

# The Chronicle

YOUR SOURCE FOR COMMUNITY NEWS IN LUCAS

ISSUE 14 | WINTER 25

## Bushland Explorers

Read about local kinder kids embracing nature's wild side.

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New Seniors Exercise Park

3 Years of Coffee Catch Ups and more!



**Lucas Ballarat**

This edition of

**The Chronicle**

PROUDLY BROUGHT TO  
YOU BY

**Lucas**

This newsletter is compiled by Integra with stories from our community – many community organisations and individuals work together to contribute and you can too – send your stories for consideration to [community@integragroup.com.au](mailto:community@integragroup.com.au)

We acknowledge the Wadawurrung people and their ancestors who have been custodians of the Ballarat area for thousands of years performing age old Cultural ceremonies, celebrations and traditions. We would also like to acknowledge and pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

## Community Update

Welcome to the Winter 2025 edition of The Chronicle!

It is amazing to see the growth in the community ever since Lucas commenced in 2011. We now have approximately 6,000 residents living within Lucas, 2 lifestyle communities are fully operational, 2 schools onsite, 4 early learning centres, 30+ shops & businesses are now open and nearly 15 parks & wetlands completed. The community has literally grown together and is a driving force behind so many good things happening within Lucas.

Through our recent community activations, we met a number of families that moved into Lucas 10+ years ago & it has been fascinating to see how they have grown with the Lucas community. One family originally purchased as a young couple, built their first home, got married and then started a family. Their children now go to school in Lucas, their employment is within Lucas, they shop in Lucas, with their local doctor, dentist & Vet here as well. So good!

We are really excited to hear of the recent funding commitment of a new Lucas Dog Park within Lucas, while the installation of the new seniors exercise area is an asset for the community. We support the communities push for improved public transport within Lucas and hope to see a positive outcome here in the near future.

Join us in celebrating the best of the Lucas community – we hope you enjoy the read.

**Ben Halsall - Lucas Development Manager**



Community Garden Volunteers: David Sanders and Matt Rowbottom. Photo Supplied

Community  
Corner

## From Garden to Table: New Share Cupboard Helps Feed the Community

STORY BY LUCAS COMMUNITY GARDEN | PRESIDENT PETER SKINNER

At the recent meeting and AGM of the Lucas Community Garden Group, our President Matt Rowbottom has advised he will be stepping down. Matt's friendly nature, enthusiasm and leadership skill has been the key stabilizing force in maintaining the Garden and its team of volunteers through a rebirth and a significant change period over the last 3-4 years, Matt's leadership will be missed by all and we take this opportunity to say thank you.

Peter Skinner has stepped into the role of President supported by David Sanders as Assistant President, Leeanne Sidebottom as Secretary and Matt Rowbottom pleasingly staying on in an advisory role. These positions have been filled in accordance with the requirements associated with being an incorporated registered body.

The garden is now situated in its new location, sitting on a granitic-sand base with a water supply. The site preparation work, water and garden layout was undertaken, by the City of Ballarat Council, in consultation with Matt and the team through the Community Development Officer Natalie Grero.

Our sincere thanks to all involved, an excellent outcome. A more recent project has been the placement of our "Share Cupboard" on a shelf attached to the western end of our Community Garden's Equipment Storage Container. The purpose of this cupboard is to promote sharing of harvested vegetables (from the garden or home gardens) that exceed immediate need and would otherwise go to waste.

We encourage all to make use of this initiative either to collect or deposit food that can be used by others. The Garden is currently in its autumn replant phase, with most beds planted with either seed (now emerging) or seedling plants. It should be noted that the majority of seedlings and the necessary fertilizers have been donated by Bunnings Ballarat or members of our team.

The garden would struggle without these generous donations, we say thank you to all who have donated and also to those members of our team who make their time available to provide regular watering (small seedlings are very vulnerable and will fail if the soil becomes dry).



## What a Day! Thanks for Joining the Fun at the Lucas & Power FM Event

We had an egg-cellent time at the Lucas and Power FM Easter Egg Hunt, with a fantastic crowd of around 3,000 people! A big thank you to everyone who helped make the day such a success especially the Power FM team for bringing the fun!



## Touch a Truck Brings Big Machines and Bigger Smiles to Event

The Lucas team had an amazing time at the Lucas and Power FM Easter Event, and loved bringing something extra special to the day with TT Civil and part of their mighty fleet! It was such a joy to see all the little ones donning their high vis and hard hats, getting up close to the big machines usually hidden behind fences. The excitement and curiosity were real - there's just something magical about these massive machines!







Community  
Corner

## Emerging School of the Year

Siena Catholic Primary School have been named as a finalist in the ResourceSmart Schools Awards! The ResourceSmart Schools Awards celebrate the legendary efforts and impacts made by schools in sustainability.

Our school has been chosen as a finalist in the Emerging School of the Year category for our work on building an educational program based on caring for our Earth. We have been invited to attend the awards ceremony at the Melbourne Cricket Ground on the 5th June along with the other finalists. The theme this year is 'Working Together'.

Since 2008, 1,600 ResourceSmart Schools (including us!) have worked together to:

Save more than \$63 million on bills, plant more than 5.1 million trees, save more than 110,000 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e greenhouse gas emissions, divert 100,000 cubic metres of waste from landfill, save 1.9 million kilolitres of water.

The ResourceSmart Schools Awards are a joyful and affirming celebration of schools and students and their sustainability triumphs. The awards are the state's largest sustainability celebration for primary and secondary school students, teachers and school volunteers taking remarkable sustainability action. We are proud to be recognised among the schools doing sustainability work that benefits students, the planet and the wider community alike.

Siena is grateful for the opportunity that Integra have given us to plant trees on multiple occasions near the Ballarat-Skipton Rail Trail, the tour of the important waterways by the engineering team and the assistance given to us on National Tree Planting Day, 2024.

## Lucas Dog Park: A Win for the Community and their Canine Companions

Great news for Lucas! Martha Haylett, MP for Ripon, has successfully secured funding to build the first-ever dog park in the area. A huge thank you to Martha for her continued support – and to everyone who championed this project. This is a big win for the community and our four-legged companions!

**"There are currently no off-lead areas for Lucas families to take their dogs. This budget changes that – providing funds to establish the first dog park in Lucas. Almost 600 people signed a petition to get one established and I'm so proud to have delivered for them through this year's state budget.**

**I spoke to Alli from the local campaign to tell her the good news and she was over the moon. She said this park is going to make a real difference to the health and wellbeing of locals in Lucas.**

**It will provide a dedicated, safe space for dogs to exercise and will give their owners a much-needed area to enjoy the outdoors."**

**Martha Haylett, Member for Ripon**

Congratulations and thanks to Allira Horwood, whose petition brought this project to the forefront – a fantastic example of local advocacy in action!



