

# Brown Hill Community Newsletter

## Edition 41, Spring 2024

*A project of the Brown Hill Progress Association supported by the Brown Hill Community Partnership.*

*We are proud to walk this land with the Wadawurrung people and all other First Nations people.*



*Joint Winners of the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Presentation Ceremony for the 2024 Ballarat Seniors Awards on 1 November 2024: John O'Brien (L) and Ian Drew (R). Image supplied by the City of Ballarat.*

## Spectacular Seniors! John and Ian do Brown Hill proud

Congratulations to locals and active members of the Brown Hill community, John O'Brien and Ian Drew, for being joint winners of the Lifetime Achievement Award as part of the 2024 Ballarat Seniors Awards!

Members of the Brown Hill Progress Association joined John and Ian's families to celebrate with the men and honour their achievements at the Presentation Ceremony on 1 November 2024.

John says, "I was very proud and humble to receive the award and to

be in the company of the other finalists who were all deserving of sharing in the award. They all contribute to our community in many different ways to the best of their abilities. As Mother Teresa is quoted as saying, "A life not lived for others is not a life."

John is a life member of the Brown Hill Cricket Club and Ballarat Cricket Umpires Association. He is also in the Hall of Fame for the Ballarat Cricket Association and has umpired 680 local cricket games over 34 years.

For a number of years, John also coached junior football and currently works the BBQ on Friday nights for winter Auskick and numerous other community events.

John volunteers with the Brown Hill Progress Association, Caledonian Primary School and Brown Hill Playgroup, manages the advertising in the Brown Hill Community Newsletter and coordinates a team of eight who deliver around one-third of the 2750 hard copies four times a year.

*...continued p.3*



*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 acknowledge the Ballarat Aboriginal community, many of whom were forcibly removed from their families during the Stolen Generations decades and brought to Ballarat. We acknowledge and pay our respects to Elders past and present.*

## About the Brown Hill Community Newsletter

This publication is a community project of the Brown Hill Progress Association. It is published quarterly.

Our volunteer team:

Editor: Sarah Greenwood-Smith

Editorial Advisory Committee: Brian Green, Brendan Stevens, Geoff Dickson and Hazen Cleary.

Editorial Support: Anne Rowland, John O'Brien, Peter Morton, Anna Beesley, Dianne Vanderveer, Sally McAlpin and Julie Hayes .

Accounts Manager: Brendan Stevens

Social Media: Ellie Thacker, Sherene Mounier and Emma Bannan.

Over 20 wonderful local volunteers distribute the newsletter across Brown Hill with additional copies available at local businesses and community hubs. Electronic copies are available on the Brown Hill Online Community Hub:

[brownhill.vic.au/newsletter](http://brownhill.vic.au/newsletter) or you can subscribe online or by emailing us: [newsletter@brownhill.vic.au](mailto:newsletter@brownhill.vic.au).

Contributions are welcome from the Brown Hill community. Articles can be emailed to:

[newsletter@brownhill.vic.au](mailto:newsletter@brownhill.vic.au)

or delivered in hard copy to the reception desk at Caledonian Primary School, Thompson Street, Brown Hill during school term and school hours.

Edition 42 (Summer) articles are due by **Wednesday 12 February 2025**.

Please read the editorial policy regarding contributions before submitting an article or advertising: [brownhill.vic.au/newsletter](http://brownhill.vic.au/newsletter).

The views expressed or information provided in this publication are not necessarily those of the Brown Hill Community Newsletter Committee or the Brown Hill Progress Association, including any officers, members, agents or contractors.

Occasionally, some content included in our newsletters may be upsetting for some readers. If you need support, contact numbers are

available online:

[brownhill.vic.au/new-to-brown-hill/need-some-support](http://brownhill.vic.au/new-to-brown-hill/need-some-support)

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Brown Hill Progress Association meet at the Brown Hill Cricket Club on the second Wednesday every second month at 7.00 pm. In 2025, meetings will be on Wednesdays 12 February, 9 April, 11 June, 13 August, 8 October (AGM) and 10 December. All welcome.

[bhpa@brownhill.vic.au](mailto:bhpa@brownhill.vic.au)

[brownhill.vic.au](http://brownhill.vic.au)

PO Box 6008, Brown Hill, 3350

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**69 Water Street, Brown Hill**

# Welcome to Edition 41

I was so excited when John O'Brien and Ian Drew were named joint winners in the Lifetime Achievement Award (see p.1) as part of the recent Ballarat Seniors Awards. I know they have both volunteered an enormous amount of their time over many, many years to support numerous people, projects and organisations across our community. Brown Hill and Ballarat have more vibrant, engaged and resilient communities due to the contribution made by people such as John and Ian. We are really proud of both of them for this well-deserved recognition!

It was also pretty cool to be awarded the winner of the 'Best editorial comment' category in this year's Community Newspapers Association of Victoria (CNAV) Awards. The judge, journalist Jeanette Severs, said the piece was "An entertaining and well written editorial connecting the effect of an early bird to stories throughout the newspaper. Very well done." Check it out: Edition 37 - September 2023, p.3, [brownhill.vic.au](http://brownhill.vic.au).

Enjoy the summer and look out for our next edition in February 2025.

*Sarah Greenwood-Smith,  
Volunteer Editor,  
Brown Hill Community Newsletter  
and Directory Committee  
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[brownhill.vic.au/newsletter](http://brownhill.vic.au/newsletter)*

# Spectacular Seniors!

*...continued from p.1*

John says, "I have been a resident of Brown Hill since the early 1960s, raising a family. I may be a little bit biased but I hope you will forgive me...Brown Hill is the best suburb in Ballarat and I would not wish to live anywhere else."

Joint winner of the Lifetime Achievement Award, Ian Drew, has been involved in Lions Clubs for 48 years, firstly at Wendouree before establishing the Brown Hill Lions Club as Charter president in 1985, where he remains an active member.

Ian led the project to establish a community hall which operates as a meeting place for the club as well as a space where Pinarc Disability Support Services run programs for their clients.

A driving force in the establishment of Inkerman Gully Park in Ballarat North, active in fundraising for the annual 3BA Winter Appeal and in door knocking for the Salvation Army's Red Shield Appeal for many years, Ian is a dedicated volunteer in our community.

Ian says, "These years giving back to the community have been the most rewarding times of my life. Volunteering has become second nature to me and I can't see it changing any time soon."

He continues, "This work has fulfilled me and become my passion. Looking back on these 46 years I am humbled but also thankful by the people I have met along the way and the lives that have been enriched. Firstly I felt embarrassed by the nomination. However, now I feel honoured for being recognised for my achievements. Helping others less fortunate than myself has become second nature."

The Ballarat Seniors Awards are coordinated by the City of Ballarat's Ageing Well Services and shine a light on the volunteers in our community who continue to make an invaluable contribution.

The City of Ballarat Ageing Well Services team want to improve their communication with people aged 55 years and over. Please tell them your communication needs, what they are doing well and what could be improved. Feedback via an online survey closes on 13 December 2024: [forms.office.com/r/zHHgQttSky](https://forms.office.com/r/zHHgQttSky)

...or contact the City of Ballarat Ageing Well Services team for a hard copy of the survey or for more information:

[ageingwell@ballarat.vic.gov.au](mailto:ageingwell@ballarat.vic.gov.au)  
**5320 5500**  
[ballarat.vic.gov.au/community/ageing-well-ballarat](http://ballarat.vic.gov.au/community/ageing-well-ballarat)  
[facebook.com/ageingwellballarat](https://facebook.com/ageingwellballarat).

*Sarah Greenwood-Smith, Brown Hill*



**HELPING VICTORIAN FAMILIES**

## \$400 SCHOOL SAVING BONUS

All public and eligible non-government school kids will receive a \$400 School Saving Bonus!  
Details on how to access the bonus will be emailed to parents in November, and can be used for uniforms, trips, sports, and more!

**Michaela Settle MP**  
Member for Eureka

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

The advertisement features a photograph of a man in a blue suit talking to a group of school children in uniform. The background is a red banner with white and yellow text.

# Brown Hill Progress Association



## From the Secretary's Desk

Not much to tell from this desk as the Secretary has been overseas for an escape to England, Scotland and Ireland for the last of winter and early spring.

Some of the trip was holiday and some was visiting our family's country-of-origin and searching for our roots. Most of our clan arrived in the mid-1800s, either in chains or carrying nothing but a small bag of belongings. They all hoped for a better life than the terrible conditions of the UK at the time. Most of them achieved their dreams and went on to prosper.

Now names like St Patricks, McNamara, Keogh, Blanchfield, Stevens etc are spread across Australia. They have left their mark on the landscape as well. Take a drive through the spud country and green countryside around Buninyong and Clarkes Hill with dry stone walls and you could be looking at Southern England or Ireland.

