

# Sebastopol 3356

As a 2020 August Action fundraiser during the Covid-19 lockdown, the Sebastopol Guides are selling badges that were originally created for local Guides attending the FanTAStic Jamboree.

- These badges are selling for \$1 each upon completion of the syllabus that we have developed to increase knowledge of our home town of Sebastopol.
- Available only until badges run out.
- These badges will be made available using a contact-less method. When you have completed the syllabus and are ready to purchase the badge, email [Sebastopol@girlguidesballarat.org.au](mailto:Sebastopol@girlguidesballarat.org.au). The badge will be placed in a named envelope ready for collection - just take the badge and leave the money.



**To earn this badge, complete any 5 tasks**

**Sebastopol is located about 4km south of Ballarat. The area was previously known as Bonshaw, the name given by early settler Jack Winter. Sebastopol's origins were "a separate working class town servicing the rich gold mining fields south of Ballarat."**

## 1. Our First Inhabitants

The first inhabitants of Sebastopol were the Wathaurong Aboriginal people. The name they used to refer to the Sebastopol area was Yarun-Yarun. When surveyor WS Urquhart planned the layout for Ballarat, he consulted with the Wathaurong people to find out the names they used for landmarks. He kept those name when laying out the town and many are still used today.

**Task: Make a list of Aboriginal names and words that have been used in the Ballarat area.**

## 2. Yuille's Swamp

The first European to arrive in the Ballarat area was Scottish born William Cross Yuille (19 years old) who travelled from Geelong on a sheep run. He first camped beside a swamp known locally as Black Swamp, later referred to as Yuille's Swamp and then Lake Wendouree. The swamp was full of wildlife and was a common camping place for the Wathaurong people.



**Task: Locate the memorial that was erected on the banks on Lake Wendouree (near the end of Pleasant St). Take a photo of yourself with the structure.**

### 3. Yuille's 'Ballarat Station'

The first settlers in the Ballarat area were cousins William Yuille and Archie Yuille. In 1838 they settled 10000 acres running by the side the Yarrowee River. Their homestead and shearing sheds were on the banks of a swamp situated at the end of what is now Bala Street. Henry Anderson settled 26000 acres near the Yarrowee River and named it "Waverley Park". In 1842 he sold his land to John Winter who renamed the run "Bonshaw" - later to become Sebastopol. The homestead built by Anderson was taken over by Archibald Yuille who began constructing a more permanent house on the property but didn't complete it before moving away when gold mining made the area no longer useful for sheep.

**Task: Walk (or cycle) a length of the Yarrowee River Trail that passes through Sebastopol. You might like to enter/exit the trail at Hill Street, Leith Street, Rubicon Street, Bala Street or Vickers Street.**



### 4. Katherine Kirkland

It is said that Mrs Kirkland was the first white woman to travel to Ballarat. She stayed with the Yuille family while her own hut was being built. She had a philosophy of '*necessity makes one learn many things*' and although she initially didn't know anything about cooking, she later went on to publish many cookery books. Vegetarian cookery was her speciality.

**Task: Help cook a vegetarian meal and enjoy it with your family.**



### 5. Siege of Sevastopol

The discovery of gold in Ballarat in the 1850s bought an influx of people of different nationalities to the area. When the easier alluvial gold was removed from the Ballarat gold fields, tent camps were established further south.

The Crimean War was the first war that was extensively reported to the public through daily reporting and photography. This incorporated the 11-month siege of the Russian city of Sevastopol in 1855. Our local miners at the time started to refer to their town as Sebastopol (the English translation) because they said the sound of blasting through the rock to access the underground mines sounded like the guns at the siege.

**Task: Use various code systems to spell the word SEBASTOPOL. For example: morse code, semaphore, braille, Auslan, phonetic alphabet. Share the systems with someone else and see if they can decipher the word.**

## 6. Florence Nightingale

Florence Nightingale was one of the nurses who cared for the allied forces during the Crimean War.


**Task: Learn a new first aid skill, such as applying a bandage or arm sling, CPR or the lateral position.**



## 7. Post Office

Ballarat's first post office opened in the 1850s. Sebastopol had it's own Post Office and both were later assigned individual postcodes. The postal service was very important on the goldfields to exchange letters that provided news from family and friends. Poor road conditions made transport difficult and travel from Ballarat to Melbourne was slow.

**Task: Post a hand-written letter to a friend or family member telling them about recent events in your life. See how long it takes for them to receive the letter.**



## 8. Education

Many of Sebastopol's residents came from mining districts in Cornwall and Wales. Sebastopol district's first school was established in 1857 a little further away in Magpie Gully. This was followed by the building of an Anglican school in 1861, then government schools opening in Sebastopol in 1873 and Redan in 1874. A Catholic primary school was opened in 1956 and a coeducational technical school in 1962.



**Task: Research the beginnings of your own school. Find out what you can about it's earliest period regarding location, name etc. Share this information with your Unit.**



## 9. Trams

Sebastopol was joined to Ballarat's system of double-decker horse-drawn carriages in 1913 then later converted to electrical trams.

- The last horse-drawn tram ran in August 1913 on the Sebastopol line. It was officially opened as an electric tramway the next day.
- When the tram line was shutdown on 19 September 1971, hundreds of people turned up as a farewell. The very last tram ran from Ballarat to Sebastopol.
- The Ballarat Tramway Preservation Society maintained a small portion of track along Lake Wendouree as a tourist attraction. The first tram to run was the Number 40 - the tram originally used on the Sebastopol line.



**Task:** Use the internet to find out about the Ballarat Tram Museum, including the location and prices. When lockdown restrictions have eased, you may even like to visit the museum and the remaining piece of tram track.

## References:

- <http://barwonblogger.blogspot.com/2016/02/making-tracks-beside-yuilles-swamp.html>
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- Ballarat Revealed [https://ballaratrevealed.com/tour.php?action=view\\_tour&tour\\_id=4](https://ballaratrevealed.com/tour.php?action=view_tour&tour_id=4)
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- ABC - <https://www.abc.net.au/local/photos/2011/09/05/3310438.htm>
- A Nations Heritage <http://www.egold.net.au/objects/DEG000278.htm>
- The History of Ballarat <http://gutenberg.net.au/ebooks13/1304971h.html>
- Ballarat & District Genealogy <https://www.ballaratgenealogy.org.au/ballarat-history/sebastopol-history>
- Lots of Googling
- Local knowledge