

New skate venue open

YOUTH GIVE PARK BIG TICK

The opening of the new skate park in Buninyong on 19 March was the most recent major project in the village's 'Youth Space' which has seen much development over the past two years.

The formerly-neglected vacant land at the corner of Forest and Inglis Streets has been transformed into a high order recreation area offering youth the choice of many facilities.

In addition to the skate park, the site includes Parkour equipment, a BMX cycle track, and basketball facilities. The site is adjacent to community tennis courts and across the street from the swimming pool. Also nearby is the newly-opened Lions Club public barbecue.

Funding for the projects has come from the recreation budget of the City of Ballarat (\$70,000 for the Parkour), the Buninyong Engaging Communities Fund which contributed \$40,000 for the Skate space and pump track, and a grant of \$30,000 from the Buninyong Community Bank.

The City of Ballarat Parks and Gardens Department added a further \$10,000 for surrounding trees (with grade six students working with Council staff to plant and stake), top soil and related earthworks.

Final works

Additional work is scheduled for terracing of the embankment. This will include additional shade trees and a bubble water tap, ensuring that the park will provide a high attraction for young people whilst having spaces for relaxation and resting.

The 19 March opening was the result of ideas that grew out of "community engagement" conversations held with young people, professional skaters and riders, designers and recreation providers that started in Buninyong in February 2014.



Buninyong teenagers Adam Forbes, 14 and Spencer Bedggood, 15 showing skill on one of the ramps at the new skate park

Many of these same young people came to the opening to see the finished product and to test and show their skills. A recurring comment from the youth was that "this is the best thing that has happened in Buninyong for young people in a long time – it is great."

The opening also marked the handover of the site to local youth who are now given responsibility for looking after the facilities and caring for all users.

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FIRST BIRTHDAY OF NEW LOOK 'NEWS'

Putting together a quality, professional-standard local newspaper that would adequately reflect the news, happenings, opinions and personalities of the Buninyong district each month was a big challenge just a little over twelve months ago.

The basic planning elements for the newspaper were put into place in late 2014 and early 2015.

Initial tasks included obtaining seed funding from the Community Bank and from the Buninyong Engaging Communities Fund, designing a fresh look for the paper, undertaking costings, editorial policy, preparing advertising templates and style manuals, looking at matters such as insurance, seeking advertisers, setting up management and editorial structures, and agreeing on a content balance.

At that stage, planning was based on editions of between twelve and sixteen pages.

A four page 'teaser' issue was produced in February 2015. This announced the re-birth of the *Buninyong & District Community News*, which after 413 issues across some 37 years, had been out of hard copy production since 2012.

First issue

The first official issue of 20 pages, including four pages in colour, was out on the streets in April 2015. Since then, another ten issues have been produced, and with one exception, all of 20 pages.

An advisory group initially consisting of Gayle Adams, Michelle Corcoran, Deb Elliott, John Emery and Greg Veal was put into place, and Barry Fitzgerald took on much of the responsibility for the editorial side of the publication.

Regular columns were developed – Street Talk, Police Beat (prepared by Sr Const Joel Dash) and Opinion - with the remaining content being balanced across areas such as Local News, Council News, Business, Arts, and People.

In June, Jodi Beale was appointed with the responsibility of continuing and developing the design of the newspaper. Jodi's role was funded by a grant from the Community Bank.

Volunteers

Early 2016 a saw the establishment of a "team" of interested reporters. In addition to writing about items of local news, they took on special reporting areas.

Ray Sullivan agreed to report on Sports, Cassandra Carland (Features), Russell Luckock (local news and photography), Ernie Neale (local rainfall) - along with occasional contributors such as Richard Lea and Anne Beggs-Sunter. Ron Fleming is another regularly contributing photographic material. In addition regular contributions are received from local schools, service clubs and groups.

Barry Fitzgerald continues as Editorial Co-ordinator and writer of general news, Street Talk and often the Opinion columns.

All of the management and editorial teams are unpaid volunteers.

The News has already been recognised as a top community newspaper by being a finalist in three of the five sections it entered in the 2015 Community Newspapers of Victoria Annual Awards.



Library settles in to new home



Library staff Melissa Waight and Trevor Hine on duty at the community cottage.

For many years, Ballarat's mobile library parked outside of the old Post Office and provided a weekly Saturday morning library service to residents. When it was scrapped in late 2011, the service was replaced with a 'pop-up' library operation that since then has been based at two other locations in Buninyong.

After stints at the kindergarten and at the Uniting Church hall, the library service now operates each Saturday from the Community Bank Cottage at 407 Warrenheip Street – a location very accessible to customers, and providing easy access for library staff. The library has been open there since 16 January of this year.

Portable stands of books are wheeled into the meeting room at the rear of the

cottage where they are well displayed in the light and bright setting.

Ballarat Library Services Coordinator **Jenny Fink** said that the present location at the cottage was “almost perfect” for the mobile library service. “It’s a very visible spot, being able to back the truck almost up to the back door is just great for our staff, and customers can access the library both from Warrenheip Street and from Union Lane at the rear where some parking is available,” she said.

The Buninyong library service is open between the hours of 9.00am and midday each Saturday and usually two library officers are on hand to assist residents with their loans and enquiries. Look for the big blue banner out front on Warrenheip Street.

streettalk

WELL-KNOWN president of a local sporting club was seen bruised and battered recently. No, hadn't been involved in that brawl at Fed Square, but did knock himself around with a fall on a building project.

