

RUSTY & JESS

a good news story

An elderly Buninyong couple, Rosemary and Ken Loane, say they are deeply in debt to a mystery Buninyong woman called Jess who drives a white car.

The Loanes have a trusty companion, a tubby seven year old sandy-coloured Jack Russell 'blend' called **Rusty**. Retired doctor Ken can be seen most days 'down the street' in Buninyong on his red mobility scooter with Rusty trotting along by his side.

The couple has lived in Buninyong since 2005. Although born, bred and educated in Belfast, Northern Ireland, Rosemary and Ken spent some forty years living and working in Liverpool before coming to Australia.

About a month ago, after being away for the day, the Loanes returned to their Scott Street home to find Rusty tied up in the garage. It seems Rusty had managed to escape, and had been found down in the Buninyong township by the mystery Jess who somehow had discovered where Rusty lived.

Neighbour

With no one at home there Jess handed Rusty over to neighbour **Leanne Jones** who tied him up waiting for the Loanes to return. She told them that "someone called Jess has brought your dog back home."

Rosemary Loane said they would have been devastated if Rusty had been lost, or injured or killed on the roads. "I am



Rusty is safely home on the back porch with owners Rosemary and Ken Loane after his solo escapade down into the Buninyong township

just so grateful to Jess as Rusty is my constant friend – even though he is my husband's daily walking companion," she said.

Jess, whoever you are, take a bow – you're the star of a good news story that says a lot about people and life in Buninyong. *The News* would love to hear from you.

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Watching the chickens getting some exercise are (L to R) Abigail Richardson, 5, Aston O'Dwyer, 4, and Ruby Scascighini aged 17 months.

Not too young to count their chickens

There's been plenty of excitement recently at the Mount Helen Goodstart Early Learning Centre, nestled away in a shady hollow on Geelong Road, just opposite Technology Park.

The reason is the annual chicken hatching program which sees the children watch chickens crack open the eggshells and emerge to the bright lights of the incubator trays at the Centre.

This year six chickens were hatched and soon will join the four egg-laying hens from previous years now housed in a large chicken pen at the rear of the Centre.

Fascinated

The chicken hatching program enables the children at the Centre to experience nature at first hand. Centre Director **Svetlana Murphy** said that the children are fascinated with the chickens and with

the experience of caring for them and watching them grow.

A Geelong-based company called *HennyPenny Hatching* delivers a pack which includes all of the eggs, equipment, feed, shavings and instructions, and returns to collect the equipment after an eleven day period during which the chickens are hatched and become established.

Ms Murphy said that the chicken hatching program was seen to be an excellent educational complement to the Centre's stimulating indoor and outdoor play environments.

The Mount Helen Goodstart Centre currently has places for 120 children, aged from babies to five year olds, with a staff of 25 to care for them. There will be an 'open day' at the Centre on Thursday 20 April, between 5.00-6.00pm to which parents of kindergarten age children (4yo) are invited.



The softer side of police

Small items of lost property handed into police, usually are kept at the local station for a while before being placed into central storage.

But local Sergeant **Peter Anderson** showed his softer side when he contacted *The News* to advise that a small pouch of plastic toy animals had been handed in after being found near Desoza Park.

"I thought that there might be some small child out there who was upset at losing their dozen or so special animal friends," he said. They are still being cared for at the Buninyong police station.



A group of young 'green thumbs' at the Expo (L to R) Dylan Anderson, Luca Ranieri, Charlie Stock. Photo – Bianca Fammartino

Sun, stalls, crowds at Royal Park Expo

There was a buzz around the town, and especially at Royal Park, on 26 February when about one thousand people enjoyed the sun and the exhibits at the Smart Building and Living Expo. The event was hosted by Buninyong Sustainability.

Expo Director, **Andrea Mason** said that you know that the Expo was a success when traders are complaining about being hoarse and the kids are throwing tantrums as they are being dragged away from the waterbugs.

She said that the grown-ups also lingered longer to find out more from those who are passionate about green buildings, sustainable design and great lifestyle products. "It was inspiring to see...and gives hope for a more sustainable future for us all."

Stalls galore

This year the event also hosted the Village Market with the extra stalls and a new crowd adding to its success. Over 65 stallholders were present to sell, advise and to entertain the crowd. Stalls included ones with builders, designers, solar system experts, and ones covering matters such as bushfire attack level ratings, permaculture, Landcare, food

and lifestyle products.

In addition, in the electric and hybrid vehicle display there were thirteen cars, motorbikes and electric bicycles.

Over \$1000 was raised from the auction and donations. This, together with the \$2000 grant from the *Rainbow Serpent Festival*, will be used towards establishing an electric vehicle charging station in Buninyong, so that this community can be part of this new trend, and also encourage newcomers.

Buninyong Sustainability is very grateful to all volunteers and helpers, and especially to sponsors Powershop, Buninyong Community Bank, BREAZE, Unique Foams and PRD Nationwide.

Carol and Jeff Challis chat about their EV with Nick Nesci (Buninyong) at the Sustainability Expo



Blue Tesla EV an eye catcher

An eye-catcher amongst the electric motor cars on display at the Smart Building and Living Expo at Royal Park last month was a striking royal blue Tesla Model S70D hatch owned by Jeff Challis.

He and his wife **Carol** started thinking about purchase of an electric vehicle (EV) in 2007 after they installed solar panels on their home. For the next eight years IT consultant Jeff studied the progress of Tesla's development of EVs. In June 2016 the shiny blue car was delivered.

