

# Tagalong 2011

## WEEK 4.

On the last week of the tag-along.

DATE	24 <sup>th</sup> October	25 <sup>th</sup> October	26 <sup>th</sup> October	27 <sup>th</sup> October	28 <sup>th</sup> October	29 <sup>th</sup> October	30 <sup>th</sup> October
WEEK 4	HALLS GAP To MACEDON	MACEDON	MACEDON TO LAKE HUME	LAKE HUME	LAKE HUME To Boorowa	Boorowa Rally	Boorowa Rally

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2011

We have an early start from the campsite at Halls Gap and wave good-bye to Jim and Ann O'Connor. We and drive towards Stawell

Halls Gap to Macedon.

From	To	Distance	Total
Halls Gap	Stawell	25 kms	25 kms
Stawell	Ararat	29 kms	54 kms
Ararat	Beaufort	44 kms	98 kms
Beaufort	Ballarat	47 kms	145 kms
Ballarat	Bacchus Marsh	58 kms	203 kms
Bacchus Marsh	Gisborne	33 kms	236 kms
Gisborne	Macedon	15 kms	241 kms

**Stawell** is a town in the Wimmera. The town is located in Shire of Northern Grampians Local Government Area, 237 kilometres (147 mi) west-north-west of the state capital, Melbourne. At the 2006 census, Stawell had a population of 6,035.

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Stawell is famed for the Stawell Gift, a professional foot race.



**HISTORY** The town site was first settled during the gold rush of 1853 and was named Pleasant Creek, but was later renamed to honour Sir William Foster Stawell (1815–89), the Chief Justice of Victoria. Two Post Offices were opened, Pleasant Creek on 19 October 1857 and Quartz Reef, Pleasant Creek on 1 June 1859. From 1861 they were renamed Stawell and Quartz Reef, Stawell. In 1870 Stawell was renamed Stawell West, and Quartz Reef, Stawell was renamed Stawell. The town was created a borough in 1869.

Stawell's historical association with gold-mining continued when full-scale mining recommenced in 1981.

After leaving Stawell, some 11kms down the road, we can stop at the Seppelt's winery for a little look and it really will be too early for a sip or two but I'm sure most are familiar with the label. (And the wine)

**Great Western** is a town in the east of the Wimmera. The town is located on the Western Highway, in the Shire of Northern Grampians Local Government Area, 225 kilometres north west of the state capital, Melbourne. The town has a population of 644.

The first European settlers in the Great Western area were sheep graziers in the 1840s and closer settlement began with the discovery of gold during the Victorian gold rush, the Post Office opening on 1 June 1858. The first vineyards in the Great Western area were established by two Frenchmen who met at the gold diggings at Daylesford. Following their example, Joseph Best and his brother Henry established vineyards in 1865. Following Joseph's death in 1888, the property was purchased by Hans Irvine. Irvine imported staff from France and dedicated himself to establishing a sparkling wine of comparable quality of French champagne. In 1918, Irvine sold the winery to his friend and Australian wine pioneer, Benno Seppelt.

Today, Great Western is still producing quality sparkling wines including Seppelt Salinger at the Seppelt winery, now owned by the Foster's Group. The Seppelt cellars include over 3 kilometres of labyrinthine tunnels ("drives") originally constructed by miners searching for gold and are now used to allow the sparkling wine to rest and develop. The other major vineyard in the area is

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the Concongella vineyard, operated by Best's Wines, producing a wide variety of wine types. Table Shiraz, including some from pre-phylloxera root stocks, is also produced by wineries in the area. The development of a water recycling program transferring waste water from nearby Ararat to wineries at Great Western has allowed recent expansion of the wine industry in the area.

**Moving on we can enjoy the drive to Ararat. The country side is quite unique.**

**Ararat** is a city, about 205 kilometres (130 mi) west of Melbourne, on the Western Highway. It is the largest settlement in the federal Division of Wannon. Its estimated population is 8,220.

Set between mountain ranges and surrounded by fertile grazing country, Ararat is the administrative centre for the local government area known as the Rural City of Ararat.

Gold was discovered there in 1857 sparking a district gold rush, turning it into a significant Victorian gold rush boomtown. It continued to prosper until after the turn of the 20th century after which it has steadily declined in population. It was proclaimed as a city on 24 May 1950. However it continues to decline.

**History** Prior to the European settlement of Australia, Ararat was inhabited by the Tjapwurong Indigenous Australian people

Europeans first settled in the Grampians region in the 1840s after surveyor Thomas Mitchell passed through the area in 1836. In 1841, Horatio Wills, on his way to selecting country further south, wrote in his diary, "like the Ark we rested" and named a nearby hill Mt Ararat. It is from this entry and the nearby Mount that the town takes its name. The Post Office opened 1 February 1856 although known as Cathcart until 31 August 1857

In 1857, a party of Chinese miners en route to the Central Victorian gold fields struck gold at the Canton Lead which marked the beginning of great growth in Ararat. The Chinese community was substantial in Ararat, the Gum San Chinese Heritage Centre commemorates the history of the community.

Rapid growth brought about a municipality, which was incorporated as a borough on 24 September 1858.

Ararat became a city of asylums J Ward, a lunatic asylum for criminally insane opened in 1859. In 1865, a large facility Aradale Mental Hospital was opened. Both have been closed but remain as significant reminders of the city's role in the treatment of mentally ill patients. Ararat & District Hospital (established in 1850) is a major regional hospital and is coordinated by the East Grampians Health Service and Ararat Medical Centre.

Vines were planted in 1863 by French settlers.

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Ararat's economy is driven by primary industries of the region including wool, beef and the Grampians Wine Region. The region has a number of wind farms including the Chalicum Hills Wind Farm produce large amounts of renewable energy to the National Electricity Market.

The city also has a significant service economy with health, community services and is a regional commerce centre. HM Prison Ararat is located in the town.

Servicing visitors to the Grampians National Park and the local wine industry, tourism is a relatively small but significant industry in Ararat, employing 150 people and generating around \$8 million to the economy, however its impact on the surrounding region is significant with tourists spending \$270 million annually.

**GEOGRAPHY** Ararat is nestled between several mountain ranges, including the Grampians National Park, Mount Langi Ghiran, Mount Cole, Mount Buangor, Ararat Hills Regional Park and the Pyrenees Ranges. Green Hill Lake is nearby also which provides many water sport activities.

Ararat has four primary schools - Ararat Primary; Ararat West Primary; Ararat North Primary and St Mary's Catholic Primary School. In addition there are several kindergartens in the city. There are two main colleges - Ararat Community College and Marian College which is a Catholic high school. Ararat has regional campuses of the University of Ballarat and Northern Melbourne Institute of TAFE.

Ararat's National Trust listed former town hall with its elaborate clock tower, designed by Molloy and Smith and built in 1899, is now home to the Ararat Regional Art Gallery, and the Ararat Performing Arts Centre for the city.

The city's main community festival is known as the Golden Gateway Festival and has run since 1958 when it was set up to commemorate the city's centenary. The Jailhouse Rock Festival (since 1994 a retro 1950s themed festival) are two major festival events in Ararat.

Ararat is situated at the junction of several main roads including the Western Highway via High Street (running eastward to Ballarat and Melbourne and westward to Horsham and Adelaide); the Pyrenees Highway via Vincent Street (running east to Avoca and Maryborough); Ararat-Pomonal Road via Barkly Street (westward towards Halls Gap) and the Mortlake-Ararat Road

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via Vincent Street (running south with connections to the west and Hamilton, south and Warrnambool). Ararat's urban area streets are laid out in grid plan.

Ararat's railway station is at the junction of the Ararat railway, Western standard gauge railway and Avoca railway. It is serviced by V/Line with twice daily peak VLocity services running along the Ararat Line to Ballarat (53 minutes) and on to Melbourne (133–143 minutes), with some trains stopping at stations in between as well as The Overland to Melbourne three times weekly (140 minutes). Train travel toward Adelaide is also possible on The Overland which stops at Ararat on route from Melbourne and is generally a 16 hour journey.

## Notable people

- Air Chief Marshal Sir Frederick Scherger was born in Ararat on 18 May 1904
- Shane Kelly Olympic Cyclist and medal winner

We will stop here for about 60 to 90 minutes. *The Gum San Chinese Heritage Centre*



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*One day in May, 1857, 700 Chinese miners from Southern China, travelling overland from the Port of Robe in South Australia, to the Central Goldfields in the Colony of Victoria, rested at a place in the foothills of the Great Dividing Range, some 400 kilometres due east of Robe. Replenishing their water supplies from a spring, they discovered, by chance, the Canton Lead, one of the world's richest shallow alluvial goldfields that stretched eight kilometres at length. This find marked the beginning of the Ararat Goldfield, which grew to a population of more than 30,000 in a mere few weeks.*

*In the first three weeks of mining, the Canton Lead yielded ninety five kilograms of gold and in the first three months, more than three ton. By the time the official gold escort ceased in 1863, more than 15 tonne of gold had been transported to Melbourne.*

*Designed in the traditional style of Southern Chinese Architecture, the Gum San Chinese Heritage Centre incorporates the principals of Feng Shui. The two-storey building, with its authentic Chinese tiled roof, houses a fascinating selection of interactive, audio-visual and static displays. A series of exhibition spaces, state of the art*

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*presentations, and rotating displays of Chinese artifacts and period pieces provide a record of the rich colour and history of Chinese culture in Australia.*

*The unique Heritage Centre is a tourist attraction offering history, culture and education. It brings to life the story of the immigrant miners on the Victorian Goldfields in the mid1800's and recreates the social, environmental and political situation of the time. Gum San is an important base for the understanding of the influence of Chinese culture on the economic, cultural and social development of Australia. Discover the fun and delight of gold panning, try your hand at calligraphy, learn about the Chinese language and play traditional Chinese games. Become engrossed in the courthouse stories and see the replica of the mining tunnel uncovered during the construction of the Centre. The Gum San Chinese Heritage Centre provides an authentic snapshot of the Chinese culture from the 1800s through to the modern day. The Gum San Chinese Heritage Centre is an authentic recreation of a traditional two-storey Chinese building, set in established Chinese gardens and forecourt. This ancient Chinese art guides the design and placement of a building to take advantage of the flow of natural energy.*

*The ornate roof with its curled up hips is typical of Chinese design. Adorned with dragons and other mythical creatures, it has become a unique and striking feature of the Ararat skyline. The tiles were generously donated by The People's Government of Taishan, China and were fixed in place over a four month period by four specialist tradesman contracted from the city of Taishan.*

*The Ararat Chinese Heritage Society was formed in 1985. The committee was established to help Ararat celebrate Victoria's 150th anniversary by commemorating the role of Chinese miners in the settlement of Ararat. The society was instrumental in winning sister city status with Taishan in Guangdong province. In 1989 the Gum San Trust was formed to commence fundraising in earnest for the Gum San Chinese Heritage Centre. The Trust and the Society worked tirelessly for eleven years, fundraising and planning for the construction of the Gum San Chinese Heritage Centre. The result is one of remarkable community dedication.*

**Beaufort** is a town midway between Ararat and Ballarat, in the Pyrenees Shire local government area. It is 387 metres above sea level. At the 2001 census, Beaufort had a population of 987. The town takes its name either from Rear-Admiral Francis Beaufort or a Welsh village in Monmouthshire. The area was once occupied by the Jajowarrung Aborigines who called the area 'Peerick' or 'Yarram-yarram'

Thomas Mitchell passed through the district on his expedition of 1836. Early settlers in the area were the Kirkland Brothers and a Mr. Hamilton; the latter took up *Trawalla Station* in 1838. The station was taken over by Adolphus Goldsmith in 1841 and he developed the property into a rich grazing enterprise. Lake Goldsmith was named after him. Gold was discovered in 1852, with another gold rush from 1854 at nearby Fiery Creek. The Fiery Creek diggings supported four townships — Beaufort, Yam Holes Creek, View Point and Southern Cross — during the 1850s. The population on the fields reportedly reached approximately 100,000 people at its height in the late 1850s and produced 450,000 ounces of gold over a two-year period, 1855–1856. The town

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was surveyed in 1857 and town allotments were sold from 1858. By 1860, Beaufort had become a small but strong agricultural, pastoral and timber district. Beaufort's Court House was built in 1863 and the Post Office renamed as Beaufort the same year (since 1855 having been known as Fiery Creek, Fiery Creek Pyrenees Gold Field, and Raglan).

Beaufort has been home to an all-ages, five-day (rave) music and arts festival called Rainbow Serpent Festival since 1998.

The town has its own railway station on the Ararat railway line.

The town has various successful businesses including Michael Unwin Wines, Epping Timber, McVilly's Timber and a school camp called Cave Hill Creek. The town also has a supermarket, chemist, news agency, its own newspaper (Pyrenees Advocate) two pubs and cafes.

**Driving south east we will have a stop off at Ballarat. Take your time to have lunch, to shop and explore. Macedon is only about 106 kms down the road.**

**Ballarat** is a city approximately 105 kilometres (65 mi) north-west of the state capital Melbourne situated on the lower plains of the Great Dividing Range and the Yarrowee River catchment. It is the largest inland centre and third most populous city in the state and the fifth most populated inland city in Australia. The estimated urban area population is 96,000. It is the administrative centre for the City of Ballarat, which encompasses both the urban area and outlying towns spanning an area of 740 square kilometres (290 sq mi). Inhabitants of Ballarat are known as Ballaratians.

It was named by Scottish settler Archibald Yuille who established the sheep run called Ballaarat in 1837 with the name derived from local Wathaurong Aboriginal words for the area, *balla arat*, thought to mean "resting place". The present spelling was officially adopted in 1996.

Ballarat is one of the most significant Victorian era boomtowns in Australia. Gold was discovered at Poverty Point on 18 August 1851, and the district was found to be a rich alluvial field where gold could easily be extracted. News of the finds intensified the Victorian gold rush bringing over 10,000 migrants to the city from around the world within a year and transforming it from a station to a major settlement in the newly proclaimed Colony of Victoria. Australia's first gold stamp mill was established at Ballarat in 1854.

It was the site of the Eureka Rebellion, the first armed civil uprising in Australian history, which took place on 3 December 1854 at the Eureka Mining Lead, and the event is controversially identified with the birth of democracy in Australia. Many significant Australian cultural icons are also a legacy of Ballarat's gold rush boom. The rebellion's symbol, the Eureka Flag has become a national symbol and is held at the Ballarat Fine Art Gallery, The event, in which 22 miners died, is considered to be a defining moment in Australian history.

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Ballarat has Australia's oldest and largest regional gallery. Other nationally significant heritage structures include the Ballarat Botanical Gardens, established 1857, the best example of a regional botanic gardens in Australia with the greatest concentration of public statuary including the official Prime Ministers Avenue; the longest running lyric theatre building, Her Majesty's, established 1875; the first municipal observatory, established 1886; and the earliest and longest memorial avenue, the Avenue of Honour, established between 1917 and 1919.

Proclaimed a city in 1871, its prosperity continued until late in the 19th century, after which its importance relative to both Melbourne and Geelong rapidly faded with the slowing of gold extraction. It has endured as a major regional centre hosting the rowing and kayaking events from the 1956 Summer Olympics. It is the commercial capital of the Central Highlands and the largest city in the Goldfields region of Victoria – a significant tourist destination. Ballarat is known for its history, culture and its well preserved Victorian era heritage.

**History** Prehistory and European settlement: Prior to the European settlement of Australia, the Ballarat region was populated by the Wathaurong people, an Indigenous Australian people. The Boro gundidj tribe's territory was based along the Yarrowee River.

Scottish settlers the Yuille family, Archibald Buchanan Yuille and his brother William Cross Yuille arrived in 1837 and squatted a sheep run of 10,000-acre (40 km<sup>2</sup>) with William Cross building a hut at Black Swamp in 1838. Outsiders originally knew of the settlement as Yuille's Station and Yuille's Swamp. Archibald Yuille named the area "Ballaarat" which is thought he derived from local Wathaurong Aboriginal words for the area, *balla arat*. The meaning of this word is not certain, however several translations have been made and it is generally thought to mean 'resting place'. In some dialects, *balla* means "bent elbow" which is translated to mean reclining or resting and *arat* meaning "place".

