

MT PLEASANT

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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Ballarat East Neighbourhood House Term 2 Update

Welcome everybody to Term 2 at Ballarat East Neighbourhood House. Kate is continuing on as Acting Manager, and Emily has joined the team as Administration Assistant. For the House and our community, this term is going to be quite different to usual, with in-person classes on hold for the foreseeable future.

However, we will continue to bring together the Ballarat East community. Updates will be sent via email, but we would also like to let you know that Facebook will be our major communication channel. Therefore, if you haven't already, we would like to invite you to 'Like' our Facebook page.

You can find us at <https://www.facebook.com/BallaratEastNH/>

This term, we are going to be posting regularly on Facebook about activities that the Ballarat East community have identified as being of interest. We will be focusing especially on activities which can be done from home or with social distancing kept in mind. For example, we will be sharing lovely walking trails in the Ballarat East area, gardening ideas, books we are reading, local history and information about places of interest.



We would love for you to like, share and comment on our posts as a way of keeping in touch with us.

Kate and Emily look forward to keeping in contact with you this term and hope to see you on the Facebook page!

Left to Right: Acting Manager Kate & Administration Assistant Emily

To learn more, find us on [Facebook.com/BallaratEastNH](https://www.facebook.com/BallaratEastNH)
Visit our website www.ballarateastnh.org.au,
or Email reception@ballarateastnh.org.au



BALLARAT EAST NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE

Our Ballarat East Neighbourhood House Facebook page is set up to provide local information and suggestions about activities you can do from home to keep you busy during the restriction periods. Here is a taste of what we've been sharing!

Walking Tracks in Ballarat East

Lake Esmond

Lake Esmond is bordered by Larter and Lal Lal Streets in Canadian. Did you know that Lake Esmond was originally a quarry? It was revived in 1982 and is a beautiful touch of nature in the Ballarat East area. Keeping in mind the current restrictions in place, unfortunately this means using the playground is not permitted. However, walking is a great way to continue your daily exercise- why not complete a lap or two of Lake Esmond whilst enjoying some fresh air. There is also some beautiful bird life around the lake for those interested. Public toilets are available.



Pennyweight Park

Pennyweight park is bordered by York, Wilson and Otway Streets. Unfortunately with the current restrictions, using the playground is not permitted. However, there is a lovely walking path you can follow through the Park and enjoy some fresh air. Check out the fantastic-community designed art installation which runs alongside path. Bluestone boulders line the pathway and feature various carvings which were designed by community members. A dog park is also under construction - we will keep you posted!





BALLARAT EAST NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE

Activities at Home

With the current recommendations to stay at home, there are plenty of leisurely activities we can do to keep us busy and relaxed. Here are some of our ideas!

Gardening

Kate's Veggie Garden

I have put in a winter crop in my little veggie Garden . I was limited by what seedlings I could manage to get but found snow peas, broad beans, broccoli and spinach. Formosa at Leith Street were fabulous - I placed a phone order and then collected. A friend has also dropped off at the front door a couple of spare silver beet and lettuce seedlings I'm yet to plant. There are plenty of places to find out what to grow at this times of the year. Ask a friend or look online at places such as The Diggers Club at www.diggers.com.au.



Emily's Geraniums

Emily is a beginner as a gardener, but she has had some great success propagating white and red geraniums in the last six months or so – probably because they are very hardy! Collecting a few small cuttings from her mum's garden, Emily placed these in jars of water for a couple of weeks (they seem to love the sunny kitchen windowsill especially). Once they'd grown a few roots, she planted them in the garden and in pots. Look how well these have taken off!



Reading



The Naturalist's Daughter

'A scientific discovery and a nineteenth-century sketchbook entangle two Australian women in a mistake that reverberates through the centuries.' It encompasses the controversy in the nineteenth century regarding the classification of the platypus that the Naturalist and his Daughter have documented. But the mystery of an old sketchbook a century later leads to even further consequences. I found it thoroughly engaging and interesting. A great read!



The Clockmaker's Daughter

Written by Kate Morton, this novel is a number one seller. Emily is about halfway through at the moment. It's especially intriguing because the story is told from a number of people's perspectives, during different times across the last two centuries. A fantastic read that is hard to put down!

Heritage of Ballarat East: Sunnyside Woollen Mill

Locals may have noticed that there have been lots of interesting things happening at the Sunnyside Woollen Mill recently.

