

## Christmas Toy Run



# Bikers, police, fireys, Santa, all help

More than 400 motor cyclists on shiny bikes and trikes laden with toys, gathered in the car park at the Crown Hotel Buninyong on 9 December for their annual Toy Run to Victoria Park, Ballarat. There the toys were handed over to local charities through the 3BA Christmas Appeal.

Organised by the Central Highlands Branch of the *Ulysses Motor Cycle Club*, the convoy was led along Warrenheip Street, Buninyong by a police highway patrol with lights flashing, and with two police motorcyclist outriders. Fire trucks followed the convoy.

A Warrenheip Street resident said that the convoy took more than ten minutes to pass his house.

Event organiser **Sharryn Nankervis** said that some \$3500 cash was raised by the sale of stickers and that many hundreds of toys were donated.

Many Buninyong locals lined the route and waved encouragement to the riders.

The *Ulysses Motor Cycle Club* members can be seen with their shiny bikes at Mt Helen's *Krooze Inn* each Saturday morning. The Club's members are all over 40 years of age.



*Dance Makers members – Imogen, Kayla, Rose and Isobel*

It was a sunny but cool setting in early December for the 2017 Lions Christmas Carols in Desoza Park which attracted a crowd of some 1000 people who relaxed on their rugs and chairs.

Small children seemed to be stars of the show as dozens wandered about dressed in colourful costumes, tinsel and angels' wings.

Long-term participants, the *Sing Australia* choir and MC **John Emery** were back at their posts, along with guest artists such as soloist soprano **Meaghan Sullivan**, music guru **Geoffrey Williams** and young **Grace Davidson**. As usual, the BBQ and fire truck attracted lots of interest.

The arrival of Santa was greeted with squeals of delight from the children while the older folk enjoyed slices of Lions Christmas cake.



*John Emery again kept the program moving in his role as MC*

# Busy Christmas in the village

Buninyong was abuzz during the pre-Christmas period in December with the Christmas Carols, a very successful Twilight Village Market in the Town hall precinct, the opening of the pop-up shop, the Ulysses Motorcycle Club Toy Run, and a car show all attracting large crowds.

## Twilight Market

With some sixty stalls both in the Town Hall precinct and inside the hall, the *Christmas Twilight Village Market* was a great success. The gift and craft stalls, children's clothing, food vendors, ice cream, candy and donuts vans, together with stalls selling everything from plants to vinyl records there was plenty to see and browse for strollers of all ages.



Adults and children found plenty of interest at the village market

## Pop-up shop

Open across nine days this year, the Football/Netball Club's *Pop-up Shop* proved to be a winner with local residents and visitors. Some 75 attended the opening on 29 November when sales of some \$5000 were reported.

The shop contained artworks, wooden Christmas trees made by the Men's Shed (some 60 trees were sold), foodstuffs, jewellery, plants and gifts of all kinds.

It was staffed by volunteers from the sporting clubs which received a percentage of sales made.



Bridget Corcoran (front) and Sharon Devlin were kept busy at the pop-up shop

## Hot car show

Now in its seventh year, the *Buninyong Car Show* held in the grounds of the Crown Hotel attracted over 250 cars and about 1000 spectators.

Cars on display included vintage, classic and hot rods, with a good turn-out of 'muscle' cars.

Organiser **Josh Streeter** said that the show had grown from about 80 cars when it started in 2011.



Josh Streeter organised the colourful car show



# Change at Foodworks Meat Alan the new manager

**The new manager at Buninyong's Foodworks Supermarket, Alan Nielsen, comes with impressive experience and credentials for the job. After experience in the food trade all around the State and interstate, he says he is "really delighted" to have started work here.**

Educated in Ballarat at the Eureka Street State School and at Ballarat Central 'Tech' he spent the first four years of his working life with Ballarat butchers, Heinz, who then had four shops in the town.

Then followed stints with *Coles* (Ballarat) as Manager of the Meat Department, with *Key Meats* of Ararat, as the supervisor of the meat and delicatessen departments of Tuckerbag stores across Victoria and Tasmania, with *Foodworks* with responsibilities also across two States, and more recently as Operations Manager for a group of six IGA stores.

For a two year period he even opened and operated his own supermarket at Wandong.

## Back here

Ten years ago he and his wife returned to live in Ballarat. Alan said that he was excited about starting in the Buninyong job. "This store already has a great

management system, terrific staff and tremendous local support," he said.

Asked what plans he had for his role at the *Buninyong Foodworks* store he said that he "would aim to maintain the present standards and to take things forward. In retailing things are always changing and you have to change with it."

## Well off

He said that the Buninyong store was already catering well for 'niche markets' such as gluten free foods, local wines and quality meats from reputable butchers. Even sushi is available several days each week.

In the 1970s Alan Nielsen was a pretty handy footballer with the Springbank Club. One unhappy memory was in the 1976 Grand Final when, after he had kicked eight goals in the Semi Final, he was knocked out early in the game which Springbank lost

In his new role Alan follows previous manager **Cameron Brown** who resigned to take up a position with *Woolworths* and presently is managing their Ararat store.

*(Above) Alan Nielsen at the Foodworks' register assisting local resident Stephanie Neale*

## streettalk

**SEEING A YOUTH** whose car had run out of petrol just in front of the Buninyong's BP service station recently, a passing husband and wife couple pushed and strained hard to help the young man get his car off the road and up to a bowser. Filling the car up with \$92 of super premium petrol, the 'stranded' youth calmly did a 'drive-off' bunk. Police advised that the car had been used in a robbery on the previous night.

**THAT INFAMOUS HOUSE** on ten acres on South Imperial Road, overlooking the cemetery, was put to auction just before Christmas. Before the police bust there and subsequent bank foreclosure, it had been listed for sale for about \$550,000. At auction it fetched an amazing \$731,000 knocked down to a local buyer.