But enough reminiscing...



*Caledonian Primary School student, Bas, enjoying new books. Image supplied.*

I was back in time to attend the Brown Hill Progress Association's (BHPA) Annual General Meeting. The same group of hardy workers that have been present for around 20 years still put their hand up for committee positions and we thank them all their consistent efforts to keep the BHPA alive and operational. We continue to support the local schools and sports groups and engage with the Council.

## Donation to Caledonian Primary School

The BHPA made a \$2000 donation to Caledonian Primary School for books. Learning Specialist, Suzanne O'Brien, says, "Caledonian Primary School are extremely grateful to the Brown Hill Progress Association for their generous donation to purchase hundreds of new decodable books for our take-home reading program. Our students thoroughly enjoy reading these engaging, top-quality books."

*...continued p.5*

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f CatherineKingMP

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**Standing up for our Community!**

[www.catherineking.com.au](http://www.catherineking.com.au)

Authorised by Catherine King, Australian Labor Party, 516 Sydney Avenue, Ballarat ACT

...continued from p.4

**Brown Hill Recreation Reserve: Splash Park Update**

We are watching carefully the progress on the old pool site.

Site clean-up and soil compaction of the fill have now been completed and the contractors are now ready to begin foundation construction works. The excess soil, (which some locals have named Mt Humffray), will be removed shortly.

We welcome the contractors, Commercial Aquatics Australia, onto the site. They have delivered their site office and facilities room along with a container of tools and some of the initial construction equipment. More of the plant and equipment will arrive over the next month or two as needed.

They have also erected a power pole on the site. Unfortunately, there are hold ups with the provision of the appropriate power needs and City of Ballarat, the contractors and Powercor are working towards getting these issues resolved so real construction work can begin. The City of Ballarat team welcome our patience.

**City of Ballarat Council Elections**

We congratulate Ted Lapkin, Councillor-elect for the new Brown Hill Ward in the recent City of Ballarat elections.

Ted will represent the City of Ballarat from 2024- 2028.

We look forward to meeting with Ted to discuss our priorities for Brown Hill.

**Thank you**

The BHPA love Brown Hill and we hope to keep the community informed and supported for many years ahead. Big thanks to our Newsletter team for keeping this quality publication coming out every season.

**Meetings**

The Brown Hill Progress Association meetings in 2025 will be from 7.00 pm on Wednesdays at the Brown Hill Cricket Club: 12 February, 9 April, 11 June, 13 August, 8 October (AGM) and 10 December. All welcome.

Cheers, Brendan.

*Brendan Stevens , Secretary,  
Brown Hill Progress Association  
0409 018 867  
bhpa@brownhill.vic.au*



The City of Ballarat is reviewing the Heritage Overlay and are asking community members to share their local knowledge about Ballarat's historic places.

The Ballarat municipality is growing, by 2041 our city's population is predicted to increase by 95,000 people. To support this growth, the municipality will need to facilitate development of thousands of new dwellings and help drive business and industry growth to support local employment opportunities. If not managed sustainably, this growth may put pressure on our city's valued heritage assets. The City of Ballarat is undertaking the Heritage Gaps Review Program to help prepare for this challenge now. This ambitious, multi-year program of strategic heritage work will span the whole municipal polity, reviewing places and precincts already in the Heritage Overlay, as well as assessing new heritage places for inclusion. The information collected through the Heritage Gaps Review Program will help identify and address current gaps in the overlay, to ensure our heritage assets are managed and conserved into the future.

**NOMINATE YOUR HERITAGE PLACE**  
Nominate a heritage place you think should be protected, or a place you want to share information about on the interactive map at: [mysay.ballarat.vic.gov.au](https://mysay.ballarat.vic.gov.au) or scan the QR code. Visit the Heritage Team at The Phoenix 25 Armstrong Street South, Ballarat. You can also email us [heritageteam@ballarat.vic.gov.au](mailto:heritageteam@ballarat.vic.gov.au)



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# Brown Hill Fire Aware

*Summer is fast approaching – are you prepared?*

As we know all households need a Bushfire Plan, written and practised. But it is important to remember that just having a plan is not enough. What happens if circumstances change? What if you can't leave? Then a well-prepared property and well-informed family members will offer the best protection. Residents need to be prepared for all scenarios.

Did you know that for a fire to continue to burn it requires oxygen, heat, and fuel? Take away any one of these elements and the fire will go out. We possibly can't do much about oxygen and heat but we can do something about the fuel that feeds a fire. This is why the key thing that residents can do around their homes and blocks is reduce their fuel load.

Take some time to review your written bushfire plan and talk about it with family members. If you live alone, talk with your immediate neighbours and find out what each may be planning to do if a fire is in the vicinity. Remember what you might decide to do may not be possible so always consider alternative actions.

Here is a basic checklist for preparing your property to get you started:

- Review, update and practise your Bushfire Survival Plan;
- Check that trees and shrubs still have space between them (horizontally and vertically) so they don't form a continuous canopy. Prune where needed;
- Remove build-up of fine fuels - leaves and twigs (where these build-up will be the most likely places for embers to accumulate);



- Cut back trees overhanging your home. Trim hedges along fence lines;
- Remove dead vegetation from around your home and prune lower limbs of trees. Remove fallen branches and other debris, bark, heavy mulch, wood piles and any other flammable materials close to your home and sheds;
- Check with council to see if a permit is required to burn off garden waste or dispose of material through mulching or at Council's rubbish dump. Look out for dates of Council's free green waste disposal week;
- Ember-proof your home: seal gaps and areas under your home, verandahs or balconies; repair any loose tiles or gaps in your roof; cover windows, crevices and vents with fine wire; repair or fill nooks and crannies where leaves or embers could gather;
- Slash or mow long grass and remove cut material; remove weeds;
- Clear debris/leaves from gutters;
- Check and service all mechanical equipment including grass cutters, water pumps, sprinkler systems and fire extinguishers;
- Check insurance is still adequate;
- Prepare / check your emergency kit;
- Check your fire clothes still fit.

Once your property has had its clean up in the months before summer, remember to take a bit of

time in the lead-up to any hot, dry, windy days by double checking around your property. This can make a big difference even if you plan to leave early in the event of a fire in the area. If you know a bad day is coming, here are some easy things you can do to reduce fuel around your home and increase the chances of it surviving:

- Review your plan and know where each family member will be on any days of extreme weather;
- Remove doormats;
- Store away combustible outdoor furniture/kids' toys/other items from decks, around or under the home especially near windows and doors as these are the most vulnerable parts of your home;
- Move pot plants a few metres from the home;
- Mow your lawns;
- Check for any build-up of fine fuels - leaves and twigs;
- Check your gutters, make sure leaves have not built up;
- Make sure trees are healthy with no dead limbs and no vegetation underneath them;
- Make sure you have sealed under the house to stop embers entering.

To understand the risk and how best to prepare, access the **Brown Hill Community Hub – Be Bushfire Ready** page.



Remember: Watch the weather! Always be on alert for hot windy days. Did you

know that homes have been lost from things as simple as embers landing on a doormat, creating enough fuel to burn down the front door?

*Hazen, Brown Hill FireAware Network Coordinator*

# Ballarat Fire Brigade



The Ballarat Fire Brigade open day antique display. Image supplied.

The Ballarat Fire Brigade is having a busy lead up to the end of the year. On Saturday 9 November, the brigade held an open day to showcase who we are and what we can do. 180 people visited the station.

The event included an antique display of the brigade's 1938 Dodge, a 1985 police car and the old Ballarat Fire Brigade running reel. The brigade was honoured to host Ambulance Victoria and Victoria Police to showcase their vehicles and deliver safety information.

The brigade showcased a rescue demonstration with Ambulance Victoria and also delivered information sessions around fire restrictions and property preparation, to encourage planning.

The Country Fire Authority (CFA) recommends community members know their fire risk, plan and prepare. Whether or not you are in a fire danger area, you should still prepare as embers can travel up to 40km ahead of the fire and could potentially put your property at risk.

If you haven't already, start preparing your property today and keep up maintenance throughout the summer period. Ensure you:

- Cut your grass regularly
- Clear your gutters
- Prune overhanging trees
- Keep shrubs maintained and short
- Move your wood pile away from the house
- Keep fine fuels to a minimum

On a high fire danger day, to assist in the protection of your property, CFA recommend you remove dog beds, door mats, outdoor furniture and anything else that could trap embers. For more, visit: [cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/how-to-prepare-your-property](https://cfa.vic.gov.au/plan-prepare/how-to-prepare-your-property).