He said that his EV is a simple car to use and drive. "You just walk up to the car with the fob in your pocket and the door handles pop out to greet you. In the car, just put your foot on the brake, and push the lever on the steering column to select forward or reverse and away you go."

Range

Factors such as cargo weight, headwinds, elevation and cold temperatures impact on the range. This car is powered by a 70kwh lithium-ion battery.

A range of dedicated highway superchargers (already eight in Australia) can provide a 270km range charge in 30 minutes, or a 50 per cent of range charge in 20 minutes.

Ed. Some research in motoring journals indicated that the price of the Tesla S70D starts around \$110,000. For an additional \$9000 all-wheel drive and a 440km range can be had. Other more affordable EV cars are now emerging onto the market

Weekday bus /train timetables now much better but....

WEEKEND RETURN A SHAMBLES

A review by The News has found that the recently-introduced Buninyong bus and train timetables are well-matched on weekdays, but that return weekend train trips from Melbourne are a different matter. The new timetables came into force on 29 January.

A review was made of six Monday to Friday morning time slots involving a bus from Buninyong to the Ballarat station, and six return trains from Melbourne's Southern Cross station in the afternoon. The results showed that bus-train connectivity was vastly improved over the previous situation.

However on the morning that the photo (above) was taken (8 March) the bus scheduled to arrive at 0911 turned up at 0917 with the Melbourne train leaving a few seconds later.

But at weekends while the connections between the bus from Buninyong and the trains heading to Melbourne from Ballarat station were very good, returning by train in the afternoon of Saturday and Sunday would result in almost non-existent connections to a bus back to Buninyong.

Bus gone

On Saturdays, for example the last bus to Buninyong leaves the Ballarat station at 5.20pm - fifteen minutes before the train arrives. There is no bus connection to any train leaving Southern Cross station after 3.40 pm. A hopeless situation for shoppers, football fans or those attending a show!

On Sundays it is even a bigger problem, with the 1514 train being the last from Southern Cross which will connect to a Buninyong bus.

Visitors to Ballarat wishing to venture to Buninyong on a Saturday or a Sunday are even worse off. On a Saturday there is a connection to the train arriving at 1038, but for trains arriving at 1156 the bus will have left six minutes earlier, or for the train arriving at 1334, the 1320 bus to Buninyong will probably be at Federation University by then.

On a Sunday the trains most likely to be taken by day trippers arrive at Ballarat at 1057 and 1158. But the "connecting" buses to Buninyong left at 1050 and at 1150. Still hopeless!



MONDAY TO FRIDAY

Bus leaves Buninyong	Arrives Ballarat Station	Train Departs for SC	Train Departs SC	Arrive Ballarat	Bus leaves for Buninyong
0629	0707	0723	1417	1540	1545
0734	0812	0819	1517	1610	1615
0833	0911	0918	1600	1708	1713
0933	1011	1018	1633	1738	1743
1033	1111	1118	1710	1819	1831
1133	1211	1218	1751	1857	1902

SATURDAY

Bus leaves Buninyong	Arrives Ballarat Station	Train Departs for SC	Train Departs SC	Arrive Ballarat	Bus leaves for Buninyong
0922	1000	1016	1514	1633	1650
1052	1130	1136	1614	1733	1720 (left)
1352	1430	1435	1714	1832	No bus

SUNDAY

Bus leaves Buninyong	Arrives Ballarat Station	Train Departs for SC	Train Departs SC	Arrive Ballarat	Bus leaves for Buninyong
0822	0900	0916	1514	1633	1650
1022	1100	1136	1614	1733	No bus
1222	1300	1316	1714	1833	No bus

Central spot best for community cottage

Since the local community bank started up in Buninyong in 2010, not only has it been a boon to the business and residential community, but it has returned almost \$1 million in economic benefit (including grants, sponsorships and donations) back into the district community.

While many local sporting, community and charitable groups have benefitted from financial support from the community bank, it has been in times of crisis such as the Dereel and the more recent Scotsburn/Clarendon bushfires that the bank played a pivotal community-support role.

In early 2016, the directors of the bank Board took a major decision to provide the Buninyong community with a central meeting place and office facilities for community groups such as the local landcare group and this community newspaper. It spent a substantial sum in the purchase and renovation of an old cottage at 407 Warrenheip Street, close to the post office.

Out the back

The old cottage had an extension at the back that was deemed as “perfect” for the operations of the weekly mobile library and for a meeting room for all kinds of groups. In the aftermath of the December 2015 fires, for several months the room became the operational hub for bushfire relief agencies.

Later in 2016, things turned sour when the foundations of the old, red brick front section began to seriously shift, causing

significant cracking to the walls, and making this section unsafe for use.

After much investigation and review by expert engineers, builders, insurance assessors and others, the consensus is that the historic front section cannot be repaired.

Options

It is understood that the Board of the Community Bank currently is considering two basic options which are (i) to demolish the front section and rebuild, or (ii) sell the site and re-establish the ‘community cottage’ on another central location

Should the second course of action be decided on by the Board, three possible options appear to be under consideration

- to integrate the ‘community cottage’ into developments currently being considered for Royal Park
- to investigate use of the current CFA site in Learmonth Street, should as seems likely, the CFA move to another location in the village.
- to rebuild or buy somewhere else in the town

Now is the time for all residents with a view on this matter to pass on their views to bank staff, directors of the bank Board, or indeed to anyone who will listen.

