

Funtastic Festival



The Animal Nursery was a very popular attraction. Shown cuddling a baby goat are Elaina Robson, 3, and brother Carter, 1, with mum Kayla of Scotsburn.

The 2015 Good Life Festival (GLF) was a huge success with crowds up, a wide range of stalls, non-stop entertainment on stage, and many activities for children and adults.

The warm (and windy) weather, the beautiful setting in Desoza Park – and also at the Uniting Church grounds and fire station – saw a crowd estimated by organisers to be in excess of 3500 people enjoy Buninyong's fifth festival. The 79 stalls were dotted through Desoza Park in a village green-type setting under the direction of **Sarah Orwin**.

GLF Committee Vice-President **Lisa Cressey** said that the huge amount

of organisation and involvement of Committee members and more than 20 volunteers ensured that the festival went off well. "We thought it was an awesome day," she said.

On the stage at the sound shell, there was continuous entertainment which ranged from line dancers, CFA entertainers, soccer demonstrations, the White Ribbon Choir and the Mt Clear Secondary College Stage Band. The *Buninyong's Got Talent* contest, with a record 20 entrants, was watched by a large crowd seated on chairs at the hub of the events.

While parking on village streets was at a premium, local businesses such as

restaurants and coffee shops reported good trade.

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Enjoying the good life...



Popular with the kids

Rides through the streets in one of two historic carriages pulled by friendly grey horses proved very popular with families at the Festival. Driver/owner **Matt Roberts** from Coleraine has been collecting carriages such as the Victorian carriage shown here for many years. Shown are the **Leech** family of Buninyong **Wayne, Karyn, Madeline, 10,** and **Emma, 7,** striking up a friendship with the small grey pony, Telena



Climb every mountain

Hundreds of children tackled the challenge of reaching the top of the colourful 'climbing mountain' – one of the many fun things to entertain children at the 2015 Good Life Festival.



April and the Captain

Among the many acts on the stage during the Festival were children's favourites **Captain Koala** with his good mate and lively entertainer **April Himmelreich** shown here doing the *Firefighters' Shuffle* song and dance routine. April is also a volunteer firefighter with the Basin Fire Brigade in the Dandenongs.



Redbacks come to play

The Buninyong Redbacks Soccer team showed off their skills to the crowd in front of the stage. With teams ranging from Under 8s to the U 17 team (runners-up this season), the club hopes to field a senior team in 2016 according to Secretary **Sue Mroczkowski**.



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Lal Lal wind farm update

The lead story in the July 2015 issue of the *Buninyong & District Community News* related to strong concerns held by Lal Lal residents about the wind farm planned to be set up in that area.

Co-ordinator of the group protesting about the development, John McMahon, said that the application currently before the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP) was still for sixty huge turbines, each with a turbine sweep area some 76 per cent greater than turbines in place at Mt Mercer.

He claimed the project would impact on over 2000 people in the district.

Mr McMahon said that it appears there is "significant interest" in the Lal Lal project by a Chinese company,



Goldwind, which has been involved in another controversial wind farm project near Goulburn, NSW.

Presently, the local project is planned to be located on the historic Lal Lal Estate and on another site near Elaine.

Open house at the old cottage



A major project of the Community Bank in 2015 has been the restoration of the old cottage at 407 Warrenheip Street. It will be used as a community meeting place and by community groups such as Landcare and the Community Association. It was open for inspection by the public during the Good Life Festival. Bank Board Chairman **Stephen Falconer** talks about the cottage with Buninyong residents **Mitza** and **Graeme Clark**.

streettalk

TOOTING THE CAR HORN at golfers on the second green at the Buninyong Golf Club has been a bit of a local sport for many years. The bloke in the white car who gave golfers a blast a couple of weeks ago, seemingly took his eye off the ball as he honked... and then pranged his car into the safety wires a few seconds later. The golfers had the last laugh.

WHICH BANK? Certainly not the CBA or the ANZ or Westpac! How many bank tellers would spot that elderly, vision-impaired lady with her little grey and white dog having trouble crossing the busy road in front of the bank, and head across the road to shepherd lady and dog to safety to the other side?

Jenny at the local Community Bank certainly did the other day, and at many other times we hear.

WITH MOST AREAS in the Town Hall project now finished in asphalt and stone, the BDCA recently urged the Council to keep and plant out the two small patches of soil, surrounding the areas where the hall floodlighting will be placed. Plans had provided for these also to be covered in asphalt. An urgent meeting convened by **Cr Peter Innes** involving three senior Council staff, agreed to leave these areas for modest planting – despite (we hear) the strong protestations of one of the group who was keen to have them sealed. Well done, Cr Innes!

COME ON NOW. Surely Council parking inspectors could cut a bit of slack for those attending the Good Life Festival. Not so apparently... one was spotted hard at it with his little tablet on Warrenheip Street near the Crown Hotel pinging motorists. On double time too?

BIT OF A SHOCK to receive a letter a few weeks back from the City of Ballarat headed 'Pre-Season Advice to Vacant Landowners'. That's been known to close friends for some time now, but how the hell did the Council know?



CAROLS UNDER THE TREES

Scotsburn Union Church will hold its annual Carols Under the Trees in the church grounds on Friday 4 December at 7 pm to 9 pm.

The Lal Lal Primary School and **Frank** and **Bianca Francica** will perform and attendees will enjoy singing traditional carols. Supper will be served.

The next church service will be held on Sunday 6 December at 10 am when the speaker will be Jack Williams – all welcome.

