

## 3.11 Providing education

### Summary of theme

The story of education in the City of Ballarat represents a microcosm of the educational history of Victoria. There is a rich history of all stages of educational development in the municipality, from small church schools and National Schools in the 1850s to the development of the University of Ballarat (now Federation University). The School of Mines established in 1870 provided Ballarat with a strong foundation in technical education. Government secondary education was provided from the early 1900s. There has also been a large number of independent and Catholic schools established in the municipality.

### Consideration of this theme in relation to the HUL approach

The provision of education is a central theme in Ballarat’s history, which is associated with most localities throughout the municipality. Places associated with the theme of education date to the earliest settler history of the municipality.

The theme of education is represented mainly by single sites that range from small single buildings to large complexes. Some places have seen change and adaption over time to other uses. Taken collectively, schools reflect the broader development of the various localities within the City of Ballarat and provide a vital map of sites of settlement and development. In particular, this theme relates to the HUL layers ‘social and cultural practices and values’ and ‘intangible dimensions of heritage, diversity and identity’.

In connection with this theme it is important to acknowledge the issue of historical child sexual abuse that was perpetrated by staff at many of the schools in the Ballarat area, particularly the Catholic schools. This has created a layer of intangible heritage of trauma and pain in relation to this theme, and specifically in relation to particular places of education in the City of Ballarat.

### Consideration of this theme relative to First Nations history

Education	Generally, Aboriginal children have experienced poorer educational outcomes than non-Aboriginal children.
Industrial schools	Aboriginal children were among those children considered ‘neglected’, who were placed in the Ballarat Industrial School from the 1860s.
Pre-school	Yirram Burrton Early Learning Centre for First Nations children at Sebastopol

## 3.11.1 Primary schools

### Early private schools

Buninyong, as the first permanent settlement in the municipality, saw the first school established in the City of Ballarat. Thomas Learmonth arranged to bring the Scottish minister Thomas Hastie to Buninyong in 1847.<sup>558</sup> As well as serving as minister for a new church, Hastie established a Presbyterian school for boys and girls on the church site. The Presbyterian Church site pre-dated the town survey of 1850.<sup>559</sup>

In contrast to Hastie's school at Buninyong, most of the early schools on the goldfields were short-lived and had erratic enrolments due to the social flux of the period. Many were simple tent schools, although some of these evolved into permanent structures.<sup>560</sup>

### Early government schools

#### National Schools

The sudden and dramatic influx of people to Ballarat in the early 1850s following the discovery of gold created an immediate demand for schools. The unsettled nature of life for many on the diggings was considered an unsuitable environment for children and schooling became a critical concern. The first government school at Ballarat was a tent school, the Forest Creek National School, which opened in February 1853.<sup>561</sup> Other schools struggled to operate on the diggings in poor accommodation and sometimes dangerous surroundings.

Some of the earliest schools were National Schools. The National School system was adopted by the Colony of New South Wales in 1855, modelled on the Irish National School system that was favoured by Governor Richard Bourke. A site for a National School was selected in central Ballarat in 1852.<sup>562</sup> National Schools were subsequently established in other locations, including a school near the Golden Point Lead (1856);<sup>563</sup> in Dana Street, Ballarat (by 1858) (FIGURE 3.262);<sup>564</sup> and at Lake Burrumbeet (No. 368?)

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<sup>558</sup> P.L. Brown (ed.), *Clyde Company Papers*, Vol. IV.

<sup>559</sup> See Buninyong map, VPRS 8168, PROV.

<sup>560</sup> Bate, 1978; Wright, 2013.

<sup>561</sup> Max Waugh, *An Ungodly Generation*, Melbourne Books, Melbourne, 2019, p. 180.

<sup>562</sup> W.S. Urquhart, *Plan of the Township of Ballarat, 1852*; VGG.

<sup>563</sup> News article, 1856.

<sup>564</sup> Waugh, 2019, p. 181.

1861–62.<sup>565</sup> A site for a National School was also reserved at Weatherboard Hill, Burrumbeet, in 1862.<sup>566</sup>



**Figure 3.227** The picturesque Dana Street National School on the occasion of its opening day in 1857. (Source: L.J. Blake, *Pioneer Schools of Australia*, 1977)

### Denominational Schools

With the enormous number of churches in Ballarat, amounting to 57 by 1885, there were also a correspondingly large number of church-schools associated with the Catholic, Presbyterian, Anglican and Wesleyan churches. Examples included St Alipius' Catholic School, Ballarat East (1853); Mount Pleasant Wesleyan School [by 1858];<sup>567</sup> Lake Learmonth School No. 386; the East Ballarat Free Presbyterian School c1863; Brown Hill Common School c.1866; Christ Church Anglican School, Ballarat c1860; Sebastopol Hill, Church of England school temporarily reserved;<sup>568</sup> and the Presbyterian School at Lake Learmonth 1861.<sup>569</sup>

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<sup>565</sup> For Lake Burrumbeet School, See PROV file.

<sup>566</sup> VGG, 15 February 1862, p. 311.

<sup>567</sup> News article, 1858.