However *The News* believes that if it is financially feasible, a heritage-style re-build on the current site would be by far the best move. It is central, recognisable, accessible, has ample parking to the rear, and is integrated into the heart of the Buninyong social and business community.



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

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

The name and address of the person submitting any material must be provided (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.

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China painting champ Irma's a winner

One of the many joys of living in Buninyong is the diversity and talent of many of its residents. Yet another example came to light recently when a chance chat over a back fence revealed that living there was a woman who, since turning 40 years of age, has become one of the State's best china painters.

Now having lived in Buninyong with husband **Peter** since 2011, **Irma Armour** originally had plans to be a fashion designer. One of her first jobs was for Myer in Geelong where she sketched dresses and petticoats that

were going to be advertised in the local newspaper.

Her interest in china painting only started when she turned 40, and she is mostly self-taught.

Prizes

But that hasn't stopped her from winning the First Prize for a 'miniature with cats' at the Royal Melbourne Show, and also the *Isla Adamson Award* – Grand Champion Homecraft Exhibit Best Overall – for all crafts at the Geelong Show.

Irma is disarmingly modest about such achievements saying that others deserve the awards more.

Irma's favourite subjects are faces – of humans, animals (especially cats), and birds – because she feels that all faces are so different, interesting and challenging.

Freehand

Much of the original drawing for a new subject is done freehand. The proportions between eyes, eyebrows, noses, cheeks, mouths and chin have to be correct. Skin tones have to be

"believable", and hair or fur has to look "natural". And all of this before an article is even accepted for entry to a competition.

Advice

Given her talent, Irma's husband Peter bought her a kiln. Now she has two – one small, one large.

When asked for tips to winning in exhibitions and shows, Irma came up with some key pieces of advice - do not overwork the article; don't apply too much paint; the finished item must be fresh and clean-looking with a nice shine to it; it should not be "under-fired"; and importantly, the composition must suit the item and not be too big for the area.

Irma said that that she is happy to help anyone with a genuine interest in art, because she has never gone to a workshop where "I haven't found some new information, technique or paint which has helped or added to my skills."

Cassandra Carland



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Towards 1 July march

FIRST PLAQUES IN PLACE



Working bee members Andrew Sproule, Ian Voigt, and Brendan O'Loughlin get ready to place the first plinth adjacent to a memorial tree outside of RSL Park. Cr Ben Taylor looks on. The plaque commemorates Frank Briggs of Buninyong who was killed in France on 22 November 1916, aged 48 years.

The first plinths and plaques to be placed adjacent to trees in Buninyong's Avenue of Honour were installed at an RSL working bee on 5 March 2017. Each plaque commemorates a soldier from the former Shire of Buninyong who was killed in World War I.

At the working bee nine plaques were placed in the section of the avenue commencing at RSL Park and running to Winter Street.

"That's nine down... only 155 to go" quipped RSL President **Ray Mende** as the RSL members steadily worked along the Avenue. RSL member **Ron Delaland** assisted greatly with the use of his back-hoe, but each 30kg plinth had to be settled on a bed of crushed rock with soil stamped down by use of a crowbar.

Mystery find

An exciting sidelight to the working bee was the discovery of a rusted metal object that looked like a name plate with a band suggesting it has been tied around one of the original trees.

Crs **Ben Taylor** and **Des Hudson** attended to observe the first plaques

being put in place, and were also shown the section of Avenue between Winter and Cathcart Streets for which Council clean-up assistance has been requested, and also the need for Council staff to remove suckers, ivy growth and low branches on many of the trees.

Community residents and groups are reminded that the march along the avenue and the official reopening is scheduled for 1 July – exactly 100 years to the day that the community planted the 140 trees which comprise the original Avenue.



streettalk

PEOPLE INVOLVED in sustainability projects are capable of many innovative and surprising things. But, at the recent Expo at Royal Park, the A-frame 'toilet facility' in the centre of the stalls area (pictured) would have been a challenge even for the tiniest of visitors. We waited for someone to try it out... but no luck!



WITH ALL OF the political hoop-la surrounding the new bus time tables in Ballarat, you would have thought that someone might have told Buninyong travellers that on the trip into Ballarat, the bus now swings up to Grant Street and no longer travels along the final stretch of Main Road. Recently, one elderly passenger, heading to a funeral, was stranded at the Lal Lal Street corner with his ride to the funeral waiting more than a kilometre away at the Eureka Street corner.

FOR OVER A YEAR now, the Buninyong Business Network has been running a campaign at all political levels to have the bus stop moved from the Warrenheip St business strip. After a petition from directly-affected business owners, a letter has come back from local **MP Geoff Howard** saying that after "extensive consultation" PTV "is prepared to remove the Eyre Street bus stop". No, no, no Geoffrey, it's that stop in the stupid location near Forest Street which will soon block off sight lines on the pedestrian crossing, and which takes up a huge chunk of business parking. Haven't yet found out who was consulted either !!!

TALKING OF the pedestrian crossing... just before work started on it, local businessman **Ron Delaland** was shocked to see a copy of the plans with the Forest Street intersection at Warrenheip Street significantly narrowed as a "traffic-calming" element. Creates big access problems for fuel tankers he said. Despite some last minute calls to VicRoads the much narrower access to Forest Street looks like going ahead.

News under study by groups of visitors

The Buninyong News team has been busy lately helping out with advice about starting up a community newspaper, and assisting a Ph D student doing research into the importance and impact of community newspapers.

