

Some concerns but **CHILD CARE SET TO BOOM HERE**

Kylie Bickerdike with son, Jack (1), said a child care centre for Buninyong would be good



While reports point to a looming crisis in child care places in Australia, Buninyong seems set to see one, possibly two, child care centres open in the township in the near future.

In late 2016 Council issued a Planning permit to *G&S Ballantyne Holdings* for the establishment of a Child Care Centre at 309 Learmonth Street, in the former Shire Offices building presently known as Village Place.

The permit was issued despite expressions of concern by adjoining businesses and the CFA over the parking situation, traffic management and other matters. It is understood that five objectors took part in a Council-run mediation session late last year.

The permit for this child care centre specifies a maximum of 100 children being on site between 7.00am and 6.00pm, Monday to Friday.

Director of G & S Ballantyne Holdings, **Gerard Ballantyne** said that the child care centre would be operated by *Amiga Montessori*. This will be the sixteenth centre operated by this group in Victoria. The centre is expected to open in mid-2017.

Conditions

He said that most of the conditions attached to the permit (such as details of the commercial kitchen, provision of bicycle spaces, and the crossover at the Scott Street entrance) had already been met. The two remaining issues related to landscaping and traffic management.

“Currently local landscape architect **David Turley** is finalising a landscape plan, and Salt 3 consultants were fine-tuning details relating to traffic management,” he said.

“We are aware of the sensitivities about traffic management, and are working

to resolve them. It’s not in anyone’s interests to create congestion.”

Mr Ballantyne said that all staff car parking, involving some fifteen spaces, would be at the rear of the building. There would be two ‘drop-off’ points, at the front and in Scott Street.

To VCAT

Council has also issued a *Notice of Decision* for a second childcare centre proposed to be located on vacant land in the Palmerston/Inglis Streets area. The issuing of this notice means that Council has given a positive response to the application but has not yet issued a permit as the matter has been now taken to VCAT by local resident objectors.

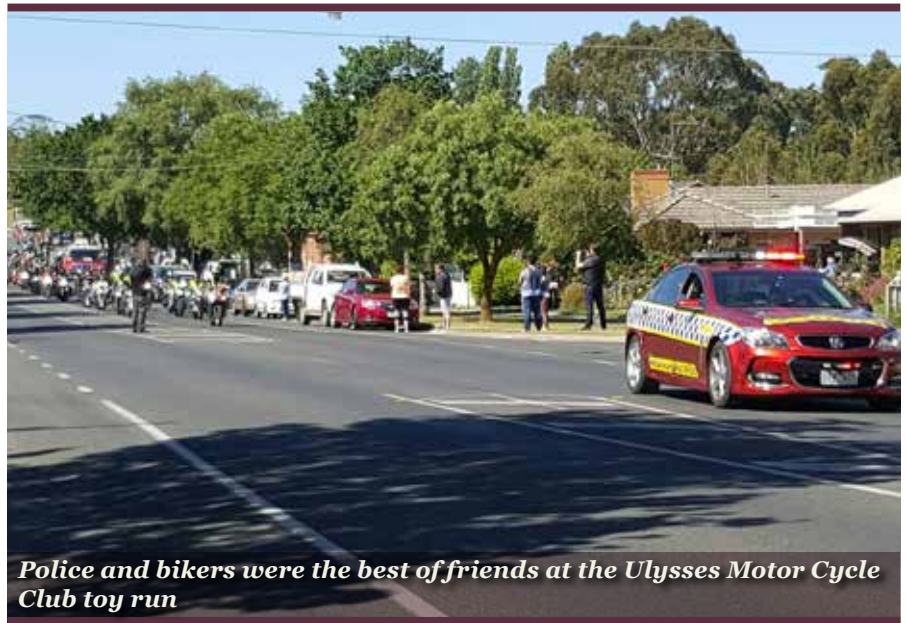
Another application for a permit to build a child care centre on land between Simpson and Yuille Streets lodged with Council in 2015, was subsequently withdrawn after objections by nearby residents.

Glimpses of Christmas in Buninyong

BIKERS BRING JOY

Most people have come to regard those who ride large and noisy motorcycles as a breed of their own not to be messed with. But not so with the local chapter of the Ulysses Motor Cycle Club which comprises mature members, mostly from professional backgrounds, and who ride for fun and friendship.

In December the members of the Central Highlands branch of the club rode in their annual Toy Run from Buninyong to Victoria Park, Ballarat, with motor-cycles laden with toys and gifts to donate to the annual 3BA Christmas Appeal. In Buninyong, the riders had a police and fire brigade escort and at Victoria Park were catered for by members of the Men's Shed.



Police and bikers were the best of friends at the Ulysses Motor Cycle Club toy run

SANTA AT ELAINE

Christmas came a little early this year at Elaine when Santa landed with his reindeer on the Midland Highway on Wednesday 14 December around 6 o'clock in the evening. With the highway traffic held up for a few minutes, Santa was picked up by the Elaine CFA fire truck with its lights flashing and siren blaring.

He was then taken to the Christmas party of the Elaine Cricket Club and the Elaine Tennis Club where he gave all children, big and small, a bag of lollies.



Santa was swamped by young Elaine cricketers and tennis players at the Recreation Reserve

CAROLS IN THE PARK

The 2016 Carols in Desoza Park were described by one of the organisers, **Bronwyn Booth**, as "one of the best ever." She said that the mild weather was a bonus.

