

100 YEAR AVENUE MARCH

Community groups invited to 1 July celebrations

All Buninyong and district residents, community groups, organisations and schools are asked to keep the morning of Saturday, 1 July clear to enable them to participate in what is likely to be one of Buninyong's biggest community events for many years – the opening of the restored Buninyong Avenue of Honour.

It will be exactly 100 years from that Saturday, 30 June 1917 when the Buninyong community turned out in force to plant the original Avenue of Honour.

For the past three years the Buninyong RSL has been working on a project to restore the township's Avenue of Honour and to install plinths and plaques to remember the 164 men from the

former Shire of Buninyong who were killed in World War I.

Local war dead

The 164 soldiers came from all parts of the old Buninyong Shire. There were 51 from Buninyong, 15 from Warrenheip, 14 from Yendon, 13 from Elaine, 9 from Napoleons and several from each of Scotsburn, Clarendon, Grenville, Navigators, Dunnstown, Durham Lead, Garibaldi and other districts.

On 1 July, subject to funding, it is planned to have contingents from all local groups and schools, together with service personnel, march from the Buninyong Golf Club along the avenue to the Buninyong Town Hall. Bands including the Federation University Pipe Band and the Ballarat Brass Band will be involved.

Each community group will be led by two service cadets



Hard at work fixing the bronze plaques to the concrete plinths (donated by Eureka Concrete) are RSL members (L to R) Andrew Sproule, Bill Akell and Ray Mende. Watching on are Ned Sproule, 6, and brother Jack, 9.

carrying a large Australian flag and a sign with the group name. These will be presented by the RSL to the participating groups or schools at the conclusion of the ceremony.

Town Hall

The general community is invited to be at the Town Hall precinct from about 9.45am to welcome the marchers expected to number some 600-700 persons.

At the Town Hall free 20 page commemorative booklets will be distributed, and the Governor General of Australia has been invited to speak at a brief ceremony scheduled to conclude no later than 11.00am.

More details of the program and activities will be included in a later copy of the Buninyong Community News. But keep that 1 July date free. Groups and schools will be contacted soon.

Funding for this event has been applied for from the *Victoria Remembers Grants* program.



Bowls try out for ladies



Planning the day are (L to R) Pam Hayes, Sandra Chapman and Marie Arthurson

The Buninyong Bowling Club Committee has arranged a social afternoon of bowls on Sunday 5 March in an effort to attract new lady members to the Club.

The social day follows the club's attendance at a recent forum held by the Ballarat & District Bowling Association which discussed ways to attract more women to the sport.

Organiser **Pam Hayes** said that the

5 March program will involve current members inviting one or more friends along to enjoy some instruction, playing a game of bowls and an afternoon tea.

At 1.30 pm newcomers will be paired with bowlers for some basic coaching and practice in holding and delivering the bowl. This will be followed at 2.00pm by an hour-long game with spot prizes awarded for 'touchers' and nearest to the kitty, and overall winners.

In addition to afternoon tea, cold drinks will be available from the bar. All new participants will be presented with a gift bag,

Pam said that the club was a "very friendly place" with bowlers of all levels enjoying both the competitions and social events. She invited any lady interested to call her on 0411 139 150 or **Patti McGregor** on 0407 522 585.



Community seniors enjoy their lunch

Twenty-eight Buninyong and Ballarat senior citizens enjoyed a luncheon held at the *Pig & Goose Restaurant* on 1 February. The lunches are offered at modest cost to seniors because of support from the Council and the State Government.

Shown (R to L) are Vic Bradley, Dan Fletcher, Margaret Fletcher, Dot Lorensini.



Panel tosses out push for bypass

....but objection worthwhile

The Buninyong community suffered a set-back in efforts to get planning started for a village by-pass road when a State Planning Panel recently found that the second stage of the 16 km long Ballarat West Link Road (BWLR) would “not result in unacceptable traffic and amenity impacts on the township of Buninyong.”

The Buninyong & District Community Association’s (BDCA) President **Linda Zibell** and Treasurer and engineer **Robert Elshaug** had appeared before the Government-appointed panel in support of a detailed written submission made by the BDCA.

The BDCA’s basic objection to the Western Link Road was that the plan failed to consider the impact of the BWLR on traffic flow beyond its intersection with the Midland Highway and that it “further increases predicted traffic through Buninyong.”

Heavy Vehicle Diversion

They submitted that the Association’s goal was for “long term strategic planning” to be commenced, and specifically “that Stage 2 of the BWLR should include planning for heavy vehicle diversion and planning for Wimmera/Mallee road links to Geelong Port development and for the

impacts on Ballarat and Buninyong.”

Two other persons, Ms **Debbie Rybicki** and Mr **Wayne Baker** also put written submissions to the Panel proposing that BWLR planning should take account of an “alternative route around Buninyong” because of increased traffic and noise in Buninyong.

The City of Ballarat argued that “any exploration of the need for a bypass for Buninyong should be undertaken separately from the proposed amendment, and as part of long-term strategic planning of the Ballarat road network as required.”

