

# Ballarat's Historic Streetscapes Walking Tour



Visit Ballarat

## Ballarat Visitor Information Centre

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Open 9am-5pm daily, closed Christmas Day



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## Discover the grand architectural links to Ballarat's dramatic past.

From 1851 the world's adventurers, non-conformists and fortune hunters flocked to Ballarat's goldfields, and along with banks and governments, many sunk their fortunes into the streetscape. Within 10 years, Ballarat boasted the colony's finest collection of buildings.

Today, the bluestone and handmade brick structures are still as relevant and treasured as ever. They've been reinvented as wine bars and theatres, galleries and bustling cafes, making Ballarat an intriguing mix of old and new.



### CAMP STREET

The government troopers, ever-keen to maintain a vigilant eye over the diggings, established their basecamp in Camp Street. It was from there that the walk to an infamous bloody battle began on December 3, 1854, when the troopers marched to the Eureka Stockade to assert their authority over the miners fighting for a fair go.

More than 30 people died that day, and Ballarat became the only goldfields town where miners paid the ultimate price for their rights.

The **Former Police Court** and **Old Ballarat Police Station** stand proud, now as places of art and music. Prisoners were once chained to a large tree close to the police camp. When it was felled, parts of it were used for the station. Locals souvenired the rest.

The **Former YMCA**, **Ballarat Trades Hall**, **Former ANA Hall** and **Former Freemason's Hall** point to more peaceful, co-operative times in the City. Local tradesmen proved themselves world-class when the heritage-listed Trades Hall was completed in 1888.

Decades later modernism arrived in Camp Street. In 1939 the 1901 **Former Library Building** was given a fresh, minimalist face, and the **Former State Government Office**, opened in 1941, was built in stark contrast to its Victorian-influenced neighbours.

This melding of architecture makes Camp Street a must-see. Modern glass facades, rough-faced bluestone walls and weathered cement rendered columns combine in a zigzag street where postcard-worthy windows present at every angle.

“The melding of architecture makes Camp Street a must-see.”



### LYDIARD STREET

From the **Former Ballarat Gaol** to the **Ballarat Railway Station**, Lydiard Street is the beating heart of a city besotted with grandeur. This impeccably-preserved heritage streetscape is Ballarat's premier arts and heritage hotspot. It's also a popular setting for film crews. ABC's *The Doctor Blake Mysteries* was filmed here, along with many other period Australian dramas.

One of the gaol's most famous inmates was Captain Moonlight; preacher by day, bushranger by night. Sentenced for theft, he scaled the walls and escaped, but was later caught, charged with murder and hanged here in 1880.

The fortunes thrown at the Lydiard Street bank buildings tell a story of a city set to impress. Melbourne architect Leonard Terry designed a series of five banks, neo-renaissance palazzos, like the **Former Union Bank**, considered his finest work.

The **School of Mines** is Australia's third oldest tertiary institution, behind Melbourne and Sydney. Today it's part of Federation University Australia.

“Imagine the 40 offices in full swing, trading shares in goldmines”





**The Cathedral Church of Christ the King** is one of Ballarat's earliest stone buildings, its foundation stone laid the same year as the Eureka Stockade.

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Visit **Craig's Royal Hotel**, just as generations of socialites, royalty and celebrities have. It was built on the site of Ballarat's first licenced pub, Bath's Hotel, where the Royal Commission into the Eureka Stockade occurred. Publican Walter Craig famously dreamed of his own demise. In 1870 he dreamt Nimblefoot won the Melbourne Cup, with his jockey sporting a black armband. Craig died before cup day, but the horse did win. The jockey wore the black armband for the publican who had predicted so.

Other great places to stop off for a drink include the **George Hotel, Colonists' Club** and **The Provincial Ballarat**.



“Visit the Gallery for first-hand pictorial accounts of the city's architectural development.”

The newly-renovated Provincial shows just how loved these historic luxury hotels are.

**Her Majesty's Theatre** and the **Art Gallery of Ballarat** are genuine cultural icons. Visit the Gallery for first-hand pictorial accounts of the city's architectural development. It's well worth stepping inside the stunning **Former Mining Exchange** too, to imagine the 40 offices in full swing, trading shares in goldmines. The boom style classicism exchange is one of Australia's few surviving, and today plays host to indie markets, music festivals, gala dinners and more. Top it off with a decadent high tea at **The Alexandria Tea Rooms**.

