

Connecting *Sebastopol* Community News



JUNE 2026 - ISSUE 14



Sebastopol CWA members Sue, Karen, Dianne, Lindy, Agnes and Marion proudly displaying some freshly baked treats

Scones a big hit at the Ballarat Heritage Festival!

For the third year, the Country Women's Association (CWA) including its Sebastopol branch, were invited to be part of Sovereign Hill's Heritage Harvest Festival on the 23rd and 24th of May. Numerous members from nine local branches took part, with members of the Sebastopol CWA branch reporting that it was a huge success.

The event was held in the Charles Napier Hotel on Main Street Sovereign Hill, which transformed into a market with stalls selling craft, homemade preserves, sauces and many other goodies. The CWA had four tables of free activities for children, young and old, including wool felting, peg dolls and zentangle bookmarks.

CWA legends provided cooking demonstrations, expertly baking up their infamous sponges and scones, with tastings very well attended! CWA also hosted a membership table, with interested visitors stopping for a chat to learn more about the organisation and their work fundraising to support vulnerable women and children. Money raised by CWA over the weekend will go to local charities in the Ballarat area. To find out more about CWA Sebastopol, call 0448 359 323.

Inside this issue:

- Community News
- Historically Speaking
- 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
reception@ballaratnc.org.au
(03) 5329 3273

11 Tuppen Drive, Sebastopol

Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre welcomes
all LGBTQIA+ communities



Scan QR code to visit the
Connecting Sebastopol
website and subscribe
to the e-newsletter



MEMBER 2026



Upcoming Issues

This newsletter is published quarterly in March, June, September and December. The next issue will be published in September 2026, submissions due by **Friday 29 August 2026** to community@ballaratnc.org.au or in hard copy to Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre, 11 Tuppen Drive, Sebastopol.

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 us at:

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 4500 copies of each issue are distributed around the Burra.

Volunteer With Us

We are seeking volunteers to help us expand delivery to the whole of Sebastopol. Delivery takes about one hour per volunteer, four times a year.

If you are interested, please get in touch:

5329 3273 / community@ballaratnc.org.au

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

Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre

Open Door Op Shop

Sebastopol Library

Sebastopol Mens Shed

Salvos Sebastopol

Carmel Welsh Church & Op Shop

Coles Sebastopol

Connecting Sebastopol Community Meetup

Out and about for our autumn gathering



Above and right: The 'newly completed' Blythewood Grange. c1880 from the Leckie family collection

The latest Connecting Sebastopol community meetup was held at the historic Club Wyndham on Grant Street. The meeting brought together local residents, community groups and service providers to share updates, strengthen connections and generate ideas for future newsletter content and community projects. The meeting also welcomed several first-time attendees, highlighting strong interest in building greater local connection.

Neil Leckie from the Sebastopol Historical Society shared some of his local knowledge and family connection to the heritage-listed Victorian-era property, originally known as Blythewood Grange, now Club Wyndham. Neil's great grandfather James Leckie built the original bluestone building at the heart of the site. Over time, the site has been used as a boy's orphanage (St Joseph's), with a babies home later attached and as a conference centre, before becoming what it is today, Club Wyndham Resort.

Participants heard about a range of valuable local initiatives, including the Djerriwah Parent Pathways Program, which supports parents of children under six to return to work through practical assistance such as driving lessons, course fees and equipment. Relationships Australia Victoria also shared information about the Family Link program, which aims to strengthen family connections in Sebastopol.

Community voices from the Chatty Cafe, Sebastopol



As it stands today, Club Wyndham Resort. Image by Chrissy Austin

Country Women's Association and the Sebastopol Historical Society added to the conversation, reflecting the breadth of activity already taking place across the borough.

A key discussion focused on the growing popularity of the Connecting Sebastopol newsletter. As demand increases, the group discussed the need for a larger print run, more paid advertising and fresh contributions from local residents.

NEXT COMMUNITY MEET-UP

Friday 7 August, 10:30am – 12pm

Sebastopol Men's Shed

201 Vickers Street, Sebastopol

Join us for a cuppa and chat

RSVP to: 5329 3273

community@ballaratnc.org.au

Sebas Laundrette

A Warm Winter Sanctuary for Sebastopol

Winter in Sebastopol means freezing mornings and piles of heavy laundry that just won't dry. We know how stressful it is trying to keep your family warm and comfortable when the clothes are constantly damp. That is why we built Sebas Laundrette at 190 Albert St (opposite the library) —to give our community a warm, clean space to win back their week.

Bring the family's heavy winter clothes, or save your biggest winter doona for our high-capacity 18kg jumbo washer. Our super-fast gas dryers will have everything bone-dry and beautifully warm in minutes, letting you get straight back to your day.

We love being part of the Sebastopol family. Step inside, join our Rewards Club at the kiosk for a half-price first visit, and earn \$5 back for every \$50 spent.

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Sebas Laundrette

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(OPPOSITE THE LIBRARY)

 sebaslaundrette@outlook.com |  **0435 219 103**

*Thank you for supporting local.
We look forward to seeing you!*

Ballarat Mums Supper Club returns for winter



Local mums and their children enjoy a meal together

Looking for an affordable, family-friendly way to connect with other local mums?

