

## Buninyong COMMUNITY NEWS

Traffic lights in dispute

Edition 430, September 2016



A difference of opinion has emerged in Buninyong over a proposal to erect stop lights at a planned pedestrian crossing at the corner of Warrenheip Street and Forest Street.

In March 2015, following the 2014 State election, Member for Buninyong **Geoff Howard** announced that in line with a pre-election promise funding had been allocated for a "controlled crossing" in Buninyong.

A subsequent broadly-based community meeting held in June 2015, attended by Mr Howard and VicRoads staff, recommended that the crossing should be located opposite the Community Bank and that traffic lights were not needed.

#### Meetings

At its June 2016 meeting, the BDCA heard from Mr Howard MLA, a representative of Vision Australia, and another visitor who spoke in support of the inclusion of traffic lights. However, by a near-unanimous vote, BDCA members resolved that it would support the installation of a zebra crossing at the site but without traffic

lights, and that its effectiveness should be monitored over a twelve month period.

The BDCA's concern about lights related mainly to the fact that this project should be considered not in isolation but in the context of the forthcoming work on the township plan. Strong concern was expressed about the impact on the character of the village, traffic flow implications, and the noise impact on nearby residents and businesses.

It was also noted that in Ballan a similar decision to install a light-controlled crossing was reversed after community

objections were raised at a public meeting.

#### Record

BDCA President **Linda Zibell** said that the
BDCA had lobbied for
many traffic and road
safety improvements in
Buninyong over recent
years. She pointed to
the lights at the school
crossing, the reduction

to 50kph and the painting of pedestrian refuge markings along sections of Warrenheip Street, as well as the move to get the 60kph speed zones moved further back from near Winter Street on the Midland Highway as a few recent examples.

"The Association is not being difficult on this traffic light issue," she said. "Our members just believe that the lights will have an unnecessary and negative impact on the streetscape of the village."

A raised median strip, similar to that in Dana Street, Ballarat (see below) has been suggested as an alternative to traffic lights.



# Josh backs bus moves

Member for Western Victoria Joshua Morris MLC visited Buninyong recently to look at the situation regarding the V Line bus stop presently located in the busy shopping strip along Warrenheip Street North.

He also visited Hillview Lodge on the Midland Highway at Mt Buninyong with a view to supporting a proposal for a twice-per-day extension of the Buninyong bus route to assist the fifteen disabled residents living there.

Lodge manager-owner **Jacinta Peart** said that most of the Lodge's residents travelled into Ballarat each day by bus for appointments, to visit friends or to do



Local business owners want the V-Line bus stop relocated. With Joshua Morris MLC are (L to R) Clive Kirby, Wendy Kirby and Ian Salathiel.

basic shopping. Presently they need to be taken to the Eyre Street bus stop by staff to catch the bus into town. "If the No 10 bus could travel to the Lodge just once in the morning and afternoon that would be provide a much-needed service for our disabled clients," she said.

Mr Morris said that such an extension of the bus route could also be a boon for the growing number of other residents living on the Geelong side of Buninyong.

#### **Business boost**

The BDCA also is pressing Public Transport Victoria (PTV) to relocate the 'Forest Street' bus stop 150m north to the existing stop near the corner of Eyre and Warrenheip Streets. As well as for safety reasons, such a move would release an additional six parking spots. Presently a total of only nine spaces is available for parking along this busy strip.

Owners of shops in the area say that the release of the additional parking would be a great boost to their businesses. It would add 40 per cent more parking to that presently available.

Previously Mr Morris had raised the matter in Parliament with a question to the Minister for Transport, but the response received indicated that the PTV did not fully understand the proposal.

#### Minister

After seeing the situation at first hand and speaking with many business owners, Mr Morris said that he would again raise the issue with the Minister and with PTV.

He added that the proposed construction of a pedestrian crossing outside of the *Pig & Goose Restaurant* added to the reasons for relocating the bus stop. "It makes no sense to have buses pulling in almost adjacent to a crossing, seriously compromising traffic sight lines and trying to manoeuvre in amongst traffic which is trying to park or which might be stopping at the crossing," he said.

The BDCA has already put in submissions to PTV relating to bus-train timetables and the need for a connecting bus across Whitehorse Road.



Hillview Lodge owner Jacinta Peart discusses bus needs of residents with Josh Morris



Mayor Des Hudson welcomes Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews at the park handover at the Mt Clear Secondary College.

State Premier Daniel Andrews officially declared the establishment of the new Canadian Regional Park at a ceremony held at the Eco Centre of Mt Clear Secondary College on 5 August.

Among those present at the ceremony were Parks Victoria staff, teachers and students from the college, community group representatives, environmentalists, Member for Buninyong, **Geoff Howard**, and the Mayor of the City of Ballarat **Des Hudson**.

Legislation for the creation of the 641 hectare Canadian Regional Park was passed by the parliament of Victoria in March, and resulted from years of lobbying by a local group, Friends of the Canadian Corridor (FOCC), led by **Jeff Rootes**, **Linda Zibell** and **Bob Hartmann**.

#### Result

Their lobbying work brought the spectacular result witnessed by the establishment of the extensive park within easy access to a major provincial city.

The park extends from Recreation Road in the south almost to Eureka Street in Ballarat East.

Modestly, **Bob Hartmann** told *BCN* at the opening that "we were lucky to get all of the ducks lined up in a row", referring, in part to the tightness of the 2014 State election battle for the seat of Buninyong. Prior to the election the ALP gave a commitment to support the park's establishment.

Based upon the Canadian State Forest and former plantation land, the park will help to protect native flora and fauna while offering visitors a connection to nature. Planning and establishment of the park by Parks Victoria will take place over the next three years.

#### Management

The park is located within the traditional lands of the Wadawurrung people. They will be involved with the City of Ballarat, the Friends of the Canadian Corridor and Parks Victoria in the park's management.

Parks Victoria will soon seek suggestions from the community in preparing the plans for the park. Some proposals already include picnic and viewing areas, mountain bike tracks, horse riding trails, and tracks suited to disabled persons.



