

Record crowd, exhibitors and sunshine make for

HOT EXPO

Warm, sunny weather in late February and over 65 exhibitors brought out a record crowd estimated at 2000 for the 2020 *Smart Building and Living Expo* held at Buninyong's Royal Park. The social media impact also was significant, reaching over 21,000 people.

Many locals came to catch up with friends while newcomers enjoyed talking with the wide mix of businesses and community groups involved in stalls and displays.

Message

The team from *Buninyong Sustainability* has run this expo for seven years and takes pride in hosting a great community event that is making a difference. Expo Director **Andrea Mason** said that the team's message is simple. "Take the time to learn something new and make at least one change that can improve your living standards while helping the fight against climate change."

Young ones led the way and the Buninyong Primary school loved showing off the solar bikes and solar boats built by the students. The children's free activities – building and creating with *Totally Treehouse*, planting herbs and face painting were a great drawcard. Children played happily while parents spent some time finding out about sustainable design, or building, or how to make compost!



Mick Durham together with daughter Indi, 11, a Grade Six student at Buninyong Primary School, had a close look at the school's bikes which were built to enter the 2019 Solar Challenge at Maryborough.

A key feature, the electric vehicle displays, once again drew lots of interest. Local enthusiasts brought their cars down for everyone to see. With the experts on charging stations on hand and the *Nissan Leaf* available locally, electric cars are becoming a viable option for more people.

The Expo also has proven that it is a great place for big ideas. Four years ago the plan to bring an EV plug to Buninyong was hatched, and this year the fledgling idea of a *Carbon Neutral Buninyong* was brought to the community for comment.

LIONS' CASH HELPS MANY

While 2020 sees the Lions Club of Buninyong Mount Helen already off to a busy start, the 2019 year saw plenty of activity and help to the community from Club members.

In December 2019, *Carols in the Park* was a huge success, with many people contributing through the year. The crowd seems to get bigger each year and when the weather is perfect, everyone has a fantastic night. The 2020 event is set for 12 December starting at 5.00 pm with the BBQ, and with the show starting at 7.30pm.

Last year also saw the birth of the Op Shop – *Lions Litter* – which turned out to be a much-needed facility in the town. The volunteers who work there have fun, the shoppers love it, and the support from everyone who donates is remarkable.

Books and books

Of course, the Lions Bookshop in its historic cottage setting goes from strength to strength, again through the generosity of the volunteer book sellers/sorters and all those who donate or recycle the stock.

The Club is grateful to the community for the support given in all of its activities, and the following gives an idea about where some of the funds raised here in Buninyong and Mount Helen are distributed.

- \$300 was donated to Lucy Stoel to assist in her study of nursing in the Philippines.
- \$200 was given to *Talbot Place* to take ten women out for lunch on Mothers' Day
- \$500, being the proceeds of the BBQ at the *Sustainable Living Expo*, was sent to the *Blaze Aid* camp at Lexton.
- \$500 was donated to *Berry Street*, which helps children, young people and families recover from the effects of violence, abuse and neglect.
- \$300 to *Lions Mobility Foundation*, providing walkers for Australian children.
- \$300 to *Lions Hearing Dogs*, providing independence, security and confidence to many Australians.
- \$300 went to *Lions Eye Health*. It costs about \$A10 to restore sight or prevent blindness.



Volunteer Rhonda Baker was on duty at the Lions Club book shop in Warrenheip Street.

- \$300 to the *Lions Spinal Cord Foundation*, supporting research into spinal cord injuries and helping people to walk again.
- \$4000 went to the *Australian Lions Foundation*, as a response to the recent bushfire crisis.

The Club looks forward to another exciting year of serving this community, and in next month's edition of *The News* two new members of the Club will be introduced. Anyone interested in learning more about this great organisation should contact **David Page** on 0418 543 772.

– David Searle

Lions youth speak out



Finalists (L to R) Lexi Ryan, Callum Parkinson and Grace Toohey.

The Buninyong/Mt Helen Lions Club held its annual *Youth of the Year* competition on 17 February. The competition has been running for 55 years after it was first introduced by a Lions Club in Queensland.

This year's finalists were **Grace Toohey** and **Lexi Ryan** from Loreto College and **Callum Parkinson** from Mt Clear College. Each contestant was required to complete an extensive entry form, participate in a lengthy interview with four judges, and then speak in front of an audience.

The public speaking component of the competition required the speakers to respond to two impromptu questions and then deliver a five minute speech on a topic of their choosing.

Competition Chairman **Greg Pugh** said that the contestants spoke very confidently and the judges were very impressed by their interviews. The competition had two sections – the Public Speaking section and the Overall Winner.

In the Public Speaking section the topics chosen by the competitors ranged from Lexi Ryan's speech on *Veganism*, to Grace Toohey's topic of *Gratitude*, while Callum Parkinson spoke on *Volunteering*.

The winner of the Public Speaking section was Lexi Ryan, and the overall winner was Callum Parkinson. Callum now progresses to the District Final. The *Lions Youth of the Year* competition is sponsored by the National Bank.