*Georgia Cook,  
Community Safety Coordinator,  
Ballarat Fire Brigade  
[facebook.com/BallaratCFA/](https://facebook.com/BallaratCFA/)  
[cfa.vic.gov.au](https://cfa.vic.gov.au)*



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# Wattle Flat Pootilla Landcare Group



*A selection of native plants growing at a local indigenous plant nursery.  
Image supplied.*

Behind-the-scenes planning is underway for the Urban Ripple project. Suitable local native trees, shrubs, groundcovers and wetland plants have been selected for Ditchfield Reserve and the stretch of Yarrowee River downstream from the freeway. These will be grown by local nurseries over the next six to nine months with the first planting days in autumn or early winter 2025. Weed control contractors will begin spraying and physically removing some of the large woody weeds in the Hearn Road gully at Ditchfield Reserve once the ground dries out

in late spring or early summer.

Be part of the project or just keep in touch by emailing [wfplc@gmail.com](mailto:wfplc@gmail.com). Ask to be added to our newsletter distribution list or request membership information. Wattle Flat Pootilla Landcare Group welcomes new members and you and your family will love being part of an active Landcare group with a valuable project right on your doorstep.

*Stephanie Davison*  
Wattle Flat Pootilla Landcare Group

## Soft plastics recycling

***Ballarat embraces soft plastics recycling***

More than 3,800 households are already diverting 'scrunchable' soft plastics from landfill and recycling them as part of the City of Ballarat's kerbside collection pilot program.

The 12-month kerbside soft plastics pilot enables residents to recycle their soft plastics in a City of Ballarat-supplied orange bag that can now be placed in residents' yellow-lid recycling bin. The orange collection bags are made in Australia from 100 per cent recycled plastic.

As part of plans to develop a long-term circular system for soft plastic packaging waste, the soft plastics that residents recycle will be included in a circular solution to turn them back into quality products or packaging.

To register for the soft plastics kerbside collection visit [ballarat.vic.gov.au/property/waste/recycling-ballarat](http://ballarat.vic.gov.au/property/waste/recycling-ballarat) or call Customer Service on **5320 5500**.



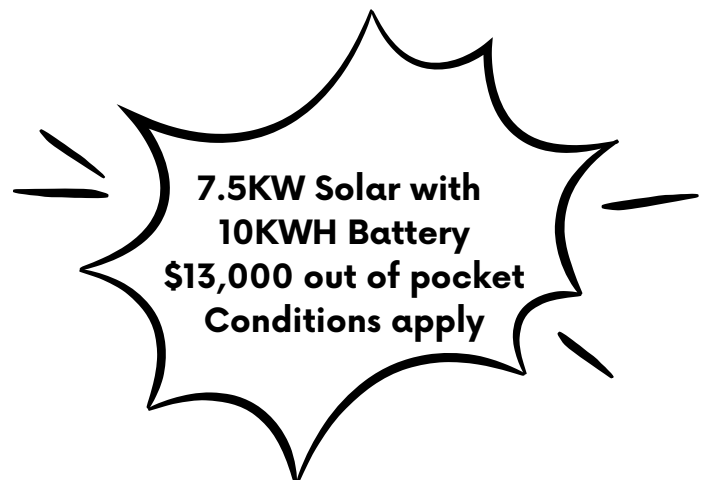
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# Brown Hill Playgroup



**Change can be a great thing!**

Our Brown Hill Playgroup has been running for over 30 years and has become a familiar community activity for many families. Since Covid we have struggled to find volunteers to coordinate the group. However, change has forced our team to think outside the box and it seems that this has now paid off.

Ballarat North Neighbourhood House (p.15) has recently started activities in the community building at Russell Square, Brown Hill. They have offered to facilitate a new local playgroup from 2025 at the same time on Monday mornings. We hope current playgroup families will attend and enjoy the extra facilities (such as playgrounds, ovals and a car park) that Russell Square has to offer. We are very excited that a new playgroup will be available to our large community at a new location. Change can be a great thing!

*Aimee Knight and Jane Griffin*

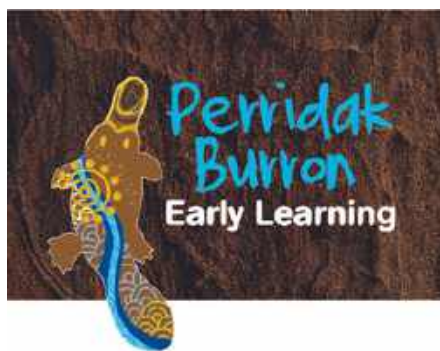
*Brown Hill Playgroup*

*Co-Coordinator*

*5332 6955 (until 20 December 2024)*

*facebook.com/brownhillplaygroup*

# Perridak Burron Early Learning



**Springing into our Steps at Perridak Burron**

This month has been full of exciting learning opportunities for our burron (children), from hands-on experiences with recycling to nature walks and visits to local schools, all helping them explore, engage and connect with the world around them. Recycle Man flew in one day to teach us all about recycling and why it is so important. Our burron were able to share in this experience where they could explore what types of things can be recycled, such as paper, glass and plastic. Recycle Man taught us about the different types of plastics and how to tell them apart by looking at the small triangle found on the label of each item. There was so much excitement with the addition of a role-play as Recycling Superheroes, complete with our own capes as we helped Recycle Man save the day!

This month our Parrwang burron have had the opportunity to venture out on a walk to visit Caledonian Primary School. There they met with teacher Mrs. O'Brien in one of

the school's Prep classrooms for a yarn. Mrs. O'Brien engaged our burron in a group activity with the story 'Good Night, Sleep Tight' and discussed different rhymes the children are familiar with. Then there were lots of different games and activities set out for our Parrwang burron to explore in the classroom, as well as so much more outside in the playground and the garden, with the hens and their eggs.

Our littlest burron have been out and about, soaking up the fresh air and learning about caring for country during their sensory walks. Educators have been guiding our Barnong and Yaluk burron as they explore nature, encountering different plants, observing the sky and connecting with the land by feeling the shifts in temperature and the rhythms of the weather. As we approach the end of the term, our burron continue to grow in curiosity and confidence, embracing every opportunity to learn, connect and contribute to their community and the world around them.

Register your child for Kindergarten through the City of Ballarat website [kinder.ballarat.vic.gov.au](http://kinder.ballarat.vic.gov.au).

If you wish for more information, please contact Perridak Burron Early Learning on **5334 4727** or via email:

[admin@perridakburronel.com.au](mailto:admin@perridakburronel.com.au)

**THE HAIR ROOM**  
*By Elaine*

**7 Sawmill Close**  
**Brown Hill**  
**0434 522 477**

# Glen Park Primary School

## *From the Principal's Desk*

This year was Glen Park Primary School's year of review. An external reviewer inspected our school over two days and helped guide us in developing a new Strategic Plan for 2024-28. Below are observations made after they held forums with parents and students:

Parents were delighted that their children enjoyed going to school. Parents commented on the unique nature of the school whereby the principal/teacher can devote so much one-on-one teaching time to each student.

All students participated in a forum with panel members on the final panel day. Students were positive about the school and the caring and supportive teacher(s).

This year we also completed work in our grounds which included replacing our front fence and access gate and creating a new front garden. We still have some more work to complete in 2025 on our grounds as well as creating much needed additional storage. We will also improve our 'Shelter in Place' facilities.

We have continued our focus on science by inviting a real scientist (Heather) from Swinburne to visit for three special 'science days' focussing on rocks and plants, robotics and forensics. They were so popular we will continue the program next year.

We went on an excursion to see Wicked in Melbourne and an excursion to Werribee Open Range Zoo. We also visited the Art Gallery of Ballarat for our second Aboriginal Arts experience.

Next year we will again be running a tutoring program as well as LOTE, Marc Van visits and Music/Arts therapy as well as our swimming/gym program. Our school library is even bigger than before—the best in Ballarat (have you checked out our Street Library?) and our grounds are looking great.

More fun excursions and engaging learning activities are planned for 2025. If you live in Glen Park's zone (Google, 'Find my school' to see what school zone you're in) and interested in small rural school education in the future then visit our website and send us an email.

*Tony Shaw, Principal,  
Glen Park Primary School  
5334 5360  
shaw.anthony.n@edumail.vic.gov.au  
glenparkps.vic.edu.au*



*(L to R) Clare Scanlon (Principal), Quinn, Evie, Maeve, Emilia, Vanessa and Senior Constable Brendan Everard. Image supplied.*

# St Mary's Primary School

## *From the Principal's Desk*

*Youth Crime Prevention Competition*

St Mary's Primary School, Clarkes Hill, is thrilled to announce that five of our talented students have been recognised in the Youth Crime Prevention competition! Senior Constable Brendan Everard visited St Mary's school to present the awards with the theme for the competition being 'Our City: Be Safe. Feel Safe'.