PITY THAT with Buninyong now graffiti free – thanks to the Men's Shed 'flying squad' – there was some 'imported' graffiti around the place recently. The work shed at the Youth Space that came with the contractor working on the new skate park, was covered in the stuff (see below).



A DRIVE AROUND Buninyong on a recent Friday night confirmed what a change has come to the social scene of this 'sleepy' village. Tapas, wine and music under the vines at Espresso Depot, a good crowd at the pub, a near full house at the Pig & Goose with diners on the patio, and plenty of action at the Red Door Pizzeria with food, drinks and music inside and in the popular back garden area.

SOME MOTORISTS are unbelievable! At least two have tried to enter the service road near the Old Bluestone Café along the angled footpath (nearly taking out village identity **Helen Stephens** on one occasion). Another bollard on the eastern side of the path would solve that problem.

ANOTHER CLOWN appeared on the Labour Day holiday. Heading towards Geelong, he decided to do a U-turn around the fencing on the median strip, and proceeded to enter the south service road in front of the Town Hall via the exit road. One way to get a coffee!

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Old cyclist Kenny wins top prize

Following the December 2015 fires, the Buninyong Community Bank joined other local businesses and groups in raising funds and other forms of help for fire victims.

The Appeal Fund set up by the bank has so far raised some \$90,000 with a target of \$200,000. The first \$80,000 was distributed last week by a committee comprising representatives from the Ballarat and Moorabool Councils, Ballarat Community Health, the Community Bank and local community members.

Fundraiser

One fundraising initiative of the bank was to quickly arrange a raffle on the morning of the National Road Cycling Championships in January. For prizes, Cycling Australia made available two yellow winner's jerseys – one signed by the Men's and Women's road race champions - **Jack Bobridge** and **Amanda Spratt**. The second prize was a signed replica of the jersey won by **Caleb Ewan**, winner of the 2016 Bay Cycling Classic road race.

CEO of Cycling Australia, **Nick Green**, said that at the 2016 Championships at Buninyong "it was humbling to hear of the devastation that had occurred just down the road, and we are

delighted to arrange for Australian Championship jerseys to be made available as a show of support."

Winner

Winner of the first prize was **Kenny Edwards** of Sebastopol, a former track cyclist with the Sebastopol and the Ballarat-Sebastopol clubs in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Kenny said he "never misses the Buninyong road races". Second prize winner was **John Coull**. The raffle raised over \$5000 for the fire appeal.

The jerseys were presented to the winners by members of the Community Bank Board on 19 February.



Kenny Edwards (left) receives his prize from Bank Board member, Peter Mees



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A rethink needed on graffiti

Over several days recently, the **Ballarat Courier** carried a series of stories about the impact and the cost of graffiti in the City of Ballarat.

It seems that Council workers are engaged in up to 120 graffiti removal jobs a month. The estimated annual cost is \$200,000 a year. Suggestions about the installation of expensive CCTV systems have been considered. But with hoodies a common garb of the taggers, their usefulness in catching the offenders is low, and their preventative value questionable.

Experts such as former Chief Inspector **Bob Barby** and current mayor/police officer **Des Hudson** have offered suggestions. *The Courier* articles noted "hot spots" in the city included Sebastopol, Wendouree and Alfredton.

It's no surprise that the Buninyong area is not mentioned. Since the commissioning of the BDCA-Council graffiti removal unit some months ago, combined with the rapid clean-up response time by the Buninyong Men's Shed 'flying squad', it is difficult to find examples of graffiti anywhere in or around the village. If any is spotted, it is quickly removed.

So if the annual cost to Council is the reported \$200,000, the *News* makes this 'no-brainer' suggestion to Council:

- There is a high quality model of a mobile graffiti removal unit here in Buninyong, constructed after much research and study of units elsewhere. It cost around \$30,000.
- There are Men's Sheds now located at Wendouree, the Airport, Ballarat East and Barkly Street, Ballarat.



- If four new mobile units were constructed (say at a cost of \$120,000) and put in place with the cooperation of the local Men's Shed, it is suggested the results in the immediate locale would be amazing, and the impact on Council expenditure significant. Of course these units would have a long life, meaning the initial expenditure of \$120,000 would be spread over many years.
- The training and experience of the Buninyong Men's Shed in this community role would be available for Council to use at other locations.

With the recent opening of the skate park in Buninyong, the pressure will now be on the local youth to keep it graffiti free. If that doesn't work, rest assured that the local Men's Shed won't leave any of the visual vandalism to be seen for very long!



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

Management Committee: Gayle Adams, Michelle Corcoran, Deb Ellis.

Newsletter Design: Jodi Beale

Editorial Co-ordinator: Barry Fitzgerald

Reporters: Cassandra Carland, Ray Sullivan, Russell Luckock

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 (address not for publication).

The Management 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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Obituary: Vi MacDonald 1921-2016

She left her mark on the village

Coming to live in Buninyong in the 1940s, Violet Edith MacDonald (Vi) left her mark on the community in many ways – especially through her work with the Red Cross and the Buninyong Golf Club.

