Buninyong COMMUNITY NEWS

A Tale of Theft, Ships and Junk Yards MYSTERY OF THE FIRE BELL

Recently there has been an intriguing twist in the case of the Buninyong fire bell stolen after the 1898 fire which destroyed the two storey building which had been built fifteen years earlier in 1883.

The bell at the fire station was used not only to alert people of a fire in the village, but also was rung in times of local disasters such as a search for a missing person.

When the bell went missing after the 1898 fire, just the tongue of the bell was left behind.

Then, in the 1960's, former Fire Captain **George White** found a bell resembling the missing one in a junk yard in Brunswick. But when he returned there with the tongue from the Buninyong Fire Station to see if it fitted, the bell had again gone.

Now, after 117 years, the bell may be back home.

A few months ago, the Brigade was contacted by **Peter Weeks** of Sims Metal Management of Noble Park who told the Brigade's Captain **Marc Cannan** that workers at their metals processing plant had come across a bell inscribed "*Buninyong 1883*" – 1883 was the year that the two-storey fire station had been built

But then the plot thickens again. At the Sims plant, the metal of the bell was analysed and found to be 80 per cent tin and 20 per cent copper –the composition of bronze. Usually, 'inland' bells were made of brass or iron, while bronze was used in maritime situations because of its anti-corrosive properties.

Shipping Twist

Further research has found that there was a small passenger ship called *"Buninyong*" which carried passengers between Sydney and Melbourne from about 1883 to 1924. The ship was scuttled in 1926 in Port Phillip Bay. The SS Buninyong had been built in Barrow-in-Furness in England, also in 1883.

So while the 'Buninyong 1883' bell is now safely back at the Buninyong Fire Station, having been presented to the Brigade by Sims Metal Management, the question of whether this bell is the



Edition 415, April 2015



stolen one or from the scuttled ship still remains.

Brigade Captain Marc Cannan said that if indeed the bell was the one stolen in 1898, its return after some 117 years was "little short of a miracle".

Captain Cannan said that while historians were still trying to sort out the mystery, the 1883 bell was now occupying a proud place amongst the brigade's memorabilia. "While we have stopped just short of popping the champagne corks until any other information comes to light, it's still a great story!" he said.

In this Issue

Special inaugural 20 page edition

ANZAC Centenary Tribute	15-17
Ask Cr Innes	11
Buninyong Film Festival	7
Opinion	5
Police Beat	3
Street Talk	6

Big tick from Betty and the oldies

There was widespread approval for the return of the hardcopy Buninyong Newsletter voiced among the local senior citizens at their meeting held in March.

This was reported by **Betty Bunting**, 87, who had earlier taken the trouble to phone through her positive comments about the new-look *Community Newsletter*.

Betty, an active member of the Uniting Church as well as the Buninyong Senior Citizens Club, has lived in Buninyong for the past 22 years. She moved to Buninyong following the death of her husband to be near her three daughters, two of whom live in Buninyong. The other lives at Daisy Hill, near Maryborough.

She has nine grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

During their married life, Betty's husband was the manager of some dairies, and then they took up farming at Craigieburn. Other homes were at Preston and Thornbury in Melbourne's northern suburbs.

"The oldies around here are just so glad that the Buninyong & District Community Association has decided to again produce a newsletter that we can hold and read at our leisure," Mrs Bunting said. "Lots of us haven't got computers or know little about them."

"I was really thrilled to see the first sample edition of the new Newsletter down in the shops last month. I've read it from cover to cover," Betty said.



Betty Bunting reading the sample edition of the "News"

Young golf champ Nathan looks ahead



Nathan Angee pictured with Club veteran, Bill Snowdon

Local teenager Nathan Angee, 14, took the honours in the Ballarat & District Golf Junior Golf Championships held at the Buninyong Golf course recently.

Nathan is a Year 9 student at Damascus College.

A member of the Buninyong Golf Club, Nathan has been playing golf for about three years. In the past twelve months he has cut his handicap from 25 to 13.

He won the U 15 Championship with a score of 87. He is coached by PGA professional **Andrew Cartledge** of Ballarat Golf City.

While his parents are not golfers, his grandfather was a good golfer, and the family interest has now been also taken up by 12 year old sister **Bridget**, also a student at Damascus College.

Nathan said that his immediate aim in golf was to be the best Junior golfer in the Ballarat district in a couple of years. "After that, who knows," he said.

He is already playing with Buninyong Golf Club's senior members in local competitions and according to Club veteran **Bill Snowdon**, "he is a great kid – courteous, sensible and very mature for his age."

When not golfing or studying, Nathan's other great interest is fishing, and he and a mate or two can often be seen fishing in district creeks and dams.



HAPPY KIDS AFTER DELUGE OF BIKES

What started off as an idea to get a few used bikes for underprivileged children resulted in avalanche at the February Village Market in Buninyong.

David Tannard, of the Bicycle Centre in Armstrong Street North, Ballarat, from time to time had donated used bicycles to Children's and Family Services (CAFS).

"That started me off thinking that there could be other unused bikes around that could be fixed up and made available to the charity," he said.

After talking with **Miranda Donald** of the Good Life Festival group, a few notices on A-Frames were placed around Buninyong asking locals to bring along any used bicycles to the Village Market on Sunday, 22 February.

David Tannard said he expected to receive "fifteen or twenty". Instead some 250 bicycles were brought in and stacked adjacent to the Old Bank building at the village roundabout. David, who lives at Durham Lead, said he was "absolutely overwhelmed" by the response.

He said that some bicycles were in a condition that they could be given directly to CAFS- many of the others would have to be repaired by himself or his staff.

"We have already culled some out, fixed up quite a few, and already handed over some to CAFS in March," he said.

CAFS Communications Coordinator **Wendy Stubbs** said that the response by Buninyong and district people had been truly amazing. "There will soon be a lot of happy children and young adults cycling about Ballarat and district because of the initiative and hard work of David Tannard and his staff," Ms Stubbs said.

"When the needs of our clients have been met, we expect to pass on other bicycles to other local charities," she said.



CONTRIBUTIONS & ADVERTISING

for the Buninyong & District Community News, email to *buninyongnews@gmail.com* before the twelfth day of each month.

Enquiries: 5341 2844



POLICE BEAT

AS A RESULT of a vehicle intercept in Mount Clear on Thursday 16 April, Buninyong Police located a generator that had been stolen from a burglary in Mount Mercer earlier in the week. The generator has been recovered and returned to its owner. A 50 year old male is assisting police with their enquiries.

LOCAL POLICE were happy with the behaviour of motorists on district roads over Easter. There was lots of action on RBT and speed detection, with no notable incidents occurring.