Local artists such as **Vanessa Belsar** (star of *Miss Saigon*), **Anna Pelly**, and **Oscar Wilson**, together with the Little Brass Band, Sing Australia, and the Buninyong Primary School choir all performed. Donations were collected for the 3BA Christmas Appeal, and Christmas cake was handed out by the Lions Club.



Robyn, Sarah, Felix and Kate were among the big crowd at the 2016 Christmas Carols

GARDENS THE STAGE FOR 'THE TEMPEST'



Actors rehearse in the Botanic Gardens for the coming production of *The Tempest*. (L to R) Lisa Hill, Robert Kelty, and Nik Willmott

A shipwreck, pirates, sprites and a sorcerer plotting revenge, all set on a musical and magical island where anything can happen! With eight performances over two weekends starting 10 February, Shakespeare's last play, *The Tempest* will soon create a perfect storm of entertainment at the Buninyong Botanic Gardens.

The script has been updated and edited for a modern audience, with the focus on the action of the play, whilst retaining some of Shakespeare's most beautiful language. So get your family and friends together, bring a picnic, relax with a cool drink in the beautiful gardens setting and watch the fantastical fun unfold.

Annual event

The Bard in Buninyong plans to present a Shakespearean play annually in the gardens and continue the program of Summer School Holiday Arts Workshops. This project involves experienced artists and teachers working with kids and local groups.

Community involvement is the basis of these projects, so join Arts Buninyong, the Friends of the Buninyong Botanic Gardens, Buninyong Primary School,



Director, Susan Pilbeam

the Buninyong Men's Shed, Yarrooee Productions and Federation University in being part of this initiative and come out and have a great time at a dinner or lunch performance.

Details

The show is scheduled for the following times:

- Friday 10 February and 17 February at 7.00pm
- Saturday 11 February and 18 February at 12 noon and 7.00pm
- Sunday 12 February and 19 February at 12 noon

More information, updates and free ticket competitions can be found at *The Bard in Buninyong* page on facebook. Like and share with your friends.

For phone bookings and enquiries call 0473 668 070 or Trybooking.com *The Tempest* tickets will also be available at the gate for cash only. Tickets are \$50 (Family), \$25 (Adult), \$15 (Concession) and \$5 (Children).

Patrons should bring their own rugs, cushions and folding chairs, food and drinks.

Rainfall roller coaster in 2016

The year 2015 was one of the driest years on record, capped off by the awful fires in December of that year. So weather watchers welcomed 2016 with their brand new spread sheets at the ready, hoping for a much more benign twelve months.

The rainfall recorded since then turned out to be quite generous, but its erratic pattern of delivery has tested all sorts of limits.

January started the year with near average rainfall, but then the troughs of autumn followed. April's lack of rain plumbed the depths, being in the lowest 5 per cent ever recorded.

Readings for May to July showed a vast improvement, while August delivered close to average. Springtime was wet, with September and October delivering over a third of the year's rain between them.

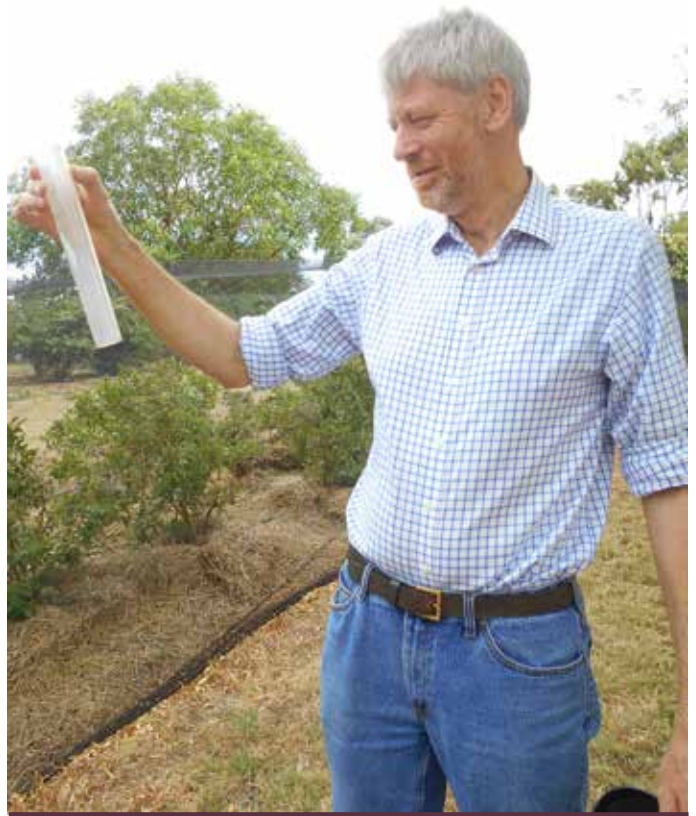
Wash out

September smashed the ceiling, washing Buninyong out with one of the top 5 per cent of wettest Septembers on record, and the wettest in a century. The springs around Buninyong were bubbling, and the bowling greens were awash. As if to counter this surfeit the tap was turned off for November and December, and rainfall plunged to well below average.

The final tally of 760.9mm landed near the mid range of long term averages. So it was a dry year then a wet year and

then an average year – but it was never a boring year. Our 2017 spreadsheets are now in use, but it will take something quite extraordinary to top the surges and plunges of 2016's rainfall.

