

Five candidates come to

MEET THE PEOPLE

Another of the State election forums arranged by the Buninyong & District Community Association (BDCA) is set for Thursday 8 November at the Buninyong Town Hall, commencing at 7.00pm.

At the time of *The News* going to press, five candidates had nominated for the seat of Buninyong now held by retiring member Geoff Howard (ALP). These candidates are

Brendan Eckle, drug and alcohol worker, Hepburn Community Health (Independent)

Andrew Kilmartin, MP staffer, former radio journalist (Liberal)

Wendy Morrison, legal assistant (Animal Justice Party)

Michaela Settle, communications officer, Ballarat Community Health (ALP), and

Linda Zibell, university lecturer (Greens)

All have agreed to participate. Each candidate will be given six minutes to make a presentation, followed by a response to up to five questions from members of the audience.

Other candidates may also ask one question of the candidate then holding the floor.

The forum is scheduled to finish around 9.00 pm, and the BDCA has asked Barry Fitzgerald to act as the moderator. He has filled this role in four previous state and local council election forums held in the Town Hall.

BUMPER

24 page edition
MORE ELECTION NEWS
Inside at pages 2, 12 and
13

FIRE SALE SWAP

Golf Club land back in frame

Following a strong vote of support from members at the Buninyong Golf Club's AGM, the way now seems clear for the club to negotiate the sale of a 2750m² parcel of land to the CFA as a site for its future Buninyong headquarters.

The vacant land to the east of the clubhouse has a 50 metre frontage to the Learmonth Street service road, a depth of some 56m and is a flat site enabling full use by the CFA. The land is about 40 per cent of three very long lots owned by the club. Should the sale proceed, the club would still retain some 6800m2 of vacant land in that area.



Buninyong Golf Club President Ron Delaland looks at the site east of the clubhouse being considered for the relocation of the Buninyong CFA headquarters.

Club President **Ron Delaland** said that the development would not only provide capital funds for the club, but would "fit well with the Club's interest in developing links with other community groups".

It is understood that the Buninyong Golf Club is reviewing structural problems with the present clubhouse, first constructed in 1987, and is considering options for major repair work or possible construction of a new smaller Clubhouse.

The CFA's interest in the golf club land followed its failure to secure land on the

corner of Palmerston and Warrenheip Streets, Buninyong.

At the time of going to press the initial CFA offer was understood to be close to the Club's asking price. If the land purchase is finalised, the CFA will relocate from its present sloping and very restricted site with a frontage of only 30 metres near the Town Hall

A State Government grant of \$1.5 million was made available for the relocation of the brigade at the time of the last State election in 2014.

BDCA lobbies Liberals

In mid-October the Community Association met with two current Opposition members, **Joshua Morris** MLC and Shadow Transport Minister **David Hodgett**, and with Liberal candidate for Buninyong, **Andrew Kilmartin**, who had come to Buyninyong to discuss three key projects being lobbied for by the BDCA.



These were the need for planning to start on a village bypass for heavy vehicles, the Warrenheip Street upgrade project and

the Royal Park project. Representing the BDCA were Secretary **Gayle Adams** and Treasurer **Robert Elshaug**.

Rita joins News team

Following a recent speech to the local Probus Club about this community newspaper by editor Barry Fitzgerald, the club Secretary Rita Russell expressed interest in joining the reporting team.

Rita's interest in reporting can be linked back to her former career as a school librarian, a role she filled in Manchester, UK schools for twenty-six years.

She moved to North Yorkshire after taking semi-retirement, only to find herself back in harness and teaching.

Six years as Assistant Head of Sixth Form followed before she decided on full retirement.

Rita came to Australia in 2015 to join her son and his family who had migrated to Ballarat some nineteen years ago, and who later moved to Buninyong.

Not knowing anyone in Buninyong when she first arrived, and keen to become a part of the community, she joined the "welcoming" Buninyong Probus Club.

Hand up

But after just seven months as a member, she was asked to take on the position of Secretary to the Club, a role she still fills and enjoys.

She said that when Barry asked club members if they knew of anyone having an interest in joining the News' reporting team, she happily put her hand up. She said that like many others she thinks that the *Buninyong Community News* is "a super little publication which is doing great work to keep the village feel in Buninyong".

"I was delighted to be invited to come on board with the small group of local people who help put this community newspaper together each month," she said.



Darren's wait for permits

Delays in obtaining permits have affected the opening plans for the second new restaurant planned for Buninyong. Last month's News reported that opening of The Shared Table had been put back until late in 2018 and now, Darren Dong, the owner of the new Asian restaurant to be based in the former Sew Special shop has said that the opening of his business has been delayed until "probably late November".

The Asian restaurant will have some sitdown areas inside, as well as offering a wide range of take-away Asian foods with Chinese, Malaysian and even some Japanese influences.

A feature of the restaurant will be the display bar from which patrons can choose their fresh vegetables, meats and seafoods to be cooked by the staff.

A more detailed profile on the restaurant and its owners will be featured in *The News* closer to its opening.



Wide group interest in Royal Park future

Prior to the recent AGM of Friends of Royal Park (FoRP), eleven groups met to discuss future plans for the reserve.

Representatives from FoRP, Buninyong Sustainability, Buninyong Community Garden, Leigh Catchment Group, *Meet on the Mat* Pilates, Buninyong Redbacks Soccer Club, Buninyong Little Athletics, the proposed Buninyong Collective, Buninyong & District Community Association, *BREAZE*, *Boomerang Bags* and neighbours met over coffee and snacks to get to know each other.



Apologies were received from the yoga group and the Buninyong Community Bank.

All groups saw the get-together as a promising start to some exciting future developments at Royal Park.

Some small wins

'Circus' signs go...bridge might go ... dogs 'off lead' area promising

It's usually not too difficult to find some brickbats to toss at Council in this column which often reflects community frustration over lack of action on one front or another.