“ *By pass planning to be part of long term strategy* ”

Evidence

Council called expert traffic evidence from a **Mr Gnanakone** from the consultancy firm, Onemilegrid. The Panel reported that he had “reviewed existing traffic volumes on the Midland Highway and determined that the road



Existing land reserve where Link Road will meet the Midland Highway at Magpie.

carried 6,900 vehicles per day (vpd) on the section between Warrenheip Street and Scotchman’s Lead Road”, and that “over the past ten years an annual growth rate of 2.7 per cent has been recorded.”

Curiously the 6900 vpd figure cited by Mr Gnanokone was exactly those compiled four years ago and reported in the *2013 Buninyong Traffic Impact Study*.

The panel reported that it “understood the concerns of the BDCA. However these concerns are not supported by the traffic forecasts presented to the Panel.”

Documented

BDCA President Linda Zibell said that while the Panel’s conclusion was disappointing, the Association believed that, even though making their submission in the context of an amendment to reserve land for the second stage of the BWLR was a “a bit of a longshot,” it was “worthwhile to again raise the community’s concerns about the long-term traffic issue before both Council and the Planning Panel, and to have these concerns formally documented.”

Lots of new preps, teachers.. and a shed for chooks

On 1 February students returned to school at Buninyong Primary school. Seventy new preps and new staff have settled in beautifully. There are six new teachers this year – Miss Georgia Martin, Mrs Sandra Davie, Mrs Anna Anderson, Mrs Michelle Probert, Mrs Kate Kennedy and Miss Eileen Kenny.

Over the summer break, a team of volunteers built a new chook shed, which is soon to be populated with chickens that will be cared for by Grade 3. The vegie garden is in the process of being moved and the Grade 3s are ready to take charge of this as well.

Already parents of preps for 2018 have taken a tour of the school. Other parents interested in doing this should call and book a time.

Prospective families should note that there is a school zone, but this doesn't exclude those who live outside the zone boundary. The zone only comes into play if the year level in question is full. Places were available for all who sought enrolment for 2017. Call and speak to Principal **Bernie Conlan** if you need this explained.

The school's first major event is the Fete on 23 March, 5-8pm. A large crowd is expected and there will be something for everyone.....all welcome.



Grade 3 students Riley McKnight and Maddison James look over the new chook shed.

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Let's see what happens now as Councillors take up challenge

The *Opinion* column in the February issue of the News challenged the three newly-elected South Ward Councillors to back up promises made prior to the election with some action on Buninyong projects that seemingly had been gathering dust over a long period.

To their credit Crs **Hudson, Rinaldi and Taylor** happily agreed to meet with the Community Association's (BDCA) Projects Sub-Committee at the Ballarat Town Hall a few weeks ago to be briefed on the projects and the issues of interest to the BDCA and the community.

The first project discussed was the North End project which aims to upgrade the streetscape of Warrenheip Street between Forest and Eyre Streets. Street vines, paving, work on the nature strip and some stonework are in the plan drawn up by Council in 2016. It's a simple and non-earth-shattering plan. But nothing is happening.

The other major area of concern discussed was Council's inaction on proposed works to both Royal Park and Desoza Park. There's been heaps of consultation,

Looking at plans for the upgrade of Royal Park are (L to R) are Cr Des Hudson, Ian Salathiel (BDCA), Cr Ben Taylor and Cr Jim Rinaldi. BDCA's Barry Fitzgerald was also present at the meeting.



plans drawn, consultants paid and administrative staff time put in but no sign of action.

The three Councillors were asked, and agreed, to work to get short-term administrative action and to fight to ensure that funding for both these projects gets into Council's 2017-18 Budget for which lobbying is about to start.

Other village improvement works that have been stalled included maintenance of the street vines, groundworks clearing of some areas in the Avenue of Honour, and cutting of long grass on some nature strip areas.

At Councillors' request emails concerning such minor works have been sent to them, following their agreement that they would move to get quick action or response from Council staff.

These three Councillors are each experienced and well able to cope with internal Council machinations. The ball is now squarely in their court.



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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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After seven years

Changeover of BDCA secretary



Her prior professional experience had included some ten years as Human Resources Manager for a large international Swedish company, Saab Defence Systems, in Adelaide. Currently Gayle works at Committee for Ballarat in an executive support role.

Key role

Gayle has been a key player in developing the role of the BDCA: in particular its relations with Council, politicians and authorities, preparing many major submissions, addressing compliance requirements, and moves to re-establish the *Buninyong Community News*.

In early 2010 the Buninyong & District Community Association (BDCA) - then the Buninyong Progress Association - was struggling to find someone to act in the key role of Secretary on the retirement of Peter Glover.

President **John Emery** learned that **Gayle Adams**, who with husband **Barry Fitzgerald**, had moved to Buninyong the previous year, had served as honorary Secretary of the Eaglehawk Business Network in that township, 10 km west of Bendigo, and not unlike Buninyong.

Since 2010 she has worked with a succession of BDCA Presidents – **John Emery, Jim Clementson, Ian Salathiel** and **Linda Zibell**.

In the four years that he was President of the Association, Ian Salathiel said that he had developed great respect for the high quality work of Gayle and what she had done for the Buninyong community.

Mr Salathiel said that Gayle's attention to detail, management skills, meeting follow-up and keeping members informed was outstanding. All Presidents have

benefitted from her dedication, loyalty and friendship.