Scotsburn Union Church is located on the Midland Highway opposite the Scotsburn Primary School.

COMMUNITY PICNIC IN THE GARDENS

Let's get to know each other better as a community. You are invited to come to the inaugural Buninyong and District Community Association picnic in the Buninyong Botanical Gardens on Thursday evening 3 December starting at 6 pm.

Please bring a friend, a plate to share, a rug and whatever else you'll need for a relaxed and happy picnic. Everyone is invited: young, old and in-between. BYO drinks and, if you like, think of a game the children could play after we've eaten.

Come along and meet with our friendly Community Association members. To join costs just \$10 per year.

LIONS CAR TRIAL/FUN DAY

A joint Lions Club fundraising activity for the Shorter Brothers will be held on Sunday, 17 January 2016.

To join in the fun, go to the Buninyong Football Ground. The car trial will commence at 9.30 am and there will be lots of other activities for the family including a jumping castle.

To pre-register your car for the trial, or if you want to assist in any way (including sponsorship), call **Simon Jess** on 0418 501 345.

NEW HEALTH PRACTICE STARTS



At the end of September, Buninyong resident, **Jane DeAngelis** moved into a consulting room at Village Place within the old Shire offices in Learmonth Street.

Jane has been looking after people's health and wellbeing since the 1970s, working as a registered nurse, and more recently through complementary therapy.

For further information on Jane's personal sessions of holistic counselling, workshops or group meditation classes, visit her website www.janedeangelis.com or call 0427 427 450.

ZUNI CHANGE

Trudy Nicholson has advised that she is ceasing to operate her teaching/art studio and gallery at Zuni Gallery, 307 Warrenheip St at the end of December. All art works will be on sale at Zuni gallery at very special prices between now and then.

Trudy will continue her art practice and business from her smaller home studio. She thanks all who have supported her over the two years she has run her successful business at Zuni.

Buninyong
Community Carols

12 December Desoza Park

6.30 pm Barbecue and Children's Activities
7.30 pm Carols
... and then Santa!

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REC 11582

Long term vision missing on traffic

Ask any of the residents living along or near the Midland Highway/Learmonth Street area of Buninyong whether traffic (and traffic noise) along this major arterial road is increasing month by month. Or sit on one of those seats in the centre of Buninyong and have a look for yourself.

After persistent lobbying by the Buninyong and District Community Association (BDCA), a 'traffic impact' study was commissioned by VicRoads and the local Council in 2012.

At that time, the Western Link Road that will carry significant traffic from the Ballarat West/Airport area in a wide loop finishing at the Midland Highway near the bridge at Magpie, was just in the planning phase.

But now, construction of the first stage of the Link Road is well under way. Have a look at the works in the vicinity of the airport some time, and it will be evident that the Western Link Road will be closer to a major highway than a bush track.

One doesn't have to be a rocket-scientist to work out that the volume of additional traffic that will be fed from the link road onto the Midland Highway at Magpie, and then on through Buninyong in future years, will be significant.

There have been a few vague comments about a bypass included in various reports. For example in:

- the City of Ballarat's *Preliminary Ballarat Strategy (November 2014)*

there are some dotted lines on a map (P 21) indicating possible bypass routes that might be 'investigated'.

- in the City's follow-up strategy report – *Today Tomorrow Together (April 2015)* – tucked away at the bottom of p 278 is reference to giving 'consideration' to a Buninyong Bypass... but no indication of commitment or timeline.

For the past five years or more, the BDCA has been pressing for concept planning to commence to look at how this bleedingly-obvious future problem of heavy traffic flows through Buninyong's heritage village centre can be reduced by use of a bypass or other diversion.

In a recent response to a further enquiry by local member **Geoff Howard**, Roads Minister **Luke Donnellan** bluntly stated that work on the Western Link Road "would not include a bypass of Buninyong". VicRoads' recurring response to BDCA lobbying has been "we haven't any money for planning".

Long-term planning is not a strong point of politicians. This Minister and VicRoads' present bureaucrats probably won't be around in ten or twenty years' time when the village will be trying to untangle an unholy traffic mess in Buninyong created by the Western Link Road. But that's no excuse to stick their heads in the sand now!

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

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

The Editorial Advisory Committee reserves the right not to publish material considered to be offensive or inappropriate or not deemed to have community interest or relevance.

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Community Association

New leaders take up roles

There were two changes to Executive positions at the Annual General Meeting of the Buninyong & District Community Association (BDCA) held on 22 October.

Linda Zibell was elected as President, taking over that role from **Ian Salathiel** who had occupied the position for the previous four years, and **Peter Hiscock** took up the position of Vice-President following on from **Gerard Ballantyne** who had been in that position since April 2015

Long-serving BDCA Secretary **Gayle Adams** agreed to continue in that role until the new Executive "settled-in", and **Robert Elshaug** also agreed to continue in his role as Association Treasurer.

Mount Helen resident Linda Zibell is well-known in the district for her community work, particularly on issues relating to development and conservation. She has been a central figure in gaining Government approval for the new Canadian Regional Park, and is active in discussions with Council over developments such as those currently proposed for the Greenhill Road area and Mardango Drive.

From 2004 to 2008 Linda was the BDCA's representative to help negotiate the Canadian Valley Outline Development Plan.

Linda is currently completing requirements for a Ph D degree from Federation University with research into children's learning and teaching strategies. She also works part time with teacher education

students in the Faculty of Education and Arts. Her school teaching career was predominantly as a teacher and head-teacher in rural schools in central Victoria. She and her husband Kevin have three adult children. Linda also has interests in music, dance, yoga and gardening.

