

# BUNINYONG REMEMBERS



**The 1 July celebration of the restored World War I Avenue of Honour was a special day in the history of the village**

*Photo: Russell Luckock*

The 1 July celebrations for the restoration of Buninyong's Avenue of Honour will go down in the village history as one of the biggest and best-ever community events. With some 600 people marching along the closed-off Midland Highway, and another 650

spectators welcoming them at the Town Hall or watching from along the roadside, the event stopped the village.

On a cold, crisp but clear winter morning marchers from 35 community groups, bands, six horses and riders from the Creswick

Light Horse Troop, fire vehicles, vintage war vehicles and an armed troop of 40 soldiers from the 8th/7th Battalion formed a march column which stretched for about one kilometre along the road from the golf club.

*(continued page 2)*



# A special day in the history of the village

(Continued from p 1)

The marchers were led by the Ballarat City Brass Band and included the Federation University Pipe Band. Members of the Australian Army Band were stationed at the Town Hall entertaining the crowd as they awaited the arrival of the marchers.

Waiting on a roadside dais near the Town Hall, and taking the salute from the marchers was the Chief of the Australian Army, **Lieutenant Colonel Angus Campbell AO DSC**, accompanied by **Senator Jane Hume** representing the Minister for Veterans Affairs.

## Coup

The presence of the Army Chief who later mixed freely with the crowd, and did media interviews, was seen to be a coup for the event organisers.

A brief history of the original township Avenue, planted exactly 100 years to the day from the event, was given by local historian **Anne Beggs-Sunter**. RSL President **Ray Mende** traced the three year project to restore the Avenue and to mark each of 167 trees with a plaque and plinth in memory of a soldier from the old Shire of Buninyong who had

died in the First World War. He called on the many children present to respect and protect it into the future.

## Flyover

A highlight of the morning was a dual low-level flyover of Buninyong by four PC 8 aircraft from the RAAF base at Sale. In a unique display for a small country town, the planes with their four white smoke trails showing up sharply against the clear blue sky, drew gasps from the crowd.

**Senator Jane Hume** spoke of the need to reflect on how the sacrifice of those Australians, many from rural areas, who fought in the First World War, and in wars since, has made Australia a safe and united country. A brief rededication of the Avenue was conducted by local Anglican Minister, **Mark Schnerring**, on behalf of the combined churches of Buninyong and Scotsburn

All marchers and spectators were presented with a commemorative booklet and joined in a free community sausage sizzle prepared in a joint effort by the local Lions Club and Fire Brigade.



(Top) Marchers stretched for over a kilometre along the Midland Hwy.  
 (Centre) Chief of Army takes the salute from marchers. With him is Senator Jane Hume.  
 (Lower) The Creswick Light Horse Troop

# Gallant Scotsburn farmer

## Now there's a place to remember him

Eight red poppies and a small Australian flag placed alongside a plaque and plinth on the restored Avenue of Honour on 1 July gave a clue to one of the many stories that emerged from the march and celebrations on that day. The items had been placed near the plaque of William Rueben Lorensini.

For the Lorensini family of Buninyong and Scotsburn, and their relatives spread in distant parts of Australia, the 1 July events had special importance.

Two women who had been made aware of the work on the Avenue of Honour and the big community march, travelled from Perth and from Sydney especially to join in the march and to pay their respects to their great-uncle, **Sgt William Rueben Lorensini DCM**, at his newly-laid plaque along the avenue.

### Travel

Sisters **Gwen Wallis** from Sydney and **Fay Kenny** from Perth who travelled to Buninyong for the special event described the day as “a wonderful and magical one” that they will never forget. Each had spent much time researching the war records of their relative.

Back in 1916 a Scotsburn farmer **William Lorensini**, who had attended the local State School, decided to join the army to fight in the World War then being waged



in far-flung Europe and elsewhere.

He enlisted on 1 March 1916 and, leaving his pregnant wife **Ruby** behind, sailed on 27 May 1916 with his unit from Melbourne. Lorensini was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and was assigned to a trench mortar battery in the battles on the Western Front.

### For bravery

By early 1918, his bravery in action had been acknowledged. The award of the DCM – Distinguished Conduct Medal was announced by a notice in the *Commonwealth Gazette* of 25 July 1918 which read:

*For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty when in charge of two mortars after the officer-in-command was killed. He brought them to the final objective in spite of strong enemy opposition. When another officer was wounded he took command of another gun, using it with judgment and effect, and materially assisting the advance of the infantry.*

Two months later on 28 September 1918 he died of wounds and disease, just six weeks before the end of the war. He was 27 years of age. He is buried in the cemetery in the small French village of Doingt.



Above: Sandra Lorensini (Buninyong) places a rose at the plaque, with sister Kathleen Robertson (Ballarat)

With the restoration of Buninyong's Memorial Avenue of Honour there is now a tree, a plinth and a plaque commemorating Sgt William Lorensini DCM. His memorial is near the Buninyong entrance sign at the *Tandarra* estate.

### Family reflects

On Saturday 1 July, members of the Lorensini family wandered along the Avenue and spent a few minutes at his tree and plaque. They had a chance to think about the brave young man who didn't come back to Scotsburn. They placed the red poppies and the small Australian flag adjacent to his memorial.

