

Howard opens Men's Shed

The Buninyong Men's Shed was officially opened on Saturday 13 June by Geoff Howard MLA, Member for Buninyong.

President Russell Williams said that Geoff Howard's involvement in the area from 1999, made him a logical person for the honour. He unveiled a small 'shed-made' plaque. Members of the Men's Shed were very pleased to see about 70 people attend the event.

Russell Williams explained that this Shed had grown from very small beginnings in a backyard shed, and grew to the current membership quickly. Construction of the new Shed commenced in 2014.

This shed is known for its amenable environment and constructive culture of friendship and supportiveness.

Also speaking at the opening was the President of the Beaufort Men's Shed, **Bob Forde**, who is also on the executive committee of the Victorian Men's Shed Association (VMSA). Bob spoke of the new Sheds which were being established throughout the region, and explained how the sheds could best assist men wanting to become involved in their local communities.

Attendees were treated to a fine morning tea prepared by wives of shed members.

Assistance

The Buninyong Men's Shed is fortunate to have had some wonderful benefactors in the community, and received grants from the State Government, the Buninyong Community Engagement Fund and from the Community Bank. The majority of equipment and tools in the shed has been donated.



Geoff Howard MLA officially opening the Buninyong Men's Shed, with President Russell Williams, one of the inaugural members.

One of the main activities is to construct equipment and items for use by local organisations. These will include items such as school playground facilities, and celebratory items such as honour boards and remembrance crosses.

Members participate in recreational activities, as well as having opportunities to put their skills to use for the benefit of their community. It is foreseen that the members will possibly be developing mentor programs for school aged children, assisting refugees to integrate into their new community, and providing a place for participants to have a chat, learn new skills and give back to the community.

An Open Day is proposed for early October to enable others in the community to see the work being done and to see if it could be something that they may also be interested in being involved in.

The Buninyong Men's Shed's 35 members anticipate there will be more people who wish to join after this successful opening.

For information on the Buninyong Men's Shed call **Bill Jolly** on 0414 717 507 or **Chris Kruger** on 0408 979 370

Geoff Parker

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Children's book launched Kids inspire Karen's books

The actions of her children have prompted two of the four children's books published by local children's author and primary teacher, Karen Collum.

Karen and husband Mike, a pastor in the Seventh Day Adventist Church, have four children – Samuel, 10, twins Jacob and Matthew, 7, and Hannah 4. All attend the local Buninyong primary school and kindergarten.

Following the death of her father some five years ago, Karen and family moved to Buninyong from Brisbane to be closer to her mother who lives at Sunbury.

Karen said that as a primary teacher in Queensland she "loved reading books to children, and harboured a secret desire to one day become an author of children's books."

Without any contacts in the publishing business, breaking into publishing of children's books was a hard road for Karen, but undaunted, she took writing courses, and studied the steps involved in becoming a published author.

Samuel's kisses

Her first children's book *Blow Me a Kiss*, published in 2010, was inspired by eldest child Samuel who loved to blow kisses to anyone who happened to stop and talk to him. The process of getting this book published took over three years. It has now been released in the USA and South Korea in addition to Australia, and also in a new paperback edition.



Her latest book *Small and Big*, was launched on 12 July at Ballarat Books, with Karen's illustrator Ben Wood also there to do some illustrations for children and others present. "He is an absolutely fantastic artist," Karen said.

This book, about a young boy called 'Big' and his best friend a dinosaur called 'Small' was also inspired by another of her children, Jacob – one of the twins, who, she says notices many small things missed by adults who are usually more concerned with bigger things and problems.

Karen's other published books are *Fish Don't Need Snorkels* and *When I Look at You*. She presently has another four manuscripts for children's books with her agent in Sydney.

Her books are available from Ballarat Books in Armstrong Street, Ballarat or through her website – www.karencollum.com.au.

Scotsburn teaches UK a few things



For a few weeks in early winter, the Scotsburn campus of the Buninyong Primary School played host to a group of trainee teachers from the UK. They really enjoyed the time spent with teachers and students at the school, and also joined in such local cultural events as feeding the chooks and having a warm Milo on a very cold day.

The school benefited to the tune of almost \$1000 recently from a barbecue held outside of the Bunnings store and organised by a parent, **Marita Williams** who was assisted by other parents during the day

Local youth leaders

Making their mark on the town

While Buninyong has its good share of older community leaders and personalities, two younger residents have started to make their mark on village life in quite different ways.



Sixteen year old **Kaitlyn Eden** has recently been selected to be part of the Ballarat Youth Council team. Kaitlyn says that she “couldn’t be more happy” to be a member of the team. She says that she wanted to be involved as it seems that most young people simply “get told to listen”.

“As young people we have an amazing opportunity to share our thoughts and ideas throughout the schools and online, and yet most young adults are too afraid to do so. We need to embrace ourselves, inspire others and have a voice in what we hope to achieve.”

Born and raised in Buninyong, Kaitlyn has always loved the community. She says that she can often be found either walking to her part-time work at the Buninyong Foodworks store, or reading in the Botanical Gardens. “It wasn’t until recently that I realised how lucky I am to have such amazing surroundings that are lacking in other areas of Ballarat,” she said.

She said that something as simple as a poll at the Buninyong Primary School could boost the awareness of young people as to how much power they have

and to get to know about the changes that are happening around Buninyong.

She lists her other interests as reading, writing, singing and eating food.

