



Shown in Buninyong alongside their Centurion Tank are (L to R) Leigh Jukes, (radio operator/navigator), Herman Harberts (Gunner) and Ian Tregenza (Commander).

CREW FIND THEIR OLD VIETNAM TANK HERE

Brothers Frank and Chris Nicholls of Eyre Street, Buninyong have assembled an amazing collection of military memorabilia (see *The News*, April 2017).

One of their most prized possessions is a massive Centurion tank which saw service in the Vietnam war and which they found and purchased in Wangaratta in 2007. Word of this purchase reached the four soldiers who had formed the crew of the tank in Vietnam.

The crew was again in Buninyong in April, and the Nicholls brothers started up the tank and moved it into their yard so that the three tank crew present could again access it and have photographs taken.

Tank Crew Commander **Ian Tregenza** said that the men really enjoyed their visit

to be reunited with the Centurion Tank in which they fought in areas such as Phuc Tui, Binh Binh and other areas of south-east Vietnam for most of 1968.

Gunner, **Herman Harberts** said that even though it was fifty years ago, when they hear the noise of the tank being

started up and sniff the fumes “1968 seems just like yesterday.”

“It does bring back memories of the bloodshed on both sides of the war and of our lost mates,” he said, “but this chance to meet up again alongside old “876342” is really important to us.”



The tank being refueled and resupplied in the Vietnam battlefields, 1968.

A TIME TO REMEMBER

The Buninyong community turned out in force on the day when many Australians come together to pay their respects to those who served, fought and gave their lives for their country. A large gathering packed RSL Memorial Park for the town's annual Anzac remembrance ceremony and march.

Master of Ceremonies, **Bill Durrant** introduced vice-president, **Brian Parker** who opened the ceremony and welcomed the large crowd. He also presented scholarships, jointly funded by Buninyong RSL and Buninyong Community Bank to Buninyong Primary, Magpie Primary, Napoleons Primary, Emmaus Catholic School, Mt. Clear Primary, Ballarat Steiner School and Ballarat Christian College.

Address

The Anzac address was given by Past Secretary, and former RAAF Group Captain, **Bob Bennett** who delivered an interesting account of the involvement of the Air Force during the Gallipoli conflict.

All local schools, sporting clubs and many local organisations participated in the service with their representatives laying wreaths at the memorial shrine to the music of the pipes.

Brian Parker recited the ode and bugler **Claire O'Brien** played the "Last Post" and the "Rouse". Bugler, Claire (10 years service) and piper, **Sue Brant** (20 years) were presented with certificates recognising their long support and participation in the ceremony.

At the closing of the ceremony RSL Life Member **Vic Bradley**, piper Sue Brant and a flag bearer from the local scout troop led the march through the main street of the town and back to the RSL hall where refreshments were served.

School presence

March RSL members were particularly pleased with the support and involvement of the schools.

Member, **Max Thorne** said that members had visited schools during the year to



Buninyong Primary School pupils lay their wreath during the ceremony.

talk to students about Anzac Day and its significance to Australian communities. He said the number of young people involved in the service is growing year by year.

RSL work on a voluntary basis, with the general running of the RSL being funded from other sources.

Buninyong RSL President **Ron Fleming** expressed gratitude to the Buninyong community for purchasing ANZAC Day Tokens and attending the Service in the RSL Park on the 25 April.

He said that that 100 percent of the money donated by the community is used to support ADF Veterans and/or their dependants.

All members of the Buninyong



RSL member Vic Bradley leads the march with a flag bearer from the local scout group.

Future plans include a bookshop in the front New owners plan changes at old bank



In February 2017 *The News* ran the story 'Iconic old bank back on the market' featuring David and Betty Kimpton and the old bank which they had bought, almost on the spur of the moment, 28 years previously whilst here visiting their son Dr Nick Kimpton.

The old bank completed in 1866 is typical of many country banks built in the 1800s. It operated until 1974 when it was first sold to private owners.

After being on the market for over twelve months it was sold earlier in 2018.

The new owners, **Jock and Fiona Gilbert** (nee Conroy) also have local connections. Jock's mum still lives in Scotsburn where he grew up. Jock attended Ballarat College.

Fiona grew up in Ballan and was schooled at Sacred Heart and then St Martin's. They met at the then Ballarat College of Advanced Education. Jock is now a landscape architect and Fiona is a relief teacher.



For quite a while they had talked about how they felt ready to leave the hustle and bustle of Melbourne and so, having seen that the old bank was on the market, decided to come and have a look.

Loved it

The whole family, which includes young daughter Olivia, instantly loved it and after a couple more visits and more cups of tea with David and Betty, made an offer with a long settlement so that Olivia could finish the rest of the term at her old school.

However, they moved in earlier than expected after Olivia's very successful 'try out' days at the Scotsburn and Buninyong campus' of Buninyong Primary School.