In a huge effort, over 200 entries came in from 19 schools across Ballarat and the winning posters have now been enlarged, laminated, and are proudly displayed at local police stations. We are incredibly proud that five students from St Mary's had their creative work chosen for this honour. Congratulations to our budding artists for promoting safety and pride in our community! Congratulations to Quinn, Evie, Maeve, Emilia and Vanessa.



Shop 6, 73 Victoria Street  
Ballarat 3350  
Tel: 03 5333 3845

## **Free Traditional loaf with any box of tarts purchased.**

Offer valid until Friday 6 December 2024  
Only valid at Bakers Delight Bakery Hill.  
One coupon per customer per day.

# Caledonian Primary School

## ***From the Principal's Desk***

To the Brown Hill Community,

We have had a wonderful year and with only a few weeks to the end of Term Four, we often become reflective about our year's achievements.

During the Covid times, we invested heavily with the support of our school council in jazzing up the school. Facilities improvements took time but now we have buildings, grounds and furnishings that are refreshed or new providing a wonderful place to learn.

However, this is pretty obvious. You can see it as you drive by. What is less visible is the huge commitment we have made to up-levelling our instructional approaches, teacher knowledge and learning sequences. While NAPLAN is not the most important thing in our school, it is a measure that allows us to understand how we are performing academically against the state. This year we are starting to see the impact of a significant shift in educational approaches with student achievement above state averages in most areas and, in some, well above state average.

For years now we have been developing our instructional approaches to reflect current research and best practices. This has included explicit teaching, structured synthetic phonics, sequential writing instruction building knowledge from sentence level to paragraph to whole published pieces.

We have implemented daily reviews in mathematics which ensure multiple exposures to key maths concepts over the entire year so new skills are fully practised and embedded in children's

understanding. Additionally, we have ensured we continue to use concrete materials to explore maths concepts and find some "fun" in maths lessons.

This benefits our students. The evidence is in. They are learning at an incredible rate and we could not be more proud of them and I could not be more proud of our teachers! This is not the only part of the agenda as the engagement and wellbeing of our students is of paramount importance and this year we feel we have healed from the tough few years we have had.

Our students have been able to engage in a huge range of extra-curricular opportunities including camps, sports, arts, excursions, performances and celebrations! While a lesson at the Art Gallery of Ballarat may not be for everyone, our students have all participated with enthusiasm. So, too, a visiting sports clinic in golf may not be for everyone and yet, once again, our students gave it a red-hot go!

Over the coming weeks and into 2025 we will see some further improvement outside with our basketball court fence being updated, line marking in our car park with an emphasis on safety and a bunch of new air conditioning units being installed which will hopefully reduce our dependence on gas. A big acknowledgement here to our School Council members who, through careful governance and oversight, have allowed us to budget for these improvements!

As we head to the end of 2024, we hope everyone has a fabulous Christmas, a safe and happy New Year and a great January summer break. We will be wishing our Year Six students all the best as they transition to Secondary School and finally, with our newest prep students starting next year, we are excited to see what 2025 will bring!

*Ben Moody, Principal,  
Caledonian Primary School  
5332 6955  
caledonian.ps@education.vic.gov.au  
caledonianps.vic.edu.au*



*Caledonian Primary School students' screen-printing work. Image supplied.*

# Woodmans Hill Secondary College

## **Woodmans Hill Secondary College welcomes new Principal, Shannon Ross**

One of the honours bestowed on a School Council President is to chair the Principal selection process. This is a thorough and rigorous process, which holds great importance to the future direction of the school.

Following the recent completion of this Principal selection process, and on behalf of the Woodmans Hill Secondary College School Council, I am genuinely pleased to announce the appointment of Shannon Ross as our new College Principal. We couldn't be more thrilled to have someone of her talent, dedication, and vision leading our school.

Shannon is no stranger to Woodmans Hill. She has been an integral part of our school community for an impressive 18 years and, during that time, she has shown an unwavering commitment to fostering a positive, inclusive and vibrant environment for all students. Her journey with Woodmans Hill has seen her take on numerous roles, each one further enriching the fabric of the school and deepening her connection with students, staff and the wider Woodmans Hill community alike.

Shannon has shared her vision with our community, a school that has, at



**Woodmans Hill Secondary College Principal, Shannon Ross. Image supplied.**

its heart, the values of respect, determination and excellence and she models these values in every interaction. She will lead a school where everyone feels known and valued, where relationships are prioritised as central to growth and wellbeing is emphasised. Shannon has shared her belief that Woodmans Hill Secondary College will continue to be a community of diverse individuals who understand the importance of true inclusion.

Shannon is also known as a passionate Geelong Cats fan – a trait that's sure to bring energy and team spirit into her leadership style! Her enthusiasm and love for our

community, combined with her strong sense of purpose, make Shannon the ideal person to guide Woodmans Hill into its next chapter.

As Shannon steps into her new role, the School Council, wider Woodmans Hill community and I are fully confident in her vision and dedication to our students' success. We look forward to the positive changes she will continue to bring. We are excited to support her as she leads Woodmans Hill into a bright future.

*Adrian Morisi*  
*School Council President*  
*Woodmans Hill Secondary College*



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# Ballarat East Neighbourhood House



## Free Training for Community Groups in Ballarat

The Community Governance Project funded by the City of Ballarat is working to provide support to local community groups. Register now for one or more of the free Workshops:

[ballarateastnh.org.au/community-governance/community-groups](http://ballarateastnh.org.au/community-governance/community-groups)

## Are you ready to write a grant application?

If your community group is considering applying for a grant in 2025 then the time to start preparing is now. Past feedback includes: *“Attending the grant writing workshop provided through this program was instrumental in equipping me to write a grant submission that would be the most effective it could be. I have no doubt that this has resulted in a successful outcome for my submission on behalf of Ballarat National Theatre.”*

- Do you have an elevator pitch?
- Do you have a project budget?

- Do you know how much need there is in the community for your project?
- Do you know how the community will benefit from your project?
- Do you know how you will know if your project has been successful?

All grant applications are competitive and to give your group the best chance of success you need to have all these questions answered in detail ready to put into your application. Join our Grant Writing Workshops:

- Tuesday 26 November, 10.00 am – 11.30 am Wendouree Neighbourhood Centre, Holly Grove, Wendouree
- Wednesday 4 December, 6.30 pm – 8.00 pm online via Zoom

## 2025 Community Group Workshops

*Workshop #1 City of Ballarat: Community Impact Grant - Grant Writing Workshop*

- Wednesday 12 February, 10.00 am – 11.30 am, Barkly Square
- Wednesday 26 February, 6.30 pm – 8.00 pm Online via Zoom
- Saturday 1 March, 10.00 am – 11.30 am, Barkly Square

Presented by Sophie Atkinson, City of Ballarat, Sandy Darrington, Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre and Kay Miller, Ballarat East NH.

*Workshop #2 - ATO - Self review return for community groups*

- Tuesday 18 February, 1.00 pm – 2.30 pm, Barkly Square (TBC)
- Wednesday 5 March, 10.00 am – 11.30 am (Venue TBC)
- Saturday 15 March, 10.00 am – 11.30 am (Venue TBC)

Is your community group required to complete the new ATO Self-review-return to maintain your tax-exempt status? If so, then this practical workshop will show you how to go about it. Please bring along your laptop or tablet and mobile phone so that we can get you started. If you are not sure if your community group needs to lodge the new form, visit: [ballarateastnh.org.au/community-governance/governance-for-community-groups](http://ballarateastnh.org.au/community-governance/governance-for-community-groups)

Activities for Term 1, 2025, will be available for registration from early December.

Please note that our office will close on Friday 20 December 2024 and open again on Tuesday 28 January 2025.

*Liz Wade, Participation Manager, Ballarat East Neighbourhood House Barkly Square, 25-39 Barkly Street, Ballarat East, 0422 612 052*  
[reception@ballarateastnh.org.au](mailto:reception@ballarateastnh.org.au)  
[facebook.com/BallaratEastNH/](https://facebook.com/BallaratEastNH/)  
[ballarateastnh.org.au](http://ballarateastnh.org.au)

*Open 9.00 am - 5.00 pm Tuesdays to Fridays during school term*

**BARKLY SQUARE**  
Barkly Square Global Markets

# CHRISTMAS MARKET

**Friday 13th December**  
4pm to 8pm

**FREE ADMISSION!**

**PLUS SANTA WILL BE DROPPING BY!**  
VISITORS WELCOME TO TAKE THEIR OWN SANTA PHOTOS

**ART & CRAFTS**  
FOOD TRUCKS  
FREE FACE PAINTING!  
JEWELLERY & CLOTHES  
HOME DECOR & GIFTS  
AND SO MUCH MORE!

An initiative of BGT, in collaboration with Ballarat Wholefoods Collective

# Ballarat North Neighbourhood House

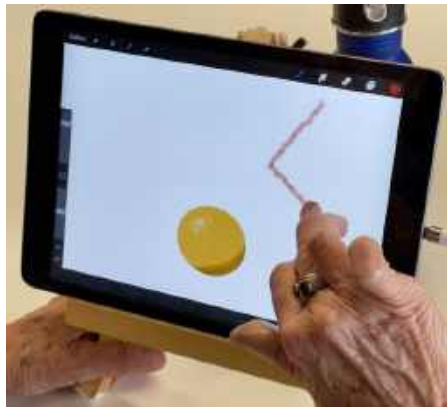
*Join Ballarat North Neighbourhood House at Russell Square*

During 2024, Ballarat North Neighbourhood House became a stand-alone charity expanding its reach and impact within the community. We are now running programs from a variety of venues, including Russell Square. One of these programs Russell Square is hosting is a digital art-based program called 'Procreate'.