Join us for the June edition of the Ballarat Mums Supper Club, a relaxed community dinner where mums can enjoy a healthy meal, meet new people, and take a break from cooking for the night. Little ones are welcome, and children under 5 eat free.

Friday 26 June

Vickers Street Community Hub, Sebastopol

Doors open from **5:30pm**

Dinner service until **7:00pm**

Tickets: \$10 per adult

Children under 5: Free

The Ballarat Mums Supper Club is a grassroots community initiative designed to make shared meals more accessible for mums and young families. Whether you come with friends or arrive on your own, you'll find a welcoming space, good food, and great company.

Bookings are **essential** and can be made via QR code link or via Humanitix:

<https://events.humanitix.com/ballarat-mum-s-supper-club-june-edition>



Help name the new garden - Have your say!



A community garden is growing in Sebastopol, and we'd love your help to give it a name! Located on Spencer St, on Phoenix P-12 Community College grounds, this new Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre (BNC) green space is being created by our students, volunteers and local community members. The garden will be a place for growing fresh food, learning new skills, and bringing people together — now and into the future.

As the garden begins to take shape, we're inviting the community to help choose a name that reflects local identity, history and a space for everyone to enjoy.

You may have heard Sebastopol affectionately called "the Burra" — a local nickname that speaks to local pride and connection to the place we live and work. We'd love to see this wonderful tradition continue — so the name options draw on this much-loved term, alongside themes of growth, community, and sustainability.

We've created a shortlist of six great name ideas, and now it's your turn to decide! Voting is quick and easy — simply scan the QR code or drop into BNC at 11 Tuppen Drive to fill out a flyer to cast your vote. Whether you're a local resident, student, volunteer, or just passionate about community spaces, your voice matters.

Voting closes June 30, so be sure to have your say before it's too late! Scan the QR code and vote today!



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Ty Hancock



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Connect with Family Link on social media



The Family Link - Relationships Australia Victoria

Welcome to The Family Link — Relationships Australia Victoria's initiative to support families in Sebastopol. We provide information about upcoming events and local support options, as well as opportunities to connect with other families.

The Family Link has launched a brand-new Facebook page. The page is a great way for families to stay up to date with the Family Link activities, as well as finding valuable resources to support the whole family. The Family Link is about supporting community members to feel more connected and part of the Sebastopol Community. Our Social Connector Emily, in partnership with Parent Place, hosts free drop-in play sessions every Wednesday 9am – 4pm in the kinder room at the Vickers Street Community Hub. Come in any time and stay for as long as you like. The indoor drop-in play sessions are the perfect way to stay warm and have some fun this winter.

To find out more, check out our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/familylinkrav/>

Or contact Emily:

Email: emurphy@rav.org.au

Phone: 0418 232 332

Website: www.rav.org.au/the-family-link

Seniors, get active at Vickers Street Hub!

Come and try a new activity and soak up the benefits of social connection and exercise!

Strength for Seniors - Mondays, 2:00pm - 3:00pm

Tai Chi - Tuesdays, 2:00pm - 3:00pm

Vickers Street Community Hub, 254 Vickers St.

Classes run weekly (except for public holidays).

Cost per class is \$5. Pay via EFTPOS (card) on day.

Bookings are not required.

For more information, contact the City of Ballarat Ageing Well Services team on [5320 5500](tel:53205500)

Parent Place at Vickers Street Community Hub

Parent Place is a free, welcoming space for families with young children, operating every Wednesday from 9:30am to 2:30pm at Vickers Street Community Hub, [254 Vickers Street, Sebastopol](#). Parent Place is a free support service for parents, carers, children and families, offering access to information, early support and connections to local services.



Families who attend can expect:

- A safe, family-friendly space for children to play
- Staff available to provide information and assist families to access supports
- Flexible, drop-in access with no set activities or expectations
- Opportunities to talk through parenting questions or concerns
- Access to parenting resources and information about local services

No appointment, booking or referral is required. There is no requirement to prepare questions or stay for a specific length of time. Families are welcome to drop in and stay for as long or as briefly as they choose during outreach hours. For more info visit:

www.ballarat.vic.gov.au/parentplace

Crowley's Lawn Mowing

Free quotes

10% discount for pensioners

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May Blue Light Disco – Smiles Aplenty!



Children at the disco dressed as their favourite movie characters

The May Blue Light Disco, was held at the Sebastopol RSL Hall, and was another great success with 170 young people attending. The theme was to come dressed up as your favourite cartoon or movie character, and it was pleasing to see many

kids getting into the spirit with costumes. Thanks to Sovereign Hill, our major sponsor, five children won a Family Pass to Winter Wonderlights, while minor prizes included family passes to the Ballarat Aquatic Centre.



Save the date!
Next disco is Friday 21 August



DELIVERING FOR OUR COMMUNITY!

- Cheaper healthcare with more bulk billing
- A fairer tax system for first home buyers and 5% deposits
- Free TAFE and cutting student debt by 20%
- Cheaper childcare and cheaper PBS medicines
- More tax cuts, \$1,000 instant tax deduction and \$250 tax offset (from 2027-28)



Catherine King MP
FEDERAL MEMBER FOR BALLARAT

Standing up for our community!

