

Brown Hill Community Newsletter

Edition 45, Spring 2025

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.



A number of boys jump into the Brown Hill Pool. December 1966.

Source: victoriancollections.net.au, from the collection of Brown Hill Progress Association Inc.

Why does Brown Hill have a Splash Park?

Most residents of Brown Hill who regularly drive down Humffray Street North will have noticed the activity on the old pool site. Yes, our Splash Park is finally emerging from “Mt Humffray”! But why is Brown Hill getting a splash park? We need to go back 88 years in history to the start of the journey.

New residents may be especially unaware of how significant 1937 was for the Brown Hill Community.

Through the years of the early 20th century the closest place to learn to swim for local children was the Yarrowee River. This all changed in 1937 when a deputation of the Brown Hill Progress Association (BHPA) and School Committee met with Councillors to put forward the case that Brown Hill needed a

swimming pool and improvements to the Reserve.

A committee was duly formed and soon local identities began to build a swimming pool in Humffray Street North. This entailed a lot of backbreaking work in digging out the pool for the community. Sustainance work was used to help create the pool – this was work provided by men unemployed during the depression years of the 1930s.

Work on the pool was started on 28 November 1939 and officially opened on Saturday 18 January 1941. The opening was written up in the Ballarat Courier: *“a fully concreted pool constructed on the very latest designs...one of the few pools in Ballarat with a surfaced*

bottom.” The pool had open access, no fencing and no admittance fee, with voluntary labour to maintain the facility.

Fast forward to 2003 and at the age of 62 years the Council decided that it needed to close the pool. But the efforts of the Brown Hill community won a reprieve and a volunteer pool committee, under the Progress Association, ran the pool in conjunction with Council from 2006 to 2020 when BHPA decided to return the management of the pool back to Council.

The increasing legislative/regulation burden surrounding responsibility as an employer and OH&S compliance were now beyond the expertise of our volunteer community members. The potential liability implications were seen to be too onerous to be taken on by community volunteers of a not-for-profit organization. The pool was nearly 80-years old, well past its use-by date and with falling patronage for our cold-water pool in a very limited season it was inevitable that Council would close the pool.

BHPA decided it was time to ask the Brown Hill community for their thoughts on the future of the pool. It developed an initial redevelopment concept under the theme: *“If or when the pool needs to close, how could it’s legacy be enhanced for future Brown Hill residents?”*

A survey was developed in mid-2021 and hand-delivered to approx. 2,500 households in Brown Hill to obtain community feedback. BHPA received approximately 700 replies.

...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

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Editorial Support: Anne Rowland, John O'Brien and Peter Morton.

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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 or you can subscribe online or by emailing us: newsletter@brownhill.vic.au.

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

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 46 (Summer) articles are due by **Friday 13 February 2026**. Please read the editorial policy regarding contributions before submitting an article or advertising: 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

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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, the final meeting will be on Wednesday 10 December. No meeting will be held in January 2026. The first 2026 meeting will be on Wednesday 11 February. All welcome.

bhpa@brownhill.vic.au

brownhill.vic.au

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**69 Water Street,
Brown Hill**

Welcome

The Brown Hill Splash Park has arrived! Well done to the Brown Hill Progress Association members who have worked closely with the Brown Hill community and the City of Ballarat to ensure a positive outcome for the old pool site. There will be two celebrations of the Brown Hill Splash Park in early December. The official opening in the afternoon on Friday 5 December and the community opening after the morning parkrun on Saturday 6 December. See below for more details. Come along!

It was great to receive two articles about students in our local primary schools creating interesting and innovative artwork. See p.9 and p.11.

This edition also has several updates from local sporting clubs about the fantastic participation and achievement from people of all ages. On p.15 you can read about the Ballarat Life Activities Club visiting Brown Hill as part of the City of Ballarat's Seniors Festival. Enjoy!

*Sarah Greenwood-Smith,
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Brown Hill Splash Park

...continued from p.1

The significant result was: Over 75% of respondents were in favour of the concept of redevelopment of the reserve which included the pool site. Over 71% of respondents wanted the community to be compensated for its loss, if Council decided to close the pool. Comments indicated a high preference for the pool to be replaced by a splash park.

In other words, if the pool was to close then it must be replaced with either another pool or a splash park with much improved reserve facilities that include a half-court basketball, public toilets, BBQ and picnic tables, proper shading, other

fitness equipment, a climbing wall, drinking water points and better parking around the hall and reserve.

The Council was presented with the results of this community survey which were incorporated into the consultation process of Council's draft Master Plan for the whole of Brown Hill Reserve (2023).

Now...November 2025: We see a skeleton of a splash park with a toilet block (with water access as well) emerging on the old pool site opening on Friday 5 December 2025.

We also see a Central Highlands Water water point (deluxe model) installed at the playground end of the reserve. Hopefully a half-court will also be installed in Autumn 2026 alongside the splash park. Other items in the plan are to be installed over the next couple of years. Fingers crossed!

*Brendan Stevens, Secretary,
Brown Hill Progress Association*

Brown Hill Splash Park **Community Opening!**

All residents of Brown Hill are invited to the **Community Opening** of our new Splash Park! The Brown Hill Progress Association will be holding a **free Sausage Sizzle** to celebrate not only our new acquisition but also to acknowledge the 80 years of service the old pool provided to the growing community of Brown Hill. Residents will have the opportunity to share their memories of the old pool with us all. After a feed we can all walk over to check out the new splash park.

DATE: **Saturday 6 December** TIME: **9.15 am-ish**, after the finish of parkrun

WHERE: At the **Rotunda in Brown Hill Reserve**

PS: If you would like to **share your memories** of the old pool, contact John O'Brien 0409 864 080

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Brown Hill Splash Park: Update



**Progress at the Brown Hill Splash Park site.
Image supplied by the City of Ballarat**

City of Ballarat: Brown Hill Splash Park Update

The Brown Hill Splash Park is now entering the exciting final stages of construction. Over recent weeks, significant progress has been made on-site with the main splash park elements, amenities building, toilets and pump house all nearing completion. The project team is working hard to deliver a vibrant, family-friendly space ready for the community to enjoy this summer.

We're pleased to announce that the official opening of the Brown Hill Splash Park will take place in early December, so keep an eye out for City of Ballarat announcements.



Splash Park Facilities. Image supplied by the City of Ballarat



Brown Hill Splash Park. Image supplied by the City of Ballarat

Brown Hill Progress Association



From the Secretary's Desk

Not a real lot to report since our last Winter Edition Newsletter. The Secretary did escape the last of the cold weather with eleven or so weeks in Outback and Far North Queensland. I openly admit that escaping winter has become a bit of a habit over the last three years and will probably continue in that vein as long as the good health fairies keep looking favorably on me and number one wife. We certainly live in a country that is huge in area and diversity and being able to absorb different regions slowly thanks to the caravan lifestyle is good for the brain and the body.

