

# Connecting

# Sebastopol

# Community News



SEPTEMBER 2025 - ISSUE 11



*Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre community lunch guests are excited about the Sebastopol Community Showcase*

## Sebastopol Community Showcase!

Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre is excited to share that we have been awarded funding to stage a **Sebastopol Community Showcase** in November 2025! This free, all ages event will showcase the fantastic range of community organisations and services available in Sebastopol. Come along to find your next recreational activity, social group, volunteer opportunity or community connection in the 'Burra.' The event will also feature a free sausage sizzle, fruit and snacks, kids' activities, performances, a Sebastopol Fire Brigade truck and more! We warmly invite all residents of Sebastopol and beyond to join us for this fun and free afternoon at Marty Busch Reserve, 12pm – 3pm on Saturday 22 November (see back page for flyer). This event was the idea of a Sebastopol resident and is being brought to life in partnership with a team of dedicated local volunteers. We look forward to seeing you there! To showcase your group/organisation, contact Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre on 5329 3273 / [community@ballaratnc.org.au](mailto:community@ballaratnc.org.au)

### Inside this issue:

- Community News
- Tech Time
- Historical Feature
- School Report
- Pets & Puzzles
- What's On

Scan the QR code to view all newsletters online in full colour





## 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](http://www.ballaratnc.org.au)  
[reception@ballaratnc.org.au](mailto:reception@ballaratnc.org.au)

(03) 5329 3273

11 Tuppen Drive, Sebastopol

Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre welcomes  
all LGBTQIA+ communities



Scan this QR code to  
subscribe to the  
e-newsletter or share a  
story with us



### Upcoming Issues

In 2025 this newsletter will be published quarterly in March, June, September and December. The next issue will be published in early December, with submissions due by **Friday 14 November 2025** to [community@ballaratnc.org.au](mailto: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.

Advertising rates per edition are:

\$500 + GST: Half page

\$250 + GST: Banner or quarter page

\$150+ GST: Advertorial + Ad\*

\$50 + GST: Business Card

\*Advertorial available for community groups & small businesses only

Contact Emily Macdonald

[community@ballaratnc.org.au](mailto: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 3900 issues of the June 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](mailto: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  
Coles Sebastopol



# Connecting *Sebastopol* Community Meet-Up



*Photos: Some of the attendees at our first evening Sebastopol Meet-Up at Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre*

Since our last newsletter in June, we have held two Sebastopol Community Meet-Ups, attended by around 40 people. It's always exciting to see a mix of new and old faces coming along to share news and stories about the Burra and making new connections. Our morning meet-up on Friday 25 July was an opportunity to hear updates from a range of local organisations including Sebastopol Fire Brigade, Journey Early Learning, Relationships Australia Victoria, Sebastopol Men's Shed, Sebastopol Historical Society, Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre, Country Women's Association (Sebastopol branch) and Open Door & Op Shop. All groups are very active, busy and doing great work in the community. At our first ever evening meet-up on 4 August, it was identified that such community gatherings provide a great opportunity to combat social isolation that many of us feel. Having a chat over food is also a great way to break down barriers, and everyone was very grateful for the free delicious pizzas provided by Corey at Dominos Sebastopol for this event - thank you Corey! A couple of groups represented at this meet-up noted that they sometimes struggle with getting new local members. We are hoping that the Sebastopol Community Showcase event being planned for November is one way we can help promote local groups to the wider community. With a large turn out at our evening meet-up, it was decided that we should in future aim to hold both morning and evening gatherings to allow a wider range of people to attend. We hope to see you at one of our next meet-ups in September or October! To join the mailing list for reminders about future meet-ups, email Emily at [community@ballaratnc.org.au](mailto:community@ballaratnc.org.au) or call Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre on 5329 3273.

**Connecting**  
*Sebastopol*

## COMMUNITY MEET-UPS

**Morning Meet-Up**  
**Friday 19 September**  
**10:30am – 12pm**  
**Open Door Op Shop**  
**104 Albert Street, Sebastopol**  
*Join us for a cuppa and chat,  
and hear from a Sebastopol  
'Big' Garden guest speaker*  
RSVP to Emily: 5329 3273  
[community@ballaratnc.org.au](mailto:community@ballaratnc.org.au)

**Evening Meet-Up**  
**Thursday 23 October**  
**6:30pm – 7:30pm**  
**Sebastopol Library**  
**181 Albert St, Sebastopol**  
*Join us to chat, learn more about  
Sebas Library services and enjoy  
FREE PIZZA thanks to Dominos*  
RSVP to Emily: 5329 3273  
[community@ballaratnc.org.au](mailto:community@ballaratnc.org.au)

# Community

## News from the Sebastopol and District Lions Club



*Photo: Ron Thomas, Christine Glare and Noel Edwards*

The Lions Club of Sebastopol & District has kept busy over the cold winter months. BBQs at the Farmers Market at the Lake have continued twice a month, bringing in vital funds for us to return to the community.

