



Bungaree

Rich soil and bold history

Named after the Aboriginal word bungairie, meaning “hut,” Bungaree is a town steeped in history and surrounded by fertile farmland. Located just outside Ballarat, it’s a place where stories of gold, grit, and growth come together.

From potatoes to prospectors

Irish potato-farming families were among the first settlers, drawn to Bungaree’s rich volcanic soil. But it was the gold rush of 1851 that truly transformed the region, with 20,000 diggers flooding the nearby Ballarat goldfields by the following year. Early industries included timber splitting for mineworks and firewood, and small-scale farming on 20-acre plots carved from the forest.



A town with a tale

Bungaree made headlines in 1864 when a political candidate insulted the Irish-Catholic community, calling them “savages of Bungaree.” The crowd erupted, and the phrase became local legend – a symbol of the town’s proud and resilient spirit. The Bungaree Post Office opened in 1863, marking the town’s growing importance in the region.

Modern Bungaree

Today, Bungaree is home to:

- Bungaree Primary School
- Bungaree Recreation Reserve

For more tourism information use the QR code to visit:
<https://www.moorabool.vic.gov.au/Services-and-support/For-visitors>

