

# MT PLEASANT

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

JULY 2019 | ISSUE NUMBER 17



## Announcing the establishment of a new Neighbourhood House in Ballarat East

We are excited to be setting up the Ballarat East Neighbourhood House for the benefit of local residents and community of the broader Ballarat East area that includes Mt Pleasant, Golden Point, Eureka, Ballarat East, Canadian and the surrounding area. The main purpose of our House is to enrich our community by providing opportunities to connect, participate and learn. The need for another House in the Ballarat East area was identified to complement the on-going work of the three existing houses, the Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre, the Wendouree Neighbourhood Centre and the Ballarat North Neighbourhood House.

An application supported by the existing Neighbourhood Centres, Ballarat Community Health, the City of Ballarat and our local Department of Health and Human Services was successful in obtaining State Government funding to establish the new Ballarat East Neighbourhood House. While we are still looking for a permanent home and a base for our office we are delivering community activities and events across various community locations, such as parks, schools and halls.

Kate Owen, previously working as a Community Development Officer at both the Ballarat and Wendouree Neighbourhood Centres has taken on the job as the Acting Coordinator to set up this new House. Kate will be visiting groups to introduce herself and to hear your thoughts about future House activities. Kate will continue working with the Mt Pleasant community including the Mt Pleasant History Group, community events, such as the Christmas Carols and producing the newsletter.

The new House is also collecting ideas about what activities people may be interested to participate in. You can complete a survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6ZVPSJ6> and if you choose to register your details you can go into the draw to win one of three \$100 Gift Vouchers. Like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/BallaratEastNH](http://www.facebook.com/BallaratEastNH) to find out about our current activities and projects. For general inquiries email us at [reception@ballarateastnh.org.au](mailto:reception@ballarateastnh.org.au).

Our new logo is the same as the Ballarat's other Neighbourhood Centre's, but in a lovely green to complement their turquoise, orange and red logos. I look forward to taking up this exciting challenge and working together with the communities across the broader Ballarat East area. Kate Owen.



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## Celebrate National Tree Day by learning how to prune and care for fruit trees

On Friday the 26th of July, Mitch Kemp from the City of Ballarat will be at Crouch Park in Mt Pleasant to demonstrate and talk about fruit tree pruning theories and techniques, basic tree function and how trees work, soil improvement and pest and disease control. Free morning tea will be prepared by the "Our Kitchen" social enterprise group. Everyone is encouraged to come along to learn something new.



**Location: Crouch Park Mt Pleasant (see map)**

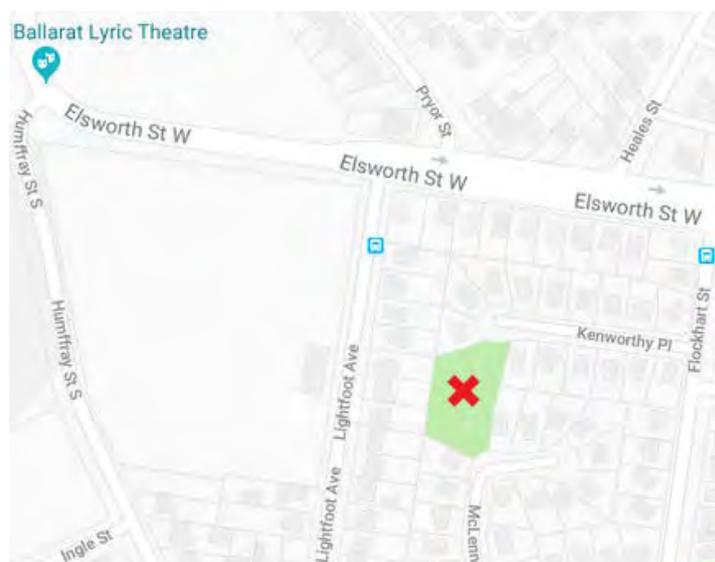
**Date: Friday 26th July**

**Time: 9:30am - 11:00am**

**Please bring your rain coat, gum boots and umbrella.**

**Bring your own gloves, secateurs and long handle pruners to have a try!**

To register, phone Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre on 5329 3273 or email [community@ballaratnc.org.au](mailto:community@ballaratnc.org.au)



## Mt Pleasant Community Garden Club. New members meeting - all welcome!

The Mt Pleasant Community Garden Club is inviting anyone who might be interested in joining the club to come along to the new members meeting at the Ballarat Observatory at the corner of Magpie and Cobden Streets on Saturday 27th July at 2.30pm. The club is a great way to meet new people, learn new skills, make community connections, share your thoughts and ideas and have fun.



## Mt Pleasant Walking Group

According to the Heart foundation (2019) regular walking provides many benefits for your health and wellbeing. Some of these benefits include reducing your risk of heart disease and stroke, preventing and controlling diabetes, maintaining your bone density, reducing the risk of developing some cancers, improving your balance and managing weight, blood pressure and cholesterol.

The Mt Pleasant walking group meets every Thursday morning at 9:00am on the corner of Laurie Street and Gladstone Street and walk to a local cafe for a coffee and a chat and arrive back at the meeting place at around 10:30am. Everyone is welcome to join in.