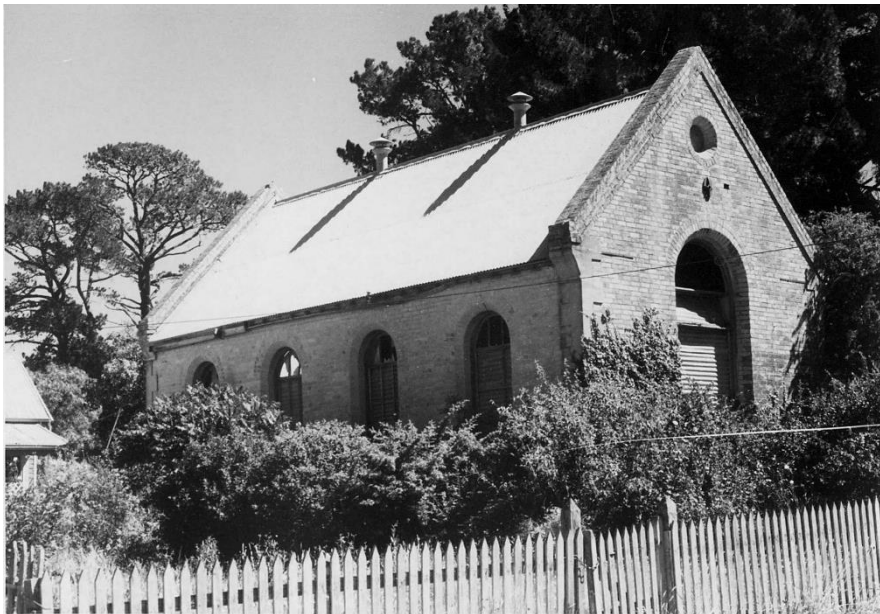
<sup>568</sup> VGG, 29 August 1862.

<sup>569</sup> PROV.

A Hebrew school was established at Ballarat East from c.1858,<sup>570</sup> and this operated until at least the mid-twentieth century.

### Common Schools

Common schools were introduced in Victoria under the *Common Schools Act* of 1863. Many existing National Schools became Common Schools under the new legislation. Examples of new schools built in this period included Learmonth Common School (1860), Sheepwash Common School at Tourello (1866), which later became Tourello State School); Warrenheip Common School (1866), and Sebastopol Common School No. 872.<sup>571</sup>



**Figure 3.228** The Springs State School (later Waubra State School) built c.1860 as the Springs School, photographed by John T. Collins, 1974. (Source: State Library Victoria, Accession No. H98.251/2584)

### State schools

A new system of 'state schools' in Victoria was established from 1873 following the Victorian *Education Act* of 1872, which established a new government school system based on the principles of 'free, compulsory and secular' education. The existing National Schools and Common Schools in the City of Ballarat were either absorbed into the new system or closed down. Most denominational schools ceased operating, with the

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<sup>570</sup> VGG, 1866.

<sup>571</sup> VGG, 1860, 1866.

exception of the Catholic schools. The Presbyterian school at Learmonth, for example, established in 1862, became Learmonth State School in 1873. Catholic schools survived through independent funding and later with the assistance of religious orders.

After 1873 a number of existing schools were converted to state schools, including The Springs (now Waubra), and the Lake Burrumbeet National School, which became Burrumbeet State School in 1875.<sup>572</sup> The Wesleyan school at Mount Pleasant, which originated as a tent school, became the site of the Mount Pleasant State School.<sup>573</sup>

A large number of new state schools were built both in central Ballarat and in the surrounding towns and villages. The first purpose-built state school to open in Ballarat was at Mount Pleasant in 1874.<sup>574</sup> A state school was also established at the Ballarat Orphanage.

State schools varied in size and style across the municipality. Several large brick state schools were built in the 1870s in the highly populated areas of Ballarat and suburbs, many to the designs of Department of Education architect Henry Bastow. The Urquhart Street State School, built to a plan by Bastow, was completed in 1879 (FIGURE 3.264). In smaller towns and hamlets, one-roomed timber schools were typical.

In the 1880s, the Education Department adopted 'rural school designs' for these smaller schools.<sup>575</sup> A separate teacher's residence was generally provided at country state schools, and these were typically modest timber cottages.

Typical elements of the state school grounds included a flagpole, toilet block and tree plantings. Some state school also had timber pavilions that were used for outdoor classes. Often there were memorial trees or avenues of trees that had been planted for Arbor Day or for commemorative purposes, such as a soldiers' memorial. Additional elements introduced to Victorian state schools in the early twentieth century included infants' rooms and sloyd rooms. Extensive additions were made to the Dana Street State School in 1912 (FIGURE 3.269).

Eureka State School (No. 1071) became a teachers' training school in 1929.<sup>576</sup>

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<sup>572</sup> Waubra Parish Plan; PROV; see also Blake 1973.

<sup>573</sup> 'Discover Historic Mount Pleasant Trail', 2019.