Lal Lal turbines battle moves on

## SUPREME COURT TOSSES OUT MINISTER'S FAST TRACK MOVE

The June 2016 edition of the Buninyong Community News carried the story that a local community group, the Lal Lal Environment Protection Association (LLEPA), was planning to take Supreme Court action against State Planning Minister Richard Wynne.

In January 2016, without the required public notice, the Minister had inserted a provision in the *Planning Scheme* which by-passed a requirement in the Act that objections to amendments to wind farm permits should be referred to a Planning Panel, except in limited circumstances. This appeared to be part of a 'fast tracking' strategy for wind facilities.

#### **Amendments out**

The Supreme Court proceedings brought by LLEPA were recently settled out of court with the proposed Planning Amendments being revoked. The amendments would have allowed the Minister to skip the planning panel stage in dealing with objections to wind farms.

The court action followed an application by permit holder WestWind Energy for an amendment which would have allowed turbines to increase in size from 130m to 161m, while removing only four of the 64 turbines planned for the Lal Lal and Elaine areas.

LLEPA President **John McMahon** said, "We are very pleased with the Supreme Court outcome, not only for the many hundreds of locals potentially affected in the Lal Lal area, but also for thousands



Shown discussing next moves in their battle are Lal Lal and Yendon residents (L to R) Heather Stokes, Margot Rees, Heather McMahon, Jean Tingate, Greg Tingate, John McMahon, Michele Warren

of other people at risk across southwestern Victoria."

#### Panel back on

"We will now face a Planning Panel where we will be able to present our arguments in detail, in particular regarding the much greater noise which will be generated by the proposed larger turbines, and the increased visual impacts due to the need for red flashing aviation lights at night," he said.

The panel hearing scheduled for 15 August was postponed at the request of Westwind which wanted further variations to be included in their planning application These included reducing the distance of blade tips to the ground to just 20m – further increasing the diameter of the blades and sound produced.

The other variation sought by the company was the addition of a clause enabling the Minister to amend 'distance to the ground' at his future discretion.

While now not knowing when the Panel hearing will be, Mr McMahon said that LLEPA will be hotly contesting such amendments at that hearing.



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## Bus changes: a trifecta and the two longshots

It must be exciting for public servants to come up with headline-grabbing proposals after years of community 'consultations' about critical matters such as public transport.

Right now in the bowels of the Public Transport Victoria's (PTV) home at Melbourne's Docklands, the PTV boffins are in the midst of putting the finishing touches to a review of bus services in Ballarat.

You wouldn't have to be a genius to work out that they will come up with some important changes. You'd have to be even less of a genius to predict that the 'big' changes will be ones that will be applauded loudly by Government and local politicians.

#### Sure bet

One favourite is a new bus service across Whitehorse Road, linking Sebastopol with Federation University. An excellent move! That proposal, together with a new bus service for the Delacombe area, and better 'connectivity' between bus and train timetables would represent a hot trifecta.

But it is to be hoped that two other far less costly but non-headline-grabbing proposals put to the PTV from this area don't get lost.

The first of these is a submission made by the owners of Hillview Lodge up there on the Midland Highway near the top of Mt Buninyong.

It now is home for fifteen disabled residents. Most of these residents have to be driven down into Buninyong daily to catch a public bus to go into Ballarat for

medical or Centrelink appointments, to meet friends, or to simply get away from their small rooms atop the mountain.

The proposal by the lodge's operators is that, say, twice a day, the #10 bus (or a smaller shuttle bus) might be routed up the Midland Highway to pick up or to deliver home the fifteen or so passengers. On the way, the same bus could also be accessed by the growing number of Buninyong residents or students living in new developments in areas adjacent to the highway there. Seems to make good sense!

#### Stop move

The other, even simpler proposal put to the PTV Review by the BDCA concerns the relocation of the V Line and local bus stop from in front of the Pig & Goose Restaurant in Warrenheip Street to the existing stop just past the Eyre Street corner, only about 150m to the north.

This would free up 40 per cent more parking in that busy business strip, would provide much easier access for buses, would move traffic congestion away from the proposed site of the new pedestrian crossing, would provide vastly better sight lines for pedestrians and traffic, and would provide shelter for waiting passengers under the verandas of the community bank. Simple and sensible... over to PTV!

So while the predicted 'trifecta' is likely to be delivered and trumpeted in coming weeks, The News awaits with interest to see if these two smaller but important proposals get a look in at Docklands!!

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### Buninyona 8 district COMMUNITY NEWS

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## Daryl, Wally and the Birddogs

Seemingly the only common thing between art and aeroplanes is that they both start with the same letter. But Buninyong resident of some 42 years, Daryl Chibnall, has had careers in both.

A graduate in graphic design and photography from SMB, Daryl firstly had a two years stint with the Education Department of Victoria teaching senior art and technical illustration at Sebastopol Technical School. But he soon felt a strong desire to establish his own homegrown design and photography business, AAD Strategic Design.

For the first ten years he operated from his picturesque Buninyong studio, later relocating to a larger studio in Ballarat. Then followed a 28 year career in design which saw him open three studios and employ up to 18 people.

#### **Award**

A highlight for Daryl and AAD Strategic Design was the recognition that came as the Regional Winner of the coveted Qantas Small Business Enterprise Award for business excellence in 1990.

Around the late 1990s, Daryl, along with his daughter Laura an environmental scientist, decided to undertake an eighteen month course to upgrade their private pilot's licences to commercial licences. He said, "If I was to make a change in my life, I decided that the year 2000 was the date." By that time he had sold his graphic design business interests, and commenced his aviation business, AeroVision.

Daryl assessed that general aviation was then struggling and that to succeed he would need to become involved in a specialised area of aviation. He identified aerial fire-fighting and aerial reconnaissance as major future needs.



Daryl Chibnall and Wally inside a hangar at Ballarat Aerodrome with one of the Cessna 337 aircraft.

"We are now very much involved in aerial reconnaissance and surveillance work throughout the year, particularly during the fire season," he said. His four specialist aircraft, Cessna Skymaster 337s, with their wings set high above and well back from the cockpit give unequalled all round visibility. With twin engines, the 'Bird Dogs' are regarded as being one of the safest and best suited aircraft

available today for his specialised

aerial intelligence and down-linking of real-time data collected over incidents to and various emergency services.

