

Minor changes to barrels, but **FIGHT TO GO ON**



Just a short time before the four day hearing set down by VCAT to consider the planning application to build five barrel-shaped accommodation structures and other buildings on the southern face of Mt Buninyong, the applicant has advised of changes to the plans.

Maddocks Lawyers acting for the Applicant have sent a *Statement of Changes* to all objecting parties.

New Visitor Guide out

Up until 2012 the coverage given to Buninyong and district in Ballarat tourism and visitor publications was very limited. In that year the Buninyong & District Community Association (BDCA) obtained funding to produce a 20 page *Buninyong Visitor Guide*.

Since then, further full-colour editions were produced in 2014 (28 pages) and in 2016 (32 pages). In 2019 the Buninyong Business Network (BBN) obtained a grant to enable production of an updated version of the *Buninyong Visitor Guide*. It

These changes include

- replacing the 16m high sky barrel with one which is 10m high
- lowering the maximum building height of the other barrel units by undertaking a “modest site cut to the northern end” of each
- reducing ‘light spill’ to neighbouring properties by tinting the glazing to northern windows
- providing (unspecified) details of aisle widths and driveway grades

Minor

Objecting parties contacted by *The News* have called the changes “marginal” and say they fail to address the basic concern of the impact of the development on an important area of the local natural environment.

One objector said, “The proposal to move the barrels further away from the northern boundary and setting them a bit lower into the mountainside suggests a

was close to production in March 2020 when Covid hit, life in the village changed dramatically, and the publication was put on hold.

The guide has now been reworked and rewritten to take account of the many changes, especially to shopping, accommodation and other local activities of possible interest to visitors to Buninyong.

Barry Fitzgerald, Editor of *The Buninyong News*, has edited and coordinated all four editions.

The 2021 edition of the *Buninyong Visitor Guide* will be launched jointly by the BDCA and the BBN on Wednesday, 5 May at the Red Door Pizzeria.

concern about their visual intrusion into the close-by and distant sightlines.

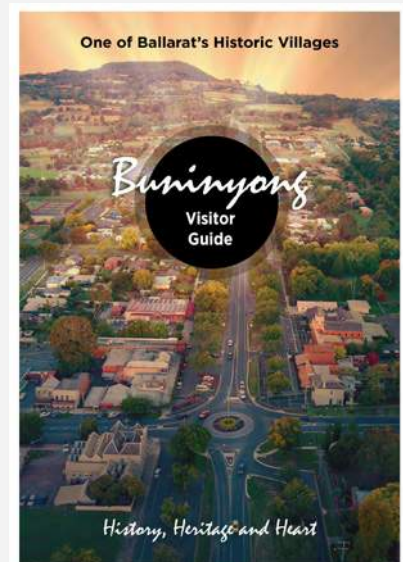
More and more

“Each time we see plans there are more items proposed to be up there. In addition to the five barrels, there are now plans for a ‘container’ house and many more 25,000 litre tanks in an attempt to meet water supply and fire-fighting conditions,” he said.

As shown by the photograph in the April edition of *The News* of the single barrel presently under construction on the site, the ridge line certainly will be dominated by the structures.

Objecting parties have indicated that the proposed changes have done nothing to allay their concerns about the overall impact of development on this site.

The VCAT hearing is set down for 17-21 May.



Final leg sets off from the village Kelly walks in memory of Jack and the others

A cool early Sunday morning, with drizzly light rain, saw a group of orange-clad visitors gathering near Buninyong's Crown Hotel on Learmonth Street getting ready to walk some fourteen kilometres to the Winterfield Estate on the Glenelg Highway, on the outskirts of Ballarat.

It was 21 March, three years to the day from when a trench collapse at that development site had killed two workmen. One was **Charlie Hawkins**, 34, who died at the site. The other was **Jack Brownlee**, 21, who died in the Royal Melbourne Hospital some 24 hours later.

Jack Brownlee's father was the best mate of **Kelly Dubberley** who was greatly affected by the young man's death while at work.

Memorial

Kelly decided that he would work to help fund a memorial to the two workers at the site of their death at the *Winterfield Estate*. The *Ballarat and Regional Workers Memorial* would be a tribute to these two men in particular, but also to other workers who had died as a result

of a workplace accident.

His main fundraising effort would be a 90 kilometre walk over four days, from Armstrong Creek, where Kelly was working at the time of the tragedy, to Ballarat. The Buninyong to Ballarat walk on 21 March was the final leg. Kelly was accompanied by a team of ten fluoro-clad supporters

Kelly said that he hoped to raise \$20,000 from the walk which would be a major contribution to the estimated \$100,000 cost of erecting the memorial.

New law

The tragedy and the approach by the Brownlee and Hawkins families to the State Government resulted in the passing of the *Workplace Manslaughter Act (2019)*.



Along with his support crew, Kelly Dubberley gets ready in Buninyong for the final leg of his walk from Armstrong Creek to Delacombe.

This now means that employers can be prosecuted for negligence resulting in a worker's death. Last year 65 people lost their lives to work-related injury or disease in workplaces in Victoria.

In addition to his fund-raising walk, Kelly Dubberley has offered to speak at workplaces or to groups with his message of workplace safety. He can be contacted through the office of **Michaela Settle** MP.

