

Connecting

Sebastopol

Community News

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2024

JUNE 2025 - ISSUE 10



Sebastopol Football Netball Club celebrates Indigenous Round

Written by Janine Lyon

Ballarat Football Netball League's season kicked off in April, and it has been a busy start to the year for Sebastopol Football Netball Club. The club kicked things off on May 10th with the 1975 Premiership Reunion for both the senior and reserve teams. Remarkably, all members of the senior premiership side are still with us today, with only two players from the reserves having sadly passed. It was a fantastic turnout, with 38 of the 42 players and their partners joining us to relive and celebrate their glory days. On Saturday, May 17th, we proudly celebrated Indigenous Round. Senior footballers and A Grade netballers wore specially designed jumpers and dresses created by Melissa Bray, representing the theme "COMING TOGETHER" — a symbol of unity, respect, strength, and empowerment. *Continued on page 4.*

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Acknowledgement of Country



We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the land we live and work on, the Wadawurrung People, and recognise their continuing connection to the land and waterways. We pay our respects to their Elders past, present and emerging and extend this to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples.

About the Newsletter

Connecting Sebastopol Community News is a project of the Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre. This publication is compiled, edited and designed by volunteers, community contributors and Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre staff.

Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre

Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre is committed to creating opportunities for people to connect, learn and participate in their community. We offer adult education, one-on-one coaching for people looking for work, community activities, a community garden, volunteer opportunities and much more! www.ballaratnc.org.au
reception@ballaratnc.org.au

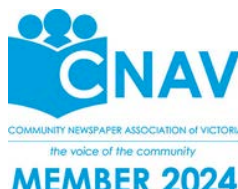
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Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre welcomes
all LGBTQIA+ communities



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Upcoming Issues

In 2025 this newsletter will be published quarterly in March, June, September and December. The next issue will be published in early September, with submissions due by **Friday 22 August 2025** to community@ballaratnc.org.au or hard copy to Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre.

Advertise with us!

Printing of this newsletter relies on advertising revenue and donations. Promote your business and support this valuable community initiative.

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Contact Emily Macdonald

community@ballaratnc.org.au

(03) 5329 3273

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION

We are very grateful for the growing number of volunteers helping to deliver this newsletter. Thanks to these dedicated volunteers, over 3700 issues of the March newsletter were distributed!

Volunteer With Us!

We are seeking volunteers to help us expand delivery to the whole of Sebastopol. If you can spare an hour or two a few times a year to drop some newsletters into letterboxes, please get in touch!
5329 3273 / community@ballaratnc.org.au

If your house is not yet covered by a delivery volunteer, you can drop into the following Sebastopol organisations to pick up a copy:

Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre
Open Door & Op Shop
Sebastopol Library
Sebastopol Mens Shed
Salvos Sebastopol
Carmel Welsh Church & Op Shop
G Gay & Co Mitre 10
My Local Store @ Hertford Street
Coles Sebastopol

Connecting Sebastopol Community Meet-Up



The May Sebastopol Community Meet-Up at Sebastopol Men's Shed. Photos by Will Lay

On 2 May, over 20 people attended the Sebastopol Community Meet-up hosted by Sebastopol Men's Shed. A great mix of community organisations, residents and businesses were represented and we were pleased to welcome Councillor Des Hudson OAM, whose passion for Sebastopol was evident as he shared stories of his strong connections to the Burra. A key topic of discussion was how we can continue to grow involvement and build connections between the diverse range of people who call Sebastopol home, ensuring that everyone can have their voice heard and feel a sense of inclusion and belonging. We noted that the timing of our meetings on a Friday morning excludes people who are working or have other commitments on weekdays, so we have decided to trial an evening meeting in August with the hope that even more people will be able to attend. Following on from ideas at our previous meeting, Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre has applied for a City of Ballarat Community Impact Grant to work with local groups to hold a 'Sebastopol Showcase' later this year. This community event will celebrate all of the fantastic services and opportunities available in the Burra. If you are a resident, or belong to a community group or business that would like to get involved, please contact Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre on 5329 3273 or community@ballaratnc.org.au

Connecting Sebastopol COMMUNITY MEET-UPS

10:30am – 12pm, Friday 25 July

Sebastopol Historical Society
185 Yarrowee Street, Sebastopol
*Have a cuppa, chat and browse
the historical museum*

**5:00pm arrival for 5:30pm – 6:30pm
meeting, Monday 4 August**

Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre
11 Tuppen Drive, Sebastopol
*Drop in from 5pm for **FREE PIZZA** and
to join in a community conversation*

Everyone is welcome

For more info or to RSVP, contact Emily
community@ballaratnc.org.au / 5329 3273

Community

Continued from front page . . .



A Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony were performed by Azlan Harris and Duane Bray before commencement of senior football and A Grade netball. A big thank you to all who contributed to making this event so meaningful. Our junior footballers and netballers also

participated, wearing warm-up tops designed in 2024 by the parents of our Indigenous players, with special input from Stephen Lynch from the Tiwi Islands. On Sunday, the Welcome to Country was led by Macaylah Johnson, a proud Wadawurrung woman, followed by a moving dance performance by Shianne and Aaliyah from the Nunkeri Tidas Dance Group. Again, thank you to everyone involved in this incredible weekend of celebration and connection.