**WORD ON THE STREET** is that newly-restored historic M G Brown store (next to *Espresso Depot*) is on track to move into a new life as a restaurant/wine bar around April. Some local business identities with good qualifications to make it a success are reported to be behind the venture. Can't wait !!

**GOOD TEST** for local MP **Geoff Howard** and his motto— *Listens, Cares, Acts*. In his recent *meet-the-people* visit here to talk about the \$150,000 road study, there was near unanimity in the residents' advice to him that the study needed to do more than look at Yankee Flat Road and must include the problem of heavy traffic coming in both directions through the roundabout. He did listen... but will he now act?

**NOT A GOOD** Christmas for the property owners in Fiskin Street near Forest Street whose house caught on fire on one of the very hot pre-Christmas days. Emergency services from Buninyong and Ballarat were quickly on the job.

That's the second house fire in the street in recent times.

# Council resolves problem **BLACKBERRY** **'BLUE' OVER**

For the past six or seven years two groups of residents living on the western slopes of Mount Buninyong have been joined in battle over the use of Blackberry Lane which runs from the Mt Buninyong Road, and then continues in a steep section above Granny White Lane.

One group had wanted the steep section closed to traffic so that it could remain a safe walking track up to the Mount, with the other group wanting the road to be open and made suitable for vehicular traffic including emergency services vehicles.

For a third time, the issue was listed on the agenda of the meeting of the Ballarat City Council on 25 October 2017. Seven local residents made public representations to the Council.

## Summary

The Executive Summary provided to Councillors by Director of Infrastructure and Development, **Terry Demeo**, noted that the "unmade section of Blackberry Lane between Granny White's Lane and the current made western section was considered previously by Council in 2011 where Council resolved to open the track to vehicular traffic and maintain (it) for that purpose."

He also noted that Council had again considered the matter earlier in 2017 and "deferred adoption of a final position to

allow design work to be undertaken to look to establish a compromise position with safe and separate vehicle and pedestrian access provided."

Mr Demeo said that his current proposal would "provide specific direction in relation to maintenance standards for the track... with explicit recommendation to undertake the construction of both a vehicular track and pedestrian path."

## Resolution

**Cr Des Hudson** then spoke to the "compromise motion" which was agreed to by Council. It was resolved, *inter alia*, to

- undertake the construction of Blackberry Lane with "a trafficable gravel surface" to the eastern section from Granny White's Lane in a manner to provide for both pedestrian and vehicle access



Enjoying a sunny Sunday walk along upper Blackberry Lane with their dogs were Sam, Marita and Rod Williams from Buninyong

- make this construction such as "to reduce traffic speed for pedestrian safety"
- maintain the track "in the form ongoing"
- erect signage "to identify it as a shared pedestrian/vehicle track"
- following directions from the CFA, erect signage to make it clear that it is "not a recommended emergency egress or exit in the event of a fire."

Council has now undertaken and completed this work to the apparent satisfaction of all residents concerned.

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AUTHORISED BY CATHERINE KING, 5 LYDIARD ST NTH BALLARAT 3350

# Masters of the mail

## Young couple take over the post office



The new owners of the Buninyong Post Office (left) Joanna Zhan, and Yao Zhao

Over the past few years Buninyong people have come to know Esther Zhang, her husband Dow Lu and son Yanze, who owned and operated the Buninyong Post Office. It may not be widely known that Esther has had a serious illness over recent times and late in 2017 the family decided to sell the business.

It so happened that one of the casual staff then working at the Post Office, **Joanna Zhan**, 24, was completing her Master's Degree in Economics, Business and Accounting at Federation University.

Joanna's partner **Yao Zhao**, 28, was also completing a Master's degree at Federation University in Information Technology. Yao had previously graduated from the University of Sydney with a Master's Degree in Graphic Design.

### Arrival

Yao's arrival in Ballarat was indeed a strange one. After graduating in Sydney in 2012 he decided to look for a place to settle in a small rural town.

He chose Buninyong, drove here, looked for a room to rent on *Gumtree*, found the address of a family in the *Tandarra Estate*, and was happily accepted into the family. He had randomly chosen a country area because his home town in China Shijiazhuang, some 270km south-west of Beijing had a population of over four million people.

### Meeting

Joanna had arrived in Ballarat from Shenzhen (on the Chinese border just north of Hong Kong) as a higher degree student in 2014, and later that year she and Yao met at a mutual friend's house, and were classmates at Federation University.

Graduating in 2017, Joanna was unable to find her 'career' position in the corporate banking area, and after Yao had worked in Melbourne for two years, the couple decided to look for their own business.

The illness of Esther Zhang led the young couple, after a detailed review of the accounts, to decide to purchase the

local post office business.

They took over in October 2017 and when they get settled, plan to have "a big clean up" and make a few changes such as getting rid of the books for sale, replacing these with gifts and toys.

Their work days are long. They arrive at the Post Office from their Sebastopol home at 6.30am to commence sorting of mail. And after closing to customers at 5.00pm they spend another hour or so with work there.

### Relax

While Joanna relaxes by reading crime novels, Yao is a keen basketball player and follower of the Houston Rockets in the NBA.

It would be a pretty sure bet that the new owners of the Buninyong Post Office would be by far the best qualified people in any post office in Australia.

Say hello, and don't be afraid to talk parcels, economics or basketball with them.

# 2018 resolutions... ON THE RECORD

It's that time of the year when real or imagined resolutions are bandied about. This year *The News* has approached the three South Ward Councillors for their list of resolutions for Buninyong projects or priorities in 2018. This is their list.