A total of 760.9 mm fell in 2016 compared to the average of 683.3mm for the last eight years at Buninyong's Blueberry Farm. Here's a summary of what happened.



News rainfall reporter Ernie Neale, inspects the very dry rain gauge in early January at the Blueberry Farm

2016 Rainfall and Eight Year Average

Month	2016	Aver	Month	2016	Aver
January	46.1	42.3	July	94.1	69.3
February	12.7	36.3	August	65.5	71.9
March	37.2	41.8	September	152.3	77.1
April	19.0	44.9	October	106.4	62.0
May	80.9	57.1	November	31.4	69.8
June	89.2	70.3	December	26.1	40.5

Ernie Neale

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AUTHORISED BY CATHERINE KING, 5 LYDIARD ST NTH BALLARAT 3350

CALL FOR ACTION NOT WORDS ON PROJECTS

Late last year eleven of the candidates standing for election for the South Ward of the Ballarat Council spoke at a well-attended forum at the Buninyong Town Hall. These included the three councillors now representing us – Councillors Hudson, Taylor and Rinaldi.

Lots of warm and positive things were said about Buninyong, its village character, its people and promises made to do all in their power to keep it that way, and to listen to community concerns. Great stuff!

But now that the smoke of the election has cleared, and the congratulatory messages are all in the bin, *The News* invites our three Councillors to pick up on two local issues with the energy and enthusiasm that was on show on 6 October 2016.

The North End Project.

This proposal, first raised about three years ago, is to develop and improve the business strip in Warrenheip Street from Forest to Eyre Streets. In early 2016 plans were drawn up by Council's **Malcolm Wilson** for this strip. These included extension of the street vines, tidying up the nature strip, paving in front of some businesses, and the erection of small bluestone walls at each end of the strip to tie in with other village works. Discussions have been held with Councillors and Council staff... but no sign of action.

It is time that budget provision for this project got on the books. This project is particularly important as the works were intended to be integrated into the now-imminent installation of the pedestrian crossing in the area, and the hoped-for removal by PTV of the intrusive bus stop there.

A copy of this plan and correspondence has again been sent to our three Councillors with a request for action.

Parks

There has been lots of 'consultation', engaging of consultants, and drawing up of plans about improvements to both Royal Park and Desoza Park. But again, no sign of serious budget provision or action especially in the case of Royal Park.

The quite exciting plans for Royal Park were to be tabled at Council about six months ago but have yet to arrive there, while the local soccer teams are crying out for a decent facility on which to train and play. The first set of plans for Desoza Park were drawn up in 2010.

These two priorities seem to have found their way into the Council bureaucracy's 'on hold' files.

Councillors Hudson, Taylor and Rinaldi are challenged to get things moving. Promising to get some action and to listen to what the community wants at a pre-election gig is one thing. Getting the score on the board is another. Council 2017-18 budget discussions are about to start. The community is watching with interest.

Buninyong & district COMMUNITY NEWS

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

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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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Cathy's new business is just Divine

When bubbly Cathy Hopper, 51, took over Warrenheip Street shop Divine Vintage in August last year, it was the both the fulfilment of a dream, and an inevitable step given her interests, skills and previous work.

Born in Darwin, but moving to Melbourne when she was two years old, Cathy grew up and went to school in the Essendon/Strathmore areas of Melbourne. After secondary schooling at St Columba's, Essendon, she went on to complete a Diploma in Hospitality at RMIT's Emily Macpherson College.

Then followed many years of employment as a Housekeeping Co-ordinator and Executive Housekeeper at many of Melbourne's up-market hotels including the Windsor and the Menzies at Rialto, together with a similar role at the exclusive Melbourne Club and the RACV Club.

Darwin again

Returning to Darwin in 1997 she spent nine years working for the famous Paspaly Pearl company (and in her spare time selling her various craft goods at the Darwin night markets).

As a single mum, Cathy returned to Victoria in 2006 with her three daughters **Madeline** (now 22 and living

in Melbourne), **Courtney**, 17 and now a Year 12 student at Damascus College, and **Laura**, 13 a Year 9 student at Loreto College. The family settled in Creswick, and Cathy commenced a successful home-made jam business – *Cleo's Banquet Jams*.

After a move to Buninyong in 2015 where she had always wanted to live, in early 2016 she noticed that the *Divine Vintage* business started by Wendy Lynne, was for sale and purchased it in August last year.

Fresh and busy

The shop has been given a fresh new look and now carries a wide range of gifts and products such as cushions, soaps, candles, prints, hand creams, hand-made cards, scarves and some vintage furniture.

She said that she has been "just so busy" with the shop, meeting new customers



and putting together its impressive range of products for sale.

Presently she has little leisure time between making her mini-albums, paper purses and cards in her Cathcart Street home, and driving her girls around for their activities, and getting Courtney's required 120 hours of driving experience to obtain her driving licence later in the year.

"I just love it here", she said, "and I love playing shop and building up this business."


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

Iconic old bank back on the market after 28 years

Few district residents would have missed the *For Sale* sign outside of the old National Bank at the roundabout in Buninyong. The bank was opened in 1866 and operated as a bank until 1974.

But few would also know how the owners of 'old bank' for the past 28 years, **David** and **Betty Kimpton** came to find, buy and then live in the building for the past 28 years.

