

ANZAC Day Services

CROWD PACKS RSL PARK

On a cool morning marked by heavy cloud but no rain, a crowd estimated at 1500 people attended the moving Centenary ANZAC Day commemoration service held at RSL Memorial Park in Buninyong.

The catafalque party comprised soldiers and cadets from the 8/7 Royal Victorian Regiment. The bugler was **Claire O'Brien** and the piper who played during the wreath-laying ceremony was **Sue Brant**. Some 30 local organisations and groups laid wreaths.

MC duties for the ceremony were ably carried out by **Bill Durrant**, and the welcome and address was delivered by Buninyong RSL President **Ray Mende** who also made scholarship presentations to students from district schools.

An unveiling ceremony of a Lone Pine Centenary plaque was carried out by **Max Thorne**.

Following the service at the park, RSL members and others marched to the Buninyong Town Hall where another



service involving the singing of the national anthems of Australia and New Zealand, hymn singing, and prayer and benediction by **Rev Mark Schnerring** was conducted. Singing was led by the CWA Choir and an ANZAC Day Address

was delivered by **Cr Peter Innes**. Buninyong District Cubs and Guides were also involved in the Town Hall ceremonies.

Above, RSL President, Ray Mende, delivering the ANZAC Day address

Poppies go on soldier graves

As part of the community remembrance of the ANZAC centenary, the Buninyong Cemetery Trust placed small red ceramic poppies on headstones on which there was reference to a soldier killed in World War I.

In every case, the soldier was buried in an overseas war grave, but the families had commemorated him by a plaque or other reference on the family grave in the Buninyong Cemetery.

The Cemetery Trust is also now investigating funding which may be available for the restoration of graves of other servicemen or women who are buried in Buninyong.



Youngsters of Buninyong and district were out in force at the 2015 ANZAC Day service which was held in RSL Memorial Park (photo: Ron Fleming)



Scotsburn pupils show respect and pride

ANZAC Day 2015 was an important event for pupils at Scotsburn school. The students were immersed in a range of meaningful experiences both in their regular classes and in special ceremonies. These included visits to the Scotsburn Hall where they looked at and chatted about the Roll of Honour, joining with



RSL members to plant a Gallipoli oak tree, gifted by the National Trust (Victoria), and being at a full school assembly on ANZAC eve where Cr Peter Innes was guest speaker.

Above: Rupert Archer and Cameron Plier proudly show off children's original ANZAC artwork. Above left: The Scotsburn World War I Roll of Honour was of interest to pupils Mia Lepair, Paige Iskra, Rory Ludeman, Toby Bilston and Nathan Levens

Big impact on young Buninyong students

On Friday, 24 April, Buninyong Primary School held a special assembly to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the landing at Gallipoli. A large crowd came along, which certainly helped the students understand the importance of the occasion.

Guest speaker, Cr Peter Innes, helped

the students understand the significance of ANZAC Day. The Grade 4 students sang a special song ('Lest We Forget') which touched the hearts of all in attendance.

The story of Patrick Thomas McCarty was told. He was a local lad who fought and died in WW1. His story helped give

a local context to a war fought far away.

Ray Mende and Max Thorne from the Buninyong RSL teamed with students Shallan Pompe and Rachel Gerada to plant a Gallipoli Oak. This tree was gifted to the school by the National Trust and is a descendant of the oaks that grew on the cliffs at Gallipoli.

Grade 5 student, Luke Hart, did an amazing job playing the Last Post and the grade 6 Art Team laid a wreath that consisted of many hand prints with ANZAC messages.

The students were lucky enough to see Jed Medwell and his mum Nicki in the full uniform of a Light Horseman, complete with their horse ... this was a highlight for many of the students.

At the end of WW1, State Schools were given Honour Rolls with the names of ex-students who served in that war. Over the past few weeks the school has located the Honour Rolls for Buninyong and Scotsburn Primary Schools, and also those for Clarendon and Cambrian Hill Primary Schools. These indicate that 201 ex-Buninyong students fought in WW1 with 45 paying the supreme sacrifice.



Community house set to play big role in village

In recent years the office of the Leigh Catchment Group and a home to community radio presenter Claudia Hochhuth, the little red brick cottage at 407 Warrenheip Street is set for a new life after being purchased in 2014 by the Buninyong Community Bank.



Bank Board Chairman, **Stephen Falconer**, said that the purchase of the building was another way of showing the Bank's long-term commitment to and support for the Buninyong community.

"When we first opened the Community Bank in 2010 during the GFC, there were some who doubted our ability to becoming profitable in the short term."