## Bush Kinder at Lucas Kindergarten: Connecting with Country through nature play

At Y Kinders' Lucas Kindergarten, nature is not just a backdrop, it is a powerful teacher. Through nature-based programs, including regular visits to the Lucas Community Garden and the Mullawallah Wetlands for Bush Kinder, the kinder embraces outdoor learning as an essential part of early education.

Bush Kinder is a much-loved and vital experience for the two kinder groups.

**"In just about every weather - rain or shine, we head out to the wetlands where nature becomes our classroom. We take no toys or play equipment — because the environment provides all the resources we need. The possibilities are endless!" said Rebecca Borrelli, teacher at Lucas Kindergarten.**

"Children climb over fallen branches, balance on uneven ground, observe the shifting water levels, and marvel at seasonal changes. They spot black swans gliding across the water, hear the laughter of kookaburras, and listen intently for magpies and other birds.

We are so fortunate to have such amazing and rich resources right in the Lucas community," she added. These immersive experiences awaken children's senses and imaginations. Familiar trees take on new identities - the "spaghetti tree" and the "imagination tree" providing inspiration for a fairy playground, or even a boat in a water world. It's unstructured play at its best—fostering creativity, resilience, and connection to the environment.



At the heart of the Bush Kinder program is a commitment to embedding Indigenous perspectives, with a concrete way for children to connect with the land in meaningful ways. Gathering on Wadawurrung Country, the children acknowledge the Traditional Owners each session. They physically touch Country, forming deep, respectful connections, and gain a real-world understanding of what it means to care for their environment.

Rebecca enthusiastically added, "Being in the natural environment at Bush Kinder also nurtures everyone's wellbeing and its benefits are felt by us all. There's a calming power in fresh air and connecting with the earth. For children and educators alike, it's a chance to reset, recharge, enjoy nature and have fun!"

**Enrolment registrations for 2026 at Lucas Kindergarten are now open - see [ykinders.org.au](https://ykinders.org.au) for more information, or contact the kinder on 4311 1559 to book a tour.**







## Celebrating Community at the Lucas Primary School Mother's Day Classic

The Lucas team was proud to be part of the Lucas Primary School Mother's Day Classic on May 13th. It was a fantastic morning filled with energy, smiles, and a vibrant sea of pink across Lucas Central Park. We loved connecting with so many local families and were delighted to gift a native plant to each one, encouraging everyone to take a piece of the day home and grow it in their own garden. We were also thrilled to donate additional plants for the school to enhance its grounds.

A big thank you to Lucas Primary School for hosting such a wonderful event! What a great school community!







## Lucas Local: Nick Beale

Twenty-one years ago, Nick Beale moved from South Africa to Australia, calling Sydney and Melbourne home before settling in Ballarat. For the past 12 years, Ballarat has been Nick and Carol's home, a choice inspired by their daughter, who had already established her family in the area. After moving from Sandringham, they bought land in the Integra Insignia Estate with the assistance of Integra Real Estate agent Katie Hewitt, and built their Australian home!

During this time his children had moved just three doors down in Insignia, allowing for a close-knit family environment. After around 10 years in Insignia Nick, Carol and their miniature dachshund Mieke, made the call to downsize and moved into Lucas into the Ingenia Parkside Estate.

Interestingly, Nick initially believed that living in Lucas wasn't for him. However, he has embraced the change wholeheartedly and now resides in Ingenia Parkside, which he describes as a "suburb within a suburb."

Nick is deeply invested in the Ballarat community and served on the Board of the Committee for Ballarat over six years, including as Chair, where strongly advocated for a fast train from Ballarat to Melbourne, earning him the nickname "59 Minute Nick."

He still now contributes articles to local publications, has his own pod cast and maintains a strong focus on keeping the rail project at the forefront of public discourse for which he is still called upon by the local radio stations as an expert on the topic.

The balance that Ballarat offers is something Nick truly enjoys, describing it as a "country but not" lifestyle, with excellent healthcare, top-tier schools, and a rich history. He values the town's spirit and actively contributes to its growth and development whenever he can.

### **Living In Ingenia Parkside Lucas**

Nick praises the clever master planning of Lucas by Integra which he thinks have contributed to the community feel at Ingenia Parkside Estate, highlighting the convenience of its proximity to Woolworths and the many parks.

Nick highlights how the Estate's shared facilities help foster relationships among residents, turning Ingenia Parkside into a lively community. Importantly, Nick also clarifies that Ingenia Parkside isn't an aged care facility, but a lifestyle village that balances independence and safety with ongoing community engagement.

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Nick's granddaughter, a frequent visitor to Ingenia, is particularly fond of the Estate's excellent amenities, where she enjoys everything from hot chocolate to swimming and games. It's a place that's perfect for both relaxation and recreation, bringing families together.

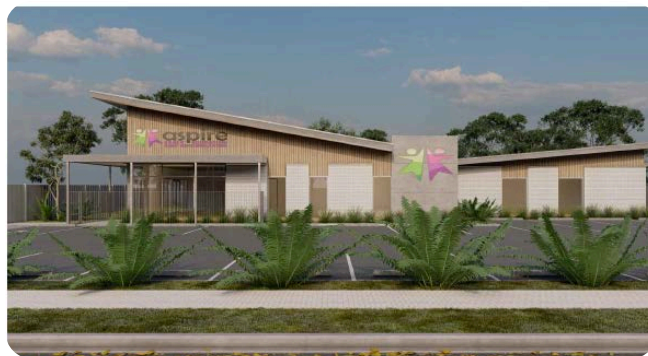
As a proud pet owner, Nick also shares his love for animals, with his dachshund, Mieke, being one of six dachshunds living in the Estate.

In Nick's Words: "Ingenia Parkside in Lucas is a great concept in living, where you maintain your independence while enjoying wonderful facilities. It's strategically located near shopping, parks and farm land giving people many opportunities to enrich their lives. It really is about freedom and the pursuit of happiness as we all get older. Nick Beale exemplifies some strong values —a passionate advocate for his community, and dedicated family man and we are happy to have him as a Lucas community member.

## Big News for Little Learners: Aspire Early Education to Open in the Heart of Lucas

We are thrilled to announce the opening of the Aspire Early Education and Kindergarten Lucas, coming late 2025 to 7 Hollioake Drive, Lucas. Located in the heart of Lucas, the innovative facility will offer quality care and early education for children from 6 weeks to 6 years old.