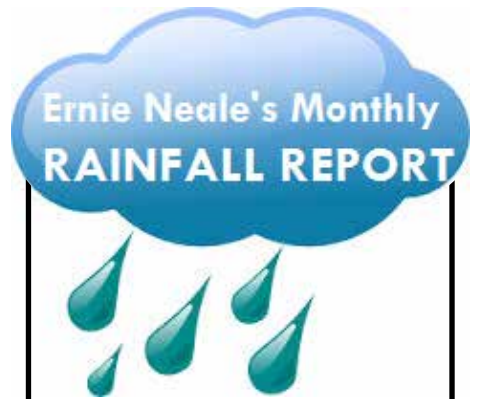
The first group of three visitors came from Bacchus Marsh where they are planning to commence a small community newspaper in the near future. The group included a Councillor from the Shire of Moorabool.

They met with News management committee member **Gayle Adams** who was able to provide details of the budgeting, printing, distribution and advertising aspects of the *Buninyong Community News*.

A few days later LaTrobe University PhD student **Elizabeth Hart** discussed the development and community impact of the *Buninyong News* with editor Barry Fitzgerald. She also was able to discuss the views of a group of community members who were chatting over coffee at an adjoining table at Espresso Depot.



Elizabeth Hart hears the views of community members (L to R) Elizabeth Hart, Anne Sutherland, Sue McDonald (rear view), Ruth Rogers



MILD PATTERN WELCOME

“Mild” is the word that best describes this Summer. No roaring northerly winds, no days over 40°, mainly cool nights and scattered light rain. February delivered a seasonal 43.6mm, most of which came in one wet event early in the month.

A cycle of warm, dry conditions for about five days followed by a day or two of showery rain repeated throughout the month – as it had for November, December and January. This stable pattern has extended into early March, with Summer conditions lingering on.

However, there are early signs of Autumn as foliage colour changes triggered by shortening day length can be seen. Daylight saving time has just ended so maybe with the change in time it might be time for a change, to cooler and wetter conditions and some wind to make those Autumn leaves swirl.

FEBRUARY 2017			
Date	Rain	Date	Rain
6	30.8	19	1.0
12	2.8	21	5.3
14	3.5	25	0.2
Total		43.6 mm	
Year to date		76.7 mm	

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Steve Falconer hands over community bank reins BANK LEADER STEPS BACK



Former Chair of the Community Bank Board of Directors, Steve Falconer (left), discusses bank projects with new Chair Richard McDowell

In 2008, not long before the start of two years of really hard work to get the Buninyong & District Community Bank off the ground, chairman of the working group John Emery heard from a friend that a bloke called Stephen Falconer and his wife Glenys had recently purchased the historic home Brim Brim up in Lal Lal Street.

The Emery friend had headed up a major automotive parts company that had been in hot competition with another international automotive company of which Steve had been CEO before having to retire because of ill-health at the end of 2008. John Emery invited the newcomer to become involved in the fledgling community bank project.

Soon, Steve became an integral part of the working group, heavily involved in lobbying Bendigo Bank to convince them

that a bank in Buninyong was viable, and assuming central organisational roles within the group.

Lobby

There was a huge amount of work involved before the bank opened its doors in August 2010. Not the least was raising some \$700,000 in the sale of shares to local investors right at the time of the Global Financial Crisis.

Along with his fellow members of the original working party, Steve was heavily involved in handing out fliers, talking to local residents, telephoning potential investors, identifying possible sites for the bank, completing financial projections, liaising with federal financial agencies, and working through the complex details of the franchise arrangement with the Bendigo Bank.

When the Board of Directors was established in early 2010, Steve became the first Company Secretary. In 2015 he took over the role of Chairman upon the retirement of John Emery from that position.

Leadership

His role in bringing the local community bank to the strong position it currently is in has been pivotal. He takes great pride in noting that in less than seven years of its operation, the bank has had a direct economic impact of some \$1 million to community projects and causes in Buninyong and the surrounding district.

He cites the bank's role following the Dereel and the 2015 bushfires, its support of the provision of youth facilities in the village, support of many educational institutions and sporting clubs, and its ongoing support of the Buninyong Community News as major examples of bank initiatives.

After eight hectic years as a key leader in the Bank Board of Directors, Steve has recently stepped back from the role as Chairman, but will remain as a Director with responsibility for Community Investment.

New Chair

The role of Chairman of the local bank Board has been taken on by **Richard McDowell** who after settling in Buninyong in 2013 has become very active in community affairs, also having taken on the role of Treasurer of the Buninyong Golf Club and being active in Rotary. The Community Bank Board will benefit from Richard's long experience as Chairman of South Gippsland Water.

An accountant by profession, Richard formerly had a practice in Sale but decided to move to Buninyong because of close family connections in the area.



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Ballarat medico speaks out on turbine impact

Wind turbine health impacts can be like seasickness, according to a recently retired consultant physician.

Dr Wayne Spring said, much like seasickness, wind turbines may not affect everyone exposed, but those affected could suffer disabling symptoms including nausea, vertigo, sleep disturbance and a sense of feeling unwell.