When she died on 9 February 2016, aged 94 years, she left a legacy of hard work and friendship at these two local groups. **Helen Stephens** of the Red Cross said that Vi was “an esteemed past member and friend, who over the years, held many positions and who made a fine contribution.”

Vi was a Life Member of the Buninyong Golf Club – active in fundraising and in working for the interests of ladies’ golf at the club. Club President **Ron Delaland** said that she was a “legend” at the Club. Her portrait hangs proudly at the entrance to the Clubhouse.

On a lighter note, the creek crossing at the second hole at the golf club is known as “MacDonald’s Pond”. This is not so much in recognition of the work she did at the Club, but rather records the fact that, some twenty years ago, she tumbled off the bridge there (together with her golf clubs) into a deep pond some four metres below!



For some 30 years, Vi and husband **Gollan** ran a local dairy.

Vi was farewelled on 15 February 2016 from the Buninyong Uniting Church, accompanied by the skirl of bagpipes recognising her Scottish forebears and heritage.

In addition to her community friends, her sons **Lachlan** and **Roderick** and grandchildren **Jane**, **Martyn** and **Robin** will miss her greatly.



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Upgrade works

Highway bridge out for a week



The guard rail of the Midland Highway bridge at Buninyong still shows signs of the many crashes that have occurred there

Vicroads has advised that upgrading works will be undertaken on the bridge over Union Jack Creek near the Buninyong Golf Club in the period 4-9 April. Traffic will be detoured via Geelong Road and the Mt Clear-Sebastopol Road.

According to Vicroads the works need to be undertaken “to enable the highway to carry current and future commercial vehicle loadings.”

There have been numerous cases of crashes into the guard rail on the eastern side of this bridge over recent times (see photo).

The upgrade option chosen by Vicroads is to remove and replace the deck – a process that will take one week. The alternative option was to strengthen the existing deck which would have taken some seven weeks, with a half road closure and traffic lights for 24 hours a day.

The part-closure option was rejected because of the “amount of congestion and disruption it would cause, particularly during peak times.”

Vicroads said that there will be no change of location of the shared path between Lumeah Road and the golf club, however it will be temporarily closed while bridge works are in progress.

Contributions and advertising

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

Enquiries: 5341 2844



POLICE BEAT

A VEHICLE was entered in Atkinson’s Road, Magpie on 1 February by unknown offenders. It is believed that one of the vehicle doors was left unlocked. A set of keys and a garage door remote control unit were stolen.

A THEFT was reported to Police by a resident in Greenhill Road, Mt Helen on 10 February 2016. A number of furniture items were taken from the front veranda of the victim’s residence. Any suspicious persons can be reported to Police at any time by calling ‘000’. If it doesn’t look right, or feel right.....Call Us!

THE CFA AND POLICE were called to a small backyard burn off in Fisken Road, Buninyong on 22 February. Buninyong Police have attended a number of these jobs over the past two months. We are still in the Fire Danger Period which means you cannot light a fire to simply “burn off” without a permit from the Country Fire Authority. It is an offence, and a summons to the Magistrates Court may follow. The CFA has a wonderful document *Can I or Can’t I?* which can be found via Google search.

A SHED was broken into in Fisken Street Buninyong on 23 February 2016. A large number of items were taken, including a tool chest, power tools and hand tools. If any members of the Fisken Street community noted any suspicious behaviour on or around that time, please contact the Buninyong Police on 5341 3431.

A SUBARU FORESTER lost control in Bell Avenue Mt Helen on the afternoon of 25 February.. The vehicle impacted a culvert and completed a full roll over. The driver received minor injuries and a 5 year old passenger fortunately escaped un-scathed. Police investigating the matter were grateful for the assistance given by nearby residents.



Wes and Natalie Smyth among their products

From spit roasts to fence posts

Two quite different factors lay behind the 2012 decision of Wesley and Natalie Smyth to buy the local sand, soil and rural supplies business on the Midland Highway, Buninyong.

One stemmed from the frequent trips Wes was making into Ballarat to buy necessary odds and ends for his Lal Lal pig farm business, “wasting hours on each trip.” The other was a visit to Mansfield where they were impressed with the range and quality of the local produce store there.

At Mansfield, they were struck by the thought such a store “would be good for Buninyong.”

Prior to purchasing the former Buninyong Sand and Soil business in 2012, Wes Smyth raised rare breed pigs (Berkshire and Large Black) on a 17 acre property on the Yendon-Lal Lal Road. His work there especially involved supplying pigs for the spit roast business.

In fact one of the last pigs supplied by him was to district caterer **Peter Ford** for an upmarket luncheon at Narmbool, put on to impress a visiting Chinese banking dignitary.

In addition to a huge range of sands, soils, stones, firewood and mulches,

the new-look Buninyong Garden and Rural Supplies also features an impressive remodelled drive-through shed, where bags of animal foods, potting mix, seeds, rural and garden fencing, garden requisites and the like can be loaded directly into a vehicle with a minimum of effort and out of the weather.

