

Liberals announce by-pass planning start with \$2 million promise

During the final weeks of the State Election campaign, numerous large signs were erected around Buninyong calling on local politicians and candidates to give serious attention to the need for planning to start on a heavy-vehicle by-pass of the centre of the village.

The move initiated by the local Community Association (BDCA) used the catchy 'heart by-pass' theme and images.

A start

At the election forum held at the Buninyong Town Hall on 8 November Liberal candidate **Andrew Kilmartin** made the surprise announcement that a Liberal Government would allocate \$2 million "for planning and preparation works for the Buninyong By-Pass."

On the following day, Shadow Minister for Roads, **David Hodgett** came to Buninyong to explain that the allocation would "go towards planning of possible routes for the by-pass, the consultation process with local residents, and preparations for the commencement of construction."

The call by the community followed disappointment at the lack of any useful outcomes to date from the \$150,000 allocation for a traffic study which was projected to be completed and reported on several months ago (see VicRoads story p3).

It also related to fears of greatly-increased future traffic flows as the Western Link Road is completed and channels an additional major traffic load on to the Midland Highway at Magpie.

In the weeks prior to the election, the Andrews Government came up with various district road improvement projects, however there was no mention of moves, plans or funding to address either of these serious concerns for Buninyong.

Right: Two BDCA members, Ian Salathiel and Jan Schlunke, were busy collecting signatures on the road by-pass petition at the Spring Fair.

Below: Three Liberal politicians were in Buninyong to announce the promised grant for by-pass planning to start (L to R) Shadow Minister for Roads, David Hodgett, candidate Andrew Kilmartin and Member for Western Victoria Joshua Morris.



Remembrance Day 2018

100 years of memories of our war dead

On a sunny spring morning in RSL Park, the Buninyong RSL Sub-Branch held its annual Remembrance Day ceremony commemorating those who served in World War I. Some 250 were in attendance.

RSL members were supported by a party of cadets from the 300 Australian Cadet Unit (ACU).

Sub-branch President **Ron Fleming** welcomed guests and visitors, presented an address, and later read *The Ode*. Master of Ceremonies was **Bill Durrant** who also read the famous war poem *In Flanders Fields*.

Before and after the ceremony many visitors took the opportunity to walk along the restored Avenue of Honour, reading details on the plaques commemorating local men killed in World War I.



Noel David from Haddon, with Bella 3 and Celsie 10, looks at the display of crosses guarded by Shawn Barker (left) of the 300 ACU. The family watched relative Jag, wearing his great grandfather's war medals, lay a wreath on behalf of the Buninyong Kindergarten

In Flanders Fields

In many countries, days of remembrance are marked by the wearing of a red poppy, a symbol of the plants which bloomed even in the midst of war in the muddy battlefields of Belgium.

One of the most famous, simplest and most evocative war poems was *In Flanders Fields*, by Canadian, **John McCrae**.

McCrae was a military doctor and artillery commander who was nearby when a friend, Lieutenant Alexis Helmer, was killed by an exploding German shell in a battle at Ypres on 2 May, 1915.

McCrae was asked to conduct the burial service for Helmer and, after the burial, began to draft his now-famous poem. The first verse reads:

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

Maria knits avenue of poppies

The eleventh day of November has long been a special day for Maria Wilson. Her father was born on that day in 1927, and so she faces each Remembrance Day with mixed emotions of family memories, of the soldiers who fought and died in the First World War and the war's impact on so many people.

About eight months ago she decided to do something special for this year's Centenary of Remembrance Day and, assisted and encouraged by friend **Rosemary Pike** (of Camellia Cottage) she started to knit, crochet and sew enough red poppies to place one on

each of the 164 trees in Buninyong's Avenue of Honour.

She also prepared poppies with colourful streamers to be placed on the posts surrounding RSL Park for Remembrance Day. All of this has involved some 300 hours of work and a considerable outlay to purchase large amounts of woollen thread, backing materials, eyelets and other items for the project.

Her work on this project was recognised at the Remembrance Day service.

Maria shows a poppy ribbon to RSL members (L to R) Ray Mende, Brian Parker, Max Thorne and Bob Bennett.



VicRoads \$150,000 traffic report TAKES THE SLOW ROAD

In October 2017 the State Government announced a grant of \$150,000 for a study of traffic problems in and around Buninyong, particularly relating to heavy vehicle traffic. Concerned that no results had yet been seen, a meeting was convened on 19 October by Member for Buninyong Geoff Howard with senior Regional Roads Victoria (RRV) staff.

Along with Mr Howard, three Buninyong community members including Buninyong & District Community Association's (BDCA) **Robert Elshaug** and **Ian Salathiel** met with RRV's Regional Director **Mal Kersting**, Integrated Transport & Land Use Team Leader **Sam Brown**, Regional Engagement Manager **Angela Carey** and **Lee Taylor**, Planning Development Engineer.

The community members expressed concern that there was no sign of the report which was expected several months ago.

At the meeting, summary results of the community consultation sessions were presented. Held outside the Buninyong *Foodworks* store, Buninyong Primary School, Midvale Shopping Centre, and Federation University, these consultation sessions included 72 persons who volunteered to provide formal feedback (just 37 from Buninyong).