Current BDCA President Linda Zibell said that Gayle "is a powerful intellect, she has her finger on the pulse of appropriate civic action for any local issue faced by an Association such as ours. She has also established a genuinely hospitable and inclusive culture for the Community Association which we hope to maintain."

Active

Commencing in 2017 the role of Secretary has been taken over by long-time resident local **Merle Hathaway**, who has worked for decades as a dedicated community contributor. She has experience in community arts roles and is also involved in local groups relating to the Arts, the Botanic Gardens and support for Ballarat's newest citizens. She has been active in grass-roots action concerning the future of Ballarat's Civic Hall and recently stood as a candidate in the Council elections.

The first BDCA meeting for the year will be held on Thursday 23 February in the Buninyong Town Hall. All interested residents are invited.



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AUTHORISED BY CATHERINE KING, 5 LYDIARD ST NTH BALLARAT 3350

Buninyong's long-serving policeman

PETER'S PERFECT POSTING

If ever there has been a career police officer in Victoria it's certainly Buninyong's Sgt Peter Anderson. After growing up in farming country in the Mallee at Nullawil, some 25 km from Wycheproof, he left school at St Arnaud at age 16 and immediately joined the police force as a cadet in 1979.

Postings followed to Geelong, Russell Street, Ararat, back to Russell Street as a Sergeant, again to Ararat, and then to Ballarat in 1993 where he remained until 2000.

It's now seventeen years since Peter took up his post as Officer in Charge of the Buninyong police station. In that time he has seen a new station built and opened in 2013, and has raised six children in the adjoining historic old police house in Scott Street, Buninyong.

Not police

The careers of the children have clearly not followed that of their father. Two are nurses, one a paramedic, and the others being an artist, a ballet teacher and a student. The youngest, Brittany has just commenced in a position at the Ballarat Hospital after graduating from the Australian Catholic University. Wife Pam is the National Disability Coordination Officer for Western Victoria.

Away from police duties his interests are certainly varied with his spare time being spent between maintaining an interest in his farming roots on a property at

Nullawil, and riding his prized Royal Enfield motorcycle. "I've been riding motorcycles all of my life," Peter said.

"In my younger days I rode competitively in Enduro events in the Ararat and Pyrenees areas, but now confine myself to doing a bit of touring with friends."

The family also enjoys camping and outback touring in their camper van

Perfect

Peter said that Buninyong had been "the perfect police posting" for him and his family. "It has stayed a lovely little town, and the Buninyong community would stand high against any other in Victoria."



"While it is a safe place, we are not immune from issues that affect other parts of Ballarat, and from criminal activity which is often carried out by those not living locally," Sgt Anderson concluded.



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Scotsburn resident Geoff Parker is hard to spot amongst the Pryor's Rd roadside verge hazards.

Scotsburn man calls for Council action on hazards

The “call for action not words” editorial in the February edition of Buninyong & District Community News expressed concern about the lack of progress by Ballarat City Council (BCC) on some projects within the South Ward.

A Scotsburn resident **Geoff Parker** has written to say that “in fact it is not just projects but also routine maintenance of roadside reserves that are a significant cause of frustration for some residents in this area.”

He said that despite multiple commitments made by BCC to complete works on Pryor's Road by the end of December 2016 the promised work has not been undertaken. “These problems relate to the roadside verge of the road just north of the area damaged by the 2015 Scotsburn fire.” He claims that this section has significant hazards, including

- heaps of rocks, and earth created by poor Council road maintenance practices over decades resulting in rabbit harbours, overgrown weed infestations, and an unmanageable reserve;
- trees and branches which have fallen or cut by council contractors.

Cleaning up the road reserve is important for many reasons, not the least being the fire hazards created. “We may at any time suffer a repeat of the last Scotsburn fire,” he said.

Inspection

Geoff Parker said that in September 2016, during an onsite inspection of this section of Pryors Road, two senior BCC staff committed to have remedial work carried out. The commitment included spraying weeds; arranging for a contractor to clean up, and to woodchip the timber and brush.

While Council's contractors did remove wood from roadsides nearby during October 2016, for unexplained reasons they failed to undertake other work, leaving the long-standing hazards about which Council has been informed as far back as 2010.

Not effective

He said that, when approached, each of the South Ward Councilors indicated enthusiastically that they would take some action. “Whatever actions they took have evidently not been effective, which is surprising after being given a copy of BCC written commitment and a history of the events.”

Geoff Parker said that living in a rural farming environment area should not mean that we deserve to live in an unmaintained, hazardous area.

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Projects on the go at Uniting church



Members of the Uniting Church Property Committee, Bob Whitten (left) and Bob Skewes with the now-protected stained glass window behind.

One of Buninyong's landmark churches, the Uniting Church in Learmonth Street, is about to undergo a series of restoration and improvement projects.

Originally, the Presbyterian Church, it was built of brick in 1860, replacing an earlier kirk further up the hill. Its first Minister was the renowned Rev **Thomas Hastie** who served as minister at the church from 1847 to 1888. His long service is commemorated by a magnificent stained glass window on the church's western wall. The Presbyterian Church became the Uniting Church in 1977.