Vice-President

Peter Hiscock was the Director of Sovereign Hill between 1980 and 2002 – a period of many significant developments and successes there. This role followed extensive experience with public companies working in finance and management.



He is a long-term Buninyong resident, and has been involved in community affairs in Buninyong for many years. Currently he is involved with the Mt Buninyong Reserve Committee, especially concerned with the development and maintenance of walking trails there, and as an executive member of the Friends of the Buninyong Botanic Gardens. He is a long-standing Board member of the Art Gallery of Ballarat, where his wife Yvette also acts as a gallery guide

Peter was awarded an AM for his services to museums, tourism, heritage and conservation affairs.

New BDCA President
Linda Zibell



Letter to the editor

Interest will help

As we head into another dry, hot fire 'season', I am again thankful for the expert assistance provided by the Buninyong CFA in overseeing the annual pre-season burn-offs on farms and house blocks around the district. This dedicated group of volunteers needs our support for their great service.

I am urging investors in the Buninyong & District Community Bank to consider using their 2015 share dividends to make a donation to the Buninyong CFA. The effective return on investment in the Bank is measured in terms of the benefit to the community, so this is a positive way to further contribute to the well-being of our village.

Roger Permezel, Buninyong.

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Buninyong Fire Brigade Calendar drive success and new advice service

The Buninyong Fire Brigade has completed its Annual Calendar Drive. Over 2000 homes have been visited since calendar deliveries commenced on 2 November.

Brigade members spent many weeknights pounding the pavement and trekking many long driveways, and received plenty of support from the local community along the way.

Veteran firefighter **Nigel Butterworth** said, "It's really good to be able to get out and see the same faces around town each year. Every year more and more people see us coming and are ready at the front door with a donation, which is fantastic!"

Camera

Last year, with funds received through donations from the community, the Brigade purchased a Thermal Imaging Camera valued at over \$11,000.

This new camera utilises the latest state of the art technology to assist firefighters to see infrared energy through smoke and darkness. Its main purpose is to be used by firefighters during the initial search and rescue phase of a structure fire and allows firefighters to see through

smoke to assess the extent of a fire or to find casualties.

Future fundraising will go towards projects such as this to enable the Brigade to continue to serve the community to the highest possible standard.

Thanks again to everyone who donated!

New service

This year, the Brigade is excited to be able to offer to residents a free *Property Advice Visit Service* (PAVS). This service will enable Brigade members to engage with local residents at their home to discuss areas of concern and ways to be better prepared for the threat of bushfire.

Much of Buninyong and Mt Helen is classified as a high bushfire risk area. It is alarming to hear that there are still many in our community that do not know how to prepare their property or do not have a plan.

If you are interested in receiving the PAVS or a Brigade Calendar, please contact the fire station on 5341 3661 Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm, email **Captain Marc Cannan** (marc.cannan@members.cfa.vic.gov.au), or write to the Secretary at PO Box 606 Buninyong VIC 3357.



Members of the Buninyong Fire Brigade meet at the station to get ready for the annual Calendar Drive.



POLICE BEAT

BUNINYONG AND BALLARAT

police recently conducted an Automated Number Plate Recognition operation on the Midland Highway at Buninyong. A number of drivers were processed for offences including the use of an unregistered motor vehicle, and for unlicensed driving. One vehicle was intercepted with stolen number plates. A high number of outstanding Sheriff warrants were also detected. Buninyong Police will be conducting similar operations in the future.

POLICE ARE CURRENTLY

investigating the disappearance of nine Angus cattle from a property in McLeod's Road Durham Lead, between 2- 3 November. If any members of the Durham Lead community recall seeing anything or anyone acting suspiciously on or around this date please contact Buninyong police on (03) 53 413 431. The theft is estimated to be valued at \$9000.

TWO RESIDENTIAL burglaries were committed on 15 October and 29 October in Laceys Road, Cambrian Hill and Rathkeale Avenue, Mount Helen. The offenders gained access to locked sheds on the properties, stealing power tools. Buninyong police remind residents that any suspicious persons, vehicles or activity can be reported to Police 24 hours a day by calling '000'.

OPERATION 'LOCKED STOCK' has recently concluded with over 100 firearms' compliance inspections being conducted at homes within the region. A small number of firearms were seized due to licence holders having insufficient or inappropriate storage. Police will be conducting further inspections in the district in the future. For all firearms-related information and advice, contact the Divisional Firearms Officer at Ballarat Police Station or the Buninyong Police Station.

Park pavilion stays



Paddy Caulfield and Ewan Jones at the Desoza Park pavilion.

Recently one of Ballarat's most renowned architects sat in a café in Buninyong and looked out with pride at the beautiful pavilion, which he designed for Desoza Park in the 1980s.

Ewan Jones is now retired, but he still thinks the building is delightful and "commands attention".

The design has much to do with another Ballarat identity, **Rick Mackay**. He worked for several years for Ewan Jones' prestigious architectural company. Ewan says that, as one of their great draftsmen, Rick contributed much to the design.

The well-respected local carpenter-builder, **Paddy Caulfield** built the structure with **Dave Gunn**. Another Buninyong local of the time, **Col Taylor**, was responsible for the bricklaying.

Paddy Caulfield, who lives near Buninyong, is now retired, but he has worked on many projects with an artistic or heritage bent.

Around the same time as the pavilion, he stabilized our old Mechanics Library, jacking it up and replacing the bottom metre.