Since moving in they have started decorating and choosing furniture, cleaned out the shed and tidied the garden.

Some of the fencing will be replaced and **Tony Coxall** has been there to advise on the state of the trees, many of which he remembers climbing as a kid.

They have some ideas for adjusting the 'very English' garden, which, with the climate becoming drier, may need some changes.

Russell Coxall has been consulted and is enthusiastic about the potential of the building. Future plans tentatively include a bookshop in the front two rooms and an 'Air BnB' in one of the self-contained areas in the house and the 'spruced up' self-contained cottage in the garden.

No rush

But none of this will be rushed because one of the interesting things about occupying the Old Bank is that so many of the locals have a story about or a connection to it.

Fiona and Jock feel that, given the age and history of the house, they are more its 'custodians' than owners and they hope that people will drop in and say 'goodday'.



Cassandra Carland

(left) Jock and Fiona Gilbert, daughter Olivia and pet are happy to have moved into the old bank.

(top) The 1866 bank is still in prime condition.

(centre) The English style gardens.



Fair Success

The Ballarat Steiner School held its annual Autumn Fair and Open Day in Buninyong on Sunday, 29 April.

Hard-working parents and volunteers had worked to ensure the fair was a success.

The day included musical performances, school tours and a range of children's activities.

Organiser **Denise Williams** said the fair has been growing each year due to ongoing parent effort.

Major effort

"The fair is a major effort from the parent group with many stalls such as plants, craft, produce, cake, coffee, sausage sizzle and vegan hotdogs, corn, potatoes and our famous curry café," Denise said.

"There were also many external stalls present on the day offering a variety of beautiful quality goods for sale."

Past and present students joined in the musical entertainments, as did some parents, with groups including *The Winter Berries*, *Thursday Night Choir*, *Mini Monas*, *Hanz on Drumming* and the *Ballarat Ukulele Group*.

Some of the free children's activities included wood work, fairy garden making, pebble art, pony rides, storytelling, candle making, face painting, vintage games and a children's café.

The school and kindergarten opened their doors on the day to any families interested in a tour. Further school tours will be held on Wednesday, June 6 at 10am. For details, contact the school on 5341 8188.



Steiner pupil, Finn taking a Pony ride.



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Council says axed trees penalty is... None of your business

Following the story (*The News*, March 2018) about the removal of trees from a property on the Midland Highway on the slopes of Mt Buninyong, enquiries were made as to what action was taken by Council.

Council's Director of Infrastructure and Environment, Terry Demeo's response to *The News* (4 April 2018) stated that "following a report of unlawful vegetation removal, City of Ballarat officers visited the site and carried out an investigation. They interviewed the owners and the contractors involved and then requested further information."

"The City of Ballarat has now taken enforcement action in light of that investigation which is between the council and the landowner. However the City of Ballarat can advise it is satisfied the impact on the vegetation has not been to the detriment of the broader Buninyong area."

Key questions

So we are told that "enforcement action was taken", but nothing about what this was. Was it a warning? Was it a monetary fine? If so how much? Was there a requirement to replace vegetation?

Details of this "action" should not be a secret between the Council and landowner.

The News put three written questions on this matter to the Council.

1. What was the nature/specific details of the "enforcement action" taken by Council?

2. Why should the details of such "enforcement action" not be made public?
3. Does this non-disclosure happen in all cases of "enforcement action" taken in such matters?

Response

Council's response (12 April, 2018) was prompt and lengthy, but confusing and unenlightening.

After stating that "Council has a responsibility to assist the community in understanding and conforming to the legislative requirements and encouraging greater rates of compliance" it provided no information whatsoever about whether the incident in question complied or did not!

As to disclosure of the penalty we were referred to two Acts –the *Privacy and Data Protection Act 2014* and even to the international *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*. Helpful!!

Council stated that it takes "various factors into account" when considering to disclose information. But after doing so, and obviously not giving much weight to its own factor of the "benefit of further public education" absolutely nothing was provided.

The Executive Manager (Safety Risk and Compliance Services) did extend an invitation to contact him should there be any further questions...but given his letter, that step seemed pointless. So much for public education on such matters!!



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Working out a local puzzle

Finding Sellecks Flat

The December 2017 edition of the highly-regarded publication *Placenames Australia* included a lengthy article titled *Finding Sellecks Flat*. Now this has local interest because the mystery location of the now-forgotten Sellecks Flat seems to be very near Buninyong. But exactly where was the puzzling town?

The question was first posed by historian **Angus Watson** in his 2003 book *Lost & Almost Forgotten Towns of Colonial Victoria*. After researching possibilities - such as it being near Cobblers Gully and Magpie, or near the intersection of Mt Buninyong Road and Blackberry Lane - Watson came to the conclusion that it must have been in Scotsburn near today's primary school and public hall.