That's what the Avenue restoration project was all about.

Editor: Just before Buninyong's Big Avenue March, I was looking up a contact number on Google for the Buninyong Girl Guides.

Somehow I ended up on Buninyong Guide, on Tripadvisor, the world's biggest tourism/travel site. The page was headed Buninyong's Five Top Attractions. But no, there were not five, just two – the Buninyong Cemetery and Redline Raceway!!

That took me back to a comment made a few weeks ago by visiting planning guru Peter Kenyon. When stopping in a country town, he often asks a passer-by or shopkeeper "What are the five best things about your town that I should see while I am here?"

So this month The News contains the first of a series of four articles in which a local identity is asked that same question by one of our reporting team.

## Emery lists his pick of local sights

Historical stories hidden within the nooks and crannies of Buninyong feature largely in John Emery's choices of important assets of the village and surrounds.

"The discovery of gold in Buninyong before anywhere else shows us that it was a bigger area than Ballarat initially," John said.

He cites Hiscock Gully Road as being immensely important in Australia's history. Two markers about one km from the Midland Highway pinpoint the locations of historic events – and most people do not realise they are there.

One is in honour of **Thomas Hiscock**, who started the gold rush with his discovery on 8 August, 1851. A second plaque is next to it, representing the first



John Emery points out the spot where gold was discovered along Hiscock Gully Rd.

colonist uprising against the government, also in 1851. "And, it was this spot right here, which was the first of many protests that led to the Eureka Rebellion three years later," he said. "Many people mistakenly think the cairn on Midland Hwy was the actual discovery spot."

### More choices

John nominated his second choice as the *view from Mt Buninyong*. "Mt Buninyong was a volcano, and some of Buninyong sits on its old lava flow, and this gives us beautiful volcanic soil," he said.

Another area that captures John's imagination is *The Gong* and its surrounding area, including the dry stone walls at entrances as well as the wonderful old brewery nearby.

He says it would have been a hub of activity in the town's early years.

"*Dry stone walls* are used throughout this area and the Western District on a lot of farms – due to the volcanic stones in the soil," he said

"It was a way of getting them out of the paddocks. The skill of building them, as you can see, is just quite fascinating."

### Old, old tree

Yet another special spot that John mentions is the *Meeting Tree*, or *Bowen Tree*, a very old manna gum, which is in the middle of Nolan Street. It is believed that aborigines met Governor Bowen at this spot.

John said that through preserving old buildings in Buninyong with a heritage overlay, "shows us what the town was like around the time of the discovery of gold, and it shows what Australia was like in these sort of townships."

So John Emery would direct the inquisitive traveller to

- Hiscock Gully Road
- the views to be had from Mt Buninyong
- the Gong
- the district's dry stone walls
- the Bowen Tree in Nolan Street

Amy Darby Walker

# A big pat on the back

From time to time, *The News* has bemoaned Council's lack of action on various fronts or has taken a swipe at its stance on issues affecting Buninyong. But recently there have been examples of where the Council has really come to the party. Of these, the most significant was the effort by several Council departments in helping to ensure that the Memorial Avenue Centenary Project was a great success.

## Gardens team

Over the past two months or so, Council's Parks and Gardens team put in some great work with the avenue. New tree planting, mulching, tree tidy up work, ivy removal, spraying and grass mowing all came together in the weeks prior to the big march to have the avenue looking the best it has been for many decades. As a result, many Buninyong people have become aware that there actually is an avenue in Learmonth Street.

So too Council's Regulatory Services section which guided the RSL through the intricacies of the risk management and other regulations which had to be met for a large community event, and the Facility Maintenance department which assisted with provision of seats adjacent to new avenue signage.

## Hidden work

A major but 'hidden' task in an event which involved closure of two major VicRoads' highways and other streets was traffic control. Eight men, dozens of signs, erection and dismantling tasks, blocking off car park areas were involved in the

early-morning of 1 July. Council's Manager of Infrastructure assisted in this. But major credit for this work must go to **Wayne Pelchen** of WVP Ballarat who donated many hours of staff and personal time, together with signs, heavy vehicles and expert advice in this exercise.

Other recent examples of a stirring within Council on Buninyong projects have included the sealing of the car park at the rear of the newsagency, the start of works at Royal Park to accommodate Buninyong's burgeoning soccer club, and the landscaping work now being undertaken up at the Youth Space.

There was also the intriguing appearance of a team of three senior Council infrastructure staff, with local landscape architect **David Turley** in tow to "look at overall planning of the Warrenheip Street North streetscape."

## Wait now

Now we wait to see some action on the Desoza Park improvement project, on the Warrenheip Street business strip, Council getting behind the moves by the Community Association (BDCA) for some planning to start on a truck by-pass of the village centre, and on Council planners coming into Buninyong later this year with an attitude of "let's listen to what the community wants" over the decades ahead.

It is to be hoped that the planners don't just turn up with their Planning Guidebook 101 with columns headed with buzz words and with the standard checklists and sticky notes.



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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).


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# Thanks to Lions Sick kids' pool now a reality

In the October 2016 edition of the *Buninyong Community News* there was a feature story (inset) on the family of Leigh and Belinda Shorter whose three sons now aged eight, six and four years were afflicted with the debilitating Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD) disease.