INVESTIGATIONS are under way about an incident at the Midland Hwy/Lumeah Rd corner a few weeks ago. An apparently-stolen caravan was set ablaze at around 10.30pm on Monday, 6 April. Any witnesses are asked to call Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000.

BY NOW all locals should be well aware of the 40kph zone in place near the school crossing on the Geelong Road at Cornish Street. We will be enforcing speed limits in this zone regularly.

TRAILERS and caravans left on properties continue to be an easy target for thieves. A heavy duty chain and padlock, or commercially-built tow-lock should be installed.

REPORTS regularly come into police about thefts from unlocked cars in garages. Also where there is an entry door to the house from a garage, this should be kept locked at night, and when you are out of the house – or even in the back yard. Also, it is not very bright to leave keys in garaged cars as we know happens. A good website to visit is www.wishilockedit.com

Changes coming to Chocalatto

When quietly-spoken Dave Rogers established Chocalatto - the quaint coffee, ice-cream and chocolate shop in Warrenheip Street - about five years ago, it had the feel of a snug in an English or Irish pub.

Dave came across as a friendly uncle figure to both the children who flocked to the shop after school and to those regulars who wanted to find a quiet retreat for a coffee and a read of the morning paper.

Since **Zac Curran**, 31, took over the business in November 2014, little seems to have changed to the casual visitor or regular coffee drinker. But all of that seems likely to be heading for a quite major shake-up over the coming months.

Zac plans to create more seating space inside of the shop, freshen up the décor, and have the front windows opening to enable direct service to an expanded seating area on the pavement outside.

He also plans to introduce "single origin" chocolate and coffee, delights such as chocolate fondues, and offer more healthy chocolate eating options such as that which is "vegan friendly". Quizzed as to what "single origin" products referred to, Zac explained that it meant that the chocolate and coffee was sourced from a particular region, similar to that of wine.

In chatting with Zac, he freely admits that his biggest challenge will be for him to make the changes to his business in small increments and not get too far ahead of himself. Taking over the Chocalatto business is something of a homecoming for Zac Curran. As a teenager, he was a trainee chef at Buninyong's respected *Café Pasha*, located where the new *Pig & Goose Restaurant* recently opened.

From there he wandered widely, working in hospitality positions in places as far apart as the Whitsundays, Spain, England and Scotland.

Hospitality

Most recently, Zac was the Accommodation Manager at several mining camps in South-East Queensland – having responsibility for a team of some 80 catering and hospitality staff and over 600 workers in the coal-seam, and open cut coal industries.

He said that he took over the Chocalatto business because "I always wanted to open my own venue and to try some fresh ideas I have."

Zac struck gold at the recent National Road Cycling Championships when he decided to hire a portable coffee machine and set up a stall outside of his shop.

He said that he made over 1000 coffees on the Sunday of the bike races. "It was pretty crazy.... but really good," he said. "I also got a kick out of having famous bike race commentator, Phil Liggett, in here for coffee for two days running."

Now living at Scotsburn, bachelor Zac soon plans to move to a home in Buninyong.



Zac Curran behind the counter

Looking for pics of old railway station

The Buninyong Men's Shed is looking for some help with a current project. They are in the process of constructing a model of the old Buninyong railway complex. While they have some photographs available, there is none showing finer details of the front of the station building itself.

If anyone has photos of the railway station and complex, news of these would be much appreciated. Call Neil McCracken on 5341 2308 or send an email to <u>jenneil@vic.chariot.net.au</u>.

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Traffic problems likely TURN IN PLAN A TURN OFF

Crossing over the West Gate Bridge, or taking an elevator to the 60th floor of a tall building makes it easy to admire the skill of engineers. How they calculate load capacities, stresses and strains, wind resistances and the like is quite amazing.

But sometimes at the more mundane end of engineering, the common sense of some engineers seems sometimes to go missing. Take the case of the works being planned for the Buninyong CBD.

During the latter part of 2013 and through 2014, the Buninyong Community Association lobbied Council and State politicians for funding for the improvement of the village centre, particularly around the Town Hall area.

This resulted in some \$250,000 of Council funds and \$400,000 of State Regional Development funds becoming available for works in the central areas of the village.

Over recent months Council engineers and architects have produced various sketch plans and options. Just a few weeks ago, a 'Final' option was made available.

It seems a sure bet that most in the community will scratch their heads over the proposal to include an entrance to the shopping strip on the North side of Learmonth Street, literally just a few metres around the corner from the roundabout – much closer than even the present barely adequate turn-in point.

As someone wisely observed, the present plan will either result in a spate

salor

of nose to tail bingles or, if the turn-in is missed, having to drive half way to Geelong before you can come back to shop!

Why not an entrance, perhaps also involving a slip lane, opposite the supermarket car park which would enable traffic to go straight ahead, turn left towards the bakery and other shops, or turn right towards the new medical centre?

....and a turn on !

As evident from the preceding viewpoint, the local Council is often an easy target for criticism – sometimes warranted! So when something positive can be said, it should be.

Three sections within Council administration deserve special mention for their support for Buninyong projects and township improvements recently.

The Engaging Communities team has been very active in supporting a range of community projects (such as the Youth Space, the graffiti trailer and this newsletter), the staff of the Gardens Department are always cooperative (in areas such as care for the Botanic Gardens, clearance of fallen debris, and now work on the RSL Park area and the Avenue of Honour), and City *Infrastructure* has come to the party with support for projects such as the street vines, the entrance signage, and now the major improvement project in the vicinity of the Town Hall. While many of these have been initiatives of the Community Association, these sections of the Council have given time, advice, and financial or organisational support.



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

Published monthly (except January)

Editorial Advisory Committee: Gayle Adams, Michelle Corcoran, John Emery, Sandra Kennedy, Greg Veal.

Acting Coordinators: Barry Fitzgerald, Gayle Adams

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

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 (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.

The views expressed or information provided in this publication are not necessarily those of the Buninyong and District Community Association the City of Ballarat or of the Buninyong Community Bank, including any officers, members, agents or contractors.

The BDCN Masthead is a graphical representation of the Buninyong township and the mountain. Design by Melanie Pitman of *61 Design*. Newsletter printed by Baxter and Stubbs, Ballarat.



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FIRST UTE SHOW A RED HOT SUCCESS



From helping to run the Ute Show at the 2011 Ballarat Show to setting up her own event in Buninyong a few weeks ago seemed to be a logical step for Louise Bisognin.

With a personal and family interest in cars and utes going back many years, and now studying for an on-line Diploma of Event Management through Evocca College, Louise thought that an event such as the Buninyong Ute Show would be an interesting challenge.

"I have always been interested in cars and utes ever since I was little. I have had my own project vehicle (a 1983 WB Holden Ute) for nine years, but still haven't got it running or on the road yet," she said.