However, it's always good to get back to Ballarat and the glowing green and gold as we came over Clarke's Hill is a sight to behold.

What is also great to see was the progress at the Reserve upgrade and Splash Park. A level, cleaned-up area with no big holes, the large slab surface with rocks and piping to the surface, more slabs for the pump room etc. and the framework and roofing of the toilet block and pump room all appeared during my

...continued on p.5

	<p>BROWN HILL SPLASH PARK OFFICIAL OPENING</p>
	<p>FREE COMMUNITY BBQ FRIDAY 5TH OF DECEMBER 2025 4 PM - 5 PM</p>
	<p>JOIN US AT THE BROWN HILL RECREATION RESERVE AND CELEBRATE THE OPENING.</p>
<p>Michaela Settle MP Member for Eureka</p> <p> michaela.settle@parliament.vic.gov.au 5331 7722 /MichaelaSettleMP </p>	

Brown Hill Progress Association

...continued from p.4

absence. Fingers crossed we will have a water-flowing park and new toilets surrounded by greenery, grass and some shade ready for operation in early summer.

I also returned just in time for the AGM of the Brown Hill Progress Association Inc. (BHPA). John O'Brien put his hand up again as President and much the same crew has been returned on the Committee.

One person who did stand down after around 20 years is Ron Damen. Ron volunteered as a lifeguard at the Pool during the first 10 years of the 15 that we managed it. He has also been Treasurer during the whole time of BHPA managing the pool and did a fantastic job of balancing the books, keeping up with permits and insurances and doing the wages and superannuation for the lifeguards who we employed over those years.

Looking back, we employed around 40 individual lifeguards and Ron maintained great records and made sure people were paid on time, all while he ran his own building business.

So, thank you Ron for great service and for getting on to the tools whenever something needed structural repair or remodelling around the old buildings on the pool site.

The BHPA Committee was also saddened to hear of the passing of Don Woodward in early October. Don was heavily involved in the Brown Hill Community as a local council member for many years and Mayor of Ballarat in 1981-82 and 1989-90. He was part of the working party that saw major improvements to our local Community Hall and the Community Swimming Pool during

the 1960s and 70s. Don would quietly show up at the pool in the days when BHPA were managing it and congratulate us for our efforts and slip a cheque into our palms to go towards the continuing work. It was greatly appreciated.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Betty and the Woodward family.

Cheers, Brendan.

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

Vale Keith Tolliday

At the age of 96 Brown Hill resident, Keith Tolliday, passed away. We thank his family for sharing some of his story.

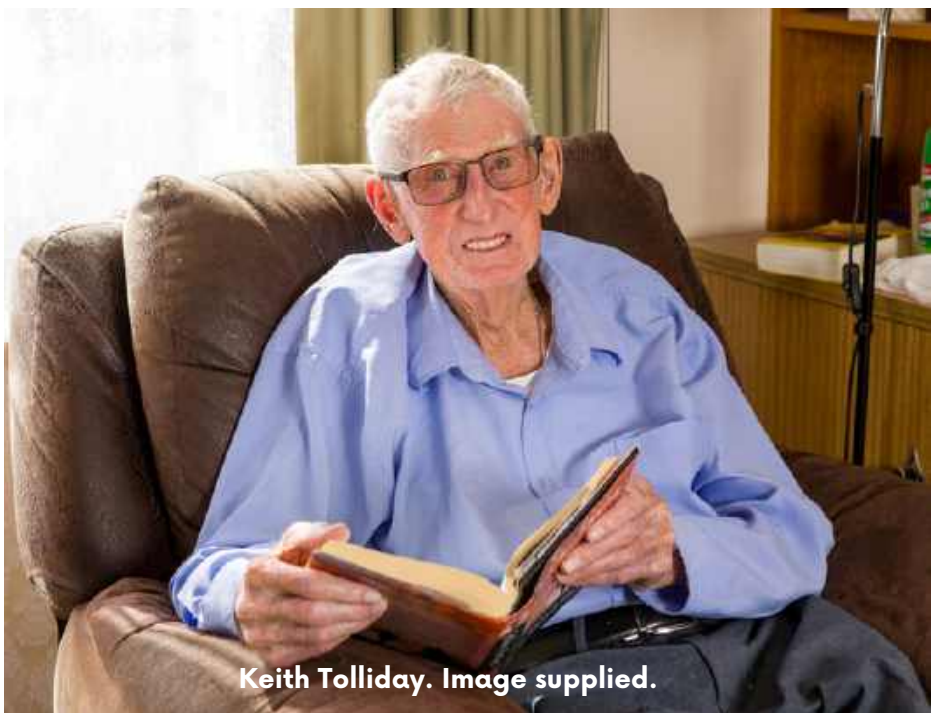
Keith was born in Ballarat on ANZAC Day 1929 to Harold and Fran. Grandma said every birthday, "It snowed on the day Keith was born." He was eldest to his younger brother, Frank, and sister, Joy. Growing up, he spent a lot of time

with his cousin, Stan, who was the same age. They got up to lots of mischief.

He left school at 15 and began an apprenticeship as a carpenter/joiner for SJ Weir. He rode his bike to work and attended night school. He was an excellent tradesman and took great pride in his work. He worked for 47 years with Weirs. You could go anywhere in Ballarat and there would be a building he had worked on. In 1982 he rebuilt the roof on the clock tower of the train station as it had been destroyed by fire.

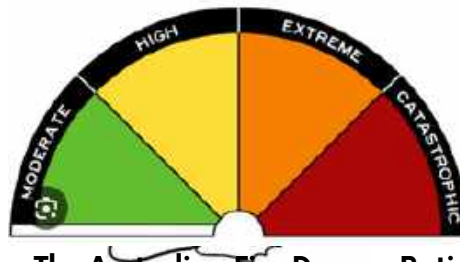
He attended Brown Hill Methodist Church from three weeks old. He made many lifelong friends. He knew his future wife, Freeda, for many years, after got together during a church young adults treasure hunt searching for slugs in his parents' veggie patch. They had three children, Greg, Ian and Lynne.

Keith enjoyed a laugh and a funny story. He did not worry about things. He left a legacy of how to have a positive attitude and sense of humour. He said he had enjoyed his life and had no regrets.



Keith Tolliday. Image supplied.

Fire Aware: "It won't happen to me..."