Last year, the Ballarat East Neighbourhood House, in conjunction with the Mt Pleasant History Group, City of Ballarat, Graphic Designer Peter Lambert and the Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre, worked on a significant project called Discover Historic Mt Pleasant. Telling the story of Mt Pleasant, this project features 20 key historic local sites. You can find more information about this project on the Historic Urban Landscape Ballarat website.

The Discover Historic Mt Pleasant project included the installation of interpretive signage at key historic sites in Mt Pleasant. You may have noticed the sign at the Sunnyside Woollen Mill. It is located on the grassed area opposite the Mill in Hill Street, near the car park. Recently, new historic image panels have been installed on the Humffray Street fence by the Mill owners.



The Sunnyside Woollen Mill Story by Historian Dr. Bill Garner

The mill whistle blew three times a day. It could be heard right across Mount Pleasant. The morning whistle started the day, the midday whistle announced that it was lunchtime and the 4.15 whistle was a signal to the wool-sorters, loom-turners, spinners and weavers that they could go home.

It wasn't a place you went if you didn't work there. Even walking past felt like trespass. Although it was the largest structure in Mount Pleasant, tucked away into Sunny Corner it was strangely invisible, in some way unseen. The name Sunnyside Woollen Mill seemed ironic. It was as if something from grim industrial north of England had been dropped into Mount Pleasant. If you passed one of the half-open roller doors you couldn't see much inside because it was so dark, but you could hear the rattling looms and smell mix of wool and oil.

So it has been surprising for me to find out how famous the mill was in the nineteenth century. It was celebrated worldwide, visited by vice-royalty and was such a tourist attraction that it had its own postcards. By 1895 the mill was described as the most perfect of its kind in the southern hemisphere. In that year the Government of Victoria, Lord Brassey with Lady Brassey visited the mill in conjunction with the Australian Industrial Exhibition in Ballarat. In 1908, an extensive display of items manufactured at the Sunnyside Mill was displayed at the Franco-British Exhibition.

It is the most photographed site in Mount Pleasant. Images abound from 1873 onwards. They are a wonderful resource, recording not only the evolution of the mill itself, for they also show the surroundings- the Chinese market gardens, the tantalising edge of the Mount Pleasant Public Gardens, the changing vistas of Humffray, Morton and Bond Streets Set amongst paddocks, and the denuded rise beyond. Unroofed as it is now the mill remains an impressive structure. Behind the soaring arches of the decorative brick facade, where sawtooth roofs extend over at least a hectare, it was once the largest and most important industrial project in Ballarat.



The Sunnyside Woollen Mill continued

The Beginning

In October 1871, the Ballarat Woollen Company was formed by local investors John Anderson, James Main and Charles Seal, joined later by Robert Serjeant. According to the Withers, investors were canvassed mainly in terms of preserving their existing investments in Ballarat. The mill was entirely established with Ballarat mining money supported by woolgrowers from the Western District. It reflected the willingness and capacity of local capital to generate new industries at a time when gold mining was in decline.

The site was confirmed in June 1872 when legal claims to the land at Sunny Corner were settled by acquiring some of the market gardens. There had also once been a large grocery and fruiterer there, run by John Pearce. The laying foundation stone in 1872 was one of the largest celebrations in Ballarat to that time. On July 29th a half-holiday was proclaimed in the city and borough. Banks and other business closed at noon to allow their employees to join the procession. The Courier devoted a full page to the story. Ballarat put on its worst weather for the occasion. It rained heavily the previous night and drizzled all the next day. The streets and roads along the entire route of the procession were covered by thick mud, in some places several inches deep. It was a massive procession, involving hundreds of participants in full ceremonial grab, with hundreds more looking on. There were the three brass bands of the Ballarat Volunteer Rifles, four fire brigades, sixty masonic bodies, eleven temperance bodies and friendly societies, the mayors and councillors of the City, the Town, and several shires, local parliamentary representatives, clergy, the directors of the company and the architect, Henry Caselli, carrying his plans for the new mill.

With bands playing and banners waving the procession started at the lower end of Sturt Street and marched up to the Western Fire Brigade Tower, then back down the other side of Sturt Street, into Bridge Street, Main Road, and then along Humffray Street South (which was a puddle all the way) to Sunny Corner. It took an hour to cover the route. There, in the rain, amid drooping bunting, another large crowd, controlled by a body of police, waited for the procession in "unusually cheerless surroundings". The bluestone foundation stone was waiting, suspended from a tripod. The cavity into which it was partly cut into solid rock. As indicated by their overwhelming presence in the procession, Mason dominated the ceremony and the foundation stone was laid with masonic honours.

