

BALLARAT
BEGONIA FESTIVAL



Ballarat Begonia Festival 2025

**Ballarat Botanical
Gardens**

March 8 - 10

CITY OF
BALLARAT 

This book has been created to use as a learning tool and will help individuals understand what to expect when visiting the Ballarat Begonia Festival.

This book aims to provide information about:

1. The Ballarat Begonia Festival and activities
2. Where to get help
3. Some sounds and sights people may experience
4. Things people can do to feel comfortable and safe

I can also use the Power FM Begonia Festival Parade book to learn about the parade which will be held on March 10 from 11am along Wendouree Parade, near the Botanical Gardens.





I am going to visit the Begonia Festival at the Ballarat Botanical Gardens.

This is close to Lake Wendouree.

The festival is on over the Labour Day long weekend which is March 8 – 10.

The festival is to celebrate flowers and the things that make Ballarat great.



The activities at the Begonia Festival are mostly outside.

I might like to bring a hat, sunscreen and water.

I can bring a coat if it is cold.



I might have to travel a little bit to get to the festival from the car or bus.

There is a free buggy service from the festival carpark to the main festival area for anyone who needs it.



There will be lots of Helpers at the festival. They can answer my questions, tell me where to find things and provide wheelchair assistance.

Some will be wearing a fluorescent top or a blue vest with a yellow 'i' on it.

Some will wear blue 'Travellers Aid' tops.

Helpers will be moving around the festival.

I can visit the Information Centre at the Robert Clark Conservatory to find Helpers. I can look for the blue and yellow 'i' symbol to find it.

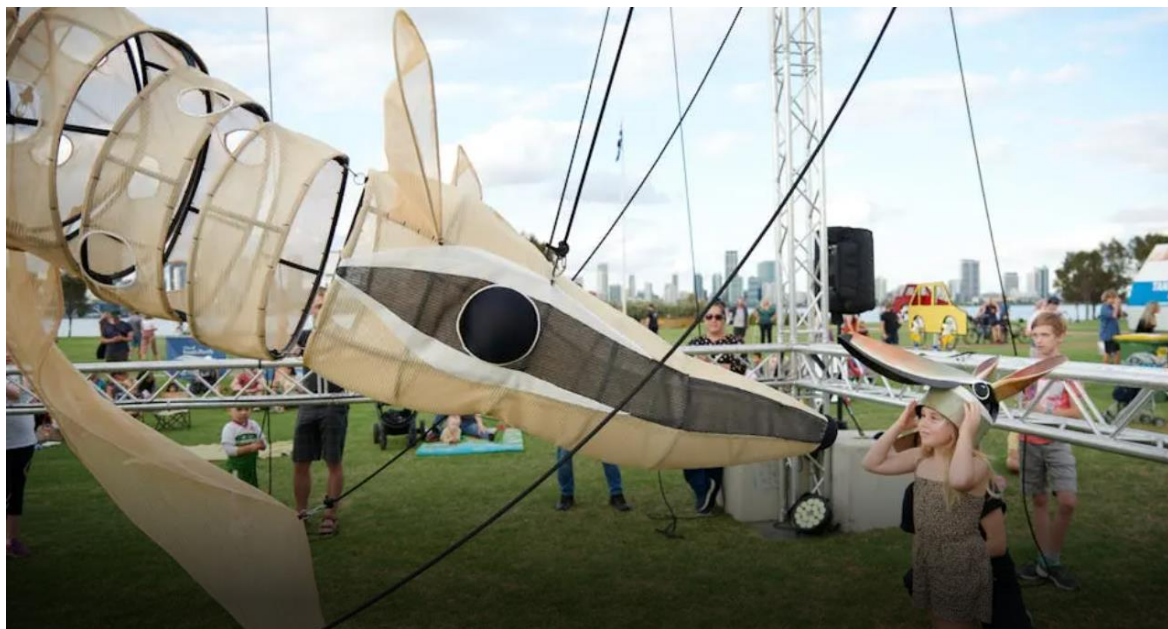




There are a lot of fun things happening at the festival.

I can join in or watch if I want to.

I can look at the map on the [Begonia Festival website](#) or collect one from the Information centre.



There will be a lot of activities to choose from including:

- The Last Numbat large puppet
- A tiny town of mini cubbies
- Face painting
- Craft activities
- Sports activities
- Garden games
- Tram rides
- Market stalls
- And much more!





There will be three different stages where I can watch performances and listen to music and presentations from special guests.



Some performers will not be on the stage.

They will be moving around the gardens.

Some might be dressed up in colourful costumes.

Some might be on stilts which will make them look like they are very tall.

I might see puppets made of rubbish.





I can visit the Begonia Display in the Conservatory.

It is a glass building.

I might feel warmer inside the Conservatory than outside.

It is bright and colourful inside the Conservatory.



There will be food and drinks that I can buy at the festival.

I might have to wait in line to order.

I might think there are strong food and drink smells in this area.

I can bring my own food and water to the festival if I want to.

I will put any rubbish in the bins.



I might see lots of people.

I can stay close to my support person.

Sometimes I might have to wait my turn to do or see something.

Waiting my turn is the fair thing to do.



Dogs are allowed to go to the festival.

All dogs must be on a lead.

They must be with their owner at all times.

I should not touch any dogs at the festival unless my support person says it is okay.



I might feel like the festival is busy and noisy.

Different sounds might include:

- Microphones and speakers
- Music
- People laughing and playing
- Dogs barking.

I can use ear protection or ear plugs if I want to.

I can find a quiet space with my support person.



There is a sensory friendly space in a tent next to the Conservatory.

This is a space that I can go if I need some quiet time.

The tent will have a 'Travellers Aid' sign at the front of it.

There are things in the tent that might help me to feel calm like colouring pages, sensory toys and bean bags.

I can use them while I am there and will leave them in the tent when I leave.

I can visit this space as many times as I need.



There are toilets and a Change Place at the festival.

This is a special accessible toilet.

I can ask my support person to show me where the toilets are.



There is a parade on Monday March 10 at 11 o'clock in the morning.

Groups of people will be dressed up and move along Wendouree Parade near the Botanical Gardens.

I can read a book to learn more about the parade.