



Bridge down

The single lane bridge on Scotchman's Hill Road, spanning the Yarrowee River near Napoleons, has been demolished in a joint roads project between the City of Ballarat and the Golden Plains Shire.

Named after the old gold mine located nearby, *Franklin's Bridge* was constructed around 1920.

The cost of the bridge works is \$2.8 million, with \$510,000 from the Golden Plains Shire, \$912,000 from the City of Ballarat and \$1.4 million from the Federal Government's *Bridges Renewal Program*.

The project will involve construction of a double lane bridge considerably higher than the previous one, with approach roads being improved resulting in better sight lines and safety.

Project supervising engineer from Golden Plains Shire, **Tony Talevski**, said that

the old narrow bridge was "a relic from the horse and buggy days" and was long overdue for replacement.

Jason Davis, site foreman for *Ace Contractors*, the company coordinating the works on the bridge said that a burst of good weather in late June had meant that heavy equipment could gain access to the old bridge from two levels and resulted in the demolition works proceeding well.

The project is due for completion in November 2020. Local traffic between Buninyong and Napoleons is being detoured via Nolans Road which links the Colac Road with Scotchman's Lead Road, and is not causing much disruption or additional distance to be travelled.

Aerial view of the road between Napoleons and Buninyong showing the narrow bridge. Smaller photos show the start of demolition work and works foreman Jason Davis.





Graffiti hit on gold sign Trailer comes back to work

Just a few weeks after the Buninyong graffiti trailer was handed over officially to the City of Ballarat under a Memorandum of Understanding with the Buninyong & District Community Association (*The News*, July, p5), graffiti vandals have made a comeback in the community.

Minor graffiti could be seen on the green bus shelter near Desoza Park, but a more serious example was reported on the *Discovery of Gold* sign at the memorial site along Hiscock Gully Road.

New sign

This new sign was installed earlier this year by the City of Ballarat after a working bee of BDCA members cleaned up the site and its several plaques and memorials.

The site was where **Thomas Hiscock** and others found the first nuggets of gold, sparking off the huge gold rushes to Ballarat.

BDCA President **Gayle Adams** said that this vandalism was “extremely disappointing given the time spent by a group of ten local residents to clean up the area and to lobby for the new signage in December 2019.”

She said that the graffiti was reported to the appropriate officer within the Council

and that in accord with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), the trailer was promptly called back into action to Buninyong and the graffiti was removed within a few days.

Ms Adams said she was very happy that Council’s Facilities Manager **Phil Masterson** was now aware of the work done by local groups to get funding for and to construct and equip the trailer in 2016, and Council’s recent MOU agreement to promptly respond to graffiti problems in Buninyong.

“However it was disappointing to see that a key element of the MOU – that the signage of two local groups remain on the trailer – had not been observed,” she said.

Restoring the Buninyong signage to the trailer has been confirmed with the Council.

A local resident said that “suspicious vehicles” were often seen at the site. Buninyong police have been informed of the vandalism and the other activity and will now regularly patrol the area.

Above: Council worker Shannon Frederickson cleans off the graffiti watched by Phil Masterson and Gayle Adams.

Neil’s track on track

Neil McCracken was a long-term member of the Community Association (BDCA) and an avid walking enthusiast. He passed away on 20 May 2019. The BDCA agreed to honour Neil by naming and improving the pathway along the creek from the bridge near Elizabeth Street to Desoza Park.

Later this path may be extended on the eastern side of Warrenheip Street following the creek reserve towards Henderson Lane. Neil was keenly interested in the native plants and fauna to be seen around Buninyong. Plant species will be guided by the lists Neil compiled.

He worked voluntarily with many local organisations – the Visitor Centre, the Historical Society, the BDCA, to name but some. He had a keen interest in mapping and in the promotion of walking tracks in the Buninyong region. This extended to the *Great Dividing Trail* where he worked with another departed stalwart, **Pat Hope**.

Neil’s booklet on walks in the Buninyong area was a boon to local tourism as were his maps of the Union Jack Forest.

Shown looking at plans of the memorial track are BDCA members Peter Hiscock and Robert Elshaug.



Company helping to green Buninyong

FIFTY FREE TREES JUST A START



Looking at the mature weeping cherry tree recently planted in Buninyong Cemetery's Dell of Memories are (L to R) Colleen Filippa (Fifteen Trees), Maree Harrison, and Roger Permezal (FBBG).

Buninyong has long been noted for its avenues and gardens filled with deciduous and native trees. Its avenues of street trees are a testimony to the vision of those who planted them over 100 years ago, and to those who continue to push for a planned street and public gardens planting program.

A highlight is the beautiful Botanic Gardens first planted in Scott Street almost 160 years ago. Since 2010 the Friends of Buninyong Botanic Gardens (FBBG) has been working not only on the protection and development of the major gardens and Gong areas, but also working with groups such as the Buninyong Primary School, the Child Care Centre, the Pre-School and other local clubs.

It has been maintaining the street gardens in front of the Town Hall, and undertaking projects on Mt Innes.

Contact

Earlier this year FBBG President **Roger Permezal** established a link with a company called *Fifteen Trees*, based in Brown Hill.

With a combination of commercial and community objectives, *Fifteen Trees* was established in 2009 by **Colleen Filippa** with a concern to reduce the carbon footprint of regional Victoria. One reason the name was chosen is that it reflects the number of trees required to be planted to reduce carbon emissions from one vehicle for one year.

Receiving funding from concerned businesses, groups and individuals, *Fifteen Trees* sets out to plant trees on both private and public land. It also gives financial support to environmental groups such as the Australian Conservation Foundation, Sea Shepherd and Green Peace.

