



**REGIONAL  
RAIL REVIVAL**

**BALLARAT**



# Community update

SPRING 2019

## Half-a-billion-dollar Ballarat Line Upgrade nearing completion

Major construction on the Ballarat Line Upgrade to be finished by the end of the year.

Passengers are already benefiting from the Ballarat Line Upgrade, with the rebuilt Rockbank Station reopening to passengers in August featuring a 350-space car park, accessible overpass and other modern facilities.

The station upgrades at Wendouree, Bacchus Marsh and Ballan are nearing completion, as is construction on the new station at Cobblebank.

We're also making huge progress on the 18-kilometre track duplication between Deer

Park West and Melton, as well as passing loops and track upgrades along the line.

These works will deliver more benefits to passengers, allowing new peak services between Southern Cross Station and Melton to be introduced on Monday 2 December, along with the opening of Cobblebank Station.

While a lot of construction has been undertaken, there is still more complex work to be done, including critical safety testing and driver training to get the new

infrastructure ready for use prior to much-needed extra services being introduced in 2020.

We'd like to thank passengers, residents and the wider community for bearing with us while we've carried out more than one million hours of work to transform the state's second busiest regional rail line. It's been a huge feat over the past two years and we couldn't have done it without your support.



**4 upgraded stations**



**Track duplication**



**7 new platforms**



**New stabling facility**



**One new station**



**5 new accessible pedestrian overpasses**

**Regional Rail Revival is a joint initiative of the Australian and Victorian governments**



**Australian Government**

**BUILDING OUR FUTURE**

**VICTORIA'S  
BIG BUILD**



## Stations to showcase Indigenous artwork

New and upgraded stations along the Ballarat Line will feature Indigenous artwork depicting the seven seasons of Victoria's Kulin Nation – the Traditional Custodians of the country on which the Ballarat Line sits.

The Kulin calendar is based on environmental events such as plant flowering and fruiting, and animal behaviour, as well as the stars and changing angles of the sun.

Artists Fiona Clarke and Ken McKean have been commissioned to design artworks at five stations: Wendouree, Ballan, Bacchus Marsh and Rockbank and the new station at Cobblebank.

Each station has its own design, etched into the forecourt pavements, depicting the environment changing with the seven seasons.

The artwork at Rockbank Station is already complete, and is based on the Kulin Dry Season (high summer) and the lifecycle of the common butterfly.

Fiona, an Aboriginal artist of the Kirrae Whurrong of South West Victoria and Ken, a non-Aboriginal artist and Fiona's husband, have worked on major public arts projects across Victoria.



## Meet the engineer

A passion for problem solving and an inquisitive nature has held Stefania Calati in good stead in her role overseeing the construction of Cobblebank's new train station.

The senior project engineer enjoyed maths and science at school, and was looking for a career with good prospects, which led her down the path of engineering.

"We didn't have a TV until I was 10. Looking at things and how they work and having to find activities outside of TV was quite integral to how I developed an interest in this field."

After a stint working in China, Stefania returned to Australia and started on the Ballarat Line Upgrade last year. She says having a mix of women and men working on major projects creates a great synergy.

"Women have a different approach to problem solving and that's what we do on a daily basis – problem solve."

"In an environment like this, which is male-dominated,

I think women provide a different way of thinking and a different dynamic."

Stefania says she's looking forward to the station being completed by the end of the year.

"To have it starting from a green field with one track in the middle of a paddock to build a brand new station, is pretty satisfying."


[Watch the video.](#)



Photo: Heather Felix Photography

# Progress on the Ballarat Line Upgrade

Rockbank



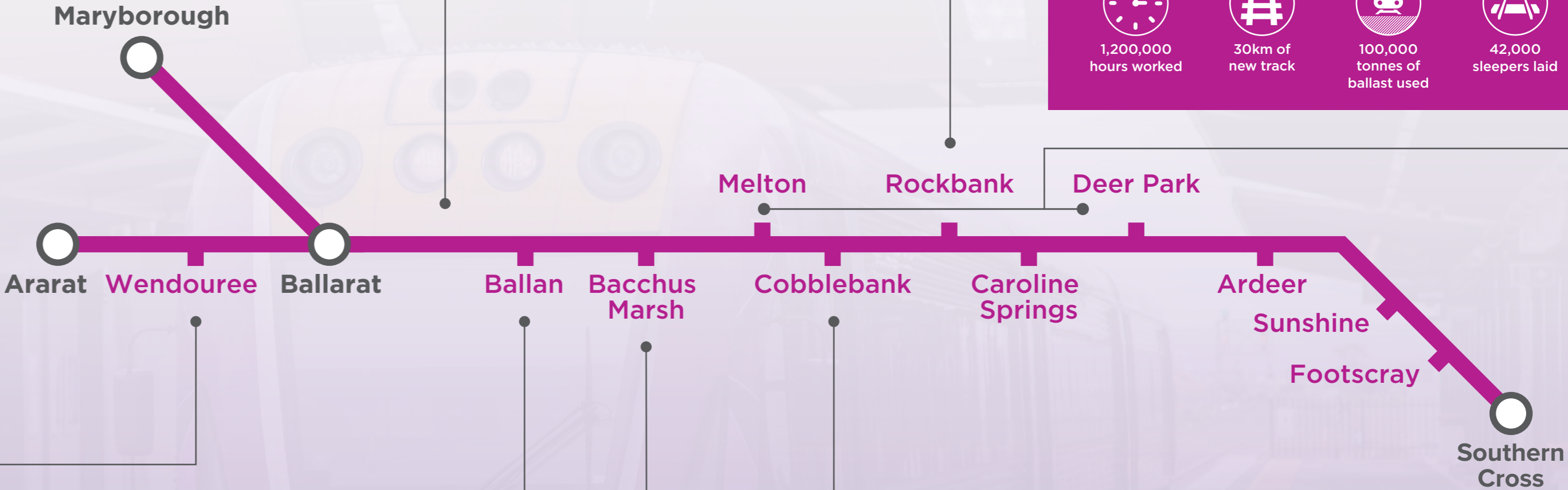
The Rockbank Station rebuild is complete, with 500 people celebrating the station's reopening at a community day in August.