Take some of the lead stories and editorials in *The News* this year where the attention of the City of Ballarat has been drawn to issues of local concern.

- In March, there was the call for Council action over the axing of the 'koala trees' on the slopes of Mt Buninyong
- In June, it was Council's reluctance to provide sensible information on action taken over the trees issue
- In July, this column expressed dismay at the appearance, without a planning permit, of that swag of multi-coloured signage on the new child care centre
- The August edition reflected local outrage at the construction of the steel 'cattle race' bridge in Desoza Park
- In September, the focus was on Council's failure to find any cash for the Warrenheip Street project to encourage business revitalisation in that shopping precinct
- Then, last month, for a second time, concern was expressed over the lack of recognition of, or reference to, Buninyong in Council's publication My Ballarat.

So it's a nice change to be able to say 'job well done' to Councillors and Council compliance officers on one of the above areas of concern - removal of the signage issue at the Child Care Centre. Late in September about 80 per cent of the intrusive signage was taken down.

All that presently remains out front are those large squiggly symbols attached to the Learmonth Street fence. Not ideal but a vast improvement!

Cr Ben Taylor who had been lobbied hard on this issue, has now been asked to ensure that future signage is in keeping with the important heritage precinct.

In another step forward, at a recent meeting with the Buniyong and District Community Association (BDCA) Executive, Crs Taylor and Rinaldi also agreed to "recommend" that the controversial steel bridge be removed from Desoza Park.

And finally, in the local Liberal party's preelection grab bag of promises there is one of funding for an 'off-lead' dog exercise area - an issue first raised by The News in May 2017 (Barkingly simple solution to dog exercise problem). Seems like attention has now turned to Birdwood Park as the possible venue.

Hopefully, irrespective of the election result and who finds the funds, Council will finally move on that front also.

&district Buninyono COMMUNITY NEWS

This publication is a community project of the Buninyong & District Community Association (BDCA) and the Buninyong Community Bank.

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All contributions (copy, letters, photographs or advertising) must be submitted before the twelfth of each month to buninyongnews@gmail. com. Enquiries to 5341 2844.

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).

The Management Committee reserves the right not to publish material considered to be offensive or inappropriate or not deemed to have community interest or relevance.

The views expressed or information provided in this publication are not necessarily those of the Buninyong and District Community Association or of the Buninyong Community Bank, including any officers, members, agents or

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Phil takes reins at local PRD agency

After the departure of Gary Jones, local real estate agency PRD has announced a management restructure with Phil Crosbie now the sole owner/principal agent, assisted by Neville Dooley.

Phil was born and bred in Mt Helen and has lived in the Buninyong district all his life. After leaving school he started work as a welder and in sales, before moving to the real estate industry.

Phil has been a real estate agent since 2006 when he joined the staff of *Jens Gaunt, Buninyong,* the predecessor company to PRD. He was one of two purchasers of the PRD franchise in 2013 and recently became sole owner/director.

His skill in real estate sales can be seen with the dozens of award plaques recognising outstanding sales achievements which fill the walls of his office.

He said that the local market is very buoyant despite Buninyong being a tightlyheld area. "With limited stock coming onto the market, and with many enquiries from people wanting to move here, sales come quicker than in other parts of Ballarat."

Add Value

Knowing much about the attraction of living in Buninyong and its quality of life and sense of village community means that the PRD staff can give advice which adds value to the land or the bricks and mortar than might be on sale

Phil and his company are very active in community affairs through sponsorships and assisting with charity fund-raising auctions.

Fellow agent in the PRD Buninyong office is **Neville Dooley** who commenced here two years ago after spending seven years in PRD's Ballarat office. Prior to that Neville spent some thirty years in land and rural-related employment working as a law clerk, and as bookkeeper/accountant for companies such as Elders.

Neville grew up in the Maryborough/ Dunolly areas – and was a member of Dunolly's last premiership football team in 1969.

Like Phil Crosbie, Neville has a good understanding of Buninyong and surrounding rural areas and is well placed to advise on the sale or purchase of properties in this district.

PRD Buninyong Director Phil Crosbie (right) and Neville Dooley ready to buy and sell local property.



WOMEN'S CLOTHING, ACCESSORIES, HOMEWARES & GARDEN DECOR

308A WARRENHEIP STREET, BUNINYONG

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A haven on the highway

Garden open for charity

Although it passes just a few metres from the front garden of the Buninyong home of Mark and Kylie Bickerdike, the Midland Highway could well be miles away. The planting, the fencing, the clever arrangement of the various garden spaces and features creates a sense of privacy and quiet for the couple and their two young children.

When Mark moved to this home in in 2004 the front garden consisted of overgrown natives trees and bushes and unkempt lawn areas

Now the cleverly-designed use of stone paving and stone walls, polished concrete, water features, screening and lots of hedges highlight the space. Kylie described it as her own "little hideaway."

Mark's path to his successful business in landscaping and garden construction began during his studies for a degree in Graphic Design at the University of Ballarat. While studying, he took on parttime jobs with several local builders and other tradies.

Then, although being a well-qualified graduate, he took on an apprenticeship in



landscape construction with the Ballarat firm, *Timeless Landscapes*. But, not long after he completed that training, the firm closed. So in 2004 Mark started his own Buninyong-based business, *MDB Landscaping Design and Construction*

After marrying Mark in 2007 Kylie, herself a graduate in Environmental Technology, came from Perth to Buninyong and soon also found herself "on the tools."

Much of their early work involved garden maintenance but now almost 90 per cent of the firm's work is involved with landscape design and construction, often involving outdoor living areas, decking, garden sculptures and even Japanese-inspired gardens using raked gravel, water, screening and Japanese maples.

Charity help

Now the Bickerdikes have agreed to open their garden on 10-11 November as a contribution to the Rotary-organised *Garden DesignFest* for the charity *End Trachoma by 2020*. In Ballarat, funds will also assist in the restoration of the Gatekeeper's Cottage at the Ballarat Botanical Gardens.