Supporters

One of the local companies supporting *Fifteen Trees* is that of funeral directors **Brian and Maree Harrison**. They have arranged for *Fifteen Trees* to plant a mature tree on behalf of every family which use their services. Recently, Harrison Funerals arranged for ten trees to be planted at Phoenix College, Sebastopol, taking their total donation to some 700 trees.

Fifteen Trees also provides free trees to schools, Landcare and to groups such as the FBBG. This local group, in turn, has arranged for the first allocation of fifty free trees to go to other organisations in Buninyong.

Quickly becoming involved was the Buninyong Cemetery Trust which already has planted its allocation of ten free trees. Four golden elms have been planted in the Lawn Section, and four maples, a weeping cherry and a magnolia in the cemetery's *Dell of Memories* corner.

New faces

The Buninyong Cemetery Trust will have a full complement of eleven members if the Governor-in-Council approves the three recent nominations forwarded to the Department of Health.

Following recent advertising by the Department, three local residents expressed interest in becoming members of the Trust and, after interviews, were all recommended for appointment. The three new nominees are **Jane Robson** (a daughter of long-term cemetery trustee **Alan Bath**), **Kelly Dalby** and **Robert Moorehouse**. If approved by the Government the appointments will be for a period of five years.

Chairman of the Buninyong Cemetery Trust **Barry Fitzgerald** said, "Refreshing interest by locals in the affairs and governance of the cemetery had followed recent works and improvements at the historic cemetery – Victoria's second oldest."

At the start of 2020 **Cassandra Carland** was appointed as Trust Secretary, replacing **Frances Winnell** who resigned after sixteen years' service as Secretary and Trustee.

Consultation must count

Recent news from Council on various projects in and around Buninyong has been quite exciting for those local groups and people who have been lobbying for many years.

For example, there's been the funding breakthrough for the Warrenheip Street streetscape project, agreement to put together a Master Plan for the Botanic Gardens/Gong reserves, the decision about an off-lead dog park for James Reserve, and \$1.8 million worth of action on soccer fields and other facilities happening at Royal Park.

Of course, there will be something of a time gap between breaking news and seeing 'shovels in the ground'. One reason for the time gap is the important Council promise that there will be community consultation.

Each project

There's been a promise of "community engagement" on Royal Park, a "localised consultation process" about the dog park, a "detailed engagement process with key stakeholders" about the Botanic Gardens Master Plan, and in the words of Mayor Ben Taylor "extensive community and business consultation" concerning the Warrenheip Street project.

Now that's a heck of a lot of consultation by Council that's going to happen over coming months!

If past history is any guide these consultation exercises may prove to be of dubious value and will vary according to the widely-varying consultative skills of the Council officials who will pop up as part of a 'team' leading the various projects.

Too often in the past, consultation sessions have been tokenistic, lacking in statistical validity, producing minimal reliable data, and have taken all sorts of formats ranging from chats on the steps of the Town Hall, to street meetings, to random visits by Council officers to various businesses around town, to chatting with parents waiting outside of the school, to bringing in well-paid consultants to sit around a table with six or seven people in a meeting room at times often not convenient to many.

Consistency call

The News believes that Interim CEO of Council **Janet Dore** must oversee the design and conduct of these important community consultation exercises.

While various face-to-face sessions can be useful in getting Council officers out to the project sites and meeting key community players, it is suggested that a well-designed survey instrument covering each of the projects should be drafted, distributed widely, and made available on Council's *My Say* site for a four week period.

Results should be collated by someone independent of Council to protect basic statistical validity and to avoid results/summaries being coloured by views which may be held by officers close to a particular project

This is not to say that results must be slavishly followed by those making the key decisions on these projects. But at least the results of the 'consultation' should be largely transparent.

Buninyong & district
COMMUNITY NEWS

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Death of Geoff Nott Village and 3BA lose an identity

The death of Geoff Nott on 10 June, just five days away from his 89th birthday, has robbed the village of one of its readily identifiable characters, and Ballarat radio of a major personality across some 40 years.

When Radio 3BA was the Ballarat district's major source of local news, entertainment and sports happenings, Geoff Nott was at the centre of the station's activities, being a principal announcer, doing outside broadcasts from events such as debutante balls at the Civic Hall, reading the news, and putting the much-loved radio serials to air.

Radio names

Older residents will remember him along with other well-known identities of 3BA such as **Peter Calligari**, **Glenn Driscoll**, **Gary West** and **Frank Clark**.

In later years at 3BA, Geoff was mentor to younger staff wanting to learn the many facets of radio broadcasting.

He was also a stalwart in the local theatre and arts scene, being involved in countless

productions with Ballarat's National Theatre and with the St Martin's Little Theatre in Melbourne.

Move here

After the death of his wife **Anne** in 1998, and with the later onset of dementia, Geoff moved to the Buninyong district in 2013

to be cared for by **Cathy Micich**, one of his three daughters.

Wandering about the village streets with his walking frame and with a seemingly-permanent smile, Geoff enjoyed being greeted by passing local residents, and in Cathy's words "adopted and looked after" by many local businesses.



These included the staff at *Maggie & Kates* who would seal up his daily cup of coffee and put it in the walker for him before he headed off back across Warrenheip Street to Cathy's remedial massage rooms where he would sit quietly for hours watching replays of his favourite old TV programs.

Problems

Other local businesses which looked forward to a visit from Geoff included the *Bendigo Bank* which always was ready for his regular withdrawal of \$5, and for their greeting of "Hello Mr Nott" which gave him a real buzz. Likewise he loved to head off to the *Foodworks* supermarket or to the *UFS Pharmacy*, armed with his small shopping list given to him by Cathy.

Cathy said that the staff at the *BP* service station also were very kind to Geoff, often bringing him back to her business when he got lost and confused.

She also said that while the pedestrian lights were a big help to Geoff, at times he got puzzled when he couldn't get them to work while he was pressing the pad of the bus timetable!