His aircraft provide ground based authorities, control centres in forest health survey and in biosecurity

Away from his huge hangar at the Ballarat Airport, Daryl is a keen photographer of bird and wildlife. With two of his three children living in Buninyong, the other member of Daryl's "family" is Wally, a faithful seven year old brown and white kelpie-border collie cross. He and Wally are inseparable mates.

#### Hectic

operations.

He said that flying above fires for many hours on end can be "hectic" at times. "This is because you are working in tight areas with other aircraft and helicopters, dealing with high temperatures, smoke and limited visibility, and also with up to five lots of communication coming through the headset – from other attack aircraft, from Melbourne Centre, local aerodrome traffic, from emergency agencies, and even from mobile phones," he said.

In the non-fire season his aircraft are involved in whale survey research ("from Ceduna to Sydney"), in flood survey work,





#### Shelf to return to old rotunda

If you've ever sought shelter at the Buninyong Botanic Gardens or enjoyed a picnic barbecue in the heritage listed grounds, chances are you have been drawn into the Queen Victoria Rotunda that was built in 1901 to commemorate the reign of the late Queen. It was built with seventy pounds raised by the ladies of Buninyong.

Old-timers recall that surrounding the centre column in the rotunda was a handy ledge that supported small items, tea candles, petite picnic paraphernalia and the like being used by Gardens visitors.

Alas, the ledge is no longer and the Gardens Friends group is calling on members of the community who may recall how it looked or, even better, may have an old photo of the ledge, to submit their recollections to the Secretary, **Karen Hulston** on 0401 436 791 or info@ buninyongbotanicgardensfriends.org.



Part of the crowd which gathered at au the opening of the rotunda in 1901



Buninyong Community Bank Manager Randall Dreger (centre) receives a cheque for \$2000 for the Bush Fire Appeal from Ken Jenkin (Left) and Alan Glasson

### **Charity cheques** from the Masons

Over recent times, members of the Buninyong Freemasons' Lodge have distributed \$6000 in grants to local charities and projects. The cheques resulted from the combined effort of the Sturt Buninyong Lodge, its No 23 Masonic Social Committee, and the generous support of the Freemasons Foundation.

A cheque for \$3000 was given to the 3BA Christmas in July Appeal (that supports Anglicare, Uniting Care and St Vincent de Paul), the Scotsburn Bush Fire Appeal (\$2000), Cops and

Kids (\$800), and \$800 was donated to Buninyong CWA in support of their catering for Blazeaid volunteers.

#### Sunday fire damages home

A house fire which started around midday on 7 August severely damaged a Fisken Street house in the vicinity of the Buninyong sports ground. Seven units from Ballarat and from Buninyong and Mt Helen CFA depots, together with local police, attended the fire. According to Buninyong CFA Captain **Marc Cannan**, the fire seemed to have started from solar panels on the house roof.





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AND DESIGNATION



## Margaret lives next door to me

The first of a series of chats with long-term Buninyong identities by local primary school children

When I found out that I could write an article about someone who had lots of knowledge about Buninyong, my first thought was my next-door neighbour, Margaret McCarty.

Margaret was born in 1943 and has lived in Buninyong/Scotchmans Lead all her life. Both her mum and dad's families originally came from Ireland. Her family worked as miners and farmers. She is a member of the Buninyong Football Netball club and the Historical Society. When she was younger she used to be part of the Youth club.

#### Growth

Throughout the years Margaret has seen a huge growth in population. When Margaret went to school there was a school at Scotchmans Lead as well as Buninyong. Margaret believes there were roughly 100 children going to Buninyong Primary School at the time. Today there are over 670 children going to Buninyong Primary School.

When I first started school in 2010, the block next to the school oval was be empty. But around 1914 it used to have houses built on it.

Quite a few shops and hotels have been closed down since Margaret was a child. Some of them are the butter factory, Whykes Butchers, the National Bank and Isaac Grocers. A lot of hotels have also closed down in Buninyong. Margaret said there used to be nearly a hotel on every corner.

#### **Train**

There used to be a train running from Ballarat to Buninyong. It went through Mt Clear and Mt Helen. The railway finished in 1938 and the train used to bring lots of people to the Botanical Gardens for picnics in the afternoon. The Buninyong Railway Carriage has been found in Ballarat and will hopefully be restored and returned to Buninyong one day.

The old pool in the Botanical Gardens was built after the war. In the 1950s a Dutch family came to live in Buninyong. The oldest boy in the family called **Naus** cleaned the pool and made it suitable for swimming. The pool was later changed into a sunken garden where many weddings are held and the pool then moved to Forest Street which is where it is now.

Albert Chan had a bakery in a tin shed on the corner of Forest Street and Warrenheip Street. The man who delivered the bread, **Paddy Jones**, would sometimes still be delivering at midnight.

#### **Lights out**

He would come to Margaret's family house late at night where he would leave the bread on the kitchen table, and before he left he would blow out the kerosene lamp that her mother and father had left burning for him.

Near the present Buninyong Cemetery, there used to be hotels, shops and a post office, and the cemetery back then used to be on the side of Desoza Park.

Margaret's grandfather **Patrick** was the first captain of the Buninyong Fire Brigade and her uncle, **William McCarty**, was the longest serving member at the Buninyong Fire Brigade.

I really wouldn't know where to stop writing since I have found her stories so interesting. But there was a limit to the number of words I could write so I would like to finish this article by saying thank you Margaret for your time and for giving us an insight to what Buninyong was like many years ago.

Emilie Robertson, Grade 6, Buninyong Primary School





Buninyong's Janet Dore's journey from

Yorkshire migrant to top executive

It's not all that common for a grand-daughter of a Yorkshire miner to become one of Victoria's top corporate executives. It's even more unusual when she arrived in Melbourne by sea on the *Ellinis* in 1973 as a young woman in her early 20s, in one of the last groups of English migrants to come under the 'assisted passage' scheme.

Even before venturing to Australia, Janet Dore had put together some interesting career experiences. Initially trained as a cartographer, she had worked as an illustrator for *The Economist* in London, and even had a stint at Bletchley Park, now-famous as the top-secret British 'spy' centre where the Nazi war codes were cracked.