Teaching youth

Another Youth Councillor is 22 year old **Aaron Mercer** who has lived in Buninyong for the past four years after coming here from Smythesdale

He has been very active in assisting the Council in the development of the Youth Space at the corner of Forest and Inglis Streets. He said that this space, developed over the past twelve months or so with assistance from the Buninyong Community Bank, has really provided a “better and more healthy youth recreation area for the young of this community”.

Aaron who holds a Certificate 3-4 in Health and Physical Education among other qualifications, is a highly qualified Instructor in Parkour, a discipline which uses the equipment now installed at the Youth Space.

He said that he aimed to bring local youth to the very best in free Parkour lessons, ranging from basic to advanced classes. “Buninyong has been a great community to me and I can only hope to give as much as I can back into the community from supporting our local businesses to leading our youth to a brighter and healthier future.”



streettalk

Red and Blue

INTERESTING pair of signs down on the corner of Eyre and Warrenheip Streets for a few weeks recently. Placed curiously against the backdrop of the big navy ‘Harcourts Real Estate’ signage on the little historic building was a red ‘For Sale’ sign of the other local real estate company PRD. However, a deal seems to have been struck which will soon see Harcourts again in action from that site. Hopefully, popular **Martin Huntley** will again be involved after recovering from serious injuries from a fall from a ladder.



Access to water

THE REPORT by **Russell Luckcock** of the recent Buninyong house fire (see back page) raises an important issue of the availability of accessible emergency water sources for fighting domestic or other fires in local areas not serviced by town water. Nice to live in some of the wooded and more isolated areas of the district, but not so nice when emergency services strike a problem like this.

Town Hall works

SEEMS ACTION is about to start on the Town Hall precinct project with some modifications to the roundabout. **Cr Peter Innes** and former Council Infrastructure Manager **Eric Braslis** are on record asserting that “not one cent” of the project’s budget of \$650,000 will be spent on the roundabout – VicRoads’ responsibility. Hope that assurance holds up.

Storm in a Coffee Cup

THE APPEARANCE of a coffee machine in the foyer of Village Place (the old Shire Offices) apparently caused more than a little froth around town recently. Rumours that **Gerard Ballantyne** was about to again get into the coffee business can be scotched. Not happening! The coffee machine will only be used in-house by tenants of the new business hub of serviced offices.

Brigade call for volunteers

So far during winter months, the Buninyong Fire Brigade has attended 23 fire-related incidents in the district.

The Brigade is now making a call for persons of all ages who might be interested in working as a volunteer with the Brigade in some capacity.

A range of skills can be used and are needed. Brigade Captain **Marc Cannan** said that being a CFA volunteer “can involve some hard work, but it also brings great rewards.”

Being a CFA volunteer creates opportunities to

- develop leadership and people management skills
- learn new skills that can help in one’s professional and personal life
- receive accredited training
- meet and make new friends
- be part of Victoria’s largest volunteer organisation.

Capt. Cannan said that volunteering with the CFA is a great way to put something back into the community. Persons interested in finding out more about becoming a CFA volunteer should call 1800 232 636 or speak to any member of the Buninyong Brigade at the fire station.

The Buninyong Fire Brigade meets once a month on the fourth Tuesday at 7.30pm, and holds a training session on each Tuesday at 7.30pm at the local fire station in Learmonth Street

The Buninyong Country Fire Brigade was officially founded in 1872 although there were earlier volunteer brigades.

It is now making a call for persons interested in joining as volunteers.



Taylor Connell and driver Kenneth Bell, both Buninyong CFA volunteers, assist with the tanker during the recent Wirreanda Drive house fire



Members of the Buninyong and Elaine Fire Brigades helped out the Scotsburn school campus recently with a safe burn-off of a pile of debris collected from the school grounds. Pictured (L to R) Gareth Smith, Buninyong CFA Captain Marc Cannan, Daniel Stewart, Matt O’Brien, Sally Gregory, Patrick Cashin, Kris Dimartino, Taylor Connell

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AUTHORISED BY CATHERINE KING, 5 LYDIARD ST NTH BALLARAT 3350

Protect WHAT heavy industries?

In early June the BDCA submitted a 3500 word response to the Council's massive 284 page interim planning document – *Ballarat Strategy : Our Vision for 2040*.

Predictably, many of the issues commented on included the need to protect Buninyong's unique mix of urban and rural landscape, public transport, present and impending traffic issues, tourism, walking and cycling networks, and township planning.

This submission was followed up with a meeting with City of Ballarat Planning officers on 13 July, and the publication of the final report is now awaited.

One intriguing part of the interim document that remains unclear was at Page 106 where there was reference to the need for *"planning for the Industrial Zone 1 land west of Buninyong in proximity of Scotchman's Lead Road, with a view to ensuring that it is appropriately protected for future use by heavy industries"*.

The BDCA expressed curiosity about this statement on two fronts. Firstly, in a planning document which claimed to be broadly cross-city focused and to be concerned with 'big picture' issues, why is a specific piece of land zoned industrial, at a *specific* address singled out for comment?

“There would be strong community concern should there be significant expansion of extractive industries”

Secondly, what *"heavy industries"* were being referred to, and why such a clear expression about "protection" should be made about this land when there is apparent reluctance elsewhere in the document to use such terminology about other issues such as greenfields sites, heritage areas, ridgeline views and the like.

There would be strong community concern should there be significant expansion of extractive industries in this area, and there would be especial concern should there be proposals to make such an area available for more heavy industry.

Nearby residents and the local environment would seem better candidates for protection!

And...we're still curious.