From front door to airports New service starts up here

With parking costs rocketing skywards at Melbourne Airport and with problems for local residents in accessing the airport shuttle bus located at the Ballarat Railway Station, the recent start of a new Buninyong-based passenger service business is sure to gain plenty of interest from local travellers.

The new operation, *Ballarat Private Transfers* owned and operated by Buninyong resident **Rohan Lowe**, offers a door-to-door 'on demand' service to both Tullamarine Airport and also to Avalon Airport near Geelong. Presently there is no airport shuttle from the Ballarat district to Avalon Airport.

Your place

Rohan said that he was happy to pick up individuals, groups or families from private residences anywhere in the district. "It will be a door-to-door service for local travellers who want to take the stress out of getting to or from airports or other destinations, and who don't want to pay the very high fees for or the hassle associated with airport parking."

He said that the main advantage of this service would be to make the first and last sectors of travel "really comfortable, stress-free and enjoyable". It also would be cost effective compared to long-term parking rates or paying for overnight accommodation at airports.

He added that his service would also extend to cruise line passengers travelling to or from Station Pier in Melbourne.

Comfort

With wife **Kim**, Rohan has lived in Buninyong for sixteen years and previously operated a gardening and landscaping business in the district. He told *The News* that the

new venture was designed to provide maximum travel convenience and comfort for those starting or finishing travel from the Buninyong district.

The service can comfortably seat six passengers in a Honda vehicle with a luggage trailer behind and is expected to take some 90 minutes from Buninyong to the bus stop right in front of Terminal 2 at Melbourne Airport. Unlike other services, a drop off at Terminal 4 from which budget airlines operate, also will be possible. Rohan said he also plans to extend the service to do tours to wineries and other attractions. The service is fully insured for passenger transport.

For rates and more information call 0480 171 542 or email: ballaratprivatetransfers@gmail.com

Rohan Lowe shown with his new Honda people-mover and trailer.



streettalk

ROYALS. Painting Harry and Megan as rebel "royals" is nothing compared to Buninyong's only Royal visitor who lobbied here in 1867. Background work on the Royal Park article (see p 18) turned up some interesting material on Alfred, the good old Duke of Edinburgh. His scandal-plagued son shot himself at the Duke's 25th wedding anniversary party, and the Duke passed away in 1900 after 'drinking himself to death'.

FULL CIRCLE. In another of this month's stories which takes a look-back at the origins of this newspaper (see p 16), reference is made to well-known former local politician John Mildren who is credited with the idea of starting up this newspaper back in 1977 after returning from the USA. Then an academic, Mildren was helped into post graduate studies at Texas A & M University by a colleague with close links to that university. That colleague was Barry Fitzgerald who now edits the newspaper suggested by Mildren.

Environment sidelined PLANNING IN A BUBBLE

Recent decisions by Council and State Government about projects in Buninyong and Mount Helen indicate a failure by various public servants to take serious account of local habitat, landscape and environment issues. Here are four examples.

'The Gong' Reservoir – Buninyong Botanical Gardens dam wall upgrade.

The Gong is a much-loved, beautiful and environmentally-rich place in the heart of Buninyong. For years, Council has poisoned habitat and vegetation around the Gong. Now recent plans for work to repair the dam wall are strong on engineering but, sadly vague on habitat. Almost all existing habitat will be removed, and revegetation plans do not adequately cater for the many animals, birds, insects and reptiles that dwell there.

Roadside infrastructure: Geelong Road from Mount Clear to Buninyong.

On Geelong Road, just south of Greenhill Road, one of Ballarat's most magnificent views opens up across to Green Hill and Mount Buninyong. There is sparse suburban housing and few residents. So why was a massive, concrete bus-stop surrounded by steel fencing recently installed, now matching the adjacent ugly steel and concrete rarely-used crossing?

The Canadian Valley Outline Development Plan (CVODP) describes this as a 'treasured' section of road. The construction of this 'overkill' roadside infrastructure, while helpful for a few people, rudely contrasts with the attractive natural landscape.

Midland Highway – RRV road safety upgrades. The planned \$25 million project

to install wire rope safety barriers in the centre of the highway between Clarendon and Mt Buninyong will result in significant tree and habitat loss. Regional Roads Victoria (RRV) has agreed to some design improvements but a cost-effective, rational measure proposed by the community – to reduce the speed limit to 80kph on the Scotsburn-Buninyong stretch – is being ignored by the Minister for Roads and RRV. It would increase safety, halve tree loss and reduce wildlife deaths.

Urban forest at Mount Helen. Mount Helen is a success story both from an environmental and social perspective. It supports housing and a major employment zone while the natural world still thrives. It is one of few remaining semi-rural places in this city where people and wildlife successfully coexist. A recent decision by VCAT to permit an out-of-character development of ten town houses on a block of 900 square metres at Mount Helen's centre struck a savage blow to the balance of neighbourhood character with the natural environment.

Potentially positive initiatives to support and protect habitat, including a *Living Corridors Plan*, neighbourhood character studies, and *Historic Urban Landscape* planning work are underway at Ballarat Council. But they are likely to fail if habitat and landscape assessments are not strongly embedded in them.

We all have a responsibility to conserve, restore and improve the stunning landscape and its habitat, but future liveability and the ongoing viability of the natural world hinge on government's serious response to such concerns.



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Management Committee: Gayle Adams, Michelle Corcoran

Editor: Barry Fitzgerald

Design: Sian Blohm

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

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

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Brendan O'Loughlin

A good sport

The Durham Lead and Buninyong communities were saddened on 7 February, 2020 to hear that active and highly-regarded district resident Brendan O'Loughlin had died at the age of 71 years.

He was a member of the well-known local sporting family which came from County Clare in Ireland in the 1850s to establish the family property *Homeleigh* in Durham Lead.

Born in January 1949, Brendan was the second eldest of five children of **Marge** and **Ed O'Loughlin**. His brothers and sisters – **Jenny, Bernadette, Leo** and **Gerard** – still live in Buninyong and Ballarat.

On the bus

Catching the bus to and from Durham Lead, Brendan's primary schooling was at Loreto College in Dawson Street and St Alipius Primary School. He then went to St Paul's Technical School.

He followed in his father's footsteps in many ways – producing award-winning fine merino wool on the family farm and working with the Forestry Commission. At various times he also worked on the railways and as a rouseabout in shearing

sheds across the Western District.

Brendan was an outstanding sportsman. He played in senior football and cricket premierships with Buninyong. He was a long-term President and life member of the Buninyong Cricket Club and was involved with various other groups throughout the community.

Most of all he enjoyed coaching cricket and assisting young players to learn the skills of the game.

Family

He married **Joanne Simpson** in 1972 and the couple had three children all of whom are well known in the district. Brendan doted over his eight grandchildren.

Eldest son **Steve** is a geologist, and was a premiership player in both football and cricket with the Buninyong club. He is also a life member of the Golden Point Cricket Club.

Tamara works as a Critical Care Associate Nurse Unit manager in the Emergency Department at Ballarat Health Services. She played netball at the Buninyong FNC and tennis at both Buninyong and Napoleons.

Shaun, the head of the Scotsburn campus of the Buninyong Primary School, is the current senior coach of the Buninyong Football Club and was a premiership captain with the Buninyong and Golden Point Cricket Clubs. He is also a life member of the Buninyong Cricket Club.

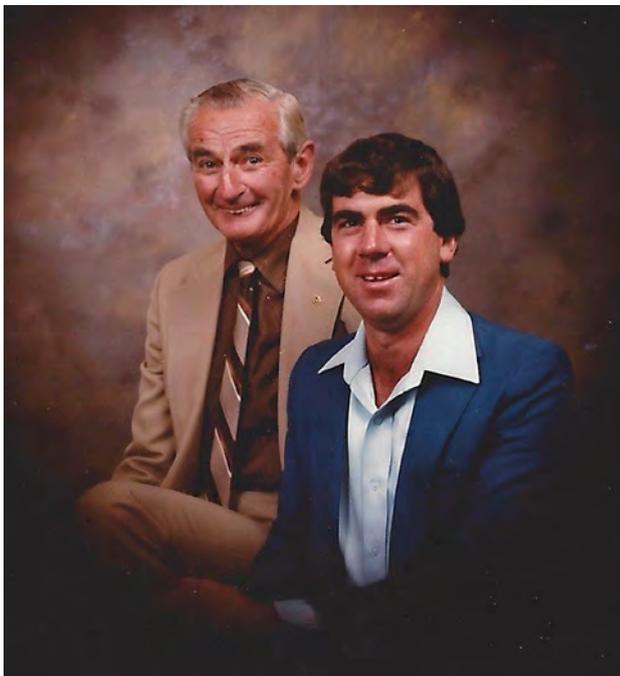
Others

Shaun told *The News* that "dad was generous, hard-working and loyal. He always considered others before himself and was the first person on someone's doorstep at a time of crisis or loss."

He added that since Brendan's passing "the overwhelming sentiment the family has received from many people is that he loved to chat to anyone, loved a good laugh, and was genuinely interested in other people."

Above: Brendan with wife Joanne on a holiday.

Left: Brendan with his father, Ed O'Loughlin.



Steiner Fair off for now but Fun at new hall with picnic and bush dance

The start of the new school year has seen the newly completed school hall at the Steiner School getting plenty of use.

Plans are for the multi-purpose building to be used for a myriad of things including for music lessons, choir and ensemble rehearsals, Eurythmy, movement program, assemblies, performances, curriculum lessons and for community events.

Special

The building has been constructed utilising a range of materials including timber, mud brick and more making the space special and unique.

To celebrate having the new hall the school held a picnic and bush dance for members of their community at the start of this year.

The entertainment was provided by the *Billy Tea Bush Band* and children and adults alike kicked off their shoes for an evening of sharing, eating and dancing.

‘...it was an evening of sharing, eating and dancing’

There is a strong focus on community at the school which also recently participated in the Begonia Festival Parade as part of the long weekend festivities at the beginning of March.



Students from the Steiner School enjoyed dressing up and taking part in the Begonia Festival parade.

Unfortunately, the school would like everyone to know that the annual *Ballarat Steiner School, Kindergarten and Playgroup Autumn Fair* scheduled for late April has had to be postponed due to the current regulations surrounding mass gatherings, but the school hopes to host the event in the near future when clearance surrounding the current pandemic is given.

Head of School, **Eric Hopf** said that “during these challenging times, it is important for us all to remember that we are part of a community, and that within each of our communities we are able to support, care and help each other. Our school’s participation in our community reflects our values of trust, friendship, kindness and gratitude. These are all wonderful ideals for everyone to be a part of.”

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After six months of the pair trekking across vast areas as far away as Echuca looking unsuccessfully for land that had not already been taken up by early squatters, Andrew became very despondent. But some suitable land was found at long last, and he took out a squatter's lease of 12,000 acres four months later on country immediately to the east of Mt Buninyong where he set up a dairy.

Troubles

Perhaps it was a good thing that Andrew could not see the trials and tribulations that lay before the family, and certainly *Flora* would not have dreamed what lay before her. But despite everything that happened, it was a very good life.

Flora played a key role in helping the family start again after near disaster, as well as laying the foundations of livestock on their stations for generations to come.

A horse must be very special to be remembered fondly over 180 years after she was born. *Flora* was very special, and this is her story told through the eyes of the horse and the seventeen foals she had. Records of them all are in the diaries, invoices and notebooks of the Scott family.

The book contains beautiful period illustrations by Durham Lead artist

Jeanette Creelman Skrokov.

Above: Andrew Scott likes the look of the grey mare.

Below: Flora became an important part of Mt Boninyong station.

Flora's big part in local history

The October 2018 edition of *The News* carried a story on a recently-published book on the Scott family of Mt Boninyong homestead written by local author Glenys Wood Lake. She has followed that up with a delightful work on a horse that became an integral part in the life of the Scott family.

Lake's latest book, *Flora*, tells the true story of a horse in the colony of Port Phillip Bay (later Victoria), and the important part she played over almost 30 years in the eventual success of a squatting family.

New life

Following the decision to start a new life on the other side of the world, **Andrew Scott** and his family arrived in Melbourne from Scotland in January 1839. After renting a house in Melbourne for his wife **Celia** and their four children, **Robert 16, Andrew Jnr 14, Thomas 12 and Martha, 10,** Andrew set out to find a horse to buy.

Horses were a rare commodity in the colony at this time so he walked to Geelong, carrying his saddle on one shoulder and the bridle on the other. He hoped to buy a horse he had been told was for sale in that area. At Russell's Bridge, he eventually found a three year old, dark grey mare that he liked and he purchased her for 48 pounds. He called her *Flora*.

She became his sole companion on the long lonely journeys over large parts of the colony looking for suitable land to set up a station.



Little library pops up

While most in the community have been watching the rebuild of the Community Cottage on Warrenheip Street, something much smaller - a newly-constructed Little Library - has been completed and put in place outside the Lions Bookshop at its historic cottage site right opposite.

The Little Library is an initiative of the local group, Buninyong Community Events, and

was conceived and project-managed by **Lisa Cressey** who, after many years of admiring street libraries across Australia, thought it was time Buninyong had its own.

Cooperation

Buninyong's Little Library is a true community project. While it was instigated and project-managed by the Buninyong Community Events group, it was built by the Buninyong Men's Shed, the

adjacent garden was cleaned up by the Friends of Buninyong Botanic Gardens, it is maintained by the Buninyong Lions Bookshop and was funded by the Buninyong Community Bank. It's yet another example of spreading the community spirit of Buninyong.

The Little Street Library, planted in the front yard of the Lions Bookshop, is a beautiful home for books. It is an open



invitation to share the joy of reading with the Buninyong Community. With the arrival of Buninyong's Little Street Library, Buninyong is on the map at www.streetlibrary.org.au

Trust and hope

Street libraries are a window into the mind of a community. Books come and go; no-one needs to check them in or out. People can simply reach in and take what interests them; when they are done, they can return them to the Street Library network, or pass them on to friends.

'This little library is a true community project'

If anyone has a book or two that they think others would enjoy, they can just pop it into any Street Library they happen to be walking past. They are a symbol of trust and hope - a tiny vestibule of literary happiness

Restocking the little Street Library is Lions book shop volunteer Martine Foerg.

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Ernie Neale's Monthly
RAINFALL REPORT

A backwards summer

We've certainly had a backwards Summer. December shot straight into peak heat, with only 10.7mm of rain and a record heat wave. Conditions eased in January, with mild temperatures and well above average rain fall. February followed suit, with safe temperatures and 84mm of rain over seventeen wet days.

Twice the amount of rain fell in the first two months of this year than fell in the first four months of last year. This resulted in farm animals, pets and gardens coming through unstressed. All our outdoor sports facilities are now green and lush and enjoying much reduced watering costs.

The army of tradies working on the new estates around Ballarat have not missed a beat and risk of dehydration in the young and old has been minimal. No grid overloads meant no power cuts. Sporting events like the Road Nats, Head of the Lake and the Australian Open ran safely and comfortably. Even the trains seem to have been able to keep up to speed.

Ongoing benefits include great soil moisture levels for crop and pasture establishment, as well as for revegetation works. It also means that this end of the state is superbly placed to produce significant amounts of milk, meat, grain, fodder and horticultural produce at a time when the country and the world really needs it. It also presents the long-awaited opportunity for extensive low and slow hazard-reduction burns.

FEBRUARY 2020			
Date	Rain	Date	Rain
1-3	31.4	15-16	9.9
7	6.6	18-20	8.2
10-12	5.2	24	8.3
13-14	12.2	27-28	2.2
Total		84.0 mm	
Average		37.3 mm	



Checking the program for the series are (L to R) Alison and Trevor Rickard (Foodworks), Randall Drever (Community Bank), David Sinclair (Sinclair's Wines), Di Rae (The Shared Table), and Brigid Corcoran (Saltbush Kitchen).

Business workshop series is launched

During the latter part of 2020 the Buninyong Business Network plans to conduct free business workshops which will bring experts to Buninyong to share their business knowledge with the community.

The series was launched in early March at *The Shared Table* which hosted the event and served a delicious selection of snacks and wines.

An important part of each workshop will be a focus on local business. At the March workshop **Di Rae**, owner of *The Shared Table* told of her experience of starting up and running her business in Buninyong.

The dates for the subsequent workshops are now on hold because of virus epidemic restrictions. The next workshop planned was to involve **La Vergne Lehmann**, the Executive Officer at the Grampians Central West Waste & Resource Recovery Group.

Advice about new dates for the series will be given in columns of *The News* in the months ahead. Workshops will be free and open to all business owners or operators and to any interested members of the general public. Enquiries can also be directed to:

buninyongbusinessnetwork@gmail.com





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Local tradesman Gordon Eason chats with Jane Hand owner of historic Havilah Cottage (1875) in Simpson Street before affixing one of the new blue Historic Buildings of Buninyong plaques.

THE BLUE PLAQUES TRAIL GETS CLOSE

In 2014, blue plaques were affixed to twenty historic buildings around the Buninyong village. Each told the history of the building or a building formerly on the site.

The 'blue plaques project', of great interest to visitors and locals alike, was a project of the Buninyong and District Community Association (BDCA), the Historical Society and funded by the Community Bank.

Now another sixteen sites have been selected by members of the Historical Society.

With the research and content of the plaques being undertaken by the Historical Society, the project has again been funded by the Community bank and coordinated by the BDCA which arranged

for the production and erection of the plaques over recent weeks.

The development of a 'blue plaques' trail (see opposite) will enable locals and visitors to spend about an hour or two on an easy-walking circuit through and around the village.

Starting and finishing at the Old Library in Warrenheip Street, this gentle walk around the township gives a good sense of the history, important buildings and the community 'feel' of this village. Walkers will pass more than 40 sites of interest, most dating from the mid-1800s.

The circuit map also will be included in the coming new edition of the Buninyong Visitor Guide being compiled by the BDCA and the Buninyong Business Network.

The plaques

1. The Old Library/Mechanics' Institute (1861)
2. Middleton's Ironmongery & Garage (c1873)
3. Clifton Villa (1859)
4. Glencairn (c 1855)
5. Old Tannery Site
6. Old Burial Ground (1840s)
7. Thomas Hiscock's Cottage (1851)
8. Old Post Office (1874)
9. Crown Hotel (1885)
10. Former National Bank (1866)
11. Adams/Eames Store & Bakery (1852)
12. Whykes' Butchers Shop (1893)
13. Town Hall & Court House (1886)
14. Old Fire Station (1872)
15. Uniting Church (1860)
16. Former Nugget Hotel (1854)
17. Catholic Church (1858)
18. The Gong (1861)
19. Old Brewery (1855)
20. Kingshill (1857)
21. Old Police Court House (1858)
22. State School (1873)
23. Queen Victoria Rotunda (1901)
24. Mrs Carey's Cottage Hospital (1880)
25. Old Manse (1886)
26. Police House & Stables (1887)
27. Camellia Cottage (1886)
28. Netherby (c1860)
29. Holy Trinity Anglican Church (1862)
30. Old Vicarage (1857)
31. Former Methodist Church (1865)
32. Havilah Cottage (1875)
33. Site of old Buninyong Hotel (1853)
34. St Alban's Cottage (1873)
35. Dr Longden's House (1898)
36. Caffrey's Blacksmith & Coachbuilder (c1860)
37. Isaac's Grocer Store (c1882)
38. Brydon & Hedrick Store (c1850)
39. Buninyong Coffee Palace (1899)
40. Howard's Bootmaker (1899)
41. Former Eagle Hotel (1858)
42. Whykes Grocery Store (1865)
43. Mrs Phillips' Cottage (c1890)

Other plaques are at Mossmont (1860) in Winter Street, Fassifern (1880) in Hedrick Street, at the old Coxall House (c1870) in Somerville Street, and at Brim Brim (1860) in Lal Lal Street.

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Belinda Wardle and Miles Pigdon are two members of the collective able to help visitors.

Come and meet Farmer Georgie

The Buninyong Community Collective has celebrated its first-year anniversary and its members are keenly anticipating another positive year of growth.

The range of dry goods on offer is steadily expanding with the recent introduction of a larger range of gluten free goods, including *Quinoa Flakes* and *Besan Flour*. The addition of household goods such as sustainable toilet paper will not be far away.

Locally made

Local beauty products were introduced last December and the first delivery sold out in the first two weeks! The goods

are made locally in Mt Clear from natural ingredients. While the range will expand over time, currently the collective is stocking shampoo bars, conditioner bars, body wash bars, dish cakes and deodorant paste. These items that come completely waste free, and also smell divine, are all excellent alternatives for cleaning.

Now, on most weeks during the growing season, members can stop by local farmer **Georgie's** stall, set up with her fresh market garden vegetables grown in Yendon. While adding fruit to the collective's offerings has taken a little longer, it looks like some connections with local fruit growers will soon come into effect.

Whilst it's best to bring your own containers, the collective has paper bags and clean jars that shoppers can use if they forget their own. Members can now also pay by card; those paying cash will receive a two per cent discount on their purchases.

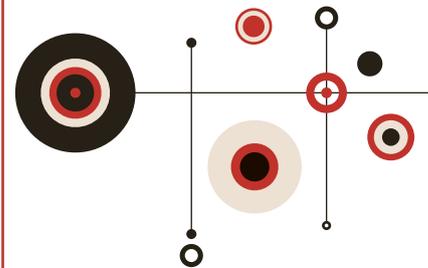
It's all happening each Tuesday at the Anglican Church Hall, 405 Scott Street, Buninyong. Opening hours are 9-11am and 5-7pm. Membership is \$50 for the first year and \$20 renewal per year thereafter. Members receive heavily discounted goods (at just over cost price), that have been purchased in bulk to keep packaging to a minimum and will help reduce your environmental footprint.

– Hayley Quach

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Community group meets Mayor and Council Director on Plans for street, gardens, car park and dogs

Township planning and related issues were the key focus at the recent meeting of the Buninyong and District Community Association (BDCA) which was attended by the Mayor, Cr Ben Taylor, and the City of Ballarat's Heritage Advisor, John Dyke.

John Dyke provided an update on the Neighbourhood Character Studies Project which has identified twelve draft character types leading to a residential planning framework. This work will be put on display in Bridge Mall during March and April. These studies will be an important foundation for the Buninyong Township Plan which will recommence in late June/early July 2020.

He advised that Council is also working on a Living Corridors Strategy from Scotsburn to the Gong Gong Reserve, which covers the Woookarung Regional Park, and also a Yarrowee River Tributaries Plan which includes Union Jack Creek.

Issues

The Association welcomed the Mayor to the meeting. Cr Taylor discussed a range of issues including:

- *the upgrade to Warrenheip Street.* The Mayor advised that a submission to RDV for funding improvements in Warrenheip Street was being considered
- *a Masterplan for Gardens area.* Council will work with the Friends of

the Buninyong Botanic Gardens to develop a masterplan for the important heritage precinct

- *Off lead dog park.* Following community consultation, James Reserve now has been identified as the preferred location for an off-lead dog park
- *Ballarat CBD parking arrangements.*

A brief update was provided on the proposed Neil McCracken Memorial Walk which will run along-side Union Jack Creek from the Geelong Road to Desoza Park. Co-ordinated by Liz Hayward and Robert Elshaug, this key project for the BDCA will commence in late autumn.

Director agenda

In mid-March BDCA President, Gayle Adams met with the City's Director of Infrastructure and Environment Terry Demeo to further discuss village projects/issues including the future use of the graffiti trailer, the Warrenheip Street upgrade and the schedule for the commencement of works for the off-lead dog park.

Also discussed at the meeting was the need for beautification of the Forest Street car park. While the line-marking has resulted in a larger number of car parking spaces, the space is devoid of any greenery.

Council has agreed to consider plans prepared by the BDCA's Robert Elshaug to enhance the carpark environment.

Hot price for dry wood



The Buninyong Golf Club has a quantity of cut, dry and split wood for sale in minimum loads of 2 cubic metres – \$90pcm plus delivery of \$10. Orders will be delivered within two weeks. This is the third year dry wood has been offered for sale and has raised some \$5000 for course improvement works.

The wood comes from storm damaged trees or those seen to be posing a risk of injury to people on the course.

Shown above is club stalwart Trevor McCann tackling another pile of fallen trees.