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Big majority votes for bus stop move But MP says 'No' to lobby request

Efforts to free up the extensive area presently taken up by the bus stop in the middle of the Warrenheip Street shopping strip received a setback when local MP, Michaela Settle, rejected requests by community groups and others to lobby the Transport Minister to have it moved.

She had been approached by key community groups including the BDCA and the Buninyong Business Network which pointed out the impact on the economic development of the area, safety concerns created by buses blocking sight lines to the pedestrian lights, and the restrictive impact on the new community amenity to be constructed by Council along that strip.

Ms Settle decided to conduct a 'community survey' during March to seek opinion about the proposed bus stop relocation. Responses were received from 84 persons.



Despite over 70 per cent agreeing that the bus stop should be moved, Ms Settle said that she had decided "not to advocate to move the bus stop due to safety and amenity concerns."

She said that there were concerns about the safety issues resulting from school

students' use of the pedestrian crossing, and the need for shelter for persons using the occasional V-Line services.

She said that in the Council plans there would be just a "smaller disability-friendly section of concrete."

Winter Street gets new creek bridge



After several false starts with Council people arriving, orange coats on, lots of painting, in depth conversations, a bit of measuring and then disappearing, finally the Winter Street bridge works saw trucks arrive and off-load equipment, and some noise.

Two days later the bridge was substantially in place but not yet available for people to walk on. The more adventurous (and impatient) residents took to leaping over the gap between each side of the creek or slithering down the banks. One or two tried riding their bikes across.

Construction progress was careful, steady, and regularly checked at each stage. Even the side banks were refurbished with new soil and grass seeds. All the time the Council workers were cheerful, busy, careful and co-operative.

And the extra good news is that the old wooden Lumeah Street Bridge is also going to be replaced. Eventually!

– Cassandra Carland

Problem spots put lives at risk Act before a death

It's a pity that action by road authorities on critical road safety works seems to hinge on whether someone has been killed at a particular danger spot.

Presently in Buninyong there are at least three dangerous locations where non-fatal accidents have happened and which require assessment and action. These are

- at the junction of the Midland Highway and Lumeah Road where traffic from either direction wishing to turn into Lumeah Road is in recurring danger of a rear end collision.
- at the pedestrian lights in Warrenheip Street where buses stopping at the controversial bus stop near the *Pig & Goose Store* impede sight lines for southbound traffic.
- at the entrance to the Buninyong Cemetery where vehicles (including funerals traffic) travelling from either direction and slowing down to enter the cemetery are in grave danger from traffic approaching at 100 kph.

Doubtless there are others.

One fix

For a long time there has been a fourth danger spot – at the turn-off into Mount Buninyong Road from the Midland Highway.

Hopefully with the \$25 million or so being spent on works from there to Clarendon, some solution to that one will soon be seen.

For the Warrenheip Street danger spot, there is a simple and low cost solution – decommission that controversial bus stop as has been argued for years. Usage data is very low and its relocation to the existing Eyre Street stop will have little passenger impact. But the current outlook (see p 3) is not good.

The other two problem locations – Lumeah Road and at the cemetery – are calling out for modest expenditure on provision of some form of slip or turning lanes. The former may be less of a problem as traffic there should be travelling at a maximum of 60 kph. As has been stated, most traffic in the vicinity of the cemetery is travelling at 100 kph.

Invariably funding for capital works funds is tight. But when massive spending can be seen in putting up those wire safety barriers along perfectly straight and treeless sections of road to the south of here, it seems that engineers and not the community have most of the say.

Below: Regional Roads Victoria's Michael Bailey discussing safety with BDCA's Gayle Adams at the entrance to the cemetery



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

Published monthly

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Design: Sian Blohm

Advertising: Gayle Adams

Reporters: Cassandra Carland, Ray Sullivan, Russell Luckock, Rita Russell

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

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

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

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Printed by Baxter and Stubbs, Ballarat.

Available online in full colour at: buninyong.vic.au/news/newsletters

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Have a Fair day out at the Autumn Fest

The Ballarat Steiner School will be holding its Autumn Fair and Open Day on Sunday 2 May between 10.00am and 1.00pm. All members of the local community are invited to visit and to join in.

The fair will include market stalls, food and drinks, a children's fun village, live entertainment and a friendly atmosphere. There will also be school tours operating throughout the day, giving everyone a chance to take a look at the Steiner approach to education.

Fun day

This will be a major fundraising event for the school, as well as a fun family event and an opportunity to welcome visitors to this wonderful and unique school.

If you are curious about the school's educational approach, possibly

interested in future enrolment, or just keen to support a local fair, please come along and join in.

The school's educational approach uses the tools of true imagination, art and music, and works to engender the warmth of enthusiasm, and the glow of reverence for that which is worthy of the children's devotion.

That does not preclude the necessity for plain hard work to finish that which must be completed, or to learn that which must be known, but it is vital that these demands are presented in the context of a loving and supportive community.

The school is non-denominational, co-educational, and invites students of any race, ethnic or religious background. It is located in Moss Avenue, Buninyong, at the corner of the Midland Highway.