What we have loved to learn about Aspire is that community is at the heart of everything they do. The new Lucas centre will be the first Aspire centre in Ballarat, and the Aspire team are so excited to become part of the vibrant community. With existing Aspire centres across Australia, Aspire have developed strong ties with local schools, businesses, and community groups. These provide opportunities for excursions, incursions and local events for children and families.



Aspire hosts a range of exciting and personalised events throughout the year, Aspire host various events to bring families together—everything from fun celebrations to cultural programs. These events ensure that children feel connected to their community throughout their early learning journey, and families can enjoy time together in a welcoming, inclusive environment.

**Become part of the Aspire Lucas family. To learn more about programs or to book a tour, give the team a call on 1800 978 429 or visit the website - <https://www.aspireearlyeducation.vic.edu.au/lucas/>**

## Your local Lucas property experts.

The heart of property in the Ballarat Western Growth Zone.

Our team are experts in home sales and property management services in Lucas and the greater Ballarat area.

Call us or visit our office for a complimentary sales or rental appraisal.

(03) 5322 5910 | 25 Lilburne Street, Lucas



**REAL ESTATE**







Heidi Biggin from hbaccessibility consulting and guide dog Freya outside Ballarat Community Health Lucas, 12 Lilburne Street.

## Accessibility is Everyone's Responsibility

On Thursday 15 May, Ballarat Community Health marked Global Accessibility Awareness Day by welcoming accessibility advocate and Lucas resident, Heidi Biggin, from Hb accessibility consulting and her guide dog Freya, to their Lucas site. Heidi shared her lived experience with BCH staff, highlighting the everyday barriers faced by people with disability and the simple, reasonable adjustments that can help create more inclusive spaces.

Heidi's visit was a powerful reminder that accessibility is everyone's responsibility. It starts with listening, learning, and taking meaningful action to ensure all members of our community feel welcome, respected, and supported.

Ballarat Community Health continues to improve access across services, from site upgrades, inclusive communication to staff training in unconscious bias and inclusive practice to inclusive recruitment and diverse representation on committees and boards.

BCH also acknowledges the important role of community partners such as Integra, who have helped make Lucas a more accessible place to live, work and play through the development of wide footpaths and accessible amenities.

Everyone is welcome at BCH Lucas. Drop in and chat to our team about accessible services and support.

Heidi can be contacted at [heidi@hbaccessibility.com.au](mailto:heidi@hbaccessibility.com.au)

## Recently Completed: Halligan Street in Lucas Stage A

John Halligan - 2nd Lieutenant - 59th Battalion

John Halligan (SN 1355/Lt.) was born in Ballarat and educated at the Urquhart Street State School. He was a 19 year old salesman when he enlisted on October 26th 1914. He left Australia from Melbourne aboard the Clan Macgillivray in February 1915 and served at Gallipoli with the 7th Battalion. He received a bullet wound to his arm in May and was sent to a military hospital on Malta for recovery.

After Gallipoli, as a commissioned officer, he was transferred to the 59th Battalion and moved to France. In October 1916, he received a gun shot wound to the left of his face, which resulted in the loss of 5 teeth and sent to the 3rd London Hospital for treatment. He rejoined his unit in February 1917. On May 31st 1917 he died of wounds following the accidental detonation of a grenade. He is buried in the Dernancourt Communal Cemetery, France. He was 21 years of age. His Uncle Percy Chalmers also served in the AIF and is honoured with a tree in the Avenue.

Lucas was named after the 'Lucas Girls' who played such a vital role in creating two of Ballarat's most distinguished historical landmarks.

All of the streets in Lucas are named after Soldiers who fought in World War I and who are remembered in the Avenue of Honour.



### Medals Earned

British War Medal  
1914-15 Star  
Victory Medal

### Tree Information

Species: Ulmus sp.  
Planted By: Miss G. Groat  
Plaque: 321



# High School Hustle

WRITTEN BY N'ETOCHUKWU (N'ETO) AGUGO

## How was my week at work experience at Integra?

My work experience at Integra was a roller coaster of events. One day I was in the office looking at civil designs and the next I was out at a future up-and-coming suburb (Aberdeen).

I have been enjoying the various activities the team had set up for me. These were civil design, engineering, planning, land development, construction, real estate, marketing, and going to visit their ongoing project in Bendigo, Viewpoint.

Tim, part of their civil design team told me about what he does and showed me some CAD files of underground components that go into the roads, streets, and houses we all walk and live around.

Natasha, who oversees the planning told me about how certain structures work and why they are located where they are like wetlands and parks.

Matt Green, the leader of the land development took me out to their worksite and showed me around of what Aberdeen currently looks like and how well its coming along.

Juanita, Kate, Katie who are in charge of Property Management took me to go look at some listed houses for us to appraise them.

Later, I went out with Curtis who is part of the sales team who took me for a look around at some lots that he is trying to sell/has sold telling me about how they go about doing that.

Luke, who has been in sales for over a decade, gave me a rundown of what goes into preparing land to be built on and his milestones in the sales department. I got to look at some wonderful display homes I wouldn't mind taking for my own.

Mary-Kate their receptionist, told me a bit about her agents representative course and what she is hoping to do when she finishes it.



Jodie and Mick, part of their marketing team showed me how they create billboards and websites that we all use and see daily.

Later Victoria, also part of the marketing team had me take some photos of basketball players that Integra sponsor.

Matt Curan, who oversees the commercial side of things took me out to Bendigo to have a look at Integra's ongoing project, Viewpoint.

All members of the Integra team were all so nice and welcoming from the first time they saw me through to the end. I really did enjoy my time at Integra on work experience and genuinely picked up a lot of information from different career pathways in a matter of 5 days.

Thank you very much Integra for the experience that you have given me, and this will stick with me and help me in my adult life.

**"I have been enjoying the various activities the team had set up for me. These were civil design, engineering, planning, land development, construction, real estate, marketing, and going to visit their ongoing project in Bendigo, Viewpoint."**





## The City of Ballarat is delivering a new Seniors Exercise Park at Lucas Central Park

Seniors Exercise Parks provide specially designed age-friendly equipment that promotes opportunities for older people to engage in physical activity and age well. The Lucas Seniors Exercise Park will provide 16 exercise stations designed to improve strength, balance, coordination, and functional movements of older adults that contributes to improvements in their physical and mental health and wellbeing.

The City of Ballarat's Ageing Well Services team is also recruiting Social Activity Volunteers. Social Activity Volunteers will be ambassadors who support the promotion and increased activation of Seniors Exercise Parks. This will occur through encouraging and guiding community members to participate in physical activity programs using the Seniors Exercise Park equipment on a regular basis.