Authorised by Catherine King
MP, 5 Lydiard St Nth, Ballarat,
VIC 3350

Lions Club Update

The Lions Club of Sebastopol & District have kept very busy with the BBQs twice each month at the Ballarat Farmers Market at the Lake. For the winter months of June, July and August the Farmers Market will be held at The Ballarat Showgrounds so you'll need to visit us there for your scrumptious BBQ sausage.



Sebastopol Lions Club volunteers working the BBQ

Two members were recently awarded certificates for their years of service in the club. Malcolm has been a Lion for 40 years and Sue for 10 years. A total of 170 years have been given in service to the community by the current members of our club.. Some members have also been in other Lions and Lioness Clubs.



Long time Lions Club members Malcolm and Sue

The Lions Club of Sebastopol & District is always on the lookout for new members. If you have time to give, you would be made welcome at the Dinner meeting and the Business meeting each month. All money

raised goes back into the community – to schools, kindergartens, people with disabilities and underprivileged. Lions Clubs also give funds to assist after disasters like fires and floods and for research into Childhood Cancer, Diabetes, Prostate Cancer, Rheumatism and Arthritis, Alzheimer's and programs for Children's Mobility, Wellbeing, Eye Health, Caring Kids, Cord blood and Skin Cancer.

For more information please contact President Chris on 0418 124 834

Volunteers needed to support young people



YRIPP volunteers and independent persons celebrate National Volunteer Week in May

The Youth Referral and Independent Person Program (YRIPP) supports young people under 18 in police custody by protecting their rights, safety, and wellbeing. In Victoria, the law requires a parent, guardian, or Independent Person (IP) to be present during formal police interviews. YRIPP trains volunteers to attend police stations, explain rights in an age-appropriate way, and ensure young people understand police processes and outcomes. Through referrals to support services, IPs also help divert young people from further contact with the justice system, contributing to stronger and safer communities.

There is currently a critical shortage of volunteers in Ballarat. While YRIPP has around 200 volunteers statewide, only one IP is currently active on our roster locally. In early 2026, 42.1% of callouts went unsupported due to this gap.

YRIPP is urgently seeking compassionate, non-judgemental volunteers. No legal experience is required, just a commitment to supporting young people. Please contact volunteer@yripp.org.au to get involved.

A Night at the Museum - Sebastopol Historical Society



The Society's other role at this year's Heritage Festival was to host an information booth at the Ballarat Town Hall on the Saturday and Sunday. This helped us to promote our suburb, historical society and our Saturday night event. The display at the Town Hall included memorabilia from the Sebastopol Football Club which proved a great talking point for visitors. Our books on the history of Sebastopol and some of the local schools also drew

There were some changes to the program and format of the 2026 Ballarat Heritage Festival so the Sebastopol Historical Society decided to change direction a little this year. Instead of creating an exhibition based on the Festival's annual theme as we have for the last several years, our President came up with the idea of hosting a night time opening of the museum. This gave visitors the opportunity to view the exhibits and the historic 1875 state school building in the eerie glow of a winter's evening.

The evening was suitably dark and moody. The weather on the chilly side as visitors made their way inside but the welcome was very warm and friendly. We had over 100 visitors in just over two and a half hours. There was a queue at the door at 6:00 pm with our last visitors arriving just before 9:00 pm. Many visitors had travelled to Ballarat to enjoy the full weekend of Heritage Festival activities. Others were locals who are interested in the city's heritage.

queries about parents and grandparents who attended local schools. Thank you to all the volunteers who have worked so hard to show our museum off in its best light and to promote the rich history of the Borough.

If you missed us at the festival you are able to visit the museum on the first Sunday of the month in our rooms at the old Sebastopol State School at 185 Yarrowee Street from 1 - 4pm.



The display of mining artefacts has had some updating thanks to the kind donations of Sebastopol residents.



Our volunteers were kept very busy answering questions and explaining exhibits.

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
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[raintreeartballarat](#)




Celebrating National Volunteer Week at Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre



Annie, Karen and Annette decorating cupcakes

On Monday 18 May Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre proudly hosted a luncheon to celebrate National Volunteer Week, recognising the incredible contributions of our volunteers over the past 12 months. Of our 100 volunteers, 60 dedicated individuals joined us for a warm and celebratory gathering.

Our volunteers represent a wide range of areas including gardening, social groups, tutor support, kitchen and food rescue, administration, community newsletter distribution, craft groups, and community events. Their efforts are the backbone of everything we do – we can't do it without them!

Guests enjoyed a shared meal of delicious soup and cheese toast, prepared by the Health Futures Lunches chef. A highlight of the day was 100 beautifully made cupcakes by Our Kitchen Social Enterprise (OKSE) at Barkly Square, with a fun icing activity led by volunteer Annie Hives. We gratefully acknowledge all the volunteers who assisted in preparing for and supporting the event. Each attendee was presented with a certificate of appreciation in recognition of their commitment and generosity.

We are always looking to welcome new volunteers. If you're interested, please contact Denise at Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre. Ph: 5329 3273

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Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre

Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre is a place for you to connect with your community. From social gatherings to volunteer opportunities and a wide range of short courses, we have something for everyone!

Short Courses - Enrol now for Term 3 2026!

There are over 50 free or low-cost short courses on offer to help build your skills and knowledge. Our Adult Education courses are designed to help you find employment or work towards continuing your education.