To round out the month, on May 31st, our Club President Chenay Wilkinson and Football Director Jimmy Driscoll took the plunge down the slide at our away game against Bacchus Marsh, as the BMFNC hosts a fundraiser to support the fight against Motor Neurone Disease (MND). You can donate to this great cause by visiting the links on our SFNC social pages.

With the season now well underway, we warmly welcome everyone down to Marty Busch Reserve to support your local football and netball teams at any of our remaining home games. There are still spots available in our junior football program across all age groups, so if you're thinking of getting involved, now's the perfect time to join the Burra family for the rest of the 2025 season.

GO BURRA!!!

For the latest news, follow [Sebastopol Football Netball Club](#) on Facebook.

Game fixtures are available via Ballarat Football Netball League: <https://bfnl.com.au/>



Elements Health & Fitness

Elements Health and Fitness is where health, fitness, mindfulness, and community seamlessly blend. Located at 97 Hertford Street Sebastopol, we take a holistic approach to health and wellness, offering a variety of group fitness classes, personal training, and healing sessions tailored to your unique journey.



Since our start as Elements Mind Body Studio in 2017 and our move to Hertford Street in 2020, we've remained dedicated to integrating exercise with mindfulness. As a locally owned and operated gym, we're proud to offer a comprehensive range of Life Fitness and Hammer Strength equipment.

Members have unlimited access (24/7) to our large gym floor!

Our diverse group classes include Element Barre, Sprint, Yin Yoga, Pilates, Yoga, Boxing, Circuits, Pilates Reformer and Strength Training. Beyond standard fitness offerings, we also provide personal training, sound healings, meditation and yoga programs, all designed to foster balance and serenity for both body and mind.



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Address 97 Hertford Street Sebastopol

Phone 03 4343 1986

Email admin@elementshhealthfitness.com.au

Website <https://elementshhealthfitness.com.au>

Community

Sebastopol Fire Brigade book on show in Singapore



Recently Lieutenant Carey (Sebastopol Fire Brigade) and his family travelled to Singapore for a holiday. During their trip they visited the Central Fire Station which holds the Singapore Civil Defence Heritage Gallery (SCDF) and is also an active Station. Lieutenant Carey donated the book 'The History of the Sebastopol Fire Brigade' to Mr Roslie Dollah. The book was well received and will go on display at the extensive Gallery. The building is a beautiful old reminder of the history of Fire Fighting in Singapore. Mr Roslie had served as a

firefighter for over 40 years in SCDF and due to being retired, he volunteers his time welcoming visitors at the Civil Defence Heritage Gallery. Mr Roslie was excited to talk about his background and that of many current firefighters. He loves to hear about and receive donations from Fire Stations around the world for display in the museum. The Civil Defence Heritage Gallery is located at the

Central Fire Station and enables visitors to learn about Singapore Civil Defence Force's (SCDF) history as well as increase their awareness of Civil Defence. There are interactive stations which invite visitors to experience what firefighters and rescuers undergo in an operation. The gallery's public education corner provides visitors with the necessary information on how to handle emergencies. Besides a rich history, Singapore Civil Defence Force in the modern days is also showcased at the gallery.



Heads up! Friends of MR Power Park and Sebastopol Wetlands coming soon

Written by Peter Wilkie

In the rapidly growing area of Sebastopol, Delacombe and Bonshaw, MR Power Park and the newly developed Sebastopol Wetlands are a wonderful asset to the entire community, and lots of you are already loving it! From skaters to dog lovers, walkers and joggers, nature lovers to kids happily enjoying the excellent playground. There is open skies, fresh air, and burgeoning wildlife right on our doorstep. We are lucky to have such a valuable place where everyone can



experience a sense of health and wellbeing. Friends of MR Power Park and the Sebastopol Wetlands will be a friendly, casual and welcoming community driven group who appreciate the asset we have. Anyone interested in contributing ideas, suggestions, or to register your early interest is warmly invited to email powerparkfriends@gmail.com

Launching this Spring and open to everyone, the idea is to make Friends of MR Power Park a fun, inclusive, educational and community building group, free and never making demands of your time.

Let us know if you'd like to join in, or stay tuned for more in the next edition of this newsletter.



Community

Latest news from the Sebastopol Mens Shed



Mayor's Visit: The Shed welcomed Ballarat's new Mayor, Cr Tracey Hargreaves, to the Shed in late April, for an official visit. She was very pleased to be given a tour of our facilities, and was very impressed with the range of activities offered to members. After enjoying a delicious cooked meal with members, Cr Hargreaves then spoke about Council matters as they affect community organisations, and responded to several questions. President Les Shimmin thanked the Mayor for her visit, and presented her with some of the Shed's world-famous Tomato Chutney, made on the premises!