Interior work

Property Committee member **Bob Skewes** said that the planned work on the interior of the church was becoming quite urgent. "Although we have tackled the problem of rising damp in the bluestone base of the church, the interior plaster has been affected by it over the years and some walls need attention," he said.

He said that a number of other changes to the interior of the church were planned

including work on the entry area, removal of timber screen walls at the rear of the church to allow for upgraded heating, and renovation of the sound desk.

Funding for these works is being sought from the Uniting Church Property Trust.

New fence

A major external project, to be funded by local bequests will involve the construction of a new fence along the Inglis and Scott Street boundaries of the property. The fence, of wire and concrete posts, will be modelled on the boundary fence of the nearby Botanic Gardens – a fence that long-term resident Bob Skewes said has been there for "as long as I can remember."

The projected cost of these projects is some \$100,000.

Two other vital projects that have been completed at the church in recent times have been the restoration of the steeple (2010), and the installation of safety glass to the exterior of the north-facing stained glass windows to eliminate damage by wind and stones.

streettalk

POPULAR LOCAL 'lolly-pop man, Ross, recently was bowled over at the Children's Crossing on Learmonth Street. Seems the he won't be back at his spot near Inglis Street for at least six to eight weeks.

STRANGE ILLNESSES around the district. **Wendy Kirby** (Pig & Goose) recently had a badly ulcerated lower leg... felt really unwell across a couple of weeks...saw doctors... took pills. Until finally one medico looked under the nasty flesh wound on her shin, to find two little holes in the bone. Apparently a dry snake bite (where the snake had recently bitten something else, and then had a crack at Wendy after most of its venom had been dispensed elsewhere). Rubber boots in the garden now.

FOLLOWING THE NEWS that the CFA is now "negotiating" for a new central site for the Buninyong fire brigade, the guessing game as to its location has started around town. Despite the lack of leaks from informed sources, *Street Talk's* tip is either land very near the Crown Hotel, or a corner site on Warrenheip Street.

CONFUSION. After checking with VicRoads, local police had advised that it is not illegal to turn into a business or private driveway (as distinct from a U turn) across the painted pedestrian refuge lines in Warrenheip Street. Word is it that the Highway Patrol boys, parked in the hotel car park, were busy recently pinging or warning motorists who turned into the BP servo. Seems to have been cleared up that it is OK to do this. But look out – police are now booking illegal U-turners across the lines in Warrenheip Street.

INCIDENTALLY, CALL THE POLICE if you see any suspicious characters around who are unusually attractive and are carrying a cash register. Local beauty stores Yellow Rose and Buninyong Hair & Beauty have been broken into recently. Strange targets!

PATRICK LOVED HIS VILLAGE



The death on 3 February of Pat Hope at age 79, meant Buninyong lost another of its long-standing and active community members.

For some forty-four years Patrick Hope lived at his Cathcart Street property at Bowen Hill just east of the golf course. On it he had established the small Bowen Hill Vineyard which was his refuge after his work as a senior academic at the local University.

He had arrived with his family from England as a thirteen year old in 1950. Schooled at Sunshine Technical School, his early work included being a telegraph boy, a clerk at ICI and then teaching.

He then joined SMB's Business Studies Department and moved to the Mt Helen Campus

in 1972. For 27 years he stayed there finishing his career as Head of the School of Business at the-then University of Ballarat.

Community

Locally he was active in the Historical Society, the Town Hall Committee, the Men's Shed, and in establishing the Goldfields (walking) Track. Pat was a long-term member of the Regional Tourism

Board and for his services with that Board he was awarded an OAM in 2006.

Along with other residents Pat was instrumental in getting Council to preserve the tract of bushland now known as the Cathcart Street Reserve. He also enjoyed being a member of the Sing Australia Choir.

Around 2006 he was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease. While that condition severely curtailed his walking, he continued to cycle, and in his latter years could be seen around Buninyong determinedly pushing his walking frame.

After selling the Bowen Hill property several years ago, Patrick and wife **Pat** lived in central Buninyong before he moved to Nazareth House in 2016.

He was described by a former University colleague as "tenacious, with amazing endurance, and a 'sharp as a tack' mind. Buninyong will miss him but not forget him.

A longer profile of Patrick Hope appeared in the November 2016 edition of the *Community News*.



Buninyong

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Medico starts up cosmetic clinic

Late last year Buninyong’s range of health facilities expanded with the establishment of the Ballarat Cosmetic Clinic. It was initially-based in rooms at the Village Place, Learmonth Street. However, because of the coming change in the use of this building to a child care centre, the clinic has now moved to Warrenheip Street.

Under the direction of experienced medical practitioner Dr **Mohammed Al Naima**, 40, the clinic offers anti-ageing solutions, particularly minor facial procedures including fillers.

Dr Mohammed graduated in 2000 with a Medicine/Surgical Procedures degree from the University of Mosul Iraq. This six year degree was followed by a two year internship, and then specialised training in emergency medicine.

To Australia

After working in Dubai for five years, the family migrated to Australia in 2010 as

it was seen as “a peaceful place to raise our children”.