As well as seeing how creative garden design can shield a home from external noise, visitors to the garden at the corner of Midland Highway and Cornish Street will find many unique features such as the 'pleached' olive hedge, involving clever weaving of the trees' branches, and the mix of integrated small garden spaces that bring a serenity to the outside of this home.

There are several other gardens open in Ballarat on these days, including the reimaged gardens at Lal Lal Estate. Tickets and other information can be found online at <code>gardenfest.com.au</code>



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THE NEWS UP WITH THE BEST

After being re-started in its new format only since April 2015 the Buninyong & District Community News has been recognised by the Community Newspaper Association of Victoria (CNAV) at its 2018 Conference held at the Goldfields Resort, Creswick.

The CNAV awards are judged by professionals from the newspaper and publishing industry. This year *The News* received finalist awards in:

- Best Community Content for the newspaper that best covers the range of news, activities, people, history and events in the local community. The publication should "understand and reflect its community."
- Best Sports Reporting the award was given for the article The Two Stans on the two veteran supporters of the Buninyong Football Club, Stan Hunter and Stan Schaper, which was the feature back cover story in the September edition
- Best History Story the three page feature Old Baths to New Pool in the March 2018 edition of The News was praised by the judge for being an article that recorded and recalled details of the old swimming holes and

early swimming pools that were a feature of many country towns.

Since its re-start in early 2015 the new-look *News* also has received State awards for

- Best Editorial Comment in 2017 for the editorial on Need for Long Term Mayors and Planners, and in 2015 for Where's Wally and Buninyong?
- Best Sports Reporting in 2017 for the article on Graeme Jackson Jacko Beats Tough Times, and in 2016 for the Triple Treat story on the three winning sports teams
- Best History Story in 2015 for the lead story about the finding of the old fire station bell the Mystery of the Fire Bell
- **Best Feature Story** in 2017 for the major feature on the community march along the restored Avenue of Honour *Buninyong Remembers*.
- Best Layout and Design The News was the State winner in 2017, after also receiving an award in this important category in 2016

The growing standing of *The News* in the State's community newspaper industry can also be seen in this edition where four significant Government advertisements

have been placed, resulting in this edition being increased to 24 pages. Only two other local newspapers will be running this advertising.

Looking happy after collecting three Award certificates at the annual Community Newspapers of Victoria conference were News reporter Ray Sullivan and Committee of Management member Gayle Adams who also manages advertising in The News



streettalk

CUT UP. Don't know the reason but Council workers recently had the chainsaws out to demolish a second mature plane tree alongside the UFS building in Learmonth St. About a year ago another tree a little further along was cut down after being damaged by vandals... promises, but no sign of replacement. Councillors get active.

CUT OFF. Last month's edition of *The News* contained a survey concerning residents' views and ideas on Buninyong (together with a pre-paid return envelope). The BDCA urges residents to fill them in and post them back ASAP – even a day or two after the cut-off. Heard that some 200 on-line and 70 hard copy surveys had been submitted to Council by mid-October.

GOOD NEWS. While still looking at longer-term catering options, the Buninyong Golf Club has announced that two of the popular Thursday evening dinners have been scheduled for 8 November and 13 December.

BAD NEWS. The number of motorists doing illegal U-turns in the Warrenheip Street business strip seems to have jumped lately. Our friendly local police officers have issued plenty of warnings... now some action is coming.

WICKED WITCH. Locals are heavily involved in the forthcoming production of the perennial family favourite *Hansel and Gretel* at the Buninyong Town Hall, presented by Tilly Dog Productions.

Come and "boo" the wicked witch as she attempts to cook Hansel and Gretel in her oven!!

CAR PARK. Complaints have again come in about those 'For Sale' cars parked on the grass verges down at the Lumeah Street corner, and also about residents parking on the grassed areas between Avenue of Honour trees.

We hear that Councils 'grey ghosts', on motorbikes, are set to make some flying visits out here soon.



BUY LOCAL FOR CHRISTMAS

Four local retail store owners and businesses have banded together to encourage Buninyong residents to shop locally for their Christmas gifts.

The businesses are Studio 408 and Three Times Blest in Warrenheip Street, Saltbush Kitchen (Commercial Street), and the Buninyong Christmas Tree Farm (based at Netherby in south Warrenheip Street).

Narelle Mackenzie at Three Times Blest said that she now has an extended range of homewares, ladies clothing, gardenware, and gifts - and she will gift wrap to suit everyone.

At Studio 408 gallery, Annie Ross will have unique, hand-made and original artistic gifts, catering for all ages. Look

out for some local creatives who will be working there.

After proving to be a hot-selling item last year, there will be plenty of painted and unpainted wooden Christmas trees (courtesy of the Men's Shed) on hand this year at the Buninyong Christmas Tree Farm pop-up shop. Lisa Cressev and

Miranda Donald will be at the helm.

Brigid Corcoran's

Saltbush Kitchen pop up shop (see below) is also part of the cooperating group.

The businesses have been assisted by the Buninyong Community Bank which has donated a stock of their Gold Cards to go to lucky shoppers. The bank will phone each of the stores at random during the November-December period and any shoppers there at the time will win a \$10 Gold card.





During November and December Buninyong's newest pop-up retail store. Saltbush Kitchen. can be found in Commercial Street down the lane by the art walls (off the Forest Street car park).

Saltbush Kitchen now 'down under'

Saltbush Kitchen will celebrate Christmas in true Australian style.

In the lead up to Christmas the store, operated by Buninyong's Brigid Corcoran, will offer an exclusive range of Australian-inspired products. These include

- Saltbush Kitchen extended product range.
- Australian bushfood spices sourced from around the country.
- Australian art including original pieces by Josh Muir.

- Fresh bushfood plants for your garden.
- Australian gift hampers.
- Just add Gin cocktail gift packs
- Macadamia chocolates and Australian
- Ballarat-made accessories and aprons.
- An exclusive range of Christmas decorations.

