then and the sweet eucalyptus smell still lingers in my senses today.

Most of the kids at the kindergarten went on to Humffray Street State School making the transition to the "big kid's" school so much easier.

Many thanks for the article. It brought back so many memories.

Merv Romeo

100 DAYS OF SCHOOL

This term the students at Warrenheip Primary School celebrated being at school for 100 days this year. Our students dressed up as what they would like to be when they grow up and participated in fun learning activities for the entire day. We are so proud of our students and families for their commitment to quality education.



Kitchen Garden

We are learning that winter is a busy time in the garden. It is an opportunity to plant winter crops, tend to the mushrooms and make sure the worms are comfortable and well fed. We have been busy making a scarecrow to protect our spring crops from the hungry birds. We have really enjoyed winter cooking! Baked apples and pancakes with stewed fruit have been 2 highlights.



Enrolments for 2027

With planning underway for 2027, if you would like to see what Warrenheip has to offer for your education needs, please give us a call and arrange a time for a tour. We are always happy to show families around our Great Little School!



Warrenheip.ps@education.vic.gov.au



03 5334 7294 or 0409 821 623

Respect

Safety

Learning

Ballarat East Neighbourhood House

Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing friendly playgroup

Join us for some fun and games with your pre-school aged children. An open, welcoming playgroup for **all** pre-school families, facilitated and supported by Auslan users and members of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community in partnership with Deaf Victoria.



Commencing Term 4, 2026 and running for 9 sessions from **Tuesday 6 October**, everyone is welcome to join us. We meet in the Ballarat East Neighbourhood House Community Room at Barkly Square (rm 102). With different toys from the Ballarat Toy Library are available to try out each week, come and meet other families in a relaxed environment.

This playgroup is running in partnership with Deaf Victoria and welcomes families hearing and non-hearing, verbal and non-verbal to come and enjoy some social time together. All communication preferences are welcome!

This playgroup will have staff and volunteers that use Auslan. There will be additional information and support for families with Deaf or Hard of Hearing children, parents or siblings.

To find out more and register, visit: ballarateastnh.org.au/social-connection/playgroup2026



Be Connected
Every Australian online.

Want to feel more confident using your smartphone, tablet, laptop or the internet?

Join our free Be Connected Digital Skills Program for people aged 50 and over. Starting **7 October**, drop-in sessions will be held **every Wednesday from 12.00pm to 2.00pm** in the **Atrium at Barkly Square**. Whether you need help with emails, online safety, apps, accessing online services, or getting more from your device, our friendly team is here to help. No bookings are required, just bring your questions and learn at your own pace in a welcoming and supportive environment. The Be Connected program helps older Australians build digital skills, confidence and connection through free face-to-face learning opportunities.

First Aid for Motorcyclists

The Ballarat East Neighbourhood House is excited to be collaborating with First Aid for Motorcyclists to provide HLTAID011 in a fun, interactive environment, catered to riders and crash management scenarios.

Motorcycling is all about freedom, adventure, and community, but being prepared for the unexpected can make all the difference. First Aid for Motorcyclists provides practical, hands-on motorcycle crash management training designed specifically for riders. Built by riders, for riders, the course focuses on real-world skills such as scene management, emergency response, and providing critical assistance until professional help arrives.

Whether you ride every day, enjoy weekend touring, or participate in group rides, First Aid for Motorcyclists can help build your confidence and prepare you to support a fellow rider in an emergency. Learning these life-saving skills not only makes you a safer rider but also strengthens the motorcycling community by ensuring more people are ready to step up when it matters most.

Join us on **Saturday 28 November** at the Ballarat East Neighbourhood House Community Room at Barkly Square to learn how to save a life!

To register for your **TAC subsidised** place, visit **FAFM.org.au**



Letter from Black Hill Flat

Having bought a house that backed onto the Yarrowee, one of the first things we did, of course, was to pull down the back fence. Of course.