**Meet us on the day or for further information phone Jan on 0419954765.**



## Mt Pleasant Community Playgroup

**Mt Pleasant Community Playgroup runs at the Mt Pleasant Primary School every Friday morning during the school term from 9-11am via the Trethowan St entrance.**



Playgroup provides a range of wonderful benefits to children and their parents or carers. At Mt Pleasant Playgroup we follow the lead of the child to assist children to develop their social skills at their own pace. Playgroup aims to build children's emotional confidence by giving the child and their parent or carer a shared experience whilst meeting new people in a safe and supported space. It also encourages the children to be active through a range of activities such as running, jumping, singing, twirling, play dough and more. This develops their fine and gross motor skills.

Playgroup importantly supports children's imagination and creativity by allowing them to play in an unstructured way. Children can play dress up or develop play scenarios with dolls, Duplo and other toys.

Importantly Mt Pleasant Play Group allows parents to introduce their children to a range of activities they may not do at home. It's also a safe way for parents to allow their children to engage socially with other people and try new things. Parents can broaden their social network by meeting other parents with children in the same age group.

Children develop 80% of their brain in the first three years of life, Playgroup supports a range of experiences for children to be active learners and thinkers right from the start.

**All families and children, from birth to age 5 are welcome to attend. Parents are asked if they could please bring a piece of fruit and gold coin donation.**

## Discover Historic Mount Pleasant: The Methodist Church

This collection of buildings was at the heart of Mount Pleasant's spiritual, social and cultural life for more than a century. The first structures here were a large canvas Wesleyan chapel erected in 1855, followed two years later by a wooden church. The first minister to preach here was the Rev Theophilus Taylor, the Wesleyan circuit superintendent. After the bluestone church was built in 1865 the old wooden church was used both as a Sunday School and as a Denominational School and then as a National School.

A new building was necessary in 1876 to accommodate the 200 Sunday School scholars and their 20 teachers. This was replaced in 1906 by the red brick building on the corner. Susan Trethowan, whose name can be found on one of its five foundation stones, had attended Sunday School in the canvas chapel in 1855. The modern cream brick church was completed in 1955, a century after the first tent chapel was erected at the Reserve.



Sunday School 1915



Methodist churches built 1855 and 1955 (Photograph by Bill Garner)



Methodist women 1955

The magnificent cedar grove, which once surrounded most of the church block, was planted in 1917 by the Independent Order of Rechabites to commemorate local members who served in WW1. The grounds were originally fenced and included a caretaker's cottage at the south-west corner, and, from 1927 until the 1990s, tennis courts. In 1993 part of the land was set aside for parish retirement units. In November 2006, the small remaining congregation decided to disband the church.



The new signage at the old Methodist Church

## Discover Historic Mount Pleasant: Mt Pleasant Primary School

This was the first State School built in Ballarat. State School No. 1436 was officially opened on August 3, 1874. Designed by Henry Bastow, the State Architect, and built by Llewellyn and Edwards at a cost of nearly £8000 it was a monument to free, secular and compulsory education in the colony of Victoria. More than 500 pupils could be squeezed into the original six class rooms. The land had previously been a dairy farm, and before that was mined for gold—the rich Milkmaids lead ran down the northern boundary. The school is the direct descendent of the 1855 Wesleyan tent school.



Mt Pleasant School opening 1874



Mt Pleasant Primary School 2018 (Photograph by Leahna Mayo)



Mt Pleasant Rural State School 1955

A plaque and photographs inside the building celebrate the achievements of the first head teacher, William Nicholls, who established night classes that allowed more than a hundred mature-age students to matriculate directly from this school. The 1918 Honour Board may also be viewed with the names of forty-eight former pupils who died, and 220 who served in the Great War. The displays may be viewed with permission from the school office. From 1934 to 1958 a Rural Training School was conducted in a separate classroom modelled on a one-teacher country school. In the 1990s, due to the determination of the staff and the community, the school survived a rationalisation process under which many State schools were closed.



The new signage at the Mt Pleasant Primary School

## Discover Historic Mount Pleasant

The Mt Pleasant History Group in partnership with the Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre and the newly established Ballarat East Neighbourhood House have been working hard for the past two years to establish their vision to tell the story of the early days of Mt Pleasant. The Mayor, Cr Samantha McIntosh launched the Discover Historic Mount Pleasant brochure, exhibition and website and spoke of the importance of sharing the history of Ballarat, at the Mt Pleasant Municipal Observatory on Thursday the 23rd of May. A delicious afternoon tea was provided by the Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre's social enterprise 'Our Kitchen' group.

The aim of the brochure and website and the accompanying exhibition is to share the the history of Mt Pleasant, Ballarat's oldest residential suburb, with members of the community who may be interested. They offer extensive information and photographs of over 20 historical sites around Mt Pleasant.

In addition, local residents will notice new interpretive signs being installed, with those at the School and the old Methodist Church already in place. The signs at the Mt Pleasant Reserve and Pearces Park will be going in over the next few weeks. The 'Discover Historical Mount Pleasant' project is beneficial not only for local Mt Pleasant residents, but for the broader Ballarat community and also visitors to the City. The project encourages people of all ages to explore the 20 historical sites and walking trails promoting to more active participation and exploration of the suburb.



This newsletter is proudly produced by the Ballarat East Neighbourhood House.

For further information email: [reception@ballarateastnh.org.au](mailto:reception@ballarateastnh.org.au).

Visit our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/BallarateastNH](http://www.facebook.com/BallarateastNH) to learn more about our activities.

And we are happy to include contributions from local community groups and organisations.