A more recent project of Paddy's was restoration of the old Ballarat gallows, now at Smythesdale.

So, what's to become of our lovely pavilion? Long-term plans for Desoza Park include building a new toilet block nearby, allowing removal of the toilets from within the pavilion.

Then it will take pride of place as a larger picnic and BBQ area.

Merle Hathaway

Lana-Rose

LANA-ROSE HAS MOVED
to The Mining Exchange,
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FOODWORKS
Buninyong

Grenville – another proud township on the Mt Mercer Road

Along the Mount Mercer Road, south of Buninyong, are several small, historic and proud districts. The Buninyong & District Community News has already profiled Garibaldi, and just a few kilometres further on is the small farming district of Grenville.

The main meeting place for residents is at the Grenville Hall and Recreation Reserve. This is where the mobile library stops, bush groups are held, and where local events are centered.

Local community committee member **Hayley Quach** said that Grenville was a busy place during the September school holidays. The *Grenville Endurance Ride* saw 40 riders and their horses competing in 40km and 80km events. This was the third time this official Victorian Endurance Riders event has been held at Grenville.



Grenville children enjoying a play session.

An early challenge to the riders came from the wet beginning to the weekend which saw many cars, campers and horse-floats bogged at the reserve. Thanks to the **Ferguson** family, local farmers and their tractor, all vehicles were promptly rescued.

Books and Bush Groups

The term break also saw the visit of the mobile library and bush playgroup which attracted over 20 children and their families.

The Bush Groups, or Nature Play sessions, are run by staff from the Golden Plains Shire. Children can stomp in puddles, fish for tadpoles or play imaginary games in the bush. They can also participate in scavenger hunts, do bush weaving, charcoal drawing, model with clay or create a craft to take

home. These play groups are held in conjunction with the visit of the library whenever possible.

Two years ago, the mobile library stop was cancelled. Local residents then took up the fight to keep their only regular community service and meeting point.



Local residents visiting the Mobile Library service.

Following a petition from Grenville and Mt Mercer residents and some media coverage, the Golden Plains Shire and the Geelong Library agreed to meet with residents to discuss ways to continue providing a library service to the area.

This has now become a successful partnership, with the re-instatement of the library service as well as the now-regular bush groups for kids and, earlier this year, the building of a playground.

The mobile library visits on the last Thursday of each month from 2.15 to 3pm and all are welcome.

The next Bush Group and mobile library joint visit will be on Thursday 28 January from 1pm to 3pm.

Local information and events can be found at the new Mt Mercer Road community website mycountryroad.com/mtmercer.

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Elaine Tennis Club

Big turn out for opening of courts

Elaine's new, blue flexi-pave tennis courts were opened on 7 November with a large crowd of locals, local cricketers and politicians on hand.

President of Elaine Tennis Club **Debbie Mair** welcomed all the past and present players and supporters and explained how the Elaine Tennis Club had been able to improve their tennis courts.

She especially acknowledged the attendance of politicians **Geoff Howard, Catherine King** and **Simon Ramsay**, representatives from Tennis Victoria, representatives of Buninyong and District Tennis Association, and representatives of Buninyong Community Bank.

She then introduced Councillor **Tom Sullivan** from the Moorabool Shire Council who officially opened the courts.

Cr Sullivan said that it was an honour to cut the ribbon across the gateway to open the new, blue acrylic tennis courts. He said that the people associated with the Elaine Tennis, Cricket and Recreation Reserve had worked hard over the last few years to improve their facilities and that his Council was always ready to help.

Joyce Stanley recalled that when she started to play at Elaine as a teenager the two courts were made of bitumen and "fairly rough on the skin if you fell over." **Jim Connell** recalled that not so long ago the courts had bullrushes growing out of them.

After the formal proceedings a free barbeque was enjoyed by all. **Ron Read** proved to be a very proficient barbecue cook as all sausages he cooked were quickly disposed of.



Back row (L to R) – Bob Campbell Burns (Sports Central), Geoff Howard MLA, Brady Dunne, Natash Ford, Ken Barton (Tennis Victoria), Debbie Mair (President), Cr Tom Sullivan, Catherine King MP, Aaron Bosse (Tennis Victoria). Middle row (L to R) Hannah Farhall, Megan Farhall, Montana Mair, Sam Platt. Front (L to R) Molly Dunne, Sharni Bilston, Sophie Mair, Matilda Dunne.

Buninyong golfers win Ev Blomeley Trophy



Buninyong golfer, Betty McGuinness (left), and Robin Nicholls (Midlands).

Women golfers representing the Buninyong and Midlands clubs competed in late October at the Buninyong course for the Ev Blomeley trophy. Buninyong emerged victorious.

This event honours Ev Blomeley, well known in Ballarat and regional golf circles, who died in 2010. Mrs Blomeley was well-regarded as a golfer and administrator both at the Midlands Golf Club and in the wider Ballarat district. She instigated the inter-club social event in 1966.

In 2016 the event, to be held at Midlands Golf Club, will celebrate its 50th year.



CHRISTMAS 2015

CHRISTMAS EVE (THURSDAY 24TH)

4.15pm	Free kids activities
5.15pm	Free BBQ
6.00pm	Child friendly Church Service

CHRISTMAS DAY (FRIDAY 25TH)

9.00am	Church Service
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Japan to Buninyong 'Overseas students' become village residents



Two young people from Japan who came to Ballarat as students in the late 1990s, are now permanent residents of Buninyong, and running one of Ballarat's top-rated restaurants.