Completion of the Seniors Exercise Park is expected in July.



The City of Ballarat has invested in community infrastructure with Seniors Exercise Parks located at Mt Pleasant Reserve, MR Power Park Sebastopol, and soon to be installed at Lucas Central Park.



Delivery of the Seniors Exercise Park is aligned to the City of Ballarat's Ageing Well in Ballarat Strategy 2022-2026.



## Colouring-In Competition Time!

**Do you love to colour?**

Grab your pencils, crayons or markers and bring this picture to life!

**The theme is: "Pets in the Neighbourhood."**

Colour in the page opposite and show us your wildest, wackiest, or most beautiful colours – dogs can be purple, skies can be green... it's totally up to you!

### THE PRIZE PACK

The amazing prize pack including a pass to **Creative Play Art Centre Ballarat**, where imagination takes centre stage, plus a session at **Ballarat Ninjas** - the ultimate obstacle course challenge for young ninjas!

### How To Enter:

- Colour in the page however you like – the brighter, the better!
- Make sure to include your name, age, phone number and suburb.
- Drop it into the Integra office at 25 Lilburne Street Lucas by June 30.







NAME:

PHONE:

SUBURB:

AGE:







# Park Spotlight

**Sanctuary Park**  
McLeod Crescent, Lucas





Sanctuary Park is more than just a playground - it's a place where kids can explore, imagine, and enjoy the outdoors in a truly special setting.

Set alongside the beautiful Lucas Sanctuary Wetlands, the park blends adventure and nature in a way that invites everyone to slow down and soak it all in.

Kids can climb to new heights in the Olive Tree Tower, dig and build in the sandpit with a working digger, or twist and turn along the colourful Dancing Snake. There are swings to soar on, spaces to run, and the adventure playground offers endless ways to discover and play.

With four shaded shelters and a large kick and play space, Sanctuary Park is the perfect place to meet up with neighbours, bring the family together, or enjoy a sunny afternoon picnic. From the elevated play structures, children can take in views of the surrounding wetlands, adding a touch of nature to every climb and game.

Whether you're visiting for a quick play or making a day of it, Sanctuary Park is a space where community and imagination come together.





## Lucas Hockey Club Looks to Grow its Winning Legacy in 2025

The 2025 hockey season has just commenced, and Lucas Hockey Club will be hoping that it can emulate the success that it enjoyed in the 2024 season.

In its third year of existence, Lucas Hockey Club enjoyed its most successful season in terms of premierships, with the Club taking out the Hockey Ballarat Under 11, Under 16 and Senior Men's Division 1 premierships.

In addition to the premierships won, the Club's Under 14 team finished the season as minor premiers, before going down in a penalty shoot-out to decide the grand final.



The Lucas Hockey Club Women's team also enjoyed a successful season, finishing second on the ladder – with this group of developing players showing they have what it takes to compete with the best.

Lucas Hockey Club is striving to continue its growth and is currently looking for new players to join their teams. The hockey season lasts for 6 months, with finals being played in September, so it is not too late to join Lucas Hockey Club in 2025.

Hockey is well regarded as a family sport, with multiple generations of a families playing at Lucas Hockey Club in 2025. In addition to being involved on the field, there are plenty of other ways for family members to become involved and support the Club.

Lucas Hockey Club is well regarded for the community that it has built around its teams, with a focus on building connections through sport and an on-field culture that values participation and skill development over a "winning-at-all-costs" attitude.

Lucas Hockey Club is really keen to recruit new players in the Under 11, Under 14 and Under 16 age groups in particular, and would love to see more junior girls playing hockey.

**Please contact Lucas Hockey Club**  
**admin@lucashockey.com.au or via Facebook**  
**Messenger to find out more.**

## New directory for locals

It is great to see so many Lucas Community Groups on the new Ballarat Community Directory.

The Ballarat Community Directory provides an easy way to find services, support and groups available within the region.

Listings include Health, Community, Ageing, Disability, Sport and many more.

Visit Ballarat Community Directory | City of Ballarat to find out more.

An advertisement for the Ballarat Community Directory. It features a woman wearing a blue and white patterned hijab and a white top, smiling. The background is orange. Text on the ad includes "Need it near? Find it here!", "Ballarat Community Directory", "Community events, services and clubs are a click away", and "CITY OF BALLARAT". A QR code is located in the bottom right corner.

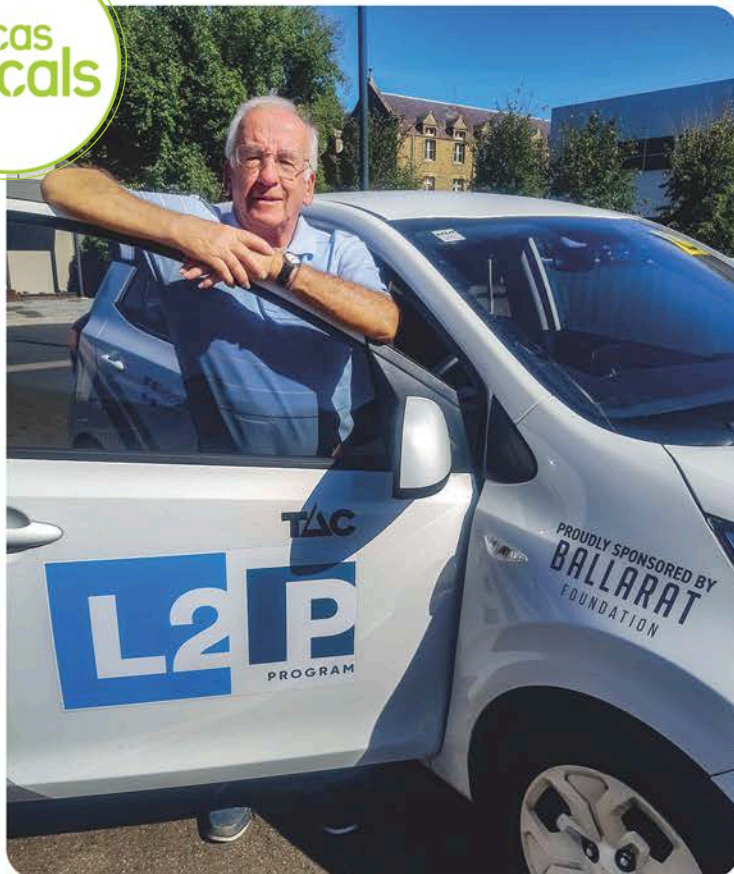
## BALLARAT HOSPICE CARE 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



Ballarat Hospice Care is proud to celebrate 40 years of compassionate care and community support with a special anniversary event on Thursday, 7 August 2025, at The Goods Shed. Tickets are now available – scan the QR code to book.