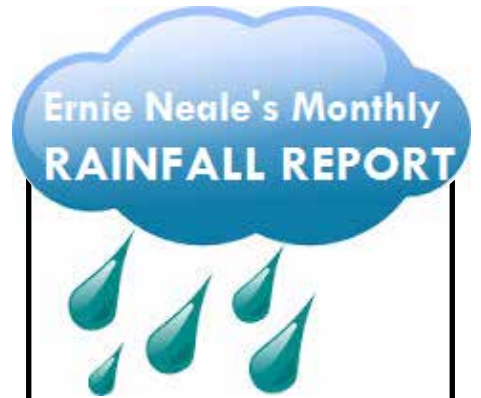
Other products can be loaded directly onto trailers or utes by the Cat 907H2 loader, or delivered by truck to local properties

Local links

Wes’ mum was a district girl, being one of the Stokes family from Warrenheip, and he attended the Black Hill school.

Now living on Yendon No 1 Road, the family retains many local links, with the business supporting several Buninyong sporting clubs and the kindergarten, and with their three children **Molly 5, Oscar 6, and Charles 7** all attending the Buninyong Primary School. Natalie is a qualified hairdresser currently working in a Creswick salon.

“Being locals ourselves, we know the district well and we pride ourselves in working with and providing a terrific service to the Buninyong and district community,” Wes said.



January ended well - nicely over the local seven year average of 41.8mm and perfectly seasonal. However, February, with an average of 39.7mm, has been the driest month in recent years – only 12.7 mm in the gauge.

This February's effort could ensure it retains that title for quite some time. It's not unusual for February to be dry, but what kicks in now is the worrying about what's ahead.

February and early March...hopeless! At the time of writing we haven't had a day under 30° yet in March, and the week ahead from 6 March is forecast to range from 30° to 37°! No wonder the plant life is looking so frazzled.

With almost two weeks of dry 30+ days to begin with, March is not looking good. Hopefully the unfolding weakening of the *El Nino* conditions keeps apace, and that autumn rains do eventuate. So now the waiting really does begin.

My initial rain report for the first two months of 2016 won't take long!!

JANUARY 2016		FEBRUARY 2016	
Date	Rain	Date	Rain
7	0.2	3	5.5
12	1.5	18	3.0
15	0.1	20	1.3
20	4.6	24	1.5
22	12.3	25	1.4
23	0.5		
28	8.5		
31	18.4		
Total	46.1mm	Total	12.7mm

Active Community Association puts Plenty of runs on the board

Over the past year or so the Buninyong & District Community Association (BDCA) has undertaken many projects and tasks in the interests of the local community. Here are some examples:

- successfully lobbied the State Government to reverse moves to reduce subdivisions in Buninyong to 300m²
- completed the 'graffiti removal' project in conjunction with Council and the Men's Shed
- lobbied Council to plan for and undertake the 'Town Hall Precinct' project
- made submissions to Council concerning future planning strategy, and other proposed developments
- made submissions to the Victorian Electoral Committee concerning Council wards and representation
- made submissions to Public Transport Victoria concerning public transport issues
- completed Stage 2 of the township signage project
- re-commenced publication of the *Buninyong & District Community News*
- assisted the RSL in the project to restore the Avenue of Honour
- saw completion of initiatives re road safety (school crossing, pedestrian refuges, reduced speed limit in central Buninyong)
- commenced lobbying Council for improvements to the 'North End' of Warrenheip St between Forest and Eyre Streets
- continued development of walking and cycling tracks



Attending the BDCA planning session were (L to R) Robert Elshaug (Traffic & Roads), Neil McCracken (Community & Environment), Micheal Ford (Arts & Recreation), Linda Zibell (President), Roger Permezel (Arts & Recreation), Ian Salathiel (Village Projects & Planning), Gayle Adams (Community Newspaper). Also present was Barry Fitzgerald (Business Development & Tourism)

- continued to lobby concerning the impact on Buninyong of the Western Link Road

Six areas

From 2016, the BDCA will work within six principal areas of activity as detailed below:

- 1 Business & Tourism
- 2 Traffic & Road Safety
- 3 Community Newspaper
- 4 Village Projects and Planning
- 5 Community Arts and Recreation
- 6 Community and Environment

In mid-February convenors of each of these areas met with the BDCA Executive to identify issues and projects and to commence planning for 2016 activities. These included street tree planting,

additional walking and cycling trails, completion of Town Hall precinct works, traffic issues, the 'North End' street precinct, and planning matters.

Community views on matters that might be (realistically) tackled by the BDCA in the year ahead are invited. Send in suggested projects, areas of concern or other comments to the Association under the above headings to BDCA, PO Box 132, Buninyong 3357 or via the website buninyongcommunityassociation.com.au

All residents or business owners are cordially invited to join the BDCA (annual subscription just \$10). The next meeting for 2016 will be held at the Buninyong Town Hall supper room on Thursday, 28 April.

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Putting it on record

Locals might have noticed Liz Crothers (Bold Communication) out and about the town last month on a Council exercise recording many community projects funded from the Buninyong Community Engagement Fund in 2013-2014.

These included the Town Hall Precinct project, the tourist/information signage, the Town Hall flood lighting, the re-establishment of the Buninyong & District Community News, the restoration of the Avenue of Honour, the graffiti removal unit, the Lions BBQ, and partial funding for the Men's Shed and the street art sculpture.



Liz Crothers lines up a shot of one of the plaques to be placed along the Avenue of Honour

Other projects to receive funding have included work on Mt Innes, mapping of walking trails, and various projects at the Youth Space.



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Arts Group busy

Sculpture soon, new book planned

The long-anticipated public sculpture to be located in central Buninyong now seems likely to be put in place around the end of April.