(Above) Cathy with her dad at her business in Warrenheip Street in 2018.

(Left) Geoff Nott spinning a record at 3BA around 1975.



Royal rotunda open...again



The Queen Victoria Rotunda is now looking particularly regal again having just been spruced-up by Council with a fresh coat of paint and with restored dedications at its entrances that were hand-crafted by **Phil Berry**, Ballarat's renowned heritage sign writer.

Celebrating both the re-opening of the Queen Victoria Rotunda following its renovation and the return to classes following the post-coronavirus shutdown, some of the youngest residents of the area, students at the Buninyong Pre-School, took-up an art residency in the Rotunda during June and July with Winter Garden Art.

(Left) Shown cutting the ceremonial ribbon is Mayor Ben Taylor watched by (L to R) Kass Balszak with children Ayla 4, and Kingston 7, and Angie Lovell with Maggie 3, Scout 1, Ruby 6, Ned 3.

(Below) Buninyong villagers in their fine clothing at the original opening of the Queen Victoria Rotunda in 1901.

City of Ballarat Mayor Ben Taylor recently met with a group of Buninyong pre-school children and their mums and other community members when he came to the Botanic Gardens to mark the completion of restoration works on the historic rotunda by cutting a red ribbon.

In 1901 after a 64-year reign, Queen Victoria of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland (and Australia) died. Her loyal subjects in Buninyong, a village in the state named after the monarch, banded together, and with seventy pounds collected by local ladies, constructed the Queen Victoria Rotunda in the Botanic Gardens in her honour. The Rotunda was the first memorial to the monarch in the state following her death.

It was opened by the Buninyong Mayor **Arthur Henry Coxall** on 13 November 1909.



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Lal Lal's Bob Wilson From Sharman's tent to Steptoe's treasures

Lal Lal is best known for its falls, its pub and its amazing second-hand yard. Patriarch of the latter and local character is Bob Wilson who has had a long and varied life in and around Ballarat. In his early years he worked for his father in his real estate business as well as working for pubs in crowd control.

In his late teens Bob joined the famous **Jimmy Sharman's** Boxing Troupe for some seven years.

Older Australians will remember Jimmy Sharman's boxing tent at many provincial and metropolitan shows. At Sharman's tent, dressing-gowned boxers stood

up on the stage out the front calling on opponents from the crowd to get into the ring with them inside.

Record

Bob enjoyed being up front and said he didn't lose a fight, confidently backing himself against all-comers at the time. He participated in these tournaments at shows in Melbourne, Ballarat, Maryborough and Horsham as well as other centres and was paid £3 per fight. He was in the ring at least three times each day – good money back then, he said.

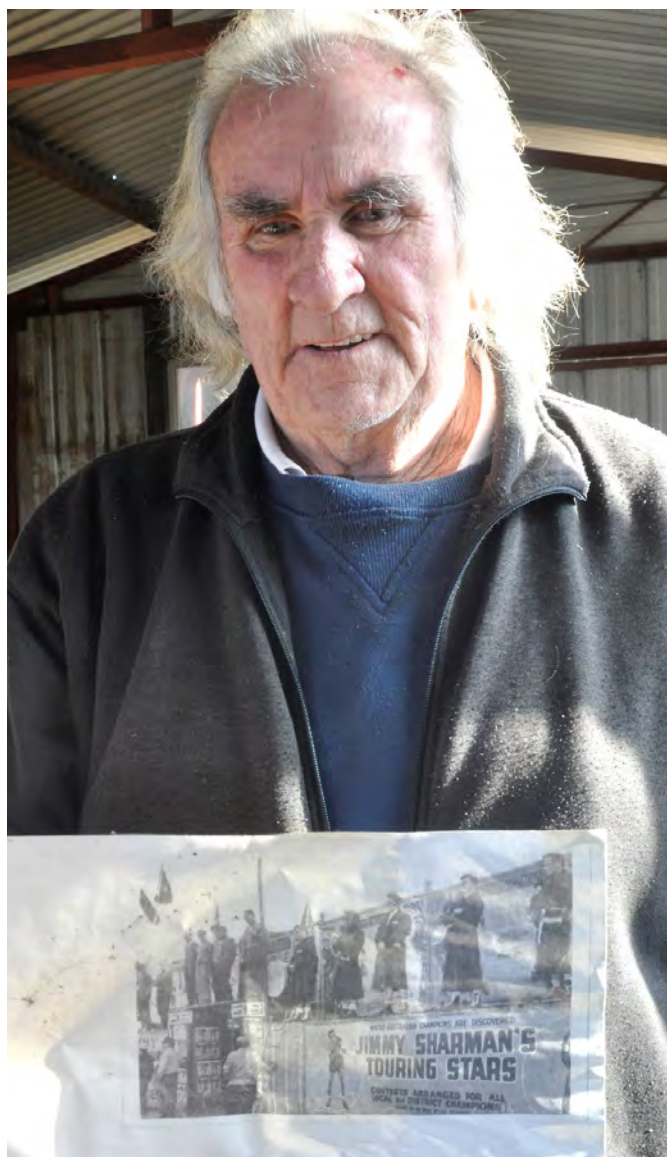
For the past forty years, however, Bob has been in Lal Lal running his extensive demolition yard where you can search for, and usually find, whatever you need.

A recent difficult time was when he lost three sheds and their contents in a fire at the yard in August last year. Bob said he was saddened to lose many family photographs - invariably a prime concern of people who have lost houses to fire – suggesting that precious photos are best stored in a fire-proof 'safe' together with important family certificates.

Bob is now in retirement after passing the yard on to his two sons.

– Russell Luckock

Bob with a newspaper clipping from his days as a star fighter in Jimmy Sharman's boxing tent.



A WARNING IS OUT, particularly for young females and women with cars in the *Foodworks'* carpark. A man in his late 20s, often wearing a black leather jacket, has been causing concern by approaching and demanding a ride up to his residence on Mt Buninyong. Young staff at the supermarket, the *Vet's* and the *UFS Pharmacy* have been scared by him recently. There is CCTV footage and police warn women not to sit in unlocked cars.

THOSE CLOWNS who mosey up Hiscock Gully Rd for a spot of drug smoking and dealing, and now painting graffiti on heritage signage (see story p 2) had better watch out for the many more police patrols and the recording of number plates now being taken on by passing locals.

REMINDER OF DAYS gone by. An old cemetery receipt book turned up in the shed there recently. The book was printed in 1871 with a 'common' grave, four feet by nine feet, costing just one pound. The cemetery's address was then shown as *Black Lead* – the area that stretches from the back of the cemetery across to the Yarrowee footbridge at Cambrian Hill.

A FEW RSL MEMBERS got into a panic recently when they spotted that two memorial seats at the front of the clubrooms were missing. All was well, as stirred up by Mayor **Ben Taylor**, Council workers had taken them away for repainting and repair. Also on request, Council gardeners trimmed and shaped those rosemary hedges out front.

A FEW MONTHS AGO *The News* ran the story of a peacock which had adopted three or four householders up at the top of Bowen Hill who kindly had started to feed it. Now, it seems there are at least two other wandering peacocks up on Mt Buninyong Road which likewise enjoy the food and friendship of locals up there. No one seems to know where these friendly birds hail from! Any clues welcomed.

Bank funding Dust cut from shed



Checking dust on a filter taken from one of the units shown at the rear of the group are (L to R) Chris Kruger, Mens' Shed President Graham Perkins, and Ian Corcoran.

Health risks from fine wood particles in the air have been dramatically reduced at the Mens' Shed following the recent installation of an air filtration system largely funded by a \$6000 donation from the local Bendigo Community Bank Board.

Mens' Shed Secretary **Chris Kruger** said that the system, involving four large filtration units, was drawing in substantial amounts of wood and other dust particles from the busy workshop areas.

Clogged

"We have found that after just a few days the filters in the units are clogged with fine dust. It's clear that working conditions here are now substantially safer. The financial help from the local community bank has certainly helped us reach the \$8000 cost of the complete system," he said.

Members of the Mens' Shed contributed 'in kind' by installing the four units in elevated positions around the workshop.

Chairman of the Community Bank Board, **Ian Corcoran** visited the Mens' Shed to inspect the new system and to meet some of the twenty men then busy on various projects.

Example

He said, "Funding this project is a real example of what the Bank is about – using funds from activities of our local community bank to assist a voluntary group that is doing lots of great work for people and groups in this community."

Some current small projects being done at the Shed include repairing garden

chairs for an elderly Warrenheip couple, one a stroke victim, and making a kitchen cabinet for a 96 year old Buninyong woman who had restricted storage space in her kitchen.

"We gave her a bill of \$60 to cover timber costs, but she said that if we didn't take \$100 for the cabinet we could take it right back to the Shed," said Chris Kruger.

Members of the public are welcome to call by the Shed on a Tuesday or a Wednesday to discuss any projects that they think could be undertaken utilising the wide range of skills available amongst Shed members.

Other enquiries can be sent by email – buninyongmensshed@gmail.com or leave a message on 0423 321 561.

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Catchment Authority invitation **SPEAK UP ON RESOURCES**

The Corangamite Catchment Management Authority (CCMA) has launched a new Community Engagement Network (CEN) to enhance community input and perspectives on how the Corangamite region's natural resources are managed.

Some 420,000 people live in the CCMA's region of over 13,000 square kilometres. It contains all or part of the cities of Ballarat and Greater Geelong and the Shires of Golden Plains and Moorabool and others.

CEO **John Riddiford** said it was hoped that an interested cross section of the community would apply. "You might run a business that uses natural resources or

be employed by one. You might be a farmer or like to relax by bushwalking or bird watching or be part of an outdoor club. All of these provide a unique insight into our natural resources". Individuals who farm, fish, are involved in forestry, interested in conservation or simply like to go camping, are encouraged to apply to be a part of the Network. (See advertisement p 15)

The new CEN will run for a three-year term. The CEN won't make strenuous calls on participants and there will be



two gatherings a year. The first Network gathering is planned for later this year. The forum will provide members the opportunity to exchange views and give input on issues facing the community, such as the renewal of the *Regional Catchment Strategy* which will be commencing later this year.

Winter fun at Steiner school

Staff and students of the Ballarat Steiner School, Kindergarten and Playgroup recently welcomed the arrival of the *Winter Solstice* with their annual Winter Festivals. In acknowledging the season of Winter each class sang a variety of winter songs, enjoyed a drama performance by Class Three, made lanterns to take home, walked the winter spiral, and shared in some warm winter soup.

The *Winter Solstice* has been celebrated by humanity for centuries to acknowledge the shortest day and longest night of the year. It takes place when one of the Earth's poles has its maximum tilt away from the sun.

This event has also been variously referred to as 'the shortest day', 'the extreme of winter' and 'midwinter'. This year in the Southern Hemisphere the Winter Solstice took place on 21 June at 7.43am.

As a prelude to the festival, Class Four organised a pyjama day and raised over



\$200 for those in our community who need additional support throughout the cold winter months.

Head of School, **Eric Hopf** said, "It has been wonderful to have all of the children return to school after our distance and remote learning program implemented in response to COVID-19."

"Not only have they returned with a great enthusiasm to continue their learning and rekindle their friendships, but to also express a desire to want to support those in our community less fortunate than

ourselves. This demonstrated a wonderful sense of responsibility, maturity and awareness, especially when we consider what has happened throughout our communities in recent times."

The celebration of seasonal festivals at the Ballarat Steiner School campus supports the school's community and cultural life. Through poetry, music, art and stories, the children learn to identify, recognise and acknowledge the changing rhythms of the natural world around them in addition to reinforcing the special connections to them.

More kids' short stories

The July edition of *The News* carried short stories written by district children in Grades Prep to Grade 2. Judge Alison Arnold now comments on the stories by writers from Grades 3 and 4.

"The stories by the Grade 3 and 4 writers were full of sparkle and adventure, dragons, mermaids, rabbits, and other magical things. They also looked at more serious things going on in kids' lives, including bullying and exclusion. The writers were tackling dialogue with gusto and had more imagination than plenty of adults. I can't wait to see what they are writing in ten years' time."

Winner: Ava-Li Quach, (St James' Parish School) for *The Dragon and the Girl*, a gorgeous story about a baby dragon growing up and leaving home, having to survive and also to defeat a dragon-hunter.

Runner-up: Monty Fox, (Buninyong Primary School), for *The Wizard of Green Fog*, in which Luke has to take on a tricky wizard in order to be reunited with his father again.

Highly commended: Kartie Neelavannan, (Black Hill Primary School), for *Star Dragon*, about Emma who has her grandmother's power of talking to the star dragon.

Commended:

Lia Beilfuss, *The Animals of Ripple Forest*, Ballarat Clarendon College

Imogen Ellis, *Maggie the Magical Bunny*, Buninyong Primary School

Mahathi Giri, *Smelly Susan*, Black Hill Primary School

Ruby Klerks, *Magical Waters*, Lal Lal Primary School

Raina Francesca O'Donnell, *The Mystery Package*, St James Parish School

Isaac Sanford, *Huskvarna and Martin*, Ballarat Steiner School

Lachlan Taylor, *The Hero of Carnisarl*, Inverleigh Primary School

A selection of all entries in the competition, including some illustrations by the children, can be seen at a really good website – buninyongstories@weebly.com

The Dragon and the Girl

By Ava-Li Quach, Grade 3,
St James' Parish School

Mummy dragon's name was Flicker, Baby dragon's name was Swift. One day Swift went too far away from the nest. That's when the adventure started.

She kept wandering forward but Flicker didn't notice. It was almost sunset. Flicker was getting worried, because Swift hadn't developed wings yet, but Swift wasn't worried. She dug a hole and slept.

The next morning she found a girl looking down at her, she said in dragon talk "who are you?" In surprise the girl said "I am Hazel who are you?" "I am Swift and I'm hungry" said Swift. So they went off to find food.

Swift caught two rabbits and a hare, Hazel found eleven mushrooms and two birds. They had a good breakfast consisting of the hare, a bird and five mushrooms. Swift searched for dry

grass, while Hazel made a saddle bag. When it was finished, Hazel fitted it onto Swift's back, and they set off to see the world. On the way they caught many birds, and many rabbits.

Soon they were many, many, chang* away. But Flicker saw the smoke from Swift and Hazel's fires. She set off following the smoke from their fires.

It was almost spring, and now Swift has wings. One day they met a dragon-hunter, but they had not realised it! The dragon-hunter's name was Di-you. Di-you tracked Swift.

Di-you found them on an edge of a cliff. When he saw them he charged but missed and ran off the cliff instead.

A minute later, Flicker found them and said "oh my goodness, I was so worried about you." So in the end they all went home together.

* A chang is about two kilometres.



**Monty Fox, Grade 4,
Buninyong Primary
School**

In the misty mountains of To-kwan-yo there lived a boy named Luke Vine. Luke lived by himself. His father went missing at war. There was a grave nearby, but Luke didn't know who was buried there.

One day there was green fog everywhere. Luke wondered why the fog was everywhere.

He remembered the grave. After breakfast he walked down to the grave. It was glowing. He grabbed his shovel and started digging.

There was a note. It read...*I will spook everybody in town unless you fight me...ha ha ha haaaaaaa!* From The Wizard of Green Fog. Luke ran to get his rifle and dagger. He wondered, "How do I defeat him?"

Luke arrived at the battlefield. The Wizard of Green Fog had human robot warriors protecting him in the control tower. If Luke defeated them it would be easy to get the wizard. He got his rifle out and aimed at the control tower. It was a 50 per cent chance. He just missed.

He kept trying and he finally shot the control tower. The human robots were defeated. Now, he had to defeat the wizard. Luke spent the rest of the day making weapons and armour to go into battle.

The next day, Luke seized the chance to defeat the Wizard of Green Fog. He saw a



good spot on the field, and he was about to shoot when he realised that he had no ammo. There was a heap of ammo on the field but if Luke ran to get it, the wizard would beat him!

**'...if Luke ran
to get ammo,
the wizard would
beat him!'**

Luke saw the wizard was reloading so he had a chance to run to get the ammo. It was only a few seconds before the wizard was striking at him. Luke ran into an old castle right behind him. But so did the wizard.

When the wizard was looking away Luke grabbed a spear and threw it at the

drawbridge. It worked! The drawbridge was up. The wizard was now trapped in the castle. Luke found an old canon and explosives near the control tower. He realised he could shoot explosives into the castle. Luke found a hole at the back porch and wheeled the canon there.

Luke set and lifted all the explosives into the cannon carefully. He shot them one by one. The castle was destroyed and so was the wizard. Luke had finally defeated the Wizard of Green Fog.

Suddenly, there was a flash of gold and Luke's father appeared. Luke was so happy to see his father. His father explained, "The wizard had trapped me in a spell and now that you defeated him, I am free!" Luke was so happy to have his father back.

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Brainless

It has been disappointing to see acts of mindless vandalism this winter. A dump of toys and other material on the road-side, sign posts torn down, a wallaby killed as it grazed at night on the grass verge and, most disheartening of all, heavy junk furniture dragged to the bottom of the crater causing damage to the soils and native grass poas.

No respect there! I am tempted to add 'no brains either'. The City Council were commendably swift in removing the litter. Sadly, the sighting of wallabies and koalas suggests few remain.

The mount is our heritage; surely it demands our respect.

– Peter Hiscock, Buninyong

VANDALS NOW BIG THREAT TO MOUNT

Local Government in Buninyong dates from 1859. Buninyong's first Borough Council saw the mountain to the east as something defining the village. They adopted as their symbol a depiction of the sun rising behind Mt Buninyong.

It can still be seen over the proscenium in the Town Hall today. With great foresight, in 1865 they made a deputation to the then Colonial Government to have the summit area set aside as a nature reserve for the people. They were ahead of their times. It was another forty years before the first National Parks were proclaimed in Victoria.

Before Europeans, it was place of significance to the *Wathaurung* people and bound in their stories with Mt Elephant to

the west. The name Buninyong is derived from their *Bon-in-Yowang*. It was a marker for them for thousands of years and, in more recent times, for the pastoralists and gold-seekers pressing inland from Geelong. Today, it is a reserve we should all enjoy and respect.

Eruptions

Time has a different meaning geologically. Geologists tell us that there were three different eruptions forming the mount, the earliest being perhaps 160,000 years ago, (the Clarendon flow). The second one was some 50,000 years ago, and then a very recent one (in geological terms) about 12,000 years ago which modified the original cone leading to its "bended knee" shape when viewed from afar.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ivy takes over

The letter from Lorraine about the destruction of trees on a property on the lower slopes of Mount Buninyong (*The News*, June), has prompted me to write with a similar concern.

While that event is an act of environmental vandalism (and it is hoped that the Council will enforce vegetation offsets in compensation), there is a bigger threat to the trees on the Mount.

Ivy is invading the Mount, spreading along the ground and up trees. While it runs horizontally the plant is less visible. However, when it runs up tree trunks it puts its roots through the cambium and becomes parasitic, leading eventually to the death of the tree. Additionally, when it grows vertically, it produces flowers then seeds which are spread by birds.

Ivy can be seen all over the Mount. There is a tree at least 200 years old on the



west end of Hogarths Lane, which is covered; there are also extensive areas of ivy around the lookout over the crater, above the point where the road divides.

Ivy also can be found along the Union Jack Creek in De Soza Park (see picture), and on roadsides around the area, as well as in neglected areas of private properties, where it has been allowed to flower.

I hope this letter raises community awareness about this issue, which (excuse the pun) is a growing problem.

Janine, Buninyong

Still poo problems

We would like to pass on the following two concerns to the users of the walking track along Union Jack Creek.

People who walk their dog(s) in the vicinity of the creek need to take a dog poo bag with them to clean up after their pet does a poo along the walkway. There's nothing worse than stepping in that stuff when on a relaxing walk. So, have a bag on your dog's lead at all times – logical hey?

Also, to those riding a bike up behind a walker – please ring your bike bell or call out to warn them. Older people may not hear that squeaking front wheel!

Ashley and Grace Bryden, Buninyong

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Buninyong



New Scout Susan (right) looks pleased as Ava-Li pins a Bring-a-Friend badge to her shirt.

Bush Scouts groups stay busy at home

Late in 2019 a group of local parents helped to establish a new scouts group in the Dereel-Enfield area. Early this year, the group saw over twenty children each week attending activities at the hall, in either the Cub or the Scout sections.

The leaders bravely took on the challenges that COVID-19 presented by continuing 'scouting at home'. Scouts Australia came on board and, in recognition of the many families facing financial difficulties due to the pandemic, they offered scouting

free of charge until March 2021 for all existing and new members.

During 'scouting at home' the kids looked forward to seeing their friends each week when they met online to play games and participate in activities. Scouts cooked ANZAC biscuits, learnt origami and gave each other quizzes.

Cubs played charades, completed hand-made activity sheets and learnt how to decipher codes. Both groups enjoyed playing scavenger hunts at home!

With the easing of restrictions, the cubs were excited to see each other in person on an outdoor nature hike around Dereel Lagoon. The cubs completed a nature scavenger hunt and, to make the day even more exciting, they presented a new member with her scarf and badges midway through their hike.

The cubs were all presented with their IT badge, in recognition of their participation in the on-line meets.

The scout group is looking forward to celebrating the long term of 'scouting at home' by roasting marshmallows over a bonfire.

Leaders needed

The Dereel-Enfield Scouts is open to new members. Cubs are aged 8 to 11 years, and Scouts are aged 11 to 14 years. The group has had expressions of interest in adding a Joeys section, which is ages 5 to 7 years. To be able to start a Joeys group, the group needs a minimum of two more leaders.

The group would love to hear from anyone interested in becoming a Joey leader, or coming on board as a Cub or Scout leader. Meetings are at Harrison Hall Reserve, on Briardale Rd in Enfield. Scouts currently meet on Tuesday nights, and Cubs on Friday nights.

New children are welcome, please direct all enquiries to group leader **Stephen Kent** at dereelenfieldscouts@gmail.com, or 0408 762 117.

Mr Kent said that before the group started up, local parents had to travel for up to an hour to Geelong or Ballarat to take their children to Cubs or Scouts.

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RSL calls for help

On 7 September this year, the Buninyong Sub Branch of the RSL will celebrate its 75th Anniversary. To commemorate this milestone the club is undertaking two projects relating to its history.