Results from these sessions related to personal travel patterns, and safety and



Some of those at the meeting with RRV Regional Manager Mal Kersting (second from left) were Geoff Howard, Robert Elshaug and Ian Salathiel.

other concerns. While it was agreed that some useful broad issues emerged from these results, the sample size and composition and the unstructured nature of the issues raised and comments made were challenged by the BDCA. It was agreed that results of this phase of the study were only of "general use."

Sam Brown reported that a "massive amount of data" had been collected from the fourteen 'camera nodes' set up across the general district to capture details of traffic volumes and origins and destinations.

These data were drawn from cameras operating for thirteen hours across two days (Wednesday and Thursday) in the fourteen locations. It was possible to identify the size and characteristics of vehicles monitored.

Other data

It was suggested to the RRV staff that any report should compare the 2018 traffic flow, origins/destinations and volume data with those reported in the smaller scale *2013 Buninyong Traffic Impact Study* conducted by the City of Ballarat and VicRoads.

The results of the 2013 study and the trend estimates had been questioned by the community as being vague and inaccurate and failing to take account of developments to the west of Ballarat.

The need to take account of the future impact of traffic coming from developments to the west of Ballarat was referred to throughout the discussion.

It seems that RRV will present a general interim report to the Minister soon after the State election, and that a final report may be completed within about two months.

BDCA representatives requested that they be offered the opportunity to review and comment on the general areas proposed to be covered by the report (not the detail or recommendations). **Geoff Howard MLA** said that he hoped the report would include both long and short term recommendations.

Weather calendar

ONE OF THE BIGGEST selling calendars each year, with annual sales of some 65,000, is the Australian Weather Calendar. The 2019 edition includes a graphic photo of Mt Buninyong with a swirling cover of clouds. This photo was one of thirteen chosen from the several hundreds of photographs submitted to the Australian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society.

See it at shop.bom.gov.au.

Burke and Wills and the #21 bus

Every once in a while a ride to the city on the local bus is quite relaxing and informative. It's relaxing as the nice bloke up front worries about the traffic, and it's informative because you can see so much happening along the sides of the road.

The old No 10 bus ride into Ballarat was pretty straightforward. It simply went along Geelong Road and Main Road, took a left turn to the Little Bridge Street bus interchange (to access the shops) then up Dana and along Lydiard Street to the station. It was a trip of some 25 minutes to Little Bridge Street and less than 30 minutes to the station.

A new way

But a little while back, our favourite bureaucracy Public Transport Victoria (PTV) – the mob that won't relocate the longest-bus-stop-in-the-world in Warrenheip Street – developed a new route from Buninyong into the CBD. It's now the No 21 bus.

So we hopped on the No 21 bus in Buninyong the other day to get to a meeting near Bridge Mall, just across from the Little Bridge St bus-interchange. Allow 30 minutes we thought. Wrong, wrong, wrong!!! No, the new Bus 21 route mirrors some of the trips made by Burke and Wills.

In Main Road at the Sovereign Hill corner we swung left into Bradshaw Street, up the hill to Magpie Street, then down to Grant Street, across Grant Street and after a

couple of little side-street manoeuvres we found ourselves in Peel Street. Getting pretty close now to Little Bridge Street we thought.

Still going

But no, on we went! Left into Dana Street, right into Grenville Street (with our rendezvous just 100m away), then a right into Curtis Street followed by a left into Peel Street (again), under the railway viaduct, onto Scott Parade, up Nolan Street, a left into Lydiard Street – only to be greeted by closed railway gates and bells!!

Those Chinese tourists who had joined the No 21 travelogue at Sovereign Hill were not very impressed to see their Melbourne train slide through the closed gates!! An hour or so wait for them.

After the stop at the station, away we went again. Down Mair Street to Peel Street, a right there, and then another right into Little Bridge Street. Hallelujah!!

We had joined the No 21 bus at the RSL Park in Buninyong at 2.36pm, and finally made it to our destination at 3.23pm – 47 minutes later! It had taken more than 40 minutes just to reach the railway station.

Those boffins at PTV headquarters at Docklands who came up with this new bus route into Ballarat should be told not to stay out late before drawing up their next wacky bus route for Buninyong people who used to enjoy a quick and simple ride from here to there. Burke and Wills live again!



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Farewell to Frank



Two major community groups, the Buninyong Golf Club and Buninyong Probus, recently were saddened by the death of a former President, Frank Nolan, who died at home in Buninyong at the age of 68 years after a four year battle with oesophageal cancer

His interests were wide, being a member of the Ballarat Sportsmen's Club, the Royal Tennis Club and the Melbourne Cricket Club, in addition to leadership roles he filled on the Board of St Patrick's College, and the Ballarat Diocesan Pastoral Council.

After being born in Western Australia, Frank spent much of his working life in Melbourne before moving to Ballarat with his family in 1991.

He was married to **Patrece** for 45 years and was the father of four children.

After a service in the chapel of St Patrick's College, Ballarat, Frank was buried at the Buninyong Cemetery.

Help for police health



Pete Henry, President of Unanimity Club, Chief Commissioner Graham Ashton and Doug Williams, Treasurer of the No23 Committee.

Sturt Buninyong No 23 Committee along with the Police Unanimity Club, and supported by the Freemasons Foundation, presented \$3500 to Chief Commissioner Graham Ashton on 29 October.

The presentation took place during the annual *National Police Remembrance Day*

at the Police Memorial in St Kilda Road, Melbourne.

This contribution goes to the fundraising walk undertaken by the Chief Commissioner and the Police Association to fund mental health support for members of the police force.