L2P Volunteer Graham May. Photo Supplied

## Graham's Story: How volunteering with L2P changes lives.



L2P Student Amee. Photo Supplied

For Graham May, becoming a volunteer mentor with the Ballarat Foundation's L2P Program has been one of the most rewarding decisions of his life.

Three and a half years ago, Graham first heard about the program during a footy match on television. At the time, he was exploring different volunteering options and wanted something that offered flexibility, connection with young people and the chance to make a real difference. L2P ticked all the boxes.

**"I chose this program because it gave me the opportunity to be flexible with my commitment while engaging with younger people and helping them to become safe, confident drivers,"** Graham said. "It was a way to hopefully help reduce the road toll as well."

Since then, Graham has mentored six young learner drivers, helping three of them successfully achieve their provisional licences. Every learner in Victoria is required to complete 120 hours of supervised

driving before sitting their driving test. Mentors like Graham are not professional instructors, but they play a vital role in developing young drivers' skills, building their confidence and setting them on the path to safe and independent driving.

Importantly, L2P also gives young participants the chance to connect with positive role models, boosting their confidence both behind the wheel and in life more broadly.

One of Graham's proudest moments came recently when his student driver Amee earned her provisional licence. When Amee joined the program, she had just 30 hours of driving experience. Over the next eight months, she and Graham clocked up more than 80 hours together on the road.

Reflecting on her experience, Amee said: "When I joined L2P I was expecting a full-on driving school with instructors and strict instructions, but after meeting with Graham I realised that it wasn't what I had expected. It was very laid back and you were just able to chat while doing your drive, with only some instructions and where

to go. You would just organise a time and meeting place then go out for an hour or so and just drive around."

Achieving her P-plates has opened up new opportunities, offering freedom, independence and a stronger connection to her community.

"Now that I have my P's it's really freeing and honestly a little scary to know that I can drive around by myself. But it's great not having to resort to public transport or your parents to drive you places," she said.

Graham's story is a wonderful example of the impact one person can have when they choose to volunteer. Through patience, encouragement and simple acts of support, mentors like Graham are helping young people find their independence and move confidently into adulthood.

If you would like to learn more about becoming an L2P mentor, visit [ballaratfoundation.org.au](http://ballaratfoundation.org.au).



# EXCITING NEWS:

## A Stunning New Display Village is Coming to Our Neighborhood!

Big things are happening in our neighborhood! We're thrilled to announce the development of a brand-new display village, set to open in early 2026. This exciting project will showcase 31 stunning homes brought to life by 18 respected builders—a diverse range of designs, styles, and innovation all in one convenient location.

Construction is already underway, with homes by BCM Homes, Hearty Homes, Kingsbridge Homes, Vish Homes, Hudson Ridge, Metricon Homes and ABC Homes currently taking shape.

Among them, we're excited to welcome Kingsbridge Homes as a new builder in our local market, bringing fresh ideas and designs to our growing community.

This display village will offer residents, homebuyers, and visitors an inspiring look at the possibilities for modern living. Whether you're planning a new build or just love great home design, it's a destination you won't want to miss.

Stay tuned for more updates as the project progresses - we can't wait to see this vibrant new hub come to life!







## A SMARTER WAY TO LIVE: BCM's New Gala Home Sets a High Bar for Energy Efficiency

BCM Homes new Gala display home is currently under construction, due to open in a few weeks' time.

As a local company, known for quality and transparency, the team at BCM are also heavily focused on delivering energy efficient solutions.

Independent energy consultants have assessed that the Gala display will be approximately 45% more efficient to heat and cool compared to a 7-star home equivalent.



By being more affordable to heat and cool, a BCM home will positively impact the running costs, comfort level and health of occupants.

If high performance, energy efficient homes interest you, keep an eye on BCM Homes website and socials for the opening date of their new Gala display home, located in Lucas Central.



## From House to Home: How Jan Built a Life She Loves in Ballarat

When Jan moved to Ballarat from Geelong, she was originally drawn to the character of period homes, she quickly realised that the charm came with a list of repairs she wasn't eager to take on. After a rethink and encouraged by family to consider something more manageable, she started exploring the option of building.

That's when she came across a home designed by local builder Jack Dodd. Jack was early in launching his business and still living in the display home himself, but the design, the warmth of the space, and Jack's approachable nature left a lasting impression. Jan trusted him to build her home, and three years later, that decision still feels like the right one. Today, visitors to Jan's home often comment on how cosy it feels. But it seems like what truly makes Jan feel at home is not just the house - it's the life she's built around it.

She's become a familiar face in local social groups and clubs, discovering the region's food, arts, and culture. **"Ballarat is the place to move to," she says. "And Lucas is the perfect little estate."**

Jan is an active member of both the Lucas Over 60s Social Group and the Lucas and Alfredton Probus Club. These groups, while social in nature, are far more than that, they are lifelines for many, especially those new to the area or adjusting to new chapters of life. From photography groups to brunch clubs, day trips to card games, these organisations foster inclusion, friendship, and purpose.

The Over 60s Group, founded by Jan's friend Jan Brodie, has been running for three years and is open, informal, and welcoming (although you do have to be over 60). Guest speakers from local services like Uniting Care and Ambulance Victoria occasionally present, offering information and insight to support the health and wellbeing of members. But generally it is just a great catch up with friends.

At the heart of this growing, vibrant suburb are people like Jan, proof that when we build communities with intention, we can also build something greater, belonging.

### Over 60's Club

We are a local community group that has now been established for three years. As our Community is ever-expanding, it is a great way to meet other residents and our neighbours to have those important social connections.

Our group is always very welcoming to new members, and are often able to help with information as to what is available in our community to help residents become involved and feel supported. We are a relaxed and happy group, and our catch-ups are filled with great conversation, plenty of laughter and caring for each other. Important friendships have been made through these connections, with activities being instigated amongst our Members.

We meet every second Tuesday at 10am, in the Bistro area of the Ballarat Golf Club, Sturt Street, Alfredton, for coffee/tea and catch-up. We do, from time to time, have speakers from different areas of the Ballarat Community, and from these sessions, we are able to gain information of other activities and events happening in our Community.



If you would like to join this amazing group, you can be assured of a warm and inclusive welcome. We are always happy to have new members be involved. There is no cost to join, as it is purely a social group.