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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.

www.facebook.com/buninyongbusinessnetwork | buninyongbusinessnetwork@gmail.com

Keeping Sovereign Hill safe

Peter Darveniza was the ideal speaker for the Ballarat U3A Old Hands recent class on the history of Ballarat and district. Educated in Ballarat, Peter is a mining engineer with decades of experience in all forms of mining across Australia.

Peter's informative talk proved beyond a shadow of a doubt that miners are different from ordinary people. For a start, they laugh more. He has been booked to return.

On many days Peter can be seen running the battery or the engine room at Sovereign Hill. If you take a mine tour, you can be



Peter Darveniza and Doug Bradby examine a hundred-year-old printers block of the New Normanby mine. The poppet head of this mine is the main one at Sovereign Hill.

reassured by the fact that Peter has run his eye over the mine to ensure that you will have an enjoyable and safe experience. The Old Hands students have returned to school to learn more about Ballarat and district's

astonishing history. They meet at the former Scotchmans Lead Primary School and every second week they are to be seen walking through muck and mullock somewhere on the goldfields.

Bumper roll out for Lal Lal history day



The Lal Lal Historical Society held a very successful afternoon on Sunday 1 March, hosting nearly 80 people. It started off with a very informative slide show presentation on the ingenuity shown by the 1858 gold miners to get water down to the gold diggings.

Then carpooling was used to move to and view the historical goldfield sites. Local property owners allowed access to the group to view and inspect the sites on their land, where the remnants of the dam and tunnels and connecting water channels could be seen meandering their way across various fields.

After two hours of driving around the historic sites, all returned to the Lal Lal hall where the Lal Lal Historical Society put on a wonderfully authentic 1858 afternoon tea. This was a great community event.



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\$500 BOOST FOR LITTLE ATHLETES



Competition was hot between these junior athletes at a recent Little Aths meeting.

The committee and families of the Buninyong Little Athletics (BLA) Club were delighted to receive a recent donation of \$500 from the Buninyong Mt Helen Lions Club.

In presenting the cheque Lions Club's **David Page** said that Little Athletics club "is very much like the Lions clubs. They run on the willingness of volunteers. The parents and others are down at the club every Friday night to set up, clear up and to act as marshals on the night and on the various other occasions when the athletes participate in such as at regional and state levels."

Gates

Martin MacDonald, BLA's equipment manager said that the funds would enable the club to buy timing gates. "These will help bring Buninyong Little Athletics into line with the bigger clubs and with more accurate timing results will enable our athletes to compete better. It will also assist our volunteer families to cut back on the present physically demanding set up task."

He said that the club is more than just a place for budding athletes. It also brings

together families within the community who work together with mutual values and a shared vision, all striving to do their best for the children, and who become friends.

"Without the financial support from organizations such as the Lions, we wouldn't be able to offer these programs to the community. There's a sense of community spirit in Buninyong and it's great to be a part of it," said Martin.

Big numbers

The club has 86 children registered with ages ranging between five and sixteen years of age, and offers both track and field events on Fridays during the summer school terms, including high jump, javelin and long distance running.

The club also offers cross-country running over winter. "We noticed a significant improvement in running time from all our cross country participants last season," says **Sara Warren**, the cross-country coordinator.

For more details regarding Little Athletics please go to lavic.com.au or contact the Buninyong Little Athletics Club at buninyong@lavic.com.au.

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Birth, death and resurrection of a community newspaper



During a period of post-graduate study at the Texas A & M University in 1977, John Mildren (later MP for Ballarat 1980-1990) was impressed at the community value of the local newspaper in the university town of College Station. On his return he urged that such a paper be produced in Buninyong.

In late 2010 the editors of the 'old' Buninyong newsletter were very pessimistic about its ability to be continued. They wrote that the publication's "cash reserves are exhausted and that December (2010) may be our final issue."

At the time, editors **Karen Hulston** and **Ann Gooding** took the chance to reflect on the origins and life of the small local newspaper across a period of 33 years. Here are some extracts from their review.

"The newsletter was instigated by the Buninyong Primary School Council in 1977 after **John Mildren**, a Mount Helen resident and later MP for Ballarat, brought the idea back from a trip to America.

Peter Carter was headmaster at the primary school in 1977 and it was agreed that if the newsletter could finance itself after the initial grant and last for about five years, it would be considered a success.

Founding members and original joint editors were Peter Carter and **Betty Schreinzer** who, along with **Derick**

Leather, still hold their interest 33 years later. Karen Hulston typed and printed the newsletter since its inception, and it has only been in the last eleven years that the printing has been done professionally."

An extraordinary meeting of the Committee was held on 18 October 2010 to consider the wind up or other options for the newsletter. At the meeting the following costs were noted – printing \$800 per issue with annual costs of \$600 for

insurance, \$100 for rent, and petty cash expenditure of \$300.

The newsletter was continued through 2011 with the final edition being in early 2012.