## JIM RINALDI



- Connect the bike paths in the Magpie/Whitehorse Road/ Sebastopol areas
- Improve existing bike paths/walking trails
- Maximise the use of Royal Park for the benefit of all stakeholders

## BEN TAYLOR



- Establish local off-lead area for dogs
- Progress the Warrenheip streetscape project
- Complete improvements to playground and stage at Desoza Park

## DES HUDSON



- Turn Royal Park into a vibrant community precinct with the Soccer Club as a shared key tenant.
- Complete works to the wall at the Gong
- Undertake minor works to the stone walls at the Town hall area to assist parking

## LINDA ZIBELL



President of the BDCA Linda Zibell has also put on record her 2018 resolutions for the Association:

- Work with Council and the community to develop a participative township plan
- Work with authorities and citizens to prepare a long-term plan to reclaim the centre of Buninyong through the diversion of heavy vehicles

And to join in, *The News* suggests the following as its resolutions for the coming year

- Assist in the lobbying of candidates for the State election to come up with funding for the Warrenheip St streetscape project
- Continue its campaign to get planning started on a heavy vehicle by-pass for Buninyong

OK, so these are now on the record. Let's see what the scoreboard looks like next December.



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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.

The name and address of the person submitting any material must be provided (address not for publication).

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# The Bard is back in Buninyong

As a result of the successful staging of *The Tempest* in the *Buninyong Botanic Gardens* in February 2017, the Bard will be back. In February 2018 the Gardens will become the Forest of Arden, for an edited version of Shakespeare's *As You Like It*.

This Duke is delighted to be exiled and living like Robin Hood, however the tree-change doesn't suit all those from the court, nor those already living in the forest and farms.

In this topsy-turvy world, confusion reigns but in the end all comes right and love, music and dance triumph.

## Great support

*The Bard in Buninyong* has been delighted by support from the community. With assistance from the *Friends of the Buninyong Botanic Gardens*, *Buninyong Primary School*, *Buninyong and District Community Association*, *Federation University (Arts Academy)*, *Arts Buninyong*, *Ballarat Arts Alliance* it has also gained \$1471 from the *City of Ballarat*, *Community Grants*.

This will enable the *Buninyong Men's Shed* to build some exciting mobile sets for the show, the creation of some spectacular costumes and help run School Holiday workshops on Saturdays in January.

Performances will be in the *Buninyong Botanic Gardens* on Friday 9 February, then Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 February and Friday, Saturday, and Sunday 16-18 February.

**Susan Pilbeam** who directed the successful production of Shakespeare's *The Tempest* in the Botanic Gardens last year will again be at the helm

BYO Picnic and rug/ chair. To get involved and for more information: <https://www.facebook.com/ArtsBuninyong/>



## ART CLASSES

Trudy Nicholson will resume art sessions in Buninyong this year on Wednesday afternoons in Uniting Church Hall at this stage.

All mediums, except Oil, are explored. Check out dates, times and information on [www.trudynicholson.com](http://www.trudynicholson.com) or give Trudy a call on **0407 613038**.

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**Former Buninyong resident and Damascus College student Dr Jane Fenelon is now a leading researcher into the development of embryos of Australian mammals. Her research into what makes an embryo 'happy' has potential applications that could benefit human pregnancy.**

After leaving Damascus College, Jane undertook a Bachelor of Science degree at the University of

Melbourne, majoring in Zoology. She then completed her honours degree, researching the early sexual development of the male wallaby.

**In and out**

For her Ph D studies, Jane switched to researching an unusual aspect of wallaby pregnancy. The wallaby is a 'pregnancy pauser', meaning that it can pause embryo development in the uterus for up to eleven months, and then wake it up and continue pregnancy as normal.

This is so they can adjust the length of pregnancy to ensure that the young animal leaves the pouch in Spring, when the most food is available.

She said that one advantage of studying the wallaby is that most development happens in the pouch, not in the uterus, meaning the young can be removed from the pouch, checked and then put back – unlike humans of course!

Jane's research looked at the influence of the uterus on the embryo during this time. In particular, how does the uterus keep a paused embryo alive and healthy for so long and then, what could wake it up again? Jane described it as working out what are the essential factors to make a 'happy embryo' so that it has the best start to life.

**Canadian studies**

After obtaining her Ph D, Jane took up a post-doctoral position in Montreal, Canada to work with mink and mice, which can also pause their pregnancies. During their research, Jane and her colleagues found that small molecules formed from amino acids, originally discovered in the 1800s, can determine whether pregnancy gets paused.

They showed that controlling whether these factors are active or not can either put an embryo to 'sleep', or 'wake' it up again.

Jane has recently been appointed to a three-year research position at the University of Melbourne. There, the focus of her research will be on echidna reproduction.

So in the future, it might be possible to 'pause' human pregnancy, or at the very least, know more about how to make a healthy and 'happy' embryo.

*Cassandra Carland*

Jane's work on mink, mice and wallabies could

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# Bank lists record profit

Forty shareholders, together with bank staff, attended the recent Annual General Meeting of The Buninyong & District Financial Services. They were told that the local community bank had “enjoyed another great year”

Board Chairman **Richard McDowell** said that in a “highly competitive” market the Community Bank has seen a 77 per cent lift in profit across the 2016-2017 year. This has been reflected in increased grants and donations to community groups and projects totalling some \$107,000. Since the commencement of the bank in 2010 over \$440,000 of grants to community groups and projects have been made.

Recently significant grants have been made to the *Imagine Buninyong* project, to help get the *Buninyong Festival* restarted, and to support a range of projects for youth of the district.

He said that the bank’s *Community Gold* card program designed to support local businesses “is gaining traction.”

The Board also maintained the dividend of 5 cents per share on the \$1 shares held by community investors.