Procreate is a powerful digital illustration and art app designed specifically for the iPad. Its intuitive interface is optimised for use with the Apple Pencil, providing a seamless experience for artists. With features like 'QuickShape' for perfect shapes, an advanced layering system and the high-performance Valkyrie graphics engine, Procreate makes creating stunning artwork a breeze.

Participants in the Procreate program will have access to hundreds of customisable brushes, animation capabilities and time-lapse recording. The app supports high-resolution canvases and various export formats making it an ideal tool for both aspiring illustrators and experienced artists looking to expand their creative horizons. If you do not have an iPad, we have a set you can use during the term.

The Procreate program will be held



on Tuesday afternoons during Term One of 2025, beginning 11 February. On 4 February, we invite everyone to try the class. If you enjoy the experience, you are welcome to sign up for the full term-based program. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with fellow learners and creatives within the community, fostering a supportive and inspiring environment.

Join us at the Ballarat North Neighbourhood House to explore the endless possibilities of digital art with Procreate and get creative! Contact us to register your interest. Over the coming weeks you will be able to check out our other programs on our soon-to-be launched website but in the meantime email us and we will put you on the list! If you have any questions, please get in touch.

*Kristen Sheridan, Manager,  
Ballarat North Neighbourhood House  
kristen@bnnh.org.au  
bnnh.org.au (coming soon)*

# Brown Hill Senior Citizen's Club

The members of the Brown Hill Senior Citizens Club will hold their 54th birthday celebrations on Monday 2 December at their clubrooms, the Brown Hill Public Hall. There will be entertainment, raffles, entrance prize and afternoon tea.

During the year an Aussie lunch was held at the hall with pies, pasties, lamingtons and slices. This was subsidised by the Club. A lunch was enjoyed at Craig's Hotel. With limited parking near the hotel, members parked at the Hall and went to and from Craig's Hotel via taxis.

Our Christmas breakup luncheon will be at Craig's Hotel with taxis once again to be utilised. Our final get-together for the year will be on Wednesday 11 December. We will return on 10 February 2025. This is one week later than usual because the Brown Hill Hall is closed for the last week of January and the first week of February due to the floor being resurfaced.

Members continue to enjoy indoor bowls, euchre, hoi, scrabble and sequence. New members are always welcome and we wish everyone a happy and safe holiday season.

*Dianne Eden, President  
0428 379 979*

A yellow rectangular advertisement for N.V. Pollard Plumbing. On the left is a cartoon illustration of a plumber in blue overalls carrying a wrench and a pipe. To the right, the text reads: "If it leaks, we'll fix it" in blue, "N.V. POLLARD PLUMBING" in white on a red background, and "Neil Pollard 0484 002 533 4333 8065 nvpollard@gmail.com" in blue. A blue circular badge at the bottom left says "Prompt &amp; Reliable Service".

A light blue and white advertisement for a hairdresser. The text reads: "At Zu Hairdressing, 94 Humffray Street North, Ballarat East" in a cursive font. Below that, "Hair by Jorja Kennedy" is written in a larger, stylized font. At the bottom right, the phone number "0401553599" is written in a cursive font.

# Y Learn and Swim

## *Penguin Paddlers Program for kinder kids*

Children attending Y Learn and Swim now have the opportunity to participate in swimming lessons as part of their early education experience through the Centre's Penguin Paddlers Program.

"We are excited that we are supporting families further by offering the opportunity for three- and four-year-old children to participate in swimming lessons while they are in the kinder or long day care program," said Bhawana Gurung, Early Years Assistant Director at Y Learn and Swim.

"We collect the children from the classroom and help them get ready for their lesson. We then walk them across the hall to the pool where our qualified and experienced swim teachers provide the lesson while we supervise. Once it's finished, we help them to rinse off and get dressed again before rejoining their class. We've had so many positive responses from families who welcome this added aspect to our program."

"It's just another way the Y is helping families," says Y Learn and Swim Centre Manager, Sam Lane. "As parents who work full-time, we know how important these lessons are and how necessary it is to know how to swim. But juggling the



*The Penguin Paddlers program in action at Y Learn and Swim Image supplied.*

demands of work, family and other commitments, it can be really challenging to find the right time to get to classes. By having it as part of our program, parents don't need to worry any more that their child will miss out on these opportunities."

As an added bonus, children who are enrolled into the Early Learning Centre receive a discount on their swimming fees. "So not only is it saving time, it's saving money at a time when every penny counts," said Sam.

The Centre offers a range of early education and swimming lesson options, meeting a range of needs from young children experiencing their first time in the pool to advanced school-aged children.

Enrolments can be completed online at [ylearnandswim.org.au](http://ylearnandswim.org.au). For more information on enrolments and free three- and four-year-old kindergarten programs for 2025, contact Y Learn and Swim: **4320 0850 / [info@ylearnandswim.org.au](mailto:info@ylearnandswim.org.au)**.



### **Need a loan?**

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# Brown Hill Community Hall

*Looking back over a busy year for the hall.*

This year has been a very successful period of time for the Brown Hill Community Hall. With no interruptions to operations at the hall because of pandemics, major building renovations and maintenance issues, we have seen a steady use of the hall by casual community members and the regular community groups. It is becoming near essential if you want a booking to book well in advance. The hall committee's Bookings Officer, Dianne Eden, does an amazing job squeezing bookings into a very busy calendar.

We have had over 50 different individuals or community groups use the hall on a casual basis. Activities from these hall users include morning teas, meetings, birthday parties, weddings, wakes, theatre productions, dance rehearsals, sewing classes, business AGMs, school holiday programs, gospel meetings, family reunions, exhibitions, fairs, festivals and religious ceremonies. Brown Hill Community Hall has been the home of 18 different regular community user groups this year, including the Brown Hill Senior Citizens Club, Ballarat City Council Aging Well classes, Eldorado Line Dancing, Ballarat Rockers, Canary and Budgerigar Clubs and Southeast Australian Taekwondo, to name a few.

The hall was used for a community information meeting for the proposed Splash Park which we are all eagerly awaiting.

As well as regular maintenance this year, we had new purpose-built lockable storage cupboards installed, some revamping of the kitchen drawer system, new chairs for the meeting rooms, a new fridge

and signage plus repairs to the stage handrails. We are fortunate that we have very little vandalism or wilful damage committed at the hall. The consistent and constant usage of the hall helps, as do the many amazing community volunteers who keep the hall tidy and ready for use. Our small committee advise the Ballarat City Council on the running, maintaining and use of the hall, meeting monthly. These meetings are open to all and we are always seeking new committee members to help keep the Brown Hill Community Hall the 'go to' place that it has become in our community.

On that note, the Hall will be closed for floor resurfacing from Monday 27 January to Friday 7 February but we are looking forward to a full calendar of wonderful events at the Hall in 2025.

To make a booking visit: [hall.brownhill.vic.au/bookings](http://hall.brownhill.vic.au/bookings)

*Merrilyn Harlock*  
*Secretary Brown Hill Community Hall Advisory Committee*  
[hall.brownhill.vic.au](http://hall.brownhill.vic.au)



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# Ballarat Wholefoods Collective



**BALLARAT PRELOVED**  
fashion

Barkly Square,  
25 Barkly St Ballarat East

We have had another very busy year filled with fermenting workshops, Op Shop Sales and lots and lots of busy shoppers at Wholefoods. We have renamed our Op Shop Days as 'Ballarat Preloved Fashion' and our times will be 1.00 pm to 4.00 pm, so we are very excited for 2025. Dates for next year's Ballarat Preloved Fashion Sales are: 1 March, 14 June, 6 September and 22 November.

Christmas closing will be Saturday 21 December. Re-opening on 30 January 2025.

Thanks to everyone who supports our fantastic Ballarat Wholefoods Collective.

We wish everyone a Merry Christmas and please be safe and look after your local farmers and businesses when shopping for Christmas.

