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BALLARAT

Community Expo

Let's Chat Ballarat Community Expo

Thursday 26 March 2025, 4 – 8pm

Friday 27 March 2025, 9am – 1pm



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Background

This book has been created to use as a learning tool and will help individuals understand what to expect when visiting the Let's Chat Ballarat Community Expo.

This book aims to provide information about:

- The Let's Chat Ballarat Community Expo and activities
- Where to get help
- Some sounds and sights people may experience.
- Things people can do to feel comfortable and safe.

About the Expo



I am going to the Let's Chat Ballarat Community Expo at Civic Hall Ballarat. I can take a support person with me if I want to.

The expo provides community members with an opportunity to give in-person feedback, engage with Councillors and staff and learn more about local services.

When is the Expo?

MARCH 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31	1	2	3	4

The expo will be held over 2 days:

- Thursday 26 March, 4-8pm
- Friday 27 March, 9am-1pm.

I can go at a time that suits me on either day.



The Ballarat Civic Hall building

The expo will be held at Ballarat Civic Hall at 300-304 Mair Street Ballarat, 3350.

On-street parking is available around the venue and throughout the Ballarat CBD.

Free parking is available within a short distance of the venue at Doveton Crescent.

Metered parking is available surrounding Civic Hall.

There is accessible parking on the street out the front of Civic Hall – allocated as a 5min drop off zone.

If I need to take the bus, I can use the Transport Victoria Journey Planner

<https://transport.vic.gov.au/journey>



Getting into the building

Civic Hall is a big building. It has three doors at the front that I can use to get inside.

Helpers will be at the doors to welcome me.

The foyer

When I go through the doors
I will be in the foyer.

There will be displays and
information I can look at
here before going into the
Expo.

I might think the lights feel
bright in the foyer.

I might notice a contrasting
zig zag pattern on the floor.

I can stay close to my
support person.



Inside the Hall



Inside the hall there will be lots of different stalls set up. I can visit the stalls to learn more about City of Ballarat services.

There might be other people visiting the stalls at the same time as me.

Sometimes I might have to wait my turn. Waiting my turn is the fair thing to do.

Councillor Corner



Cr Damon Saunders
Alfredton Ward



Cr Ted Lapkin
Brown Hill Ward



Cr Samantha McIntosh
Central Ward



Mayor Cr Tracey Hargreaves
Delacombe Ward



Cr Tess Morgan
Golden Point Ward



Cr Jim Rinaldi
North Ward



Cr Des Hudson OAM
Sebastopol Ward



Cr Jay Morrison
Wendouree Ward

There will be sessions to have a conversation with a Councillor scheduled across the two days.

I can find the schedule here <https://www.ballarat.vic.gov.au/city/events/lets-chat-ballarat>

I don't have to book a session to see a Councillor at the Expo. I can just go at that time.

There might be other people talking to the Councillors at the same time as me.

Food



There will be food and water available at the Expo.

The food is free and available to everyone. I will only take what I need so there is some for everyone.

I might notice food smells while I'm at the Expo.

Activities and prizes



There will be fun activities to do at the Expo.

There will be a photo booth, face painting, colouring and craft activities, story time and more.

I can join in if I want to. My support person can help if I need.

There will be prizes for engaging with the Expo stalls and sharing my feedback.

Sights and sounds I might experience



It might feel busy and noisy at the Expo.

Different sounds might include talking, music and people moving around.

I might see TV screens with videos playing.

I can use ear protection if I want.

Quiet space

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**THIS IS A
SENSORY SPACE**



This space is set up to provide a calming environment for individuals who may be experiencing sensory overload and/or seeking a quiet space to reduce stimulation.

A quiet space will be set up at the Expo.

I can find it on the second level of the Civic Hall building.

I can use the stairs or lift in the foyer to get to there.

The quiet space can be used by anyone who feels like the Expo is too busy or noisy.

I won't take any food or drink there.

I can ask a helper or support person to show me where to find the quiet space.

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There will be Helpers at the Expo.

Some will be wearing a Navy shirt with a white City of Ballarat logo on it, or behind the stalls.

They can answer my questions and tell me where to find things.



Toilets

There are 2 wheelchair accessible toilets in the foyer.

There are more toilets up the stairs on both sides of the foyer.

I can ask my support person or a Helper to show me where the toilets are.



The Expo is fun for everyone

The Let's Chat Ballarat
Community Expo is a fun event
for everyone to attend.

For more information



For more information, I can visit the website.

<https://www.ballarat.vic.gov.au/city/events/lets-chat-ballarat>

<https://mysay.ballarat.vic.gov.au/lets-chat-ballarat-2026>