**1850s: Gold rush** On 19 August 1851, John Dunlop and James Regan struck gold at Poverty Point with a few ounces but within days of the announcement prospectors rushed the area. As the Victorian gold rush gathered pace, numerous alluvial and deep mining leads sprang up in the Ballarat district. The Ballarat goldfields had gained an international reputation as a rich goldfield and a huge influx of immigrants from around the world included many from Ireland and China gathering in a collection of prospecting shanty towns around the creeks and hills. Several other notable gold fields were established in the wider area including the Berringa, Clunes, Creswick, Talbot and Enfield but the Ballarat district was the most important settlement in the area and the colony's second largest settlement.

The first Post Office opened on 1 November 1851. Parts of the district were first surveyed by William Urquhart as early as October 1851. By 1852 his grid plan and wide streets for land sales in the new township of West Ballarat contrasted markedly with the existing narrow unplanned streets, tents and gullies of the original East Ballarat settlement.

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The city earned the nickname "The Golden City" in the 1850s and during the 1860s prospered greatly on gold mining. Confidence of the city's early citizens in the enduring future of their city is evident in the sheer scale of many of the early public buildings, generous public recreational spaces, and opulence of many of its commercial establishments and private housing. The railway came to the town with the opening of the Geelong-Ballarat line in 1862. As Ballarat grew, the region's original indigenous inhabitants were quickly expelled to the fringe and by 1867 few at all remained.

During the period from the 1870s to the early 20th century Ballarat made a successful transition from a gold rush town to industrial age city.

Ballarat was proclaimed a city in 1871. Gong Gong reservoir was built in 1877 to alleviate flooding and to provide a permanent water supply. A direct railway to Melbourne was completed in December 1889. Many industries and workshops that had been established as a result of manufacturing and servicing for the deep lead mining industry.

Local boosterists at the turn of the century adopted the nickname "Athens of Australia", first used to describe the city by the prestigious Irish-Australian jurist and politician of the early 20th century Sir John Madden.

On 13 May 1901, the Duke of York (later King George V) and his wife, the Duchess of York, travelled by train from Melbourne to Ballarat.

Following the turn of the century Ballarat's growth had all but stopped. World War I dented the city's population further and the general decline led to the gradual loss of first provincial status to Geelong. In response, local lobbyists continually pushed the Victorian government for decentralization, the greatest success being the Victorian Railways opening the Ballarat North Workshops in April 1917. The Great Depression proved a further setback for Ballarat, with the closure of many institutions.

**Since the 20th Century:** While deep, the depression was also brief, the interwar period proved a period of recovery for Ballarat with a number of major infrastructure projects well underway including a new sewerage system. In 1930, Ballarat Airport was established. By 1931 Ballarat's economy and population was recovering strongly with further diversification of industry although in 1936 Geelong displaced it as the state's second largest city. During World War II an expanded Ballarat airport was the base of the RAAF Wireless Air Gunners' School as well as the base for USAAF Liberator bomber squadrons.

In the Post-war era, Ballarat's growth continued, expanding significantly to the northwest and an acute housing shortage was eased with the establishment of an extensive Housing Commission of Victoria estate on the former Ballarat Common (today known as Wendouree West). The estate was originally planned to contain over 750 prefabricated houses. Whilst planning for the estate began in 1949, main construction occurred between 1951 and 1962. During the 1970s a further 300 houses were constructed. Private housing in the adjacent suburb of Wendouree closely

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matched and eventually eclipsed this by the mid 1960s. The suburb of greater Wendouree and Wendouree West had evolved as the suburban middle-class heart of the city.

By the 1970s, Ballarat began to officially recognize its substantial heritage and the first heritage controls were recommended to ensure its preservation. With the opening of Sovereign Hill, the city made a rapid shift to become a major cultural tourist destination.

The city continued to grow at the national average throughout the late 20th Century and early 21st Century. In 2008 the City of Ballarat released a plan directing that growth of the city over the next 30 years is to be concentrated to the west of the city centre and through the redevelopment of inner city housing blocks, and other under-developed inner-city land in the East that is being redeveloped to create a higher-density housing structure.

**GEOGRAPHY:** Ballarat lies at the foothills of the Great Dividing Range in Central Western Victoria. Also known as the Central Highlands, it is named so because of its gentle hills and lack of any significant mountains which are more common in the eastern sections of the Great Dividing Range. The city lies within a gently undulating section of the midland plains which stretch from Creswick in the north, to Rokewood in the south, and from Lal Lal in the south-east to Pittong in the west. These plains are made up of alluvial sediment and volcanic flows, and contain large areas of rich agricultural soils. A large feature of the city is the man-made Lake Wendouree (formerly Yuille's Swamp), around which many of the inner suburbs are situated. The central city is situated low in the valley of the Yarrowee catchment and surrounded by hills such that the city skyline is visible only from the hills and the lower lying inner eastern suburbs. The reach of the Yarrowee toward Ballarat Central becomes a stormwater drain and is completely covered over as it flows under the CBD.

There are numerous densely forested areas around Ballarat and large bodies of water including the White Swan Reservoir and other lakes, rivers and creeks which are used for urban water use and agriculture.

**CITY AND SUBURBS** Ballarat's is a primarily low-rise city though apart from the area around Ballarat Airport there are few established height limits for buildings. There are two principle activity centres within the urban area, the Central Business District (CBD) and Wendouree. The tallest building in urban Ballarat is the seven storey Henry Bolte wing of the Ballarat Base Hospital (1994). Beyond the central area urban Ballarat extends into several suburban areas. Settlement patterns around Ballarat consist of small villages and country towns, some with less than a few thousand people.

The Central Business District (located in Ballarat Central) is a large mixed use office and retail district. Ballarat's CBD (along Lydiard, Sturt Streets, Armstrong, Doveton and Dana Streets) along with the historic centre of East Ballarat – Main Street and Bakery Hill has retained stands of commercial and civic buildings of state and national heritage significance. The CBD area is

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bounded to the north by railway lines and extends to the west to Drummond Street, to the south to Grant Street and to the east as far as Princes Street spanning the floodplain of the Yarrowee River. It includes a major retail area.

The inner established suburbs were initially laid out around the key mining areas and include Ballarat East, Bakery Hill, Golden Point, Soldiers Hill, Black Hill, Brown Hill, Eureka, Canadian, Mount Pleasant, Redan, Sebastopol and Newington.

The post gold rush era has seen a boom in expansion, extending the conurbation north, south and west. To the west, Ballarat has expanded to Alfredton, Delacombe and Wendouree to the north it has expanded to Ballarat North, Nerrina, Invermay and Invermay Park; to the east to Warrenheip and south to Sebastopol, Mount Clear and Mount Helen with the urban area encroaching the large town of Bunninyong.

Wendouree is currently the only major suburban activity centre with a large indoor shopping mall – Stockland Shopping Centre (expanded in 2007) and also has a number of surrounding retail parks including a strip shopping centre along Howitt Street including the large retail chain Harvey Norman. Elsewhere are small suburban hubs with supermarkets such as IGA (supermarkets) and small stretches of shop fronts.

Unlike Melbourne, Ballarat does not have a defined urban growth boundary. This has put continuing pressure on the city council to approve development applications for subdivisions outside of the city fringe. In response to lobbying by landholders the Ballarat West Growth Area Plan, a major Greenfield land development plan was prepared and has approved by the city and state government to allow for planned fringe communities consisting of 14,000 new homes and up to 40,000 new residents effectively doubling the city's urban area by extending the urban sprawl from Sebastopol, Delacombe and Alfredton west toward Bonshaw, Smythes Creek and Cardigan with a new suburb to be known as Lucas to be created. New activity centres are to be developed at Delacombe and Alfredton.

**CLIMATE** Ballarat has a moderate oceanic climate with four seasons. Its elevation, at 435 metres (1,427 ft) above sea level, causes its mean monthly temperatures to tend on average 3 – 4 degrees Celsius below those of Melbourne. The mean daily maximum temperature for January is 25.0 °C (77 °F) whilst the mean minimum is 10.8 °C (51 °F) In July, the mean maximum is 10.0 °C (50 °F), with average July minimum is 3.2 °C (38 °F)

The mean annual rainfall is 695 millimeters (27.75 in), with August being the wettest month (77 mm/3.0 in. There is an average of 198 rain-free days per year. Like much of Australia, Ballarat experiences cyclical drought and heavy rainfall. Flooding of the Yarrowee catchment occurs occasionally. In 1869 a serious flood of the Yarrowee River put most of the lower section of business district including Bridge and Grenville streets underwater and causing the loss of two lives. Prolonged drought (an average annual rainfall with falls averaging as low as 400 mm (16 in) per year since 2001) caused Lake Wendouree to dry up completely for the first time in its

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history between 2006 and 2007. More recently higher rainfall levels have been recorded including 95.0 mm (3.74 in) in the 24 hours to 9am on 14 January 2011, ending a four-day period of flooding rains across much of Victoria and Tasmania, and contributing to the wettest January on record, with a total of 206.0 mm (8.11 in) of rain for the month.

Light snowfall typically falls on nearby Mount Buninyong and Mount Warrenheip at least once a year but only in the urban area during heavy winters. Widespread frosts and fog are more common during the cooler months. Snow has been known to fall heavily. Heavy snow seasons occurred in 1900-1902, 1905-1907 (with record falls in 1906) and moderate snow seasons during the 1940s and 1980s. The most recent snowfalls to have occurred within the urban area were between 2006-2008 with falls in November 2006 (light); July 2007 (moderate); June 2008 (light) and August 2008 (light).

Ballarat's highest maximum recorded temperature was 44.1 °C (111 °F) on 7 February 2009 during the 2009 southeastern Australia heat wave. This is 2.1 °C (36 °F) above the previous record of 42.0 °C (108 °F), set on 25 January 2003. The lowest ever recorded minimum was –6 °C (21 °F) at sunrise on 21 July 1982.

**ENVIRONMENT** Ballarat has a healthy environment in comparison to Melbourne, however as a growing regional city there are issues including pollution, waterway health and invasive species. Air quality is generally good; however wood smoke from fireplaces is a issue in the winter months. Ballarat's waterways have historically been affected by heavy pollution from both mining and industry. Feral pigeons are also a problem in Ballarat.

The Ballarat Environment Network formed in 1993 to provide a voice for environmental and nature conservation issues in Ballarat and surrounds. Another large lobby group for sustainability in the city is the Ballarat Renewable Energy and Zero Emissions – BREAZE formed in 2006. The City of Ballarat released an Environment Sustainability Strategy for the city in 2007. While there are no national parks in Ballarat's proximity, Ballarat is bordered by extensive bush land to the north, south and south west and sensitive wetlands to the east. There are a number of nearby state parks and large reserves including the Enfield State Park, Creswick Regional Park, Mount Warrenheip Flora Reserve Mount Buninyong Reserve and Lake Burrumbeet park. The region is home to a large koala population with protected areas established in the city's outer southern and eastern settlements.

Many parts of urban Ballarat have been affected by the introduction of exotic species, particularly introduced flora. Common Gorse is one such problem which has prompted the formation of an official Ballarat Region Gorse Task Force in 1999 to control.

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**ECONOMY** Ballarat's major industries include the service industries, tourism and hospitality, manufacturing, education and information technology as well as primary industries including agriculture, mining and renewable energy.

As a major service centre for the populous goldfields region, Ballarat has large sectors of employment in retailing, service industries, state and federal government branch offices and agencies and health care.

**SERVICE INDUSTRIES** Ballarat is the main retail economy in the region. Central to the retail district is a pedestrian mall known as Bridge Mall. There are shopping malls, the largest of which are Central Square Shopping Centre (completed in 1988) opposite the town hall which includes the major department stores of Myer (located within the 1870s Mitchell building) and Target. Additionally the city has each of the major supermarkets, specialty stores and branches of the big four Australian retail banks.

Ballarat has become a major education centre with the formation of the University of Ballarat which exports education through a large international students program and throughout Australia through distance education programs.

In recent years, a large technology park, the University of Ballarat Technology Park with communications centre has been established, with tenants including IBM and employing over 1,400 people.

**TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY** Ballarat attracts 2.2 million visitors a year and the tourism and hospitality industry is a A\$480 million a year sector which accounts for around 15% of Ballarat's economy and employs around 2,870 people.

A significant heritage tourism industry has grown substantially in Ballarat since the 1960s. Ballarat is most notable for the award-winning open-air museum known as Sovereign Hill, a recreated 1850s gold mining settlement opened in 1970. Sovereign Hill is Ballarat's biggest tourism draw card and is consistently rated amongst one of the best outdoor museums in the world and continues to expand. Sovereign Hill accounts for over half a million of Ballarat's visitors and \$40 million in tourism revenue.

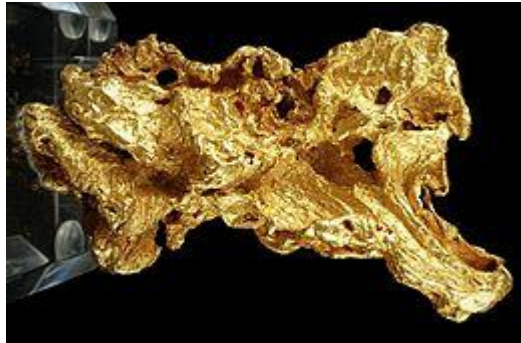
Several tourist traps and spin-offs have capitalised on Sovereign Hill's tourism popularity, most of these have sprung up near the eastern entrance of the Western Freeway between Melbourne and Ballarat. They include Kryal Castle (1972), "Gold Rush Mini Golf" (2002) featuring the "Big Miner" (2006) one of Australia's big things (although the original proposal appeared larger and for the miner to hold the Eureka Flag) at Ballarat's eastern entrance.

Other tourist attractions include the Eureka Centre; The Gold Museum; Ballarat Botanic gardens and Lake Wendouree; the Tramway museum and Ballarat Ghost Tours. A large number of

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Ballarat hotels, motels and restaurants service the tourism industry. The Ballarat Tourist Association is an industry based non-profit, membership organization representing the city's tourism industry.

## MINING AND GOLD



Large gold specimen from the Ballarat mines, weight over 150 g (5.29 oz), size 7.4×4.4×2.3 cm (2.91×1.73×0.91 in)

Gold historically has been one of the main industries of the Ballarat region. Gold mining has continued to the present date with a main mine operating and large deposits remaining deep underground. There are still thought to be large, undiscovered gold reserves around the Ballarat region, with investigations being made by local and national companies to extract potentially as much gold as the Gold Rush days in the mid 1800s.

Lihir Gold invested in Ballarat Goldfields in 2006 however downscaled its operations in 2009 due to the expense of extraction before selling its stake in 2010 to Castlemaine Goldfields. Lignite (coal), kaolin (clay) and iron ore have also been mined in the Ballarat region and nearby Lal Lal however many of the resource deposits have since been exhausted.

**MANUFACTURING:** According to the 2006 Australian Census, manufacturing is Ballarat's third largest employment sector, accounting for 14.8% of all workers.

Ballarat attracts investment from several international manufacturers. The Australian headquarters of Mars, Incorporated was established in Ballarat in 1979 with the main Ballarat factory producing Mars bars for the Australian market. McCain Foods Limited Australian headquarters was established in Ballarat in 1970 and the company continues to expand its operations. The Ballarat North Workshops is a major manufacturer of public transportation products with current investment from Alstom. Ballarat also has a large number of home grown

# Tagalong 2011

companies producing textiles, general industrial engineering, food products, brick and tiles, building components, prefabricated housing components and automotive components.

**AGRICULTURE** The outskirts of Ballarat are used for agriculture including wine growing and animal husbandry. The Ballarat Livestock Selling Centre is the largest cattle exchange in regional Victoria.<sup>[73][74]</sup> The Ballarat Agricultural and Pastoral Society formed in 1866 and has run the Ballarat Show annually each November at the Ballarat Showgrounds since that time.

There are also a number of small forestry operations in Ballarat's Canadian Valley around the suburbs of Mt Clear and Mt Helen areas with pine plantations and mills.

The Ballarat region has a rapidly growing renewable energy industry, in particular due to its abundant wind energy, attracting significant investment and generating revenue for local landholders and local councils. The region is also a source of bountiful geothermal energy solar power and biomass.

Through the Waubra Wind Farm the Ballarat region produces more than enough wind energy to power every home in the city, however the electricity produced goes to the national grid. Additional nearby facilities include the first community-owned wind farm in Australia at Hepburn Wind Project at Leonard's Hill which produces enough electricity to power the town of Daylesford as well as approved proposals for Chepstowe, Lal Lal Mount Mercer and proposed facilities at Mount Edgerton and Ballan. Ballarat Solar Park opened in 2009 at the Airport site in Mitchell Park is Victoria's first ground mounted, flat plate and grid-connected photovoltaic farm. Built by Sharp Corporation for Origin Energy is a 14,993 sqm produces the equivalent energy needs of around 150 homes.