But without doubt, the bank’s biggest future immediate commitment is the restoration and expansion of the community cottage at 407 Warrenheip Street (see story opposite).

Another important recent development has been the establishment of a long-term strategic alliance between the community bank and Federation University.

The meeting also re-elected Board Directors **Stephen Falconer, Ian Corcoran** and **Gary Trotter** together with Director and Company Secretary **Lydia Mzondo** for further terms.

*At the helm of the Bank Board’s AGM were Company Secretary Lydia Mzondo and Chairperson Richard McDowell*



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# New life for old cottage

## Bank commits \$350,000 for major renovation work

The Community Bank's move in 2014 to purchase and renovate an old cottage at 407 Warrenheip Street for use as a community hub and meeting place was widely applauded. For example, the cottage became the centre of much of the post-December 2015 bushfire recovery activity for many months.

However, the appearance of significant cracking in the external and internal walls in mid-2016 caused the closure of the front section and restricted use of the rear section which was still able to be used for meetings and for visits by the mobile public library.

In early 2017, the Board sought community opinion on several options for the future of the cottage including

- integrating it into developments at Royal Park

- possible joint use of the CFA station building and site
- demolition and rebuilding somewhere else in town

### Central best

In April 2017, in an editorial headed *Central Spot Best for Community Cottage*, *The News* contended "that if is financially feasible, a heritage-style rebuild on the current site would be by far the best move. It is central, recognisable, accessible, has adequate parking to the rear, and is integrated into the heart of the Buninyong social and business community."

Now at the November 2017 AGM the Board of the Buninyong & District Community Bank has announced that after considering several options for the cottage, and following consultation with Council, it has decided to restore the



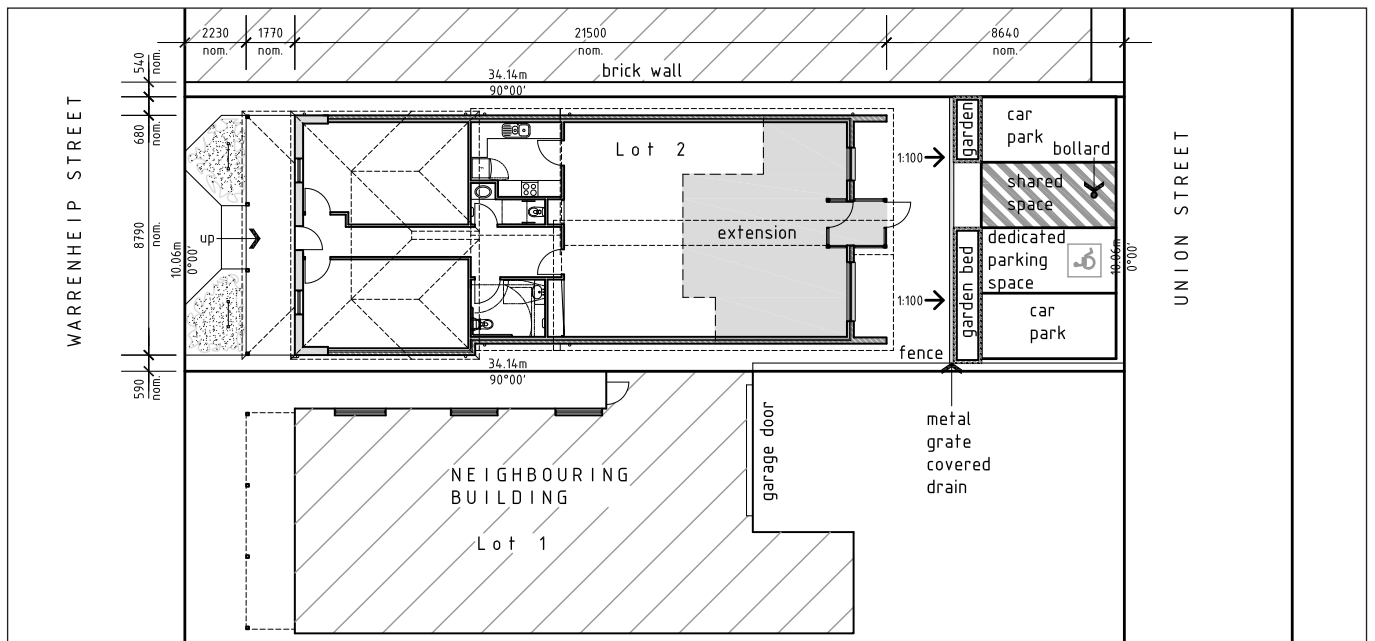
cottage at its present location and retain its historic brick façade and restored veranda.

The remainder of the building will be rebuilt with improvements to its internal spaces and to the parking area at the rear.

Major improvements will include

- almost doubling the size of the meeting area at the rear (to measure about 18m x 8m). North-facing skylights will make this a well-lit space.
- relocating the toilet and kitchen to the centre of the building
- retaining the two offices to the street frontage for use by community groups

The Board has committed a sum of \$350,000 for the project which is expected to be started and staged across much of 2018. The preliminary drawings for the project are shown below.



# Sustainability Festival's Fifth Year Join the war on waste

A war is being waged in Buninyong - a war on waste - and all residents are being asked to show their support as well as their artistic flare.

Friends of Royal Park (FORP) are asking residents to tackle waste as part of the *Smart Building and Living Expo 2018*. The theme for this year's festival is *Waste – War and Peace!*

A highlight of this year's festival will be repurposed art, made from waste, and displayed in the hall.

Expo Director and FORP member **Andrea Mason** said the theme was inspired by the ABC's television program *War on Waste* and one aim was to promote understanding around recycling.

"We're doing this on the back of the ABC program because there is a lot of interest and confusion about how we manage our waste," Andrea said. "We are trying to help

people address that. People still don't know which bits to put in waste, and which bins to use for what."