STREET TALK is not shy about having a crack at Council when it does nothing or messes up. But, again, this month, accolades are due. Firstly, for that superb multi-million project at Royal Park. It's a huge boost to the Buninyong community amenities! And at the other end of the cost scale, that new bridge (see p 3) over the Union Jack Creek at Winter Street looks really good. After discussion with the BDCA, Council's Parks & Gardens staff did not even try to get away with another standard sterile steel cattle-race one!

COUNCIL ALSO has now completed a new roadworks project in Armstrong Street, south of Dana Street. A key element was the creation of small mid-road beds planted with mature plane trees. Looks good now and will be better in years ahead. This could be a great model for our Warrenheip Street (as soon as the excuse of the bike race is no longer used).

THE LANDMATE CREW of a warder and five inmates from Langi Kal Kal were back at the cemetery recently. Did a great job of painting the two rotundas and the cast iron bridge work.

SINCE THE START of the 'new-look' News over six years ago, this newspaper has been printed by Ballarat printers Baxter & Stubbs. Firm's boss is **John Inglis**, assisted by his son **Jonathon**. Both were quite excited to read our story on p 18 of this issue where three of their children and grandchildren are featured. A talented Inglis family golf dynasty seems to have started.

AFTER CONCERNS were expressed by some about the scrub clearance project undertaken by the golf club on the Midland Highway-Macs Road corner, most now seem to agree that the end result is a neat piece of parkland. Nearby, one of the features of the club's earthworks project has been the installation of a powerful fountain in the new mega-dam. It's designed to be both a course feature and an aerator for the water.

Going off-the grid

Out at Snake Valley, invention and innovation abound. For local engineer, Duncan Quick, has new ideas and concepts flowing out of him. Simple ideas like a piece of large-diameter plastic pipe mounted vertically to provide the water pressure 'head' on rural blocks, through to converting cars to electric vehicles.

Duncan is an electrical and mechanical engineer with a background in heavy industrial sites such as power stations and mining operations across the country. While that work continues, he also is now helping rural people with solutions for their off-grid living.

Duncan lives with his professional seamstress wife **Sharon** and family in an off-grid house. Nearby is a shed that is the epitome of the old workshop saying, 'everything has its place and everything in its place'.

Drop in

These days a speciality of his is designing and developing electric vehicle conversions with the aim of simplifying these towards a 'drop in' changeover such that a new electric motor can simply be slotted into the engine bay of older model vehicles.

Also on the cards are swappable battery packs, or even making the vehicle battery assist in powering the house to double its usefulness. For despite all the world-wide advances in battery innovation, battery technology is still both expensive and heavy.

These limitations in vehicle battery technology will restrict electric vehicle usage to short and medium range trips in Duncan's view, despite his enthusiasm for the concept.

Too far

"In countries like Japan where short distance trips are usual, it is ideal, but in vast countries like Australia it is not as practical," he says.

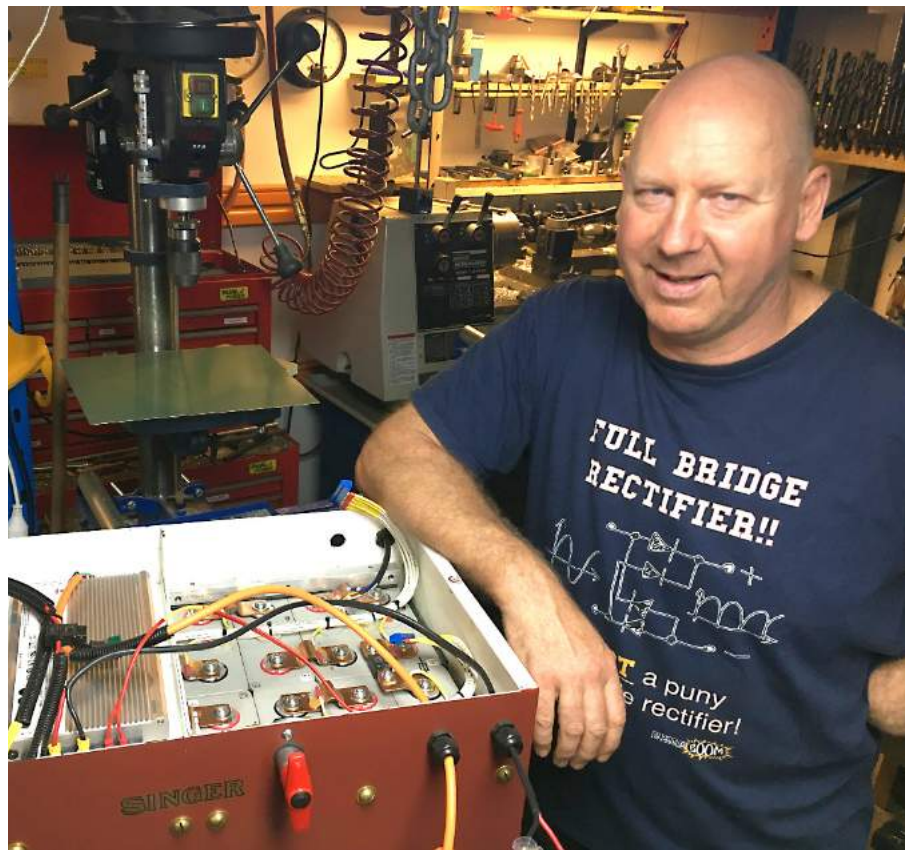
"While lithium has revolutionised battery technology, its cost of production has been mostly minimised by now and so

highly efficient batteries still remain relatively expensive to manufacture," he cautions.

Despite coal being a dirty word, as a matter of Australian lifestyle, it may be around for a lot longer until more of us go off-grid like Duncan.

One of Duncan's hobbies is archery with the target set 35 metres away. So if anyone wants a new off-grid invention for a rural problem the bullseye could be hit at *Quick Thinking Pty Ltd* in Snake Valley.

– Russell Luckock



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Debbie just loves her work in radio

Taking on a career in radio was a big change for Buninyong's Debbie Rybicki, who joined ABC Radio, Ballarat in 2010 as a producer and presenter. The local ABC station is to be found at 107.9 FM.

Debbie had been a physiotherapist for a few years but, with a long-term desire to work in journalism and with a love of listening to radio, she undertook a Graduate Diploma in Journalism at RMIT.

This led to her working in Melbourne for a commercial radio station (MTR) which no longer exists.

So, with her husband having grown up on a farm in this area, it made sense for them to return here. One look at Buninyong and they knew that was where they wanted to live.

Puzzled

Debbie knows that when she tells people she is a radio producer, they have little

idea what that involves. "With television, people know that there has to be someone behind the camera, someone who manages the sound, someone who has researched and written the story," she said.

"But the listening media is completely different and the almost four hour program, five days a week, with much of the content going to air 'live', can be very challenging'. First, a producer has to come up with an idea, then after doing some research to identify the right person to interview, contact that person, research the background to the story so that the right questions are asked, then write the script for the presenter to read on air."

Pressure

The early part of the daily Breakfast program just covers Ballarat, and then goes all across south western Victoria. She said that it is sometimes a challenge to find sufficient content. The pattern is to produce the 'news of the day stories' after 8.30am. But there can be times when the program is going to air at 8.30am and, by 8.20am, they still don't know what the topic will be.

Debbie loves live radio. "It is fun, enjoyable, busy and interesting... and challenging," she said. Occasionally, several mishaps can happen at once and they have to be fixed on the spot. There is no stopping and rewinding and having several goes at getting it right.

Debbie is proud of the fact that (hopefully) the listeners will have no awareness of the background struggle that they had just endured and which experienced on-air presenters such as Steve Martin take in their stride.

– Cassandra Carland



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Watching Phillip working on the rock walls are his two Cairn terriers, Fergus and Bunny. This breed originated in Scotland where their task was to control rabbits, foxes and rats amongst the dry-stone cairn walls – hence the breed’s name.

Bringing back the rock walls

It’s a major task to re-build over 200 metres of dry-stone rock wall in Mt Buninyong’s lanes. But local property owner Rod Williams has done it, and Phillip Smith is now undertaking this task on the boundary of his Granny White Lane property.

Phillip’s father was from Northumberland – dry-stone wall country – so, while he has no training, he says you get the knack of it after a while. In 2015 he retired from his previous career, initially as a chef and subsequently as catering contractor for Ballarat Grammar.

Sheep

Dry-stone walls were built in the early period of European settlement to contain livestock, especially after the 1850s gold rush when the shepherds headed off looking for more lucrative opportunities elsewhere.

One problem with these rock walls is that, with the constant ploughing for feed crops over the decades on these hillsides, the soil built up against the bottom fence such that sheep can easily jump out. So, Phil has had the task of scraping the excess

soil back away from the stone wall.

The other side also needs attention to clear weeds, and he hopes to plant natives such as Manna Gums, that will attract wildlife. One corner needs to be fenced out where the wall height is now insufficient to retain his sheep so a native shrub thicket, to be planted there, should attract the smaller birds such as fairy-

wrens and scrub-wrens as well as lizards and skinks.

Dry-stone walling is hard, heavy work, but, in keeping with the early farmer tradition, Phil’s wife Cheryl brings him a Ploughman’s Plate lunch in the paddock – bread, cheese and onions – with an occasional cider!

– Russell Luckock



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This village has almost everything, but Vin sees A problem coming soon

Vin Fay has been a resident of Buninyong for more than twenty-three years. He loves the place, but recently has thought about one facility that seems to have been overlooked. He invites feedback from the community and our city's planners.

Few would disagree that we are lucky to live in Buninyong. The village feel, the shops, restaurants, services, the community and sporting facilities, educational facilities, childcare, proximity to Ballarat, Geelong and Melbourne and lots of friendly people make a great mix for a wonderful place in which to live.

But looking around it's obvious that in Buninyong there's quite a few like me who are in or approaching their senior years, and beginning to think whether we will want to continue to live in our sizeable houses with large gardens to tend and things to maintain and repair over the next phase of our lives. We do know we want to stay here.

Missing

So that got me thinking that one facility that we don't have here is a retirement village of some kind.

Yes, I know there's one recently built in Whitehorse Road, Mount Clear. But, to me that looks like a tightly packed collection of small suburban houses, jammed into a corner of land with not too much nearby apart from a car wash a few shops and a supermarket.