There was some confusion among local passers-by in December 2015 when plywood mock ups being used for a site evaluation were mistaken by some for the final work of art. Some locals found it difficult to equate the value of the commissioned work with the marquettes.

The site evaluation was undertaken by the sculptor **Cliff Burtt, Julie Collins** (Arts Co-ordinator, City of Ballarat), and **Micheal Ford** (Arts Buninyong). The sculpture will be registered and is certain to become a significant example of public art.

New Project

The 2016 project of the Arts Buninyong group will be the publishing of a paperback book of some 120-150 pages to give community members the chance to "put their thoughts into print." Group spokesperson Micheal Ford said that contributions might be from individuals, or from children or family groups, and could be signed or anonymous.

"There will be no unnecessary censorship or editing. What is written, sketched or otherwise contributed for a page will be printed," he said. Contributions are expected to include poetry, short stories, cartoons and illustrations, and, if in written form, could range from about 400 words to even just one word on a page.

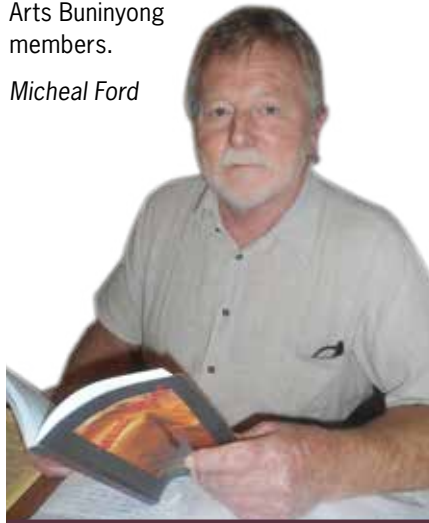
He said that "whether the contribution is signed or anonymous, when your thoughts become public in whatever medium, it can be both intimidating and scary, but also a liberating and confirming experience."

While final costings have not been completed, it seems likely that there will be a \$10 charge per page (no limit) and contributors will receive a copy of the book. It is hoped that grants and public contributions will assist production costs.

Publishers of the book will be Barbed Wire Press, and the print services of Ballarat University Press will produce the first print run of between 100 and 200 copies. Suggestions for a title of the book are invited.

More information can be had from Micheal Ford (0417 525 620) or other Arts Buninyong members.

Micheal Ford



New team member at Leigh Catchment

The Leigh Catchment Group has recently employed **Jane Bevelander** as Yarrowee River Project Officer, taking over the role from **Kate Constance**.

Jane is looking forward to working with the local community on some exciting upcoming projects and events within the catchment. Jane has extensive experience in the river health and community engagement fields and a passionate interest in local frogs.

The Group thanks Kate for two years of dedicated service and welcomes Jane who is sure to make a valuable contribution to the team.

If you wish to contact Leigh Catchment Group staff, please contact **Nick McKinley**, Landcare Coordinator on 0455 147 398 or email leighcgc@ncable.net.au or Jane Bevelander, Yarrowee River Project Officer on 0402 670 976 or email janelcgc@iinet.net.au

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Another Community Get Together

Community members enjoyed the evening at the third community get together on 4 March as part of the Fire Recovery program. Hosted by the Scotsburn Hall and Upper Williamson's Creek Landcare Group, the team from Agriculture Services was there to answer questions on pasture and animal health, **Nick McKinley** from the Leigh Catchment Group was on hand and the Moorabool Shire support team was there too.



The next Community Get Together is planned for Friday 1 April. It will be focusing on plants and gardens.

Remember these events are for the whole community – come along and support your friends and neighbours.

Contact Andrea on 0427 338482 or email scotsburnhall@gmail.com

Historical Society

The Buninyong and District Historical Society meets on Thursday 21 April, at 7.30pm. Guest speaker is Dr Fred Cahir from Federation University, who will speak on his research into relationships between the Wathaurung people of this area and the early white settlers.

The Court House History Centre is open on the third Saturday of the month, from 9.30 till 1.30pm, with members on hand to help with historical queries.

Help for BRI sun power

PRD estate agent **Phil Crosbie** and local livestock auctioneer **Neville Dooley** did their bit to raise funds for a solar power project for Ballarat Regional Industries (BRI) at last month's Smart Building and Living Expo held at Royal Park.

The pair worked from the tray of a truck to sell off a range of donated items to attendees at the Expo, raising some \$640 which will be put towards the provision of solar panels at BRI's premises at Walker Street, Sebastopol.



Auctioneers Phil Crosbie and Neville Dooley sell off a fire hose to raise funds for BRI.

New date for Steiner School Fair

Due to the extreme weather conditions forecast for Sunday, 6 March, the Ballarat Steiner School and Kindergarten postponed its annual Autumn Fair and Open Day.

The new date is Sunday 17 April 10am – 3pm

They will still have great organic curries, fun activities for the children, canoe rides, pony rides, silent auction, gorgeous craft items, face painting, vintage games, fantastic live entertainment, including the Ballarat SKA Union band.

The school will also be open with tours running throughout the day. They hope to see you there at what is always a fun-filled family day.

244 Moss Avenue Mount Helen
www.ballaratsteinerschool.com.au
 Phone: 53418188.

35 stalls at final 'Good Life' market

As reported in the March edition of the News, the Village Market held on 28 February was the final market to be organised by the committee of the Good Life Festival.