LOCAL NEWS

On Sunday 16 October

## Lions car trial to help three very sick kids

District Lions Club raise funds for many community charities. But the 2016 Lions Car Trial, a project of the combined Ballarat Lions clubs, has one aim - to raise funds to help a local family with three very sick kids. Three of the four young children of Mount Clear's Belinda and Leigh Shorter have a life-threatening disease.

In late 2013 two of their boys, Max now 7, and Will 5, were diagnosed with the debilitating Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD) disease. The disease results in muscle loss, initially in the legs but then spreads to other parts of the body. In early 2015, another younger son, Hudson now three years of age, was also diagnosed with the same disease. One year old sister, Sofia does not have the disease.

The Car Trial funds will be used to help install a hydrotherapy pool at the home of the boys to provide some relief and support as the muscles in their legs and arms progressively weaken. The Lions also recently ran a raffle for the same project. Winner of the \$500 voucher to the Rich River Country Club was **Jodie Porter**.

**Rare**  
One in some 3500 boys will contract DMD with the symptoms appearing around the age of two or three years. Most children are wheelchair bound by ages of ten or twelve, and average life

expectancy is only some 25 years. While there is some promising research involving stem cell replacement therapy and gene replacement, DMD is still regarded as a terminal disease.

Organiser of the Lions Club car rally, **Simon Jess**, said that all were invited to join in the fund-raising event. The entry fee of \$20 per car will include the chance to win lots of prizes, and the Club will have food and drinks for sale when cars return to the road.

**Have fun and help**  
"This is a chance for young and old community members to show their compassion skills, have a fun time, and help a really great cause," Mr Jess said. "The Shorters are a terrific family. While Belinda and Powercon employee husband, Leigh, are distressed by the sickness of their boys, they are doing everything to give them a happy and normal life for as long as they can."

The start and finish of the event will be at the Buninyong football/cricket oval and registrations start at 8:00am for a 10:00am start on Sunday 16 October. Or early registration can be made at lionscartrial@gmail.com.

The event will take vehicles over a distance of some 70 km and most entrants are expected to take two to three hours to complete the course.



raising events to enable the installation of a \$30,000 hydrotherapy pool in the backyard of the Shorter's Mount Clear home.

### Action

In late June a truck and an excavator came into the yard of the Shorter home to dig out the area for and to install the heated pool. The work was watched by the parents of the boys who said the whole family was "so excited and grateful for what was being done."

Also at home to watch the work were **Hudson**, 4, who has DMD, and two year old sister **Sofia** who is not afflicted with the disease. Brothers **Max** and **Will** were at school.

**Simon Jess** of the Lions Club said that the club now plans to raise further funds to enable the installation of a roof over the pool. "Of all of the deserving or charitable projects the Lions Club undertakes or assists with, this one helping the Shorter family would have to be near the top of the list," Mr Jess said.

Over the past few weeks the pool has been fully installed and made operable. Already the children are having fun (and importantly getting their hydrotherapy exercise) - even in the cold weather.

Top: The Shorter family- Belinda, Sofia, Leigh and Hudson together with Lions Club organiser Simon Jess were on hand to watch the excavator at work for the pool installation.

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# PLANNING FOR TOWNSHIP'S FUTURE NOW TAKING SHAPE

**As reported in last month's edition of *The News*, citizens of Buninyong and district turned out in big numbers to participate enthusiastically in two community events in June led by invited speaker Peter Kenyon, of the *Bank of Ideas*.**

The concept of the events was to kick-start a conversation for participation, later in 2017, in the City of Ballarat's strategic planning process for Buninyong looking ahead to the year 2040, and to provide inspiration for business sustainability and development in the village. *Imagine Buninyong* provided an entrée for the Council's township planning process.

The City's intention to develop a Township Plans is part of an evolving approach to planning in which local governments actively engage with the community to generate a long-term vision and action plan which is then implemented in partnership. A *Cardigan Village Township Plan* is already completed.

## Collaboration

In its *2017 Council Plan* the City of Ballarat noted its intent to move on from simply engaging its citizens toward empowering them. Such place-based, collaborative planning processes are taking hold around the world. Soon one may be adopted in this community.

The Buninyong & District Community Association (BDCA) welcomes this and

is seeking to be a leading participant in the community's collaboration with the City. Discussions with the Council around process and timing are proceeding at present.

The many hundreds of ideas contributed from the general community at the June events are now being collated and analysed by a small group from the BDCA, and will provide inspiration for further thinking.

The Association anticipates more opportunities for everyone to contribute their ideas and energies to the planning process and, recognising that everyone is an individual and not everyone likes the same method of participation, many different ways to make that contribution.

## Inclusive

In the end, the BDCA hopes for a diverse range of views and ideas to be generated and discussed, ultimately resulting in an inclusive and energetic Buninyong Township Plan.

Buninyong's local traders have already made a good start towards a revitalised Buninyong Business Network with a gathering at the *Red Door Pizza* having followed the June Business Breakfast workshop with **Peter Kenyon**. They are planning to meet regularly to build on the township planning conversation that has now begun.