Saltbush Kitchen will be open Thursdays to Sundays 11am to 7pm.

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This school really cares

For several years an external organisation has run the *After School Care* program on site at the Buninyong Primary School. But from 8 October the school became the provider of the program and introduced *Before School Care*.

The school is excited about what can be offered through an *Outside of School Hours* (OSH) program, with the intention to provide the students with a range of fun and engaging activities, using resources from right across the school.

The program has now been running for several weeks and is working well. *Vacation Care* will also be an important part of the service offered.

Base 1270

The total care program is titled *Base* 1270. This came from combining the school number 1270, along with the program being located at the base of Mt Buninyong. It also refers to the notion of the word 'base' relating to a secure and



Pictured above are two happy students Makayla and Abigail

strong place. The name was developed and chosen by a team of Buninyong PS students.

There was quite a bit done over the recent vacation to improve the environment in and around the school's gym to coincide with the start of *Base 1270*. The entrance has been repainted in a striking blue to highlight the main gym entrance.

The foyer inside has also been given a lick of paint and is looking great.

Outside there has been quite a bit of landscaping done. Areas that were uneven and covered in weeds have been transformed into mulched areas with trees or resurfaced with stone. Vegetable patches have been added to provide *Base 1270* students with lots of fun and many learning opportunities.







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CFA and **ESTA**

Captain James wears two hats

Captain of Buninyong Mt Helen CFA brigade, James Witham, is heavily involved in the emergency services for the local area and beyond. But James' main job is with Emergency Services Telecommunications Authority (ESTA) at Federation University's Technology Park.

He has worked there since moving from Portland in 2006. He and partner **Megan** now live in Buninyong with their 16 monthold daughter, **Sophie.**

Importantly, there is a very close link between ESTA and the CFA that also includes the other emergency services – particularly the police, ambulance, Forest Fire Management Victoria (DELWP) and SES in an integrated whole that goes under the banner that they all *Work as One.*

Early

With his CFA hat on, James considers that the fire restrictions may well come in earlier than usual given the drier season thus far. So property owners could do well to start their fire season preparations soon.

"Cleaning up around houses and sheds is the best means to reduce fire risk and the time to do that is now as the danger from using machinery escalates when the grass dries off," James said. "It's a great help to the CFA if properties have clear access around buildings for fire trucks and this usually means they need three metre wide tracks that have no over-hanging branches or roof structures."

Space

Some of the longer trucks, such as the CFA's 'ladder' and 'cherry picker' trucks also need sufficient turning space and this becomes especially important in a fire situation when drivers are hampered by smoke and possibly with flames nearby.

Owners may like to look to see if they can improve

access within their own property against such an eventuality.

James has been involved in helping to control many local fires, such as at Scotsburn, as well as further afield in the Grampians and Mt Buller outbreaks but was working in his main job at ESTA during the disastrous Black Saturday fires.

Russell Luckock







Gov't loan to council

PARK'S WORKS GET GO

It seems that the much-needed upgrade for Buninyong's Royal Park will be fast-tracked through an Andrews Government loan of \$10 million to the City of Ballarat.

Treasurer, **Tim Pallas**, announced that Ballarat had been successful in its application for \$10 million, delivered as part of the *Community Sport Infrastructure Loan Scheme*, to upgrade nine locations across Ballarat including Royal Park.

The Royal Park project will include pitch upgrades and new change rooms, umpire rooms, public toilets as well as much



Belinda Wardle and daughter Madison 4, welcomed the news from Michaela Settle that works at Royal Park now seem sure to go ahead.

needed lighting, allowing local clubs to make use of the facilities more often.

Labor candidate for Buninyong, **Michaela Settle**, has welcomed this announcement.

"This is a great outcome for Buninyong and the many users of Royal Park. The

Loans Scheme is a great collaboration between State Government and Council to ensure that the facilities at Royal Park are first rate and delivered within the next two years," Ms Settle said.

Dog park promise by Liberals

After agitation from local dog owners, assisted by an editorial push from *The News*, Upper House MP Joshua Morris together with Liberal candidate for the seat of Buninyong, Andrew Kilmartin, has announced a party commitment to fund a "fully-enclosed off-leash dog park in Buninyong".

While the announcement was made at Birdwood Park near the summit of Mt Innes, a final decision on its location in Buninyong is yet to be made. It is understood the commitment is for a grant of \$20,000.

A fenced 'dog-run' park was provided in 2015 in Dowling Street, Wendouree, and is considered to be most successful.

Andrew Kilmartin, whose family formerly bred Samoyed dogs, said that he was sure that "a wonderful sense of community would develop amongst responsible dog owners and their animals should this initiative be completed." His dog, *Murphy*, joined in at the announcement. Member for Western Victoria **Joshua Morris** brought along his Groodle (poodle/golden retriever cross) dog, *Gus*, to the announcement.

Cr Ben Taylor who supported the idea at Council said that irrespective of the

election result he would continue to work for a safe site in Buninyong for dogs and their owners.

News reporter **Cassandra Carland** who led the push for a local off-lead dog-run area said she was delighted at the promise by the Liberals.



Joshua Morris with his dog, Gus, and Andrew Kilmartin and his helper Aidan 9, with a playful big dog, Murphy, look around the Birdwood Park area.

..and meet the other candidates

These two profiles complete the coverage by The News of profiles of the five candidates standing for the seat of Buninyong in the forthcoming state election

Wendy Morrison, Animal Justice Party

Wendy's concern is for animals



After her schooling at Eureka Street Primary and Ballarat East High School, Wendy Morrison's career has been a varied one.

She worked for a while in retailing in Ballarat and then she spent several years travelling Australia as a camp cook with various 'safari' companies.

This was followed by stints in the hospitality industry in places as far apart as Melbourne, Cairns and Alice Springs. After roles in office work in different industries, more recently Wendy has been employed as a legal assistant.