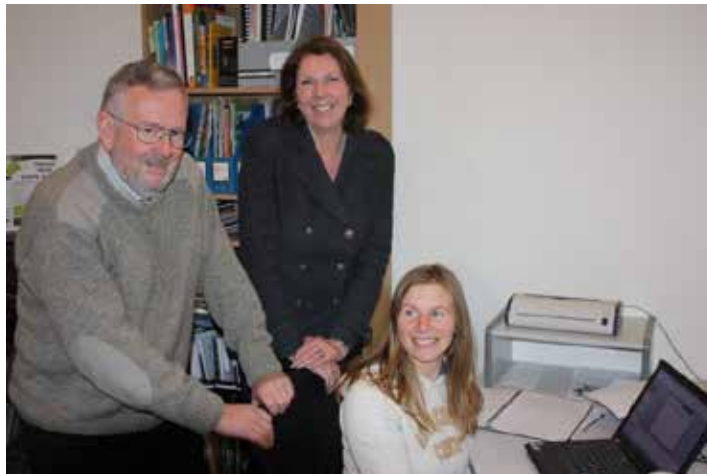
Mr Falconer said that over the past five years the bank had made significant investment back to the community – in total some \$200,000 to more than 60 different groups. The funds for these community grants have come from the Community Bank's operating profit. "Our community has embraced us," he said, "and in turn we are able to strongly contribute to community development."

Bank funding support has covered many facets of community life including grants to the Youth Park, the community newspaper, to sports clubs of all kinds, to the CFA, to schools and pupils, RSL,

Men's Shed, and community groups like the Buninyong Library Trust, the Community Association and the Good Life Festival, young driver education and training and in support of development of the youth in our area.

"The chance to buy the cottage was too good an opportunity to pass up," Mr Falconer said. "It has been apparent that there is a need for a central building which can act as a resource centre and meeting place for small community groups to fulfil their activities."

Refurbishment by Buninyong area tradies and furnishing of the building is now well under way. One of the first changes to be seen by passers-by will be the refurbishment of the front fence and veranda area. Guided by heritage architect, Wendy Jacobs, the add-on 'art deco' veranda will be removed and replaced with a veranda in sympathy with the design of the original cottage, once owned by the Coxall family, which was built around 1880.



Federal Member for Ballarat, the Hon Catherine King, MP inspects the Community House with Community Bank Board Chairman, Stephen Falconer. Leigh Catchment researcher, Kate Constance, is already at work.

The Community House is expected to open in August 2015. Community groups wishing to use the Community House should contact the Community Bank in Warrenheip Street.



POLICE BEAT

LOCAL POLICE have been busy at Mount Buninyong of late. A quantity of cannabis was located in a vehicle late at night recently with a 19 year old male now assisting police. Other incidents have seen a sword and further drugs removed from vehicles.

THE BUNINYONG Community Sports facility was broken into on the 16 April 2015, fortunately nothing of value was taken, however the offenders caused damage in order to access the building. Any information in relation to the burglary can be forwarded to Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

POLICE WERE called to assist the CFA in Frenchman's Lane Mount Clear on 24 April 2015 after a vehicle was set alight. Upon arrival the vehicle was completely destroyed. Any suspicious persons or vehicles can be reported to police by calling 000.

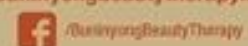
A 19 YEAR OLD male was killed after his vehicle collided head on with another vehicle on the Midland Highway at Clarendon on the 3 May 2015. Police are currently investigating the cause of the incident and are preparing a Brief for the Coroner.

EXCESSIVE SPEED continues to be a problem in the Buninyong CBD. A 40 kph zone has been declared on the Midland Highway during school times complete with flashing Signs. The regular 60 kph zone applies outside of this and local Police are conducting regular Speed Detection daily. *Remember to wipe off 5 and save lives.*



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Government agrees to new park

BIG WIN FOR 'CORRIDOR' GROUP



For more than two years the local group, Friends of the Canadian Corridor (FOCC) worked tirelessly to get political support for the creation of an extensive new park from what had been known as the Canadian State Forest and the adjoining former plantation land.

In what was an outstanding lobbying success, the FOCC gained a pre-election commitment from the ALP that, should it be elected, it would establish the Canadian Park in a 5km long strip running from Greenhill Road in the south to York Street in the north – an area of some 600 hectares.

Co-convenors of the FOCC and the lobbying effort have been **Linda Zibell**, **Bob Hartmann** and **Jeff Rootes**.

The new park will provide a variety of recreational opportunities for the community and will contribute to a north-south wildlife corridor, enhance the landscape and protect natural and cultural values. Vegetation connections will be re-built across the corridor.

A community consultation process - being conducted by the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning - is now underway in collaboration with the FOCC, partner agencies (City of Ballarat, the CFA and Parks Victoria) together with the Wadawarrung Corporation. This process includes a community survey, an invitation for submissions, and a face-to-face community consultation which was held at the Mt Clear College on 17-18 April.

Some 150 community members attended these sessions to meet with representatives of the various agencies.

In May the Department will update the FOCC, the Wadawarrung Corporation and other agencies on the results of the community consultations and submissions, and later that month will provide a report to the Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water.

Of the various possible models for the Park, the FOCC favours the 'Regional Park' model which balances conservation with usage.

It is expected that the new Park will be proclaimed in December 2015

Officers of the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (L) David Watson and Leon Holt listen to the views of Buninyong resident Neil McCracken on the new park



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Finding Wally and Buninyong

Twenty years or so ago, there was a hugely-popular series of children's books titled *Where's Wally?* The challenge was to find a picture of little Wally in amongst hundreds of other images.