There were 76 utes of all models entered for the 2015 Buninyong Ute Show which took place on the vacant land at the rear of the Crown Hotel.

Louise said that she chose Buninyong because it is out of town a little and has a nice atmosphere.

Amongst the interesting entries were a Chevrolet El Camino, a 1934 Chevrolet, an EK Holden, a Ford Mainline, a 1960 Morris, an International Pick-up and many more.

Plans for next year's Buninyong Ute Show are already under way. Louise said that she was going to seek Council approval to have more space for the Show next year as this year's large entry had to be tightly parked and could not be displayed as well as she would have liked. Some winners from the Show included

- Show Winner: Chevvy El Camino (James Wallis)
- Best Holden: WB Crewman (Peter Jeffrey)
- Best Ford: Ford Mainline (Mike Egan)
- Best Original: HJ Holden (Norm Rose)
- Best Street: HSV Maloo (John Quinlan)

Novelty categories in the Show included the biggest bull bar, best light display, best sticker display and best flag display

Profits from the Ute show were donated to the Buninyong CFA (a \$500 cheque plus \$83 from a 'shaker' tin) and another \$500 to the Ballarat Regional Cancer Centre (along with a further \$272 from donations).

* * *





WHILE the landmark clock tower of the Buninyong Town Hall is widely photographed and featured in many publications, the clock has slipped back into its bad habit of showing the incorrect time over recent weeks. Here's what it showed at 10.00am on the day of the March Village Market



PEOPLE living along Learmonth Street (Midland Highway) have highlighted growing concerns about traffic issues which impact on their lifestylesincreased noise, traffic volumes, and now the higher speed limits. The Community Association continues to lobby at every chance with VicRoads, Council and the Government for a start to be made on planning for a by-pass of the village.

ON THE subject of traffic, there have been reports of two recent incidents where cars have come down the hill on the service road on the north side of Learmonth Street from Inglis Street and then continued on against the traffic past the bakery. Dangerous!

COUNCIL'S move to introduce two hour parking restrictions around the business centre of the village should free up more parking for shoppers as many areas were increasingly being used by all-day commuters to Geelong and Melbourne. However, the *number* of parking sign poles put up around the place by the Council is serious overkill and plain unsightly.

NICE touch from Council with their clean up works in and around RSL Park in early April. The creation and planting of a small garden bed around the World War I memorial wall out front has made a difference.

ANOTHER district hotel seems set to change hands in the near future. That now makes two. Some changes on the horizon!

The log cabin Home for the arts

Sculptors, writers, painters, potters, jewellers, paper makers, dancers, film buffs and craftspeople have settled in the Buninyong district, often in the more secluded parts.

So for this first arts column, I visited the most visible – Trudy Nicholson's studio, Zuni's, in Warrenheip Street – a log cabin built by my parents.

My mother would have loved Trudy's organised clutter of artworks, materials, inspirational objects and evidence of a busy program of classes for children and adults.

Trudy, a long-term Buninyong resident, told me she'd been driving past and it "called" her.

The house was always full of arts and crafts as Lucy Hathaway moved from

one hobby to another. Spinning wheels, easels and a whole "craft room" completely filled with things that might be useful one day!



Since its sale it has housed three artsoriented businesses.

Trudy is obviously a highly creative teacher, using all sorts of tools, including the internet, to teach a range of techniques and mediums.

She's also an artist in her own right,

Trudy at work in her studio

though she would like more time for that. Trudy's work has been displayed at the Art Gallery Ballarat and recently at the Robert Clarke Horticultural Centre.

Do drop in. As they say - it's worth a look!

Merle Hathaway

BUNINYONG FILM FESTIVAL Another Sell Out Likely

Six international and Australian films are on the program for sixth annual Buninyong Film Festival set for the Buninyong Town Hall on 22-23 May 2105.

The Festival has been a sell-out each year so early bookings are advised.

In addition to the program of films this year's event will feature

- a special Film Festival Dinner at 5.45pm at the Pig and Goose Restaurant on 23 May
- supper included in the price for the double screening on the evening of 22 May
- guest speakers associated with the making of the film 'Charlie's Country'
- screening of entries for the Festival student film-making competition
- a silent 1925 Black and white movie with piano accompaniment

Full Festival program details and booking forms are on the Festival's website

www.buninyong.vic.au/filmfestival



PROGRAM SUMMARY

FRIDAY, 22 MAY

5.00pm Aspiring Young Film Makers (Student Competition) Admission by gold coin

7.00pm Charlie's Country (Drama (M) Australia, 2013, 108 mins)

9.45pm Eastern Boys (Drama (MA15+) France, 2013,128m)

SATURDAY, 23 MAY

9.00am Hannah Arendt (Biog. Drama.(PG), Germany/USA, 2014,114m)

11.15am Two Days, One Night (Drama (M) France, 2014, 91m)

3.45pm Living is Easy with Eyes Closed (Comedy/Drama. (M) Spain, 2013, 108m

8.00 pm Phantom of the Opera (Melodrama. USA. 1925 B/W Silent. 98m)

Scotsburn Open Garden A vision achieved

In the eight or so years since the *Back Lake* property at Scotsburn was purchased by Berry and Anne King, a twenty acre farm paddock with a sizeable dam has been turned into a magnificent sculptured showpiece.

The Kings, both "architects and farmers", came to their Scotsburn property from South Gippsland in 2008, and moved into their rammed earth home in 2010.

Open to the public for the first time as part of the Australia's Open garden Scheme, *Back Lake* hosted some 750 visitors over the Easter weekend.

Funds raised by the open days will be shared by Open Gardens Australia, and the Friends of the Buninyong Botanic Gardens group of which Anne King is a committee member. Smaller community groups such as that from Clarendon will also benefit from catering sales.

Some 30 local volunteers assisted during the two days. The low-slung, beige

coloured rammed earth brick home sits snugly on the rise overlooking the extensive front lake with its native and exotic plantings, walking paths, islands for nesting water birds, and a small jetty.

Around each corner of the property are surprises ranging from goldfish ponds, vegetable patches, an orchard, coordinated colour plantings of shrubs and grasses, and metal sculptures. Children even found some 250 Easter

eggs dotted around the property during the weekend.

Features of the property are the magnificent drystone walls.

These are at the property entrance and at other places near the house. This stone work was done entirely by the Kings.



Anne King organising the Easter egg hunt



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BODY REHABILITATION RELAXATION EXPRESSION

Leigh Catchment GROUP STAYS AT HUB

Leigh Catchment Group (LCG) is delighted that it will retain its office in the Community Bank's new 'community resource centre' in Warrenheip Street.

