

## Palmerston Street corner site chosen

# CFA SITE SET

The Council of the City of Ballarat is now “awaiting further information” from the CFA before giving final planning approval for construction of a new Buninyong fire station on land at the corner of Palmerston and Warrenheip Streets, Buninyong.

The choice of this site late in 2017 followed an exhaustive search process that started soon after a pre-election commitment was given in 2014 by the - then ALP State Opposition to provide \$1.5 million to acquire land and build a new station in the township.

Pictured (opposite) is an excited CFA group in October 2014 after local MP **Geoff Howard** made the announcement.

### Bigger and better

A CFA spokesman said that the new site would need to have direct access to major thoroughfares, and have much more useable space than the present site adjacent to the Town Hall in Learmonth Street.

The area of the present site is some 950m<sup>2</sup> but it has a restricted frontage of only 16 metres, no rear or side access, with about 30 per cent at the rear being sloping and unusable.



The proposed new Palmerston Street site (lower picture) has vacant land with a frontage of some 31 metres to Warrenheip Street and over 50 metres to Palmerston Street. Other adjacent property is also understood to be involved. It is a totally flat site.

### Planning

A planning application was lodged by the CFA with Council in December 2017. This application provides for a structure with three drive-through bays with glass door frontages.

Local CFA members said that the present shed was now far too small to house the

brigade’s vehicles and to enable easy access to equipment in an emergency situation. The present facility which only has a shed frontage of some ten metres was built in 1956 and includes an old ex-Buninyong Shire portable building at the rear used for meetings and training.

The original station on the Learmonth Street site was a two storey building which opened in 1883 and was later destroyed by fire in 1898.

While various uses for the present site and facilities have been suggested, it seems that it may become the base for the local State Emergency Services unit.

# Faces of a village Easter

## Cross prayers

About 50 Christians joined in the *Way of the Cross* ceremonies organised by the Combined Churches of Buninyong on Good Friday.

The morning started with readings and prayers at the Town Hall forecourt followed by a procession carrying the cross to several other locations along Learmonth Street, before finishing in the 'labyrinth' in the grounds of the Uniting Church.

*Shown here is Baptist pastor, Noel Mitaxa, leading prayers before the cross at the final stop.*



## Egg hunt

In perfect autumn weather, the annual Buninyong Festival Easter Egg Hunt drew hundreds of children, parents and grandparents to the Botanic Gardens on Easter Saturday.

While the children found eggs galore, adults were entertained by the twenty strong *Ballarat Ukulele Group*, lined up at the BBQ or the coffee van, or simply wandered and chatted in the beautiful setting. Children also enjoyed various competitions and the free face painting.

*Shown resting after the egg hunt were the Wakefield family from Buninyong (L to R) Holly 10, Niah 4, Laila 12, and Harley 10.*



## Marley happy

Marley Thomson of Buninyong is only eighteen months old but already she is a winner.

Judges of the *Foodworks'* Easter kids' colouring competition awarded her third prize, and Marley brought mum Jane along to the presentation.

Foodworks' **Sam Blanchard**, who organised the competition, said that over 120 entries were received. All are on display in the foyer area of the supermarket.

*Foodworks' Sam Blanchard presents Marley Thomson with her prize as mum Jane looks on.*





## New restaurant/wine bar

# Sharing a table soon

The continuing major renovation work on the heritage-listed former M G Brown store on the south side of Learmonth Street is the forerunner to the mid-year opening of an exciting new restaurant/wine bar in Buninyong to be known as *The Shared Table*.

After an initial career as a nurse, restaurant owner **Dianne Ray** brings strong qualifications and experience as a chef to the new restaurant.

Friendship with local master chef, **Peter Ford**, got her started in the industry. In the early 2000s he was looking for some staff and Dianne took up work with him in front-of-house and kitchen roles.

That led to her requesting to be taken on by him as a mature-age apprentice chef. After seven years of part-time work in that role, she emerged as a fully-qualified chef.

Following that, Dianne spent some four years as chef at *Craig's Royal Hotel* working with French chef **Phillipe Desrette**, and then a stint with the trendy *Mitchell Harris* wine bar/restaurant in Doveton Street where she set up the kitchen and function room areas.

### Bakery too

When work on *The Shared Table* is completed and all permits sorted out, the restaurant will have *al fresco* and main dining/bar areas catering for about 50 guests, with later stages to include an outdoor terrace to the rear, and also the restoration of the historic bakery (with plans to engage an artisan baker in that area).

Dianne said she planned to make the restaurant “a warm, bright place where locals would be able to meet, discuss, enjoy and savour delicious, thoughtful food and beverages”.

She described the mood expected there as one of smart informality.

### Menu

The planned menu would be Modern Australian with “various cultural influences” particularly Asian and European (her ancestry is Dutch, her husband Robert's is Lithuanian). Dishes will range from “small bites to large shared platters”. Lots of local wines and produce will be featured.