Sebastopol Community Meet-up: The Shed was very pleased to host members of the Sebastopol network to its regular meeting in May. Attendance was very good, and it was great to have former Mayor, Cr Des Hudson, currently the Councillor for the Sebastopol Ward, to the meeting. Des has much to offer in terms of how local organisations can best deal with the Council and how the Council can support our network. (We also hope that people enjoyed the Shed-baked scones and other goodies!)

We strongly encourage any and all local organisations to send a representative or two to these network meetings, to raise community awareness of how their groups support the Sebastopol community.

Anzac Day Ceremony: As a community organisation, the Shed takes its involvement in Sebastopol events seriously. Several members attended the annual Anzac Memorial Ceremony held at the Cenotaph, conducted by the local RSL sub-branch, and presented a wreath. It was pleasing to note that numbers were up this year, with a great representation of families, veterans and other dignitaries attending.



No Winter Markets. We do not run our Saturday markets over winter, due to the cold weather, but all community members are still very welcome to call in to the Shed to make any purchases from Monday to Friday between 9 am and 2 pm.

Remember that **all members of the community are welcome to visit the Shed any week day up till 2 pm**, to buy plants, bring your jobs for members to complete, or to inspect the premises and perhaps join the Shed. We'd love to see you! 201 Vickers Street, Mon-Fri 9 am-12 noon; 12.30 – 2 pm
Ph. 03 5379 9256 Email: office@sebasmenshed.org

Catherine King MP

Federal Member for **Ballarat**

(03) 5338 8123

catherine.king.mp@aph.gov.au

[CatherinekingMP](https://www.facebook.com/CatherinekingMP)

[catherine_kingmp](https://www.instagram.com/catherine_kingmp)

www.catherineking.com.au

Thank you
**Ballarat and
district!**

*I'm looking forward to standing up for
our community for the next 3 years*



Community

Ballarat Healthy Lunch Kitchen serving students



The Ballarat Healthy Lunch Kitchen starts serving up nourishing school meals for our community!

In May the Phoenix Community College has stepped into a leadership role in becoming the first school to 're-imagine school lunches' as part of the new Ballarat Healthy Lunch Kitchen. Local organisation Health Futures Australia has received funding from VicHealth to start-up a nutritious school lunches initiative to offer nourishing meals for lunch for primary school students. Healthy cooking classes are also a big part of the program being offered at the Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre during school holidays for children.

"Already over 500 lunches have been served up by the amazing Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre team of cooks and volunteers, providing the experience of a sit-down meal for lunch at school, and we have big plans for even more lunch days, more classes, and more school in the future" said Dr Shelley Bowen, CEO of Health Futures. The idea behind providing nutritious school lunches is to boost vegetable

meals, as fresh and local is great for everyone – children, producers, and local businesses", said Dr Bowen. Why schools? 33% of the daily energy intake for children is at school. School reaches almost everyone and is a very important community setting to build healthy lifelong habits.

This project is supported by extraordinary school leadership shown by Phoenix Community College, the student's willingness to try different foods and volunteers organised by Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre. If you are interested in joining our healthy



food volunteer network to support school lunches or cooking classes in the school holidays, please email us at: volunteer@bnc.org.au

For more info contact engage@healthfutures.org.au or reception@ballaratnc.org.au / 5329 3273

BALLARAT DAUGHTERS OF THE WEST

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To find out more scan the QR code OR visit westernbulldogs.com.au/daughters

Starting Tuesday mornings from 22nd July in Wendouree
Starting Wednesday evenings from 23rd July in Sebastopol

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consumption and also wholegrains and lean proteins which is now a challenge in so many children's diets everywhere. Good food helps children learn, grow and thrive. "We are also very committed to using as much local and in season produce as we can in our

Community

Sebastopol Lions Club News Seventy Years of Service for Margaret Greenbank

The Sebastopol & District Lions Club have been hard at work, volunteering and fundraising this year. So far we have donated to Ballarat Community Health, CASA towards their Sensory Garden, the Academy of Sport at Phoenix P – 12 Community College to assist in sending students over to America, Bendigo Bank's Magic Moments – a wonderful leadership program for underprivileged students, and Jimmy Allsort's fundraiser for the Fiona Elsey Cancer Institute by funding the Choir of Hard Knocks concert in Ballarat. We have also had Heather Lutterell from York Street Church of Christ come and speak to us about their Christmas Boxes and are looking at ways we can help support them. Many of our members are volunteers with a variety of organisations including but not limited to Op Shops, Recycling of Washing Machines and Fridges, the Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre, Connecting Sebastopol community network and many other various organisations around the area. Other members volunteer their time operating the BBQ at the Ballarat Farmers Market each fortnight. If you are interested in getting involved with the Sebastopol & District Lions Club, contact President Chris Glare on 0418 124 834.