The recent release of a major Ballarat planning document poses similar challenges for those looking for significant references to Buninyong.

In late 2014 the City of Ballarat released an interim planning publication of 100 pages titled *Preliminary Ballarat Strategy*. This outlined "for the first time the key concepts proposed to underpin land use decision making in Ballarat over the next 30 years".

In January 2015 the Buninyong & District Community Association (BDCA) lodged a nine page submission in response to this document. One of the key points in this submission was the future impact on Buninyong of traffic to be funnelled onto the Midland Highway at Magpie from the new Western Link Road.

Final Stage

Then, in May 2015, Council released "the next and final stage" publication intended to be used as the "strategy for managing growth and change in Ballarat towards 2040". This is a 284 page glossy publication titled *Today Tomorrow Together: The Ballarat Strategy: Our Vision for 2040*.

Again, this is a comprehensive, extremely well-produced publication. (It can also be found on the internet at www.ballarat.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay)

In amongst the myriad of maps, graphics and photographs, there are plenty of projections and plans. But, like pictures of

Wally, specific references to Buninyong and the kinds of issues raised by the BDCA back in January are much harder to find.

It is encouraging to read (at p157) that "integrated local planning will be undertaken" for township areas such as Buninyong and that "plans will identify a shared community vision, considering the opportunities and challenges of each unique community".

But confidence in such worthwhile intentions is dented by the document's failure to seriously embrace important local issues such as the future impact on the township of the Western Link Road. While the "need to complete all planned stages of the Ballarat Western Link Road" is stressed (at p185), the consideration of "bypass options for Buninyong" gets but passing mention.

Of course, this is an exercise that must involve the State Government and VicRoads as well as the City of Ballarat, but the present planning document is light on detail (or indeed enthusiasm) on this matter.

There is a further reference (at p 278) where it is stated that consideration will be given to "the potential for a Buninyong Bypass as part of Local Area Planning for the Buninyong Township"...but no detail funding, timeline or methodology for this is evident.

Many residents with an interest in the wide-ranging planning topics covered by this strategy document will find it of importance (and perhaps wish to comment on it – but do so before 5 June!)

And, if you happen to find Wally in there somewhere, do let us know!



This publication is a community project of the Buninyong & District Community Association (BDCA) supported by the City of Ballarat and the Buninyong Community Bank.

Published monthly (except January)

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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.

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Newsletter printed by Baxter and Stubbs, Ballarat.

More help needed at visitor centre

Yet another of the less obvious community support roles in Buninyong is that of the team that volunteers their time at the Visitors' Information Centre located in the Old Library building on Warrenheip Street.

The Centre is open from Tuesday through Sunday between the hours of 10.00 am and 3.00 pm and handles enquiries both from visitors to the village and also from locals and newcomers wanting to find out about matters such as local history.

Visitor Centre volunteer coordinator, **Frances Winnell**, said that the range of enquiries can range from people seeking simple directions to a local point of interest through to a detailed enquiry about family history or burial details at the local cemetery.

Mrs Winnell said that there are many resources held at the old library including family histories, maps, old local photographs, historical notes by local identities such as Derick Leather, various index resources, and full records of burials at the Buninyong Cemetery. Computer and photocopying equipment is available.

She said that the role of volunteers had been greatly helped by the recent publication of the 24 page *Buninyong Visitor Guide* which contains information on local history, historic buildings, parks and gardens, shopping and food/wine outlets, walking and district cycling and driving maps and the like.


Additional volunteers are now being sought to fill some gaps in the roster. Time commitment can be as little as a



two and a half hour session each month, and an induction help program is offered. Persons interested should contact Frances Winnell at 0415 929 571 or winnfandn@gmail.com

Two volunteers, Meryl McLeod and Kenneth Nicholls, keep warm by the open fire on a wintry May morning at the Visitor Centre

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Former athletics stars now settled on the Mount

Some sixty or so years ago Ray Weinberg and Shirley Ogle were re-writing the State and national athletics record books.



Weinberg was a 120 yards hurdles star, holding the national record for that event between 1952 and 1972 and Ogle was the Victorian champion over distances from 75 yards to 440 yards in the period between 1945 and 1947.

Now Ray Weinberg and wife Shirley are settled in their retirement home on the foothills of Mount Buninyong, on a five acre property dotted with gracious plantings of deciduous trees. They have lived in their property there for the past six years after moving from their home of 50 years in suburban Doncaster.

Born in the small town of Alexandra in 1926, Weinberg went on to represent Australia in the hurdles and in the sprint relays at both the 1948 Olympics in London and the 1952 Games in Helsinki.



As part of the lead up to Helsinki Olympic Games, he competed in the British

AAA Championships, winning the 120 yards in the British

All-Comers record time of 14.4 seconds. He was presented with his trophy by Queen Elizabeth.

He was appointed the Australian Athletics Coach for the 1968 Olympic Games in Mexico City.

After their marriage in 1950, Ray and Shirley Weinberg continued the family tradition in the family hotel business, spending over 20 years in the Commercial Hotel in Kerang.