Some of the many courses available include:



GARDENING

Urban Farming

COMPUTERS

Basic & Intermediate Computers

Business Administration Skills

Introduction to Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Excel Basics & Beyond

Xero / MYOB



HOSPITALITY

Commercial Kitchen Skills

Become a Barista / Cafe Skills

Front of House

Basic Cooking Skills for Men



Skills for study
work and life

ART & CRAFT

Beginners & Intermediate Sewing

Knitting for Beginners

Op Shop Upcycling

Art, Create & Learn



JOB & INDEPENDENT LIVING SKILLS

Become Work Ready

Step Into Employment

Independent Living Skills

Find a Job - Trades, Aged Care, Childcare, Retail

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

ESL Level 1 & 2

Prepare for IELTS

Reading & Writing Basics

Baking with Language



Contact us to find out more . . .

Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre



03 5329 3273



reception@ballaratnc.org.au



11 Tuppen Drive, Sebastopol



www.ballaratnc.org.au



STAY SAFE FROM SCAMS WITH FREE TRAINING

Are you worried about your online safety? Are you challenged by the internet and worried about how to detect a scam? Do you want to feel more confident and secure online? We're here to help!

Thanks to a "Cyber Security Awareness Support for Vulnerable Groups" grant, we are offering FREE, hands-on workshops designed to make online safety simple and accessible for everyone.

Learn powerful, easy-to-use tips, including:

- How to create strong, memorable passphrases.
- How to spot and avoid common scams.
- How to use multi-factor authentication to protect your accounts.

Our sessions aim to be jargon-free and supportive!



Authorised by the Australian Government, Canberra

Book via the QR code or call Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre on 5329 3273

UPCOMING SESSIONS

12:30pm - 3pm

- Friday 26 June
- Thursday 16 July
- Friday 7 August

Ballarat
Neighbourhood
Centre
1 Tuppen Drive
Sebastopol



Free Healthcare Access for Multicultural Communities in Ballarat



A Western Victoria Primary Health Network (WVPHN) initiative is helping to improve access to primary health services for multicultural communities across Ballarat and surrounding areas.

WVPHN launched the Multicultural Access Program (MAP) in 2024 to support people from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds to access healthcare and improve overall health and wellbeing outcomes.

The program is being delivered by Ballarat Community Health (BCH) in partnership with Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council (BRMC) and offers free monthly health clinics at the BRMC Welcome Centre on Barkly Street in Bakery Hill, as well as community centres in Sebastopol, Lucas and Alfredton.

Ballarat is home to one of the largest populations of people from non-English speaking backgrounds in western Victoria, with many residents facing challenges when trying to access healthcare services and health information.



June and July Clinic Dates

18 June, 9am - 12:30pm

Lucas Community Hub, Lucas

25 June, 2pm - 6:30pm

BRMC, 25-39 Barkly St, Bakery Hill

2 July, 9am - 12:30pm

Vickers Street Community Hub, Sebastopol

9 July, 9am - 12:30pm

Djila-tjarriu Community Hub, Alfredton

16 July, 9am - 12:30pm

Lucas Community Hub, Lucas

23 July, 2pm - 6:30pm

BRMC, 25-39 Barkly St, Bakery Hill

The MAP initiative aims to reduce these barriers by providing culturally accessible healthcare services, including vaccinations, health assessments, health education, care planning and referrals to additional support services.

Organisers say the program is designed to improve health literacy and ensure community members can access timely and appropriate healthcare regardless of language or cultural background.

Community members seeking information about upcoming MAP clinics can contact Caroline at the Ballarat Regional Multicultural Council on 5383 0613 or via email at c.parry@brmc.org.au

Contribute to the *Connecting Sebastopol Community News!*

Do you have a story or event to share with your Sebastopol community? Would you like to give a shout out to a local doing great things in the Burra?

We welcome contributions from all community members, so get in touch to tell us about your story or event for the newsletter.

Email: community@ballaratnc.org.au

You can also follow us and get in touch via www.facebook.com/connectingsebastopol/

News from the Sebastopol Mens Shed

The Sebastopol Mens Shed Markets are currently in recess during winter and will re-open again in September. However, if any community members would like to purchase plants or preserves, they are most welcome to pop into the office any weekday between 9am and 1.30pm and we will certainly do our best to meet your needs.

We would like to thank Bunnings for their recent donation of some drills to the Shed.



Treasurer Greg is all smiles as Naomi hands over the drills

Shed members are very pleased to be members of the Sebastopol community, and we enjoy meeting locals' needs. People from the local neighbourhood often pop into our front office to see if we can provide a service for them, and we are delighted to do so whenever we can, for the lowest cost possible. Pop in to the Shed and say hello any day!



Sebastopol Mens Shed Inc.

Strength thru Fellowship

201 Vickers Street, Sebastopol

Open: Mon - Fri, 9am - 2pm

03 5379 9256 / office@sebasmentshed.org

www.sebasmentshed.org

Your questions about the Mens Shed answered . . .