Local heavy

The township was probably named after **George Selleck**, a member of the Buninyong Roads Board and the owner of the *Crown Hotel*, and who had land at "*Mt Buninyong near the toll-bar*" according to a notice of a clearing sale there in 1862. Selleck died in 1869 and various references to Sellecks Flat appeared soon after. It was referred to in the 1871 census as having a population of 29 males, 12 females and twelve dwellings.

As part of his search, Watson contacted **Ron Woods**, formerly having a 'place name' role with the City of Ballarat. Woods commenced a detailed search of Council and newspaper records across

the 1860s and 1870s period. He found various references to its possibly being out past the toll-bar (one of several then surrounding Buninyong) located near the intersection of the Geelong Road and Yendon No2 Road.

Sale clue

A good clue was found in a notice of a Sheriff's Auction to be held "*on the ground, situated at Selleck's Flat opposite G Eason's, and adjoining Murphy's paddock about one mile from the Buninyong Toll-gate off the Geelong Road.*"

Another clue found by Woods was the record of the birth of a **Thomas Deering** (1877-1962) at Sellecks Flat. He sought the help of local historian **Anne Beggs-**

Sunter who was able to turn up records of the **Deering** family including the baptisms of Thomas and his siblings. These showed the family living at Scott's Marsh - renamed Scotsburn in 1889.

This again focussed interest in the Scotsburn area. This is the area Watson finished up with in his book, and as Woods wrote "*he and I used different routes to arrive at the same place, so it's highly likely that we've found the right spot.*" Anne Beggs-Sunter also agrees with this location.

Readers of *The News* are invited to join in the solving of the puzzle.

The complete article referred to can be found at www.anps.org.au/documents/Dec_2017.



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Heritage award to Avenue project

The three-year project to restore Buninyong's historic Avenue of Honour was a finalist in the City of Ballarat's 2018 Heritage Awards. The project culminated with the big community march on 1 July last year.

Project shortlisted

In the section *Communicating, Promoting and Celebrating Heritage*, the Buninyong project was shortlisted together with the *Save Our Civic Hall* group, and the *Awakening the Dragon* Exhibition at the Gold Museum.

The award in this section was based upon "best practice and innovative work that contributed to sharing the stories of events celebrating local heritage."

Two 'awards' judges visited the Buninyong RSL and the Avenue of Honour on 18 April to look at the project at first hand.

They were met by former President and Secretary of the RSL **Ray Mende** and **Bob Bennett**, who along with co-opted member **Barry Fitzgerald** formed the project team.



(Above) Ray Mende and Bob Bennetts with the Heritage Award certificate

(Below) Buninyong: Lieutenant Colonel Campbell in Buninyong

'Our' Army Chief now heads ADF

There was some local sense of connection recently when the Chief of the Army Lieutenant Colonel Angus Campbell AO DSC was promoted to become the chief of the Australian Defence Forces.

He was a central figure in the 1 July 2017 Avenue of Honour celebrations in Buninyong and was regarded with warmth not only for attending the event but also for his mingling with local citizens, returned service and armed forces personnel, and the media.

Lt Colonel Campbell had made a special effort to attend the Buninyong celebrations having returned from overseas on the morning of the event. He took the salute on a dais on Learmonth Street as the 650 marchers passed by.



Bank supports veterans' golf



Golfers receive trophies from Community Bank Chairman. L-R David Stevens, Phil Packham, Richard McDowell, John Ciezki ad Daryl Dunn.

The Ballarat and District Veterans Golf Association was a recent addition to the long list of local clubs and groups that have benefitted from sponsorship from the Buninyong & District Community Bank's commitment to supporting local communities and projects.

The Bank recently sponsored the Ballarat and District Veterans Golf Championships

held over two weeks at Buninyong and Midlands Golf Club. After eighteen holes at each course Buninyong golfers came to the fore taking out the Open, C Grade and D Grade titles.

Titles

John Ciezki won the Open Championship by two shots from fellow Buninyong member **John Robertson**. The 'C' Grade and 'D' Grade titles went to Buninyong

golfers with **Daryl Dunn** and **David Stevens** taking home the trophies.

Veteran's secretary/treasurer, John Robertson said that the "vets" appreciated the sponsorship and hopes it can be an ongoing commitment.

Buninyong Community Bank Board member **Ron Delaland** and Chairman **Richard McDowell** assisted with the presentations.

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London, Tuscany, Burgundy...and Yarraville, all Blend to make fine wines at Scotsburn

Increasingly seen at local functions and district restaurants, newcomer Attwood's wines is fast making a name for itself. Their tent at the 2017 Buninyong Festival proved very popular and the wines can now be found on the menu at top local restaurants such as Catfish Thai and Craig's Royal Hotel in Ballarat.