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Nöel's thoughts found in storage

Now-retired, Uniting Church Minister Nöel Nicholls came to Buninyong in 1999 and started to write a series of articles for the *Buninyong Community News*. Entitled *From the Rainbow Bird*, these covered a range of her ideas and ponderings.

The Rainbow Bird is an aboriginal folktale from Northern Australia telling how the bird tricked the Crocodile, which had control of fire, into letting go of it so that everyone could cook their food, stay warm and light their way through the darkness.

Lucky

Recently Nöel decided to try to track down some of her articles and went to the Buninyong Historical Society where, to her delight, she found they had stored a box of them.

She said that her ideas for articles came from talking to people and seeing what was happening in the Buninyong community.

For example, in July 1999 in an article headed *Autumn in Buninyong* she wrote "What a delight! I feel very privileged to be part of the community in which I feel at home already." In December 2001, the year of the 9/11 disaster, she wrote about Christmas, observing "as the commercial roar of Christmas threatens to overwhelm us we should pause and ask - what really is important?"

July 2003 found Nöel pondering about never giving up, and seeing the bigger picture of life. Using the metaphor of her new hobby of cross stitch she mused that "it can be tedious doing one tiny stitch



after another. But as the cross stitch of life unfolds the complete picture emerges from the chaos."

Empty shops

In 2004, after being away on long service leave, she came home to Buninyong to be "appalled to find more empty shops. This small town, with all the difficulties of being so close to a large rural city, has the potential to be a unique, welcoming, nurturing, caring, vital community. Surely.....we need to support and

encourage the creative, enterprising people who work so hard to bring new life and energy into our community." Those words could well be written again right now.

With her husband John, Nöel now lives in Mt Helen and is still involved in community activities including being a member of the *Vintage Brass Band* (with many of its members being over the age of 80) playing clarinet, tenor horn, cornet and the organ.

Cassandra Carland

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Pleasant, Wednesdays at the Mission centre involve a hive of activity.

While people are rummaging around looking for bargains in the Op Shop, in partnership with *Wellways* there is a craft group busy making wall hangings, jewellery and knitted garments, and *Mainly Music*, a pre-school children's programme may also be in session.

Amongst all this, Judith and Marjorie can be found serving a lunch of soup, sandwiches and cakes, all provided by volunteers. Indeed, the ladies have been labelled *Buninyong's Angels* by those who use the Mission Centre.

Difference

"They make such a difference to our lives. Wednesday's are the highlight of the week - I would be so lonely otherwise," said one regular member of the craft group.

All the enjoyment isn't one-sided, however, as Judith said, "I really enjoy my involvement with the Mission Centre, and this is my way of contributing something worthwhile to the community."

In addition to the support given at Sebastopol, Buninyong's Uniting Church congregation also is busy sending regular donations of clothes and food to the Ballarat Soup Bus, providing donations of food to Federation University students living away from home, and offering a weekly Open House of friendship and fellowship to ladies at the white church on the hill on each Wednesday at 10.00am.

Top left: The angels of the Op Shop (L to R): Lyn King, Jan Hateley, Judith Lukeis, and Marjorie Skewes.

Rita Russell

Church in the community **'Angels of the Op Shop'**

When the Uniting Church in Albert Street, Sebastopol became a Mission Centre in 2007, some women from Buninyong's Uniting Church wondered what they could do to help. So they put their heads together to see how they could contribute and what they could do to support the Sebastopol community.

Now, eleven years on, Lyn King from Buninyong is responsible for a team of

thirty volunteers from a wide area, and the Centre has become a place to drop in for anyone looking for support or a cuppa. For several days each week the volunteers organise and run a busy *Op Shop*, and there is also a regular programme of projects and activities.

Busy times

With the help of **Judith Lukeis** and **Marjorie Skewes**, both also from Buninyong, and **Jan Hateley** from Mount



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New choir under way

The newly-formed Buninyong Community Choir had its first practice session at the RSL Hall on 24 October with thirty-three singers meeting under the guidance of Georgie Williams.

The idea for a new Community Choir was floated earlier this year by **Christine Rossiter** and, after Georgie agreed to take on the role of choir leader, community interest grew quickly prior to the well-attended first session.

Attendee **Margaret McCarty** said that the first session of the choir was “great fun” and that Georgie’s sense of energy and excitement was felt by all new members of the group.

The choir now practises weekly on Wednesdays in the RSL Hall between noon and 1.15pm. There is a small fee of \$15.



Georgie said that there will be a “surprise” performance by the choir in Buninyong in December.

Georgie Williams (rear) chats with choir members Lisa Cressey and Margaret McCarty, with Sandy Staggard and Ann-Maree Huggins at right.

Men at work

The Scotsburn school campus has again benefited greatly from the hardworking men of the Buninyong Men’s Shed. In recent weeks, members of the shed have installed a new noticeboard, signage, scarecrow and cubby hut. The staff and students from the campus absolutely love the new additions.

Over the past month, incoming 2019 preps have enjoyed a morning each week acclimatising to being at school.

They have all had a great time and fitted nicely into the campus. Next visit for the youngsters will be at the Orientation Day on 11 December.

Shown on the left is young **Amity** with Grade 5 mentor **Lily**.



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streettalk



Finalising plans on site for the 2018 Carols are (L to R) Scott Bedgood, David Page and Carolyn Priddle.