**For further information, please contact Jan Brodie  
Phone: 0413 496 032.**



## Ballarat's First Library Kiosk Launches in Lucas, Expanding Access in the West

Library members in Lucas and Ballarat's West now have vastly improved access to library services. A new library kiosk has been installed at the Lucas Community Hub the first of its kind in Ballarat.

The library kiosk is a self-service terminal that allows library patrons to browse collections, check out, return, and manage their library materials independently.

The kiosk includes a rotating collection of items that will be regularly refreshed, while library members are also able to request specific items from the Ballarat Libraries collection and use the kiosk to collect and return them.

The new library kiosk brings library services directly to community, where they live and work. The kiosk can be accessed during Lucas Community Hub opening hours, 9am-4pm Monday to Friday and customer service staff are on hand to provide support.

SCAN TO FIND OUT  
HOW TO USE THE KIOSK



### Lucas Community Hub Community Room Hire

Are you looking for a space to run a community event or hold a meeting for your community organisation? The Lucas Community Hub has two bookable community spaces.

For more information, terms and conditions, and how to book head to <https://www.ballarat.vic.gov.au/lucas-communityhub-booking>

Did you know that the Ballarat Library visits the Lucas Community Hub every Tuesday?

During school terms come for a fun Wriggle and Rhyme storytime session at 10:30am, suitable for toddlers.

Pick up a Ballarat Libraries What's On from the Community Hub to find out about library programs at the hub.

If you have a school aged child, look out for the Ballarat Libraries School Holiday program.

Community  
Corner



## 10 Years of Ballarat Family Dental in Lucas

Congratulations to Ballarat Family Dental on reaching the milestone of 10 years looking after families in Ballarat with 2 clinics located here in Lucas.

The team celebrated with a BBQ and lots of conversations about keeping your smile healthy and happy!





# UFS Builds on Legacy with New Lucas Medical Centre



STORY BY UFS

**There's no doubt that as a Lucas resident, you'll have noticed the impressive new building at 25 Merz Street.** Let's take a closer look at what this state-of-the-art medical centre has to offer our local community...

In February of this year, UFS Medical took up residency in the building, opening their fourth medical centre in the Ballarat region. Best known for their network of local pharmacies dating back to 1881, UFS now operates 19 pharmacies, four medical centres, an Urgent Care Clinic and an optometry service, with even more growth plans for 2025!

As well as a sparkling new, purpose-built facility, the Lucas UFS Medical Centre is home to four GPs, an on-site nurse, a sessional audiologist and a full-time remedial massage therapist.

We all know that choosing a new GP or allied health professional can be a challenge. After all, it's a big decision. It's important to feel at ease and to trust their expertise to ensure you're receiving the best care possible.

We thought it would be great to learn a little more about some of the Lucas UFS Medical team with a 10-minute Q & A.





## GP Dr. Viraj Rajaguru

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### At what age did you decide you wanted to become a doctor?

During my secondary school years, I was always fascinated by science and the complexity of the human body. What truly inspired me further was witnessing doctors saving lives and making a real difference in people's health and wellbeing.

### What influenced you to become a doctor, and more specifically a General Practitioner?

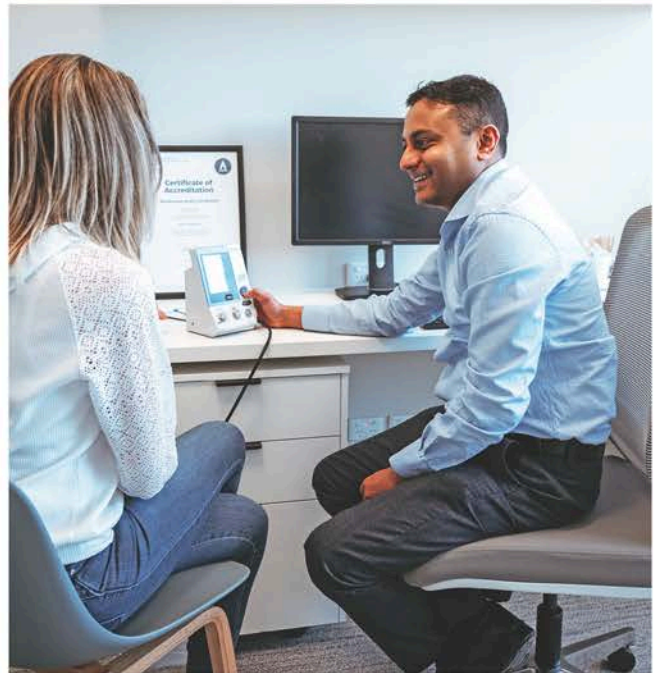
My decision to become a doctor was influenced by a strong interest in science and a genuine desire to work closely with people—helping to treat their illnesses and support both their physical and mental wellbeing. Over time, I was particularly drawn to the role of a General Practitioner because it offers a holistic approach to care, continuity, and the opportunity to build long-term relationships with patients. As a GP, I have the privilege of managing a wide range of health issues—from prevention to diagnosis and treatment. I find it incredibly fulfilling to be the first point of contact in someone's healthcare journey. The GP role demands both clinical expertise and compassion, and it's that balance that I truly value.

### What is a career highlight for you?

One of the most memorable moments in my career was when I successfully diagnosed a condition that had been overlooked for quite some time. The patient had seen several healthcare providers, but their symptoms remained unresolved. By taking a systematic approach—listening carefully, conducting a thorough examination, and ensuring proper follow-up - I was able to identify the root cause and refer them for the appropriate treatment. Seeing the patient recover and express such gratitude was a powerful reminder of the value of being diligent, compassionate, and persistent. Experiences like that reaffirm why I chose this profession and continue to inspire me everyday.

### What do you find most challenging about your role?

One of the most challenging aspects of being a General Practitioner is managing time effectively while ensuring each patient receives the attention and care they deserve. With the growing demands, complex



cases, and administrative tasks, balancing everything in a single day can be tough. However, I view this challenge as an opportunity to improve my efficiency, prioritise tasks, and maximise the quality of each patient interaction. It also highlights the importance of teamwork and clear communication within the practice to maintain high-quality, patient-centred care.

### What is the best piece of advice you can offer people about taking care of their health?

The best advice I can offer is to listen to your body, stay on top of regular check-ups, and make small, consistent lifestyle choices - such as staying active, eating a balanced diet, managing stress, and ensuring adequate rest. Prevention is truly better than cure, and even simple habits can have a significant impact over time. Also, if something doesn't feel right, don't hesitate to consult your doctor - early intervention can make a world of difference.