The festival will be held at Royal Park on Sunday, 25 February, from 10.30am-3.30pm, with the major sponsorship by the Grampians Central West Waste and Resource Recovery Group.

Business owners, tradespeople, product vendors, community groups and artists are all being asked to register now for the event at [www.smartbuildingandlivingexpo.com.au](http://www.smartbuildingandlivingexpo.com.au).

Festival organisers are particularly interested in electric vehicles, sustainable building practices and materials, lifestyle



Expo Director Andrea Mason says lots of waste can become objects of art

choices and art. Community groups may register for free and kids' activities will be available. For details contact Andrea Mason through [forp.buninyong@gmail.com](mailto:forp.buninyong@gmail.com) or 0427 338 482.

Amy Darby Walker



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# Spiders suggest dry summer

## Local 2017 rainfall just above average



**At the start of November our rainfall was almost perfectly tracking monthly averages expected at that stage of Spring. By the end of the month the match was complete, with November's regularly spaced rain fronts delivering a total of 60.3mm. Lovely rain, but it came with a bite.**

November had also delivered a late and nasty frost, confirming local lore that Ballarat can expect frosts to Melbourne Cup day. This impacted across the Western District and into South Australia, causing multi-million-dollar destruction to both grape and grain crops. In some cases, whole harvests were wiped out.

### December event

December followed, opening with a flurry of weather warnings, spout cleaning and falls from ladders. BOM was predicting downpours of almost biblical proportions. At one stage their storm warning map of Victoria was completely lit up in threatening amber.

The event arrived, rumbled along and delivered heavy falls randomly. Buninyong scored 39.6mm in the first few days and parts of central Ballarat were flooded. It was typically patchy, with the rain gauge at the Ballarat Airport missing out altogether.

After the rain clouds departed, little else fell for the remainder of the month. By month's end Buninyong had received 51.1mm, bringing the total for the year to 709.2mm. This was greater than our recent nine-year average, but less than the long-term district average.

The Buninyong rainfall graph tells the tale. For ten months of the year falls were within a few mm of recent monthly averages. In April the routine was disrupted - we had not so much an Autumn break as an Autumn bucketing. Exactly three times our normal monthly average arrived in two magnificent rain events.

Then, after a regular May, we paid the price. Winter opened with June's rainfall crashing to a third of the monthly average. Thankfully come July all was back to routine, as it stayed for the rest of the year.

### Happy spiders

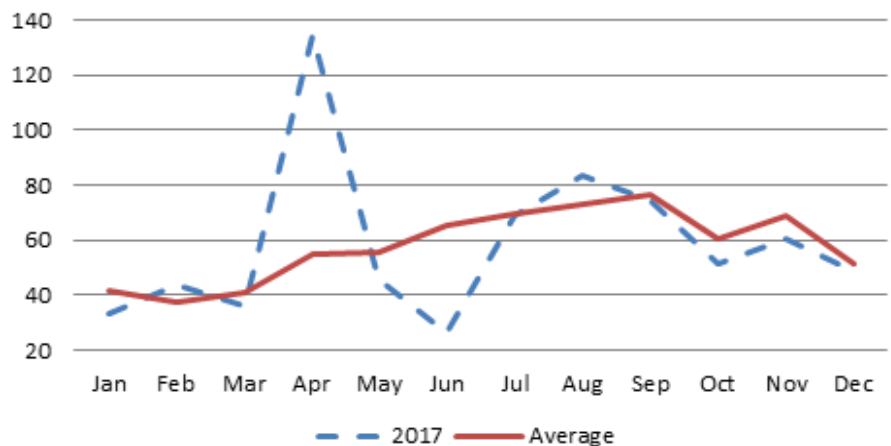
Forward projections during late last year and early this year danced around the possibility of a *La Nina* event, unusually one that might bring with it higher than normal temperatures to S.E. Australia. Thankfully 2017 ended gently and 2018 has opened in similar style.

Up to early January we've had only a few summer days above 30°

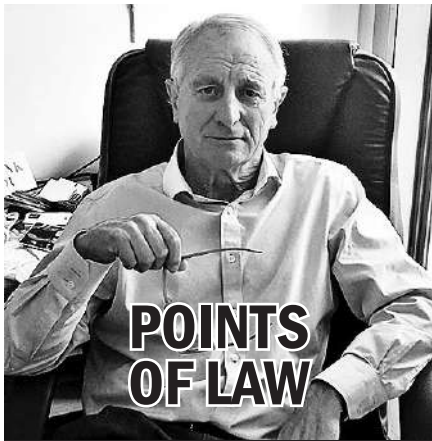
(although that stinker on the Saturday of the bike race was not pleasant). But with the longest summer day now well behind us, in a couple of months we might be looking back on a relatively mild summer. However, this may just be wishful thinking.

Not only has my rain gauge remained totally dry through the start of January, but it has also been occupied by a gang of very happy spiders that appear to be settling in for the long haul.

Ernie Neale



	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
<b>2017</b>	33.1	43.6	36.0	134.7	46.1	26.0	69.0	83.5	74.2	51.6	60.3	51.1	709.2
<b>Avg</b>	41.3	37.1	41.2	54.9	55.9	65.4	69.3	73.2	76.8	60.8	68.7	41.7	686.3



Life in the suburbs can bring with it exposure to noise from adjoining properties. Such noise can be due to dogs, lawn mowers, power tools, music, parties and even constant arguments. Some noise is just annoying, but when it impacts on health or day-to-day living it's a different matter

# Noise can become a nuisance

Most people can put up with noise that occurs only occasionally. But there are some situations where the noise is constant, recurring and disturbing of one's "peace."