## STURT STREET

The six-lane Sturt Street was Ballarat's original stock route, wide enough for a bullock team to turn, but the best way to view it all is by foot.

Victoria's only surviving Edwardian Flemish Baroque building is located at **23 Sturt Street**. Its bright blue tiles are enough to stop traffic. Its original owner, Thomas Belsom, must have been equally flamboyant.

Can you find Mozart at the **Former Sutton's Music Store**? Its German-made leadlight windows celebrated the musical greats of the 1800s. Only one remains, but it's a beauty. Henry Sutton built a hydraulic lift for his father's store and is today considered one of the country's great early inventors. The building is now home to Sutton's House of Music - a great live performance venue.

The **Ballaarat Mechanics' Institute** has been a working subscription library since the 1860s. Step inside to see its historic collections, including newspapers from the 1850s. The institute now boasts a packed events and theatre calendar. The rooftop statue of Minerva, Roman goddess of wisdom, arts, trades and intellectual pursuits, is so loved, she's had local babies named in her honour.

The **Former National Mutual Insurance Offices**, with its octagonal turret built to house a lift, was the design of John Clarke and son. Clarke was the architect behind Melbourne's Government House, the Treasury Building and the famous Maryborough Railway Station, proving no expense or effort was spared in the goldfields towns.



“Today, the bluestone and handmade brick structures are still as relevant and treasured as ever.”

The **Ballarat Town Hall** is forever linked to mad Irishman Henry O'Farrell. After the former local resident took a pot shot at Prince Alfred in Sydney in 1868, the locals made a very public apology. They purchased a set of bells for the town hall, inscribed them with the assassination attempt and christened them the Alfred Bells. When they rang for the first time in 1871, hundreds gathered before dawn to listen. They still ring today to mark the city's special occasions.

At the junction of Sturt and Lydiard Streets stands the **Former Post Office**, Victoria's second largest after Melbourne's GPO. Architect William Wardell gave this building the same devotion as his other great works; Melbourne's Government House, St Patrick's Cathedral and Collins Street's ANZ building. The five-level tower includes an arched ground floor entrance for carriages delivering news to the diggings. It now houses Federation University Australia's Arts Academy, including the Post Office Gallery.