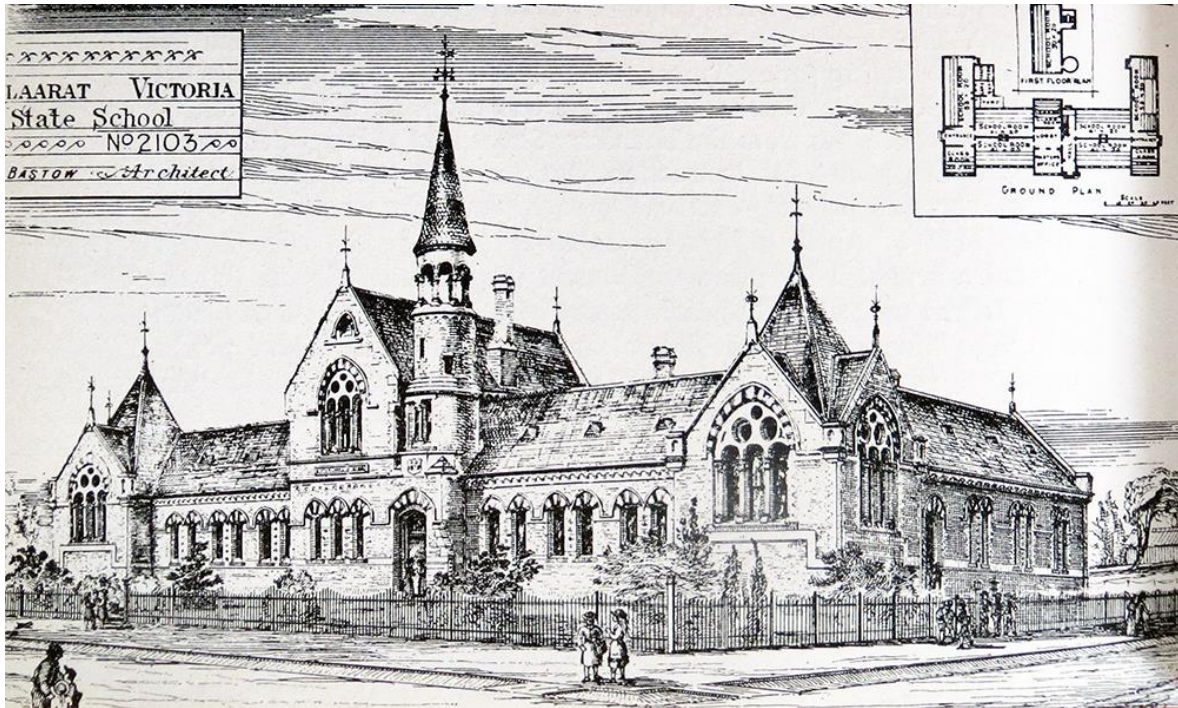
<sup>574</sup> VGG, 1873. Withers claims that the new building was not completed until 1874; Discover Historic Mount Pleasant Trail, 2019.

<sup>575</sup> Lawrence Burchell, *Victorian Schools*, 1980.

<sup>576</sup> VGG, 16 October 1929, p. 3765.

**Table 3.1** State schools operating in the present-day City of Ballarat. Information is largely drawn largely from Withers, *History of Ballarat* (1887), and Angus B. Watson (2003)

State schools in the City of Ballarat	Details
Ballarat. Dana Street State School No. 33	Building completed 1875
Ballarat. Pleasant Street State School No. 695	Commenced 1858
Ballarat. Alfredton State School No. 1091	Opened 1871building completed 1880
Ballarat. Wendouree State School No. 1813 (1877)	School opened 1877
Ballarat. Macarthur Street State School No. 2022	building completed 1878
Ballarat. Urquhart Street State School No. 210	Building completed 1879
Ballarat. Humffray Street State School No. 34	Opened 1853; new building 1876
Ballarat. Brown Hill State School No. 35	Opened 1853; new building 1877
Ballarat. Eureka Street State School No. 1071	Opened 1870; Building completed 1880
Ballarat. Mount Pleasant State School No. 1436	building completed 1874
Ballarat. Golden Point State School No. 1493	building completed 1875
Ballarat. St Paul’s State School (Soldiers Hill)	established 1877
Ballarat. Queen Street State School	building completed 1878
Ballarat. Black Hill State School	building completed 1878
Ballarat. Soldiers’ Hill State School No. 2022	
Redan State School No. 1289	building completed 1875; see also 1874 (VGG 1874)
Sebastopol State School No. 578	School opened in 1861
Sebastopol (Yarrowee) State School No. 1167	building completed 1875
Little Bendigo (Nerrina) State School No. 374	Commenced 1858; building completed 1878
Miners’ Rest State School, No. 1739	c.1878; teacher’s residence timber in 1886
Mount Rowan State School No. 757	Operated 1859-44; VGG 1873.
Coghill’s Creek State School No. 147	Commenced 1859
Buninyong State School No. 1270	Opened 1873 (replaced earlier school No. 59 dating to 1848)
Mount Clear State School No. 427	Present school opened in 1858
Weatherboard State School No. 656	Operated 1862-1948
Burrumbeet State School No. 368	Operated 1861-c.1970



**Figure 3.229** Architect Henry Bastow’s vision for the Urquhart Street State School No. 2103, Ballarat, c.1877. (Source: Les Blake, *Vision and Realisation*, 1973, vol. 2)

### State school pine plantations

State Schools established pine plantations in the 1920s, which were generally planted with fast-growing softwood Radiata Pine (*Pinus radiata*), for which there was always a market. These plantations were a means of educating school children with a knowledge and appreciation of forestry, and also enabling a school to earn revenue once the timber was cut and sold. This scheme, known as the State School Endowment Plantations, was rejuvenated in the 1960s.<sup>577</sup>

State schools in Ballarat that established a school pine plantation include Mount Pleasant.<sup>578</sup> There appears to be a school pine plantation on the road from Learmonth to Lake Wendouree.