Opening hours will cater for dinners on Thursdays through Sundays (about 5.00pm -11.00pm), with lunch on Saturday and a ‘long lunch’ on Sundays. Occasional feature evenings are also planned.

While there is still much to do (such as the furnishings and decorating which Dianne is presently selecting with an award-winning designer), she is very clear in her aim to make *The Shared Table* a “fun, central point of connection for the Buninyong community” where she has lived for some 25 years.

# Sally is serious about her signs

Over recent years, district resident Sally Kennedy has spent many hours visiting cemeteries all over Victoria and interstate. She's not been taking photographs of gravestones or looking for distant relatives, but rather developing her unique business *Dearly Plaques & Memorials*.

Years ago, Sally noticed that in most cemeteries there were new graves which had no form of identification for many months after a burial. Some had names written on pieces of cardboard.

With the cost of a metal or stone plaque now being well above \$500, she decided to develop a tasteful, high quality 'interim' form of powder-coated metal marker that could be placed on a grave for a period at a fraction of that cost.

## Battle

"At first it was a battle convincing trustees of cemeteries that my product could serve a useful purpose both for the relatives of the deceased person and also for the cemetery," she said.

"But once I had agreement from some larger cemeteries such as Brisbane's Nudgee Cemetery and the Redlands City Council Cemetery also in Queensland, others started to come on board".

Sally now has business arrangements with small and larger cemeteries across Victoria, in all other States and in New Zealand.

Recently she has completed agreements with major cemeteries in Melbourne such as the Greater Melbourne Cemetery Trust (which includes the large Fawkner, Lilydale and Altona cemeteries) and the Box Hill Cemetery.

## Local

The Trustees of the Buninyong General Cemetery have also approved the use of her signage

which may be left in place for up to twelve months after a burial. Sally's 'interim' signs may be ordered through funeral directors at the time of making arrangements for a funeral. She uses local Ballarat firms to do the metalwork, design and powder-coating of her signs.

Before developing her current business, Sally's background was in Sales & Marketing. She has worked for groups such as *Committee for Ballarat*, *Premier PR* and *VicWest Community Telco*.



Up until recently, she was the Advertising Manager for the *Ballarat Lifestyle Magazine* produced in Buninyong by **Lucy Coxall's Roar Publishing**. With a hectic work life Sally has also been studying for an MBA at Federation University.

Sally and her three children **Sophie** 9, **Zac** 13, and **Ethan** 15 live at Mt Doran. She has involved the children in the business to "show them what might happen if they follow their dreams."

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## Joshua Morris MP

State Member for Western Victoria

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

# Big questions on Mount fire

**The small bushfire on the Mount on 11 March (*The News*, April p6) could have turned out to be very nasty indeed! Had the wind been up it would have flown up to the top as fires run much faster up-hill.**

In addition to the high-cost telecommunications equipment and the fire tower up there, it being a Sunday afternoon there were also walkers and sightseers. Down the other side are residential areas along Mt Buninyong Road and Blackberry Lane. The Mount has thick, highly flammable understory and grass plus combustible gum trees.

## Great work

The CFA, Forest Fire Management Vic (DELWP) and helicopter crews did a superb job in containing this fire so quickly. Then the crews had the task of hand-raking the one-metre wide containment line of bare earth along the treacherous 550m fire perimeter. This is real 'goat' country, very steep and inaccessible except from the Mount road and by helicopter.

The cause of the fire raises big questions.

Absent were all the usual culprits - mechanical equipment (too steep for any and all equipment), lightning (it was a sunny day), high winds crashing trees onto power lines (not windy and no power lines nearby). Also the southern edge of the fire ground seemed to have multiple ignition points.

So how did it start? There were three likely access points to the probable ignition sites.

- The southern extremity (probable site of ignition on a southerly wind) was an estimated twenty metres south of the challenging *South Walk* nature track. Maybe a carelessly dropped cigarette by a bushwalker ...but few bushwalkers smoke and they certainly don't burn the bush they love.
- The 100m or so distance of the fire's travel to the Mount road where it was stopped, is steep country. So the point of ignition could not be reached from a car on the Mount road.
- Seemingly it started an estimated 150m up the southern slope from the isolated flat area on Lapilli Lane, off Yendon No.2 Road which has plenty of vehicle parking space and concealing tree cover.

If anyone saw a vehicle parked on Lapilli Lane on that Sunday afternoon contact should be made with the authorities.

Already there has been one report of a white car being seen in the vicinity of that area on that afternoon.

While police and CFA investigations are continuing, to those familiar with such fires the signs are clearly pointing to arson.

Buninyong & district  
COMMUNITY NEWS

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# Sisters take over Krooze In



Sisters Heather Surman (left), Scott Green and Joan Baker are the family team now running the Krooze In.