In 1997 **Yataka Kimura** left his small hometown near Kyoto in the central area of Japan's main island, Honshu, to come to Australia as a student of English at the then University of Ballarat.

Unbeknown to him, a young female student (and his future wife) **Mayuko Sasahara**, from Tokyo, had also commenced a Bachelor of Education Course at the same University in 1996. She graduated in 2000.

After completing his English language course, Yataka went back to Japan to work and to plan for his return to Australia to start that "genuine Japanese restaurant" which he felt was missing from the Ballarat dining scene.

Starting up

Indeed he returned with Mayuko in 2004 on a "working holiday" but both were planning future careers in the country they had come to love in their time here as students. He began to plan the setting-up of his restaurant, and Mayuko was looking to her teaching career.

By 2011, the Kimuras were ready to start up their Ballarat business and established the now-much-acclaimed *Kambei Japanese Restaurant* on the Main Road/Lal Lal St corner opposite Sovereign Hill.

Since then, the restaurant has won a Golden Plate Award and currently is rated #1 of the 224 Ballarat restaurants reviewed by the major international travel website *Tripadvisor* – an amazing achievement in just four years or so.

The Kimura family, now settled in their home in Warrenheip Street, Buninyong, with new addition six month old daughter Haruka, said they loved living in the village. "It is a nice, compact place where we feel safe, and really happy living in a township that has a feel of bushland, but with all facilities just a short walk away," Mayuko said.

The Kimura family have another long-term connections to Buninyong. When the restaurant is closed on Mondays, Yataka can usually be found on the Buninyong golf course where he has been a club member since 2008. Often he is accompanied in a golf cart by his wife and their three year old white Samoyed dog, Matsukichi.

So if you see a young Japanese family with a lovely white fluffy dog strolling down Warrenheip Street don't be afraid to greet them with *konichiwa* or even *g'day!*

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Local gardeners support animal rescue

Buninyong resident, Amber Coleman and her six year old daughter Bella, have recently started an 'open garden' at their home in Skirkas Road in support of animal rescue group, Chez Guy.

Bella's Garden has grown from young Bella simply collecting seed off pansy plants, to now growing cottage garden plants including roses, vegetable and flower seedlings, succulents and bulbs. "We'll try whatever grows!" said Amber.

The whole idea of supporting animal rescue came about after Amber discovered the real cost of rescuing animals from her long-time friend **Brenda Guy** – one half of animal rescue group Chez Guy.

"They sell rescued cats for \$180 which covers the cost of desexing, vaccination and microchipping," said Amber. "But they are really running at a loss because the cost doesn't cover other expenses such as food, water, electricity or transport involved in the rescue."

Donations

To help support these costs, Amber has opened Bella's Garden to the public, donating 20 per cent of plant sales to the animal rescue group. They also accept donations via a tin in the garden, or by items such as pots or plants, with 100 per cent of donation sales going to Chez Guy.

Chez Guy also rescues native wildlife, with the second half of the group, **Cherie Reid**, a registered wildlife carer.



Returning the rescued blue tongue lizard to its natural environment

Cherie was recently called into the Skirkas Road property after Amber found a baby blue tongue lizard drowning in their dog's water bowl. The lizard was rescued and nursed back to health before being returned for release on the property.

"We are totally focussed on re-releasing," said Cherie. "We are also strong advocates for responsible pet ownership. That's why we choose to rescue domestic animals in conjunction with native wildlife."

Chez Guy's top tips for responsible pet ownership are (i) desex animals before six months of age, (ii) research any animal prior to purchase as it is a long-term

commitment, and (iii) keep pets contained in the yard – it is safer for them and for native wildlife.

Bella's Garden, is open every Saturday and the last Sunday of each month on Skirkas Road (off the Mt Mercer Road just past Webbs Hill Road) – follow the signs from the Buninyong roundabout. Bella's Garden is also on Facebook at www.facebook.com/BellaGardenBuninyong/. Further information on Chez Guy Small Animal Rescue is on their website <http://chezguysmallanimalrescue.weebly.com>

ADVERTISEMENT



Geoff Howard MP
 State Member of Parliament for Buninyong
 Listens, Cares, Acts!



15 Main Road Ballarat 3350
 (03) 5331 7722

geoff.howard@parliament.vic.gov.au
 GeoffHowardMP

Authorised by Geoff Howard MP, 15 Main Road, Ballarat VIC 3350

This advertisement is funded from Parliament's Electorate Office and Communications budget

New landlord for Bank



Auctioneer Trevor Booth opening the bidding.

The Buninyong Community Bank building was sold to Ballarat investor Stephen Dansley for \$621,000 when it was auctioned by Trevor Booth of Ray White Ballarat on 14 November.

Mr Dansley said that he was pleased to invest in this key building as Buninyong "has been good to me and my family over many years."

The building was purpose-built for the bank by another developer in early 2010 ready for the opening in August of that year.

Chairman of the Buninyong & District Community Bank Board, **Steve Falconer**, was keen to advise the bank's customers that the bank will continue to operate in the building as the long-term tenant.

"From day one, the bank has operated as the tenant in this building, choosing to preserve working capital rather than to own real estate," Mr Falconer said.

"After five really good years in business, and with some \$700,000 re-invested in grants back to the community, the Community Bank has just got started! It's certainly business as usual for us. We welcome our new local landlord," he said.