July saw our changeover of office bearers for the next financial year, welcoming Karen to the position of secretary. A donation was also presented to John Maloney from Cops 'n' Kids on the night. John gave a quick speech on the program so those in attendance

had a better idea of how the donation will assist the program and the young cancer patients that they support. Ron Thomas, our longest serving member received his tab for 52 years of service. Thank you to Noel Edwards of the Lions Club of Mt Bolton for undertaking the duties of Installing Officer on the night.

The School Bands Extravaganza in August saw three secondary schools – Phoenix P-12, Ballarat High and Mt Clear Secondary – showcase their music. This is not a competition, but an opportunity for the students to perform in front of an audience. Well done to all involved.

Plans are once again underway for our Christmas Raffle. You'll find us in the foyer of Coles Sebas from mid November selling raffle tickets and also our Lions Christmas Cakes and Puddings.

If you are interested in volunteering your time to raise funds to be returned to the community, think about joining us. We have a Dinner meeting on the first Monday every month and a Business meeting on the third Monday every month.

For more information please contact our Membership Coordinator Ron on 0427 453 344.

# *Always fighting for Sebastopol!*



**Joe McCRACKEN MP**  
MEMBER FOR WESTERN VICTORIA



17 Lydiard St North, Ballarat VIC 3350



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



[joe.mccracken@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:joe.mccracken@parliament.vic.gov.au)



03 5332 2405



# Community

## Sebastopol Big Garden: A New Community Space is Growing!



Exciting things are happening along the fence line at the Spencer Street entrance of Phoenix P-12 Community College! If you've noticed activity in the area, you've seen the beginnings of the Sebastopol 'Big' Garden—a vibrant new outdoor space being developed by learners from Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre (BNC) and dedicated volunteers.

This initiative is transforming unused land into a blossoming community garden featuring vegetable plots, composting systems, seating areas, and more. Stage One is now complete, with buildings and toilet installed on site. Stage Two—the gardens—are now underway, starting with the Fruity Forest along the fenceline. Sponsored by Bendigo Bank, this foraging space will offer free fresh fruit, greens, and herbs for community members to pick and enjoy.



*Garden Plan: We've been working to develop a site plan that includes ideas and suggestions from community members – and can change and grow over time.*

In the years ahead, the garden will grow to include a greenhouse and nursery, expanded veggie beds, and welcoming spaces for relaxation, learning, and community gatherings. We'd love to see a market, a coffee van, or even a pizza oven in the future—what do you think?

BNC is already running Adult Community Education courses and offering volunteer opportunities for those keen to get involved. Future plans include tours, workshops, and all-abilities activities for people of all ages and backgrounds.

This garden is more than a place to grow food—it's a colourful, inclusive space for community, gardening, and healthy living.

To get involved or learn more, contact us at [reception@ballaratnc.org.au](mailto:reception@ballaratnc.org.au), call (03) 5329 3273 or visit us at 11 Tuppen Drive, Sebastopol.

## Youth Volunteer Award for Isaac Postlethwaite



The annual City of Ballarat Youth Awards were held on Friday 8 August, recognising the wonderful leadership, creativity, dedication and achievements of young people in Ballarat. We are thrilled to share the news that Isaac Postlethwaite, a dedicated volunteer with Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre in Sebastopol, was awarded the Youth Volunteer Award! Isaac has volunteered for over 5 years with Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre, as well as the Redan Football Netball Club and Vinnies Op Shop. His outstanding dedication to the local community has made a valuable and positive contribution. Isaac's enthusiasm and "never give up" attitude inspire all who know him. Congratulations Isaac, what an incredible achievement!

# Community



## Tech Cafe at Sebastopol Library

**Did you know that you can learn about technology at Sebastopol Library?**

Tech Cafe at Sebastopol Library is an informal way to learn more about technology in a friendly, social atmosphere. Each month we have an interactive technology-related session. Please join us to share your own technology experiences, ask questions and learn. Coming up:

### Introduction to Artificial Intelligence

Monday, 22 September, 1pm - 2pm

AI is here! Learn what it is and its basic functions in this user-friendly session.

### Helpful Apps

Monday, 27 October, 1pm-2pm

Apps (or applications) can help you connect, have fun, and find information. Come and find out what the helpful apps are and how to use them with confidence.

