



## PLATE UP BALLARAT TO CELEBRATE THE CULINARY CAPITAL OF THE WEST

**BALLARAT, 4 April 2019** – Ballarat’s culinary best will come together for the second annual *Plate Up Ballarat* festival, a month-long series of events showcasing the region’s best growers, producers, chefs, restaurants and cafes from May 1 to 31.

The all-star line-up includes a five-course [Edible Weed](#) feast of foraged delights by Workshop Cafe, a sizzling [Chilli Fest](#) of all things spice including chilli beer and chilli ice-cream, a top-secret sensory experience at [Dinner in the Dark](#), and the [Made of Ballarat Marketplace](#), featuring a blend of local artisans and producers including Tuki Trout Farm, Salt Kitchen Charcuterie and Backyard Beekeeping Ballarat.

“Ballarat is full of very exciting foodie businesses with people who work collaboratively to deliver an amazingly diverse and high-quality culinary experience,” Plate Up Ballarat director Kate Davis said. “Plate Up Ballarat is our chance to show off what we have. It really is regional dining at its best.”

Over 50 events will take place throughout the month-long festival, featuring lunches and dinners, workshops, markets, food trucks, high teas, fashion, yoga, live music, competitions, and guided beer, wine, whisky and gin tastings.

Ballarat’s food and beverage heavy weights will be taking part, including the likes of The Pub With Two Names, Mr Jones Dining, Lola, Moon & Mountain, Mitchell Harris, and The Lost Ones.

The humble toastie will quite literally be the toast of town, with Ballarat’s top cafes and restaurants crafting their take on the Aussie classic throughout the month of May, as part of [Toast of Ballarat](#). Creative takes include *Papa’s Leftovers* at Fika, a ragu with Salt Kitchen pork, John Harbour beef, buffalo mozzarella, basil and Parmagiano Reggiano, while *The Smokin’ Mexican* at Freight Bar & Restaurant combines smoked beef shin & beer bean chilli with house-made queso fesco, served with cheesy corn chips and pickled jalapenos.

This year also sees the introduction of [Plant Up Ballarat](#), which sees many venues and events embracing plant-based eating and the indelible link between nutrition and wellness.

“Not only does Plate Up Ballarat cater for those looking for a unique high-quality dining experience, there are workshops for kids, gin dinners, hip hop yoga, theatre shows, events for the sweet tooth and so much more,” Kate said. “There really is something for everyone.”

“Plate Up Ballarat is the perfect event to complement our recently launched Made of Ballarat destination marketing campaign,” said Noel Dempsey, CEO of Visit Ballarat. “Like Plate Up Ballarat, the campaign celebrates and showcases the exceptional producers and culinary talent our city has to offer.”

Plate Up Ballarat is proud to once again partner with the [Ballarat Foundation](#) in support of its Feed Ballarat initiative, to address food insecurity and provide support and food relief to the community.

- WHAT:** Plate Up Ballarat, a month-long festival showcasing the region's best growers, producers, chefs, restaurants and cafes.
- WHEN:** 1 – 31 May, 2019
- WHERE:** Ballarat, Victoria
- HOW** Program and tickets available via [plateupballarat.com.au](http://plateupballarat.com.au)

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For further media information, high-res imagery, interview opportunities or to attend Plate Up Ballarat, please contact Hatching Communications:

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Visit Ballarat, visit <http://www.visitballarat.com.au> or their social media handles below:

- Instagram: [@visitballarat](#)
- Twitter: [@visitballarat](#)
- Facebook: [@VisitBallarat](#)
- Hashtag: #visitballarat #madeofballarat

#### **About Visit Ballarat**

As Ballarat's peak regional tourism marketing and development organisation, [Visit Ballarat](#) is a membership based, not-for-profit incorporated association that was founded in 2012. Their mission is to grow tourism for their members' mutual benefit. Visit Ballarat members conduct business in sectors including accommodation, attractions, tour operators, wineries, restaurants, retail and others. Visit Ballarat drives activities to attract visitors to Ballarat and the surrounding region.

Their work to date has grown the region's tourism industry to over 2.2 million, helped create over 2,030 jobs and assisted in building over \$577 million a year into the local economy.

