

New look newsletter back

For over 37 years a hard copy version of the *Buninyong Community News* was printed and distributed each month to many homes by a group of dedicated locals. In recent years **Karen Hulston** and **Ann Gooding** were the leaders of the group who put the newsletter together.

Since 1977 the *Buninyong Community News* was looked forward to and eagerly read by community residents who found it to be a great source of community information and news.

After some distribution and cost problems were encountered, in late 2012 a decision was made to cease production of the hard-copy issue of the newsletter and to publish it only in electronic format. Many older members of the community found it much more difficult to access, and expressed concern about the loss of the hard copy edition.

Hard Copy

To investigate ways of reintroducing a hard copy edition, Buninyong & District Community Association (BDCA) nominated a small working-group to meet with the newsletter organisers.

After a number of planning meetings, discussions with the previous newsletter organisers, and with Council staff who had commenced production of an occasional

issue of a publication called *My Buninyong*, it was jointly agreed that a new monthly hard-copy publication would be commenced in early 2015 under the co-ordination of the BDCA. The newsletter will also be made available on-line.

Sample Edition

This present 'introductory' edition of only four pages, will be followed each month with a 12 or 16 page commercially-printed publication with some full-colour pages. This edition is simply intended to let community members know what is happening and to give an indication of the format of the newsletter which will be published from April.

The 'new-look' *Buninyong Community News* will be available each month at many designated outlets in Buninyong

Various funding and production options have been investigated. These include the possible use of the Community Bank's 'community resource' centre building in Warrenheip Street when renovations are completed.

In the meantime the efforts and work of those who compiled and distributed the *Buninyong Community News* across the years since July 1977 are saluted and recognised.



Dedicated volunteers who kept the Buni news going for many years

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OPINION

City Strategy Plan needs more Buninyong focus

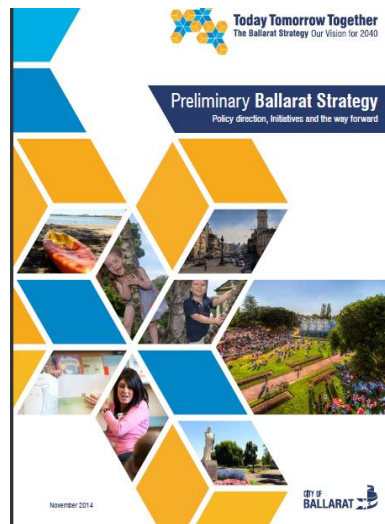
In November 2014, the City of Ballarat released a substantial “preliminary” strategy plan – *The Ballarat Strategy – Our Vision for 2040*.

In a detailed nine page response to the “preliminary” plan, the Buninyong & District Community Association (BDCA) drew Council’s attention to matters such as

- the insufficient emphasis given to the value placed by the Buninyong community on the area’s character, heritage and identity
- insufficient and inconsistent references to present and future traffic-related issues, particularly the urgent need to commence planning for a bypass of the township to cope with the future impact of the Western Link road
- the lack of reference to the importance of the ‘green wedge’ areas, particularly along Geelong Road, and which the community considers are vital in giving the area much of its character and identity
- the need for Buninyong to be included as a designated ‘Regional Tourism and Recreation Precinct’
- lack of reference to the important planning principles contained in the *Canadian Valley Outline Development Plan*

Other matters referred to in the BDCA response included extended bus services, neighbourhood links, infill

developments, parking, a possible railway station at Warrenheip, walking and cycling networks, and provisions for an aging community.



The Council is to be commended on the release of this “preliminary” strategy document. However much more community consultation with residents and community groups such as the BDCA is now needed before it is firmed up into a formal Council planning document which will guide development in Ballarat (and Buninyong) for the next 25 years.

WIPE OUT PLAN FOR GRAFFITI

Any graffiti which appears in the Buninyong area in the future will face instant wipeout through a joint Council and community initiative.

A mobile trailer unit with high pressure cleaning equipment is currently in final stages of construction and will be officially “launched” on 18 April.

The project involves the Community Association, the Men’s Shed, and the City of Ballarat.