### Introduction to Smart Phones

Monday, 24 November, 1pm-2pm

Get to know your smart phone's basic features. Learn how to set it up and customise it.

**BOOKINGS:** Contact Sebastopol Library, 5335 7985, or book via Ballarat Libraries website [libraries.ballarat.vic.gov.au/whats-on](http://libraries.ballarat.vic.gov.au/whats-on)

Sebastopol Library, 181 Albert St, Sebastopol



# Supporting Sebas

As your local State Member of Parliament, I'm on your side and delivering for the Sebastopol community.



**Juliana Addison MP**

State Labor Member for Wendouree

📍 211 Dana Street, Ballarat 3350

☎ 5331 1003

✉ [juliana.addison@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:juliana.addison@parliament.vic.gov.au)

🌐 [julianaaddison.com.au](http://julianaaddison.com.au)





# Community

## Latest news from Sebastopol Men's Shed

**How's your lawn looking?** Winter is leaving us soon and the grass will start growing again! Mowers are sometimes reluctant to start up after winter, so if you have any problems, don't worry! Just give us a call or visit our skilled mower surgeons, who will fix your mower, or sell you a very reliable replacement at a bargain price, fully guaranteed. And if you donate your old or unused mowers to the Shed, you are helping the community, as we can repair them to sell cheaply to locals



**Markets.** After the Winter recess, our Saturday markets will resume on 27<sup>th</sup> September, from 10 am to 12 noon. There'll be a big range of new season's plants available to spruce up your gardens at home, at bargain prices! Other market days will be 25 October, 29 November and 12 December. Sometimes we hold a market on the second Saturday of other months; check our Shed FB page: [www.facebook.com/SebasMensShed/](https://www.facebook.com/SebasMensShed/)





**Sebastopol Mens Shed Inc.**  
**Strength thru Fellowship**  
 201 Vickers Street, Sebastopol  
 Open: Mon - Fri, 9am - 2pm  
 03 5379 9256 / [office@sebasmenshed.org](mailto:office@sebasmenshed.org)  
[www.sebasmenshed.org](http://www.sebasmenshed.org)

**Check Out Our Shed!** Local men are welcome to inspect the Shed. If you look inside, you'll see members restoring furniture, servicing mowers, making timber templates for a local school, welding up metal gates, potting flowers and plants, growing vegetables, cooking meals for members in our registered kitchen, or attending to enquiries from the public. You might also see tea-bags, coffee cups and a comfortable area where members sit and chat. Men's Sheds have become powerful tools in addressing health and wellbeing, helping men to be valued and productive members of the community.

Becoming a Men's Shed member provides a safe and busy environment where men can find mates while enjoying a yarn and a cuppa if that is all they want. Members come from all walks of life, but they all have time on their hands and want to do something meaningful. Members are welcome to work on community projects, specific Shed projects or a task of their choice and where the only 'must' is to observe safe working practices ... all in a spirit of mateship. Come and see us sometime: Any weekday, 9 am to 2 pm.

**Finally,** we look forward to meeting lots of Sebas locals at the November **Sebastopol Community Showcase** on Saturday 22 November at the Marty Busch Reserve. Try one of our free BBQ snags!

## Crowley's Lawn Mowing

**Free quotes**

**10% discount for pensioners**

**Phone Daryl**

**0456 993 507**

# Community

## Family Fun Night is back in Sebastopol!

Family Fun Night is returning to St James Parish School on Friday 31st October from 5-7pm, and everyone is invited. It's a great chance to get together with friends, neighbours, and family for an evening of fun and community spirit. Entry is via Vale Street. There'll be plenty to keep the children busy with biscuit decorating, Kelly Sports games and activities, and an ice-cream bar. The Sebastopol Fire Brigade and Community Ambulance will be there too, giving families the chance to check out their trucks and chat with the crews. Music, games, and a few extra surprises will round out the night.

The best part? It's a free community event hosted by Journey Early Learning Sebastopol. Last year's Family Fun Night was a big hit, and we're looking forward to making this one just as special.

So, mark the date, bring your family and friends, and come along for a fun evening out. We'd love to see you there!



**JOURNEY**  
Sebastopol

Join us for

# Family Fun Night

2025

A free family event for the whole family with face painting, sausage sizzle, crafting, sporting activities, CFA truck, and good vibes!