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Editorial Advisory Committee:

Gayle Adams, Michelle Corcoran, Deb Ellis, John Emery, Greg Veal.

Acting Newsletter Co-ordinators:

Barry Fitzgerald, Gayle Adams, Jodi Beale

All contributions (copy, letters or advertising) must be submitted **before the twelfth of each month** to **buninyongnews@gmail.com**. Enquiries to 5341 2844.

Copy should not exceed 400 words and a maximum of two photographs per item may be submitted (but not necessarily published). Material may be edited because of space, style, or clarity, or for legal reasons.

The name and address of the person submitting any material must be provided (not for publication).

The Editorial Advisory Committee reserves the right not to publish material considered to be offensive or inappropriate or not deemed to have community interest or relevance.

The views expressed or information provided in this publication are not necessarily those of the Buninyong and District Community Association, the City of Ballarat or of the Buninyong Community Bank, including any officers, members, agents or contractors.

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www.buninyong.vic.au/newsletter.htm



New leader for Lions

The Buninyong and Mt Helen Lions Club installed a new President at last month's 'handover' dinner held at the Buninyong Bowling Club.

Ian Voigt was inducted to the position, taking over from outgoing President **Simon Jess** who was warmly thanked for his contributions to the Club over the previous twelve months. District Governor **Kevin Tait** attended the meeting.



District Governor Kevin Tait (left) assisted by Wendy McCann congratulate new President Ian Voigt

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CAN ANYONE HELP?

I am looking for photographs of any Durham Lead buildings, especially the Churches. I have a photo of the Presbyterian Church Hall next to the Durham Lead School but none of the Church. Just to confuse the issue, the Durham Lead Catholic Church was located next to the Garibaldi School and the Garibaldi Hotel was advertised as being at Durham Lead. Garibaldi photos would also be welcomed.

If anyone can help, contact **Neil McCracken** on 5341 2308 or jenneil@vic.chariot.net.au

Contributions and advertising

Email contributions and advertising for the *Buninyong & District Community News* to buninyongnews@gmail.com before the twelfth day of each month.

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JOSHUA MORRIS MP
State Member for Western Victoria

Authorised by Joshua Morris MP, 211 Dana Street, BALLARAT VIC 3350

211 Dana Street, BALLARAT VIC 3350
 PO Box 553, BALLARAT VIC 3353
 t. 03 5332 9443 f. 03 5338 7033
joshua.morris@parliament.vic.gov.au



Fresh look for local website

The Buninyong community website recently has had a major overhaul giving it a fresh new look and making it easier to use on mobile devices. The new site will replace the old one around the end of July, but will keep the same address - www.buninyong.vic.au

Most of the material on the old site has been transferred to the new one, with some rearrangement here and there; new material has been added and more sections are underway to expand its already huge store of information about Buninyong.

The new site will continue to house online copies of the *Buninyong & District Community News* and a Buninyong Blog is planned.

Update details

Members of local community groups, or those running a business in Buninyong and district, are asked to check that the listing and contact details are correct in either the Community Groups' Directory or in the Business Directory.

If you know who's who, what's what, and where to find it around Buninyong, your help in pointing out any errors or omissions in the website so we can keep it as

“ The Buninyong website has been visited nearly 200,000 times in its lifetime with the numbers growing daily... it now reaches more than 3,000 people each month. ”

accurate and up-to-date as possible would be appreciated.

Local input and update information is critical and contact can be made with the Buninyong Website Group any time through the website's Contact Us page, by emailing bunlibtrust@gmail.com, or via the Information Centre. All feedback is welcome!

Popular

The Buninyong website has been visited nearly 200,000 times in its lifetime with the numbers growing daily so that it now reaches more than 3,000 people each month.

People use it to search it for all sorts of things - accommodation, market dates, the festivals, the football club, the Community Newsletter, hiring the Gardens for a wedding, café hours, local history, Mt. Buninyong, tennis results, church services, walks, the community bank, electricians, the

cemetery, health practitioners, bus timetables and more.

It is obviously a well-used resource for locals and visitors alike: let's make it a good one.

Liz Lumsdon

Buninyong Community Website Group

The Buni website is run by the Buninyong Website Group, a sub-group of the Buninyong Joint Library Trust which manages the Buninyong Information Centre in Warrenheip Street.

Site development and maintenance is by Buninyong local, Liz Lumsdon of UpThere Website Design, with support from George Fong of Lateral Plains.



Buninyong and District Community Bank

Where does the money come from?

The Buninyong and District Community Bank always talks about 'where the money goes' in terms of the sponsorships that are given to our community. So the questions of 'where the money comes from' and 'how we are able to do this year after year' are important ones.

So what's different - why can the Buninyong and District Community Bank and Community Bank branches across the country put money back into local communities? The difference is what's called 'shared value' and is the foundation that each and every Community Bank branch is based upon. Profit becomes 'profit with a purpose' which in the case of the Buninyong and District Community Bank means contributing to the growth and prosperity of this community.

How this works is once the typical expenses of running the business (franchise fees to run a Bendigo Bank, wages, operating costs and so on) are accounted for, the amount left is 'profit for purpose'.

Compared to the other banks, where the majority of their profit is returned to shareholders, Community Bank shareholders agree at the outset to receive only a minimal share, leaving the majority (around 80 per cent) for reinvestment into the community via

sponsorships and grants, which equates to more than \$200,000 in the last five years.

So this is how something as simple as banking at a Community Bank can create such a big difference. Why not contact the local branch, located at 401B Warrenheip St, Buninyong or call 5341 8066 to have a confidential discussion about your banking needs.