**DEMOGRAPHICS** The 2006 Australian national census indicated that the permanent population of the City of Ballarat was 85,196. Of this the urban population was measured to be 78,221. Although surging land and house prices in Melbourne coupled with significant recent public transport upgrades between Melbourne and Ballarat has witnessed a significant growth surge. Ballarat's abundance of affordable land and highly established infrastructure has caught the notice of many people and families seeking a family friendly lifestyle. Since 2006 Ballarat has averaged an annual population growth of 1700 and in June 2008 had an estimated resident population of 91,787. In August 2009 the estimated resident population was 94,000.

Whilst most of the city's population can trace their ethnic roots to Anglo-Celtic descendency, 13.6% of the population was born overseas, with New Zealand, Germany, the Netherlands and Italy the most common places of birth outside Australia. More recently the city has welcomed new arrivals from the Asian sub-continent and Africa.

Almost 15% of the population is over the age of 65, with over a quarter of the population expected to be over the age of 65 by 2021. The median age in Ballarat is 36 years. 46.8% of the population are married, with almost 35% of the population having never been married. The

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average income of Ballarat, while lower than Melbourne, is higher than average for regional Victoria. Ballaradians in the 2007/08 financial year earned on average A\$38,850 a year with the highest earners living in the city's inner and northern suburbs and the lowest earners living in the city's southern suburbs.

42.5% of the population have completed further education after high school, with only 11.1% of the population holding a bachelor degree or greater, well below the national average.

**RELIGION** Christianity remains the dominant religion in Ballarat, with over 65% of residents claiming Christian affiliation, slightly above the national average of 64%. Catholics (27.1%), Anglicans (15.0%), Uniting Church (11.2%) and Presbyterians (4.0%) remain the largest Christian denominations in Ballarat.

Over 21.6% of Ballarat residents claim no religious affiliation. Minority religious groups include Buddhism, Judaism and Islam and total less than 5% of the population.

**GOVERNANCE** In local government, the Ballarat region is covered by the City of Ballarat. The council was created in 1994 as an amalgamation of a number of other municipalities in the region with the council chambers located at the Ballarat Town Hall in central Ballarat. The City is made up of 3 wards, each represented by three councillors elected once every four years by postal voting. The Mayor of Ballarat is elected from these councillors by their colleagues for a one year term.

In state politics, Ballarat is located in the Legislative Assembly districts of Ballarat East and Ballarat West, with both of these seats currently held by the Australian Labor Party.

In federal politics, Ballarat is located in a single House of Representatives division – the Division of Ballarat. The Division of Ballarat has been a safe Australian Labor Party seat since 2001, and was the seat of the second Prime Minister of Australia, Alfred Deakin.

## **MEDIA**

Newspapers Ballarat has two local newspapers, both owned by Rural Press Limited, *The Courier* is a daily, and the *Ballarat News*, a free weekly. The latter is distributed almost universally across the city every Wednesday, and containing news of community events, advertisements for local businesses, and a real estate and classifieds section.

Radio stations Local radio stations include '3BA', 'Power FM' and also several community radio stations. There are also local branches of ABC-run ABC Radio, Triple J and ABC Classic FM.

- 102.3 FM – 3BA (local "classic hits" commercial radio station)

# Tagalong 2011

- 103.1 FM – Power FM 103.1 FM (local "top-40" commercial radio station)
- 99.9 FM – Voice FM 99.9 – formerly known as 3BBB (local community radio station)
- 107.1 FM – Triple J (ABC Youth Radio)
- 107.9 FM – ABC Local Radio (Government-funded local news, current affairs, light entertainment and talkback)
- 621 AM – ABC Radio National (Government-funded, current affairs, arts, science, social interest)
- 105.5 FM – ABC Classic FM (Government-funded, classical music station)
- 103.9 FM – Good News Radio 103.9 (Christian community-based religious station)

EDUCATION Ballarat is home to two universities – the University of Ballarat and the Ballarat campus of the Australian Catholic University.

The University of Ballarat originated as the Ballarat School of Mines, founded in 1870 and once affiliated with the University of Melbourne. The university consists of six campuses, three of which are in Ballarat—two in the city (Camp Street and SMB campuses) and the main campus in Mount Helen, approximately 6 kilometres (3.75 mi) southeast of the city at the foot of Mount Buninyong.

The Australian Catholic University's Ballarat campus began life as the Aquinas Training College run by the Ballarat East Sisters of Mercy in 1909. It is ACU's only rural campus that is located outside of a capital city in Australia.

Ballarat has four State Government-operated secondary schools, of which Ballarat High School (established in 1907) is the oldest. The other schools are Sebastopol College, Mount Clear College and Ballarat Secondary College. Ballarat Secondary College was formed in 1994 by the amalgamation of Ballarat East Secondary College, Wendouree Secondary College and Midlands Secondary College.

Ballarat has two private day and boarding schools which provide education from Years 1 to 12; Ballarat and Clarendon College and Ballarat and Queens Anglican Grammar School.

The city is well serviced by Catholic schools, with eight primary schools and three secondary colleges, the all-boys St Patrick's College, the all-girls Loreto College and the co-educational Damascus College, which was formed by the amalgamation of St Paul's Technical School and Sacred Heart College in the 1990s.

Ballarat has several public libraries, the largest and most extensive of which is the City of Ballarat Library, run by the Central Highlands Regional Library Corporation and located on Creswick Road. Another library service is provided by the Mechanics' Institute in Sturt Street, which contains a collection of historic, archival and rare reference material.

# Tagalong 2011

## ARTS AND CULTURE

**HERITAGE** Ballarat is renowned for its cultural heritage and decorative arts, especially applied to the built environment, combined with the gold rush; this has created a picturesque urban landscape. In 2003 Ballarat was the first of two Australian cities to be registered as a member of the International League of Historical Cities and in 2006 hosted the 10th World League of Historical Cities Congress.

Restoration of historic buildings is encouraged including a low interest council Heritage Loans Scheme. and the prevention of demolition by neglect discouraged by council policies. Since the 1970s, the local council has become increasingly aware of the economic and social value of heritage preservation. This is in stark contrast to the 1950s and 60s when Ballarat followed Melbourne in encouraging the removal of Victorian buildings, verandahs in particular. Recent restoration projects funded by the Ballarat include the reconstruction of significant cast iron lace verandahs including the Mining Exchange, Art Gallery (2007), Mechanics institute (2005–) on Lydiard Street and in 2010 the restoration of the Town Hall and the long neglected Unicorn Hotel façade on Sturt Street.

Ballarat Citizens for Thoughtful Development formed in 1998 and was incorporated as Ballarat Heritage Watch in 2005 to ensure that the city's architectural heritage is given due consideration in the planning process.

The Ballarat Botanical Gardens (established in 1858) are recognised as the finest example of a regional botanical gardens in Australia and are home to many heritage listed exotic tree species and feature a modern glasshouse and horticultural centre and the Prime Ministers Avenue which features bronze busts of every past Australian Prime Minister. The gardens are home to the annual *Ballarat Begonia Festival*.

Ballarat is notable for its very wide boulevards. The main street is Sturt Street and is considered among one of the finest main avenues in Australia with over 2 kilometres of central gardens known as the Sturt Street Gardens featuring bandstands, fountains, statues, monuments, memorials and lampposts. Ballarat is home to the largest of a collection of several Avenues of Honour in Victoria. The fifteen kilometre (9.3 mi) long Ballarat Avenue of Honour consists of a total of approximately 4,000 trees, mostly deciduous which in many parts arch completely over the road. Each tree has a bronze plaque dedicated to a soldier from the Ballarat region who enlisted during World War I. The Avenue of Honour and the Arch of Victory are on the Victorian Heritage Register and are seen by approximately 20,000 visitors each year.

The city also has the greatest concentration of public statuary in any Australian city with many parks and streets featuring sculptures and statues dating from the 1860s to the present. Some of the other notable memorials located in the Sturt Street Gardens in the middle of Ballarat's main boulevard include a bandstand situated in the heart of the city that was funded and built by the City of Ballarat Band in 1913 as a tribute to the bandsmen of the RMS *Titanic*, a fountain

# Tagalong 2011

dedicated to the early explorers Burke and Wills, and those dedicated to monarchs and those who have played pivotal roles in the development of the city and its rich social fabric. The most recent memorial is dedicated to war hero Sir Albert Coates.

Ballarat has an extensive array of significant war memorials, the most recent of which is the Australian Ex-Prisoner of War Memorial. The most prominent memorial in the city is the Ballarat Victory Arch that spans the old Western Highway on the Western approaches of the city. The archway serves as the focal point for the Avenue of Honour. Other significant individual monuments located along Sturt Street include those dedicated to the Boer War (1899–1901), the World War II (1939–1945) cenotaph, and Vietnam (1962–1972) (located adjacent to the Arch of Victory).

The legacy of the wealth generated during Ballarat's gold boom is still visible in a large number of fine stone buildings in and around the city, especially in the Lydiard Street area. This precinct contains some of Victoria's finest examples of Victorian era buildings, many of which are on the Victorian Heritage Register or classified by the National Trust of Australia.

Notable civic buildings include the Town Hall (1870–72), the former Post Office (1864), the Ballarat Fine Art Gallery (1887), the Mechanics' Institute (1860, 1869), the Queen Victoria Wards of the Ballarat Base Hospital (1890s) and the Ballarat railway station (1862, 1877, 1888).

Other historic buildings include the Provincial Hotel (1909), Reid's Coffee Palace (1886), Craig's Royal Hotel (1862–1890) and Her Majesty's Theatre (1875), the oldest intact and operating lyric theatre in Australia.

The Ballarat Fire Station, located near Bakery Hill, is one of Victoria's oldest fire fighting structures; operated by the Ballarat East brigade – it currently only houses fire trucks. The building was designed in 1864 by architect Henry Caselli as brick masonry; with the construction completed in 1911. Heritage Victoria described the buildings as *unusual* and *sophisticated*. Ballarat is also home to the oldest Jewish synagogue on mainland Australia which is located in Bakery Hill in the Ballarat CBD. The first stone was laid on 25 January 1861, during the Victorian Gold Rush period.

Ballarat is home to many annual **festivals and events**. The oldest large annual event is the Ballarat Agricultural Show (since 1859), currently held each year at the Ballarat Showground.

Lake Wendouree is featured in many including the most prominent, the Begonia Festival (since 1953) and it now attracts over 100,000 visitors from around Australia. Spring Fest (since 2001) now attracts more than 15,000 people from around Victoria and features market stalls and activities around the lake.

# Tagalong 2011

Ballarat Heritage Weekend (since 2006) celebrates the city's heritage with activities such as historic vehicles and displays in and around the CBD and also attracts visitors from around Victoria. Other minor cultural festivals include the Ballarat Writers Festival, Ballarat International Foto Biennale and the Goldfields Music Festival.

Ballarat has a lively and well established **theatrical community** with several local ensembles as well as a number of large performing arts venues. Major performing arts venues include:

- Her Majesty's Theatre – Seating 940
- Post Office Box Theatre (University of Ballarat Arts Academy, Camp Street Campus) – Flexible Seating up to 100
- Helen McPherson Smith Performing Arts Theatre (University of Ballarat, Arts Academy Camp Street Campus) – Seating 200
- The 1870 Founders Theatre (University of Ballarat, Mount Helen Campus) – Seating 600
- The Courthouse Theatre (University of Ballarat, SMB Campus) – Seating 140
- The Victoria Theatre (Sovereign Hill) – Seating 300
- Wendouree Centre for Performing Arts (Ballarat Grammar School) – Seating 900
- Gay E. Gough Theatre (Mount Clear Secondary College) – Seating 350
- Mechanics Institute hall (seating 700) is used from time to time for travelling performances and cinema shows.

The Ballarat Civic Hall is a large public building constructed in 1958 as a general purpose venue. Its stripped classical design was heavily criticised during its planning, however it has gained some cultural significance to the city with its cavernous spaces holding many significant events over the years. Civic Hall was closed in 2002 and there have been moves to redevelop it for many years with some calls to retain the building as a venue.

Ballarat has its own symphony orchestra, the Ballarat Symphony Orchestra which was formed in 1987.

Some notable theatre organisations in Ballarat include BLOC (Ballarat Light Opera Company) founded in 1959

Ballarat is also the home to Australia's oldest and largest annual performing arts eisteddfod. The Royal South Street Eisteddfod is an all-encompassing performing arts festival and competition event that is conducted over twelve weeks annually.

In the 1970s the Ballarat urban area contained no less than 60 hotels. The introduction of gaming machines in the early 1990s has brought about significant change in the city entertainment precincts. By 2006 at least 20 hotels had closed and some of those that remain have been redeveloped as dining and/or gaming venues. Gaming machines have brought significant revenue to the remaining hotels, sports and social clubs which have enabled many to expand and modernise.

# Tagalong 2011

The city has several dance clubs as well as a highly active live music and jazz scene. Hotels are popular meeting places for young people. The city has many fine restaurants, wine bars and eateries as well as themed restaurants.

A large cinema complex consisting of several theatres is located behind the façade of the old Regent cinemas in the heart of the city.

Dance parties are popular within the Ballarat area; however, the director of Ballarat Health Services (BHS), Andrew Rowe, has stated that Ballarat is "an inappropriate place to hold a rave" and has called for the Moorabool Shire Council to forbid raves (such as the one held at Kryal Castle) around the immediate Ballarat area. BTR is an organisation founded in 2006 that has begun hosting dance events in Ballarat.

The Ballarat Fine Art Gallery houses one of Australia's oldest and most extensive collections of early Australian works. It is considered to have the best Australian collection outside any capital city in Australia.

The University of Ballarat operates the Post Office Gallery in the Wardell designed former Post Office on the corner of Sturt and Lydiard Streets.

## **In popular culture**

Ballarat has inspired many visual artists, with several celebrated works depicting the city. In the Australian Collection of the Ballarat Art Gallery are some of Eugene von Guerard's works documenting the city's establishment as a gold digging settlement, Albert Henry Fullwood's depictions of boom era streetscapes and Knut Bull's View of Ballarat Across Lake Wendouree.<sup>[123]</sup> Several other artists have painted depictions of historic events such as the Eureka Stockade.

Historic Lydiard Street features prominently in national television advertisement advertisements including the Gold Lion award (Cannes Lions International Advertising Festival)<sup>[124]</sup> and Australasian Writers and Art Directors Association award winning "The Regulars" (2009) for Victoria Bitter<sup>[125]</sup> and "What About Me" (2010) Safe Driver Rewards campaign for AAMI.

Ballarat is also a popular filming location with the city making cameos in film including My Brother Jack (2001), Ned Kelly (2003) and The Writer (2005). Ballarat also features prominently in literature and fiction, including The Boscombe Valley Mystery (1891) from The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes by Arthur Conan Doyle, the King Billy of Ballarat and Other Stories (1892) by Morley Roberts, The Fortunes of Richard Mahony (1917) by Henry Handel Richardson, Murder on the Ballarat Train (1993) by Kerry Greenwood and The Supply Party by Martin Edward (2009).

The town of Ballarat, California is named after Ballarat.

# Tagalong 2011

Two ships of the Royal Australian Navy have been named HMAS Ballarat after the city, HMAS Ballarat (J184) and HMAS Ballarat (FFH 155).

Popular nicknames used by locals for the city include "The 'Rat", a shortened version of the name derived from the brown rat, the name and symbol was further popularised by Rebellion Brewery's The Rat beer. Another enduring nickname is Golden City which dates back to the gold rush and appears in several names including Golden City Hotel (1856) and the Golden City paddle steamer (1885) and in numerous non-fiction works.

**HEALTH** Ballarat has major hospitals in Ballarat Base Hospital which services the entire region and the Queen Elizabeth Centre. Private hospitals include a St John of God Health Care centre, established in 1915 and is currently the largest private hospital in regional Victoria.

Ballarat has historically been a major **railway** hub in Victoria, situated at the junction of the Ballarat line, Ararat line and Mildura lines it currently has several connections for both passenger services and freight.

Ballarat once operated an extensive **tramway** network which began in 1887; however it was closed in 1971 and replaced by buses. A small section of track remains used as a tourist and museum tramway There have been proposals to extend the network, particularly to connect it to the railways and return it as a viable component of the Ballarat public transport system.