Thirty five stalls were in place along the southern strip of Learmonth Street, but again the Town Hall was not available for market stalls.

The future of the market is in doubt but the Buninyong and District Community Association is investigating options.

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Behind the *News*

Reporting team now in place

Nearing the first anniversary of the launch of the new-look *Buninyong & District Community News*, an expanded volunteer 'News' reporting team was recently put in place.

Joining inaugural reporter/editor **Barry Fitzgerald**, are **Cassandra Cartland**, **Russell Luckock** and **Ray Sullivan**. Other occasional 'News' contributors now include **Anne Beggs-Sunter**, **Richard Lea** and **Merle Hathaway**. Local weather reports will be prepared by **Ernie Neale**. There are also regular reports submitted by members of various community clubs and groups

Members of the 'News' reporting team have a wide variety of backgrounds and skills.

- **Cassandra Cartland** has just built a new home in central Buninyong, after she and her husband Clive ran a cattery business in Mt Helen for many years. Her varied career has included being a teacher at St Martins in the Pines (now Damascus College), and being a funeral director and celebrant. Community roles include being a broadcaster at Voice FM radio. Cassandra will prepare feature stories and profile interesting local identities.

- **Russell Luckock** is a well-known long term local resident with community involvement including being a member of the foundation Community Bank Board, the originator and organiser of the Buninyong Marmalade Festival, and being active in the Botanical Gardens group. A keen photographer, Russell also contributes local news items to the weekly newspaper, *The Miner*.
- **Ray Sullivan** has lived in Buninyong for some seven years after spending considerable time in senior educational posts here and in Asia. He is well known in the district as an excellent, long-term cricketer with Brown Hill and district representative teams. Ray is a keen local golfer and is also a member of the Buninyong bowling club. He will report on items of interest from local sporting clubs and profile local sporting identities.



The reporting team after a meeting at the Community News office at the Community Bank Cottage. (Rear) Ray Sullivan, Russell Luckock, (front) Cassandra Carland, Barry Fitzgerald

- **Barry Fitzgerald**, coordinator of the reporting team, is well-known for being active in many local projects and community developments. His career has included being a senior academic at both local universities, and his experience in reporting/editing has come from working with university and school newspapers, in developing specialist newsletters, and for many years editing *The Bulletin*, the monthly journal of the SA Law Society. Locally he has also edited and produced the *Buninyong Visitor Guide*.

The reporting team will work closely with the newspaper's Management group chaired by BDCA's **Gayle Adams**, and with the paper's design co-ordinator **Jodi Beale**.

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AUTHORISED BY CATHERINE KING, 5 LYDIARD ST NTH BALLARAT 3350

Big turn out for Royal Park Expo

It was a beautiful day in Buninyong on 28 February and around 1000 people enjoyed the day at the Smart Building and Living Expo at Royal Park.

Andrea Mason, Expo Director said "This third annual expo was a great opportunity to meet the people in our community who are also passionate about green buildings, sustainable design and great lifestyle products. It is very inspiring to see...and gives hope for a more sustainable future."

Over 45 stallholders were present to sell, advise and entertain the crowds. These included builders, designers, solar systems, bushfire attack level ratings, CFA, Landcare, banks, food and lifestyle products. They were kept very busy and many have expressed interest in coming again next year as this Expo crowd means business!!

Gold sponsor Powercor Australia was on site to talk to the community about Australia's largest grid-scale battery installation in Buninyong.

"We are proud to be the Gold Sponsors of the 2016 Smart Building and Living Expo and look forward to working with the Buninyong community as we move towards shaping Australia's energy future," Powercor Regional Manager, **Richard Scholten** said.

Fire advice

Since the Scotsburn fires many locals are feeling vulnerable and under-prepared! This year there were experts on hand to help with how to prepare and build to minimise risk and rebuild sustainably.

There were also many great fun activities too including pedal slot cars, children's planting, bike education, henna art and the magnificent Leigh Hawk and Owl Sanctuary.

All this can only happen with the support of the Expo sponsors - Powercor, Powershop, Buninyong Community Bank, BREAZE,

EcoMaster, Bank Australia, JJ Electrical and Solar and PRD Nationwide – Buninyong.

A highlight was the Fundraising Auction which raised \$640 to support the BREAZE Social Solar Project. Our donation tips the total to over \$15,000 of the \$36,000 required to install solar panels on the roof of Ballarat Regional Industries' (BRI) factory in Sebastopol.

Paul Duggan from BREAZE said "We are delighted to be involved in this sustainable event and are grateful to the Buninyong community for supporting our Social Solar Project. To contribute or see the wonderful stories of those who have done so already, go to www.breaze.org.au .



Paul Duggan, BREAZE receives a cheque for \$640 from Vicki Adams, President, Friends of Royal Park and Andrea Mason, Expo Director.



Many families enjoyed the free activities on the day.

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Old Police Station restored **GREAT USE FROM GARDEN SHED**

The progress on the work being undertaken to restore Buninyong's Old Police Station (c 1859), after years of neglect, has been reported in several recent editions of the *Buninyong & District Community News*.