Life Member of the Country Women's Association Margaret Greenbank, is proud of her 70 years of service to the Association. Currently a member of the Sebastopol Branch, Margaret previously belonged to the former Snake Valley

and Wendouree Branches. She has served as Drama Convenor for the Ballarat Group and maintains an active interest in the Association.

The Country Women's Association is a friendly, supportive group of women who are actively involved in the local community and always welcome new members. To find out more about the Sebastopol branch, contact Sue Pitman, Branch Secretary: 0459 029 043 / susanmarypitman@gmail.com

Always fighting for Sebastopol!



Joe McCRACKEN MP
MEMBER FOR WESTERN VICTORIA



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03 5332 2405

Community

A note from Councillor Des Hudson OAM

It was fantastic to attend the recent Sebastopol Community Meet-Up at the Sebastopol Men's Shed and be able to meet and talk with so many people that are passionate about the Sebastopol community. I was happy to share an update with everyone



that was in attendance on some of the capital projects that are underway which will benefit our community for many years into the future. Projects such as the Marty Busch Masterplan, the Sebastopol Community Hub, MR Power Park Wetlands, and Bonshaw Children's Centre are all exciting projects that are planned or are underway. It was also pleasing to hear from the variety of groups that were in attendance and of their great initiatives and work that they are all doing. It is an absolute pleasure to be the elected representative for the Sebastopol Ward, and to be able to advocate for our fair share. I hope to continue to engage with the Sebastopol Community Network on a regular basis and look forward to hearing more about the wonderful work that makes Sebastopol such a wonderful place to live.

Let's Chat BALLARAT Councillor Roadshow

City of Ballarat Councillors will be hosting in person drop-in sessions within their wards, providing an opportunity for ratepayers and residents to give ward-specific feedback and help shape the future direction of the City of Ballarat.

SEBASTOPOL WARD SESSION WITH DES HUDSON

Monday 11 August, 4pm - 7pm

Sebastopol Library, 181 Albert St, Sebastopol

For more info call (03) 5320 5500 or visit:

www.ballarat.vic.gov.au/letschat

Sebastopol Community Garden transforming into Sebastopol Urban Farm

The name of the Sebastopol Community Garden being developed at 4-10 Spencer Street has had a name change to Sebastopol Urban Farm, better reflecting the scale of the project. Since our last update we have had some great news, being awarded a \$20,000 grant from the William Buckland Foundation to install a greenhouse. This will allow year-round access to grow food and enable training and participation for the community. We also received \$6,500 for a 'Fruity Forest' from the Buninyong Community Bank. This foraging forest will feature fruit trees including plums,



lemons, quince, persimmon and pomegranate, with an undergrowth of herbs and leafy vegetables including parsley, chard and chives. The grant will also enable installation of some irrigation. You will start to see developments in the Urban Farm, as soils are prepared and spaces are made ready for the new greenhouse. Recently, some Phoenix P-12 Community College students also painted some poles at the site to add a vibrant flash of colour.

To get involved in the Sebastopol Urban Farm as a volunteer or through a gardening class, contact:

Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre

reception@ballaratnc.org.au / 5329 3273



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Short Courses at Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre

Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre offers a range of free and low cost classes to help build your skills and knowledge. Our Adult Education courses are designed to help you find employment or work towards continuing your education.

Upcoming courses to build job skills include ...

CAFE SKILLS

26th August - 23rd October, Tuesdays & Thursdays
Our Kitchen Social Enterprise Cafe, Barkly Square

90 hours / Cost = \$65

Designed for youth to develop the essential skills for working in a cafe / hospitality environment, focusing on customer service, money handling, food and drink preparation and workplace skills.

COOKING UP JOBS

23rd July - 18th September, Wednesdays & Thursdays,
9.00am - 2.30pm / Cost = \$65

A practical course to build your kitchen skills, knowledge and confidence, supporting you to gain employment in the hospitality industry.

GET JOB READY: RESUMES, INTERVIEWS & JOB APPLICATIONS

Dates & Times to be confirmed - FREE COURSE

Improve your employability and job seeking skills. Increase your ability to find a job by learning about resumes, cover letters, interviewing, time management and more.

BUILD YOUR SKILLS, KEEP THAT JOB

Dates & Times to be confirmed - FREE COURSE

Improve your language, literacy, numeracy and digital skills to support your current employment and assist you in completing work-related qualifications to expand employment options.

Other courses on offer ...



GARDENING

Urban Farming

COMPUTERS

Basic & Intermediate Computers
Introduction to Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Excel

Xero

MYOB

HOSPITALITY

Commercial Kitchen Skills
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Skills for study
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Op Shop Upcycling
Art, Create & Learn



JOB & INDEPENDENT LIVING SKILLS

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ESL Level 1 & 2
Prepare for IELTS
Reading & Writing Basics
Baking with Language



Contact us to find out more or register your interest

Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre

☎ 03 5329 3273 ✉ reception@ballaratnc.org.au

📍 11 Tuppen Drive, SEBASTOPOL 🌐 www.ballaratnc.org.au



Community

Get social and active in your local community!



