



CROWDS FLOCK TO SCHOOL'S FUN DAY

There was 'all the fun of the fair' at the Buninyong Primary School on a balmy evening in late March, when many hundreds of visitors and children packed the school grounds for the annual Fete.

Parents and grandparents were out in force being dragged along by eager and wide-eyed children.

In the school's packed courtyard, young buskers entertained the crowd, while there were eats ranging from dumplings, dim sims, pancakes, jam donuts and hotdogs to sushi. In the lower playground areas there were rides galore, the CFA in action, the Men's Shed with things to stick or nail together, the ever-popular dunking-machine on which hapless students sat waiting for the inevitable to

happen, and more eats from the Lions Club BBQ.

Many classrooms had displays, items for sale and activities happening. The 'Japanese Shop' did brisk business.

School principal **Bernie Conlan** said the day had been "a fantastic success" with over \$15,000 being made for school projects such as upgrade of student facilities including toilets. "Volunteer parents and teachers put in an amazing effort," he said.

This year the school had come to an arrangement with some private ride operators. This resulted in the greatly expanded variety of rides and play activities down near the school oval.



All happy with their new faces (L to R) Bonnie Todd, Ella Smyth, and Zia Smyth.

HOPPING SUCCESS

Easter egg hunt in the Gardens

Buninyong's annual Good Life Easter Egg Hunt was a hopping success with more than 400 children trying their luck – and not one leaving with an empty basket.

The hunt took place on 15 April in the Buninyong Botanical Gardens, with a gold coin donation from each hunter raising funds for the *Good Life Festival* this October.

Children searched for plastic eggs, which could be redeemed for five chocolate eggs per child.

Second time

Good Life Committee member and hunt organiser **Lisa Cressey** said this was the second year for the event in the gardens, which was moved and expanded from its previous home at the RSL Park.

"We said let's do it in the gardens because we have beautiful gardens," she said.

The number of children doubled from last year when there were 200 hunters.

Ms Cressey said last year they planned for 100 children but had more than 200 so some left without treasures, and they wanted to ensure everyone left with chocolate this year.

Good Life Committee member **Indrani Wells** said they were conscious of no-one missing out and were "throwing plastic eggs back out" on the grass to keep the

hunt going for longer and they were also sharing leftover eggs with families.

Fun

New Buninyong resident Amy, who brought along her daughters Peyton 5, and Harper 3, said the event was "lots of fun."

The event, which lasted from 10.30am to 1.30pm also included a performance from the Earl Leonard Kids Show and the Ballarat Ukulele Group, and it included a face-painter, sausage sizzle, coffee, and traditional games for kids.

Prizes were funded through a City of Ballarat Community Impact Grant and organiser Lisa Cressey also donated Easter items from her Buninyong store Celebrate.



Matilda, 3, of Ballarat dressed up for the day



A happy day for Harper, 3, and Peyton, 5, of Buninyong

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Upgrade plans compromised by Mess in Main Street

With their stubborn refusal to move the massive bus stop near Forest Street and now with the laying of 55m² of concrete on the nature strip, State Government bureaucrats and politicians have combined to make a mess of the Warrenheip Street North streetscape.

While there was a form of political compromise with the community over the installation of traffic lights, numerous submissions over almost two years about the bus stop relocation have been ignored.

There was no consultation or advice given about the arrival of the huge pad of concrete now in place near the Pig & Goose restaurant. It takes up the entire nature strip in front of the cottage owned by **Klaudia Hochhurth**.

Eyesore

No one seems ready to take responsibility for this eyesore. But the bureaucrats of Public Transport Victoria (PTV), VicRoads, and local politicians seem likely candidates.

On 2 June 2015, a broadly-based meeting involving many community groups, a Councillor, VicRoads and including **Geoff Howard** MLA was held to discuss this area of the village. This meeting stressed the need for an integrated approach to several proposed projects for the business strip including the pedestrian crossing and upgrade works to the pavement and nature strip in the area.

Plans drawn

In 2016, based on a submission from the BDCA, Council had a plan drawn up which included an extension of the street vines, nature strip levelling, pavement and kerbing improvement and extending paved areas outside of the coffee shop and pizza restaurant. This was roundly applauded by local residents and business people.

Since then BDCA lobbying for Council funding for this project has been continuing with hopes for a budget provision for at least some of the works in 2017-2018.



Distressed cottage resident Klaudia Hochhurth chats with Alan Marini of The Miner about the damage done to the nature strip while (background) BDCA Secretary Merle Hathaway discusses the problem with Joshua Morris MLC and BDCA Treasurer Robert Elshaug.

Now this massive slab of concrete is in place, having no relationship with anything it seems other than the very few passengers who catch the bus to Geelong, and the occasional passenger from Ballarat alighting there. There are alternative bus stops within 200m in either direction.



The concrete truck arrives three days later on 10 April

After being alerted by the BDCA when the excavation was started, enquiries were made of Council and Councillors. But this only resulted in finger-pointing in other directions, and a 'don't blame us!' response.

It is not difficult to imagine what an outcry there would be at City Hall if PTV/ VicRoads decided to lay a concrete 'launch pad' in the nature strip in Sturt Street.

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Happy anniversary Buninyong Film Festival

25 YEARS OF FINE FILMS

The 2017 Buninyong film festival will mark twenty five years since it commenced in 1982 - and again it's promising a lot of fun for all. It will run on Friday 26 and Saturday 27 May.