BUNINYONG NEWSAGENCY
501 Warrenheip Street, Buninyong
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Car Wash, Dog Wash

A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

The Buninyong & District Community News would like to thank all our readers, advertisers and contributors for ongoing support over 2015.

We are taking a short break at the end of this year – our next edition will be February, distributed during the last week of January 2016.

Wishing you and your families a safe and joyous holiday season.

See you in the new year!



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Pool open again soon

Summer is around the corner and the Buninyong community is well-placed with its favourite swimming pool – the Graham Hannah Swimming Pool.

Located in Forest Street opposite the Men’s Shed, the pool has had some upgrades for this season, with an additional BBQ, pool-side seating, and both the toddler and main pools have been painted and repairs completed to the pool edges.

The pool is to be staffed by the City of Ballarat lifeguards and updates will be posted on the Making Buninyong Facebook page at www.facebook.com/makingbuninyong.

The pool will open on 5 December 2015 through to 6 March 2016.

Non-School Hours

Mon – Fri 3pm – 7pm, Sat, Sun and Public Holidays
11am – 7pm

School Holidays

Mon – Fri 12pm – 7pm, Sat, Sun & Public Holidays
10am – 7pm (closed Christmas Day)

Note that a cold weather policy applies, with the pool closing if temperatures are less than 25°C.

The entry fees for the 2015-2016 season are:

Casual		Season pass	
Family	\$11.00	Family	\$113
Adult (17+)	\$4.00	Adult (17+)	\$77
Concession	\$3.00	Concession	\$62
Child (4-16)	\$2.50	Child (4-16)	\$51
Under 4	Free		



Buninyong

Ask a local

The team at PRD Nationwide Buninyong have over 60 years combined experience working within the Real Estate Industry.

We have a strong commitment to give both Vendor and Purchaser the best possible service and advice to guide them through the sales process for all their real estate requirements.

Our Team look forward to new challenges offered in this vibrant area of Buninyong, Mt Helen and the surrounding districts.

Feel free to call or drop into our office with any queries regarding our local real estate market, whether buying or selling. We look forward to being of service to you.



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Gardens group active Gorgeous gardens... and a new home

Umbrellas were the order of the day when Peter Hiscock led a bus tour of members of the Friends of the Buninyong Botanic Gardens (FBBG) group, and their friends, to his old stamping grounds in the Dandenong Ranges on Thursday 5 November.

Stops were made at the Karwarra Australian Plant Garden at Kalorama, where the group enjoyed boxed lunches (prepared by the Espresso Depot) at the very extensive National Rhododendron Gardens, and the beautiful Burnham Beeches gardens (a legacy from the Nicholas family of Aspro fame, and now managed by Parks Victoria).

The group's next garden tour is planned for autumn 2016. New members are always welcome – contact Secretary **Karen Hulston** at wk.hulston@bigpond.com

Home at Old Police Station

The FBBG and the Buninyong Primary School are very excited about their new partnership in restoring this important historical community facility which has been the subject of articles in earlier editions of Buninyong Community News

The FBBG currently has no 'home' and the Old Police Station, being adjacent to the Buninyong Gardens, is ideally placed as a home for the FBBG and their proposed nursery.

The FBBG have made a commitment of \$5000 to go towards the restoration, and a City of Ballarat Impact Grant has provided a further \$10,000 funding. The FBBG will contribute from funds raised, to the ongoing maintenance of the building into the future, so that the project becomes self-sustaining.

In the restored building the FBBG plans to host activities including committee and public meetings, fund raising events, plant propagation and nursery sales, lectures and seminars, musical events, arts events, supporting school and festival events, and educational programs.



Garden tour group leader Peter Hiscock



Notice of Annual General Meeting

Wednesday 9 December
7.30pm
Buninyong Town Hall

We need you!

Some long serving members are retiring from the Committee. We are looking for members with new ideas

Be part of helping Buninyong's Festival to grow and make the next 5 years even better than the last.

AROUND THE CHURCHES

Schedules of the services and happenings at local churches.

ST PETER & PAUL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fisken Street, Buninyong
Contact **Margaret McCarty**
5341 3243

Mass times:

1st, 3rd, 5th Sundays at 10.30am.
2nd and 4th Sundays at 9am

UNITING CHURCH

Learmonth Street Buninyong.
Rev Lindell Gibson 5341 3200

Services:

Buninyong: Sunday 9.30am
Meredith: 2nd Sunday 11am
Sebastopol: 2nd, 4th, 5th Thursday 11am

HOLY TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH

Warrenheip Street, Buninyong.
Rev Mark Schnerring 5341 3281
www.buninyonganglican.org.au
Sunday Services: 8.30am and 10am

BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor Tom Buscombe 5330 2657
Service held in Buninyong Town Hall,
Sundays 10am

SCOTSBURN CHURCH

Midland Highway, Scotsburn
Contact **Heather Stokes** on
5341 7609

First Sunday in the month at 10am

Christmas Church Services

St Peter and Paul's Catholic Church

Christmas Eve – 7.00 pm

Uniting Church

Christmas Eve

Buninyong – 7.00 pm
Meredith – 10.00 pm

Christmas Day

Sebastopol – 9.00 am

Holy Trinity Anglican Church

Christmas Eve – 6.00 pm
Christmas Day – 9.00 am
(see ad on page 10)

Baptist Church

Christmas Day – 9.30 am

Living classroom for pre-schoolers at gardens



One hundred Buninyong preschool students spent two days in the Buninyong Botanic Gardens in late October where small groups were assisted by members of the Friends of the Buninyong Botanic Gardens group (FBBG) to experience much that the gardens offers. This is the second time the activity has been conducted by the FBBG.