The revamped station includes two new longer platforms, a new accessible overpass, 350-space car park and better access for buses, improved shelter, security, lighting and landscaping.


Millbrook Passing Loop



Track work is complete on the Millbrook passing loop, which will provide another option for trains to pass each other, helping improve reliability.



Wendouree



Wendouree Station's new overpass has been lifted into place. During November we'll continue work on the station's new platform, additional track and improved forecourt.

We'll also be working on the Gillies Street level crossing so keep an eye out for temporary traffic detours.

Ballan



Construction on the Ballan Station upgrade is largely complete, with a new accessible overpass and second platform in place and the new southern car park open.

During November we'll finish rebuilding the northern car park with an improved layout and continue work on the Ballan passing loop.

Bacchus Marsh



Construction on the Bacchus Marsh Station upgrade is largely complete, with a new accessible overpass and second platform in place. The new southern car park is open and work is well advanced on rebuilding the northern car park.

This will add 100 new parking spaces to the station. New stabling at Maddingley is already in operation and track duplication at Bacchus Marsh is continuing.

Cobblebank



Construction is nearing completion on the new station at Cobblebank to service this rapidly growing community.

During November safety testing and commissioning will take place so trains can begin using the new station in December.

Deer Park West to Melton



An 18km stretch of track duplication in this section will be completed in November including safety testing and commissioning so trains can begin running on the track in December.

These works will help improve reliability and allow more services to run on the line.

## Ballarat Line Upgrade built by locals

The Ballarat Line Upgrade is boosting local businesses, including a Bacchus Marsh business supplying the handrails and balustrades for the town's station upgrade.

Melbourne Stainless Handrails is manufacturing and installing 510 metres of handrail for the ramps and new overpass for the major upgrade at Bacchus Marsh Station.

The family-owned business has operated from Bacchus Marsh for the past 15 years and uses local steel to manufacture its products.

Manager Ken Hutchins says the contract has been a boost for the company, which employs staff from Bacchus Marsh, Melton and Gordon.

"Having a contract of this size means we can buy better machinery to be able to do a better job, but it also means we can provide better job security for our workers and look further into the future of growing and developing the business."

The Ballarat Line Upgrade has a strong focus on maximising opportunities for local contractors and suppliers, encouraging these businesses to spend their money close to home, benefiting local economies.



### Local contractors:

More than 40 local contractors and suppliers including:

**Proquip Rental** (Melton)

**R&J Batteries** (Ballarat)

**Global Time Lapse** (Melton)

**Western BACE** (Melton)

**Reinforced Concrete Pipes Australia** (Melton)

**Westkon Precast** (Melton)

**Premier Fencing** (Ballan)

**A&K Frazer Mechanical Services** (Maddingley)

**Bacchus Marsh Water Cartage**

**Quest Ballarat**



**42,000**

Hours worked by Indigenous employees



**400**

Full time jobs created during construction



**97,000**

Hours worked by engineering cadets, apprentices and trainees



**3,000**

People involved over the life of the project

### Come talk to us



The Regional Rail Revival team will be out and about in the Ballarat region, including at shopping centres, in November and December. Talk to us about the works underway and how the project will benefit you. Visit [regionalrailrevival.vic.gov.au](https://regionalrailrevival.vic.gov.au) for locations.


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### More information

To find out more about Regional Rail Revival:

 [regionalrailrevival.vic.gov.au](https://regionalrailrevival.vic.gov.au)

 [facebook.com/BallaratLineUpgrade](https://facebook.com/BallaratLineUpgrade)

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It should be noted that this information is current at the time of printing, however due to unforeseen circumstances, changes may occur. Please visit [railprojects.vic.gov.au](https://railprojects.vic.gov.au) for the latest updates.