The Friday night starts at 7.00pm with mulled wine on arrival, followed by a screening of the Academy Award-nominated film *Tanna*. Following the screening, one of the directors, **Bentley Dean**, will conduct a Q&A with the audience. Bentley spent six months living and working on the film in Vanuatu and has many great stories to tell.

After supper, the late night session at 9.45pm will feature the Brazilian film *Neon Bull* which won a *Special Jury Prize* at the Venice Film Festival.

On Saturday

Saturday will start at 9.00am with the Academy Award-winning Iranian film *The Salesman*, followed by a beguiling Romanian film *Cinema Mon Amour*.

A special feature of this year's festival is a gold coin entry to the 2.15pm session on Saturday afternoon with the proceeds going to a youth-oriented charity. With popcorn and mini choc-tops on sale, the Australian film *Girl Asleep* will appeal to a younger audience.

PROGRAM

Friday, 26 May

- 7.00pm *Tanna*. Australia/Vanuatu, 2016, 15+, 104 mins
- 9.45pm *Neon Bull*. Brazil, 2015, 18+

Saturday 27 May

- 9.00am *The Salesman*. Iran, 2017, 15+, 123 mins
- 11.45am *Cinema Mon Amour*. Romania/Czech Republic, 2015, 15+, 70 mins
- 2.15pm *Girl Asleep*. Australia, 2015, 10+, 77 mins
- 4.00pm *The Clan*. Argentina, 2015, 15+, 108 mins
- 8.00pm *The Death and Life of Otto Bloom*. Australia, 2016, 15+, 85 mins



Co-director of *Tanna*, Bentley Dean, works with actors Marie Wawa and Mungau Dain.

The slick Argentinian thriller *The Clan* will screen next. After dinner, the featured film, at 8.00pm will be the recent Australian film *The Death and Life of Otto Bloom*.

Food too

Audiences will be well fed between sessions with a free supper on the Friday night, yummy lunch on Saturday catered by the Steiner School, and a sumptuous festival dinner on Saturday night at *Pig and Goose*.

There will be door prizes and a film quiz, and this year a spectacular birthday cake. Silver will be the theme to celebrate the 25th anniversary. Come dressed in silver if you dare!

Throughout its 25 years the festival has featured African drummers, a legendary Motown trumpeter, delectable Indian and African dinners, classic silent films with live piano and sound effects, dancing in the aisles to live music, Vox singers, student film competitions, terrific guest speakers, lively Q&A sessions, and some minor mishaps.

Joan finishes

This wonderful community event has continued for 25 years through a dedicated committee and interest from local film enthusiasts, supported by many local businesses and community groups. Long-standing President **Joan Goldsmith** will step down from her role this year.

Bookings and more detailed information is available at the film festival's website- www.buninyong.vic.au/filmfestival.

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Barkingly simple solution to dog exercise problem

One of the attractions of living in Buninyong, apart from its superb village character, is its diversity of people, life styles, shopping, and sport and recreation opportunities for young and old.

Most sports are very well catered for. There are plenty of clubs and groups for those with interests ranging from charity work to yoga, from walking to making marmalade.

But one group that has been badly done by with all the grants and other forms of Council funding that flows into the village from time to time, is the Buninyong dog-walking community.

Lovely

Sure, it's lovely walking dogs on a leash through Buninyong's parks and gardens and along leafy streets, but dog owners and particularly the dogs, look forward to an occasional off-leash exercise run which currently is not possible in the general village area.

There was a flicker of recognition of the need for a dog-off-leash area in one of the original Master Plans for Desoza Park. But, apart from an occasional dribble of money to improve a walking track or plant a tree in there, those plans seem to be going nowhere at present.

Also, the dog-run area shown in those plans – at the western end of the park – while quite generous in space, has no fencing and borders the Midland Highway!

Advice from Council is that there is one designated area in Buninyong – at Birdwood Park half way up the Mt Buninyong Hill. That's great if you live up there, but for most it involves a ride in a car. Lovely area, a long way away and also not fenced.

Numbers

The call for a designated, fenced, off-lead area for local dogs is not being made by a few residents. In 2017 there are 1,624 dogs registered in Buninyong. Even taking account of concessional registrations local dog-owners would seem to tip some \$50,000 or more into Council coffers.

If, as has been reported, "there's no money there at present" there are two inexpensive solutions proposed. The first is for James Reserve to be designated an off-lead area. This area on the banks of the Union Jack Creek is relatively isolated, self-contained and away from roads. The other option would be to designate some specific times when dogs could be off-lead in Desoza Park.

The James Reserve solution makes sense on several fronts. Local Councillors are urged to get out there to have a look, and then convince the City's bureaucrats to move to make a cost-free decision so that the thousand or so Buninyong residents who dutifully pay their annual 'dog fees' can enjoy letting their pets have an occasional run.

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.

The views expressed or information provided in this publication are not necessarily those of the Buninyong and District Community Association, the City of Ballarat or of the Buninyong Community Bank, including any officers, members, agents or contractors.

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www.buninyong.vic.au/news/newsletters

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

BUSY WITH LOCAL ISSUES

President invites residents to come to BDCA meeting

The first two meetings of the Buninyong and District Community Association (BDCA) for 2017 were held on 24 February and on 27 April. Many friendly people, amongst them several new faces, came together to discuss issues about keeping Buninyong beautiful and a great place to live.

New residents and younger people will be especially welcome. I promise you we're an enthusiastic and committed bunch.

Now in my second year as President of the Association; I'd like to point to some of our current concerns to give an idea of what you could get your teeth into locally.