<sup>577</sup> Doyle, 1999.

<sup>578</sup> History of Mount Pleasant, Ballarat, Facebook page.



**Figure 3.230** Photographic montage of the State Schools of Ballarat c.1916, from a Ballarat Home-coming publication. (Source: Ballarat City Libraries, via VC)



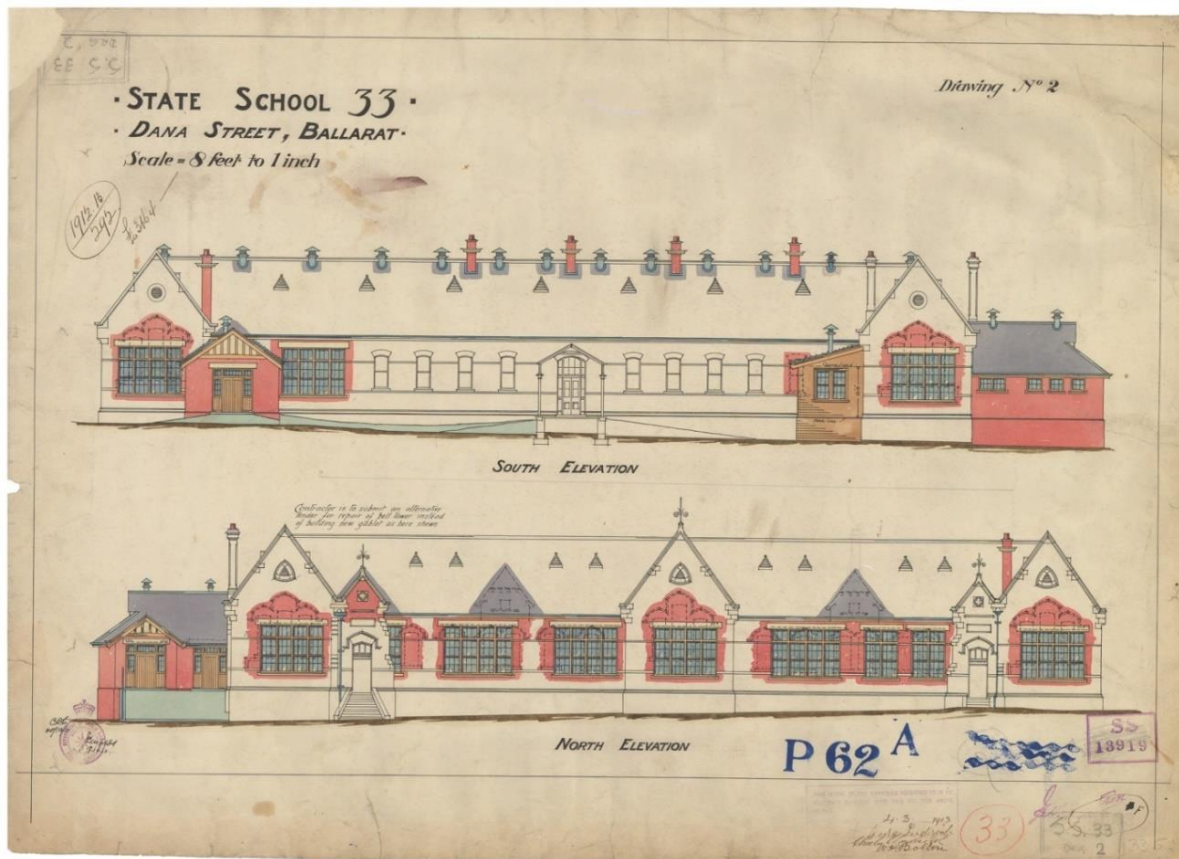
**Figure 3.231** Golden Point State School, Ballarat, built 1870s, photographed in 1949. (Source: PROV)



**Figure 3.232** Redan State School built in 1875, photographed by Laurie Burchell, c.1970s. (Source: State Library Victoria, Accession No. H2006.165/64)



**Figure 3.233** Former Sebastopol State School No. 1127, photographed in 2014. (Source: Anne Young blog)



**Figure 3.234** Additions to Dana Street State School No. 33, Ballarat, 1912. (Source: PROV)

### Catholic primary schools

In the wider Ballarat area a number of Catholic primary schools were established prior to the *Education Act* of 1872, including at Ballarat, Ballarat East (1854), Miners' Rest, Sebastopol (1856), and Warrenheip. The Education Act which discontinued government funding to Catholic schools threatened the closure of the Catholic schools in Ballarat. This included St Alipius in Ballarat East, which had been established in 1854. This school was situated in a strongly Irish Catholic area, close to the site of the Eureka Stockade. Its first head teacher was Anastasia Hayes who had nursed Peter Lalor when his arm was amputated in 1854 following the conflict at Eureka.<sup>579</sup>

Many of the Catholic schools in the City of Ballarat managed to continue operating after 1873, after a period of disruption, and with the assistance of religious orders that were brought out to Victoria in the 1870s and 1880s to keep the Catholic schools operating.

<sup>579</sup> Blake, 1973.

Ballarat was so well supplied with Catholic schools that one commentator remarked that Catholic families were in no danger of having to send their children to 'godless schools'.<sup>580</sup>

The Diocese of Ballarat built a number of new primary school buildings in the early twentieth century, including St Patrick's School in Ballarat Central, built in 1924.