1. Can you service/repair my mower/whipper snipper? *Yes we can; very modest prices.*
2. I need another mower. Can I buy a good one from the Shed? *Yes you can. Cheap and guaranteed.*
3. Can you fix furniture? *We restore many types of furniture with loving care.*
4. Can you please do jobs for me at home? *No, we cannot do work off-site for insurance reasons, but perhaps we can do some of your tasks here.*
5. Would you like some clean empty jars for your relishes, etc.? *Yes, please, mainly around 500-600mls, with lids.*
6. Can I buy some flowers/pot plants, relishes, honey, beetroot, etc.? *Yes, five days a week. Just call in to the office.*
7. How much does it cost to borrow books from the Street Library outside the Mens Shed? *It's a free community service we provide cheerfully, to encourage everyone to read.*
8. Are you selling kindling this year? *Yes, good dry kindling for just \$10 per bag.*
9. My wheelbarrow has broken. Can you fix it? *Yes, if it needs welding, or a new tyre perhaps, etc. We have very skilled welders on site.*
10. We are moving house and have spare stuff in our garage that might be useful to the Shed rather than send it to the tip? *We welcome such offers.*
11. We've bought a new mower. Would you like our old one? *Yes, we are glad to take old mowers, as we can repair them and sell them cheaply to locals, fully guaranteed.*
12. Can my husband join the Shed? *Any men 18 and over are very welcome to join. They can attend as often/seldom as they wish. Total fees are \$60 per year, which includes all the tea and coffee they can drink! They can work in whichever area they prefer. Just call in to the office and ask us for more information; no appointment necessary.*

Gambler's Help Program at CAFS Ballarat

Australians lose more to gambling per person than any other country. In Victoria, gambling losses total about \$7.4 billion each year—enough to fund seven Royal Children's Hospitals. In Ballarat alone, poker machines account for around \$66 million in losses each year. Gambling advertising is a constant on our television viewing and on radio, often specifically targeting young men, luring them with often false and misleading claims of social connection and financial success.



When we think of the effects of gambling, certain things spring to mind, such as financial worries, relationship difficulties, and other serious issues. Many people experience emotional impacts, no matter how much or how often they bet. These effects start off small and often build up, causing stress in our lives. These effects are not only experienced by the person gambling, they are experienced by those close to them also.

Free help is available - take the pressure off yourself or help a loved one do the same. The change you want in your life may only be a phone call away. Cafs Gambler's Help program provides free and confidential support to those affected by Gambling Harm, including friends, families, and workmates.

Contact Cafs for Financial and/or Therapeutic Counsellor support: 5337 3333 / 1800 692 237 / welcome@cafs.org.au. Bookings can also be made for Community Engagement sessions for your group/organisation.

Always fighting for Sebastopol!



Joe McCRACKEN MP
MEMBER FOR WESTERN VICTORIA

 17 Lydiard St North, Ballarat VIC 3350  www.joemccracken.com.au
 joe.mccracken@parliament.vic.gov.au  03 5332 2405

Open Door Op Shop's Sing Along Afternoon

By Andrew Sutherland



leapt at the chance to mangle a selection of songs from K-pop demon hunter, which is an animated franchise about Korean pop stars who hunt demons. While the microphone handling was not a highlight, you did get the impression that they were enjoying themselves, which is the most important thing. A showstopper was a young fellow from Sebastopol, who smashed out the first verse of "Twinkle twinkle little star" to rapturous applause. It was extremely wholesome and sweet, the stuff that proud Mums and childhood memories are made of.

And there was gathered a rude crew of about 25 karaoke buffs, in the Open-Door Op Shop Church Hall next to the Chemist Warehouse, in Sebastopol. Children, the elderly, Open Door Op Shop mainstays, local people, Buninyong throw overs and two Jans, congregated adjacent to a moveable feast of coconut balls, lemon slice, brownies, donuts, chippies, cabanossi and cheese.

Inhibitions were shed swiftly with a feisty round of "Getting to know you" bingo, led by Cathy, who has been stripping the reticence of others since Adam chucked his fig leaf into the shrubs.

Important questions were resolved: Do you call a parmigiana a parma or a parmi? Is a hotdog a sandwich? Do you think zoos are sad? Jeff, whose hearing is not the best, was asked "Have you ever fallen asleep watching TV?" six times, and he answered "Yes" each time. Indeed, his answer was "Yes" to every question, including "Do you think Sweet Caroline is overrated?", indicating perhaps that he was not hearing the questions correctly.

For verily the sound in that humble hall did clatter and bounce, from the smooth wooden floor to the clerestoric walls, up, through the trusses to the vault above. Indeed, quite hell for a hearing aid, and yet Jeff said "Yes" and "Yes" again. Positivity was his theme, as it was for all in attendance. Suddenly a sound like the rushing of wind and a feeling of warmth filled the room. Actually, it was "Summertime", crooned with aplomb by the Jan with the awesome pipes, and she was so good most who had already nominated a song to sing had second thoughts.