Later he also had a varied career in the media in roles ranging from sports commentary (such as being part of the Seven network's coverage of the controversial Moscow 1980 Summer Olympics), and in media advertising, and media placement.

Local Links

Before purchasing the property *Comrie* from **Selwyn Graham** in 2009, the Weinbergs were frequent visitors to the district with daughter **Michele Pearson** and husband **Mick** living further up the mountain on Blackberry Lane for some 20 years.

On one visit they announced that they had put their Doncaster house on the market. "What on earth are you going to do?" said a surprised Mick, who then added that "I just remembered that there's an Open House today in a property for sale just down the road ... you'd better have a look at that!" The rest is history.



Love Buninyong

They "love just about everything in Buninyong" - pointing to the "lovely feel of living in a small village-community."

Their comfortable home is shared with **Jake**, their small 14 year old terrier cross dog, and with son **Brett** who "handles most of the heavy work of living on these few acres," said Ray. He said that moving here was the best thing we could have done.

Ray was made a Member of the Order of Australia in 2005, the honour being presented to him by former team-mate and lifelong friend, **John Landy**, then the Governor of Victoria.

Above left: Ray and Shirley Weinberg at home at "Comrie" on Mt Buninyong;

Left: Ray Weinberg competing for St Stephens Harriers in an event at Melbourne's old Olympic Park on Batman Avenue

Above: Shirley Ogle, Victorian Women's sprint record holder

Council at Town Hall on priority projects

Two councillors and some senior Council staff spent about three hours on 21 April meeting with Buninyong residents and business operators who took up Council's invitation to stop by the Town Hall to discuss Council's 2015-16 budget priorities.

Some 40 persons called in to meet with Councillors **Peter Innes** and **Jim Rinaldi** and senior Council staff including City Infrastructure Director **Eric Braslis**, People and Communities Director **Neville Ivey**, and members of Council's Community Engagement team.

Council had invited the Buninyong community to "have your say" on their \$4.5 million Priority Project Fund list of sixteen projects. But this exercise did not sit well with some Buninyong residents at the "consultation" session.

Most noted the fact that while the listed projects were important, virtually all projects related to Ballarat-central area – two related to the Gardens, to Her Majesty's Theatre, the Lake area, the Art Gallery, the Mining Exchange, CBD car parking, a \$250,000 toilet project in the "entertainment district" and the like.

The only two outside of the CBD were the proposed upgrade of the Sebastopol Library, and a \$230,000 project to open the Black Hill lookout.

This was a real opportunity for Council to include on their "priority" list the redevelopment works first proposed for de Soza Park in 2011.

But there was no reference to this locally high priority project for Buninyong, its residents, tourists, visitors from other parts of the city and further afield and those visiting the township for events such as the Cycling Championships.



Cr Jim Rinaldi, BDCA President Ian Salathiel and Council's Neville Ivey discuss local issues

Three councillors show support for local business



The three South Ward Councillors (**Peter Innes**, **Des Hudson** and **Jim Rinaldi**) all attended a meeting of local business operators convened by the Buninyong and District Community Association (BDCA) at the RSL Hall in May.

The meeting was a follow up to earlier efforts by local business people to form a viable group able to consider issues affecting businesses in Buninyong. The meeting, chaired by BDCA's **Barry Fitzgerald**, agreed that the group should be expanded beyond retailers to embrace all interested business operators/owners in the village.

The interim name for the group is the *Buninyong Business Network*, and initial planning will be undertaken by a working committee comprising **Gael Fennell** (Sew Special), **Zac Curran** (Chocalatto), **Lisa Cressey** (Celebrate), **Tracey Spencer** (Lana-Rose), **Clayton McIlvena** (Old Bluestone Café) and **Rhiannon Taylor** (Ribbon Body Health).

Issues discussed at the meeting included the cycling championships, village parking, involvement with Ballarat tourism events, township developments, cooperative ventures, a Warrenheip Street north project and grant possibilities.

Buninyong Cycling Reference Group's **Roger Permezel** who spoke briefly to the meeting, agreed to put concerns and suggestions about the national cycling events "on the planning table" when decisions are being made about the 2016 event.

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Oaks to be planted on Mt Innes in memory of Derick Leather

The Buninyong Community Reference Group recently approved a grant of \$10,000 for tree planting and other works to be undertaken at the summit of Mt Innes.

The project will involve planting of a copse of oak trees at the Midland Highway entrance to Mt Innes and will incorporate soft landscaping, tree acquisition and planting, seating and a commemorative plaque.



The plaque will commemorate the many and outstanding contributions Derick Leather made to the Buninyong community over more than forty years after he migrated here from his native Yorkshire. Before coming to Australia,

he was both a Captain in the British Army and a pilot in the RAF.

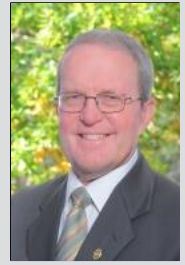
He lived in the historic house *Netherby*, at the corner of Scott and Warrenheip Streets until his death in 2012.

His local activities over many years involved almost all aspects of village life including the Buninyong Shire Council and most community groups.