Truck by-pass

Come help us continue to stir and lobby VicRoads and the City of Ballarat and local politicians to start strategic planning considerations for an alternative heavy vehicle route around Buninyong. We've examined state government, Geelong Ports and local Ballarat policy documents that show intent to increase truck traffic to and from Geelong.

At present trucks moving between southeast and northern Victoria all must negotiate Buninyong's main roundabout. Coincidentally it's also the only full time pedestrian crossing point of the Midland Highway in our village. We'll be intensifying our efforts in the lead-up to the next state election.

Town plan

Another current BDCA activity involves the preparation of a response to

the Buninyong Township Plan. In September this year a formal process will be set up by Council's strategic planning department to find out what matters to local residents and to plan for coming decades. How can we keep Buninyong beautiful and still accommodate pressures for change and residential growth?

Would you like to help us shape our thoughts? A sub-committee of interested community members will meet soon for the first time. It would be great to have you come along.

BDCA sub-committees are a productive way to get involved. We have them in planning and environment, business and tourism, infrastructure projects, roads and traffic, community arts and recreation, and a group responsible for production of this excellent community newspaper.

Pulse

But you don't have to join one. You can simply come to our community meetings and keep your finger on the pulse of the village. So pop in to the Buninyong Town Hall Supper room, at the next meeting on Thursday 22 June at 7.30pm. Meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of every second month from February on.

Meetings conclude no later than 9 pm followed by a coffee, a light supper and a chat. Don't hesitate, you'll be welcome and it's a great way to make a difference. Membership of the Association is just \$10 per year. Put 22 June in diaries now.



Linda Zibell, President

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Imagine Buninyong! Expert to help on township plan



developed from the top-down or from the outside-in. Communities must be built from the inside-out, and members must invest themselves, ideas, assets and resources in the process.

Expert

To enable this process to spread throughout our community, and to give everyone the opportunity to help shape our future, the Community Association has secured world-renowned community planner and builder **Peter Kenyon** (Bank of Ideas) to guide us through the world's best practice of Asset Based Community Development (ABCD).

In April the City of Ballarat released its Council Plan 2017-2021 to inform citizens and invite comment. The plan details Council's Mission, Purpose and four Goals, and a range of initiatives proposed to meet those goals.

The plan aims to complete Township Plans for Miners Rest, Buninyong and Warrenheip, and, alongside a graphic outlining a new engagement process, it states that "Councillors have developed their Draft Council Plan 2017-2021 and before preparing the final plan are now returning to the community and other stakeholders to ask, have we got it right?"

Imagine

Seizing this opportunity, Buninyong & District Community Association (BDCA) supported by Buninyong Community Bank, has launched the Imagine Buninyong! project to help educate and give voice to everyone in the Buninyong area interested in contributing to the Buninyong Township Plan.

Towards the end of 2017 Council officers will look to work cooperatively with the community to formulate the plan. The plan will be driven and coordinated by Council to ensure that all parties have a fair opportunity for input.

The BDCA and the Community Bank believe that communities cannot be

ABCD planning is a community driven process which builds on what's strong in a community, not what's wrong with it.

If this community becomes involved in this process it will be provide an excellent basis for both collaborating with Council, and also provide a powerful foundation for shaping Buninyong in coming decades.

Extensive work

Over the last four decades Peter has worked with more than 2000 communities throughout Australia and overseas facilitating fresh and creative ways that stimulate community and local economic renewal.

He is motivated by the desire to create healthy, caring, inclusive, connected, sustainable and enterprising communities and local economies.

Peter Kenyon will engage with community and business leaders in Buninyong on Tuesday, 13 June. Specific details about the events will be made known closer to the date. Meanwhile, start thinking about how you'd like to see Buninyong develop. Imagine!

For more info about ABCD or Peter Kenyon, go to www.bankofideas.com.au

Stephen Falconer

streettalk

VICROADS WORKERS set a new speed limit on Learmonth Street near Cathcart Street a few weeks back. One of the dozens of signs about the place advised that the



limit was 70 when this was still well within the regular 60kph zone which ends at the Golf Club.

BUSINESS PEOPLE have put out a warning about a man seen loitering in the Foodworks carpark recently, apparently checking on unlocked cars. Be warned.

NEW FACES seen at The Old Bluestone Café from 22 April when **Clayton** and **Tess McIlvena** handed over the business to new couple **David** and **Marilyn** (from Melton). The McIlvenas were there for some four years and said they are now off "to get to know our kids again."

JUST AFTER we gave *Sew Special* a wrap for extending its operations into the basement at its Learmonth Street premises comes the news that **Gael** and staff will be relocating to Sebastopol later in the year.

With another business *Darn N Yarn* now at the Whitehorse Road roundabout, she plans to merge the two businesses at a Rubicon Street address previously occupied by a video rental store.

NO SIGN of the big battery down at Durham Lead coming in to play when local power went down for about two hours on that wet and stormy Sunday night of 9 April. The saga continues.

LOCALS VOW TO FIGHT ON

after Yendon/Elaine wind farms get tick from Minister

A community group which has mounted a ten year campaign of strong opposition against a proposed wind farm in the Elaine and Yendon areas was disappointed by a recent decision by State Planning Minister Richard Wynne.

His decision to grant a permit to WestWind to construct 60 turbines across two locations in Elaine and Yendon, and especially his approval of increased tip height up from 130 metres to 161 metres, was met with dismay from Lal Lal resident and spokesman for local objectors **John McMahon**.

Mr McMahon said that not only has the Minister approved the extra height of the blades but also has reserved to himself the power of permitting other size changes without reference to residents or Planning Panels.