Her interest in animal issues goes back to 2003 when, driving in Northern Victoria on an extremely hot day she "locked eyes" with a severely distressed sheep squashed into a large truck.

From that day on she has dedicated her life to learning about such things as animals in the human food chain, entertainment and experimentation.

Party policies

For the last five years she's been a member of the Animal Justice Party (AJP) which started in 2009. It is the only political party dedicated to ending animal cruelty particularly in those "violent industries which exploit animals".

Wendy supports policies such as ending live animal export, freeing hens from battery cages, and ending puppy 'farms' forever. Under AJP policy, local animal shelters could look forward to adequate funding to cater for lost or abandoned animals.

For Wendy, the environment also is a high priority and she wants politicians to show more concern for the planet and to move towards the creation of sustainable industries.

In her spare time Wendy practices yoga and enjoys spending time with family and friends.

Brendan Eckel, Independent

Push for mental health reforms



The great-great grandfather of Independent candidate for the seat of Buninyong, Brendan Eckel settled in the Napoleons area in the 1850s and, since then, his direct relations - the Moore, Madigan and Thorpe families - have retained and worked land in the area.

His father was a district veterinarian before dying suddenly in 1969 at the age of 45 years. His eldest brother **Hugh** was a Councillor of the Shire of Buninyong in the 1980s.

Brendan Eckel, 61, attended St Patrick's College, Ballarat, and after leaving school worked as a medical technician before commencing studies in Agricultural Science at the University of Tasmania. Illness prevented him completing that course.

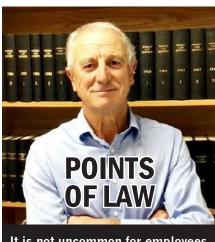
Nursing

Returning home to Ballarat to help his mother care for a brother with a mental illness, and with a push from a sister who was a psychiatric nurse at Lakeside Hospital, Brendan took up employment as a student nurse in 1982, commencing training in nursing in 1985, and graduating in 1988.

Brendan then spent thirteen years working in that field in the UK where he met and married his wife Martha, a nurse from southern Scotland. Their son is a student at Emmaus primary school.

Since returning home he has worked as a psychiatric nurse at Port Phillip Prison, at the Melbourne Clinic, Ballarat Mental Health Services and currently is employed by Hepburn Health Service.

His political policies are wide-ranging but most concern models for dealing with drug and alcohol abuse, and suicide prevention. He is also keenly aware of the truck traffic issues in Buninyong and for the need for better provisions for cyclists.



It is not uncommon for employees to be dismissed from a job.
Redundancy is often given as a reason. This article gives an overview of the rights and obligations of employees and employers.

Sorry you're FIRED!

This area of law is covered by the *Fair Work Act (Cth)*, and two important questions need to be taken account of.

- Was the termination harsh, unjust or unreasonable? This is always a question of fact.
- Was there a contract of employment which has been breached? If so, an action could be brought in the Federal Court of Australia.

A small business with less than fifteen employees is treated slightly differently insofar as if the employer believes on reasonable grounds that the employee's conduct is sufficiently serious to justify immediate dismissal, then the normal rules for harsh, unfair and unjust dismissal will not apply.

In many cases *redundancy* is relied upon to dismiss an employee. However it is only genuine if:-

- the employee's job no longer exists because of operational requirements
- the employer complied with the consultation requirements of the relevant award, and

• the employee could not be redeployed into another role.

Applications for unfair dismissal must be made within 21 days after the termination and can include reinstatement or alternatively for compensation limited to six month's wages.

Casual workers who are employed on a regular and systemic basis for more than six months are also covered by the *Fair Work Act*.

This is a brief commentary on the law regarding dismissal and advice should be sought from an experienced lawyer if you are involved in a dismissal.

Dean A. 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 herein. No warranty expressed 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.

What's a Treaty likely to contain?

Aboriginal communities and the Victorian Government will negotiate Victoria's Treaty (or Treaties).

Aboriginal people are best placed to make decisions about their own lives. In 2019, Aboriginal Victorians will elect an Aboriginal Representative Body to work with the Government ahead of Treaty negotiations.

What the final Treaty will contain isn't predetermined. But it could recognise past wrongs and ongoing injustices against Aboriginal people. It could promote human rights and support reconciliation. It will draw all Victorians together through shared pride in Aboriginal cultures.

Deadly questions.com.au

You ask. Aboriginal Victorians answer.

VICTORIA State Government

Authorised by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne

Search for our major builder's lost house



A West Australian-based descendant of the man responsible for construction of many of Buninyong's fine historic buildings has contacted *The News* seeking help in finding some information.

He is **Richard Rennie** of Melville in WA, the great-great grandson of **Richard Hutchinson Rennie** who came to Buninyong in 1854 as a bricklayer and builder.

In 1854, R H Rennie built the Church of England in Warrenheip/Scott St, and later built the Buninyong Town Hall, the Buninyong Primary School, the National Bank building and the Crown Hotel.

It is believed that he owned several properties in Buninyong, but it is thought that a small timber cottage in Learmonth Street may have been his last place of residence (c 1900).

This house was still standing in the 1990s (see picture) but has since been demolished. Rennie's great-great grandson is most interested to find out the actual address of this building.

Anne Beggs Sunter of the Buninyong & District Historical Society is on the hunt for this information, but if anyone else in the district has knowledge of the Rennie house please contact *The News* (buninyongnews@gmail.com or 5341 2844) and information will be sent to WA.

Given the importance of R H Rennie to Buninyong's early life, the Buninyong Historical Society is compiling a more detailed article on him for publication in a future edition of *The News*.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I refer to the article about young cyclists in the October edition issue of the *Buninyong News*. I had an experience with cyclists in the same area just days before the road cycling events in 2017.

I was travelling along Geelong Rd from Mt Helen when I noticed cyclists approaching Geelong Road from the service road that runs from Fisken Rd on the east side and comes in about three quarters of the way down the hill.