This project will add to the many restoration works which have been carried out by Council and volunteers in the Mt Innes reserve over the past two years. Recent improvements have included the removal of dead trees and branches, removal of hawthorn bushes, restoration of war memorial plaques and cairn, and trimming and improvement works on manna gums.

Other works slated for the Mt Innes Reserve include deepening of the wetlands area, and improvement to paths and picnic furniture and other seating and installation of signage.

ASK



**Councillor
Peter Innes**

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

Why doesn't the City of Ballarat have an Environmental Officer as most other Councils do?
Meg, Learmonth St

We do have a small team of officers working in the environmental management area. The unit is called Waste, Water and Energy. It is responsible for the environmental sustainability of the whole City. Late May/early June, the unit will be presenting a State of the Environment report to Council. The report will explain the various initiatives and actions that have and will take place.

The laneway between the shops and the old Eagle Hotel building in Warrenheip Street has been in a neglected state for a long time. When can we expect some clean-up work by Council?
Gary, Warrenheip St

As with a lot of maintenance requests to Councillors I will submit an inspection/review of the lane to be conducted within two weeks, with remediation works to follow, if necessary

In last month's Community News there was an article on the graffiti trailer. Last week I rang the Council to report some and no-one knew what I was talking about. What's happening?
Ron, Forest St

Council is proud to partner with the Buninyong & District Community Association and the Men's Shed through the provision of a graffiti trailer. It is Council's intention to conduct basic O H & S training with the volunteers on a Wednesday in the near future. Once the training is complete, the unit will swing into action and Council Service Officers will be made aware of the system that is in place should members of the community report graffiti.

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Graeme Vendy Local Master of Music

Search the internet for **Graeme Vendy** OAM and you'll find many ex-students of Ballarat Clarendon College attesting to the huge influence he had on their careers. Graeme was Head of the Music Department until he retired, and also conducted and arranged music for many orchestras, bands and musicals over the years.

His daughter, Andrea Vendy, following in his footsteps, was drummer for the popular group The Mavis's.

Graeme literally lives "up the road" from Buninyong. I recently talked with him about his early career as a pianist with major jazz, swing and rock bands of the 1960s and 70s, including The Vibratones, The Executive and Garden City Seven.

The Vibratones were the house band for BTV6 new 'Teen Time' from 1963 and earlier featured on 'Showcase'. With stars such as Normie Rowe, Pat Carroll, Olivia Newton John, Trevor Gleeson, Anna Lee and Dianne Gilbert, The Vibratones would go from BTV6 to the Civic Hall for the 60 / 40 dances.

Some of Graeme's memorabilia of this period can be seen at **The People's Hall: Civic Hall from early concepts to future possibilities** exhibition at Backspace Gallery 4 – 21 June. Graeme will officially "open" the exhibition on Saturday 13 June at 2pm. Everyone is invited - you can even meet some of the other stars of this period, many of whom still perform.

Merle Hathaway



Graeme Vendy and daughter, Andrea

MT CLEAR TO THE GARDENS

Some 950 students and staff from the Mount Clear College took on the annual 5km walkathon to the Buninyong Botanic Gardens in late April.

At the Gardens everyone enjoyed a BBQ and the entertainment from music students of the College.

School Principal **Lynita Taylor** said that the students were able to raise funds from sponsorships for school facilities to be used by them. Many of them dressed up in a range of interesting and colourful costumes.

Shown cooking at the BBQ to feed the walkers are school staff/parents (L to R) **Michelle Thomas, Cheryl Taylor, Jacqui Ward, Mary Murphy.**

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Top year for Bowling Club



The Buninyong Bowling Club has recently completed a successful 2014-15 season with

district premierships being won by the Men's Division 4 and Division 6 teams and by the Ladies Midweek Division 3 team – for the second year in a row - scoring most points for all mid-week teams

The presentation night for the Club was held for the first time in the new club rooms on 10 April.

Club Champions

Ladies Brenda Wynd
R/up Barbara Voigt
Men Brian Wilcock
R/up Brett Innes

Men's Novice Champion

Winner Allan Donelly
R/up Steve Dargaville

Club Pairs

Ladies Sandra Chapman, B Wynd
R/up B Voigt, Marie Arthurson
Men Graeme Nicholson, Steve Albin
R/up Neil Innes, Keith Chapman

President's Handicap

Ladies Judy Earl
R/up Maidie Horne
Men Norm Hand
R/up Brett Innes

100 Up - Ladies

Winner Jarintorn Meulan
R/up Lyn Draffin

Two Bowl 15 Up Champion

Ladies Brenda Wynd
R/up Sandra Chapman
Men Keith Chapman
R/up Ken Sergeant

Memories of the Scotsburn Hall

Over the years many locals would have attended memorable events in the Scotsburn Hall.

A local resident, Julie Sellens, is keen to hear from anyone who may have attended special events there, have historic photographs of the hall, or otherwise have stories or memories to share about the hall.

Julie is a member of a University of the Third Age (U3A) class involved with a study of the history of Buninyong. She is required to put together a project titled *Memories of the Scotsburn Hall* and to make a presentation to the class on that topic.