Between 2011 and 2014 Mohammed undertook emergency medicine training at the Ballarat Health Services and received full Australian accreditation by the Australian College of Emergency Physicians. He is now working as a rural GP in Skipton and also visits Epworth Hospital, Geelong. Along with his GP and emergency work, he has a special interest in skin lesions and procedures.

Dr Mohammed said that he works “to enhance - not change - the client’s original features and dimensions.” Clients are asked to bring along a photograph of themselves from five to ten years ago which he uses as a model for his work.

Consultation

Dr Mohammed offers a free, no-obligation, confidential 30 minutes initial consultation at the clinic’s new location at 401A Warrenheip Street, Buninyong in a private consultation and procedures

room at the premises of the *Buninyong Hair and Beauty*.

Away from his medical practice he enjoys camping and fishing with his three sons aged 7, 5 and 4 who are students at Ballarat and Clarendon College. His wife **Huda** is studying Health Sciences at Federation University. The family has enjoyed living locally in Ballarat for the past six years.



Leave early

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Foodworks solar install pays off

The extensive roofing area of the Foodworks Supermarket in Learmonth Street now is home to Buninyong's largest solar system.

The system was commissioned in December 2016 and consists of 220 panels of 315 watts. A Ballarat company, *Smart Options*, installed the system. The company also installed a large system at Ballarat Holden.

Store owners **Trevor** and **Alison Rickard** said that they estimated that with the massive power bills involved in operating the supermarket that a large solar system, over a five year period, would be a sound financial investment. It is also wired to enable future hook-up to a battery storage system which would offer back-up in the case of power outages.

Problem

Trevor Rickard said that "power outages cause both significant disruption and cost to a business having the amount of refrigerated goods that we carry."

"We had hopes that the new Powercor battery at Durham Lead might provide us some certainty of back-up power supply, but this seems yet to be demonstrated," he said.

He said that the best solar power production to date was 516 kw on 16 December. This equates to about eight hours of the store's daily electricity use. The rate of electricity production can be monitored by a computer read-out in the office.

Power generated for January was 11600kw, which equates to planting 210 trees or lighting the Eiffel Tower for about 60 hours.



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2016 election disappointment... but Peter Innes

MOVES ON WITH PRIDE

One of the oldest and best-known district families is the Innes family who have been around Buninyong since the 1850s. Given the twelve years he put in as a Councillor for the old Shire of Buninyong and the City of Ballarat, Peter Innes is well-known to many in the district today.

Other family members also served terms on the local Council. Peter's great, great, grandfather, **George Innes** served for many years on Buninyong's first Council, and his cousin **Alan Bath**, also served on the Council.

Buninyong links were broken for a time from 1949 when Peter's father **John (Jack) Innes**, a World War II veteran, and new wife **Leila** headed for Moe to find work with the State Electricity Commission. Peter was born in Yallourn the following year.

Teacher and 'Nasho'

In 1968 Peter headed off to Geelong Teachers' College to be trained as primary school teacher. At the age of 19 he was appointed Head Teacher at Wombellano Primary School (near Harrow).

In 1971 he was drafted into National Service, ending up in the Artillery. An imminent posting to Vietnam was aborted when Prime Minister **Gough Whitlam** stopped Australia's involvement there.

Married in 1973 to **Julie** (Radford) from Moe, where Peter's parents then had a fruit shop, Peter worked at the Morwell Special Education unit for three years whilst continuing University studies.

Out and back

Following postings at Culgoa, Sebastopol and a ten year stint at Buninyong, Peter took a package in 1994 and he and Julie then ran the Buninyong Newsagency for some six years - times Peter described as "tough."

In 2000 he returned to a teaching role at Creswick North Primary School. Then in 2006 he became involved the *Link Up Program*, designed to "re-engage kids who couldn't cope with school."

From this Peter developed a special program for Young Mums, now attached



to the Yuille Park Community College, and which now operates from a house in Delacombe. Currently 35 young mothers are a part of the program.

Local Government

Peter has always had a passion for his community. This led to his standing for and being elected to the Council of the Shire of Buninyong in 1992. Peter was Buninyong's last Shire President, as Premier Kennett amalgamated Councils in 1994.

He continued serving as a Councillor for the City of Ballarat between 2002 and 2008 and again between 2012 and 2016. Amongst matters that give him most satisfaction, he listed the development of Buninyong's "superb recreation precinct" including the saving of the swimming pool.

"I now have a concern where noisy minorities think that they can and should speak for the majority of citizens." He is also concerned at the impact of social media "which can result in popularity becoming the key measure for judging issues and candidates," he said.

Peter is now reassessing his "priorities" and other than getting his golf handicap down, plans to travel with Julie especially to Darwin in March, for the birth of their third grandchild.

Buninyong Kyokushinkaikan

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Russell steps down after six years of marmalade

Some 120 entries from all over Australia faced the judges at the 2017 Buninyong Marvellous Marmalade Fair with the Best in Show Prize going to an entry from Janet Macdonald from Hampton East. The Fair was held in the Buninyong Town Hall in late January.

This year judges were the CWA's **Ann Marston** and local CWA member **Lyn Fleming**.