*Wendy and team*  
*Ballarat Wholefoods Collective*  
[ballaratwholefoodscollective@gmail.com](mailto:ballaratwholefoodscollective@gmail.com)  
[facebook.com/ballaratwholefoodscollective](https://facebook.com/ballaratwholefoodscollective)  
[ballaratwholefoodscollective.org](http://ballaratwholefoodscollective.org)  
Barkly Square, 25-39 Barkly Street,  
Ballarat East

# Brown Hill Uniting Church

Brown Hill Uniting Church celebrated its 169th anniversary on Sunday 17 November 2024 with a special service at 10.00 am.

## Quote of the season

*“Do everything with a good heart, expect nothing in return and you will never be disappointed”.*

## August Men's Breakfast

Andrew Wallace, the Vice-President of the Ballarat Historical Society, spoke about the society and its extensive collection of photographs depicting the growth of Ballarat during the 1800s to the current day. The Society was founded in 1933 and currently has 140 members. He spoke about three major eras:

- Firstly, the gold mining era, which saw the construction of many historical buildings and significant infrastructure;
- Secondly, the manufacturing industry era which involved considerable building and infrastructure developments;
- Thirdly, the demolition era, during which time, sadly, many of the classic historic buildings and much of the infrastructure was demolished and replaced with the spartan buildings that dominate much of today's Ballarat.

Read about the Society online: [ballarathistoricalsociety.com](http://ballarathistoricalsociety.com)

## October Men's Breakfast

*One of our Men's Breakfast regulars read the article about Les Ferguson and his world adventures in the Autumn edition newsletter. He suggested that Les might be very interesting to listen to and we should invite him to speak at a Men's Breakfast. The following is a brief summary of Les's morning with us at the Men's Breakfast.*



Following the hearty breakfast, Les Ferguson talked with humour about his extensive travel and adventures throughout the world, starting within Australia and then onto Cheshire in the United Kingdom to work on a farm.

Les' job there led him on to leading bus trips across much of Europe and South Asia. He also talked about and showed photos of his trips through Central Africa and of crossing the Sahara Desert.

Les travelled across South America, using various forms of transport including ferries and banana boats, transporting passengers and making repairs to the old trucks or buses along the way.

He survived a return eight-day trip along the Amazon River, by bus on board a barge, before walking along the entire Inca Trail and then onto Brazil, returning to London.

Les travelled to Turkey tour-guiding throughout the Middle East, back to London and to Africa again and then Sudan, Egypt, Greece, Europe, across the Himalayas and throughout much of Asia, including India and Iran.

All the listeners, including some ladies, were totally engaged in Les' presentation. We sincerely thank Les for sharing his amazing adventures with us.

*Rob Soar and Louise Wright*

The **Men's Breakfast** team consists of volunteers from the Brown Hill Lions Club, Senior Citizens, Progress Association and the church. We welcome anyone to join us. The next Breakfast will be in March 2025.

**Wednesday Communion** at 1.30 pm in the church hall for those who like a midweek opportunity for informal worship and sharing the sacraments if you choose. There is an opportunity to share a short time of fellowship over afternoon tea.

**Craft, Cuppa & Chat** is meeting on the first and third Thursdays each month at 1.30 pm in the church hall, unless otherwise notified. Thursday 5 December is the final craft day for the year, beginning again on 16 January 2025. Come along if you're interested in doing any sort of craft, or just come for a chat if you're not!

Our **Op Shop** has EFTPOS and is open Thursdays and Fridays from 9.30 am - 12.30 pm providing our community with very good quality clothing and bric-a-brac at very affordable prices. \$2 clothing sale on until 12 December, when the Op Shop will close until Thursday 13 February.

## Christmas Services

- **Sunday 8 December:** 10.00 am, 'Ecumenical Choir' Carol Service followed by morning tea.
- 5.00 pm, Community BBQ and 6.00 pm, Family Carol Service with Andrew.
- **Sunday 15 December:** 10.00 am, Outdoor Carol Service at Brown Hill with Central Uniting Church (depending on the weather).
- **Sunday 22 December:** 10.00 am, Jim de Jong, Communion.
- **Christmas Day:** 9.00 am, Elders/Congregation, Carols and Bible Readings.

*Louise Wright, Brown Hill Uniting Church*

# Brown Hill & District Lions Club

The Brown Hill and District Lions Club has started their annual Christmas Cakes sales on the second level of Central Square. On weekdays during December we are there from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm and also weekends from 11.00 am to 3.00 pm, in case you forgot the pudding!

We have our traditional 1.5 kg cakes and 900 g puddings and this year... drum roll please... 1 kg cakes and 400 g puddings (because some of us just can't finish a big one!). The other new arrival is the snack size cakes at just \$2.00... perfect for the lunchbox or in a bowl with some summer fruit and cream... yum!

Mesh & Masonry (again) kindly donated this year's ripper wheelbarrow which the Club filled with all sorts of goodies including a \$100 meat voucher from Weightmans Meats. That's a lot of snags! Grab one, two or ten tickets with your cakes!

From all of us at Brown Hill Lions, peace be with you for your chosen celebration!

For more information visit our Facebook page or contact our Secretary Di via email: [secbhlions@outlook.com](mailto:secbhlions@outlook.com).



OPENING HOURS	
BISTRO	BAR
Monday	CLOSED
Tuesday	Lunch: Closed Dinner: 5pm-8pm
Wednesday	Lunch: 12pm-3pm Dinner: 6pm-8pm
Thursday	Lunch: 12pm-3pm Dinner: 6pm-8:30pm
Friday	Lunch: 12pm-3pm Dinner: 6pm-8:30pm
Saturday	Lunch: 12pm-3pm Dinner: 6pm-8:30pm
Sunday	Lunch: 12pm-3pm Dinner: 6pm-8pm

# Ballarat Libraries

## Festive Season Opening Hours

Ballarat, Sebastopol and Wendouree libraries will close at 3.00 pm on Tuesday 24 December.

- Ballarat Library will reopen at 9.30 am on Thursday 2 January 2025.
- Sebastopol Library will reopen at 9.30 am on Friday 27 December and remain open over the festive season. Sebastopol Library will be closed on 1 January 2025 for the New Years Day public holiday.
- Wendouree Library will reopen at 9.30 am on Monday 6 January 2025.
- Library Outreach services will close from Friday 20 December and recommence from Tuesday 28 January 2025.

All libraries will be closed on Monday 27 January for the public holiday. Remember that the Digital Library is always available: [libraries.ballarat.vic.gov.au](http://libraries.ballarat.vic.gov.au)

## Looking for a way to ease into Christmas? Something a little cheesy?

Join us at Sebastopol Library for some light-hearted fun this December at our Christmas movie festival. Christmas biscuits and mint hot chocolate included.

Thursday 5 December, 1.00 pm: 'Feliz Navidad', a feel good rom-com.

Wednesday 11 December, 10.30 am: 'Christmas with a Crown', universal themes of love and family sure to put you in the Christmas spirit.

Thursday 19 December, 4.30 pm: 'Twelve Dogs of Christmas' - a family classic.

Bookings required via Sebastopol Library on **5335 7985**.

## Workshop: Garden structures to support native wildlife

Whether you have a big backyard, a tiny courtyard, a community garden, school veggie patch or some pot plants on a balcony, everyone can contribute to the survival of wildlife by providing suitable habitat.

Learn about local community group, Gardens for Wildlife Ballarat, and gain valuable knowledge and inspiration. There will also be an opportunity to take home a selection of local native plants for your garden.

Sunday 1 December, 2.00 - 3.30 pm  
Ballarat Library, bookings required.  
[events.humanitix.com/gardens-for-wildlife-workshops](https://events.humanitix.com/gardens-for-wildlife-workshops)

## Summer is on the way and that means emergency preparedness is front of mind.

Ballarat Libraries has two great sessions on offer to help increase your knowledge and confidence:

### Get Techy, Get Ready - Emergency Preparedness

In this session, get assistance to download and use Apps that can help you stay informed, report hazards and more.

Thursday 5 December, 11.00 am - 12.30 pm

Ballarat Library, bookings required  
[events.humanitix.com/get-techy-get-ready-emergency-preparedness-summer-2024-25-ballarat-library](https://events.humanitix.com/get-techy-get-ready-emergency-preparedness-summer-2024-25-ballarat-library)

### Preparing for Emergencies and power Outages - presented by NBN Community Ambassador

Thursday 12 December, 11.00 am - 12.00 pm

Ballarat Library, bookings required  
[events.humanitix.com/tech-cafe-preparing-for-emergencies-and-power-outages-summer-2024-25-ballarat-library](https://events.humanitix.com/tech-cafe-preparing-for-emergencies-and-power-outages-summer-2024-25-ballarat-library)

# Brown Hill AusKick



While the sun is shining, planning is well underway for Brown Hill's best Friday night Term Two activity: Auskick!