Yes, I'm now talking about "we" not "I". OK, that's not the most alarming thing about the opening sentence, but it is the most exciting. J— and I met online, and she came to Melbourne to meet me a month or so before I came to Ballarat. We got on well. Really well. We were comfortably in each other's lives pretty much from the day I moved up. Our friendship was going so well that I, being me, got all anxious about it. Thankfully, J— was patient. We now celebrate 19 April as our anniversary. And so, of course, we got married on 19 April, five years after we shacked up. Unsurprisingly, the ceremony was on top of Black Hill.

Neither of us wanted any of the usual hoo-hah, and when the celebrant (who lived on the western slopes of Black Hill) laid out what was a genuinely charming order of ceremony, our questions were mostly about which of the rituals were legally required. In the end, we pared it down to the legal requirements plus vows and rings (kind of).

J— and I stood facing the carpark, giving the view behind us to the smattering of close family members we'd invited (and the photos they took). All through the ceremony the poor celebrant kept apologising: "This bit normally goes for longer," she said more than once, but when it

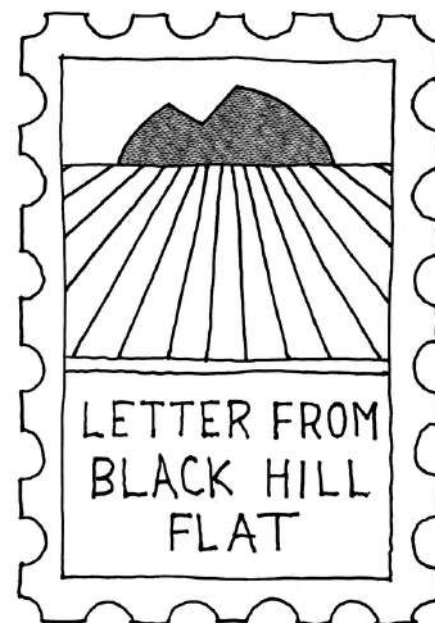
got to the rings, well, we didn't want rings. So I gave J— wedding earrings and she gave me wedding slippers. I struggled with J—'s earrings before I worked out that pulling on her earlobe would make the little holes bigger. "This bit normally goes a bit quicker," the celebrant explained.

We needed a venue with a disabled toilet for my mother, so we went to the Brown Hill pub to celebrate, and sat out the back enjoying the view. "You did the right thing," Mum told me as we heaved her into my sister's giant SUV for the ride home. At the age of 61, I was no longer living in sin. I'm a good son. Eventually. And I love my slippers. Grosby. Woof.

But I digress.

Without a back fence, the view from the back yard was brilliant, but it felt so exposed. A bit scary. But then, a dog-walker came past. "Jeez, that's made a difference, hasn't it?" he opined, and we started to chat. Friendly place, Ballarat.

I made a new fence, attached to the concrete fence posts that form the borders of almost every property in my street. Those posts will last forever. If they drop the bomb on Ballarat, when every other structure in town has been reduced to dust, future anthropologists will wonder why early-twenty-first-century humans laid out those posts in such a regular pattern alongside what will still be an ancient river.



The new fence is easy to see over. We now stop and chat with most passers-by, particularly the dog-walkers. Dog walkers do enjoy a good chat. The fence is made of thin bars of rusty steel bent to look like gum trees, so it's mostly gaps. Gaps big enough for dogs to pass through easily. Other people's dogs now come sniffing their way into our yard, with one or two that regularly trot up the steps onto our veranda, even come inside if the doors are open. Hey, we're all on a first name basis.

Club Med for Dogs, I call our bit of the Yarrowee. With our dogs as permanent residents.



BE Medical
BALLARAT EAST MEDICAL
216 Humffray St Nth
Ballarat East, VIC 3350
Phone: 5332 1355



Welcoming
Dr Jay Kuikel

Dr Jay has a special interest in mental health and chronic disease management, while enjoying all aspects of general practice. He is particularly passionate about building strong, trusting relationships with his patients and supporting them to achieve balanced, long-term health outcomes. Ballarat East Medical also has a visiting Dietitian and a visiting Diabetes Educator. Contact our admin staff for more information.

