Information

2026 Festive Season Information - Ballarat and surrounds

Hampers, food relief and other wellbeing resources for the Festive Season



Christmas Cheer (toys, hampers and vouchers) - Anglicare Victoria, Salvation Army and Uniting

ALL registrations for Christmas support through Anglicare Victoria, Salvation Army and Uniting are being managed at Uniting. (people must choose one agency for Christmas support)

To register go to reception at Uniting, 105 Dana St, Ballarat, 10am to 2pm Monday to Friday from November 2nd - 30th

Please bring your Health Care Card. Once registered, you'll receive a designated timeslot to collect your box.

Workers wanting to register and collect on behalf of a client need to contact the agency directly to discuss options.

For further information:
Salvation Army – 5337 0600
Uniting – 5332 1286
Anglicare Victoria – 5333 0600

*From 1st of December contact individual agency listed above (there will be limited support available.)

St Vincent De Paul (SVDP) – Reverse Advent Calendar Hamper

Registrations Mon, Wed and Fri 10am -12pm at 4 Dawson St Sth, Ballarat.

To ensure more individuals and families can access support over the festive season, some details will be collected by emergency relief services to prevent duplication and to gather data to inform the current need in our community.

Reverse Advent Calendar / Big Blessing Day

This is a free event for everyone registered to receive a Reverse Advent Calendar box.

To receive a Reverse Advent Calendar box and participate in the Big Blessing Day, please register through one of the following agencies: Anglicare Victoria, Salvation Army, Uniting and St Vincent De Paul as part of the Christamas Cheer registration process.

Big Blessing Day
Wednesday 16th December.
York St Church of Christ - 410 York St, Ballarat East

Attendees can enjoy a variety of offerings, including fresh fruit and vegetables, toiletries, and gift items. Plus, there will be a free BBQ, hot and cold drinks, fairy floss, popcorn, face painting, a balloon artist, and a petting zoo!

Hilltop Church

Food relief- Frozen meals, fruit and veg, bread on alternate weeks.
(by appointment only)
503 Mair St, Ballarat
5331 5957 office@hilltop.church (leave a phone message or email if unattended)
Closed: 24th Dec - 25th Jan 2027
harvestfoodministry.org.au

Soup Buses - Ballarat On Track Foundation

Free hot dinner (no registration required, just show up)

Ballarat Central Soup Bus - Corner of Eyre St and Doveton St South, Ballarat (carpark of Camerons)
Mon - Thurs 7.30pm - 9pm
Sun 5.30 pm - 7.30pm

Sebastopol Soup Bus (Gerty) - Sebastopol Community Centre car park Vickers St Sebastopol.
Mon- & Wed 7pm - 8.30pm

14 Violet Grove, Wendouree
Sit in service - Free 2 course meal
Every Tues & Thurs 6:30pm - 8pm

**Closed New Year's Eve.
ontrackfoundation.org.au

Ballarat Seventh Day Adventist Church

Emergency Food Distribution Programme
1290 Grevillea Rd, Wendouree
4368 7089
ballaratadventist.com.au

Soul + Food: trolley of groceries (pantry staples, frozen items and fresh food).
* *money donation requested per trolley*
Thurs 10.30am -12.30pm
(closed 17th Dec - 21st Jan, 2027)

Community Christmas Carols:
Thurs 18th Dec at the Seventh Day Adventist Church - 1290 Grevillea Rd, Wendouree. Light supper provided at 6pm. Carols 7pm
All welcome - registration required

Y Ballarat

Bags of Joy: Agencies nominate young people aged 12-21yrs for a gift
NOMINATIONS CLOSE FRIDAY NOV 6th, 2026
*Bags of Joy are limited. We cannot guarantee all nominations will be successful
Nomination form & more info - Bags Of Joy : Y Ballarat - Empowering young people
Agencies will be advised in early December if successful and when to collect from Y Ballarat, Barkly Square during business hours

ReCranked: bikes (3ys +) and brand-new helmets are fitted to clients at the ReCranked workshop.

