

Caravan & Cabin Ballarat trip

October 2024

(Report courtesy Gavin Murphy and Photos courtesy Ray Binks, Rita Hall & Jenny Wilshier)



The venue for this outing was the Eureka Stockade Holiday Park in Ballarat from Sunday 13th to Thursday 17th of October. Some participants arrived on the Saturday after travelling back from Queensland for the event. We had six caravans and three cabins booked into the park but unfortunately Barry and Margaret Stevens were a late cancellation. The Red Lion Hotel had been recommended for our evening meal, but due to a major annual calisthenics competition in Ballarat, the hotel was packed to the rafters and it took an hour and a half for our meals to be served.



Rhonda, John, Judith, Rita and Gavin at dinner in the Red Lion Hotel.



Paul, Brian, Jenny, Keith, Jenny, Jackie, Jim and Alan at Red Lion Hotel for dinner.

Monday morning Jenny and Brian Menzies arranged a bike ride around town. They were joined by Alan Taylor, Paul Henshall, John Hall, Keith Wilshier, Ray and Judy Binks. Jim and Jacki Olarensaw went to visit relatives. Gavan and Rhonda Murphy, Rita Hall and Jenny Wilshier drove to the Pipers By the Lake café for morning tea with the cyclists. In the afternoon we played barefoot bowls at the Ballarat Bowling Club and adjourned to the bar for refreshments before returning to the holiday park. Happy hour was followed by a BYO BBQ.



The biking group about to begin their ride.



We had coffee at Lake Wendouree café.



The coffee art was fantastic.



All the gang at coffee.



John decided to try out a scooter.



Ready to go again.



Statue of Wallace (Scottish hero of the Battle of Stirling Bridge in 1297.) bequeathed to city of Ballarat by late James Thomson in 1889.



Ballarat Botanical Gardens.



Glasshouse in Ballarat botanical gardens.



A spectacular view inside the glasshouse.



Rita, Jenny M and Jenny W enjoying the display and Gavin checking his photos.



Judith and Jenny M with Alan and Brian resting in the gardens.



The gardens contained statues of all the Prime Ministers. This one was Bob Menzies.



And this one was Bob Hawke.



Brian and John receiving some coaching at the barefoot bowls afternoon.



The Wheelers Hill barefoot bowlers at the Ballarat bowling club.



John, our coach for the day.



The Ballarat bowling club uniform. They must have some big players at the club.

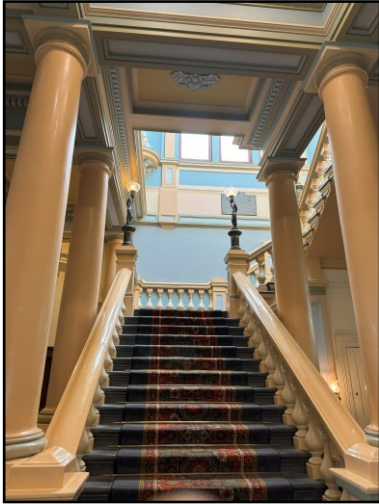
Tuesday, we met at the Ballarat Information Centre where a staff member gave us a very informative 45- minute talk on the history of the town. Then we proceeded on an historical walk to discover some of the architectural links to Ballarat's dramatic past. The Eureka Centre was located next door to the holiday park, so we decided to visit it rather than our original plan to go to Sovereign Hill in the afternoon. Everyone had been to Sovereign Hill previously but not the Eureka Centre. Fortunately for us a school group was scheduled to have an informative lecture on the significance of the Eureka Rebellion in the room in which the flag is displayed. Since they didn't all attend, we were invited to hear the lecture.



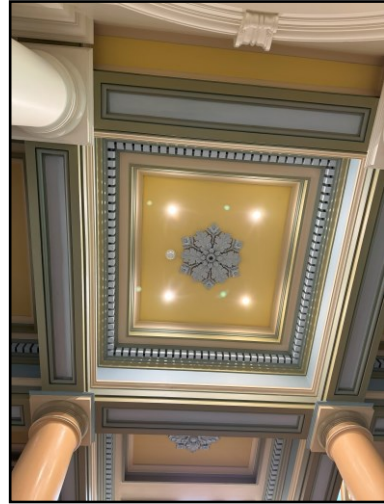
Receiving out presentation on the history of Ballarat.



Welcome to country mural at the Town Hall.



Magnificent stairway and....



....ceiling in the Town Hall.



Colourful laneway in Ballarat City.



Ray in the Laneway.



The gang at morning coffee.



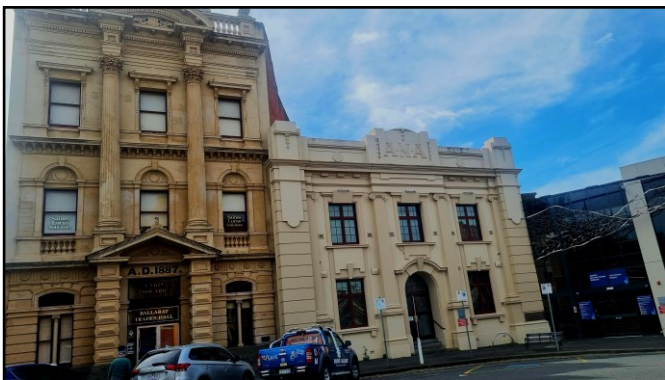
Mural at morning coffee.



Ballarat city - Old Colonists building, Old Mining exchange & the Post Office Gallery,



Ballarat city, art gallery area.



