

One of Ballarat's Historic Villages

Buninyon

**Visitor
Guide**

History, Heritage and Heart

VISITOR INFORMATION

Staffed by local volunteers, Buninyong's Visitor Information Centre is located in the Old Library, adjacent to Desoza Park in Warrenheip Street. Open Tues- Sun 10.00am- 3.00pm. Phone 5341 8211. Formerly a Library and Mechanics' Institute (1861) the building was a gift to the town by local mill-owner and five-times Mayor, Robert Allen.



Members of the Buninyong & District Historical Society are also available to assist visitors in the Old Court House (part of the former Town Hall complex) in Learmonth Street. Open the third Saturday of each month between 9.30am and 1.00pm, or by appointment. Phone 0439 115 255.

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Buninyong

The first people and the traditional owners of the district around Buninyong were the Wadawurrung people. Their country took in the area from the Great Dividing Range in the north, to the coast in the south, and from the Werribee River in the east to Airey's Inlet in the west. Buninyong's original name was a Wadawurrung word *Bun-a-nyong*.

The first white settlers came in 1838 when the Learmonth brothers set up a sheep station nearby. By 1841 sawyers and wood cutters were building huts and stores in the village.

The area was transformed after August 1851 when a local blacksmith Thomas Hiscock discovered gold at a spot west of the village. This set off huge gold rushes.

About two km west of the village a stone memorial cairn recording this discovery is erected (on the north side of the Midland Highway opposite the cemetery) at the corner of Hiscock Gully Road. About 500 m further along that road, plaques and historical signage mark the exact spot where gold was first discovered by Hiscock, and where later a huge gold mine was established.

During the mid-1800s the population here reached some 10,000 people.

An easy 15 minute drive from Ballarat (via the Geelong Road or via the Midland Highway), Buninyong retains many historic buildings (see the *Blue Plaques Trail* information on pp 14-15) which now are incorporated into a thriving business and residential community with a very strong sense of its special character and heritage.



The Avenue Buninyong

Buninyong's Avenue of Honour

Buninyong's World War I Memorial Avenue of Honour was planted in 1917 to mark the deeds of local men and women who had enlisted and fought in that War and who came from the districts comprising the former Shire of Buninyong.

The Avenue of mature deciduous trees, stretches for about 2km on both sides of Learmonth Street (Midland Hwy) from Inglis St in the east, to adjacent to the western end of the golf course.

The Avenue was restored in 2017 and the local RSL commemorated the 167 soldiers from the district who died in World War I by dedicating a tree to each in the Avenue. It is now possible to walk along the Avenue to read, on each plaque, many details of a serviceman who gave his life in that War.

Other information can be seen on the interpretative signage placed along the Avenue.