The children combined the visit with their study themes. In 2014, the students looked at the importance of leaves. This year the focus was on water. The small group of **Chris Hindhaugh, Anne King, Jennie de Jong, Lorraine Powell, Roger Permezal and Stephanie and Richard Patterson** offered a range of engaging

activities over the two days to small groups of six students to ensure that they all had 'hands on' experiences.

The groups rotated through four activities such as seed propagation, games and stories, musical instruments that used water and, finally, making and flying kites decorated with leaf rubbings. In each session students were expected to ask questions and make items to take home.

Seeds

Chris Hindaugh, who helped organize the activities said, "It was wonderful to see their young minds quickly grasp quite complex ideas. By now they should all have seeds sprouting at home in their mini greenhouses."

Anne King, President of the FBBG was delighted to see so many happy faces in the Gardens. "It was good to see the many parents appreciating the Gardens and the activities when they came to pick the children up at the end of the sessions. The gardens are an important community resource for us to have and share," she said.

Wendy Stevens, Supervisor of the Buninyong Preschool, organised the excursion with other teachers and was happily assisted by a number of parents. "It is good for the students and the Preschool to be involved with local groups. For us it was an excellent day in a beautiful setting," she said.

Acts of kindness at Scotsburn

Students of the Scotsburn campus of the Buninyong Primary School recently celebrated National Others Day, learning about the great things people do in our community to help others.

The students acted as secret agents for the day by doing special acts of kindness towards others while out in the playground.

It was a great day and the students certainly displayed a great awareness of how easily we can do things for others, and the great satisfaction that comes from being so kind. The day finished with the students taking home a 'pay it forward' certificate to help send the message home of the importance of helping others.

The students also wrote cards to people in the community that do great things for others. Grade six students presented these cards to representatives of the Buninyong Police Station, Buninyong Men's Shed and the Buninyong Fire Brigade.

Charity

Two pupils, **Claire and Amelia Plier** recently had large sections of their hair cut off at a school assembly to help raise money for Variety's Princess Charlotte Alopecia Program.

This charity supports children who have a condition that causes hair loss by providing them with human hair wigs. You can donate to this great cause by at <https://alopecia.everydayhero.com/au/amelia-and-claires-chop-for-a-cause>. So far the girls have raised \$1300 which is a wonderful effort!



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Remembrance Day 2015 War dead remembered

Two moving ceremonies were held in Buninyong on 11 November to commemorate those killed in war who were from the Buninyong district.

The Buninyong sub-branch of the RSL held an early-morning ceremony in the Botanic Gardens during which six plaques commemorating three members of the RAAF and three members of the AIF were restored and replaced adjacent to memorial trees after being lost or damaged over the years,

This was followed by the traditional service at RSL Park where commemorative crosses were on display, and which was attended by a crowd of some 150 including over 60 school children, many of them from the local Steiner School.



The restored plaque in the Botanic Gardens in memory of RAAF Sgt R G Taylor, No 18 Squadron, who was killed in action over Timor on 18 February 1943. His sister and brother (also a WWII pilot) were present at the ceremony.



Pupils from Damascus College, Napoleons Primary School and Buninyong Primary School were moved by the Remembrance Day ceremony in RSL Park.

Photos by Ron Fleming

Primary pupils tell the story of Buninyong

Each year, Grade 4 students at Buninyong Primary School undertake a unit of work on local history. It includes some excursions to sites such as Mt Elephant, Lal Lal Falls and Mt Buninyong.

This culminates with a performance that tells a story about the life of Indigenous tribes in and around Buninyong. The performance was amazing and thoroughly enjoyed by the large crowd that attended.

This approach to learning about local history is quite unique and has certainly been successful in engaging the students and helping them build an understanding of how things might have been many years ago.

Drew Smith, Lachlan Lucas and Luca Ranieri



BUNINYONG VILLAGE MARKET

SATURDAY 12 DECEMBER

TWILIGHT MARKET

4PM - 8PM

BUNINYONG TOWN HALL PRECINCT



Coming Events

- 3 December** **Community Association Picnic Buninyong Botanic Gardens**
6.00 pm (see page 4 for details)
- 4 December** **Carols Under the Trees**
Scotsburn Union Church
7.00 – 9.00 pm
- 5 December** **Buninyong Swimming Pool reopens**
- 12 December** **Buninyong Community Carols**
Desoza Park from 6.30 pm

Twilight market
4.00 – 8.00 pm
Town Hall Precinct
- 7, 9, 10 January** **National Cycling Championships**
Buninyong (see page 20 for details)
- 12 January** **Closing date for contributions and advertisements for February edition**
- 17 January** **Lions' Car Trial**
from Buninyong Football Ground
9.30 am (see page 4 for details)

Christmas treats from the Lions Club Carols and cakes mixed with books and BBQ

The coming pre-christmas season will see the Buninyong Mt Helen Lions Club even more active than they usually are.

The highlight and biggest coming project will be the organising of the Buninyong Community Carols in Desoza Park on Saturday 12 December. The community barbecue and children's activities will kick off the evening at 6.30pm, and the musical performances by local artists and carol singing will commence at 7.30pm. A visit from Santa is expected during the evening.

Cakes

The Christmas period also sees the Lions' major fund-raising event – the sale of their famous Christmas cakes and Christmas puddings. These make great gifts for friends and family, and corporate business are encouraged to purchase some as gifts for staff or clients. Funds from this annual project are used for Lions Club community works in local communities and also nationally and internationally.