Do you ever feel lonely or isolated at home? Would you like to meet new friendly people and make social connections in your local area? Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre has opportunities to do just that! In Sebastopol, *Memory Makers Social Group* meets every Monday morning for a chat and a cuppa. The group is open to over 55's including adults with support needs and their carers. In Delacombe, *Chatty Cafe* is open to adults of any age and meets each Thursday morning for morning tea. The *Delacombe Walking Group* meets in the carpark

of Doug Dean Reserve on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 9:30am. They walk around Delacombe and arrive back at the carpark around 10:30am. The walking group often drops into *Chatty Cafe* after their Thursday morning walk. Bookings are not required, but we recommend contacting us before your first attendance in case there are any schedule updates. We hope to see you around soon! Ph: 5329 3273 / Email: reception@ballaratnc.org.au



MEMORY MAKERS

A weekly social group for over 55's
Every Monday, 10am - 12pm
Cost: Gold coin, morning tea provided
Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre
11 Tuppen Drive, Sebastopol



CHATTY CAFE

A weekly social group for everyone
Every Thursday, 10.30am - 11.30am
Cost: Free, morning tea provided
Delacombe Community Hub,
18 Nandiriog Drive Delacombe

Supporting Sebas

As your local State Member of Parliament, I'm here to represent you and the Sebastopol community.

I am proud that the Victorian Government is contributing \$4.5 million towards the new Sebastopol Community Hub in Vickers Street.



**JULIANA
ADDISON MP**
MEMBER FOR WENDOUREE

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🌐 julianaaddison.com.au

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Artscape

The Art of Automation: Is AI Making Human Creativity Obsolete?

By Md Yeahia Bhuiyan, Cybersecurity PhD Student



AI Generated image

As artificial intelligence (AI) becomes increasingly woven into our daily lives, one of its most significant and overlooked impacts is on the creative mind. AI is no longer just writing code or managing tasks; it's now generating poetry, music, artwork, blogs, logos, and even screenplays. And it's doing so in seconds, drawing from vast data sets built on the hard work of countless artists, writers, and creators, many of whom never consented to using their work. This raises a serious question: What happens to human creativity when machines begin to mimic it so convincingly? Renowned media theorist Marshall McLuhan once said, "Every extension of man, especially technological extensions, has the effect of amputating some other part of him." Today, AI may be that extension, amplifying efficiency, but numbing inspiration. Artists who might have spent months or years developing their craft are now seeing their unique styles replicated instantly by algorithms. The originality that once defined human creation is being drowned in a sea of AI-generated content. Researcher Kate Crawford (2021) reminds us that AI systems are "not just technical, but social systems," embedded with power, bias, and consequence.

One such consequence is the rapid erosion of creative professions, often the last bastions of authentic human expression. Programmers, designers, writers, and musicians are watching their industries shift toward automation at a pace few anticipated. Social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube accelerate this transformation. By making AI-generated content freely available and highly visible, they fuel a feedback loop: creators unknowingly train the very systems that may one day replace them. The paradox is striking: the more we share, the more AI learns to imitate us. To be fair, AI offers benefits. It democratizes access, enhances productivity, and can inspire new creative forms. But there's a fine line between assistance and replacement. As philosopher Hannah Arendt warned, when human uniqueness is lost to mass production, society loses more than just jobs; it loses meaning. The creative mind thrives on mystery, struggle, and imperfection, qualities machines cannot truly replicate. Now may be the time to rethink how we use AI, not to overshadow creativity, but to protect and elevate it.

Recycle and support the Sebastopol Community News!

Next time you take some bottles and cans to your local container deposit point, why not consider donating your refund to the Sebastopol Community News?

This publication relies on paid advertising and donations to operate so every dollar counts!

HOW TO DONATE YOUR REFUND



When recycling your containers as part of the Victorian Container Deposit Scheme, search for us on the screen at your refund point, download the CDS Vic West

app and set us as your payout charity or ask in person at a depot to donate to:

Connecting Sebastopol Community Newsletter



Thank you to the Macdonald family who donated \$100 from recycled bottles to this newsletter, your support is very much appreciated!

Historically Speaking

The Sebastopol Avenue of Honour – Part II From Cheshunt Street to Birdwood Avenue

In the last issue of this newsletter, we discovered that what we now know as Birdwood Avenue was originally called Cheshunt Street, with the name changed in 1917 as a “compliment” to General Sir William Birdwood. Who was General Birdwood?



The Australian War Memorial describes him in the following way “When the First World War began, Britain's Minister for War, Lord Kitchener, placed Birdwood in command of the Australian and New Zealand forces bound for Europe. Before they reached England, however, the ANZACs, as they would soon be known, were ordered to disembark for training in Egypt. Birdwood met them there in December 1914.

Four months later Birdwood's troops landed at Gallipoli. He impressed the men by regularly visiting the front lines and taking daily swims in the sea, heedless of the danger from Turkish shrapnel aimed at men seeking such refreshment. His bravery earned Birdwood the enduring respect of the AIF, and he was appointed its temporary administrative commander, as well as its operational commander, following the death of General William Bridges in May 1915. The appointment was made permanent in September 1916.