In 1988 they were in the district visiting their son **Nick** (now local general practitioner Dr Nick Kimpton) who was then undertaking his medical internship in Ballarat.

Potential

Having formerly lived in an Edwardian house in South Yarra, they spotted that Buninyong's old National Bank building was for sale. With experience in renovating old buildings they decided that it would be an enjoyable experience to buy it, recognising the potential to make some positive changes to the Victorian era building. So they bought it.

However, as with most of us, advancing years require decisions to be made, and once again the *For Sale* sign is out front. "It was a hard decision to be made because it has been a delight to live in an early-Victorian/Georgian-type building with high ceilings and solid walls," Betty said.

They have not been idle over the 28 years. They have painted the interior of the whole house, and, while the main structure of the interior has changed little, the way the rooms are used has changed quite a lot.

A downstairs room has been modified into a bedroom and a bathroom. A new modern kitchen has been installed. The banker's desk is now a bar. The old wash-house in the garden has been adapted to a sewing room/studio, and the old stables are now a garage.

David has been particularly busy in the large garden which boasts some of the oldest elm trees in Buninyong. Both declared that living in Buninyong, "so close to so much lovely countryside has been wonderful." They are not moving far, and will watch with interest the next stage of their much-loved home's life.

Cassandra Carland



David and Betty Kimpton behind the old bank counter

streettalk

NO WONDER locals get annoyed over the failure by local bureaucrats to recognise Buninyong and its role in the national road cycling championships. "Ballarat" signage is plastered over the Warrenheip St roadway at the finish line... "Ballarat" signage on the finishing archway. Now, tourism CEO **Noel Dempsey's** email (5 January) talks about the 8 January race Championship race being "held just outside of Ballarat". Did he really mean "at Buninyong?"

TALKING OF the cycling championships the hot word on the streets at the bike race was that it would be headed to Canberra or (heaven forbid!) to Bendigo next year.

GUILTY TEN YEAR old boy called the Fire Brigade Captain recently to tearfully confess that, while "messing around with his mates" at the primary school, he had turned on the fire valve. All hell broke loose with alarms ringing and pumps set off. After a severe talking to by his father, lad fronted up with dad to apologise to the local fireys who attended to fix things at the school. Despite the nuisance value, they were quietly impressed with the young lad.

GREAT TO SEE the old MG Brown shop in Learmonth Street used as a pop-up shop late last year, and then brought back in action as *Attwood's Wine Bar* during the recent bike race.

TALKING OF SHOPS... must be money in buttons!! **Gael Fennell's Sew Special** has just opened up its lower level as a huge Fabric Bargain Basement, and has moves afoot to expand its *Darn N Yarn* store at the Sebastopol roundabout into Ballarat's best wool shop.

WHILE BUNINYONG is now a graffiti-free zone thanks largely to the Men's Shed and the BDCA, the public vandalism issue hit the news recently within Ballarat Council. A staff employee candidly expressed on social media his opinion that those caught for doing graffiti should be given a "kick up the ar.." Council CEO was not impressed and issued a statement that the staff member had been counselled, and that the City "works closely with community stakeholders to deliver proactive and creative graffiti prevention and removal programs." Not sure what they are!

Lost carriage found from

The old Buninyong railway

When the Geelong-Ballarat railway was proposed in 1857, Buninyong was disappointed that the line would not pass through Buninyong but rather took a route on the other side of the mountain. This led to the oddly named Buninyong East station, which became Yendon in 1872.

But Buninyong residents continued to lobby for a railway, especially in the great era of railway building in the 1880s. In 1884 the so-called *Octopus Act* was passed by the government, authorising 62 new lines, one for every electorate, and Buninyong secured its line from Ballarat, thanks to the effective lobbying of the Mayor of Buninyong, **David Davies** MLA.

1888 start

Contractors named **Lewis and Roberts** started work on the line on 13 April 1888 for the sum of 34,825 pounds. The Buninyong line left the main line around half a mile from the Ballarat East station. From there it swept to the right through a cutting under Victoria Street, because residents of Victoria Street protested about not wanting a level crossing “over one of the city’s major thoroughfares.” The highest bank on the line was 37 feet above the surface and was at the approach to Union Jack Bridge.

The Buninyong line opened on 12 September 1889. The day was proclaimed a public holiday for everyone in the district. Twenty parliamentarians were present at the opening.

The stations along the line included Eureka, Canadian, Mount Clear and Mount Helen.

The Buninyong station was quite well equipped with a ticket office, stationmaster, waiting room and a goods facility for incoming and outgoing loads.

Popular

The timetable provided seven daily return trips, with special trains for holidays like New Year’s Day. On New Year’s Day 1903, 2265 passengers travelled from Ballarat to visit the Buninyong Gardens.

The line also served a number of important industries in Buninyong, including a butter factory, box factory and tannery.

However Buninyong was declining by the 1920s, when these industries all closed. The onset of the Great Depression in 1930 forced the Victorian government to cut railway funding, and the Buninyong line closed to passenger traffic on 24 November 1930, replaced by Davis Bus lines.

The last freight train ran on 28 February 1947, when the line was declared defunct, and the rails were pulled up shortly after. The section of the line between Eureka and Ballarat continued to be used for freight purposes until 1986.