The event was opened by its Patron **Lady Potter** who spoke in support of the Australian citrus industry facing cheap imports. Ballarat Mayor **Samantha McIntosh** also spoke on the need to support and protect such industries in rural areas.

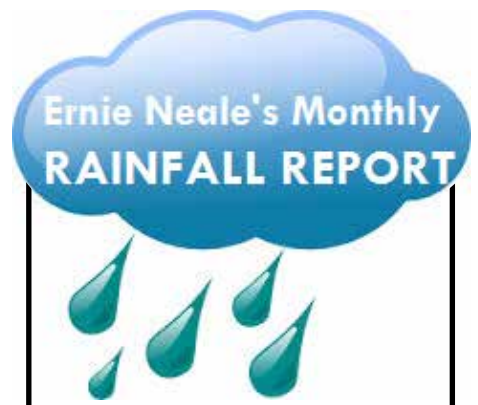
Locals who were among the prize winners were **June Henderson, Jill Salathiel, Rose O'Meara, and Russell Luckock**. Russell who has led and organised the event since its inception some six years ago, announced that he "is standing down from Buninyong Marmalade" after this year's event.

Over \$900 was raised from entry fees and was presented to the Ballarat Hospice organisation. This brings the total raised over the six years of the event to almost \$6000.

An Australian XI (twelve jars of prize-winning marmalades) was chosen to represent the country at the International Awards in Cumbria, UK, later this month.



Marmalade Fair Patron Lady Primrose Potter warned of the dangers to the Australian citrus industry



Average start to the year

The New Year has started deceptively as far as our weather is concerned. Rainfall for January was a near average 33.1 mm and conditions were mild with no days over 40° and no hot northerly winds. Fruit and grape crops ripened slowly and our blueberries came in almost a month later than usual.

Despite the benign conditions the fuel load from the wet Spring is substantial – hopefully the rest of Summer and early Autumn will remain mild enough to keep the risk of fire down.

Difference

The annual rainfall review published in February's edition of the News sparked some interest from others who watch the weather. We're located about halfway between central Buninyong and the Mount, and for several months of 2016 recorded less rain than that measured on a rain gauge located near the northern entrance to Buninyong.

We'll keep an eye on both gauges this year and let you know when any disparities happen. Meanwhile, enjoy our beautiful Summer skies.

JANUARY 2017			
Date	Rain	Date	Rain
3	1.0	20	20.0
13	2.0	24	1.9
14	7.7	31	0.5
TOTAL		33.1 mm	
Year to date		33.1 mm	



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Men's Shed is kicking goals

It has been a busy two years for the Buninyong Men's Shed since it officially opened on 13 June 2016, helped by some financial support from the local Council and the Bendigo Community Bank.

While some members bring their own projects, such is the Club's reputation for good work that many outside orders have been filled for chairs, toys, planter boxes, nesting boxes, boot racks, towel rails - all made for a nominal cost.

They have made bar tables for the Sebastopol Bowling Club and have been asked to make four for Midlands Golf Club. Currently they are making two park benches - one for Union Jack Reserve and one for a local walking track.

Welder

Now having purchased a welder they are making goal posts for the Junior soccer field here in Buninyong. Sometimes the

Club makes items to sell at Market and Fair Days.

However, it is not all work and tools. On the third Wednesday of each month the workshop is closed for the day and members just come and enjoy a light lunch, socialize, have a game of chess, cards and so on. There are also 'special' days set aside for talks on health, nutrition, diabetes, or for hearing and blood pressure checks.

The Club, which is located in Forest Street just up from Inglis Street (on the platform of the old Buninyong Railway Station), meets every Tuesday and Wednesday



Another Men's Shed project being completed by Bill Jolly.

from 9.00am until about 3.00pm.

Any men interested in joining or finding out more about the Men's should contact President **Bill Jolly** on 0414 717 507.

Cassandra Carland

THERE'S NOTHING GOOD ABOUT DADS WHO ABUSE WOMEN.

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For help, or someone to talk to, go to vic.gov.au/familyviolencesupport

VICTORIA
State Government



Free Field Day on soils and pasture

The Leigh Catchment Group and Agriculture Victoria will be hosting a soil & pasture field day for small landholders. The field day will focus on how to manage soils and pastures on your property after they have been affected by fire.

It will provide participants the opportunity to think about pasture management and the impact of their decisions have on productivity, natural resource management and existing farm management.

The day will include:

- Guest Speakers
- Pasture management after fire
- Understanding your soil type
- Soil type and pasture constraints
- Analysis of soil test results
- Investigating the structure of soil
- Pasture redevelopment

The free event will be held at 2 Gordon Alfred Lane, Scotsburn (off Pryors Road), between 2:00pm – 4:00pm, on Friday 10 March 2017. For further information contact **Nick McKinley** from the Leigh Catchment Group on 0455 147 398.

Fruit sale raises charity dollars

Charity programs of Sturt Buninyong Masonic Committee received a welcome boost from their annual fruit sale of 2400kg of Goulburn Valley fruit last month.

Again the demand outstripped supply despite extra fruit being delivered. Project co-ordinator **Ron Fleming** said that the increased demand resulted from local apricot trees suffering wind and rain damage at flowering time



Gaming Nations Unite Members Trent Ryall, Nick O'Meara receive their cheque from SBU Masonic members Ken Jenkin and Alan Glasson.

thus reducing their harvest.