I'd much prefer to live in some kind of retirement village right here in Buninyong.

A wonderful location would be the land formerly used as a soccer field up there behind the tennis centre off Forest Street. I assume that it is Council/Crown land. If so, what a great place for our

Council to look at directly or through a developer, to establish a retirement village there.

Hot cakes

The advantages of its very central village location are immediately obvious. Residences there would sell like hot cakes, with me somewhere near the head of the queue. I would be pleased to hear what others of my vintage think about this.

Perhaps the local Community Association (BDCA) and the Business Network along with our South Ward Councillors might take this idea on as a project to investigate.



Above: Vin Fay at the old soccer field site. Below: The Mt Clear Village.

Anyone interested in discussing the idea further see me or John Emery or write to the Editor.

– Vin Fay, Buninyong





Leader change at two key groups

Two of Buninyong’s most active community groups, the Buninyong & District Community Association (BDCA) and the Probus Club have new Presidents following recent Annual General Meetings.

The Buninyong Probus Club elected **Rita Russell** as President to succeed **Gordon Reynolds**. Rita arrived in Australia in 2015 from England to join her son and his family who live in Buninyong.

After leaving school she completed a Masters degree in Library and Information Science at Manchester University and subsequently went on to work in a variety of schools combining library work and teaching English.

She continued with this after having two boys, and finally went into semi-retirement in Yorkshire in 2003. That didn’t last long though as she was asked to ‘fill in’ at the local grammar school in Skipton where,

after two years she became Assistant Head of Sixth Form, responsible for University applications.

Interests

Personal interests include walking, gardening and reading and of course, working as a volunteer reporter for the *Buninyong Community News* where she meets “lots of interesting people.” After coming to live here, she joined the Buninyong Probus Club where they made her “so very welcome.”

Rita took on the role of Secretary after a year in the Club and in doing so made lots of friends and continued in that role for two years.

“It was disappointing for our President Gordon Reynolds last year as nearly all of our meetings and most activities ceased. But he did a brilliant job in keeping us all in touch with each other. A ‘phone tree’ meant that everyone received a phone

call regularly, and an informative and fun monthly Newsletter was compiled by **Ric Dunlop**,” she said.

Optimistic

“I feel very privileged to have been elected President of such a vibrant club and I am looking forward to this year with great optimism as all our meetings, activities and trips, which are many and varied, resume. Most importantly we hope to enjoy each other’s company again,” Rita said.

She said that the local group was at its capacity of 110 members.

BDCA President

Incoming President of the BDCA is **Andrew Aitken** who took over the role from **Gayle Adams** who did not stand again after two years as President and having filled the role as Secretary for eight years.

Andrew has been a career firefighter for over 20 years and currently works in Fire Rescue Victoria’s specialist training department. He is an avid mountain biker, gardener, photographer and bush walker.

Andrew hopes to carry on the great work of past presidents and continue to advocate for Buninyong and district residents on matters that affect our community. “My plan is for the BDCA to increase its communication and involvement in the community and build its membership with a broad range of people from all areas of the Buninyong and district community. Continuing on from my role as Vice-President, I would like to finish work on the development of an inclusive community group to care for the bushland reserves around our town and also to work with the City of Ballarat to implement a plan to maintain the street gardens around the centre of town.”

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New local salon nails it

Another new business to recently set up in downtown Buninyong is **Vos-Amo**, a home salon specialising in manicures and pedicures using high quality non-toxic products.

Vos-Amo is a Portuguese expression meaning 'love you' and reflects the homeland of the mother of the salon's owner and operator, **Jasmine Westgate**. Jasmine and husband **Julian** purchased their Buninyong home in August 2020 and moved here from Ferntree Gully.

Jasmine told *The News* that the couple spent six months looking for a tree-change home in a regional community and fell in love with Buninyong. They said that on first walking into their Elizabeth Street home 'we both got a really good feeling' about the house, the garden, and its location adjacent to the Union Jack Reserve. The property was formerly owned by well-known local couple, **Lyn** and **Richard Lea**.

Studies

Jasmine has completed extensive studies in graphic design and beauty therapy, and even several years of on-line Ph D studies in holistic healing. Over the past nine years however, she has worked in the accounting industry both in Brisbane and Melbourne.

Always wanting to start her own business someday, she decided the time was right when she discovered award winning *Bio Sculpture* nail products. Her beautifully-equipped salon, just two doors off Warrenheip Street provides a relaxing and different experience for her work on hands and feet. "I aim to provide an experience



Jasmine Westgate prepares for a client in her specialist nails salon. She can be contacted on 0435 955 551.

that makes my clients feel cared for," she said. "It is not about rushing you in and out the door, it's a moment to take some time out just for you."

Jasmine claims that she is the only *Bio Sculpture* therapist within the area, using international five-star safety rated vegan products that are completely non-toxic and cruelty-free.

Husband Julian travels to Melbourne to work in the film and TV industry as a freelance Location Manager currently working at Docklands Studios. He has spent more than twenty years in that role. The house is shared with their two much-loved Maine Coon cats **Florence** and **Machino**, and is decorated with many art works created by the couple.