## Now looking for a surfie wagon

It's not every day that you get a free surfboard tossed in with the sale of a business. But that's what happened when sisters Joan Baker and Heather Surmon bought Mt Helen's Krooze In cafe late in 2017.

"We didn't fancy that old black Kingswood that previous owners Alan and Janeen Sternberg wanted to sell to us, but they did give us the big surf board for free and now we are looking for a suitable vehicle to attach it to," they said.

The sale came about in a rush. One day Heather's son Scott Green was having a coffee there and heard mention that

the business might be for sale. They next day the sisters bought it! Each had some experience working in the food industry. Scott has now become the barista at the café.

They plan to keep the Krooze In name and retain the general style of the café. They are delighted with the support received and especially the fact that car clubs are regular visitors and that the Ulysses Motor Cycle Club members still stop by on a Saturday morning.

The café is open at 8.30am each morning, closing at 5.30pm on weekdays and 4.00pm at weekends.

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# Bank backs mount music

There is a buzz at Buninyong Primary School as students are preparing for Music on the Mount on Saturday 2nd June. Now in its third consecutive year, Music on the Mount is a unique collaborative concert between the students and professional chamber ensemble, the New Palm Court Orchestra (NPCO).

The evening aims to raise awareness of the importance and benefits of music education.

## Compositions

The concert also features premieres of some students' own compositions, backed by the orchestra. NPCO Artistic Director, pianist Gemma Turvey works with the students, teaching them to improvise and compose.

She said, "It is with such pride that the NPCO and I share the stage with these brave, creative young musicians.

Hearing their original compositions come to life is breath-taking!"

Gemma Turvey is convinced of the importance of giving students access to performing and sharing music from as

early as possible. "Music is a language. Nurturing this and giving students the pathway to self-expression is invaluable, particularly as they begin to navigate adolescence and early adulthood," she said.

Buninyong & District Community Bank is a proud supporter of Music on the Mount. Community Investment Director, Stephen Falconer, said that the bank considers it an important opportunity to contribute to the community and develop the students' self-confidence, respect and resilience.

Music on the Mount is on Saturday 2 June, 7:15pm for 7:30pm at Buninyong Primary School Gymnasium. Tickets \$20.

Available at [www.ticketebo.com.au/motm](http://www.ticketebo.com.au/motm)

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ON  
**SATURDAY 2ND JUNE**

# Rain - threat or promise

I'm sometimes befuddled by media weather presenters who assure us of "no threat of rain". This completely misses the reality of how much the current very dry conditions are hurting people.

Disasters like the fires through the Corangamite region top the list, along with much lesser impacts like buildings cracking on shrinking ground and tanks going dry. I'll know the weather reporters are becoming more aware of what's happening around them when they start to talk about the "promise" of rain.

In March we received only 27.9 mm of rain, just over half the monthly average. That brought our total so far this year to 74.5 mm. Last year at this time we had had 112.7mm.

The BOM rain outlook for the coming months is neutral, trending along at average amounts. That's certainly better than what we've had recently, so hopefully it kicks in soon before the ground gets too cool to support seed germination and growth.

MAR 2018			
Date	Rain	Date	Rain
1	1.3	17	0.8
20	1.3	24	19.7
25-26	4.3	31	0.5
<b>Total</b>		<b>27.9 mm</b>	

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# Police award good students

South Ward Councillor Des Hudson was at a Buninyong Primary School assembly recently in his 'day job' as a Senior Constable of police with responsibility for Youth Resources. At the school assembly he awarded the school's inaugural **Ballarat Police Blue Light Student of the Month**.

The winners were **Heidi Donald** and **Xander Boreham**. Each received a Certificate of Achievement, a free double pass to an upcoming *Blue Light Disco*, and also an engraved Student of the Month Medal.

The presentation of the award by a uniformed member of the police force is made at a whole school assembly to which parents are invited.

## Monthly

Each month the school is asked to nominate two students, one from Grade Prep to Grade 3 and one from Grade 4 to Grade 6. Both will receive a *Blue Light*

*Student of the Month Award*.

The criteria to win the award is positive school attendance, respect for their fellow classmates, respect for their classroom teachers, and generally going out of their way to make the school community better.

This program has only just begun at Buninyong Primary School this year, but the awards are in their third year across Ballarat where it is

now in place in thirteen schools. It is an initiative of the Ballarat Police Blue Light Group.



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streettalk

**BANK TO THE RESCUE.** Since its restart in 2015 copies of *The News* usually quickly run out at the many local distribution points. The recent decision to increase the monthly print run from 1200 copies to 1400 copies meant that there is now a struggle to cover higher costs with advertising revenue. The Community Bank through its 'Grants Director' **Steve Falconer** stepped in with funding to help bridge that gap. Any locals not yet supporting the community bank should take a long hard look in the mirror!