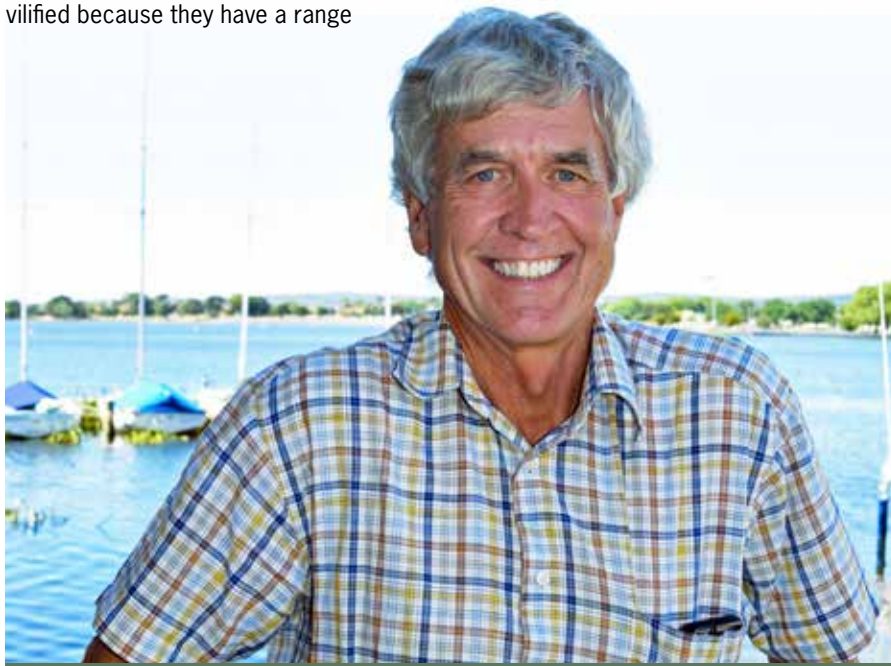
Dr Spring was a Consultant Physician in regional Victoria for 33 years, including twenty years as a Ballarat-based sleep specialist, and cared for patients who lived near wind turbines.

"I've spent my whole life as a physician interviewing patients, assessing their symptoms and looking at their individual circumstances. I object when people are vilified because they have a range

of symptoms that they claim are related to wind turbines."

"I object that they are sometimes labelled malingers just because there is no current scientific evidence to attribute these symptoms to their proximity and presumed sensitivity to wind turbines," Dr Spring said.

Dr Spring cautioned both the critics of wind turbine health sufferers and government authorities to not be so quick to dismiss people who were experiencing troubling symptoms near wind turbines just because of the current lack of scientific evidence, particularly when new generation turbines are so much bigger than those near his former patients.



Coming Events

Saturday 1 April, 7.30pm
Information evening – *Learn About Freemasonry* – Masonic Centre, 601 Barkly Street, Ballarat. 5341 3225.

Sunday 2 April, 11.30-1.30
Garibaldi Landcare Group. *Meeting and public information session* on local projects. Sausage sizzle at midday (gold coin). 0427 279 868.

Thursday 20 April, 5.00pm-6.00pm, Mt Helen Goodstart Centre, Geelong Rd, Mt Helen. *Open Day* for parents of kindergarten age (four years old) children

Thursday 20 April, 7.30pm.
Meeting of Buninyong & District Historical Society. Court House, Buninyong Town Hall. Dr Anne Beggs-Sunter will present a talk on Impact of World War One on Lal Lal. All welcome.

Sunday 23 April, 11.00am. Lal Lal. *Unveiling of war memorial plinth.* Parkers Rd (opposite water tower), Lal Lal. Exhibition of records, Lal Lal Hall

Sunday 30 April, 10.00am-3.00pm. *Fair and Open Day*, Ballarat Steiner School, 244 Moss Ave, Mt Helen (See advert p 13)

Saturday 1 July, 9.30 am.
Community March along Avenue of Honour from Golf Club to Town Hall. All residents and community groups from districts in old Shire of Buninyong invited. Put it in your diary now. More details in coming editions.

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Resident manager at the Mount Mercer facility is Terry Clarke holding Buddy, and his daughter Logan with Maggie.

Another Mount Mercer showpiece

GREYHOUNDS GET A SECOND CHANCE

If Mount Mercer was mentioned these days, the first thing most local residents would think of would be the successful establishment of a major wind farm there a few years ago. Meridian Energy's 64 turbines are now a feature of the landscape.

But more recently another establishment set up its home at Mount Mercer. Greyhound Racing Victoria (GRV) has established a facility with 60 dog kennels where former racing greyhounds from across the Western district will be assessed for their suitability for adoption and entry into the Greyhound Adoption Program (GAP). Once assessed, greyhounds will be transferred to the main adoption centre at Seymour.

The GAP headquarters are located on the Goulburn Valley Highway at Seymour, from where more than 800 dogs were adopted in 2015-16. Since the adoption program started about twenty years ago some 7000 dogs have been adopted.

The nine hectare facility at Mount Mercer has indoor and outdoor spaces with large open paddocks, slip-tracks and 70 metre runs. The facility is surrounded by secure fencing. A full-time caretaker lives on site, and three local residents are employed to attend and to transport the dogs to and from the facility.

The Mount Mercer program will retrain greyhounds at the end of their racing careers to prepare them for new homes and a new life. Greyhounds

with a 'green collar' assessment are not required to wear a muzzle in public. Owners who already have a pet greyhound can take their pet to a GAP facility for a 'green collar' assessment.

Previously a \$50 assessment fee was imposed on each dog but this was dropped in 2016.

Expert

Local Buninyong identity, and former greyhound trainer, **Noel (Mouse) Thornton** said that the Mount Mercer GAP facility was a "great step forward" in animal welfare.