Having watched all attempts fail to make headway against the Turks on Gallipoli, Birdwood was nevertheless opposed to the evacuation when the question was raised. In this he was overruled and he oversaw the successful withdrawal in December 1915. In early 1916 the ANZAC Corps was split in two. Birdwood assumed command of I ANZAC Corps, accompanied it to France, and directed its operations throughout 1916 and 1917.

Birdwood made a point of appointing Australians to command and staff positions but took command of

the Australian Corps when it was formed from the five AIF divisions in November 1917. He was succeeded by Lieutenant General John Monash in May 1918 and took command of the British 5th Army, but still retained command administrative command of the AIF with the support of almost all senior Australian officers. Despite his having commanded Australians through some of the Western Front's more disastrous actions, Bullecourt being one example, Birdwood continued to be held in high regard. His willingness to support those he commanded, to argue on their behalf and indeed to make it known that he had done so, earned Birdwood a respect from Australians that was given to few British senior commanders.

In 1920 Birdwood was made a general in the Australian Military Forces and five years later was made field marshal. He toured Australia and New Zealand in 1920 to wide public acclaim and was given command of the Indian Army in 1925. He retired from the military in 1930 and was thwarted in his desire to become Australia's Governor-General when the prime minister insisted on the office being held by an Australian. Birdwood died in England in 1951 and was buried with full military honours.

As part of his 1920 tour of Australia and New Zealand he stayed with Captain R.G. Chirnside at Caranballac, outside of Skipton. During his stay he came to Sebastopol and was greeted at the town hall by the St Joseph's Band and the children of Redan and Sebastopol State Schools singing the national anthem. General Birdwood was warmly welcomed by the Mayor and thanked for the many kindnesses he had shown to Australian soldiers. He declined to make a speech preferring to see Birdwood Avenue and meet with the soldiers who had served with him. He did ask the Mayor to help find employment for two soldiers who had approached him and appealed to the students' headmasters to give them a half day holiday, thus cementing his popularity even further.

*Sources: Australian War Memorial
Discover Historic Sebastopol
Sebastopol Historical Society Archives Avenue of Honour Records collated by Anne and Gary Malone*

Historically Speaking

Vaudeville to the Video Store Exhibition



Since the beginning of the year the Sebastopol Historical Society members have been busy working on an exhibition for the Ballarat Heritage Festival. The festival is a mainstay on the city of Ballarat's events calendar and Historical Society have been contributing for many years. Although the Heritage Festival is over the Society's exhibition will be on display for the remainder of the year. This year's exhibition, Vaudeville to Video Stores followed the Festival theme, History Unfolds, Entertainment Awaits. The exhibition celebrated entertainment in the Borough from the 1860s to its amalgamation in 1994. From the vaudeville performances in local hotels in the 1860s to the introduction of video stores in the 1980s and 90s. The exhibition showcases how people entertained themselves throughout the decades.

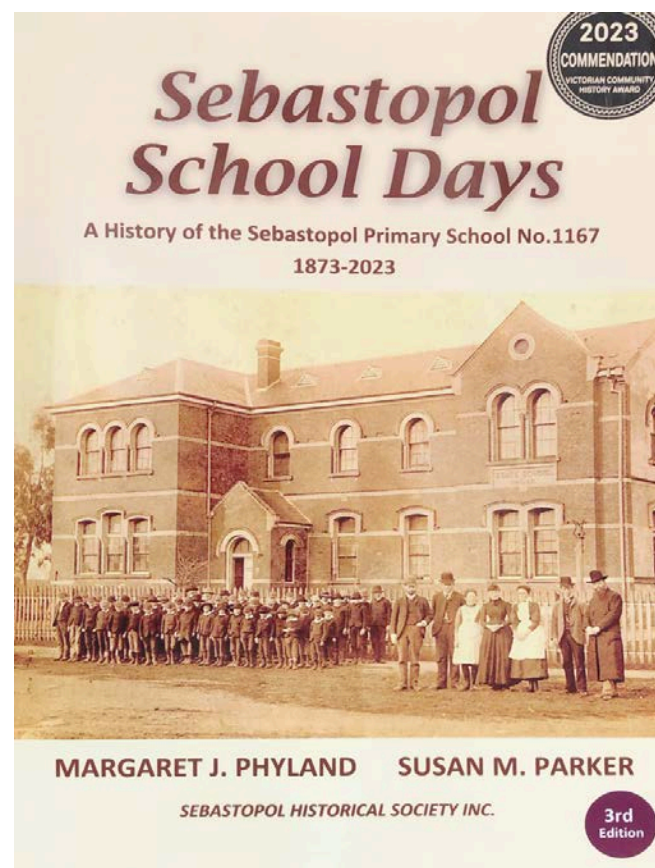
Central to the exhibition is local man, Donald Gunn, a born entertainer who raised thousands of dollars for local causes. Donald hosted his first show in his family's woodshed in 1919 and then went on to write and stage musicals and pantomimes. His shows premiered at the Sebastopol Town Hall and were often taken on tour around venues in the wider Ballarat area. He organised balls, concerts, Queen carnivals, baby shows and much more.