**UP ON BOWEN HILL** there's a couple with a few hens that regularly manage to produce a good supply of eggs. Also on the hill, there's a well-known local lady who walks her dog very early in the mornings. Now her new young dog hadn't seen a chook before, so recently he decided to see what they tasted like. Luckily, hen was rescued, taken inside and sewn up using a darning needle. All seems well again... chook recovering.... and Kathy's dog is now restricted to chasing rabbits in her back yard!

**LOCAL WOMAN** was in a big panic last month when she lost her mobile phone. **Melinda Stewart** sadly gave up after searching Desoza Park, and then asking at all the local businesses without luck. However, when she got home, an email from tech-savvy **Nikki Prato** at the Buninyong Golf Club was waiting on her computer. An "older lady" had handed lost phone in at the club, and Nicky was able to find the scrolling message on it showing who the owner was. Melinda says thanks to both of them. Now we're intrigued as to who and how old the "older lady" really is.

**BLAZE AID AGAIN.** Many locals will remember the fantastic help given to local farmers by the *BlazeAid* group after the 2015 Scotsburn fires. Now they have again swung into action in the western district. In another move to help, local golf club President **Ron Delaland** has called on BGC golfers to stand by to help the Camperdown Golf Club severely impacted by the March fires in that area.

# Top pastry chef is back at the Goose

**It's been a very long road and quite a few years since Jenny Brown last baked pies and cakes in Buninyong. But many locals will be pleased to know that she is back and working as a pastry chef at the Pig & Goose.**

Way back, after completing a four year apprenticeship and training as a Pastry Chef at the *Southern Cross Hotel* in Melbourne, Jenny - whose family is from Buninyong - thought that she would have a go at starting her own business here.

## Cake shop

Her brother Martin then owned the row of shops along Learmonth Street next to the old bank. Jenny remembers that as being a time when Buninyong mostly had only antique shops which attracted busloads of people from Melbourne. The *Buninyong Cake Shop* came into operation and began to attract locals and visitors.

Eventually Jenny moved north, but has now returned from Queensland so that she can be closer to her mother.

It was chance that led to Jenny working at the *Pig & Goose*. She was driving past one day and thought 'I'd like to have a look in there'. Owners **Clive** and **Wendy Kirby** had heard 'around the traps' about Jenny and her skills.

They offered her a job, and says Jenny, it is a win/win situation for all. "Clive

and Wendy are really lovely people to work for" and Jenny feels that her local knowledge about what people like is proving very useful.

## Specialist

Jenny specialises in pastries. All the pies, pasties, sausage rolls and savouries are her work. Her day starts at 5.30am. At that time of day Jenny is the only one there. She gets as much done as she can, ready for the early customers who are sometimes waiting for the shop to open.

As the shop gets busier around 1.00 pm, Jenny's work is over, which leaves the ovens free for the very busy lunch-time orders.

This type of business needs to know what people like so that it is there when they want it but not to have too much left over at the end of the day. If there does happen to be any left-over food, it is fed to Clive and Wendy's animals.

However, in Jenny's experience the pies and pasties always sell, no matter how hot the weather. She says that customers wanting something specific should order pastries beforehand to be sure they are available.

Jenny is very happy to be back in lovely Buninyong and working at *The Pig & Goose* and it seems that the many locals who remember her feel the same.

Cassandra Carland

# Last days of The Gatwick: notorious ‘Hell Hotel’ which has seen murders, drug deaths and stabbings

## INSIDE THE BLOCK

A Buninyong tradie will be watching Channel Nine’s mega reality show *The Block* with particular interest when it goes to air in a few weeks. For a brief time earlier this year, local tiler Ashley Cross was right in the middle of the show’s major 2018 project – the renovation of the notorious *The Gatwick Hotel* in Fitzroy Street, St Kilda.

In late 2017, Channel Nine got the go-ahead to start work on the seedy old hotel in Fitzroy Street, St Kilda which it had bought for some \$10 million. A side street was blocked off, scaffolding went up and hard-hatted tradesmen from all over appeared in the derelict building together with the TV show’s pairs of contestants anxious to start their work. Among the hard-hats was Buninyong tiler, **Ashley Cross**.

### Cairns links

He became involved in work on *The Block* through his helping out one of his Ballarat tiler friends **Dyson George** from DJG Tiling who, in turn, had a tiling mate in Cairns, Queensland. Those convoluted links made sense when the contestant couple for whom they were working, **Jess** and **Norm**, were from Cairns.

The redevelopment of The Gatwick Hotel involves construction of six apartments in the body of the old building and two

penthouse units on the roof. One of these was being worked on by Jess and Norm.

### Needles watch

Ashley said the work there was “hectic but interesting”. He said that all workers were warned to be careful when reaching into any holes or cavities for fear of touching needles from the hotel’s long time being a home for drug addicts and dealers.

That is certainly not a problem with his usual work in Ballarat which involves domestic tiling, including for project builder *G J Gardiner Homes*.