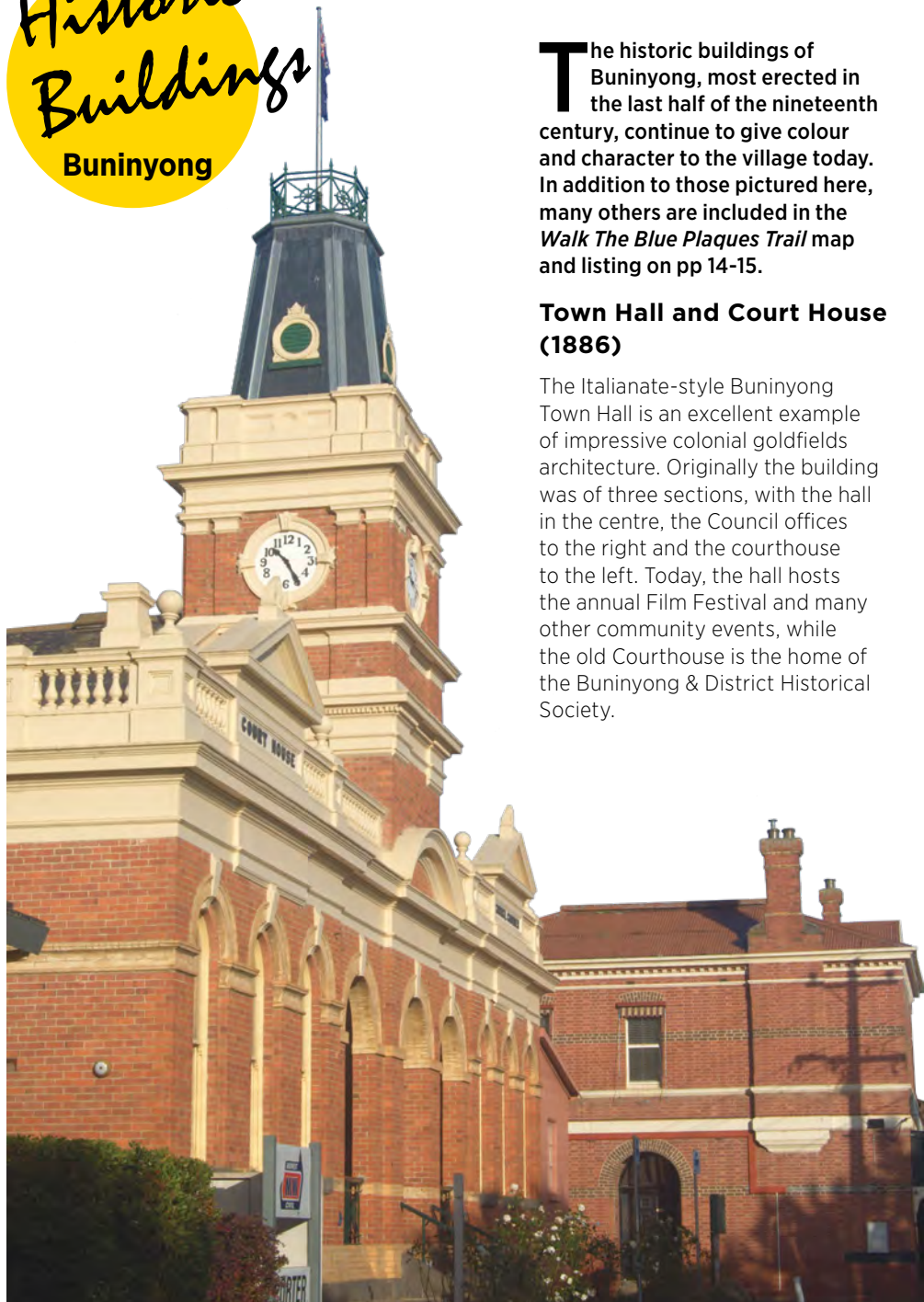
Historic Buildings

Buninyong

The historic buildings of Buninyong, most erected in the last half of the nineteenth century, continue to give colour and character to the village today. In addition to those pictured here, many others are included in the *Walk The Blue Plaques Trail* map and listing on pp 14-15.

Town Hall and Court House (1886)

The Italianate-style Buninyong Town Hall is an excellent example of impressive colonial goldfields architecture. Originally the building was of three sections, with the hall in the centre, the Council offices to the right and the courthouse to the left. Today, the hall hosts the annual Film Festival and many other community events, while the old Courthouse is the home of the Buninyong & District Historical Society.



Historic Buildings

Buninyong

Adams' Store (1852)

This iconic weatherboard building, originally a store and bakery, was built by John Adams who, from 1855, was also Buninyong's postmaster. Other later owners were J. W. Wilson, Percy Lyne, and the Eames family who operated the bakery and store from about 1930 to 1989. In recent years the store and adjacent building have been converted to business premises.



Old Police Court House (1858)

Built of sandstone on the site of the early police camp set up to administer law and order on the local goldfields, it fell into disuse when the new Court House opened in 1886. Later it was used as a butter factory and then a council works depot. The restored Court House was opened in 1995.



Eagle Hotel (1858)

This ornate gold-boom building is classified by the National Trust, and has columns and various carved heads on the facade. After the fire of 1899 it continued as a hotel until 1917. Since then it has had many commercial occupants.





National Bank (1866)

Banking services started in Buninyong in 1859 when the National Bank of Australasia opened an agency at the corner of Learmonth and Warrenheip Streets. The bank purchased the site from John Adams who conducted the bakery and general store next door. The present fine building was opened in 1866. It was closed as a bank in 1974.



Old Post Office (1874)

Replacing many smaller unofficial post offices, this building served as the Buninyong Post Office from 1874 until it closed in 2000. It is now a private residence. The current post office is in Warrenheip Street.



Crown Hotel (1885)

The original (1851) two story wooden hotel on this site was home to many civic events and meetings. But it was destroyed by fire in 1884. The present brick hotel was quickly rebuilt and has operated continuously since then.



Whykes' Butcher's Shop (1893)

The Whykes family purveyed meat to the residents of Buninyong from 1864 until 2000. The landmark two-storey red brick building is now a coffee shop/bistro.



Buninyong Botanic Gardens (1862), Scott Street

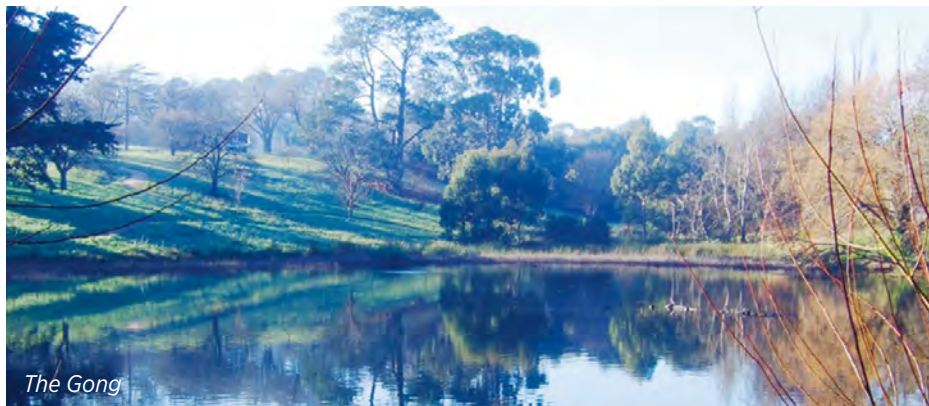
Buninyong's peaceful Botanic Gardens have an interesting link to Melbourne's own Royal Botanic Gardens. When ten acres of land were reserved in Scott Street in 1861, many specimens of trees and plants were donated by the famous Ferdinand von Mueller of the Melbourne gardens.

With the upper and lower sections divided by an embankment on Cornish Street, the Botanic Gardens have many interesting features. The upper section centres on the small lake, known as the Gong, with walking paths leading up the hill towards the historic Catholic Church.

On the southern side of the Gong can be seen the old bluestone brewery where beer was brewed from 1855 to 1873.

The lower gardens feature towering trees, graceful shrubs and quiet walkways, plus an ornamental pool and island, the historic Victoria rotunda (erected as a memorial to Queen Victoria following her death in 1901), and an old swimming pool formerly fed by the spring waters of the Gong and now converted into sunken gardens.

In the southeast-corner, there is the restored old sandstone Courthouse, now the home of the community group Friends of the Buninyong Botanic Gardens.



The Gong



Botanic Gardens



Desoza Park

The park was named after mining entrepreneur and local benefactor Henry Desoza referred to as *The Gold King*. Take a stroll along the banks of Union Jack Creek and discover this park's peaceful tracks winding through mature exotic and native trees. In the area of the park nearest to Warrenheip Street there are the remains of the shaft and mullock heap of the old Crown Mine. The mine's air vent (capped in 1991) is in the grounds at the rear of the Old Library.



At the far western end of the park, about opposite Cathcart Street, the creek was formerly the site of old miners' dams, the town's reservoir and a large tannery commenced by local saddler, Andrew Davies in the 1850s and later operated by R Graham & Sons. It closed in 1927.

Churches & Cemeteries

Buninyong

Buninyong's churches are mostly nineteenth century small village-style churches, some built from bluestone quarried from, or bricks made in the area. Each has fascinating links to the founders of the village who came from Scotland, England and Ireland in the years from 1838.

St Peter and Paul's Catholic Church (1858)

Tucked away on a knoll in Fischen Street is the oldest of Buninyong's existing churches with its foundation stone dated 1853. The area's first Catholic school, operated on the site from 1851. A new adjoining church, with brilliant modern stained glass was opened in 2014.



Uniting Church (1860)

A landmark in Learmonth Street, originally this was the Presbyterian Church and was served by Buninyong's first Minister, the Rev Thomas Hastie from 1847 to 1888. Look for his commemoration in the church's beautiful stained glass window.



Holy Trinity Anglican Church (1862)

This classic village-style small bluestone church is located in a beautiful treed setting on the corner of Warrenheip and Yuille Streets. Look for the marble memorial plaque dedicated to its first priest, the Rev Garrett Russell. The redbrick building to the rear was built in 1857 and operated as a denominational school until 1872.



Methodist Church (1865)

A little further along Warrenheip Street, the red brick church replaced a wooden one built in 1853, and which operated until the establishment of the Uniting Church in 1974. It is now a private residence.



Victoria's second cemetery

Buninyong's historic cemetery, located on the Midland Hwy about three km west of the village centre, was the second-registered cemetery in Victoria. Its first recorded burial was in 1852.

Typical of gold-mining areas, many early deaths in Buninyong were caused by unhygienic conditions; women dying in childbirth, men killed in mining accidents

and rampant childhood diseases. The beautifully maintained and historic cemetery straddles a small creek and ponds, and is where most of the district's rich and poor have been buried since the 1850s.

Divided into four denominational and lawn sections, the cemetery also has a small Chinese section, and a Dell of Memories. A database of burials is kept at the Old Library.

The Old Burial Ground

On Learmonth Street, 200m west of the old Post Office, look for a detailed sign behind a white picket fence. Here is Buninyong's Old Burial Ground, the oldest in the Goldfields region. But you'd never know it was there unless you knew where to look.

While the first burial took place in this cemetery around 1837, the site was abandoned in the 1850s and no record of who is buried here has survived. Look for the plaque on the stone and the memorial *bunya* *bunya* tree.



Coffee Food & Wine

Buninyong

Buninyong is fast becoming a must-visit hot spot for wining and dining, especially for those who enjoy their coffee or tea or food in an historic setting or *al fresco* under the famous street vines.

There are five 'coffee' shops in the village – each with its distinctive setting and special offerings of drinks, cakes, light food, tasty café meals or all-day breakfasts.

Three licensed restaurants offer relaxed casual dining, along with the historic pub, a bakery, and three hot-food takeaway shops.

Try one of the following for casual or fast food, coffee or a restaurant meal.

Buninyong Bakehouse

318 Warrenheip St, 5341 2199. Seven days, 7.00am-5.00pm, Public holidays 7.00am-4.00pm. Coffee, cool drinks and a huge range of home-made pastries, breads, slices and cakes. Breakfasts and lunches to eat in or take-away. Wholesale orders.

Buninyong Fish & Chips

304 Warrenheip St, 5341 2210. Seven days 11.30am-8.00pm. Traditional take-away meals of fish and chips, hamburgers and fried, grilled and steamed foods.

Buninyong Pizza & Hamburger House

322 Learmonth St, 5341 2112. Mon 5.00-9.00pm, Tue-Sun 10.00am-9.00pm. Huge range of take-away pizzas, hamburgers, fish & chips, chicken or lamb souvlaki and other Lebanese fast foods.



Chocalatto

513 Warrenheip St, 0467 067 647. Mon-Fri 8.00am-5.00pm, Sat 9.00am-3.00pm, Sun 9.00am-1.00pm. Cosy, specialist coffee shop with a huge range of coffees, chocolate items and sweets.

Crown Hotel

402 Learmonth St, 5341 3402. Wed-Sun Lunch 12.00pm-2.00pm, Dinner 6.00pm-8.00pm. Buninyong's landmark hotel offers many dining options from a la carte meals in the dining room to casual meals in the bar or on the sun deck or beer garden.

Espresso Depot

315 Learmonth St, 0430 215 245. Mon-Sat 6.00am-5.00pm, Sun 7.00am-5.00pm. Adjacent to the Town Hall in a former (1893) butchers' shop. Licensed coffee shop offering light lunches, cakes, breads and fine foods inside or *al fresco* under the vines.

Kawa Sushi

403 Learmonth St (adj Post Office), 0423 535 105. Mon-Sat 10am-4.00pm. Wide range of sushi, chicken/beef rice dishes, dim sims, gyozas, pork buns, miso soup, corn and chicken soup and seaweed salads.

Maggie & Kate

4/403 Learmonth St, 5341 2208. Mon-Fri 6.30am-2.00pm, Sat 6.30am-1.00pm.

Next to the Post Office, this cosy modern café serves *Allpress* coffee and local food products. Eat-in or takeaway house-made breakfasts, cakes, light lunches and catering.

Pig & Goose General Food Store

409 Warrenheip St. 0412 108 153. Tue- Fri 8.00am-4.00pm, Sat-Sun 8.00am-3.00pm.

Café-style general store. Coffee and light meals from the deli fridge. Licensed. Home-madecakes and pastries. Dogs welcome on sun deck.

The Old Bluestone Café

324 Learmonth St, 5341 8166. Closed Tue, all other days 8.00 am-4.00pm. Breakfast, lunch, coffee, cake, T2 teas. Breakfasts and lunches in the former general store (1850) of a mayor of Buninyong, or *al fresco* under the umbrellas and vines.

The Red Door Pizzeria

401 Warrenheip St, 5341 8235. Thu-Sun. For opening hours check our website. Dine-in or take-away wood-fired pizzas, licensed, wines and boutique beers. Relax in the dining room of the historic (1865) grocer's shop, or dine *al fresco* in the garden. Live music.

The Shared Table

317 Learmonth Street, 5374 2076. Thu-Sun for dinner. Lunch, Fri-Sun, and weekend brunch. In this modern restaurant or *al fresco* under the vines, enjoy a curated menu of snacks, plates and sweet treats with Asian and northern European flavours. Fully licensed. Check our website for Dine without Decision.

Yummy Kitchen

320 Learmonth, 5341 8203. Tue-Sun 11.00am-9.00pm. Huge choice of take-away or eat-in Asian entrees, noodle dishes, rice dishes, soups, and main dishes of chicken, beef, prawn and vegetarian choices.

Some nearby wineries

Two wineries, each quite eclectic and quite memorable, are worth a visit during a stay in Buninyong. The nearest one is a drive of about 10 minutes south along the Midland Highway towards Geelong, turning right at Platts Road, Scotsburn. The other is about 20 minutes further along the Midland Hwy, turning left about 2 km before reaching Lethbridge. No silver service, but great wines, snacks and friendly people.

Mount Buninyong Winery

Platts Rd, Scotsburn. Take Midland Hwy, then First road on right just past the Scotsburn School, then 2km. 0428 331 066. Check on website for opening hours. Enjoy a meal of gourmet wood-fired pizza, or a cheese platter, snacks or dessert in the quirkiest wine tasting rooms you will ever see.

Moorabool Ridge Winery

37 Spiller Road, Lethbridge, 5281 9240. Open Sat, Sun and Public holidays. Vineyard, olive grove, café and farm shop. Overlooking the Moorabool River, outdoor setting with valley views and excellent wines along with simple meals. A friendly welcome from Jo and Tim and their two pet dogs awaits.

Explore

Mount Buninyong

Formed from an extinct volcano, Mt Buninyong is one of the most recognisable features of the goldfields region, rising some 745m above sea level. An early settler in the district, Thomas Learmonth scaled it in 1837 and from its vantage point was able to see Geelong to the south, the Grampians to the west and the rich volcanic plains and the Pyrenees beyond Ballarat to the north.

Retaining much of its native vegetation cover, the mountain's messmate and manna gum trees are a significant koala habitat. Springs at the foot of the mountain were important as a water supply in the years following the establishment of Buninyong in 1841. Scoria stones from the ancient eruption of the volcano are to be seen in the many dry-stone walls and fences in the district.

Access to the picnic reserve in the crater, and to the summit with its look-out and fire spotting tower, is by sealed road and is just three km from the Buninyong village. There are spectacular views from the roads, car park and especially from the tower.



Walk

Mount Buninyong



MOUNT BUNINYONG CIRCUIT TRAIL

Start – Old Library. Time: 3.5 hours. Distance: 10 km. Conditions – Medium/hilly; some steep and unpaved sections.

From the Old Library, walk south along Warrenheip St, pass the roundabout, and turn left at Scott Street. Enter the Botanic Gardens at the white gates. Then follow the *Goldfields Track* posts alongside of the Gong (lake) continuing to Lal Lal Street. Cross there, look for the marker posts and walk over Mt Innes, then along Ogilvie Lane to the Midland Hwy.

Cross the highway, walk along the road verge for short distance to Granny Whites Lane, turn left and then right at the corner of Blackberry Lane, and follow the posts to the top of the mountain. Return via the Zig-Zag track and the Crater Walk to the car park at the foot of the mountain. Walk down Mt Buninyong Rd and turn right into Gittings Lane.

Pass the Union Jack Reserve, and walk a further 750 m, via Elizabeth St, to reach the Ballarat-Geelong Road. Turn left and walk back to the Old Library.



Walk

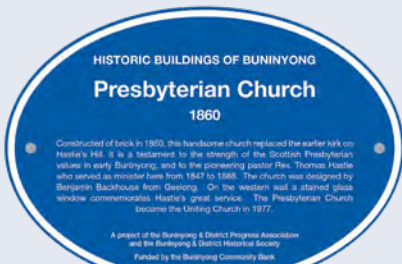
The Blue Plaque Trail

HISTORIC TOWNSHIP WALK

Start/finish – Old Library. Time: 1.5 hours. Distance: 4 km. Conditions – mostly paved, gently undulating.

This walk around the township gives a good sense of the history, important buildings and the community 'feel' of this charming village. On the map (opposite) are more than 40 sites of interest dating from the mid-1800s. Each has a blue *Historic Buildings of Buninyong* plaque affixed to it. These provide interesting historical information about the building or location.

Started in 2013, Buninyong's Blue Plaques Trail project resulted from cooperative work of the Buninyong & District Community Association and the Buninyong & District Historical Society with funding from the Buninyong Community Bank.



- | | |
|--|----------------------|
| 1. The Old Library/Mechanics' Institute (1861) | 12. Whykes' Butch |
| 2. Middleton's Ironmongery & Garage (c1873) | 13. Town Hall & Co |
| 3. Clifton Villa (1859) | 14. Old Fire Station |
| 4. Glencairn (c 1855) | 15. Uniting Church |
| 5. Old Tannery Site | 16. Former Nugge |
| 6. Old Burial Ground (1840s) | 17. Catholic Church |
| 7. Thomas Hiscock's Cottage (1851) | 18. The Gong (186 |
| 8. Old Post Office (1874) | 19. Old Brewery (1 |
| 9. Crown Hotel (1885) | 20. Kingshill (1857 |
| 10. Former National Bank (1866) | 21. Old Police Cou |
| 11. Adams/Eames Store & Bakery (1852) | 22. State School (1 |
| | 23. Queen Victoria |
| | 24. Mrs Carey's Co |



37. Isaac's Grocer Store (1893)
 38. Court House (1886)
 39. (1872)
 40. (1860)
 41. Hotel (1854)
 42. (1858)
 43. (1855)
 44. (1855)
 45. (1858)
 46. (1873)
 47. Rotunda (1901)
 48. 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 Herriott Street, and at Brim Brim (1860) in Lal Lal Street.



Shop

Buninyong

There is an interesting range of specialty shops and businesses in Buninyong. Take time to browse stores specialising in boutique clothing, or bicycles, or books and, or even bush tucker. And there are plenty more.

The local bank, pharmacy and post office are open on Saturday mornings to assist locals and visitors. After a period in recess, the Buninyong Business Network (BBN) was re-established in 2017 and has taken a strong role in developing supportive networks amongst businesses in this community and in promoting the Buninyong village and district.

Buninyong Community Bank

401 Warrenheip Street. 5341 8066. Mon-Fri 9.00am-5.00pm, Sat 9.00am-12.00pm. The full-service bank supports many community groups, events, and charities in Buninyong and district. Customers love the friendly staff. ATM.

Buninyong Hair & Beauty

401a Warrenheip St. 5301 3008. Mon- Wed 10.00am-5.00pm, Thu 10.00am-7.00pm, Fri 10.00am-8.00pm, Sat 9.00am-3.00pm. Full range of hair styling, colouring and hair accessories. Beauty services incl. waxing, tinting, spray tanning, make-up and henna brows.

Buninyong Newsagency

501 Warrenheip Street, 5341 2154. Mon-Sat 5.00am-9.00pm, Sun 6.00am-9.00pm. Newspapers, magazines, stationery, ATM, Myki top-up, fresh flowers, BP petrol, car wash, dog wash, Epay, phone credit.

Dynamite Cycles

3/304 Warrenheip Street. 0402 181 943. Mon, Wed, Thu, Fri 9.00am-5.30pm, Tue 11.00am-5.30pm, Sat 9.00am-12.00pm. Cycles, cycle accessories, cycle fitting and repairs, motor cycle parts and repairs, cycling and casual clothing.

Foodworks Supermarket

310 Learmonth Street. 5341 3263. Seven days 7.00am-8.00pm. Groceries, meat, fruit, smallgoods. Large delicatessen section, liquor department. ATM. All things food and drink for home or picnic.

Greenvale Quality Meats

405 Warrenheip Street. 5341 2149. Mon, Tue Wed 8.30am-5.30pm, Thu, Fri 8.30am-6.00pm, Sat 8.00am-12.30pm. Wide range of meats, chicken, smallgoods and fish, all with friendly service from real butchers.

Ilios Skin

307a Learmonth Street, 5341 3078. Tue and Thu 10.00am-8.00pm, Wed, Fri and Sat 9.00am-5.00pm. Quaint beauty studio for all things beauty, including waxing, sugaring, laser hair removal, nails, make-up, massage, spray tan and paramedical skin treatments.



Lions Litter Op Shop

Lions Litter Op Shop

202 Warrenheip Street. 0407 048 159. Thu-Fri 10.00am-4.00pm, Sat 10.00am-2.00pm. The little shop is full of pre-loved clothes, home wares and bric-a-brac at bargain prices.

Lions Book Cottage

406 Warrenheip Street, opposite the Post Office. 0419 895 651/0429 118 545. Wed and Fri 11.00am-4.00pm and Sat-Sun 10.00am-3.00pm. The best little secondhand bookshop in Australia, this historic 1850s cottage is jam-packed with thousands of near-new books and other collectables all at bargain prices.

L'Orangerie

708 Warrenheip Street, 0417 379 102. Thu-Sat 11.00am-5.00pm, Sun 1.00pm-5.00pm or by appointment. At the 1857 former vicarage you will find a wonderful gallery shop with artworks, unique homewares, gorgeous books and gifts, and garden essentials.

Not Quite Antiques

408 Warrenheip Street, 0402 134 675. Open weekday mornings, Sun 10.00am-3.00pm. Furniture, crockery, lamps, vases, flags and knick-knacks from the 1800s to the 1950s. (Yes, that is it's name!)

PRD Nationwide Real Estate

511 Warrenheip Street, 5341 2200/0407 542 289. Mon-Fri 9.00am-5.00pm, Sat 9.00am-12.00pm. The local real estate office with the best and biggest range of district residential and rural properties and land. Check the window display or call in for a chat with Phil.



Three Times Blest



Saltbush Kitchen

Post Office

2/403 Warrenheip Street, 5341 8273. Mon-Fri 7.30am-5.00pm, Sat 9.00am-11.00am. Full postal services, banking and bill payments, passport applications, ID service, giftware, gift vouchers, key cutting.

Saltbush Kitchen

Commercial Street, (enter off Warrenheip Street), 0499 328 076. Sat-Sun 8.00am-4.00pm. For other opening hours check the website saltbushkitchen.com.au. In an historic Buninyong cellar find locally-made and beautifully-packaged Australian bushfoods, spices, salts and gift packs, and much more.

Shine Hair Co

326 Learmonth Street, 5341 2944. Tue & Fri 9.00am-5.30pm, Wed 10.00am-7.00pm, Thu 10.00am-7.30pm, Sat 9.00am-1.00pm. All aspects of hairdressing – cuts, colours, styling and bridal hair fashions.

Three Times Blest

308A Warrenheip Street, 0400 419 647. Tue-Thu 10.00am-4.00pm, Fri 10.00am-5.00pm, Sat 10.00am-1.00pm. This heritage shop, just opposite the Community Bank, houses an intimate boutique with finest Australian labels in women's clothing, accessories, homewares and garden décor.

UFS Dispensary

316 Learmonth Street, 5341 2121. Mon-Fri 9.00am-5.30pm, Sat 9.00am-12.00pm. Prescriptions, medications and medication reviews, beauty and health care products, giftware, testing and disposal services.

Walk

Union Jack Reserve

Start - Old Library.

Short Loop Walk: Time: 50 minutes. Distance: 4 km. Gently undulating.

Long Loop Walk: Time: 100 mins. Distance: 6 km. Conditions - undulating/ steeper section near the Locomotive Hill Mine site.

Wide formed tracks, well-signed.

Walkers should stay on marked tracks within the Reserve as there are deep mine shafts, some not easily visible.

From the Old Library, walk (or drive) north along Warrenheip St. After five blocks, turn right into Elizabeth Street and proceed 750m to the Union Jack Reserve entrance.

The Reserve was named after the English, Irish and Scottish miners who discovered gold there in 1857. Administered by Parks Victoria, the Union Jack Reserve covers some 72 hectares and provides a home for a diverse range of bird life and flora and fauna.

The walking trails, with regular numbered informative guide posts, pass many old mining relics such as mine shafts and sluice channels. On the longer walk you will see the shafts and tunnels of the *Locomotive Hill Mine* site area where two miners lost their lives in 1933. Find the historic plaques there.



Drive

Buninyong & District



Bluestone station, Lal Lal



St Sava Monastery

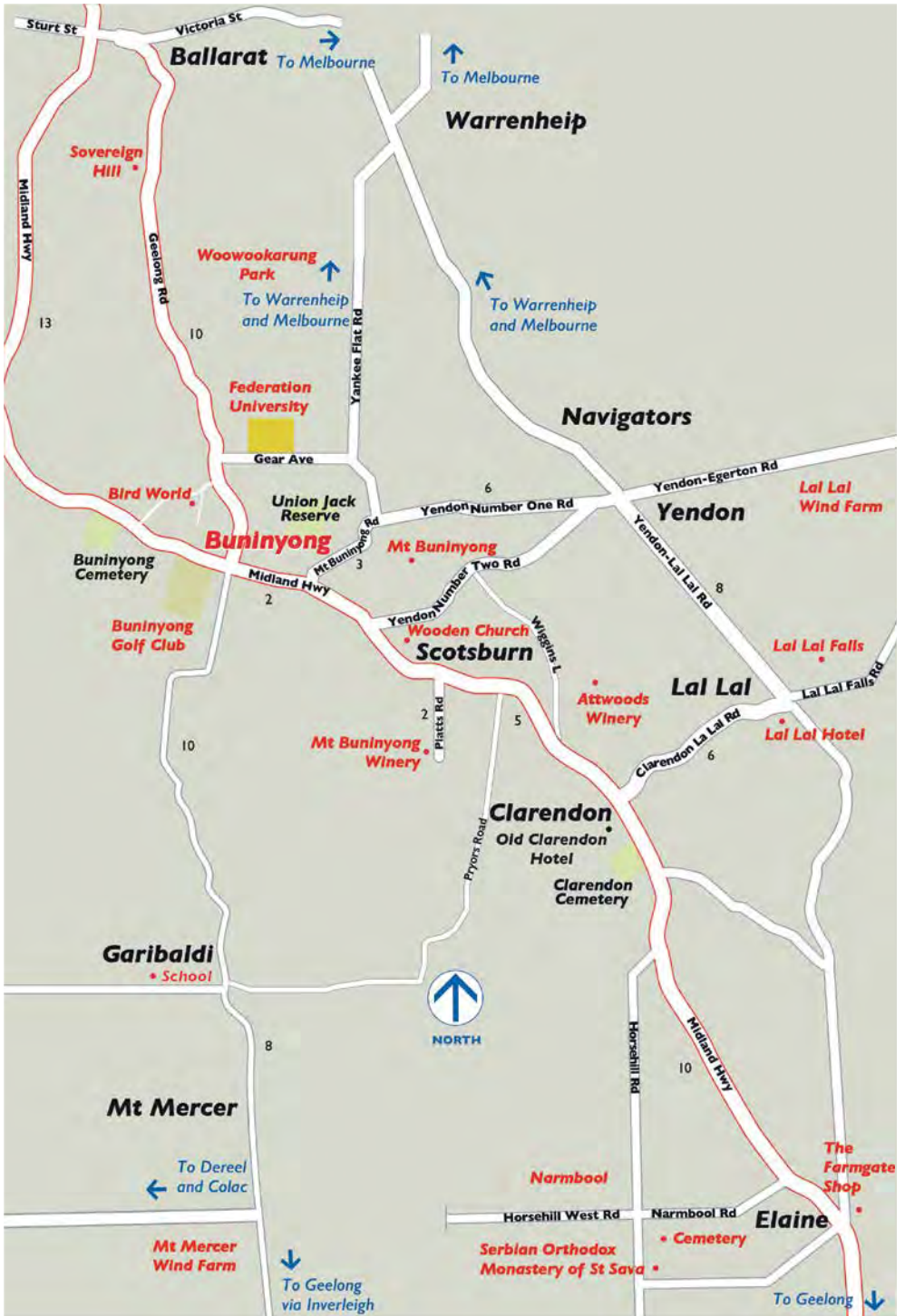


Garibaldi School

Visitors to the Buninyong district should try some of the easy, short-distance drives to local sights and places of interest. The scenic drive around Mt Buninyong's crater and summit of one of the Western districts extinct volcanoes is a must. At some 745 m above sea level there are great views in all directions. The fit or brave can climb the fire tower for a spectacular panoramic outlook.

Other close-by possibilities include:

- the *Scotsburn/Clarendon* district, with the 1884 wooden Scotsburn Union Church (still used for services), the two wineries, and the old Clarendon Hotel (1856), at the junction of the road to Lal Lal. This was a former stopping point for Cobb & Co coaches and is now a private residence. The old Clarendon cemetery about two km further (on RHS) is worth a visit.
- the *Lal Lal* district has an historic bluestone railway station, hotel, the jam-packed second-hand yard, the Falls and picnic ground, ruins of the historic blast furnace, the Moorabool Falls and Bungal Dam. Wind farms are now much in evidence.
- the *Elaine* district. Turn off the highway to see the large station property *Narmbool*, now surrounded by wind turbines, and a few km further on the exotic St Sava Serbian Orthodox Monastery (pictured) which is just past the not-to-be missed Serbian cemetery on the left. At Elaine, the *Farmgate Shop* also is worth a visit.
- the *Garibaldi/Mt Mercer* district with highlights being the old Garibaldi school (pictured), and a little further on, the impressive Mt Mercer Wind Farm.



Cycle

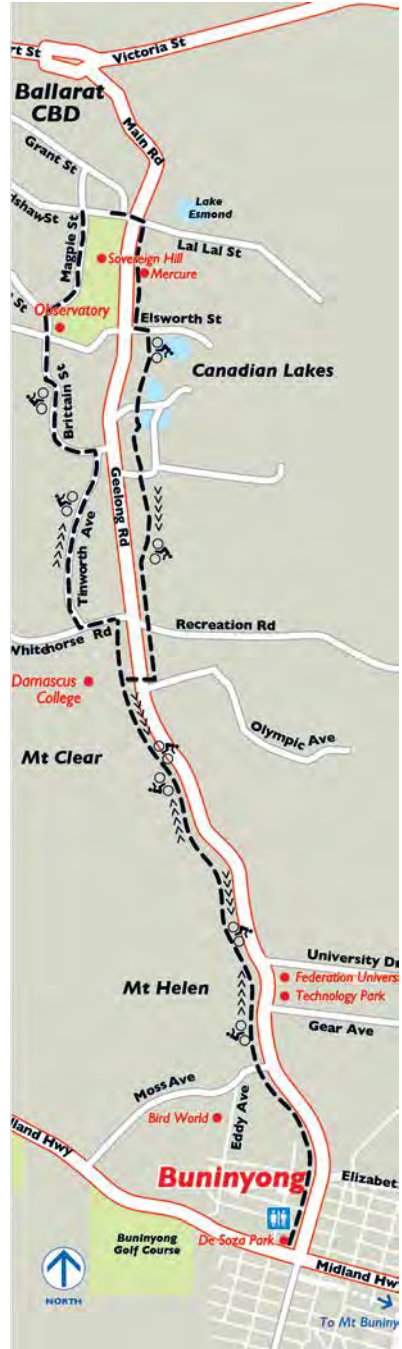
Buninyong

Ride Ballarat to Buninyong: an easy 22 km loop

Starting at Poverty Point, adjacent to the Sovereign Hill car park, this ride to Buninyong is mostly via sealed bike paths and quiet streets. Cross Main Rd, go behind the *Kambei Japanese Restaurant* and follow the trail which then passes through the grounds of the large *Mercure* complex on Main Road. Soon you will pick up the lovely Canadian Creek bike path which follows the creek along a green corridor, across wetlands, through areas of bushland, and, after Mt Clear passes near Federation University. Cross to the western side of the highway and enjoy the sealed cycle path down into Buninyong.

After arriving in the village, try a coffee and bike talk with other cyclists at one of Buninyong's five coffee shops.

The return path along the dedicated cycle path is back through Mt Helen (call in for a look at the rustic *Bird World*), and Mt Clear. On Tinworth Ave you will see the major *Castlemaine Goldfields* mining project, and after joining onto Magpie St you will pass the *Ballarat Observatory* and the upper boundary of the famous *Sovereign Hill* tourist precinct.



Home of Cycling Australia Road National Championships

Buninyong's historic village centre, its famous mountain, and undulating local roads which wind through rural, bushland, suburban and Federation University settings, makes it a great venue for the Cycling Australia Road National Championships held in early January of each year.

With growing crowds of cheering spectators along the roadsides, national and international TV coverage, and the colour and trappings of the race teams, there is a touch of the Tour de France about the village for a few days each year.





Mossmont

Buninyong offers a varied range of accommodation options, many of the B & B or self-catering style. There also are some Airbnb properties.

These include:

Durham View Cottage

Warm, cosy, pet-friendly cottage getaway. Two bedrooms, rural views, and a quiet central location.