MODERATE Plan and prepare	HIGH Be ready to act
EXTREME Take action now to protect life and property	CATASTROPHIC For your survival, leave bushfire risk areas

The Australian Fire Danger Rating System. Source: cfa.vic.gov.au

Bushfire Myth

"It won't happen to me".

Bushfire Fact

No one can guarantee that it won't happen to you.

When you think of recent large bushfire events, do you think that the people affected thought that a bushfire would happen to them? If you prepare and nothing ever happens then you have lost nothing. Nobody expects to have a car accident or that their home will be damaged BUT they do have insurance, in case. Preparing your home IS your bushfire "insurance" which can lower the risk to your property.

The (late) Assoc Prof. Kevin Tolhurst generously provided his expertise to the Brown Hill Community FireAware Network and offered the following observations about the bushfire risk to Brown Hill:

- The direction of the bushfire threat comes from the forested areas north-west of the city – Creswick and Clunes – and depending on ignition point a fairly large fire could develop;

- Be aware that the intensity of any fire depends on the fire rating and weather conditions at the time of ignition;
- Wind direction on high fire danger days usually comes from the north west and the fire front can change dramatically if a south westerly wind change comes through, which can cause significant changes to the configuration and direction of the fire front.

Kevin's tips for the coming fire season:

- Stay informed! Work out alternative ways to keep informed of possible fire threats to the area and how to share that information amongst your neighbours. Watch the weather! Always be alert on hot, windy days.
- Give your house the best chance of surviving by preparing your property well before the fire season irrespective if you plan to stay and defend or leave.

- Have a bushfire plan: know what you are going to do pre-season; on high fire risk days and on days leading up to them decide if you are going to leave or stay and defend and then have a plan to know what to do if circumstances change; know the triggers for when decisions will be made; review your plan regularly. **Remember:** If a plan is not written down and practised – it is **not** a plan!

To understand more fully the bushfire risk and how best to prepare access the 'Brown Hill Community Hub – Be Bushfire Ready' page - through the QR code.

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

Catherine KING MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR BALLARAT

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Authorised by Catherine King MP, 5 Lydiard St N, Ballarat VIC 3380

Perridak Burron Early Learning

On behalf of our Perridak Burron Mob, we would like to thank the Brown Hill community for another wonderful year.

We have been fortunate to explore on country during our native walks and Ngarrwa Dja 'Learning on Country' sessions. Throughout the year, we welcomed some amazing visitors to Perridak, giving the burron the chance to learn all about caring for country and so much more.

From yard renovations to visits from our friends at Bunnings and the dentist, 2025 truly had it all.

We have so many exciting things planned for 2026, including growing our Kindergarten family as we join forces with Gordon Primary School to open a funded Kindergarten Program.



Play at Perridak Burron.
Image supplied.

Perridak Burron Early Learning

Perridak Burron Early Learning is an Aboriginal Community- owned Not-for Profit organisation committed to Culture, Community and Education with affordable high-quality care.

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We have vacancies for 2026 for both our long daycare services as well as 3yo and 4yo kindergarten programs, so feel free to drop in for a yarn and tour of our deadly service.

For more information, please contact Perridak Burron Early Learning on **5334 4727** or via email: admin@perridakburronel.com.au.



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Little Bendigo Primary School



Little Bendigo Primary School students at the Breakfast Club Shop. Image supplied.

Little Bendigo Primary School likes to see our students apply their learning to real world situations, problems and challenges and learning to work together in collaborative ways. All students from Foundation to Grade Six regularly participate in practical and engaging cultural, scientific and community focused learning opportunities.

The 'Girls as Leaders in STEM (GALS)' program was a program run by Federation University Technology School. Our Grade Six girls participated in the term-long program and investigated, brainstormed, planned, designed and tested unique and new solutions to real world problems. Our school has had two groups participate. One group named the

'Material GALS' designed a solution to reduce the waste of toys and furniture going to landfill. The other group, named G.R.L.S, designed a solution to protect plants and food crops from natural disasters and climate change.

"I learned a lot of new things about the STEM design process and had a lot of fun," said Heidi from the Material GALS group.

Emily was in the G.R.L.S group and shared that, "It was a great hands-on experience, from laser cutting to hot gluing our geodesic greenhouse together."

Ecolinc Science and Technology Innovations Centre recently visited the school and ran a Sphero Robotics and Sustainability Session.

Students created 'rubbish collecting devices' using recycled materials and programmed their Sphero Robots to collect the rubbish. Students had a great time and were able to apply their knowledge of the technology design process in a fun and meaningful way.

Each week our students run a Breakfast Club Shop, supported by Foodbank, with students using 'pretend money' to purchase food items. This fantastic program helps students practise their money and number skills and organisational skills as they run the shop and sell food to students at the school.

Our Grandparents and Special Friends Day was held in September. We had a fantastic response and the school was filled with laughter and students sharing their school day with their special guests and some tasty morning tea! Thanks to all who attended on the day!

Christmas and the school holidays will be here before we know it. The students, staff and families at Little Bendigo wish the Brown Hill community a Merry Christmas and safe and happy New Year.

We have some capacity to enrol Foundation students in 2026. Please contact me to book a tour: **5332 6317**.

*Anthony Tait, Principal
Little Bendigo Primary School*

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St Mary's Primary School - Clarkes Hill

St Mary's Clarkes Hill Art Show

St Mary's School in Clarkes Hill recently hosted their Art Show, creating a lively evening that shone a spotlight on student creativity. Families and friends gathered to admire colourful artwork, each piece reflecting the unique talents and perspectives of the children.

The small school's supportive atmosphere, with just 17 students, ensured every child was represented. The artworks varied from photography inspired by the local area, paintings of Van Gogh's Sunflowers, to inventive pieces made from recycled cardboard.

Principal Clare Scanlon emphasised how artistic expression builds confidence and encourages personal growth for each student. Many guests praised the careful curation, which gave all students, from the youngest to the oldest, a chance to shine.



St Mary's Primary School students, Jayden, Pat and Will were very proud of their art. Image supplied.

The Art Show remains a cherished tradition for St Mary's, held every 3 years, celebrating creativity and community in Clarkes Hill.



*Clare Scanlon, Principal,
St Mary's Primary School
131 Powells Road, Clarkes Hill
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This is a mission's fundraiser.

Warrenheip Primary School

Spring is the most delightful time at Warrenheip Primary School. The garden begins to produce its crop, the flowers greet us every morning and there is an extra bounce in all our steps. It is also the time of year when we concentrate on transitions from one grade to another, into school and off to secondary school. We are so proud of the achievements our three Grade Six students have made over their time at Warrenheip Primary School. Not only have they achieved outstanding academic growth, but they have also been model citizens within our school and the broader community. We wish them all the best as they journey into the next stage of their learning.