She is keen to make contact with residents willing to chat with her about their memories or involvement with the hall, or to share memorabilia or photographs with her. She would happily provide a copy of her presentation to anyone able to assist her.

Julie can be contacted on 5341 3002, at PO Box 115 Buninyong 3357, or by email at jaymav1971@gmail.com.

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Prize winner announced

New sculpture for village centre

During 2014, a group of friends got together in Buninyong, and agreed there was no visible evidence of any art in the town or recognition that creative people lived in our community. They decided to form Arts Buninyong, with the intent of completing one major project a year.

For 2015 it was decided to organise a competition to create a public sculpture for the Buninyong village precinct. Contact was made with **Julie Collins**, (City of Ballarat Public Art Co-ordinator), **Daniel Henderson**, (Manager, Arts and Culture, City of Ballarat), and the Buninyong Community Reference Committee chaired by Cr **Peter Innes**.

It was encouraging to receive offers of financial support from local business and individuals in the community who shared a desire to help make Buninyong a centre of culture and the arts. Thanks to this extended team, the money was raised.

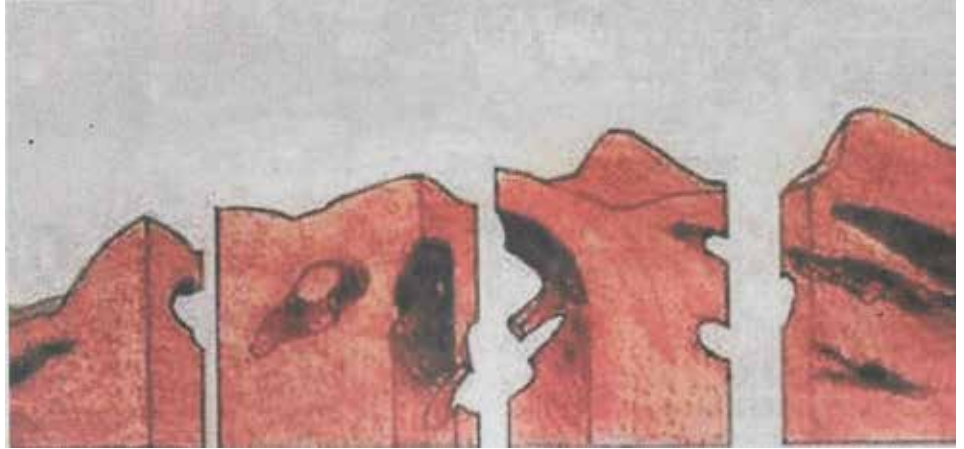
Review

Expressions of interest were called for and reviewed by Arts Buninyong, Julie and Daniel.

On 6 December 2014, interested artists were invited to do a site evaluation, clarify any issues related to the project and ask any questions concerning placement of their work. Artists had been given a reasonably open brief considering size, heritage and maintenance.

The north-east corner adjacent to the roundabout was chosen for the completed sculpture.

Their presentations and project interpretations were of an exceptionally



high standard, making the judging for the winning piece very difficult.

The judging panel met under the guidance of **Julie Collins** to decide on the successful artist. **Micheal Ford, Kate Vivian** and representatives of the Ballarat City Council made a decision after much examination, thought and discussion, and the winning piece was chosen.

The process that began with Arts Buninyong during September 2014 came full circle with the public announcement of the winning entry. Artist **Cliff Burt's** winning sculpture was featured in the *Ballarat Courier* on the 11 May 2015.

July start

Construction of the sculpture will begin in July and it seems certain that it will provide a pivotal kick-start for the arts in our community.

Public art is a subjective exercise in taste and aesthetics and, as such, you will never be able to please everyone, but hopefully the community will agree that

al fresco art will help to make our town more beautiful and richer than it already is.

The Buninyong community is invited to the official inaugural Arts Buninyong Meeting on Friday, 19 June at 7.30 pm at Royal Park, so that the community may have some input into ideas and concepts for Buninyong's arts future.

The agenda will consider matters such as (i) an update on the sculpture project, (ii) future projects (iii) membership of the group, and (iv) community input.

Arts Buninyong consists of Micheal Ford, (painter, sculptor, published writer), Kate Vivian, (practising and exhibiting artist), Peter Afford, (Arts Buninyong treasurer and treasurer of the Ballarat Fine Art Gallery Committee), Robert Kelty, (indigenous artist), David Bradshaw (film and theatre actor), Jimmy Horrigan, (Imagineer), Dr Brian Pola (Ph D and published author).

By - Micheal Ford, Kate Vivian, Rob Kelty

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Catherine King MP
Federal Member for Ballarat

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Lions happenings

Local Lions Club lad goes close

A major annual event organised by Lions Clubs throughout Australia is the Youth of the Year Quest which involves young people in a range of public speaking competitions. In the 2014-15 series, teenager John Brodie of Ross Creek, now in Year 11 at St Patrick's College, won the local, district, and the Zone finals, and was highly competitive in the Victorian State Final held in March 2015.