Headline acts for carols in the park

The 2018 version of Buninyong's annual *Carols in the Park* event will have added interest this year with high-profile identities on stage and in the compere role. Popular ABC personality Prue Bentley has agreed to act as compere for the evening. In addition to being an ABC presenter, she is now also Chief of Staff for ABC Western Victoria.

Highlighting the musical side of the evening will be talented and exciting young dancer, singer and musician **Rueben Morgan**. He teaches violin, viola and cello at Ballarat secondary and primary schools, is studying classical singing with **Constance Lemke** and has appeared in leading roles in many local productions.

The musical group *Sing Australia* - a choir of more than fifty singers, will again be on stage as they have been for the past fifteen years or so under the baton of **Carolyn Priddle**.

The *Carols in the Park* are set for Saturday 8 December commencing at 5.00pm with a range of children's activities, with the carols and other entertainment commencing at 7.00pm.

As usual, the lovely setting of Desoza Park will be the venue. The Lions Club BBQ and a coffee van will be on site.

The event is a joint effort of the Buninyong Mt Helen Lions club assisted by the local churches with proceeds going to the 3BA Christmas Appeal.

To add to the attractions of visiting Buninyong on that evening, the Village Market will also be in operation between 4.00pm and 8.00pm



Prue Bentley

FRUSTRATING TIMES for new restaurant owners. *The Shared Table* has had to go to a Council mediation with a local objector over issues such as parking, the extent of its *al fresco* proposals, and delivery and waste removal access. Hopefully Council gave it the go-ahead on 21 November.

MEANWHILE, THE NEW Asian restaurant across the street has also had its permit delays, but is now set to open on 26 November. Name is *Yummy Kitchen*.

THE PROMISE by two candidates (**Kilmartin** and **Eckel**) that should they be elected, they would base electorate offices in downtown Buninyong was greeted warmly by residents. Retired MP **Geoff Howard** had his office in the old *Evans* funeral parlours in Main Road quite remote from the bulk of the electors.

THE RETURN of the first of the Thursday night dinners at the golf club was a sell-out with over 90 persons showing up. The next 'trial' dinner will be on Thursday 13 December.

KAMBEI JAPANESE RESTAURANT owner/chef and keen BGC golfer, Yutaka Kimura is very keen to thank the male golfer who returned his lost mobile phone at the course on 16 October at about 5.30 pm. If anyone knows that person, drop an email to (or phone) *The News* and we'll put him in touch.

AFTER A FULL DAY in court on 5 October, the battle over that proposed ten unit development at Eddy Avenue Mt Helen returns to VCAT on 10 December with another half day expected to be taken up in the residents v developers dispute.

THE BARD IS BACK. Shakespeare's *Love's Labour's Lost* is coming to the Botanic Gardens on 8,9,10,15,16,17 February.

Great interest in riverbank event

The Napoleons Enfield Landcare Group invited community members to an Open Day at Franklins Bridge on Scotchman's Lead Road between Buninyong and Napoleons on 28 October. Nearly 200 visitors came.

A guided ramble was indicated by an art trail of 26 separate drawings provided by Napoleons Primary School. At the end, there was time for a rest at the seating

stones, where the Yarrowee, winding its way downstream, joins the Union Jack Creek.

Water watch

There were plenty of animals around. Most of the children had a go at *Waterwatching* which involves hunting through the river weed to spot the tiny invertebrates essential to a healthy river. Fishing advice was also on hand with the *Fisheries*

Authority who had new yabby nets to show people.

Many were interested in the work of the *Green Woodsmith* who set up amongst the gums, showing how and why a pole lathe would have been used by early settlers.

He also showed some fascinated children, how a simple log can be made easily into a mallet which could then be used for hammering tent pegs. The Landcare Group uses them for hammering in the stakes used to protect over

6,000 trees and shrubs planted in the last four years alone.

Highlight

A highlight of the day was the smoking ceremony performed by **Barry Gilson**, a Wathuarung man. Not only did Barry tell of Dreamtime stories and explained how his ancestors would have called the Yarrowee by its ancient name of *Yaramlock*, he performed a smoking ceremony for everyone to join in while he sang.

Some people also visited the Group's new project round the corner on the Union Jack Creek, which will eventually join up with the plantings along the Yarrowee. It was pleasing that so many locals came to see what is public land, to realise they can visit and look after it as well. The restored riverside can be seen from the bridge on Scotsman's Lead Road.

The group would warmly welcome new members. Contact **David Sullivan** on 0457 956 747



Barry Gilson performing a smoking ceremony (Photo : David & Tania Fletcher)

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Primary school students check over the refurbished main entry gates to the Botanic Gardens. Council and the Friends of the Buninyong Botanic Gardens worked on the project. (photo: Stephanie Patterson)

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Builder's 'lost' house found

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West Australian-based descendant of the man responsible for construction of many of Buninyong's historic buildings has contacted *The News* seeking help in finding the information.
 He is Richard Rennie of Melville in WA, the great-great grandson of Richard Hutchinson Rennie who came to Buninyong in 1854 as a bricklayer and builder.
 In 1854, R H Rennie built the Church

Street may have been his last place of residence (c. 1900).
 This house was still standing in the 1990s (see picture) but has since been demolished. Rennie's great-great grandchild is most interested to find out the actual address of this building.
 Anne Beggs Sunter of the Buninyong & District Historical Society is on the hunt for this information, but if anyone else in the district has knowledge of the Rennie house please contact *The News*

Last month's edition of *The News* carried a story about the mystery of the location of the small cottage lived in by Richard Rennie who built many of Buninyong's grand historic buildings.