Greg Veal



Buninyong Pre-school Trivia Night. For enquiries please contact Lucy Murphy – 0408 501 229 or Kate Proud – 0411 607 482.

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Goose to fly with new feathers

After a period as an upmarket fine-dining restaurant, Buninyong’s Pig and Goose is about to ‘reopen’ with a new look and a new food emphasis.

Owner-chef **Clive Kirby** and wife **Wendy** have now taken over full ownership of the venue and, while retaining a modified restaurant, plan to introduce a clear emphasis on the sale of a wide range of fine food products.

Clive said that the premises will be “more family-oriented, with a more affordable dining and drinks menu, in addition to offering a wide range of food products”. It probably will retain its present name with the addition of ‘General Food Store’ to its signage.

“We plan to move to the restaurant/ food store model in stages,” he said.

New showcases will be installed highlighting such foods as local cheeses and jams, charcuterie items, home-made terrines, pates and rillettes. Pies, paninis and pastries baked on site will also be featured. Other items for sale will include fresh flowers and selected vegetables.

Pre-prepared takeaway meals such as casseroles, pastas and curries will be available. After a settling-in period, Clive Kirby also plans to offer cooking classes for adults and children.

The entrance to the dining room will be through the original double doors facing Warrenheip Street, while the present entrance will be retained for food purchases and more casual coffees and dining.

Introducing changes

It is planned to introduce some antique furnishings in amongst the present modern minimalist dining settings, convert the area near the fireplace into a relaxing lounge area, upgrade the outdoor terrace with much more greenery and plantings, and use corrugated iron cladding on the front and sides of the existing bar.

Some quirky wall decorations will include some of Clive’s menus from other restaurants where he has worked, and copies of media articles and reviews he has received for his acclaimed cooking.

The new-look Pig & Goose-General Food Store will be open from Tuesdays to Sundays for breakfast and lunch, with dinner available on Friday and Saturday nights. Clive Kirby said that it is also planned to offer a roast lunch on Sundays.



“ more family-oriented, with a more affordable dining and drinks menu, in addition to offering a wide range of food products ”

He said that the revised dining menu will feature main courses in the \$14-\$26 range, with the wine list consisting of a much more affordable selection.

He said that the changes had come about after feedback from clients, and after a period of “testing” the local market, but added that the new look store was “what we really wanted to do from day one!”

Chance to buy shares in local Bank

In 2008 moves were started to investigate the establishment of a community-owned bank in Buninyong under the auspices of the Bendigo Bank. The previous bank in Buninyong had closed in 1974.

Before the Bendigo Bank would give approval for the establishment of a community bank in Buninyong, working capital of approximately \$700,000 had to be raised through the sale of \$1 shares to local residents and organisations.

During 2008-2009, the local volunteer Committee working towards starting the community bank was required both to have a prospectus approved by the Australian Securities and Investment Commission (ASIC) and then to sell shares to raise the required capital.

Some 230 residents and some local organisations purchased shares and became shareholders in the company (Buninyong & District Financial Services) which operates the locally-owned Buninyong & District Community Bank branch.

The local community bank was subsequently opened at its Warrenheip Street site in August 2010 and, after

a short establishment period, has since been returning generous sums in community investment to local groups and organisations. To date, almost \$200,000 has been returned to the community, earned from the operating profit of the community bank.

Dividend

Since 2013, the company has also declared a dividend payable to its shareholders.

Shares in Buninyong & District Financial Services are publicly listed and tradeable on what is referred to as the Low Volume Share Market (LVM) and local residents are advised that some small parcels of shares are now available for purchase.

Details about buying shares can be found on the website **bendigobank.com.au/buninyong**. Click on the 'Trading Shares' (LVM) button on the left hand side of the screen.

If after review of this information and consultation with your professional advisor you would like to register an interest in buying shares, you should contact the Company Secretary **Neil Blanchard** on 0437 363 961 or make email contact to secretary@bdfsl.com.au

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW BUNINYONG?

An occasional Community News quiz compiled by Ashley Bryden. Answers on page 17.

- 1 The number of times Robert Allen was elected Mayor
- 2 The surname of the first person to discover gold in Buninyong
- 3 The name of the road where the Buninyong Winery is located
- 4 The main building material used to build the Holy Trinity Anglican church
- 5 The surname of Buninyong's well-known blacksmith
- 6 The name of the postmaster in 1855
- 7 The hotel destroyed by fire in 1884
- 8 Variety of Scotsburn Winery's award-winning wine
- 9 Month in which Good Life Festival held
- 10 A festival held on a weekend in May
- 11 Place where are entries in Buninyong's Marmalade Festival sent for judging
- 12 City to the south able to be seen from Mt Buninyong on a clear day
- 13 Main building material used in the Scotsburn Union Church
- 14 First names of the owners of Trials Bikes shop

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Shock Council resignation Eric Braslis - friend to Buninyong

With the recent resignation of Eric Braslis from his position of City of Ballarat Manager, City Infrastructure, Buninyong has lost a strong supporter of local community projects in the district.

For several years, he has worked closely and cooperatively with the Buninyong & District Community Association (BDCA) and other groups such as the Bowling Club on a range of local community improvement projects including the upgrade to street furniture, the street vines project, the upgrade of the bowling club, and the present Town Hall Precinct project.