Our students have had several amazing learning opportunities lately. Students have thoroughly enjoyed swimming lessons at the Y Learn and Swim Centre in Brown Hill where staff have been professional and supportive, helping the students to achieve their best.

We have also been taking part in the 'Lego League Challenge'. This has had a positive impact on our students through developing their confidence and improving coding skills, while all the time encouraging teamwork and problem-solving skills. Students have made an obstacle course out of Lego and are then required to code different Bots to move around the course and perform actions. It has been a fantastic class activity.

We had a whole-school excursion to the Scienceworks Museum in Melbourne. Our students participated, making their very own roller coaster and had races to see who could travel the fastest. We then had some exploring time in 'Tinker Town', experimenting with different construction materials.



Finally, we celebrated 150 days of school to align with our 150th anniversary celebrations. We dressed up as people from the past and learned to play games students might have played 150 years ago such as marbles, quoits, hula hoops and skipping. Students learned about life at school 150 years ago including the types of lessons they may have been taught.

We are approaching our 150th Celebration on Sunday 7 December from 10.00 am - 2.00 pm.

On this day we welcome back any past students and staff to reminisce about their primary school days.

We will have artefacts and archives on display, movies of Warrenheip playing, coffee and food as well as

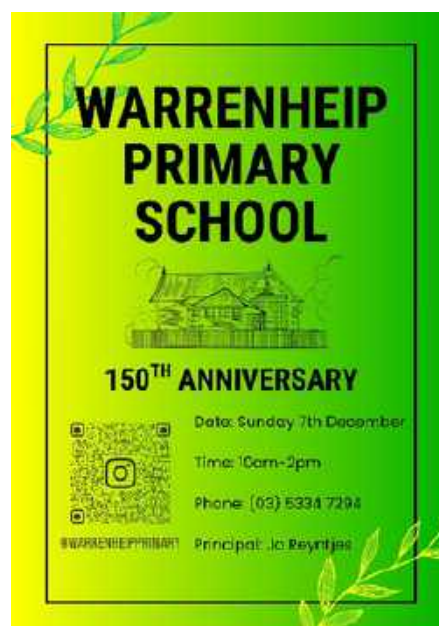
Warrenheip merchandise to purchase. A local historian has put together some history of our great school which will be on display in our library.

The official speeches will take place at 11.00 am followed by the planting of our memorial tree, tours of the school and an opportunity to view the displays.

If you or someone you know attended Warrenheip Primary School or you are simply interested in local history, please call in on 7 December.

We would love to see you there.

Jo Reyntjes, Principal
Warrenheip Primary School
5334 7294
warrenheip.ps@education.vic.gov.au



Caledonian Primary School

Creative Processes in the Caledonian Primary School Art Room



Creative artworks by Grade Five and Six Caledonian Primary School students. Image supplied.

Phew! What a semester and a half it has been. When inspiration strikes it's imperative to follow where it leads. To my own delight this is exactly what happened. Allow me to explain.

Students had been working diligently on their wood and papier-mache sculptures all throughout third term. In the closing weeks it was time to add a smidge of detail using air-dry clay, as it allowed for more refined sculpting of elements such as facial features.

However, as students began working with their lump of clay one Grade Five student, Lydia (she has already received a Student of the Week award for her cleverness), simply began playing in an absent-minded sort of way and made a beautifully rendered layer of clay

that could serve as a sort of textured skin.

Observing this I was reminded of a similar technique I had seen using plaster around Styrofoam trees on the set of *'Where the Wild Things Are'*.

In my excitement I shared Lydia's creative breakthrough with the rest of the Grade Five and Six students, who all saw its potential for their own artworks.

Yes, it added another three weeks to the process, but the final outcomes were, as you can see, well worth the extra time and effort required.

I cannot stress enough how vitally important this creative playfulness is and why learning in the Visual Arts is such a critical component in

every child's education. Picasso once stated that artists are just those kids who survived the process of growing up.

I believe the loss inherent in his statement is that of childish playfulness. Creativity requires play, experimentation and a simple curiosity to see what happens if "I try this, or that, or some other thing".

Granted, not all playfulness results in a creative breakthrough but every creative breakthrough requires playful experimentation at some point in the process. These sculptures are a testament to the veracity of this very concept.

*Paul, Art Teacher
Caledonian Primary School
caledonianps.vic.edu.au*



7 Sawmill Close
Brown Hill
0434 522 477

Woodmans Hill Secondary College

Hands on Learning: A Student's Perspective

At Woodmans Hill Secondary College, we are proud to offer a strong and well-established Hands on Learning program—now in its fourth year.

Hands on Learning gives students the opportunity to learn by doing: building real skills, working with real tools, contributing to the community and forming meaningful connections.

This practical, experience-based approach is something we value deeply, as it helps students grow in confidence, teamwork and determination.

This week, Year 9 student Kaden shared his experience of joining the program for the first time this term. This is Kaden's account of what Hands on Learning has meant to him so far:

“I have just started in Hands on Learning this term and I think it's fantastic. The whole group of Hands on Learning is amazing because they are caring and funny. My favourite part of the day is everything, but if I had to choose one thing it would be getting on the tools.

The lunches are good. My favourite so far was the party pies and sausage rolls. Robbo brought an air fryer last week and it has changed our lunch lives.

Two weeks ago, we went to Soapy's Dam to plant trees with Mount Clear College kids and Friends of the Canadian Creek. We planted 160+ trees and plants. Mr Mika came along to help us on the day.

We have been making garden boxes. We use pallets and break them apart using a pallet breaker. Sometimes



Kaden participating in Hands on Learning at Woodmans Hill Secondary College. Image supplied.

this can be difficult because the pallets break and the timber is not good. From the pallet we measure and from the measurements we cut the timber to size. We screw them together and then we paint them. We are painting them the Woodmans Hill Secondary College colours.

We get to invite people to lunch every week. Last week Mr Creece came for lunch, he was a little bit late so we had to wait. We never start to eat until everyone is sitting

down. This week for lunch we are having wraps with salad and chicken tenders.”

Kaden's reflections capture the heart of the program—connection, teamwork, practical learning and a strong sense of belonging.

We are incredibly proud of the work our Hands on Learning students do each week and the contribution they make to our school and wider community.

Woodmans Hill Secondary College

2026 School Captains



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

One of our main goals as captains is to ensure that every student's voice is represented and valued. Our school is full of passionate, creative and unique individuals and it's important that everyone feels they have a say in shaping our school community. Whether it's through



student-led activities, open discussions or new ways to share ideas, we want every person to feel confident that their input matters.