The exhibition also features objects from our museum, documents, photographs and costumes, along with demonstrations of early gramophone technology. The museum is located on the ground floor of the old Sebastopol State School at 185 Yarrowee Street, Sebastopol. The museum is open by appointment and on the first Sunday of each month from 1 until 4pm. Upcoming open days are: Sunday 6 July and Sunday 3 August.

'Sebastopol School Days' book available for purchase

As part of Sebastopol Primary School's 150 year anniversary Sebastopol Historical Society members published this comprehensive history of the school. We have run out of copies several times now and are up to our third edition. If you have missed out on a copy they are available now for \$35 a copy. The books are available for sale at the museum on the first Sunday of each month from 1 until 4 pm.



Contact the society through our Facebook page, [Sebastopol Historical Society Victoria Australia](https://www.facebook.com/sebastopolhistoricalsociety), or visit our website at: <https://sebastopolhistoricalsociety.godaddysites.com>

Kids Corner

Girl Guides Adventures

Written by Cherie Brown



The past couple of months have been full of engaging activities for the Sebastopol and Delacombe Girl Guides, beginning with their traditional participation in the ANZAC Day service at the Sebastopol cenotaph. For decades, our Guides have marched in the parade, proudly showing their respect for those who have served Australia.

Cooking is always a favourite activity, and National Chocolate Chip Day (May 15) was the perfect excuse for some hands-on fun. The girls followed recipes to bake delicious chocolate chip biscuits, then rounded out the night with a choc-chip number game, a Cookie Monster relay, and a themed craft activity.

In the lead-up to Mother's Day, the girls created handmade cards and gifts. They also celebrated the anniversary of the King's coronation with royalty-themed activities, practised a range of useful knots, took part in a trivia night, and explored the significance of Reconciliation Week.

Our oldest Guides have formed a special patrol for girls aged 14+, where they take on leadership opportunities and age-appropriate challenges. A recent highlight was the 'Spa Night' that they organised and hosted for the younger girls. Activities included mixing mocktails, crafting edible nail polish bottles, making jewellery, playing games, and relaxing to meditation music. Leadership development remains central to Guiding. Our 8 and 9 year olds Patrol Leaders and Seconders have had the chance to plan activities for the younger members of the group, with a focus on earning different badges. We're looking forward to seeing them running their programs in the weeks ahead. The Ruff Diamond Trefoils, a group of adult Guiding

members, enjoyed a delightful afternoon of scone-making at Lingbogol. They shared recipes, demonstrated techniques, and passed on tips and tricks. Preparation is underway for an Outdoor Cooking event for the older Guides, and a Garden Gnome activity day for the younger Guides. There's always something happening in Guiding.

Sebastopol offers three Guide groups on Thursday nights: 5-9 year olds, 10-14 year olds, and a special patrol for girls aged 14+. There are also other Guide groups that meet on different nights of the week at different locations. To learn more, visit girlguidesballarat.org.au

Learning and having fun at Sebastopol South Kinder



The children at Sebastopol South Kindergarten have been very busy. We are participating in the SeeMore safety program which is designed to support children to develop their safety intelligence, independence and confidence. We also had a great time learning about rhythm, beat and dance with our African Drumming centre event.

We are enjoy reading stories, singing and dancing. There is always some type of construction happening, sometimes with duplo, magnetic shapes

and large wooden blocks. We love spending time in our huge yard where the children spend lots of time climbing, playing in the sandpit, on the swings, riding bikes and playing in the cubbyhouse.



Kids Corner

International Tea Day - an intergenerational celebration



On Friday the 30th of May, the children from Journey Early Learning Sebastopol embarked on a delightful incursion with The Sebastopol Country Women's Association (CWA) to celebrate International Tea Day. This visit was a cherished opportunity for our young learners to engage with community members, fostering inter-generational connections and enriching their understanding of local traditions. Upon arrival, we welcomed CWA members, where we worked together learning the art of perfection the CWA Scone! Our Kindergarten children then shared a lovely morning tea of freshly baked scones and a cup of tea, accompanied by a picture storybook and joyful storytelling together.

This visit is part of Journey Early Learning Sebastopol's commitment to community engagement, providing children with experiences that extend beyond the classroom. These interactions not only enhance social skills but also instil a sense of belonging and appreciation for the community they are part of.

The educators at Journey Early Learning Sebastopol expressed their gratitude to the CWA members for

their hospitality and the memorable experiences shared. Centre Manager Melissa said "It was so heartwarming to see the children and CWA members sharing stories and smiles over a warm cuppa and scones. These moments mean so much to us, and are a wonderful reminder of what community is all about".