To request a bike contact 0460 631 985 or recranked@yballarat.org.au
ReCranked Workshop open
Mon, Wed, Fri 2pm -5pm

Located at Wendouree West Recreation Reserve, 1 Holly Grove Wendouree

Innovative Health Services for Homeless Youth (IHSHY), Ballarat Community Health. November 2026

Details may change without notice: Please contact individual organisation for more information

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On Christmas Day

Uniting Ballarat - BreezeWay

Christmas sit down lunch
102 Albert St, Ballarat
5332 1286
Christmas Eve lunch - 11:30am - 1:30pm
Christmas Day lunch - 11:30am - 1:30pm
Registrations: to be made in person at Breezeway or at Uniting reception on Dana St (registrations close when capacity is reached)

Our Lady Help of Christian Church Wendouree

Christmas sit down lunch
OLHC Parish Hall: 482a Gillies St North, Wendouree
Christmas Day - 12pm -2pm
Registrations: To book call 0491 029 217 (leave a message with contact name and number). Bookings commence Nov 1st 2026.
Seating is limited - please book early

Cape Clear, Illabarook and Rokewood Junction Community Committee Pantry

10am-8pm Lost Souls Christmas Day, come for a meal or a whole day
Lunch at midday and dinner at 6pm
An afternoon of festive games, cuppa, socialising ALL WELCOME
call 0494592630 to book

Beaufort Christmas Lunch

Christmas day sit down lunch
Pyrenees Community House
12pm. Cost $10
Lunch at the RSL Hall,
13 Willoby St, Beaufort VIC 3373
Bookings 53493150

Telephone and Online Services

For connection and support

Lifeline: 13 11 14
24 hrs
lifeline.org.au
For anyone in crisis

Beyond Blue: 1300 224 636
24 hrs
beyondblue.org.au
Anyone feeling anxious or depressed

Kids Helpline: 1800 551 800
24 hrs
kidshelpline.com.au
Counselling for young people aged 5 - 25

headspace: 1800 650 890
7 days 9am - 1am
eheadspace.org.au
Web Chat 7 days 9am - 1am
Online and phone support service for young people between 12 and 25

Reachout:
au.reachout.com 24hrs
Online, anonymous and confidential, lets young people connect on their terms. From one-to-one peer support via PeerChat (a free, text-based service where young people can chat with trained peer workers) to professional Parent Coaching for families.

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander:
13 92 76 (24 hrs)
13yarn.org.au
24/7 Crisis support

LGBTIQ+: 1800 184 527
7 days 3pm - Midnight
qlife.org.au
Free LGBTIQ+ peer support and referral

Rainbow Door: 1800 729 367
or Text: 0480 017 246
7 days 10am - 5pm
rainbowdoor.org.au
A free specialist helpline providing information, support, and referral to all LGBTIQA+ Victorians, their friends and family

Culturally Diverse:
embracementalhealth.org.au
For anyone from a migrant or refugee background

Suicide Call Back Service: 1300 659 467
suicidecallbackservice.org.au
For anyone thinking about suicide

SuicideLine Victoria: 1300 651 251
suicideline.org.au
Free 24/7 professional telephone counselling

StandBy Support After Suicide: 1300 727 247
For anyone bereaved or impacted by suicide

Family Relationship Advice Line: 1800 050 321
Weekdays 8am - 8pm, Saturday 10am - 4pm
familyrelationships.gov.au
For families experiencing relationship or separation issues

Eating Disorders Victoria: 1300 550 236
eatingdisorders.org.au
Free and confidential service for people experiencing eating disorders or those who are supporting them.

Anxiety Recovery Centre Victoria (ARCVic):
1300 269 438 or 03 9830 0533
arcvic.org.au
Providing support, recovery and educational services to people and families living with anxiety disorders

DirectLine: 1800 888 236
directline.org.au
Confidential drug and alcohol counselling, information, and referral to services

National Debt Helpline: 1800 007 007
Weekdays 9:30am - 4:30pm
ndh.org.au
Live Chat Weekdays 9am - 8pm
Access resourced and advice from a private financial counselor

MensLine Australia: 1300 78 99 78
24 hrs
mensline.org.au
Counselling service offering support for Australian men and boys

Men's Referral Service: 1300 766 491
ntv.org.au
Offers assistance, information and counselling to help men who use family violence

Seniors Rights Victoria: 1300 368 821
seniorsrights.org.au
Provides information, support, advice and education to help prevent elder abuse and safeguard the rights, dignity and independence of older people.

1800RESPECT: 1800 737 732
1800respect.org.au
National sexual assault, family and domestic violence counselling line for any Australian who has experienced, or is at risk of, family and domestic violence and/or sexual assault

Safe Steps Family Violence Response Centre:
1800 015 188 (24 hrs)
safesteps.org.au
Live Chat Weekdays 9am - Midnight
For anyone worried about the safety at home

Child Protection Emergency Service:
1300 360 462 Weekdays 8:45am - 5pm
13 12 78 After-hours
services.dffh.vic.gov.au/child-protection
Contact if you believe a child needs to be protected from abuse or neglect

The Orange Door: 1800 219 819
orangedoor.vic.gov.au
Support for people who are experiencing or at risk of family violence or need some family support.

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Innovative Health Services for Homeless Youth (IHSHY), Ballarat Community Health. November 2026