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

Another key focus for us is student wellbeing. We plan to introduce regular wellbeing check-ins during homegroup time, with simple



activities and reflection sheets to help students pause, reset and look after their mental health. These sessions will give everyone a chance to start conversations about wellbeing, share positive strategies and remind each other that it's always okay to ask for support.

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

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

This article first appeared in Edition 24 of the Ballarat East Community News in November 2025.

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Ballarat East Neighbourhood House



Gardens4Wildlife Ballarat

Backyard Biodiversity

Encouraging wildlife-friendly gardening in urban Ballarat

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

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

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

- Spring Walking Tour: Creswick Forest (Sunday 30 November)
- Workshop: Propagation and Nursery Tour
- Presentation: Gardening for Wildlife
- Presentation: Indigenous Plants for Ballarat Gardens
- Workshop: Nestboxes, bee hotels and bird baths

- Autumn Walking Tour: North Gardens Reserve
- Workshop: Planning a Garden for Wildlife
- Workshop: Planning a Nature Strip/Pollinator garden
- Workshop: Propagation and Nursery Tour
- Planting: Creating a garden for wildlife in a public space
- Planting: Creating a Nature Strip/Pollinator garden in a public space



Spring Walking Tour:

Creswick Forest (30 November)

Explore a small patch of local bushland on this free family-friendly guided stroll along Slaty Creek and surrounding forest. Along the way we'll look for wildflowers, introduce you to the sights and sounds of local birds, familiarise you with the trees and shrubs that make up their habitat and start you thinking about the benefits of growing local flora to create a wildlife haven in your own patch. To find out more and register, visit: ballarateastnh.org.au/social-connection/backyard-biodiversity

Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Support

In partnership with Deaf Victoria, our Community Auslan teacher at the Ballarat East Neighbourhood House has compiled a list of online

support for the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing community. We welcome feedback and suggestions to improve it for the community.

Topics include:

- Resources for children and families
- Online Learning Resources (formal)
- Online Learning Resources (informal)
- Online Assisted Tech. Resources
- Social Opportunities
- Advocacy/Support for Deaf and Hard of Hearing people
- Interpreting services

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

Get involved during 2026

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

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

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

*Sarah Greenwood-Smith, Manager
Ballarat East Neighbourhood House
Barkly Square, 25-39 Barkly Street,
Ballarat East, 0422 612 052
reception@ballarateastnh.org.au
facebook.com/BallaratEastNH/
ballarateastnh.org.au*

Ballarat Life Activities Club comes to Brown Hill

Seniors Festival Outdoor Exercise class



Seniors Festival Outdoor Exercise class at Brown Hill Reserve.
Photographer Brendan Stevens

On a bright sunny spring morning with the nip of a cool breeze, 120 seniors gathered in the Brown Hill Reserve adjacent to the Hall ready for the second annual Outdoor Exercise Class for Seniors. This event is organised by the Ballarat Life Activities Club and is supported by the Ballarat City Council through their Ageing Well Program.

The Council provided the raised stage for our gallant Exercise Leader and music from the 50s and 60s echoed around the reserve as she swung all the participants into action.

The exercises were all about stretching and slow movement and trying to activate a particular group of muscles for short bursts. There were lots of arm swings and shrugs,

hand stretches, gentle forward bends and leg stretch to attempt to awaken some muscles from a long slumber. Lots of giggles and laughter crept in during the program along with some grunts and groans. A bit of singalong also started to rise as everyone knew the words to Buddy Holly, Elvis and some early Beatles music.

After half an hour we all called it quits and congratulated each other on the efforts put in.

Special mention must be made of the dozen or so Senior Athletes who joined in the exercises after completing 45 minutes with Steve and his strength training program that happens in the Brown Hill Hall early on Tuesday mornings. Definitely the elite group.

Geraldine Lynch, Secretary of Ballarat Life Activities Club, thanked everyone who came along and the Ageing Well team who have had an extremely busy month coordinating all the events that were on for the Seniors Festival during October. Comments such as, "We should do this sort of thing more often" were heard as the now warmed-up crowd started to disperse.

For many of the participants, me included, the next stop was the café for a well-earned cuppa and muffin.

There was an aim to set a world record for the number of Seniors exercising outdoors at the one time.

We will have to wait and hear the outcome when all the registrants have been tallied up. For further information about the volunteer organizers, simply Google 'Ballarat Life Activities Club' and read all about their variety of activities that range from strolling, bush walking, breakfast lunch and dinner events plus cinema sessions.

They are welcoming to all abilities and aim to keep everyone physically and socially stimulated.

See you next October.

*Brendan Stevens,
Secretary, Brown Hill Progress
Association*

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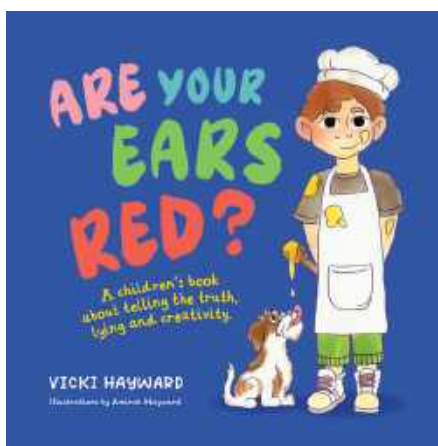
263 Scott Pde, Brown Hill 3350 | 03 5332 2009 | ballaratlifestylevillage.com.au

Local Author Launches Children's Picture Books

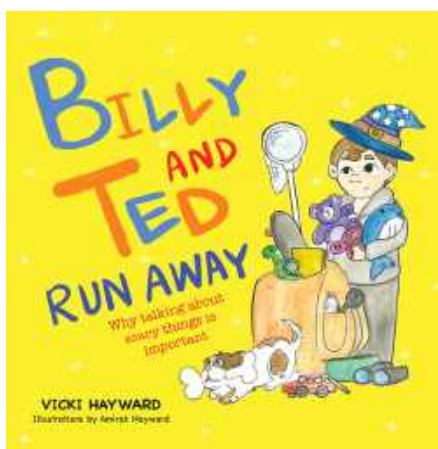
Vicki Hayward, local Brown Hill resident, is following her latest adventure, creating picture books for young children.

A former primary teacher, community educator and business advisor, Vicki has returned to her love of writing. She says, "Reading and writing are part of my soul. My fondest memories, as a primary teacher, centre on supporting young children to understand what words and reading are all about. Seeing the excitement on a child's face as they grasp the beauty and meaning of a story is so heart-warming."