#### **Planning**

For the first nine years in Victoria, Janet worked as a town planner for a range of suburban Councils, while studying for a planning degree at RMIT. Then, after graduating with an MBA from Deakin University in 1984, she undertook part-time lecturing roles in town planning at RMIT and the Footscray Institute of Technology, and was appointed to the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.

After several senior roles in Councils such as Kew, Camberwell and St Kilda, in 1994 Janet was appointed as the first CEO of the amalgamated City of Ballarat following the municipal reforms of the Kennett Government. She spent five years in that position.

The move from Melbourne with her partner (a former Kiwi) to a home in Eddy Avenue, Mt Helen, started Janet's love affair with the Buninyong district.

#### To TAC

More advances up the corporate ladder followed – General Manager of the City of Newcastle for eight years, and then in 2008, she was appointed the CEO of Victoria's Transport Accident Commission.

Soon after, the TAC was moved to Geelong, and whilst living there

during the week, Janet returned here at weekends. She bought a block of land in central Buninyong and built a new home which was completed in 2009.

She said that Buninyong had always appealed to her – being attracted by its classical layout, its small size and relative quietness, and the fact that all facilities are within walking distance.

"Although recent

new dining-out options have been great, Buninyong could still benefit by a few more," she said.

Janet said that Council should be working to link up the various walking and bike paths around the village, and she describes as 'absolute madness' the fact that no planning has commenced to by-pass the village centre before the Western Link road starts to bring large volumes of heavy vehicles through here in the decades ahead.

#### Still busy

Now retired from full-time employment, Janet's life remains a busy one. In addition to being on several boards, in October 2015 she took on the role as Chair of the key local advocacy group Committee for Ballarat, and this August was appointed by the Victorian Government to the Taxi Services Commission.

Despite her still-hectic schedule, Janet finds time to read selections from her home library, taking on small DIY projects and in listening to music from rock to classical. She travels whenever possible especially to New Zealand, a country she has great affinity for – because of her partner.

Asked for her advice for women seeking to establish themselves in senior corporate or government careers,

Janet suggested to "get yourself a good mentor and supporter for your career advice."



## Fifty years up for Robert and Kaspars

Recognition of long service of members of the Sturt Buninyong United (SBU) Lodge continued at the July meeting when further 50 year service jewels were presented to Dr Kaspars Bitans and to Robert Bowers.

The presentations were made by **Bruce Bartrop** a past Grand Master of Freemasons
Victoria and a member of SBU Lodge.

Both members were initiated in June 1966, with Kas joining Sturt Lodge and Robert the Buninyong Lodge. The two lodges consolidated in April 1998 to form the present Sturt Buninyong United Lodge.

During the evening **Ron Fleming**, Master of the Lodge, welcomed an official visit from the St George Mark Lodge of Mark Master Masons.

The Mark Degree is one of five degrees recognised by the Victorian Craft constitution and was explained during their lecture.



 ${\it Proud Free masons Dr Kaspars Bitans, Bruce \ Bartrop \ and \ Robert \ Bowers \ following \ the \ presentations.}$ 

## CWA members take out State awards The Ballarat District Group entered the

The recent State Creative Arts exhibition in Yarrawonga showcased a range of talents of CWA members from across Victoria in handcraft and home industries.

Buninyong's **Jenny Bridgewater** received the Peck Trophy for the best piece of canvas work, and also a third prize for her Hardanger entry. **Lyn Fleming** gained firsts for marmalade and clear pickles and second placings with fruit paste and a jar of jelly.

Moonlight and Roses set topic handcraft section and the home industries set subject Citrus. Buninyong members contributed items for both displays.

Buninyong CWA members also have gained recognition in State CWA events over the past month. In the 500-1000 words section of the State Literary competition **Pauline Kennedy** achieved first prize with her short story *Scary Night*.

Buninyong CWA meets on the third Monday each month at the Uniting Church Hall commencing at 1.30pm. New members are most welcome.



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## Knights, knaves and dames in the park

There was plenty of colour, clashing swords and lances, armour, medieval dress and even madrigal music in Desoza Park on 30 July when the Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA) came to town.

Some fifty SCA members, all dressed in period costume, and mostly from Melbourne, were enjoying a Medieval Re-enactment day arranged by **Keith Romanis** from Napoleons, and a teacher at Ballarat Grammar. Keith, whose adopted medieval name is Hrothgar has been an SCA member for 26 years.

The Society started in Berkeley, California in 1966. Its members research and recreate the arts, skills and traditions of Europe in the pre-17th Century period.

#### **Serious stuff**

In Desoza Park the hand-to-hand fighting contests were pursued with great vigour and energy with the swords and pikestaves made from rattan, crashing heavily into the real armour and shields of the combatants.

The Society brought its own King and Queen with them for the day. They were looking over their Kingdom of Lochac (which turned out to be all of Australia and New Zealand). Kings and Queens assume the throne after winning a Crown tournament.

After the various events in the park, the members adjourned to an evening of feasting, merriment and dancing in the Buninyong Town Hall. Eighty people attended the Feast.



Hrothgar (Keith Romanis), at right, subdues a challenger in a hand-to-hand battle before the Society's King and Queen.

## World War I photos called for

The RSL plans to include signage (with photographs and other details) at some points along the restored Avenue of Honour. If anyone has photos of Buninyong men marching thorough town, embarking ship or other similar group activity, would they please contact the Buninyong RSL.

If suitable, the photos would be copied and included on the proposed signs. Of course originals would be returned.

Contact RSL Secretary **Bob Bennett**, 5341 2369 or email rcem.bennett@bigpond.com



#### **POLICE BEAT**

some excellent police work enabled a burglar to be caught 'red handed' at the Buninyong Golf Club on 27 July. Police attended the club premises at 1.00am after a call from Security. Police allegedly located the male in possession of an axe, rubber gloves and a beanie with eye holes cut out. He was sprayed with OC spray and arrested after he attempted to flee. A 27 year old male from Ballarat was charged with burglary and theft and bailed to the Ballarat Magistrates Court on 25 August 2016.

A HOLDEN CRUZE was set alight in Leckie Grove, Mount Clear on 27 July 2016. Police and CFA were called to the car fire at 10.30 am. Upon arrival, the near-new vehicle was well and truly engulfed. The vehicle had been stolen overnight from an address in Delacombe. Police are reviewing nearby CCTV in an attempt to identify the offenders.