Reasons

“We are certainly disappointed by such permit changes and have asked the Minister for reasons for his decisions, some of which differ from key Panel recommendations.” He added that other neighbouring properties such as Elaine’s Serbian Monastery and Sovereign Hill’s *Narmbool* property have expressed concern about the project.

Mr McMahon said that the Lal Lal Environment Protection Association

is “considering its options for legal action.”

He said that one small positive amendment concerned the aircraft warning lights which now will only be activated with the approach of an aircraft, rather than shining all night.

Turbines are not allowed to be located within 50 metres “of a boundary not owned by the landholder” on whose property turbines are located.

Employment

During the two year construction period of the project it is expected that some 190 people will be employed with an ongoing staff of eighteen after completion. The projected cost is some \$400 million.

Projections are that some 600,000 megawatt hours of electricity will be produced annually –enough to power over 100,000 homes.



Yendon resident John McMahon heads up the Lal Lal Environment Protection Association which has been fighting the wind farm proposal for some ten years.

However Mr McMahon said that such projections were “an average” and that “cities like Ballarat would have multiple daily blackouts if they relied solely on this project.”

WestWind is looking to on-sell the wind farm to another developer. Earlier interest has reportedly been shown by a Chinese consortium.

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Tony Coxall – Tree Fella

A life full of ups & downs



Tony Coxall shows Anne King, past-President of the Friends of Buninyong Botanic Gardens, the source of the old antique bottles that funded his first horse, Fred!

Ever since he was just four years old Tony Coxall has had a head for heights. At that age, he was taken up for flights by his father Lloyd, a returned-RAAF pilot. But when his father died just a few months later, Tony was brought up by his mother, Shirley (assisted by several well-known local identities who stepped in to help.) These real characters of 'old' Buninyong had a big influence in shaping his young life.

One was the 'milkie' **Ken Bath** who used to call by at 6am and enlist young Tony's help to deliver the milk. Another was **John Whykes** who had the butcher shop with sawdust on the floor where young Tony would help to make the famous sausages.

Childhood fun

As a young boy there were fishing trips to the Gong where redfin of 2-3lb were caught before the feral carp took hold. Rabbiting and ferreting in the paddocks that now comprise the football and cricket oval was always good fun. Abandoned mines in the Union Jack Reserve, some of them 60 foot deep, also provided excitement despite parental warnings of 'bad air down there'.

There was also the time when a bag of blasting powder was found. A plan was made to set it off after school one day. **Craig Dart, Gil Turner, Jamie Etchells**

and **Adam Skirka** were all primed and ready to go, but the problem was that Tony was kept in at school writing lines for some misdemeanour. He arrived as the others came running back with distraught faces and burnt bodies as the gunpowder had gone off prematurely.

Initially annoyed that they had not waited for him, Tony was subsequently relieved when a photo of the others, bandaged and blackened, appeared on the front page of *The Courier*!

Steady income

In those early years one entrepreneurial exercise proved lucrative. Tony discovered that a small vent at the base of an old building near the school, if excavated, would yield a steady supply of very early bottles that were of great interest to Ballarat antique dealers.

A gang of three primary schoolers set to work and the steady income allowed Tony to buy his beloved horse, Fred, broken in with the help of **Teddy Sutherland**.

While flying is still a passion - Tony flies his Cessna 182 out of Lethbridge airport – he is well-known in the district as the 'Tree Fella' - a business he started at age 25, following nine-years as a gardening apprentice at Loreto College.

Trees

His favourite tree species are oaks, and his favourite local tree was the old Bunya Bunya pine at Netherby. Recently (as reported in the March edition of *The News*) he had the sad job of cutting it down as it was diseased and dangerous.

Russell Luckock

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AUTHORISED BY CATHERINE KING, 5 LYDIARD ST NTH BALLARAT 3350

‘Community’ defibrillator at Newsagency

LIFE SAVER NOW AT HAND



The new defibrillator ready for installation at the newsagency. Pictured are representatives of some of the community groups which funded it. L to R Bill Jolly, Steve Falconer, Michelle O’Brien (BCH), Ron Delaland, Shirley Reynolds and Bob Bennett

In mid-2016 The News started a campaign to obtain a ‘public-access’ defibrillator for Buninyong. Although there were then seven in various locations in the township (see panel), none was readily accessible outside of business hours or when sporting clubrooms or the CFA were closed.

Meetings of community groups were convened by News editor **Barry Fitzgerald** and agreement was reached on fund-raising and location of the machine. Buninyong newsagency owner **Ron Delaland** agreed that the machine could be located at his premises – open for some 16 hours each day. This gave the community much greater access to a defibrillator in central Buninyong.

Some \$2200 was been raised, with donations coming from the Lions Club, the Men’s Shed, Probus Club, the BDCA, the RSL and from Meridian Energy/Powershop. The Buninyong Community Bank agreed to cover any funding shortfall.

The decision about the choice of machine, ordering and installation was taken on by Ballarat Community Health through BCH staffer and local resident **Michelle O’Brien**. A *Cardiac Science G5 Fully Automatic* defibrillator (also known as an AED – Automatic External Defibrillator) has been purchased. The total cost of the machine, accessories and signage is about \$2800. Initial training is included.

This project followed release of St Johns Ambulance data in early 2016 which showed that without the early assistance of an AED, only about five per cent of persons having a cardiac arrest survive, but with early use on an AED this figure rises to about 70 per cent.

Training

Training sessions for interested persons and community group members is now being arranged, and Ron Delaland has moved to have most of his staff trained in its use. Next month’s News will include details of these free sessions.