Vicki's first book was released in September 2025 and is called, "Are Your Ears Red?". It is an interactive story with rhyming verse, together with the opportunity for the young readers to become involved in the story telling. While the underlying theme is about telling the truth or telling lies (fibbing), Vicki explains that the focus is on family, problem solving and supporting small



**Vicki's first book.
Image supplied.**



**Vicki's second book.
Image supplied.**

creative spirits to explore the world around them.

Her second book, "Billy and Ted Run Away" also includes a creative little boy (Billy) and his loyal best friend (Ted). It was released in November 2025.

"Writing for children is about making magic! Hopefully my stories will encourage laughter and learning and engage the child and the reader in a shared and rewarding experience," says Vicki.

She continues, "Raising children, particularly in the world we currently live in, is challenging. I hope that reading together can enhance our relationships with our children."

Vicki says, "Any time is reading time!"

Copies of Vicki's books are available at the Brown Hill Post Office or online: bigballoonbooks.com.au.



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Together, we're powering Ballarat's future – one home, one business, and one project at a time.

Ballarat Solar Company: ☀ Sustainable Energy for a Brighter Tomorrow

MJ Electrical: ⚡ Local Service. Real Quality. Every Time.

Ballarat Society of Artists Inc.

Ballarat Society of Artists have kept busy during Spring. Over the winter months some members spent Saturdays in the Brown Hill Uniting Church with the Saturday Creatives. Now that there is warmer weather, weekly 'plein air' outings have been planned. Kirk's Reservoir, Lake Wendouree and St George's Lake have been popular destinations to date.



Vice President Jon Lam at Lake Wendouree during an En Plein Air session. Image supplied.



Vice President Jon Lam's artwork created at Lake Wendouree during an En Plein Air session. Image supplied.

Our other main event over Spring/Summer is the Art Exhibition - 'A Moment in Time - Ballarat' at the Lake Wendouree Museum until the last Sunday in February. The museum is open from 10.00 am - 3.00 pm on Sundays, excluding the Sunday after Christmas.

We held a successful 'Meet Up' at the Ballarat Performing Arts Community (BPAC) Hall in October and we thank all those who came to

chat with our members and see our display of art.

Our next meeting is at 10.30 am on Saturday 6 December so if you are interested in our group, please come along to the Brown Hill Uniting Church Hall and say hello. After that our next meeting will be in February, as we have a break over January.

*Sue Clarke, Secretary,
Ballarat Society of Artists Inc.*



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Brown Hill Uniting Church



170th Anniversary

On November 15 and 16 2025, Brown Hill Uniting Church celebrated its 170th anniversary.

On Saturday afternoon, Devonshire tea was served in the hall while friends and visitors reflected on days gone by, aided by a range of memorabilia, while a harpist played beautiful music in the church and a slideshow of photos was shown.

On Sunday morning, past member Rev John Wilson engaged an overflowing church with his message and the Uniting Church Moderator of Victoria and Tasmania, Rev Salesi Faupula, addressed the congregation with words of congratulations and encouragement.



Allison and Louise cut the 170th Anniversary Birthday Cake at the Brown Hill Uniting Church. Image supplied.

A celebratory birthday cake was cut by Allison and Louise and shared at morning tea.

More memories were shared, along with hopes and faith for a bright future, over a restaurant lunch.

October Men's Breakfast

On Saturday 18 October, Mr Clive Phillips, who is a semi-retired air

crash investigator with over 40 years' experience, gave a very informative and interesting talk on the history of air crash investigations. He also covered the protocols that have been put in place over the years around the world to govern how these investigations should be undertaken and the range of issues that need to be considered before final reports are produced. He took us through how he became involved in investigating air crashes in Australia and overseas and some of his experiences and findings while undertaking investigations of a range of air crashes.

The 22 people in attendance really enjoyed his talk and we look forward to having Clive back again very soon.

The next Men's Breakfast is expected to be in March 2026.

...continued p.19



Rev John Wilson and Rev Salesi Faupula at the Brown Hill Uniting Church 170th Anniversary celebrations. Image supplied.

Brown Hill Uniting Church

...continued from p.18

Events and Activities

Our fifth-Sunday Morning Tea in the hall will be in abeyance until March 2026.

Special Christmas Services

- **Sunday 7 December**, 5.00 pm. All are welcome to a free BBQ followed by a Family Carols Service at 6.30 pm.
- **Sunday 14 December**, 10.00 am. Outdoors 'Under the Oak' with Central Uniting Church. All welcome.
- **Thursday 25 December**, 9.00 am. Christmas Day.
- **Sundays 4 and 11 January**. no worship service at Brown Hill.

Worship On Wednesdays (WOW)

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

Craft, Cuppa and Chat group meets on the first and third Thursdays each month at 1.30 pm in the church hall. Come along if you're interested in craft or just come for a chat!

The Op Shop is open on Thursdays and Fridays, 9.30 am - 12.30 pm, providing our community with very good quality clothing and bric-a-brac at very affordable prices. We now have an EFTPOS facility. The Op shop will close for the holidays from 12 December and re-open on 12 February 2026. *No donations over this period please.*

Louise Wright,
Brown Hill Uniting Church,
0407 893 468
louisejw63@yahoo.com

Brown Hill Senior Citizens

The Brown Hill Senior Citizens have four remaining Monday meetings for the year. We will continue our Program of euchre, rummyking and the sequence board game. The Club always plays HOI on the first Monday of the month. The last game for the year will be on 1 December. Euchre and rummyking make way for the popular HOI.

On Wednesday 10 December members will enjoy a subsidised Christmas lunch at the Brown Hill Hotel. This will be our last meeting for 2025.

The Club will return on Monday 2 February 2026 at 1.30 pm for HOI and indoor bowls. Sequence is played at 12.15 pm.

We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

Dianne Eden, President
0428 379 979

Ballarat Libraries

What's on at Ballarat Libraries

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

STEM Learning with The Brainary

Presented by The Brainary® in collaboration with the City of Ballarat, this free three-session STEM program for young people aged 12-18 is funded by the Australian Government.

All sessions are designed to inspire young people to explore STEM with inclusive, hands-on learning using cutting-edge tools. Enquire online: thebrainary.com.au/pages/stem-maker



Session 1: Virtual Reality and 3D Game Design

Step into the world of immersive technology using ClassVR® and learn to create your own interactive 3D game environment using Delightex®.

Session 2: Computer-Aided 3D Architecture

Use TinkerCAD® to design a sustainable house of the future and bring your idea to life with the physical building blocks of the Arckit® system.

Session 3: STEM Solutions for Local Issues

Explore real-world sustainability challenges in your community. Then, engineer and program your own tech-based solution using the Climate Action Kit® and Micro:BIT®.

Three sessions at each locations:

Lucas Community Hub

Tuesdays 6, 13 and 20 January from 10.00 am - 11.30 am.

Ballarat Library

Thursdays 8, 15 and 22 January from 10.00 am - 11.30 am.

Vickers St Community Hub

Fridays 6, 13 and 20 February from 4.00 pm - 5.30 pm.

Djila Tjarriu Community Hub

Monday 13 April, 9.30 am, 12.00 noon and 2.30 pm (2-hour sessions).

Wattle Flat Pootilla Landcare Group



Just turn up or contact Stephanie for details (phone number below).

Join us on the second Thursday each month from 10.00 - 11.00 am:

- 13 November 2025
- 11 December 2025
- 8 January 2026

Stephanie Davison
Wattle Flat Pootilla Landcare Group
0437 071 317
wfpplcg@gmail.com

Help us to put together the Brown Hill Community Newsletter

Contact Sarah:
newsletter@brownhill.vic.au

parkrun

The scouting youth of Ballarat district are taking over Wallaby Track parkrun on Saturday 6 December and we would be honoured if you could join us.

parkrun is a lot like Scouting - it's inclusive, really fun and not about winning. It's about being part of something bigger and doing your own best.

Join us: Saturday 6 December, 2025

- Wallaby Track parkrun (Behind the Brown Hill Hotel).
- 385 Humffray Street North, Brown Hill.
- Arrive 7.40 am (especially first-time visitors) for 8.00 am start.
- Coffee to follow.

This is our fourth annual takeover, where youth from each section take on the volunteer roles usually filled by adults and they "host" the entire event.

It is a public event, but we are inviting all members of Scouting, and supporters of scouting to come along and have fun with a walk or run. If a 5k on a Saturday morning isn't your cup of tea, you are most welcome to join our cheer squad.

More details about parkrun can be found:

parkrun.com.au/wallabytrack

We would expect to have the event completed, coffee in hand, by 9.30 am.

If you have not done parkrun before, you will need to register:

parkrun.com.au/register

Yours in Scouting,

Kirsti Gangi, "Sahi from 7th Ballarat"

0407866457

messagesahi@gmail.com

kirsti.gangi@scoutsvictoria.com.au

Ditchfield Reserve Summer Working Bees

Set aside an hour once a month over summer to keep fit and make some new friends at Ditchfield Reserve.

We will be pulling weeds and straightening stakes at the planting site so BYO gardening gloves and hammer. Please wear long trousers and sturdy shoes and dress appropriately for the weather.

We will cancel if there is high fire danger or strong winds.

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

Offer valid until 17 December 2025



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BIG BALLOON BOOKS

Christmas Offer

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See p.16 for Vicki Hayward's two new books.

Hard cover: \$27.99 or Soft cover: \$21.99

Package offer: 1 copy of each book

Hard cover: \$49 (\$7 discount) + postage

Soft cover: \$40 (\$4 discount) + postage

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Y Learn and Swim

A connected community for young learners

At Y Learn and Swim there's a special sense of community. This is often remarked on by the families who attend the centre, whether it's for Swimming Lessons, Long Day Care or Kindergarten. It's become a vibrant community hub where local families get together, celebrate and belong. Special days and activities welcome everyone and strengthen these connections.

This year's Father's Day event was a perfect example, with a fun, relaxed session where dads, father figures and children's "special people" were invited to an afternoon tea. Reflecting on the success of the day, Assistant Director, Stacey Knight said, "It was a chance not only to recognise the important role families play in a child's learning journey, but also to create shared experiences and wider connections."

The centre was buzzing as family groups embraced the art activities, enjoyed a barbeque and explored the playground with children as their guides.

Y Learn and Swim also prides itself on providing engaging activities through local community ties and was privileged to be part of a special milestone in the history of the AFL's Western Bulldogs' mascots. The children were delighted to host the



Y Learn and Swim's Father's Day event brought families together; Genevieve with Dad, Josh (right) and Grandfather, Simon (left). Image supplied.

very last community visit of Caesar, the popular bulldog, prior to his retirement.

An important event in their calendar, the Kindergarten Graduation, is coming up in December. Children have been actively involved in preparations, walking to the post office to mail invitations to their guests. As they take this next step, children and their families go forward with foundational learning, fond memories and strong friendships formed at the centre.

Asked about what she loves about Y Learn and Swim, Stacey said, "Our families appreciate the convenience we offer. We have such a warm, inclusive atmosphere - it's a great place for children to learn and have special experiences. It really is a community."

For more information about Long Day Care, Swimming Lessons or free Kindergarten - visit ylearnandswim.org.au, or to book a tour, contact us on **4320 0850**.



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Ballarat North United Soccer Club

The Year of the Panthers



2025 was one to remember for Ballarat North United Soccer Club – the Panthers.

The Men's Seniors made club history with Division 1, 2 and 3 men's teams each taking double honours as League Champions and League Cup Winners. Congratulations to the players and coaches. We will need a bigger trophy cabinet in 2026.

The Women's Senior team won hearts and minds with determination and positivity to ensure that the club's female representation continued in 2025. Their story inspired media attention with The Courier, ABC Ballarat and 3BA and began what is now the club's five-year strategy to improve female experience and participation.

For the first time in almost a decade, BNUSC fielded three junior female teams in U14, U12 and U10, boosting female numbers, providing teams for girls who had played previously with the mixed teams and ensuring sustainability of the senior team. Many of the girls had not played before and some had not played any team sports. So, it was fabulous to watch them develop and we look forward to seeing them flourish in seasons to come.

Competitive Juniors (U12, U14 and U16) fielded another six teams, with U14 White making it to finals and several senior men taking on the coaching roles. Fantastic efforts all round for the juniors as they work their way up to seniors in the coming seasons.



BNUSC Division 2 Open - League & Cup Winners.
Photographer: Leanne Smith

Miniros (U7, U8, U9, U11) had nine teams of boys and girls who don't play finals or keep scores, but they have a blast every Sunday morning! This year we ran two terms of Miniros Kickoff (similar to Auskick) and introduced specialized training clinics with professional metro league coaches. These will start up again early 2026.

Overall, the club registered 300 players across 22 teams, with more growth expected next year!

As a 100% voluntary club the effort required to operate the club is enormous and we'd like to acknowledge the club community for their support. We cannot do it without volunteers. Thank you.

