

Redeveloped Ballarat Library



The Ballarat Library's first major redevelopment and expansion since 1993 is almost complete. The redevelopment of the Ballarat Library includes an expansion of the second level of the building, a new entrance, purpose-built teaching areas, quiet areas, open space, as well as specialised children and family areas.

Costs and funding

Total costs - \$7.48 million

City of Ballarat - \$6.98 million

State Government* - \$500,000

* From the Living Libraries Infrastructure Program

Building facts

Total square metres - 2,428sqm

Public area downstairs - 1,718sqm

Public area upstairs - 448sqm

Staff area - 262sqm

Solar panels - 101

Spaces

Ground floor

Rotunda

With access to Wi-Fi and power, the curved work benches running around the perimeter of the rotunda provide space for 45 people to work or study at the bench around the curved wall. The area will also house an extensive nonfiction collection. Scattered throughout the collection are tables and clusters of comfortable seating.

Coffee cart

Operated by Lilly's Café, barista-made coffee and light snacks will be available for purchase within the library. Hot drinks and snacks can be enjoyed throughout the library, while patrons are working, studying or relaxing.

Heritage collection

The small dedicated Heritage Room will include unique items and changing displays from the Heritage collection. This room will also feature a small study table for individuals to use for local or family history research.

Library lounge

A large area featuring picture windows overlooking the courtyard, the Library Lounge features clusters of couches and armchairs, along with long, custom-built tables with public computers. The Library Lounge houses the substantial adult fiction, mystery and sci-fi collections, along with a wide range of magazine titles, DVDs, audiobooks and large print books.

Atrium (area with the staircase)

The centrepiece of the Atrium is the spectacular timber-clad curved staircase ascending to the newly re-purposed first floor. Pendant lighting and tiered seating will make this area a unique venue for small events, author talks and speakers.

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Ground floor (continued)

Children's library

Featuring reading nooks inside tree trunks, cubby houses and a sensory play corner, the Children's Library also houses a collection of over 17,000 items. It also features a Kid's Lab with children's computers pre-set for children to safely learn by discovery. Another highlight is the story dome with tiered seating. A large, custom-built carer's table will be adjacent to the children's area.

Parents' room

The parents' room adjoining the Children's Library will be a safe and comfortable place for families and carers. Facilities will include a baby changing table, comfortable seating for baby feeding, and child and adult toilets.

First floor

Co-Lab

The first floor also houses the co-lab which includes a youth lounge, a community kitchen for cookery and life skills classes, gaming consoles and the Young Adult collection. This area also includes 8 public computers available for use by community members and flexible spaces for individual and small group study or work as well as 3 bookable meeting rooms.

Maker Space

The Maker Space is a new addition to the library. Dedicated to learning through experimentation and play, community can use creative technology including 3D printers, vinyl cutter and heat press, sewing machines and digitisation equipment, all designed to encourage lifelong learning. The Maker Space will open with scheduled drop-in hours, for those 15+, who have completed their safety inductions. With self-paced programs for beginners and more experienced makers, this space is sure to be a hive of creative activity.

Quirky building facts

- The building uses as many natural products as possible, to keep the footprint as neutral as possible.
- The main library floor is called Marmoleum. It is a natural material made from linseed oil.
- The carpet squares in high traffic areas are made from natural goat hair fibres.
- The lighting around the perimeter of the building has in-built sensors so lights turn themselves off where enough natural light is detected, as an energy saving feature.
- All the lighting is sensor controlled and turns off when no movement is detected for a period of time.
- The community kitchen includes a low-energy use induction stove top and natural stone benchtop.
- Filament for the 3D printers in the Maker Space is a natural corn starch/sugar cane derivative, so it is biodegradable. Any waste filament will be thermally processed to be used in other products, such as chopping boards, by arrangement with Ballarat Hacker Space.

Collections

Collection total - 70,250 items

Adult fiction - 18,000

Adult non-fiction - 19,100

Young adult - 4,000

Junior - 17,500

DVDs - 5,000

Audiobooks - 1,800

Large print books - 4,000

Reference - 850