*Stephen Falconer*



**IN CASE** they weren't clearly visible in the vintage Jeep driven by Buninyong's **Colin Nicholls** near the head of the march, three of the oldest RSL veterans about were riding in style – **Vic Bradley** topped the list at 93 years of age, and with him were **Russell Hocking**, 84, and **John Thomas** aged in his late 70s.

**THE RSL HEAVIES** might know a lot about war and marches and saluting but it seems that they don't know much about gardening. They put the word around that Bunnings staff (who have been extremely helpful in various improvements at RSL Park) were bringing out 200 rose plants to distribute to spectators at the big march. Turned out they brought out 200 rosemary plants! Still a nice gesture as *rosemary* is a symbol of remembrance and was found growing on the slopes at Gallipoli.

**NICE TOUCH** to the gifts presented to the **Chief of Army Angus Campbell** and to **Senator Jane Hume** at the 1 July event. The beautifully gift-wrapped copies of the book *Three Times Blest; A History of Buninyong 1837-1901*, were set off by the red, white and blue ribbon and the bronze medallion commemorating the centenary of the Avenue of Honour used as a tie around the gift.

**YET ANOTHER** community project of the local Lions Club was the recent collection of rubbish from along the Midland Highway on the western side of Buninyong. Many bags of rubbish were collected, even including an old motor mower. Wonder if someone tossed that out the car window too!!



**WHO SAID** that visiting speakers don't have an impact! After a rev up by planning guru **Peter Kenyon** about the need for local businesses to co-operate, refer and work together, some forty people turned up at a social gathering at the *Red Door Pizzeria* a couple of weeks later to talk about how to do just that.

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# BUSINESS IS BUSINESS for coach Megan

Three years ago ‘city girl’ Megan Holman stopped for a coffee in Buninyong. Two years ago she moved from her home in Newport to rent a house here. Last year she bought her own home on a large treed lot on the eastern outskirts of the village, has now set up her business here and plans to stay.

Megan said that on her 2014 coffee stop she “fell in love with the energy, the people and the trees of Buninyong.” She said that having grown up in Mulgrave an eastern suburb of Melbourne, and then living in Newport and running a business in Williamstown, she had “absolutely no intention of moving to the country.” But, as is evident, Buninyong got to her. She is even now working on the challenge of growing her own vegetables.

“just loves being part of this community, meeting people and having coffee.” Already she has put her hand up for a volunteer role in getting the members of the local Business Network more active and cooperating with each other.

Megan can be contacted on 0404 053 488, or via her website [meganholman.com.au](http://meganholman.com.au) and is on [facebook.com/meganholmanbusinesscoach](https://www.facebook.com/meganholmanbusinesscoach).



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## Coaching

After being in business herself for some twenty years, she now runs an on-line company called *Megan Holman Business Coaching*.

She says her clients roughly fall into three groups – those thinking about or having just started a new business, and those who need help getting out of a business rut, or those who need to grow or be inspired by their business again.

Megan also conducts a weekly hour-long meditation class at the Ridge Clinic in Learmonth Street on each Monday commencing at 7.00pm.

## Volunteer

She says that she



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# Some memories of a big morning

The *Buninyong Remembers* event led to many stories being told of district men going to war, of families left behind, of relatives of those who left the Buninyong area one hundred years ago to fight for their country. On the following pages is a snapshot of some of the morning's highlights.



Photo: The Courier



(Top) : Getting flags and signs ready for the march are (Left) Ray Mende, Bob Bennett, Bill Akell and Bill Snowdon. (Lower left) Group of Red Shirts in the march - the group raises funds for disabled veterans. (Right) Vintage US Jeep driven by Buninyong's Colin Nicholls and carrying veterans Vic Bradley, John Thomas and Russ Hocking.

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Authorised by Joshua Morris MP, 211 Dana Street, Ballarat. Funded from Parliamentary Electorate Office and Communications Budget.



Photo: Russell Luckock

(Above) Assembling at the Golf Club prior to the start of the march are the Friends of Buninyong Botanic Gardens group with President Roger Permezel holding the sign. (Below) Claire O'Brien, described by one army visitor as 'a brilliant bugler' plays *The Last Post*.



 The advertisement has a red background. At the top, it features the coat of arms of Victoria and the text "Catherine King MP Federal Member for Ballarat". Below this is a photograph of a sign for "BUNINYONG WORLD WAR ONE MEMORIAL AVENUE OF HONOUR" with the text "In memory of those men from the districts and townships of the former Shire of Buninyong who gave their lives for their country". At the bottom right is a portrait of Catherine King.
 

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# RAAF flyover salutes Buninyong war heroes



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## Geoff Howard MP

State Member of Parliament for Buninyong



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(Above) The RAAF flyover of the four PC 8 aircraft as captured by Alan Marini of the newspaper *The Miner*. (Below) Teacher Joanne O'Kelly with a group of happy marchers from Emmaus Catholic Primary School. Their flag already has pride of place at the entrance to the school's multi-purpose building.





Soldiers of the 8th/7th Battalion, Royal Victorian Regiment.



Buninyong RSL members Max Thorne (with flag), and grand-daughter Abby, Peter Innes (with sign), John Dellaca and Simon Fechney passing the Chief of Army



The Band of the Royal Australian Army plays the National Anthem at the conclusion of the event.