Many people pop into the office for a quick chat about their land, or to volunteer. Usually at the office are **Jenny Ryle**, the Landcare Coordinator, and **Kate Constance**, who is working on the 'Breathing Life Back into the Yarrowee Project'. This was initiated by Napoleons Landcare Group in response to concerns about litter from the CBD of Ballarat. Through public events and working bees, Kate encourages locals and other interested people to care for their river.

Another local initiative is Buninyong's new 'woodland', currently evolving along Union Jack Creek at the end of Macs Road. With help from the community and local schools, this area is being transformed by Landcare groups into a lovely recreation space. Part of this includes the re-introduction of locally endangered species into the landscape. Locals are invited to another 'plant out' on National Tree Day, 26 July – it will be a great fun for all the family.

Gorse Attack

The LCG has obtained funding for gorse control through the Victorian Gorse Task Force (VGTF). More than 40 landholders around Napoleons and Durham Lead have now participated, with nearly 93 acres of gorse removed in the past two years. Consequently, livestock grazing access has been increased and cover for pest animals (rabbits and foxes) reduced. Local shires have targeted weed control programs on roadsides where local people are active, increasing effectiveness of gorse control.

In addition to helping local groups run their own activities, on both private and public land, the Leigh Catchment Group supports other organisations and agencies.

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A new woodland at the end of Macs Road

This collaborative approach is producing results, such as the recent announcement of 'Canadian Park'. This will be a great natural asset for the region.

As the local Landcare network, supporting eight local Landcare groups, the LCH has been operating for over fifteen years

Join your local Landcare Group and make a difference. Please visit <u>www.leighcathmentgroup.org</u> or put your name on the LEIGHWAY mailing list by contacting lighted:eighcg@ncable.net.au.

You can also follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/LeighCatchmentGroup.

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 9.00am

UNITING CHURCH

Learmonth Street Buninyong. **Rev Lindell Gibson** 5341 3200 Services: *Buninyong* Sunday 9.30am. *Meredith* 2nd Sunday 11.00am. *Sebastopol* 2nd, 4th, 5th Sundays 11.00am

HOLY TRINITY ANGLICAN CHURCH

Warrenheip Street, Buninyong. Contact **Rev Mark Schnerring** 5341 3281 *www buninyonganglican.org.au* Sunday Services 8.30am and 10.00am

BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor **Tom Buscombe** 5330 2657 Service held in Buninyong Town Hall, Sundays 10.00am

Alpha Marriage Course starts Tuesday 12 May at 7.00pm in Buninyong Town Hall (runs for eight weeks) – 'A Great Opportunity to Invest'

Plans looking good: something for most DeSoza Dark Dlans

Coordinated by the Council's Community Engagement team, a working group of community members was formed in late 2013 to consider improvements to Buninyong's De Soza Park.

Recently, draft sketch plans prepared by local landscape architect **David Turley** have been released by Council for viewing by the public.

Short-term highlights of the plans include

- conversion of the Ewan Jonesdesigned octagonal toilet building into a shelter/BBQ rotunda
- erection of a new toilet block in a screened area in the south-eastern corner of the park fronting Warrenheip Street
- barbecues shifted into the rotunda
- removal of various signs and small structures at the front of the park
- construction of new entry paths

- construction of a new playground (possibly with a mining theme) further into the park on the northern side
- moving of the bus stop further north and creation of additional car parking in Warrenheip Street

Features

A new Master Plan for the Park has also been prepared with features including

- a new stage construction built into a natural amphitheatre
- an adventure play area
- various improvements to the historical Old Burial ground
- a dog-friendly area
- installation of natural play equipment at the north western corner of the park for use by families entering the reserve from Tandarra/Lumeah Road direction.

Council Community Engagement

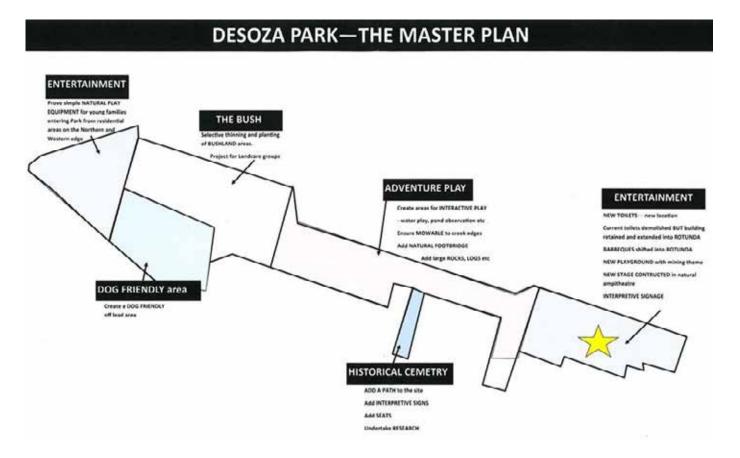


Rotunda to be converted and retained

Officer, **Graeme Kent**, said that the process of planning for improvements to De Soza Park had followed a major community consultation evening held at the Buninyong Town Hall in August 2013.

"Since then a community committee has been meeting regularly to consider ways to upgrade this major community asset."

Mr Kent said, "The current draft plans provided excellent directions for the priorities and projects associated within the park and would be used by Council in funding and works considerations."



Another Youth Project Coming **Skates, Scooters and Baskets**

The Buninyong Youth Space - the multi-use recreational area for young people on the corner of Forest and Inglis Streets - is soon to get the final major element in its development over the past year or so - an upgraded skate and scooter park, and basketball court.



Will and Thomas Reichman of Buninyong (pictured with dad Matt) are looking forward to the new skate park project

Recent improvements to the area have included the installation of a high-level set of Parkour equipment and the construction of the BMX track. Funding has come from Council and the Community Engagement fund, with major sponsorship funding by the Buninyong Community Bank.

To mark the Bendigo Bank's significant contribution to this reserve designed

specifically for Buninyong and district youth, a large letter **B**, will provide a 'sculptural' element on the embankment on the eastern side of the area.

Another element of the plan includes the construction of paths, including an access path from the car parking area on the northern edge of the reserve.

Finish Date

It is expected that construction of the new facilities will be completed by August 2015.

Another feature of the development is that it will be in close proximity to the new BBQ shelter being constructed by the Lions Club of Buninyong and Mt Helen in the vicinity of the new Men's Shed.

The area has been developed by Council in close consultation with local youth and youth leaders. Council Community Engagement Officer **Graeme Kent** said that the developments at the Youth Space had been greatly welcomed by local children and youth who had seen major recreational resources come together on the one site over the past year or so.

Youth leader **Aaron Mercer** said that the Buninyong Youth Space was now a fantastic place for youth of all ages to relax and enjoy themselves.

"Council has been terrific in getting this park together. It's now up to us to keep it in good shape," Aaron said.