Mount Clear Secondary College is built on the site of the Mount Clear Station, and remnants of the line run through



Buninyong Railway Station, circa 1900 (Buninyong and District Historical Society Collection)

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The 1874 carriage found in derelict condition in a backyard at Golden Point. It has now been boxed up and stored awaiting restoration. (Photo Simon Dennis)

the Federation University campus. Just imagine the benefits of the line today!

Discovery

The Buninyong and District Historical Society (BDHS) has long been interested in the history of the railway, and member **Bob Skewes** was excited when he was informed earlier this year of the existence of a carriage from the old Buninyong line being discovered in a backyard in Golden Point.

Accompanied by BDHS President **Simon Dennis**, and members of the Buninyong Men's Shed, Bob inspected the carriage and arranged for its removal, and eventual re-location to Buninyong, where it can be restored.

Research by **Simon Dennis** has established that it is a carriage was built in 1874 at Footscray by the short-lived firm of Sims & Deacon. It was made of red cedar. It was one of ten first-class saloon carriages built by the firm, as well

as seventeen second-class carriages, based on an English design from 1859. The Phoenix Company of Ballarat built some similar carriages in 1877.

The carriage would have seen service on the Buninyong line between 1889 and 1930, and then been scrapped and sold off. What makes it so interesting is that it is one of the oldest surviving railway carriages used on the colonial railways, and it would have carried many Buninyong and district pioneers as they travelled into Ballarat for school, shopping, business or recreation.

The Historical Society would love to see this carriage restored, and find a future home at the site of the Buninyong Railway Station, beside the Buninyong tennis complex and the Men's Shed which sits on the platform of the old railway station.

Anne Beggs-Sunter, Simon Dennis and Bob Skewes, Buninyong & District Historical Society.

Ben opens rail model

A model of the Buninyong railway precinct in the late 1800s, now on display at the Men's Shed, was officially opened by Cr Ben Taylor in late 2016. The model showing the Buninyong station, trains and other features was constructed by Neville Thornhill (pictured).

At the opening, Neville referred to a brief history of the line from Ballarat to Buninyong station. He thanked **Pat Hope** for his generosity in donating parts for the construction of the railway, and the equipment to make all this possible, **Neville Fraser** for his help in the construction, and the Buninyong & District Historical Society for providing the information to be able to replicate the line and station.



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Buninyong's Steve McGhie Ambo politics to hobby farmer

Prior to the 2104 State election Buninyong's Steve McGhie was regularly in the media spotlight as he lobbied hard for improved pay and conditions for Victoria's paramedics. Part of the campaign also involved ambulances carrying various painted messages concerning the issue.

With partner **Janet**, Steve moved to Buninyong in 1990. The move resulted from a yearning for a few acres outside the city and now horses, chooks and the odd sheep keep them both occupied at weekends.

Steve still works from a Melbourne base in his role as the Secretary of Ambulance Employees Australia (Victoria). He has now been in that role for twelve years, after a decade as Assistant-Secretary. Prior to then he had fifteen years working as a hands-on paramedic.

Assaults

While his main role and passion is to get better conditions for ambulance employees and for the ambulance service throughout Victoria, it also involves important employee welfare issues. Steve said that, "on average, one ambulance paramedic is assaulted each day across Victoria" – a frightening statistic when the 'ambos' have responded to a call for medical help from the public.

The assaults are often committed by the patient, a family member or a bystander and come at a time when the paramedic is focused on treating the patient. There

may well be issues of alcohol, drugs or mental health but the police sometimes do not charge the attacker knowing that a court conviction is unlikely.

Steve would like to see a 'zero tolerance' policy such that every perpetrator of an assault on a paramedic is charged and the Courts then decide if leniency is appropriate. "Hopefully the court's penalties would be appropriate to the crime as paramedics are highly trained in saving people's lives and they don't deserve to be assaulted on the job", he said.

Quality

According to Steve, Victorian paramedics are now the best trained in Australia, and the pre-hospital treatment is world's best practice with unsurpassed survival rates being achieved.

The Ambulance Service works closely with the Emergency Services Telecommunications Authority (ESTA), located at nearby Mt Helen, and is the interface between the public and the

emergency services through dialling 000 (for emergencies only).

Steve has also been heavily involved locally, especially with the Buninyong Football Club in coaching and committee roles and has full praise for the club's players, officials and supporters in this year's grand final appearance - even if they didn't win this time.

Steve has a step-daughter, **Vivian**, and two teenage grandchildren, **Thomas** and **Sarah**. Janet and Steve, who have been together 28 years, just love Buninyong. "It's the place, the community and its people" they said.

Russell Luckock



Steve McGhie enjoys the open spaces of Buninyong as respite from his busy schedule as Victorian Ambulance Union Secretary

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Masons have fun on the mats



June Glasson, David Law, Ken Jenkin, Brian McDowell, Graham Williamson and Brian Coffey ride out the last bowl.

Twenty six members and partners from the Sturt Buninyong and Ballarat Yarrowee Lodges recently enjoyed an action packed evening of indoor bowls at the Buninyong Masonic Centre.

Indoor bowls can accommodate players of all skills and quickly develops a strong sense of purpose within the teams.

The local team's objective was to win the Perpetual Trophy originally presented by the Orion and Ballarat Lodges in 1970. No Lodge appears to have ever won it.