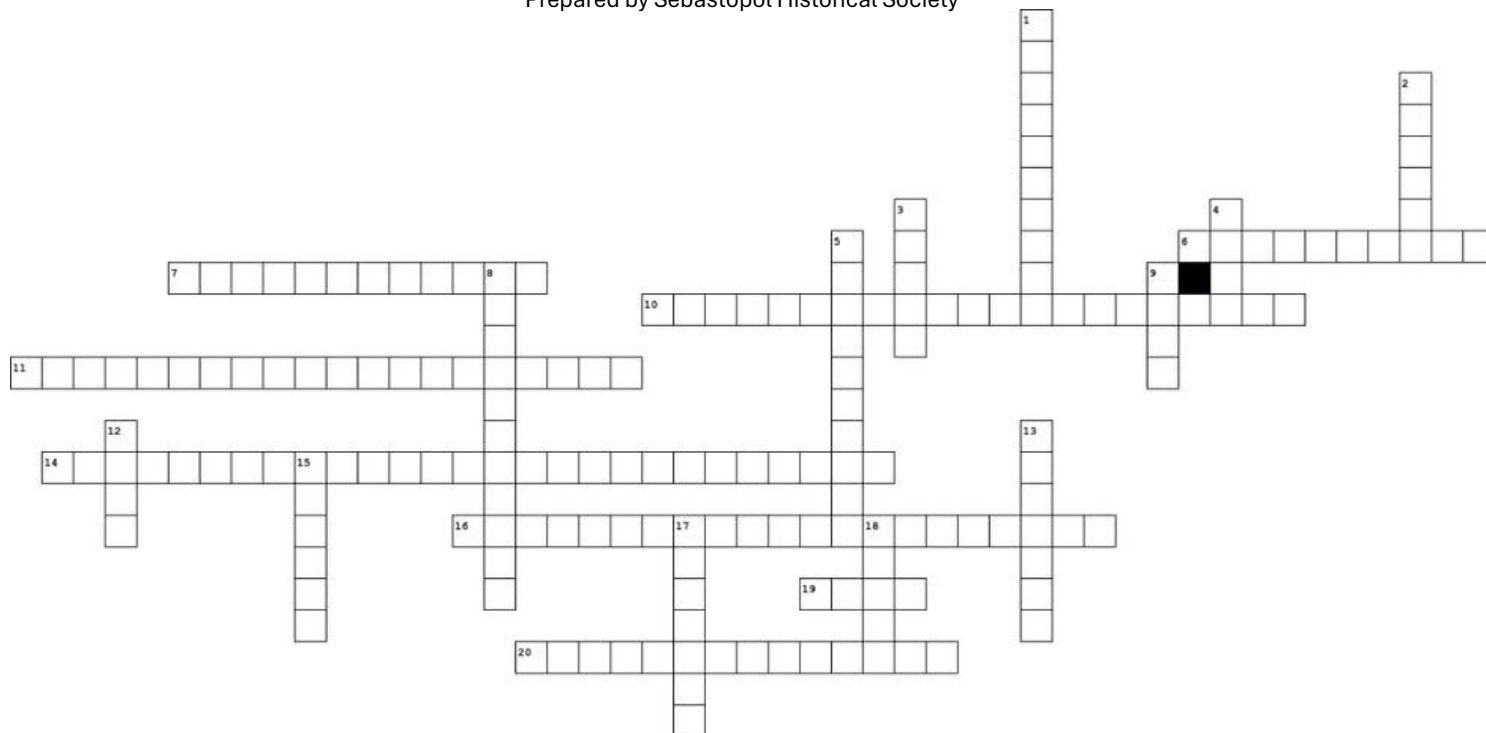
This was with the exception of a string of kids, who



Special mention must also go to the other Jan, who led a truly funereal rendition of Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah". It was quiet, as if an entire congregation chose the same moment to mouth and not utter a hymn. After you have breathed your final breath and are gliding towards the light, this will be your soundtrack. A tunnel of jaws chewing out tiny sounds. After a break for chatting, tea and chowing down a singalong ensued. You are my Sunshine looped to the very edge of ego dissolution, then a bit of the old YMCA to get the arms moving and suck everyone back into their bodies, and finally Nutbush City Limits and the inevitable line dancing, which we all learnt as children and perfected in the Canopy Club in '92. And so it was that the good folk of the Open-Door Op Shop were galvanised in song for a happy spell. No voice was especially beautiful nor was there any special grace in the dancing, but the intention was top notch, and the lemon slice was outstanding. Do events like this bring people together? As Jeff would say, "Yes" and "Yes" again.

Sebastopol History Crossword No. 3

Prepared by Sebastopol Historical Society

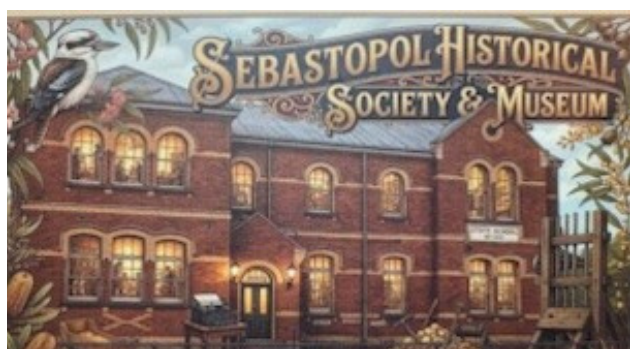


Across

6. The name of the long standing inaugural president of the Sebastopol Amateur Cycling Club for whom a local sporting reserve is named (5,5)
7. The name Ballarat is derived from the Wadawurrung First Nation words meaning what? (7,5)
10. The volunteer group that has protected & assisted our community in emergencies since 1868 (10,4,7)
11. The child care centre located alongside St James School in Vale Street (7,5,8)
14. The organisation that produces this newsletter (8,13,6)
16. The brick building (built in 1874 and opened in 1875) that is the home of Sebastopol Historical Society & a community centre but was once known as which school? (10,5,6)
19. First established in the 1860s and then reformed in the 1880s Sebastopol once had its own brass what? (4)
20. The name of our local Member of Parliament in the Victorian Legislative Assembly (7,7)