Should a case of sudden cardiac arrest occur (or be suspected) four key steps should immediately be taken.

1. Call 000 for an ambulance. Send someone to and/or call the newsagency on 5341 2154 – to get the AED to the victim as quickly as possible (enter this number now into your phone contacts)
2. With the person face up, check and open airway
3. Immediately commence and continue to apply CPR while waiting for the ambulance (see guide opposite)
4. Apply the AED as soon as possible.

A simple guide to CPR is shown (opposite). This is reproduced with permission of the Herald-Sun magazine *Body & Soul*.

While all care has been taken in compiling this information, the BDCA and the Community News provide it as a guide only.

Defibrillators are located at the following locations.

Buninyong Golf Club, Learmonth St, 5341 3217

Buninyong Bowling Club, Inglis St, 5341 3577

Buninyong Football/Netball Club, Forest St, 5341 3746

Buninyong Medical Centre, Learmonth St, 5341 3155

CFA Station, Learmonth St.

The Men’s Shed, Forest St, 0414 717 507

1

Before you begin:

- Check for danger and ensure the area is safe
- Roll the person on to their back and check they're unresponsive
- Open the airway by tilting the head back and check they're not breathing normally
- Send for help and call 000



2

Kneel by the patient's side and begin chest compressions. Place the heel of the palm of your hand on the patient's lower breastbone and place your other hand on top, with fingers interlocking.

3

Lock your elbows out and use your body weight to compress by one third of the chest height.



4

Lift your hands slightly after each compression to allow the chest to expand. Compress the chest 100-120 times per minute (2 per second). Think of the beat to the song "Stayin' Alive" for the correct rhythm.

HOW TO DO CPR

Doing something is better than doing nothing when it comes to CPR, and following these steps may help save a life

If possible, swap with another person after 1-2 minutes. Vigorous CPR is very exhausting.

5

Continue compressions without pausing until help arrives. (If trained in CPR, coordinate 30 chest compressions with 2 breaths; pinch the nose and breathe into their mouth for up to 1 second, watching for the chest to rise.)



You're legally protected

The Good Samaritan Act prevents anyone being sued if they're acting in good faith to save a life using CPR.

6

Use an automated external defibrillator (AED), if and when available, as soon as possible but don't stop chest compressions until prompted by the AED.



7

After the defibrillator delivers a shock, follow the prompts of the AED and recommence chest compressions. If the heart resumes beating, the AED will not deliver another shock.



8

Continue CPR until an ambulance arrives or the patient responds. Only stop chest compressions when prompted by the AED or when giving 2 breaths.

CPR for babies and kids

Keep the infant's head in a neutral position (don't tilt it back). For babies, use two fingers to press on the chest, and in children under eight, the heel of one hand only. Compress one third of the chest height and do 100-120 compressions per minute (2 per second). After 30 compressions, place your mouth over the child's mouth and nose and breathe, watching for the chest to rise. Do 2 breaths.



Eight weeks to historic 1 July community march along Avenue

All happy with RSL Executive

Twenty-two members attended the annual general meeting of the Buninyong Sub-Branch of the RSL held in March and re-elected all the current sub branch office bearers.

President **Ray Mende** said that as a small country RSL we have gained younger members, received strong community support for the Anzac and Remembrance Day services and are one of a few branches to still run a children's Christmas party.

He outlined the ongoing welfare work that is a major part of the original ideal of RSL and thanked the Ladies Committee for its loyal support.

The 48th RSL Golf Day was held on Saturday 22 April at the Buninyong course with a big field of men and women golfers. There was a shot gun start at 7.30am and again at 12.30pm.

Proceeds from the day will be directed to the local RSL Welfare program.

Historic Find

During preparation work to set concrete plinths and name plaques in the Buninyong Avenue of Honour, an original name plaque was unearthed.



The re-elected RSL executive- (L to R) Bill Akell, (Junior Vice President), Brian Parker, (Senior Vice President), Ray Mende, (President), Dru Parker, (Asst Secretary), Bob Bennett, (Secretary), Lyle Thorne, (Asst Treasurer), Dennis Meehan, (Treasurer).

Although damaged and devoid of any identifying marks it does provide a tangible link between the two projects which span one hundred years. Refurbishment work on the avenue continues with placement of further plaques. The big community march is scheduled for Saturday 1 July commencing at 9.30am from the Buninyong Golf Club.

A good crowd of onlookers attended the 2017 RSL Anzac Day Commemoration Service in the RSL Memorial Park on 25 April. This year's address was presented by **Peta Gillespie**, a past president of Ballarat Legacy. Refreshments were served in the RSL hall after the service.



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ON THE GREENS FOR 40 YEARS

... but now Maurie prefers fishing to golf

A low profile but highly-respected Buninyong sporting identity is Maurie Cartledge, the Head Greenkeeper at the Buninyong Golf Club. This year he clocks up forty years working there after commencing in November 1977.

When 15 year old Maurice Cartledge left the North Technical School in 1975, all he wanted to do was to work as a carpenter. His parents, who then ran the Foodland supermarket in Ballan were not fussed so long as he got himself a "job in a good trade."

He now counts himself a little lucky in being runner-up for a job with local big builder A W Nicholson as he confesses to being "s.... scared of heights."

After about a year or so of "washing and packing 23 tons of spuds a day" for **Brian Blood** in Ballan, Maurie heard about a job as a junior greenkeeper at the Buninyong Golf Club.

