

# What is distinctive about the University of Ballarat?



**THE UNIVERSITY OF BALLARAT** is the only regionally headquartered, multi-sector university in Victoria. It is only one of three Australian universities which takes its name from an Indigenous word, with Ballarat meaning 'resting place'. The University's Act mandates that it must provide for the 'educational, cultural, professional, technical and vocational services to the community and of persons living and working in Central and Western Victoria.'

The University has 25,000 students of whom 7,500 are international students. One in four of the students at the University are studying postgraduate qualifications. It draws its 17,500 domestic students from across Australia and especially from a broad area of regional Victoria including the communities of Ballarat, Ararat, Stawell, Horsham, Nhill, Hamilton, Maryborough, Warrnambool, Portland, Bacchus Marsh, Bendigo, Mildura and Swan Hill. All of these communities have significantly lower participation rates in postsecondary education than the national average.

The University of Ballarat has the highest proportion of regional students (72 per cent) as a percentage of its Commonwealth supported places of any university in Victoria and of all regional universities in Australia. Approximately three in every four of its undergraduate Commonwealth supported students find their first employment in regional and rural areas following graduation from the University of Ballarat.

**DARE TO BE DIFFERENT** is the motto for the University of Ballarat and, throughout its 139 year history and that of its predecessor institutions, a strong belief in this motto has been in evidence. The University has gained a national reputation for its commitment to high quality learning, teaching and training, for its applied research and for its engagement with industry, business and its regional communities. In fulfilling its motto, the University of Ballarat is distinguished from other Australian universities by a set of differences that establishes its uniqueness and diversity within the tertiary education sector.

The University catalogues its major differences from other universities as follows:

- > **THE UNIVERSITY OF BALLARAT** is the third oldest site of higher learning in Australia with the accompanying rich tradition of learning, teaching, training and research in the arts, sciences, humanities and the trades that comes with this ancestry;
- > **THE UNIVERSITY OF BALLARAT** is a regional, multi-sector, comprehensive university in Australia with provision for secondary schooling, TAFE, higher education, further education and research students;
- > **THE UNIVERSITY OF BALLARAT** continues to be recognised nationally and internationally for the outcomes and impact from its four research centres: the Centre for Environmental Management; the Centre for Health Research and Practice; the Centre for Informatics and Applied Optimization; and the Centre for Regional Innovation and Competitiveness;
- > **THE UNIVERSITY OF BALLARAT** has international students from more than 40 countries and the single largest number of students from India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Lebanon, Poland, Burundi and Cuba of any university in Victoria;
- > **THE UNIVERSITY OF BALLARAT** is the first university in Australia to provide students with the option of completing an undergraduate degree program within TAFE with a Commonwealth supported place;
- > **THE UNIVERSITY OF BALLARAT** is the only regional university in Australia to achieve a top 10 rating from the Commonwealth Government's Learning and Teaching Performance scheme in 2005, 2006 and 2007; and,
- > **THE UNIVERSITY OF BALLARAT** is the only regional university in Australia with its own technology park, ecology park and Arts Academy for TAFE and higher education students.