The story followed an enquiry to *The News* from his great grandson living in Melville, WA, and brought a response within 24 hours from the present owners of the property **Stephen** and **Annette Warren** of Scott Street, Buninyong.

It seems that for many years the 'mystery' house was the home of **Ethel** and **Charles Eason** who ran a dairy farm on the block now bordered by Scott, Cornish, Fischen and Learmonth Streets. Annette (Johnstone) is a grand-daughter of the Easons.

In their back yard the bluestone foundations of the old cottage can clearly be seen and the large steel boiler shown in the old photograph is still where it was when the photograph was taken in the 1990s. The site of the old cottage sits in the middle of the large block that formerly faced Learmonth Street.

Unlike the grand buildings he constructed around the township, Rennie's home was made of timber. He died in 1906, aged

87. With his wife Jane he is buried in the Episcopalian section of the local cemetery.

Following on from the contact made by the Warren family, the Secretary of the Historical Society **Anne Beggs Sunter** is now working on a more detailed story about Richard Rennie and his house on the hill.

Below: Pictured near the old boiler are Stephen Warren and son Daniel.



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Lions' trailer project

The Buninyong Mount Helens Lions Club has completed a major project of building a community catering barbecue trailer. This replaces an old trailer which has been in use for close to 20 years.

The BBQ trailer supports the Lions' main purpose which is to raise money to assist the local community such as after natural disasters like the Scotsburn Fires, where the club not only supported the local community, but cooked for *BlazeAid* workers who re-built farmers' fences.

Drought help

This year, Lions also supported farmers suffering from the drought conditions in the wider Australian community.

This was done by being a drop off point for the *Need for Feed* organisation that took many trucks of hay for affected communities, as also happened in the Scotsburn Fires.

The Lions also raise funds for local community members who are going through a rough time, and for all sorts of wider excellent causes such as breast cancer on Mother's Day.

The biggest event each year is cooking for the *Buninyong Carols* at Christmas time, with all the money raised going to the 3BA Christmas Appeal, which in turn uses it to assist needy families in Ballarat over the following year.

Donations have also been made through the *Australian Lions Foundation* to international disasters such as the recent earthquake in Indonesia.

The Club also cooks for other community groups in Buninyong to raise money for their own important causes.

The Lions feel the BBQ trailer is an important means of bringing groups in the community together. If any community group wishes to have a barbecue, they should contact President **Gary White** (0418 502 975) or **David Page** (0418 543 772).

Funding for the trailer project came from grants from the Ballarat City Council, the *Australian Lions Foundation* and a large grant from the *Bendigo Community Bank*. The Bank has supported the Club with grants for different projects over the years. Ballarat *Jayco* and *Fire Logic* donated some equipment for the trailer.

Hard work

The project took about twelve months to complete with Lions' members working hard either by helping with their practical skills or by helping at barbecues, or contributing to the very successful *Lions Book Shop* in Buninyong which raised the extra money required.

The trailer will be able to just about go anywhere. The barbecue is gas. It heats its own water (240v/gas), with two 80 litre fresh water tanks underneath the trailer, along with a grey water tank. It also has an *Engel* freezer and a huge Ice box, and has plenty of storage space for equipment such as tables.

So, now the Lions are really into barbecue mode. New members would be welcome. Contact Gary White (0418 502 975) for more details.



BUNINYONG TOWNSHIP PLAN: COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

The City of Ballarat invites all Buninyong residents to take part in a community workshop to help plan the future of Buninyong.

The session will be independently facilitated by Max Hardy with support from our planners, TRACT Consultants and will build on the many ideas recently put forward by the Buninyong community.

At the end of the session we aim to have had a productive and enjoyable time together and have

- worked on a shared vision for the future of Buninyong
- gained advice from the community on specific planning issues to inform Buninyong's new town plan

If you haven't been involved yet, or if you want to continue your involvement, this workshop is the ideal opportunity to join the conversation and have your say.

SATURDAY 1 DECEMBER 2018

10:00AM TO 12:30PM

BUNINYONG TOWN HALL

To help us set up and provide morning tea, can you please confirm your attendance by emailing City of Ballarat Strategic Planning: strategicplanning@ballarat.vic.gov.au

Seven groups get community grants

Wind farms allocate \$100,000

Lal Lal Wind Farms recently announced that it has awarded grants totalling almost \$100,000 to seven district community projects as part of its annual community benefit fund program.

Representatives from the community groups awarded community grants in 2018 gathered at Lal Lal Soldiers Memorial Hall on Wednesday 24 October for a celebration.

Grants made

Organisations to receive 2018 grants were the Bungaree Bowls Club which received \$17,800 for sun shelters, Clarendon recreation Reserve (\$4,577 for a kitchen upgrade), Dunnstown Community Centre (\$29,000 for a kitchen upgrade), The Elaine Soldiers Memorial Hall (\$25,000 for floor replacement), Lal Lal Soldiers Memorial Hall (\$6,325 for a PA system and for a petting zoo), Millbrook Fire Brigade (\$5,630 for audio-visual equipment), and Yendon recreation Reserve (\$8,363 for hall upgrade works).