**October 31st | 5pm-7pm**

St James Parish School,  
Entry via Vale Street, Sebastopol

PLEASE FOLLOW THE EVENT VIA FACEBOOK



**\$1,250**  
in individual  
funding support  
Program eligibility applies

## Your Path. Your Future. Your Way.

With **Parent Pathways**, you'll be matched with a mentor to guide you every step of the way. Together, you'll create a clear plan for your personal, study, or career goals, with tailored support and resources. All in a safe, supportive space **where your children are always welcome.**



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Plan your goals

All at your own pace



Where to find more information **1300 000 175**

**Helping Parents Thrive** | Geelong & Ballarat  
[www.djerriwarrh.org.au/parent-pathways](http://www.djerriwarrh.org.au/parent-pathways)

Participation is voluntary, people can self-refer, join anytime and leave whenever they choose.



# Community

## Onam Harvest Festival Celebrated in Sebastopol!

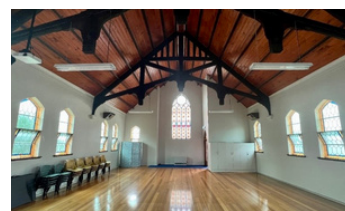


On Sunday, August 24, the St. Severios Jacobite Syriac Orthodox Church celebrated Onam, a harvest festival from the Indian state of Kerala. There was singing, dancing, and 15 kinds of curry. St. Severios worships at the Open Door on Albert Street on the second and fourth Sundays of the month at 9:30am.

### WELCOME TO THE OPEN DOOR

A former Uniting Church worship space, we now exist to assist the Sebastopol community with their space needs for meetings and gatherings:

Weekly, Monthly, Quarterly or One-off



Our hire rates are negotiable based on type of organisation and needs.

Let us help you find your special space!

**OPEN DOOR** - 104 Albert Street, Sebastopol  
For inquiries, contact Rev. Marcia Eveland - 0476 374 297



# Community

## BALLARAT

### GOLDEN GAL'S

A welcoming space for women over 50 to connect, chat and build connections while enjoying activities, morning tea and outings to break social isolation.

- GOLD COIN DONATION -



#### BALLARAT NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE

11 Tuppen Drive, Sebastopol

**EVERY  
MONDAY  
10AM - 12PM**

Call or email us to find out more:  
5329 3273  
[reception@ballaratnc.org.au](mailto:reception@ballaratnc.org.au)



## Sebastopol Walking Group Expressions of Interest



Do you like to walk or would you like to be more active? How do you feel about getting to know some new people while you take a slow-paced stroll in your own neighbourhood? Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre is taking expressions for a Sebastopol Walking Group. One of our lovely volunteers, Eileen, is keen to start this initiative to create connections, combat social isolation and provide an opportunity for some light exercise. If you would like to register your interest, please contact Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre on 5329 3273 / [reception@ballaratnc.org.au](mailto:reception@ballaratnc.org.au)

## The skills you already have, can help you make a positive impact as a Prison Officer.

Discover a rewarding and secure career as a Prison Officer. Apply now and receive an \$8,000 sign on bonus\*.



**Corrections  
Victoria**

**Hiring now**

\*Conditions apply.



Authorised by the Victorian Government,  
1 Treasury Place, Melbourne





# Celebrating Seniors Month at Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre

Ballarat Seniors Festival is an annual celebration held over the month of October and is part of the Victorian Seniors Festival. Seniors Festival is a month-long series of events for and about seniors, celebrating the contribution of older people and providing opportunities for older people to be active and connected.



## Community Lunches

**We warmly welcome you to join us  
for community lunch!**

Enjoy a delicious two-course lunch + fresh fruit  
+ tea/coffee + take home bread.

**Time: 12 noon - 1pm / Cost \$18**

**Dates: Friday 31 October**

**Friday 7, 14, 21, 28 November**

**Please call to book: 5329 3273**

\*Vegetarian and gluten free options on request



### Celebrate Seniors Month!

## Sing Australia Choir Afternoon Tea

*Enjoy a concert by the Sing Australia Choir followed  
by scones with jam & cream. This year's concert theme  
is love songs - let's spread a bit of love to all!*



**1:30pm - 2:30pm**  
**Friday 17 October**  
**Gold coin entry**

**Ballarat Neighbourhood  
Centre**  
**11 Tuppen Drive,  
Sebastopol**

**\*Bookings required for catering purposes\***  
Please see reception, phone 5329 3273  
or email [reception@ballaratnc.org.au](mailto:reception@ballaratnc.org.au)



**Join us for a chat and cuppa  
at Chatty Cafe - 10:30am  
every Thursday at  
Delacombe Community Hub,  
18 Nandiriog Drive.**

Come with a friend, or drop by and make a  
new one! Coffee, tea and sweet treat  
provided. No booking necessary.

**Did you know we have a gardening  
group on Friday mornings?**

**Drop in, give us a call or email to find out more!**



Follow [Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre](https://www.facebook.com/ballaratnc) on  
Facebook to stay up-to-date with the latest  
activities and events!