A THIRTY-SIX year old Ballarat resident was arrested and interviewed on 20 July 2016 relating to a deception involving the Buninyong Post Office earlier in 2016. It's alleged the male attended the Buninyong P.O and left with a \$500 money order. He was charged and bailed to appear at the Ballarat Magistrates Court at a later date.

PARKING SEEMS to be an issue this month. Buninyong Police have received a number of complaints from citizens in relation to Simpson Street, specifically at school pick up and drop off times, and Learmonth Street, near the Kindergarten at pick up and drop off times. Warnings have been given and zero tolerance together with penalty notices will now follow. The relevant Road Rule 167 provides for a fine of \$155

#### Coming Events

#### Sunday 28 August, 1.00 -3.00pm (also 25 September)

Old Police Station. FBBG Plant-Up day. Pot up Spring vegetable seeds and prepare for your early plantings. Take home planted-up pots. Bring the children. \$5 members, \$10 non-members. Phone Judith 0419 103 213

#### Sunday 28 August, 12 noon

Open Day, BBQ, fun activities, Elaine Tennis Club

#### Thursday 1 September

First training session, Elaine U 14 cricketers

#### Sunday 25 September, 9am - 1pm

Return of the Buninyong Village Market. Town Square. You wanted it... now come along and support the rebirth of the market which will run monthly until May 2017

#### Saturday 29 October, 10.30am-3.30pm

Spring Fair. Uniting Church, Learmonth Street. Teddy Bears' Picnic, free children's activities, stalls and more. Chance to showcase community groups. Contact **Bronwyn** 0409 404 599

#### Saturday 10 December, from 5.30pm

Christmas Carols, Desoza Park. BBO and kids' activities from 5.30pm. Carols from 7.30pm. Local artists, Sing Australia Choir. A great community event.

Not on the old gum tree

## Kookaburra sits on Jim's back fence

Benny, a small white 'bitzer' dog is in the front yard, barking. Sitting on the fence is a kookaburra. Out comes Jim. Benny stops barking, his job is done.

The dog and the kookaburra watch closely as Jim moves over to the BBO. lifts the lid, picks up some minced meat, closes the lid. The bird shuffles along closer to Jim. And carefully takes the small ball of mince from Jim's fingers.

Jim McKay and his wife Pat. have been hand feeding birds

for years, over three different but closetogether houses. Firstly they were only feeding magpies, which used to bring their babies as well - training the next generation Pat and Jim think.

#### Joined in

Then about two years ago they noticed a kookaburra sitting on the telephone line in Winter Street, watching. Eventually it swooped down and stole the meat from the magpie. That caused a bit of a fight

and so Jim tried feeding the magpies first and then the kookaburra.

Now he's also feeding butcher birds! They all get minced steak and they have different habits: some like to grab the mince from the fence post, some like to sit on the post to eat, some take it from Jim's fingers or from the outside table.

None of them worry about Benny the dog. He's a softie like Pat and Jim... he even lets them eat his toast sometimes!

Cassandra Carland



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**Geoff Howard MF** 

State Member of Parliament for Buninyong

Listens, Cares, Acts!

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GeoffHowardMP

Authorised by Geoff Howard MP, 15 Main Road, Ballarat VIC 3350

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#### Botanic Gardens group

### Survey helps future plans

The Friends of Buninyong Botanic Gardens (FBBG) is a small group of people who work to promote and support the gardens through special programs.

Projects have included raising funds to complete the final section of an automatic watering system for the whole gardens, labelling of the many rare trees, and installing a seat near the children's playground in 2015. Recently FBBG helped renovate and activate the Old Police Station.

#### Survey

Earlier this year FBBG conducted a survey to discover how people use the Botanic Gardens and what they love most, and to gather suggestions for the future.

Most respondents to the survey visit the gardens at least once a month and are fairly happy with the maintenance and amenities there. The majority believed

it is important for the community to be involved with the Gardens, with 85 per cent noting the importance of participation of children.

Provision of seating and tables was highlighted as an area that could be improved. The FBBG currently has a plan to add seating to the "copper shed" near the rotunda.

#### **Planning**

The lack of awareness of the comprehensive 2004 Conservation Study and the need for a long-term Master Plan was another area identified as needing attention, with 70 per cent suggesting that the community should be involved in contributing ideas to such a plan to guide the future of the Gardens.

For more information about the survey or the FBBG, please contact the Secretary, Karen Hulston - info@ buninyongbotanicgardensfriends.org.au.

#### Ernie Neale's Monthly RAINFALL REPORT



#### Ernie's wettest July ever

The Blueberry farm was in caretaker mode during July. But our caretaker recorded 94.1mm of rain evenly spread across the month. Not many days missed out, and we even had two snowy days in a row. It's been the wettest July since I've been keeping rainfall records.

In fact the long term monthly average was boosted from 65.8mm to 69.3mm and has affirmed the talk of an approaching wetter La Nina event.

We spent the month in the Kimberley. Talk of rainfall there was topical because many districts have had three dry "wets" in a row. Some gorges are waterless, lagoons are shrinking and camping grounds are dusty and dry. Mention of Ballarat was universally met by comments of the cold, but they would love to have had the 379.2mm of rainfall we've received so far this year.

We knew things were wet here when an ancient tree in our back yard capsized, roots and all, during a storm, simply because it had lost anchorage in the muddy ground. It brought to mind the old farming adage that "there's money in mud". High soil moisture levels are a sound basis for the coming season in any form of agricultural production - and an objective measure of a wonderful winter.

JULY 2016	
Rain	
4.9	
25.0	
27.0	
19.0	
18.2	
94.1 mm	
379.2 mm	

## World flavours in local

## banquet

Barbara Porter's culinary skills were again in evidence at the **World Citrus Tour dinner held** recently in the Buninyong Masonic Hall. Guests came from as far away as Melbourne and Maryborough as well as locally.

The event raised funds for the Buninyong Marmalade Association.

The menu featured dishes inspired by Greek, Chinese, French, German, New Zealand and Australian citrus flavours. Anne-Marie Primmer was guest speaker and spoke of her experiences with the Royal Melbourne Show, the training of dog-owners, as well as being a volunteer at a legal community service in Melbourne.