An internet search of Attwood Wines will turn up a video entitled *The Road to Attwood*. This brilliantly-produced, three-minute long snapshot leaves the viewer with a strong sense of **Troy Walsh** the winemaker, his family, his vineyard and farm and, above all, his passion and commitment to make his small wine-making venture out at Scotsburn one of the best.

Family move

Troy 47, wife **Jane**, and eleven-year old triplets **Daisy, Georgia** and **Harper** moved to Scotsburn from Yarraville in 2012. Jane's background is in design and advertising. She currently works for creative studio *Mass Motion* in Ballarat. Some of her work can be seen in the Attwood's video and in the beautiful wine labels.



The Walsh triplets Daisy Harper and Georgia crushing grapes the traditional way.



Jane Walsh handling the grapes from this year's harvest

The couple met in Jane's home town of London. They spent time travelling in the Tuscany region of Italy which also had a significant influence on their approach to wine making, living the rural life, and sharing good times with friends, family and customers.

Attwood's wines have already caught the attention of premier Australian wine judge **James Halliday** who listed the winery in his 'top ten new winery' category in 2018. The shiraz and chardonnay have received Halliday's much coveted five gold stars.

Top region

Troy reckoned that the cool climate in this district, and the "amazing terroir" of the region would be perfect for production of wines such as pinot noir.

His measuring stick for that came from living for twelve years in London (1990-2002) working as a sommelier at some of London's top restaurants and being able to travel to some of the great wine regions of Europe.

He said he was lucky to have met some great wine makers and listened to their philosophies of producing wine.

Troy continues to visit France, now having worked there for several vintages with many well-known, traditional pinot noir producers.

More than wine

The vineyard at Scotsburn is closely planted with 10,000 vines across one hectare.

On the remainder of the 40-acre property they run English rare breed Southdown sheep, keep bees and chickens, have a kelpie and a couple of cats.

Contract grapes are also grown at a leased established vineyard at Garibaldi, and others are sourced from the Bannockburn area.

They are now working on a major project of converting the hay shed at the vineyard to become the key winery building.

To raise funds, they have a *Crowdfunding* campaign on their website (attwoodswines.com.au/crowdfunding).

Troy says that the venture of establishing Attwoods has "been a rollercoaster of a ride, but well worth it." He said that "it is a fine line between risk and reward."

The name Attwoods comes from its being located on the road of this name, just off the Midland Highway near Wiggins Lane.



ABOUT TWELVE MONTHS ago *The News* (May 2017) suggested that an area near James Reserve would make a good off-lead exercise area for dogs. Local Councillor, **Ben Taylor** showed interest in the idea and just recently, Council staff armed with clipboards were seen wandering in the area. Perhaps some action on that front coming!

A RECENT MEETING between two community groups and the Bank Board, and also involving Cr Taylor and some Council staff has got the Warrenheip Street project back onto the table.

The groups plan to lobby candidates in the coming run-up to the State election for a grant to get started on work to upgrade the pedestrian/business strip on the east side of the street.

In October 2014 just a few weeks out from the last election there were two big prizes delivered here – the \$1.5 million for a new fire station, and the \$450,000 for the Town Hall precinct.

TALKING OF WARRENHEIP Street. Hear that the walls of the bank building and side walls of the community cottage are set for a changed look with the addition of murals in the period ahead. The subject of the murals is yet to be determined.

SOUNDS LIKE the Warrenheip Street gift store *Divine Vintage* which had a colourful re-birth under the care of **Cathy Hopper** for the past few years, is set to change hands to a local person within the next few weeks.

THE SOUTH WALK TRACK high up on Mt Buninyong is still closed to bushwalkers after the fire burnt part of this track on 11 March. Is there still a safety need or have the 'Road Closed' signs up there simply been forgotten?

The Ballarat Bushwalking and Outdoor Club, led by **Peter Hiscock**, carried out some much needed volunteer work up there in early February clearing overgrown scrub from the track. However, now there is the odd burnt tree lying over the track in one or two places, but nothing that would seriously deter enthusiastic bushwalkers.

ELAINE IDENTITY, **Shane Dunne**, was first to identify the smiling soldier in last month's edition as "Colonel" **Ron Delaland**. Shane wins an autographed photo of The Colonel.

RUMOUR HAS IT that Buninyong golf greenkeeper, **Maurice Cartledge** wasn't impressed when he came back to work after taking two weeks' leave to find that wires had been cut on the automatic watering system and taps had to be turned on manually. It seems that two senior club members were doing a bit of tidying up and pushing some soil around when they cut the wires.



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The tale of an old tin trunk

Betty's lost treasure



Buninyong resident Betty Bunting with the 'special' trunk.

Recently Buninyong resident Glen Wood Lake gave a wonderful talk at the Ballarat Mechanics Institute about the first Scotts of Buninyong.

Her recently published book *The Land They Came to Love* paints a vivid picture of the life of the intrepid and hard-working early Scott family of Mt Boninyong.