307a Hedrick Street, Buninyong
0407 304 431
airbnb.com.au.durhamview

Emu Lodge Country Retreat

Perfect for families or groups of up to five in fully self-contained unit on 25 acres, on quiet road with views and abundant wildlife. Breakfast provided.

19 Lorikeet Court, Lal Lal
5341 7655 or 0400 892 614
airbnb.com.au.emulodge

Garden Room@Historic National Bank

Enjoy a stay in an ensuite room (two guests) in the old (1866) bank building, with access to the studio/cottage with lounge, fridge and breakfast facilities. Relax in the walled garden. Right in the heart of Buninyong.

319 Learmonth Street, Buninyong
gardenroombank@gmail.com
airbnb.com

Lal Lal Falls Cottage

Right in the heart of the Lal Lal village, near the old railway station and the country pub, this cottage, has a spa and wood fire.

42 Lal Lal Falls Road, Lal Lal
0407 717 626 or 0423 733 740
airbnb.com – Lal Lal Falls Cottage

Mossmont

Charming self-contained apartment and rooms within an historic 1860 homestead set in acres of lush gardens in central Buninyong.

Winter Street, Buninyong
0409 419 364 or 0419 540 726
airbnb.com – Historic Mossmont

Mozzas B & B

In a quiet street next to farmland, with free wi-fi and a continental or vegetarian breakfast. Guests rate it highly.

506 Barkly St, Buninyong
0407 249 823 or 0438 498 231
airbnb.com.au – Mozzas



The Railway Carriage

The Railway Carriage

The Railway Carriage offers couples a lovely place to stay in a rural setting a few minutes from Buninyong. Plenty of space and all mod cons. Warmed by a slow-combustion unit and cooled by two ACs. Friendly and experienced hosts.

Scotchman's Lead Road, Buninyong
5341 3954
minerschur.church.com.au or airbnb

White Horse Cottage

A fully self-contained cottage offering the peace of the country and ability to connect with nature and animals. Walk or ride along or through beautiful Mt Buninyong which adjoins the property.

6995 Midland Hwy, Buninyong
0419 119 912
whitehorsecottage.com.au

Yarrabee, Buninyong

Modern, comfortable whole house. 2 BR, 2 bath, lounge/dining, study, beautiful garden, car garage, all amenities and comforts. Quiet retreat in downtown Buninyong. Excellent value.

airbnb.com – Yarrabee



The Ridge

The Ridge – Mt Buninyong

A modern, purpose-designed self-contained apartment offers couples luxury amenities, panoramic views, and a gracious garden setting.

694 Yankee Flat Road, Buninyong
5341 3087
the-ridge.com.au

Yuille Cottage

Separated at the rear of a private central-Buninyong home in a lovely garden setting, this one bedroom self-contained cottage contains a queen size bed (with additional pull out sofa bed), with high quality linen and towels. A lovely kitchenette contains; toaster, kettle, microwave oven, bar fridge, sandwich maker, coffee machine. Wifi, AC and heating.

Yuille Street, Buninyong
Yuille Cottage – HomeAway/Stayz

More Accommodation

Check airbnb.com

The Studio, Buninyong Country Retreat

Slice of Paradise, Buninyong Country Retreat

Kerry's Studio

Play

Buninyong

Visitors to Buninyong might take advantage of the township's many sporting and recreational facilities.

- 1 Golfers are welcome to try out the splendid 18 hole Buninyong golf course with its watered couched fairways and fast grass greens. On the western fringe of the village, it has clubs and carts available for hire and great discount deals are available.
- 2 The local bowling club nestled on the southern fringe of the Botanic Gardens along Inglis Street has superb facilities and welcomes visiting bowlers.
- 3 The solar-heated swimming pool, on Forest Street, is popular in summer with both locals and visitors.
- 4 Also in Forest Street are great facilities for youth with the skate-park, bump bike track and Parkour facilities.
- 5 A little further along Forest Street is a modern tennis complex.
- 6 Great sportsgrounds facilities are nearby.
- 7 Smaller kids will enjoy the playground facilities in Desoza Park on Warrenheip Street, where there even is a Toddlers' Corner designed for the under-fives.

Quiet and popular play/picnic areas are in Desoza Park, in the Botanic Gardens in Scott Street, at the crater of the extinct volcano, Mount Buninyong, and at the Lal Lal Falls Reserve.



Youth space



Buninyong Golf Club



Picnic spots



Heated pool



Buninyong Bowling Club



Come

to Buninyong

There are two easy routes to drive to Buninyong from central Ballarat. Each takes about 15 minutes by car.

The first is via Main Road /Geelong Road past Sovereign Hill and then about 11 km.

The other is to follow Doveton Street (which becomes Albert St and then the Midland Hwy)...through Sebastopol...past the Buninyong Cemetery and golf course to the Buninyong village.

An easy alternative is to take the #21 bus from central Ballarat. Pick it up at the Ballarat Railway Station or along the way. Route 21 bus time-tables are at ptv.vic.gov.au/route/11372/21





Autumn, Warrenheip Street

MORE ABOUT THE VILLAGE

To get a great visual 'feel' for the village and the district have a look at *Beauty, Bounty, Buninyong - You Tube*. Produced by the Buninyong Business Network, the two vignettes (30 seconds and 80 seconds long) give a collage of memorable impressions and images.

Or have a look on the web at:

BUNINYONG COMMUNITY WEBSITE

buninyong.vic.au

BUNINYONG & DISTRICT COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

buninyongcommunityassociation.com.au

BUNINYONG CEMETERY

buninyongcemetery.com.au

FRIENDS OF THE BUNINYONG BOTANIC GARDENS

buninyongbotanicgardensfriends.org.au

BUNINYONG & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

home.vicnet.net.au/buninhis/