Chef Barbara Porter explains the origin of her 'world citrus tour' flavours at the banquet in the Masonic Hall.

## Good causes helped by the kids on the hill



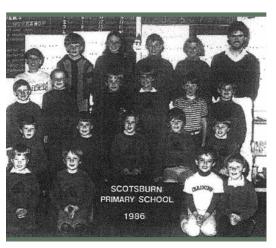
The Scotsburn debating teams (Back L to R) Drew Smith, Amelia Plier, Campbell Palmer and Nathan Hicks. Front: Felix Moore, Alice Lepair, Luca Raneiri, and Wyatt Pilmore.

Students at the Scotsburn school campus recently got behind two community charities. One, the MS-Readathon is ongoing and students still have a couple of days left in August to look to friends and family for donations for their efforts. Earlier, the students raised \$63 from their Jeans for Genes Day efforts.

In other news from the campus, new Prep/1 teacher **Miss Wood** is fitting in very well at the school. She even has taken on the Monday cooking program which involves mixed age groups of students.

And the two debating teams from Scotsburn did well in the recent Debating Challenge Cup. Assisted and prepared by **Sharon Davis** and **Natasha Adam**, one of the teams made it through to the semi-finals.

An exciting recent discovery at the campus has been a time capsule buried in 1986. An official opening will happen later this year. If you are in this 1986 photo (above-right) or would like to come along to the opening contact **Shaun O'Loughlin** on 5341 3496





## streettalk

WHEN SIX WALKERS returned to their vehicles parked at the Mt Buninyong car park in mid-July they got a rude shock to find that windows of all vehicles had been smashed in broad daylight and valuables locked inside had been stolen.

**ANY THOUGHT** that Buninyong is a community of older residents are obviously quite wrong. Seems plans are afoot for not one, but two new child care centres in town. On 26 July Street Talk spotted Council's yellow planning notice go up in Inglis Street just north of the community tennis courts. Plans submitted to Council show that the developers expect to cater for some 100 children and about twenty staff between the hours of 6.30am and 6.30pm. Some neighbours there are not happy. Then a few weeks later, another yellow notice popped up in Scott Street near the Police Station for another child care centre. Going to be some wellcared for kids in Buninyong!

THE TRAFFIC LIGHTS issue was taken up a notch on 1 August with Vision Australia bussing in a group of vision-impaired people along with guide dogs and lots of white canes. The group wandered along Warrenheip Street, was interviewed by the media and put their case for the proposed pedestrian crossing to be controlled by traffic lights.

ACTION FROM COUNCIL is now "scheduled" on those two garden beds in front of the Town Hall (that were rescued by the BDCA from being asphalted over early this year). Three species of plants (50-80cm high) will be put there, together with cast iron ends to protect from casual walkers. The Botanic Gardens group has offered to trim the plants and weed the beds.

A RESCUE MISSION was noted in the reserve opposite the golf club recently. You would think that someone who had worked on grass fairways and greens for 25 years or so would know when not to drive onto boggy ground. Lucky that there was a tractor across the road to pull Chris Tatt out or he'd be still there waiting for the hot weather to arrive.

### HAPPY CAMPUS FROM HUMBLE START

Tucked away in the valley at the corner of Moss Avenue and the Midland Highway, Buninyong, is a compact educational campus that seems to be growing steadily year by year. Driving past, locals will have seen children happily playing in many different natural settings. Despite this, some wouldn't know the name of the school or the special approach it takes to education.

No it's not run by the State, the Catholics or the Anglicans... it's the Ballarat Steiner School, Kindergarten and Playgroup. A few parents who saw many benefits in the Steiner approach to education started it in 1991 as a kindergarten in a garden shed at the back of a Buninyong house.

#### Moves

It was a tentative beginning, and at times it seemed that the project would falter. Over the next several years, the 'kinder' shifted between various locations and buildings. Its numbers and reputation gradually increased until it became obvious that a momentous decision had to be made.

Then in 2006, in a move variously described as a 'leap of faith' and a 'vote of confidence in the school's future', a ten acre site on the highway corner was purchased. Many difficulties had to be overcome but the perseverance of the dedicated staff and enthusiastic parents paid off, and a truly special educational campus has now been established.

The growing reputation of the school has resulted in a steady increase in student numbers. There are now 33 pupils in

kindergarten and 81 in Grades Prep to Six. Many of the students travel considerable distance to attend this school, and quite a number of families have relocated either to Ballarat or Buninyong to enable their children to attend the school.

The school buildings and playground have steadily been improved and expanded. So too has the curriculum which now includes advances in art, music and drama.

#### Committed Its staff members

are a committed

group who explained that students at a Steiner school "become self-motivated, resilient, confident that they can change things for the better, and become connected to the natural living world around them." The school's educational philosophy is based on the ideas of an Austrian, Rudolf Steiner (1861-1925), who was an author,

Today there are some 1050 'Steiner' schools and more than 2000 kindergartens in 60 countries. There are fifty in Australia.

philosopher and social reformer.



Music education is a feature of education at the Steiner school. Pictured on the cello is Jelena, Class 6

With its growth in student numbers together with a solid financial base, the school now has a bright future. Plans are afoot to eventually expand into secondary education.

So next time you drive by the Ballarat Steiner School, Kindergarten and Playgroup down at the Moss Avenue intersection glance across at the playground and you'll not only see many happy children, but possibly some new project on the go there.