Considerable fund-raising at the local level comes from the sale of books

from the Lions Cottage in Warrenheip Street, adjacent to the Old Library. The bookshop is jam-packed with interesting books of all kinds at bargain prices. There is even a room full of children's books. If that special book can't be found in stock, staff will even take an order and try to source it. The cottage is open every Wednesday and Saturday.

BBQ

Yet another example of the Lions Club undertaking a community project can now be seen in the tennis courts/skate park area where a new barbecue constructed by club members and members of the Men's Shed is now open for free community use. Funding for this project came from club funds and a grant from the Buninyong Engaging Community Fund.



Lions President Ian Voigt, Russell Williams, Simon Jess, and Joy Jones christening the new barbecue

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We all have big dreams

For many people, dreaming big dreams is a starting point in achieving financial independence.

But, for some, whose lives have been torn by violence and drugs, such dreams can quickly fade and lead to all kinds of poor choices resulting from low self-esteem and limited education. Something significant needs to happen to break this cycle.

One program, supported by the Buninyong & District Community Bank is the *Link-Up Young Parents* program run by Ballarat Secondary College. This is having great success in assisting young parents to create a new future by offering support, education and various training solutions.

The program is co-ordinated by Buninyong resident and Ballarat City Councillor, **Peter Innes**.

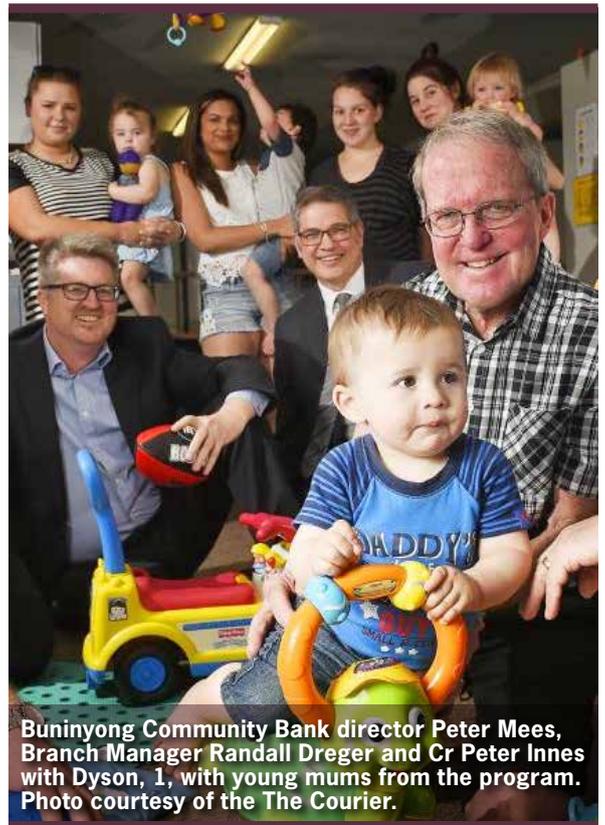
The local Community Bank has agreed to provide valuable funding assistance

with a grant of \$15,000 over a five year period. Bank Board Chairman Stephen Falconer said that the bank branch “was thrilled to be able to help the young mums reach their dreams.”

With this and other funding, the *Link-Up Young Parents* program is already looking towards the next stage which, later this year, will encompass nutrition, diet, healthy living and exercise programs for the young parents.

For more information or to offer to become involved contact Peter Innes (0407 539 683) or enquire at the Community Bank.

Greg Veal



Buninyong Community Bank director Peter Mees, Branch Manager Randall Dreger and Cr Peter Innes with Dyson, 1, with young mums from the program. Photo courtesy of the The Courier.



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Championship cycling again comes to town

In early January next year, Australia's and overseas elite road cyclists will again tackle two championship courses in Buninyong.

ON THURSDAY 7 JANUARY the Individual Time Trial will again be staged on the Buninyong-Mt Mercer circuit used for the first time in 2014. This race will start at Royal Park and should not involve any disruption to the "business" areas of the town.

THEN ON SATURDAY 9 JANUARY there will be a new program of events which will replace the women's Championship race which has been moved to the Sunday morning. These will include an 'age group mass participation' ride between 9.00am and 12.30pm. The Saturday afternoon will see the 132km road race for U23 men commence at 1.00pm

ON SUNDAY 10 JANUARY two championship races will be staged. From 8.30am the U23 and elite Women's Road Championship over 102 km will be staged on the iconic 10.2km Buninyong mountain circuit. This will be followed at 12 pm by the Men's 183 km Cycling Australia Road National Championship race.

Spectators will be able to watch and cheer for many of Australia's best cyclists and some overseas riders who feature in the Tour de France, Olympic Games and World Championships. The new infrastructure improvements in the town centre should offer great viewing spots for spectators.

There will be road closures and diversions during the Championships. The City of Ballarat will liaise directly with affected residents and business owners on these.



Halloween treats



The fun of Halloween was enjoyed by this group of really scary Buninyong children (and their not-so-scary mums.) Shown here after receiving some treats are (L to R) **Carol Armstrong** (Scarecrow), **Olivia**, 4 (Princess Anna), **Harvey**, 5 (Zombie 1), **Andrew**, 7 (Zombie 2), **Marley**, 4 (Witch), **Elsie**, 2 (Ghost), **Violet**, 2 (Devil), **Zara**, 4 (Pussycat), and **Danni Tesoriero** (Witch).