A resident of Buninyong for some ten years, Ashley, 38, wife **Nina**, and two children **Darcy** 6, a student at Emmaus School, and **Alice** three years, will all be glued to their TV in the near future to see



Pictured above, Ashley Cross.

how Jess and Norm fare in the frenetic battle to impress the judges and the public with their apartment (and particularly to hear what comments are made about the tiling in the bathroom and *en suite*).



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# Susanna hopes to climb another big mountain

Susanna McPherson of Millbrook, was diagnosed with stage 3 breast cancer in 2013 when she was just 36 years of age. She said that suddenly her life of triathlons, high heel shopping, and setting up house with her husband came to an abrupt halt. Hospitals, doctors, scans and needles became the new norm.

"As a young breast cancer patient I had doctors throw every medical procedure and cancer-related drug at me to try to ensure the disease was eradicated for good, no matter how awful and life-changing the side effects had on me," she said.

## Perspective

"I lost my breast, my ovaries, my hair and my oestrogen. Every feminine part of me was taken away. In return I gained menopause, weight, anxiety but also a new perspective on life."

Over the years Susanna's hair has grown back and her anxiety has faded. Her new zest for life has now set her on a path of fundraising for a cure, for better treatment options as well as better support for breast cancer patients and their families.

Now Susanna is organising *The Art of Support Gala Dinner* at the Mercure

Ballarat Hotel on Saturday, 2 June 2018. The Mercure has donated the venue and catering for the night.

Many others have donated prizes and entertainment.

Now the sale of tickets to raise funds becomes the critical task.

## Big climb

Funds raised will go towards a trek over Mont Blanc in Switzerland where Susanna and fourteen other breast-cancer affected women will tackle the slopes of the famous mountain.

In addition to their aim of raising \$80,000 for *Pink Lady*, they want to come together to celebrate their journeys, educate their communities and prove to themselves that their bodies and minds are still capable of conquering any other mountain set before them.

Tickets for the Gala Dinner and further information can be found at the website [www.trybooking.com/UEJW](http://www.trybooking.com/UEJW)



## The Pink Lady

The Pink Lady silhouette is the well-known symbol used by the Breast Cancer Network of Australia.

The BCNA is the peak national body for Australians affected by breast cancer.

It has a network of 120,000 members and 288 member groups.

More than 90 per cent of members have had a diagnosis of breast cancer, and the remaining members have had a personal experience of breast cancer through a family member or friend.

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## Our Gardens Village

**WINTER'S COMING...** rug-up and enjoy this bracing change of season in your gardens.

**JOIN IN** with Australia's gardens' enthusiasts and celebrate national *Botanic Gardens Day* in the Buninyong Botanic Gardens, 10 am – 3 pm on Sunday 27 May.

Take a guided tour and discover the magnificent tree collection including pines, conifers and maples and the rich history of the Gardens, talks from gardens experts, share fun in the Gardens with your kids, visit the *Buninyong Friends* nursery and select locally potted plants for your garden. Refreshments available.

**TIME NOW** for winter herb and veggie plantings. For starters... artichokes, asparagus, broad beans, broccoli, bush pea, cabbage, cauliflower, climbing pea, endive, garlic, kale, lettuce, mint, onion, rhubarb, snow pea, strawberry and turnip.

Keep a roadside watch out to buy bags of farm manure - chicken, cow and sheep - to build-up your soil, usually great value at around \$3-\$5 a bag!

**FOR A SHOWING** of floral colour later on, it's also time to be planting alyssum, begonia, cineraria, delphinium, foxglove, geranium, hollyhock, larkspur, pansy, poppy, primula, ranunculus, stock, viola and a host of other showy garden performers.

**THE MID-WINTER** Village Market at the Town Hall from 2pm on Saturday 28 July is another chance to visit the *Buninyong Friends*' plant stall for your garden... next stop, Spring!

## Library moves to new site



The weekly site visit to Buninyong by the mobile service of the Ballarat Library is now located in the foyer of Sts Peter and Paul's Catholic

Church in Fiske Street, on the hill above the Gong.

There is easy parking and access at this location, and the usual library services are available between the hours of 9.00am and midday each Saturday.

This move had to be made because of impending renovation work at the Community Cottage at 407 Warrenheip Street.

Residents, especially students and children, are encouraged to call by and see the range of materials on offer and sign up for free as a member if not already one.

Anything required that is not available will be brought out the following week.



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

# Lions volunteer book shop Community is the big winner

When their three year access to a vacant shop in Learmonth Street came to an end in April 2012, the very successful Buninyong Mt Helen Lions Club second-hand bookstore venture had to pack up and wonder about its future.

Fortunately, after a break of eight months, in December 2014 they were able to relocate to a small cottage in Warrenheip Street, the former home of Buninyong identity **Mavis Bath**. This move has proved to be a winner.

## Overflowing

The historic cottage is now literally overflowing with donated books. Some of them are even in the back garden shed. Most are brought in from local homes when people are downsizing or moving or when children have left home.