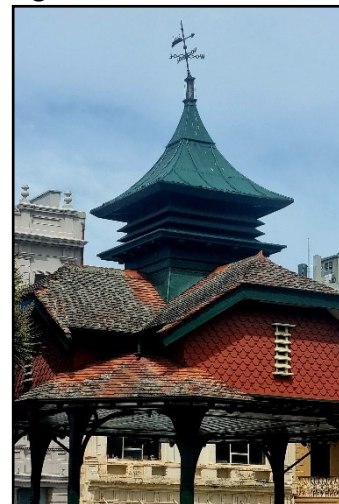
Ballarat city, the old Trades Hall and ANA buildings.



Trades Hall Building with a plaque indicating that the grand building reflected the growing status of organised labour in Ballarat.



Rotunda in the main street where music is played once a year to commemorate the sinking of the Titanic.



The wind vane surprisingly incorporates a small model of the Titanic.



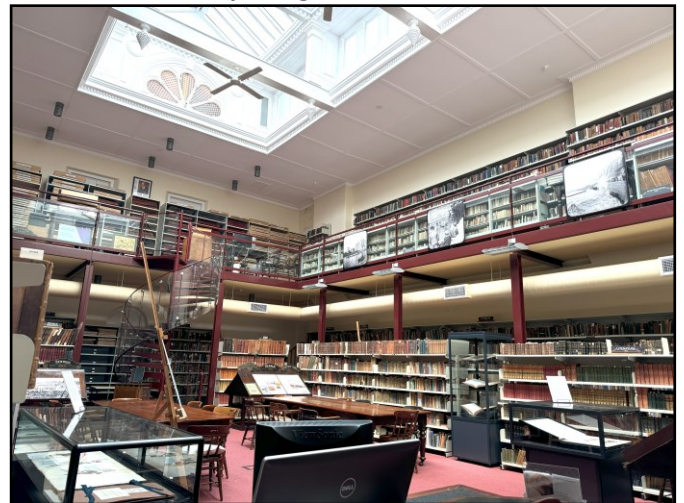
Historic Mechanics Institute



**Mechanics Institute.
Notice the spelling of Ballarat as Ballaarat.**



Library Room in Mechanics institute.



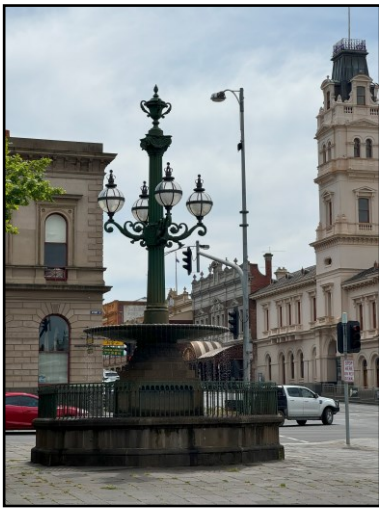
This reading room contained a fascinating array of old reference material.



Giant book press.



Original old gas lamp in front of Post Office Gallery,



Another example of early lighting in Ballarat.



Mall commemorating the old Phoenix Foundry.



Old 1860's Australian designed post box.



Ballarat Uniting Church with original Gas lamp.



The Magnificent old Provincial Hotel Building.



Historic Ballarat Railway station.



Inside old Ballarat railway station.



Railway platform showing the pedestrian overpass.



Modern train arriving at the station.



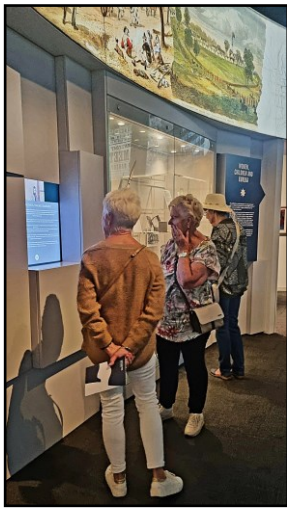
Original Eureka Flag in the Eureka Centre.



Old poster calling a meeting of Diggers and Shopkeepers on Bakery Hill.



View of the Eureka Centre exhibits.



Judith, Jenny and Jackie reading the information at the Eureka Centre.



Eureka Centre gardens.



The Pikemans Dog sculpture in the gardens.



The Eureka Circle Sculpture depicting the Eureka Stockade uprising in 1854.

Wednesday morning, we left Ballarat at 8.45am for the one hour trip to Castlemaine to catch the Steam Train to Maldon. Lunch had been booked at the Maldon Café but when we arrived, they hadn't recorded our booking. Despite all the tables in the café being occupied they worked a miracle and found us enough places to enjoy a lovely lunch. We arrived back in Ballarat in time for dinner which was shared pizzas in the common room.



Entrance to Castlemaine railway station.



View of the historic station platform



The engine on our train between Castlemaine and Maldon.



Our seating was reserved.



We were all issued with an old style railway ticket.



Judith ready for departure.



Keith and Jenny enjoying the ride.



Brian and Jenny relaxing and enjoying the scenery.



Jim stepping off the train at Maldon.



View of the historic waiting room at Maldon station.



Platform view showing typical luggage of the day.



Sign post pointing out the local sights.



Chimney from the old South German gold mine.



Vintage machinery museum.



The old Maldon State Battery.



View of the historic Maldon township.



Café Maldon where we had lunch.



Another view of the old steam train engine.



Station Master waving the flag to signal departure at Maldon station.



Comfortable lounge area on the train.



Sleeper cabin.



Judith and Ray in a comfortable seat.



Judith, John and Rita in the train corridor.



Hand sanitiser, mirror and umbrella rack typical of the times.

Everyone returned home on Thursday morning and the consensus was that a good time had been had by all!!

Remember to Expand photos using your browser ZOOM feature or with your fingers in the normal way on your phone or tablet.