At the roundabout in Warrenheip Street, I indicated to turn left. There was no traffic present so with my indicator still on, I was about to turn into the shopping service road when the alarm in my left mirror sounded and that same group of cyclists raced past on my left. I stopped and about seven rode past me.

After shopping, I noticed that same group riding down the hill past the doctors' clinic. Some were on the service road, and some on the foot path. I went around to the Police Station to report them but on this day the station was unattended.

On arrival home I did report the matter to the Ballarat police. But I shudder to think what would have happened if not for the mirror alarm. It's no wonder children do what they do when they see adults acting in such a reckless way.

J Preston, Mt Helen



Notice of Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 14 November 7.30pm Buninyong Community Cottage

If you have a love for the Buninyong Community and are looking for a creative, ideas driven, active community group to be involved in - then the Buninyong Festival Committee is the group for you!

We are looking for can-do creative people to help grow and shape the Buninyong Festival and other events we organise throughout the year.

Enquiries - Lisa ph. 0408 116 202

Did the Masons really sing the songs of the AFL finalist teams?



Taking a rest after the handball competition are John Dunstan, Graham Dawes, Kas Bitans and Lodge Master, Ian Crosbie.

Members and visitors to Sturt Buninyong's September Lodge meeting engaged in the spirit of prefooty finals fever. After dining on a 'football' menu of soup, hot dogs, party pies, sandwiches and coffee, they took a punt on which teams were thought to be likely AFL finalists. and sang those club songs with fervour.

The inclusion of a handball competition provided a bit of humour along with a display of some serious handball skills.

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Podiatrist and editor

Selena's on her feet

The working week of Buninyong podiatrist Selena Buckingham is split between her professional appointments in rooms at the rear of the UFS pharmacy and that of being editor of a magazine having absolutely nothing to do with feet.

After completing a four-year degree course in podiatry - which also covered anatomy, physiology, medications, lower limbs and feet - Selena now doesn't only cut toenails and smooth corns. She also looks for underlying causes of foot problems such as diabetes, veruccas and warts (papilloma virus), one of the hardest things to fix.

Title

The other part of her life is editing and producing a quarterly magazine about sustainability and `rethinking, reducing, reusing and recycling'. It has the intriguing title of junkies.

Selena's interest and involvement in the magazine came unexpectedly. She has always had a passion for sewing, crafting and 'op shopping' and for years had a stall at the *Mill Markets*, reselling pre-loved and vintage clothes sourced from op shops.

However, when the invitation came for her to become involved in *junkies* she

found that it was a steep learning curve to understand the world of publishing. She has now been the Editor of *junkies* for the last fourteen editions.

Share ideas

The magazine started in 2012, and there are strict guidelines to ensure that all content relates to the criteria of being sustainable, organic and recycling. The team involved are people with the aim of encouraging and helping communities to share their own junkie ideas.

"If, as just one community we *rethink* wasteful habits and *reuse* and *recycle* all that we can, this will *reduce* our footprint on this earth. Then we will work with the planet and not against it," she said.

One local example of this is the *Buninyong Christmas Tree Farm*, featured in a recent edition of *The News*, which with the help of the Buninyong Mens' Shed members, makes sustainable Christmas trees from recycled timber pallets.

Proceeds

Part of the proceeds from the sale of *junkies* goes back to the community.

The magazine also partners with the Grampians West Waste and Resource Recovery Group to reduce waste and maximise recycling and resource recovery.

There is soon to be a *Rethink Exhibition*, on between 16-19 November 2018, at the former George Farmer Building, Eureka Street, Ballarat. The exhibition will focus on viewing 'rubbish' as a resource and will also feature a fashion parade with accessories made out of recycled materials: gloves, jewellery, bags, umbrellas, shoes.

The *junkies* magazine can be bought from *Maggie and Kate* coffee shop and the Buninyong Newsagency.

Cassandra Carland





Young maestros head to town for big city concert

Buninyong Primary School students will travel to Melbourne to perform their own compositions with the *New Palm Court Orchestra* (NPCO) at the MPavilion on Monday 26 November at 12 noon. The MPavilion is located in the Queen Victoria Gardens, St Kilda Road, opposite the spire of the Arts Centre.

Buninyong Maestros is a free lunchtime concert at Melbourne's iconic MPavilion, featuring seventeen students from Buninyong Primary School performing their original compositions accompanied by chamber ensemble, the New Palm Court Orchestra.

The concert is a unique collaboration between a school and an orchestra.

This will be the students' debut performance in Melbourne. The audience can expect pieces about pet dogs, dragons, bugs, the ocean, the seasons and 'just being me'.

Coach

The concert is the culmination of NPCO artistic director **Gemma Turvey's** extensive improvisation and composition program *Maestro & Me* with Buninyong Primary School, where she coaches students in creating and discovering their own music with inspiring results.

Now approaching its third consecutive year, the program has already significantly contributed to an increase in general classroom participation, student self-confidence and self-esteem and basic school attendance rates for participating students.

Come to support these brave young musicians-in-the-making and be inspired yourself as you hear their delightful songs come to life at MPavilion (mpavillion.org).

The event is proudly supported by Buninyong & District Community Bank which also backs the school's annual *Music on the Mount* event involving the NPCO.



Ernie Neale's Monthly RAINFALL REPORT

Nearly a record low

The rainfall during September was well out of the ordinary.
The monthly total was a measly 25mm. The only comfort is that it wasn't the driest September on record.

We know this thanks to the wonderful archive of district rainfall recorded since 1865 at the Scotsburn property *Mount Boninyong*. This resource is generously made available through the BOM, and records September 1972 as the driest, with only 24.1 mm.

Unfortunately, it does seem that low rainfall records will be challenged this Summer. We've now had 13 months of below average rainfall in the last seventeen. October opened with spiders moving into the *Blueberry Farm* rain gauge. That's never a good sign!!