He came to talk to Club President **Maurie Frawley**, and was soon offered

the job "because I'm sure he thought that I would be a good addition to their Pennant golf team," he said. He moved to Buninyong, boarding for about three years with the Clementson family in the historic *Mossmount* homestead in Webbs Hill Road.

After six years or so he was appointed to the position of Head Greenkeeper in 1983 upon the retirement of **Ray Parkinson**. That same year he bought a block of land in Winter Street for \$5000 where he built a home in which he and his family still live.

Maurie has become recognised as one of the region's best greenkeepers, with the Buninyong greens being widely regarded as outstanding.

Unlike some other district golf clubs where the grounds staff can number between six and ten, over recent years Buninyong has had to manage with a staff of just two, with occasional assistance from an apprentice or work-experience person.

Coming Events

Sunday, 30 April, 10.00am-3.00pm. *Steiner School Autumn Fair and Open Day*. Moss Ave campus.

Saturday/Sunday 6-7 May. 10.00am -5.00pm. *The Wizard's Book Fair*. VRI Hall, Ballarat

Saturday 6 May. Football/Netball. Buninyong v Hepburn.

Sunday 7 May, 10.00am – 2.00pm. *Creators and Craft Market*. Bannockburn. 0427 923 943

Wednesday, 10 May, 10.00am-12.00pm. *Biggest Morning Tea*. Uniting Church Hall, Learmonth Street, Buninyong. 5330 1934

Friday, 19 May, 9.30 am. *Experience Our Kindergarten*. Ballarat Steiner School, 244 Moss Ave, Mt Helen. 5341 8188

Sunday, 21 May. 2.00pm. Mystery tour of the Buninyong Botanic Gardens followed by afternoon tea at the old Police Station. Cost \$5

Friday/Saturday, 26-27 May, Buninyong Film Festival. Buninyong Town Hall. See p4 for details

Saturday 27 May. Football/Netball. Buninyong v Rokewood.

Tuesday 13 June. Imagine Buninyong! Community meeting re township plan. Details to come.

Saturday 1 July. *Historic Community Avenue March*. 9.00am. Assemble Buninyong Golf Club.

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Blanket project helps with winter chills

Local Freemasons have again been active on the charity front recently with the donation of ten quality blankets to UnitingCare, Ballarat.

The blankets were donated through the joint assistance of Sturt Buninyong Lodge and the Freemasons Foundation.

Ron Fleming, Lodge Master, said that Ballarat experiences harsh winters and UnitingCare Ballarat faces heavy demand for blankets and doonas from its growing number of clients.

The project fits well with a key principle of Freemasonry “to help a friend or brother in time of need” and he said that the Lodge would continue to assist with more blankets. This project had now delivered 70 blankets since 2010.



Warrick Davidson, Co-ordinator for the Entry Point and Homeless Support Program at Ballarat UnitingCare, accepts the blankets from Ron Fleming.

Cream, calories, cake and chat at morning tea

Buninyong’s version of Australia’s Biggest Morning Tea is set for Wednesday 10 May between 10.00am and noon at the Uniting Church Hall, Learmonth Street.

This event held in homes, schools, churches, offices and parks throughout Australia is the Cancer Council’s biggest fund-raising event of the year. Last year some \$11.9 million was raised to help with cancer research.

The Buninyong event is organised annually by group of some twelve women, called *Open House*, and the 2017 morning tea will be the seventeenth that they have worked on. Last year the local event raised over \$500. For more information call **Betty** on 5330 1934.

Getting rabbits under control

For the first time in twenty years a new rabbit disease virus has been released across Australia, and with the recent growth in the rabbit population, is receiving strong community and industry support.

Over 600 landholders and community groups are involved in the coordinated release of the virus called RHDV.

Local landholders and farmers can play a role in monitoring the outcomes of the release in two ways:

1. record current levels of rabbit activity such as sightings, active warrens, damage levels and the like in your area. This can be done using RabbitScan
2. report evidence of rabbit disease in your local area, such as dead rabbits, or rabbits with symptoms of RHDV or myxomatosis.

The free *FeralScan* Smartphone App can be downloaded. This includes the RabbitScan program.



The RHDV Boost research initiative has been delivered through the Invasive Animals CRC, with major financial and in-kind resources provided by the Australian and NSW governments, Meat and Livestock Australia, Australian Wool Innovation, and the Foundation for Rabbit Free Australia.

The Upper Williamsons Creek Landcare Group can provide more information (5341 2364).

Mysteries of the Gardens

All sorts of mysteries will be revealed in a Sunday 21 May tour of the Buninyong Botanic Gardens arranged by the Buninyong & District Historical Society and the Friends of the Botanic Gardens.

This event, part of the Ballarat Heritage Festival, will start from the Old Court House in Cornish Street at 2.00pm, and will be followed by afternoon tea in the Old Police Station. Cost is \$5.

Simon calling

Local Historical Society President, Simon Dennis, is interested in interviewing local identities with historical family links or having knowledge about interesting local history or places of interest.

Some of his interviews may be published in *The News*, but all will form part of the local history records held by the Buninyong & District Historical Society at the old Court House. So if a history buff comes calling it will probably be Simon.

Speakers at Scotsburn Church

Services are held at the historic Scotsburn Union Church on the first Sunday of the month at 10.00am.

The 7 May service is harvest

Thanksgiving and there will be a speaker from the Salvation Army. At the 4 June service there will be a speaker from Prison Fellowship.

AROUND THE CHURCHES

Schedules of the services and happenings at local churches.

ST PETER & PAUL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fisken Street, Buninyong
 Contact **Margaret McCarty** 5341 3243
 Mass times: 1st, 3rd, 5th Sundays at 10.30am.
 2nd and 4th Sundays at 9am

UNITING CHURCH

Learmonth Street Buninyong.
Rev Lindell Gibson 5341 3200
 Services: Buninyong: Sunday 9.30am
 Meredith: 2nd Sunday 11am
 Sebastopol: 2nd, 4th, 5th Thursday 11am

HOLY TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH

Warrenheip Street, Buninyong.
Rev Mark Schnerring 5341 3281
www.buninyonganglican.org.au
 Sunday Services: 8.30am and 10am

BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor **Tom Buscombe** 5330 2657
 Service held in Buninyong Town Hall, Sundays 10am

SCOTSBURN CHURCH

Midland Highway, Scotsburn
 Contact **Heather Stokes** on 5341 7609
 First Sunday in the month at 10am

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Still working to move on from 2015 fires

The communities of Scotsburn and Clarendon districts still come together to support those who were affected in the December 2015 fires. Effective support is still necessary in re-building homes, farms and damaged lives.

Get-togethers started on Christmas Eve 2015 and have continued every month or so since with additional activities such as art exhibitions, felting and jewellery making workshops and a highly successful Drive-In movie night at the Garibaldi Recreation Reserve.

The initiative started with the Upper Williamsons Creek Landcare Group and the Scotsburn Hall Committee but has

now broadened out with State Government financial assistance. Also, heavily involved are the Moorabool Shire and the City of Ballarat Council with hands-on support.

Recovery

A Recovery Committee was formed and the co-ordinator **Michelle Richards** has been working closely with her Shire colleague, **Cherie Graeme**, and Leigh Catchment Group co-ordinator, **Nick McKinley**.

The community itself is central to the recovery process, said **Graham Shearer** who has been involved from the very beginning. "It's the camaraderie, the comradeship, the talking to each

other and to non-affected locals and the various activities that are important when the community comes together," he said.

The countryside is recovering with the rains - and hopefully, the people too are recovering and can move on. Thankfully there was no loss of life in this fire and the CFA can take a great deal of the credit with their fire-safe pre-publicity campaign and their physical fire-fighting on the day.

Russell Luckock



The fire-affected community still comes together almost monthly in the Scotsburn Hall to 'build capacity' amongst the residents in the area.

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Narmbool frogs to get help



The Yarrowee-Leigh Catchment Group has received a Threatened Species Grant from the State Government to undertake a frog project.

The project will focus on the Growling Grass Frog known to inhabit the dams at Narmbool Estate where the group will establish an ideal habitat through fencing and revegetation. This threatened species of frog is one of the largest in Australia, with the female growing up to 104mm in length.

The second part of the project is about involving the public in collecting frog

recordings from around Ballarat and beyond. This will help to provide base data of which frog species are living where so moves to help protect them can be made.

If anyone is interested in being involved just join the wildlife database Bowerbird and take a clear recording of frog calls using a smart phone and upload the calls to the newly established database group - Ballarat and Beyond Froggers. Wildlife experts will be able to identify the calls.

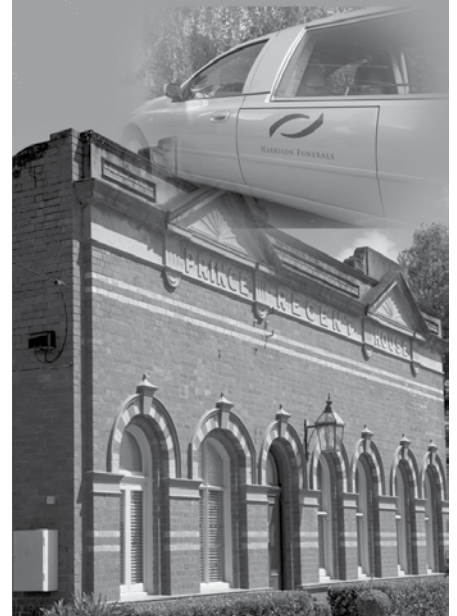
For more information please contact **Jane** on 0426 873 202.

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Football club veteran stays on the job

JACKO BEATS TOUGH TIMES

The end of 2015 brought some very rough times for Buninyong Football Club stalwart Graeme 'Jacko' Jackson.

First there was the collapse of Vemco, a company with which he had been an electrical maintenance engineer for many years. Soon after came disastrous 19 December fires which wiped out his home and another in which members of his family had lived for more than thirty years in Pryor's Road, Scotsburn.

Back above

Despite these massive set backs, Jacko is back again helping the local football club at the start of the 2017 season. When the ball was bounced on 1 April, the sprightly 64 year old was again in the role of Operations Manager, responsible for many 'game-day' activities.

Prior to coming to the Buninyong district to live, Jacko had a varied

football career playing some 140 games with Golden Point, after starting with them in 1970, and then two seasons with Newlyn – mainly on the half-back flank as he said he was “not a very good kick.”

His links to Buninyong go back to the late 1970s when he purchased land at Scotsburn. He subsequently played some 145 games for Buninyong Football Club in both the Senior team and the Reserves. He said that in those days the team had a very lean trot for many years.

“In my almost forty years here we've only won one flag, in 2002. The previous one had been 47 years before that,” he said

Highlight

Graeme said that the highlight of his time at the Club was the award of a Life Membership in the early 1990s. He has been involved as a player, coach, and Committee member with the Buninyong Football Club for a total of 39 years.

Away from football, Graeme worked for most of his life in the power supply industry after doing his apprenticeship at the Central Technical School. In 1969 he started as an apprentice linesman with the SEC, and since worked for Powercor and then with the Vemco group for 18 years.