There are areas of fiction, non-fiction, science fiction, designated authors, Australian novels, history, classics, crime, complete works of Dickens, autobiographies, Shakespeare (which, if the student is lucky is already annotated and highlighted by a previous student!), romances, health, recipe books, cake decorating, dogs, encyclopaedias, gardening, languages.

There is a separate designated area for the children's books. There are also

videos, music CDs and gift vouchers. Given that these books are mostly locally donated, this diversity represents the range of reading interests in the Buninyong community.

One couple visiting from Germany wanted some books to take back for their grandchildren and volunteer **Ross Gillard** very proudly was able to show them a box of *Enid Blyton* books printed in German. They were wonderstruck.

## Leader

The driving force behind the bookshop from the outset has been **Irene Jolly** who is now helped by a team of six volunteers. Because of their chats with the customers, even the volunteers find that they are increasing their own knowledge and interests.

For instance, volunteer **Sharon Davis** learned during organising some shelves that biographies should be arranged according to the subject, not the author – of course after she had already done it the other way!



Coordinator Irene Jolly (third from left) with bookshop volunteers, (L to R) Christine Sullivan, Cathy Maguire, and Ross Gillard.

The amazing little bookshop is open between 10.00am and 4.00pm on Wednesdays and Saturdays, and on Sundays (and some public holidays) from 11.30am to 3.30pm.

When those inexpensive books are bought from this quaint little shop, the community is being greatly helped.

As all books are donated, the money (apart from a small amount for rent) goes back to the community through various Lions Club charitable projects. Since it started the book shop has raised some \$75,000.

And, when you visit, take a big bag. Undoubtedly you will leave with more than you intended.

Cassandra Carland

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# Practice base now here for top Welsh choir but **CALL FOR NEW MEMBERS**

One of Australia's most decorated and popular choirs, the *Victorian Welsh Choir* has now chosen Buninyong as a base for practice and rehearsals of its Ballarat Chapter.

The choir which over recent years has given performances at Buninyong's St Peter & Pauls Church and at the Uniting Church, now practises at the Steiner School in Moss Avenue between 7.00pm and 9.00pm on most Thursdays.

Every four or five weeks, on a Saturday, the local choristers are joined here by members from Bendigo and from its core group from Melbourne.

Also every six weeks or so the Ballarat Chapter members travel to either Bendigo or Melbourne to join in the weekly rehearsal in these locations.

## Invite

Local co-ordinator for the choir, Buninyong's **John White**, said that there is a great sense of camaraderie and achievement felt by choir members.

"However, we are very, very keen to chat with or welcome new members – anyone who can sing in tune – and you don't have to be Welsh of course," he said.

He particularly invited men from Buninyong, Ballarat or other local areas who might have sung in school or church choirs or who just enjoy singing or music to contact him (0402 808 299).

"It's fun, fulfilling and friendly," Mr White said.



*A practice session around the piano at the Steiner School recently (L to R) John White, Tony Edmonds, Paul Henderson, Serge Savro, Roger Bartlett, Gareth Jones (on piano) and Peter Neil.*

At full strength the choir consists of over 50 singers and musicians. In addition to smaller venues, and at corporate events, the choir has performed at the Sydney Opera House, the Melbourne Concert Hall and at many Town Halls including the Melbourne Town Hall. It even has performed at London's famous Royal Albert Hall, and, in 2016, gave concerts in Cardiff, Wales.

The choir performs in concert over twenty times each year. A highlight of 2017 was a Melbourne concert with leading operatic tenor, Ballarat's **David Hobson**.

The choir will again perform with David Hobson at the Wendouree Centre for Performing Arts on 28 October at 2.30pm

On 27 May the choir will be performing at the new 500 seat theatre at the Horsham Town Hall.

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## Police back at station

The Buninyong police station reopened in March after extensive repairs and renovations. Local police officers who were based in Ballarat for several months are now all back in Buninyong. Works at the police station included major work on the ventilation and grounds renovation at the front of the building.

Motorists are warned that police will be particularly active in monitoring speed limits in the town which, they believe, have been not well observed in recent months. Especial attention will be given to the 60kph zone from the roundabout to past the golf clubhouse where many speeding tickets have recently been issued.



Senior Constable Sean Almeida is one of the officers stationed at Buninyong

## Environment and heritage group

One of the sub-Committees of the BDCA is that concerned with Environment and Heritage.

The Committee takes a broad view of the things which impact on the Buninyong environment – streetscapes, parks and gardens, beautification of the commercial precinct, green belts and ridge lines and the Mt Buninyong Reserve. But their interest is not just with the built heritage (historic buildings), also being concerned about significant trees, significant heritage buildings, plaques, monuments and signs.

### Projects

Some current projects under consideration include

- rehabilitation of roadside areas
- provision of corridors for wildlife development of existing and new walking tracks
- creating an inventory of heritage trees

If any member of the public or of other groups is interested in or concerned about issues such as those mentioned above, please join other like-minded community members at this meeting.