### Outside of your role as a GP, what keeps you busy?

Outside of my work as a GP, I love spending quality time with my kids and family. Activities like cycling, gardening, and walking help me unwind and maintain balance. I also have a strong passion for continuous learning, teaching junior doctors, attending workshops to stay up to date. Maintaining a healthy work-life balance is important to me, as it allows me to bring my best self to both my patients and my personal life.



## Remedial Massage Therapist Savanna Lavis

### What motivated you to pursue a career in remedial massage?

Growing up I always loved sport and learning about the human body. PE was my favourite subject in school. I began by doing work experience with other remedial therapists, as well as working with my local football team doing sports training and taping. I even did a week of work experience with the Newcastle Knights NRL team! From then, I knew I wanted to further my career in remedial massage.

### What is the most rewarding aspect of your work?

The most rewarding aspect of work is when new clients become regulars, and having my regular clients keep returning for more treatments.

### What is the most challenging aspect of your work?

The most challenging aspect of work would be that remedial massage can be quite taxing on the body and hands.

### What benefits can people expect from remedial massage?

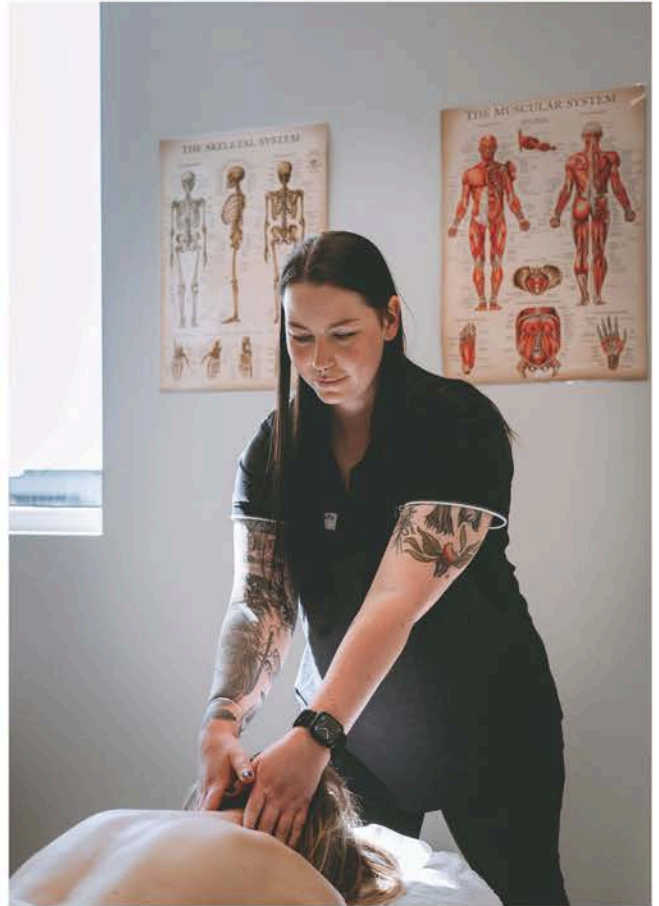
There are many benefits people can expect from remedial massage, including physical and mental. The main one is pain relief, but massage is also a good stress relief and helps clients feel relaxed, calm and have improved sleep.

### Outside of work, what makes you happy?

What makes me happy outside of work is spending time with my family and friends, going to the gym, walking my German Shepherd puppy, going on adventures, road trips and exploring local markets.

### If someone is unsure about whether remedial massage is right for them, what would you suggest?

I would suggest that they give remedial massage a try, starting with a short, basic session to make an informed decision about whether remedial massage is for them or not.



## Lucas UFS Medical

25 Merz Street, Lucas 3350

Phone: 03 5304 4300

Monday to Friday: 8:30am to 5:30pm

[ufsmedical.com.au/book](https://ufsmedical.com.au/book)



# Big Dreams Start Small: Slam-Dunk Programs for Every Age and Ability



## BASKETBALL BALLARAT PROGRAMS

### Next Level

Our Next Level program is a 5-week program suited for current domestic players born 2012-2014 which focuses on learning new concepts of footwork, passing, dribbling and shooting as well as enhancing their current skills.

### All Abilities Hoops

All Abilities Hoops is an introduction to basketball aimed at children aged 5-18 years who are living with disability. The program teaches basic skills in a safe and enjoyable environment while also catering for all disabilities with better access to coaches through smaller group sizes.

### Mini Miners

Mini Miners is a basketball focused program aimed at 2 - 4-year-olds. The program will help children develop their General Motor skills and Basic Basketball Movements such as throwing, catching, running, hopping, and skipping through basketball orientated activities.

### Aussie Hoops

Aussie Hoops is an introduction to basketball program aimed at 4-11-year old's that provides children with a fun and safe basketball experience while teaching them the fundamentals of basketball such as ball handling, passing, shooting, defence and footwork.

### Walking Basketball & Walking Football

Walking Basketball and Walking Football are low-impact, social activities for all ages and abilities—perfect for staying active in a fun, non-competitive environment! Walking Football is on Mondays at 1 pm, Walking Basketball is on Tuesdays at 10 am - both are free! Location: Selkirk Stadium

For more information and Registration  
scan the QR code  
or visit  
[ballaratbasketball/community-programs](http://ballaratbasketball/community-programs)



## Dorevitch Pathology

Did you know you can get your blood tested right here in Lucas at Ballarat Community Health.  
Open weekdays between 8.30am and 3pm.



### Central Kindergarten Registration

## Have you thought about kindergarten?

In Victoria, children can start kindergarten at 3 years old, which means two years of **free** kindergarten before school.

### Registering for kindergarten

- Register your child from the **January of the year they turn 2 years old** for both 3- and 4-year-old kindergarten.
- Select up to three preferences.
- Registration is free, and you can change your preferences and update your details at any time.
- Registrations for **free kindergarten** are accepted throughout the year.



**For more information and to register**  
simply scan the QR code or  
visit [ballarat.vic.gov.au/kindergarten](http://ballarat.vic.gov.au/kindergarten)

### Do you have questions or need support?

Please contact Family and Children's Services  
5320 5720 ✉ [kindergarten@ballarat.vic.gov.au](mailto:kindergarten@ballarat.vic.gov.au)  
Translation services are available.



Our Term 2 activities have kicked off at The Haddon CLC. You can join in anytime.  
Only 5 minutes down the road from Lucas, we are a friendly and welcoming  
Centre for everyone across our community.  
Go to [www.haddonlearning.org.au](http://www.haddonlearning.org.au) to check times and register.