Support

Speaking on behalf Lal Lal Wind Farms, **Tom Irvine** commented, "It is important that we support communities by making a contribution to local projects and organisations. We look forward to seeing the benefits of their initiatives over the coming years."

Also in attendance were members of Lal Lal Wind Farms *Community Reference Group*. The Community Reference Group,

comprising local residents, reviewed fourteen grant applications.

"We had some great applications and we are so pleased that so many local groups are now able to move ahead with their projects," said **Tracey Ward**, Lal Lal Wind Farms Community Engagement Manager.

Annual grants

Lal Lal Wind Farms has established a *Community Benefit Fund* through which \$100,000 will be made available annually - in the form of community grants - for the thirty year life of the project.

Details regarding the community benefit fund, and the process of applying in 2019, can be found on the website (www.lallalwindfarms.com.au/community-benefit-fund/).

The Lal Lal Wind Farms comprise two sites at Elaine and at Yendon in the Moorabool Shire. Together, the sites will have a generating capacity of 228MW

using 60 Vestas V136 3.8MW turbines and will generate enough energy to power approximately 95,000 homes and save 780,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide annually. The project will involve some 160 local jobs during construction and eight during operations.



Engels Leoncini (Lal Lal, showing the PA system bought for the Soldiers Memorial Hall), Tracey Ward Lal Lal Wind farms Community Engagement Manager, and Andy Reynolds, Millbrook CFA.

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Carols and choirs at Scotsburn church

The annual Scotsburn Union Church Christmas Carols Under the Trees, will be held on Friday 7 December starting at 7.00pm.

Choirs from the Lal Lal Primary school and the Ballarat Christian College will sing. A great supper is provided at this free event and all are welcome. Please bring a chair.

Banking on lots of toys

For the third year running, the local Community Bank is collecting toys for the Salvation Army's Christmas Appeal. The toys can be dropped off at the bank up until Friday 14 December. The presents will be distributed to children and families by The Salvation Army in time for Christmas.



Please only donate new, unwrapped items. Sadly, the gift you donate may be the only present someone receives this Christmas. While Christmas isn't only about receiving gifts, this is one way some families can be made to feel special.

Every year the Bank has been overwhelmed with gifts for younger children, especially soft toys, but always runs out of gifts for teenagers and parents. Gift vouchers are ideal gifts for teenagers, and also give a struggling parent the joy of purchasing a gift for their child's unique personality and interests.

Mindfulness for wellbeing

Each term since February 2018, **Maura McCabe** has facilitated an eight-week course Practical *Mindfulness for Wellbeing* as a community service in Buninyong. It is offered to a small group, so that discussions can take place easily, after presentation of theory, instruction or practices. Each session is a little over an hour, followed by refreshments and sharing. A small course fee is donated to an existing community project in the Philippines.

Expressions of interest are now being received for Term 1, 2019, which commences on 11 February at 7.30pm. To receive the current flyer of course information contact Maura on 0401 709 305.

Popular music at the clubhouse

Some great live musical tribute shows are slated for 2019 at the Clubhouse at the Buninyong Golf Club. **Gorgia Holmes** of *Gizakiss Music*, in conjunction with the Club, will present a number of live shows for 2019. Put these dates in your diaries

Sat 9 February - Babba - Australia's Premier Abba Show

Sat 6 April - The Eagles Story - Australia's Premier Eagles Experience

Sat 6 June - Ramble Tumble - The Australian Creedence Show

Sat 3 August - Ultimate American Rock Show

More information about the shows can be found at gizakissmusic.com. Tickets only on-line at trybooking.com/book/event and early booking for the Babba show is advised.

RSL seeks Veterans

Buninyong RSL, along with the Military Brotherhood, invites all serving and ex-service members to a sausage sizzle get together, RSL Clubrooms, **Sunday 9 December** at 12 noon.

RSVP: rj_ljfleming@bigpond.com

Desoza Park sculpture facelift

Council has advised of an enhancement project for the Desoza Mill sculpture – that large circular concrete sculpture at the front of Desoza Park.

Hopefully it will be restored with its original embellishments. Works, scheduled for the present financial year, at this stage will include:

- cleaning all surfaces
- replacing soil that has degraded to the south side and replanting surrounding grass
- a set stone infill for circle consistent with the colours represented in the existing artwork

Ghosts and goblins abound

On 30 October many streets of Buninyong were buzzing with dozens of colourfully-dressed children (and some parents) who were busy ringing doorbells with the Halloween call of *Trick or Treat!*

Perhaps afraid of what tricks the children might play, most householders passed over the requested treats without argument.



Shown in Clubhouse Close were bell-ringers Freya 2, Violet 5, and Zahra 7. Grandma Carol and Mum Danni also tagged along also dressed to terrify unsuspecting householders

New alliance launches plan

The Bunanyung Landscape Alliance is an exciting new community initiative. It focuses its activities on, but is not confined to, the catchments of the Woody Yaloak, Yarrowee/Leigh and Moorabool Rivers, within the domain of the Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (CCMA), and the people who live, work and visit there.

The recent launch of the draft *Establishment Document and Strategic Plan* was well attended by representatives from the community, groups in the Alliance, agencies and the NRCL.

At the launch keynote addresses were given by **Professor Roger Jones**, Victoria University (*Natural Resource Management and a Changing Climate*), and **Professor Andrew Bennett** of the LaTrobe University/Arthur Rylah Institute (*Configuring Landscapes for Biodiversity*).