"Greyhounds are one of the friendliest, gentlest breed of dogs, are low-maintenance, and fit into most homes as a loved family member," he said. He said that because greyhounds being trained to race are required to wear a muzzle, there has been a perception that they are dangerous. "Nothing is further from the truth," Mr Thornton said.

Anyone wishing to take a greyhound to the GAP facility at Mount Mercer, or who wish to visit the facility should call the Seymour office on 5799 0166.

Colonial history is Anne's passion

Dr Anne Beggs-Sunter is perhaps the best-known historian in Ballarat and Buninyong and now one of the longest-serving staff members at Federation University and its predecessor tertiary institutions. She has a special interest in Australian colonial history

Her love of history began as a child with visits to her aunt Agatha Heather in the historic mid-1850s cottage on the Midland Highway at Clarendon where she now lives.

This cottage was a General Store before becoming the 'drovers' pub (as it was known) on the route from Geelong to the Ballarat goldfields. In those days, carriage teams would take on an extra horse here to negotiate the steeper country around Buninyong.

Anne's grandparent families, the **Harringtons** and **Pruntys**, had settled in the Clarendon area as woodcutters and then farmers in potatoes and dairying.

Librarian

For Anne, though, it was an initial Arts degree in history and librarianship that led to the National Library in Canberra for three years before embarking on a more academic career following her gaining Masters and PhD degrees from Melbourne University. Her PhD involved a study of the events centring on the Eureka Stockade.

So began a long and distinguished career based in Ballarat at what has now become Federation University.

Her enjoyment of university life stems from teaching students, working with interesting colleagues and expanding her own knowledge of Australian history and this work continues with post-graduate students and occasional lecturing.

Local history

Anne was heavily involved in the foundation of the Buninyong and District Historical Society in 1982 which was subsequently able to find a home in the old Buninyong Courthouse after the extensive refurbishment of the adjacent, century-old Town Hall in 1986.

This museum now contains a wealth of information on the district, which covers the old Buninyong Shire area, through its historical documents, photographs and artefacts dating from the mid-nineteenth century.

On a lighter note, one of Anne's fond memories is being taken to the MCG as a young girl by her father who was incensed

by the continual loss of Australian wickets during the 1954-55 test series when we unexpectedly lost the Ashes. She remembers her father, in 'language uncivil', railing against England's legendary fast bowler **'Typhoon' Frank Tyson** as each wicket fell!

While cricket is an interest, her aim now is to write much more about Australia's unique history.

Russell Luckock



Anne at her historic cottage in Clarendon that was built in the mid 1850s when it was firstly a general store and then a pub on the road to Ballarat's goldfields.

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POLICE BEAT

What a beauty!

TWO BUSINESSES reported burglaries to Buninyong Police in late January. Buninyong Hair and Beauty and Yellow Rose Beauty Studio both had front doors forced open. The offenders took a small amount of cash from each and an unknown amount of beauty products. The Ballarat Burglary Crew is investigating both incidents.

Big bust at Winter Street

A SEARCH WARRANT was executed at an address in Winter Street, Buninyong in February. As a result, a number of persons of interest

were arrested. Two stolen firearms, a quantity of crystal meth amphetamine and stolen property was located and seized. As part of the operation, a second search warrant was executed in Sebastopol and a further two persons arrested with numerous stolen and manufactured firearms recovered. A 19 year old male, a 25 year old male, a 28 year old male and a 50 year old male will face Court in relation to a range of offences.

Hoon nabbed

A YOUNG BALLARAT HOON found his Holden Commodore ute on the back of a tow-truck on 12 March 2017 after being observed performing a "burn out" at the Intersection of Inglis Street and Learmonth Street. The driver, a 23 year old Ballarat resident was released pending summons and his car was Impounded for 30 days. Buninyong police will not tolerate dangerous or hoon driving and if you are caught, you can expect the same fate.

Bolt from Macs Road

AN AGGRAVATED BURGLARY was reported to have occurred in Macs Road, Buninyong on 20 February 2017. The offenders accessed the house through an unlocked back door whilst the residents slept. The offenders were believed to have been disturbed by the residents before fleeing on foot. Thankfully no person was harmed and no property was taken.

Remember, the last person to bed needs to ensure all doors are locked!

Hot Holden

POLICE AND THE CFA were called to a car fire in Timbertop Drive, Mount Helen on 1 March 2017. Some quick thinking residents managed to douse the flames before the fire took hold. The vehicle, a Holden Captiva, had been stolen from an address in Wendouree days earlier. The Ballarat Divisional Response Unit is investigating with arrests expected to follow.

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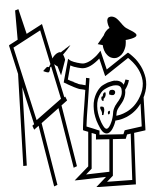
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Mitch Miller, Bro Steve the Steward, Ron Fleming Lodge Master, and Ben Brophy.

Somers camp 'great' say Mt Clear students

Mount Clear College students Mitch Miller and Ben Brophy were two of the 125 participants at the Lord Somers Camp held in January for boys aged between 16 and 18. Their attendance was sponsored by Sturt Buninyong Lodge and the Freemasons Foundation.

Mitch and Ben shared their week-long experiences with the Lodge during its February meeting.

Participants came from a variety of backgrounds, locations, schools, industries and undertook as individuals or in teams, activities to extend their mental and physical abilities.

The Camp values of fun, friendship, care, acceptance and belonging were

designed into all aspects of camp life.

Lord Somers, Governor of Victoria 1926-31, organised the initial camp for boys in 1929. He was Chief Scout in Victoria and succeeded **Baden Powell** as Chief Scout of the British Commonwealth. Lord Somers was Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of Victoria 1927-32.