The major funding for the project came through a grant from the Department of Justice. This followed an application by the City of Ballarat after a request from the BDCA. The local Lions Club also contributed to the funding.

The unit will be stored at the Men’s Shed (near the tennis courts) and their members will form the basis of a ‘rapid response’ graffiti removal team.

Details of how to report graffiti vandalism will be published in a future issue.

New Village Market Pulls Crowds

October 2014 saw the management of the Buninyong Village Market change from the Ballarat East Rotary Club to the Committee of the Good Life Festival. The market, now held on a Sunday, continues to grow and is receiving good support from stallholders and the community.

Market Dates & Themes Feb-Jun 2015

Feb 22 -	Days of Summer
Mar 29 -	Easter Fun
April 26 -	Our Heritage
May 31 -	Rug Up
June 28 -	It’s Snow Fun

RSL TO RESTORE AVENUE OF HONOUR

Many local residents know little of the four World War I Avenues of Honour in Buninyong.

According to Buninyong historian, the late Derick Leather, the Avenues are

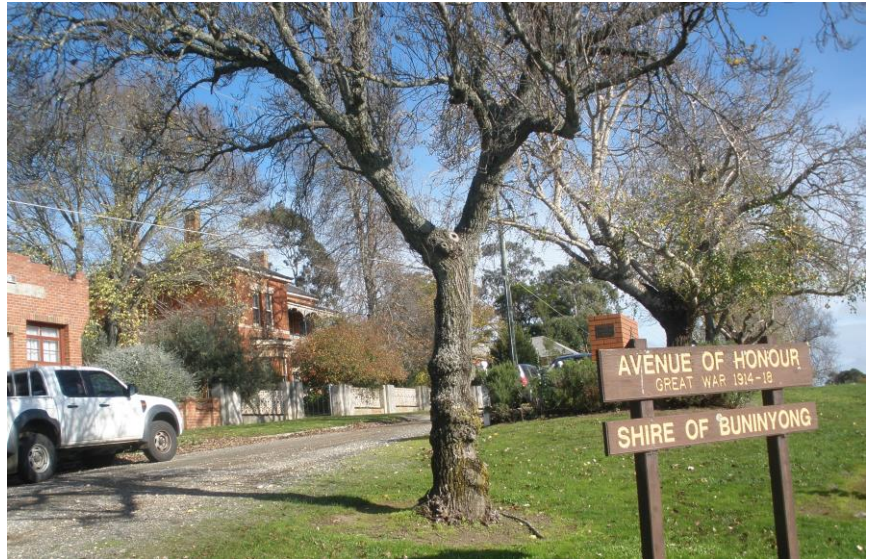
- in Barkly Street, running east from Warrenheip, Street, where the avenue of oaks was originally planned to extend to beyond the old railway bridge
- at Hasties Hill/Birdwood Park where there is a short avenue of oaks and poplars and several memorial Monterey pines
- in Inglis Street from Scott to Forest Streets where an avenue of elms was planted in memory of members of the local Fire Brigade who served in World War I, and
- the main Avenue of Honour in Learmonth Street (pictured) which commences at the Fire Station and runs for about 2km west along Learmonth Street

This main Avenue was planted in 1917. The 140 trees originally planted were oaks, poplars and elms and, according to Derick Leather, “each tree had a memorial marker with the name of the serviceman or woman it commemorated.”

Missing

All of the original commemorative markers are missing. The project plans to install a stone plinth with an informative plaque at each tree commemorating a member of the services from the former Buninyong Shire district who was killed or died on active service in World War I

While occasional replanting has occurred, the Avenue currently is



in a sad state with the memorial trees crowded out in a few areas by the growth of self-sown suckers, trees and shrubs. These will be removed to restore the integrity of the original Avenue.

Other trees are in urgent need of re-shaping, and a number of trees are dead, dying or missing.

Funding

With the co-operation of the City of Ballarat, the RSL was successful in obtaining funding from the State Government’s ‘Restoring Community War Memorials’ Fund, and from the City’s allocation of funds to Buninyong for local projects.

President of the Buninyong Sub-Branch of the RSL, Ray Mende, says the RSL members “have been heartened with the support given to the project from many quarters – particularly from the Council, and local groups such as the Buninyong & District Community Association (which is assisting with project development and management), the Buninyong & District Historical Society, and other service groups.