This is especially the case where the noise impacts seriously on the elderly or ill, parents and young children, shift workers or those who work or study at home.

Resolving such serious noise problems is difficult. But some suggestions would

include

- talking to the person who is responsible as a first step
- keeping a diary of when and for how long the particular noise occurs
- lodging a formal complaint with the police or with the local council

## EPA Act

If all else fails a complaint can be lodged with the Magistrates' Court for what amounts to a "nuisance."

The *Environmental Protection Act, 1970*, provides that it is an offence for a person to cause, or allow unreasonable noise to be emitted from residential premises, and this includes noise coming from construction works.

It should also be remembered that there are prohibitions as to the use of equipment such as lawnmowers during certain hours.

Details can be found on the EPA website – [www.epa.vic.gov.au](http://www.epa.vic.gov.au). Calling the EPA's noise hotline 1300 372 842 may also assist.

For serious breaches, the police can issue an on-the-spot fine to an offender.

Dean Cinque

*Disclaimer: The enclosed information is of necessity a brief overview and it is not intended that readers should rely wholly on the information contained therein. No warranty express or implied is given in respect of the information provided and accordingly no responsibility is taken by Cinque Oakley Senior Lawyers or Buninyong News for any error or omission within this article.*

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Bitter Toast

I was very happy with the article on my great-uncle **Clarence Allan** of Durham Lead in *The News* (December 2017).

During my two day visit in late October to Ypres, Belgium, I took four stubbies of VB and fixed old historic VB and *Ballarat Bitter* labels to them. The owner of the nearest house to Deck Wood (a Belgian soldier recently returned from a UN posting to Mali) was very helpful to my English cousin and me, and joined us in a toast to **Clarence, Sidney Kirkland** and **Henry Goodson** – the three 8th Battalion soldiers killed by that single shell on the Passchendaele ridge on 25 October, 1917.

There were 21 soldiers from that battalion killed around that day. Only eight have identified graves.

We buried a time capsule that contained the military records of the three soldiers together with some Victorian honey, macadamia nuts and a bar of Cadbury chocolate (see picture). We dug carefully as there are still active explosives and poison gas shells along that Passchendaele ridge.

Perhaps I can buy you a beer next time you are in Hong Kong.

Alan Bell  
Stanley, Hong Kong



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## GEOFF HOWARD MP

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# All go on pool works

Some members of the volunteer group responsible for the major face lift being given to the Buninyong Pool met with Council recreation staff and Cr Ben Taylor at the pool late last year to show the progress being made by both the community working bees and Council's maintenance works.

One of the obvious areas of improvement has been to the pool's Forest Street streetscape where plantings, pathways and painted

surfaces provide a much fresher entrance area. Shown above discussing the landscaping works designed by Paal Grant at the entrance to the pool are (L to R) Paul Tippins, Paal Grant, Phoebe Vandeleur, Simon Coghlan and Cr Ben Taylor.

Also present at the briefing session were City of Ballarat recreation staff Simon Coverdale (Manager of Aquatics and Lifestyle), Alana Burgess (Leisure Centre Marketing Manager) and Mark Patterson (City Sports Director).

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# Howard hears of traffic concerns

Late in 2017 member for Buninyong Geoff Howard met with seventeen Buninyong and district residents at the RSL Hall following his invitation to discuss the proposed link between the Western and Midland Highways to the east of Ballarat.

While the invitation was to discuss “any State Government matters” most present said that they were there to express their views about the possible alignment for a Buninyong bypass road.

Mr Howard announced in September that the Andrews Government would provide \$150,000 for a “feasibility study to investigate options for a new eastern link road connecting the Midland Highway and

Western Freeway to reduce the number of trucks travelling through Buninyong and Ballarat.”

He said that over the next twelve months, VicRoads will engage with the community as part of the feasibility study that will “look at current traffic conditions, projections of traffic growth, and potential options to minimise the impacts on the Buninyong area.”

He met with attendees on an individual/couple basis. Most of those speaking to the MP did not agree that the proposed eastern “purpose-built road” would prove to be a major factor in improving safety and alleviating community concerns about increased traffic through town.



Shown here with Geoff Howard are Steve and Veronica Carter of Buninyong. Their concern was that the “eastern” road study would have little impact on the truck traffic through Buninyong.

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# Council's draft concept plan released

## North End street upgrade

**After almost three years of lobbying by the Community Association (BDCA), the City of Ballarat's draft plan for the north end of Warrenheip Street finally has been completed.**

This follows several visits to the area by the four member Council 'concept development team' that was reported on in *The News* on two occasions last year.

Consultation with community groups and residents will take place over coming months to ascertain views on the plan.

### Features

Features of the plans for the east (business) side of the street include

- extension of the street vines along the business strip
- introduction of angle parking to the east side together with the hoped-for relocation of the bus stop
- substantial improvements to the pavement and the guttering to include

extended paved areas for alfresco dining

- a narrow median strip with trees and under-planting, similar to that installed in Armstrong Street, and incorporating pedestrian crossing points
- a small roundabout at the Warrenheip/Eyre Streets corner
- a low stone wall near the community bank
- rationalisation of the phone box, mail boxes and other items near the post office

### Median strips

Perhaps the only one of the above the improvements likely to create discussion is the proposed introduction of the median strips.

Those in favour say it will prevent illegal U-turns, provide for added pedestrian safety, add an improved tree canopy to the area adding to the streetscape, and act as

a traffic calming item.