**Notable residents** A great many notable people's origins are in the Ballarat region with the most prominent being high ranking politicians and sportspeople.

Several former Prime Minister of Australia were from Ballarat (recognised by the city's Prime Minister's Avenue) – Alfred Deakin, Sir Robert Menzies, James Scullin and John Curtin. Several Premiers of the Australian states are also from Ballarat, including Victorian premiers Sir Henry Bolte, Steve Bracks, Duncan Gillies, Thomas Hollway and Western Australia premier Henry Daglish.

Outside of politics, other prominent public figures include Peter Lalor, an important historical figure in Australia as the leader of the Eureka Rebellion (1854); the inventor George Alfred Julius, who spent part of his childhood in the town when his father was a local Anglican cleric; and Cardinal George Pell, the current Catholic Archbishop of Sydney.

Ballarat has also produced many notable athletes including the Olympic long distance runner Steve Moneghetti. A large number of notable Australian rules football identities have come from Ballarat, including Tony Lockett, an AFL Legend player and record holder of the most goals scored in a career; premierships coaches Mick Malthouse and Geelong Football Club legend Bob Davis. North Melbourne forward Drew Petrie is also from the town.

[The next centre is Bacchus Marsh, some 58 kms down the Western freeway.](#)

# Tagalong 2011

**BACCHUS MARSH** is an urban centre and suburban locality west of Melbourne and 14 kilometres (9 mi) west of Melton. The population of the urban area (including suburbs) is estimated at over 17,000 people, while the central locality (suburb) is home to 5,566 people. It is the largest urban area in the local government area of Shire of Moorabool.

Officially still a town; it is traditionally a market garden area, producing a large amount of the area's fruits and vegetables. In recent times it has become a major commuter town of Melbourne, as a result of being one of the major towns in the Melbourne-Ballarat corridor just beyond the metropolitan urban growth boundary, the formerly sleepy town's population is growing rapidly due primarily to its affordable starter homes.<sup>[3][4]</sup>

It was named after one of its original inhabitants, Captain William Henry Bacchus, who saw the great value of this locality as it was situated on two rivers — the Lerderderg and Werribee.

**HISTORY: ABORIGINAL.** It is believed that the tribe occupying the area at the time of white settlement were the Kurung. Bacchus Marsh was a meeting ground for anywhere between 150 and 400 Aborigines even after white settlement, and corroborees were held quite regularly. While there do not appear to be any records of open hostilities between whites and indigenous people, by 1863 there were a total of only 33 Aborigines left in the Bacchus Marsh district, and apart from a handful of recollections of the original inhabitants preserved by pioneer settlers, sadly little remains apart from present-day locality names, mainly of watercourses: Coimadai, Djerriwarrah, Korkuperrimul, Lerderderg, Merrimu, Myrniong, Werribee.

**EUROPEAN SETTLEMENT:** One of the first white men to reach the Bacchus Marsh valley was pastoralist Kenneth Scobie Clarke (c. 1806–79), a native of Sutherland in Scotland. Clarke was a manager for the Great Lake Company of Van Diemen's Land and arrived in the Port Phillip District from George Town on 25 March 1836. Captain Bacchus credited Clarke as being the first man to shear sheep in Victoria, although the Hendy's had arrived in Portland with their sheep some two years earlier.

On 29 November 1836, Clarke headed west from Port Phillip with a large flock of sheep, arriving in the Bacchus Marsh district a few days later. He built a hut on the west bank of the Lerderderg River near Darley, and lived there until early 1838. According to pastoralist George Russell, Clarke had acted on information obtained from Mr. Aitkin, an Edinburgh man, who was most put out when he discovered that Clarke had beaten him to the Pentland Hills run.

In 1838, Englishman Captain William Henry Bacchus (1782–1849) and his son William Henry Bacchus junior (1820–87) also brought sheep from Tasmania and came to the district which now bears their name. On their arrival, Clarke made an arrangement with them and ceded his run, moving to the nearby hills known as the Pentlands. The then very swampy valley was not really suitable for sheep, as they were prone to foot rot. Clarke stayed in the district until 1840 or 1841, and later went to New Zealand, where he died in 1879.

# Tagalong 2011

As all land within 3 miles (5 km) of a squatter's hut was considered to belong to him, Bacchus and his son immediately set about consolidating their land holdings. By 1839–40, they had a homestead and four outstations on the Lardedark run, which in 1845 covered about 22 square miles (57 km<sup>2</sup>) and carried nearly 3,000 sheep. Between 1845–47 Captain Bacchus built the Manor House, a two-storey Georgian brick building that still stands in the township today. Captain Bacchus died in 1849 and was buried in what later became the grounds of Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Gisborne Road. By 1851, Henry Bacchus junior had sold his holdings in Bacchus Marsh and moved to *Peerewur* (or *Perewerrh*) run near Ballarat.

A small stone bridge crossing Djerriwarrh Creek was built by Irish immigrants in the 1850s to assist travel to the Ballarat goldfields. One of its builders, Richard Griffith, decided to remain in the area and his family still works the farm that surrounds the bridge reserve.



## **The beginnings of local government**

The township was originally known as Ballan, a Post Office opening under that name around July 1844 (Bacchus Marsh from July 1, 1850). The Bacchus Marsh Road District Board was proclaimed on 30 September 1856, with one of its first tasks being to construct a gravel road through the town, as at that time the road was barely passable in winter. Bacchus Marsh was created a district on 14 October 1862, and the Road Board was the governing body until the Shire of Bacchus Marsh was proclaimed on 23 January 1871. The railway came to Bacchus Marsh on 15 February 1887, and the through line to Ballarat was built in 1890.

**The district** covers a large area in the Werribee Valley with its Central Business District centered along Main Street between Bennett Street to the north, Grant Street/Gisborne Road to the west, Young/Lord Streets to the east and Waddell/Simpson Streets to the south. Bacchus Marsh Village shopping centre is its main indoor shopping mall.

Beyond the central area, it has spread to suburban areas incorporating the former towns of Darley (1861) to the north and Maddingley to the south as suburban areas and is rapidly sprawling into surrounding areas including Parwan, Hopetown Park and Merrimu.

# Tagalong 2011



The Avenue of Honour, a Elm tree lined avenue linking Bacchus Marsh to the Western Freeway.

The main form of **transport** is the automobile. It is bypassed by the Western Freeway which is the main road to Melbourne (approximately 48 minutes) and Ballarat (46 minutes) and which divides Bacchus Marsh and its northern suburb Darley. The entrance from Melbourne is via Anthony's Cutting, a relatively steep downhill run, which is speed limited to 80 km/h, however the freeway is currently being realigned under the Victorian Transport Plan to the east to increase speed limits and decrease travel times by road. A feature is the Avenue of Honour — several kilometres of elm trees planted along the old main road from Melbourne, to honour those who served in World War I.

The Bacchus Marsh station is on the Ballarat line. V/Line provides VLocity services to Melbourne (from 38 minutes) and Ballarat (from 34 minutes).

A bus service connects the station with the town centre and other residential areas.

Bacchus Marsh Airfield (located in Parwan to the south) provides for general aviation and the area is home to flying and gliding schools.

**Recreation and Open Space:** One of its principal recreation areas is Maddingley Park, which is a favourite picnic destination for both locals and visitors.

Walks along the Lerderderg River provide access to the steep, rugged and overgrown Lerderderg Gorge and the extensive Wombat State Park that surrounds it, criss-crossed by four-wheel drive tracks, extensive bushwalking amongst historic mining relics and natural bush.

# Tagalong 2011

**Health services** The township of Bacchus Marsh is serviced by the Djerriwarrh Health Services (Bacchus Marsh Hospital) formerly, Bacchus Marsh War Memorial Hospital, and several general practice medical centres, including The Elms Family Medical Centre located at the Bacchus Marsh Village Shopping Centre on Main Street near the Avenue of Honour, and the Bacchus Marsh Medical Centre on Turner Street. The Elms Family Medical Centre was established in 1994 and is actively involved in the teaching and mentoring of future general practitioners. Doctors from both practices provide comprehensive medical care to patients at the Bacchus Marsh Hospital, as well as at the local Providence Aged Care Hostel and Grant Lodge Nursing Home.

## Notable people

- Victorian Cross recipient Rupert Vance Moon
- Labour activist Reginald Patrick Heagney (1858–1922)
- Factory inspector Margaret Gardiner Cuthbertson (1864–1944)
- Physicist and professor Sir Kerr Grant (1878–1967)
- Victorian Premier from 1927–1928 and 1929–1932, Edmond Hogan (1883–1964)
- Pianist and composer Isabel Varney Desmond Peterson (1892–1967)
- Carlton Australian rules footballer Harry "Soapy" Vallenge (1905–1991)
- Author Frank Hardy (1917–1994) and his sister, actor and comedian Mary Hardy (1931–1985)
- Dual Booker Prize winning author Peter Carey
- Home to Dancing with the Stars judge Helen Richey
- AFL star Doug Hawkins (b.1960)
- Celebrity chef Cath Claringbold
- Nicholas 'Nic' Suban AFL Footballer from Fremantle Football Club
- Radio Presenter Robert 'Bobby' Coburn

After a little drive about and properly the last supermarket for the day we drive across country to Gisborne.

**Gisborne** is a town located approximately 55 kilometres (34 mi) northwest of Melbourne. As it is close to Melbourne, but in attractive countryside, it is proving an increasingly popular place to settle. The town was named after Henry Fyshe Gisborne (1815–1841), the first Commissioner for Crown Lands of the Port Phillip District. Gisborne is part of the Shire of Macedon Ranges.

# Tagalong 2011

**HISTORY:** In 1834, John Aitken arrived in Melbourne with others and deemed the land south of Mount Macedon ideally suited to sheep grazing. He selected a sizeable area of land and in the following year, shipped merino sheep from Tasmania. Despite his ship running aground at Dromana, Aitken managed to rescue many of his flock and transport them to the Gisborne area with the help of aborigines. He named his property "Emmeline Vale," after his wife Emmeline. Aitken reared six children on the property and produced some of the finest merino wool in the Colony.

From the late 1830s, many pastoralists, arriving from Tasmania and New South Wales, began taking up areas of land in the surrounding districts. The first recorded settlers were: Barbour and Matson, who settled at Bullengarook, Hill at the "Turitable Run" south of Mount Macedon, Stainforth in the area around the present Rosslynne Reservoir, and Aitken and Howey in the area to be later known as Gisborne.

Gisborne Post Office opened on 22 March 1850 as Bush Inn but was renamed Gisborne ten days later.

Today Gisborne town ship has a population of just over 7000 residences, and consists of two primary schools and one secondary school, Gisborne Secondary College. A number of cafes, bakers, restaurants/pubs and three supermarkets help make up the town centre. Gisborne has a full time police station in conjunction with the CFA station and medical/ambulance facilities. Gisborne has public outdoor sporting facilities for AFL football, cricket, soccer, tennis and netball, as well as a heated indoor pool.

We do a little twisting and turning from here. On the freeway and off again so watch the signs carefully to Macedon.

## MACEDON CARAVAN PARK

### **Description**

Relax enjoy your stay at our quiet friendly park just off the Calder Freeway, 60 kms from Melbourne CBD.

Visit Mt Macedon its beautiful gardens, go bush walking, visit Hanging Rock all its mystique.

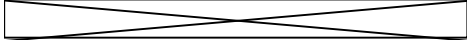
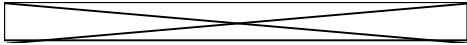
Visit a winery, one of the areas many cafes, play golf.

An easy drive to Tullamarine Airport or Tasmanian Ferry.

# Templeton 2011



Pets allowed on sites only



## Facilities

- Lawned powered and unpowered sites/large drive thru sites
- Free undercover gas BBQ two separate areas
- FREE INTERNET up to 300mb
- Dump point
- Spotless Amenities
- Caravan clubs and groups welcome
- Camp kitchen with TV
- Children's Playground
- Long term sites available
- Coin laundry

## Contact Details

**Address:** Cnr Blackforest Drive & McBean Avenue  
Macedon VIC 3440

**Postal:** 324 Blackforest drive  
Macedon Vic 3440

**Phone:** 03 5426 1528

**Fax:** 03 5426 3628

**GPS:** South 37° 25.91  
East 144° 33.56

**Email:** [macedonc@bigpond.net.au](mailto:macedonc@bigpond.net.au)

**Website:** [macedoncaravanpark.vpweb.com.au](http://macedoncaravanpark.vpweb.com.au)

**Resident Owner:** Alister & Judi Smith

Room	Daily Rate	Extra Adult/Child
Powered Site	\$27.00	\$15/\$5

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Unpowered site per person                      \$12.00                      \$12.00

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## Tuesday

**Today will be spent exploring Macedon and the mountain with a picnic lunch at 'Hanging Rock'.**

### **Macedon**

Macedon is an attractive town of 1250 people at the foot of the mountain. If you are coming from the south there are two approaches. You can turn off the Calder Highway into Mt Macedon Rd then turn left at Honour Ave, or continue along the highway past Mt Macedon Rd and turn right into Nursery Rd.

In Nursery Road is the Macedon Nursery which was established in 1872. It specialises in native trees, cottage plants, perennials and annuals. Terracotta and craft pottery is also available at factory prices and body products are for sale. The nursery is attractively situated overlooking a lake with lawns that are ideal for picnicking. It is open daily from 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m., tel: (03) 5426 2513.

By the intersection of Mt Macedon Rd and Honour Ave is Centennial Park which has barbecues, a shelter and toilets.

Just along Honour Ave, at no.28, is Tristania Park Nurseries which has a large range of plants and shrubs, including rare and difficult to obtain plants, all in a lovely botanic setting established in 1963, tel: (03) 5426 1667. It is open from 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. daily.

At 86 Honour Ave is Mount side Nursery which specialises in shrubs and trees, particularly conifers, pittosporums and ornamental trees. They are open every day from 9.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m., tel: (03) 5426 1443.

Waterfalls Road heads north off Honour Ave to Stanley Park where you will find the falls, barbecues, toilets and picnic shelters.

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The Strawberry Patch, at 8 Victoria St, sells patchwork material and accessories, teddy-bear materials, giftware and local craft. There are also classes in teddy-bear making. They are open from 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. every day except Sunday and Tuesday.

Note that the Macedon Caravan Park and Black Forest Motel are located on the highway, tel: (03) 5426 1528.

## **Marist Brothers Retreat and Conference Centre**

One of the town's highlights, in terms of both architecture and gardens, is the Marist Brothers Retreat at the corner of Mt Macedon Rd and Brougham Rd (at the entry into the township). The marvellous building which forms the nucleus of the complex was originally known as 'Drusilla', built for Norman Grimwade in the early 1930s. The interior has splendid oak panelling and an intriguingly round 'Round Room'.

The gardens predate this building, being largely designed by Madam Weigall who created dressmaking patterns. There is an ornamental lake, a sunken garden, magnificent old oaks established well over a century ago, a pond and a number of rare plants.

The retreat is open for general inspection on fund-raising open days. Visitors are welcome to peruse the gardens provided they ring first (on a weekday) to ensure that it is not inconvenient to those using the retreat, tel: (03) 5426 1402.

## **Barringo Wildlife Reserve**

Barringo Wildlife Reserve is a nature reserve with Canadian elk and other deer species, ostriches, emus, peacocks and other birds, alpacas, Scottish highland cattle, kangaroos, wallabies and koalas roaming at large. Wetland flora and fauna (including rainbow trout) can be observed at Barringo Lake. There is a walking trail, an adventure playground, barbecue and picnic facilities (wood is provided), a kiosk which is open daily and pony rides are available on public holidays.

**Mount Macedon** Mt Macedon is an extinct volcano which rises to 1010 meters above sea-level, making it the highest peak of the Macedon Ranges. The area associated with the mountain possesses immense scenic and natural values and a richly developed English cultural heritage, particularly in terms of its horticulture and architecture. At the foot of the mountain is the township of Macedon (population 1250) while, part way up the hill, 65 km north-west of Melbourne, are the lovely tree-lined streets and gardens of Mount Macedon (population 670) which has the Trading Post (a general store cum news agency), a restaurant, a nursery or two, cottage accommodation and a pub named the Mountain Inn which is a fine English-style hotel

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with gardens, tennis courts and croquet lawns at the rear. Within are old-fashioned rooms and a fine restaurant.

