

Supporting the Community

Recipients of the 2012 Ballarat Foundation Grants were announced at the Ballarat Foundation Christmas Party held at the beautifully restored Mechanics Institute on December 4th.

Ballarat Community Radio - Voice FM

Voice FM is Ballarat's own community radio station, broadcasting 24 hours a day 7 days a week. Operated by a great team of volunteers, it provides a real alternative to other broadcasters. Equipment is being added to increase the capacity of this diverse library of music.

Ballarat Toy Library



Run by its members, the Ballarat Toy Library is a friendly place where families can borrow toys on a regular basis. The range of toys available is being increased this year with the introduction of 3 larger toys designed for parties or events.

Eastwood Leisure Complex

The Eastwood Leisure Complex is a community hub used by not for profit organisations, individuals and businesses for meetings, conferences, sporting pursuits and function facilities at an affordable price. The purchase of a quality colour laser printer will enhance the resources available to the groups using the facility.

Support4Cancer

Support4Cancer provides supportive care services to those affected by cancer (an inclusive term for individuals, family, carers and friends) within a considered and structured framework.

Being led by people who have experienced cancer first hand, this service also seeks to provide access to non-invasive therapies such as massage, yoga and relaxation sessions.

Improving Pathways for Disengaged School Students

The VCAL students who attend the Daylesford Neighbourhood Centre (DNC) have for one reason or another disengaged from school and have

significant issues in their life, including experiencing homelessness from time to time.

DNC are refurbishing the facilities where the students attend in order to achieve a better learning environment.

L2P Learner Driver Mentor Program

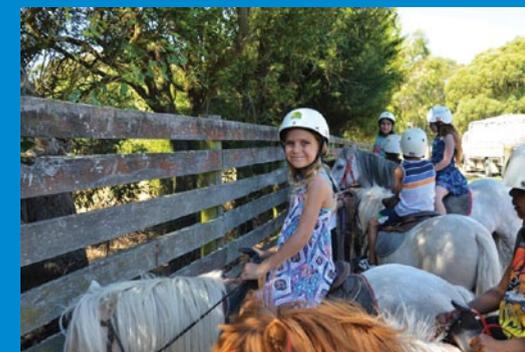


Lead On Ballarat has a team of volunteer mentors who provide supervision to disadvantaged young people to help them gain those all-important 120 hours of driving experience. The time these volunteers offer not only helps the young person practically, but also provides a positive role model for them in a relaxed and caring atmosphere.

Lighthouse Foundation

Lighthouse's Psychological Wellness Program seeks to offer housing with a difference to young people in the atmosphere of a family home where there is ongoing intensive support. There is also access to one-on-one counselling and other therapies, enabling previously homeless young people to turn their lives around.

Aboriginal Literacy Foundation (ALF) - Literacy and Heritage Camp



The ALF have been providing camps for Koori children aged between 8 and 16 years for 4 years now. The camps are intensive weekends where literacy is the focus and are integral to the weekly tutoring program these children participate in.

From the CEO's desk

Perhaps it is a morbid thought, or just a reflection of middle age, but I have found myself pondering the end of my life of late. What is it that I aim to leave behind? If all of us, as the saying goes, are actors on the stage of life, what will the credits read?

While I am planning on many more years to come, watching my children grow to become adults and enjoying my "Troisième Âge", I cannot but ponder the confronting truth that all of us do die one day.

That is why for me it is such an honour to be able to administer our memorial funds. Funds that we hold in memory of people who have passed away. Many of them are loved family members, partners, children, best friends and acquaintances of the Ballarat community.

For us at The Ballarat Foundation, it is a real privilege to see the gifts left by these individuals personally as a bequest or on behalf of them by friends and family still continuing to give. These funds will be held in perpetuity, meaning that the community and organisations will continue to receive for many, many years to come.

Our Memorial Funds

- John and Catherine Davis
- Jamie Gear
- Janine Owen
- Matthew George Young Stockman Award

Our Bequest Funds

- June Wilson
- John Green

To the family members who have allowed us the privilege of joining with you on this journey, we thank you: it is a true honour.

If you would like to have a chat about leaving a bequest or creating a memorial fund, please give me a call in the office 03 5331 5555

Thank you
Geoff Sharp



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NEWS: Founding Women inspired by FIREFOXES story



In the lovely surroundings of the Alexandria on Lydiard, Guest Speaker Jemima Richards, co-founder of FIREFOXES, shared her story of Black Saturday and all that has happened in the ensuing time. Her story is one of overcoming adversity, seeking to support and care for the women in the community so as to support the whole community as it recovers from a disaster. Jemima is so passionate about what she does and is an inspiration to all of us; out of tragedy can grow something amazing and life changing for many.

The experience of the communities of the King Lake area and their recovery process is now being shared around the world as FIREFOXES offer their knowledge to other people piecing their lives back together into a new 'normal' after a major disaster event.



At the luncheon, Geoff Sharp, CEO of The Ballarat Foundation, also shared a new initiative being launched in Ballarat in July. Ballarat Reads aims to increase literacy levels across our city with a threefold approach:

- Free, quality books mailed to each pre-school child every month from birth to age 5
- Education, support and resources for families to encourage reading at home
- Community engagement and activities to encourage reading and literacy on a broader scale.

Upcoming Events

September:
Matthew George Young Stockman Award recipient announcement

October:
Founding Women Luncheon

November:
Springfest
Cocktails with Wheels

December:
Christmas Party including 2013 Ballarat Foundation funding announcement