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Ernie Neale's Monthly
RAINFALL REPORT

Wettest March since 2010

Despite active *La Nina* conditions, the run of dry weather that had started back in late January continued until mid-March. Then, on the far periphery of flooding deluges extending up the east coast, rain finally began to fall again in Buninyong.

We received over 60mm in the second half of the month and finished the month with a resounding total of 70.5mm. This made it the wettest March since 2010.

La Nina conditions have since faded to neutral so we might now expect to return to historical levels of rainfall for April to October, subject to a 10-20 per cent reduction based on BOM observations in recent decades. Regardless, soil moisture levels are good for this time of the year, with the progressive rainfall total to the end of March standing at 185.8mm, well over 60mm better than the recent average.

We are in a good place rain-wise and are continuing to enjoy the glorious run of wonderful weather we have enjoyed for over a year now. We are indeed very fortunate.

MARCH 2021			
Date	Rain	Date	Rain
7-9	6.5	21	12.1
14	14.6	21-26	32.7
16	1.0	29	3.6
Total		70.5mm	
Average		40.8mm	



Neil is shown above at the Buninyong Cemetery earlier this year. In the background on the excavator is Chris Nicholls.

Death of gravedigger Changed role at cemetery

Almost forty years of working as the gravedigger at the Buninyong Cemetery came to an end in late March with the death of Neil Beer who died of stomach cancer at the age of 72 years.

Neil had started as the cemetery's gravedigger in 1982, after jobs as a seasonal worker and at the Sunnyside and Morley mills in Ballarat.

He also filled the role of gravedigger at other district cemeteries such as Rokewood, Cressy, Staffordshire Reef, Shelford and at Coghill's Creek.

Up until the 1990s he dug each grave by hand, each grave taking only forty minutes to remove the four cubic metres of soil. Now excavators are used to do most of the digging work.

Replacing Neil at the Buninyong Cemetery will be another well-known Buninyong local, **Chris Nicholls**, who will work as a contractor to the cemetery Trust. For many years he has operated the excavator under Neil Beer's supervision (see photo above). The two lived only a few doors from each other in Eyre Street.

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AUTHORISED BY CATHERINE KING, 5 LYDIARD ST NTH BALLARAT 3350



Light opera company coming to town

Buninyong Town Hall will be the venue for the Savoy Opera Company's production of Offenbach's *Orpheus in the Underworld* in a few weeks' time.

The company is well-known for its performances of Gilbert & Sullivan in Melbourne and regional Victoria since 1943. It has previously been to Buninyong with productions such as *The Gondoliers*.

This 'comic operetta' gives a traditional story a farcical twist with the married

couple Orpheus and Eurydice living separate lives but blissfully occupied with a new lover.

In the Buninyong company there will be a cast of 35 singers and dancers and fifteen in the orchestra. To assist the not-for-profit company all performers are required to make a payment of \$100 for their involvement in each production.

In addition to the Buninyong performance on Sunday 21 June at 2.00pm, as part

of its current regional tour, the company is taking the Offenbach production to Lancefield, Maryborough, Ballan, Bunyip and Portarlington. Most of its Melbourne shows are located in the Phoenix Theatre, Elwood.

Tickets are \$40 (adult) and \$10 children and, along with other information about the company, can be accessed through savoyoperacompany.com.



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FOODWORKS

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Black spots to get new tower

The State Government has announced the rollout of more than 200 mobile base stations around the state. Locations for the upcoming construction of an extra 41 stations will include a new mobile base station to be constructed at Grenville and Elaine.

The 200th station was recently activated in Knowsley, east of Bendigo, improving reception in and around the community for residents, businesses and tourists. Other stations constructed in the rollout of the first 200 includes bases at Dereel, Maude, Teesdale, Steiglitz and Cape Clear.

Member for Buninyong **Michaela Settle** said upgrading reception in Grenville and Elaine and hundreds of areas across Victoria will improve safety by allowing people to contact emergency services in more locations.

In November the Government committed a further \$300 million through then *Digital Future Now* initiative to help more regional Victorians get connected. Over the next six years the Victorian Government will make mobile coverage better in more than 1,000 places across Victoria by building new mobile infrastructure.

Not sounds of silence

A reader who lives near Nashes Road has advised that there has been regular motor noise, possible coming from a stationary generator, emanating from a nearby property on an on-going basis throughout the Labor Day long weekend and throughout the Easter break and the subsequent school holidays.

It has also occurred on several occasions at about this time of year in the past. For obvious reasons the use of such equipment

is not allowed between the hours of 8.00pm and 9.00am, and during the rest of the time should be used only as necessary.

Because of the large 'bush' blocks in the area it has been very difficult to locate the source of the noise and the reader would appreciate hearing from anyone who could help. Please contact the Editor of *The News*.

Lions winner now to State

Anmary Chalakkal (pictured right), the local Lions Club Youth of the Year winner went on to win the district final and she is now in the State final being held on the Mornington Peninsula.

Meanwhile in a shed at the back of the *LIONS LITTER* op shop there has been a flurry of activity. The shed gives the volunteers much more space to collect, sort, store and prepare for sale most of the goods donated.

In March, there was somewhat of a mini celebration when the members and

partners of the Club were able once again to socialise at the monthly dinner meeting.