Stone-grinding sites indicate that the mountain was being used by Aborigines long before it was climbed in 1836 by Thomas Mitchell. Having sighted Port Phillip from its summit he named it after Philip of Macedon.

Timber getters were the first Europeans to occupy the area. The wood was used for some of Melbourne's early homes and in the goldmines of the 1850s. As the timber began to disappear there were calls for controls and fruit orchards were developed. Bushranger Frank McCallum (alias Captain Melville) was active in the district in the 1850s.

In the 1870s, the beauty and coolness of the slopes began to attract members of Melbourne's wealthy social elite and the government released some blocks on the south side of the mountain to the landed and business classes. Consequently a number of grand Victorian homes were established (including one for the state governor) as summer residences. At the peak of the resort's popularity in the 1890s some of these gracious residences were turned into guesthouses. However, the major legacy of the era was the establishment, around these mansions, of extensive ornamental gardens. Taken as a whole, they are considered to be one of the most important collections of 19th-century gardens in Australia (see entry on 'Gardens' under 'Things to See' for further information).

Distinguished artist Frederick McCubbin purchased the residence known as 'Fontainebleu' at Mount Macedon in 1901 and there painted and lived with his family.

In February 1983 the Ash Wednesday fires destroyed over 400 homes, burned out 30 000 hectares of forest and farmland and killed seven people. The fires raced uncontrollably up the slopes of Mt Macedon and, despite the efforts of 1000 volunteer fire-fighters, a number of old homes were razed. Some have been rebuilt and most of the gardens re-established.

## **Barrigo Valley Equestrian Centre**

Also on Shannon's Road is Barrigo Valley Equestrian Centre which offers trail rides in the Macedon Ranges and a riding school. They are open Wednesday to Sunday. Bookings are essential, tel: (03) 5426 1778.

## **Nurseries**

Further north along Mt Macedon Rd, to the right, at no.341, is Dicksonia Rare Plants which

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offers a wide range of unusual plants from cooler climates around the world. It is open from 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. from Friday to Tuesday, tel: (03) 5426 3075.

Close by are the Mt Macedon Trading Post Cafe - which also functions as a post office, bottle shop, newsagency and grocery shop - and the Mt Macedon Hotel. Over the road is the Florigela Nursery specialising in rare bulbs and alpine and perennial plants. They are open every day but Tuesday from 9.30 a.m. to 6.00 p.m., tel: (03) 5426 4144.

## **Gardens**

Only the Dandenong range is a noteworthy rival Mount Macedon as a site for European-style gardens in Victoria. The temperate conditions, fecund and varied soil types and high rainfall of the southern slopes have proven ideal for the cultivation of extensive, ornamental and exotic gardens. Since the late 19th century, wealthy professionals have established summer retreats with gardens inspired by the Romantic models then fashionable in Europe. The Romantic allusions were further enhanced by the gentle mountain rivulets which ran through the large estates, despite distinctly un-European creek names such as Willimigongong and Turritable.

The gardens combine lush floral collections with sweeping lawns, pavilions and circuitous paths. Taken as a whole they are now considered one of the most important collections of colonial gardens in Australia. They have considerable botanical and horticultural significance and are an interesting reflection of the prevailing social attitudes of the wealthy in late 19th-century Australia. Some of the individual trees and gardens are now registered with the National Estate, including 'Alton', 'Cameron Lodge', 'Duneira', 'Durrol' and 'Hascombe'.

Heading uphill from the Trading Post Cafe, there are several fine homes and landscaped gardens. The original 'Matlock' homestead was built in 1919 for G.W.P. Creed who founded Woolworths (Australia) and it was used to intern the Japanese consulate in the Second World War. 'Cameron Lodge', built for William Cameron (who erected the original memorial cross on the mountain's summit) has vast lawns, some fine masonry and plenty of deciduous trees. The enormous mansion of 'Sefton' (50 rooms) is set in 12 hectares of gardens profuse with oaks, poplars and elms. 'Dreamthorpe' is another popular attraction.

The only one of the gardens in the Mt Macedon area that is open on a regular basis is 'Forest Glade' which welcomes visitors every weekend from September to May. It is especially beautiful in autumn owing to the maples.

2 km north of the Trading Post Cafe, to the right, at 902 Mount Macedon Rd, is 'Tanah-Merah', an historic high garden which includes the Liza Taylor Sculpture Gallery. It is open from Friday to Sunday, tel: (03) 5426 4232.

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'Bunyip Lodge', at 10 Governors Drive, occupies 1.25 acres. It has a number of fine trees, shrubs and perennials. It is open for groups anytime and a guide is available if required, tel: (03) 5426 1561.

Other gardens are opened up periodically to raise money for charities and as part of the Australian Garden Scheme. A number of the gardens are available for inspection on October 25 as part of the Legacy weekend and some gardens are opened when the Mount Macedon Horticultural Society holds its two Flower Shows in spring and autumn. Aside from these scheduled times, owners will put a board out the front of their property on a fine day if they feel like opening or they may open up by appointment.

For the latest information on which gardens are accessible, consult the Trading Post general store (tel: 03 5426 1471) or the Woodend Visitor Centre which has a list of all the gardens of the Mt Macedon Ranges and an account of their scheduled opening times, tel: (03) 5427 2033. A recent book, *The Grand Gardens of Mount Macedon*, is indispensable for the enthusiast. The Australian Open Garden Scheme Guide Book is also an excellent source and is available from ABC bookshops. Garden Tours of Mt Macedon offer guided tours of some of the area's fine gardens. Teas and lunches are provided at a reasonable rate, tel: (03) 5426 2080 or (03) 5426 1274.

## **Mount Macedon Winery**

Halfway between Mount Macedon and Woodend is the Mount Macedon Winery, situated high on the western slopes of Mt Macedon. Established in 1989 it produces chardonnay, pinot noir, a sparkling wine, shiraz and cabernet sauvignon and is open from 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. daily. Light lunches are served in the cellar on weekends and public holidays, tel: (03) 5427 2735.

To get there turn west off the Mount Macedon Rd into Douglas Rd from within the township of Mt Macedon. This becomes Bawden Rd (a good gravel surface) where you will find the winery.

## **Camel's Hump**

Follow the Mount Macedon Rd through and beyond the Mt Macedon township. After 3 km the road reaches the summit where there is an intersection. Take the signposted turnoff on the left into Cameron Drive. A short distance along is a carpark on the right-hand side of the road. There is an information board and map. This is the starting point for a short walk to the Camel's Hump (1010 m), an isolated extrusion of solidified lava which is very popular with assailers.

## **Picnic Areas and Memorial Cross**

Cameron Drive continues along past the McGregor Picnic Ground (which has barbecues, toilets and disabled facilities), the Cameron Picnic Ground (with barbecues) and the Mt Macedon survey cairn (1010 meters above sea-level). The road then enters a turning circle around Harrison Picnic Ground which has a carpark, shelters, an information board and map,

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picnic tables, toilets and disabled facilities. A restaurant and kiosk will open on this site in the year 2000.

A network of walking trails, outlined on the map, lead to the Kurana Memorial, the Western Lookout, the Eastern Lookout, the Mt Macedon Memorial Cross and the Major Mitchell Lookout. Thomas Mitchell climbed the mountain in 1836. Having sighted Port Phillip from its summit he named the mountain after Philip of Macedon. The spectacular views from the summit formed the basis of Arthur Streeton's painting 'Australia Felix'. They take in Port Phillip Bay, the You Yangs and Mount Dandenong.

The 21-metre Memorial Cross is a local landmark. It is set amidst trees and gardens and is distinguished by its tiled exterior and a large bronze sword. William Cameron, who lost his son in World War I, established the cross as a tribute to those Australians who died in the war. The Ash Wednesday fires of 1983 damaged the cross and ruined the gardens. The latter



have been re-established and the former replaced.

If you are approaching these attractions from Mt Macedon township, just head up Mt Macedon Road, ignore the turnoff on the left into Cameron Drive and you will come, almost immediately, to Barringo Road and Lions Head Rd on the right.

## **Macedon Regional Park Walking Trail**

The sites mentioned in the last three entries are all within Macedon Regional Park which incorporates the forest-clad western end of the Macedon Ranges. A 29-km walk has been completed which takes in all of the park's major natural attractions. It takes about seven hours in all but may be walked as separate sections (some parts are steep and slippery in wet weather).

A pamphlet available from Parks Victoria breaks the walking trail into 14 sections, starting at Macedon railway station. It takes in numerous excellent viewing areas, an old stone railway bridge, the old scout camp site and a range of vegetation including kangaroo grass, native orchid species, wet and dry messmate forest, wattle, snow gum, alpine ash, broad-leaved peppermint, long-leaved box and an under story of ferns, prickly mosses, wiregrass etc. There are plenty of birds, wallabies and wombats in the park. To obtain the pamphlet, which outlines the walk and its attractions in detail, contact Parks Victoria (tel: 131 963) or the Woodend Visitors' Centre, tel: (03) 5427 2033.

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## **Hanging Rock Winery**

The Hanging Rock Winery is located just to the north of Hanging Rock Reserve in Jim Road at Newham. The largest winery of the region, it is open from 10.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. daily and offers a range of cool-climate wines, including the award-winning Sparkling 'Macedon' and the Jim Jim Sauvignon Blanc, tel: (03) 5427 0542.

## **Horse riding**

nearby is Barringo Valley Trail Rides which facilitates trail rides through the forests and scenic valleys of the beautiful and rugged countryside, tel: (03) 5426 1778.

Driving north of the range we head to South Rock Road, Woodend to find our picnic spot.

## **Hanging Rock Reserve**

If you wish to visit Hanging Rock Reserve, follow Mt Macedon Road up past the turnoffs into Cameron Drive, Lions Head Rd and Barringo Rd. After a couple of hairpin bends there is a turnoff to the right into Straws Lane (it is the first bitumen road on the right) which is signposted for Hanging Rock. After about 3 km there is a signposted turnoff to the left into South Rock Road then, after 500 m, you will see the gate which leads into the reserve. This route is less direct than the turnoff from the Calder Highway, north of Woodend, but much more scenic.

Hanging Rock is part of a small extinct volcano which rises to 105 metres above the surrounding plain. It was formed by lava emerging from a vent in the earth about six million years ago. The lava had unusually high soda content and solidified into soda trachyte which also formed the Camel's Hump on Mount Macedon.

The rock has been a popular picnicking spot since late in the 19th century. Its usage as the setting for Joan Lindsay's novel Picnic at Hanging Rock is based upon the St Valentine's Day picnic attended by the students of Clyde School in the 1930s and 1940s. The story was later made into a lyrical film by Peter Weir. The Rock was also reputed to have been a hideout for bushrangers in the Goldrush era.

The surrounding reserve, open from 8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. every day, has over 100 indigenous flora species which are particularly evident in spring and summer. There are also over 40 bird species, goannas and nine mammals including the greater glider, koala, kangaroo, wallaby and echidna.

The Hanging Rock Discovery Centre will open in the year 2000. It will focus on the Aboriginal connection with the area, the flora and fauna of the reserve, its geological history and the mythology which surrounds the rock. There will be hands-on interpretive and walk-through displays.

The reserve has tennis courts, two ovals (available for hire), wide expanses of lawn and picnic-barbecue facilities. The Hanging Rock Picnic Cafe, at the base of the rock, sells

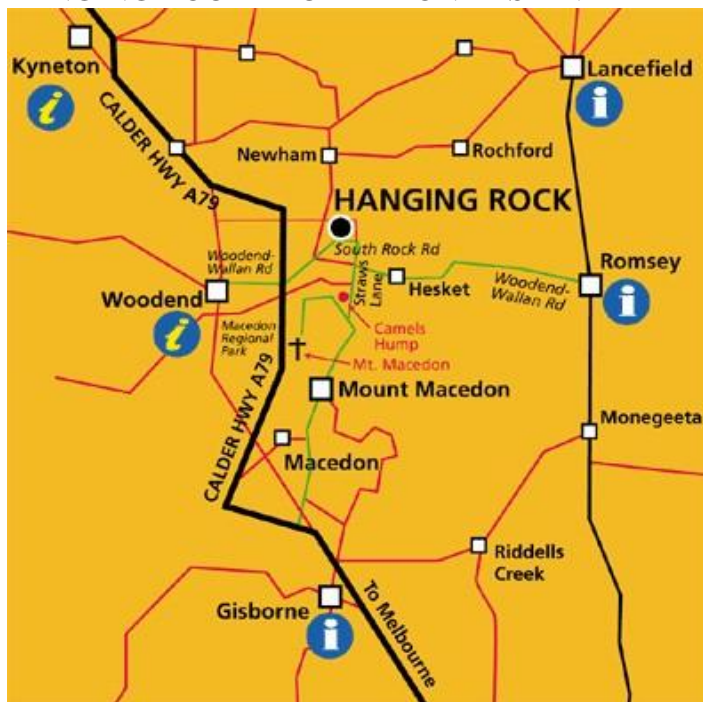
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Devonshire teas, lunches, local crafts and souvenirs. The dam in the middle of the racecourse is well-stocked with fish (you must bring your own bait and tackle and there is a bag limit of two fish per child).

Numerous walking paths criss-cross the reserve. Some will take you to the summit of the rock from whence there are fine views, taking in Mt Macedon to the south and the Cobaw Ranges to the north. Two-hour evening walks, conducted by a ranger, contemplate the fauna and geological history of the area. Bookings are essential, tel: (1800) 244 711.

Well-attended race meetings have been held here on New Year's Day since 1880. There are also meetings on Australia Day and on a Sunday in March (the next is 19 March 2000). The annual Harvest Picnic is a day for sampling Victorian wines and food. It is held late in February each year (the next is 27 February 2000), tel: (03) 9650 7655. A vintage car rally is held each February (the next is 13 February 2000). Bookings are essential for The Longest Lunch (March 17 2000). The Senior Citizens' Picnic will be held on 24 March 2000.

Coaches and large groups are welcome but it is necessary for such congregations to contact the ranger first on (1800) 244 711 or (0418) 373 032. For further information and bookings ring (1800) 244 711. There is an admission fee as no financial assistance is provided by state or federal government. These fees are higher on special events days, such as the Car Rally and the Harvest Picnic. For internet information go to <http://www.macedon-ranges.com.au>  
HANGING ROCK RECREATION RESERVE



## WHAT IS HANGING ROCK?

Said to be the best example of a volcanic plug or mamelon in the world. It consists mainly of

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soda trachyte rock (solvbergite), found only outside this district in Norway and Sweden. Since its formation, the mamelon has been exposed to considerable weathering and erosion, resulting in a conglomeration of unusual rock formations that can now be seen on the site.

## LOCATION

Hanging Rock is located in a rural setting approximately 80km (1 hour) to the north of Melbourne. It is easily accessed from the A79 Calder Freeway which passes by on the eastern side of Woodend.

You can also access the Rock via Mt Macedon or from the M31 Hume Highway by turning off at Kilmore and travelling through Lancefield, or alternatively from Wallan via Romsey.

## ENTRY FEES

Reasonable entry fees are applicable as the Reserve receives no state or local government operational funding. 100% of all income received at the Reserve is used for its continued maintenance, development and care.

Separate entry fees apply on specific days which presently include all race meetings, The Age Harvest Picnic and the Macedon Ranges & District Motor Club Car Display Day as well as other selected events.

## THINGS TO DO, THINGS TO SEE —

Hanging Rock Reserve caters for a wide range of activities from the racecourse, ovals and tennis courts to wide expanses of lawns. There are coin operated barbeques and picnic areas provided for visitors' use throughout the Reserve. Cook on one of the barbeques or spread your picnic lunch on one of the many tables provided, then enjoy your meal while you watch the activities going on around you; or take in the magnificent views of the Rock.

## HANGING ROCK DISCOVERY CENTRE

Visitors can discover the history, mystery and geology of the Rock and surrounding areas at the new Hanging Rock Discovery Centre. Discover how and when the Rocks were formed; learn about the Reserve's native flora and fauna, and some of its history through a sequence of hands-on interpretive displays.

**EXPLORING & WALKING** There are numerous walking paths and trails which allow you to explore the Rock and the Reserve at your own pace.

If you follow the walking paths which ascend the Rock, you will pass by many of the interesting rock formations, including Stonehenge, McDonald's Lookout and The Eagle. If you follow the path to the top of the Rock you will be rewarded with a magnificent panorama which extends across the district from Mt Macedon in the south to the Cobaw Ranges in the north.