Lady Somers arranged a similar camp for girls and it continues today.

Do you wish to learn more about Freemasonry? An information evening commencing at 7.30pm on Saturday 1 April at the Ballarat Masonic Centre 601 Barkly Street, Ballarat is the perfect opportunity. Partners welcome. Contact **Ron Fleming** 5341 3225 or rj_ljfleming@bigpond.com

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Giggles on the green

The Buninyong Bowling Club held a very successful day to introduce ladies to the game of bowls. Coach **David Draffin** assisted the 23 ladies on the techniques of the game.

The ladies then played a game of bowls with lady members of the club. The winner on the day was **Debra Bridges**, with spot prizes being awarded to others who showed skill. The day concluded with tea and drinks at the clubhouse.

All participants enjoyed their time at the Club, with some of the ladies wanting to join in the indoor bowls during the winter. Many others were keen to return to the club for a similar day to be held in October, at the start of the next season



Club member Marie Arthurson giving advice to Debra Bridges, the day's winner

Train correction

Letter to the Editor

I would like to point out an error in the interesting article re the location of old rail carriage (BCN, February). It states that the "railway was not feasible and in November 1930 Davis Bus Lines serviced Buninyong". Davis Bus Lines was not formed until 1938 when a partner, **William Glasson** sold his share of the Davis and Glasson Bus Service to **Bert Davis** and the Davis name was carried until quite recently. The Davis Bus Lines was sold to another company many years ago and recently sold again to the present company.

Alan Glasson
(Son of founder of David and Glasson Bus Service.)

Garibaldi group's three projects

The Garibaldi Landcare Group's next meeting will be held in the hall, Hardies Road, on Sunday 2 April between 11.30am and 1.30pm. A sausage sizzle (gold coin donation) is also on the program at midday.



The GLG committee will report on the group's three ongoing projects, plus what is planned for 2107. This includes the National Tree Day at the South Durham Bridge on Sunday 30 July.

In addition to GLG members, local residents are warmly invited to attend to hear of these developments and also to have the opportunity to put suggestions or ideas to the group.

Further information can be had from **Talia Barrett** (0427 279 868) or by email to garibaldilandcare@gmail.com



Maura McCabe (rear) with students Sonia Taheri and Pari Khadem

Maura's meditation

Recently a beginners' eight-week course in practical meditation was successfully run by **Maura McCabe** in Buninyong, as a community service. For a little over an hour, each session comprised theory, instruction and practice of both short and long meditations for wellbeing.

This was followed by refreshments and sharing. Participants were encouraged to discuss and share ideas throughout the presentation of theory.

Some visualisation meditations were guided by the facilitator, with the view to participants being able to do them on their own later. In addition, they were introduced to a "toolkit" of short practices, which could easily be incorporated into everyday life.

Expressions of interest have already been received, thanks in part to *News at a Glance* in the February edition of *The News*. The course will be offered again commencing in the second week of May. Maura McCabe can be contacted on 0401 709 305 for more information or to receive a current flyer.



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Royal Park soccer moves Ball is now at Des' feet



Former soccer player and now Chair of the Ballarat Soccer Tribunal, Cr Des Hudson visited the Royal Park Reserve again to meet with Buninyong Soccer Club officials, parents and players. Shown (L to R) are Cr Hudson, Sue Mroczkowski, Dean Webb, Greg O'Beirne, and Jim Rodgers with some of the players

Following editorial comment in The News about unfinished Council projects in Buninyong, and a meeting with the Buninyong & District Community Association (BDCA) recently, Cr Des Hudson has reported that he has taken up one of the issues – the lack of action on the revamp of Royal Park.

He reported that “there is now progress towards the relocation of the Buninyong Soccer Club to a home base at Royal Park.”

He said that, with Council officers, he has met recently with members of the soccer club to inspect the area with a “view to initially laying at least one pitch there.” Cr Hudson said that ground works will be happening very shortly.

Not long

For the first few weeks of the soccer season, the Buninyong club may have to play reverse fixtures, but Cr Hudson said that it won't be long and they will be playing games there this year.

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“This will give the club a new sense of home.”

He said that these are only the first stage of works at Royal Park and that further works will be considered in the context of a new soccer strategy for the city and the injection of funds for the projects.

“These are little steps, but at least steps in the right direction,” he said.

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Vic a bowls record setter



There are very few sports where anyone can have an active involvement for over 60 years, but Buninyong Bowling Club Life Member Vic Bradley has achieved just that.

Over an extensive playing career which dates back to playing in his first pennant side on the-then RSL greens in 1966-67 up to a relatively recent retirement from pennant play, Vic has established a record as a player and club member that will be hard to match.

Vic has been a member of the Buninyong Bowling Club for 61 years and his service to the club as a player and now a valued sponsor was recognized in 2012 when he was awarded Life Membership.

Name

The Bradley name has been and continues to be an integral part of the history of the Buninyong Bowling Club with the family chalking up an amazing combined membership total of 188 years!

Official club records were updated in 2014 and show that Vic recorded close to

600 pennant games for the period that accurate records were available, but as Vic's playing career began over 50 years ago, the club and Vic estimate that he has played close to 1100 pennant games.

Occasionally, Vic can still be tempted to put down a bowl or two and even today, club members can recognize the skills that made him a seven time club Singles Champion.

While Vic has finally packed away the bowls bag, he remains an active and involved club member and can regularly be seen casting an expert

eye over the youngsters at practice on Friday nights.