However, Ballarat Yarrowee Lodge won the night and will be the first Lodge to be inscribed on the trophy.



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Business dinner: Red Duck success story

The second 'round table' dinner organised by the Buninyong Business Network was held at the Pig & Goose Restaurant late last year.

Guest speaker was **Scott Wilson-Browne** who is co-owner of the Red Duck Brewery business with wife Vanessa. After starting it in a dairy shed in the Camperdown district in 2005 the business is now located in premises in Alfredton

He spoke on the topic of *Starting, Growing and Preserving a Small Business* to a group of twenty small business owners/operators.



Red Duck Brewery owners Scott and Vanessa Wilson-Browne at the Business Dinner

Quilts on show

The 2017 Exhibition of the Begonia Quilters will be held at the Ballarat Mining Exchange, 12 Lydiard Street North, between 10.00am and 5.00pm on Saturday 11 March through Monday 13 March. Entry is \$5 and there will be trade tables, crafts and light refreshment. Enquiries ballaratbegoniaquilters@gmail.com.

Meet Janine on the mat

A 45 minute new exercise program – *Meet on the Mat Pilates* – is being offered at the Royal Pak clubrooms on Friday mornings at 9.30am and Wednesday evenings at 6.30pm.

The program is conducted by **Janine Gifford**, a qualified Studio Pilates instructor and Diploma of Fitness graduate. With her husband she moved to Buninyong several years ago, and when she's not teaching Pilates she might be seen walking her black Labrador, Storm, along Buninyong's streets, riding her

mountain bike, or enjoying a coffee at *Maggie & Kate's Coffee shop*.

Meet on the Mat sessions are \$12 (or \$50 for five sessions), and Janine can provide more information on 0429 424 989

Meditate for orphan kids



A beginners' eight week Practical Meditation Course is being provided as a community service locally, beginning in the first week in February.

A small fee will be charged, and the proceeds will go to an existing volunteer community orphanage project in the Philippines. Enquires to **Maura McCabe** on 0401 709 305

News on the Canadian Park

At Springfest, Parks Victoria staffed a stand and spent the day talking to people about the new park. Friends of the Canadian Corridor (FOCC) signed up a number of new members.

In December, the FOCC was awarded a Parks Victoria Kookaburra Award for "connecting people and places."

As earlier noted in *The News*, a process has commenced with a view to renaming the park Woowookarung. The Office of Geographic Names has supported the move and a March announcement is expected.

A dozen skips of rubbish have been cleared from the Park and regular patrols are being made by Parks Victoria.



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POLICE BEAT

A BURGLARY was reported to Police by a resident in Fiskin Road, Mt Helen on 28 December 2016. A number of items were taken from the residence. Any suspicious persons can be reported to Police at any time by calling '000'. If it doesn't look right, or feel right.....Call us!

AN AGGRAVATED BURGLARY occurred in Mount Helen on 3 January 2017. The offenders have accessed the house through an unlocked sliding door whilst the residents slept. The offenders then located two sets of keys from a dresser in the hallway. Two vehicles

belonging to the victims were then stolen. On 5 January, one of the vehicles was involved in ramming a police vehicle in Ballarat. As a result, two youths were arrested and processed in relation to the stolen vehicle.

BUNINYONG POLICE attended a motor vehicle collision on the Yendon No1 Road on 28 December. Upon arrival, two males were spoken to whilst attempting to leave the scene. The driver underwent a Preliminary Oral Fluid Test which returned a positive result for methamphetamine. The passenger in the vehicle was searched and, in his backpack, police located approximately 50 grams of cannabis and property suspected of being stolen. As a result, the driver was released pending summons for Driving under the Influence of Drugs, Driving Whilst Suspended and stating a False Name & Address. The passenger, a 24 year old Horsham man, was charged with 16 charges and released on bail to appear at the

Ballarat Magistrates Court at a date in March.

THERE HAS BEEN a growing trend whereby offenders are gaining access to houses, at night whilst residents are asleep. The majority of these instances involve groups of offenders accessing houses through unlocked garage doors and personal access doors. Keys are being located in the ignition of unlocked vehicles, or on kitchen tables and dressers.

It is incredibly distressing to wake up and find out that people have been walking around your house while you slept, and further that your wallet, purse, keys and vehicles have been stolen. Consider purchasing a small digital safe (approximately \$40) and securing it somewhere within your home.

The last person to go to bed at night needs to ensure ALL doors are locked and wallets and car keys are stored in the safe. Remember, community safety is everybody's responsibility!

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Busy year end for local Lodge

December was a busy month within Sturt Buninyong Lodge No 23 and for its program of community support.

Sixty members, partners and guests attended on 17 December for the annual Christmas meeting.

Sherene Mounier from Country Fire Authority spoke on preparations needed for a fire safe summer. Rev **David Leach**, Chairman of the Ballarat Chaplaincy Committee delivered the Christmas message that balanced the traditional message with today's secular world.

Past Grand Master **Bruce Bartrop** presented **John Newton** with a certificate and service jewel recognising 50 years of Masonic membership with No 23. Lodge Master **Ron Fleming** recognised **Bruce Bartrop, Alby Peart, Jack Turney** and **Jason Goldsmith** with membership certificates.



