



# **Ballarat Begonia Festival**

**Ballarat Botanical  
Gardens**

**March 9 – 11**

**CITY OF  
BALLARAT** 

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

**This book aims to provide information about:**

1. What the Begonia Festival is about
2. Some sounds and sights that people may experience
3. Things people can do to feel comfortable and safe
4. Where to get help
5. Activities people can do

You can also use the Power FM Begonia Festival Parade book to share information about the parade which will be held on March 11 from 11am – 12pm along Wendouree Parade, near the Botanical Gardens.





I am going to 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 9 - 11.

This festival is to celebrate flowers and 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 walk a little bit to get to the festival from the car or bus.

When I get there, I will see helpers wearing a top that says 'Event Staff' or a fluorescent top.

Helpers at the information tent will be wearing a blue vest.

They can answer my questions or tell me where to find things.



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.



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.



## 2024 Festival Map

# BALLARAT BEGONIA FESTIVAL



I can visit the information tent for help.

They can give me:

- Directions
- Information
- Ear plugs
- A map



There are toilets and a Changing Place at the festival.

This is a special accessible toilet.

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



There will be a stage where I can watch performances or listen to music.

There will be special guests on the stage.



Some performers will not be on the stage.

They will be in the garden areas in costumes and up on high stilts or poles.

This will make them look very tall.



There will be lots of activities to choose from including:

- A tiny town with mini cubbies
- Face Painting
- Sports Zone
- Obstacle Course
- Begonia Maze
- Marvelous Minibeasts
- Giant Garden Games
- BotaniKids at the Gatekeeper's Cottage
- Tram Rides



I can visit the Begonia Display at the Conservatory at the Ballarat Botanical Gardens.

It is a glass building.

I might feel warmer inside the Conservatory than outside.



I can bring food with me.

There will also be food trucks where I can buy some food or drinks.

I can fill up my water bottle at a drinking fountain.



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.





The parade is on Monday March 11 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.



The Begonia Festival is a fun event for everyone.



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<https://ballaratbegoniafestival.com/>

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