Eric, 49, came to Australia in 1994 from his native Toronto, Canada. He has been with the City of Ballarat for some five years following sixteen years in senior planning and infrastructure roles with Hobsons Bay City Council and with the City of Stonnington. He has also had experience as a private sector planning consultant and as a part-time lecturer at La Trobe University.

He leaves to take up the position of CEO of the Gannawarra Shire Council in Kerang commencing in late July.

Speaking with *Buninyong & District Community News* recently, Eric Braslis said that he enjoyed working with the Buninyong community "as local people



A farewell coffee in Buninyong

and groups there had a clear vision for improvements to the village and were persistent enough to be successful with most of them. Many things don't happen quickly with Councils," he said.

Convenor of the BDCA Township projects sub-committee, **Barry Fitzgerald**, said that Eric Braslis in his senior management role with Council has proved to be a 'straight-shooter' who made his time available to meet with those trying to move on Buninyong projects and often took the trouble to make on-site visits to the village to discuss them.

ASK Councillor Peter Innes



The monthly column where you can ask your questions about Council matters. Email your question to buninyongnews@gmail.com

I am a great supporter of retaining Buninyong's natural and unmade roads such as Cathcart St (south). But after heavy rains lots of debris and gravel is washed down Scott St and enters the storm water system. Can you get someone to look at this please? Harold, Scott Street

Harold, thanks for the question, it is important for us to address your issue and I invite you to email me or ring me on 0407 539 683 with more details of the problem. I will make a time, along with Council Officers, to meet you on site and look at ways to address the issue. Your problem may also relate to the issue raised in the letter below.

I have noticed that most parts of Ballarat's CBD suburbs seem to have a street sweeper come by on a regular basis. Doesn't seem to be the case in Buninyong (and certainly not in those parts not in Buninyong's 'downtown' area.) Would be good if you can press for regular attention to Buninyong's streets too. Charles, Simpson St

I agree that street cleaning is an issue and we at the City of Ballarat must not forget the outer parts of our Municipality. I spoke with staff today and was informed that the street sweeper visits Buninyong on a monthly basis. Whilst this is not nearly enough, we will however, commence weekly visits when our new footpath sweeper commences. Keep a record of when the sweeper does your street and let me know.

BDCA meets City planners

As a follow-up to its written submission to Council concerning the report Ballarat Strategy: Our Vision for 2040, the Community Association met with senior Council Planning staff on 13 July. Shown are **Terry Demeo – Manager Planning Implementation** (left) and **James Guy – Senior Strategic Planner** with BDCA Secretary **Gayle Adams**.



Gardens luncheon

EXPERT ADVISES ON GARDENS TREES REMOVAL

When he was Director of the Royal Botanical Gardens, Sydney some ten years ago, Dr Tim Entwistle was faced with implementing decisions about the removal of a number of large trees in the Sydney Domain.

In spite of the lengthy and well considered process leading to this decision, and efforts to inform and engage with the public, a huge media and political backlash ensued.

Among other charges he was he was vilified as a 'murderer'. Eventually reason prevailed. Ten trees were removed, and the replacement trees, planted in informal groups rather than avenue form, are now thriving.

Now Director and CEO of the Royal Botanic Gardens Victoria, Dr Entwistle was guest speaker at the Winter Fundraising Luncheon of the Friends of the Buninyong Botanic Gardens (FBBG) held in the Town Hall in June.

Timely

Tim's presentation was particularly timely, given the age and condition of many of the trees in the local Buninyong Botanic Gardens. Earlier this year the City of Ballarat arborist and Risk Management division together appraised the group of white poplars near the Memorial Garden in the old baths.

This area has been temporarily fenced off pending removal of nine of the large tree trunks deemed to be a potential danger.



Guest speaker Dr Tim Entwistle (L) takes a photo of FBBG members Richard Patterson and Chris Hindhaugh displaying some old garden tools. FBBG President Anne King watches from the stage.

The current proposal is to leave seven poplars in place. However, Tim stressed how difficult it can be to interplant young trees beside mature specimens, where they have to compete for light, water and nutrients.

He explained how in some circumstances it makes sense to remove additional (possibly currently healthy) trees to maximise the successful development of replacement planting. This approach is especially relevant for formal avenue plantings where it is desirable for trees to match in scale.

In coming years it is likely that more old trees in the local gardens will require removal and replacement. No one wants

to take responsibility for the destruction of much loved trees but this Friends Group looks forward to working with the City of Ballarat to develop an appropriate 'succession plan' to remove and replace progressively, thereby ensuring the long term future of a well treed Buninyong Botanic Gardens.

For more information and membership enquiries contact FBBG Secretary **Karen Hulston** 5341 3947, or for the history of the gardens and news of regular activities and coming events visit the FBBG website at www.buninyong.vic.au/gardens.htm

Anne King, President FBBG

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Another chapter for old Shire offices

When the Kennett Government decided on wholesale amalgamations of Victorian local government authorities in 1993-94, the Shire of Buninyong was then integrated into the City of Ballarat. The former Shire Offices in Learmonth Street which had been constructed about ten years earlier, soon became redundant.

Since then, the offices have sat vacant for considerable periods, and have seen a succession of occupants and owners including Marriott & Tol Accountants, Buninyong Real Estate, Porter Plant, and A W Nicholson.

In the early stages of planning for the Buninyong Community Bank the various bank working parties and then Bank Board held their meetings in the spacious Boardroom courtesy of **Tim Porter**. This Board Room is now available for hire by businesses or community groups.