Early settlers

Andrew and **Celia Scott** and their four children arrived in Australia in 1839. He travelled extensively in search of land on which to settle the family.

At last they took up land on the southern side of Mt Buninyong adjoining that of the Learmonths and moved a flock of 1,500 sheep there.

But after many losses to footrot, the two eldest sons, **Andrew** and **Robert**, took the flock north to the drier climate of "Werracknabeal" where they established another property.

Glen showed pictures of a typical wagon encampment of the day and talked of the hospitality shown to the early settlers when they travelled long distances.

Scotts

A few days after the talk, I visited another Buninyong stalwart, **Betty Bunting**, who told me of her particular interest in the Scotts.

Soon after she moved to Buninyong she purchased a tin trunk for \$10 at a clearing sale, intending to use it outside for firewood.

However, someone rang immediately to offer \$10 for the trunk. A little miffed, she put it on top of a wardrobe.

Some time later she found an article about the settlement of Werracknabeal by members of the Scott family, and stored it in the trunk.

When I heard the story I couldn't wait to see the trunk. Reaching it down for Betty, I was delighted to see a small tin trunk, painted to imitate wood, with a beautiful bright blue interior, and "A. Scott, Werracknabeal" lettered on the side.

Excited

I photographed Betty with the trunk and emailed **Glen Wood Lake**, who contacted **Celia**, the great, great granddaughter of Andrew Scott.

She was also excited to see it as she'd been absent when the clearing sale was held.

Betty has now generously given the trunk to Celia.

I wonder how many other treasures of our past are hiding in sheds or on top of wardrobes, waiting to be found!

Merle Hathaway

Council moves on lights

For the past several months the BDCA has been requesting Council to restore the solar lighting panels to the four major entrance signs to Buninyong. These had been stolen.

City of Ballarat's Coordinator of Design and Development, **Peter Bate**, recently visited Buninyong to meet with BDCA to discuss replacement of the panels, and also the need for security lighting to the car park at the rear of the newsagency.

The need for security lighting in the car park had been requested by Foodworks'

management concerned for the late-night safety of staff parking in that area.

Mr Bate indicated that he had consulted with *Powercor* on the installation of security lighting on a pole in Forest Street at a projected cost of \$2600.

Action on this was hoped for in the short-term.

Visits were made to each of the entrance signage locations to determine where more substantial replacement solar panels might be placed.



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Ultra-marathon runner

Swedish snow to Aussie sun

Sipping their coffees in the autumn sun, many locals wondered who was the young athlete regularly seen running up and down Mount Buninyong or out to Mt Mercer and back.

Sophia Sundberg is an elite Swedish ultra-marathon runner who lived in Ballarat and Buninyong for several months this year training for the two top international competitions for ultra-marathon runners - the Comrades Ultra Marathon in South Africa in June, and then the World Championship in Croatia.

Climate

Sophia said she likes training here because there are plenty of hills to challenge her and the climate is good preparation for South Africa. Sweden was under snow at the time.

While on her training runs – she covers 110-170 km each week - her equally athletic husband, **Pär**, enjoyed taking 100 km bike rides around the district.

“I’ve been running all my life,” she said after discovering early on that her greatest strength was her extraordinary stamina that allows her to sustain the huge demands of ultra-marathons.

A dietician and coach, she believes fervently in the necessity of good nutrition and two days’ rest each week to allow the body to recover from the impact of long runs and help prevent stress fractures.

Eating

Both Sophia and Pär are vegetarians who eat “a lot” but only healthy foods. They love fresh fruit salad with whipped cream every night!

When competing, Sophia says she sticks to a precise race plan, constantly monitoring her progress against her own goals and ignoring other runners.

She hopes to win a gold medal by finishing in the top ten of this year’s 90km Comrades Ultra Marathon, aiming at a time of 6 hours 30 minutes. The race, the world’s biggest ultra-marathon, is

very hilly and so demanding that it is an achievement just to complete it.

Asked about the highlights of her stay in Buninyong, Sophia mentioned the friendly people who would stop and say hello.

One day, to her delight, she saw a koala with a baby on her back waddling across the Mount Buninyong Road.

So, for once, she stopped running to videotape it. She and Pär also loved seeing kangaroos near Durham Lead.

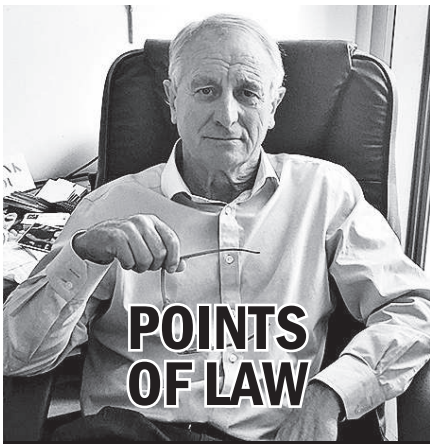
Her main worry came from the large trucks on the Mount who sometimes honked loudly and passed too close for comfort, as well as some dogs on the loose that chased her, barking fiercely, one day.