The contact person is Neil McCracken (5341 2308) or email [jenneil@vic.chariot.net.au](mailto:jenneil@vic.chariot.net.au)

The 30 April meeting will be held at the Community House, 407 Warrenheip Street (rear entrance) commencing at 7.30pm.

## Thanks from Red Cross

Red Cross Auxiliary member **Jenny Colville** and her colleagues want to thank the Buninyong community for its strong support during the March Appeal.

The sum of \$1420 raised will be used by the Red Cross for its various humanitarian works in Australia and overseas.



## Big, big birthday

A major birthday milestone will be reached in a few days' time by a well-known local former soldier.

With a smile like that it's no wonder that he charmed the girls in the good old days.

Perhaps it still works!! Guess the owner of the smile to win a free subscription to The News.



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Former President Ray Mende (front left) with his Executive team, Bob Bennett and Dennis Meehan, congratulate Ron Fleming and (behind) new Executive members Simon Fechney and Lyle Thorne.

# Changing of the guard

The Buninyong Sub-branch of the RSL recently has seen a change in all Executive positions. The former President Ray Mende and Secretary Bob Bennett had served in those roles for four years, and Dennis Meehan had been Treasurer for six years.

Elected at the 2018 AGM of the RSL were **Ron Fleming** as President, **Simon Fechney** as Secretary and **Lyle Thorne** as Treasurer.

Incoming President Ron Fleming said that the branch was extremely lucky to have had men of the calibre of the previous Executive leading the group for recent years.

“This was especially so with the major project of the Avenue of Honour restoration and centenary celebrations happening over about a three year period.”

He said the challenge of retaining membership levels and re-engaging with all service personnel in the district was the major one facing the new Executive in the future.

“We also need to do more to attract ‘affiliate’ members such as those with service with police, CFA, SES or ambulance service.”

Mr Fleming said that relatives of those who have served, or of life-members of the RSL were also eligible.

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# Booklet features local murals

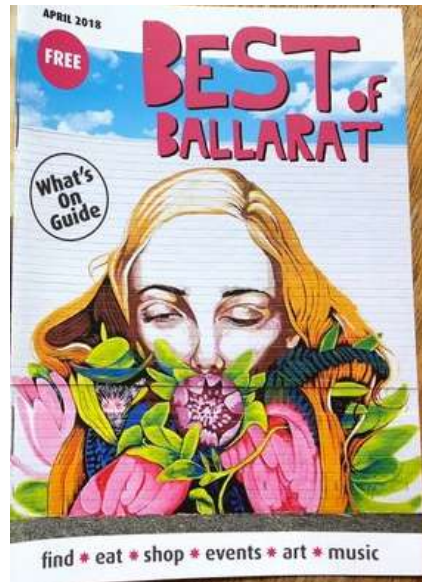
At a recent workshop to write a *Creative City Strategy for Ballarat*, arts people were asked to name 'flagship' art spaces. As one would expect, places such as the Art Gallery of Ballarat and Her Majesty's were named – and, nominated by some of the younger people, Buninyong's murals also were included.

Now the latest edition of the excellent little monthly publication, *Best of Ballarat*, features one of Buninyong's murals by **Donna Saunders** on its cover.

## Welcome

Murals sometimes divide community opinion, or they can unite a community. This writer sees the growing mural walls facing the otherwise bleak car park behind the service station as a welcome addition to our village.

**Micheal Ford** instigated and secured support to cover the costs of the project, although I suspect the artists are working unpaid, as is too often the case. His vision



is to enliven this overlooked and unloved pocket of Buninyong, eventually with performance events too.

## Theme

He asked local artists to submit ideas, and though obviously by different people, the finished and developing paintings are unified by a recurring theme of birds. They provide an interesting gallery of contemporary large-scale public art. The brick walls are not heritage and, unfortunately, there is little vegetation in this area.

So keep an eye on the murals, especially if there are artists at work. Talk to them about their ideas for this new flagship of contemporary culture in the village.

*Merle Hathaway*

# Festival films now locked in

**The Buninyong Film Festival Committee advises that all films for the 2018 festival have now been locked-in. Moreover, there will certainly be something for everyone to enjoy over this two day event.**

For those who love documentaries, then you won't want to miss *The Pink House* on Opening Night, which will be followed by a Q and A session with the Director **Sascha Ettinger-Epstein**.

Some other international film festival hits not to be missed, include, *In The Fade*,

(which won Best *Foreign Film* at this year's Golden Globe), *A Fantastic Woman*, *Menashe* and *Chavela*.

There will also be a family friendly screening of *My Life as a Zucchini* at 2pm on Saturday with the cost of entry being a gold coin donation.