Down

1. The name of the squatter that once occupied most of the land now known as Sebastopol (4,6)
2. Prior to the introduction of electric trams in 1913, the trams from Sebastopol to Ballarat were pulled along by which animals? (6)
3. The Neville F. D. Donald park next to the Maternal & Child Health Centre in Albert Street is named for a former what? (5)
4. This Sebastopol street, located on the east side of Albert Street, is named for a town in Wales (4)
5. This bird is the mascot of the Sebastopol Football Netball Club (10)
8. First Nations peoples gathered near what is now called the Borough Depot Reserve for these celebrations (11)
9. The former Holy Trinity Anglican Church built in 1867 was recently refurbished as a temple for which community? (4)
12. The name of the supermarket on the corner of Albert & Sayle Streets (4)
13. From 1864 until 1994 Sebastopol was a separate municipality known as a what? (7)
15. This word, which once meant a lump of anything, came to mean a lump of gold in the 1850s gold rush (6)
17. The local P-12 community college is named for this gold mine (7)
18. During the gold rushes miners camped in these portable canvas shelters (5)



Learning with Harvest at St James' Primary

By Alannah, Scarlett, and Elsie, Grade 6,
St James' Primary School Sebastopol

Our school, St James, is making a community garden! We want people to work together and help the environment. Students and teachers are currently working hard to make this happen. Right now, we are building a worm farm. The worms eat food scraps like fruit and vegetable peels. They make compost that helps the soil stay healthy for plants. This also helps reduce rubbish and keeps the environment cleaner.

We are also currently planting vegetables and fruit in the garden. Students help water the plants and take care of them every week. Working in the garden teaches us teamwork and responsibility. The community garden brings people together and makes our school look good. Everyone can enjoy the garden and learn about nature.



We are building this garden for our community. If you would like to join us or contribute in some way, please contact our class teacher, Nichola.

nmead@sjsebastopol.catholic.edu.au

We hope to see you at our grand opening!!!!

Phoenix students arts and fundraising talents



We have also been learning about permaculture and how to grow food in ways that help the environment. Students have visited the Food is Free and community gardens to learn how fresh food can be shared with people who need it. We are also designing signs and garden layouts to make the space colourful, welcoming, and easy for everyone to enjoy. These activities help us learn creativity, kindness, and sustainable living.

Many students are excited to see the plants growing bigger every week. Some classes are researching which plants grow best in different seasons, while others are making decorations for the garden. We are also hoping to add more flowers to attract bees and butterflies because they help plants grow. The garden is becoming a special place where students can relax, learn new skills, and spend time outdoors with friends.

Term 2 at Phoenix College was packed full of events, with more to come in Term 3! The Arts Showcase Spectacular highlighted the creative talents of students across visual arts, music, performance and more. Our Year 11 students developed *The Blanket Effect*, a community impact program to support One Humanity Shower Bus. Through a school and community wide blanket donation drive and fundraising sausage sizzle, the students were able to donate 70 blankets, over 100 beanies, over 80 scarves and \$434 to support the important work One Humanity Shower Bus does in assisting members of our community experiencing hardship and homelessness.

Coming up in Term 3, the Year 12 students will be organising a number of fundraising events in support of Fiona Elsey Cancer Research Institute (FECRI) whilst others will be strutting the stage in the College production of *The Wizard of Oz*, don't miss it!

Meet a Local

Bio: Farley is a two-year-old Bordoodle (Border Collie x Poodle). He loves meeting new people, playing fetch (or being chased when he refuses to drop the ball)! Farley works at Phoenix P-12 Community College as a wellbeing dog, where he receives plenty of pats and love while helping students feel calm, supported, and happy. Although he has a cheeky side, Farley is also one big sweet fluffball!



