

Buninyong & District  
**Community  
NEWS**

Edition 470, MAY 2020

# LOCKED VILLAGE

Virus hits all...see pages 8-11

~~FILM  
FESTIVAL~~

~~STEINER  
FETE~~

~~BUSINESS  
SEMINARS~~

~~COMMUNITY  
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# Cemetery entry gets a new life

The entrance driveway to Buninyong's historic cemetery recently has been given a face-lift with some major repairs and upgrades. The Memorial Driveway project involved restoration work on the 90 year old steel entry gates and on the roadway surface.

The old double green entry gates were bent, had broken hinges and one of the main cast iron posts had almost rusted through at the base. These repairs, sandblasting and recoating of the gates, and reinstallation work, was carried out by *Plinius Engineering* in late 2019.

## Muddy

The roadway area between the cemetery gates and the highway for many years was marked by broken asphalt and muddy potholes, while the main entry driveway into the cemetery grounds which had been partly sealed years ago was broken and uneven.

In mid-March major resurfacing works on these areas was carried out by a team of six crew members from local asphaltting company *Smith & Wil*. They used an array of huge trucks, graders, rollers, bobcats and the massive yellow asphalt-feeding machine over a two day period.

The result is an entry area to the cemetery that is now in keeping with other

improvement works that have been carried out at the cemetery over recent years.

Funding for this project came from an \$11,000 grant from the Buninyong Community Bank. Cemetery Trust Chairman, **Barry Fitzgerald** said that the Trust was "most grateful for yet another major contribution by the bank to an important community facility in the village."

## Invitation

Buninyong and district residents are invited to visit their local cemetery to see this and other improvement projects such as

- the *Memorial Dell* area in the north east corner, with its rockpools, bridge, new tree and shrub plantings, and a growing number of small plaques commemorating loved ones who are buried or whose ashes are spread in far-away places
- the new lawn grave areas with the start of rose bush plantings, and the



two new ash gardens ready for future burials or interments

- the new signage marking named roadways and walkways making it easier to find graves or to describe to others where a grave is sited
- the kerbing and roadworks on newly-named *Imperial Road* (referring to Buninyong's nearby famous quartz mine)

There is much more detail about the local cemetery at [buninyongcemetery.com.au](http://buninyongcemetery.com.au)

## Pioneers' graves

While there are many graves of great historical interest in the cemetery, here are four well-known pioneers. Twenty others are listed on the website.

**Henry Desoza**, Episc. 823. The 'gold king'. Take Miners' Walk, five rows across to right

**Rev Thomas Hastie**, Pres 47. A few steps up Settlers' Walk from North Terrace

**Thomas Hiscock**, Episc. 743. About half way up Miners' Walk, turn left, and about ten rows across

**Francis Moss** (Mossmont), Episc. 244, Close to North Terrace

## Help can be just next door



Buninyong & District Community Association President Gayle Adams (centre) hands over a box of the 'We're Here for You' cards to Community Bank Board Chairman Ian Corcoran (right) for distribution. Lions Club Board member David Page was on hand to show that Club's support for the project.

# THREE GROUPS BACK CARING CAMPAIGN

**Some people dislike unsolicited items being placed in their letter boxes. But there has been few objectors in Buninyong and Mt Helen to a recent community-wide letter box drop of a small, colourful card offering help at this time when many are house-bound.**

Coordinated by the local Community Association (BDCA) the *We're Here to Help* project also involved two other key community organisations, the Buninyong Mount Helen Lions Club and the Buninyong Community Bank.

### 1500 homes

It was based on similar *We Care* project rolled out in Ballarat by the Committee for Ballarat's Leadership program team.

The community-wide project involved the distribution of cards to over 1500 homes.

Residents were invited to complete a few details, including making an offer of various forms of possible assistance, and then dropping the card in the mail box of a neighbour.

The local Community Bank provided funds for the design, printing and distribution of the cards, and the Lions Club offered assistance through the provision of a dedicated phone

number and contact person who was also available to assist callers.

### Simple gesture

President of the BDCA, **Gayle Adams**, said that even if help was not wanted or needed, the project aimed to show community spirit and care in a difficult and challenging time.

"Buninyong prides itself on being a caring community, and it was felt that this was a simple and practical way of showing that," she said.

Support offered included assistance with shopping, posting or collecting mail, walking a dog, helping on "bin days", sourcing urgent supplies or just offering to have a chat on the phone.

*We're Here for You* cards are also now available from the local post office, newsagency, the Foodworks supermarket and from the community bank.

"Even if you have already dropped one into your neighbour, Buninyong residents might pick up several additional cards and drop them into homes elsewhere in the wider district or in Ballarat where there might be someone who would appreciate an offer of help," Ms Adams said.

## streettalk

**THERE HAVE BEEN** several reports of small acts of kindness around town recently. The latest was at *Foodworks* in late March when an older woman dashed in to get some milk just before closing time. In front at the checkout was a young man. After standing back she stepped forward to pay the \$8 or so to be told the young man had already done so. The startled woman went to thank him but he had driven off. "Maybe I reminded him of his granny, but it was a wonderful, kind thing to do," she told *Street Talk*.

**ALL OF A SUDDEN** there's lots of land development action in the north-eastern corner of the village. There's those eight large elevated lots, now mostly sold, from 1000m<sup>2</sup> to 1800m<sup>2</sup> between Barkly and Russell Streets, and another planning application for a subdivision on Elizabeth Street which has raised concerns about likely tree removal.

**IN THESE GLOOMY TIMES** with kids at home and streets deserted, an idea to brighten up that stroll around town comes from the Geelong area where residents are encouraged to put a large soft toy in a front window or on a veranda. Seems the littlies love it when they go for a stroll.

**FOR THE PAST COUPLE** of months the media has had a fascination with graphs charting the incidence of virus infections and deaths. It seems that EV charging machine down near Desoza Park also produces a usage graph. For the first month or two it showed an exciting upwards curve (suggesting lots of EV travellers could be about in local coffee shops and restaurants). But with the lockdown that chart's looking very sad.

**A WISE PERSON** said recently, "you know things are pretty crook when the garbage bins go out more often than you do!!"

# Times of 'strife'

On page fifteen of this edition of *The News* there is a simple poem about Buninyong penned by a local resident. The poem includes the line "if anyone gets into strife, the people turn up to help". *Strife* is a good old Aussie word, little used these days, but pretty apt for the present troubles.

The social and economic impact of the recent COVID-19 'shut down' did not miss Buninyong. Almost deserted pavements, shops closed or restricted, plenty of parking spaces, people keeping their distance from others, no sign of the usual al fresco coffee groups...now, it has the feel of a ghost town for much of the day.