We also thank the Russell Square User Group, especially Damian, for running the facility. The new canteen equipment was a major boost this year and we tripled our income from 2024. In two seasons we've gone from no canteen to being open almost every Sunday. We are eagerly awaiting the pitch upgrades

to ensure seniors can play at home all season and guarantee our Kiosk and Bar operations going forward.

We thank the other groups, particularly East Point Junior Football Netball Club and East Ballarat Cricket Club, which we coordinated with for season set-up and pack-up and, in between, to ensure our shared space runs as smoothly as possible.

Finally, 2025 sees the end of the Ballarat and District Soccer Association as it winds up and Football Victoria takes over administration of the local league. This brings uncertainty for 2026, but also excitement for the potential growth and development of the game locally. Watch this space!

Expressions of interest for 2026 are open now at bnusc.org.au.

Louise Jones, Secretary (Outgoing)
Ballarat North United Soccer Club
secretary.bnusc@gmail.com

Eureka Athletic Club

It has been a very busy time for Eureka Athletic Club Members with some very high achievements from our members.



Eleanor Downey
Image supplied.

Eleanor Downey represented Australia for the first time in the World Virtus Games in Brisbane. These Games, held in October 2025, are a major international sporting event for athletes with an intellectual impairment. Eleanor met with incredible success, including these achievements:

- 4th, 100m - 14.77
- 4th, 200m - 31.74
- 3rd, 400m - 1:09.71
- 1st, 800m - 2:37.51 - (Personal Best, U17 Australian record, Virtus World record)
- 1st, 1500m - 5:34.44 (Virtus World record)
- 3rd, Long Jump -3.61m

Youth completion was a points-based competition with Eleanor finishing second overall.

Eleanor also competed at the Victorian All Schools Championships as a T20 athlete and came away with a haul of medals.



Olivia McConchie
Image supplied.

Olivia McConchie broke through to win her first State Title at the State Schools Victoria State Championships at Lakeside Stadium recently. Olivia won the 12 year old 1500m in 4min48.29sec to hold on by 100th of a second. Earlier in the day she won her first State Medal when she claimed 3rd in the 12 year old 800m.



Archie and Coach, Rod Griffin.
Image supplied.

Archie Grant was outstanding with decisive wins in the Victorian All Schools under-fifteen 800m and 1500m at Lakeside Stadium. Archie led in both events and ran away from his opposition in both races to win comfortably.

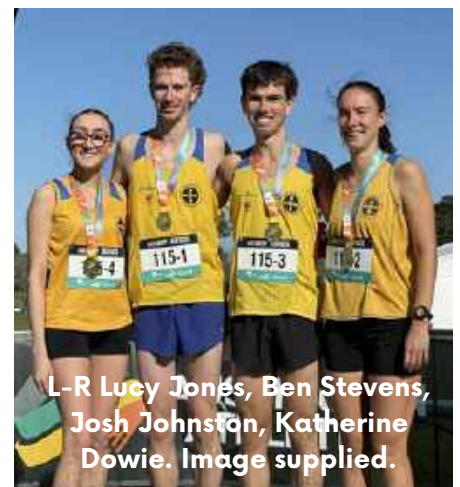
Lucy Jones was just beaten in the U18 800m in 2min 15.84sec in a race that saw a slow first lap followed by a fast second lap. This made two silvers after her 2nd place in the 1500m. The combined losing margin in the two races was less than a second.

Both athletes along with Eleanor Downey will now represent Victoria at the Australia All Schools Championships in December.

At the Australian Cross Country Championships held in Ballarat the Eureka Team caused a boil-over by taking out the Open Mixed 4x2km Relay against State Teams and some highly rated Individual teams.

The team of Katherine Dowie, Ben Stevens, Lucy Jones and Josh Johnston surprised the other Open teams by taking an immediate lead and held on to win comfortably to defeat teams from NSW and Western Australia.

It is interesting to note that all runners have come through Eureka's Junior Program and are now making their mark in the senior ranks.



L-R Lucy Jones, Ben Stevens, Josh Johnston, Katherine Dowie.
Image supplied.

Athletes now face a busy December with many high-profile races.

Rod Griffin, Eureka Athletic Club
eurekaathclub@gmail.com

Ballarat North Neighbourhood House

Monday Morning Playgroup at Russell Square: A Warm Welcome for Ballarat Families



Every Monday morning during school term (except public holidays), Russell Square in Brown Hill comes alive with laughter, chatter and the joyful sounds of children at play.

The Ballarat North Neighbourhood House (BNNH) Monday Morning Playgroup has become a thriving and much-loved gathering for local families, offering a welcoming space for connection, fun and learning.

Running from 9.00 am to 10.30 am, the playgroup is held in the spacious hall at Russell Square, with occasional access to the outdoor playground when the weather permits. This free-flowing, semi-structured environment is perfect for preschool children to explore, play and develop social skills.

Parents and carers can share experiences, chat with other parents and guardians and enjoy a cuppa while their little ones engage in creative play and activities.

The playgroup was established to fill a gap left when the Brown Hill Playgroup at Caledonian Primary School closed at the end of 2024. Thanks to the generosity of that group, many of their resources have been passed on, ensuring the new playgroup is well-equipped with toys, craft supplies and educational materials.



Fun and games at Monday Morning Playgroup at Russell Square. Image supplied.

This spirit of community collaboration is at the heart of what makes the Playgroup special.

The Playgroup is registered with Playgroup Victoria and recently received a very generous grant from them for new soft floor-mats and some new toys to add to the current play and activity equipment.

For families, the benefits go beyond play. Children learn to share, cooperate and participate in group activities, helping prepare them for the transition to kindergarten and school. Parents gain a supportive network, discovering local services and resources while forming friendships that often extend beyond the playgroup.

The playgroup operates on a gold coin donation basis, making it accessible to all families. There's no need to book, just bring along a snack for your child, a drink bottle and a sense of fun. Whether you're new to Ballarat or a long-time resident, you'll find a warm welcome waiting.

Location: Russell Square Hall, Corner of Stawell Street North and Humffray Street North, Brown Hill (free parking available).

Time: Mondays, 9.00 am – 10.30 am during school terms.

Cost: Gold coin donation.

Who: Families with babies and children under school age.

The Ballarat North Neighbourhood House is committed to creating inclusive spaces where everyone feels they belong. The Playgroup is a shining example of this mission in action, bringing people together, fostering friendships and supporting the healthy development of our youngest community members.

So, if you're looking for a fun, friendly start to your week, head down to Russell Square. You'll leave with happy kids, new friends and a stronger sense of community.

For more details, visit bnnh.org.au or email manager@bnnh.org.au.

*Brett Edgington
Manager, Ballarat North
Neighbourhood House*