As for previous years, the Saturday night dinner will be held at *Pig and Goose Restaurant*. For more information and/or to book, then please go to <https://buninyongfilmfestival.com.au/>. See the full Festival advertisement on p 19.



## POLICE BEAT

**A BUNINYONG YOUTH** was left devastated when his scooter was stolen from outside a Warrenheip Street business recently. Fortunately, police were able to identify the offender via CCTV and a 15 year old Ballarat youth has since been interviewed and released pending summons in relation to the alleged theft.

**A WEBBS HILL ROAD** family became the victims of a burglary on 31 January 2018. So far, police enquiries have revealed that a single male attended the garage of the residence before taking a number of items from an unlocked car. A thorough investigation from the Ballarat CIU saw a search warrant executed at an address in Ballarat and a number of items recovered. Investigations are continuing in relation to the alleged offender.

**THE BUNINYONG IGA** was targeted by burglars on 5 February and 21 February 2018. Fortunately the offenders failed to gain entry on their first occasion but access was gained on the second and a number of packets of cigarettes were stolen. A 20 year old Ballarat man has since been arrested, charged and bailed to appear at the Ballarat Magistrates Court in April.

**LEARMONTH STREET** seemingly continues to be a racetrack for some drivers. Buninyong police have been, and will continue to conduct speed detection in high risk locations. Recently, a 40 year old learner motorcycle rider and a 19 year old probationary vehicle driver were both detected travelling almost 30kph above the speed limit and have both had their licences suspended for one month.

**IF ANY** member of the Community has any information that could assist Police in solving these or any other crime, please call Crime Stoppers anonymously on 1800 333 000. *"If you know something, say something"*.

# Bowlers are Champions...again



**“We are the Champions”.** For a second time, Buninyong president Wayne Morgan used this line from Queen’s great sporting anthem to describe a great grand final victory by the Buninyong Division 1 lawn bowls team.

The pressure was on the team at the pointy end of a strong 2017-2018 campaign. After one year of being relegated, a top-of-the-ladder finish was only the first step towards reclaiming their spot in the Premier Division of the major Ballarat-Geelong competition.

## Tough

Buninyong bowlers proved to be up to the task in what were arguably the toughest conditions of the year.

Strong, gusty winds on a slick Sebastopol green made it very difficult for both sides to consistently get near the jack.

Buninyong handled the conditions better than Central-Wendouree to claim a well-earned Division 1 title.

The season is not over for this Buninyong group. As Ballarat and District Pennant champions the team had to back up

the following weekend with a visit to Dunolly to challenge for the right to represent the region in the State Pennant championships.

In a rain interrupted programme, Buninyong scraped in by two points

to take their place in the last twelve to compete for the State title at Moama at the end of April.

*Ray Sullivan*

*Above: Buninyong’s champion team celebrate their Division 1 Premiership.*

## Kids on the Green



**Over the last three months another Buninyong team has been practising hard in preparation for their day on the green in the local section of the 2018 Primary Schools championship.**

A joint initiative of Bowls Victoria, and School Sport Victoria the competition is in its second year.

The Buninyong primary school students have been working hard under the guidance of Buninyong lawn bowls coach, **David Draffin**, and his team of volunteer coaches.

Three teams of young Buninyong PS bowlers represented their school proudly at the tournament.

All teams performed well with one team making it to the last four, just missing the final playoff by one shot.

*Young bowler Isabella shows style as she puts down her bowl.*



**25 - 26 MAY, 2018**

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Community Bank Manager Randall Dreger with student Bronte Gooding after the opening of the playpod.

## Another bank gift to school

# Lots of play from new pod

Continuing its strong support for the Buninyong Primary School, the local Community Bank has just fully-funded another child-centred project at the school. A 'playpod' is a shipping container full of a wide variety of loose play items.

The official 'opening' of the playpod was held on 19 March. School principal **Bernie Conlan** said the pod and its contents "provide students with an opportunity to let their imagination run wild by playing with the items in creative ways."

"The playpod well complements the lunch time clubs, the school's chicken coop, access to the library and other student-led activities. This is all part of the school's quest to cater for all students at break times, not just those who want to run about or play sport," he said.

The Buninyong Community Bank has now assisted with funding of numerous projects and activities at the local primary school.

Bank Manager **Randall Dreger** said that the bank was always happy to help out with worthwhile projects such as the

playpod which would be enjoyed by and benefit the development of many young children from the district.

## FEDERAL MP COMES TO TOWN

It was a very wet Saturday morning in Buninyong when Member for Ballarat in the Federal Parliament, **Catherine King MP**, visited the village to meet with residents in late March. She worked from a 'mobile office' set up near the CFA station.

Sheltering under an umbrella outside of the caravan to welcome persons who stopped by was Electorate Officer, **Sarah Bibby**.

Following the Buninyong stop-over, it was then off to Elaine to meet residents from that township.

*Catherine King MP and staff member Sarah Bibby keep dry while heavy rain was falling outside.*