It's been customary over many years to get together on the third Monday of the month to have a dinner meeting.

Over the years the Club has been to the *Crown Hotel, Barclays, to the Pig and Goose, Steptoos, Fed Uni Café* and other nearby dining spots. So a dinner meeting at the reopened *Royal Mail Hotel, Sebastopol* was another good place to go to enjoy the food and company.



Easy now to find some shade



Michaela Settle, Member for Buninyong, recently visited Buninyong Primary School to view the newly installed shade sail funded as part of the 2020 \$1.3 million round of the School Shade Grants Program.

The grants were made available to schools to build new shade structures, repair existing structures, or create natural shade by planting trees and purchase sun protective items including hats and sunscreen.

The children, teachers and families of Buninyong Primary School now have more shade in their busy playground thanks to a \$21,220 grant to install four large shade sails. The overall sail area is 13 x 14 metres with four large separate shades surrounding a central pole.

According to school principal **Bernie Conlan** this corner of the playground down near the Yuille Street gate is a popular play spot for children.

The sails have been erected over the huge stump of the large old cypress tree that had been removed from that spot over a year ago because of dangers it was posing for students.

School students (L to R) Jackson, 11, Grade 5, Hamish, 11, Grade 6, and Dex, 11, Grade 5 inspect the new colorful shade sails with Michaela Settle MP and Principal Bernie Conlan.

Planting day

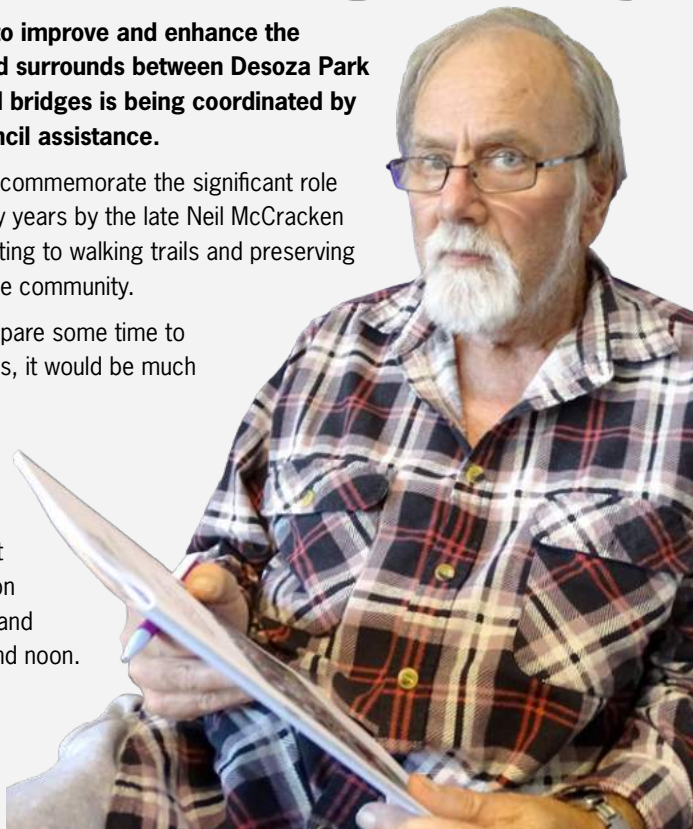
A planting day to improve and enhance the walking trail and surrounds between Desoza Park and Geelong Rd bridges is being coordinated by BDCA with Council assistance.

The Project is to commemorate the significant role played over many years by the late Neil McCracken (right) in contributing to walking trails and preserving native flora for the community.

If residents can spare some time to join the volunteers, it would be much appreciated.

Planting will commence at the Geelong Rd end (Russell St at around 9.00am on Sunday 23 May, and continue till around noon.

BYO gardening gloves and small shovel or trowel.



BUNINYONG NEWSAGENCY



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Harris was a wild one

In World War I many men who enlisted from the Ballarat and other rural districts found themselves in the 8th Battalion. A photograph recently seen by *The News* has an interesting link between that battalion and a Buninyong soldier.

Like the 8th, many of the other First World War battalions had strong links to particular towns or areas. And away from the battlefields, these groups often formed sporting teams which competed strongly for various trophies or just for bragging rights.

Shown right is the 8th Battalion's football team which were the First Division Premiers of the Australian Rules competition in 1917, 1918, and 1919. Captain of the team (front row, second from right) was **Edwin Reynolds**, a school teacher from Frankston – possibly related to the famous Reynolds name of the Essendon VFL football team forty or fifty years later.

Local butcher

Second from left in the back row of the team is **Harris Ritchie Parsons**, whose enlistment papers show him to be a butcher from Buninyong, and whose parents lived in Forest Street. Born in 1888, Harris (incorrectly listed in the team photo as **Harrie**) enlisted in 1916 at the age of 28 years.

He must have been a pretty wild and tough character as his service record is littered with at least five entries showing him being fined or locked up for going missing for a few days, being drunk and disorderly, or for using abusive language.

For example, just a few weeks before being discharged in September 2019, his record stated that he was arrested “on a charge of being drunk and disorderly – appeared before the Westminster Police Court- and was fined 5 shillings.”