The document was then launched by MC, **Rob Gell**.

Start

It has been produced by the *Alliance Interim Committee Working Group*. While it reflects the sentiments of the community captured to date, it is not designed to be final and definitive. It is simply a starting point for more directed and detailed conversations. It is expected to be updated regularly as the community collaboratively develops a stronger shared understanding of their common interests, needs and goals.

The documents and the feedback survey can be downloaded at www.bunanyunglandscapealliance.org. An Open House will be held at Royal Park on Monday 3 December between 4.00pm and 7.00pm

For more information contact **Andrea Mason**, 0427 338 482 or bunanyunglandscapealliance@gmail.com

Ernie Neale's Monthly RAINFALL REPORT

Driest spring start EVER

The lack of rainfall this spring is setting records. In September we recorded a measly 25mm, followed by an even frailer 20.5mm in October. That's a total of only 45.5 mm in the first two months of spring - just 28 per cent of the long-term average of 160.8 mm – and easily the driest start to Spring ever recorded.

The peril in this comes in the timing. Soil moisture is low and falling. Plant growth in the bush is drying off quickly. If November follows on in the unusually dry footsteps of September and October, then a long, dry and very dangerous summer will have already started. Alternately, if November produces regular seasonal rainfall (recent average 68.7 mm) and if temperatures hold in the 20s, then a more regular summer might follow. By now we might know!

OCT 2018			
Date	Rain	Date	Rain
4	1.2	9	0.5
11	3.9	16	1.5
18	9.0	20	4.4
Total Oct 18		20.5mm	
Total Oct 17		51.9mm	



Jeff Rootes, Peter Gell, Andrea Mason and Amy Hahs at the launch of the Bunanyung Landscape Alliance draft Establishment Document and Strategic Plan.

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Para cyclists to tackle the mount circuit

At Federation University's campus, *Cycling Australia* recently announced details of an exciting, revamped five day program of racing in Ballarat and Buninyong from Friday 4 to Tuesday 8 January 2019.

Racing gets under way in Ballarat's city streets on the Friday evening with the exhilarating criterium races as the entrée. The racing will then move to Buninyong for the main course and dessert.

There will be four days of tough road racing and time trials on the iconic Buninyong circuits. The focus of the cycling world will be on Buninyong with the under 19, under 23, elite para, and club cyclists testing themselves on the tough 10.3 km road race course on the weekend, and many of them fronting up again on Monday and Tuesday for the time trials.

Para cyclists

The five day programme has been expanded to include para cyclists on the main Buninyong course. Para cyclists **Carol Cooke** and **Stuart Tripp** were both thrilled that they will be part of the action at Buninyong for the first time. Carol in particular is pleased to see that para cyclists will be part of the main event and is looking forward to testing herself on the famous circuit in front of crowds of spectators "instead of the sheep that lined the Cardigan roadside in 2018."



Carol Cooke

Multiple Australian and world champion tricycle rider Carol rode the course in the morning and is excited about the opportunity to show the local Buninyong cycling fans what the para cyclists can do.

Medals

Canadian-born Carol, who moved to Australia in 1994, was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis and took up rowing and then cycling.

She represented Australia in the Para Olympics at London and in Rio and has three gold medals to show for her efforts on the bike.

Handcyclist, Stuart Tripp is also looking forward to the event. When asked by *The News* if the course would test him he said "no, it's a matter of head down and arse up and just keep going". Stuart was part of Australia's Para Cycling team at the 2016 Rio Paralympics where he won the silver medal in the Men's Road Time Trial H5. He also finished seventh in the Men's Road Race H5.

It would be great to see Buninyong cycling fans turn out in force for the para events on the Saturday and the Monday and Tuesday and give these two and their fellow para competitors some real Buninyong support in their events.

Ray Sullivan

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Off Road Locals star in Nationals

Buninyong motorcyclist, Richard Chibnall, has won the Veteran's Championship in the *Yamaha Australian Off-Road Championships (AORC)* in a dazzling and determined ride in the final event held recently at Omeo.

Over the past eight months, competitors' riding skills in both cross-country and sprints have been tested on dirt tracks in six locations in Queensland, NSW and South Australia as well as several sites in Victoria.

The points from all events were then tallied to determine the overall champion in each section from Junior, Veteran, Women and Pro riders. Strict safety rules apply to all races such as elimination if a rider does not switch off the engine and dismount during refuelling.

In front

In the final event Richard was off to a great start in front of the pack which has the



A spray of dust billows behind Richard Chibnall's KTM as he completes the final round of the Omeo track to win the Australian Off-Road Veteran's Championship for 2018 in a competition with 60 entrants

significant advantage of clear air rather than a face-full of dust from the leaders' rear wheels.

The Cross-country was raced on the Saturday around a 15-20 minute designated circuit for a three hour test of speed, stamina and fitness with Chibnall the only veteran rider to break the three-hour barrier.

In the sprints on Sunday riders had to complete eight laps of a fast but

technically challenging 7 km course in this final decider of the 2018 championships.

Factors

Whether it's the local dirt tracks, the hills, or the skills of local riders but Buninyong had three successful competitors in this series as **Emma Milesevic** was placed third in the Women's Round 10 and 11, and **Peter Schaper** also took third place in the Masters for Men in Round 11 at Omeo.