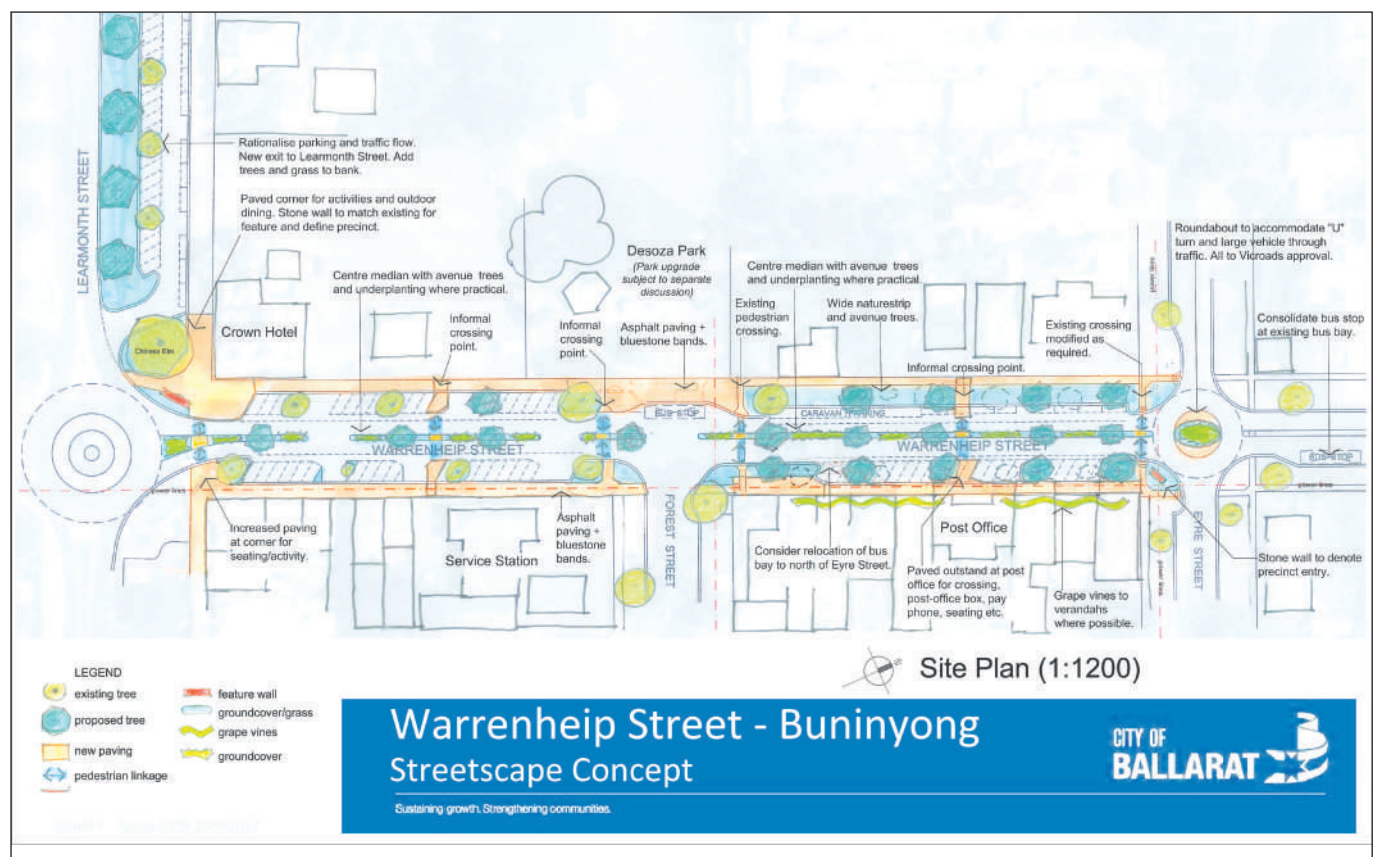
Those not favouring the median strip proposal claim that it will impede the bike race and possibly threaten its future in the town.

There are also suggested changes to the area in front of the Crown Hotel where there presently is an exit from the parking/service road. Public activities and outdoor dining are proposed for this area.

Costings for the project are being completed and it is likely that works will be in three stages.

Council and the community groups will be seeking funding commitments from political parties in this election year.

Larger versions of the plan are on display at the Community Bank, in the front window of the community cottage at 407 Warrenheip Street and in the window of the newsagency.



## A real bottler



Crowds were three deep around much of the circuit for the 2018 event

# Cycling event gets approval of experts

During 2017 there was plenty of debate regarding the Buninyong circuit and the possibility of the national road titles moving to another venue. However, despite the Saturday scorcher the 2018 program resulted in another great series of exciting racing around the tough Buninyong circuit.

During the event *The News* questioned three experts on their views on the Buninyong venue and circuit and asked whether the circuit should continue to be the home of the Australian road race championships.

### Famous voice

An unambiguous YES came from **Phil Liggett**, world cycling's most well-known commentator. As well as being a great venue for cycling, he said that Buninyong's world renowned mountain circuit was "a real test of ability and endurance".

Phil loves how the Buninyong community has embraced the event and enjoys reacquainting himself with friends he has made on previous visits.



*The News* sports reporter Ray Sullivan interviews world famous cycling commentator Phil Liggett

Importantly, another emphatic YES came from CEO of *Cycling Australia*, **Nick Green**, former "Oarsome Foursome" member and Olympic gold medallist. He was also positive about the new Fed Uni, Ballarat City and Victorian Government (Visit Victoria) partnership with *Cycling Australia* and said that the Buninyong circuit was always going to be the best option for future titles.

### Retain

Nick added that *Cycling Australia* wanted to retain the current course especially the King of the Mountain section and said that the revised route through Federation University added a technical aspect to the circuit.

According to Nick the expanded program, inclusion, equality and building community opportunities for participation were a priority for *Cycling Australia* in 2018.

The addition of the para-cycling events and the live broadcast of the Women's Elite race were firsts and building community participation will be on-going.