03 5329 3273



[reception@ballaratnc.org.au](mailto:reception@ballaratnc.org.au)



11 Tuppen Drv, SEBASTOPOL



[www.ballaratnc.org.au](http://www.ballaratnc.org.au)



# Community

## Community feedback for name of new hub in Sebas

Source: City of Ballarat website, retrieved 25/08/25

Residents were invited to have their say on the proposed name for Sebastopol's new community hub before Monday 8 September. The transformational community facility is nearing completion, with an officially registered name now being considered for its expected opening in January 2026. Throughout the project period, the facility has been given the interim name of Sebastopol Community Hub. However, the naming of the facility must be compliant and requires approval from Geographic Names Victoria. The City of Ballarat is proposing to name the facility the Vickers Street Community Hub, with the adjoining educational facility to be known as the Vickers Street Kindergarten.

### Why can't it be named the Sebastopol Community Hub?

All names must comply with the Naming Rules for Places in Victoria, as set by Geographic Names Victoria, before being approved and registered.

Advice from Geographic Names Victoria is that there is potential for confusion given there are multiple existing facilities in the suburb that already include Sebastopol in their names. This includes the 'Ballarat South Community Hub, Sebastopol' and the 'Sebastopol South Kindergarten'. This level of repetition can cause confusion for emergency services and the public, potentially leading to safety issues. To ensure clarity and compliance, names must be distinctive, while still being locationally relevant.

The Vickers Street name is proposed as it resonates with the location and is unique to other facilities in Sebastopol. The Vickers Street Community Hub and the Vickers Street Kindergarten would have different registered names, as they are separate facilities sharing the same building. Following the consultation period, a recommendation will be made to Ballarat City Council later this year. Once a proposed name has been adopted by Council, it will be sent to Geographic Names Victoria for approval and registration. For more information about the construction, visit the [Sebastopol Community Hub \(interim name\) project page](#) online.

Get ready for cake & fun

# BALLARATS RAINBOW RACK

IS TURNING 1!



September 20, 2025  
10 AM to 4 PM  
206a Albert St, Sebastopol

All clothing and shoes \$1 each

\*Excludes the consignment corner

CARMEL MISSION PARTNERS AUSTRALIA

# FORAGERS FAIR

Carmel Welsh Presbyterian Church  
263 Albert Street, Sebastopol.

Saturday 4th October & 6th December 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





# Community

## We need your help to get the Connecting Sebastopol Community News to every home in Sebas!

Thanks to a small but dedicated team of volunteers, the Connecting Sebastopol Community News reaches over 3000 households in Sebastopol. With approximately 5000 houses in the suburb, there are some residents who are currently missing out. We are seeking to expand our number of newsletter delivery volunteers to ensure every home in the 'Burra' receives a copy of our local news. The newsletter is published four times per year in March, June, September and December. It takes around 1 hour to walk and deliver about 100 newsletters. If you think you may be able to spare 1 hour a few times a year we would love to hear from you! You are welcome to 'try it out' for one issue, and if you decide it's not the right volunteer role for you, there is no commitment. Additionally, if you sign up as a volunteer we understand that you may not be available to deliver every issue. Newsletters can be delivered anytime that suits you, within approximately 1-2 weeks of being printed. Volunteers must register with Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre, including submitting a current Working with Children Check which is free to apply for as a volunteer. Some of the key streets / areas where volunteers are needed include:

**North of Hertford Street** (around Alexandra St, Clarkson St, Yarrowee St)

**South of Hertford St** (around Tait St, Hill St, Bonshaw Dr, Webster Dr, a small section of Vickers St & Baudinette Dr)

**East of Albert Street** (around Yarrowee St, Sayle St, Orion St, Wilsons Lane, Kyle St, Westcliffe Cr, Docwra St)

**West of Albert Street** (Prince St, Nelson St)



*SEBASTOPOL MAP: Dark shaded areas are currently covered by volunteers, striped areas have no housing - 'blank' areas are calling out for delivery volunteers!*

**To register as a volunteer or find out more, drop into Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre at 11 Tuppen Drive, Sebastopol or contact us on 5329 3273 / [reception@ballaratnc.org.au](mailto:reception@ballaratnc.org.au)**



Did you know that **Connecting Sebastopol Community News** has a Facebook Page? Follow us for the latest stories and events in Sebas!

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

## Raintree Art

64 School Lane, Cambrian Hill | 0409 846 200

Raintree Art offers a huge range of Aboriginal paintings and giftware, all ethically sourced. See our resident artist Deidre Burgoyne Rosier create original works, enjoy our catalogue of weavings and carvings, and take some souvenirs home.