The first \$1000 was presented to Gaming Nations Unite (GNU), a group of three young Ballarat men who want to improve the public perception of video gaming.

Their project is to initially install five Xbox One consoles loaded with Minecraft to Ballarat Health Services Base Hospital children's ward.

Later upgrades will include access to TV, music and further games that have no violent content.

GNU's **Nick O'Meara** said that up to four children can play on a console and this assists in overcoming the isolation of hospital stays.

BUNINYONG NEWSAGENCY
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Coming Events

Sunday 26 February,
 Building and Living Expo and Village Market
 10.00am-3.30pm, Royal Park

Sunday 5 March
 Ladies bowls try-out afternoon.
 Buninyong Bowling Club.
 1.30pm

Friday 10 March
 Soil and Pasture Workshop.
 Leigh Catchment. 2 Gordon Alfred Lane (off Pryors Rd) Scotsburn.
 2.00pm-4.00pm

Thursday 23 March
 Buninyong Primary School Fete.
 5.00-8.00pm

Sunday 26 March
 Buninyong Village Market,
 Town Hall Precinct.
 9.00am-1.00pm

Sunday 30 April
 Ballarat Steiner School, Kindergarten and Playgroup. Annual Autumn Fete and Open Day. Moss Avenue.
 10.00am-3.00pm

Saturday 1 July
 Community March along Avenue of Honour. Golf Club Car Park.
 9.00am



A tempest hits the gardens

A balmy evening, a brilliant setting, a curious and appreciative audience, a cast of about twenty actors of all ages, excellent direction, and natural and colourful sets, all made for a great first night for the Buninyong's Theatre in the Gardens show, Shakespeare's The Tempest.

With a mix of both experienced and talented youthful actors (several being Drama graduates from Federation University), and a bevy of a dozen or so tiny pink-clad sprites all being led around the gardens by the energetic Queen of Sprites, the production was deemed a great success by the audience of about 100 people of all ages.

Moving

The audience moved with the actors through the settings for the three Acts of the edited 90 minute play. The

historic Queen Victoria rotunda was the setting for Act I, the natural lakeside amphitheatre had a picnic atmosphere for the second act, and then the play (and audience) moved to the walled garden (the old swimming pool) for the final act. Novel, but very effective.

The production was an initiative of Arts Buninyong and **Sue Pilbeam's** Shakespeare Group, with the assistance of the Friends of the Botanic Gardens and the Buninyong Primary School. It is hoped that the current season of eight performances will lead to an annual event in the beautiful setting of the Botanic Gardens.

One of the organisers, **Micheal Ford** said that "feedback from the audience and a couple of Melbourne critics was excellent. Things look good for this to be on again next year."



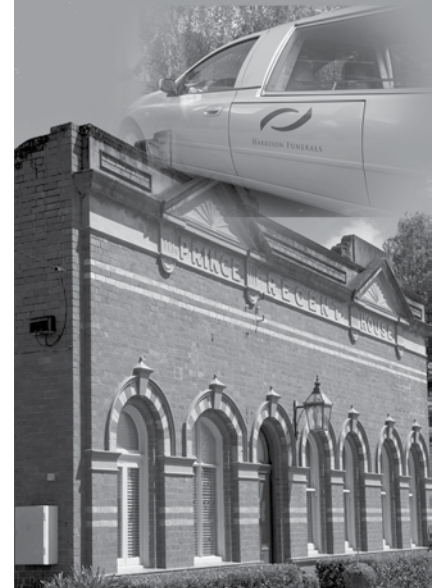
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FOODWORKS
Buninyong

Elaine cricket reborn again

After a twelve year break, in 2012 Elaine Cricket Club entered a team in Division 5 of the Ballarat Cricket Association. They won the premiership and backed it up the following season with another. After missing out in 2014-2015 they were back on the winning list in 2015-2016 making it three senior premierships in four seasons.

One could be excused for thinking that this would be the catalyst for continued success and a strong club base for the future. Unfortunately, this hasn't happened as the departure of a large number of 'imported' players over the last two years has resulted in Elaine dropping out of the competition in this current season after only eight games.

Rebuild

These circumstances would set most clubs back but President **Shane Dunne** and a small group of parents and supporters have turned this into a positive. Shane and his dedicated support group have decided to concentrate on rebuilding the Elaine Cricket Club through its juniors.

Three years ago Shane ran a *Milo Junior* program and soon had 30 budding cricketers turning up to play. Many of these boys are representing Elaine today in the Under 14 First XI and Under 13 competitions.

Many say that the strength of a club can be determined by the strength of its junior

program. Shane says, "our aim is to provide an environment that will support our local children".

Upgrade

Work is currently taking place to upgrade clubroom facilities. Trees have been planted

around the ground. Seed has been sown and tanks have been installed with the aim of providing a top playing surface for future Elaine Cricket Club teams. Team mums provide an after-practice meal for the boys on Thursday nights. The meals are a big hit and give the boys another opportunity to bond as a team.