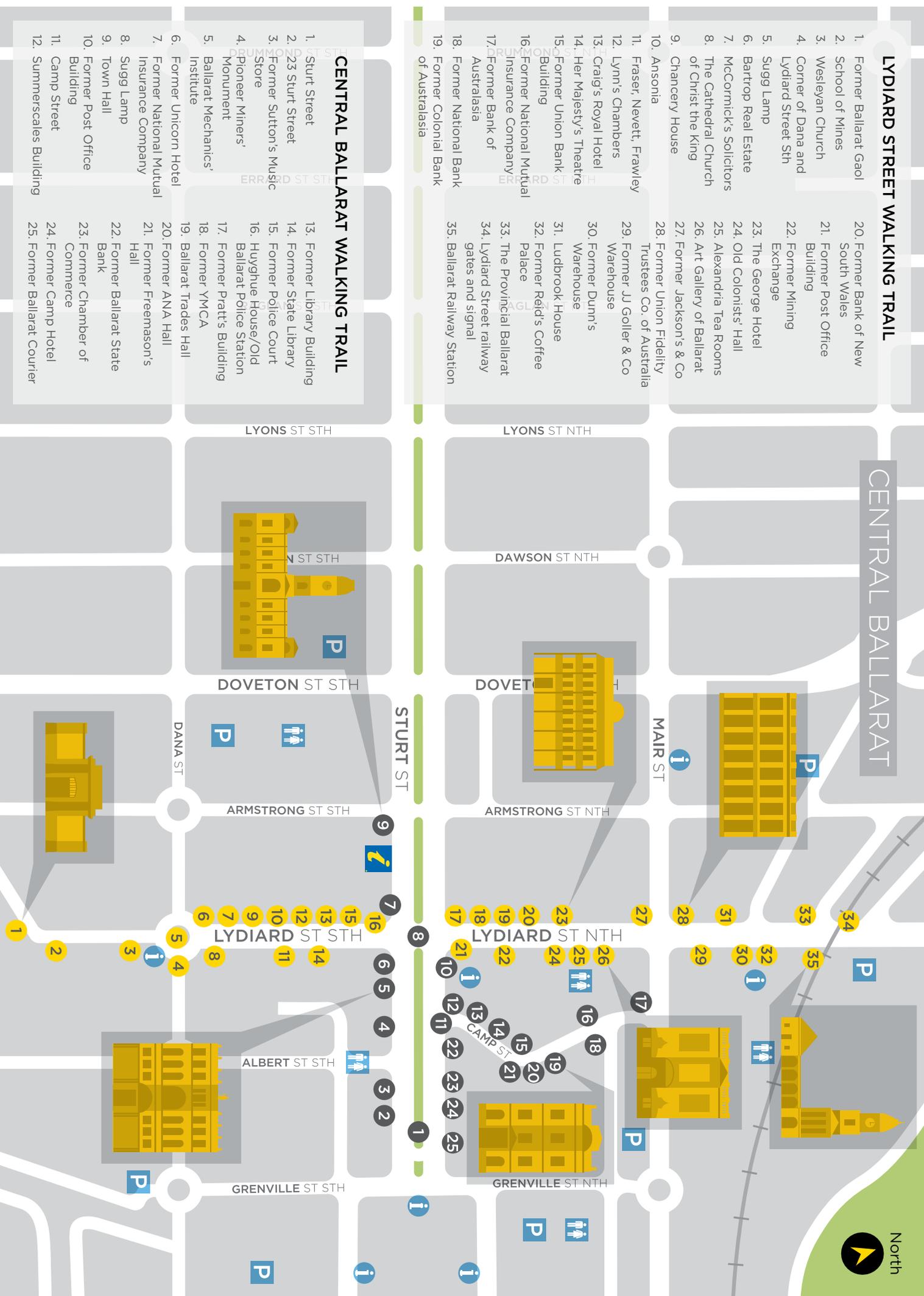


## LYDIARD STREET WALKING TRAIL

1. Former Ballarat Gaol
2. School of Mines
3. Wesleyan Church
4. Corner of Dana and Lydiard Street Sth
5. Suggs Lamp
6. Bartrop Real Estate
7. McCormick's Solicitors
8. The Cathedral Church of Christ the King
9. Chancery House
10. Ansonia
11. Fraser, Nevett, Frawley
12. Lynn's Chambers
13. Craig's Royal Hotel
14. Her Majesty's Theatre
15. Former Union Bank Building
16. Former National Mutual Insurance Company
17. Former Bank of Australasia
18. Former National Bank of Australasia
19. Former Colonial Bank of Australasia
20. Former Bank of New South Wales
21. Former Post Office Building
22. Former Mining Exchange
23. The George Hotel
24. Old Colonists' Hall
25. Alexandria Tea Rooms
26. Art Gallery of Ballarat
27. Former Jackson's & Co
28. Former Union Fidelity Trustees Co. of Australasia
29. Former JJ Goller & Co Warehouse
30. Former Dunn's Warehouse
31. Ludbrook House
32. Former Reid's Coffee Palace
33. The Provincial Ballarat
34. Lydiard Street railway gates and signal
35. Ballarat Railway Station

## CENTRAL BALLARAT

1. Sturt Street
2. 23 Sturt Street
3. Former Sutton's Music Store
4. Pioneer Miners' Monument
5. Ballarat Mechanics' Institute
6. Former Unicorn Hotel
7. Former National Mutual Insurance Company
8. Suggs Lamp
9. Town Hall
10. Former Post Office Building
11. Camp Street
12. Summerscales Building
13. Former Library Building
14. Former State Library
15. Former Police Court
16. Huyghue House/Old Ballarat Police Station
17. Former Pratt's Building
18. Former YMCA
19. Ballarat Trades Hall
20. Former ANA Hall
21. Former Freemason's Hall
22. Former Ballarat State Bank
23. Former Chamber of Commerce
24. Former Camp Hotel
25. Former Ballarat Courier



## CENTRAL BALLARAT WALKING TRAIL