Club historian **Bill Akell** is assembling a photographic record of all of RSL Presidents from 1945. While this project is well underway, he is now trying to locate photographs of several men whose photographs are not available or are of poor quality. Bill is putting a call out to locals or to relatives who may have photographs of the following eight past-Presidents

- 1945-47 A.V. Orr
- 1950-52 A. Wylie
- 1954-55 A.I. Wiggins DFC
- 1958 A. Kelly
- 1959-61 C.G. Turner
- 1962-66 R.G. Biggs



Buninyong RSL historian Bill Akell shows one of the blank pages in his album of photographs of Club Presidents.

- 1967-68 F.D. McNaughton
- 2004 M. Brennan

Current photographs within the album measure 6in x 8in, but any forwarded will be re-sized. Bill Akell will also ensure the return of any supplied photograph if requested.

The Club's second project is to update its membership listing between 1945 and 2020. Mr Akell says that he believes that he currently has a 90% accurate

listing based on documents held by the Sub Branch but would appreciate any confirmation from members or relatives. Copies of newspaper articles which could be placed in Club scrapbooks would also be appreciated.

Submissions, information or enquiries can be sent to William Akell either at 14 Limetree Way, Lake Gardens 3355, or by email to yank1200@bigpond.com.



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Pilates studio back at downtown oasis



Pilates HQ on Warrenheip Street adjacent to Chocallatto coffee shop, closed earlier in the year after owner and founder, Stephanie Neale, decided to take a change in career direction.

But there's new life in the business since **Megan May**, a qualified osteopath and a friend of Stephanie's from high school days, has taken over the space and has opened *Oasis Buninyong* which is now continuing to provide Pilates and health and wellness classes in Buninyong.

With **Anthony Rogan**, Megan is a director of *Eureka Osteo and Oasis Ballarat Pilates* in Howitt Street, Wendouree. They opened *Oasis Buninyong* a few weeks ago on 1 July.

Megan and her team are very passionate about continuing to offer Pilates in Buninyong. Clients will be familiar with the space, the

equipment and also some of the faces from the former business as instructors.

Over 55s

A new class being offered is one for people over 55 years of age. The 45 minute session is held on a Monday morning commencing at 10.30am.

Oasis Buninyong is open six days each week (not Sundays) with very early morning, mid-morning and evening classes available to suit home and working commitment times.

Bookings or enquiries to 5333 2232 or check out the website at www.eurekaosteo.com.au/oasis-bookings.

Above: Pilates instructor Natalie McGrath watches on as a very flexible Tiana Pearce carries out a stretching exercise.

Ernie Neale's Monthly RAINFALL REPORT

June: sun with a dash of ice

June delivered lovely weather this year. Several mornings were cold enough to ice over puddles but were followed by days of gentle winter sun. Rainfall was less than average, distributed evenly across the month.

The 52.2 mm we received brought this year's total to 432.5 mm, almost 100 mm more than the long-term average for the first half of the year.

As for the second half of the year, BOM is applying both the accelerator and the brake together. On the one hand their models indicate a 50% chance of a La Nina event in late winter or early spring. This is double the average likelihood of such a rain rich event happening.

On the other hand, their latest forecast has been downgraded to a less than 50 per cent chance of above-average rain in July and August. Whichever happens, spring should still be lovely this year. The ground is full of moisture and new growth has already started – both promise of what's ahead.

JUNE 2020			
Date	Rain	Date	Rain
1-4	19.5	15	6.6
6	0.3	17	3.6
8	1.2	20-23	18.6
11	0.3	26	2.1
Total		52.2 mm	
June Average		66.3 mm	

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Changing faces of business

Once people settle down to live in Buninyong few seem inclined to move on. There are plenty of examples of second, third and even older generation families around the town or district.

The same can't be said for people in business in Buninyong as can be seen in this file photo taken in October 2014. It was at the time when another attempt was being made to form a co-operative business group in Buninyong.

Of the thirteen business people in the photograph above (two were interested politicians **Sonia Smith** with baby, and **Peter Innes**, right) only four faces can



still be found in their businesses in the village today. These are

- **Ron Delaland**, BP Service station/newsagency
- **Phil Crosbie**, PRD Real Estate
- **Randall Dreger**, Bendigo Community Bank, and
- **Ashley Murphy**, Buninyong Bakehouse.

From the left in the 2014 photograph are **Gary Jones** (PRD Real Estate), **Nikki Sing** (Unique Garden Decor, now The Red Door Pizzeria), **Ron Delaland**, **Kerrie Lalor** (Buninyong Beauty Therapy), **Phil Crosbie** (PRD), **Jess Donald** (Old Bluestone Café), **Randall Dreger**, **Paul O'Beirne** (Foundation Legal, now Buninyong Child Care), **Tracey Spencer** (Lana Rose,

now Pilates HQ), **Wendy Chalker** (Divine Vintage, now Greenvale Meats), **Ashley Murphy**, **Adam Hook** (Fig Leaf Café, now Maggie & Kate), and **Jennifer Peglar** (Sew Special, now Yummy Kitchen).

After a move to Ballarat, Tracey Spencer still operates her Lana Rose business, but now from her home in Buninyong.

In Buninyong business, as **Bob Dylan** wrote and sang back in 1964, *The Times, They are a-Changing*.

More on the Bunny trail

The May 2020 edition of *The News* reported on moves by the Friends of the Canadian Corridor (FoCC) to restore the Bunny trail. The first stage of the project is a 13-kilometre loop from the Eureka Centre along the old Bunny rail line to Mt Clear and return via the Canadian Creek trail.

The key to the project is the ex-Education Department land at 55 Recreation Rd Mt Clear. This 7000 m² block of land provides the connection between the trail in Woovookarung Regional Park and Recreation Road. The land has the old railway line embankment and bridge on it.

Originally the land was scheduled for auction last year and with the support of **Michaela Settle** MP the auction was withdrawn to allow the community to develop a proposal for the land.