Highlight

The U14s are currently fourth on the ladder and are quietly confident that a finals campaign is ahead. **Nicholas Pantzidis**, **Seamus Dunn** and **Angus Hogarth** are starring with the bat. A recent club highlight was the hat-trick taken by young medium pacer **Luke Inglis**.

The U13s have not managed to chalk up a victory but the enthusiasm is there and the experience will be invaluable for this very young side. **Rory Ludeman** and **James Parkinson** are their best performers.

Ray Sullivan



Luke Inglis proudly holds the hat-trick ball.



Julie Pantzidis and Bec Curran serve young cricketer Ryan Lyons his meal of lasagne and chips.

Ray Sullivan's SPORTS NEWS

Hat Trick

Young Elaine U14 First XI cricketer **Luke Inglis** took a hat-trick against North Ballarat in a recent Saturday morning match. Luke took wickets with the last two balls of one over and had to wait before he got the chance to complete his hat-trick with another wicket off the first ball of his next over. Luke's team mates **Nicholas Pantzidis** and **Seamus Dunne** both scored 50s in the recent match against Golden Point to keep their team in finals contention with two rounds to play.

Medal Deciders

The December and January monthly medals have finally been decided at the Buninyong Golf Club. **Stuart Dyer** defeated **Gordon Eason** to win the December medal and **Greg Pugh** defeated **Chris Tatt** to take out the January medal. The February medal was won by 'C' Grader **Ray Nottle** with a 65 nett.

Ladder Leaders

With two rounds to go the Buninyong Cricket Club remain in top place on the BCA Second XI ladder. **Joel Kitchen** scored 125 in the last round taking him to 350 runs for the season. **Michael Flynn** is not far behind him with 312 runs. Not to be outdone, Buninyong 4th Grade batsman, **S Watson** also scored a century (102 not out) in the last round.

Still no joy

The Premier League lawn bowls competition is still proving to be too hot for the Buninyong team. With only a handful of games to go, including matches against the top two teams in the competition it will be a huge task for the team to finish off the season with a win.

In contrast, the Buninyong mid-week team have relished their promotion to Division 1 after last year's Division 2 premiership and are on track to play in the finals in their first year in the top division.

The Kelly Gang hits in Scotsburn



A new teacher at the Scotsburn campus in 2017 is Ms Kelly Geddes who will be teaching the grades 4-6 class. Kelly is shown (opposite) with some of the excited youngsters from her grade.

Ms Geddes came to the campus after considerable experience teaching these grades at the Buninyong site of the school.

Even more excited were the eleven pupils who started school this year in the Preparatory Grade. They all are settling in well under the guidance of Miss **Rebecca Wood**, learning lots of new things in the classroom, making cubby huts and running around the school yard, and developing new friendships.

ADVERTISEMENT



GEOFF HOWARD MP

STATE MEMBER FOR BUNINYONG

15 MAIN ROAD BALLARAT PH: 5331 7722

I'll be hosting a community BBQ and mobile office at the Buninyong Mens Shed on Wednesday 15th March from 12:00pm

Please come along and have a snag and a chat about any state government matters or issues that are important to you.



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

This advertisement is funded from Parliament's Electorate Office and Communications Budget

Historic Netherby Landmark tree now lives again

One of Buninyong's gracious homes, erected in the early 1860s, is Netherby, on the corner of Scott and Warrenheip Streets. It was the residence of Dr Richard Sparling probably built using stone from Mother Jamieson's Buninyong Hotel.

Later it became the residence of Frank Graham who operated the tannery, and of the Howard family who owned the box factory. From 1936 William Brown ran cows behind the house and sold milk to locals. Well-known local identities Derick and Shirley Leather lived on the property from 1973 to 2012.

In 2013 it was purchased by Miranda and Andrew Donald who commenced renovations of the old property.

Garden

One of the features of the home is the beautiful Victorian garden laid out in the nineteenth century. Central to this garden

was a huge bunya bunya pine thought to be planted in the late 1860s.

Unfortunately over the years, the tree was attacked by corellas causing serious die-back of the upper sections and eventually killing the tree.

Faced with the decision to remove the 150 year old tree which had become dangerous, Miranda and Andrew decided to retain some of the timber from the tree and have it made into a dining table to be used in the historic home.



Above-Tony Coxall starts to work on the dead tree.



The massive trunk of the tree .

After Tony Coxall had cut the tree down, they stored large sections from the trunk in a shed at their Durham Lead property which was narrowly missed by the 2015 bushfires.

Uses

The Donalds then began to enquire as to what the wood could be used for. Much of it went to Cole Clark Guitars in Melbourne where it is used for soundboards in acoustic guitars. Some has gone to the Ballarat Woodworkers Guild to make toys and small items.

Once the Donalds had decided that they wanted some of the timber to be retained in Netherby itself, they worked with Laurie Crimeen who, over a twelve month period, dried slabs of the timber to make a beautiful dining table.

Miranda Donald said, "It feels so right to have timber from the tree living on in the kitchen of this historic property."

A smaller bunya bunya pine tree, self-sown from seed of the original tree, now grows on the northern edge of the Netherby garden.



Son Alby Donald, together with grandchildren Sydney and Walter Orwin seated at the magnificent timber table made from the tree.