John Newton receives his Jewel and Certificate from Bruce Bartrop PGM at the December meeting of the Sturt Buninyong Lodge (Photo Ron Fleming)

With 50 per cent assistance from Freemasons Foundation, the Lodge presented Mt Clear Secondary College with \$1100 to allow two students attend the recent Lord Somers Camp.

In its seventh year of support to Buninyong Primary school, the Master

presented \$100 book vouchers to Grade 6 students **Will Wardle** and **Kaleb Farrugia** during their graduation evening.

The last week of December was spent preparing for the Annual fruit sale for charity funds.



Buninyong

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Expo and Village Market at Royal Park on 26 February

Two community events have combined to offer a big day out on Sunday 26 February between 10.00am and 3.30pm at Buninyong's Royal Park, at Warrenheip Street South.

This will be the fourth Smart Building and Living Expo which will have an electric and hybrid motor vehicle theme which should be of interest to many.

There will be a line up of architects and builders, together with products such as windows, insulation, retrofitting, blinds, solar and batteries. Other stalls will have bikes, plants, clothing, personal products, health, education, waste, food and more.

Community groups such as Landcare will



be there together with BREAZE's Ask an Expert stand.

The Village Market stallholders will add interest and colour to what promises to be a significant community event.

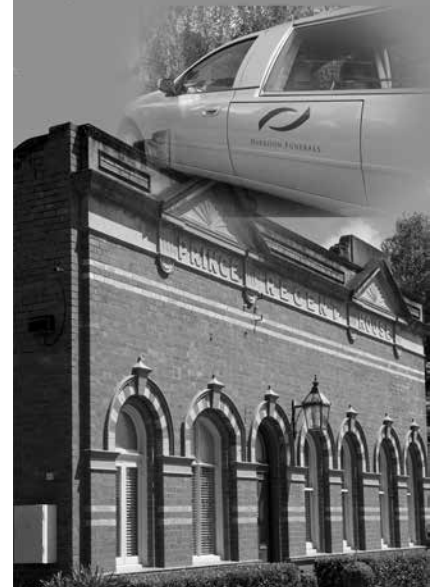
More exhibitors and helpers are invited. Call **Andrea** on 0427 338 482. www.smartbuildingandlivingexpo.com.au

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Book a court system

Click and play at tennis centre

Casual tennis players can now book and pay online for a court at the new Buninyong Tennis Centre. The installation of an online court booking facility and electronic PIN pad gate access enables a court to be booked from as little as \$5.50 per half hour (plus booking fee). The website is www.buninyongtennis.org.au.

New visitors will need to register with an email address and/or mobile phone number.

The online booking system will provide a confirmation email/SMS and a unique PIN code. Enter the PIN code at the gate (remember to press the arrow.)

Court bookings are available from 8am to 10pm every day of the year (when not being used for competition). If the court lights are required then an additional \$2.50 per half hour fee applies. The system is so smart it will turn the lights on 10 minutes prior to a booking time (as long as the PIN code has been entered), and it will automatically turn them off 10 minutes off after the booking has concluded.

For greater value, the Buninyong & District Tennis Association (BDTA) offers Social Memberships for just \$120 per year. This gives the whole family access to the courts for free (excluding court light fee) using the

Book A Court system. Full details can be found on the BDTA website.

And for those who want to take their tennis to the next level or just enjoy some regular fun and fitness the BDTA also offers coaching for all ages through the services of **Peter Joyce**, a fully-accredited Tennis Australia High Performance coach. Peter's coaching details can also be found at the website.

Book A Court is part of the Opening Up Tennis program supported by Tennis Victoria, the Victorian State Government and the BDTA. The BDTA also acknowledge the ongoing support of the Buninyong & District Community Bank.

The Buninyong Tennis Centre is at 208 Forest Street, Buninyong (opposite the swimming pool).



Flynn Jamieson 17, (left) and brother Jai, 18, use the new pincode to access the courts at the Tennis Centre.



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Cycling Nationals

HOT RACING BUT FUTURE IN DOUBT

Buninyong recently hosted three days of the four-day Australian cycling national title program and once again proved that this venue brings out the best in the elite fields tackling the testing time trial and road race courses.

This is the tenth time that Ballarat/Buninyong has hosted the titles and despite strong local support to retain the titles in the area beyond 2017, there is conjecture that this may be the last time.

Crowd support has always been strong for the Buninyong weekend but appeared to be down this year in comparison to previous years. It was surprising to read Cycling Australia CEO **Nick Green's** comment in the local newspaper that crowds were up on last year.

Crowd down

Observations around the township on Sunday afternoon and comments from spectators around the finish line and up on the mountain would indicate that Nick may have been at a different event. Maybe the mid -30s temperature kept the crowd at bay.

Despite the smaller numbers cheering them on, the competitors on the day

didn't disappoint as all three events on the weekend were hard fought battles of stamina, speed and endurance. **Sam Jenner** emulated **Jack Bobridge's** solo effort in 2016 to win the Under 23 Crown, experienced cyclists and team mates, **Katrin Garfoot** and **Amanda Spratt** waged a two-woman battle, with Garfoot just out sprinting Spratt on the line.

Rookie professional **Miles Scotson** upset the favourites with a perfectly timed breakaway in the last stages of the race to win the 2017 MARS Cycling Australia Road title.

Commentator

Hats off also to retired local champion, **Patrick Shaw**. His change from competitor to expert commentator was a great move by the broadcasters. His unbridled excitement and his insights into team and individual tactics during the race kept the crowd well informed throughout.