FoCC has been talking with local Councillors about how the land could be transferred from the Education Department to the City.

Dangerous footpath

A gravel footpath along the north side of the Midland Highway between Delaland Drive and Lumeah Avenue is causing concerns for residents of the Tandarra Estate.

The problem relates to a spring that is in the vicinity which continuously seeps water which often can be seen across the road itself in that area.

A resident, **Marie**, who has recently had a hip operation is worried about the condition of the path and has written to Council "months ago" about it. Another job for Mayor Ben to move along!!

Ed: Just before going to press, The News heard that Council is now moving to repair the footpath.



Free medical items

A kind local woman has advised that she has some new, but now not required, medical equipment which she is happy to give away at no cost.

She has more than 150 Coloplast catheters (16 FG male intermitten, 40cm straight tip). They are unopened and in their original boxes. Anyone able to use these items should email buninyongnews@gmail.com for more information.

Sports club sits out 2020 season



The Buninyong Football and Netball Club has made the very tough decision to withdraw its teams from the 2020 CHFL and CHNA football and netball competitions. Later, the CHFL decided to not play the senior season based on the number of teams that had withdrawn.

Football Manager of the club, **Wayne Morgan** said, "While the CHFL has since decided to go ahead with junior football competitions for those clubs which were interested, we believed that the main reason that we based our decision on - the health and safety of our players, volunteers, families and supporters - also applied to our junior teams. This is particularly so in the wake of the virus spikes in early to mid-July.

Big risk

"Many players - seniors and particularly juniors - will be disappointed about not being able to play this season, but the Management Committee felt that the club's ability to implement the numerous COVID-19 protocols required and the huge responsibility that these protocols would place on volunteers, would prove to be too large a risk."

Wayne Morgan said that the availability of volunteers to implement the

Coach Shaun O'Loughlin (left) and President Wayne Morgan discuss plans for the 2021 football season.

numerous mandated COVID-19 protocols associated with training and match-day operations, the lack of information surrounding spectator numbers and management, and the financial viability of the club having to play with the possibility of no or limited crowds were also factors which impacted upon this decision.

Decision

"Based on the information that we had been presented with at the time when a decision was required by the league, a decision to commit to playing would have been irresponsible and quite possibly detrimental to the health and safety of our members," he said.

The club is now looking towards next year, and will use this hiatus as an opportunity to plan and organise for a successful assault in all grades and areas for the 2021 season. The club also has announced that coach **Shaun O'Loughlin** has been reappointed for the 2021 season. The football department is now focussing on player retention and recruitment in readiness for a successful season next year.

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Award to great garden

The nature strip outside Deb and Ron Gilchrist's Warrenheip Street house, having been planted just since 2013, not only attracts many local birds, bees and bugs, but now has been awarded a Runner-up prize in the Victorian Open Gardens competition.

The competition was for the best nature strip in Victoria and the Gilchrist's garden plantings have also attracted appreciative comments from passers by who love to see the local bird life up close – Eastern Spinebills, New Holland Honeyeaters and rosellas being the more colourful of the fauna visitors that add to the delights of the colourful flora.



Above: Runners-up in the Victorian Open Gardens nature strip competition, Ron and Deb Gilchrist are very proud of their attractive Buninyong house and garden.

Right: Some of the garden colour.



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Keeping fit Spider's way



At the beginning of the 2019 Central Highlands Football season Shaune joined country side Rokewood-Corindhap as joint coach. The side was moderately successful, winning six games for the season so there was an air of excitement and expectation in the district with the approach of the 2020 season. That was until the season was derailed with the arrival of COVID-19.

Lifblood

Sport is the lifblood of many small towns throughout the country and Rokewood is no different," said Shaune. "It just amazes me that on a Saturday a town of 200 people can attract 2000 people to its ovals and courts."

When the football and netball competitions were postponed it was a blow to the whole district. To lighten up the situation and provide some diversion for their team mates and supporters who were coming to grips with the scenario that COVID-19 had sideswiped their season, Shaune and his shy mate **Ben "Hulk" Hochuli** decided to make a short video.

Facebook

The unscripted *Farm Fit* video was filmed at Shaune's Buninyong property. Supported by Shaun's family, Shaune and Ben put together the eight minute video and posted it on Facebook. They were totally stunned at the reaction to their post. The video meant for about 80 people soon went viral with 80,000 likes on Facebook and was still spiralling at the time of writing.

The reaction to the clip led to a featured appearance on the ABC's *Backroads* show on Rokewood screened in late June. Some of it was also filmed in Buninyong.

However, Shaune said, "There is definitely no plan for a sequel." Readers of *The News* should have a look at the Rokewood *Backroads* episode on ABCiView and not miss having a look at *Farm Fit* on YouTube.

– Ray Sullivan

Above: *Farm Fit* Spider Moloney checks out The Hulk's "gym fit" muscles.

ABC *Backroads* show comes to Rokewood

The ABC's show *Backroads* is very popular amongst country viewers. In late-June the production team rolled into Rokewood following up light-hearted vision spotted on YouTube about a couple of young blokes getting fit for country footy. One was a likeable, tall and gangly character named Shaune Moloney and the short video had been shot on his rural property at the foot of Mt Buninyong.

Nicknamed *Spider*, Shaune Moloney has been listed in the top VFL players of the last 20 years. He led the North Ballarat Roosters to the 2008-09-10

premierships, topped the best and fairest count in 2004, and was a VFL representative. He is a life member of the VFL. He was described as a "heart-and-soul clubman, inspiring captain and determined defender who gave no key forward peace during his long career."

Coach

At 31, Shaune retired from all football, took some time off and then re-joined his old team and coach **Gerald FitzGerald** as an assistant coach. This led to a coaching role with the Ballarat North Rebels that he is still doing today.