

BALLARAT



Have a fun day out at SpringFest Market Weekend.

CULTURALLY INFORMATIVE

Founded in 1884, the Art Gallery of Ballarat is the oldest and largest regional gallery in Australia. Home to one of the most comprehensive collections of Australian paintings in the nation, works featured here are just a small selection from a holding that extends from convict artists of Van Diemen's Land to the present day. General entry is free and special exhibitions are regularly alternated.

INDULGE THE SENSES

Ballarat's picturesque Lake Wendouree is famed for its recreation opportunities and a chance to get up close with nature. It's home to the up-coming 2014 World Masters Rowing regatta and the former site of the 1956 Summer Olympics. The Lake is just a stone's throw from

the iconic Ballarat Botanical Gardens. Home to the avenue of Prime Minister busts, marble statues, and huge shady trees – it's one of Australia's oldest and finest gardens set amongst 40 hectares.

At the southern end of the gardens is the Australian Ex Prisoners' of War

Memorial, which honours more than 35,000 Australians held prisoner during former wars. During spring, there is also an abundance of open gardens just waiting to take your eyes on a dance of colour, texture and design, not to mention the scents.

For a touch of wellbeing, how about booking in to one of the region's many luxurious day spas? Or, if it's food for the soul you are after – fulfil every need at gourmet patisseries, charming cellar doors, or award-winning first-class restaurants.

From a coffee in the bustling 400 block of Sturt Street cafés, to high tea at the historic Craig's Royal Hotel, or even dinner in one of the exquisite international restaurants – the region will leave every foodie satisfied.

EVENTS NOT TO MISS

SpringFest Market Weekend – 2 and 3 November. Last year, 25 thousand people flocked to Lake Wendouree's foreshore for SpringFest Market Sunday, with 350 stallholders on show from across Victoria and beyond. Now, with dragon-boat racing, an outrigger canoe regatta and an International Fest on the Saturday, the once one-day event has grown to a two-day festival. One of the highlights this year will be a Saturday night performance on a pontoon floating on the stunning Lake Wendouree as dusk falls. www.ballaratspringfest.com.au

Open Gardens in Spring – 25 to 27 October.

Ballarat Gardens in Spring is a celebration of all things gardening over three days. The events feature a popular speakers' luncheon on the Friday with talks by prominent gardening personalities including Andrew Laidlaw, Landscape Architect with the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne. A delicious 'basket' lunch will be provided by renowned artisan chef, Peter Ford in the magnificent Robert Clark Conservatory at the Ballarat Botanical Gardens – bookings essential. Open gardens include a number of private gardens opened for the first time from 10am to 4pm both days. www.fbbg.org.au/ballarategardens-in-spring-2013



Chris Nicholls Landscapes of the mind

Saturday 28 September to
Sunday 27 October

Art Gallery of Ballarat
40 Lydiard Street North | 03 5320 5858
Open daily 10am – 5pm | Entry free
artgalleryofballarat.com.au

Chris Nicholls
Self-Portrait (detail)
1985 charcoal on paper
Private Collection