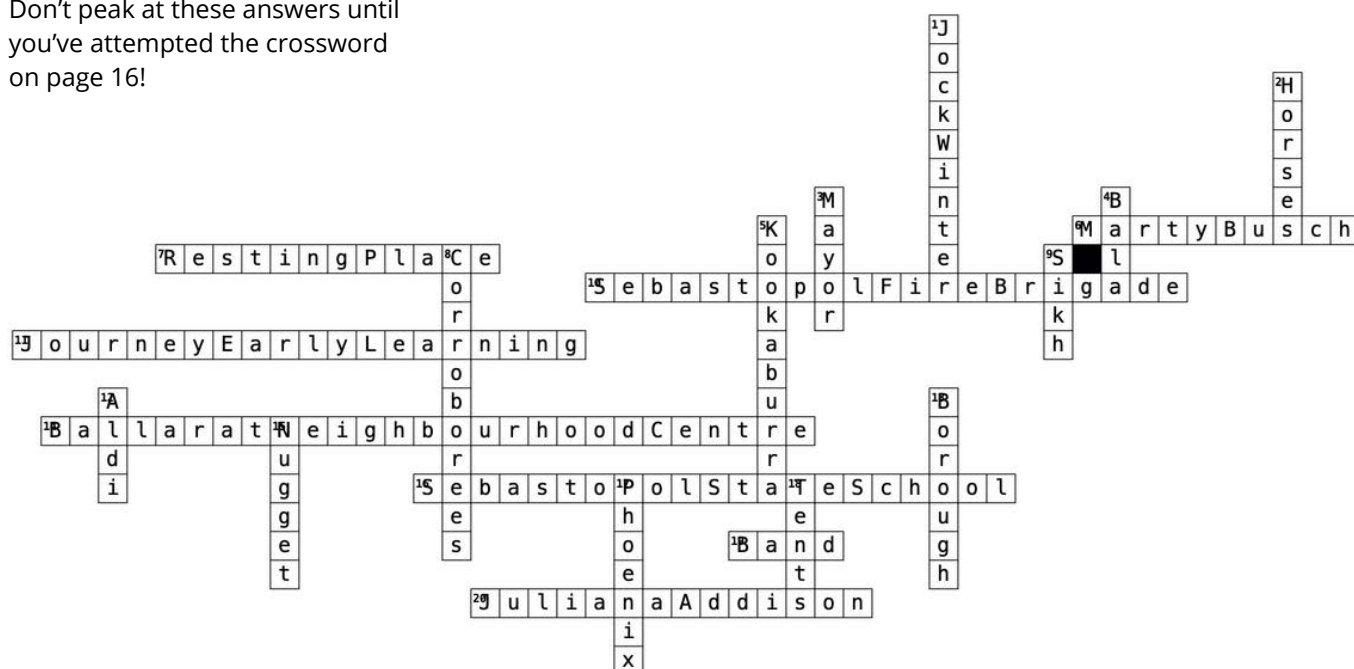
Want to see your furry friend on this page? All kinds of pets are welcome. Send a photo and bio to: community@ballaratnc.org.au

The answer is upside down at the bottom of this page



Photos by Will Lay

Don't peak at these answers until you've attempted the crossword on page 16!



Connecting Sebastopol Community News, June 2026



Stick me on your fridge

CARMEL MISSION PARTNERS AUSTRALIA

FORAGERS FAIR

Carmel Welsh Presbyterian Church
263 Albert Street, Sebastopol.

Saturday 1st August 2026, October 3rd 2026

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



Australian Ballet Dance Workshops

To celebrate The Australian Ballet On Tour in Ballarat, you're invited to participate in a free dance workshop inspired by classical favourites and exciting new works.

Seniors: Friday 24th July, 1pm - 2:45pm

Youth (aged 11 - 18yrs): Friday 24th July, 5pm - 7pm

Vickers Street Community Hub

Visit www.humantix.com and search for events happening in Sebastopol, Victoria

What's On - June, July, August

PHOENIX P-12 COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROUDLY PRESENTS

THE WIZARD of Oz

YOUTH EDITION

By L. Frank Baum

With Music and Lyrics by Harold Arlen and E. Y. Harburg
Background Music by Herbert Stothart

Dance and Vocal Arrangements by Peter Howard
Orchestration by Larry Wilcox

Adapted by John Kane for the Royal Shakespeare Company

Based upon the Classic Motion Picture owned by Turner Entertainment Co. and distributed in all media by Warner Bros.

Adaptation and support materials for the Young Performers' Edition developed by iTheatrics under the supervision of Timothy Allen McDonald

18th - 20th June
7pm | 2pm Matinee on the 20th

TICKETS ONLINE ONLY

College Theatre Tickets \$15
Phoenix P-12 Community College, Sebastopol Campus, Hertford St.

"The Wizard of Oz" is presented by permission of ORIGIN Theatrical™ on behalf of Tams-Witmark LLC, A Concord Theatricals Company



A free cuppa and chat!

Every Friday,

10:30am-12pm

Ballarat

Neighbourhood Centre,

11 Tuppen Drive

Every Thursday,

10:30-11:30am

Delacombe Community

Hub, 18 Nandriog Drive

(Contact Ballarat

Neighbourhood Centre

to confirm if on during

school holidays)

Discover what's happening across
Ballarat for Pride Month 2026

PRIDE MONTH

1 - 30 JUNE 2026

A program of inclusive events celebrating our diverse LGBTQIA+ community.

ballaratpride.au/2026-pride-month

BALLARAT
WINTER
FESTIVAL

27 June - 19 July

www.ballaratwinterfestival.com.au/



Sebastopol Library

181 Albert St, Sebastopol. Ph: 5335 7985

Friday Book Chats

Share your latest reads, get great recommendations, and explore the library collection with fellow book lovers.

When: 17 July and 14 August, 2.30pm - 3.30pm

Eco-Reads Book Chat

Discuss environmentally themed literature with fellow readers. New theme each month

When: 25 June, 23 July and 20 August,

5.30pm - 6.30pm

(Bookings essential)

Tech Hub

We host a range of programs to help you with the technology in your life including Tech Talks, Tech Cafe, AI Club and iClub.

Contact us for times and to book





TAFE VICTORIA

Grayson
Engineering (Fabrication)

FREE TAFE MAKES IT

Turn your passion into a career. Choose from over 80 in-demand qualifications and short courses with no tuition fees. **Make it real at vic.gov.au/free-tafe.**

Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne.