

Despite windy day **Blown away by Expo success**

In very windy conditions Friends of Royal Park held the fifth *Smart Building and Living Expo* on Sunday, 25 February from 10am to 3.30pm. More than 30 exhibitors, sponsors and ten community groups were on display, alongside food vendors, entertainment and an art display.

The Expo had the theme of *Waste: War and Peace*. Despite the strong winds, organisers were thrilled with its success.

La Vergne Lehmann, Executive Officer of the Grampians Central West Waste and Resource Recovery Group, said there were lots of questions around recycling, and how people can manage waste. "Many asked about how you could go plastic bag free at home and use less commercial cleaners."

Eco Homewares exhibitor **Helen Tobias**, of Daylesford, said she was busy all day with inquiries about the materials in her products.

Expo Organiser **Andrea Mason** said the event had grown and it was encouraging to witness so many residents eager to learn more about sustainability. She also found it exciting to observe changing attitudes in the community.

Habit changes

"People were inspired by the event and many are willing to change their habits. There is a growing momentum in Buninyong around recycling and reducing waste, evident through the *Boomerang Bags* movement, and I think more community-driven ideas will come," she said.



Helen Tobias of Eco Homewares shown with her wide range of products for use in the home.

Andrea suggested that as more people become aware of sustainability messages like *Reduce, Reuse, Recycle*, more conversations will take place in-person and through the internet.

Planning will begin soon for the 2019 event.

For more information, visit FriendsofRoyalPark.org.au.

Amy Darby Walker

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After 66 years as a barber Kerry still cuts a fine figure



After marrying wife **Beverley** whom he met at one of the many dances then held in the Civic Hall and St Patrick's Hall, the family (later with three children) first lived in Leith Street, Redan. But being a country boy at heart, he soon moved out to Shire Avenue in Mount Helen to a 12 acre block where the family had "much more space." In turn, in the late 1980s they moved to Blackberry Lane, Buninyong.

Going strong

He opened his shop in Albert Street, Sebastopol, just near the Coles store, about thirty years ago.

Asked about

The name **Kerry Stokes** is well known around Australia. Two come to mind. There is the Channel 7 media mogul. The other is an 82 year old barber, a long-term resident of Buninyong, who is still going strong in his Albert Street, Sebastopol barber shop after being in the hairdressing trade for some 66 years.

Kerry grew up on the farm in Beaufort where he attended the local primary school. When Kerry was in his early teens his father died of a heart attack. With no pension available for his widowed mother, Kerry left school (which he didn't like anyway) to "learn a trade to help support her."

He came to Ballarat, boarding with the **Daly** family in Neill Street, and got an apprenticeship with barber **Ken Groves** in Mair Street, just near the old Ritchies store.

The Daly family also had another famous barber in the family, **Michael**, who plied his trade in and around McArthur Street for over 50 years.

Fired

Kerry's apprenticeship with Groves ended abruptly when he took a day's leave to attend the funeral of a cousin in Beaufort and he "got the sack!"

However, at that time there were four men's hairdressers in Lydiard Street near the Mining Exchange and he soon found one (**Davidson's**) willing to take him on.

He recalls that in those days with the police station and the Court House nearby in Camp Street, he had many police and lawyers as customers.

He even recalled a visit from the then-Premier **Henry Bolte**. Later he worked for **Bill Irwin** in Doveton Street.

retirement, the fit-looking 82 year old Kerry said it was not on the horizon. "I don't play bowls or golf, and all I would have to do is stay home and cut the grass!"

A life-long Geelong supporter, he recalled that the father of famous Cat's captain **Bob Davis** was the barber out at Clunes where he also ran the billiards saloon.

In his shop he still proudly has his original Hairdressers' Registration Certificate dated 15 June 1955 which followed his several years as an apprentice.

He's truly amazing for an old bloke who will turn 83 in June.

The world's oldest barber is Anthony Mancinelli, aged 105 from Orange County, New York.

Still working five days each week, he started cutting hair at the age of twelve!



Vicroads quizzed on \$150,000 road study

Two senior staff from VicRoads attended the February meeting of the Buninyong & District Community Association (BDCA) to provide details of the \$150,000 traffic study announced by local member Geoff Howard late last year.

They were **Sam Brown**, Team Leader, Integrated Transport Planning and **Lee Taylor**, a planning engineer, who is heading up the project.

Three stages

Lee Taylor, a former Buninyong resident, said that the project would involve three stages. The first phase would identify the problems that the traffic study was attempting to solve. In December 2017 an initial meeting involved staff from the City of Ballarat, the Shire of Moorabool, and representatives from the BDCA and the Business Network.

Mr Taylor said that three principal matters were identified:

pedestrian safety and movement caused by the Midland Highway's bisecting the town and the increasing presence of heavy vehicles on the road

- the need to identify more efficient route options particularly for trucks heading to Geelong and further west
- the need for better cycling and foot traffic links though Buninyong

He said that an immediate exercise was to set up "data capture" points involving cameras and counters to study where heavy vehicles were coming from and going to. Number plates would be used to track vehicle movement. This would lead to proposals about "possible solutions" for alternative routes.

At this stage "community engagement sessions" would be held at Buninyong and also at Mt Helen/Mt Clear.

Sam Brown cautioned that the present study "would not be looking at putting lines on a map." The 'feasibility report' is expected to be finalised in mid-2018.

Comments

Among comments made by BDCA members was that focus must be kept on the future impact of the Western Link Road, while others said that the name given to the project referring to an "eastern" by-pass was an unfortunate one.

Another member said that it was to be hoped that the results of this study would not be allowed to 'gather dust' like the results of the 2012 City of Ballarat/VicRoads *Traffic Impact Study*.

CISSIE NEARLY KILLED

Elephant Falls Into Pit

BALLARAT, September 2.

Claimed to be the world's largest performing elephant, Cissie, owned by Ashton Bros.' travelling circus, nearly ended her career at Buninyong this morning.

The elephant was entering the circus allotment behind a string of 45 horses, when she fell through a shell of earth covering what appeared to be the subsidence of an old mining shaft, nearly 10 feet deep. The elephant gave a wild bound upward, and scrambled out of what appeared to be an impossible predicament. In the sudden fall, the elephant's rider was tossed 20 feet away, but escaped with abrasions and bruises. Cissie's tusks were broken in two pieces.

The Argus, 2 September 1936, p7
Contributed by Betty McGuinness

(Above) VicRoads' staff Sam Brown and Lee Taylor at the BDCA meeting.

(Below) Geoff Howard MP and ALP candidate Michaela Settle inspect one of the camera/ traffic counting points as part of the study.



THAT PLACE ON THE HILL

Recently police have reported several incidents in Buninyong (such as intrusions into private property).

Concerned with reports that some may have involved residents of Merindah, the former motel, now a boarding house on the Midland Highway on Mt Buninyong, the manager has written an open letter to The News to let local residents know a little about the property and its residents.

The property was sold in October 2017 to an operator of another home in Ararat, but it will continue as a boarding house for another five years.



“ I am writing this hoping to answer some questions that I’m sure the community might have about *Merindah* that ‘place on the hill’ up on the Midland Highway atop Mt Buninyong. It was formerly called *Hillview Lodge* and before that was a motel.

Merindah is a boarding house. It houses 20 people most referred by welfare agencies. Most have been homeless or are at risk of homelessness. Some have physical and/or mental health issues.

Mostly quiet

Our residents are mostly very quiet. Some go to work daily and most go to day programs in Ballarat thanks to the introduction of the NDIS. The residents each have a furnished private room/

bathroom with three meals a day.

Yes, we do get some troublesome residents, and we do our best to try to get help from agencies so they are supported and assisted to access appropriate and meaningful activities during the day. Sometimes this fails.

“I will never see someone go homeless”

Behaviour

We cannot be responsible for their behaviour in the community. We can’t lock them up. The system states they have choice. However, if their behaviour

impacts badly they are evicted. This can sometimes prove difficult when there is nowhere for them to go, as I will never see someone become homeless.

If a resident misbehaves don’t hesitate to call police as you would do if anybody else misbehaves in the community.

But please feel free to come and visit to meet the staff and residents. You will be most welcome and the kettle’s always on. I will be happy to answer any further questions that you may have.”

Jacinta Peart, Manager

(Above) Manager Jacinta Peart chats with assistant Kay Stephens outside of Merindah.

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The east isn't the problem

In its November 2017 edition (and also on p 3), *The News* reported on a \$150,000 grant made by the State Government which, according to a recent media release, local MP Geoff Howard said was “to investigate the movement of traffic between the Midland Highway and the Western Freeway” and which will “tell us the best options to reduce the number of trucks travelling through the populated areas of Buninyong and Ballarat.”

Promising!

However *The News* has been unable to discover which bits of the Western freeway and which bits of the Midland Highway are being referred to. They are both very long roads!

The only clue lies in that title given to the project – the *Ballarat Eastern Link*. That suggests the “Western Highway” might refer to that bit of the road passing through Warrenheip or Bungaree or somewhere nearby. Logically, then, it would seem that the “Midland Highway” being referred to is that bit on the Geelong side of Buninyong.

Mr Howard gives one clue by stating that “the scope will also include the potential upgrade of Yankee Flat Road between Warrenheip and Mt Buninyong.” Now does that mean yet more patching up of the shonky surface of Yankee Flat Road? Or does it mean somehow linking Yankee Flat Road to the Midland Highway to the east of Buninyong which will cut out the

present goat track around the mountain side? Or is there some other clever strategy that might emerge?

For years the BDCA has been pointing out to politicians, councillors and anyone else who will listen, two very simple facts.

Firstly, that there is a present problem with the number of heavy vehicles passing through the town roundabout on the Midland Highway on a daily basis.

These vehicles are *not* going to Yankee Flat Road or to Warrenheip – they are heading for Sebastopol or Geelong or somewhere beyond or in between!

Secondly, even the most junior of planners might be able to work out that in the decades ahead there will be a certain future problem created by the feeding of vehicles from the Western Link Road onto the Midland Highway at Magpie.

Fiddling with Yankee Flat Road or ‘eastern’ links to Warrenheip will do little to solve either of these problems.

There is an encouraging note in the latter part of his media release where Mr Howard states that the study “will ensure we can deliver a purpose-built road that meets the needs of all road users, improves safety and enables Buninyong to maintain its village atmosphere and amenity.”

That sounds great. But where will this “purpose-built road” be going? And when?

Buninyong & district
COMMUNITY NEWS

Member of the Community Newspapers Association of Victoria

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

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Mount fire small ...but dangerous

After a summer in which few major fires were reported, a small scrub fire on Mt Buninyong broke out on the afternoon of Sunday 11 March over the long weekend. Winds on that day were light.

The blaze was attended by some 20 vehicles from the local and district CFAs, DWELP, Forest Fire Management Victoria and police. Local brigades from Buninyong Mt Helen, Elaine and Mt Buninyong were quickly on the scene.

Three helicopters were in the air – one observing, with two used as water bombers. The fire started near the South Walk track.

The fire, which was travelling in a northerly direction, burnt some two hectares and had a perimeter of 0.6 km.

The fire was stopped at the Mount road by fire crews who then had the task of raking containment lines, establishing a break



around the fire perimeter, and watching for any late flare ups in the dry grass and scrub.

The cause of the fire is still under investigation as it started in an isolated area well away from any dwellings, or persons using equipment.

Photographs shown here were taken by local residents **Roland Nam** who lives on Mt Buninyong Road, and by *News* reporter **Russell Luckock** who is a resident high up the mount near Blackberry Lane and who prepared this report.



AROUND THE CHURCHES *EASTER 2018*

On Good Friday morning the combined churches of Buninyong invite you to join in their annual commemoration of the Passion and death of Jesus. At 8.30am there will be readings in front of the Town Hall, and a procession will leave there around 9.00am and move to the Labyrinth in the grounds of the Uniting Church.

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EASTER SUNDAY 10.30am

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Sandra Chapman, 5341 2047
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Meredith, 2nd Sunday 11am
Sebastopol, 2nd, 4th Tuesday, 11am
GOOD FRIDAY, Sebastopol, 10am
EASTER SUNDAY, Buninyong, 9.30am

HOLY TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH

Warrenheip Street, Buninyong

Contact: **Rev Mark Schnerring**,
5341 3281

www.buninyonganglican.org.au

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GOOD FRIDAY 10am
EASTER SUNDAY 10am

BAPTIST CHURCH

Buninyong Town Hall

Contact: **Pastor Noel Mitaxa**
0414776789

Services Sundays 10am
EASTER SUNDAY 10am

SCOTSBURN CHURCH

Midland Hwy, Scotsburn

Contact:

Heather Stokes, 5341 7609
Services 1st Sundays, 10am
EASTER SUNDAY Communion
Service, 10am

Navigators farmer Chris is one Not to be truffled with



Chris Macquet holding a black winter Perigord truffle

For quite a few years now Navigators' resident Chris Macquet has been digging for 'buried pleasure', or more simply the black fungus known as truffles which cost a lot of money, both to produce and to buy.

Chris' family came from the Normandy area, near *Perigeaux* (centre of the French truffle growing area), with his *grandmere* instilling the love of French cooking and truffles. So when Chris, his wife and family came to Australia in 2000 they looked for an area suitable for growing truffles.

Trentham

Eventually they bought a 40 acre farm in East Trentham, later becoming the founding members of the *Australian Truffle Growers Association* and starting the *Trentham Truffle Festival* in 2010.

While truffle farming has elements of being a gamble it is also an industry with great promise. Indeed, the Government has funded some trips to France to investigate its potential. Increasingly, science is coming into it.

Chris' son **Justin**, a self trained agronomist and qualified horticulturalist, is the expert on ideal truffle growing

requirements and conditions, mainly following the techniques of the French.

Sniffed out

Most truffles are found by dogs. Chris and Justin have a *Maremma*, bought to protect their free range chickens as well as to detect truffles. When a dog finds a truffle it marks the spot by sniffing and indicating. That spot is then flagged. Then humans go back and smell each spot themselves.

With experience it's possible tell if the truffle is not yet ripe (yellow flag), ripe (green flag), dying or over-ripe (red flag).

Truffles are harvested by hand with a small spade or finger. Once out of the ground they have to be thoroughly cleaned and sent to market within 10-14 days.

Chris and his family are now introducing a French method of snap freezing truffles to prolong their useful life.

The secret is in the preparation, which, unsurprisingly, Chris doesn't divulge. A frozen truffle can be kept for around 18 months and finely grated onto food, then put back into the deep freeze.

Cordon bleu

Chris showed the *Le Cordon Bleu* school in Moorabbin how to cook with truffle several years ago and has been supplying them with frozen truffle ever since.

As an organic permaculture farmer, Chris also produces the only real commercial truffle oil (also secret) in Australia.

This oil is much appreciated by the Italian, French and Swiss communities here because 99 per cent of truffle oil around the world has chemicals added to it and smells like burnt garlic.

And two tips if buying truffle oil make sure the word '*aroma*' (an added chemical) is not on the label and there should be a '*use by*' date. And... don't put a truffle by itself in the oven or on top of food - it will evaporate!

Cassandra Carland



The Maremma breed of dog is used in locating truffles

New face at local pub



New Lal Lal Falls Hotel publican Tim Harrigan discusses plans for live music with local singer Anni Lang.

Tim got on his feet with the old hotel at Lal Lal, still run the hotel in Elmhurst, on the highway past Waubra and Lexton. The couple also have plans to move to the district shortly.

Tim plans to revise the pub menu which currently offers a choice of about eight main dishes together with a Kids' menu.

In the kitchen is long-term local **Deb Anderson**, who with husband **Rod**, were former licensees at the hotel.

Meals are available on Friday and Saturday evenings between 6.00pm and 8.00pm, with lunch available on Saturdays and Sundays between noon and 2.00pm.

Tim also intends to introduce more live music at weekends. This news was welcomed by local singer/songwriter **Anni Lang**, from Mt Doran, who was enjoying a drink in the bar when *The News* visited recently.

After working for four years in the family's Elmhurst Hotel in the heart of the Grampians wine region, **Tim Harrigan** has arrived at the Lal Lal Falls Hotel, taking over from long-term owner-publican **Nick Fammartino**.

Tim took over the historic local hotel in December 2017.

Visitors to the Elmhurst pub had mentioned to the family that the Lal Lal hotel was on the market for lease or purchase. His mum **Julie** and dad **Paul** who are helping



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We are looking forward to meeting members of the local community and assisting with their care health needs.

streettalk

SOME SADNESS at the Buninyong Golf Club recently when the pin was pulled on the Thursday night dinners. Been going on there for a very long time. Talking of the golf club, grounds staff did a great job mowing that western end of the Avenue of Honour a few weeks back.

CAUGHT SHORT. Two of *The News* team recently hosted some visitors here from Sweden. Of course they drove them into the station to catch a train to Melbourne for some shopping before returning home. And finding a great 15 minute park near the station entrance, our team helped the visitors with their luggage onto the train.

Fond farewells on board were cut short by the beeping of the train doors closing. *News* pair without tickets, money or phones found themselves also off to Melbourne. Bailing out at Ballan, there was a long wait before the train back to Ballarat came by, and the pair still without tickets, breathed a sigh of relief when the conductor didn't appear, and when their car hadn't been towed!!

NOVEL STUDIO. Many locals who have ventured to the Mt Buninyong winery for a tasting or a meal will have seen the old red double-decker bus seemingly stuck forever in the grounds out there. Now it has been moved a few metres to become *The Bus*, the professional studio for **Sarah Gertners** who specialises in dreadlocks.

SALESMAN. While his efforts to make a living are to be applauded, that man with the old plastic basket of lollies and a lanyard around his neck is becoming a bit intimidating to some street strollers, coffee drinkers and business owners around town.

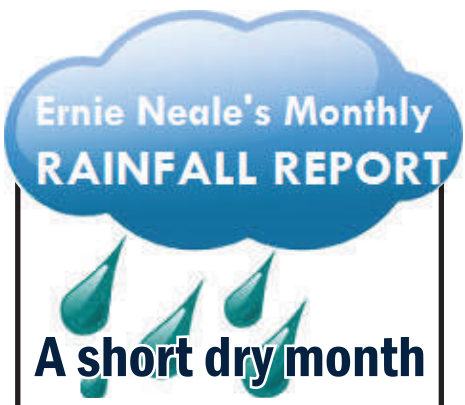
NOT GUILTY! When dead fish were seen floating in the Union Jack Creek adjacent to the Buninyong golf course recently, suspicion fell on a malfunction at the Central Highland Water pumping station.

CHW were quick to respond and test the creek water and reported that it was "in good condition". Answer seems to be that the fish had been trapped in one of the pipelines linking dams on the golf club property.

DESPERATE. Seen a few bottles of water taken into churches before, but the brown styrofoam cup of coffee brought in by one of the guests at a recent Mass/baptism service at St Peter & Paul's Church was a first. Lady happily sipped away all the way through. Hamburgers next?

MOVED ON. Talking of churches... former Uniting Church Minister **Lindell Gibson** was back in town recently to retrieve the family caravan.

She has now relocated to Bright in the north-east of the State.



Ernie Neale's Monthly RAINFALL REPORT

A short dry month

One of these days I hope to find out why February usually has only 28 days – why not 30?

This thought was prompted by the extremely dry February we have experienced this year. The month's brevity has been highlighted by an absolute drop-off in rainfall.

We received only 11.0mm for the month, well down on our recent average of 37.1mm. That brought our total so far this year to 46.6mm, way under the average of 78.4mm for January and February.

It also resulted in a total of only 97.7mm rainfall over the three months of summer, compared to recent average summer rainfall of 118.9mm.

Now with the arrival of Autumn the annual wait for the break begins. Hopefully a well-endowed March, with its 31 days, will bring it on. Why does February only have 28 Days??

FEB 2018			
Date	Rain	Date	Rain
11	1.0	14	1.5
16	1.0	19	2.3
23-24	5.0	27	0.2
Total		11.0 mm	
FEB 2017		43.6mm	

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AUTHORISED BY CATHERINE KING, 5 LYDIARD ST NTH BALLARAT 3350

The *Ballarat Courier* (3 March, 2018) carried a story of some residents of Linton who have taken steps to connect with the old, lonely and isolated in their community. This followed reports of police having found three elderly persons who died alone in the region over the hot summer months and who had not been missed for a considerable time

Klaudia Hochhuth, a widow, who came from Germany some thirty years ago and who now lives in central Buninyong, had written this related and poignant piece for *The News*.

My Christmas was great, but Joe was home alone

Many would have seen or heard of the ads calling on us to look after our neighbours, especially the old, frail and lonely. I would like to share my experience, and that of a neighbor, whom I'll call Joe, during the 2017 'silly season'.

Joe lives on his own, with few family left, and those who are alive live far away. He mostly keeps to himself. I sometimes visit him to see if he is okay and we have a chat. I know that his best friend is his dog, which he walks daily. That's his whole social life.

Likewise, I don't have any family here in Australia, and I must thank **Wendy and Clive Kirby** and all their friendly staff at the *Pig & Goose Restaurant* who invited me to a Christmas Day meal with them,

their family, and about 25 other people who would otherwise have been alone. They were just great!

Also I joined in the Christmas lunch of the Baptist Church in Buninyong which was so welcoming and loving and caring. I was a lucky one.

Depressed

On Boxing Day I visited my friend Joe. He was depressed, almost suicidal. He could not see any light at the end of the tunnel. I asked him if he wanted any contact with neighbours or friends in our Buninyong area.

He responded with a firm NO. *"They all have had a Merry Christmas with relatives. I haven't been invited or contacted by anyone,"* he said. I left it at that.

I challenge readers of *The News* to ask the following question. Do you know your lonely neighbour?

Do you feel any need to make contact and show compassion? A friendly cuppa often works miracles.

On my own journey I searched the Internet and came across a free website, which is called NABO. It connects people in a neighbourhood.

Just type it into your browser and see what information you get. I am very new to it myself but am happy to help if you have any questions.

Please contact me on 0429 165 057. I'm still very worried about Joe but will keep in touch with him.

Klaudia Hochhuth



Pig & Goose owners Wendy and Clive Kirby who, with staff, provided a great Christmas lunch, with next door neighbour Klaudia (right)

Studio brings colour to town

The latest business to start up in Buninyong is that of a wife and husband team, Annie and Mark Ross, who have just opened Studio 408 in the street-front section of the Old Library in Warrenheip Street. The brightly-coloured pink, yellow and orange banners outside the studio make it easy to find.

The business combines three elements, a studio space for local artists, classes for adults in face painting by Annie, and beginner's classes in guitar and keyboard taken by Mark. "It will be a unique fusion of art and music," said Annie.

Links

Although the couple came to Buninyong to live eight years ago, Mark's links go directly back to one of his forebears, the first Mayor of Buninyong (1863), **Peter Hedrick** – his grandfather with a few "greats" before it. Hedrick arrived here from Scotland in 1853.

The Ross couple have opened *Studio 408* after diverse earlier careers – Annie



(Above) Getting ready for last month's opening of Studio 408 are (L to R) Dale Braybrook, Annie Ross, Mark Ross

working with Telstra for fifteen years, and then since 2005 as a professional face-painter. She also is an abstract modern artist.

Mark's working life has included factory work, retail and photography.

Workshops

Over the past few years the couple has also conducted workshops on a part-time basis with groups of people with disabilities.

Among local artists represented in the gallery are **Donna Saunders** and **Bronwen Algate**, together with Ballarat artist **Dale Braybrook**, manager of the *Riot Art Store*.

More information on *Studio 408* can be found on Facebook ([studio408buninyong](https://www.facebook.com/studio408buninyong)) or by phone 0407 347 258.

Birds of prey are on display

Owls, hawks, eagles and falcons can be seen up close at an unusual museum and action display at local venues during the school holidays. There will be discussion on the ancient art of falconry.

Staff from the *Leigh Valley Hawk and Owl Sanctuary* will offer the flight and static displays at Royal Park Buninyong at 11.00am on Wednesday 4 April and Saturday 7 April, and at the Garibaldi Hall on Saturday 14 April.

There will be activities with prizes for children. Admission is Adults \$10, Children U16 \$5 and a family ticket for \$20. Bookings: **Talia** on 0427 279 868 and further information at the website info@hawkandowl.com.au



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244 Moss Ave Mount Helen

Business group meets Bike race hot topic

The twenty-two attendees at the March meeting of the Buninyong Business Network spent a considerable time discussing a range of issues concerning the annual Australian road racing titles held in Buninyong.

Present at the meeting was Heidi Zukauskas (right) who is the City of Ballarat's Events Manager for the cycle races. Items raised with her included

- the need for better recognition of Buninyong's role in the event in signage and promotions
- the possibility of co-branding of Ballarat and Buninyong
- improvement in the 2018 information about the event given to residents and businesses
- the need for a TV screen or other activities to be located at the north end of Warrenheip Street, and for cycling trucks and infrastructure to be located off the main street area in front of shops

The increasingly popularity of the 'top of the mountain' area came in for discussion with concern expressed about 'rogue' traders operating there.

Heidi said that the possibility of a lift out in the main brochure for the race which listed Buninyong's attractions, businesses and activities might be considered.

She also took on board the suggestion of a raffle conducted by local businesses with the prize being rides in one of the 'course' cars.

Lisa Cressey said there were no plans to arrange for another village market during the race.

Other issues discussed at the meeting included a membership drive, a submission for ongoing funding to the Community Bank, collective bargaining possibilities for members (eg for insurance), and advertising possibilities.

It was reported that sales of the 'Buninyong' stickers (\$3) were steady and that the free calendars were still available.






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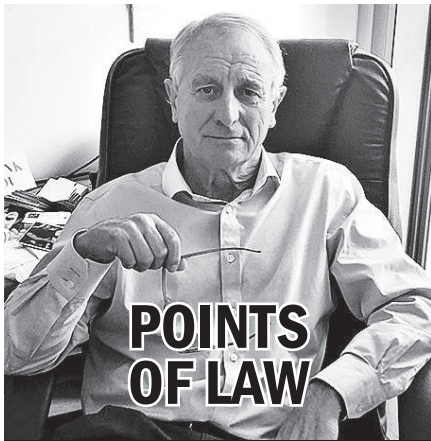
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It is surprising how many people seem to slip, trip or fall when they are in places such as supermarkets. Of course some are genuine accidents resulting in genuine injuries. Others, however, may be seen as a chance to hit the property owner with a hefty claim or bill.

Claims after that slip, trip or fall

If a person is injured whilst in a supermarket, a shopping mall or in other similar place outside their own home, the question often asked is whether a claim can be made against the owner/occupier of the place.

The answer is possibly yes, but in most cases no. The two factors which determine this are

- was there fault on the part of the owner/occupier which caused the accident?
- is the injury a significant one which results in a permanent disability of not

less than five per cent of the whole body?

An owner/occupier is not at fault in failing to take precaution against accidents unless the risk was foreseeable and not insignificant. By way of example, it would be difficult to establish fault where a customer in a supermarket spilled shampoo on the floor and soon afterwards another person slipped on it.

Fault

The person making the claim must establish that there was fault on the owner/occupier, which is difficult to do.

This might be possible if the spill had been reported to store staff some time previously and nothing had been done to quickly clean it up.

A claim for out of pocket expenses such as medical and loss of wages is treated in the same way as that for pain and suffering, meaning that fault must be established.

While there are some law firms which actively seek work of this kind, often on a no-win/no-fee basis, from a practical point of view it is advisable to notify the owner/occupier of the place and lodge a claim for out of pocket expenses in the hope that they will be paid, without resorting to legal remedies.

Dean Cinque

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Bush dance at Grenville

There's a big Hoedown set for the Grenville Hall on Saturday 28 April with live music by *Collins, McClean and Scuffins*, supported by *The Hardies Hillbillies*. This great musical line-up will be featured at a real bush dance starting at 6.30pm.

Family tickets are \$15, or it's \$8 per person with children U 16 free. Proceeds will go to upgrading facilities at the hall. Bring a plate for a shared supper.

Tickets are available in Buninyong at *Maggie & Kate, Espresso Depot* and at *Three Times Blest* or via email from talia.barrett@gmail.com

drinks available to purchase – pancakes, sausages, coffee and cake!

A gold coin donation from each hunter will help raise funds for the Buninyong Festival.

For details on this eggcellent day, go see the Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/BuninyongFestival/> - or look out for the local posters!

Dates set for Film Festival

At this year's Buninyong Film Festival, there will be some incredible films to see. If documentaries are your thing, then you won't want to miss *The Pink House* on Opening Night, which will be followed by a Q and A session with the Director **Sascha Ettinger-Epstein**.

Plus, some other worldwide festival hits not to be missed, include *Into The Fade* and *Chavela*.

Like in previous years there will also be a few social activities on offer, such as the new Supper-time Quiz and the annual Saturday night dinner.

For more information and/or to book, go to www.buninyongfilmfestival.com.au

Save the dates – Friday 25 and Saturday 26 May



A divine sale

After giving the business *Divine Vintage* a fresh new look over the past two years, **Cathy Hopper** has decided to put the business on the market. She plans to close it around July.

The retail outlet with a great street presence on Warrenheip Street carries a wide range of gifts and products such as soaps, candles, cushions, hand creams, scarves and some vintage furniture. It also handles dry cleaning.

The shop is located in an increasingly popular section of the township which will see many streetscape improvements in the future. Sale enquiries to Cathy on 0437 457 905.



Get ready for Easter egg hunt

Local children of all ages are again getting ready for the annual Easter Egg hunt in Buninyong's Botanic Gardens. The egg hunt and other fun activities will be between 9.30am and 1.00pm on Saturday 31 March.

The search will involve finding plastic eggs which will then be redeemed for chocolate eggs at the organisers' table. In 2017 some 400 children took part in the hunt. This was double the number who were in the 2016 hunt.

There will also be a sing-along with the *Ballarat Ukulele Group*, face-painting and old-fashioned games. Of course, adults will be looked after as there will be food and

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Kids cook up a storm on Fridays

Scotsburn Campus students are loving getting back into their Friday rotations. The students work in their family groups to cook, garden, care for the animals and participate in team building activities.

The benefits for the students working together across mixed age groups is always positive, creating a friendly and caring atmosphere. Our chooks are also working hard to provide plenty of eggs and our vegetable garden is taking shape now that the warmer weather has passed. The students certainly love creating aspects of their lunch out of the vegetables that they grow.

Parents considering where to send their children to school won't be disappointed when visiting the Scotsburn campus (Midland Highway).



Ella, Logan and Freya are planning to use the eggs and not the chickens in their Friday cooking class

Please contact **Shaun O'Loughlin** on 53413496 to arrange a tour. It's easy to find the delightful little campus

tucked away behind the trees on the right hand side of the Midland Highway near Platts Road about five km out of Buninyong.



Pictured are David Young and Navara Fammartino

....and at the Expo too

Buninyong PS students and staff showcased two of their sustainability programs at the **Smart Building and Living Expo at Royal Park in February.** The school provided opportunities for pupils to plant seedlings and create solar boats.

Year 3 students and teachers work hard at school every day to learn about caring for chickens and developing a fertile vegie patch. Teacher **Katie Adamson** is just one of many green thumbs constantly planning learning

opportunities for students that centre around understanding healthy food choices by being part of the process.

Ms Adamson joined with another teacher **Ana Anderson** to help children plant their own seedling in recyclable pots on Sunday to spread their passion for gardening.

At the Expo, Central Highlands Solar Boat Challenge coordinator, **Imogen Forsyth**, and Ana Anderson, assisted children to build and race their own solar boats.

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RSL records a very busy year

The December meeting of the Buninyong RSL closed a busy year for the sub branch. The major activity during 2017 had been the refurbishment and re-dedication of the World War I Avenue of Honour. The 1 July march and RAAF flyover was one of the biggest community events in Buninyong's recent history.

In December 2017 a presentation of a leather bound four volume set containing the service records of soldiers honoured in the avenue was made by RSL President **Ray Mende** to representatives of the Buninyong & District Historical Society.

In early 2018, RSL Secretary **Bob Bennett** also donated to the Society a colour photographic album by professional photographer **Andrew Wilson** of the



Buninyong RSL Secretary Bob Bennett (centre) and Brian Parker (right) hand over the photographic record and medallions at a recent meeting of the Historical Society in the Old Court House. At left is Anne Goodings

restoration project and community march, and also three of the specially-struck medals that had been presented to district primary school children.

The branch thanked the community for its continued support to the November poppy appeal that raised \$1900, and also for

their attendance at the annual November dinner.

Welfare is a major part of RSL and fourteen Christmas hampers were assembled with the generous support of Buninyong Foodworks and distributed within the Buninyong RSL family.



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Visiting footballers tackle mount test



Coach Damien Pemberton on right at the front of the hard-working team members

Many international, national and regional athletes come to Buninyong to do the 'hard yards' of sports training, according to James Petrie and Grant Luscombe from *Intensity Fitness*.

Recently it was the Woorndoo-Mortlake football squad being put through their paces climbing the Mount as effective exercise to boost both fitness and team-bonding.

For this team, pre-season training was in full swing as nineteen of their players pounded up from Elizabeth Street to the Mt Buninyong Reserve car park carrying a very heavy ship's hawser.

There are almost as many vertical metres as there are horizontal when climbing the Mount from Buninyong village. These sportsmen certainly can attest to that.

Past player and now coach of the Tigers, **Damien Pemberton**, said the team, hit by injuries, had been languishing in the competition over the last few years. But with the tough metres to the top of the Mount behind them, perhaps the Minera & District League's Grand Final Cup will be theirs come September. The team won eight games in 2017.

The Woorndoo-Mortlake team has its first game against Glenthompson-Dunkeld on 14 April.

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Women's golf

Juniors feature in special event

Buninyong Golf Club women recently competed for the 2018 Vi MacDonald Trophy - a long-standing stableford competition involving a President v Captain teams format.

Almost fifty years ago Buninyong resident and Life-Member of Buninyong Golf Club, **Vi MacDonald**, thought this event so important she donated a fine silver salver as a trophy. Teams have competed for it since 1972. Sadly, Vi died in 2016. In an extraordinary coincidence, at the very time Vi passed away women were teeing off in the event for the forty-fourth time.

Wet landing

Vi is often remembered by golfers as they pass over the *Union Jack Creek* at the second hole near the Midland Highway. On one occasion, Vi's ball landed in the creek. After retrieving her ball and climbing back up the steep bank she fell backwards into the water. That section of the creek has since been known as *MacDonald's Pond*.

Pictured (above) are the President **Lorraine Smyth** and Captain **Laurel**

Perrin holding the Vi MacDonald Trophy with other Buninyong golfers. Junior members, **Abbey Johnson** and **Alicia Todd** are shown after having just completed their first competition round in fine style.

Welcomed

During presentations Abbey and Alicia were given a welcome gift by the Lady President. Captain Laurel Perrin later said "it was wonderful to have two junior girls with us today. We hope Amy and Alicia return and play often and continue to outdrive their partners."

Buninyong golfers welcome new members or women and girls who are new to golf and would like to try out. Just leave contact details at the Club (5341 3217) and Lorraine or Laurel will return your call.

New players are welcome to attend the Friday morning's nine-hole event (9am) - to join in, or just to try out on a few holes with a member. Flexi Memberships and other membership options are also available.

Ray Sullivan's
SPORTS NEWS

DISTRICT TITLES TO LOCAL GOLFERS

Buninyong golfers **Kelly Lyle** and **Helen Pascoe** took out the Ballarat District Golf 54-hole titles.

Kelly tied with multiple champion **Craig Boucher** and after a five-hole play-off claimed his first men's championship.

In the Women's event Helen shot 78 on her home course to overtake fellow Buninyong member **Nikki Prato** and win her eleventh championship.

MIXED FORTUNES FOR LOCAL BOWLERS

Buninyong had a good year with four of the seven teams making finals.

In the weekend competition the Div.1 side finished on top of the ladder and are hoping a grand final victory will get them back into Premier Division after being relegated last year. The Div. 3 side lost to Ballan in the preliminary final.

The Div. 1 midweek side missed their chance for a grand final appearance, also losing their preliminary final. The Division 4 midweek team lost by 11 shots to Linton in their grand-final.

CRICKETERS JUST MISS

Buninyong CC had some near misses in their finals campaign. The senior side was unlucky to lose the Second XI semi-final.

Batting first and compiling 253 runs put them in a strong position. But unfortunately they went down by just three runs. **Daniel Kitchen** 89 n.o. and **Sam Bell** 72 were the best of the batsmen, and Daniel Kitchen also took 3/86 with the ball.

The Buninyong Thirds mirrored the efforts of the senior team also losing their semi-final by 22 runs, 153 to 175.

Russell Sharp was the best batsman with 61 and **Jason Giri** starred with the ball, taking 5/37.

Masons kick in for charities



Masonic committee members prepare to accompany Professor George Kannourakis through door 23 into the research laboratory.

In late 2017 Sturt Buninyong Lodge and its masonic committee presented cheques to a number of organisations. The Freemasons Foundation also co-contributed to each project.

A gift of \$3000 was made to the Fiona Eley Cancer Research Institute where research is looking at the protein that attaches itself to the cancer cells and prevents the immune system killing off the cancer.

Success in this research would lead to immune treatment to suppress the protein protecting the cancer.

This treatment would avoid the side effects of the current chemo and radiation therapies.

The 3BA Christmas Appeal also benefitted from a donation of \$3000. The Lodge also presented a further two book vouchers at the 2017 Buninyong Primary School grade six graduation.

Senior visit

Victoria's senior Freemason Most Worshipful **Don Reynolds** attended the Sturt Buninyong United Lodge December meeting.

The gathering of 54 local and district freemasons, partners and friends of the lodge enjoyed friendship and hospitality traditionally associated with the end-of-year lodge meeting.

During the evening, MWBro Reynolds delivered the Christmas message and presented 60 Year Service Jewels to MWBro **Bruce Bartrop** and Very WBro **David Pratt**.

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THEY LIKED IT!

There was a strong audience turn-out for the eight performances in early February of Shakespeare’s *As You Like It*, directed by Susan Pilbeam. The play was set in the leafy Buninyong Botanic Gardens.

Performers included players from Federation University, Sovereign Hill and from local schools

The response from audiences was great, and later postings on *Facebook* and other social media were uniformly positive. Comments such as the following - “*very funny and well-performed*”; “*there was enchantment, location and occasion blended with imagination*” - were most positive.

Susan Pilbeam, who also directed the 2017 of *The Tempest* in the gardens setting, said the Bard will return next February to the Gardens in the form of *Loves Labours Lost*.

(Above) The animals used in the play were crafted in wood by members of the Men’s Shed including Jeff Douglass and Chris Kruger - and were painted by Micheal Ford.

(Top right) The cast and crew of the ‘As You Like It’ production

(Bottom right) And the pets came along too! Gusto and Daisy seemed more interested in the titbits being handed out by John and Denise Goodwin from Mt Doran than in Shakespeare’s tales of love.

Photos – Facebook and Russell Luckcock