While the *Gran Fondo* had to be cancelled due to the hot weather it will be back on the programme in 2019.

### Shaw thing

Local cycling personality and *Cycling Australia* commentator **Pat Shaw** also gave the course and venue a strong tick of approval.

As a local, Pat is all for the event taking place in his own back yard. He said cycling fans world-wide know about Buninyong and its challenging course.

He is particularly pleased with the new expanded format for the event. The opportunity is now here to grow the event further to ensure it stays in the area.

Pat Shaw was right on the ball when he described the 2018 *Road Nats* at Buninyong as a "real bottler". Five hundred plus competitors, and four great days of racing in and around Buninyong culminated in the two feature races going right down to the line.

Local girl, **Sharon Malseed**, shone in a sprint finish in the elite Women's event and rising star, **Alex Edmondson** outlasted the favourites to take out the Men's event.

Ray Sullivan

# Whykes' reunion Back to old family store

Some thirty descendants of George and Emily Whykes who built and operated the grocer's shop in Warrenheip Street, now occupied by the *Red Door Pizzeria* recently gathered in the shop for a family reunion luncheon. The shop was built in the mid 1870s and the Whykes family ran a grocery business there until the 1940s.

George Whykes purchased the historic *Clifton Villa* (c 1859) on the corner of Winter and Eyre Streets in 1881 and lived there until he died in 1919.

His daughter **Mary Jane** and her husband **Warren Speak** then lived in the house with her unmarried brother **Edwin Charles (Ted)** who continued to operate the grocery business after his father's death.

## House visit

Present owner of *Clifton Villa*, **Jemma Holcombe**, called into the reunion to chat with Whykes' family members who had photographs and other history of the house. After lunch some of the family visited *Clifton Villa*.

The reunion was organised by George Whykes' great grandson **Bill Whykes** of Niddrie, assisted by **Joyce Laughton** and **Karen Whykes**.

Bill is a grandson of **Victor** and **Ethel Whykes** who lived in Errard Street, Ballarat, also in a house *Clifton Villa* named after the family home in Buninyong.

He said that one relative, **Bill Johnson**, aged 94, was visiting from New Zealand and was able to attend the event.

Four generations of the Whykes family were in attendance. Also attending were **Peter Whykes** and his sister in law **Dawn Whykes** who are descendants of George's brother **William** who established his butchery business in Learmonth Street in the mid 1870s.



Looking at the plaque marking the historic building are (L to R) Bill Johnson the oldest in attendance, Bill Whykes, Joyce Laughton, and Max Laughton the youngest in attendance.



Jemma Holcombe is shown some old photographs of her home by Ron McKenzie another great grandson of George and Emily at the Whykes' reunion

# Last year's front page stories

For the past three years the new-look **Buninyong Community News** has taken on the key role of recording local events and happenings, raising and discussing local issues, featuring local personalities, and reporting major or minor local news stories each month.

These are the front covers of the 2017 editions of *The News*.

**Buninyong & District Community News**  
Edition 435, May 2017

## CROWDS FLOCK TO SCHOOL'S FUN DAY

There was the fun of the day at the Buninyong Primary School as a massive morning tea event, which saw many hundreds of children and adults packed for school grounds for the annual Fun Day.

Parents and grandparents were out in force bringing their own picnic and wine and beer.

In the school packed parking, young boys and girls were seen with their parents, grandparents, and friends, all looking forward to the day's fun.

The school's Fun Day was a success, with many children and adults enjoying the day's fun. The school's Fun Day was a success, with many children and adults enjoying the day's fun.

**Buninyong & District Community News**  
Edition 441, September 2017

## Primary school medallions bring SMILES ALL AROUND

Primary school children in the Buninyong District have been presented with medallions to mark the school's 100th anniversary.

The medallions were presented to the children of Buninyong Primary School by the school's principal, Mr. Peter Smith, and the school's staff.

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May

September

**Buninyong & District Community News**  
Edition 434, February 2017

## CHILD CARE SET TO BOOM HERE

While reports point to a booming child care sector in Australia, Buninyong is expected to see a similar boom in the near future.

The Buninyong District is expected to see a similar boom in the near future.

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**Buninyong & District Community News**  
Edition 438, June 2017

## TRUCK BYPASS ON CITY CEO'S RADAR

The lack of action on the truck bypass issue has put the City of Buninyong's CEO on the radar.

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**Buninyong & District Community News**  
Edition 442, October 2017

## 'Village feel', traffic are our top concerns

A strong base of community opinion has been revealed in a survey conducted by the Buninyong District Council.

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February

June

October

**Buninyong & District Community News**  
Edition 435, March 2017

## 100 YEAR AVENUE MARCH

Community groups invited to 1 July celebrations.

Community groups invited to 1 July celebrations.

Community groups invited to 1 July celebrations.

**Buninyong & District Community News**  
Edition 439, July 2017

## Silver festival turns to gold

The Silver Festival was a success, with many people attending and enjoying the day's fun.

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**Buninyong & District Community News**  
Edition 443, November 2017

## TRUCK STUDY CASH

The State Government has announced that it will award a \$100,000 grant to support the Buninyong District Council's truck study.

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March

July

November

**Buninyong & District Community News**  
Edition 436, April 2017

## RUSTY & JESS a good news story

An elderly Buninyong couple, Rusty and Jess, have been named as the winners of the Buninyong District Council's Good News Story competition.

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**Buninyong & District Community News**  
Edition 440, August 2017

## BUNINYONG REMEMBERS

The 1 July celebration of the restored World War I Anzac Memorial was a special day in the history of the village.

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**Buninyong & District Community News**  
Edition 444, December 2017

## 5000 crowd flocks to new festival

The Buninyong District Council's new festival was a success, with a crowd of over 5000 people attending.

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April

August

December