## TENNIS OR CRICKET

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Four all weather tennis courts, a full size oval and a smaller oval are available for hire at the Reserve and can be booked for day or half day use.

## HANGING ROCK NIGHT WALKS

Experience the mystery of Hanging Rock at night, with a guided tour of the Reserve. During the tour you will discover native Australian fauna in its natural habitat and learn about Hanging Rock's past and details of how it was formed millions of years ago.

Night tours of the Rock only operate during the summer months.

## GENERAL INFORMATION AND GEOLOGY

718 metres above sea level.

105 metres above surrounding plain.

Hanging Rock is said to be one of the best examples in the world of a volcanic feature known as a mamelon (French lit. nipple). It was formed six million years ago when a particularly stiff type of lava formed a rounded pile of layers on the surface as it was squeezed through a narrow vent in the earth.

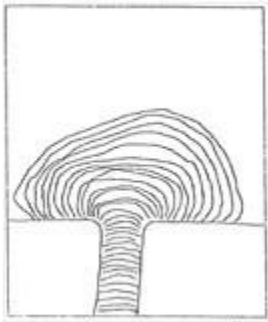
### **Formation of a mamelon.**

The lava in Hanging Rock has a particularly high soda content and the action of rainwater has resulted in an unusual rock known as solvsbergite, or soda trachyte, which is the same rock found at the nearby Camel's Hump on Mt. Macedon.

(This type of rock is only found in outside of the region in Norway & Sweden.)

Since its formation, the mamelon has been exposed to considerable weathering and erosion, resulting in the unusual rock formations that can now be seen on the site.

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Formation of a mamelon.

Hanging Rock was originally named "Mount Diogenes" in 1836 by Major Thomas Mitchell when he traveled through the area. It was in keeping with other Greek mythological titles assigned to geological features in the district.

It is thought the Rock was a refuge for bushrangers during the Gold Rush era – particularly the notorious 'Mad Dan Morgan' whose name is attributed to certain features to be found on the walk to the Pinnacles like Morgan's Lookout and Morgan's Blood Waterfall.

Hanging Rock later became part of Edward Dryden's run and was known as "Dryden's Rock".

In 1886, the "Rock" was purchased by the State Government and joined to the local water reserve to become the Hanging Rock Recreation Reserve, controlled by the local Shire Council.

The Reserve has been host to many sporting events over the years including the popular horse races on New Year's day which date back to 1880. The present race course adjacent to Hanging Rock was constructed and the first Hanging Rock Cup was run in 1909. Since that time 'picnic races' have become a popular attraction for many visitors.

Hanging Rock is also well known from Joan Lindsay's narrative Picnic at Hanging Rock and the film made of the story – about the mysterious disappearance of a group of local school girls during a picnic excursion at the Rock in 1900.

**HANGING ROCK — SOME HISTORY, SOME LOCAL COLOUR**

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On July 4th, 1861 the railway was opened at Woodend. Farming was well in progress in the district so produce was soon carted to the new rail head. Additionally, the Gold Miners to the North had to have provisions carted to them from the Lancefield, Romsey and Rochford areas.

Hotels sprang up along the roads and Mr. W. Adams built the Hanging Rock Hotel in the eighteen-sixties. It was erected on the North West side of the crossroads on the Lancefield/Woodend Road 1 mile south of Newham where he owned the land thereabouts. (Now it is know as the crossroads of Coach & Conwell's Roads.) The Hotel was later run by Mrs. Hall, then Geo. Thorburn.

Mr. Adams went to considerable expense to develop the Rock as a pleasure resort. He placed a weir across the Five Mile Creek to make a lake several acres in extent on which rowing boats were available. Swans and other birds were imported. The lake was in the corner of the Reserve nearest the division fence below Maxted Drive. A road was constructed to almost the top of the Rock on the South Western approach and climbed from the foot to a large open space above the Hanging Rock, wide enough for a carriage to be driven up in safety. Ornamental trees and garden beds were planted alongside the drive.

Mr. Adams laid down the first Racecourse on the Western side of the Rock where Race Meetings were held in true traditional bush picnic style.

Various rocks were soon named, the Post Office: where passers-by tossed small stones into a hollow place. The Lovers Leap: a rock jutting out from the cliff, Queen Victoria's Monument: a replica of- Queen Victoria in her robes.

McDonalds Look-out where McDonald, a Bush Ranger, was able to look out over the North-East between two rocks, while Morgan, another Bush Ranger, had his look-out Westerly from a hollow rock with an opening in it.

The boys of that time had one Rock named The Cuss-Cuss Rock where the little native cats would spit at passers-by.

The Squeeze was a tunnel from the top above Hanging Rock to the base. It meant clambering over and crawling through small spaces, until safely reaching the ground level.

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Bottom of the Squeeze

A popular place for picnics was on the flat above the Hanging Rock. (A location now known as 'Stonehenge'.) Before the steps were placed in position, it was quite an effort to climb up under the Hanging Rock by hanging onto rocks, tree roots etc.

In 1866 the Rock was re-purchased by the Government with a Water Reserve on the South Eastern corner. (In 1857 William Anderson had selected the part of the Rock which later became the Picnic Ground.) A fence was said to run over the top of the Rock from North to South with gates put in and charges made to enter. This led to arguments with Gatekeepers, so the Government was persuaded to regain the land.

The area of 71 acres 1 rood 1 perch on which the Hanging Rock is situated was re-purchased from Mr. William Anderson in the year 1884 for the sum of 1,417 pounds, 12 shilling, 6 pence. This area together with an adjoining area of 176 acres 3 roods 28 perches was then reserved by order in Council on 25th November 1884 (with notification published in the Victorian Government Gazette of 28th November 1884) as a site for recreation and for affording access to water.

The Reserve was then controlled by the Council of Newham and Woodend until 1959, when at the request of the Council, three members of the Hanging Rock Race Club were added to the Committee Management.

The earliest evidence in Departmental records of the Reserve being used as a Racecourse is a letter in 1883 from Council requesting the reservation of the Crown Lands portion as a Racecourse. A sketch plan dated 1876 from a local resident and a petition in the same year, contained a statement that:

"The Reserve was for so many years, so used (i.e. for Recreation) by the people of the district, and considerable improvements were made up on it. A Racecourse was laid out on it, cleared and fenced and the place was rapidly becoming a very popular place of resort, as many as 7,000 persons having been present at our New Year's Sports".

It would then appear that the Reserve was used as a Racecourse between 1883-1886. The Course was laid out facing the creek on the Southern side of the Rock but in 1909 shifted to its present site. Several local farmers kept horses or ponies and trained them themselves.

The first sports meetings were real Highland gatherings with "Tossing the Caber", "Throwing the

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Hammer", foot races etc. Later a dance floor was erected. Bagpipes were plentiful too, and after some years a String Group came to play at the events from Kyneton.

Sandy McDonald of Meenyan — formerly a Newham boy, told of how Jesse Shelton always won the "catching the greased pig", by holding its tail in his mouth and "climbing the slippery pole" by firstly dusting his trousers with sand. Sandy also told of a "Carlie" a Highland gathering that some of the elderly people had one night.

Special trains ran from Melbourne to Woodend on Rock Race days and 'Big Four in Hand' drags which held 40-60 passengers would be driven out to the Rock and later back to the train. At one stage, it was thought a Railway line to connect Lancefield with Woodend via the Hanging Rock would be an advantage. A big luncheon was held with members of Parliament present to discuss the route and other possibilities which ultimately didn't eventuate.

*Depending on everyone mood and state of tiredness, we might arrange an evening activity.*

WEDNESDAY 26<sup>th</sup> October

*A fairly busy day, of driving and traffic.*

*We will drop down to Riddles Creek 6kms then up to Lancefield before heading east to Kilmore 22 kms then any other 16 kms to the Hume Highway.*

## **HUME HIGHWAY**

The Hume Highway is the most direct, and bypasses all the towns along the way from Craigieburn to Albury. The Hume Highway is a two lane highway, with a speed limit of 110 kilometres per hour the whole way. From the Fawkner Cemetery to the NSW Border at Albury should take a little less than 3 hours. It is 300 km from Melbourne to Albury.

There are two fuel stops on the highway, one at Seymour and the other at Glenrowan.

**HISTORY** The coast of New South Wales from the Queensland border to the Victorian border is separated from the inland by an escarpment, forming the eastern edge of the Great Dividing Range. There are few easy routes up this escarpment. To climb from the coast to the tablelands the Hume Highway uses the Bargo Ramp, a geological feature which provides one of the few easy crossings of the escarpment.

In the first twenty years of European settlement at Sydney (established 1788), exploration southwest of Sydney was slow. This area was heavily wooded at the time, especially the "Bargo brush", which was

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regarded as almost impenetrable. In 1798 explorers (Wilson, Price, Hacking, and Collins) reached the Moss Vale and Marulan districts, but this was not followed up. Any settlement would have to await the construction of an adequate access track, which would have been beyond the colony's resources at the time, and would have served little purpose as a source of supplies for Sydney, due to the time taken to reach Sydney. In 1804, Charles Throsby penetrated through the Bargo brush to the country on the tablelands near Moss Vale and Sutton Forest. On another expedition in 1818, he reached Lake Bathurst and the "Goulburn Plains".<sup>[2]</sup> Many of the early explorers would most likely have used aboriginal guides, but they do not appear to have given them credit.

After Charles Throsby's 1818 journey towards present day Goulburn, followed by Hamilton Hume and William Hovel's overland journey from Appin (near Campbelltown) to Port Phillip and return in 1824, development of the Southern Tablelands for agriculture was rapid. The present route of the Hume Highway is much the same as that used by the pioneers.

The route taken by the Hume Highway to climb from the coast to the Southern Tablelands and thence across the Great Divide is situated between the parallel river gorge systems of the Wollondilly and Shoalhaven Rivers. This country consists generally of a gently sloping plateau which is deeply dissected by the Nepean River and its tributaries. The route of the Highway, by using four high level bridges to cross these gorges, avoids the Razorback Range, and has minimal earthworks. The climb from the western side of the Nepean River at Menangle up to Mittagong is fairly sustained, a fact that is hard to appreciate at high speed on the modern freeway. The highway climbs non-stop over a distance of 16 km from the Pheasant's Nest bridge over the Nepean River to Yerrinbool, before dropping slightly before the final climb to reach the tablelands at Aylmerton.

## EARLY ROAD CONSTRUCTION

Governor Lachlan Macquarie ordered the construction of a road, which became known as the Great South Road (the basis of the northern end of the Hume Highway) in 1819 from Picton to the Goulburn Plains and he travelled to Goulburn in 1820, but it is unlikely that even a primitive road was finished at that time.



Towrang bridge of 1839

The Great South Road was rebuilt and completely re-routed between Yanderra and Goulburn by Surveyor-General Thomas Mitchell in 1833. The *Main Roads Management Act* of June 1858 declared the Great Southern Road, from near Sydney through Goulburn and Gundagai to Albury, as one of the three main

# Tagalong 2011

roads in the colony. However, its southern reaches were described as only a 'scarcely formed bullock track' as late as 1858. The road was improved in the mid 1860s with some sections near Gundagai "metalled" and all creeks bridged between Adelong Creek (approximately 10 kilometres south of Gundagai) and Albury.

Mitchell's route, except for the bypasses at Mittagong, Berrima and Marulan (dual carriageways were completed in 1986) is still largely followed by the current highway. Mitchell intended to straighten the route north of Yanderra, but was not granted funding, although his proposed route through Pheasants Nest has similarities to the freeway route opened in 1980. Mitchell's work on the Great South Road is best preserved at Towrang Creek (10 kilometres north of Goulburn), where his stone arch culvert still stands, although it was superseded in 1965 by a concrete box culvert which in turn was superseded by the current route of the highway when it was duplicated in 1972.

In 1914 the NSW section of the highway was declared a main road. Until it was named the Hume Highway in 1928 it was known as the "Great South Road" in NSW and "Sydney Road" in Victoria. It was named after Hamilton Hume, who with William Hovell were the first Europeans to traverse an overland route between Sydney and Port Phillip, in what later became Victoria.

The Hume Highway bypass of Seymour opened in December 1982. Seymour remains on the Goulburn Valley Highway. The town is in the rich Goulburn Valley which supports the local vineyards. The large Puckapunyal military base is located west of Seymour. Once the centre of the bushranging area of Victoria, it has a museum which displays many period relics of that era. It was until the 1970s a major railway maintenance centre, and part of the railway workshops now houses a railway museum. The museum's collection of rolling stock, including State carriages used by governors and monarchs, is extensive.

## **SPEED LIMITS and FIXED SPEED CAMERA LOCATIONS**

Like most roads in Australia, the Hume Highway is speed-limited, although it was as recent as 1977 that speed limits were introduced on the section between the Federal Highway and Albury. The speed limit on most of the dual carriageway length of the Hume Highway is 110 km/h, with the speed limit reduced to 50 km/h through Tarcutta and Holbrook, and to 70 km/h through Woomargama (the remaining three towns yet to be bypassed).

In January 2008, fixed speed-cameras were installed in the median strip along the Craigieburn Bypass and northward to Seymour, in Victoria, at roughly 15–20 km intervals.

Benalla is a large town located just off the Hume Freeway between Melbourne and Wangaratta. Founded in 1848, growth was slow until a gold rush in the 1850s. It had many associations with the Kelly gang and the courthouse was the venue for a number of their trials. It also has a memorial to the Australian war hero Sir Edward 'Weary' Dunlop, an Australian doctor who acted as a leader to allied troops on the Thailand-Burma Railway in World War II.

# Tagalong 2011

We will in fact turn into Benalla and stop at the park. The memorial to 'Weary' Dunlop and the rose garden are very much of National interest. We will have lunch in the park.



Roses are featured at Benalla Botanic Gardens

**Benalla** is a city of just over 9,000 people located just off the Hume Freeway about 40 kilometres (20 mi) southwest of Wangaratta. Its Local Government Area is the Rural City of Benalla.

**HISTORY** The site was originally taken up as a pastoral run by the Reverend Joseph Docker in 1838 and called *Benalta Run*, from the Aboriginal word for Musk Duck. A town was laid out on the site in 1846. The Post Office opened on 1 December 1844 but named Broken River until 1 January 1854

The Broken River can cause extensive flooding. There is a park and walking track along the river at Benalla, featuring a ceramic sculpture community that was created as part of an employment project for local artists some years ago.

Industries include agricultural support services, tourism, a medium density fibre board factory, Thales Australia ammunition factory and aviation. The rose gardens and the annual Rose Festival dating from 1967 have contributed to tourism.

Benalla has a regional airport YBLA (BLN) which began life as a major RAAF training base during World War 2 and now also serves as the home of the Gliding Club of Victoria as well as a ballooning and ultra light centre.

The Goulburn Ovens Institute of TAFE has a campus in Benalla which includes the *Benalla Performing Arts and Convention Centre* opened in 2004 by Lynne Kosky MP, the then Minister of Education and Training

Benalla is also the home of GRADA, a regional academy of dramatic art offering courses in Acting, Dance and Production. GRADA: GOTAFE Regional Academy of Dramatic Arts

# Tagalong 2011

## Notable residents

- Baden Cooke - Olympic Cyclist, Commonwealth Medallist and Winner of Tour de France Green Jersey
  - Tommy Dunderdale - Member of the Hockey Hall of Fame
  - Edward "Weary" Dunlop - Surgeon and World War II Prisoner of War.
  - Albert Ernest Kitson - Geologist and Naturalist
  - Tom Long - Actor
  - Lisa Maxwell - Rock/Pop/Alternative solo artist.
  - Tom Rockliff- AFL footballer for Brisbane FC
  - Hugh Sawrey - Prominent Australian Artist, works displayed worldwide
  - Mark Seymour - Lead singer of Hunters & Collectors and solo artist.
  - Nick Seymour - Bass player in Crowded House.
  - Jarrad Waite - AFL footballer for Carlton F C
  - Robin Close - Former AFL footballer - Essendon FC
- 

WANGARATTA is, after Wodonga, the largest centre in northeast Victoria (population 17,000). It is at the junction of the Hume and Ovens Highways (the 'Great Alpine Road'). Hume and Hovell passed through this area on their 1824 expedition and the town was founded in 1837 when the surrounding area was opened for farming.

The attractions around town include Merriwa Park, a sunken garden adjacent to the King River, Air world at Wangaratta Airport, and old goldfield areas of nearby Beechworth and Chiltern.