Some twelve months ago the property was purchased by Buninyong businessman **Gerard Ballantyne** and his son **Sam**,

who after giving initial consideration to setting up a restaurant there, have now reconfigured and refurbished the premises to become a business and professional centre with self-contained or serviced offices.

It has been given the name of Village Place Buninyong.

Already Foundation Law has relocated its offices there, and another health related business will soon be moving.

With construction works now completed, local residents are invited to inspect the building at an 'open day' on Thursday 30 July from 1.00pm.



Invitation

to all interested and curious residents to inspect

VILLAGE PLACE BUNINYONG

the former Shire Offices in Learmonth St Buninyong, now with a new future as a

CORPORATE BUSINESS CENTRE

Drop in for a look around at the newly-completed furnished offices and suites, the boardroom, and the lounge areas

THURSDAY, 30 JULY 2015 from 1.00pm to 6.00pm

Good Life Festival Activities Markets, coats, buskers and BBQs

Community Groups BBQ

A community BBQ is held each Village Market, an event managed by the Good Life Festival Committee. These BBQs provide an opportunity for a local community group to raise funds. At the 28 June market, the Story of Buninyong team raised funds towards the Grade 4 Buninyong Primary School local history/arts program.

If your community group would like to book the community BBQ for a market this year please contact Secretary **Lisa Cressey** on lisacressey70@gmail.com. The next Community Market is scheduled for Sunday 26 July (9.00am to 1.00pm) with the theme of Christmas in July.

Coats for Kids Appeal

Eureka Mums collected coats for local kids in need at the June market. The appeal aims to collect 300 new and secondhand coats between June 1 and July 31, in sizes 0-10. Check out your cupboards and storage boxes to support this important local project and bring them down to the next market.

Buskers wanted

The Committee is keen to encourage Buskers to perform at the Buninyong Village Markets. Musicians, Singers, Painters, Poets... anything goes! Please call **Miranda** on 0409 954 283 to book a spot... all ages encouraged.

GET JIGGY WITH IT and BE THE KING OF THE WORLD!
Dress up in your **MC HAMMER PANTS** and **SCHWING!** Come and **PUMP UP THE JAM** at the annual Good Life Festival...

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NO SOUP FOR YOU!
BYO NIBBLES & DRINKS

This is an annual fund-raising event for the Buninyong Good Life Festival
Unlike FIGHT CLUB, we do want you to talk about it: Buninyong Good Life Festival on Facebook

Volunteers Wanted!

The Good Life Festival Committee of volunteers is always open to new members and now is a great time to join. People of all ages are welcome.

The Good Life Festival is a volunteer run event that involves the organisation of a major local annual festival and also manages the monthly Buninyong Village Market. People interested in helping out are encouraged to join - whether it be by just lending a hand on the day or helping out throughout the year.

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Graeme – a true friend of Nepal



The massive earthquakes that hit Nepal in late April 2015, killing more than 9000 people, injuring some 25,000, and flattening villages leaving hundreds of thousands of people homeless, shocked the world.

But its impact on a Buninyong man was direct and emotionally shattering. Graeme Kent has spent the past fifteen years travelling to, working in and educating people about Nepal, a country he has come to love after first travelling there in 2000.

When he heard the news of the earthquake, Graeme said he was “devastated” and literally “bawled my eyes out” and wanted to “get up and go immediately”. His most recent, and twenty-seventh visit there, was soon after the earthquake in June.

His links to Nepal started in 1999 when he was CEO for the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award in Victoria and he was involved in organising ten teams of people who went to Nepal to assist with various forms of community development work. He was greatly assisted in the early stages by well-known figures such as Edmund and Peter Hilary, Tim McCartney-Snape

and then-young national politician, Natasha Stott-Despoja.

He now visits Nepal annually for periods of between two and four weeks, where the work of his teams – now operating under the auspices of the group he set up in 2011, Aussie Action Abroad – has been focussed on the district of Lamjung, some 100km west of Kathmandu. Projects there involve work in health, education and other forms of community development.

Six teams

In December 2015, Graeme will again visit Nepal with six teams involved with reconstruction work, agriculture and community health.

This time they will be based in Gorkha (the area where the famous Gurkha soldiers came from) and where 80 per cent of homes had been flattened by the earthquake. The group will be self-sufficient, staying in tents, but assisted by local people engaged as guides and cooks.

“While the major relief agencies such as Red Cross and Oxfam operate on a massive scale, our groups are more concerned with working directly with local Nepali people at the community level,” he said.

The woman now heading up the operations of the Red Cross in Nepal and involved with the setting up of hospitals, had approached Graeme in 1999 when she was a homeless, unemployed single mother who had scratched together \$500 to join one of the first teams to visit Nepal. “Hers has been an amazing story,” he said.



POLICE BEAT

TWO MALES were arrested by police recently in Mount Pleasant in relation to the theft of two motorcycles from an unlocked shed in Magpie on 10 June. The value of the bikes was approximately \$7,000. Both males will face the Ballarat Magistrates Court in July.

ON JUNE 12 Ballarat detectives executed a search warrant in Lal Lal where they located a hydroponic crop of cannabis and a quantity of ammunition. A 33 Year old male was arrested and was bailed to appear at the Ballarat Magistrates Court at a later date.

LOCAL CFA crews and police recently attended a call out in Scotchman’s Lead Road in relation to a fire inside the roof cavity of a residence. The flames were quickly contained and the residents were uninjured. With the cold weather now here, all residents should ensure that heating systems have been properly serviced, and be vigilant with wood heaters, especially when you’re not at home.

