

# Ballarat International Foto Bien



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Real and remarkable small group trips

Intrepid Travel



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## Introducing... The Golden Ticket

One Festival Pass. One lucky winner.  
One unforgettable adventure.

We've teamed up with Intrepid Travel to give away a \$15,000 travel voucher to one lucky visitor of the 2025 Ballarat International Foto Biennale.

Buy any Festival Pass between 25 July and 19 October to opt in to the draw.\*

### The Prize:

- \$15,000 to spend on any Intrepid trip(s)
- 100+ countries to choose from

Whether you're dreaming of gorillas in Rwanda or ramen in Tokyo – your next journey starts with a Festival Pass.

\*Terms and conditions apply – for more details visit [ballaratfoto.org](http://ballaratfoto.org)

### Plan your visit

We've made it simple, one Festival Pass for the Core Program of curated exhibitions. For multiple visits or locals, we recommend purchasing a Season Pass.

### Getting to the Festival

Ballarat is a comfortable 90-minute drive from Melbourne via the Western Highway (one hour from Melbourne Airport). There's plenty of street parking within walking distance of the Festival Hub. Trains and buses run frequently every day from Melbourne and Geelong. Once in Ballarat, you'll find indoor and outdoor photography and festival events in Lydiard Street and surrounds, rain, hail or shine.

### Festival Hub

Located at the Ballarat Mining Exchange, 12 Lydiard Street North, the Festival Hub is a short 2-minute walk from the Ballarat Train Station. Buy tickets and browse our range of limited edition prints, books, merchandise and fun photo products for all ages.

### Where to eat and stay

If you're from outside of Ballarat and looking for some regional travel inspiration and information, check out our Plan Your Visit tips on our website for suggested bars, restaurants and accommodation.

Cover image:  
Campbell Addy, *I ♥ Campbell*, 2023.  
Courtesy of the artist and New School Represents.

### Tickets

A Festival Pass is your entry to these ticketed exhibitions:

- *I ♥ Campbell*
- *Enniful x Mapplethorpe*
- *Catherine Leroy: One-Way Ticket to Vietnam 1966–1968*
- *Martin Kantor Portrait Prize*
- *Prompted Peculiar – International AI Prize*
- *Long Exposure: The Legacy of Prahran College*

Be sure to check the program of public events to see what else might be happening on the day of your visit.

Choose a **Festival Pass** for a single-day visit or a **Season Pass** for unlimited access to the entire 60 days of the festival.

### Single-Day Festival Pass

Adult – \$42  
Concession – \$36  
Child 5–15 years – free  
Biennale Friend – \$32

### Season Pass

Adult – \$62  
Concession – \$50  
Biennale Friend – \$45

### Concessions

If you hold any of the following, you're eligible for a concession-price ticket:

- Youth aged 16–17 years
- Full-time students (including international students)
- Pensioners
- Carer Card holders
- Health Care Card holders

Please come prepared to show your proof of concession with your ticket at the venue.

### Group Bookings

Assemble your crew and save! Ask us about group bookings [info@ballaratfoto.org](mailto:info@ballaratfoto.org) or 03 5331 4833.

### Be Our Friend

At just \$45 per year, Friends of the Biennale membership includes 15% off all events, workshops, talks and masterclasses as well as reduced pricing on Festival Passes.

**The history of innovation and culture in Ballarat begins thousands of years ago and Ballarat International Foto Biennale acknowledges the traditional custodians, the Wadawurrung and Dja Dja Wurrung People.**

**We acknowledge the richness of Aboriginal cultures throughout Australia and their connection to country. We acknowledge that we are an organisation drawing proudly on Aboriginal culture, knowledge and heritage in partnership with First Nations people.**



# Welcome

**Vanessa Gerrans**  
CEO, Ballarat International Foto Biennale

Welcome to the 11th Ballarat International Foto Biennale presented by Intrepid Travel, a force of people and art that will bring an international focus on photography, photographers, and digital creators to our city.

This year we explore the theme *Lifeforce* and how it becomes manifest in photography, digital media and promptography. There is a life force in all of us, a force that distinguishes between the living and non-living. In the artistic world, it is more: a spark that propels an artist to leap over barriers to express, interpret and capture this energy in unique ways. Their life force can move us, elevate our state, compel us to immerse ourselves in iconic forms, to pause and question, feel empathy, delight and inspiration from the images captured in their frames.

This year we continue to bring you exclusive exhibitions from leading international artists.

Our program highlights the work of British-Ghanaian photographer Campbell Addy, a fashion photographer, portraitist, and activist whose work is dynamic, provocative, and soulful. We introduce Catherine Leroy, one of the few female photojournalists present during the war in Vietnam. Her images are poignant, political, arresting, and express the drive and courage of this diminutive woman, who arrived in Saigon on a one-way ticket with a single camera. We also feature the extraordinary work of iconic American photographer, Robert Mapplethorpe, a master of light and shadow.

This year in Central Ballarat a shimmering Bogong Moth will feature on the National Centre for Photography titled **Mumu Mirri**. Once a vital food source for Aboriginal people, the Bogong Moth is now on the IUCN endangered species list. Through a collaboration with John Truscott Prize winner, Dave Jones and Wadawurrung artist Dr Deanne Gilson, **Mumu Mirri** highlights themes of sustenance, survival, and interconnectedness. Support from the Commonwealth Government's Festivals Australia program acknowledges the enormous cultural and economic contribution the festival brings to the region. This playful photo opportunity is another reason for people to come to Ballarat to experience our immersive Biennale.

This festival is achieved through the life force of artists, their unique work and the generous support of legions of sponsors, volunteers, businesses, philanthropists, the City of Ballarat and the Victorian State Government. I warmly acknowledge the support of our 2025 Principal Partners RACV, Sigma, Ilford and Civic Outdoor.

We thank all of you for making this possible.



Campbell Addy, *Digitatum*, 2022.  
Courtesy of the artist and New School Represents.

**Steve Dimopoulos**  
Minister for Tourism, Sport and Major Events  
Member for Oakleigh

On behalf of the Victorian Government, welcome to Australia's pre-eminent photographic festival, which continues to draw an incredible line up of photographers and creators to Ballarat.

Victoria's commitment to arts and culture is on full display through this wonderful event, which brings visitors to the region to explore photography, contemporary culture and history.

The Victorian Government is proud to support the Ballarat International Foto Biennale through the Regional Events Fund, because events like this are vital to our visitor economy. They deliver real benefits to the community, with visitors travelling from across the country to be here – boosting our hotels, restaurants, cafes and local attractions.

While you're in Ballarat, please explore this beautiful, UNESCO-listed creative city – which has transformed from an historic gold town into a modern whirlwind of art, culture, food, and wine. With modern restaurants, wine bars and breweries, there's plenty here for everyone to enjoy.

So have fun at the Biennale and enjoy your time in beautiful Ballarat!



**Alicia Linley**  
Chair, Ballarat International Foto Biennale

Welcome to the Ballarat International Foto Biennale where curiosity, courage and community come together every two years, in the work of international, national and local artists.

This year's program will explore photography as a life force in storytelling – for art, culture and minorities, the challenges of war, and the essence of humans caught in the depths of light and shadow. The festival is made possible through the generosity of individuals, businesses, governments and philanthropists, who understand that without events like these our culture and critical thinking will diminish.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I thank everyone for the difference your contributions make to our national culture and conversation.



**Mayor Cr Tracey Hargreaves**  
Mayor, City of Ballarat

It is with great pleasure that Ballarat opens its doors and welcomes you to the 11th Ballarat International Foto Biennale in 2025. The Biennale stimulates ideas and conversations through the comprehensive program of events and exhibitions held in our laneways, local businesses and historic buildings. Ballarat International Foto Biennale programs have contributed so much to Ballarat, with our city now becoming the home to the National Centre for Photography. The City of Ballarat is committed to building a strong and innovative local economy and events like this are fundamental to the city achieving this goal. It enables Ballarat to continue building its reputation as a thriving cultural city that celebrates its history, innovation and future.



Photo: Garth Oriander, 2023.

# Campbell Addy (GHA/GBR)

## I ♥ Campbell

Campbell Addy's images are about the beauty of humans, about difference, about being seen. This international photographer's work has won many awards, including the prestigious Isabella Blow Award for Fashion Creator in 2023. In 2025 *Campbell Addy: Feeling Seen* with National Geographic's *Photographer Series*, was nominated for Outstanding Documentary at the 36th Annual GLAAD Media Awards and the series received a 2024 Peabody Award.

His work has featured in magazines including *Dazed*, *i-D*, *Rolling Stone Magazine*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Time* and *Vogue*, and campaigns for global brands including YSL, Cartier, Apple and MAC. A graduate of Central Saint Martins College of Art, Addy is one of the few Black photographers uplifting Black models and talent in the fashion industry. His unique artistic vision – marked by rich cultural narratives, dynamic movement, and bold compositions – has redefined contemporary fashion photography. His work has graced the covers and editorials of leading magazines, portraying icons such as Naomi Campbell, Beyoncé, and Lizzo.

Addy's journey is as powerful as his work. Raised in South London, he faced adversity after coming out as a gay man, leaving his Jehovah's Witness family, and experiencing homelessness. His passion for photography became his refuge and pathway to success, fueling his drive to create meaningful art. Beyond his photography, Addy is a changemaker in the industry. He founded *Nijournal*, a biannual art and culture magazine, and an agency for Black models, promoting inclusivity in the industry.

His first solo exhibition, *I ♥ Campbell*, premiered in London in 2023, blending photography, painting, and film within an immersive space designed by British-Cameroonian designer Ibby Njoya. Now, exclusively reimaged at the Ballarat International Foto Biennale 2025, *I ♥ Campbell* presents Addy's most compelling works, including the self-portrait *John Baptist*, striking fashion images, and the film *Decolonise My Tongue with Love*, shot in Ghana exploring love and identity.

Campbell Addy, *I will never stop missing you 1* (detail), 2025.  
Courtesy of the artist and New School Represents.

## Australian Exclusive

Proudly supported by  
The Mitchell Family.  
Presented in partnership with  
New School Represents.  
Licence courtesy of  
180 Studios and National Geographic.  
Exhibition Design by  
Ibby Njoya (CMR/GBR).  
Architect & Designer  
Lauren Garner, G-AP.  
Special thanks to  
Madeline Griggs and Sam Ross,  
New School Represents;  
Decently Exposed;  
Mike Whitehead.  
Accommodation Partners  
Hotel Vera;  
Battista Ballarat;  
Sofitel Melbourne;  
Sofitel Sydney Wentworth.  
Paint Partner  
Haymes Paint, Ballarat.

### CORE PROGRAM

Ticketed  
Included with Festival Pass  
23 August–19 October  
10am–4pm daily  
**Ballarat Mining Exchange**  
12 Lydiard St N





Image courtesy of Nijournal.

Launched in the summer of 2016 by British-Ghanaian photographer and publisher Campbell Addy, *Nijournal* emerged with a clear and powerful mission: 'here to educate, not irritate.' Since its inception, the journal has become a vital and unapologetic platform for underrepresented voices – amplifying the work of Black creatives across photography, fashion, poetry, and political commentary.

This exhibition brings together highlights from across *Nijournal's* issues, tracing a dynamic visual journey through themes of identity, race, sexuality, and spirituality. The second issue delved into religion, merging fashion imagery with printed poems and elements of documentary photojournalism. The latest instalment, *Issue III: Family Ties*, turns its lens to our most intimate relationships – examining kinship across bloodlines, chosen families, Black LGBTQ+ communities, the Black church, nightclubs, classrooms, homes in Accra and New Addington, and studios in Brixton.

More than a publication, *Nijournal* is a collective voice and cultural artefact. It documents lived experience while cultivating new standards in Black fine art photography and editorial storytelling. Through Addy's vision and the contributions of a growing community of emerging and established artists, *Nijournal* invites us to see – and to see differently.

Presented in partnership with RACV, Principal Partner.

Exhibition Design by Ibby Njoya (CMR/GBR).

Special thanks to Madeline Griggs and Sam Ross, New School Represents; Mardi Nowak and Ellen Wignell, RACV.