Cassandra Carland

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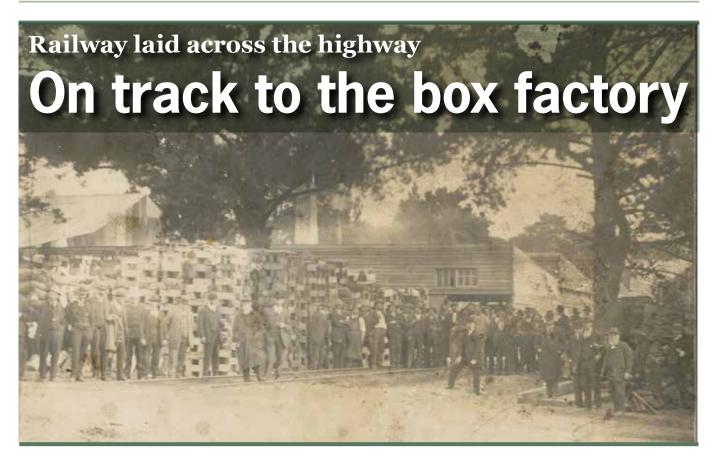




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Few would know that a large sawmill employing sixty men operated in Learmonth Street, just up the hill from Buninyong's Uniting Church. Or that a special railway extension opened in 1917, crossing the main road to carry timber to the sawmill, and then taking the completed pine boxes to Mildura as packing for the fruit industry.

#### **Factory**

Howard's Box Factory was on the south side of Learmonth Street, between Inglis and Cornish Streets. **James Howard** (1860-1938), timber merchant, first appears in the *Buninyong Directories* in 1899. He was the son of **Charles** 

**Howard**, a carpenter, and initially he made boxes for the Buninyong Butter Factory.

James Howard married **Elizabeth Wyatt** and they had eight children, all born at Buninyong. One son served in World War I. Howard was Mayor of Buninyong in 1904-5. He was also an active member of the Methodist Church, the fire brigade and the bowling club. By the 1920s the Howards lived at *Netherby*.

#### Growth

In the early years of the twentieth century the Box Factory flourished with the growth of the dried fruit industry at Mildura, following the introduction of irrigation there.

**Ruth Hunter** (nee Howard) left some autobiographical notes in which she remembered the factory:

My father had a timber merchandising business and during the war, branched out into the manufacture of boxes for fruit export. The sawmill employed many men. The Pinus Insignus logs were transported from timber areas in Victoria with horse drawn wagons. The logs were sawn up and the boxes made by hand and finally dispatched by rail to Mildura for the packing of dried fruit, oranges, and lemons for export.

#### **Fires**

The Box Factory suffered several devastating fires, with the stacks of logs



and sawdust providing a very flammable hazard, keeping the Buninyong Fire Brigade on its toes. One such fire occurred in February 1916, when extensive damage was sustained, but Howard rebuilt and extended his works, showing 'pluck and enterprise' according to the *Ballarat Courier*.

At this time the factory employed fifty men and boys. Extensions to the factory had cost £13,000, giving the factory the capacity to send out 400,000 cases annually.

An article on 29 November 1917 hailed the opening of the factory's railway siding, which extended from the Buninyong Railway Station in Forest Street. This allowed the completed fruit cases to be packed directly onto trucks for forwarding to Mildura.

#### **Demise**

In 1922 the Box Factory had a Net Annual Valuation of £223. The site included the factory, saw mill, house and old hotel. The rates of £19.10.3 were the highest paid in Buninyong, indicating that the company had been successful. However before the end of the year the factory would be closed.

The factory is crossed out in the *Buninyong Rate Book* for 1922-3, but the reason for the failure of the business is not clear. However, Ruth Hunter believed that the failing supply of pine timber was the cause.

Buninyong had lost a major employer. It was around the same time that the other big employer in the town, the Tannery, was also falling into decline.

The Howards left Buninyong by 1927, retiring to the Melbourne suburb of Burwood.

Anne Beggs-Sunter

## Avenue works finally started

A team of workers commenced the removal of large self-sown trees from the Buninyong Memorial World War I Avenue of Honour on 10 August.

The Avenue was first planted in mid-1917 and the Buninyong RSL has commenced a series of restoration projects in order to have the Avenue reinstated by the centenary next year. The RSL plans to hold a major community event to mark the 100 years since the Avenue was planted.

Working with the City of Ballarat, the present tree-removal exercise has followed a series of conciliation discussions involving City planners, objecting residents, and the RSL over the past year or so. As a compromise, it was agreed that some existing self-sown trees would remain and be incorporated into the Avenue.

In addition there will be some 40 new or replacement trees planted by Council along the Avenue which stretches from Inglis Street in the east to near Macs Road in the west

Extensive research has been conducted into those soldiers from the former Shire of Buninyong who were killed or otherwise died in World War I - 164 servicemen have been identified, and will be honoured by bronze plaques attached to concrete plinths adjacent to each tree.

Secretary of the Buninyong RSL subbranch **Bob Bennett** said, "We are not removing trees for the sake of it, but we believe that the memory of local soldiers who gave their lives for their country in World War I needs to be appropriately recognised by this important memorial avenue."



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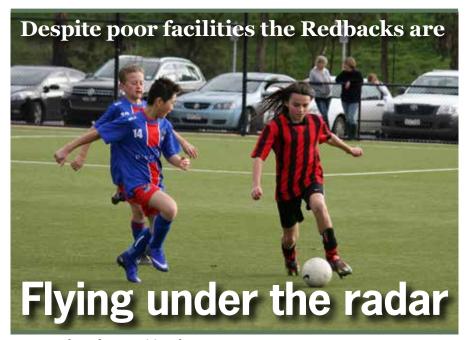
## Proudly supporting the Buninyong community

JOSHUA MORRIS MP State Member for Western Victoria

Authorized by Joshua Morris MP, 211 Dana Street, BALLARAT. Funded from Parliamentary Electorate Office and Communications Budge

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Sean Macak evades opposition players

There is a sporting club in Buninyong that is flying under the radar. It is only eight years old and already has close to 100 members. The **Buninyong Redbacks are making** their mark in soccer circles in the Ballarat and District Soccer Association (BDSA).

Formed in 2009 to cater for Buninyong kids wanting to play soccer the club has had a short but amazing journey to 2016. Initially three teams of Redbacks started as part of Victoria Park Soccer Club. They practised on a make-shift pitch beside the primary school until they moved to Royal Park in 2010.

But it was impossible to play any home games at Royal Park due to the state of the ground and in 2012 the club moved to another pitch at the rear of the Buninyong tennis courts. Permanent goals were constructed by parents and the the old tennis clubrooms were used as change-rooms.

#### **Growth despite facilities**

By 2013 the number of players had grown to 60 and home games were played at Buninyong on alternate weekends. The old tennis clubrooms were demolished and the players resorted to using the surrounding bushes as change rooms with tents erected for visiting teams on match days.