President of the Lions Club of Buninyong-Mt Helen **Simon Jess** said, "It was a great effort by John to advance so far. Each time John went onto the stage to speak, you could see his confidence growing." He said that John was to be congratulated for his "fantastic performance."

John Brodie said that he had learnt so much and would recommend the competition to anybody.



Buninyong-Mt Helen Lions Club President Simon Jess congratulates John Brodie on his several successes in the Youth of the Year Competition

"It was a great experience for me to meet other contestants, many from different cultures, and with different views on a variety of subjects," he said.

District Chairman of the quest, **Jim Harvey**, congratulated the Buninyong-Mt Helen Club for providing such a quality contestant. "I overheard comments of *wow* from around me after John's response to the impromptu questions."

Busy times

The next big project to be undertaken by the local Lions Club is the construction of a new BBQ area behind the Lions and the Men's Sheds to complement the rapidly developing recreation area involving the youth park, the tennis courts and the soccer field. Added to a grant of \$10,000 from the Engaging Communities Fund, the Lions Club has donated \$10,000 which has come from the operation of the Book Shop, raffles and the recycling of paper and scrap steel.

It is hoped that work on the new BBQ will be starting shortly.

The Club is also very excited at the re-opening of the Book Shop in the cottage on Warrenheip Street. There are great prices on the huge range of used books and the team of volunteers from the former book shop site are again back in action.

"We are always grateful for used books for the shop, and also bundles of newspapers and magazines. These can be left in the bin outside of the Lions Shed," Mr Jess said. He added that the Lions were always on the lookout for needy persons who could be helped by Lions members or funds. A call to 0418 501 345 is the starting point for such help.

The annual Changeover Dinner is set for 1 June 2015 at the Buninyong Bowling Club.



Project on the move

Some action at last on the Town Hall Precinct project, first proposed by the Community Association in August 2013. Big sign erected near the Town Hall indicates that works are to be completed by April 2016. A big boost came late last year with the commitment of \$400,000 to the project by then-Premier **Napthine** bringing the pot up to \$650,000

Following BDCA members expressing concerns that some of these funds may be used by VicRoads on roundabout modifications, it was encouraging recently to get a written assurance from **Cr Peter Innes** together with **Eric Braslis**, City Council Director of Infrastructure, that "not one cent of the grant money will be spent on VicRoads work."

Crossing the road

Another local project which was promised prior to the election, this time by the ALP, seems about to happen. This is a pedestrian crossing especially designed for the elderly and the disabled, which is to be sited somewhere in Warrenheip Street North.

Local member **Geoff Howard** worked hard to deliver this one. Only hope that some discussion takes place with shopkeepers in that area, who now have a 'North Walk' improvement project up before Council. Over to you Mr Howard to get VicRoads and Council and business owners together before the excavator arrives.

Wasteland

A neglected area of downtown Buninyong is the extensive area behind the Town Hall. Most locals would not have had reason to wander in there for a look. But it is a large and valuable area that is just sitting there unused. Suggestions about using it for parking (perhaps for workers in local businesses) have been met with responses about access problems, but surely these can be overcome.

In the dark

If you want to know when the next power outage will occur in Buninyong, all you have to do is to check the functions diary at the local golf club. It seems that most times a wedding or a party is scheduled there, the local electricity supply is interrupted. Don't know about the rest of Victoria, but Buninyong must rank up there as the most frequently blacked out areas in the State. If only those darned clocks and ovens would re-set themselves!

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Good Life Festival Volunteers make a big difference

The fifth Good Life Festival will be held on Sunday 25 October - just five months away. This is a milestone achievement for the Festival Committee after undertaking the project of reinventing the well-loved Gold King Festival in 2011.

The Committee promises that the 2015 Festival will be better than ever, and anticipates that it will again be enjoyed and supported by all the community. Lots more information is available on the Festival website – buninyongfestival.com.au

New members are welcome to committee meetings held on the second Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm in the Buninyong Town Hall meeting room. If you would like further details, please email the GLFC Secretary Lisa Cressey on lisacressey70@gmail.com

Markets too

In 2014 a group of hard working and creative committee members reinvigorated the Farmers Market into the monthly

Buninyong Village Market. With a new theme each month the market is proving to be a great morning of community interaction and brings new visitors to the township.

Our annual *Decadance* will be held on Saturday 8 August this year with a 90s music and dress theme. Once again an inspiring team of local volunteers will plan and run the event.

There's much to celebrate and enjoy about living in this place and the Buninyong Good Life Festival Committee is committed to running events that are great fun, support local causes and will generate increased community participation.

Meredith Barclay, President



Market committee members Amber Balazic, Miranda Donald and Lisa Cressey pictured with two of the children who sampled the face painting at the last market

COMING EVENTS

31 MAY

Village Market (Rug Up)

Downtown Buninyong
9.00 am-1.00 pm

7 JUNE

Scotsburn Church

Speaker: Bill Sutcliffe
10.00 am

10 JUNE

Morning Coffee Party with Blumes Fashions

Buninyong Uniting Church Hall
10.00 am- 12 noon; ph: 5330 1934

13 JUNE

Annual Winter Lunch

Friends of the Buninyong
Botanic Gardens
Buninyong Town Hall
11.00am. ph: 5341 3947

19 JUNE

Community Arts Group Meeting

Royal Park Pavilion, 7.30 pm
Community members invited

25 JUNE

Buninyong & District Community Association Meeting

Town Hall Super Room. 7.30pm

28 JUNE

Village Market (It's Snow Fun)

Downtown Buninyong
9.00 am-1.00 pm

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We have a strong commitment to give both Vendor and Purchaser the best possible service and advice to guide them through the sales process for all their real estate requirements.