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# Cascade of pool fix ideas at workshop

A long list of ideas for improvement of the Buninyong Swimming Pool came from the one hundred or so community members who gathered at a workshop at the Buninyong Bowling Club recently.

At the workshop attendees heard of Council commitment to the pool and the related works – improving the solar heating unit, irrigation system checked and functional, new top soil and grass sown, trees removed to allow for new effective trees to be planted, and the pool possibly painted.

In the later part of the evening, all were invited to write/draw their comments in relation to community suggestions for the pool and surrounds.

There was also a call for volunteers to be part of an ongoing community group aimed at working with the Council staff in the management of the pool and its related activities.

Listed below are just a few of the many, many ideas put forward under the various categories.



A full listing of the ideas and suggestions has been compiled by the Pool Group and will be considered with a view to putting some priority improvement ideas to Council.

The next meeting of the Buninyong Community Pool Group will be held at the *Pig & Goose Restaurant* at 5.30pm on Thursday 27 July.

*(Above) Businessman Simon Coghlan has led the push for the community to identify swimming pool improvement ideas to put to the City of Ballarat*



## POLICE BEAT

**A SEARCH WARRANT** was executed at a residence in South Imperial Lane Buninyong recently by members of the Buninyong Police and Ballarat Divisional Response Crew. As a result, a large number of suspected stolen items were seized, as well as an unregistered firearm and a partially manufactured home-made handgun. A 42 year old male was arrested, interviewed, and later charged with a number of offences before being bailed to appear at the Ballarat Magistrates Court in July.

**A BURGLARY** was committed at the Buninyong Soccer Clubrooms in Forest Street between the 12 and 14 June 2017. Unknown offenders have entered the building by forcing open the roller door. The offenders have stolen a bag of soccer balls valued at \$350. The Ballarat Burglary Crew is investigating.

**A 34 YEAR OLD** male was arrested in Winter Street Buninyong on 28 June 2017 after Police observed stolen number plates affixed to his vehicle. The male was arrested and transported to the Ballarat Police Station where he was later released pending Summons.

**SIX RESIDENTIAL** burglaries have been reported to Police in Buninyong over the past month. Half of these occurred in the Mount Buninyong area. Offenders stole electronic equipment, jewellery, cash and other assorted items. Almost all these occurred during the day. Residents need to be vigilant and report any suspicious activity to police via 000. If something doesn't look right, it generally isn't!

**A LOCAL HOON** found himself in a set of handcuffs recently when he was performing burnouts in his vehicle on the Mount Mercer Road near Sandy's Hill Road. The 34 year old lost control of his car which then bottomed out in a table drain. Thanks to an eagle eyed resident, Police were quickly on the scene and tracked the male to a house in Winter Street. The male, who was disqualified from driving at the time, was later processed for hoon driving, exceeding the prescribed concentration of alcohol and having stolen plates affixed to his vehicle.

### Appearance

- Natural landscape, rocks, grasses
- Garden beds outside of the fence line
- Better grass
- More shade

### Operational

- Review opening hours
- Warmer water
- Better life guards
- Businesses use for massage, physio, yoga

### Entertainment

- Pool parties
- Outdoor cinema
- Children's disco/ music
- Themed parties

### Recreational

- Playground
- Use by school for classes, special days
- Giant chess board
- Hydrotherapy area
- Football/cricket area

### Structures

- Water park/play space
- Climbing wall
- Water slide
- Playground

### Refreshments

- BBQs
- Better food at kiosk
- Coffee machine
- Visit from food vans

# Local Masons in the Great War

**Seven Members of Buninyong Lodge No 23 served in World War One along with 2337 other members from Lodges across Victoria.**

These are data from the *Book of Honour* compiled by the Grand Lodge of Victoria which recorded all Freemasons who "answered the call". There were 237 who "paid the supreme sacrifice" including **Brother O Cornell** of Ballarat, killed in action on 10 August 1918, who is buried in the Australian Cemetery at Villers-Bretonneaux, and has tree 104 in the Ballarat Avenue of Honour.

The remaining six members who returned to Australia were **J B Crump, J C Curwen-Walker, L H Vernon, A E Hunter** and **N H Jones** of Buninyong, and **A Wylie** from Durham Lead.



*Sturt Buninyong Lodge members Brett Edgington, Graham Dawes, Anthony McKnight and Ron Fleming wait on the frosty grass at the Golf Club with their Airforce cadet flag bearer at the commencement of the 1 July parade.*

## Gun amnesty here at RSL

There is a gun amnesty in Australia across the period 1 July to 30 September 2017. Firearms, firearm parts, knives and other edged weapons, clubs or martial arts weapons and ammunition will be accepted without question or penalty.

The Buninyong RSL is an authorised surrender site for any of the above. Any person surrendering an item is not required to give any details, and compensation is not on offer during this amnesty. Contact the RSL Secretary **Bob Bennett** for details (5341 2369).

Explosives are not accepted and anyone wishing to surrender explosives should contact WorkSafe, or dial 000 if there is any immediate danger.



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# Scotsburn fires' Phoenix Project

## RISING FROM THE ASHES

The Scotsburn Phoenix Project was established in late 2016 when the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (CCMA) and the Leigh Catchment Group (LCG) Landcare network received a Victorian State Government grant of \$624,000 to work with and assist landholders affected by the December 2015 Scotsburn fire.