Sponsor

His valued sponsorship for club events is an ongoing tribute to his support for the club and the game of bowls. In addition to event sponsorship, Vic has also generously donated Honour Boards that were installed in the new clubrooms.

A spritely 94 year old, Vic has a long record of community involvement away from bowls and was awarded an OAM in 2011. Buninyong Bowling Club is fortunate to have such a stalwart member and supporter.

Club President **Wayne Morgan** said, "the Buninyong Bowling Club prides itself on cultivating an inclusive and welcoming culture. Having Vic and other retired members continue their engagement with the club is a very important aspect of this culture. We look forward to Vic's ongoing involvement and support in the years to come."

Ray Sullivan's SPORTS NEWS

Chasing back-to-back premierships

Elaine U14 First XI have won their last match to finish third on the ladder. A comfortable win against **Darley** with **Nick Pantzidis** continuing his outstanding batting form with 53 ret and **Seamus O'Dunne** and **Luke Inglis** sharing the bowling honours with 4-4 and 2-10 respectively.

Buninyong BCA Second X1 have also finished their season in convincing fashion with a win against North Ballarat cementing their place at the top of the Second X1 ladder. They are well poised to go back-to-back after last year's premiership.

Elaine will meet Golden Point in their semi-final and Buninyong will meet Coronet City in theirs.

Saving the best until last...

The Buninyong Premier lawn bowls team had a few close losses coming up to the end of a winless season but saved the best until the final game. In the last game of the season against finals aspirants Webbcona, Buninyong proved to be too strong, winning by 11 shots. It was a great way to end the season and a fitting result for the last pennant game on the current green.

Unfortunately, finals participants Division 5 and Mid-week, Division 1 both lost their semi-finals and are now out of contention. Both teams performed well against stiff opposition but were not able to take it to the next step. Congratulations to all players on a great season.

First time monthly medallist

'B' Grade golfer, **Adrian Beer** won the Buninyong Golf Club, March monthly medal with an outstanding score of net 62. This was Adrian's first monthly medal. The Ladies March medal was won by **J. McKenzie** with 38 pts from **N. Prato** with 37pts.

Jumping out of their skins

Perfect weather saw a terrific turn out at the Buninyong primary School's annual inter-house Athletics carnival at the Llanberris track in early March.

The students were lucky to have use of the timing gates from Little Athletics to clock their lightning speeds. The field events saw hot competition with some results coming down to a few centimetres.

School PE teacher **Claire Morris** passed on her thanks to all of the individuals and organisations who made the day possible, and to all of the wonderful competitors. The winning team was Scott (Gold).



It was a close go in the 100m hurdles between (L to R) Ambrose Forsyth, Hunter Fairchild and Drew Davis



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Military vehicles

Brothers' amazing collection



News reporter Cassandra Carland interviews Chris and Frank Nicholls in front of one of their Centurion tanks.

If ever Buninyong was subject to military attack, the first line of defence for the village would certainly be found with the Nicholls family in Eyre Street. In their spare time, between winding the town hall clock, walking their dogs, and digging the occasional grave at the cemetery, Chris and Frank Nicholls enjoy collecting and restoring old military vehicles.

Packed into a huge shed on the Nicholls' property is an amazing collection of old military vehicles, and it is a tricky business to negotiate around them. Their interest in military vehicles and militaria goes back to when they were kids in the mid 1970s.

Big tanks

The first vehicle, in what has become a large collection, was an old *Blitz*, purchased from Scotsburn by their father Ron Nicholls in 1975, to turn into a yard crane for work around the property. The second purchase, a *Studebaker* truck in 1979, was used by its previous Ballarat owner to load hardwood logs at Barkstead.

Over the next few years four more trucks

were acquired. Then in 1989 there was an opportunity to buy their first *Centurion* tank. Another truck came along in the early 90s.

In 2007 they were told of a *Centurion* tank at Wangaratta that had seen service in Vietnam and had taken part in the battle of Binh Bah. This got them pretty excited. So a phone call was made to the owner to arrange an inspection. That tank came home a few weeks later. Since then four of the crew associated with the tank in Vietnam have travelled to Buninyong for a prized photograph.

Collection grows

Another *Centurion* tank was purchased in 2008, this one also having ex 'Nam history and was one of four that had been converted to 'dozer tanks' by the Australian Army. In early 2000 they purchased an army *Jeep* and in 2006 they picked up a *Kenworth Wrecker* from an auction at the Melbourne Tank Museum. Now their collection includes fire trucks, a *Ford* jeep, a tank transporter, and tow trucks (called 'vehicle wreckers' by the Americans).

Even though they have a very large

shed, space is always a limiting factor. Nevertheless the collection continues to grow – subject to finances. On their wish list is a bigger version of the *Kaiser Wrecker* and another *Diamond T Wrecker*.

The collection is quite well known and much admired. Various car clubs have been interested in it: Buninyong Primary School's Grade 4 comes down once a year to look through the shed.

On show

Some of the vehicles have been on show at Lake Goldsmith, and the Pacific Tank Transporter has just been on show at the Avalon Air Show in March. The Scouts have been there, the members of the Mens' Shed have been down, and the *Centurion* was on display in Lydiard Street for the Heritage Weekend a couple of years ago.

Although this hobby is big in Australia, it is much bigger in Belgium, the Netherlands, England and the United States.

The brothers have agreed to include some of their vehicles in the 1 July Avenue of Honour march through Buninyong.

Cassandra Carland