Redback numbers have continued to flourish. There are now seven Buninyong teams in the BDSA. The U13 team was the first to play finals in 2014, and in 2015 the U17s made the grand final; losing 3-1 to Ballarat. Performances were great but facilities were still lacking. Still no change rooms, toilets, water or electricity.

#### **Seniors**

In 2016 the club fielded its first senior team. The team, made up of many of the previous season's U17 grand final side has relished the challenge and are on top of the ladder with 12 wins, 2 draws and 1 loss. The team has scored an impressive 84 goals for the season with Ben Hutchins leading the goal scoring for the division with 26 goals.

The U13 team is also leading the way in their division with 9 wins, 3 draws and 2 losses. An influx of girls in the U15 team has prompted the club to also consider entering a girls' team for the 2017 season.

Club members and supporters are extremely proud of the amazing progress the club has made in its short life span. The on-field performances and the degree of participation of all members is a huge plus.

However, the one area of concern is the lack of a suitable home venue in Buninyong that would allow the Redbacks to firmly establish themselves as one of the premier sporting clubs in the town.

The Ballarat Council has recently released draft plans for the redevelopment of Royal Park. Let's hope this can provide the club with facilities that match their on-field performances. Get behind them, Buninyong!

Ray Sullivan

#### **CHFL Minor Premiers**

The Bombers have sealed the minor premiership. An easy 94-point win against Clunes in the last round has the Bombers ending the minor rounds on top of the ladder. Their finals campaign started with a qualifying final win against Gordon. The Bomber reserves finished their season undefeated and also won their first finals game. Not to be outdone, the U15s also cemented their place on top of the ladder.

#### **Netball Finals**

The Lady Bombers finished their season strongly with an 86-18 victory over Clunes and will play Newlyn in the elimination final. Buninyong B, C, U17, U15 and U13 teams will all play in finals.

Buninyong sides recently competed in the Division 3 and Division 4 indoor bowls grand finals. Unfortunately, the Division 3 side was defeated by a strong Central Wendouree and the Division 4 side lost a close battle with City Oval on the last bowl of the match. Well done to both sides on making the grand final.

#### Golf

The Buninyong ladies pair of **Helen** Pascoe and Amy Leeson has continued to impress in tournaments around the state. They both qualified in the top eight of the Victorian Country Championships held at Rich River Golf Club. Unfortunately, Helen was defeated in the first knock-out round. Amy made it through to the semi-final but lost 2/1. Well done to both.

Congratulations to **Chris Cummings** for winning the August monthly medal and to Rod Jeffrey for winning the Medalist of the year event.

#### Soccer

The Buninyong, Division 2 team maintained their top of the ladder status in the Ballarat and District Soccer Association competition. The Redbacks had a 3-2 win against Sebastopol Vikings. Ben Hutchins continued his good goal scoring form with two goals to take his season tally to 26. The under thirteen team held onto their top spot with a 5-1 win over Victoria Park Pink.

#### **Death of John McCarty**

## Church packed out for farewell

There was standing room only at St Peter and Paul's Catholic **Church in Buninyong on 11 August** as a crowd estimated at 500 gathered at the funeral Mass for John McCarty. John was a member of the well-known local family of Jock and Lydie McCarty, and attended primary school at Scotchman's Lead, and later at St Patrick's College.

He died at St John of God Hospital on 5 August aged 75 years.

Highly regarded as an all-round sportsman, coach and sports administrator, John spent some thirty years of his working life as an administrator at ACU's Aguinas Campus in Mair Street.

Celebrant Fr Adrian McInerney described John as "widely liked and a thoroughly good bloke".



John's coffin is carried from the church by Tony McCarty, Simon McCarty, Gerard McCarty, Leo McCarty, Shane McCarty and Chris McCarty. Grandsons Tom (L) and James show John's Collingwood scarf to Fr McInerney.

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## Buninyong



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### The first 100 days of school



Recently the Preps at the Buninyong Campus of the primary school celebrated their first one hundred days of school. Students acknowledged this important occasion by making special hats and having cupcakes marked with '100'.

All of the literacy and numeracy learning throughout the day was also focused around 100. In numeracy time students counted 100 items, and found out that grouping items in groups of 10, makes this much easier!

It was such a fun day and the Preps were very proud of all that they had achieved in their 100 days...well done Preps

Using an app on the iPad, students changed a photo of themselves to make them look really old. The students then wrote about themselves at the age of 100. Here are some of the ideas...

When I am 100 I might have a walking stick.

When I am 100 I might have white hair. When I am 100 I will still ride my skateboard.



Prep Sydney Orwin is surrounded by souvenirs of the "100' Day.

On 25 September

## VILLAGE MARKET RESTARTS

After many community meetings and consultations, the Buninyong Good Life Festival (BGLF) group has agreed to 're-boot' the Village Market with the first 'new' one to be held on Sunday 25 September. A market manager will be put in place with the job of bringing the market 'back to life'.

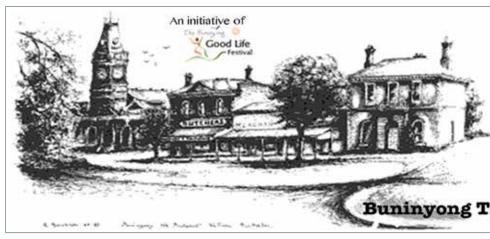
Lisa Cressey, Vice-President of the BGLF said that the market was a "wonderful enhancement of the community life of Buninyong. It brought people out to socialise, to buy fresh produce and other goods, and simply to enjoy a stroll through the village square."

The market will run from 9.00am to 1.00pm on the last Sunday of each month from September to May. In December a special twilight market will be held on Saturday 10 December to coincide with the Buninyong Christmas Carols in Desoza Park.

Secretary of the Buninyong & District Community Association, **Gayle Adams**, said that the BDCA welcomed the decision. "It is a very positive outcome for the Buninyong community."

Interested stall holders should check booking and other details on the market website –

www.buninyongvillagemarket.com.au



BUNINYONG VILLAGE MARKET

Last Sunday of the Month
25 September
9am-1pm
Market Square
Buninyong Town Hall Precinct