

# ENGINEERS WEEKEND

## BALLARAT. VICTORIA

“Ballarat Then and Now”

3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> October 2025

Draft

Welcome to the 2025 Engineers Weekend in Ballarat. Each year we visit a region in Victoria and enjoy friendship and fellowship with other Engineers, their friends and families.

We endeavour to work with Engineering Heritage Victoria to inspect at significant past & present Engineering Projects. The support and partnership of IPWEA (Vic) is acknowledged.

**Ballarat** is a city in the [Central Highlands](#) of Victoria, Australia. At the census in 2021, Ballarat had a population of 111,973, making it the third-largest urban inland city in Australia and the third-largest city in Victoria.

Within months of Victoria separating from the colony of New South Wales in 1851, gold was discovered near Ballarat, sparking the Victorian gold Rush. Ballarat subsequently became a thriving town that for a time rivalled Melbourne, the capital of Victoria, in terms of wealth and cultural influence. In 1854, following a period of civil disobedience in Ballarat over gold licenses, local miners launched an armed uprising against government forces. Known as the Eureka Rebellion, it led to the introduction of white male suffrage in Australia, and as such is interpreted as the origin of Australian democracy. The rebellion's symbol, the Eureka Flag, has become a national symbol.

Proclaimed a city on 9 September 1870, Ballarat's prosperity, unlike that of many other gold boomtowns, continued until the late 19th century, as the city's fields experienced sustained high gold yields for many decades. By the turn of the century, Ballarat's importance relative to Melbourne rapidly faded with the slowing of gold extraction. It has endured as a major regional centre and is the commercial capital and largest city of the Central Highlands, as well as a significant tourist destination. Ballarat is known for its history, culture and well-preserved colonial-era heritage, with much of the city subject to heritage overlays.



Sturt St Ballarat.



Ballarat Fish Hatchery 150 years old.



Ballarat Railway Station built 1862

### Program of EVENTS:

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October - evening:** Meet and Greet “Icebreaker”

“Early bird” weekenders we will meet at the Golden Point Hotel 639 Main Road, Golden Point 5333 5955  
6PM for PAYG Dinner and Drinks

Our suggested accommodation Venue:- Mercure

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2025 – Approx. 10.30am Start when day trippers from Melbourne join us**

**Victoria has a rich Engineering Heritage and this is your opportunity to see some of it, feel it and learn about Ballarat with likeminded Engineers and partners**

Join a heritage walk around Central Ballarat with a local historian guide.

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### Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2025

- 10.30am** Meet at the Ballarat Railway Station for a Heritage walk (approx. 1 hour)
- 12 Noon** Walk to the North Star Hotel for PAYG lunch
- 1.15pm.** Bus Pick up and visit ALSTOM Railway equipment and  
**TBC** – MaxiTrans – Freight Group, Wendouree
- 5:00pm** Bus arrives back at Ballarat Railway Station to enable our day trippers to return to Melbourne by train

**This is an IPWEA Vic funded member & partner event.**

Then back to your accommodation - Mercure Hotel and Convention Centre, Ballarat or other accommodation,  
as you may have arranged.

**6.00pm** - Dinner, with guest speakers and fellowship at the Mercure Convention Centre Cost of Buffet Dinner and  
Limited Drinks \$90 per person.

### Program of EVENTS:

#### Sunday 15<sup>h</sup> October

- 10.30 am meet at the Ballarat Fish Hatchery the oldest Fish Hatchery in Australia
- 11.30 am meet at Ballarat Tramway Museum – Ballarat Botanic Gardens.
- 12.30pm Lunch at Pipers by the Lake Restaurant for PAYG will be arranged with pre orders to assist the Restaurant
- 2.30pm Plan for next year and finish

#### For Weekenders staying in Ballarat – Sunday afternoon activities maybe:-

- Check out the Botanical Gardens, Prime Ministers Walk, the Begonia houses, National POW Memorial
- Michael Unwin wines at Windermere

### Accommodation suggested:

- **Mercure Motel & Convention Centre, Golden Point** 03 5327 1200 note some rooms reserved in advance for this group advise you are with the Engineers weekend. Early booking and reservation recommended

### Registration

Registration for attendance at the weekend events. Confirmation by 15<sup>th</sup> September 2025 will assist the organising committee to arrange details with venues.

**Cost:** Friday evening –  
Saturday AM  
Saturday Evening  
Sunday

“Icebreaker” Golden Point Hotel - PAYG  
Heritage Walk, Bus tour, (IPWEA Funded) - FREE Sat lunch PAYG  
Dinner - Registration cost \$90 per person. Pay in advance  
Hatchery, Tramways both PAYG, Luncheon Pipers PAYG, pre-order meal on the Friday evening.

**Payment:** MJ & MF Duke Bank No 633000 Account No 107 230 732 please reference your Surname in the payment. We can then cross reference to your booking request

### For Further Information

David J Eltringham, OAM, FIE Aust. EIPWEA, CP Eng (Ret)  
Mob: 0418 147 482  
Email: [djelt@bigpond.com](mailto:djelt@bigpond.com)

Administration Support  
Martin & Mary-Anne Duke  
0458 788 747 / 0438 529 573  
Email: [fam\\_duke@yahoo.com](mailto:fam_duke@yahoo.com)

**NOTE:** The whole weekend is premised, that all participants do so at their own risk.

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