The village's popular food and hospitality venues, which provide much life and focus for residents, have been hard hit.

## Closed doors

And behind closed doors there will be the confused, the scared, the lonely, the elderly, those with illnesses that would be susceptible to the virus, and simply those with a house full of kids unable to go to school or to play in the park.

Here's where the sentiment expressed some time back by the amateur poet comes in. There are now people "in strife" and help is being offered.

Led by the local Community Association (the BDCA), three community groups have

swung into action with their *We're Here for You* project (see p 3). The concept is gob-smackingly simple.

Thousands of cards have been printed and distributed throughout the district. Residents are invited to complete a few details and drop the cards into the letter box of a neighbour or of someone who might appreciate help of some kind.

## Return or call

The idea is that the card would be returned or a phone call made to the person who dropped it in. As usual, the local Lions Club has come to the party by also offering a dedicated phone number to call if that avenue is preferred.

And while the cost of this project was not substantial, the Community Bank yet again has agreed to pay for printing and distribution costs. The President and Executive of the BDCA has coordinated the project.

That little poem describes Buninyong as "just a happy place". For obvious reasons it's certainly not that at the moment. But with the *We're Here for You* project our community groups have again taken steps to show that it's a place where people do care for one another. Just the arrival of a blank card or especially a completed one in your letter box shows that somebody does care.



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Copy should not exceed 400 words and a maximum of two photographs per item may be submitted. Material may be edited because of space, style, or clarity, or for legal reasons.

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

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.

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# Lots of food at the Farm gate

## Plans to grow quirky Elaine store

Located on the Midland Highway just a few metres from the rail crossing at Elaine, the quaint *Farmgate Shop* has come a long way since it started off four years ago as a roadside stall, with an honesty box, selling up to 100 bags of potatoes across most weekends.

The next move was to introduce the sale of three or four butchered lambs each week grown on the owners' farm in Elaine.

Now located in two spacious and brightly lit converted shipping containers, the

unusual country store is packed tight with a wide range of specialist foods and gifts, and attracts a growing clientele of locals from Elaine, Buninyong and Meredith together with a passing trade of regulars travelling between Geelong and Ballarat.

### Local family

**Mark Dunne**, 40, who with wife **Simone**, owns and runs the *Farmgate Shop*, has lived in Elaine all of his life and is a member of a fourth generation local farming family. But Mark started off his working life as a painter before moving back to his own farm with fat lambs, pigs

and "about 200 chooks" located about three km from the township. This is the source of much of his meats and fresh eggs now sold through the store.

Apart from his highly-regarded cuts of lamb, pork and even venison (which comes from a neighbouring property), there is an amazing range of food stuffs, mostly from local producers, packed high on the shelves in the store.

For example there is olive oil from *Manna Hill* at Mt Egerton, organic vegetables from Navigators, tomatoes from Yendon, honey from a local bee-keeper, coffee which is specially ground in Gordon, a range of native foods from Buninyong's *Saltbush Kitchen*, and *Pomegranate* cordials.

The list goes on and on – cheeses from Meredith, stoneground flour from Balliang, native plants...and of course potatoes. However, the wide range of sauces, jams and pickles on the shelves are produced by Simone Dunne and a team of local women.

### Meals coming

Tucked away in a corner of the store is a unique range of locally made giftware including glassware, soaps and oils mostly made from local craftsmen and women.

With the *Farmgate Shop* well-established (now selling meat from up to fifteen lambs and one pig each week) Mark and Simone are planning for further expansion on the site by 2021. They plan to sell meals such as stews and soups up to seven days each week.

An easy fifteen minute drive from Buninyong this store is fast becoming a tourist attraction in addition to being a must-visit source for the freshest locally-produced foods. It's worth a visit!

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# Plans all set to catch the Bunny

The Friends of the Canadian Corridor (FoCC) group is arguably one of the most effective community/pressure/lobbying groups in Ballarat. Over the past five years or so what has happened in the general Canadian forest area has been remarkable.

The FoCC monthly newsletter is always full of news, photographs and all sorts of information about the reserve area and about issues such as preservation of koala habitats.

## Moves

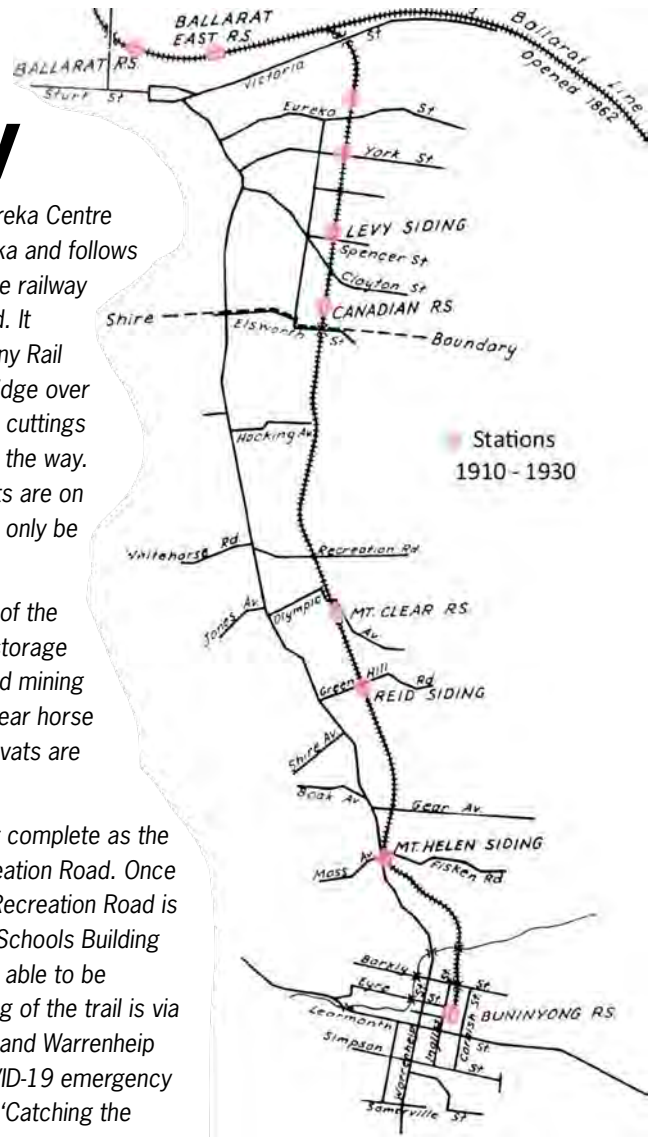
In a recent issue there was an interesting article about moves to complete a trail along the old railway line to Buninyong. The line opened in 1889 and was six miles and 50 chains (10.6 km) long. The article is reproduced below.

*'The FoCC is scoping out a walking/cycle trail that celebrates the Bunny rail and trail. Catching the Bunny was the way local people along the old Ballarat to Buninyong railway line affectionately called riding the train into town. The Bunny ran from 1891 to 1947 before being closed beyond Eureka.*

The trail starts at the Eureka Centre (MADE) complex at Eureka and follows as closely as possible the railway down to Recreation Road. It passes by many old Bunny Rail features including the bridge over Grasstree Creek, railway cuttings and embankments along the way. Some of the rail remnants are on private property and can only be viewed at a distance.

At Canadian Station one of the World War 2 inland fuel storage tanks is in place. Old gold mining relics including the Mt Clear horse puddler and the cyanide vats are along the trail.

At present the trail is not complete as the trail stops near 55 Recreation Road. Once the management of 55 Recreation Road is settled with the Victoria Schools Building Authority, the trail will be able to be completed. The return leg of the trail is via the Canadian Creek trail and Warrenheip Gully trail. When the COVID-19 emergency is over, FoCC will host a 'Catching the Bunny' by bike or foot outing.'



The number of stations fluctuated from six in 1890 to 10 during the 1920 to 1930 and five in 1947.

In 1917 the railway line was actually extended from the Buninyong station across the highway to Howards sawmill, located just up the hill from the Presbyterian Church. Pine logs were carried to the mill to be made into fruit boxes and then sent to Mildura.

## Platforms

More details of the railway line to Buninyong can be found on the new signage erected just near the Men's Shed in Forest Street, Buninyong (pictured left). The shed actually has been built on the old railway platform which can be clearly seen on the eastern side.



# From Lola to your table

**Local businessman Simon Coghlan and his wife Gorgi are not afraid to aim high when it comes to putting quality into hospitality ventures.**

Their take over and make over of the *Provincial Hotel* in Lydiard Street eighteen months ago has attracted no shortage of awards and accolades. Awarded *Best Boutique Style hotel* at last year's *Victorian Tourism Awards* the Provincial has also been rated as Ballarat's only 5 star hotel.

The positioning of the hotel's *Lola* restaurant in the *Taste Top 100* restaurants in Victoria has been accompanied by overwhelmingly top reviews on *TripAdvisor*. The last TA reviewer before the virus regulations hit, wrote of the restaurant's "beautiful surrounds and the incredible food."

Simon and Gorgi have moved to offer their clients and others a chance to try, in their

own homes, a quality meal prepared by the *Lola* restaurant chefs using locally-sourced ingredients and then frozen for convenience.

The concept was born out of a necessity to support their international chefs who amidst the COVID-19 crisis have been forgotten by the government and are unable to access any welfare payments.

## Free delivery here

The quite extensive menu (seen on the website [theprovincialballarat.com.au](http://theprovincialballarat.com.au)) includes well-priced meals ranging from fresh potato gnocchi, \$16, or Wagyu meatballs in Napoli sauce, \$18, up to the two 200gm Sher Wagyu eye filets at \$45.

Delivery within 3km of Lola's is free for orders over \$50. But the major plus for Buninyong district residents is that there will be free delivery here on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.



## Cemetery classroom Students dying to learn



Fed Uni lecturer Grant Palmer with students Rick Walker (Yarrowonga), Natasha Munday (Swan Hill) and Jake Steele (Ballarat), record details from Buninyong cemetery's headstones.

**Being the second oldest registered cemetery in Victoria, the Buninyong cemetery's old graves and headstones attract a regular flow of persons interested in district or family history.**

Now even University students are spending time wandering around the denominational section of the historic cemetery. Recently, a bus load of Federation University students were on site under the charge of **Grant Palmer**, a Lecturer in Environmental Science.

Students were undertaking field research for a unit in Ecology. They were looking at old tombstones and recording details such as the ages of death, the incidence of children's death, family sizes and the like and comparing such items with current data on such measures.

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Life after print

I refer to the April 2020, edition of *The News* page 16, Birth, death and resurrection of a community newspaper. Ouch, that headline really hurt. *The Buninyong News* did not die. It went online on 9 August 2012. *The News* had a celebration and thank you lunch at the Buninyong Golf Club where the original editors, **Peter Carter** and **Betty Schreiner** cut the ribbon and the cake to officially launch **The News** on to the Buninyong website. **Liz Lumsdon**, the webmaster of the Buninyong web site, posted *The News* online until December 2014. The new committee printed their first hard copy edition number 414 in February 2015.

The August event was a sad day as more than 40 volunteers who had hand delivered *The News* in Buninyong and Mt Helen got the sack as well as the core committee of about fourteen who assembled the paper around the table at the Old Library on the second Thursday of the month. For the record, we shuffled clockwise, had two lines of pages to collate and two electric staplers and lots of bonhomie.

Congratulations are due to the new Management Committee for producing a splendid newsletter full of local content.

**Ann Gooding**  
Editor, Editions 109 to 413

Some shut down...some active

# Groups cope with crisis

Some of the many community groups in Buninyong have shut down for the duration of the virus crisis while others have taken imaginative steps to keep members informed and involved. For example, one group has even started a weekly footy-tipping competition.

Quizzed by *The News* as to how this is possible with the AFL competition presently suspended, the President of the local **Probus Club**, **Gordon Reynolds** said that it was based in the VFL competition of 1960, and that members had been asked to keep away from *Google* in putting their weekly tips together.

### Doing things

He added that the group's monthly newsletter was now being supplemented by a smaller news sheet each few weeks. Members have been asked to contribute short articles on *What I'm Doing at Home*. The 107 Probus members also have been asked to keep in touch with each other by phone.

**The Sturt-Buninyong United Masonic Lodge** has ceased to hold its regular meetings at the hall but members can remain active and informed through the 'virtual' Lodge meetings streamed from State headquarters. "This crisis has impacted greatly on our activities, and it's a real challenge to keep members together and interested," said a local spokesman.

**The Buninyong & District Community Association** has suspended its bi-monthly open meetings, but the five person Executive continues to meet monthly using a video link up. The Executive continues to be active on several local projects as can be seen from articles on pages 3 and 4 of this edition of *The News*.

### Zoom soon

While "publicly shut down" the **Friends of the Buninyong Botanic Gardens'** committee of eight is maintaining contact by phone and email (and soon through *Zoom*). It is continuing to plan for events such as the Open Gardens in late October



The local RSL branch has stopped its monthly meetings until further notice.

and a multi-cultural event in the Gardens in March 2021. They are awaiting advice from Council on the Gong wall/master planning decisions.

### Waiting

The **Buninyong Sub-branch of the RSL** has ceased to meet and is awaiting further direction from State headquarters at ANZAC House before resuming, said President **Ron Fleming**. He added that with the ban on gatherings of more than two people, the 2020 ANZAC day in Buninyong would be 'sadly different' this year with the laying of a single wreath, the flag-lowering, the reading of The Ode and the playing of the Last Post all being carried out by a single veteran.

The three major fund-raising activities of the **Buninyong Mount Helen Lions Club** – the BBQ trailer, the Lions Book shop and the op-shop *Lions Litter* – are presently closed, and other meetings suspended. However, the Board continues to communicate via email and phone hook ups. The Club also presently is supporting the BDCA's *We're Here for You* project.

No longer meeting weekly, members of the **Buninyong Senior Citizens Club** are maintaining contact by regular phone calls to each other. Also every week either the President **John Clark** or the Secretary calls each one of the thirty members.

**The Buninyong & District Historical Society** has cancelled meetings for the present.



# Blackout for red and black

**The onslaught of COVID-19 is having an unprecedented effect on sporting communities everywhere.**

The Tokyo Olympics, Wimbledon, the British Open Golf, the Australian Grand Prix are already among the sporting casualties of the COVID-19 pandemic. With the effects of the coronavirus now widespread, national, state and regional sport has also shut down. Sporting fields in Buninyong and across Victoria are now empty on weekends.

Sport is the lifeblood of many country communities. Buninyong clubs all have a role to play in bringing Buninyong people together and developing a community identity. The lack of competition and spectators is hurting. Revenue from memberships, Thursday-night dinners, sponsorships, canteen and bar takings, gates, raffle tickets keep our clubs afloat. Many country clubs are struggling to survive.

## Here

So how are local sports handling their extended shutdown? Buninyong footballers have been given a set of requirements involving running, riding and ball skills. They have set targets to achieve and have to post their training sessions on the team's Facebook site. The AFL originally suggested that there might be a resumption at the end of May but this does not look likely.

The closure of golf clubs in Victoria hasn't been without its Buninyong critics. Golfers believe that their sport is one of the easiest in which to practise social distancing. That view seems to be shared by governments in other States. So while you can't play golf in Yarrowonga, you can a few metres away in Mulwala. One member who lives very close to the local course thinks he should still be allowed to play. His wife is saying, "yes please!"

## Biased

Buninyong's bowlers also are missing out on their winter sport with all bias bowls cancelled and clubs closed. One local bowling couple lament the fact that there will be no caravan trip north this year.

The Redback's soccer season finished after the first training session. Club president, **Sue Mroczkowski** said, "It's a blessing, that we don't have many facilities so we don't have many expenses. It's like the Pause button has been pressed on the season and we're not sure when we can press Play!" They are keeping their players updated on their Facebook page with links to Football Victoria's training drills.

– Ray Sullivan



*With tape strung across all entrances and a clear message on the sign, it's obvious local golfers are indeed locked out of the golf club.*



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# BUSINESS BATTLES TO BEAT THE BUG

While most residents are aware of the disastrous situation being faced by the village's food and hospitality businesses, *The News* investigated how some of some of the other local businesses were faring earlier this month.



Local butcher **Brandon May** of *Greenvale Quality Meats* on Warrenheip Street said that "while locals continue to support us, the business will certainly stay open during the current troubles."

With his shop open between 9.00am and 1.00pm on Saturdays, until 5.30 on Mondays to Wednesdays, and until six o'clock on the other two weekdays, Brandon said that there was plenty of time for locals to get their meat supplies. There are no limits on his stock and he is now offering free local deliveries for orders over \$30.

He said that the wholesale side of his business, supplying meats to cafes and restaurants had been hard hit by the current virus crisis.

## Essential

Banks are considered to be an 'essential' service and the *Buninyong Bendigo Bank* will remain open on weekdays between 9.00am and 5.00pm, but will be closed on Saturday mornings until things improve.

While the Bank is quieter with less 'foot traffic', the phones are running hot with calls from customers who have lost jobs, especially those casual jobs in shops, hospitality, clubs and gyms. People are still coming in for cash and, to keep customers 'safe', there is only one teller open at a time, and safe distances are marked by tape on the carpet. As Manager **Randall Dreger** quipped "It is unusual business as usual."

The *Buninyong BP* service station and

newsagency is still open. While people still need petrol **Fiona Delaland** said customer numbers have dropped and therefore staff hours have been cut.

Even though petrol prices are now very low it hasn't translated into more custom. Ron has built and installed barriers in front of the counter and hung screens from the ceiling to protect his staff from



Local butcher Brandon May has started up a new home delivery service.



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The UFS Pharmacy has a gloved staff member at the door, armed with sanitizer, and chairs outside for those waiting for prescriptions to be filled.

sneezes and coughs and marked distance lines on the floors. Fiona said that “our bustling community has become a quiet, sleepy town.”

**Remote**

Things have changed for property inspections. While the office at PRD Nationwide Buninyong is shut, **Phil Crosbie** is arranging inspections via phone and the internet.

When an inspection takes place the owners have to stand outside and only two people can be in the property. This means that Phil might have to go in the property twice if there is a couple involved. They are managing to make the new regulations work for everyone.

**Ed Bradford** of *The Travel Managers* said that he had been fortunate enough to have his clients all back safely on home soil. “But it did mean a couple of calls whilst some were driving to the airport to turn them around.”

“The big challenge that I face now is keeping on top of ever-changing policies, and waiting for airlines and tour operators

to release useful waivers that apply to future travel,” he said.

**Support**

Panic buying has settled down at *Buninyong Foodworks*. There are two deliveries a week to the store and, while there is still some difficulty getting enough stock, this has been managed by quotas on some items and reducing trading by one hour a day.

No jobs have been lost, and owners **Trevor** and **Alison Rickard** are very mindful of the wellbeing of their staff and customers. Everything gets sanitised and queue ‘spacing’ has been introduced. They hope to be able to offer *Click and Collect* in the near future. “Locals have given us tremendous support,” they said.

The *Buninyong Veterinary Clinic* is open for its usual consulting hours. And, of course, it’s still possible to get a coffee and takeaway drinks and snacks from shops such as *The Old Bluestone Café*, *Espresso Depot*, the *Buninyong Bakehouse* and *Chocalatto*.

– Cassandra Carland

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# Buildings shut, churches open

**On behalf of the local churches Rev Mark Schnerring of Buninyong's Holy Trinity church has advised that while church buildings around the village may be closed, the churches are very much open and active.**

"This is a good opportunity to correct a misunderstanding of what the Church is. The building is where people gather on a week by week basis, but the Church is really about a group of people who have faith and trust in Jesus as their King and friend," he said.

"So, like everyone else, we have had to adapt to a new situation to continue doing these things. Along with thousands of other churches throughout the world, we have begun to run some kind of church service online." There are details below for three of the churches in Buninyong.

## Connection

The various churches are connecting with, supporting, praying for, and encouraging each other in all sorts of ways during this time – through phone calls, emails, letters and video conferencing technology such

as Zoom. Some churches are even using Zoom to continue Bible studies during the week and running Sunday School type programs for children.

The Uniting Church's minister **Carlyne Nunn** been emailing daily prayers, and encouraging people to check on one another. "In order to help us feel connected and to keep worshipping, I've been putting together simple services people can do at home and popping small reflections on YouTube. This is all emailed around and placed on our website and Facebook.

"I'm going to work on small services people can do over the phone with those who don't have email, and some more interactive stuff, particularly for families," she said.

## Letter

In late March the local churches issued a letter of support to the community of Buninyong, which was delivered to around 1000 households. They also have even given away toilet paper and lots of groceries to individuals in need.



Paste over sheets on the Uniting Church sign on Scott Street say it all.

So while the buildings are closed, the various churches are very much open. "Any of us would be happy to hear from anyone with a need, or wanting to chat about matters of faith. And all would be most welcome to tune into one or all of the online Church services," said Rev Schnerring.

- **Ballarat South Uniting Church** – Learmonth Street, Buninyong. Online church Service – available from their website each Sunday. Enquiries: Carlyne Nunn (Minister) – 0409 285 182. Email – ballaratsouthuca@gmail.com; website – ballaratsouth.unitingchurch.org.au
- **Buninyong Baptist Church.** Online church Service – available from their website each Sunday. Enquiries: Lynton Wade (Pastor) – 0418 831 703. Email – lynton@buninyongbaptist.org.au; website – buninyongbaptist.org.au
- **Buninyong Anglican Church.** Online church Service – 10am Sundays [www.facebook.com/buninyonganglican](http://www.facebook.com/buninyonganglican). Enquiries: Mark Schnerring (Minister) – 0401 022 107. Email – mark@buninyonganglican.org.au; website – buninyonganglican.org.au
- **St. Peter & Paul's Catholic Church.** Enquiries: Mike Maloney – 5341 3345

– Rita Russell

There will be no more after-Mass special celebrations at the Catholic church for a while.

# A tale of two travellers Out of Africa

**It is likely that many readers of The News know someone who has been affected by recent dramas relating to present or future travel plans.**

This is a tale about a couple from a nearby district property who, without the huge time commitment and effort put in by a local travel agent, may well still be stuck in far-away Botswana waiting for some grounded airline to start flying again.

## New lands

The middle-aged couple, who we'll call **Jill** and **Bill**, booked through *Savenio* Ballarat's **Craig Stepnell**, to travel for five weeks from late-February this year through parts of South Africa, Botswana, Namibia, and Zimbabwe. While their adult daughter was living over there, Jill and Bill had never before visited these largely unknown lands.

Bookended by return *Qantas* flights from Melbourne to Sydney to Johannesburg,



the trip over was a breeze. So too were the arrangements at hotels, the hire of a camper vehicle and camp sites at exotic places such as Kruger National Park, the Kalahari Desert and Victoria Falls.

Despite warnings from friends about possible muggings, poachers and wild animal attacks, all went well until the rumbles about coronavirus and countries closing borders began to be heard over there in early March. Not really a problem thought our intrepid couple, despite 'come home now' emails from far less exotic places such as Buninyong and Ballarat.

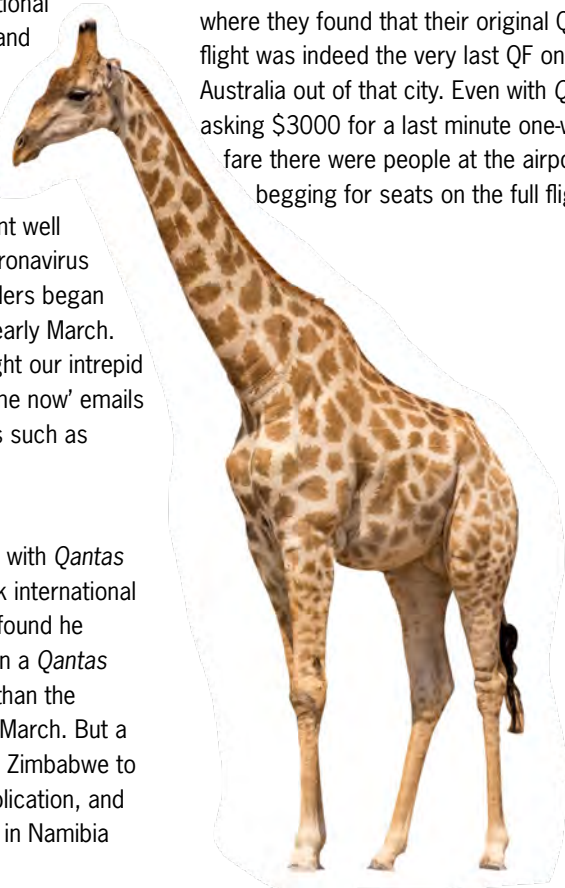
## Out early

Becoming concerned, and with *Qantas* starting to heavily cut back international flights, travel agent Craig found he could get Jill and Bill out on a *Qantas* flight several days earlier than the planned return date of 24 March. But a booked internal flight from Zimbabwe to Johannesburg was a complication, and besides, J and B were still in Namibia almost 800 km away.

Eventually the penny dropped with the travellers, and Craig who had kept in close touch with them, was able to get them booked on a flight back to South Africa from the unlikely airport at Kasane in Botswana.

But suddenly *South African Airways* (SSA) which flew a direct daily two hour flight out of Kasane to Johannesburg decided to ground all of its fleet. That left the unheard-of *Air Botswana*, with flights ranging from 14 to 38 hours for the two hour SAA flight as the seeming only option.

But after many hours on the computer at his Buninyong 'home office', Craig did manage to get them back to Johannesburg where they found that their original QF64 flight was indeed the very last QF one to Australia out of that city. Even with *Qantas* asking \$3000 for a last minute one-way fare there were people at the airport begging for seats on the full flight.



Now with their two week period of self-isolation over, Jill and Bill are telling all about their exciting trip, and especially their deep gratitude to that local travel agent who worked so very hard to get them home.

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# Local historian Doug Bradby has **Passion in the blood**

**When Doug Bradby of Scotchman's Lead writes yet another book on the Ballarat goldfields, it stems from a passion that burns deep in his blood and his family history. Recently, the third of his books on the Astonishing History of Ballarat was released.**

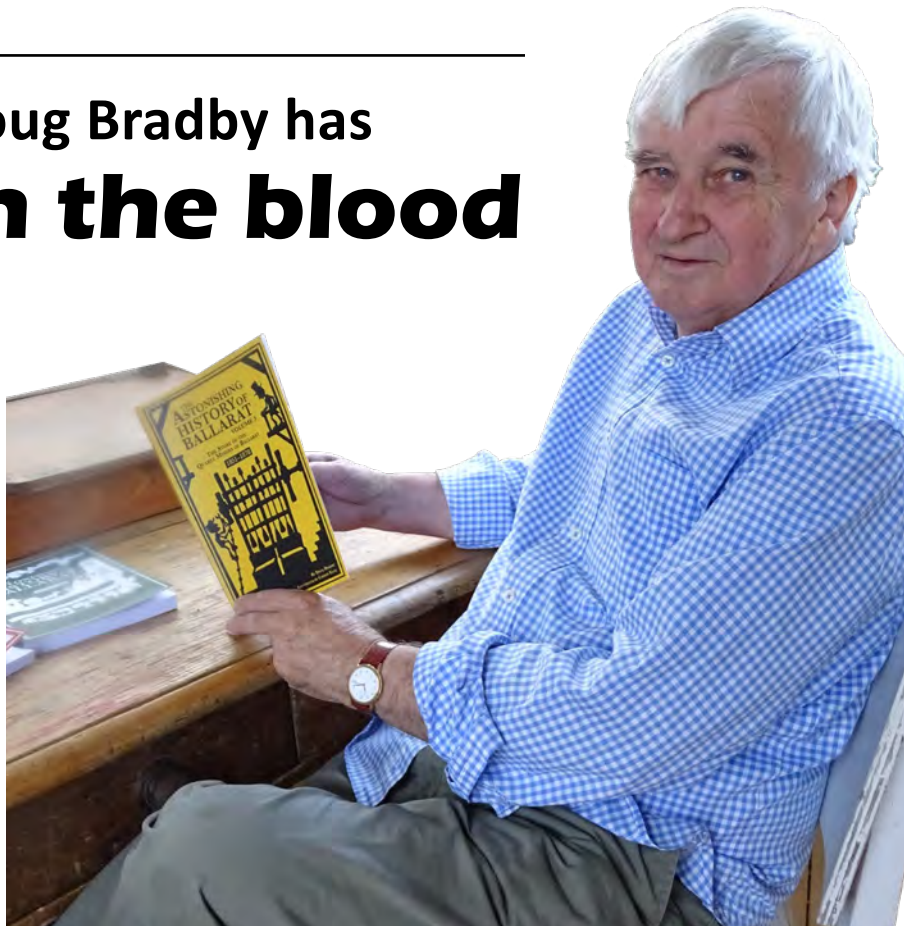
Doug's links to Ballarat go back to 1853 when his great grandfather **Daniel Webb** came to Ballarat from London under a Government aid scheme to bring people willing to work to provide food for the thousands of miners rushing to places like Ballarat. He worked as a dairy farmer.

## Long journey

In another curious twist, Doug's grandfather **Daniel Bradby**, then aged 10, along with his mother and two siblings also came to Australia in 1858 following the death of his father, a printer in London's East End.

The family landed in Geelong but soon also took to the road to Ballarat. The mother and the two younger children managed to gather enough funds to buy tickets on a Cobb & Co coach, while the ten year old Daniel walked all the way.

But back to the local author. Doug Bradby was born in Talbot Street, Ballarat in 1948. After attending the Urquhart Street State School, and then Ballarat High School, Doug undertook studies at Monash University graduating with a BA and Diploma of Education.



*Doug Bradby in the historic old tram shelter formerly at the bottom of the Sturt Street hill, Ballarat, which he now uses as a garden shed and office.*

## Career

He started his teaching career at Ballarat North Technical School in 1972, teaching History across most grade levels. He said that over the next thirty years he had the unique distinction of teaching at three different schools without ever changing his home classroom.

Ballarat North Tech became Midlands Secondary School in the late 1980s, and then in 1993 became Ballarat Secondary College. Doug retired in 2005.

In 1970, with wife **Julie**, Doug purchased the old Wesleyan church with an acre of land on the Scotchman's Lead Road near Buninyong for \$2500. After moving there

in 1980 over the next few years they built on attached living quarters and converted the old church to boutique bed and breakfast accommodation. Later they also brought in an old railway carriage, bought from the Victorian Railways and turned that also into unique accommodation.

On the property they also have built an exact replica of the former Scotchman's Lead school building.

## Active

In recent years, Doug's deep interest in and love of local history, particularly that of the Ballarat and district goldfields, has occupied much of his life. He is active in teaching students of the *University of*

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## MICHAELA SETTLE MP

State Member of Parliament for Buninyong

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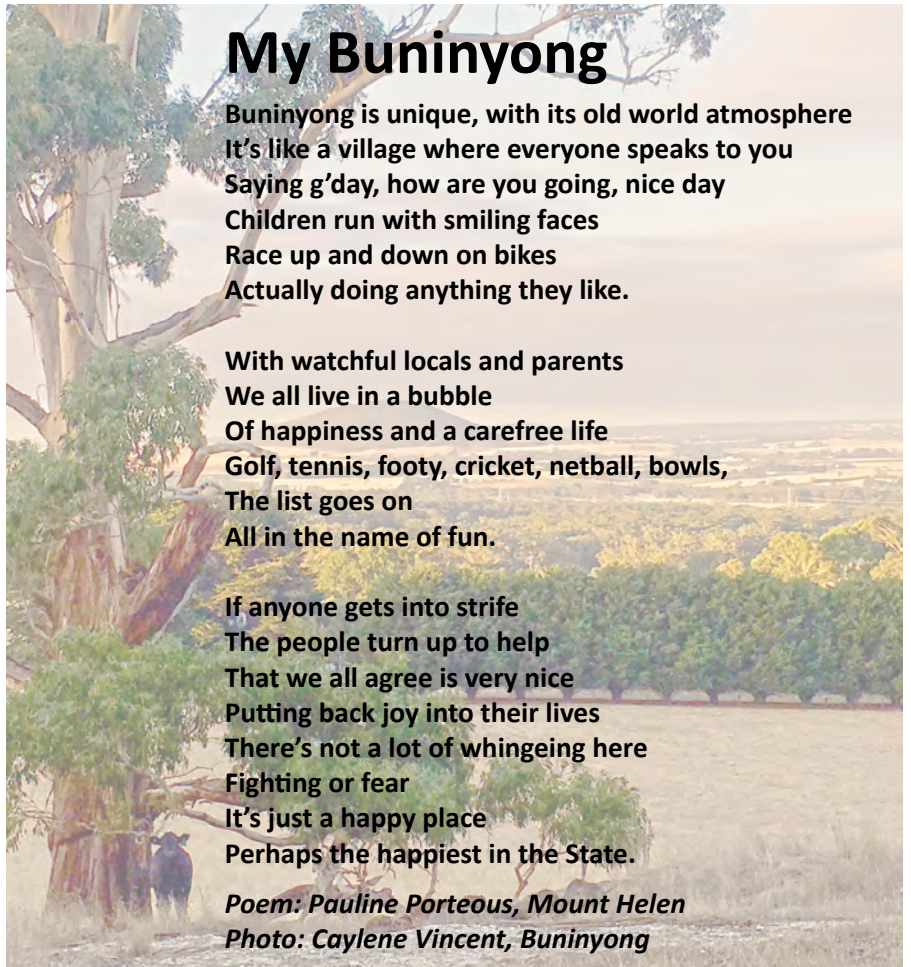
the Third Age and the Old Hands adult education group, and volunteers his time at the Buninyong Information Centre at the Old Library.

Like his grandfather Daniel, Doug often walks the six kilometres from his home to Warrenheip Street. "But not in magpie season," he quickly added.

The recently released book titled *The Astonishing History of Ballarat: the Story of the Quartz Miners of Ballarat*, is the third in a series following on books on *The Shallow Leads of Ballarat East* and *The Deep Leads of Ballarat West*.

Doug's new book covers the period up to the late-1870s when Ballarat had fallen on very hard times only to be rescued and given new life by the emergence of the large industrial quartz mines such as the *Star of the East* and the *Southern Star*, and district mines such as the famous Imperial mine at Buninyong.

The book is available from the Art Gallery of Ballarat, Ballarat Books, Collins Booksellers, Sovereign Hill and from Buninyong's Old Library.



## My Buninyong

Buninyong is unique, with its old world atmosphere  
 It's like a village where everyone speaks to you  
 Saying g'day, how are you going, nice day  
 Children run with smiling faces  
 Race up and down on bikes  
 Actually doing anything they like.

With watchful locals and parents  
 We all live in a bubble  
 Of happiness and a carefree life  
 Golf, tennis, footy, cricket, netball, bowls,  
 The list goes on  
 All in the name of fun.

If anyone gets into strife  
 The people turn up to help  
 That we all agree is very nice  
 Putting back joy into their lives  
 There's not a lot of whingeing here  
 Fighting or fear  
 It's just a happy place  
 Perhaps the happiest in the State.

*Poem: Pauline Porteous, Mount Helen  
 Photo: Caylene Vincent, Buninyong*

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## BABBA packed them in

In the first of what was to be a series of four 2020 concerts at the Buninyong Golf Club, BABBA the cover group for the famous Swedish pop group ABBA, played to a sell-out crowd on 14 March.

With over 200 dining and also some 30 'stand-up' tickets sold, the BABBA quartet had the crowd singing along, dancing and having a great night out for the duration of the two-hour show.

There were three other concerts planned for the series at the golf club, including one on 16 May – *The Eagles Story* – but unfortunately, these are all now postponed.



## Callum top Lion cub

The April edition of *The News* reported on the local Lions Youth of the Year public speaking contest. The six Lions Clubs from the Ballarat zone recently hosted the final of the Youth of the Year programme at the Sebastopol Senior Citizens clubrooms.

Winner of the Buninyong Mount Helen competition, **Callum Parkinson** from Mount Clear College won both the public speaking and prepared speech sections on the night. Callum's prepared speech topic was *Volunteering* with his focus being on volunteering at a Life Saving Club and the joy and satisfaction it brings to him. Many Lions in the audience could relate to that theme.

## Great food delivered or pick up

If hamburgers from a drive-through are becoming boring, Buninyong resident **Yutaka Kimura** who runs the highly-regarded *Kambei Japanese Restaurant* in Main Road opposite Sovereign Hill has advised that, during the current restrictions, he is now offering a takeaway and delivery menu of some of his favoured dishes.

For example a Terriyaki Chicken dish is \$20, Vegetable Tempura is \$15, and Salmon Sashimi is \$20.

All come with a generous serve of miso soup. A fried chicken bento-box is \$18. A menu is online. Delivery is \$7

The restaurant will be open for ordering or collection of meals on Wednesdays to Sundays between 11.30am and 2.00pm and then 4.30pm to 7pm.

Check on line or call on 5331 1468.

## Good wood

**Trevor McCann** of the Buninyong Golf Club has reported good sales of the dry firewood offered for sale following the publication of a short article in the April edition of *The News*.

He said that loads of two cubic metres were still available at \$190 delivered. The wood is split and cut into short lengths.

An email or call to the golf club on 5341 3217 will get things moving. Funds raised are used for course improvements.

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AUTHORISED BY CATHERINE KING, 5 LYDIARD ST NTH BALLARAT 3350



# Lions 45 years on



The local Lions Club is now some 45 years old. On 24 September 1975, twenty seven interested citizens got together and chartered the Lions Club of Buninyong-Mount Helen.

The charter President was **Allan Bath** and amongst others, **Derick Leather**, **John Whykes** and **Les George** were inducted at the same time. The club was sponsored by the Lions Club of Ballan. A current member, **Graeme Jones**, joined in 1976 and continues to contribute to the community.

## Action

The club met bi-monthly at the Crown Hotel and its early activities included general garden maintenance, fence building after

bush fires, graveyard repairs at the local cemetery and raising funds. Once such fund raiser was a fashion parade to bolster the accounts of the Buninyong Kindergarten.

Like every strong structured organisation, Lions clubs have a vision, and it's in the motto – We serve. Members undertake to serve the community as strongly as possible, both in these troubled times and for the foreseeable future.

The Club is about to welcome two new members. Because of COVID-19, the induction ceremony has had to be put on hold. But **Bill** and **Anne Arnold** will be on board very soon. They have both been very active in the lead up to their joining – Anne via the bookshop and Bill via every working bee and BBQ that has come up.

## Elections

April was a crucial month for all Lions as a new Board for the 2020/2021 year was elected. Current President **Barb Voigt** was again nominated to take the reins, and the formal results of the election will be announced in next month's edition of *The News*.

Anyone interested in finding out more about volunteering through Lions should get in touch with **David Page** on 0418543772.

– David Searle

Above: In September 2017, foundation Lions Club member Les George and current longest serving member Graeme Jones planted a commemorative oak tree in Desoza Park.

## Ernie Neale's Monthly RAINFALL REPORT

# Wet start then stop

March followed our wet February in similar style, by delivering exactly 25mm of rain in the first week. But then it stopped for much of the rest of the month.

Meanwhile, the fresh green growth generated by February's wet and mild conditions completely wilted and was looking more grey than green. Even the horses lost interest in eating it. Thankfully March did deliver some worthwhile rain near the end (which has been followed by a soundly wet start to April). March delivered 36.2mm in total, just under our recent average of 38.3mm.

The transition from Summer to Autumn has been quite blurry this year. February wet, March dry, both mild, with the shortening of the days being the only dependable indicator. It looks like the real turning point will coincide with the switch from DST to EST. The passing pattern of such distinct seasons is an innate part of the joy of living at Buninyong.

MARCH 2020			
Date	Rain	Date	Rain
2	5.9	21	1.0
5	17.6	22	1.0
6-7	1.5	26	0.5
15	1.2	30	7.5
<b>Total</b>		<b>36.2 mm</b>	
<b>Average</b>		<b>38.3 mm</b>	

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 ...the list goes on.

# Death of veteran golfer Jack Pascoe 'Old Jack' putts out

**Buninyong Golf Club members and golfers across the greater Ballarat area were saddened a few weeks ago with the news of the passing of much-loved club veteran Jack Pascoe on 3 April at the age of 93 years.**

Past-President of the golf club **Trevor McCann** said that Jack was "one of the nicest blokes you could ever meet. Whenever you greeted Jack, he would tilt his head, think about a response which would then come in his slow drawl, but always with a grin and a twinkle in his eye."

When then-85 year old Jack Pascoe scored a hole-in-one at the Buninyong Golf Club on 19 May, 2012, McCann told him he would get a special trophy to mark the occasion.

Jack didn't get too excited, quipping that he already had three of them on his mantelpiece. The most recent, he said, was for one on the same hole in 2004.

A retired farmer from Snake Valley, Jack still regularly played golf each week until he was aged about 90. In later years he got around the course in a less-than-trusty one-person motorised golf cart. He was a member of the Buninyong Golf Club for 25 years, and played off a final handicap of 22 – a very respectable mark for a ninety year old.

Golf Club President **Ron Delaland** said that Jack was "one of the finest gentlemen and club member you could ever meet. I never heard anyone say a bad word about him."



Former Club Captain **Gary Tolliday** said that Jack Pascoe was "a passionate, much revered golfer who loved every minute on a golf course. He respected the game and those with whom he played."

His daughter **Helen** is an outstanding golfer, playing off a handicap of scratch. In addition to being a member of the Buninyong Golf Club, she also captains the Southern Golf Club's A Grade pennant team and has represented Australia in women's golf.

*Buninyong Golf Club President Trevor McCann congratulates Jack Pascoe on his hole-in-one in 2012.*



## Oops, missed my gum tree

There's a para in this month's Street Talk (p 3) which refers to a 'happy idea' involving putting a soft toy in your home's front window or on the veranda to entertain the littlies or others out for a walk or ride around the neighbourhood.

Someone's obviously taken the idea to heart with the appearance of the large teddy bear atop the gold discovery cairn down on the Midland Highway. Even kitted out with blue rubber gloves in this time of COVID-19!

Luckily there are lots of gum trees just behind for when he gets hungry.



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If you would like more information on our members, membership benefits, initiatives and how you can be involved please get in touch.

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L-R: Helen Pascoe, Dale Thompson, Alan Bullas, Chris Tatt, George Kotaridis and Roger Stephens.

**In March, three Buninyong golfers starred in the 36 hole Eureka Senior Amateur, one of the major events on the State amateur golfing calendar.**

Playing rounds at both Midlands and at the Ballarat Golf Clubs, **Chris Tatt** and **Helen Pascoe** took out the Men's and Ladies' championships, while **Roger Stephens** was a comfortable winner in the Men's Nett event.

**Triple crown**

It was Tatt's third consecutive victory at the event whilst Pascoe defended her title from last year. The pair produced impressive performances over the two days of golf.

After the first round played at Midlands, Tatt was equal leader with **John Kelly** after the pair finished with an even par round of 72.

With play moving to Ballarat for the second day of the event, Tatt started his round in superb fashion with birdies on the first and fourth holes. Chris remained steady throughout the round to finish with a one-under par 70 and a three-shot victory.

Midlands Golf Club's **Robert Wallace** finished runner-up to Tatt after rounds of 74 and 71 gave him a two-over par total for the tournament.

**Stephen Valentine, Colin George** and first round co-leader **John Kelly** finished tied for third place on 148 strokes.

**Roger wins**

In the Men's Nett event, after a first round of 72 Buninyong's **Roger Stephens** stormed home at Ballarat GC with a brilliant second round of 64 to run out a three-shot winner. **George Kotaridis** was runner-up to Stephens after scores of 68 and 71.

Continuing the success of Ballarat district golfers, Buninyong's **Helen Pascoe** produced two great rounds of golf to take out the women's scratch stableford event. Her rounds of one-under and even par gave her a total of 73 scratch points and the title by seven shots.

**Jane Wall** was the runner-up after her scores of 32 and 34.

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Fresh potato gnocchi (v)	16
Fresh Napoli & basil sauce (v) (GF)	14
Fresh Bolognese sauce (GF)	16
Fresh Sher Wagyu beef ragu	22
Fresh slow cooked lamb ragu (GF)	22
Wagyu meatballs in Napoli sauce (GF)	18

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Wagyu beef bourguignon, red wine & herbs (GF)	28
Sri Lankan chicken curry (GF)	26
Chickpea & lentil curry (v) (GF)	22
Fresh Aromatic rice (v) (GF)	8
Creamy mash potato (GF)	10
Family Country chicken pie - serves 4	28
Family Smoked salmon, beetroot & potato pie - serves 4	28
2 x 200g portioned	
Sher Wagyu Eye Fillet (vac packed)	38
4 x wagyu beef burger patties (vac packed)	16

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