## Coats, Cakes & Kindness: Alfredton Lucas Lions Roar into Action for Winter & Beyond

STORY BY ALFREDTON LUCAS LIONS CLUB

Collecting winter coats, helping the sight of the needy and supporting local projects are all in a day's work for Alfredton Lucas Lions Club.

Our main focus for May is our winter coat drive. Winter in Ballarat can be very cold – imagine if you are homeless and have little warmth? We are collecting warm coats of all sizes in good condition to be distributed to those in need via local organisations, such as the Soup Bus. Please contact us if you have some coats you'd like to donate – we can arrange collection.

In the first part of the year, we've held fundraising barbecues at Bunnings and the Uniting Op Shop in Wendouree, a Parma Night fundraiser for childhood cancer and continue our very successful meat tray raffles every second Friday night at the Park Hotel.

All funds raised by our club, as well as the annual sale of Christmas cakes and puddings, are used to support local projects and causes.

We had the pleasure of donating money towards a year 7 area at Ballarat High School, money for the work of the YMCA and Delaney Troon's run for mental health, among others.

We've also packed 2000 pairs of spectacles for Lions Recycle For Sight used eyeglasses program. These are distributed to the needy in developing countries, where people often cannot afford the eyecare they need. Guest speakers have included a representative from the Y and local gym sensation Cleo, who the club has had the pleasure to sponsor to attend championships in Queensland.

New members are most welcome. If you are interested in working for the local community, meeting new people and enjoy a good laugh, come to a meeting or meet with our membership lions for a cuppa and a chat.

**Check out our Facebook page or email us at [alfredton.lucas@lions201v1-4.org.au](mailto:alfredton.lucas@lions201v1-4.org.au)**

**We meet at the Ballarat Golf Club Meeting Room on the first Wednesday of the month for a business meeting with a social meeting on the third Wednesday.**



The Alfredton Lucas Lions Club is proud to support local gym star Cleo to attend competitions.

## Rotary's Impact from Ballarat to Vanuatu

STORY BY ALFREDTON ROTARY

**Our club motto is 'making a difference locally and globally' and we've certainly been doing that lately.**

We have continued our delivery of cheese sandwiches to local Primary Schools to ensure that no child is hungry, delivering nearly 4000 sandwiches so far this year. Eatup Australia is supporting this year by monthly deliveries of yoghurts, fresh fruit and other snacks. We couldn't do this without the support of partners Eatup Australia and Ballarat Grammar and sponsors – Community Bank Buninyong, Davies Bakery and Nature's Cargo.

You may have seen us at Alfredton Primary with BBQs at the start of the school year and on Election Day. We enjoy getting to meet members of our community at those events and did you know that any funds we raise there go towards hosting the Ballarat Science & Engineering Challenge? This event provides year 10 students an opportunity to learn more about STEM careers by undertaking a day of hands-on activities. This year we are also hosting the State Final of the Challenge. To do this we combine with other Ballarat Rotary Clubs to spread the load and increase our resources. *Story continued on next page...*



Alfredton Rotary in Vanuatu to paint the Children's Outpatients Ward and examination rooms.



*Continued from previous page...*

We have also combined with the other Rotary Clubs to create the Community Care Centre Ballarat. This is basically a warehouse of donated household items that are provided to people in need.

Working with agencies such as Uniting, Anglicare, WRISC etc we provide a list of furniture or household goods that their clients can select from, then they come to the warehouse to choose which beds, lounge suite, saucepans, dining table, glassware, or whatever it is they need, from the stock on hand. Volunteers are always needed to collect, sort and itemise donations.

That's what we've been up to locally, but globally we have also been busy. We collected donated school furniture, from Sienna Catholic PS and other schools, plus books, sewing machines, beds, medical equipment and aids, hospital linen and scrubs, beds, toys, craft supplies and other items from a wide array of individuals, businesses and organisations. This all went into a container which was sent to Vanuatu to assist the hospital, schools and community there.

A group of 17 Rotarians, friends and family members, including one Ballarat South Rotary member, recently travelled to Vanuatu to paint the Children's Outpatients Ward and examination rooms. The group worked extremely hard and well together to transform the spaces and refresh the whole area. While in Vanuatu the group also had time to do some sightseeing, learn about the local traditions and relax in the warm weather.

The trip was a perfect example of how Rotary brings people together to assist others while having a great time.

## A word from Martha Haylett

Lucas continues to grow, with new homes popping up across the suburb every few weeks.

It is such a great community to be a part of, but we need to make sure local services keep pace with the growth.

Last year, hundreds of locals contacted me about getting a bus connection to the area for the first time. Over 400 residents signed a petition, which I presented to the Minister for Public Transport on behalf of our community.



Many readers will know that our advocacy paid off with a new Lucas 10 bus route beginning from February this year. It now connects Lucas families to the heart of Ballarat – making it easier to access jobs, medical appointments, shops, and train services.

I am eager for the bus connection to be spread across the suburb more in future, with more stops. The State Labor Government has just announced a review of Ballarat's bus network, with opportunities for locals to have their say soon. I strongly encourage all readers to get involved in the review so we can make sure we get even better bus connections in future.

In other positive news – the Lucas Community Hub Expansion is now complete.

It looks incredible and includes a new kindergarten room and outdoor space for 33 more kids. There are new spaces for staff, a new laundry, and foyer area too. The \$1.5 million project was made possible with funding from the State Labor Government and City of Ballarat. For any families who haven't checked it out – the Early Parenting Centre in Lucas is also now open and has recently marked its first birthday.

I visited the centre with my newborn son, Liam, late last year and I cannot recommend it enough. There are different activities for new parents and bubs, as well as support with sleep, settling, feeding, and adjusting to parenthood.

Lastly – many local parents have contacted me about the lack of safe school crossings around Siena Primary School and Lucas Primary School. I am working closely with both schools and the City of Ballarat to advocate for funds to fix this. I'll be sure to keep readers updated about this important issue.

**As always, I am here to help as your local MP. If readers would like to contact me about a local issue or idea, feel free to get in touch via email at [Martha.Haylett@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:Martha.Haylett@parliament.vic.gov.au) or by calling my office on 5461 1255.**



# Lucas

by Integra



**32+ Hectares  
of open space**

200,000+ new  
plants & trees.



**15+**

Landscaped parks  
& wetlands.

**30+**

Businesses &  
shops open.



**2x Local  
primary  
schools**

+4 Early learning  
centres.

## Lucas Land Sales Centre

5 Blomeley Drive, Lucas  
5322 5902 | [landsales@integragroup.com.au](mailto:landsales@integragroup.com.au)



Want to know more about  
what is coming to Lucas?

Scan for the latest development details.