Passionate push

In late 2014, Buninyong Community Association's (BDCA) then Secretary **Gayle Adams** and a small working group with **John Emery** and **Michelle Corcoran** led a strong push for the group to take the initiative in restarting the village's community newspaper. In March 2015 Gayle made a presentation to the Committee responsible for the *Council's Engaging Community Program* and was successful in receiving a grant to restart a new-look community newspaper for Buninyong.

Barry Fitzgerald agreed to act as editor. He had considerable experience in editing the monthly magazine of the SA Law Society, and university and high school newspapers. The first edition of the new-look *Buninyong Community News* hit the streets in April 2015.

Since then, some 55 editions of the twenty page monthly newspaper have been published. *The News* has since received many awards from the Community Newspapers of Victoria group. Gayle continues her direct involvement with the paper taking responsibility for advertising and accounts management.

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Staff boost at Vet Clinic

After setting up in Buninyong just three years ago with a staff of two (Dr Rebecca Jennings and veterinary nurse Lauren Oldaker), the Buninyong Veterinary Clinic now has a staff of five caring for the district's small animals and their owners at the spacious clinic at the rear of the UFS Pharmacy in Learmonth Street.

The clinic is open 8.30am-5.30pm on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays, and between noon and 7.00pm on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

When the clinic started in April 2017, Rebecca told *The News* that the clinic would give "good, old-fashioned service." With the increase in staff, that certainly seems to be paying off.



Pictured at the car park entrance to the clinic are (L to R) Dr Aimee Knowles, Lauren Oldaker, Jade Gore, Dr Rebecca Jennings and Tori McDonald.

Virus and *The News*

In this edition of *The News*, six news stories had to be pulled or seriously amended, two ads became irrelevant and were dropped. Even one of our staff reporters was caught up in the crush of travellers trying to return to Australia from overseas.

Sports reporter Ray Sullivan and wife Nancye, who hit Sydney Airport just six hours after the 14-day self-isolation edict for travellers from overseas was announced, said it was sheer madness at the airport. While most travellers agreed to take on the self-isolation condition, one bloke who refused to do so was last seen being frog-marched off by Federal Police to an unknown fate.

Services for oldies

The Buninyong Bowling Club has been invited to host a seminar on Wednesday 22 April at 7.30pm about the services provided by Federal, State and Local Government bodies for those aged over 65.

The 30 minute free seminar will focus on available subsidies for Commonwealth Home Support and Home Care packages.

No RSVPs required...just turn up.



Anzac Day changes

A reduced Anzac Day service will be held in RSL Park on Saturday 25 April 2020 commencing at 10.15am. Only a wreath from the RSL wreath will be laid. While the community is invited it will be under those limiting social conditions in force at the time.

Of course, community members can support RSL welfare by purchasing an Anzac token and wearing it with pride in support of all defence personnel.

While the problems associated with coronavirus dominate headlines, other forms of tension continue to increase around the world. It is important to remember those servicemen and women who have sacrificed their lives in the past, as well as current serving members of the ADF who safeguard the freedoms we enjoy today.



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Women's golf Pascoe's role in Aussie team win

Buninyong Golf Club member Helen Pascoe was a member of the Australian Senior Women's Team which successfully defended its title in the Trans-Tasman Cup on 24 February at Taupo in the North Island of New Zealand.

Helen did well. She won her singles match play 4/3, was a member of the winning Foursomes team, and lost a close match one down in the Fourball.

The Australian team was impressed with the challenging but magnificent golf course



Pictured (L to R) Helen Pascoe (Vic, Buninyong Golf Club), Carmen Palframan (WA), Sue Wooster (Vic), Kim Burke (NSW), Jacqui Morgan, Captain (NSW) and Sue Dawson (WA).

at Taupo. The collegiality and camaraderie with NZ women golfers over the past couple of years has been wonderful.

The Australia team led by **Jacqui Morgan** of NSW retained the Trans-Tasman Cup, 8 ½ points to New Zealand's 3 ½.

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Around town this month



MUMS AND KIDS ARE HAPPY

Two local young mothers and their young children have given a tick of approval to the new play area for toddlers at the corner of Desoza Park. Shown resting after an active session are (Left) **Carly Wilson** from Mt Clear with son **Hugo** 2, and her friend **Liz Goulding** from Buninyong with **Zach** 6 months and **Alice** 2.

SCRUB AND NUMBER

Peter Innes (left) and **Dennis Meehan**, two members of the Buninyong RSL, have been seen working along the restored WW1 Avenue of Honour recently. The 167 bronze plaques, each commemorating a local soldier killed in the First World War, are being scrubbed and a number attached to each concrete plinth to make it easier to locate any tree and plaque of interest.



BACK TOGETHER

A condition of the restoration work at the Bendigo Bank's Community Cottage at 407 Warrenheip Street involved the dismantling and numbering of every brick from the façade of the historic 1880 cottage prior to replacement. Bricks were all placed in order on the veranda while works started. Local builder **Chris Williams** now has reached the stage where the brick front of the 140 year old cottage, together with its bull-nose veranda, has been faithfully reassembled. The work is scheduled for completion in June.