Not known

Married to **Suzanne**, and with three adult children, Graeme said that while most people knew he had worked “forever” in the power industry, few knew that in 1977 he quit the SEC and, with Suzanne, spent two “very interesting” years working firstly in a kibbutz near Jerusalem for about \$2 per week, then on olive farms in Crete, followed by a stint in London where he “delivered mail.”

Interests

Not interested in bowls or golf, Graeme's current football season got under way back in November last year when pre-season training started.

Since the horrendous December 2015 fires Graham and his family have been renting and living in Buninyong's historic home Netherby. But the slab is now poured on his old home site in Scotsburn and he hopes to be back living there around July this year.

Back on the ground during the game against Springbank, Graeme is shown with Buninyong ruckman Liam Rigby.





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All class members manage to get their left feet forward in a recent line dancing class at the Buninyong Town Hall.

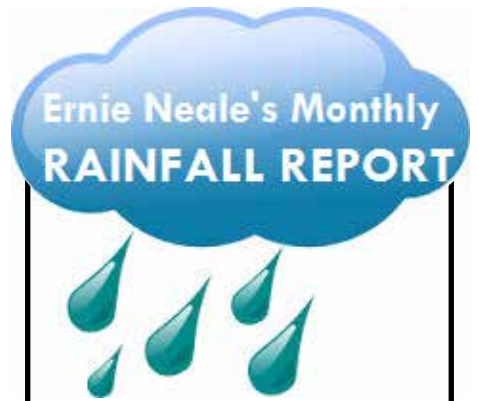
Line dancers stomp up a storm in the town hall

The Buninyong Town Hall turns into a jumping place on every Friday morning when line dancers kick their heels up in two classes. One (for basic beginners) starts at 10.00am and is followed by an 11.30 group for beginners and intermediate dancers.

The 40 minute classes are claimed to benefit coordination and balance, weight loss, improved memory and boost the heart rate of dancers.

Providing a chance to meet new people, the classes are lots of fun and participants don't take themselves too seriously.

Costs are \$5 for one lesson, \$8 for two, with the first lesson free. Tea, coffee and biscuits are provided. Inquiries to **Ella Young** on 0401 017 758.



March opened with a strong pattern of summery conditions. By the end of the month seven 30^o+ days had occurred with almost all the rest well over 20^o.

Just like the four months preceding it, the rain in March came mainly in one event. The tally was 36.0mm, well under the long-term average, but not that much under the 41.2mm average for recent years. It's interesting to note that the recent January average is also 41.2mm – March now seems to be as dry as January.

The country has greened up a little, but just before writing this I drove up our access track then did some mowing. Both produced noticeable raised dust – the soil surface was not moist.

The Bureau of Meteorology is also flagging caution, offering only a 30 per cent chance of median rainfall across the coming three months. So it's now watch and wait time for all of us dependent on rainfall.

MARCH 2017			
Date	Rain	Date	Rain
12	1.8	22	17.8
16	1.3	23	1.3
20	0.7	28	3.0
21	4.0	30	6.1
Total		36 mm	
Year to date		112.7 mm	

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Rebecca has lots of local links

NEW VET CLINIC NOW OPEN HERE

After ten years of world-wide and local experience as a veterinary surgeon, Dr Rebecca Jennings has opened up Buninyong's first vet clinic in top class facilities in Learmonth Street, previously occupied by the UFS medical clinic.

Recently Rebecca has worked locally for Greencross Vets in Ballarat and in Creswick, but has had extensive experience in the UK, in a rural veterinary clinic northern NSW, and even in Zambia and South Africa where she did a lot of work on monkeys and other small animals.

Coming home

Despite such a CV of broad experience, Rebecca said it is like "coming home" to open up the Buninyong Veterinary Clinic. Her parents lived in Mount Helen, her mum is one of the Lyons farming family from Navigators, and as a teenager Rebecca was actively involved in the Buninyong Riding Club which used land at the back of the old tennis courts. Currently she plays tennis with **Narelle Tatt** (Bendigo Community Bank) and her sister **Angela**. She lives locally in Mt Helen.

After schooling at Loreto College, Ballarat, given her interest in horses, she enrolled in and took out a BVSc degree from the Massey University in New Zealand - a university world-famous for its equine study and research. Currently she is an active member of the Ballarat Polo Club.

Facilities

The facilities at the Learmonth Street premises are outstanding for a veterinary clinic. Apart from the spacious reception area, there are separate rooms for dog and cat consultations, a pet "hospital" for overnight stays, a surgery, and even an 'isolation' room where pets with infectious diseases can be treated.'

Rebecca said that initially the clinic would concentrate on small animals – dogs, cats, rabbits, ferrets, guinea pigs – and birds. Once established she plans to undertake large animal work with on-site visits.

She says she is "passionate about her

work," and along with nurse/receptionist **Lauren Oldaker** with whom she has worked for four years, she plans to give "old fashioned service" from her new clinic. "You can be assured that we will remember the name of every pet, even if it takes us a while to get the name of the owners straight," Rebecca said.

The clinic, which opened for business a few days ago, will be open Monday, Thursday and Friday between 8.30am and 5.30pm and between noon and 7pm on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Rebecca plans to have an open day on a Saturday morning soon to allow people to look over the clinic.



At the entrance to the new clinic, receptionist/nurse Lauren Oldaker (left) and Dr Rebecca Jennings are greeted by a friendly local pug.



Dr Jennings checks over patient boxer dog Bundy. Photo - Hepburn Advocate