Council Clean up at RSL Park

A team of Council workers did a great job of tidying up inside and outside of RSL Park on 1 April in preparation for the Anzac Day ceremonies.

Shown here are **Anthony** and **Matt** setting up the new 'rosemary' garden around the World War I Memorial. Rosemary has particular significance for Australians as it is found growing wild on the Gallipoli peninsula.





Councillor

Peter Innes

The monthly column where you can ask your questions about Council matters. Email your question to buninyongnews@gmail.com

I agree with the introduction of 2 hr parking. But can't we get rid of some of those signs that are now everywhere?

Shop Owner- Warrenheip St

I have had some other comments about the number of poles. There's little doubt that the introduction of free two hour parking was necessary, but we'll revisit the 'pole' situation when the work on the central Township Improvement project is started in the coming months.

It has been interesting to see the number of parked cars that have moved up the hill near the hotel and behind the supermarket since the 2 hour limit was brought in

Why doesn't Council develop the land at the rear of the Newsagency and that behind the Town Hall for parking?

John – Eyre St

You will be pleased to hear that a bid for funding to upgrade the area behind the newsagency is already in the mix for Council funding for the 2015-16 financial year.

Do you think that once or twice a year Council could hold its meeting in the Buninyong Town Hall to allow residents to attend?

Sue – Learmonth St

That's a good idea, Sue. I know that the State Cabinet occasionally holds a meeting away from Melbourne. But there are some problems with the suggestion - mainly ones to do with logistics such as microphones, recording equipment, access to records and the like. We'll see if anything can be done about that.

In the meantime, I'm happy to explore the possibility of getting Councillors and officers out here for a public "open house" at which residents can ask questions and discuss issues on one or two occasions each year.

Beth moves to Scotsburn



Recently, Prep students from the Buninyong campus joined with the Scotsburn P/1 class for a Teddy Bears Picnic session. Fun activities included Duck Duck Teddy and What's the Time Mr Teddy? Playing together over lunchtime was enjoyed by all.



After four years teaching at the Simpson Street campus of the Buninyong State School, Beth Murphy has moved to the Scotsburn campus to teach at the Prep/Grade One level.

Scotsburn campus head **Shaun O'Loughlin** reports that "*Beth has already made a very positive impact on the students*".

An avid follower of AFL team, Geelong, Beth enjoys playing netball and spending time with her family and friends.

Mrs Murphy said that she was enjoying teaching a wonderful group of Prep/Grade One children, and getting to know the other children in the school.

COMING EVENTS

To include a local event in this column send in outline details to buninyongnews@gmail.com

12 MAY

Alpha Marriage Course (8 weeks) Buninyong Town Hall. 7.00pm 5330 2657

13 MAY

Australia's Biggest Morning Tea (Cancer Council) Uniting Church Hall 10.00am -12 noon. 5330 1934

22-23 MAY

Buninyong Film Festival Buninyong Town Hall (see page 7 of this issue)

31 MAY Buninyong Village Market (*Rug Up*) Downtown Buninyong 9.00am- 1.00pm

13 JUNE

Friends of the Buninyong Botanic Gardens **Annual Winter Lunch** Buninyong Town Hall. 11.00am 5341 3947

Fun in Sun at School Fete

A large crowd came along in perfect weather to the Buninyong Primary School fete held on 20 March.

The fete is held every second year, with a school concert being held in alternate years. On behalf of the school community, School Principal **Bernie Conlan** thanked the many individuals and organisations that supported the fete with donations of goods, equipment and time. "We're really grateful to all of the locals who came along and helped to make the fete so successful," he said.



L O C A L N E W S

Rose for Red Cross



Pictured after planting the memorial rose are Buninyong Red Cross members (L to R) Jenny Colvin, Helen Stephens and Beryl Mahoney

The centenary of Red Cross in Buninyong (1914-2014) was celebrated with the planting of a memorial rose with an accompanying plaque in the garden at RSL Park recently. Local Red Cross member Helen Stephens also reported that the 'Red Cross Calling' appeal in March raised the sum of \$1216 in Buninyong and district. The kindness and generosity of locals for this appeal is greatly appreciated.



Buninyong Uniting Church Hall Wednesday, 13 May from 10 am to 12 noon Enquiries: 5330 1934 Get together to help beat cancer



LAST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH Buninyong town hall precinct & Buninyong hasonic hall 9AN - 1PN



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Ask a local

PRD Nationwide Buninyong

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 selling. We look forward to being of service to you.

Gary Jones: 0419 576 545 Phil Crosbie: 0407 542 289

MARMALADE WINS TO ENGLISH

While England was booted out of cricket's World Cup, they have beaten the Australian XI in the *MarmalAshes* for the second time. England emerged victorious 178 to 172 when judged recently at the International Marmalade Awards in Cumbria.

The Australian XI (eleven jars plus a 12th jar) were selected from marmalade sent in to Buninyong from all over Australia'. Included were some interesting varieties including Buddha's Hand marmalade and red centre lime marmalade. The red centre lime citrus variety was bred by the CSIRO by crossing a mandarin with a native finger lime.

CWA Judges, **Barbara Porter** and **Sue Gass**, combined with Chief Selector **Roland Rocchiccioli** to select this team as well as the Buninyong District XI at the 2015 Buninyong Marvellous Marmalade Fair. The Buninyong District team drew selections from Ballarat and extended down to the Bellarine Peninsula, and was up against the Cumbrian XI. Unfortunately Cumbria won that one too.

Important Links

Key features of Buninyong's Marmalade initiative are the close links that have been forged with both the CWA, who provide the accredited CWA judges, and the Hospice and Palliative Care organisations to which all entry fees are donated.

A cheque for \$1,000 was presented to **Fiona Watson**, a Board member of



Marmalade-makers Jane Hasell-McCosh and Russell Luckock with Sam Newman, Lady Potter AC and Roland Rocchiccioli

Ballarat Hospice, while aged-care organisations in Mildura and Swan Hill also received the entry fees from their local entrants.

Road Trip

Last October, the founder of the International Marmalade Awards, **Jane Hasell-McCosh**, was brought to Australia to help publicise the Hospice and Palliative Care messages. The aim was to use the light-hearted marmalade story to carry the message that we should all talk now to our family, friends and GP about what we want for our endof-life quality care.

A road trip was organised within the Grampians and Loddon-Mallee Health regions with financial support from the Grampians Region Palliative Care Consortium. This series of community meetings included Nhill, Mildura, Swan Hill and St Arnaud as well as an opening function in Ballarat.

At Ballarat's M.A.D.E Eureka auditorium **Lady Potter AC**, Patron to Buninyong Marmalade, opened the 2015 campaign, while football personality **Sam Newman** helped to publicise the event.