BETWEEN 13 and 14 June, four vehicles were broken into in Nolan and Hedrick Streets, Buninyong. A computer tablet, tools and communication equipment were stolen. Unfortunately, three of the four vehicles were unlocked at the time. Police reiterate the need for owners to secure their valuables outside of their cars and ensure vehicles are locked at all times.

FACTS ABOUT car thefts! Older vehicles still make up the majority of car thefts, with more than 60 per cent of thefts being of vehicles manufactured prior to 2000. The top theft targets reflect this, with the humble Hyundai Excel Hatch being the most targeted small car and the Holden VT Commodore is the most commonly-stolen large car. If you have an older vehicle consider installing extra security such as a steering wheel lock or engine immobiliser.

Two new businesses open

Shoes, keys and quality imported glass now here



Lisa Nguyen and Yuspin Wheeler with daughter Nheena in their new Buninyong shop

The booming Buninyong commercial scene has been boosted by the opening in early July of two new and quite different businesses.

Maxx Multi Services, operated by **Lisa Nguyen** and **Yuspin Wheeler** has opened in the old Eagle Hotel building Warrenheip Street in the premises formerly occupied by Foundation Law (next to the BP service station).

Yuspin is a highly experienced shoe repairer, key cutter, engraver and watch repairer. He and Lisa operated a similar business in Keilor for some sixteen years before recently moving to Mt Helen and opening up Maxx Multi Services in Buninyong.

Their coming here was “an accident” when, after playing golf at Buninyong last year, they decided to try to find

“ We really loved the feel of Buninyong, and thought the golf course was terrific ”

their way back to Melbourne through the Buninyong village rather than using the route they knew through Sebastopol.

“We really loved the feel of Buninyong, and thought the golf course was terrific, and decided then and there to investigate a move to the district”. Daughter Nheena, aged 11, now attends Buninyong Primary School.

Maxx Multi Services (phone 5341 2783) will fill a business gap in the town with its range of services being very similar to those offered by the

shopping centre franchise Mr Minit. In addition to the shoe and watch repair services, the shop carries a full range of shoe care products, watch bands and batteries, pet tags, and remote controls for cars and houses.

QUALITY GLASS

A unique business dealing in high-end quality imported glassware has also recently opened in premises on the Midland Highway just opposite the Buninyong Cemetery, where the Bower Bird Cottage was previously.

Former Qantas flight attendant **Brett Wintle** has moved this exclusive glassware business, Brewin-European Glass Imports, from Sydney Road, Brunswick to the Buninyong site. He opened the Brunswick store in 2009, after “becoming sick of living out of a suitcase” for the seventeen years he worked for Qantas.

His store has a huge range of fine glassware, glass jewellery (bracelets, pendants, cuff links and the like) and an amazing range of giftware made from quality glass

His glassware is exclusively imported from Murano, the famous Italian ‘glassware’ island just off shore from Venice, from the ancient cities of Valetta and Mdina in Malta, and from Waterford in Ireland.

The Waterford glass is from the Irish Hand Made Glass Company which was started up some five years ago by five top tradesmen from the famous Waterford Crystal factory which closed in 2009. It has since reopened.



Brett Wintle shows off a piece of high quality Murano glass (left) together with two examples of quality Malta glass vases

Brett makes an annual buying trip to these centres in Europe to select and import his amazing range of glassware

Despite the quality of the fine glass products in the store, the prices start

from just \$20. The price of some high quality unique glass pieces ranges over \$2000. The store is open Thursdays to Sundays from 10.00am to 5.00pm. Phone 0418 251 063.

Letter to the editor

Old Buninyong Boy

Before joining the Army some 38 years ago, I spent the first nineteen years of my life in Buninyong. I am a member of the Innes family, my mother being Beverly Innes before her marriage. Mum is buried at the Buninyong Cemetery along with my brother Mark.

What are the chances of receiving copies of your Newsletter when they come out? They would be greatly appreciated.

I still have a heap of relatives who live in the town, and it would be great to read about what is happening in Buninyong.

Major Bryan Bunney, Gallipoli Barracks, Enoggera, Qld

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News beats Courier by three months

Buninyong & District Community News beat *The Courier* to that interesting story about the missing Buninyong fire bell by about three months.

The News ran the story as the lead to the April 2015 edition. *The Courier* followed with a very similar story on page 2 of its 9 July edition.

The News won't win all the time but we are in touch with happenings in the Buninyong Community.



A Tale of Theft, Ships and Junk Yards

MYSTERY OF THE FIRE BELL

Recently there has been an intriguing twist in the case of the Buninyong fire bell stolen after the 1898 fire which destroyed the two storey building which had been built fifteen years earlier in 1883.

The bell at the fire station was used not only to alert people of a fire in the village, but also was rung in times of local disasters such as a search for a missing person.

When the bell went missing after the 1898 fire, just the tongue of the bell was left behind.

Then, in the 1960's, former Fire Captain **George White** found a bell resembling the missing one in a junk yard in Brunswick. But when he returned there with the tongue from the Buninyong Fire Station to see if it fitted, the bell had again gone.

Now, after 117 years, the bell may be back home.

A few months ago, the Brigade was contacted by Peter Weeks of Sims Metal Management of Noble Park who told the Brigade's Captain **Marc Cannon** that workers at their metals



THE COURIER Thursday July 9, 2015

NEWS

Old bell rings home

BY KARA IRVING

THE TALE of a historic Buninyong fire station bell is worth its weight in brass.