Open Monday to Saturday  
10am to 4pm or by appointment.

**SHOP ONLINE NOW**  
[www.raintreeart.com.au](http://www.raintreeart.com.au)

[raintreeartjustforfun](#)  
[raintreeart](#)  
[raintreeartballarat](#)

**ABORIGINAL ART ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA**

# Tech Time

## Digital Break-In: Why Your Online Password Might Be the Weakest Link

By Md Yeahia Bhuiyan, Cybersecurity PhD Student



Earlier this year, CyberNews reported a massive leak of 16 billion passwords, and the real danger is that yours might be one of them. According to ABC News Australia (June 2025), cybercrime reports have increased by 23% over the last 12 months, with older Australians being increasingly targeted through phishing scams and faked messages. Whether you're 18 or 80, if you use the same password across multiple accounts, you're putting yourself at serious risk. And let's be honest, many of us do it. With everything moving online, it's tough to remember a dozen different passwords, so we reuse the same ones out of convenience. But that very habit is exactly what hackers exploit.

### The Most Common Threats

Dr. Vanessa Teague, a cybersecurity expert at the Australian National University, explains that "password reuse is one of the most dangerous habits online (The Conversation, 2024). Hackers use four main techniques:

**Phishing:** Fake messages pretending to be from Facebook, Instagram, or even the ATO ask you to "verify your account." They look real, but they're not.

**Credential Stuffing:** If your old Netflix password was leaked, hackers will try it on your email, banking, or MyGov account.

**Password Spraying:** They try simple passwords like "Australia123" on a mass list of emails.

**Brute Force:** Software guesses millions of combinations per second, cracking weak passwords in minutes.

### How to Stay Safe

The Australian Cyber Security Centre (ACSC) urges people to use strong, unique passwords for every account, at least 12-16 characters, with a mix of letters, numbers and symbols."

**A trick?** Think of a sentence like: "My first pet was a Dog in 2001" and use the first letters: **Mfpwadin2001**. Add caps and a symbol, and you've got something solid.

Use password managers (e.g., Google Password Manager, iCloud Keychain) and enable two-factor authentication, especially for accounts like MyGov, banking, and email.

### Want to Know If You've Been Hacked?

Check your email on [haveibeenpwned.com](https://haveibeenpwned.com) created by Australian cybersecurity researcher Troy Hunt. It's trusted worldwide and it's free.

**Final Word:** Your password is like the lock on your digital front door, and hackers are checking every handle. So don't leave it wide open with something like "123456."

**Make it strong. Make it unique. Make it uncrackable.**



**Your technology,  
tamed.**

-  Friendly Technology Support
-  Snappy Repairs & Servicing
-  Patient Training & Advice

 Ty Hancock  0481 449 616  [corgitech.com.au](https://corgitech.com.au)



# Historically Speaking

## News from the Sebastopol Historical Society



Have you wondered what Sebastopol looked like in the olden days? Did you know that some of the richest gold deposits in the country were found under the streets of Sebastopol and Redan? The Borough of Sebastopol has a proud sporting history. Do you know how many different sporting clubs and facilities have been based here? The answers to these questions and more can be found in the rooms of Sebastopol Historical Society. The Historical Society has a museum located on the ground floor of the original Sebastopol State School building in Yarrowee Street behind the Sebastopol Bowling Club. The museum is home to many artefacts and records from Sebastopol organisations and families.

The Society holds an open day on the first Sunday of every month from 1 until 4 pm. Everyone is most welcome to visit and explore the museum. There are volunteers on hand to answer your questions and help with research. The museum is also open by appointment



to individuals or groups wishing to visit. A charge of \$5 per person for adults and \$2 for children. Monies raised go to supporting the work of preserving the suburb's history telling our stories.

We welcome visitors and are very keen to hear their stories about their time in 'the Borough'. On our August open day we had visitors researching their family history, donating treasures they had found or collected and residents old and new sharing memories and asking questions. One of the most popular exhibits in the museum is a panoramic painting that gives overview of



Sebastopol showing the location of the old mines, hotels, churches and other features. The painting is the work of Arthur Jenkins the inaugural president of the Historical Society. Visitors spend quite a bit of time examining the many details in the painting and looking for familiar features.



The Historical Society is the proud custodian of some important Sebastopol treasures, such as the Sebastopol Football and Netball Club premiership jacket circa the 1950s above.

Some older residents maybe able to identify to which group the Blue Wren pennant above belongs.

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>

# School Report

## College 40th Anniversary

This year marks the 40th anniversary of Ballarat Christian College, celebrating four decades of service and growth in the Sebastopol community.