Next Year

Marmalade-makers are encouraged to make their marmalade early so it is ready to send in for the Buninyong Marvellous Marmalade Fair on 30 January 2016.



Zuni Gallery

307 Warrenheip Street, Buninyong

Open Wednesday to Saturday for Art Lessons, Gallery viewing of paintings, African sculptures, jewellery and cards

Watch Trudy at work in her studio

www.trudynicholson.com for details

Private Harry Luke C de G From stuff cutter to French hero

Joseph Henry Luke was born in Buninyong in 1898, the second son of Harriet and Joseph Luke of Simpson Street. He attended the Buninyong State School. Small in stature, he didn't stand out from his school mates in study or sport.

After leaving school, he worked as a stuff cutter in the local shoe and leather trade. A stuff cutter was a worker who had the task of cutting out the inner and bottom soles of boots or shoes, and of any stiffening materials needed for the toe or the heel.

The 1890 edition of the trade magazine the *Shoe and Leather Record* stated that the social status of the stuff man is *lower than that of any other employee in the manufacture of boots, and he is probably the worst-paid artisan in the trade.*

In April 1917, the nineteen year old Joseph Luke signed on in Ballarat as "Harry" Luke in the 38th Battalion of the AIF, and shortly after, on 21 June 1917, set sail on the troop carrier *Suevic* bound for the UK. Then, in December 1917, he joined the forces on the Western front in France.

His older brother Richard had enlisted in 1915 and already had seen considerable service with the Field Ambulance Brigade in France and elsewhere.

Private Harry Luke was not exactly a standout figure on the battlefield. His

enlistment papers stated that he was only 5'5" (165cm) tall and weighed just 125 lbs (56kg). In another life he could easily have been a jockey.

But his size belied his heart and fighting spirit, and during battles in Rouelles, France, his courage was so conspicuous that he was awarded one of the highest French military honours, the *Croix de Guerre*.

This award was given by the President of the French Republic to very small numbers of the French military or its allies who had been mentioned in despatches for *valour and gallantry in battle*. Usually the awards went to high ranking officers or leaders of countries assisting France in the war against Germany.

London Gazette

Notice of Harry Luke's award was officially published in the *London Gazette* of 29 January 1919, and later in the *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette* 0f 23 May 1919

Harry's name now sits alongside such luminaries as Field Marshall Sir Thomas Blamey, Theodore Roosevelt Jr and US General George S Patton as recipients of the *Croix de Guerre*.

Private Harry Luke C de G returned to Australia on the *Wiltshire* on 4 July 1919.



1445

ftumb 31150.

THIRD SUPPLEMENT

The London Gazette.

OF TUESDAY, the 28th of JANUARY, 1919.

Published by Authority.

The Gaugin is replaced as the Control Point (Sime for between-usy closer Point as a susception. The painting rule to place within the Point Engine. for such Args, to see building of the first state, and an automatical buildings for rule relevance if an air rule of therein place closed do rule to a buildings for more place, many to the same of Controls, to which the Deriver a Request Pointy with applica.

WEDNESDAY, 29 JANUARY, 1918.

James Leighton, 34th Casualty Clearing Station, Royal Army Medical Corps (Territorial Force) (Kendal, Westmoreland).

- 443750 Private Henry Albert Lenzman, 54th Infantry Battalion, 11th Infantry Brigade, 2nd Central Ontario Regiment, Canadian Forces.
- 891 Gunner Hector Leslie, 46th Battery, 12th Australian Field Artillery Brigade.
- 4847 Private Harry Luke, 38th Battalion, Australian Imperial Force.
- 355560 Serjeant Samuel McKay, M.M., 1/10th Battalion, Liverpool Regiment (Territorial Force) (Liverpool).

It is to be hoped that if he went back to his former trade in the shoe industry it was not as a stuff cutter

On the honour board listing former students of the Buninyong State School who served in World War I, Harry's name simply appears as Luke H – with no reference to his conspicuous bravery award which, like Harry, probably went largely unnoticed.

Harry lived on until 10 February 1990, when he died aged 91 years.

He is buried in the Springvale Cemetery. There is still no mention of the C de G on his plaque there.



An Anzac centenary tribute to the local men who gave their lives in World War I

THE GALLANT 138 WHO DIDN'T RETURN

Buninyong is some 14,000 km from Gallipoli and Turkey, and almost 18,000km from France and Belgium. But those places are where most of the 137 soldiers (and one airman)

from the Shire of Buninyong gave their lives for their country in World War I

These 138 servicemen will be remembered by plaques to be placed along Buninyong's principal Avenue of Honour on which restoration works will soon start.

While the original planting

along Learmonth Street of some 140 or so trees in 1917 was dedicated to some of those from the Shire of Buninyong who had served or were then serving in World War I, by the end of the war that number had grown to well over 500 (see the bronze plaque outside of RSL Park)

Taking account of this, the Buninyong RSL has decided that the restored avenue should now be dedicated to those who were killed or who died in that War, with a commemorative plaque to be placed at the foot of each tree.

All but a very small number of those killed in action are buried



in war graves particularly in France, Belgium and at Gallipoli.

The following list is the Roll of Honour of those who were killed in action, or who died of wounds or disease, together with

the places in the old Buninyong Shire where they were born, went to school or otherwise were associated with.

A few on this list are shown to be from Ballarat or more distant places but their names are included on the town's WWI memorial wall, so there must have some local links not now evident or forgotten.

Regimental numbers are also included here to assist those wanting to undertake research on the following web sites

- *naa.gov.au WWI service records*. This site contains very detailed records and papers for each soldier
- *aif.adfa.edu.au/search*. A clean simple summary site but missing some names
- *awm.gov.au*. The official War Memorial Roll of Honour site
- *discoveringanzacs.naa.gov.au* A simple, well designed and very useful website



BUNINYONG NEWSAGENCY 501 Warrenheip Street, Buninyong 3357 Ph: 5341 2154

Newspapers, Tattslotto Petrol, Car Wash Dog Wash

District Roll of Honour World War I

ALLAN Clarence Robert, 6646, Durham Lead

ANDERSON David.2777 Birregurra ANDREWS Robert Petford.3105.Napoleons ATKINSON Robert Peter.4429.Cambrian Hill

ATKINSON Bertram Lieut. Buninyong

BARBER William Owen.540 Ballarat

BELL John.2036. Warrenheip BERGIN Joseph Felix. 15 Warrenheip BOAK Alexander John. 2340. Yendon BOURCHIER Arthur Patrick. 4749 Warrenheip