### **Other non-government primary schools post-1873**

The Brown Hill Wesleyan school was a rare example of a non-Catholic denominational school that continued to function as a denominational school after the *Education Act of 1872*.<sup>581</sup>

The Hebrew School at Ballarat East continued to operate after the *Education Act of 1872*.

## **3.11.2 Industrial schools**

Following the *Neglected and Criminal Children's Act 1864*, a number of industrial and reformatory schools were established by the Victorian government, including in Melbourne, Geelong and Sunbury. These were established to address child vagrancy and poor attendance at school. A site for an industrial school at Ballarat was set aside on the west side of Lake Wendouree in 1866 and the school built the following year.<sup>582</sup>

Industrial schools were part of a grim and often brutal system of child exploitation in which children were required to do menial work in poor conditions. (See also Section 3.12.4) It is likely that Aboriginal children were among those who were sent to the Ballarat Industrial School.

## **3.11.3 Secondary schools**

### **Private secondary schools**

The first secondary schools in the Ballarat municipality were operated privately or by the Protestant churches. Two of the earliest examples were at Buninyong: Thomas Hastie's co-educational Presbyterian boarding school was operating by 1848, while the Buninyong Grammar School, associated with the Church of England, was established in 1859.<sup>583</sup>

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<sup>580</sup> *Advocate*, 27 April 1878, p. 11.

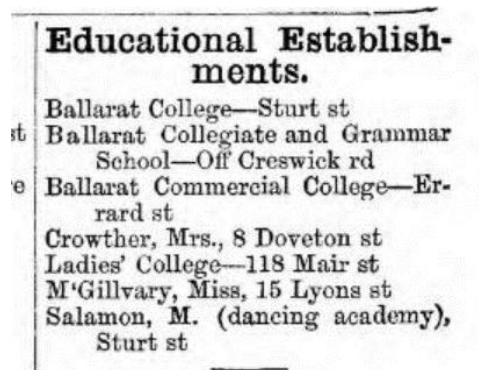
<sup>581</sup> *VGG*, 1878.

<sup>582</sup> Windle, *The Ballarat Directory for 1869*, p. 133; *VGG*, 29 January 1867, p. 202.

<sup>583</sup> *Buninyong Historical Society Newsletter*, June 2001.

In Ballarat, early boys' schools included Ballarat Grammar School (Anglican) in Wendouree and Ballarat College (Presbyterian) in Sturt Street, which was established in 1864. Other early schools include Clarendon College, established in 1868, and Grenville College.<sup>584</sup>

There were several small girls' schools, for example at Buninyong in 1848 and later at Sebastopol.<sup>585</sup> An early girls' school was the Queens Church of England Girls Grammar School, established in 1876.



**Figure 3.235** Excerpt from Windle, *The Ballarat Directory*, 1869, listing the 'Educational Establishments' in Ballarat at that time. (Source: Windle, 1869, p. 62)

### Catholic secondary schools

Prior to the 1890s there was no private Catholic education for secondary students. Some bright Catholic students attended schools in Melbourne that have boarding facilities. The Christian Brothers established St Patrick's College, Ballarat, in 1893, which provided Catholic boys with a more academic education that would equip them for employment or university entrance.

The Loreto Sisters also arrived in Ballarat in the 1890s and sought to provide Catholic girls with a well-rounded education. They established Loreto Mary's Mount convent school [VHR H1017] in the mid-1870s, which was one of the first two girls' schools in Victoria to prepare girls for matriculation.<sup>586</sup> The early feminist and political activist Bella Guerin was an early teacher at the school.<sup>587</sup>

<sup>584</sup> *Guide to Ballarat the Beautiful*, 1907. See also Niven 1890s.

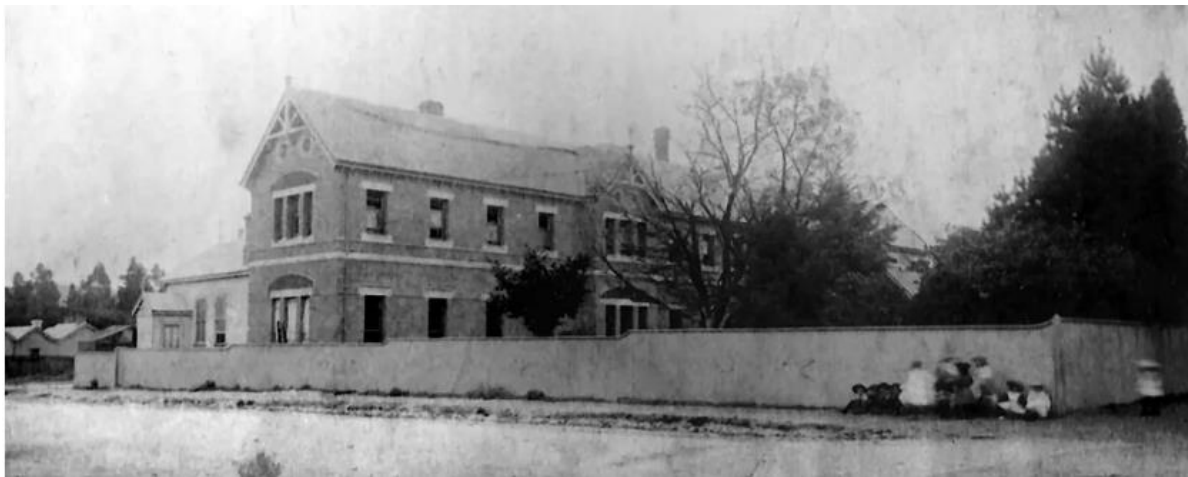
<sup>585</sup> Context, 'Sebastopol Heritage Review', 2012.

<sup>586</sup> See Mary Rhyllis Clark, *Loreto in Australia*, University of NSW Press, Sydney, 2010.

<sup>587</sup> Di Campbell, Bella Guerin biography, Federation University Honour Roll.

The Sisters of Mercy established a convent school at Ballarat East in 1881 (FIGURE 3.271) where they operated a Catholic girls' school, as well as teaching in the Catholic primary school. Like Mary's Mount, the Sisters of Mercy convent school was established without the extensive sports grounds that were often provided for boys' schools. Both schools were further developed from the 1970s in line with expanding the educational aspirations of Catholic girls. The Sisters of Nazareth also operated a school in Ballarat from 1907.<sup>588</sup>

The co-educational Damascus Catholic College in Ballarat is a more recently established Catholic secondary school.



**Figure 3.236** The Sisters of Mercy Convent, Ballarat East, c.1884-86. (Source: Sisters of Mercy)

### Government secondary schools

Before the introduction of government high schools, secondary education was provided at the Ballarat School of Mines, which taught matriculation classes by the 1880s. Bella Guerin, who had held a teaching position at Loreto, Ballarat, was appointed to teach the arts and matriculation students at the Ballarat School of Mines in the late 1880s. She later became the first female principal of matriculation classes.<sup>589</sup>

Ballarat High School [VHR H1797] was originally established as the Ballarat Agricultural High School, which opened in 1907 as one of the first government high schools in Victoria.<sup>590</sup> Initially opened in Sturt Street, Ballarat, a new school building for the Ballarat Agricultural High School was built in Ballarat North by 1909–10, in accordance with

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<sup>588</sup> Context, Sebastopol history, 2012.

<sup>589</sup> Federation University, 'Miss Julia (Bella) Guerin'.

<sup>590</sup> Helen Cotton; Blake, 1973; Heritage Council of Victoria, Ballarat High School, VHR H1797.

provisions in the *Education Act* of 1910.<sup>591</sup> Prior to this, a large number of adults were taught to Matriculation level at night school through classes provided at Mount Pleasant State School.<sup>592</sup> The Pleasant Street State School, Lake Wendouree, was elevated to a Higher Elementary School in 1915.<sup>593</sup> Ballarat East Boys High School No. 784 was also operating in the early twentieth century.

In 1937, Ballarat Girls' High School operated more classes from the former Ballarat East Town Hall.<sup>594</sup> In 1946, the former town hall and former police station building were demolished to make way for a new Ballarat Girls' High School. This was built by the Public Works Department to a design by its chief architect Percy Everett (FIGURE 3.269). The building was used as a school until 1973.<sup>595</sup>



**Figure 3.237** Former Ballarat Girls' High School, Ballarat East, Barkly Street, c.1980s; later occupied by the School of Mines. (Source: Federation University: Australian Historical Collection, object no. M9428-1)

<sup>591</sup> Heritage Council of Victoria, Ballarat High School, VHR H1797; Blake, 1973; Doyle, 2000.

<sup>592</sup> Garner, 2021.

<sup>593</sup> Blake, 1973.

<sup>594</sup> Context, 'Ballarat East Town Hall Gardens CMP', 2019.

<sup>595</sup> Context, 2019, p. 13.

There was a large number of government high schools built across Victoria in the postwar period to accommodate a growing population and to enable improved access to secondary education. Postwar government secondary schools established in the City of Ballarat include Ballarat North Technical School (1955), Sebastopol Technical High School (1962), and Wendouree Technical High School (1978). Mount Clear College (1981) was established through the amalgamation of the Ballarat East Boys' Technical School and the Ballarat Girls High School.

### **Technical schools**

The establishment of technical schools, originally solely for male students, was provided under the *Education Act 1910*.<sup>596</sup> A number of technical schools were subsequently established in Victoria, generally in areas where there was significant industrial development. A Junior Technical School was operating as part of the Ballarat High School from 1913 and this was relocated to a purpose-built school building at the School of Mines site in 1921. The Ballarat East Boys' Technical School was also established.

Returned soldiers received training in technical and trade-related skills at the Ballarat Technical School in the early 1920s. Later technical schools included Ballarat North Technical School (1955) for boys; and Sebastopol Technical High School (1962), and Wendouree Technical High School (1978), which were co-educational.<sup>597</sup>

## **3.11.4 Tertiary education**

### **Ballarat School of Mines**

The Ballarat School of Mines [VHR H1463], established in 1870, was the first of its kind in Victoria. It was established to address the problem of the lack of mine managers in Ballarat, and provided technical training in a range of areas, initially with a focus on mining engineering.<sup>598</sup> It was modelled on schools of mines in Britain and the United States, which were designed to train local men in all aspects of mining, including geology, mechanisation, and the use of chemical processes. Schools of mines were also established at Castlemaine, Bendigo, Daylesford, Clunes and many smaller mining

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<sup>596</sup> Doyle, 2000.