Term 4, 2026: Activities

Mondays

Community Auslan: A

with Jane
9.30 am - 12noon
Barkly Square,
Room #102
\$199, 8-week course
From 12 Oct

Community Auslan: B

with Jane
12.30 pm - 3.00 pm
Barkly Square,
Room #102
\$199, 8-week course
From 12 Oct

Climate Café

with Susan and Gerry
7.00pm - 8.30pm
Online
FREE, Monthly Mondays:
7 Sept & 5 Oct
A supportive facilitated space to share thoughts and feelings about the climate crisis.

Do you have an idea for an activity?

Contact us to let us know what activities you'd like to see on our program calendar.



Tuesdays

Tuesday Walking Group

9.30 am - 10.30 am
meet outside the Café at Barkly Square for a walk along Specimen Vale Creek to Eureka Centre and back.
FREE
From 6 Oct

Chatty Tuesdays

10.30 am - 12.00 noon
Atrium or the Café Barkly Square
FREE
From 6 Oct

Deaf & Hard of Hearing Friendly Playgroup

with Jane
10.00 am - 11.30am
Barkly Square Room #102
NEW FREE
From 6 Oct

Community Auslan: C

with Jane
12.30 pm - 3.00 pm
Barkly Square,
Room #102
\$199, 8-week course
From 13 Oct

Find Us

The Ballarat East Neighbourhood House is on Wadawurrung Country, Room 102, Ground Floor at Barkly Square, 25-39 Barkly Street, Ballarat East.

Wednesdays

Wednesday Walking Group

9.30 am - 10.30 am
meet outside the Café at Barkly Square for a walk along Specimen Vale Creek to Eureka Centre and back.
FREE
From 7 Oct

Chatty Wednesdays

10.30 am - 12.00 noon
Atrium or the Café Barkly Square
FREE
From 7 Oct

Be Connected Digital Support

12 noon - 2.00 pm
Atrium Barkly Square
NEW FREE
From 7 Oct

Winter Woollies

with Sandra
1.00 pm - 5.00 pm
Barkly Square,
Room #102
FREE
From 7 Oct
Craft/Knit/Crochet/Create
All welcome

Office Opening Hours

Mondays 9.00 - 3.00 pm
Tuesdays 9.00 am - 5.00 pm
Wednesdays 9.00 am - 5.00 pm
Thursdays 9.00 am - 5.00 pm
Fridays & Public Holidays Closed

Thursdays

Book Group

10.30 am - 12.00 noon
Barkly Square,
Room #102
FREE
Monthly Thursdays during school term:
8 Oct, 12 Nov, 10 Dec

Feldenkrais

with Lynden
12.30 pm - 1.30 pm
Barkly Square,
Room #102
\$90, 6-week course
From 15 Oct

Community Auslan: Practice Group

2.00 pm - 3.30 pm
Atrium or the Café Barkly Square
FREE
From 8 Oct

Tai Chi

with Jack
3.30 pm - 4.30 pm
Barkly Square,
Room #102
\$120, 8-week course
From 15 Oct

Would you like to become a volunteer?

Reach out if you would like to join our wonderful team of volunteers.

A HUGE thanks to all our volunteers!

Saturdays

Community Auslan: "Voice Off" Practice

10.00 am - 11.30 am
Sebastopol Library
FREE, Monthly Saturdays
26 Sept, 31 Oct, 28 Nov

Join our Committee of Management

Would you like to join our Committee of Management and contribute to the strategic direction of the Ballarat East Neighbourhood House?

Please Contact: reception@ballarateastnh.org.au

Registrations & Payments

You can register for our activities online at ballarateastnh.org.au or contact our office on 0422 612 052.

All activities require registration, agreement to the Activity Terms and Conditions, and are subject to change without notice and may require minimum participant numbers (usually 7 people).

Payment plans are available on request if needed.

Access

See accessibility map of Barkly Square at: barklysquare.org.au/accessibility

To register or find out more: ballarateastnh.org.au/classes/activities

Contact us: Drop in, call or text 0422 612 052 or email reception@ballarateastnh.org.au

Follow us online: facebook.com/BallaratEastNH and instagram.com/ballarateastneighbourhoodhouse