Playgroup supporting parents to become work ready

A free playgroup program for parents, carers and guardians with preschool age children (0 to 5).

Mondays, 10:00am - 12:30pm

Delacombe Community Hub

18 Nandiriog Drive, Delacombe

Bring your little ones along to playgroup while you discover a new career path, access free training and talk to employment services staff who will help you become ready to return to the workforce.



For more information or to register, contact:
Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre
03 5329 3273 /
reception@ballaratnc.org.au



**Book
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**Little moments of play
create big moments
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→ Call us at
(03) 9005 4650

JOURNEY
Sebastopol

Pets & Puzzles Page

Meet a Local (or two!)

Name: Boof & Finn

Bio: Introducing BOOF and FINN, two male Pomeranians living their best life in the central highlands of Victoria. Boof is six and Finn almost seven. Both were born and bred here in Ballarat Victoria by Anne Muscat.



Send us your pet pics!

Want to see your furry friend on this page? All kinds of pets are welcome. Send a photo and your pet's bio to:

community@ballaratnc.org.au

Guess where? Can you guess what the below image is and where in Sebastopol it is located? *The answer is upside down at the bottom of this page*



Photographer: Will Lay

Winter Word Scramble

Unscramble the letters below to form winter themed words

Answers are upside down at the bottom of this page

O S W N

L S D E G E

C E I

A Z Z L B I D R

F C S A R

C I L I C E

T E T M N I S

G I O L O

M S A N W O N

K S G A N I T

Guess where: Velodrome at Marty Busch Reserve
Winter Word Scramble: Snow, ice, scarf, mittens, snowman, sledge, blizzard, icicle, igloo, skating

WHAT'S ON

June, July, August

Stick me on your fridge



June is international LGBTIQ+ Pride Month, dedicated to the celebration and commemoration of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer and asexual pride. Ballarat is celebrating with a host of events! Check out the program here:

<https://ballaratpride.au/>



NAIDOC Week 6-13 July 2025

NAIDOC stands for National Aboriginal and Islanders Day Observance Committee

This year's theme, "The Next Generation: Strength, Vision & Legacy" celebrates not only the achievements of the past but the bright future ahead, empowered by the strength of our young leaders, the vision of our communities, and the legacy of our ancestors.

For NAIDOC events in Ballarat, visit:

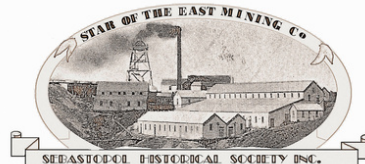
<https://ballaratfirstnations.com.au/naidoc-week>

PRIDE IN SEBAS!

Rainbow Coffee Portraits Exhibition
Sebastopol Library, 21 June - 4 July

Opening: 21 June, 10-11am with free coffee and treats

Every week, Cheryl Szöllösi takes stunning photos of the LGBTIQ+ folks and allies that come together for Rainbow Coffee. This free exhibition showcases some of those images and people.



Sebastopol Historical Society Museum

Open Days, 1pm - 4pm

Sunday 6 July & Sunday 3 August

185 Yarrowee Street, Sebastopol

CARMEL MISSION PARTNERS AUSTRALIA

FORAGERS FAIR

Carmel Welsh Presbyterian Church

263 Albert Street, Sebastopol.

Saturday 2nd August 2025

9.00am—2.00pm

BREAKFAST

SAUSAGE SIZZLE

DEVONSHIRE

TEAS

CAKES & SLICES

FILIPINO FOOD

NEW STALL

HOLDERS

WELCOME

PH: 5335 8252



LOTS OF MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

Supporting our work in the Philippines



Connecting Sebastopol COMMUNITY MEET-UPS

10:30am - 12pm, Friday 25 July

Sebastopol Historical Society, 185 Yarrowee Street
Have a cuppa, chat and browse the historical museum

5:00pm arrival for 5:30pm - 6:30pm meeting,
Monday 4 August

Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre, 11 Tuppen Drive
*Drop in from 5pm for **FREE PIZZA** and
join in a community conversation*

VOLUNTEER WITH Connecting Sebastopol Community News



Find us on Facebook
Connecting Sebastopol



**We are seeking newsletter
delivery volunteers to help this
newsletter reach all 5000
households in Sebastopol.**

If you can spare one hour a few times each year, this is the perfect volunteer opportunity for you! Get some fresh air and exercise while you drop the newsletter into letterboxes in your neighbourhood. For more information contact:

Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre
community@ballaratnc.org.au / (03) 5329 3273

THANK YOU

To our wonderful volunteers who delivered over 3700 newsletters in March . . .

Angel, Brad, Eileen, Frank, Kevin, Krys, Kylie, Libby, Marcia, Marilyn, Marion, Maureen, Michelle, Milad, Sandra, Sue, Tony, Ty, Cherie and the Sebastopol Girl Guides, Philip and the students at DOTS - Phoenix P-12 Community College.

We couldn't do it without you!

**MUSEUMS
VICTORIA**



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Discover a world of science at **Scienceworks**.

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