In 2025 we will be running both Auskick and a new program - Superkick. Auskick is targeted at four- to seven-year-olds who are starting to learn footy skills. Superkick is for seven to twelve-year-olds who already have skills to build on where the focus is on developing abilities with match

wear runners and bring a drink bottle.

Like us on Facebook 'Brown Hill Auskick' to get the latest news and please use Messenger to contact organisers directly with any queries.

We look forward to you joining us!

*Catherine*  
Brown Hill Auskick Coordinator  
[brownhillauskick@yahoo.com](mailto:brownhillauskick@yahoo.com)  
[facebook.com/BrownHillAuskick](https://www.facebook.com/BrownHillAuskick)

# Brown Hill Cricket Club

Brown Hill Cricket Club Junior training is on now for U11s, U13s, and U15s at Brown Hill Reserve from 4.30 pm on Tuesdays.

Woolworths Cricket Blast has recently started for the season at Brown Hill Reserve 4.30 pm on Fridays.

Brown Hill Cricket Club rooms are available for hire. Both kitchen and bar facilities are available. Ideal for Birthdays (no 18th birthdays), reunions and going-away parties. Bond of \$300.00 required.



*Phil Knowles, 0407 399 971*  
[phillip.knowles1960@gmail.com](mailto:phillip.knowles1960@gmail.com)



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## New Members Welcome

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PH: 03 5331 3691

Email: [mtxaviergolfclub@bigpond.com](mailto:mtxaviergolfclub@bigpond.com)

118 Fortune Street, Ballarat VIC 3350

# East Point Football Netball Club

## *Brown Hill Has Talent: Samantha Stevens*

Sam, as she is called, was responsible for the design of the football jumper worn by the East Point Women's Football Team during the indigenous round of the past football season. It is red, white and blue and can be viewed online to see the detail and appreciate Sam's work.

Sam was born and bred in Brown Hill and apart from a stint in Queensland for work has spent most of her life in the area. She went to Caledonian Primary School and finished her education at the then Ballarat East High School, now known as Woodmans Hill Secondary College.

Congratulations on your wonderful artwork Sam!

*John O'Brien, President, Brown Hill Progress Association*



*Members of the East Point Women's Football Team wear the jersey designed by Sam during the indigenous round of the past football season. Image supplied.*

# Wallaby Track parkrun



*Wallaby Track parkrun participants and volunteers. Image supplied.*

Wallaby Track parkrun has continued to grow this year. Over winter, we averaged 70 participants and volunteers and this number has increased to 130 during spring. We've welcomed visitors from across Victoria and even Europe, though the majority of our participants come from the local community.

On 5 October, parkrun celebrated its 20th anniversary. Parkruns worldwide marked the occasion by encouraging as many participants as possible to take part. Wallaby Track parkrun achieved this goal, with 163 participants - the second-largest turnout in our history and the largest since Covid. We also had 14 fantastic volunteers helping the event run smoothly.

In celebration of the Victorian Seniors Festival this October, Wallaby Track parkrun dedicated the event on 26 October to the seniors in our lives. On this day, we encouraged participants to bring their favourite senior along to volunteer, walk, jog or run with them. The event was a huge success, with 150 participants and volunteers joining us.

If you'd like to take part in parkrun, visit [parkrun.com.au](http://parkrun.com.au) to register, then join us at Wallaby Track behind the playground in Brown Hill at 7.45 am any Saturday morning for the first-timers' briefing. If you'd prefer to volunteer, email us at [wallabytrack@parkrun.com](mailto:wallabytrack@parkrun.com) or message us via our Facebook page.

*Aaron and Laurinda Coulter  
Co-Event Directors  
Wallaby Track parkrun  
[wallabytrack@parkrun.com](mailto:wallabytrack@parkrun.com)  
[parkrun.com.au/wallabytrack](http://parkrun.com.au/wallabytrack)*

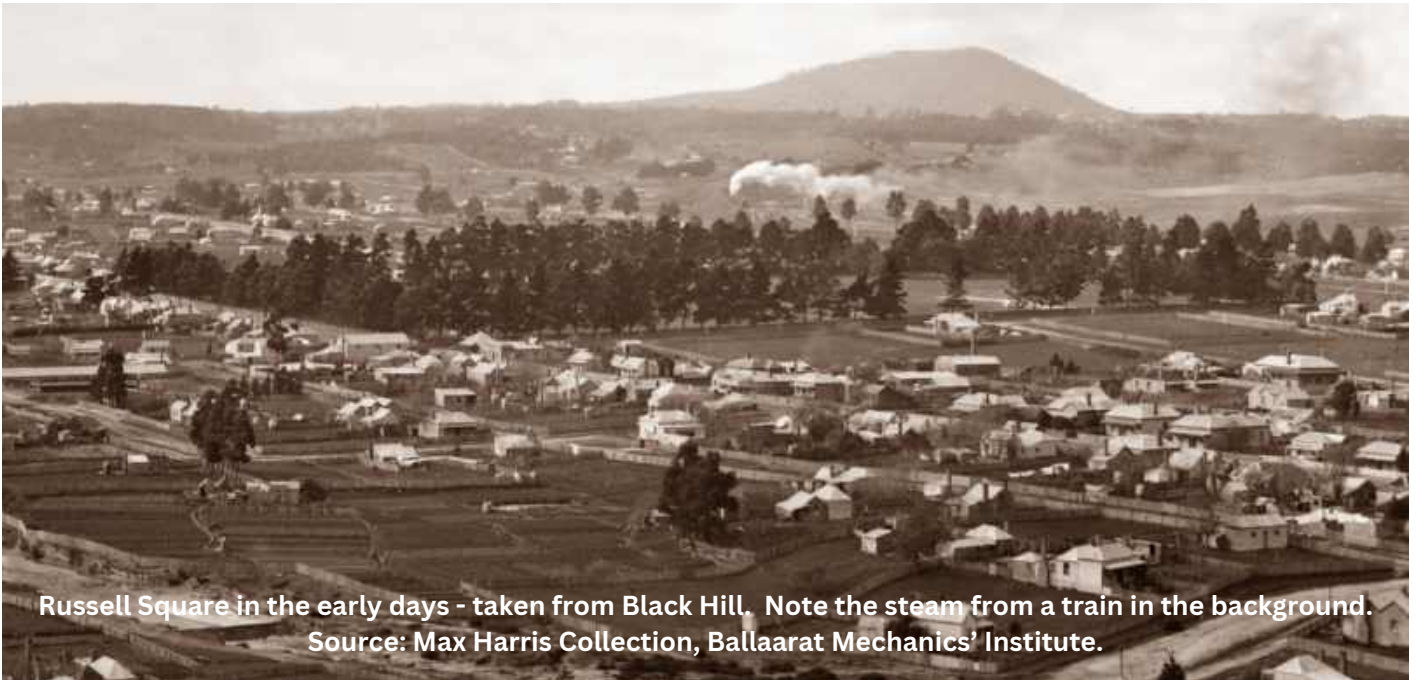


## The AFL Store Ballarat

Shop 50, Central Square  
Armstrong Street South  
Ballarat Vic 3350  
(03) 5332 3400  
[ballarat@theaflstore.com.au](mailto:ballarat@theaflstore.com.au)

**YOUR TEAM YOUR STORE**

# Russell Square: A hub of local activity



Russell Square in the early days - taken from Black Hill. Note the steam from a train in the background. Source: Max Harris Collection, Ballarat Mechanics' Institute.

The origins of Russell Square date back to 1862. By 1891, an Order declared that the land be permanently reserved for public use and it was gazetted the following year.

Today, recent major upgrades to the space give it AFL Local level compliant female-friendly change rooms, umpires' change rooms, netball change rooms, storage space, landscaping and connections and a veranda. In all, these works at Russell Square have totalled around \$1.4 million and it is utilised by a number of sporting and community groups. Interesting fact - the walking track around the perimeter is exactly 1 km.

Read the Russell Square Story online:

[brownhill.vic.au/directory/russell-square-user-group](http://brownhill.vic.au/directory/russell-square-user-group)

Russell Square Co-ordinator, Damian Ryan, says it is "a very occupied space. Typically, the facility is hired out for children's birthday parties and family gatherings. A commercial kitchen and a kitchenette are also available." For enquiries contact Damian - [ryandjr@bigpond.com](mailto:ryandjr@bigpond.com).

## ***Sports Groups***

### **Ballarat Masters Football Club (The Diggers)**

The Ballarat Masters Football Club (BMFC) competes in the AFL Masters, Victorian Country competition and has done so for over 25 years! They are a 'footy-for-fun' focused club and welcome players over 35 years of age to join in their competition. Eleven games are played once a fortnight on Sundays in their family-friendly club whose values are: Leadership, Team work, Loyalty, Commitment and Encouragement.