<sup>597</sup> Victorian Places, 'Sebastopol'; Wikipedia, Ballarat secondary schools.

<sup>598</sup> V.H. Arnold, *Victorian Year Book 1972*, Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics, Melbourne, 1972, p. 479

centres in Victoria. The Ballarat School of Mines awarded the first diploma in Victoria in 1896 and the first diploma in metallurgy in Victoria in 1897.<sup>599</sup>

The Ballarat School of Mines initially occupied two buildings in Lydiard Street in central Ballarat—the former Supreme Court (built 1869) and a former Wesleyan Church (built 1858). A two-storey brick Chemistry Building was built in 1885 [VHR H1463] (FIGURE 3.273). Additional buildings have since been added to the complex, including new buildings designed for specific technical educational purposes and the adaption of existing buildings, including the former Ballarat Gaol (1858–1862). The School of Mines was affiliated with the University of Melbourne in 1887, when it served as a ‘outpost’ of the university.<sup>600</sup> A guide to Ballarat from the early 1900s described the School of Mines as

... the finest educational institution of its kind in the Empire. It is fitted up with extensive laboratories and complete battery, chlorination, cyanide, and pyrites roasting plants; and within its ground is a model mine in miniature.<sup>601</sup>

The school also included a system garden.<sup>602</sup> The site now forms part of Federation University.

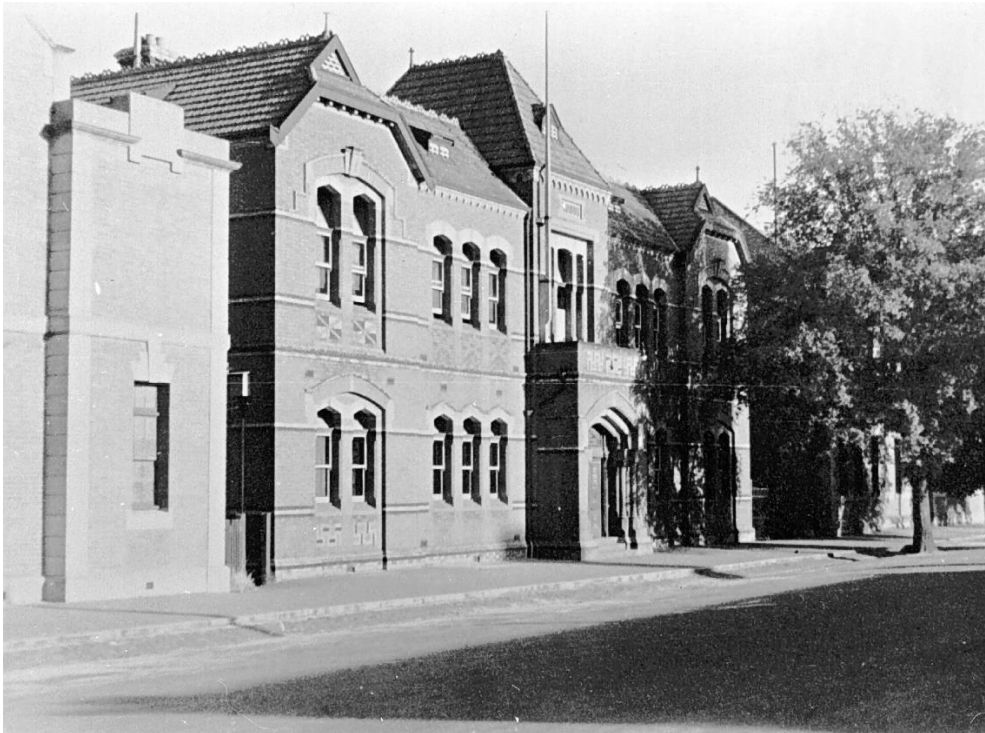
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<sup>599</sup> V.H. Arnold, *Victorian Year Book 1972*, Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics, Melbourne, 1972, p. 479.

<sup>600</sup> News article 1887.

<sup>601</sup> *Lester’s Hotel Guide to Ballarat*, c.1900s, p. 17.

<sup>602</sup> See David Wixted report.



**Figure 3.238** Ballarat School of Mines, 1934, photo by K.H. Wilkie. (Museum Victoria Collections, Item MM 1513)

### **Ballarat Teachers' College**

The Ballarat Teachers' Training College was established in 1927 at the former Ballarat East Town Hall building.<sup>603</sup> State-run teachers' colleges were provided for under the *Education Act* of 1872. This use of the former town hall continued until 1933 when the lease ended. A hostel for teacher trainees was also established in c.1930s-50s.<sup>604</sup>

The Ballarat Teachers' College became the Ballarat State College in the 1970s and was later absorbed into the University of Ballarat (now Federation University).

### **Nursing**

Nursing education has been provided in Ballarat since the late 1880s. The Ballarat Hospital provided a nurses' training school where the nurses lived on site. A new nurses' residence was built in 1941. The Catholic hospital, St John of God also provided nursing training. Nursing is now taught through Federation University and the Australian Catholic University in association with Ballarat's hospitals.

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<sup>603</sup> Context, 'Ballarat East Town Hall Gardens CMP', 2019, p. 12; Blake, 1973.

<sup>604</sup> Victorian Collections.