Apart from such hazards, Sophia said they both appreciated Buninyong’s relaxed lifestyle and really loved exploring the natural beauty of our countryside.

Peter Lumsdon



Swedish ultra-marathon runner Sophia Sundberg enjoyed training on the streets of Buninyong



While there may be little likelihood of most readers having contact with police over a serious criminal matter, it could be of interest to know something of their rights should any dealings with police on such matters arise.

In case of police question or arrest

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- must provide your name and address if police believe you have committed an offence or could assist with an investigation of a serious offence.
- do not have to answer any questions, remembering that many people are convicted because of admissions made during questioning.
- do not have to make any statements.
- do not have to participate in an identification line up.
- can call a lawyer or friend from the Police Station.
- can be required to have your fingerprints taken.
- can refuse to provide a blood or other sample from any part of your body (unless there is a Court order).
- do not have to go to a Police Station unless you have been arrested and told what the charges are.

The key advice is that, above all, remember not to say anything which could incriminate yourself, and to obtain legal advice or assistance as soon as possible.

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Ernie Neale's Monthly
RAINFALL REPORT

**Ongoing
April dry**

Our plants usually undergo a spectacular colour display this time of the year, but the ongoing dry conditions have them confused.

The shortening days have triggered some Autumn colours, yet much of the foliage holds green. Some plants even appear to have given up on Autumn and Winter altogether and are now flowering as if it's Spring.

It's not just the plants that are uncertain. Fire restrictions have been lifted, yet a flurry of escaping burn-offs signal all is not right. The figures speak for themselves, with a meagre 29.6 mm of rain falling through April.

This makes eight consecutive months of below average rainfall. Hope for more normal seasonal conditions now rests solely on May. If rain arrives before the temperatures drop, then we could still get growth. If it doesn't then there'll be lots of trucks carrying stock feed on the roads this Winter.

Birds of prey on show

Three staff members from the *Leigh Valley Hawk and Owl Sanctuary* at Garibaldi presented an enthralling show involving owls, hawks, falcons and a wedge tail eagle at Buninyong's Royal Park recently.

Some 25 children plus parents and adults were told lots of information about the various birds and their habits by **Martin Scuffins** who provided flight

demonstrations of the birds. Of particular interest was the huge wedge-tailed eagle which showed great interest in its treats of rat meat.

It was said that the eagle's eyesight is so good it can spot a rabbit at a distance of 1.5 kilometres.

Inside the hall, **Talia Barrett** showed the attendees a range of museum and other items related to the birds of prey.

APRIL 2018

Date	Rain	Date	Rain
10	1.2	14-16	24.8
17	3.6		
Total		29.6 mm	

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AUTHORISED BY CATHERINE KING, 5 LYDIARD ST NTH BALLARAT 3350



Readers who remember the large sinkhole that appeared in the Buninyong football oval after a very wet winter in September 2016 would be totally surprised to see it today.

The sinkhole was only one issue. Inadequate drainage and a substandard surface turned the ground into a quagmire every winter.

Ballarat City Council committed \$450,000 and the Victorian State Government \$50,000 towards ground improvements and leading turf specialists, *Pitchcraft* commenced work on releveling, extensive drainage and turf replacement on the oval.

Work was completed in time for the start of the current football season. The oval is now one of the best, if not the best in the region.

At the beginning of round 2, Buninyong football club president **Greg Burke** welcomed Councillors, **Des Hudson**, **Ben Taylor** and **Jim Rinaldi** to join him on the ground to officially open the newly developed oval. After a short address to the crowd Councillor Hudson cut the ribbon and declared the oval open.

Buninyong players obviously enjoyed the new surface with both the reserves and seniors having good wins.



Greg Burke

Central child care starts

After a long construction period, the Child Care Centre in Learmonth Street, Buninyong, has commenced. The facility includes six purpose built rooms, a commercial kitchen and on-site Chef, large rooms for science, art and drama and architecturally designed playground areas.

Operated by *United Child Care*, which also has centres in Albert Street, Sebastopol and on the Glenelg Highway at Delacombe,

the Centre is located in the former office building of the Shire of Buninyong which, over the past decade or so, has been used as the offices of *Porter Plant*, a real estate office and a serviced office centre known as *Village Place*.

The Centre has enjoyed consistent enrolments since opening but vacancies are still available. There will be 101 children when the centre has a full complement.

The operating hours of the centre are from 7.00am ~ 6.00pm. A Kindergarten Educator is there from 8.30am ~ 4.30pm.

Centre Director **Bridget Tressider** said, "we are excited to be part of the Buninyong community".

