

WE ARE BALLARAT

AMBASSADORS

Our people are the future of Ballarat.

Our people are what makes Ballarat unique.

Our people are contributing to a new cultural fabric, a rich tapestry of threads that are moving our city forwards.

The word all is in our name, it is in our ethos.

We are Ballarat, We are all Ballarat and We are ALL in this together.

We believe that recovery for Ballarat lies in all of our hands.

We Are Ballarat celebrates our unique values:

We are active.

We are carers.

We are learners, teachers and curious.

We are makers, artists and creators.

We are generous.

We are compassionate.

We are ambitious.

We are Ballarat.

And our We Are Ballarat Ambassadors will be the champions of these messages.

Our ambassadors are a diverse range of leaders who inspire, care, create and make, and we are honoured to have them on Team Ballarat.

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DR MICHAEL AKINDEJU

Michael proudly calls Ballarat home. It's clear when talking about our city his values of family and community are of utmost importance - it's seems almost an afterthought that he is also an acclaimed engineer with more qualifications and accolades than there is space to mention. When government and corporate officials seek Michael's professional services, he proudly claims he insists they come to meet him in Ballarat so he has a chance to show off our city. Dr Akindeju dedicates his time to community and is President of the Ballarat African Association which has more than 1,200 members hailing from 14 African countries.

Dr Michael Akindeju (Ph.D, CEng, CChem, RPEQ) is Director and Principal Consulting Process Engineer MKPro Group and President of the Ballarat African Association.



TIM BONE

Tim Bone passionately believes Ballarat is a foodie's paradise, which probably explains why he is always smiling. After moving from Nhill to Ballarat to attend university, he worked at Yuille Park Community College for 11 years running the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden Program where he taught and inspired under-privileged children. After appearing as a contestant on MasterChef Australia in 2019, Tim had the new-found confidence to go out on his own and make food his career, launching Tim's Toasties right here in Ballarat. He proudly uses as much regionally sourced produce as possible including the artisan breads crafted at 1816 Bakehouse and charcuterie from Salt Kitchen. Being based in Ballarat allows Tim to build a home, while still having the ability to take on opportunities in Melbourne or on a national scale.

**Tim Bone is owner of Ballarat-based business
Tim's Toasties.**



GORGI COGLAN

From the lights and action in the studio of Channel 10, to curating unique and boutique experiences at The Provincial and Lola, or singing on national TV (under THAT suit), Gorgi Coghlan is a respected broadcaster, presenter and one of Ballarat's most well-known advocates. Beyond that, Gorgi describes her happy space as the farm she calls home just outside of Ballarat, among family and friends, nature, horses, flower gardens and veggie patches.

Gorgi has big dreams for Ballarat and is passionate about people discovering our beautiful city. It was over a coffee at Lola that, when discussing how important our community is, Gorgi proclaimed "Ballarat has the word all in it, it's our people that make us so special, we are ALL Ballarat" and the rest is history.

Gorgi Coghlan is a television broadcaster, presenter and owner of The Provincial & Lola.



DR DEANNE GILSON

Deanne is a proud Wadawurrung woman of Aboriginal and Australian/English descent, living on her ancestral Country of Ballarat. It has, and always will be, her home. Ballarat has inspired her work, from the ochre sourced at Black Hill to the landscape and colours of our lands. Deanne has a PhD in Aboriginal Women's Business and not only teaches and inspires a new generation of students' cultural education, but has taken on commissions for White Night, University of Melbourne, Victorian Opera and Kardinia Park. Deanne is an emerging elder in her community, and has just received several awards including the Ballarat ZONTA award, the Koorie Heritage Trust City of Melbourne Metro Tunnel Award and the Ballarat Arts Foundation Eureka Art Award. Deanne has taught more than 12,000 students across Regional Victoria about her culture and bringing positive change and awareness of Aboriginal people through art, and has been shortlisted for the 66th Blake Art Prize in Sydney 2021.

Deanne Gilson holds a Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) focused in Aboriginal Women's Business from Deakin University and is an acclaimed artist and teacher.



MR MARK GUIRGUIS

Mark describes driving up the ‘big hill’ from Melbourne and the feeling of being home - relaxed, happy and inspired by his surroundings in Ballarat. The appreciation he shows for our history and heritage is clear, but it’s when he discusses the bubbling progressive nature of our city that Mark becomes animated. The arts, the culture, the hospitality, the people and the space are cited as reasons why Ballarat is so special.

Mark dedicates his time to providing specialist surgical services to the region. He casually mentions that he has treated over 35,000 patients in the 16 years he has lived in Ballarat. Mark is a philanthropist and influential advocate for the Arts, sponsoring the prestigious Guirguis New Art Prize and holding the position of Trustee of the Art Gallery of Ballarat Foundation.

Mr Mark Guirguis is an Ear Nose & Throat Specialist at ENT Ballarat and Trustee of Art Gallery of Ballarat Foundation.



STEVE MONEGHETTI AM

One of Australia's all-time greatest marathon runners, Steve is a proud, life-long resident of Ballarat, and continues to be one of the city's most fervent advocates. He has run an incredible 22 marathons and finished in 11th place or higher in 20 of them. Throughout his professional running career and post-retirement, Steve has remained active in the sporting, civic and community life of Ballarat. The Steve Moneghetti Track, which surrounds Lake Wendouree is named in his honour, and to this day he can be seen running the track and the streets of Ballarat.

Steve Moneghetti AM competed for Australia at four Olympic Games, four Commonwealth Games and six World Championships.



SARA QUON

As Chief Executive Officer of the Sovereign Hill Museums Association since 2019, Sara Quon is passionate about the award-winning outdoor museum's place in the cultural, economic and social fabric of Ballarat. She is also an advocate for regional Victoria having held senior roles in tourism, food and wine across the state in addition to currently serving on the board of Visit Victoria.

Sara talks strongly about community and a sense of place in Ballarat, there are over 350 staff and 260 volunteers that bring Sovereign Hill to life every day, providing the experiences that become life-long memories for their visitors. The vision for Sovereign Hill's 20 year Masterplan will help define our city in the future, and her commitment to being a leader in our community is clear in the involvement she has on the Board of the Committee for Ballarat and membership of the Federation University Business School Industry Advisory Group.

Sara Quon is Chief Executive Officer at Sovereign Hill Museums Association and serves on the Board of Visit Victoria and Committee for Ballarat.

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weareballarat.com.au

Ballarat's future is in all of our hands. And working together, we can do great things.