For many years used as a garden shed, the historic building, located centrally in the grounds of the Buninyong Primary School, has now been carefully restored, helped by funding from the Buninyong Community Bank, the Friends of the Buninyong Botanic Gardens (FOBBG) and from other sources.

After its official opening the building will have a dual purpose – used by the school on a daily basis, and as the new home of the FOBBG, and for other community purposes.

School principal **Bernie Conlan** invites Community members to come along to the official opening at 10am on Friday 22 April.



School maintenance man Shane Pearce shown putting some finishing touches to the Police Station project

Call to save Village Market

The Buninyong & District Community Association (BDCA) has invited local residents, groups, school committees and other organisations to come along to a meeting to consider the future of the Buninyong Village Market.



The February 2016 market was the last one organised by the Good Life Festival (GLF).

Festival spokesperson, **Lisa Cressey**, said that the market had been a very good source of income for the GLF Committee, but that the work of putting each one together had been a strain for the small number of people involved.

The BDCA is keen to see the market continue. BDCA Secretary **Gayle Adams** said that it would be a pity if the Village Market folded permanently as it added to village life and to the sense of community here.

The meeting will be held in the Community House, 407 Warrenheip Street, Buninyong at 6.00 pm on Thursday, 14 April 2016.

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Supporting future drivers through the L2P driver mentor program

For many who have had their licence for some time, turning 18 was all about gaining the freedom and independence of being able to drive when and where you wanted without relying on parents or friends to get there.

Once, gaining your licence seemed like a simple process of having a few lessons, taking the test, and away you went! This has changed into a much more formal system of gaining 120 hours of experience behind the wheel with a parent or mentor by your side. As much as this gives young drivers more experience, it's not always practical or possible for some people. This is where the L2P program steps in.

United Way Ballarat has taken on the role of operating Ballarat's successful L2P program in conjunction with VicRoads the TAC and local partners like the Buninyong and District Community Bank. The Bank has funded a vehicle that is



Buninyong and District Community Bank is helping to keep our roads safe and give our kids a better start behind the wheel.

located permanently in Buninyong to enable a growing group of individuals to gain valuable drive time, with a volunteer mentor, towards their 120 hours.

For more information on the program, or future mentors with some time on their hands and a willingness to help young adults to get their licence, please contact **Torie Campbell**, local L2P Coordinator, on 5331 5555 or email torie.campbell@unitedwayballarat.org.au.

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Australia All Over star entertains fire workers

Macca comes to Garibaldi

National Sunday morning identity on ABC Radio for several decades Ian McNamara, known as Macca, recently came to visit and entertain Blazeaid volunteers and local landholders at the campsite at the old Garibaldi School.

For many years Macca has been a strong supporter of this army of volunteers who have replaced fencing that has been destroyed by fires and floods throughout Australia, as was acknowledged by Blazeaid co-founder **Kevin Butler**.

Kevin and his co-founder wife, **Rhonda** who spent much of her youth in Buninyong, also came along to support the volunteers involved in fencing, catering, financing and the administration that go to make up the Blazeaid phenomenon.

Guitar

Never far from his guitar, Macca relaxed into a few numbers to the delight of his audience who could relate to his *He Loved the Land* song as well as his humorous *Lobster* tale.

In between, he told anecdotes of his early life as a trombonist's young son. His first lesson involved the six positions of the trombone but didn't end in triumph as Macca's five-year old limbs couldn't reach the sixth extended position.

So he resorted to the guitar instead and went on to many musical successes including being a member of Col Joye's touring band.

Subsequently, Ian started the now-iconic *Australia All Over* program on ABC radio that is a huge favourite of many of the grey nomads that populate Blazeaid Camps. Several of his interviews from the Garibaldi evening have subsequently been broadcast around the country to his dedicated band of Sunday morning listeners.

Russell Luckock



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Ray Sullivan's SPORTS NEWS

Popular

Buninyong Lawn Bowls and Buninyong Tennis clubs have both run very successful competitions for non-members with their Corporate Bowls and Fast4 social competitions. Fast4 took place at the Buninyong Tennis Complex on Wednesday nights and Corporate bowls at The Buninyong Bowling Club on Thursday evenings. Both competitions have proved very popular and have generated new members for the clubs.

Greens Success

Buninyong Lawn Bowls teams have had a very successful season in local lawn bowls competitions. The Saturday Pennant Division 1 and 5 teams and the Monday Pennant Division 2 teams were finalists and in the race to take out their respective division titles.

Club championship competitions have been completed with **Graeme Nicholson** edging out **Ian Voigt** in a high standard match to win the men's singles title. In the ladies' championship **Barbara Voigt** defeated **Sandra Chapman** to take out her second title.

Birthday

Buninyong Golf Club will be celebrating its 90th birthday at the end of April. Planning is in progress for a number of activities to help members past and present to celebrate the occasion.

Cricketers do well

Buninyong's Cricket team took on Ballarat-Redan in the Second Eleven grand final in the revamped Ballarat Cricket Association competition. The team has put in strong performances over the season and deserves to be playing off for the title.

AROUND THE CHURCHES

Schedules of the services and happenings at local churches.

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11am

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Rev Mark Schnerring 5341 3281
www.buninyonganglican.org.au
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BAPTIST CHURCH

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Sundays 10am

SCOTSBURN CHURCH

Midland Highway, Scotsburn
Contact **Heather Stokes** on
5341 7609
First Sunday in the month at 10am

Masons recognise loyal member

Sturt Buninyong Lodge acknowledged 70 years of membership by Very Worshipful Ian White with the presentation of a Service Jewel.