The College began its journey in 1985 as a primary school, initially operating on the grounds of the Carmel Welsh Presbyterian Church. Classes were first held in the Bethel Hall, with 22 students enrolled. Modular buildings were purchased and installed on adjacent land leased from the church and toward the end of the first five-year period land was purchased in Vickers Street Sebastopol. Works were undertaken and near the end of 1990 the modular buildings were transported up from Carmel Welsh.

The new site at Vickers Street was opened for the start of the 1991 school year. Later that year, the school's name changed to Sebastopol Christian Community School, to better reflect its new location and attempted to expand their education offering into secondary schooling, but without success. After the second attempt in 1998 failed to gain necessary funding support from the Commonwealth, a small group of parents turned to Christian Schools System to commence a separate Christian secondary school. In 1999, Ballarat Christian College commenced with



*Photo credit MSP Photography Ballarat*

leasing the former Seventh-Day Adventist Primary school at 11-13 Yarrowee Street. These five years were busy and exciting years in both schools, but possibly the major focus was on the secondary college as it grew and expanded towards offering a full Year 7 to 12 education.

Midway through 2001 it was evident that there was no longer sufficient space for all the classes at the original site. Land was leased from the primary school and modular buildings installed. For one year the secondary school operated across the two campuses, before fully locating to the site next to the primary school. During 2004-2005 the secondary enrolments grew to just under 100 students. During the latter part of this period, discussions commenced between the two schools about the possibility of merging and the two school Boards unanimously agreed to merge the two schools. The merger was officially affected in January 2007, the 'new' school, known as Ballarat Christian College, was operating effectively as a single school with around 160 students and a teaching staff of 20. Today the College has grown to over 400 students and 70 staff.

The College began to gain a reputation as a viable alternative for parents desirous of their children gaining a quality education that not only was the equal of other Ballarat schools but also offered a Christian distinctive as a normal part of its curriculum.

The Ballarat Christian College 'Yesterday Until Today' digital flipbook provides further information on the College from commencement in 1985 until today, along with photos and videos:  
[https://issuu.com/ballaratcc/docs/balcc - yesterday until today](https://issuu.com/ballaratcc/docs/balcc-yesterday-until-today)





# School Report

## Creative learning at Magpie Primary School



Magpie Primary School participated in Homelessness Week by asking the school community to donate non-perishable food that could be passed onto a charity that helps our local homeless people. We also had a guest speaker from the Salvation Army come to speak to the students about what homelessness looks like for different people. Students made origami paper



houses to represent the amount of extra housing needed in Victoria to provide for our large number of homeless people. For NAIDOC Week, students learnt about Aboriginal artifacts, did basket weaving and a 'Cunning Crow' book response.

Six students from grade 3 to 5 at Magpie Primary School have worked with a volunteer to make and decorate toolboxes. Thank you to the Sebastopol Men's Shed for providing the toolbox templates, enabling our students to participate in this program.



Our grade 5/6 students were really proud of their paper mache doughnut art project and wanted to share their story in the newsletter . . .

We have been busy in art class. We made our own papier mache from paper and PVA glue. We covered a pool noodle as an armature and used it to create the doughnut shape. Once dried, we painted the doughnut with acrylic and used sand to give it that 'dusted sugar' look. We added 'icing' by using 3D modelling paste. Finally, we finished the doughnut by varnishing with Mod Podge and adding the sprinkles!



## Catherine KING MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR BALLARAT

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# Pets & Puzzles Page

## Meet a Local!

**Name:** Teddy

**Bio:** Meet Teddy, Teddy is a 4 year old Chihuahua/Pomeranian. Teddy was a Covid pup to provide my grandson Ezekiel companionship during lockdown. Teddy is definitely the boss of my home and a loving member of our family. Teddy's favourite past time is snoozing and playing with his toys.