City website breakthrough

After years of lobbying by the BDCA's **Neil McCracken** concerning the lack of visibility of Buninyong and District walking and cycling paths, *Visit Ballarat* has just informed the Association that they are "in total agreement that (local) walk and cycle tracks need to appear more prominently on our website, and this is a growing and important tourism sector."

Visit Ballarat CEO **Noel Dempsey** said that all "available content" would be reviewed, and that there would be "much improved content" on the new website which is expected to be launched in July 2018.

He said that a meeting to discuss the Buninyong walking/cycling content of the new website is planned for the near future.

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Mt Helen fight goes to VCAT

Readers of *The News* will be aware of the battle that has been ongoing for the past year or so between local residents and developers wishing to construct ten multi-level townhouses on a prominent block at the corner of Eddy and Boak Avenues, Mt Helen, opposite the retail complex which includes the *Krooze Inn*.

The News (December 2017 – *The Battle of Boak Avenue*) reported that residents of the area were up in arms over the proposal to erect the intensive development on a block of some 950 m². It reported that a local residents group led by **Kevin Zibell** had been formed to lobby Council to reject an application for a planning permit for the site.

Tossed out

At a meeting of the City Council held on 31 January 2018 and attended by over 50 Mt Helen residents all Councillors voted to reject a recommendation from its planners that approval be given. Four grounds for the refusal were cited by **Cr Rinaldi** in moving the motion to reject the application

A report of this meeting and decision was carried in the March 2018 edition of *The News*.

Now advice has been received that the large engineering and planning company **Beveridge Williams**, acting for the

developers, **Monsien Holdings**, has lodged an appeal with VCAT requesting that it overturn the Council decision to refuse a permit.

In general, the appeal claims that the project will “*not detrimentally impact on the existing neighbourhood character*” and that it “*respects the neighbourhood character of the area.*”

Appeal grounds

The specific grounds listed are that

- the intensity, scale and bulk form of the development responds to the existing spatial and visual characteristics of its location
- the proposal is consistent with the purpose of the Residential Zone which aims to respect the neighbourhood character
- it complies with various planning codes and policies

Spokesperson for the Mt Helen Residents Association, Kevin Zibell, said that the appeal lodged by Beveridge Williams “will be vigorously opposed” with the probability that many residents will take the opportunity to put their views before VCAT.

“The claim that this large-scale project is in sympathy with and will not impact on the neighbourhood character of the area is just nonsense,” he said.

Bill one of a kind



Many in the Napoleons and Buninyong communities were saddened to hear of the sudden death of **Bill Snowden**, aged 76 years, on 12 May. While Bill had been unwell for some months, his death came as a shock particularly to members of the Buninyong Golf Club and RSL.

He will also be missed by many in the automotive industry as for several years he supplied cleaning products to them. He sold that business five years ago following the death of his wife, **Pat**.

Many in the community will remember Bill as the tall, hard-selling organiser of RSL fundraising activities, including the annual wood raffle.

Bill was born and educated in the Essendon area and later became a barber in Footscray. Given that connection, he was delighted with the Bulldogs’ 2016 premiership win. His was one of the first houses built in the Golf Club subdivision, and he moved from Napoleons some twelve years ago.

Just one day before his death, Bill had attended the funeral of **Gary Browning**, also one of a close-knit group from the Napoleons district who enjoyed fishing and hunting along the Murray and Darling Rivers areas.

His only son **Rick**, daughter-in-law, **Georgia**, and his three grandchildren live in Koondrook where Rick has a firewood business. Bill was cremated on 17 May following a funeral service, which included an RSL affiliate-member tribute.



Big month for golf



Buninyong golfers Trevor McCann, Clete Paige, Ron Delaland and Gary Tolliday ready to hit off on RSL day.

April was a big month for Buninyong Golf Club. Apart from the amazing golfing weather that was enjoyed by golfers right through April there were also some great things happening on the course.

Buninyong Golf Club and Buninyong RSL teamed up for their annual RSL Golf day. This has always been a popular event on the golfing calendar and 2018 was no exception.

Full Field

The weather was kind and the course was full with 139 men and 20 women taking part. There were some great scores turned in with Div. 3 golfer **David McPhan** taking out the day's trophy with 43 points on a countback from **David Todd**, Div 1. **Peter Innes** won the returned serviceman's trophy with 42 pts.

RSL president **Ron Fleming** thanked club members and sponsors for making the day so successful. The day raised \$4300 which will go towards ongoing RSL projects, school scholarships and

maintaining the support work the RSL does within the community.

Buninyong legend **Chris Tatt** added another trophy to his crowded trophy cabinet. The Eureka Senior Amateur Championship was played at Ballarat and Midlands golf courses. The event is part of the Victorian Men's & Women's Senior Order of Merit and attracted a class field. After a handy three under par at Ballarat on day one, Chris took a three shot lead into day two at Midlands. He was able to continue his good form shooting another three under to win the title by nine shots. The runner-up likened him to Winx

Course record smashed

To top off the month 21 year old member **Daniel Staples** broke the Buninyong course record of 65 held since 2010 by **Brett Tolliday**. Prior to Brett, **Greg Norman** held the record for 32 years. Daniel, off a +1 handicap, had a day out shooting nine birdies, an eagle and one bogey to card a ten under par score of 62. Daniel backed up a week later to shoot another sub-par round of 67.