It's been stolen from Buninyong, sold in Brunswick and narrowly avoided destruction in a Noble Park scrap metal processing plant.

After 125 years in Brunswick, the rustic bell returned to its home in Buninyong last December.

But local CFA members are still questioning whether the supposed bell is the same as the one that once hung outside the station in 1893.

There have been suggestions the bell belonged to the SS Buninyong ship that was built in 1883.

Buninyong CFA captain **Marc Cannon** said its history still remained a mystery.

"There is evidence for and against whether it's our bell or not," he said.

"We don't have definitive evidence in the fire station, but there there is no definite evidence that it belongs to the ship, which makes it interesting."

Mr Cannon said the bell was stolen from the Buninyong fire station after devastating fire in 1898, however the tongue of the bell was left behind.

The Courier reported in 1972 that former fire brigade captain **George White** had been found a brass bell, with-

out a tongue, in a Brunswick junkyard.

But when Mr White returned to match the fire station's bell-tongue to the bell, it had disappeared.

Last December, Mr Cannon was told by a local business owner that his contacts had found the bell at Sims Metal Management processing plant in Noble Park.

"[It] was sold through the processing plant and noticed the bell sticking out of the rubble," he said.

The scrap metal plant listed the composition of the bell and found it was 80 per cent tin and 20 per cent copper, which is traditionally brass.

Mr Cannon has been researching the bell's origin since its return to the station last December.

He has contacted the National Maritime Museum in the United Kingdom for information about the SS Buninyong.

Mr Cannon said most inland bells were made of silver brass or iron, with brass preferred to marine or coastal areas due to its anti-corrosive properties.

The ship incorporated passenger between Sydney and Melbourne between 1883 and 1884, before it scuttled in Port Phillip Bay in 1885.

"Until someone also claims ownership, it will remain of the station," he said.



FOUND: Buninyong CFA members fourth lieutenant Ashley Cahill, captain Marc Cannon and life member Bruce Morley with the Buninyong fire bell. Picture: Leslie Bevan.

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BODY REHABILITATION RELAXATION EXPRESSION

Mountain burn off coming

In the early part of Spring a controlled burn will be conducted on Mount Buninyong to protect essential communications infrastructure there in the event of a wildfire.

The burn will be conducted by the Department of Environment and Primary Industry (DEPI) during the cooler months.

Preparations for the burn were made in early July with the removal of hazardous trees around the 3.7 ha site which will involve a crescent shaped area on the eastern side adjacent to



During the July school holidays Buninyong resident Mandy Sharp with her children, Callum, Toby and Zac were taking their dog Paddy up to the Mount only to find the track temporarily closed because of the preliminary works for the burn off. (Photo Russell Luckcock)

the telecommunications tower used by Telstra, Ambulance Victoria, Police and CFA as well as the DELWP fire lookout tower on the mount.

The road to Mount Buninyong was temporarily closed on 6 July while the dangerous trees were removed in preparation for the coming controlled burn.



Buninyong

Ask a local

The team at PRD Nationwide Buninyong have over 60 years combined experience working within the Real Estate Industry.

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Our Team look forward to new challenges offered in this vibrant area of Buninyong, Mt Helen and the surrounding districts.

Feel free to call or drop into our office with any queries regarding our local real estate market, whether buying or selling. We look forward to being of service to you.



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Lucky escape for couple from Buninyong house fire

A couple had a lucky escape when their house in Wirreanda Drive caught fire and was burnt out last month. The Buninyong district residents managed to get out on to their roof through a window but both suffered smoke inhalation when the husband finally managed to get his semi-conscious wife out with the help of a neighbour. The couple was taken to hospital.

Anthony Pearce from CFA Media said that, on arrival, they had helped to rescue the couple from the roof and then attacked the fire in the two-storey mud brick house which was well alight as the fire was burning in readily-flammable stored material.

Fifteen units

Some fifteen CFA units attended, including Ballarat City's Ladder Platform truck which was used to attack the fire from above. This unit can pump 4,000 litres a minute when required but access into the roof was difficult as holes had to be cut in the corrugated iron with a power saw and then the fire kept at bay as fast as possible. An excavator was subsequently used to tear away smouldering debris so it could be extinguished.



Incident Controller, Matt O'Brien (right), from CFA Buninyong directs operations at the Wirreanda Drive house fire.

The difficulty in accessing adequate water supplies was a particular problem with this fire. A dam at the back of the block was inaccessible so other part-full dams nearby were used for a while until water tankers could be organised. Buninyong CFA's Collar tank was situated on the road outside the house and was being refilled by a constant stream of tankers.

The mud brick walls of the house made it very hot inside, according to firefighters who had to search inside with breathing apparatus.

Fire units from Buninyong, Mt Buninyong, Haddon, Elaine, Mt Warrenheip, Sebastopol and Ballarat amongst others attended the fire which took several hours to control. Ambulance paramedics from Ballarat, Wendouree and Sebastopol were also there. The Incident Controller for the fire was Matt O'Brien from Buninyong CFA. On the radio co-ordinating trucks was Gareth Smith while driver Kenneth Bell and crewman Taylor Connell manned Buninyong CFA's tanker.

It seems that the lack of fire-fighting water in some semi-rural areas is an issue that may need to be addressed. CFA has invested heavily in new and powerful fire-fighting equipment that is quickly on the scene of a fire. But they can only operate effectively with adequate water - wherever a fire happens to start.

Gareth Smith, Buninyong CFA with the Buninyong tanker.

Russell Luckock