BOURKE Thomas Patrick.1177 Buninyong BOYCE Bertram Allenby. 2785 Yendon BRAY Frank Davies. 582 Napoleons BRAY Stanley. 4436 Cambrian Hill BRIGHT Oswald. 3025 Scotsburn BRIGGS Frank. 5659 Buninyong BROCK Denis Patrick.1796 Napoleons BYRNE Daniel Joseph. 2403 Navigators BYRNE John Patrick. 7271 Berringa BUTLER Patrick. 839 Dunnstown

CAHIR Michael Phillip. 1634. Elaine

CARMICHAEL Roy Albert. 1528 Durham I ead

CARNEGIE Norman Alexander, 1127 Scarsdale

CHAPMAN Frederick Thomas. 1800 Grenville

CLARK Alfred.1242 Mount Clear

CLARK Howard Illingsworth. 2132 Mount Clear

COAD Joseph Gordon. 447 Napoleons COLQUHOUN Duncan. 5985 Navigators

CONNELLY Edmund Thomas, 739 Buninyong

COULTER Jason Leslie Boyd.1333 Grenville

COULTER Leslie Jack Major. Grenville COZENS James Alfred. 210. Berringa CRAIG Edwin Archibald. 1643 Ballarat

DANIEL John Leslie. 6786A. Buninyong

DARCY Michael. 4406 Dunnstown DAVIS Charles Robert. 1669 Buninyong DEWHURST Percy George. 662 Buninyong

DIAMOND Charles. 1037 Dunnstown **DILENA Richard Paul 27875 Creswick** DONNELLY Edmund, 4472 Navigators DREVER James. 4794 Buninyong

EARLES Walter. 577 Ballarat

EASON Owen William. 4184 Scotsburn EAST Ernest. 103 Elaine EAST Joseph Thomas. 3727 Elaine ELDRIDGE Spencer James. 3623 Buninyong

FENNER Thomas Richard. 5373 Yendon

FERGUSON John Dugald. 4190 Elaine FINNIS George Elliot. 3185 Ballarat FOLWELL Joseph. 590 Ballarat FRANKS Robert. 2313 Warrenheip

GANE Claude. 6808A. Mt Doran

GANE George William. 540 Mt Doran GILLETT William John 9/283 (NZ) Sebastopol/Invercargill GILMORE George. 6267 Napoleons GORDON Victor Edward Charles.4201 Flaine

GRENFELL James Henry. 4793. Tourello GULLICK Roland Clark. 10032 Buninyong

HAIR William Angus. 8898 Garibaldi

HALEY William Henry. 6281 Sebastopol HAMBLETON James William. 4089 Buninyong HAWES Alexander George. 2697

Grenville HAYES Horace Ernest. 138 Elaine

HEATH Edward Oliver, 6518 Lal Lal

HOWARD Charles Leslie. 584

Smythesdale

HOWARD George Henry. 6515. Scotsburn HOWARTH John. 142 Yendon HUGGINS Roy. 6522 Warrenheip



HUNT William. 4219 Bungal

JAMIESON Walter. 5388 Dunnstown

JANSSEN Carl Wilhelm. 757. Ballarat JANSSEN Ernek Valdemar. 359 Ballarat JEFFREY Alan Edward. 487 Elaine JENKIN George Andrew. 4526 Magpie JOHNSTON Adam H Muntz 2190 Buninyong

JUDE David Harold. 124 Yarrowee

KEMP Frank Winterburn. 546 Yendon KENNEDY James Mark Lieut. Buninyong KINCADE Richard, 413 Ballarat

LAWLESS Robert Leslie, 103 Ballarat LeMAITRE Alexander Conrad. 514 Elaine LEVERETT George Edward. 6555

Buninyong

LEWIS Lewis. 314 Yendon

LITTLE Stanley. 4132 Buninyong

- LIPPIATT Charles Marshall. 21907
- Scotsburn LORENSINI William Rueben DSM, 154
- Scotsburn
- LUMSDEN James. 2108 Clarendon

LUMSDEN John Walls 4536 Clarendon LYONS Frederick. 5280 Mt Buninyong

McCAREY William Alexander.799 Mt Buninyong

McCARTY Patrick Thomas. 2414 Buninyong

McCLURE Ernest Gordon. 352 Buninyong McCRICKARD Francis. 5170 Warrenheip McGREGOR Hugh Kenneth 2697 Yendon McGREGOR William Alexander. 5175.

Ballarat

McKENZIE Donald David. 532 Buninyong MELICAN Thomas Pembroke. 485 Buninyong

MILLER Arthur Frederick. 164 Elaine MORGAN Robert Henry. 6917 Napoleons

NALDER Frank Leslie.4497 Warrenheip NANKERVIS Raymond. 2028. Ballarat

OLNEY Reginald Thomas. 5084 Buninyong

O'MALLEY Patrick. 2739 Leigh Creek O'SULLIVAN Frank.1594 Mt Clear

PARKINSON James. 7065 Buninyong

PARSONS William. 484 Buninyong PEARCE Carl. 488 Buninyong

PEARCE Richard Henry. 2184 Durham I ead

PEARCE Stanley Garrett. 5745. Buninyong

PERINONI William Louis. 3427 Grenville QUINN Arthur Aloysius. 2356 Clarendon

RAINBOW William Joseph. 1722 Clarendon

RICHARDS James Thomas. 572 Warrenheip

ROBINSON Robert. 6601 Napoleons ROBINSON Samuel John. 4477 Lal Lal ROWLEY Ernest. 1763 Canadian

SALMON Wilfred Graham. 6413 Ballarat

SAUNDERS Charles Francis. 6340 Warrenheip

SELLECK Horace Ferdinand Capt. Buninyong

SHEARER Alexander. 3248 Warrenheip KEWES Harold. 1770 Warrenheip SLATTERY William John.6345 Ballarat

SMITH Richard Yolland. 2754 Yendon

STEPHENS Frank George. 143 Sebastopol

THOMPSON Victor Alfred, 3428 Ballarat

THOMPSON Andrew Bower. 6605 Clarendon

TIERNEY Albert Francis, 4874 Ballarat TRELOAR Leslie. 5342 Ballarat TREZISE James Alfred. 4239 Ballarat

VANOTTI James. 7331 Mt Clear

WALLIS George Ernest. 9324 Creswick WALTERS Francis. 2165 Warrenheip WAY Charles Alexander. 733 Lal Lal WHITE James. 5779 Mt Buninyong WRIGHT Henry Patrick. 1643 Berringa

YATES Harold. 10335 Buninyong

YUNG Alfred. 7342 Yendon

Old cottage new home for Lions bookshop

After three very successful years in the old cake shop in Learmonth Street, and then six months in mothballs after the historic premises were sold, the Lions Book Shop is again open for business.