The records are totally unclear as to whether Harris was as wild on the football field as he appeared to be around the army camps of Europe. But there's a fair chance he also played a tough brand of football!

Harris died in 1952 and is buried in the Fawkner Cemetery.



Image: Australian War Memorial

Group portrait of the 8th Battalion football team. This team were 1st Division premiers of the Australian Rules competition in 1917, 1918 and 1919. Identified in the back row, from left to right are: 55107 Private (Pte) John Edward Baker from Gheringhap, Victoria; 971 Pte Harrie Ritchie Parsons from Buninyong, Victoria; Lieutenant (Lt) Albert Edgar Mackay DCM, from Violet Town, Victoria; 4225 Lance Sergeant Albert Hill MM from Warrnambool, Victoria; 5394 Extra Regimental Sergeant Albert Henry Hill from Healesville, Victoria; and 6976 Pte William John Carden from Collingwood, Victoria.

Sprint not Steve's strength



After the Buninyong Community Bank agreed to support the Ballarat Gift event, a consequence was that it had to supply a runner for the Sponsors Challenge Race. “The 100m sprints not exactly our strength, so managed to get Steve Moneghetti to run on our behalf,” said Sam Elshaug.

As can be seen from the photo (above) Steve is not exactly the fastest sprinter in Ballarat.

If a community group or organisation is interested in applying for Community Investment project funding this year, ask at the Branch for more information, eligibility criteria and/or an application form.

Sue's dream comes true

Royal Park project looking great



Five years ago, the Buninyong Redbacks Soccer club was possibly Buninyong's biggest sporting club with an incredible 17 teams and 160 plus players competing in the Ballarat and District Soccer Association. At that time the Club's home ground was a makeshift pitch behind the old Buninyong tennis courts. No change rooms, no toilets and sub-standard playing conditions.

In September 2016 the Council released draft plans for a new development of the Royal Park reserve. Construction of one pitch took place in the 2017 season and the Redbacks eventually played their first game on their new pitch in June of that year. The vast majority of games were still played elsewhere.

Fast forward to 2021 and the completed works at Royal Park have given the Redbacks two first class soccer pitches and the promise of new facilities, including change-rooms to be completed by the end of the year. With this project now well advanced, the City of Ballarat certainly has delivered on its promises.

Action

Unfortunately, Covid-19 and the limited facilities have taken a toll on the Redback's playing numbers. There were insufficient numbers this year to field senior men's and women's teams. Club President, **Sue Mroczkowski** is confident that with the new facilities and a big influx of junior signings the Redbacks can rebuild to the numbers of previous years.

Sue said, "The club is very keen to develop a community arm with a focus on fitness and social activity for all ages." The plans include introducing walking soccer, an activity for over-50s with modified soccer rules that began in the UK and is the fastest growing sport in that country. Discussions are also underway with Ballarat Ultimate Frisbee. This is a great sport that all of the family can play and best of all does not require a referee to arbitrate!

Ideas

The soccer club is considering applying for a VicHealth grant *Reimagining Health* to facilitate its plans and is calling on anyone who would like to contribute ideas to the discussion about how to include other sports and all members of the community in physical activity.

When this project is complete, it will further add to Buninyong's first-class sporting facilities. Sue Mroczkowski has been the driving force behind the establishment of this facility and with her *Field of Dreams* almost completed she can be satisfied with a job well done.

"This is a fantastic opportunity for Buninyong to be a great example of encouraging everyone to be physically active, no matter what their age, gender or sporting ability. The health, social and community benefits will be incredible, if we can make it happen," she said.

The News urges the Buninyong community to get together to help Sue to make this a reality.

– Ray Sullivan

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Long drought broken Junior golfers are pennant champs

The Buninyong Golf Club junior pennant team recently won the Ballarat and District Junior Golf Pennant. This broke a 28-year drought, with Buninyong's last junior title winning in 1993.

The Buninyong team went through their season undefeated and started favourites in their final match against Maryborough Golf Club. The match took place at the Ballarat Golf Club. The course was in great condition and the weather was perfect for the title battle.

The young Maryborough golfers fought hard and at the end of regular play the teams were locked together at 3 games all. Buninyong's **Joel Smith** was selected to take part in a sudden death play-off to decide the title. Joel was up to the task and won the play-off hole to claim the title for Buninyong.

When Buninyong's **Luke Inglis** won his tight battle 1-up, he completed a clean sweep to be undefeated throughout the whole season. It was a family affair for the **Inglis** clan as brother **James** and sister **Anna** played alongside Luke in the Buninyong team.

The win comes just a few months after a shed fire at the Inglis home resulted in all sets of clubs being lost with the young golfers using borrowed clubs for some time as they prepared for the pennant competition.

Final results

Joel Smith won 6&5, Luke Inglis won 1-up, James Inglis lost 3&2, Jacob Hanrahan won 4&3.

Ben Crellin lost 3&2, Anna Inglis lost 3&2.

Joel Smith won the play-off, 1-up.



James Inglis waiting to play his shot on the 10th hole.

Buninyong's Champion Junior Pennant team. (L-R): Anna Inglis, James Inglis, Joel Smith, Luke Inglis, Jacob Hanrahan and Ben Crellin.

– Ray Sullivan



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