### **Ballarat Institute of Advanced Education**

The Ballarat Institute of Advanced Education, established in 1970, evolved from the School of Mines that dated back to 1870.<sup>605</sup> A new site was acquired at Mount Helen where a number of buildings were erected, including a residential college (FIGURES 3.274, 3.275).<sup>606</sup>

### **University of Ballarat; Federation University**

The Ballarat College of Advanced Education became the Ballarat University College in the 1980s and initially operated in affiliation with the University of Melbourne. In 1994, the new University of Ballarat was established through a special Act of Parliament. The campus at Mount Helen has expanded with new areas of study and other requirements.

Federation University's Camp Street Campus occupies a large area in the central city of Ballarat that includes the former School of Mines, the Ballarat Gaol, the Ballarat Post Office, and several other early buildings.

In 2013, following a merger with some of the campuses of Monash University, the University of Ballarat was renamed Federation University.

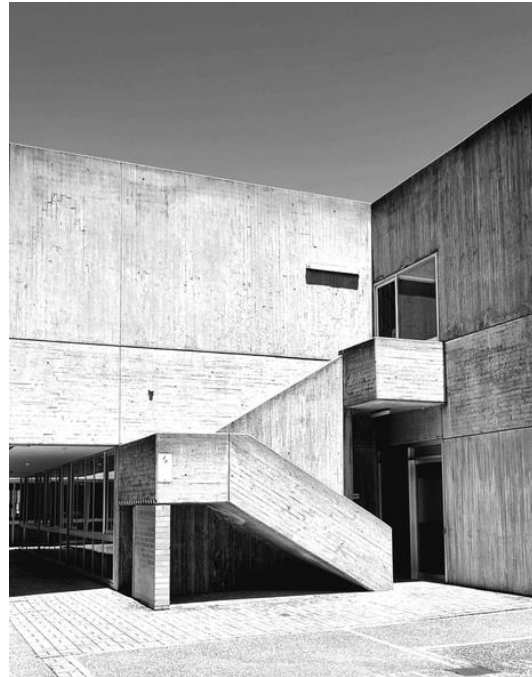
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<sup>605</sup> Blake, 1973.

<sup>606</sup> V.H. Arnold, *Victorian Year Book 1972*, Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics, Melbourne, 1972, p. 469.



**Figure 3.239** Lucie Akers photograph, 2017, Building E, Mount Helen campus of Federation University; formerly the Ballarat CAE. (Source: Federation University Collections, via VC)



**Figure 3.240** Lucie Akers, Administration Building, Mount Helen campus of Federation University; formerly the Ballarat CAE. (Source: Federation University Collections, VC ID 20525)

### **Australian Catholic University – Aquinas Campus**

The Catholic Church operated its own teachers’ training colleges. Aquinas College in Ballarat was established for this purpose by the Sisters of Mercy in 1909. This occupied a building in Mair Street, Ballarat, which had formerly been used as the Queens Church of England Girls Grammar School; prior to that it had been a private home. Aquinas College was later absorbed by the Australian Catholic University (ACU) and became the Aquinas Campus of ACU.

### **Central Business College**

The Central Business College was established by the 1860s. It was operating in the grand National Mutual Building in Sturt Street, Ballarat, from the early 1900s (FIGURES 3.276). The business college admitted women as well as men and was designed to equip students with the necessary skills for clerical work and general business.<sup>607</sup>

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<sup>607</sup> Ballarat Progress Association, *Guide to Ballarat the Beautiful*, Ballarat, [1907].



Commercial Class at Work.  
**CENTRAL BUSINESS COLLEGE, NATIONAL MUT. BDD.,**  
 + STURT STREET.  
 Subjects : Shorthand, Typewriting, Tabulating Bookkeeping, Brushwork,  
 Lessons by Correspondence. **ARTHUR H. BRUMFIELD, M.P.S. (Eng.), Principal.**

**Figure 3.241** Central Business College, National Mutual Building, Sturt Street, Ballarat. (Source: SLV publication)

### 3.11.5 Kindergarten and pre-school

The 'kindergarten' model of early childhood education was introduced to Victoria in the early twentieth century and was taken up both by private schools and government state schools. The Free Kindergarten Union was established in the early 1900s, primarily to provide early education for disadvantaged children, and the Ballarat Free Kindergarten was established in 1912 based at the Town Mission Hall.<sup>608</sup>

Early kindergartens often occupied a local church hall or public hall. Kindergarten and pre-school became a more widely accepted component of children's education in the 1950s and 1960s. Purpose-built kindergartens were built from the 1950s. An example is the pre-school established by the Methodist Church (now Uniting Church) at Alfredton (c.1958).<sup>609</sup> Other examples include the Linda Brown Pre-school and the Wendouree Pre-school, both established by c.1960. The Yirram Burrton Early Learning Centre for First Nations children at Sebastopol was established in the early 2000s, with the support of the Ballarat and District Aboriginal Co-op.

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<sup>608</sup> *Ballarat Star*, 30 March 1912, p. 3.

<sup>609</sup> *VGG*, 16 October 1963, p. 3225.

### 3.11.6 Special education

The McCallum House Centre for Disabled Children was established at Sebastopol in the 1950s by the Ballarat Mentally Retarded Children's Welfare Association, which was headed by A. McCallum.<sup>610</sup>

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<sup>610</sup> Newspaper Cutting - Report on McCallum House Annual General Meeting, Ballarat, circa 1960, Item HT 34573M.