This high intensity fire affected 88 properties within the region.

The aim of the project is to facilitate community/landholder involvement in protecting, enhancing and rehabilitating the natural environment and sustainable agriculture, particularly on private properties.

### Broad group

Corangamite CMA Chairman **Alice Knight** said she was pleased that the initial phase of the project was now complete. A steering committee made up of members from LCG, CCMA, Department of Environment, Land Water and Planning, Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and

Resources, City of Ballarat and Moorabool Shire Council has been set up to oversee the project and ensure the funds are spent efficiently and transparently.

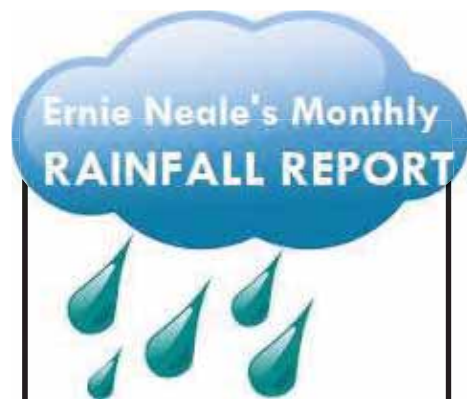
Expression of Interest forms for the project have been sent to all landowners within the fire-affected area with over 50 properties responding already. Over the next few months LCG project officers will begin visiting each of these properties.

### Assessment

A Technical Approvals Panel also has been established to assess each project and ensure the fair delivery of funding for on-ground activities. LCG Chairperson **Andrea Mason** said "We are excited to be at this stage of the project where we can make great plans for the three-year life of the project and beyond."

To find out more contact: **Jane Bevelander**, Leigh Catchment Group Environmental Projects Officer, on 0426 873 202, or **Nick McKinley**, Leigh Catchment Group Landcare Coordinator, 0455 147 398.

*Below: Rowan Jones during a site inspection on her Scotsburn property*



## Down in June but up for year

The 26mm of rain that fell in June was in sharp contrast to last year when there were falls of 89.2 mm. Buninyong's long term June rainfall average is 63.7mm.

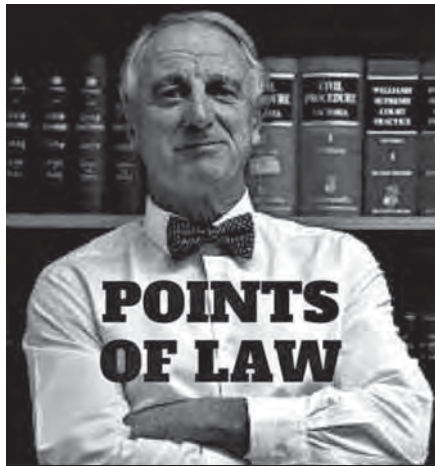
There was a very mild start to June with very large high pressure systems moving slowly across the continent and pushing the low pressure systems well south of the land mass, giving us very light winds and fairly dry conditions.

Rainfall consisted of only light showers occurring early in the month and at the end of the month. Most of June was fairly dry.

However for the six months to the end of June, we had received more rain than last year, with the total being 321.9mm compared to 285.1mm in 2016.

*\*\*Again this month, the rainfall report has been compiled by Mt Buninyong's Roly Nam. The regular News rainfall reporter Ernie Neale is still on assignment in Europe studying mid-summer rainfall patterns.*

JUNE 2017			
Date	Rain	Date	Rain
3- 7	6.7	8-9	5.6
10 - 14	1.5	23	1.0
26- 28	3.7	29- 30	4
Total		46.1mm	
Year to date		295.9 mm	



**It is often said that you cannot pick your relatives or your neighbours. Like all relationships there can be problems from time to time, and outside assistance may be necessary to resolve any dispute.**

## Problems with your neighbours

**Everyone is entitled to the use and enjoyment of their property without interference from neighbours. Such interference can be loud noise at 3am, overhanging trees, barking dogs, a fencing dispute, surface water run off or a variety of other issues.**

The obvious first step in resolving a dispute is to talk to the neighbour. If that fails, then the next step is to contact the *Dispute Settlement Centre of Victoria* (DSCV) on 1300 372 842. Staff there will try to arrange for mediation between the

parties. The DSCV mediation will be held at a centre close to the disputing parties and usually is arranged within about three weeks. There is no charge. Support people may attend if advice is given to DSCV in advance.

In certain circumstances the subject of the dispute can be referred to the appropriate authority such as the local Council, RSPCA or the *Environment Protection Authority of Victoria*.

### Last Resort

As a final resort, it is possible to file a complaint with the Magistrates' Court where what is being complained about amounts to a "nuisance". A good example is a tree that is a threat to persons or property because of its size or proximity to houses.

Advice on such matters may be obtained through Community Legal Centres or a private lawyer. The Central Highlands Community Legal Service is located at 15 Dawson Street North, Ballarat and is open 9:00am to 5:00pm five days each week. 'Neighbourhood Disputes' is one of the thirteen areas in which the CHCLS offers free legal advice or assistance.