## 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](mailto:community@ballaratnc.org.au)

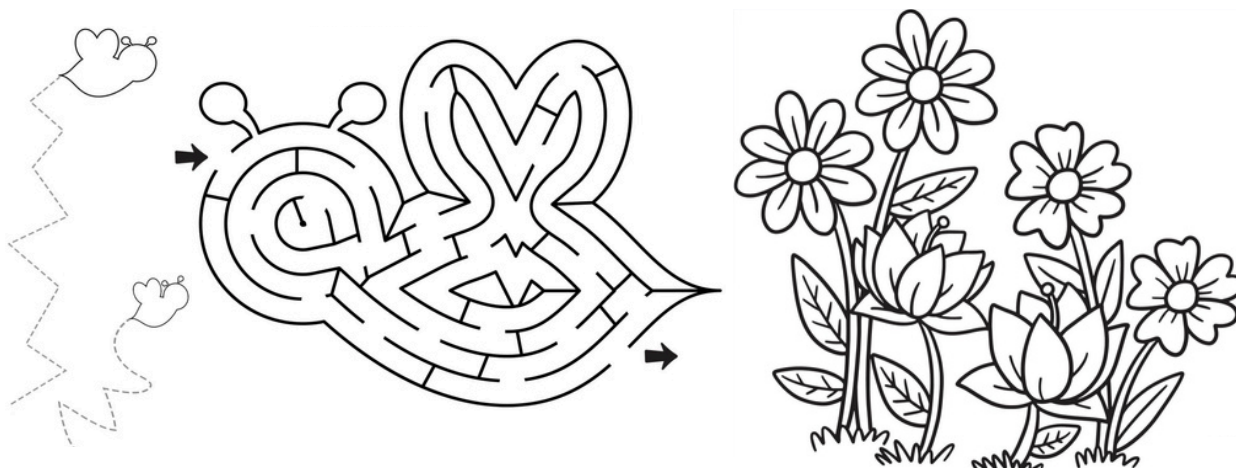
**Guess where?** Can you guess what and where the below image is in Sebastopol?  
*The answer is upside down at the bottom of this page*



*Photographer: Will Lay*

## Bee Maze & Colour-in

Make your way through the 'Bee Maze' and add some colour to these blooming spring flowers!





# WHAT'S ON

## September, October, November

Stick me on your fridge

### SEPTEMBER

#### Sebastopol Community Meet-Up with Sebastopol 'Big' Garden guest speaker (pg. 3)

Friday 19 September, 10:30am - 12pm  
Open Door Op Shop, 104 Albert Street, Sebastopol

#### Ballarat Rainbow Rack turns 1! (pg. 12)

Saturday 20 September, 10am - 4pm  
206a Albert Street, Sebastopol

#### Sebastopol Library Tech Café Introduction to Artificial Intelligence (pg. 6)

Monday 22 September, 1pm - 2pm  
Sebastopol Library, 181 Albert Street

#### Sebastopol Men's Shed Market (pg. 7)

Saturday 27 September, 10am - 12pm  
201 Vickers Street, Sebastopol

### OCTOBER

#### Foragers Fair

Saturday 4 October, 9am - 2pm  
Carmel Welsh Presbyterian Church  
263 Albert Street, Sebastopol

#### Sebastopol Historical Society Museum Open Day (pg. 15)

Sunday 5 October, 1pm - 4pm  
185 Yarrowee Street, Sebastopol

#### Sing Australia Choir Afternoon Tea

Friday 17 October, 1:30pm - 2:30pm  
Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre, 11 Tuppen  
Drive, Sebastopol

#### Sebastopol Community Meet-Up with FREE PIZZA! (pg. 3)

Thursday 23 October, 6:30pm - 7:30pm  
Sebastopol Library, 181 Albert St, Sebastopol

#### Sebastopol Men's Shed Market (pg. 7)

Saturday 25 October, 10am - 12pm  
201 Vickers Street, Sebastopol

#### Sebastopol Library Tech Café Helpful Apps (pg. 6)

Monday 27 October, 1pm - 2pm  
Sebastopol Library, 181 Albert Street,

#### Family Fun Night (pg. 8)

Friday 31 October, 5pm - 7pm  
St James Parish School, Vale Street, Sebastopol

### NOVEMBER

#### Sebastopol Historical Society Museum Open Day (pg. 15)

Sunday 2 November, 1pm - 4pm  
185 Yarrowee Street, Sebastopol

#### Sebastopol Community Showcase (pg. 1 & 20)

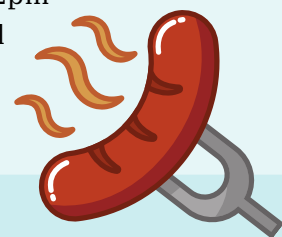
Saturday 22 November, 12pm - 3pm  
Marty Busch Reserve, Sebastopol

#### Sebastopol Library Tech Cafe Introduction to Smart Phones (pg. 6)

Monday 24 November, 1pm - 2pm  
Sebastopol Library, 181 Albert Street,  
Sebastopol

#### Sebastopol Men's Shed Market (pg. 7)

Saturday 29 November, 10am - 12pm  
201 Vickers Street, Sebastopol



# Sebastopol COMMUNITY SHOWCASE

**A free event for the whole community!**

Free sausage sizzle

Kids activities

CFA fire truck



Performances

Community group stalls

Giveaways

Scan QR code for  
facebook event



**12pm - 3pm, Saturday 22 November**  
**Marty Busch Reserve, Sebastopol**

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