So now there is a wait for news of the venue for the 2018 championships and beyond. Let's hope that wise heads will prevail and the previous history of this sporting venue will be taken into account when the decision is finally made.

Ray Sullivan



Ray Sullivan's SPORTS NEWS

Battling

The new year on the bowling green has not brought a change of fortune for Buninyong's premier division side. After a narrow "one shot" loss to fellow cellar dwellers City Oval, prior to the Christmas break, the team was hoping for a strong showing against Bareena on its home greens at Buninyong for the first game of 2017. Unfortunately, Bareena proved too strong and won comfortably. It will take a miracle now for Buninyong to avoid relegation back to Division 1 at the end of the season.

Club Championships have been decided with **Keith Chapman** defeating **Brett Innes** to take out the men's title. **Barbara Voight** defeated **Brenda Wynd** to take out the ladies title.

Golf ties

In December **Gordon Eason** and **Stuart Dyer** posted identical scores to tie for the monthly medal and needed to play-off in January. The play-off has taken place and they have both posted the same score again. This means they need to front up for another play-off in February. Meanwhile the January Monthly Medal also finished in a tie between **Chris Tatt** and **Greg Pugh** both golfers recording the very good score of nett 67.

In a State

Since we reported on young golfer **Amy Leeson** in December, Amy has been selected in the Victorian Under 21 team to play in the Murray River Masters. Amy also recently played in the Victorian Junior Masters, and finished eighth-ranked of 31 Victorian golfers.

Her next major challenge is in March when she will play with the Southern Golf Club Division 1 Pennant team in the strong Victorian Women's pennant competition.

Ladder leaders

Buninyong's number one cricket team are proving that last year's Ballarat Cricket Association second eleven premiership was no fluke. They went into the Christmas break on top of their division of the ladder and have consolidated with two good wins in the first two games of the new year.

Young tennis stars in Adelaide

Playing for their State

Buninyong junior tennis players James O'Sullivan, 13, and Megan O'Beirne, 11, recently represented Victoria in the Australian-Made Foundation Cup held in Adelaide from 9-12 January.

As part of a team of four boys and four girls, the pair competed against all the other States in the national 13 and under competition.

The tournament was played at the West Lakes Tennis Club with the presentation of the Cup made on centre court at Memorial Drive during the final night of the 2017 World Tennis Challenge.

Winning through

James and Megan were selected for the team after representing the Central Highlands region in Victorian inter-regional events.

James was part of the all-boy team which won the Fitzgerald Cup played in Wodonga in October. Megan was part of the girls' team which competed in the Judy Dalton Cup in Yarrowonga in November.

Local Tennis Australia High Performance Coach Peter Joyce coaches both youngsters. Peter also coaches **Harry Wills**, from Streatham, who was another member of the team heading to Adelaide.

Support

James and Megan were flown to Adelaide with the rest of their team, with team uniforms and airfares provided by Tennis Victoria. Tennis Victoria staff and



Tennis coach Peter Joyce with Buninyong's James O'Sullivan and Megan O'Beirne

coaches accompanied the children. All accommodation and meals were provided by the Federation Cup Foundation which hosts the event.

The Federation Cup Foundation was started in 1974 to support women's tennis and to provide opportunities for female administrators, coaches and players who have the potential to represent Australia in Federation Cup competition. Its scope has broadened over time to include the provision of opportunities for young players in rural and regional areas to realise their potential in tennis.

This was the eighteenth year of the competition but the first time Adelaide has hosted the event. All previous challenges have been played in Sydney and Melbourne.

The youngsters did very well with their State teams finishing runners up in both sections to Queensland, but having wins over five other States.



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Grenville tennis

NEW COURTS A SMASH HIT

Last November saw the Grenville Tennis Club pay their first completion match on their brand new “home” courts after many years. Their own old courts had become a wetland and unsuitable for competition.

The new courts have also seen new interest from district children. In December a children’s tennis clinic was conducted by Tennis Australia coach **Peter Joyce**. Seventeen kids aged between five and fifteen years took part.

The younger ones worked on ball control, with the older ones practised volleying, serving and other ball and racquet skills.

Weekly lessons will begin at the courts in February. To inquire about enrolling children contact **Hayley Quach** – 0403668 029 or hayleyquach@gmail.com.

A close-up photograph of a woman with long brown hair hugging a young child from behind. The woman has a serious expression, and the child looks directly at the camera with a neutral, somewhat somber face. The background is softly blurred, showing a lamp and a dinosaur figurine.

**FAMILY VIOLENCE
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VICTORIA
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Front page stories of the year

Since its re-birth in April 2015, the new-look *Buninyong Community News* has provided a monthly snapshot of local news, events, personalities and items of interest. On this page are the front pages of the 2016 editions of *The News*, starting off with a feature on the horrendous district fires.



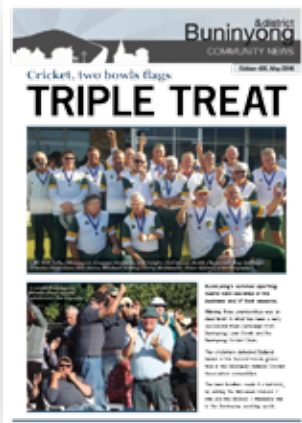
February



March



April



May



June



July



August



September



October



November



December