*This information is of necessity a brief overview and it is not intended that readers should rely wholly on the information contained therein. No warranty express or implied is given in respect of the information provided and accordingly no responsibility is taken by Cinque Oakley Senior Lawyers or Buninyong News for any error or omission within this article.*

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# NEWS at a glance

## Poster PR

Always on the front foot with the promotion and marketing of his school campus, Scotsburn Primary School Campus head **Shaun O'Loughlin** has recently produced a colourful poster (below).

The school is promoted as a place where there are "numerous opportunities for parent involvement," and which provides a unique multi-age educational environment.

In addition to the regular curriculum there are opportunities for cooking, gardening, animal and environmental care and technology work at the campus.

As a campus of Buninyong PS, Scotsburn students participate in camps and excursions, the school fete, the school concert, inter-school sporting teams, debating teams, leadership programs, special theme days and the many other things that happen in bigger schools. Regular access to the library and gym at the Buninyong campus is also an added bonus.



## Boom in Boomerang bags

As at 12 July there were 200 Boomerang bags in circulation around Buninyong. Workshops will be run on 6 and 20 August at 2.00pm at the Buninyong Community House (rear entrance). Sew-at-home kits are available after the workshops.

Buninyong Boomerang Bags thanks everyone for the overwhelming support for the project through donations of material and time given.

## Gold for bags

During August, Buninyong Boomerang Bags is calling for the donation of 'green bags'. Drop them in to Sam Blanchard at Foodworks for a chance to win a share of \$200 in Community Gold vouchers. Winners drawn at end of August.

## Bangers and balls at Elaine

It will be a big afternoon down at the Elaine Tennis Club on Sunday 13 August. Between 12.30pm and 3.00pm there will be a free BBQ, giveaways and the launch of the club's new ball-throwing machine.



A radar speed machine will be there and professional coaching for over 8yos. The Tennis Club is part of the Elaine Recreation Reserve and will warmly welcome new and old players.

For more information call **Jane Farhall** – 0427 100 655

The Elaine Cricket Club also has its registration day and BBQ on the same day. All old and new U16, U14 and U13 cricketers should attend.

Call **Julie Pandzitis** - 0429 820 604

## COMING EVENTS

**Thursday 27 July, 5.30 pm.** Meeting of Buninyong Community Pool Group, Pig & Goose Restaurant.

**Sunday 30 July, 10.30am -12.30pm.** National Tree Planting Day. Planting along the Yarrowee River at Humffray St South. Tools and BBQ provided. **Jane Beverlander, 0426 873 202**

**Saturday 5 August, 2.30pm.** Bungaree v Buninyong. Football and netball at Bungaree

**Sunday 6/13 August. 2.00pm.** Boomerang Bags workshop. Buninyong Community House (rear)

**Saturday 12 August, 2.30pm.** Buninyong v Gordon, Football and netball at Buninyong

**Sunday 13 August, 12.30pm-3.00pm.** Elaine Recreation Reserve. Tennis, free BBQ and fun events at Elaine Tennis Club, 0448 291 074.

Also BBQ and registration day for Elaine Junior cricketers – U13, U14, U16 teams.

**Sunday 13 August, Tree planting** Woowookarung Regional Park.

**Sunday 20 August, 10.00am,** FoCC Skyline Trail Walk.

Starting at Federation University car park. Details 0408 509 591

**Thursday 24 August. 7.30pm.** Meeting of Buninyong & District Community Association. Buninyong Town Hall.

All welcome.

## Ray Sullivan's SPORTS NEWS

### Bombers reappoint coach

The Buninyong Bombers have shown faith in current coach **Jarrod Morgan** by appointing him to lead the Bombers again in 2018. Morgan has the team playing well at this stage of the season after a shaky start. The Bombers are in sixth spot on the ladder and will be looking to make it seven in a row when they get back on the track. The Reserves are 11 and 1 and still share top spot on the ladder.

### Robert nails hole in one

Buninyong golfer **Robert Thornton** scored a hole in one on the second hole at Buninyong on monthly medal day. Robert hit a nine iron onto the green and watched it spin back into the hole. **Stephen Bongiorno** won the play-off for the June medal and the July medal was won by **Ron Delaland** with a nett 69.

### Home too early

Well-known *News* front man, **Barry Fitzgerald** is a long time Fitzroy-Brisbane Lions supporter. Barry recently went to Etihad Stadium to watch the Lions take on the Bombers. Just into the last quarter with his team 27 points down. Barry decided he had had enough of the gloating Essendon supporters surrounding him and decided to call it a day and catch the early train home. Not a good move with the final score at the siren, Lions 90 - Bombers 82!

### Georgina in State team

Young Buninyong runner **Georgina Mees** has been selected in the Victorian Under 13 cross Country Team. Georgina will represent Victoria in the National titles to be held in Hobart and Wollongong in August. She has performed well during the cross country season with a highlight being a gold medal in her division at the Western Victorian Championships in Stawell in 2016.



*Krui Jenkins, 16, with navigator Steve Smith before the start of the race.*

## Young driver gave dusty desert race a good shake

**A team from Buninyong recently headed north to remote central Australia to take on the Finke Desert race. This off-road, multi-terrain, two-day, 452-kilometre race is held every year.**

The race is conducted over what is reputed to be the most difficult off-road course in one of the most remote places in the world with conditions that test the mental and physical capabilities of every one of the 530 riders and 140 drivers and their vehicles.