Past Grand Master **Bruce Bartrop** made the presentation noting that Ian joined the Learmonth Lodge in 1946, moved to Lodges at Woomelang, Lismore, Buninyong and is now at Sturt Buninyong Lodge.

He served as Master of the Lismore Lodge in 1967 and had received three elevations in grand rank.



Ian White proudly holds his 70 Year Certificate surrounded by Sturt Buninyong members Bruce Bartrop, Alby Peart, Doug Williams, Harold George, Ron Fleming, Master of the Lodge, and Alan Glasson, Lodge Secretary.

SBU members joined Ian's family at the James Thomas Hostel on 12 March for the presentation.

Format changes for 2016 Anzac Day

A changed format for the 2016 Anzac Day observance will see an extended single service conducted in the Buninyong RSL Memorial Park.

The community is invited to assemble in the Park at 10.15am. Attendees are reminded to bring a chair and umbrella.

Following the service, a march will proceed from the Park to the Town Hall and return to conclude at the RSL Hall. An invitation is extended to all for hospitality and refreshment in the RSL hall.

Buninyong RSL is refurbishing its white crosses and invites those who believe they have a relative who should be recognised to talk with RSL member **Bill Akell**.

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English flavour added to fish & chips

If you had to guess the origins of the bloke who took over the Buninyong Fish & Chips business in Warrenheip Street Buninyong in late January of this year, an Englishman (from Yorkshire) might have been close to the top of your list.

The expression as *English as fish and chips* certainly fits the new owners of the business – **Robert** and **Lea Moorehouse**, who emigrated to Australia from Beverley in East Yorkshire in 2008.

With a sister who had lived in Russell Street, Buninyong since 2003, it was not surprising that the Moorehouses soon bought and renovated a house on Warrenheip Street (north) in 2009 and lived there for four years before moving to Garibaldi.

While they have a background in the food business – Lea operated Subway store in England – Robert now works as an IT contractor in Melbourne for much of the week. They have a family stretching out from a 20 year old to three young children aged three, two and three months.

They have introduced new items to their menu such as grilled fish served on a bed of couscous, brown rice or quinoa, and even salmon as an alternative to the usual flake or butterfish. Meals can be served in boxes making for simpler take-away eating. Another change is the opening of the shop on a Monday evening.

They see the local fish and chip shop as a long-term investment in the context of the growing food scene in Buninyong and with the growth of the village.

Now having bought a block of land in Learmonth Street, there are advanced plans for building and moving back into the Buninyong village in the near future, and making sure that their business continues to play its part in the life of this community.



Robert Moorehouse at the Buninyong Fish Shop

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Buninyong's star golfing family

Tatts a record hard to beat

Chris and Sue Tatt are very familiar faces around the Buninyong Golf Club (BGC). Tatty, as he is known to Buninyong golfers, has been a fixture around the club for 32 years and Sue has been a mainstay in the club office.

Chris learnt his golf at Maldon Golf Club then moved to Castlemaine, swiftly climbing Victorian amateur golf rankings.

Golf was the catalyst when Chris met **Sue Palmer** who was herself establishing a reputation as an outstanding golfer at Maryborough Golf Club. Sue was following in the footsteps of her golfing parents. With club championships, regular representation in Victorian country and regional pennant teams confirming her golfing talent, it was inevitable that the paths of Sue and Chris would cross. It didn't take too many golf course dates before Chris and Sue teamed up permanently as husband and wife.

Move to Ballarat

In 1984, Chris was convinced to come to Ballarat to work at Ray Drummond's Golf shop. Once in Ballarat he joined the BGC, quickly being selected in BGC representative teams. In 1992 he joined the greens staff and soon became a familiar figure on the fairway mower.

Tatty's highlight reel is super impressive. He represented Victoria Golf Club in pennant for 27 years, earning selection in the Victorian State team for six years.

He was selected to represent Australia on three occasions – a high point being in a four-man Australian team visiting Seoul, South Korea in 1983.

Record

Chris holds a record four Victorian Country Championships, two Victorian Champion of Champions titles, numerous Ballarat Region and Central District Country Week appearances, and fourteen Buninyong Championship titles. He also has two Victorian Senior State titles and was selected in the Australian Seniors team in 2013.



Chris Tatt drives on the first hole at Buninyong Golf Club.

The Tatt golfing pedigree has been passed on to son **Travis** and daughter **Angela**. Travis also has an impressive collection of golfing titles and pennant appearances with Victoria Golf Club and BGC. He has represented Ballarat and District at country week for twenty

years. Angela, also a talented golfer, was accepted into the professional golf ranks in 2006.

Chris and Sue are proud of their country week golf record. Sue played country week golf with her mother, Angela played country week with mother Sue, and Travis played country week golf alongside father Chris. Another daughter **Narelle**, well-known at the local community bank, whilst not a golfer, closely follows the family's golf exploits.

Now semi-retired, Chris works on the golf course two days a week and is enjoying time to play midweek golf, interspersed with the odd chance to test out his prowess with the fishing rod. Sue can still be found most days in the office at the BGC.

Ray Sullivan

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