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 selling. We look forward to being of service to you.

Gary Jones: 0419 576 545

Phil Crosbie: 0407 542 289

New 'North End' business Come and Celebrate with Lisa

A couple of weeks back someone said that the new business on Warrenheip Street, next to the Post Office, was going to be "something like a Plaster Fun House" or a children's party shop of some kind. As is usual with local gossip, this 'news' was not quite on the ball!

What opened up in late April was *Celebrate*, a classy boutique that has everything on hand that might be required to buy or hire for a kid's party, a wedding, a birthday party, baby shower or dinner party.

On display are boutique party goods, decorations, cards and giftware, ranging from cake stands to various settings and essentials for an up-market adult's or child's party or event. *Celebrate* also offers hand-made or graphically designed invitations for weddings and parties.

Owned and operated by **Lisa Cressey**, a resident of Mt Helen, the tastefully set-up *Celebrate* is a flow-on from an on-line business, Deer Little Parties, which focusses on party items that she has operated for the past three years.



Lisa and husband Darren, together with their children Madeline and Charlie, have lived at Mt Helen for the past ten years after moving from Brisbane.

Lisa has also been working for local events company Pilkinton Productions, involved in events such as the Begonia Festival, Backyard Tasters and the City of Ballarat's student exchange program with Japanese sister city Inagawa.

Party Classes

Once *Celebrate* is established, Lisa plans to conduct monthly classes involving party details and associated crafts. Children's birthday parties will be able to be booked on Friday nights, Saturday afternoons and if needed, on Sundays. These parties will have a craft

focus to them and a menu of different crafts and age groups will be available soon.

Presently the shop is open Wednesday-Friday from 9.30 am to 5.00 pm and until 1.00 pm on Saturdays.

Lisa is also heavily involved in local community affairs helping out on the Buninyong Primary School Fundraising Committee, being on the committee of the Good Life Festival and also coordinates the monthly Buninyong Village Market for that group.

Photo caption: Chatting about items in Celebrate with Lisa Cressey (centre) are Lucy Coxall from Buninyong and Laura Cartledge, Alfredton

MOVES TO LIFT NORTH END OF STREET



North end business owners – rear Lisa Cressey (Celebrate), Adam Hook (Fig Leaf Café), Nicki Sing (Unique Garden Décor); front; Wendy Chalker (Divine Vintage), Yannick Meer (Pig & Goose Restaurant) – meet to discuss north end project

Over the past two years, there has been significant business and other development along the northern section of Warrenheip Street, Buninyong – between Forest and Eyre Streets.

This area of Buninyong has taken on a new life and has developed into an active adjunct to what has been Buninyong's 'traditional' business strip along both sides of Learmonth Street.

The draft proposal submitted to Council involves the following major elements:

- extension of Buninyong's now established 'street vines' along this section of Warrenheip Street
- widening and levelling of the paved areas in designated areas along this stretch. In the case of businesses involving food/drink, the pavement could be extended to within one metre of the kerb to allow for the retention of a grassed strip. Alternate areas of footpath using a variety of paving materials could be integrated into plans.
- Further in-fill tree planting along the strip both to replace those vandalised (eg in front of the post office) or which have not been replaced over many years
- moving the bus stop to create further kerbside parking

Bank grant helps school to fix old police post

The original Police Station on the Buninyong goldfields, built c1859, was situated on the Cornish Street hill above the present Primary School.

The red brick building was built on the site of the police camp which included a Warden's Office and was behind a sandstone courthouse, now restored after works in the 1990s.

The old police station, now on the grounds of the Buninyong Primary School, had stood vacant and in disrepair for many years.

Stage 1

Greatly assisted by a grant of \$10,000 from the Buninyong Community Bank, and other fundraising, the school has embarked on Stage One of a project to restore and reuse the historic building. In recent weeks some electrical and roofing works have commenced.

With this funding in hand, the school is now pursuing other funding options to enable the works on the police station building to be completed.



When completed, the building will be used for a variety of school activities – break-away groups in literacy and numeracy, for instrumental music groups, meetings, and intervention groups.

Local memorabilia

School Principal **Bernie Conlan** said that it is planned to cover the internal walls with local memorabilia, and to have local historians come into there to speak to and work with students on a regular basis.

The space will also be available to community groups for meetings and the like.

“These uses will provide a further connection between the school and the Buninyong community,” Mr Conlan said.

Standing near the old police station, Greg Veal of the Buninyong Community Bank and School Principal, Bernie Conlan, give some renovation tips to Grade 4 students Tyla Crabtree and Harry Miller



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