Helen plays in Aussie win

Buninyong golfer Helen Pascoe was a member of the Australian Women's Senior team that recently defeated New Zealand to claim the inaugural *Trans-Tasman Cup New Zealand* at the Grange Golf Club in Adelaide in October.

In a closely fought contest over two days, the Australian team won by one point, 6.5 to 5.5.

Popular Buninyong veteran member, **Jack Pascoe**, Helen's proud dad and number one supporter, also made the trip to

Adelaide. Jack who is in his nineties was an excited member of the gallery that witnessed the Aussie win. The next event will be held in New Zealand in 2020.

Victorious Australian Senior Women's team celebrate their win in the Trans-Tasman Cup. Buninyong's Helen Pascoe, third from left. (Photo: Kim Burke)



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WWW.ROADNATIONALS.ORG.AU



Part of the 2019 FedUni Road National Championships 4-8 January

Community events now in the mix with cycling champs

Residents and visitors thinking of heading to Buninyong in January to watch Australia's best cyclists battle for the coveted green and gold jersey are in for a pleasant surprise.

For the past twelve years Buninyong has been the home of the Cycling Australia Road National Championships. Over this time competitor, spectator and visitor numbers have continued to grow, along with the economic impact of the event in regional Victoria.

Much more

But in 2019, local residents, visitors and spectators can expect lots of community activity with many more offerings than ever before.

Ahead of the 2019 event, a cycling-community working group including Buninyong locals, traders, the City of Ballarat and GTR Events has worked hard behind the scenes to value-add to an already exciting weekend of programming.

To build atmosphere in the lead up to the 2019 *Federation University Cycling Australia Road Nationals* between 4-8 January, the community working group has come up with a range of ideas for much greater community involvement.

Cinema and fun

For example, Desoza Park will see a hive of activity throughout the weekend with a range of children's activities and family-friendly fun organised, including jumping castle, face painting and more.

Come Saturday evening, Desoza Park will be transformed into an outdoor cinema where people can bring a picnic or indulge in the delicious delights Buninyong traders have to offer.

Then, there will be the *Art Bike* project! This project will see schools, not-for-profit organisations, businesses and artists work together to create a wonderful artwork

designed around bicycles, wheels and other related materials. These will then be placed in local shop windows to build excitement around the 2019 event.

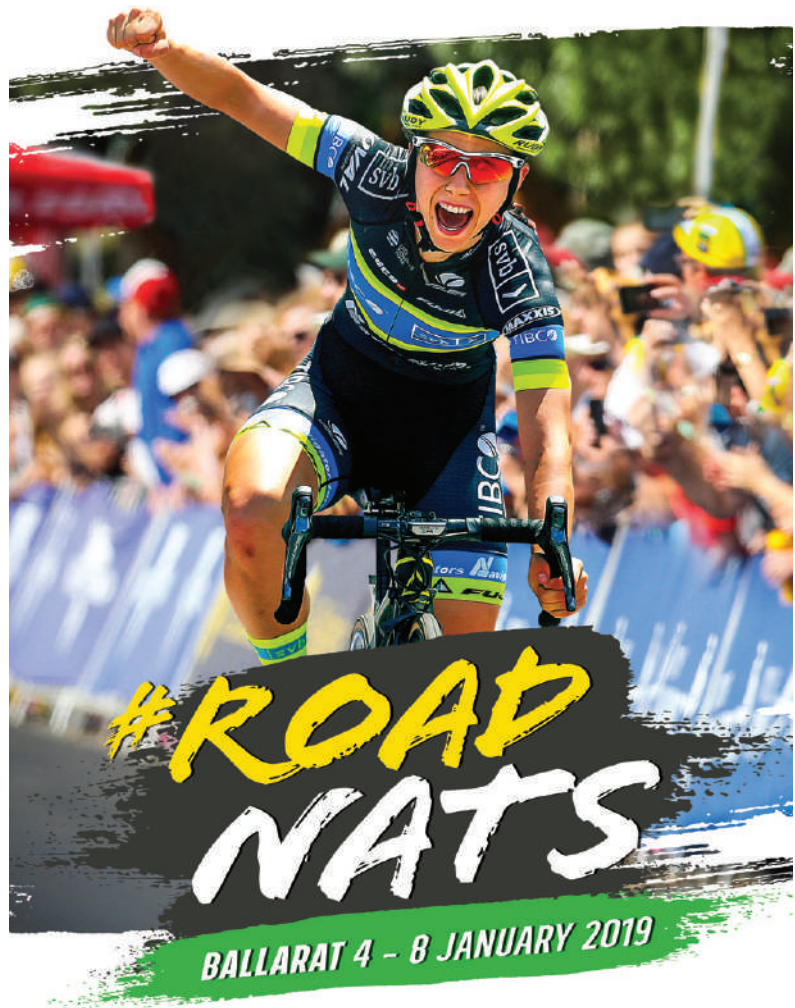
Buninyong themes

The community working group has also been working with local artists and others to create a Buninyong-themed "atmosphere" around the course for cyclists, spectators and those watching the race on television from all around the country.

An artistic installation and paddock art are in the pipeline as potential projects for the weekend. The popular red bikes will return complete with baskets of petunias and other flowers adding to the colour and occasion of the cycling event.

Residents should keep an eye out for notification letters, maps, videos and other information about the changing traffic conditions during the event. Visit roadnationals.org.au for all the details.

Mark Bruty, City of Ballarat



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