Charles Seal, the chairman of the company, thanked the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, and then the Rev. Samuel Walker of the Church of England joined the Very Worshipful Provincial Grand Chaplain as they mounted the stone together and offered a long prayer and read out the contents of the bottle that was to be placed under the stone. Included was a parchment scroll naming all the dignitaries along with one sovereign, one half-sovereign, one five shilling piece, one half-crown, one florin, one sixpenny piece, one threepenny piece, one penny, and one farthing. Also included were a programme of the procession, the articles and memorandum of the company, and copies of the Courier, Ballarat Star, Evening Post, Evening Mail, Geelong Advertiser, Argus, Age, Daily Telegraph, Buninyong Telegraph, Creswick Advertiser, Clunes Guardian and the Greenville Advocate, all dated July 29th. And one copy of the Deutsche Australische Zeitung. Also deposited was a complete roll of the masonic worthies present. It must have been a sizable cavity.

The Sunnyside Woollen Mill continued

Bro. Caselli, the architect, then submitted the plans for the inspection of the Provincial Grand Master of the Freemasons of Victoria and parliamentarian, the Hon. John Thomas Smith MLA. Having inspected the plans, Mr Smith handed them back to Bro. Caselli and said he was sure he would execute the work in a manner that would satisfy the directors and shareholders of the company and render the building a credit to Ballarat. Mr Smith then descended into the cavity and used an engraved silver trowel to arrange some mortar. When he emerged, the heavy foundation stone was lowered into place with loud cheers while the bands played. Amidst repeated cheering, the Grand Master scattered a handful of corn as an emblem of plenty and poured a glass of colonial wine on the stone as an emblem of joy and declared the stone 'well and truly laid'.

Mr Smith then made a speech in which he said that there was no better evidence that the country was on the right track than that world-renowned Ballarat should turn from the fevered rush in the search for the precious metal and recognise the fact that in manufactures lay the secret of her future wealth and prosperity. The mill would assist materially in solving the problem of 'What shall we do with our boys and our girls?' And he called for three cheers for the Queen and the band played the National Anthem. He said that while the masonic brethren should not take all the credit, they had been permitted to play a distinguished part in the proceedings because their institution extended back to Solomon's Temple. For the day's display of unity, he called for three more cheers. And the band played the National Anthem again. After some more speeches the proceedings ended, the procession re-formed, and everyone marched back to town in the drizzle, arriving about half-past four. Less than a month after the ceremony, thieves managed to raise the foundation stone and stole all the money, damaging the documents in the process. On August 28, a small delegation, led by the less grand deputy Grand Master substituted fresh documents and re-laid the stone. The report does not say whether they replaced the coins.



To read more about the Sunnyside Woollen Mill and many other stories of the history of Mt Pleasant then follow Facebook: History of Mount Pleasant - Ballarat

Feed Local - Food Aid to Help Local Families

Feed Local- Food Aid to Help Local Families

Our Kitchen Social Enterprise at the Ballarat Neighbourhood Centre is preparing meals for local families. Up to four free meals per family will be available. We are also distributing Woolworths, Coles, Aldi, SecongByte and The Hidden Orchard food (bread and fresh fruit and vegetables).



Do you need assistance feeding your family? If yes book a free meal pickup today. Please call 5329 7923 to make your appointment.

Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal



For the past 55 years, The Salvation Army has gone to the public as part of our Red Shield Appeal, raising funds to give hope where it's needed most. You may have either participated in our door knock or seen Salvos on the street, unifying with Australians to support those most vulnerable in our community.

Due to the restrictions put in place by COVID-19, for the first time in our 55-year history, we won't be collecting funds on the streets or at shopping centres. Our appeal is now digital. With so much uncertainty surrounding COVID-19, the Red Shield Appeal is more important than ever before. While the need is greater, the ability to raise money is more difficult, so we need your help. The Salvos invite you to participate in our Digital Door knock at this website address:

<https://digitaldoorknock.salvationarmy.org.au/t/great-er-ballarat-salvos>

There's a new page dedicated to this year's Appeal. You can be involved yourself or get involved as a team through our digital fundraising platform, to raise money for those in need. All money raised in the Appeal remains in Ballarat. Our centres in Eureka St (Ballarat City), Delacombe and Crompton St (Soldiers Hill) are still very busy serving the wonderful community of Ballarat and seek the generous support of the local community. You can also make a donation by phone on 13 72 58.

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

For further information email: reception@ballarateastnh.org.au.

Visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/BallaratEastNH to learn more about our activities.

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