“We are also inviting anyone who believes that they have a relative

from the district who was killed or died in service in World War I to check that their name is included in the records now being researched.”

The list can be checked by calling 5341 2844.

He said that the names of all of the 550 or so people from the Shire who served in World War I, including the 125 who died in action, were listed on the brick memorial on the road verge outside of the RSL Park at the corner of Learmonth and Warrenheip Streets.

This is your newspaper How do you contribute?

Community members and groups are invited to submit material for the Buninyong Community Newsletter which will be published monthly commencing in April 2015.

Copy for articles should be no more than 400 words and may be accompanied by a photo (max 2).

Articles should be submitted by the 12th of each month and forwarded by email to buninyongnews@gmail.com. Advertising enquiries should be directed to 5341 2844.

BIKES, BELLS AND BUSINESS AT NATIONAL CYCLE RACES

After many complaints over the years about the absence of reference to Buninyong at the annual Cycling Championships conducted here, this year saw a big change.

There was considerable 'backgrounding' of the village and surrounding areas in the Gem TV telecast, and race commentators referred to some local landmarks and businesses in their commentary and race call.

Cowbells

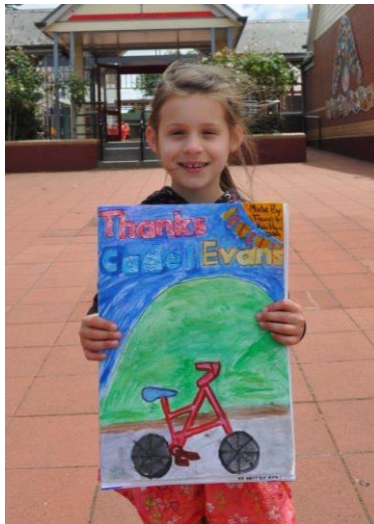
Indeed, those noisy cowbells were a major hit this year – adding considerable atmosphere as well as raising funds for the Amy Gillett Foundation – a cycling-related charity.

Local businesses have begun to cotton on to the possibilities provided by the bike race. Coffee vendors did a roaring trade, especially with their street front outlets, as did take away food outlets.

Many businesses took the trouble to dress up their premises with cycling-theme materials, and those old red bikes around the town looked great.

Next year, with the development of new businesses along the northern part of Warrenheip

Street, event organisers will be asked to create another spectator area, with tables, chairs, and toilets, located at the Eyre Street corner adjacent to the Community Bank.



After the Championships, the community presented **Cadel Evans** with a card congratulating him on his career and thanking him for coming to Buninyong. The card was put together by the Grade 6 Art Team at Buninyong Primary School and contained a number of inserts with student signatures and decorations. **Emily Micallef** (pictured) was the lucky student whose name was drawn to present the card to Cadel.



On the Back Page

TWO BIG changes late in 2014 at the Community Bank. Following the resignation of **Stuart McKee**, **Randall Dreger** was appointed to the Manager's position, and **Greg Veal**, formerly of bankmecu, took up the new role of Business Development Manager. Stuart is still with Bendigo Bank as a Relieving Manager at various Ballarat branches.

SOME RECENT planning applications for developments in the village have been spotted. One is at 316 Barkly Street – this is for an eight unit development.

THE LIGHTING at the village's four new stone entrance signs has been improved recently. At the sign at the Mt Helen entrance a larger solar panel and bigger battery have been installed to overcome the problems created there by tree shading. At the three other locations the lights have been moved in closer to the signs. Noticed recently, similar signs out at Miners' Rest.

NEW FACES in Buninyong Village – we welcome

- **Clive and Wendy Kirby** and **Yannick Meer** who have recently opened *the Pig and Goose*
- **Esther Zhang** and family at the Post Office, and
- **Michele Riddiford** at *Espresso Depot*.

TO ADD to the new medical practitioners who recently commenced in the village, word is that a dentist will be setting up practice here in coming months. This will complete the range of health services readily available to locals.

LAWYER Paul O'Beirne has moved offices from adjacent to the BP service station to the new professional office set up in the old Shire Offices.