### CORE PROGRAM

Free

23 August–19 October  
10am–4pm daily

**ArtHouse, RACV Goldfields Resort**  
1500 Midland Hwy, Creswick



# Robert Mapplethorpe (USA) *Enniful x Mapplethorpe*

Robert Mapplethorpe (1946–1989) was a master photographer whose work created a pressure between light and dark, celebrity and underground, sacred and profane, ripple and form. Yet, at the same time, his work shows a deep reverence for photography in the way he balanced colour, composed his images and looked for a kind of classicism in both character and beauty in his subjects.

Born in Queens, New York in 1946, Mapplethorpe studied graphic arts at the Pratt Institute before dropping out to become a portraitist, documenter, art and fashion photographer. He began experimenting with Polaroid cameras but by the late 1970s had moved to a medium format camera. He photographed in New York at a time in the 1970s and 1980s when creativity burgeoned across the city – magazines, media, nightclubs, artists, performers and parsimony, a time when the city was crawling out of a grungy decline into a new optimism, a new expression.

For this exhibition, Ghanaian-born British editor, Edward Enniful OBE in cooperation with the Robert Mapplethorpe Foundation, presents his singular vision of the photographer's work. Enniful presents his selection of 46 prints in pairs, forging new dialogues between them and inviting visitors to see some of Mapplethorpe's best known photographs anew. With this unprecedented curatorial approach to the photographer's work, as Michael Ward Stout, president of the Robert Mapplethorpe Foundation, says: 'Edward has made a unique contribution to Mapplethorpe's legacy'.

## Australian Exclusive

Courtesy of the Robert Mapplethorpe Foundation and Galerie Thaddaeus Ropac, Paris.

Proudly supported by Federation University.

Special thanks to Robert Mapplethorpe Foundation; Edward Enniful OBE & Akua Enniful, EE72; Scott Fredericks, Eucabuild; and Tamela McMahon.

### CORE PROGRAM

Ticketed  
Included with Festival Pass

23 August–19 October  
10am–4pm daily

**Post Office Gallery**  
Cnr Sturt St & Lydiard St N





## Catherine Leroy (FRA) *One-Way Ticket to Vietnam* 1966–1968

In the 1960s and '70s, the intrepid young French woman chose to travel the world to photograph the major conflicts of her day, from Vietnam to Africa, to the Middle East. In February 1966, she flew from Paris to Vientiane, the capital of Laos and on to Saigon. At just 21 years of age and barely five feet tall, Catherine Leroy bought a one-way ticket and arrived with a hundred dollars in her pocket and a Leica M2 camera.

Catherine's work shows the emotion and humanity of both the troops and the Vietnamese people alike. In a field dominated by men she broke barriers, becoming the first and only accredited female and civilian journalist to parachute into combat in Vietnam. She was the first woman to win the prestigious George Polk Award in News Photography for her raw, emotional images of battle.

Gravely wounded in action, captured by the People's Army of Vietnam and later documenting the Fall of Saigon at her own initiative, Leroy's fearless storytelling reshaped war photography.

Catherine would continue to take images in war zones for *Time* magazine, from the late 1970s to 1986, in Northern Ireland, Cyprus, Somalia, Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran and Libya. In 1976, she became the first woman ever to receive the coveted Robert Capa Gold Medal for her coverage of the Civil War in Lebanon.



**Above:**  
Catherine Leroy training on 21 February 1967, jumping with the 173rd Airborne on the eve of Operation Junction City.  
© Bob Cole.  
Courtesy Dotation Catherine Leroy.

**Left:**  
Catherine Leroy, *Vietnam, 1966-1968*.  
© Dotation Catherine Leroy.

World Premiere

Presented in partnership with  
Dotation Catherine Leroy.  
Exhibition graphics  
© Atelier EXB / Elisabeth Welter.

Proudly supported by  
The City of Ballarat;  
the Embassy of France in Australia;  
and ILFORD.

Special thanks to RMIT University;  
Atelier EXB / Éditions Xavier Barral, Paris;  
Robert Pledge &  
Dominique Deschavanne;  
Scott Fredericks, Abe Hutchinson &  
Tamela McMahon;  
Pollyanna Sutton.

Commissioned by the Ballarat  
International Foto Biennale, Nam Le's  
ekphrastic poem responds to  
Catherine Leroy's photographs as part  
of the exhibition *One-Way Ticket to  
Vietnam 1966-1968*. Rooted in literary  
tradition, ekphrastic poetry seeks to  
evoke and interpret visual art through  
words. A video reading of the poem can  
be viewed at the exhibition.

### CORE PROGRAM

Ticketed  
Included with Festival Pass  
23 August–19 October  
10am–4pm daily

**Ballarat Town Hall, A Hall**  
Level 1, 225 Sturt St



# Martin Kantor Portrait Prize

World Premiere

The **Martin Kantor Portrait Prize** is an exceptional opportunity for photo media artists to showcase their talent and have their work viewed at one of the most prestigious photographic events in Australia. The prize is acquisitive, with the first prize of \$15,000 awarded to the most exceptional portrait. The winner and finalists are showcased in an exhibition during the Ballarat International Foto Biennale 2025.

Martin was a photographer and philanthropist known for his arresting portraits of famous musicians and artists like Iggy Pop, Grace Jones, Paul Kelly, Adam Cullen, Howard Arkley and Dale Frank. The Australian band, Hunters and Collectors used his image of the lead singer, Mark Seymour, for an album cover that is a classic representation of Australian rock and roll. Martin strongly supported environmental causes, First Nations and reconciliation.



Julie Kantor and Michael Kantor have graciously sponsored this award in memory of their brother, Martin Kantor.

#### Judges

Natasha Bullock, Senior Curator Photography, National Gallery of Victoria;  
Stephen Payne, Creative Activation Producer, Ballarat International Foto Biennale;  
Alexander Robinson, Director, Photoaccess.

#### CORE PROGRAM

Ticketed  
Included with Festival Pass  
23 August–19 October  
10am–4pm daily  
GovHub, Catobeen Room  
101 Armstrong St N



Tobias Titz, *Mary Dhapalany*, 2016, featuring weaver and actress Mary Dhapalany. C-type print from Polaroid 665 negative. People's Choice winner, Martin Kantor Portrait Prize 2023.

# Prompted Peculiar – International AI Prize

World Premiere

Now in its second year, the **Prompted Peculiar – International AI Prize** brings us squarely into the rapidly evolving world of AI-generated imagery. This global competition explores the intersection of creativity and technology, inviting artists to use Artificial Intelligence as a tool to generate visual art through the act of prompting.

As AI continues to shape contemporary visual culture, this prize sparks timely conversation around authorship, authenticity and the role of 'promptography' – a term popularised when photographer Boris Eldagsen declined a major international award, stating that his AI-generated image was 'not photography'.

The prize awards \$2,000 to the overall winner, selected by the judges and \$1,000 to the recipient of the People's Choice Award. A curated shortlist of finalist works will be exhibited during the festival, with visitors encouraged to cast their vote.

#### Judges

Vanessa Gerrans, CEO Ballarat International Foto Biennale;  
Annika Nordenskiöld, Visual Artist & Promptographer.

#### CORE PROGRAM

Ticketed  
Included with Festival Pass  
23 August–19 October  
10am–4pm daily  
The Miners Tavern  
120 Lydiard St N



Hanna Silver, *I'm the Only One in Here* (detail), promptography, Midjourney, 2025.

ballaratfoto.org



**Dave Jones** (AUS)      **World Premiere**  
**with Dr Deanne Gilson** (AUS)  
***Mumu Mirri***

*Mumu Mirri* which means moth in Wadawurrung language, is a striking new public artwork by Dave Jones in collaboration with Wadawurrung artist and knowledge holder Dr Deanne Gilson. This large-scale commission celebrates the Bogong Moth – an ancient source of sustenance, ceremony and survival for First Nations peoples.

For Dr Gilson's ancestors, the Bogong Moth was a vital food source and a spiritual presence honoured in gatherings and storytelling. Through an imaginative fusion of sculpture and lighting design, Jones brings the moth to life, offering a meditation on ecological balance and cultural continuity.

Installed on the facade of the National Centre for Photography, Ballarat, *Mumu Mirri* invites festival-goers to reflect on the interconnectedness of all living things and the enduring knowledge embedded in Country.

Presented as part of the Ballarat International Foto Biennale's *Photo Opportunities* series.

Proudly supported by  
Festivals Australia;  
The John Truscott Design Foundation; and  
Northrop Engineers.

Special thanks to  
Sophie Jones; Ontoit; Searle Bros.; Michael Taylor Heritage Architects;  
Shannen Mennen; and Wadawurrung Traditional Owners  
Aboriginal Corporation.

**CORE PROGRAM OUTDOOR**

Free  
23 August–19 October  
Daily, outdoors  
**National Centre for Photography**  
4 Lydiard St S



Artist's impression, 2025.  
Courtesy of Dave Jones.





## Lê Nguyễn Phương (VNM/AUS) Thành Phẩm

Historically, global perceptions of the American War in Viet Nam have been shaped by what writer Viet Thanh Nguyen calls the American 'industry of memory' – a structure in which the Vietnam War is remembered and framed primarily by Western media. Images such as *Burning Monk* in 1963, *Saigon Execution* in 1968, and *Napalm Girl* in 1972 have formed what Sylvia Shin Huey Chong termed 'the Vietnam triptych'; that is, they became the definitive images of this war. To such an extent that when Vietnam is evoked, what comes to mind is not a country, a location, but war.

*Thành Phẩm* contextualises Vietnamese artist Lê Nguyễn Phương's attempt to offer a counter-archive to the hegemonic American perspective of this war. Through photographs made with his family in Vietnam and Cambodia, Lê re-examines the emotional impact of the war and its aftermath on his loved ones, and the secrets buried within.

Lê Nguyễn Phương, *Cánh chim bạc (Silver birds)*, 2025.  
inkjet pigment print.  
Courtesy of Lê Nguyễn Phương.

### World Premiere

Proudly supported by the City of Ballarat.

Special thanks to Ballarat Library.

This exhibition is part of Lê's multi-venue solo exhibition which spans Ballarat Library and First Site Gallery, RMIT University.

#### CORE PROGRAM

Free

23 August–19 October  
10am–4pm Monday–Saturday;  
1–4pm Sunday

Ballarat Library  
178 Doveton St N



## GradFoto

Monika Makour (AUS), Harry Merriman (AUS),  
Jesse Pretorius (AUS), Emily Raffaele (AUS)

*GradFoto* captures a new generation of artists working in contemporary photography. This exhibition presents the winners and finalists of the 2024 *GradFoto Award*, an annual prize recognising the work of graduating photo-media artists from institutions across Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand.

Launched in 2020, *GradFoto* has become a launchpad for photographic talent across our region. Each year, graduating artists submit works that are raw, refined, rigorously personal and made at a creative threshold. Judged by Alejandro Acin, founder-director of IC Visual Lab and the curator behind the 2024 Bristol Photo Festival, this exhibition brings together emerging artists, each recognised for their innovation, technical skill, and distinctive visual language.

Monika Makour, from the series *Lefai*, 2024.  
People's Choice winner, *GradFoto 2024*.

ballaratfoto.org

### World Premiere

Courtesy of the artists and participating institutions across Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand.

Special thanks to Alejandro Acin; participating schools; and the emerging artists shaping the future of photographic practice.

#### CORE PROGRAM OUTDOOR

Free

23 August–19 October  
Daily, outdoors

301 Mair St



# Long Exposure: The Legacy of Prahran College

World Premiere

*“At the College the unforgettable Athol Shmith, Paul Cox, John Cato and Bryan Gracey sparked my passion for photography. It saved my life... it is my life!”*

—Julie Millowick, 2024

This exhibition demonstrates what a life-force photography can be. The exhibitors, all photography students at Prahran CAE from the late 1960s to its closure in 1991, continue to photograph after diverse careers. There was no ‘house style’ at Prahran in the 1960s, 70s and 80s, beyond its inspiration to make pictures.

## Artists

Colin Abbott  
Robert Ashton  
Chris Beck  
Peter Bowes  
Andrew Chapman  
Lyn Cheong  
Nigel Clements  
Kim Corbel  
Mimmo Cozzolino  
Christina de Water  
Robert Earp  
Duncan Frost  
Robert Gale

Jill Gocher  
Sebastian Gollings  
Luzio Grossi  
Naomi Herzog  
Graham Howe  
Clive Hutchison  
Peter Johnson  
Ashley Jones-Evans  
Linda Jullyan  
Peter Kelly  
Paul Lambeth  
Peter Leiss  
Carolyn Lewens

Steven Lojewski  
Ian Macrae  
James McArdle  
Bill McCann  
Jim McFarlane  
Julie Millowick  
Peter Milne  
Richard Muggleton  
Greg Neville  
Glen O’Malley  
Anne Palamountain  
Courtney Pedersen  
Kim Percy

Viki Petherbridge  
Phillip Quirk  
Leonie Reisberg  
Ilana Rose  
Robert Rosen  
Stella Sallman  
Greg Scullin  
Miles Standish  
Maria Stratford  
Geoff Strong  
Lisa Walker  
Lynette Zeeng



Curated by  
Merle Hathaway.  
Curatorial Committee  
Colin Abbott, Mimmo Cozzolino,  
Merle Hathaway, James McArdle,  
Phillip Quirk, Ilana Rose.

Catalogue design  
Mimmo Cozzolino.

Supported by  
Colin Abbott, Magnet Galleries  
Melbourne, Mimmo Cozzolino (design),  
The Artist’s Cat. (curation),  
Peter Leiss (video).

Special thanks to  
Laurie Nigro.

## CORE PROGRAM

Ticketed  
Included with Festival Pass  
23 August–19 October  
10am–4pm daily

The Miners Tavern  
120 Lydiard St N

E

Robert Ashton, *Bush Zebra* (detail), 2024.  
Wet plate collodion glass plates.  
Courtesy of the artist.



**Jody Haines** (AUS)  
**Debasish Mukherjee** (IND)  
*Memory Matrix*

When the shifting containment of memory is poked and prodded by a place, its smell, its pace or even the tone of its lighting plays with the chronology and weightage of the memory itself. This creates a continually evolving personal timeline that lends itself to the creation of one's identity. The relationship of this personal experience intertwined with that of a communal past, present and future becomes the representation of one's identity. Explored through the lens of two practitioners, Palawa artist Jody Haines and Debasish Mukherjee working from New Dehli, this exhibition negotiates this relationship of memory and identity.

Jody Haines, *Untitled, walking on tomgeginnie Country lutruwita, through layers of time and memory, place and imagination* (detail), 2023.

**World Premiere**

Curated by  
Anindita Banerjee.  
Presented by  
Creative Ballarat.

**CORE PROGRAM OUTDOOR**  
Free  
23 August–19 October  
Daily, outdoors  
**Bridge Mall** and  
**The Goods Shed**  
200 Lydiard St N, Soldiers Hill

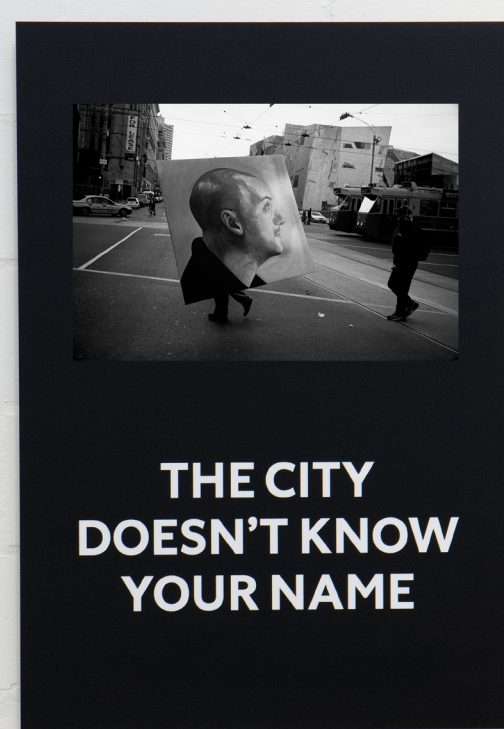


**Sam Bloor** (AUS)  
**Jesse Marlow** (AUS)  
*The city doesn't know your name*

At the height of the COVID19 lockdowns, West Australian visual artist Sam Bloor and Melbourne-based photographer Jesse Marlow found a creative connection across closed borders. The series began with a simple exchange: Marlow's photographs sent across the country, Bloor's words written in response. Installed as paste-up posters in their respective cities, the works appeared unannounced in public space.

Rooted in a shared attentiveness to the street and its textures, both artists work with the visual language of cities: the unnoticed, the residual, the poetic potential of public life. Marlow's photographs are captured with clarity and restraint. Bloor's short-form text works read like aphorisms or fragments of overheard thoughts. Together, they offer a space to pause, notice, think and feel. *The city doesn't know your name*, from the series *Street Posters (2020–2025)* is shown for the first time large scale.

Photo: Tim Palman



**THE CITY  
DOESN'T KNOW  
YOUR NAME**

**CORE PROGRAM OUTDOOR**  
Free  
23 August–19 October  
Daily, outdoors  
Police Lane



**Maria Fernanda Cardoso** (COL)  
**Leila Jeffreys** (AUS)  
*Nature~ista*

World Premiere

*Nature~ista* celebrates the flamboyant flair of the animal kingdom through the lens of contemporary artists. Leila Jeffreys and Maria Fernanda Cardoso explore the natural world's most stylish inhabitants – birds, spiders – through studio photography and sculptural imagination. From feathers to silk, this exhibition invites us to see animals not just as subjects of science, but as icons of beauty, personality, and fashion.

Jeffreys' intimate bird portraits reveal the soft elegance of doves and pigeons, while Cardoso's magnified images of spiders showcase their dazzling, armour – like patterns. Together, their works transform the outdoor gallery into a catwalk of nature's most extraordinary designs.



Curated by  
Adam Harding,  
Visual Arts Curator, RACV.  
Presented by  
RACV, Principal Partner.

**CORE PROGRAM**

Free  
23 August–19 October  
10am–4pm daily  
RACV Goldfields Resort  
1500 Midland Hwy, Creswick



Leila Jeffreys, *Superb Fruit Dove*.  
From the series *Ornithurae*, 2017.  
Courtesy of the artist.

**Hiromi Tango** (JPN/AUS)  
*Hagoromo (Full Flower Moon)*

World Premiere

Inspired by classical Japanese theatre, *Noh* 能, as well as *Hanakatoba* 花言葉 (the Japanese language of flowers), the *Hagoromo (Full Flower Moon)* series explores the artist's Japanese/Australian cultural identity, delving into uncomfortable spaces of grief, separation, longing, and loss. This work is a photographic series of six images that retell the famous *Noh* 能 play, *Hagoromo* 羽衣 (*The Feather Mantle*). The artist is surrounded by chrysanthemums, traditionally associated with death, and her kimono is worn right over left, a style reserved only for the dead – a deep taboo in Japanese culture.

*Hagoromo (Full Flower Moon)* was created as a ritual to mark the anniversary of a friend's husband's death, with long-term photographer, Greg Piper.

Curated by  
Ellen Wignell,  
Visual Arts Curator, RACV.  
Presented by  
RACV, Principal Partner.

**CORE PROGRAM**

Free  
23 August–19 October  
10am–4pm daily  
RACV Goldfields Resort  
1500 Midland Hwy, Creswick



Hiromi Tango, *Hinotori* 火の鳥 (*Fire Bird*), 2023.  
Pigment print on cotton rag art paper.  
Courtesy of the artist and Cuturi Gallery.

[ballaratfoto.org](http://ballaratfoto.org)





## Brian O'Dwyer (AUS) *Multipurpose*

Brian O'Dwyer is a Ballarat based photographer, musician and artist. After attending the Ballarat Aquatic Centre daily for over a year, Brian realised how the simple act of gathering at the pool has transformed it into a remarkable and special place. *Multipurpose* is a photography project capturing the early-morning attendees at the Ballarat Aquatic Centre in Victoria, Australia.

The photos focus on individuals who use the multipurpose pool, designed for injury rehabilitation, between 6 am and 7:30 am. These people have formed a close-knit community, looking out for each other and developing friendships. For many, attending the pool has become a vital part of their routine, positively contributing to their mental health and overall well-being.

Brian O'Dwyer, *John*, 2024.  
From the series *Multipurpose*.  
Digital photo on paper.

### World Premiere

Presented by  
the Art Gallery of Ballarat.

#### CORE PROGRAM

Free  
23 August–19 October  
10am–5pm daily  
Backspace Gallery  
43 Mair St



## Leicolhn McKellar (AUS) *Guma*

Leicolhn McKellar is a Budjiti woman from South West Queensland who has made her home in Larrakia Country. *Guma* means blood in the Budjiti language, as well as being the title of McKellar's visual exploration of contemporary pan-Aboriginal identity. Her photo series and video challenge reductive visual tropes.

Set in urban Darwin, *Guma* captures the everyday lives of First Nations families, celebrating their strength, connection and presence in spaces often excluded from mainstream representations. Through collaborative portraiture and urban landscape elements, McKellar highlights the ties between place and identity, confronting colonial constructs that question the authenticity of urban Aboriginality. *Guma* reclaims the visual narrative, presenting First Nations peoples as they are: multifaceted, contemporary and unbound by stereotype.

Leicolhn McKellar, *Shades of Aboriginality*, 2018.

### World Premiere

Presented in partnership with  
the Art Gallery of Ballarat.  
Special thanks to  
Michael Jalaru Torres, BlakLens.

#### CORE PROGRAM OUTDOOR

Free  
2 August–24 October  
Daily, outdoors  
Art Screen  
Alfred Deakin Place





**Annelise Seréna Belladonna** (AUS)  
**Max Deutscher** (AUS)  
**Jett Leduc** (AUS)  
**High Exposure**

Step beyond the gallery and into the streets to experience **High Exposure**. Featuring photographic artworks produced by emerging Ballarat-based artists in response to the 2025 Ballarat International Foto Biennale theme, *Lifeforce*, this curated outdoor exhibition spans the city's laneways and heritage walls.

Wadawurrung photographer Max Deutscher's digital collages explore his connection to Country amidst the 'frantic pulse of modern life'; Bibbulmun and Chilean artist Annelise Seréna Belladonna evokes an inner-world inspired by the symbolism of her namesake: the deadly nightshade; and, influenced by feminist frameworks, Australian photographer Jett Leduc considers the relationship between camera, subject and emotion in her images.

Together, the works examine the complex and layered intersection of identity and place.

Max Deutscher, *Into the Future* (detail), 2025.

**World Premiere**

Curated by  
 Philippa Griffin & Christine McFetridge.  
 Presented by Creative Ballarat.

**CORE PROGRAM OUTDOOR**

Free  
 23 August–19 October  
 Daily, outdoors

**Various locations**

- Police Ln
- 301 Mair St
- 401 Sturt St
- 27 Doveton St N
- 217 Sturt St
- 4 Armstrong St N
- 20 Main Rd (cnr Little Bridge St)



Photo: Ellen Eustice, 2023.

**Public Program**

The Public Program is a dynamic mix of special events, hands-on workshops, thought-provoking talks, lively podcasts, dancing, and more – inviting everyone to engage with photography in unexpected and inspiring ways.

Masterclasses & workshops are subject to minimum enrolment.

**Thank God It's Foto Friday**

Ease into the weekend with **TGIFF** – our Friday celebration of photography and community. Eight of Ballarat's best bars have teamed up to welcome fotophiles from far and wide. Each week between 4 and 7pm, a low key happy hour will be hosted by a different Open Program venue. A chance to mingle, enjoy the work on the walls and experience the best in local hospitality.

Booking via the venue is recommended.

**Friday 22 August** (followed by Trivia Night 7pm)  
 Aunty Jacks, 315–317 Mair St

**Friday 29 August**  
 Grainery Lane, 35 Armstrong St N

**Friday 5 September**  
 Renard, 209 Mair St

**Friday 12 September**  
 Roy Hammond, 24–28 Armstrong St N

**Friday 19 September**  
 Cubby Haus Brewing, 884 Humffray St S

**Friday 3 October**  
 Ellington's Wine Bar, 405A Sturt St

**Friday 10 October**  
 Hop Temple, 24 Armstrong St N

**Friday 17 October**  
 The Mallow, 18/20 Skipton St

# Public Program August

## Trivia Night

Hosted by Chris Hopkins and Kym Vulling, come on your own or in a team to be in the running for spot prizes and bragging rights. Supported by Nikon Australia.

Limited capacity – bookings essential  
Friday 22 August 7pm start  
**Aunty Jacks**, 315–317 Mair St

## Portfolio Reviews

Share your work with industry experts. Whether you're refining a series, preparing for exhibitions or seeking editorial opportunities, this is a chance to gain clarity, direction and confidence in your photographic practice. Participants are eligible for the Portfolio Review Prize.

Reviewers include Sally Brownbill, Rob Gale, Erin Holland, Stef King, Lê Nguyễn Phương, Garrie Maguire, Peter Milne, Alex Robinson, Heidi Romano, Christina Simons, Penny Stephens and Harriet Tarbuck.

\$330  
Saturday 23 August 10:30am–12:30pm  
**101 Lydiard**, 101 Lydiard St N

## Live Broadcast

Join your favourite ABC Radio hosts alongside artists, photographers and special guests in this live and intimate broadcast direct from the Ballarat International Foto Biennale.

Saturday 23 August, 8:30–11am  
**Her Majesty's Theatre**, The Long Room, 17 Lydiard St S

## Lifeforce Gala

Celebrate the creative force of this year's exhibiting artists in the company of fellow art lovers, cultural leaders, and visionaries. Proceeds from the gala support the Ballarat International Foto Biennale's mission to champion photographic excellence and creative innovation.

\$220  
Saturday 23 August 7pm  
**Ballarat Mining Exchange**, 12 Lydiard St N

## Campbell Addy and Ibby Njoya speak in person

### Keynote Presentation

Following a screening of *Campbell Addy: Feeling Seen*, from the National Geographic series 'Photographer', take a journey alongside one of the world's most extraordinary visual storytellers. Campbell Addy photographed celebrities from Beyoncé to Meghan Markle, all before age 30. Now he faces a turning point and is redefining himself as an artist.

\$55  
Saturday 23 August 1:30–3:30pm  
**Palace Regent Cinemas Ballarat**, 49 Lydiard St N

Photo: Astrid Mulder, 2024.

## When Harri Met Sally – A Photography Podcast

### Live Podcast

Join Sally Brownbill and Harriet Tarbuck as they record a live episode of their podcast.

Included with Festival Pass  
Sunday 24 August 9am  
**101 Lydiard**, 101 Lydiard St N

## The Art of Lunch

### Dining Experience

An exclusive long lunch at RACV Goldfields Resort with artists Campbell Addy, Lê Nguyễn Phương and Hiromi Tango. Delve into their practice with artist talks and a menu inspired by their artworks.

\$140 – bookings essential  
Sunday 24 August 12–3:30pm  
**RACV Goldfields Resort**, 1500 Midland Hwy, Creswick

## The Photographic Terrain

### Panel Discussion

Hear from Open Program artists Maya Melrose, Anton Surov and Lisa Walker as they discuss the relationship of their work to place. Chaired by Stephen Payne, Creative Activation Producer, Ballarat International Foto Biennale.

Included with Festival Pass  
Saturday 30 August 10–11am  
**101 Lydiard**, 101 Lydiard St N

## Hard Light, Real Life: Flash Techniques for Street Photographers

### Workshop

Learn to capture striking street photos using flash and slow shutter speeds in this beginner-friendly workshop with Mark Davidson. Perfect for building confidence, exploring new styles and adding dynamic energy to your street photography.

\$165  
Saturday 30 August 3–6pm  
**101 Lydiard**, 101 Lydiard St N

## Martin Kantor Portrait Prize Award Announcement

The acquisitive first prize of \$15,000 will be awarded to an exceptional portrait of a significant Australian recognised within their field of art, letters, science, sport or politics.

Included with Festival Pass  
Sunday 24 August 10am  
**GovHub, Catobeen Room**, 101 Armstrong St N

## Accessible Art Writing Practices

### Workshop

Join artist, gallerist, curator and arts leader, Sim Lüttin for a seminar about accessible art writing practices. Suitable for artists, curators and writers interested in learning about best practices for accessibility in the visual arts.

\$30  
Wednesday 27 August 12pm–1pm  
**Online Event**

## Open Program presented by Nevetts Lawyers

### Award Announcement

Be there as we reveal the winner of this year's Open Program *Dr Stephen Hennessy Award* as selected by a panel of industry experts and awarded \$2,000. Additional honours will be awarded to the *Ballarat Arts Alive – Ballarat Artist Award* and the Hygge Property Award.

Included with Festival Pass  
Saturday 30 August 1pm  
**Craig's Royal Hotel**, 10 Lydiard St S

## Premiere: Time is Not a Line (2025)

### Film Screening

Experience the powerful documentary that follows artist and 2023 Open Program winner Dr Stephen Hennessy as he races to complete a life-spanning exhibition in his final months – transforming his passing into an enduring act of love for his daughter, Sian Tjia Hennessy.

\$20  
Sunday 31 August 2–3pm  
Followed by Q&A with  
Director Darcy Newton & Sian Tjia Hennessy 3:30pm  
Reception, Marble Room 4pm  
**Palace Regent Cinemas Ballarat**, 49 Lydiard St N

# Public Program September

## No Lights No Lycra Ballarat at *I ♥ Campbell* Dance

There is no light, no lycra, no teacher, no steps to learn, no technique. **No Lights No Lycra** encourages you to completely let go, shake out and lose yourself in the music. Come and dance like nobody's watching.

\$10

Monday 1 September, Monday 15 September,  
Monday 6 October 8–9pm  
Ballarat Mining Exchange, 12 Lydiard St N

## Narrative Editorial Portrait Photography Masterclass

Join photographer Kristoffer Paulsen for a full-day masterclass exploring editorial photography and storytelling through portraiture. The masterclass will explore how to craft narrative, collaborate with your subjects and build a visual language across your images.

\$280

Saturday 6 September 10am–5pm  
RACV Goldfields Resort, 1500 Midland Hwy, Creswick

## Lê Nguyễn Phương with Phuong Ngo Conversation

Supported by Ballarat Library

Hear from Core Program artist and GradFoto 2024 winner, Lê Nguyễn Phương as he discusses his exhibition **Thành Phố** with artist Phuong Ngo.

Free – Book online

Saturday 6 September 1–2pm  
Ballarat Library, The Atrium, 178 Doveton St N

## Todd Hido speaks in person Conversation

Presented in partnership with Leica Australia

Join acclaimed American photographer and photobook maker, Todd Hido in conversation with Professor Daniel Palmer. Hido has exhibited widely and his work is held in public collections including the Getty, the Whitney Museum of Art and the Guggenheim Museum, New York. He has produced dozens of books and is currently an adjunct professor at the California College of the Arts in San Francisco.

\$50

Thursday 4 September 6–7:30pm  
The Goods Shed, Terminus Theatre, 200 Lydiard St N

## Nam Le in person Conversation

Join acclaimed author Nam Le in conversation with graphic novelist Miranda Burton as they discuss his ekphrastic poem written in response to Catherine Leroy's documentary photographs, featured in the exhibition **One-Way Ticket to Vietnam 1966–1968**.

\$36

Saturday 6 September, 11am–12pm  
Ballarat Town Hall, Trench Room, 225 Sturt St

## Walls Speak: Heritage Architecture Foto Walk

Explore Ballarat's architectural heritage with photographer David Bailey. Open to both digital and film photographers, you'll focus on capturing light, textures and Ballarat's historic, and sometimes hidden, details.

\$45

Tuesday 9 September 2–4pm, Saturday 4 October 2–4pm  
101 Lydiard, 101 Lydiard St N

## Just Kids Book Club

Join us for an informal discussion about *Just Kids* by Patti Smith, a memoir documenting her relationship with Robert Mapplethorpe. Led by Education & Public Engagement Coordinator, Christine McFetridge, Ballarat International Foto Biennale.

Free – Book online

Wednesday 10 September 6–7pm  
Ballarat Library, 178 Doveton St N

## Mapplethorpe Fanboi Conversation

Join photographer and self-described Mapplethorpe 'fanboi', Garrie Maguire for a lively discussion over a glass of bubbles as he unpacks photography, legacy and the **Ennifful x Mapplethorpe** exhibition.

\$30

Saturday 13 September 4–5pm  
Post Office Gallery, Cnr Sturt and Lydiard St N

Robert Mapplethorpe, *Aira*, (detail), 1979.  
Copyright © Robert Mapplethorpe Foundation.  
Used by permission.

## Photojournalism 101 Seminar

Presented in partnership with Nikon Australia

Join Walkley Award-winning photojournalist, Chris Hopkins for a seminar on the fundamentals of photojournalism. Learn how he crafts compelling visual stories, navigates ethical considerations and builds strong foundations in the field. Perfect for beginners and aspiring photojournalists.

\$150

Sunday 14 September 10am–1pm  
101 Lydiard, 101 Lydiard St N

## The Personal and Collaborative: Women Photographers on Relationship- Focused Modes of Representation Panel Discussion

Contemporary documentary photographers increasingly address issues of representation by utilising relational storytelling approaches. This woman-led turn towards the personal and collaborative is discussed through the long-term collaborations of Nina Berman and Raphaella Rosella, in a talk hosted by Fiona Morris and Gemma Turnbull.

\$15

Sunday 14 September 4:30–5:30pm  
Online Event

## Negotiating the Nude Workshop

Photographing nude, intimate or boudoir photographs is a genre of photography that requires respect and trust. Join photographer and educator, Ali Choudhry and model, Richard Musumeci (Artmodel Richard) to explore nude photography through theory, a live demonstration and by making photographs.

\$280

Saturday 13 September 10am–5pm  
Craig's Royal Hotel, 10 Lydiard St S



## Women Shaping Photojournalism Panel Discussion

Presented in partnership with Nikon Australia

Join award-winning documentary photographer and photojournalist Christina Simons in conversation with photojournalists Carla Gottgens and Penny Stephens as they reflect on their careers, the challenges they've faced and the evolving role of women behind the lens.

\$30

Sunday 14 September 2–3pm  
101 Lydiard, 101 Lydiard St N

## Long Exposure: The Legacy of Prahran College Artist Talks

Join celebrated artists featured in the exhibition **Long Exposure** as they share insights into their diverse practices, spanning alternative processes, commercial photography, documentary fine art, and photojournalism. Chaired by James McArdle.

Included with Festival Pass  
Sunday 21 September 1–3pm  
The Miners Tavern, 120 Lydiard St N

# Public Program October

## Award Announcement

### Prompted Peculiar – International AI Prize

The announcement of the Prompted Peculiar International AI Prize winner. Plus, meet Sophie, an AI character designed by Sally McKay, who will talk to you about brain health optimisation for individuals at risk of neurological disorders.

Included with Festival Pass  
Saturday 4 October 1–2pm  
101 Lydiard, 101 Lydiard St N

## Cathy at War (2016) Film Screening

The work and life of Catherine Leroy, the greatest female photographer of the Vietnam War, told through her photographs and letters written to her parents. Produced by the Dotation Catherine Leroy and directed by Jacques Menasche. With photographers David Douglas Duncan, Horst Faas, Don McCullin, Tim Page, and Christian Simonpietri.

\$10 (bookings [afmelbourne.com.au](http://afmelbourne.com.au))  
Friday 10 October, 5pm  
Cocktail Reception, from 6pm  
Alliance Française Melbourne  
Level 1, 140 Bourke St, Melbourne

## Family Album Photobook workshop Workshop

Join artist Lê Nguyễn Phương to make your own family album photobook to explore the art of bookbinding and tell the story of your family. Suitable for beginners.

Free – Book online  
Saturday 11 October 10am–2pm  
Ballarat Library, 178 Doveton St N

## Jody Haines with Debasish Mukherjee

### Conversation

Presented in partnership with Creative Ballarat

Join contemporary photomedia artists, Jody Haines and New Delhi-based Debasish Mukherjee for an engaging conversation exploring their work for *Memory Matrix*. Chaired by Curator, Anindita Banerjee.

Included with Festival Pass  
Sunday 5 October 11am–12pm  
101 Lydiard, 101 Lydiard St N

## Reframing Landscape Photography Workshop

Explore the intersection of historical and contemporary photographic practice with Isabella Capezio and learn ways to address landscape photography and ecological concerns. The workshop will cover approaches to representation, including experimental techniques, conceptual photography and research based site-specific responses to the landscape and conceptualisations of nature.

\$280 (3 scholarships available, email [education@ballaratfoto.org](mailto:education@ballaratfoto.org))  
Saturday 11 October 10am–5pm  
RACV Goldfields Resort, 1500 Midland Hwy, Creswick

## Photobook Fair

Back by popular demand, celebrate photobooks, connect with other artists and fans. Featuring prominent publishers, artist books and zines, book launches and signings.

Included with Festival Pass  
Saturday 11 October 11am–4pm  
101 Lydiard, 101 Lydiard St N

## Catherine Leroy: One-Way Ticket to Vietnam 1966–1968 Book Launch

A significant new book of Leroy's images and private letters documenting her experience as a photojournalist in Vietnam. Concept and editing by Robert Pledge with Dominique Deschavanne. Published in French and English editions by Atelier EXB / Éditions Xavier Barral, Paris.

Included with Festival Pass  
Saturday 11 October 11am–12pm  
Ballarat Town Hall, 225 Sturt St

Catherine Leroy, *Fall of Saigon. Civilians Fleeing*, April 29, 1975  
© Dotation Catherine Leroy.

## Fill the Frame

### Book Launch

Documentary photographer Andrew Chapman has been turning up with his camera for more than half a century. *Fill The Frame* is a photobook celebrating his remarkable life's work. Published by Ten Bag Press.

Included with Festival Pass  
Saturday 11 October 12–1pm  
101 Lydiard, 101 Lydiard St N

## Mindful Meandering

### Foto Walk

Join photographer, Mama Jane for a mindful foto walk through Ballarat. This relaxed event encourages you to slow down, see the beauty in everyday details and nurture your wellbeing, one image at a time.

\$45  
Saturday 18 October 2–4pm  
101 Lydiard, 101 Lydiard St N

## The Passion of Joan of Arc Performance Installation

*The Passion of Joan of Arc* (1928) by Carl Theodor Dreyer is considered a masterpiece of early silent cinema. By turns surreal, intense and deeply moving, the film continues to shock and amaze. This screening of the work will feature a curated score of gothic-inspired music by French composer Erik Satie in the centenary year of his death.



## Handmade Photographs: Cyanotype Tote Bag & Polaroid Transfers Workshop

This workshop with Chris Bowes combines two popular alternative photographic processes to experience a tactile approach to making images. Each participant will create their own cyanotype tote bag and a unique, handmade Polaroid transfer print.

\$280  
Saturday 18 October 10am–5pm  
RACV Goldfields Resort, 1500 Midland Hwy, Creswick

## Dance

### Boot Scooting at I ♥ Campbell with Country Struts

Kick up your heels with the high-energy team from Country Struts for a fun-filled evening of line dancing – perfect for seasoned scootin' pros and total beginners alike.

\$30  
Saturday 18 October, 5:45pm for 6:30pm start till late  
Ballarat Mining Exchange, 12 Lydiard St N

Richard Chew – musical director/pianist  
Vox Chamber Choir  
Kate MacFarlane – soprano  
Rhys Boak – organ  
Varvara Vakhrameeva – violin  
Lachlan Dent – cello  
Alison O'Connell & Iran Sanadzadeh – handbells/cymbells  
\$20

Sunday 19 October 7:30–9pm  
Neill St Uniting Church, Ballarat Performing Arts Community



## Education Activities



Presented by Krause Bricks

This curriculum-led education program activates the festival theme *Lifeforce*. Choose your own festival adventure with our free education kit or book in for a tailored education tour.

Bookings are essential for all programs and group visits, including self-guided tours. Visit [ballaratfoto.org](http://ballaratfoto.org) or email [education@ballaratfoto.org](mailto:education@ballaratfoto.org).

### I ♥ Campbell Tailored Education Tour

Campbell Addy's exhibition *I ♥ Campbell* features photographs, original paintings and a short film shot on location in Ghana. Each work reflects a personal meditation on the artist's roots and inspiration, which can be seen across Campbell's dramatic photographic portfolio of magazine covers, iconic portraits and creative practice.

Students will explore contemporary art practice and the role of art in society. They will also gain curatorial and behind-the-scenes insights into the exhibition and the Ballarat International Foto Biennale.

Tailored Education Tours and self-guided group visits are \$6.60 per student for up to 30 students. Educators and support staff are included in this price. Tours will run for one hour and include time for students to complete reflections in their journals.

\$6.60 per student, up to 30 students (includes educators)  
Available 25 August to 17 October between 10 am and 5 pm  
Ballarat Mining Exchange, 12 Lydiard St N

### Lifeforce Education Kit

Enhance your classroom learning or festival experience with the *Lifeforce Education Kit* – a free resource featuring artist information, exhibition insights and curriculum-aligned activities designed to support creative and critical engagement with Ballarat Foto's Core Program.

### I ♥ Foto Exhibition

*I ♥ Foto* is a vibrant exhibition of photographs created as part of an in-class photography activity for F-10 students. Responding to the 2025 festival theme *Lifeforce*, students explore the power of visual expression, and the ways photography helps us see and understand the world around us.

Various locations including 101 Lydiard, 101 Lydiard St N

### Pleasant Street Primary School Cyanotypes

Visit Ballarat Library throughout the festival to view a digital screening of cyanotypes made by students at Pleasant Street Primary School in 2024. Special thanks to Art Teacher Danielle Murray.

Free  
Ballarat Library, The Atrium, 178 Doveton St N

### Ballarat Foto for Kids

Looking for fun, creative ways to keep the kids engaged during the school holidays?

Visit Ballarat Foto for free drop-in activities for families and young visitors from 20 September to 5 October.

### Make a Moth Activity

Make your own bogong moth over the school holidays inspired by *Mumu Mirri*.

Free entry  
Available 20 September to 5 October between 10am and 5pm  
101 Lydiard  
101 Lydiard St N



60 days  
111 exhibitions  
360+ artists  
2,000+ photographic works  
Infinite happy snaps

# Open Program

# Nevetts Lawyers

Presented by Nevetts Lawyers

Turn your day into an immersive art experience. Visit exhibitions in Ballarat's cafes, bars, businesses and laneways. The Nevetts Lawyers Open Program features works by 200+ established and emerging photographers from Australia and overseas.

Open Program exhibitions are in the running for the *Dr Stephen Hennessy Award*, a \$2,000 First Prize selected by a panel of art experts. Additional honours will be awarded for the *Ballarat Arts Alive – Ballarat Artist \$500 Award* and the *Hygge Property Award*.

Vote online for your favourite exhibition in the 2025 program. *The People's Choice Award* will go to the exhibition who receives the most votes. They will win a cash prize of \$500.

You can vote for more than one exhibition and you can vote once every 24 hours. Be sure to tell your friends, family and colleagues to vote as well!

## AWARD ANNOUNCEMENT

Saturday 30 August 1pm  
Craig's Royal Hotel  
10 Lydiard St S

For full program and participating venues visit:  
[ballaratfoto.org/open-program](http://ballaratfoto.org/open-program)



### Marg Alexander *Bundy In The Pocket*

*Eucalyptus carolaniae*, the critically endangered Mt Martha Bundy, faces extinction from habitat loss and climate change. Community-led conservation shows the global value of restoring biodiversity.

Acorn & Oak  
46 Armstrong St N  
Thu-Sat 9:30 am-3pm

88



### Jo Armstrong *Echoes of Fear: The Mind's Dark Place*

Step beyond the veil of the ordinary and into the unsettling realm of Horror, a photographic exhibition that explores the visceral and haunting power of fear through the art of photography.

The Crypt  
14 Camp St  
Thu-Mon 5pm-12am

7



### Arthur Creative *Up Close and ...*

*Up Close and ...* is a photographic collection of aspiring artists at Arthur Creative who meet weekly to capture photos that bring out subjects from the everyday environments around Ballarat.

OPEN WALLS  
Unicorn Lane  
Mon-Sun 24hrs

12



### Australian Association of Street Photographers Inc. (AASPi) *Exposed*

AASPi is a not for profit collective voice to promote Street Photography in Australia, and provide Australian street photographers opportunities to promote and exhibit their work.

OPEN WALLS  
Kathmandu, 26 Mair Street  
Mon-Sun 24hrs

39



### Kate j Baker & Phoebe Rose Lines *Breathing Stories | The Tower*

Photographer Kate j Baker took a journey across Europe traversing the roots of myth and faerie tale, capturing each step of her path with vintage film cameras. In true archetypal style it became a journey both interior and exterior.

The Green House  
Shed 5C/20 Elizabeth St, Delacombe  
Thu-Sun 9am-4pm

63



### T W Baker *I Heard a River Coming Down the Cliff*

*I Heard a River Coming Down the Cliff* is an ongoing survey of the long and complex history of Australia's relationship with coal and how it has shaped both the physical and political landscape wherever it was found.

Creative Framing Gallery  
216 Mair St  
Mon-Thu 9am-5pm, Fri 9am-4pm, Sat 9:30am-12pm

34





**Elli Bardas**  
*Wild Things*

*Wild Things* is visualising the unique, quirky, exuberant human spirit at the core of each of us. I am imagining a liberated world where we remember we are funny, joyous, weird and wonderful individuals, full of love, hope and healing.

**OPEN WALLS**  
Ballarat Mining Exchange South Wall  
Federation University Courtyard  
Mon-Sun 24hrs

10

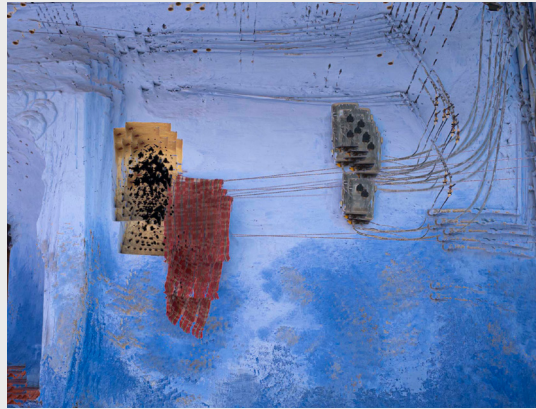


**Gaye Beal**  
*A Symphony of Hues*

Rajasthan's multilayered narrative reveals an evocative history, intertwined with light, shadow, and punctuated with vibrant colours and subtle hues, creating a rich tapestry that immerses the senses.

**Il Piccolo Gelato**  
217 Sturt St  
Sun-Thu 12pm-9pm, Fri-Sat 12pm-10pm

15



**Madeline Bowser & Ben Metherell**  
*Handmade urban environments*

This exhibition uses cyanotypes to contrast urban patterns and textures with handcrafted imagery on washi paper. This collaboration challenges perceptions of urban permanence and fosters an appreciation for the tactile beauty found in man-made environments.

**Sovereign Hill**  
39-41 Magpie St, Golden Hill  
Tue-Sun 10am-5pm



**Lesley Bretherton**  
*Botanica Obscura*

This exhibition explores the fragile and fleeting nature of flora, captured through natural light and varied exposure techniques. The flowers appear clear in form yet ephemeral in presence.

**Craig's Royal Hotel**  
10-16 Lydiard St S  
Mon-Sun 8am-4pm

14



**Anita Beaney**  
*New Light*

The *New Light* collection of images are observations of ambient light in the natural environment.

**L'espresso**  
417 Sturt St  
Mon-Sun 7am-3pm

18



**Cat Black**  
*Come sit with me*

A collection of portraits as a thematic visual diary, reflecting relationships of people and their space.

**Aunty Jacks**  
315-317 Mair St  
Wed-Thu 3pm-11pm, Fri-Sat 12pm-late, Sun 12pm-9pm

29



**Paul Briggs**  
*Too Dry for the Long Haul*

This series of images documents the remnants of the colonial dream in Australia's dry hinterland, and its legacy down through the past 150 years.

**The North Star Hotel**  
302 Lydiard St  
Sun-Thu 10am-10pm, Fri-Sat 10am-11pm



**John Callahan**  
*Life is a Blur*

*Life is a Blur* explores the tension between speed and stillness, chaos and clarity. In a world where time rushes forward and pressure mounts, perception becomes fluid – what is real, and what is simply felt? Crowds pulse with energy, competition breeds intensity, and patience wears thin.

**Bibo Cafe and Restaurant**  
614 Sturt St  
Mon-Thu 8am-5pm, Fri-Sat 8am-11pm, Sun 8am-4pm

50



**Centre for Multicultural Youth Ballarat**  
**Mosaic of Voices**

*Mosaic of Voices* is part of the *Living Stories* project by the Centre for Multicultural Youth. Through creative workshops and mentoring, culturally diverse young people (ages 14–21) developed original poems exploring themes such as identity, mental health, family, and belonging.

**Ballarat Library**  
128 Doveton St N  
Check ballaratfoto.org for screening times



**Andrew Chalk**  
**Chasing the Light –**  
**Polar Night and Arctic Dawn**

In the shifting silence of the Arctic, where light is either fleeting or absent, *Chasing the Light* explores the fragile tension between isolation and endurance.

**Webster’s Market and Cafe**  
61 Webster St  
Mon–Fri 7am–4pm, Sat–Sun 8am–4pm



**Kristin Diemer**  
**Markets**

Vibrant market scenes from Iran, printed using the analogue casein printing process.

**Ross Creek Gallery**  
183 Post Office Rd, Smythes Creek  
Sat–Sun 11am–4pm



**Paul Dodd**  
**The Chair**

*The Chair* is a portrait series exploring identity and story. Same chair, same light, black and white – just the person, their truth, and a single item that helps tell who they really are.

**Cornerstone Cafe**  
206 South St  
Tue–Fri 6:30am–3pm, Sat–Sun 8am–2pm



**Des Crossley**  
**Marks of Absence**

*Marks of Absence* reflects on the Holocaust through eight images taken at Auschwitz with a Leica IIIC – linked to the “Leica Freedom Train.” A reflection on history’s wounds that remain unhealed.

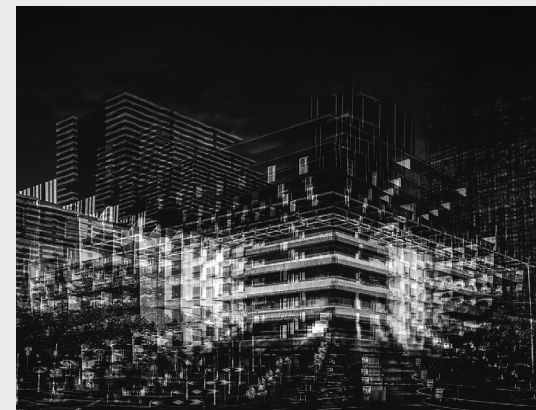
**Eureka Centre**  
102 Stawell St S  
Mon–Sun 10am–5pm



**Michael Danischewski**  
**Trouble Rides a Fast Horse**

*Trouble Rides a Fast Horse* is a photographic project documenting rural Victorian rodeo riders from 2018 to 2025. It captures the strength, resilience, and deep connection between people and the rugged Australian landscape.

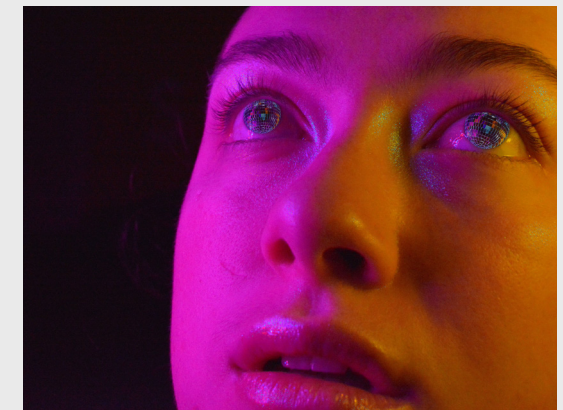
**The Mallow Hotel**  
18 Skipton St  
Mon–Sun 2pm–8pm



**Ralph Domino**  
**Metropolis**

Ballarat-based Ralph Domino is an abstract photographer whose images are inspired by architecture and streetscapes, capturing a blend of surrealism, playfulness, and intrigue.

**The Provincial Hotel Ballarat**  
121 Lydiard St N  
Mon–Fri 10am–3pm, Sat–Sun 11am–3pm



**Federation University – Arts Academy**  
**Alive**

This group exhibition by Federation University students explores the essence of *Life Force* through a lens of photographic and digital innovation. Each participating artist has developed technical proficiency in digital media.

**Federation University, New North Building**  
121 Lydiard St N  
Mon–Sun 10am–4pm





**Alastair Firkin & Helen Myall**  
*Where Reds are the New Black*

This BIFB exhibition is our eighth. We have gone back to pick up on two themes, colour and street photography, highlighting the dramatic cultural sensations of life in India.

101 Lydiard  
101 Lydiard St N  
Mon-Sun 10am-4pm



**Jane Fitzgerald**  
*An Italian Summer*

*An Italian Summer* captures the charm of summer along the Amalfi Coast, where rows of umbrellas create striking patterns against the sea. These photographs embrace a nostalgic, postcard-like aesthetic – vivid yet timeless, evoking the golden age of travel.

OPEN WALLS  
RACV, McKenzie St  
Mon-Sun 24hrs



**Kristen K Fox**  
*Women in Trees*

The *Women In Trees* project started with a whimsical idea that developed into something special. Inviting women to sit in a tree is an invitation to slow down, to daydream, to tell stories and to play.

Campana's Stockade Cellars  
301 Mair St  
Mon-Sat 10am-6 pm



**Linda Franklin**  
*The Times We Live In*

A mixed-media assemblage across nine panels, telling a story of the serpentine kundalini journey of transformation, from outer adversity to inner freedom. Our evolution on earth echoed into the cosmos.

Gallery 10  
10 Bridge Mall  
Mon-Sun 24hrs



**Gordon Flynn**  
*Connections*

The photographs are candid street shots, mostly grouped in pairs. They show different people, places, contexts and times, but have common visual or cultural links.

Everybody Knows Books  
10 Sturt St  
Tue-Sat 10am-5pm Sun 10am-3pm



**Lainey Foster**  
*The Extraordinarily Ordinary:  
A Celebration of Serendipity in Italy*

A series of love letters to Italy, celebrating serendipity and the art of seeing with open eyes, mind, and heart – through light, colour, and the quiet beauty of The Extraordinarily Ordinary.

Renard  
209 Mair St  
Wed-Fri 4pm-late, Sat-Sun 2pm-late



**Heidi Freihaut**  
*Let me show you the way*

These photographs were taken on solo travels through the Balkan region from 2015-2017.

OPEN WALLS  
McKenzie St  
Mon-Sun 24hrs



**Lucinda Goodwin**  
*I'm On The Guest List*

*I'm On The Guest List* showcases 15 years of work from music photographer Lucinda Goodwin. From band rooms to stadiums, Lucinda's work leaves you feeling like you were on the barricade of every show.

Kank Wolverang Records  
30 Main Rd, Bakery Hill  
Thu-Sun 10:30am to 5pm





**Jac Hartje**  
*Algorithmic Landscapes*

A series of work observing the urban landscape through the mechanics of algorithms, via a series of experimental photography interrogating the slippery spaces between the real and virtual.

**Regent Cinema, Marble Room**  
49 Lydiard St N  
Mon 11:30am-8pm, Tue-Sat 9:30am-9:30pm,  
Sun 1pm-9:30pm



**Brian Hodges**  
*From Scraps to Goals:*  
*Uganda's Handmade Soccer Balls*

In rural Uganda, handmade soccer balls – crafted from rags, leaves, and plastic – become symbols of joy, resilience, and artistry. Each is a sculptural expression of play, pride, and creativity.

**Beechworth Bakery Ballarat**  
6 Grenville St  
Mon-Sun 7:30am-5:30pm



**Joyce Evans Circle**  
*Tribute to Joyce Evans*

The Joyce Evans Circle, a Melbourne based group dedicated to nurturing and promoting women photographers, presents photos inspired by Melbourne photography pioneer, Joyce Evans.

**OPEN WALLS**  
McKenzie St  
Mon-Sun 24hrs



**Dee Kelly**  
*Luminaria*

Dee Kelly's portraits envisage historical and mythological women through a contemporary lens, drawing inspiration from figures who have been revered, coveted, misunderstood, and repeatedly reimaged.

**Grainery Lane**  
35 Armstrong St N  
Wed-Thu 3pm-11pm, Fri-Sat 12pm-late,  
Sun 12pm-9:30pm



**Setareh Hosseini**  
*Emigrabilia*

Memories shape identity. Separation reveals the quiet power of familiar objects and how deeply they influence us. Shaping who we are in ways we often fail to notice.

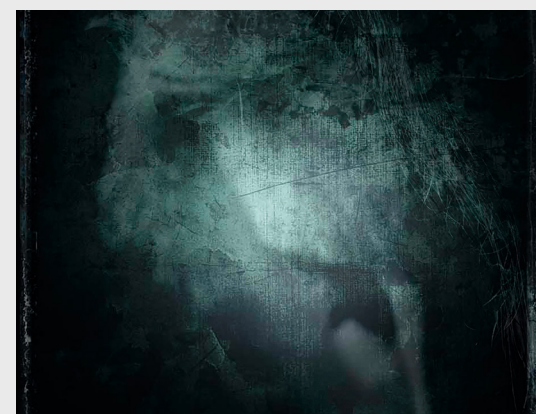
**Roy Hammond**  
24-28 Armstrong St N  
Mon-Wed 3pm-10pm, Thu 12pm-11pm,  
Fri-Sat 12pm-12am, Sun 12pm-9pm



**Brian G. Jefferies**  
*Different Worlds*

There are worlds within worlds and worlds within them. These are just a few ...

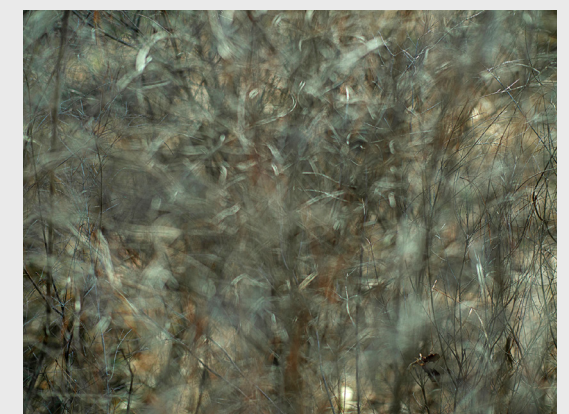
**The North Star Hotel**  
302 Lydiard St N  
Sun-Thu 10am-10pm, Fri-Sat 10am-11pm



**Ian Kemp**  
*1 in 4*

The images in this exhibition are part of a project against domestic violence. The artist is working to be part of the movement to reduce its prevalence in our community.

**Mr Jones Dining**  
42-44 Main Rd, Bakery Hill  
Tue 10am-3:30 pm, Wed-Thu 12pm-10pm,  
Fri 11am-10pm, Sat 2pm-10pm



**Paul Lambeth**  
*Within Sight*

Paul Lambeth synthesizes the organic, selecting an experience of land. He has made a record of visual phenomena, building his own archive of specific sites, usually close to home, *Within Sight*.

**Eureka Centre**  
102 Stawell St S  
Mon-Sun 10am-5pm





**Peter Laqua**  
*Resilience Within*

This series explores personal resilience through trauma and adversity, blending photography, found objects, and shadow play to evoke strength and reflection, inviting viewers to find their own meaning.

**Racers Bar & Cafe**  
2 Wendouree Parade, Lake Wendouree  
Mon-Sun 7am-6pm



**Dotti Li**  
*To Cherish the Perishable*

Wrapping flowers in bubble wrap, I try to protect what I cherish. This work questions whether love preserves, controls, or misunderstands the fragile things we try to keep.

**Homeground Cafe**  
125 Sturt St  
Mon-Fri 7am-3pm



**Georgina Matherson**  
*All things must pass*

Georgina Matherson's abstract work invite quiet reflection and curiosity. Blending connection, emotion, and a sense of wonder, her practice encourages viewers to pause and decipher meaning in the work.

**The George Hotel**  
27 Lydiard St N  
Sun-Tue 8am-3pm, Wed-Thu 8am-8pm,  
Fri-Sat 8am-11pm



**Stephen McAllister**  
*Rural Dreamscapes*

These photographs were taken on small road trips near home. The collection focuses on mystery and beauty in rural locations. These pictures seem to me like forgotten memories or dreams.

**The Forge Pizzeria**  
14 Armstrong St N, Ballarat  
Mon-Sun 12pm-9pm



**Jackson Low**  
*Outernet*

An exploration of the unseen impacts that the internet and AI are having on the material world. Using IR street photography and image manipulation I've created a series exploring the looming storm.

**Hop Temple**  
24 Armstrong St N  
Wed-Thu 4pm-11pm, Fri 4pm-1am,  
Sat 12pm-1am, Sun 12pm-12am



**Adam Luckhurst**  
*Monoliths*

Grain silos are monoliths and are prominent on the landscape. This body of work shows how they now represent something new - how we move on and discard and that nothing can be taken for granted.

**Morton+Co Architects**  
424 Sturt St  
Mon-Fri 9am-5:30pm



**Noleen McKeag**  
*The Journey - Surreal Steampunk Portraits*

This exhibition highlights surrealism in images created by the photographer using composite techniques in digital design. No AI was used in creating this steampunk inspired portrait art.

**Market Hotel**  
272 Park St W, Delacombe  
Mon-Wed 3pm-9:30pm, Thu-Sat 11am-10:30pm,  
Sun 11am-7pm



**Melbourne Camera Club**  
*Conceptual Group*

Melbourne Camera Club's Conceptual Photography Group explores ideas, not just images. Through lively monthly meetings, it offers a welcoming space for photographers of all levels to share, discuss, and develop thought-provoking, imaginative work in a supportive, creatively charged environment.

**OPEN WALLS**  
**Hop Temple**  
24 Armstrong St N  
Mon-Sun 24hrs





**Maya Melrose**  
*Lost lands found*

A photographic exploration of Victoria's endangered Indigenous flowering grasslands, highlighting their beauty, cultural significance, and the urgent need for ecological awareness and restoration.

**The Green House**  
Shed 5C/20 Elizabeth St, Delacombe  
Thu-Sun 9am-4pm



**Margaret Metcalfe**  
*For the Love of*

This body of work explores the emotive tapestry of human bonds, capturing the intricate relationships we cultivate with each other and with our cherished possessions – be they material items, vices, beliefs, or beloved pets.

**Schnitz Ballarat**  
321 Sturt St  
Mon-Sun 10:30am-9pm



**Gordon Monro**  
*Asymmetries of Ballarat*

We like symmetry in the built environment around us. But sometimes symmetry is difficult to achieve, and sometimes it doesn't stay achieved...

**The Foundry**  
411 Mair St  
Tue-Fri 9am-5pm, Sat 10am-4pm



**Mount Clear College Photography**  
*The starting point*

Our students at Mount Clear College use the DSLR camera as a starting point to create their digital artworks. The artworks in this exhibition have been created in our Digital Art and Media classes.

**Faul's Shoes Ballarat**  
20/22 Bridge Mall  
Mon-Sun 24hr



**Mark**  
*Scene & Seen*

*Scene & Seen* is a series of large black & white tessellated portraits exploring the moment by moment actions of people and their relationship to the world around them.

**Kilderkin Distillery**  
14A Hill St, Mount Pleasant  
Thu 12pm-5pm, Fri-Sat 12pm-7pm, Sun 12pm-5pm



**Craig Mitchell**  
*In Theatre*

Human moments on a critical stage. Photographer and anaesthetist Craig Mitchell captures the drama of the operating theatre with its focused intensity and the choreography of care.

**St John of God Ballarat Hospital, Foyer**  
101 Drummond St N, Lake Wendouree  
Mon-Sun 24hr



**Kathy Muhlhan**  
*A Dahliance*

A dahliance at the gardens and my cares were quiet. The sun was on my back and I breathed deeply. All was colour and light and the world made sense.

**RACV Goldfields Resort**  
1500 Midlands Hwy, Creswick  
Mon-Sun 10am-4pm



**Patriot Mukmin**  
*Obnubilation*

*Obnubilation* blurs archival images through weaving, exposing the confusion and constructed nature of history, where clarity dissolves and questions emerge from fragmented narratives.

**101 Lydiard**  
101 Lydiard St N  
Mon-Sun 10am-4pm





**Neurodivergent Image Collective (NIC)**  
**Co-occurrence**

Neurodivergent artists Arrayah Loynd, Lisa Murray, Sara Nash and Kim Percy invite viewers to experience fragments of their inner worlds. Outdoor slide-viewer installations reveal intimate glimpses – exploring masking, perception, and the complexity of identity.

**OPEN WALLS**  
Umbrella Lane  
Mon–Sun 24hrs



**OPEN WALLS**  
Multiple outdoor locations – check [ballaratfoto.org](http://ballaratfoto.org)  
Mon–Sun 24hrs



**Nick Orloff**  
**Ghosts of Bulgaria's Past**

This exhibition invites viewers on a journey through Bulgaria, where the remnants of its communist past linger in stark and haunting forms. Captured in black and white, the images strip these spaces to their raw essence, highlighting the contrasts between memory and modernity, decay and resilience.

**Ellington's Wine Bar**  
405A Sturt St  
Wed–Thu 2:30pm–late, Fri–Sat 2pm–late,  
Sun 12:30pm–late



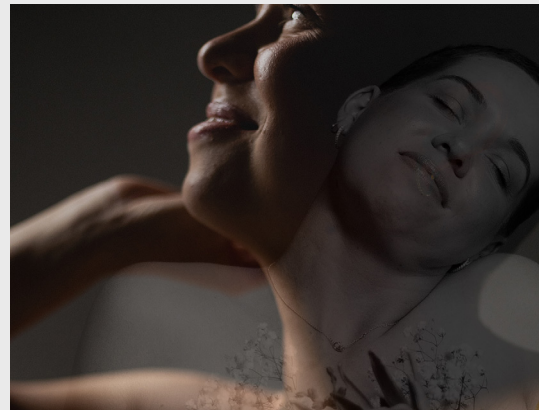
**Her Majesty's Theatre**  
17 Lydiard St S  
Tue–Fri 10am–4pm, Sat 10am–2pm



**Desmond Kok Hui Ong**  
**Attention: The landscape of Japan**

Traffic mirrors are the common elements in urban and rural Japan, in essence an integral part in the landscape. Yet the mirror also asks us to pay 'attention' to the landscape of Japan framed within.

**OPEN WALLS**  
Multiple outdoor locations – check [ballaratfoto.org](http://ballaratfoto.org)  
Mon–Sun 24hrs



**Diana Paez**  
**Trace**

This series explores transformation through poetic portraiture, capturing the subtle echoes of grief, renewal, and embodiment.

**Her Majesty's Theatre**  
17 Lydiard St S  
Tue–Fri 10am–4pm, Sat 10am–2pm



**Vera Paulin**  
**Voyage Through Vietnam –**  
**A Traveller's First Impressions**

In this exhibition the artist aimed to capture the many varied aspects of this fascinating South East Asian country.

**Saigon Allee**  
30 Armstrong St N  
Mon 5pm–9pm, Tue–Sat 12am–2pm & 5pm–9pm



**Louis Petrucci**  
**CAPSULE Life Frozen and Fragile**

**Capsule** exhibition transforms the space into a sanctuary of frozen introspection. Large sheets of ice showcase frozen organisms, including octopus, fish, flora, and fauna, suspended in time.

**BAaD Gallery**  
737 Sturt St  
Fri–Sun 10am–3pm



**Perridak Arts**  
**Through a Cultural Lens**

Our Aboriginal community celebrates deep cultural roots through dance, uniting generations. Each movement tells a story – honouring ancestors, land, and spirit – strengthening connection, identity, and resilience across time and tradition.

**Perridak Arts Ballarat**  
2/214 Mair St  
Wed–Fri 10am–4pm, Sat 10am–3pm

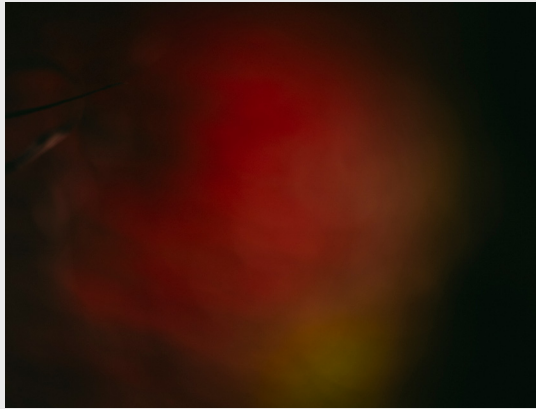


**Photographic Imagery Collective (PIC)**  
**Collective Visions**

A diverse collection of artists' works spanning studio-based photography, landscape, nature, tableau, text-based pieces and AI-generated imagery.

**Ballarat Performing Arts Community**  
501-503 Neill St, Soldiers Hill  
Opening hours variable – check [ballaratfoto.org](http://ballaratfoto.org)





**Samantha Poling**  
*Feel It Quietly*

Breaking from the confines of representation, *Feel It Quietly* conveys an inner world of emotion by abstraction's ability to illuminate "more of what one thinks than of what one sees." – Mark Rothko

**Meigas**  
33 Armstrong St N  
Tue–Thu 5pm–11pm, Fri–Sat 12pm–11pm



**Gallerie Marion**  
95 Mair St E  
Mon–Sat 1 pm–11pm, Sun 2pm–6pm



**RMIT Diploma Photography & Digital Imaging Alumni Showcase**

A showcase of RMIT Diploma of Photography and Digital Imaging student final folios. Encompassing diverse, innovative works highlighting technical skill and creative vision.



**Leon Sammartino**  
*Faceless*

*Faceless* explores the concept of being anonymous within the public sphere, asking what we keep hidden from the world, how we remain *Faceless*.

**Kinfolk**  
Shed 1/16 Concept Dve, Delacombe  
Mon–Fri 7am–2pm



**Racheal Samuels**  
*Liminal Vestiges*

In *Liminal Vestiges*, Racheal Samuels invites us into a world of in-between spaces – forgotten corners, industrial skeletons, and the quiet hush of architecture after its human story has paused or passed.

**Accent Framing & Fine Art**  
74 Bridge Mall  
Tue–Fri 10am–4pm, Sat 10am–2pm



**Daniela Rodriguez**  
*Echoes of Elsewhere*

*Echoes of Elsewhere* explores Latinx diasporic identity through portraiture and still life tracing memory, patriarchy, and cultural resilience across distant lands.

**OPEN WALLS**  
The George Hotel Laneway  
27 Lydiard St N  
Mon–Sun 24hrs



**Safety4U**

A photo exhibition exploring what safety means in a community impacted by family violence. Real stories. Real people. A powerful call for awareness, empathy, and change.

**OPEN WALLS**  
Federation University, Camp St  
Mon–Sun 24hrs



**Nicole Sanders**  
*My friend the river*

The River in its timeless beauty is the same as it is changed. Film brings elements of imperfection that amplify the atmosphere that is the River.

**Cubby Haus Brewing**  
884 Humffray St S, Mount Pleasant  
Wed–Thu 12pm–6pm, Fri–Sun 12pm–8pm



**Amber Schmidt**  
*Laneway Files*

A poetic, suggestive and introspective representation of Melbourne's laneways.

**Pat's Sandwiches**  
23 Little Bridge St, Ballarat  
Mon–Sat 7:30am–3pm





**Grace Seow**  
*In Blooms We Trust, Encore*

Inspired by Dutch still life paintings, and with a nod to romanticism, *In Blooms We Trust, Encore* is above all, a celebration of flowers and an expression of hope.

Xin Jin Shan Chinese Library  
200 Sturt St  
Wed–Sun 10am–5pm  
Projection at **Hotel Vera** – check ballaratfoto.org



**Catherine Seymour**  
*Existence in Small Print*

*Existence in Small Print* is a quiet photographic meditation on the mundane observations of daily life.

*“At the still point of the turning world”* – T.S. Eliot

Collins Booksellers on Lydiard  
22 Lydiard St N  
Mon–Thu 9am–5:30pm, Fri 9am–6pm, Sat 9am–5pm,  
Sun 10am–4pm



**Renée Sterling**  
*The Walk to the Beach*

The tea tree path to the beach feels alive – twisting, dark, magical. These photos capture fleeting moments in a shifting landscape shaped by wind, time, and constant change.

Craig’s Royal Hotel  
10-16 Lydiard St S  
Mon–Sun 8am–4pm



**Kylie Supski**  
*FLORIOGRAPHY*

In *FLORIOGRAPHY*, photographer Kylie Supski explores nature as a silent storyteller, where flowers act as metaphors, carrying meaning beyond their petals.

Ballarat Arts Incubator  
36 Camp St  
Sun 24 Aug 1pm & 3pm, Sat 30/08–18/10 3pm,  
Sun 31/08–19/10 1pm

Sessions are accompanied by a live poetry performance.  
Bookings essential – ballaratfoto.org



**Anne Shellard, Kaye Linsdell,  
Sally Paterson**  
*Stillness and Soul*

*Stillness and Soul* brings together the work of three photographers. Each image explores the quiet connection between nature and emotion, through either serene landscape or delicate double exposures.

Tin Roof Ballarat  
302 MacArthur St, Soldiers Hill  
Mon–Fri 7:30am–3pm, Sat–Sun 8am–3pm



**Peter Sparkman**  
*Homines Fabulosi Wadawurrung de Terra*

A sequel to *Humans in Ballarat*, *Homines Fabulosi Wadawurrung de Terra* explores our diverse community, here on Wadawurrung land focussing on the talented range of artists who call this place home.

7b Little Bridge St  
Mon–Sun 11am–9pm



**Anton Surov**  
*Keep Out*

Set on Melbourne’s fringe, this series captures the transformation of wild land into housing estates. It explores themes of alienation, repetition, and lost identity in Australia’s expanding suburbs.

Obscura Cameras  
Shed 3, 20 Elizabeth St, Delacombe  
Mon–Fri 9am–5:30pm, Sat 9am–2pm



**Jesse Thompson**  
*Trugo: The Working Class Sport  
Unique to Melbourne*

Trugo is Melbourne’s own working-class sport. The game was invented 100 years ago by workers in the Newport Railway Workshops. Today, the unique sport is a beautiful piece of living cultural heritage.

Golden City Hotel  
427 Sturt St  
Mon–Sun 9 am–9pm





**Lisa Walker**  
*Slow Curtain*

*Slow Curtain* is a large scale B/W video projection that interweaves and loops within a natural and urban landscape. The sequence of footage focuses on reflective light, shadow and bodies of water.

101 Lydiard  
101 Lydiard St  
Mon-Sun 10am-4pm



**Lydiard General Cafe & Diner**  
313 Lydiard St, Soldiers Hill  
Mon-Fri 7:30am-3pm, Sat 8am-1pm



**Kathleen Walsh**  
*Going up or coming down?*

Spiral staircases symbolise life's winding journeys. Structures that evoke unknown destinations, echoing the repetitious yet progressive nature of life, where each turn offers new perspectives.



**Rudiger Wasser**  
*Junkspace*

This photographic series explores the privatisation of public space and the erasure of identity within globalised urban environments. Inspired by Marc Augé's "Non-Places" and Rem Koolhaas' concept of "Junkspace," the work highlights how neoliberal architecture fosters commercial, impersonal spaces.

**Pancho**  
213 Mair St  
Wed 5pm-late, Thu-Sun 11:30am-11pm



**Phil Watt**  
*Hindsight*

*Hindsight* is a photographic meditation on time and isolation. Captured during the 2020 lockdown, these analogue images reflect the quiet revelations found in stillness.

**Tokyo Grill House**  
37 Armstrong St N  
Wed-Mon 12pm-8pm



**I Dewa Gde Gandiva Wisanjaka**  
*Sekala Niskala (Seen & Unseen)*

In Bali, *Sekala* (seen) and *Niskala* (unseen) coexist, shaping life through an eternal balance of good and evil. This series captures the fleeting moment when the seen and unseen collide – not performance, but a lived truth.

**The Known World Bookshop**  
28 Main Rd  
Wed-Mon 11am-4pm



**Michael Unwin Wines**  
10 Powells Rd, Windermere  
Mon-Sun 11am-5pm



**Jon Webb**  
*WINK*

*WINK* is a photographic exhibition exploring the fluid interplay of Water and INK through the lens. Each image captures the fleeting state of liquid forms, frozen in time by the camera.



**Ruth Woodrow**  
*Melbourne Collaged*

*Melbourne Collaged* presents six photographic collages that explore the artist's evolving relationship with Melbourne through vibrant colour, layered imagery, and expressive composition.

**Drive Cafe**  
227 Grant St  
Mon-Sun 8am-3pm



# Open Program – Pyrenees Photo Trail

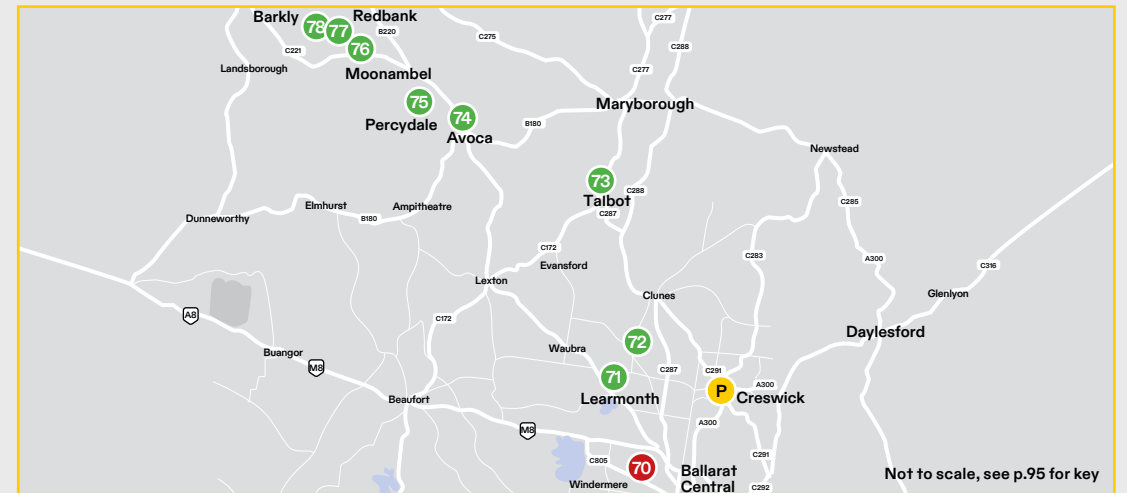
Explore the beauty and bounty of the Pyrenees, and follow our Photo Trail to discover wineries, food and art throughout the region.

Nestled amongst the rolling hills of this evocative landscape, you'll find a series of intriguing artists and welcoming venues, just an hour or two out from our core festival footprint. Take your time and sample some of the outstanding cool climate reds and whites of one of Victoria's great wine terrains.

You'll be inspired – and you can share your inspiration with your fellow trailblazers! Just tag your own shots of the Pyrenees and its wineries, and you'll be in the running to win a selection of prize-winning wines.

Don't miss David Rosendale's landscape photography workshops at Eastern Peake, 29 August 2pm, 17 September 11am and 4 October 2pm. Bookings [ballaratfoto.org](http://ballaratfoto.org).

#pyreneesphototrail



**Anastasia Nixon**  
*Chromatic Silence*

71

A study of Argentina's Perito Moreno Glacier through colour, texture, and light. Vast and intimate, Chromatic Silence invites deep looking and celebrates the quiet beauty of ice and time.

321 Cafe Learmonth, 30 High St, Learmonth  
Wed–Thu 9am–3pm, Fri & Sun 9am–4pm, Sat 9am–9pm



**David Rosendale**  
*The trees endure, the land has memory*

71

Immersive series captured in Dja Dja Wurrung Country & Hepburn Regional Park. Explores an enduring connection to “place” and profound ties that bind us to the land.

Eastern Peake Cellar Door, 67 Pickfords Rd, Coghills Creek  
Tue–Sat 11am–3pm



**Ashley Perry**  
*Greece, late summer topographics*

75

*Greece, late summer topographics* presents a series of photographs that depict the intervention of humans upon the landscape of central Greece and the islands of the Cyclades in the Aegean Sea.

Blue Pyrenees Estate, 656 Vinoca Rd, Avoca  
Mon–Sun 11am–5pm (reservations essential)



**David Jones**  
*THE HIDDEN*

76

We embed ourselves in the security of the familiar, in-so-doing we form an us and a them, create boundaries. Within these images we cross those boundaries, enter, the world of those hidden.

Bigibila Wines, 85 Polleters Rd, Moonambel  
Fri–Sun 11am–5pm



**Adele Locke**  
*False Landscapes*

73

*False Landscapes* reveals imagined worlds shaped by light and shadow in everyday spaces – real scenes made unreal through reflection, refraction, and a touch of visual sleight of hand.

Talbot Arts & Historical Museum, 17 Camp St, Talbot  
Sun 1–3pm and by appointment



**Vincent Liew**  
*Visualizing Tengger – god, land and people*

74

*Visualizing Tengger – god, land and people* is a long-term photography project that explores the Tenggerese and investigates the relationship between photography and sensory experience.

Avoca Information Centre, 122 High St, Avoca  
Mon–Fri 10am–5pm, Sat–Sun 10am–1pm

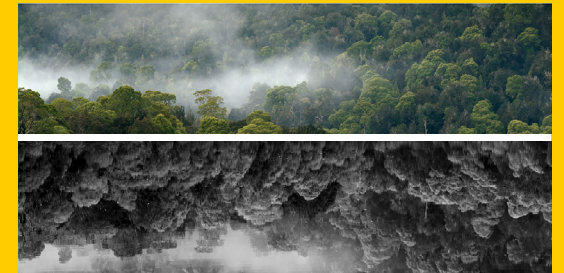


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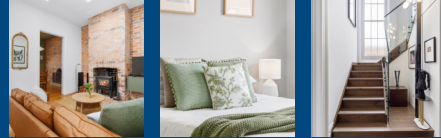


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<b>13</b> Her Majesty's Theatre, The Long Room	<i>Diana Paez</i>	56	
<b>14</b> Craig's Royal Hotel	<i>Lesley Bretherton / Renée Sterling</i>	45 / 61	
<b>15</b> Il Piccolo Gelato	<i>Gaye Beal</i>	44	
<b>16</b> Schnitz Ballarat	<i>Margaret Metcalfe</i>	54	
<b>17</b> Ellington's Wine Bar	<i>Nick Orloff</i>	56	
<b>18</b> L'espresso	<i>Anita Beaney</i>	44	
<b>19</b> Golden City Hotel	<i>Jesse Thompson</i>	61	
<b>20</b> Morton+Co Architects	<i>Adam Luchhurst</i>	52	
<b>21</b> McKenzie St	<i>Jane Fitzgerald / Heidi Freihaut / Joyce Evans Circle</i>	49 / 51	
<b>22</b> Saigon Allee	<i>Vera Paulin</i>	50 / 56	
<b>23</b> Roy Hammond	<i>Setareh Hosseini / Neurodivergent Image Collective</i>	53	
<b>24</b> The Forge Pizzeria	<i>Stephen McAllister</i>	57	
<b>25</b> Meigas	<i>Samantha Poling</i>	51	
<b>26</b> Grainery Lane	<i>Dee Kelly</i>	58	
<b>27</b> Tokyo Grill House	<i>Phil Watt</i>	62	
<b>28</b> Campana's Stockade Cellars	<i>Kristen K Fox</i>	49	
<b>29</b> Aunty Jacks	<i>Cat Black</i>	44	

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<b>32</b> Pancho	<i>Rudiger Wasser</i>	62	
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<b>43</b> 7b Bridge Mall	<i>Peter Sparkman</i>	60	
<b>44</b> Faull's Shoes	<i>Mount Clear College Photography</i>	55	
<b>45</b> Pat's Sandwiches	<i>Amber Schmidt</i>	59	
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