Competing for the first time this year was Buninyong's **Krui Jenkins**. At sixteen, Krui just met the age limit to race and was the youngest driver taking part. He was supported in his *Sollittco* 2000 with

its Toyota 1650 cc engine, by experienced navigator **Steve Smith** and father **Scott** as support.

Conditions were brutal. Krui said that the dust was so bad at times that he could barely see the bonnet of his car, but said that was nothing compared to the *Finke whoops*, a 35 kilometres plus stretch of endless corrugations in the road.

### Bad luck

The team managed the first leg from Alice Springs to Finke without any real issues and looked forward to the return trip on day two. Krui and Steve carried on from where they left off on the first day and were travelling well in second position in their class until 35 kilometres from the finish when the CV joints on the car gave way.

They were able to make running repairs and planned to limp to the finish. Unfortunately, the stress on the wheels was too much. The bearings seized up 23 kilometres from home and their race ended there.

Krui was disappointed that they got so close but couldn't finish. He said the race was the hardest thing he has done both physically and mentally but is looking forward to the June 2018 event.

*Ray Sullivan*



# Tourism guy at BDCA meeting

'Tourism Guy', CEO of Visit Ballarat, Noel Dempsey, attended the most recent meeting of the Buninyong and District Community Association (BDCA) to speak on issues in tourism in Ballarat and district.

Coming recently from positions on the Gold Coast with companies such as *Dreamworld*, he noted that there were opportunities to enhance many aspects of tourism promotion and planning here in our region.

He said that Ballarat had much to offer and that the perception of 'old, cold, and gold' needed to be changed. *Visit Ballarat* is presently engaged in an exercise to change the branding for local tourism.

He spoke of the role of *Visit Ballarat*, its relationship with the City and noted that Council manages the budget for events.



He said Visit Ballarat was looking at ways to generate revenue and to lessen its reliance on Council financial support.

In discussing visitor attraction, he mentioned it was important for small villages such as Buninyong to have a

unique offering. In response to a question, he agreed that there should be Buninyong representation on the planning committee for the bike race.

*Above: Regional Tourism CEO Noel Dempsey chats with BDCA President Linda Zibell before the meeting.*



## Why Ask A Local? The Results are Obvious!

 6864 Midland Hwy Scotsburn	 269 Post Office Rd Ross Creek	 10 Lewis Ave Mount Helen	 911 Lal Lal St Buninyong
 104 Moss Ave Mount Helen	 411 Learmonth St Buninyong	 429 Yendon No 1 Rd Yendon	 23 Marina Dve Mount Clear

**Gary Jones**  
0419 576 545

53412200

**Phil Crosbie**  
0407 542 289

511 Warrenheip St Buninyong VIC 3357

**Neville Dooley**  
0419 307 882

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## Physical, verbal, social, cyber bullying

# Sue's book helps parents and kids

**Bullying at schools, among teenagers, on social media, and in the workplace has become a serious social issue. Reports of emotional distress, self-harm, mental illness and even suicide are not uncommon.**

Long-term Buninyong resident **Sue Anderson** who works in the field of Emotional Intelligence has written a book aimed at parents whose children are being bullied.

Titled *Unbullyable*, the book of some 60,000 words, took about four years to write 'in the cracks of time' between running a business and having young children at home.

The book is selling around the world and has won an *International Innovation Award* in the field of neuro-semantic.

### Approach

Since starting a Meta-coaching business in 2007, Sue has coached hundreds of children affected by bullying. She also has trained teachers and run workshops and webinars for parents. Her unique approach involves a proven formula of beliefs, powers and esteem.

"Traditional approaches to bullying tell targets to change their behaviours – that

just doesn't work. My formula starts by exploring what the target believes about being bullied. Then they empower themselves to choose how they respond to someone's attempt to bully *them*." Sue says she has "a really different approach to self-esteem that children can understand and use immediately." She has worked with children as young as seven years with her oldest client being 76 years of age.

### Workplace

About five years ago Sue started coaching adults affected by workplace bullying; this led to resilience-type training and workshops. Much of her work now is helping teams get along. She is presently working a lot in Melbourne, but will never move from Buninyong. "I love the place. I'm proud to say my children are fifth generation Buninyongites," she said.

Sue's next book *Unshakeable at Work*, is due for release in December 2017. "I've been doing 'resilience' type training and coaching in Government Call Centers in Melbourne and immediately I could see how the principles of being *Unbullyable* transferred over to call takers," she said.

She said that it is hard to imagine someone working a twelve hour shift with several people abusing them down the



phone each day, then going home, and having to turn up the next day for more of the same. "I was curious as to how some people are less affected than others.

We have a few call centres in Ballarat so I interviewed a few people and saw how *Unbullyable* could be applied as *Unshakeable*."

### Heartfelt

But her heart lies with *Unbullyable*. With husband **Chris Cartledge** she has a long-term plan of establishing an *Unbullyable Foundation*. The Foundation will provide free *Unbullyable*-based resources for children, schools and parents.

The book can be purchased at [www.unbullyable.com.au](http://www.unbullyable.com.au)

Cassandra Carland