SEP 2018			
Date	Rain	Date	Rain
3	6.6	7	0.4
10	0.5	16	6.9
19	4.3	23	2.0
28-29	4.0	30	0.3
Total		25.0mm	
Year to date		411 mm	

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REC 11582



25 years of Lions' help

In 1994, the late Peter Powers, Buninyong Mt Helen Lions Club President, initiated a school scholarship program for Year 6 students in local schools.

Since that time the Lions Club has provided some \$20,000 to children completing their final year of primary school with book vouchers to start them off in high school. These vouchers are awarded as an encouragement prize to children from Napoleons, Buninyong, Mt Clear, Magpie and Emmaus primary schools.

This year will again see the Club give two \$100 book vouchers to each school, to be presented at the Grade 6 graduation and end-of-year ceremonies.

For information or new members enquiries about the Buninyong Mt Helen Lions Club contact President **Gary White** (0418 502 975), or Membership Chairman **David Page** (0418 543 772).

Remembrance Day 100 years on

Remembrance Day 2018 will mark 100 years to the day since WW1 ended on 11 November 1918.

To commemorate the sacrifice of all who died in that conflict, especially those from Buninyong and surrounds, a service will be held in the local RSL Park on Sunday 11 November commencing at 10.45am.

All district residents are invited to attend the thirty-minute service and to join RSL members in the light refreshments to follow. Children in the company of adults are especially welcome to attend. *Lest We Forget.*

Opera back to Town Hall

Following The Savoy Opera Company's sell-out and highly acclaimed performance of The Gondoliers at Buninyong Town Hall in June, the company will return with Donizetti's The Elixir of Love (sung in English) at 2.00pm on Saturday 10 November

Two of Melbourne's finest young artists, **Sian Williams** and **Cameron Silby**, take on the roles of Adina and Nemorino.

Ticket booking is through *Trybooking* or early bookings on 0425 853 071. Adults \$25, school children \$10.

Free family fun on the river

The Napoleons Enfield Landcare group invites community members to a free family fun Open day at Franklins Bridge on Scotchman's Hill Road between Buninyong and Napoleons on Sunday 28 October between 10.30am and 3.30pm.

There will be guided walks, chats about fish and frogs and 'special' animals, an art trail ramble and even a free sausage sizzle and refreshments.

The group has been restoring this public land for over 20 years.

Community Carols coming soon

Buninyong Community Carols are set for Saturday 8 December at Desoza Park starting with children's activities at 5.00pm.

Run by the Buninyong Mt Helen Lions Club, together with the local churches, the always popular Carols will commence at 7.00pm with a 9.00pm finish. In addition to children's fun, there will be the BBQ and a coffee van.

As well as the bevy of singers and dancers this year's headline act will be **Reuben Morgan.**

Reuben is a local Ballarat boy who was classically trained in Ballarat from 2003–2015. He also received training in Jazz,

Tap and Character as well as hip-hop, contemporary & musical theatre

All proceeds from the Carols go to the 3BA Christmas Appeal.

Save the date

The second annual Buninyong Community Appreciation Day is set for Sunday 2 December between noon and 2.00pm at Desoza Park.

This is a free day to showcase and celebrate local community groups, and to show what the community can achieve by banking locally. There will be plenty of activities, community information and a free sausage sizzle.

More bags

Organiser of the Boomerang
Bags campaign in Buninyong
Sam Blanchard advises that four
more workshops have been set for
November.

These will be on Tuesday 6 November and Wednesday 21 November (1.00pm to 3.00pm) and on Sundays 11 and 25 November (2.00pm to 4.00pm)

Come see Hansel & Gretel here



There will be two live presentations of the famous Brothers Grimm fairy tale at the Buninyong Town Hall on Sunday 28 October.

Presented by local company *Tilly Dog Productions*, the hilarious pantomime will bring fun for all ages at the 11.00am and 2.00pm shows. Tickets from www. trybooking.com/426070 or available at the door. All tickets \$12.50

Recruits boost bowls chances

Buninyong Bowling Club's top side is back in Premier Division after winning the Division 1 premiership last season. The Club is very keen to improve on their previous appearance in the top division when they managed only one win for the season.

However, reports coming out of the Club suggest that they are in a much better position this time around.

The News spoke to Chairman of Selectors Colin Hayes who said that Buninyong is possibly the strongest it has been in his 19 years at the Club. The Club has picked up six or seven players who would be vying for places in the top two sides.

Bill Durand from Central Wendouree, **George McBride** from Victoria and **Mark Peace** from Belmont all have had Premier and Division
1 experience.
In addition to
these three,
Colin expects
the Club to get
back a number
of former players
who will also
push for selection
in Premier and
Division 3.

Colin said the Club has had four good practice

matches and will be ready to go for the start of the season. The dry September hasn't done the two greens any harm as they both look in magnificent condition for the start of the season.



Buninyong stalwart, Ken Sergeant getting in some pre-season practice.

After two rounds, things haven't quite started as Buninyong would have hoped. Geelong sides, Highton and Bareena, have been far too strong and have had easy wins against Buninyong's Premier side.

Ray Sullivan

Teachers on course

Some 60 teachers from all over the State joined in the two-day golfing events at the Buninyong golf course during the September school vacation.

Golf was one of the sports in the *Victorian Teachers' Games* being held at various venues across Ballarat.



Shown on the practice green before the start of the first day's event were (L to R) Trudy Murnane (Napoleons PS), Ingrid Noack (Watsonia PS), and Katharine Patton (Manor Lakes College)





Tiana Mangere and Emme Sexton enjoying their first night of Little Aths

First Little Athletics meet a **RUNAWAY SUCCESS**

The first meeting of Buninyong's Little Athletics club held on 5 October was a great success. About 70 children attended with outstanding parent support.

Regional Little Athletics and now the Buninyong Club, was contacted by

Earlier this year Shane Bicknell, President of both the Western Country overseeing the new group for its first year. "It was a great night; the weather was

interested Buninvong parents and is

good and we had a strong turnout. We've had great support from other clubs too," he said.