It is now located in Warrenheip Street in the historic old blue and white cottage with the white picket fence opposite the Post Office. Originally the cottage of a tannery worker, the cottage was owned by Don and Mavis Bath between about 1930 and 1998.

During the three years of its operation in the old Learmonth Street premises, the second hand book shop made some \$25,000 which was distributed to both the Lions Foundation, and also to helping local people in need.

Book shop volunteer **Barbara Voigt** said that examples of help given to locals included assisting a deaf youth join a school excursion to NASA in the United States, and also providing special equipment to aid some local elderly people.



L to R. Lions Club members Helen Voight, Irene Jolly, Bill Jolly and Helen Slater moving books into the Warrenheip Street cottage.

Book shop co-ordinator **Irene Jolly** said that in addition to the many local people who enjoyed browsing through the previous shop on a regular basis, it had attracted people from as far afield as Daylesford and even Melbourne.

"We think that this new location will soon become a great drop-in place where locals can gather for a chat and look for some bargain second-hand books." The historic little cottage has a lovely feel with books carefully arranged and displayed in five of the cottage's rooms.



FBBG Annual Winter Luncheon TALK BY 'MURDERER TIM'

Dr Tim Entwhistle, Director and Chief Executive of Melbourne's Royal Botanic Gardens will be the guest speaker at the Annual Winter Luncheon of the Friends of the Buninyong Botanic Gardens (FBBG).

The title of his address is *Tim Entwhistle is a Murderer: the Telling Tale of Ten Trees, Ten Years ago.*'

The 2015 FBBG event is scheduled for Saturday, 13 June at the Buninyong Town Hall commencing at 11.00 am.

Tickets, which have been a sell-out for the past four events, are priced at \$50 (members) and \$60 for others. A two course lunch with wines will be served following Dr Entwhistle's talk, and there are raffle prizes.

Dr Entwhistle's talk is timely, as some old poplar trees in the Botanic Gardens will have to be soon removed, and a number of other stately trees more than 100 years old are under watch. So while all old trees reach a use-by date, Dr Entwhistle will suggest strategies for replacing such trees, and keeping the gardens dynamic and pleasurable.

For bookings or further information call **Karen Hulston**, FBBG Secretary (ph 5341 3947) or check the website <u>http://users.vic.chariot.net.au/-</u> clrdnobs/buninyong/index.html.

Friendly Esther takes over Post

It's a little over 9,000km from Beijing to Melbourne. But Esther Zhang and her family were happy to have made the move in 2008, and are now really delighted they have travelled the extra 130km to come to Buninyong.

The family was visiting friends in Ballarat last year and were so impressed with the clean environment and the open space that they decided to move to the district, buying a house in Delacombe. From there it was just a short step to Buninyong.

"We were looking for a business to purchase when we found out that the Buninyong Post Office was for sale." Esther said. 'I thought that the skills I had developed in over 20 years in an international business setting should help us to cope with the business of running a post office."

In Beijing, Esther was a Product Manager in a major multi-national business, which enabled her to transfer to the company's Melbourne site about three years ago. In Australia, the company deals in automotive paint products. Esther was the Operations Manager there.

In her role in Beijing, Esther had to become proficient in English as she was dealing with the firm's offices in many parts of the world.

Family Help

In addition to Esther, her husband Dow Lu and 18 year old son Yanze Lu help with the business. Yanze has just commenced a double degree course in Mathematics and Education at

Federation University.

Also helping with the business is the experienced Helen Smith who has been at the Post Office for three years.

Esther said that since taking over the Post Office on 5 January this year, the family has found

themselves working long hours - usually being there at 6.00am for mail and parcel sorting and usually not leaving until at least 7.00pm.

"Our other challenges include trying to remember customers' names and faces, and making sure that our knowledge of the postal and other services we offer is of high quality," Esther said.

Free smiles from Mt Helen kinder mums

Busy at their fund raising sausage sizzle at the Buninvong Village Market on Sunday, 29 March 2015 were hardworking Mt Helen Kindergarten mums, Wendy Parry (L) and Rebecca Leech.



Esther Zhang and husband, Dow Lu, are settling into the Buninyong PO

She said that as relative newcomers to Australia, they also were working hard on fitting into the communities of Buninyong and Ballarat.

If her smiling and helpful approach to customers is any indication, Esther Zhang (pronounced Chung) will have no trouble in soon doing that.





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

ADVERTISEMENT

3(03) 5331 7722

15 Main Road Ballarat 3350 A geoff.howard@parliament.vic.gov.au GeoffHowardMP

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

New Mobile Response Unit GRAFFITI CLEAN UP TEAM READY TO GO

In late 2012 a spate of graffiti vandalism left residents and business people of Buninyong angry. Bus shelters, signs, bins, letter boxes, business frontages and even the red brick wall of the Masonic temple were targeted.

In response, the Buninyong and District Community Association (BDCA), in conjunction with local police, approached the City of Ballarat for advice and assistance in tackling this problem

Initially, in mid-2013, Council made available a small portable graffiti removal unit contained within a wheelybin. Council officer **Chris Hutton** advised locals on its use. While a good start, this equipment had limitations in terms of access and capacity to tackle a range of graffiti problems.

Further research and consultation with Council led the BDCA to develop a project to seek funding for the construction of a larger mobile graffiti removal unit. Council officers from its Community Engagement team greatly assisted in successfully seeking funds from the Department of Justice. Other funding came from Council's 'Engaging Communities' fund, and from the local Lions Club.

Key Role

The BDCA approached the members of the Buninyong Men's Shed to

form a volunteer 'rapid response' team, able to swing into action to remove reported graffiti at the earliest opportunity.

BDCA President **Ian Salathiel** and Council's Safety & Wellbeing Officer **Amanda Collins** have coordinated the project.

"The Men's Shed members have happily agreed to take on the action role and undergo required training to operate the



unit, and have also allowed it to be stored in their premises.

This is truly a great co-operative project between several community groups, the City of Ballarat, local police, and the Department of Justice," Mr Salathiel said.

Anyone wishing to report graffiti in the district (up to the Midvale area) should contact the Council's Buninyong Graffiti Hotline on **5320 5500.**

<image>

TOWN HALL TO BE LIT UP

The façade of Buninyong's historic Town Hall (c 1886) is set to be floodlit at night after a grant of \$6,500 from the Engaging Communities program was agreed to last month.

The project was proposed by the Buninyong Mt Helen Lions Club and will be assisted by a further contribution of \$6,500 from the Town Hall Committee.

It seems likely that the electrical and engineering works will be incorporated in the upgrade project of the area in front of the Town Hall.

Lions Club President Simon Jess said that the floodlighting the detailed features of the Town Hall and its clock tower would result in "a stunning feature of the village".

Consideration is being given to the possibility of using solar power for the lighting project.