Albury's history is linked with the two famous Australian explorers, Hamilton Hume and William Hovell, as the city's location sprung from their crossing of the Murray River. Albury, commonly associated with its Victorian twin, Wodonga, is one of the few rural Australian cities to experience a boom, mainly from industrialization in recent times. Albury-Wodonga is the largest centre on the Hume Highway, with a population of nearly 80,000.

The Albury bypass, built by Abigroup, opened in January 2007, having been first proposed in 1964. Following a series of announcements and changes of plans through the 1990s, when Albury residents failed to agree on whether an 'internal' or 'external' bypass route was more appropriate, the 'internal bypass' option was chosen, with approval being granted in 2004 and construction commencing in January 2005. The route is parallel to and on the eastern side of the Sydney-Melbourne railway, beginning at the railway overpass 10 km

# Tagalong 2011

north of Albury. After crossing the Murray River, the bypass route crosses the railway to rejoin the previous highway at the southern end of the Lincoln Causeway, connecting to the Wodonga bypass. The Albury bypass includes a freeway standard connection to the Murray Valley Highway at Bandiana, east of Wodonga

We will drive out to Lake Hume where we will be staying for two nights. Remember that when we cross the boarder into NSW we can NOT bring Honey, Bananas, potatoes, Rice,

# Tagalong 2011

**Lake Hume** is an artificial lake in Australia formed by the Hume Weir east of Albury-Wodonga on the Murray River just downstream of its junction with the Mitta River. The small towns of Tallangatta, Bonegilla and Bellbridge are located on the shores of Lake Hume. A hydro-electric power plant supplies 60 MW of power to the state grid. When full the lake covers 80 square kilometres. It is often referred to as the Hume Weir, only named Lake Hume in the mid 1980s. The lake was created for irrigation purposes and has caused significant changes to the flow patterns and ecology of the Murray River. Before the construction of the Hume Weir, flows in normal (non-drought) years were low in summer and autumn (though still significant overall), rising in winter due to seasonal rainfall and reaching a flood-peak in late spring due to snowmelt in the Murray and tributaries' alpine headwaters. The flow is effectively reversed now, with low flows in winter and sustained, relatively high flows in late spring, summer and early autumn to meet irrigation demands, although the spring flood peak has been virtually eliminated. In addition, the water released from the base of the Hume Weir is un-naturally cold. This flow reversal, temperature depression and removal of the spring flood peak has led to the drying out and loss of many billabongs and has harmed the populations of native fish of the Murray River such as the iconic Murray Cod.

**HISTORY** Constructed over a 12-year period from 1919 to 1931 with a workforce of thousands, a branch siding from the Wodonga - Cudgewa railway was built to supply materials. It was extended during the 1950s, and completed in 1961, necessitating the wholesale removal of Tallangatta township and its re-establishment at a new site eight kilometres west of the original, as well as railway and road diversions.

As it is the furthest downstream of the major reservoirs on the Murray River system, and has the capacity to release water at the fastest rate, Lake Hume is used by the irrigation authorities as the storage of first resort. The reservoir typically falls to less than one-third capacity by March each year, but in normal years refills to at least two-thirds capacity before November, though Australia's highly unpredictable climatic conditions cause these figures to vary quite significantly from year to year. In 2007 Lake Hume fell to a scant 1% capacity, barely more than the water in the two rivers (Murray and Mitta) flowing through on their original paths. As of November 2010, however, Lake Hume is now at full capacity.

Monitoring of the dam in the early 1990s revealed that the water pressure and leakage had caused the dam to move on its foundations slightly, leading to concerns that the dam was heading for collapse, threatening Albury-Wodonga and the entire Murray basin with it. Authorities denied any short-term threat. Traffic was banned from the spillway, and a large repair job commenced involving, in part, the construction of a secondary earth wall behind the original to take the strain.

# Tagalong 2011

## Facilities

The dam wall is constructed of rock covered with clay and other earth, with a concrete spillway. Designed to carry vehicular traffic, the dam wall is 51 metres high and 1,616 metres long, and at 100% capacity can hold 3,000,000 megalitres of water. Water is retained nearly 40 kilometres up both river valleys. Lake Hume holds approximately 5 times the volume of Sydney Harbour.

The Hume Power Station is a 58-megawatt hydro-electric power station installed in the dam wall, and is primarily used for peak-load generation.

The lake is stocked with fish. Most of these are introduced species - carp, red fin and trout though native species such as Golden Perch and Murray Cod can also be found. The fishing varies from year to year. It is also popular for water skiing, and several holiday resorts catering for fishing and skiers are dotted around the upper reaches of the lake.

## Welcome to Lake Hume Tourist Park

We are situated on the foreshore of Lake Hume and only 10 minutes away from the border towns of Albury Wodonga, Whether your holiday includes skiing, fishing, sailing, golfing, touring the wineries or just plain relaxing, you'll find it all here at Lake Hume Tourist Park.

Come and experience the great outdoors and you can relax in one of our 25 fully self contained Parkland Cabins or take advantage of our powered of non-powered sites.

The Park and Lake area offer a range of features , and our licenced General Store can cater for all your holiday needs.

Group bookings welcome.

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A member of Family Parks of Australia

# Tagalong 2011

We can stop in Albury or Wodonga and fill up with fresh supplies for the night.

## THURSDAY

**You will have the choice of what you do today. You can stay around Lake Hume or go exploring in Albury for the day. It's up to you.**

**Albury** is a major regional city in New South Wales, located on the Hume Highway on the northern side of the Murray River. It is located wholly within the boundaries of the City of Albury Local Government Area. Albury is the second major city of the Riverina and the second largest inland city in New South Wales, behind Wagga Wagga. Albury has an urban population of 53,507 people. It is separated from its twin city in Victoria, Wodonga by the Murray River. Together the two cities form an urban area with a population of more than 90,000. It is 554 kilometres (344 mi) from the state capital Sydney and 326 kilometres (203 mi) from the Victorian capital Melbourne.

**GEOGRAPHY** Albury is situated above the river flats of the Murray River, in the foothills of the Great Dividing Range. At the airport, Albury is 164 metres above sea level (539 ft).

**CLIMATE** Albury has a warm, temperate, four-season climate, with cool to mild winters and very warm to hot summers. In summer, the mean daily maximum temperature is around 30 degrees Celsius with low humidity; however, this is subject to substantial daily variation. In this summer period a maximum above 35 degrees Celsius occur over an average of 17 days. Mean winter maximums are around 14 degrees Celsius. Frosts are commonplace in winter, with approximately 20 days per year featuring minimums of below freezing.

Albury's mean annual rainfall is about 701.3 millimeters, which is more than Melbourne but less than Sydney. Rain can occur all year round, but most of it falls in the winter months with July's high mean of 82.3 millimeters comparing with the March low of 37.9 millimeters.

The city itself comprises a number of suburbs.

Central Albury comprises the central business district (CBD) and lies between the railway line, the Murray River and Monument Hill. Much commercial activity is concentrated here, with Dean Street forming the axis of the main shopping and office district. A cultural precinct is

# Tagalong 2011

centred around QE2 Square, including the Albury Library Museum, Albury Regional Art Gallery, Albury Performing Arts Centre and Convention Centre, and the Murray Conservatorium. In the same block are the Post Office, Police Station and Courthouse, as well St Matthew's Anglican Church which was rebuilt after being destroyed by fire in 1990. The Albury City council offices are located on Kiewa Street.

Forrest Hill lies directly north west and covers the saddle between Monument Hill and Nail Can Hill, whilst west over the ridge lies West Albury. West Albury is primarily a residential area, but it is home to the First World War Memorial (locally known as the Monument), Riverwood Retirement Village, Albury Wodonga Private Hospital (which lies on the corner of Pemberton Street and the Riverina Highway), and the Albury sewerage treatment plant. All of West Albury was once wetland and bush. The only remnant of this is Horseshoe Lagoon to the south-west of the suburb, which has been declared a Wildlife Refuge by NSW Parks & Wildlife and incorporated into the Wonga Wetlands. To the north-west of West Albury is Pemberton Park.

East Albury lies east of the railway line/freeway from the CBD and houses cover the Eastern Hill alongside the Albury Base Hospital, while the flat land directly north of it is covered by parkland, housing and light industry, and a retail park including Harvey Norman and Spotlight franchises, as well as the city airport. The Mungabareena Reserve lies on the Murray south of the airport, and is considered an Aboriginal cultural site of some significance. Mungabareena means "place of plenty talk" in the Wiradjuri language.

South Albury is a mix of residential and industrial areas, with the floodplains south of the railway line and freeway still used for farming and grazing. Flood mitigation works in the 1990s have dramatically reduced the risk of flooding in the residential areas of South Albury.

North Albury was once covered by orchards and vineyards in the first half of the 20th century, as was a swamp where the James Fallon High School now stands, but after the second world war housing development in the area increased and Waugh Road was extended from David Street to the "Five Ways" intersection at Union Road, which ascribes the border between North Albury and Lavington. The locality of *Glenroy* is adjacent to North Albury, west of the Bungambrawartha Creek, and housing development was developed in the 1970s, including a significant Housing Commission public housing estate.

Lavington is the largest suburb of Albury, and the only suburb which has its own postcode (2641, as opposed to 2640 for the balance of Albury). The suburb was originally named Black Ridge in the 1850s and 1860s, before being renamed Lavington in 1910.<sup>[9]</sup> Originally within the boundaries of Hume Shire, it was absorbed into the City of Albury Local Government Area in the 1950s. Housing and commercial development has continued from that point until this day. Prior to 2007, the Hume Highway - also known as Wagga Road - passed north-east through the suburb, with Urana Road passing north-west though the suburb from the "Five Ways" or "Roundabout" road junction. In 2007, an internal bypass of the Hume Freeway was opened, with the former name of the Hume Highway section officially reverting to the commonly used "Wagga Road". The suburb of Lavington also includes the localities of Springdale Heights,

# Tagalong 2011

Hamilton Valley and Norris Park. A lawn cemetery and crematorium lies at the western end of Union Road.

Thurgoona, to the east of Lavington, was established as a new residential suburb by the Albury Wodonga Development Corporation in the 1970s. In the 1990s a new campus of the Charles Sturt University was established here, as was an office of the Murray Darling Freshwater Research Centre. A major golf club known as the Thurgoona Country Club Resort is also situated in this suburb.

Further outlying localities include Splitters Creek - a small residential/farming community to the west, Ettamogah (home of the Ettamogah Pub and OZ. Wildlife sanctuary), Bowna and Table Top to the north, and Wirlinga and Lake Hume village to the east. Howlong (20 km west) and Jindera (16 km north) are the closest towns outside of the Albury city area, and act as commuter dormitories as well as service centres for the local rural industry.

**HISTORY** There are few remainders of the indigenous population of the area, although the Wiradjuri people occupied the area for many thousands of years before. Little history is documented about the relationship of Aboriginal people and the European settlers.

**EUROPEAN EXPLORATION** The explorers Hume and Hovell arrived at what is now known as the Murray River at Albury on 16 November 1824 what their maps named 'Crossing Point'. They named the river the *Hume River* and the next day inscribed a tree by the riverbank before continuing their journey south to Westernport in Victoria. In 1829, explorer Captain Charles Sturt discovered the Hume River downstream at its junction with the Murrumbidgee River. Not realising it was the same river, he named it the Murray River. Both names persisted for some time, Hume falling into disuse eventually in favour of Murray. The aboriginal name for the river was *Millewa*. A crossing place for the Murray became popular close to where Hovell inscribed the tree. In summer it was usually possible to cross the river by foot.

**EUROPEAN SETTLEMENT** Among the first squatters to follow in the steps of the explorers and settle in the district were William Wyse and Charles Ebdon.

The first European buildings erected at the crossing place were a provisions store and small huts. A survey for a town was commissioned in 1838 by Assistant Surveyor Thomas Townsend who mapped out Woodonga Place (the present Wodonga Place) as the western boundary, Hume Street as the northern boundary, Kiewa Street to the east and Nurigong to the south, with Townsend Street being the only other north-south road, and Ebdon and Hovell Streets being the other two east-west roads. Townsend proposed the settlement be named 'Bungambrewatha', the Aboriginal name for the area, but when his plan was eventually approved and published in the Government Gazette on 13 April 1839 the name had been changed to Albury.

Albury is said to be named after a village in Kent, England which it resembled.

# Tagalong 2011

By 1847, the Albury settlement included two public houses and a handful of huts, a police barracks and blacksmiths. A log punt established in 1844 serviced the crossing of the Murray River. Albury Post Office opened on 1 April 1843, closed in 1845, and then reopened in the township on 1 February 1847.

In 1851 with the separation of Victoria from New South Wales and the border falling on the Murray River, Albury found itself a frontier town. With increase in commerce with Melbourne, the first bridge was built in 1860 to the design of surveyor William Snell Chauncy. Albury at this time became a customs post between the two colonies as New South Wales held a protectionist stance on gaining its constitution in 1856.

Albury was at this time starting to grow substantially with German speaking immigrants using the area to grow grapes for wine. Albury boasted by the 1870s a butter factory, flour mill, wineries and locally brewed cider and soft drinks.

In 1888 Albury built its first school house. The city's first mayor James Fallon was an innovator of the Public School, funding a demonstration High School to be built on Kiewa Street.

The railway line from Sydney arrived at Albury in 1881 (see Transport-Rail below). A temporary wooden railway bridge joined the line to the Victorian network 1883. New South Wales and Victoria had different railway gauges until 1962, when the first train ran straight through from Sydney to Melbourne. The states could not initially agree which should be the transfer point so they had an expensive and attractive iron lattice bridge sent from Scotland which accommodated both gauges. The bridge is still standing astride the Murray and is in daily use.

Albury's proximity to Wodonga has spurred several efforts to achieve some kind of municipal governmental union (see Albury-Wodonga). In 1973 Albury-Wodonga was selected as the primary focus of the Whitlam federal government's scheme to redirect the uncontrolled growth of Australia's large coastal cities (Sydney and Melbourne in particular) by encouraging decentralization. Grand plans were made to turn Albury-Wodonga into a major inland city and large areas of the surrounding farmland were compulsorily purchased by the government. Some industries were enticed to move there, and a certain amount of population movement resulted. However, the current population of approximately 101,597 residents is far below the 300,000 projected by Whitlam in the 1970s.

**HERITAGE** Albury has a large number of heritage buildings. The following are listed on the Register of the National Estate. Public School, designed by W.E.Kemp, circa 1881

- Soden's Hotel Australia, circa 1855
- Court House, designed by Alexander Dawson, circa 1860
- Post Office, circa 1875
- Town Hall, circa 1907

# Tagalong 2011

- Burrows House, circa 1860
- Technical College (formerly Telegraph Office), circa 1885
- CML Building, circa 1930
- ANZ Bank, designed by Walter Butler, circa 1915
- T&G Building, circa 1935
- Turk's Head Museum (formerly Turk's Head Hotel), circa 1860-70
- Bellevue home, circa 1860
- Headmaster's Cottage, Kiewa Street
- Railway Station, circa 1881
- Railway Stationmaster's Residence, circa 1881
- S M Abikhair Haberdashery Store, circa 1917
- Bellevue, circa 1860
- Albury Public School, circa 1861

In 1888, the Smollett Street wrought iron arch bridge was constructed over Bungambrawatha Creek. Smollett Street was extended westward through the botanical gardens to give direct access from the Albury Railway Station to Howlong Road by a straight street. The bridge is near the botanic gardens and the local swimming pool. The bridge is a rare example of a metal arch bridge in New South Wales, and is the oldest of only two metal arch bridges in New South Wales, the other being the Sydney Harbour Bridge

# Tagalong 2011

**RAIL** Albury railway station is on the main Sydney-Melbourne railway line. Originally New South Wales and Victoria had different railway gauges, which meant that all travellers in either direction had to change trains at Albury. To accommodate this, a very long railway platform was needed; the 450 metre long covered platform is possibly the longest in Australia. The station is still served by two different rail gauges; the thrice daily broad gauge V/Line services from Melbourne as well as the standard gauge Country link XPT services to Sydney which run twice daily.



The long platform at Albury railway station

In 1873 the broad gauge (5 ft 3ins) railway line from Melbourne reached the township of Belvoir/Wodonga. In 1881 the New South Wales standard gauge (4 ft 8½ins) railway line reached Albury, with a railway bridge joining the two colonies in 1883. Albury became the stop over, where passengers on the Melbourne-Sydney journey changed trains until 1962, when a standard gauge was opened between the two capitals. After World War II in an attempt to overcome the difference in gauges and speed up traffic, a bogie exchange device lifted freight wagons and carriages allowing workers to refit rolling stock with different gauged wheel-sets.