Ballarat Little Athletics and other centres donated used equipment, and past U15 athletes from Ballarat volunteered to help on the night.

During the sessions, each age group rotates through training in activities such as running, javelin, shot put, discus and long jump, and the U6 group begins with general motor skills with some events.

Shane said, "Little Athletics builds resilience in young children so it's great for them. It's a fun way to teach children fundamental motor skills, such as how to run, jump and throw, and gets them fit, active and healthy."

Clockwork

He was sure that next year the Buninyong team would be running the group, He said, "This is a talented committee and it's running like a top."

Buninyong Little Athletics will take place on Fridays, from 5.00pm-6.30pm during the final 2018 school term, and also during the first school term in 2019.

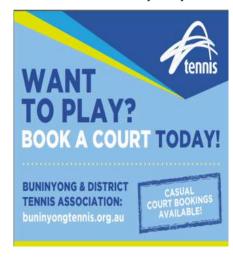
Local little athletes will be able to compete in regional events in February, with those qualifying able to attend State events. New members are welcome at any time. Cost is \$170 and includes a competition shirt.

For more information, visit buninyonglac. com or Buninyong Little Athletics on Facebook.

Amy Darby Walker







A Grade newcomers

TEAM LANDS TOP TALENT

Buninyong Cricket Club was well and truly ready for its entry into the region's top division, the Ballarat Cricket Association's (BCA) A-Grade competition.

Club leaders had a plan and have executed it perfectly. The club had been actively looking for an experienced coach and were excited to announce the appointment of experienced Wendouree cricketer, Liam Brady, to take the reins to lead and prepare Buninyong for its A-Grade debut.

Success

A top-order batsman, Brady has been an integral part of a successful Wendouree unit over a number of years. That club has been the yard-stick in Ballarat Cricket in both their administration and on-field successes. If Brady can transplant some of that culture into Buninyong his appointment will be well justified.

Club officials and Brady were busy in the off season with an aggressive recruiting campaign to add talent and experience to an already promising squad.

Opening bowlers Liam Rigby and Matt Ringin crossed over from Napoleons. Both have recently won the BCA's best cricketer award. Rigby will captain the Club. Top order batsmen, Ballarat East's Harley Givvens and Ballarat-Redan's Bobby Hind also made the move. Givvens and Hind, will add firepower to the batting line-up.

Then the Club also recently announced the signing of Matthew Worsnop, an all-rounder with Melbourne Premier League experience. He has been appointed vice captain.

Competitive

The building blocks have been put in place for Buninyong Cricket Club to drop seamlessly into the

top competition. Buninyong cricketers are enthusiastic about the future and there is a real "buzz" around the club. The wealth of talent coming into the team to join current stars like Michael Flynn, Stuart Squire, Scott Boadle and their team mates should ensure the club is competitive.

President, Jason Giri, said that there were also a number of exciting junior players coming through the ranks. The strong junior program that has been developing over a number of years will ensure that there are talented juniors feeding into the system for years to come.

Buninyong comfortably won its opening round A-Grade game against Napoleons-



New Buninyong captain Liam Rigby sends one down at practice.

Sebastopol reaching the 216 run target in only 35 overs. Recruits Givvens with 65 runs, and Worsnop, 64 starred. One day games against Mt Clear and Wendouree round off a tough entry into the big league.

Buninyong is fielding five senior teams and six junior teams including a girls team in the Ballarat competition. The 'A' Grade team won the opening round against close neighbours Napoleons-Sebastopol and were unlucky to lose by one run in round 2 against Mt Clear. The third round against Wendouree will round off a tough entry into the big league. However, they are already showing that they will be strong competitors in the 'A' Grade competition.

Ray Sullivan





Daniel's six visits to Uganda

A CLASSY HELPER



The September edition of *The News* featured the story of a local girl, Jess Corden, who after graduating from the Australian Catholic University in 2017, has now undertaken a two-year volunteer contract to teach in a school in Zirobwe, Uganda.

In an unusual coincidence, another teacher from Buninyong, **Daniel O'Kelly**, also has travelled to rural Uganda as a volunteer six times since 2007. He has taught and advised at St Paul's School in the township of Kyotera, just north of the border with Tanzania. The school has over 600 pupils.

Daniel, who was a teacher at Buninyong Primary School for fifteen years, is now on the staff of the Yuille Park Community College.

He said that his "taste for Africa" came from the 1980s when he visited his father, an employee of the British High Commission based in Zambia. His parents had separated and he was then living in Australia with his mother.

Search

Daniel's first trip as a volunteer to Uganda was in 2007, and followed a *Google* search to find a needy school where he felt he might be able to assist in some way.

He took with him a donation of some \$1500 raised by family and friends and staff from Buninyong Primary School together with over 30kg of educational goods.

In July 2018 he made his sixth self-funded trip to the school, along with a friend **Justin Bentley**. This time, he carried some \$5000 raised by family, friends, the Buninyong and Yuille Park schools and the Mt Clear Junior Football Club.

The funds were used for several projects designed to help the school and its pupils become more self-sustainable. The major one was the construction of a cattle pen, the purchase of two pregnant cows and the completion of the pig sty. Another was the making of a chicken coop, with the eggs being both used for food and also being sold in the market.

With permission of Ugandan Customs, the two friends also took in a quantity of seeds to enable the sowing of several crops.

Empty house

When in Uganda, Daniel and any of his family or friends who accompany him, stay at a cost of US\$250 in an old house on the school property, left deserted when the whole family died of AIDS which is rife in the area. Living conditions there are very basic.

Daniel is also well-known in the local Central Highlands region as being a top grade footballer and coach. He coached the Beaufort senior football team for five years and this year was a member of the Beaufort Reserves team that lost the Grand Final to Buninyong.

With his wife **Jo** (a teacher at Emmaus College) and three children, Daniel resides in Buninyong.