[ballaratmastersfc@gmail.com](mailto:ballaratmastersfc@gmail.com)

### **Ballarat North United Soccer Club (BNUSC Panthers)**

Founded in 1974 and celebrating 50 years, BNUSC is one of Ballarat's largest and strongest clubs. BNUSC is a family-friendly club, welcoming players of all ages and abilities. They are committed to the local community, providing a gathering space for players, families and supporters alike.

2024 and 2025 will see the introduction of additional

Off-Season and In-Season Programs offered to junior players. In partnership with LV Football, these programs aim to take player development to the next level and create pathways for the future.

The club's home at Russell Square has great facilities including pitches for all age groups, night lights, match day canteen, four change rooms, outdoor exercise equipment, drinking taps, public toilets and a great deck overlooking the pitches. Find us on Facebook, Instagram and Google.

[secretary.bnusc@gmail.com](mailto:secretary.bnusc@gmail.com)

### **Ballarat Touch Association**

Touch Football is a fun sport that everyone can play no matter your age or gender. Touch is an exciting and inclusive game played by teams of six players which promotes the fundamental skills of running, passing, catching and evasion.

Touch develops basic attack and defence skills in a minimal contact environment. Touch is also played in mixed-gender formats as well as men's and women's teams.

*...continued p.23*

# Russell Square: A hub of local activity

*...continued from p.22*

We are looking for players for our upcoming summer season. Contact us on Facebook as Ballarat Touch Football Association, on Instagram @Ballarat.Touch.Football, or ballarat.touch.football@gmail.com

## **East Point Junior Football Netball Club (EPJFNC)**

Our aim is to provide the best possible facilities and amenities for the members, players, friends and families in our sporting organisation and a safe and secure environment to enjoy the social activities of the club. The East Point Junior FNC is committed to improving on all areas of the club that will see this club become strong and viable for years to come.

The club provides opportunities for young athletes to participate in football and netball in a team-oriented environment. They focus on developing skills, sportsmanship, and fitness among members.

The club offers men, women, girls, boys and families an opportunity to play in a well-structured football and netball competition through our

affiliation with the Ballarat Football League. We offer excellent training and playing facilities and are a well-run family club that enjoys social activities and major social events throughout the year.  
**epjfnsecretary@gmail.com**

## **East Ballarat Cricket Club**

Offering Seniors, Juniors, Kids, as well as Mixed cricket competitions. From kids to adults seeking excitement, cricket is the ultimate playground that promises a vibrant journey. Connect with your local cricket community and experience the joy and physical, mental and social benefits that come with being part of a team. Get involved today and discover a world of excitement, connections and endless possibilities.  
**eastballaratcc@gmail.com**

## **Community Groups**

### **Walk and Coffee at Russell Square**

*Salubrity Health Group Diabetes Education*

Fridays from 11.00 am - 12.00 noon. Meet at Ballarat Touch Association, Russell Square.

**salubrityhealthgroup@outlook.com.au**

## **Ballarat Scrabble Club**

Scrabble clubs cater for players of all abilities. New players are always welcomed and are usually permitted to use reference books while they become accustomed to the new experience of competitive play and with a new dictionary.

Tuesdays 10.00 am – 3.00 pm

Russell Square Community Centre  
**marjorieclark1@bigpond.com**

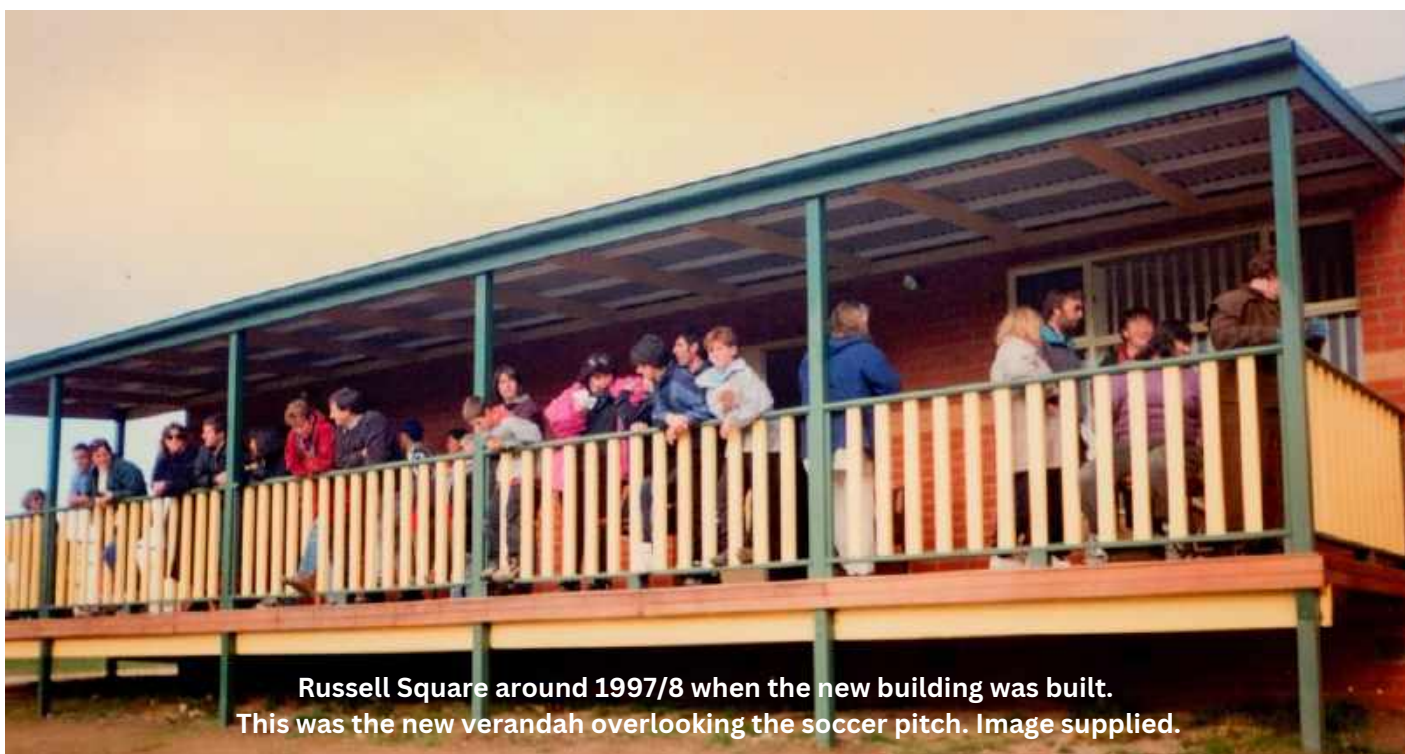
## **Ballarat and District Multiple Birth Association (BDMBA)**

We are a group of multiple parent volunteers who are here to help other families on their multiple journey. We run events, fortnightly playgroups and information sessions that are specific to families with twins, triplets and more.

Established in 1976, BDMBA provides encouragement, support and social opportunities for families of multiples. **bdmdba@live.com.au**

## **Ballarat North Neighbourhood House** (Refer to page 15).

*Paul Miller, Brown Hill local*



**Russell Square around 1997/8 when the new building was built.  
This was the new verandah overlooking the soccer pitch. Image supplied.**

# Brown Hill Artist: Kristen Murray



*Brown Hill local artist, Kristen Murray's stunning drawing, 'Brown Hill Reserve'. Image supplied.*

Local Brown Hill artist, Kristen Murray, recently had an exhibition at Unicorn Lane, off Sturt Street in central Ballarat. The exhibition was titled, 'Landscapes in and around Ballarat' and Kristen has kindly allowed us to include one of her drawings, 'Brown Hill Reserve'.

The graphite, charcoal and ink works included in the exhibition depict landscapes of the natural environment within and surrounding Ballarat. They began life as plein air sketches. Some were developed further in Kristen's studio.

Kristen says, "Drawing is fundamental to my work. Whether a

quick sketch or detailed study, working out in the open is ideal because it enables me to capture line, shape, form, light, mood and character at any moment or place in time."

As a landscape and flora artist, Kristen is inspired by our diverse natural environments, saying, "Working in the open air provides me with deep connection to place and land. I hope to provide the viewer with a sense of connection to the natural world which is important to me. I am keen to continue to give voice to nature and provide connection for people through my art. I sense a growing awareness of the fragility of our

natural environments and a growing desire to live sustainably and walk more lightly on Earth. I am ever-hopeful."

Kristen has lived in Brown Hill for a number of years and she and her husband, John, have raised their family here. They can often be seen walking their dog, Lou, around Brown Hill.

To find out more about Kristen, visit: [kristenmurrayart.com.au](http://kristenmurrayart.com.au) and [kristenmurray.art](https://www.instagram.com/kristenmurray.art) on Instagram.

*John O'Brien, President, Brown Hill Progress Association*