Ray Sullivan's SPORTS NEWS

PENNANT CHAMPIONS

Buninyong golfers earned bragging rights in the district again. Buninyong had four teams in the finals played at Chalambur Golf Club.

The Div. 1 team made it two in a row defeating Midlands 4.5 to 2.5. Stand outs were **Craig Thatcher** winning 6/5 and **Kelly Lyle** winning 6/4.

The Div. 2 also finished with the spoils, winning a cliff hanger on the 21st hole.

Top performers were **Matt McCann** 4/3 and **Mark Pye** 3/2. The Div. 5 and Veterans teams tried hard but couldn't match the performances of the top two teams.

TOUGH AT THE TOP

The Buninyong Div. 1 Lawn Bowls premiers recently competed in the State Pennant Championships at Moama.

Victoria's top twelve teams had qualified to challenge for the title of the best team in Victoria.

The Buninyong boys fought hard but found the competition over the three days too hot and didn't have the depth to compete with Victoria's best.

The Altona club from the Metropolitan Competition took out the title.

FOOTBALLERS ON THE MOVE

The Bombers have moved into the top group on the ladder after their first-round hiccup.

At the time of writing they had put together four straight wins with great victories over Beaufort and last year's premiers, Hepburn.

The Buninyong Football and Netball teams have come off an excellent round five with nine wins from ten matches.

The four football teams won by a combined 238 points.

Freemasons' 160 years



Honouring the toast to 160 years of Freemasonry. In the background is the 1909 lodge room.

The Sturt Buninyong Lodge marked the 160th anniversary of Freemasonry in Buninyong at its April meeting.

An extensive display of lodge memorabilia coupled with reflections on projects and activities kindled many memories of past times.

The original Buninyong Lodge was formed as an Irish Constitution Lodge on 22 April 1856 in the Nugget Hotel. The Lodge later moved its meeting locations to the Buninyong Hotel, Crown Hotel, Shire Hall Mt Clear, Buninyong Town Hall until building a lodge room on the current site in 1906 with later extensions in 1929 and 1956.

It is believed that the Freemasons Lodge is the oldest continuously operating organisation in Buninyong. At one stage it was the largest lodge outside of metropolitan Melbourne with 262 members including 60 father and son units. In April 1998, Buninyong and Sturt Lodges consolidated, forming the current lodge that meets monthly on the third Saturday.

Lodge Master **Ron Fleming** said Freemasonry is known for its charitable works. Sturt Buninyong with the assistance of Freemasons Foundation, continues to donate \$10,000 annually to district projects. These funds are mainly raised by its annual fruit sales.



Lorraine Harvey and Robert Bowers discuss the collection of Masters photographs.



A quiet reflection on past activities

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Building entrepreneurial Skills

The Shark Tank



Thomas and Cam display their Quad Mail presentation

Over the past two months the Year 6 students have been building their understanding of business by participating in the Buninyong PS Shark Tank.

This program has been designed to develop the creators, makers and cutting edge thinkers that are required in the 21st century. Students worked together in teams to

- create an idea based on a need in the market place.
- plan the idea and build a prototype
- develop a realistic financial plan
- map out an advertising strategy, and
- pitch their idea to a panel of sharks (Teachers)

Roller coaster ride

Throughout this process there has been a huge range of ideas and concepts that have been developed by the students as they rode the roller coaster ride that is the business world. Some were more successful than others.

The Shark Tank process developed teamwork, creativity, problem solving and logical thinking skills. Students and teachers were involved in providing feedback to help make the product the best it could possibly be.

Whether or not the teams were offered a fictitious financial offer, they all had a purposeful learning opportunity that allowed them to put their skills to the test.

Student perspective

Throughout Term 1 and early Term 2, the year 6 students participated in Shark Tank. During this time, we all created our own unique inventions.

We then presented them to the Grade 6 cohort and Sharks (teachers). The best teams were selected to participate in the Grand Final. We learnt how a business works and about economics, budgeting, graphing, persuasive writing and more. It was an amazing experience and a lesson learnt was: do not leave things to the last minute and to always choose the best partner.

Some of the products were: Quad Mail, Bite a Chunk, Octo, Boxie, on Point Food Delivery, CK Multipurpose shoes, Quick n Easy, and heaps more great inventions.

Story by Tilly Tozer, Keely Brisbane, Lucas Wells, and Dominic Simmonds.



Multi-Purpose shoes presented by Kelly and Chelsea



Grace and Tilly introduce Cloud 9