The break of railway gauge at Albury was a major impediment to Australia's war effort and infrastructure during World Wars I and II; every soldier, every item of equipment and supplies were all off-loaded from the broad gauge and reloaded onto a standard gauge railway wagon on the opposite side of the platform. In his book *Tramps Abroad*, writer Mark Twain spoke of the break of gauge at Albury and changing trains... "Now comes a singular thing, the oddest thing, the strangest thing, and the unaccountable marvel that Australia can show, namely the break of gauge at Albury. Think of the paralysis of intellect that gave that idea birth."

Military armories and warehouses were established in the vicinity of Albury. Similar stores were also established at Tocumwal and Oaklands.

# Tagalong 2011

In 2007, (with a government's view that there was a decline of traffic on the broad gauge line) there are plans to convert this line to standard gauge at least from Seymour and obtain double track for the standard gauge. This plan received approval in May 2008.

In 1934 a Douglas DC-2 airliner of KLM (the "Uiver"), a competitor in the London to Melbourne Air Race, made an emergency night landing at the town's race-track after becoming lost during severe thunderstorms. After signaling by Morse code A-L-B-U-R-Y to the lost aircrew by using the entire town's public lighting system, the "Uiver" was guided in to land safely. The makeshift runway at the race-track was illuminated by the headlights of cars belonging to local residents who had responded to a special news bulletin on ABC Radio 2CO. After refueling the next day, many local volunteers helped pull the stranded aircraft out of the race-track's mud and the aircraft was able to take off and continue to Melbourne where it won first prize in the Mac Robertson London to Melbourne Air Race.

**PUBLIC TRANSPORT AND CYCLING.** Local public transport is provided exclusively by private bus operators, Martin's Albury and the Dyson Group who run day time bus services. The overwhelming majority of local transport is by private car, however traffic is generally moderate. The opening of the Hume Freeway bypass on March 4, 2007, has greatly eased previous traffic congestion on the Lincoln Causeway, allowing vastly better flow between Albury and Wodonga.

There is a good network of bicycle paths in the city, including one to the outlying suburb of Thurgoona and across the state border to Wodonga. A new program has built many more bike tracks, including one from the riverside parks to Wonga Wetlands.

**INDUSTRY** Albury serves as an administrative centre for the agricultural communities around the area, and the city is the home of the Norske Skog newsprint paper mill which processes the pine logs planted in the mountains to the east, an engineering plant which produces automatic transmissions for cars, a major processing centre of the Australian Taxation Office, and many other smaller secondary industries. Other large employers are: The Commercial Club Albury and Hume Building Society.

Albury's major employer was ION Automotive Group. In 2003 it employed 1100 people in the city. In late 2005 it was undergoing a deed of company arrangement and Power train Products International was a prospective purchaser.

The Australian pizza chain Eagle Boys was founded in Albury.

# Tagalong 2011

**TOURISM** The region surrounding Albury provides a variety of tourist attractions, including the wine region around Rutherglen, the historic goldfield towns of Beechworth and Yackandandah, boating and fishing on the many rivers and lakes, including Lake Hume, the forests and mountains of the Great Dividing Range and slightly further afield are the snowfields Falls Creek and Mount Hotham.

Within the city of Albury itself, Monument Hill, at the western end of the CBD is the location of the city's distinctive First World War Memorial and provides a good view of the city. Wonga Wetlands, 2.5 km west of the city and adjacent to the River Murray is a key feature of Albury's use of treated wastewater and consists of a series of lagoons and billabongs. Wonga Wetlands features more than 150 species of birdlife and the Aquatic Environment Education Centre.

**EDUCATION** Albury is home to one of the campuses of Charles Sturt University. The original Albury campus was located in the Northern part of the CBD between Kiewa and David Streets. Charles Sturt University relocated to a new purpose built campus at Thurgoona in 2009. CSU offers courses in Arts, Business, Education and Science. It plays a key role in drawing aspiring students to the area, taking candidates from all over Australia.

Riverina Institute of TAFE operates a campus in Albury. There is also a campus of the UNSW Rural Clinical School of Medicine adjacent to the Albury Base Hospital.

Albury is home to nine public primary schools (Albury Public School, Albury North Public School, Albury West Public School, Glenroy Public School, Hume Public School, Lavington Public School, Lavington East Public School, Springdale Heights Public School, and Thurgoona Public School) and three public high schools (Albury High School, James Fallon High School and Murray High School). Several non-government high schools operate in the area including Xavier High School, The Scots School, Border Christian College, St Paul's College and Trinity Anglican College. The city is the base for NSW Department of Education South West Riverina regional office.

**SPORT** Despite being located in New South Wales, Albury is a stronghold of Australian rules football. The local Ovens & Murray Football League is one of the strongest regional leagues in the nation, with the Ovens & Murray Grand Final regularly drawing 15,000 spectators. The league contains three teams from Albury; Current Premiers Albury Football Club, Lavington Panthers Football Club and North Albury Football Club. Many footballers from Albury have gone on to play in the Australian Football League, including Haydn Bunton Senior, who won three Brownlow Medals and was an inaugural *legend* of the Australian Football Hall of Fame; and South Melbourne Brownlow medallist Fred Goldsmith

Albury also has a rugby league team, the Albury Thunder, competing in the Group 9 Rugby League competition.

# Tagalong 2011

The Albury-Wodonga Steamers are the local Rugby Union Club playing in the Southern Inland Rugby Union competition. The Steamers have produced several players for the Australian Rugby Union National Talent Squad.

The Albury Wodonga Bandits compete in the South East Australian Basketball League (SEABL) East Conference of the Australian Basketball Association (ABA) playing their home games at the Albury Sports Stadium. The Lady Bandits joined the women's SEABL in 2006. The Albury Gold Cup horse race is the major autumn event for the district. In 2005 it attracted a record crowd in excess of 18,600 racegoers. Albury has lately become a stronghold of junior hockey, boasting one of the few synthetic fields in the area. The town also has the Albury Grass Tennis Courts. V8 Supercar Team, Brad Jones Racing and drivers Brad Jones and his nephew Andrew also calls Albury home.

Albury is the birthplace of women's tennis grand slam winner Margaret Court, 2003&2007 WNBA MVP winner Lauren Jackson, NRL Player Adrian Purtell (ex-Canberra Raider who is currently playing for Penrith Panthers) and Test cricketer Steve Rixon, among other champion sports people.

**CULTURE** There is a strong regional theatre scene, with the Murray River Performing Group (MRPG) being the most notable company. It spawned The Flying Fruit Fly Circus in 1979, and these days conducts many productions through the Hothouse Theatre located on Gateway Island between Albury and Wodonga - Though still in Victoria and not in New South Wales. Many notable actors and comics have performed with the MRPG. Jazz Albury Wodonga also regularly hosts national and international artists at the Jazz Basement which is located on Gateway Island.

Touring productions also often pass through the area.

Albury has a growing local scene of rock music bands and fans. The Youth Cafe is a supporter of local acts providing resources for young musicians and performers to be recognised. The Youth Cafe has been visited by bands such as Thy Art Is Murder, Sienna Skies, Addison and locals Blood loss Vegas, Radio Shock therapy, Executor & Chelsea Won't Jump. The Soden's Australia Hotel previously hosted local and touring bands from Australia and overseas, but closed in mid 2009. A major youth music event, the Border Music Camp held at Scot's School, attracts people from as far as Sydney. Groovin The Moo Music Festival visits every November providing Albury with notable acts such as Hilltop Hoods, Urthboy and Midnight Juggernauts.<sup>[32]</sup>

In 2003, a sister city relationship with Nanping in north western Fujian province, People's Republic of China, was formalized.

**NOTABLE CRIME** Albury's most famous crime is also one of Australia's most famous, the 'Pyjama Girl Murder'. In 1996, a local teenager, Kim Meredith was murdered in Albury; a memorial to Kim was later placed in Queen Elizabeth 2 Square (QEII<sup>2</sup>) by the citizens of Albury.

# Tagalong 2011

**POLITICS** Albury is the largest city in the Federal electorate of Farrer, of which the current representative is Sussan Ley of the Liberal Party. The previous Federal MP was Tim Fischer, who was leader of the National Party and Deputy Prime Minister of Australia. In State politics, the Electoral district of Albury is currently represented by Greg Aplin, also of the Liberal Party. The member for Albury between 1932 and 1946, Alexander Mair, was the Premier of New South Wales from 1939 to 1941. Local government is the responsibility of the Albury City Council, whose area of responsibility has gradually been enlarged to cover new housing estates at Albury's fringes. Amanda Duncan-Strelec became Albury's first female Mayor in 1995, serving for one year. The current Mayor of Albury is Alice Glachan, who was elected in 2009.

Albury has a longstanding connection to conservative politics. Following the first convention in Canberra to form the Liberal Party of Australia, delegates, including Sir Robert Menzies, met for a second conference in Albury at Mate's Department Store between 14 and 16 December 1944. The delegates agreed on the structure of the party organisation, adopted a provisional constitution and appointed a federal executive until one could be formally elected.

**NOTABLE PEOPLE** The tennis player Margaret Court, the singer Malcolm McEachern, the actors Richard Roxburgh and Maggie Kirkpatrick, the actor/writer Noel Hodda, Australian rules footballer Brett Kirk. The actor, Matt Holmes, most notably known for his role as Swain in Sea Patrol. Olympic swimmer Clementine Stoney, the anti-communist priest Dr `Paddy' Ryan, and the fashion designer Lisa Ho, were all born in Albury. Basketball player Lauren Jackson, who currently plays with the Seattle Storm of the WNBA, was also born in Albury.

Others who lived in Albury – but weren't necessarily born there – include the filmmaker Dean Murphy (*Strange Bedfellows*), the writer Clint Morris, the actor Malcolm Kennard (*E Street*) and singer/songwriter Lisa Mitchell

## FRIDAY 28<sup>th</sup> October

FROM	TO	DISTANCE	TOTAL
Lake Hume	Albury	15 kms	15 kms
Albury	Table Top	19 kms	34 kms
Table Top	Holbrook	48 kms	82 kms
Holbrook	Kyeamba	44 km	126 kms
Kyeamba	Tarcutta	25 kms	151 kms
Tarcutta	Gundagai	46 kms	197 kms
Gundagai	Coolac	18 kms	215 kms
Coolac	Jugiong	20 kms	235 kms
Jugiong	Turn off	56 kms	291 kms
Turn off	Boorowa	44 kms	335 kms

# Tagalong 2011

A nice early start for the last day on the road. We will head out about 9 am.

Once back on the freeway at Albury, there will be few stops.



Table Top is about 16 km north of Albury. It has a population of approximately 4510 people.

**HOLBROOK** was called Germanton until anti-German sentiment during World War 1 led to the town and the shire being renamed in honour of the wartime submarine captain, Lt Holbrook who was awarded the Victoria Cross. From 1995, a feature of the town has been a partial reconstruction of HMAS *Otway*, an Oberon class submarine. This landmark was in recognition of the town's namesake's connections with submarines. In Holbrook is the only set of traffic signals (for pedestrians) remaining on the Hume Highway between the Sydney Orbital and Melbourne's Western Ring Road. Like Tarcutta, Holbrook is scheduled to be bypassed in 2012.

We might stop off and have a look at the submarine.

**Tarcutta** is located almost exactly halfway between Sydney and Melbourne and has been a popular stopover and change-over point for truck drivers making their way between the two cities. There is a memorial to truck drivers who have died on the local stretch of the Hume Highway.



National Truck Driver Memorial at Tarcutta

# Tagalong 2011

We will stop at the memorial.

The route of the highway between Tumblong and Tarcutta is the third route of the highway in this location. The original route led west from Tumblong along the Murrumbidgee River, before turning south over difficult country, crossing what is now the Sturt Highway and rejoining the current route of the highway as Lower Tarcutta Road. This was replaced in December 1938 by the first Tumblong deviation, to the east of the current route. The main features of this section of the highway were a deep, narrow cutting and the reinforced concrete bowstring arch bridge over Hillas Creek. This bridge has been preserved as it is one of only two bridges in New South Wales built to this design, and is visible on the western side of the highway close to the interchange with the Snowy Mountains Highway.

We will turn into Gundagai for lunch picnic on the banks of the Murrumbidgee River. We will then go to the tourist Information Centre and see Rossiconie's Masterpiece.

Gundagai was bypassed in 1977 with the completion of the first Sheahan Bridge over the Murrumbidgee River. This bridge was the second longest road bridge in New South Wales (the Sydney Harbour Bridge being the longest), until the completion of the duplicate Sheahan Bridge in May 2009,<sup>[17]</sup> which is now the longest road bridge in New South Wales (1 m longer than the Sydney Harbour Bridge). The original Sheahan Bridge was only 1 lane in each direction.

The Prince Alfred Bridge, on the old route of the highway across the Murrumbidgee floodplain, is of major engineering interest, as it is one of Australia's longest timber trestle bridges, as is the adjacent 1903 railway bridge. Gundagai was originally located on the river flats directly beside the Murrumbidgee River, but a disastrous flood in 1852 destroyed the town and drowned 89 people. The town was then relocated to its present position. A grade-separated interchange was completed at the intersection of the Highway and West Street in 2006

We will turn back onto the highway so as not to miss the 'Dog on the Tucker box'

At Snake Gully, adjacent to the highway north of Gundagai is the "Dog on the Tuckerbox". A statue (with souvenir shop next door) was erected five miles (eight kilometres) from Gundagai. Snake Gully serves as a way station for many highway travellers.

The 11 kilometre section at Coolac was the last two lane section of highway between Sydney and Gundagai until it was bypassed with a dual carriageway in August 2009. after a delay due to

# Tagalong 2011

indigenous heritage issues, the construction contract was awarded to Abigroup Contractors Pty Ltd in February 2007.

BOOKHAM is situated 29 km west of Yass. The Hume Highway once passed through the village, but now bypasses it. It is a popular site for police speed traps, hence some wags have rechristened the town "Book 'em"

The grazing lands around the village of Bookham were originally called Bogolong and were much sought after by the early pioneers. Childhood memories of the races at the old Bogalong Racetrack inspired Banjo Paterson to write his poem "Old Pardon the Son of Reprieve".

Bookham is the site of two very fine churches constructed from locally quarried granite: the Uniting Church (c1926) and the Catholic Church, St Columbas (c1910). It also features an old-fashioned cricket field, resplendent with a white picket fence, the site of many a bush bash.

## Boorowa, New South Wales

**Boorowa** is a farming town in the South West Slopes of New South Wales, Australia. At the 2006 census, Boorowa had a population of 1,070 people. It is located in a valley 243 km west of Sydney and 487 m above sea-level. The Local Government Area surrounding the town, known as Boorowa Council, has a strong agricultural and mining base.

The town was serviced by the Boorowa railway line before it was closed.

**HISTORY** Prior to European settlement the area is thought to have been occupied by the Wiradjuri or Gundungura Indigenous Australians. The first European to travel through what is now Boorowa Shire was surveyor George Evans, in 1815. Unofficial occupation of the district began in 1821 with Rodger Corcoran and fellow convict Ned Ryan. The first land grant in the general area was issued to Thomas Icely in 1829. A mill was operating on the future town site of Boorowa by 1837, along with an inn and several houses.

Governor Gipps proposed the creation of a village named 'Burrowa' in 1842, to be located 9 km north-east of the present site at Kings Plains which had been surveyed in 1828. However, that spot proved unsuitable and the village was established on its present site in 1843.

# Tagalong 2011



Anzac War Memorial, Marsden Street Boorowa, built in 1933

The district was given over to farming, although it received a push along when gold was found at Carcoar, Browns Creek and Kings Plains. Gold mines were established although copper and iron were also extracted. Samuel Marsden's copper mine operated until 1900.

The arrival of the railway in 1874 spurred on development and Burrowa's name was then changed to "Boorowa". Boorowa replaced Carcoar as the major service centre to local farmlands. It became a municipality in 1888. By the turn of the century a butter factory and freezing works were major employers in the town. Boorowa's agricultural show is held in March.

**EVENTS** October long weekend - The "Running of the Sheep" down the main street of Boorowa during the Irish Woolfest.

**TRIVIA** Prominent Australian jazz musician James Morrison was born in Boorowa.